

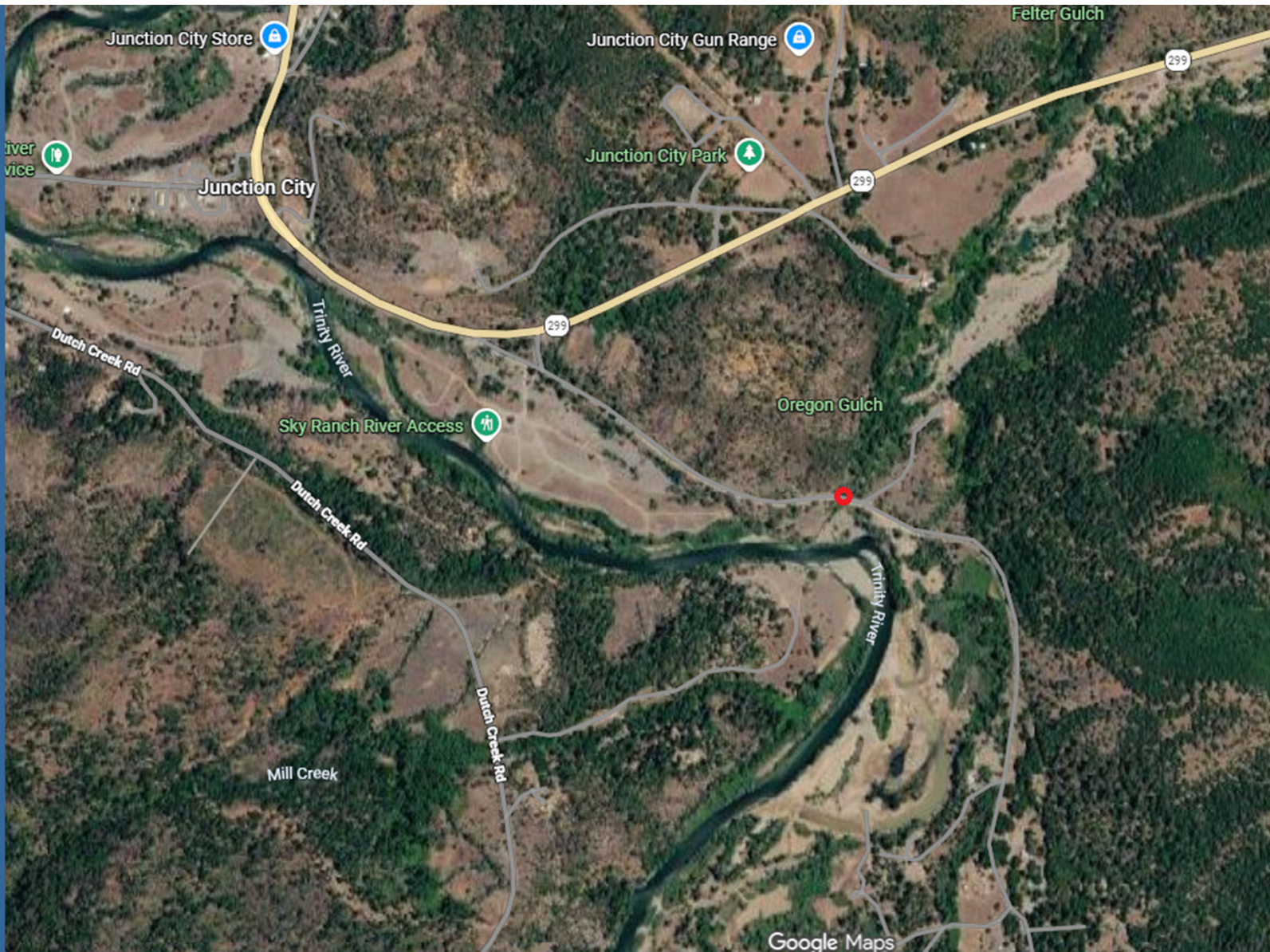


# Oregon Gulch Fish Passage Project

Quarterly Trinity Management  
Council Meeting, March 26, 2026

James Lee, TRRP Implementation  
Branch Chief







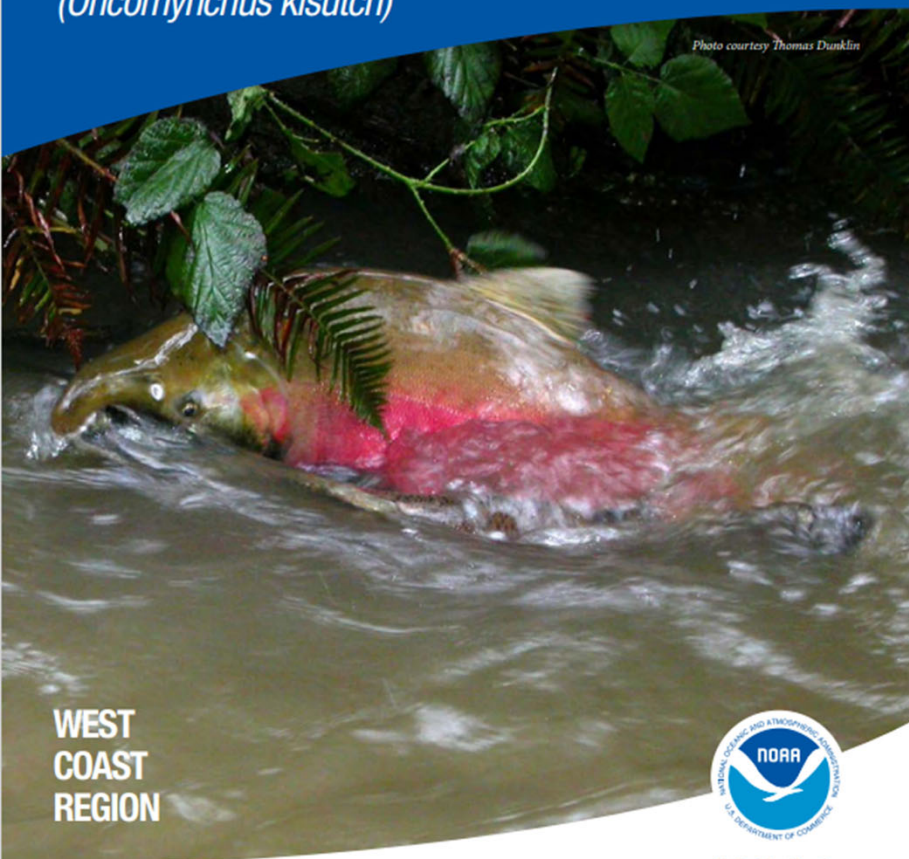






Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/  
Northern California Coast Evolutionarily  
Significant Unit of Coho Salmon  
(*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

2014



WEST  
COAST  
REGION



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES

U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | National Marine Fisheries Service

### Road-Stream Crossing Barriers

Although much work has been done to remove barriers in the watershed, road-stream crossing barriers remain that prevent access to several stream reaches. Numerous road-stream crossing barriers exist in the Upper Trinity River population unit. These present a high threat to several life stages of coho salmon because they inhibit fish passage and cause erosion-related effects in downstream reaches. The Fish Passage Assessment database lists 112 road stream crossing barriers in the Upper Trinity River. There are 30 road stream crossing structures that are total barriers to migration in the Upper Trinity River watershed and 25 partial barriers. Two-road stream crossing barriers have been prioritized for removal and 21 prioritized for assessment (CalFish 2009). Important road-stream crossing barriers within the range of the Upper Trinity population are listed below (Table 39-6). Impacts may result when juveniles are unable to pass these culverts during summer low flows and access to potential rearing habitat is restricted. No information exists on the occurrence of road-related barriers on private lands.

Table 39-6. List of road-stream crossing barriers.

Priority*	Stream Name	Road Name	County	Barrier Status*
High	Conner Creek	Conner Creek Rd	Trinity	Total
High	Oregon Gulch	Sky Ranch Rd	Trinity	Total
High	Middle Weaver Creek	Easter Ave	Trinity	Total
High	Weaver Creek	Highway 299	Trinity	Partial
High	Sidney Gulch	Highway 299	Trinity	Partial
High	Sidney Gulch	Weaver Bally Drive	Trinity	Partial
High	Sidney Gulch	Weaver Bally Loop Road	Trinity	Total
High	Ash Hollow	Highway 299	Trinity	Total
High	Five Cent Gulch	Highway 299	Trinity	Partial
High	Ten Cent Gulch	Highway 299	Trinity	Partial
High	Ten Cent Gulch	Highway 3	Trinity	Partial
Medium	Unnamed Tributary	Goose Ranch Rd	Trinity	Total
Low	McKinney Gulch	Conner Creek Rd	Trinity	Total
Low	Trinity House Gulch	Browns Mountain Rd	Trinity	Total

\* From Taylor (2002 and USFS, Weaverville office)

- **Extent of barrier.** The concrete box culvert's outlet is perched about three to four feet, which prevents most adult salmonids from successfully entering the culvert and is probably a 100% leap barrier to all resident and juvenile salmonids. The smooth (metal-plated) concrete floor and nearly two percent slope are features that lead to a lack-of-depth for successful adult passage at lower migration flows, and create excessive velocities during higher migration flows.
- **Quantity and quality of upstream habitat.** There is potentially over six miles of salmonid habitat upstream of the Sky Ranch Road culvert. Much of this contains significant areas of suitable spawning and rearing habitat for both steelhead and coho salmon. The Sky Ranch Road culvert is located near Oregon Gulch's confluence with the Trinity River – effectively blocking access to all available upstream habitat.
- **Size of current crossing.** The box culvert's dimensions are 5.5'H x 8.0' W. The drainage area of Oregon Gulch above Sky Ranch Road is 7.02 square miles. The current culvert's inlet overtops on a storm flow with a three-year recurrence interval. Due to the extremely undersized nature of the current crossing, the only feasible solution for re-establishing fish migration is to install a new crossing that is properly-sized to meet current state and federal criteria and guidelines.



# Funding background

- NFWF funded YT \$104k in 2022 to design new crossing
- Upstream L/O would not cooperate, so design was never done
- Funds were applied to Salt Creek floodplain restoration project
- Trinity County recently assured us that if a design was done, they could get L/O cooperation





# Request to TMC

- **As a watershed restoration project, fund a new design for the culvert, at a similar level as the 2002 NFWF grant**
- **After the design is completed and a cost estimate is generated, consider funding the actual culvert replacement**

