

Description of the FY2015 River Corridor Planning Effort

Introduction

The Gravel augmentation work group recently recommended the development of a river corridor map and associated approach to plan habitat rehabilitation strategies. A subgroup of TRRP scientists were asked to undertake initial efforts to develop these management tools in late May, 2015. The work slated for FY2015 includes two distinct components, the first of which is compilation of all available spatial data relevant to TRRP restoration activities. The second component involves data synthesis and analyses needed to identify local habitat and ecosystem deficiencies, objectives for local habitat improvement, and potential management strategies to alleviate those deficiencies. Management strategies to address issues at a range of time scales (immediate benefit to long-term evolution) will be considered, as well as all permutations of the three basic management tools (flow management, sediment management, and mechanical rehabilitation). This effort is envisioned to be a generalized version of the process used to develop rehabilitation site designs. Work in 2015 will be restricted to five local reaches, which were selected to represent a range of circumstances encountered over the full TRRP project area.

Reaches Selected for 2015 Assessment

Steel Bridge – In late 2014, subgroup of the Gravel Workgroup identified the steel bridge area as a possible place for future gravel augmentations. Selection of this reach is intended to follow up on the Workgroup recommendation to address that potential. This reach is also representative of sections of the river with complex bedrock morphology.

Upper Poker Bar – This reach was selected because it is in an area where residential properties severely restrict the potential for mechanical rehabilitation but it may be possible to improve habitat through flow and sediment management. The reach is near enough to areas where we can add gravel that it is feasible to see the effects of augmentation in a relatively short time frame.

Lower Sawmill – This reach was mechanically altered by rehabilitation in 2009, but mainstem habitat was not substantially improved. In addition, a holding pool in the reach has remained filled with injected gravel since the project was implemented. Several ideas for improving the reach have been proposed in recent years.

Deep Gulch – This reach is currently under design by the Federal Group. Including it in this assessment allows work already underway to contribute to the development of a more general river management planning process. This reach is also representative of a section of river where a relatively wide alluvial valley bottom exists, but access is constrained by large tailing piles.

MacIntyre Gulch – This reach has been identified as a future rehabilitation site, but had not yet been altered. Any assessment done now will likely be useful for future design. It is representative of partially confined river sections where the potential to develop sinuosity is limited, but some opportunities to develop habitat complexity still exist.

Timeline

