

## Frykman Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project

One of the many threats to salmonids on the North Coast of California is the lack of potential spawning habitat in creeks and rivers. Some spawning habitat exists that fish cannot access due to the presence of migration barriers – such as culverts that require too steep of a jump for fish to access upstream habitat. As part of our watershed analysis process, Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC), along with multiple agencies, assess culverts that may be migration barriers to salmonids. During our watershed analysis process in Big River, hydrologists noted an undersized culvert in Frykman Gulch (tributary of Big River in Mendocino County) that was a migration barrier. MRC hydrologists and fisheries biologists applied for a grant from NOAA Fisheries (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) to assist with funding to remove the culvert and replace it with a bridge, returning the stream to a gradient that would allow both species of salmonids access to upstream spawning habitat.

Culvert outlet, prior to restoration



Culvert outlet view, project complete



In July 2010, the MRC Road Department crew worked to complete the restoration project. They removed the sediment (dirt) surrounding the culvert to a safe location, removed the culvert itself, re-aligned the gradient of the stream to allow for fish passage, and placed the bridge to safely cross the new stream channel.



The project was completed on July 22, and dedicated on September 20, 2010.

#### Quick facts about the Frykman Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project

Sediment (dirt) controlled	1,500 cubic yards (150 dump truck loads)
Spawning habitat opened for Coho	0.3 miles
Spawning habitat opened for steelhead	0.6 miles
Total spent*	~\$193,000

\*This total includes grant dollars from NOAA Fisheries.

On September 20, 2010, the Frykman Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project and bridge was dedicated to Dave Frykman, a dedicated MRC employee who passed away in 2009.

