Appendix 6

Interdisciplinary Synthesis of Watershed Information

The following three “sub-appendices” are presented within this appendix.

6a. Synthesis Development

6b. Tabular Integrated Analysis

6c. Ecological Management Decision Support (EMDS) Model

6d. NCWAP Gualala Data Catalogue

APPENDIX 6A
SYNTHESIS DEVELOPMENT
<u>GENERAL OVERVIEW</u>
GEOLOGY X POOL DEPTH/ EMBEDDEDNESS X LAND USE/ ROADS

Natural geologic instabilities interact with major rainstorm events to define geofluvial conditions. Anadromous fisheries have adapted to these conditions. Timber management and ranching activities have accelerated these processes. The California Geological Survey documented these processes throughout the Gualala Assessment Report. Heavy rainfall and high river flow are responsible for activating many landslides and washing out roads. Storm damage occurs with or without land use. However, poor landuse practices can increase the erosion and sediment load. Higher embeddedness and a shallow pool structure can be long term impacts in lower gradient reaches.

The following series of synthesis graphics show broad comparisons of these interrelationships by overlaying current pool depth and embeddedness with (1) High and Very High Slope Instability Potentials, (2) pre-1973 tractor harvest operations and streamside road networks, and (3) 1991-2001 timber harvest plans and current "ICE" derived road networks.

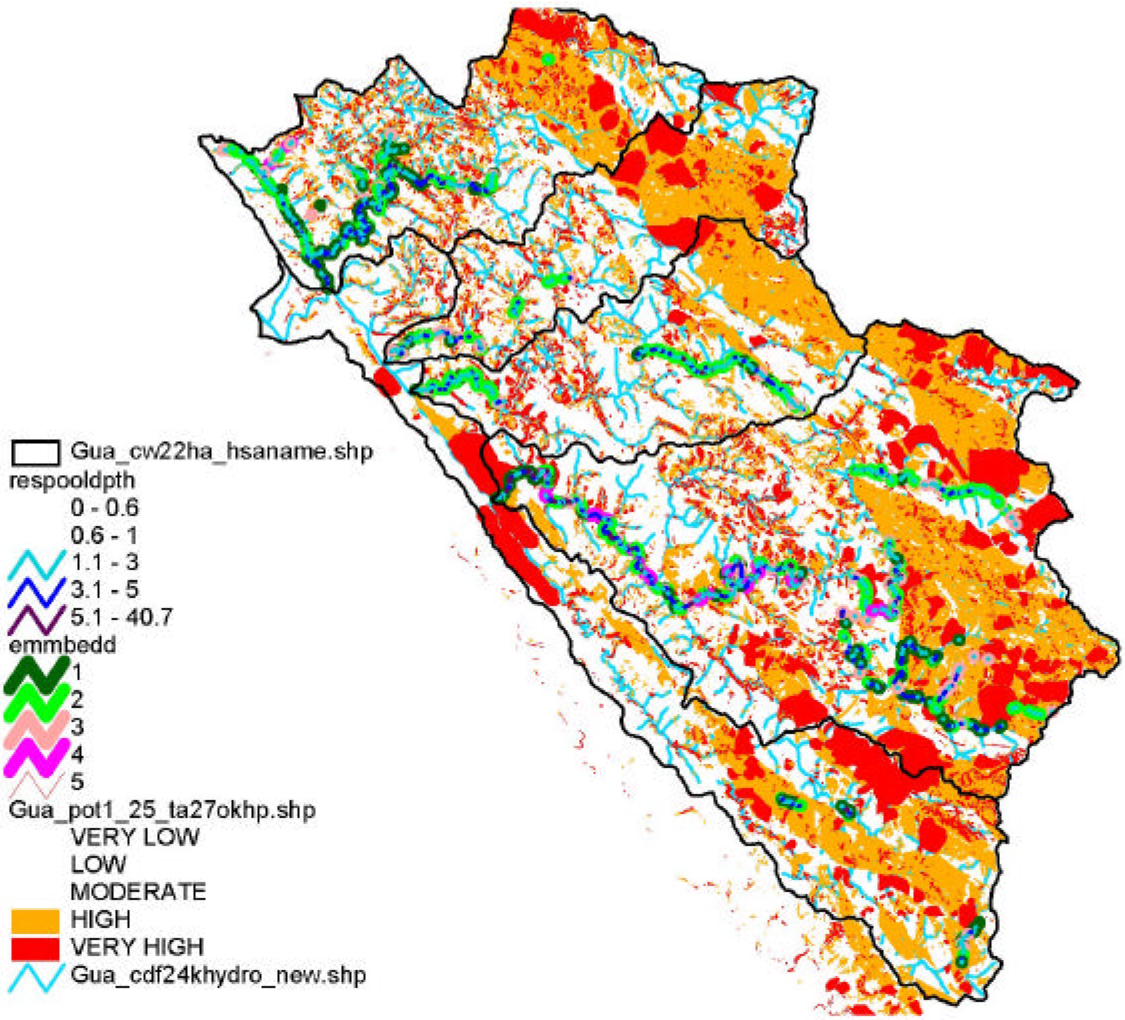


Figure 1: High and very high potential slope instabilities overlain by pool depth and embeddedness.

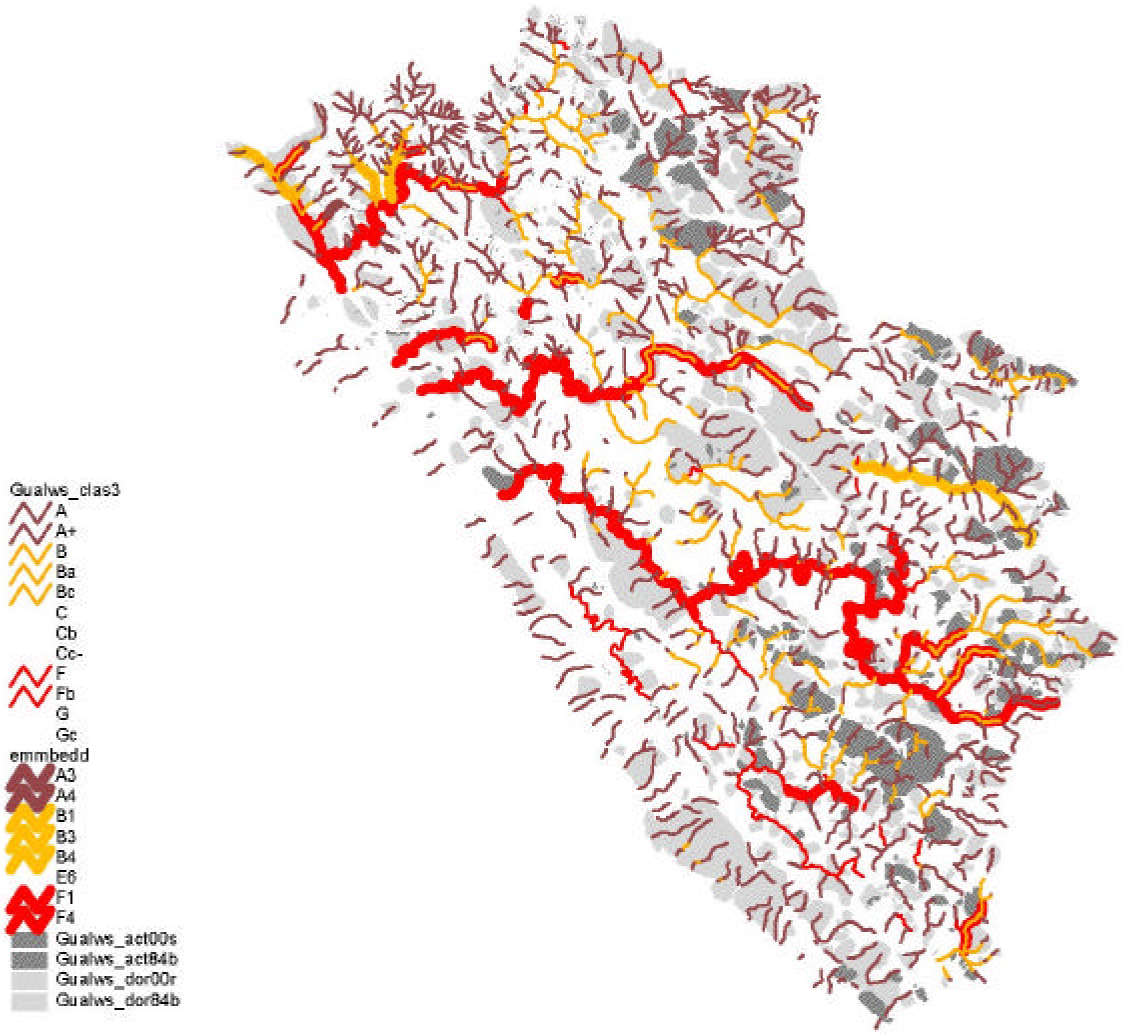


Figure 2: High and very high potential slope instabilities overlain by rosgen stream classification (Rating A is most suitable) and embeddedness

Gualala River valleys are filled with Holocene alluvium deposited since the last ice age. The plan and profile of the Gualala River and tributaries are significantly controlled by the distribution of hard versus soft rock. This distribution is related to faulting and landsliding. Active landsliding in the basin occurs as generally small shallow failures in steep areas in the Coastal Belt and in small to very large earthflow complexes on moderate and steep slopes in the Central Belt. Of the 246 miles of "blue line" streams in the Gualala, thirty nine per cent are response reaches and 41 per cent are transport reaches. Ninety percent of anomalous accumulations of in-stream sediment were mapped in transport and response reaches.

Pool depth and embeddedness factors show a range in sediment accumulations throughout response and transport reaches. The North Fork shows generally moderate pool depth and pool frequency. The upper North Fork, in 1936, was apparently aggraded prior to extensive land use and remains so today. In the lower Rockpile basin, mean pool depth was 1.4 ft. with a higher embeddedness range of 51 to 75% along the storage reach. Embededness ranged from 25 to 50% in the lower 9.6 miles of Buckeye Creek among moderate to somewhat unsuitable pool depth. Successive air photos and gravel mining records indicate that the lower South Fork may actually be degrading since between 1921 to 1993, suggesting sediment transport exceeding resupply. Similarly, air photos since 1942 indicate degradation of the stream channel in the lower Wheatfield. Stream surveys found high embeddedness and shallow pool structure along response reaches in the lower Wheatfield.

LAND USE/ ROADS X GEOLOGY X POOL DEPTH/ EMBEDDEDNESS

Most of the documentation in the land use section throughout the Gualala report shows that roads have been the dominant source of land use induced sediment loads, past and present. 1965 air photo coverage shows the impacts of poor road construction practices with large storm events. By 1964, 47% of the North Fork, 61% of the Rockpile, 65% of the Buckeye, and 30% of the Wheatfield sub-basins had been tractor logged. Streamside and in stream roads/ landings dominated the road network at this time. In upslope areas, there was indiscriminate construction of roads across steep and unstable terrain. As a result, air photos analysis showed massive erosion downcutting, slides, and washing of soil and debris into watercourses from moderate sized storm events.

The 1952 to 1968 tractor era shows high sediment discharge during storm events through time. Stream gradients determine sediment transport through the watershed. The Gualala River persists in transporting and storing sediment at elevated loads. The residence time of excess sediment accumulated in transport reaches is relatively short and some recovery is apparent over decades.

However, excess sediment accumulated in lower depositional reaches is hard to quantify and may remain much longer with only vague evidence of recovery. Pre 1973 tractor era disharges are more likely to continue to persist as long term depositions in lower gradient storage reaches and fluvial steps, creating long term embeddedness and shallow pool depth in these areas today.

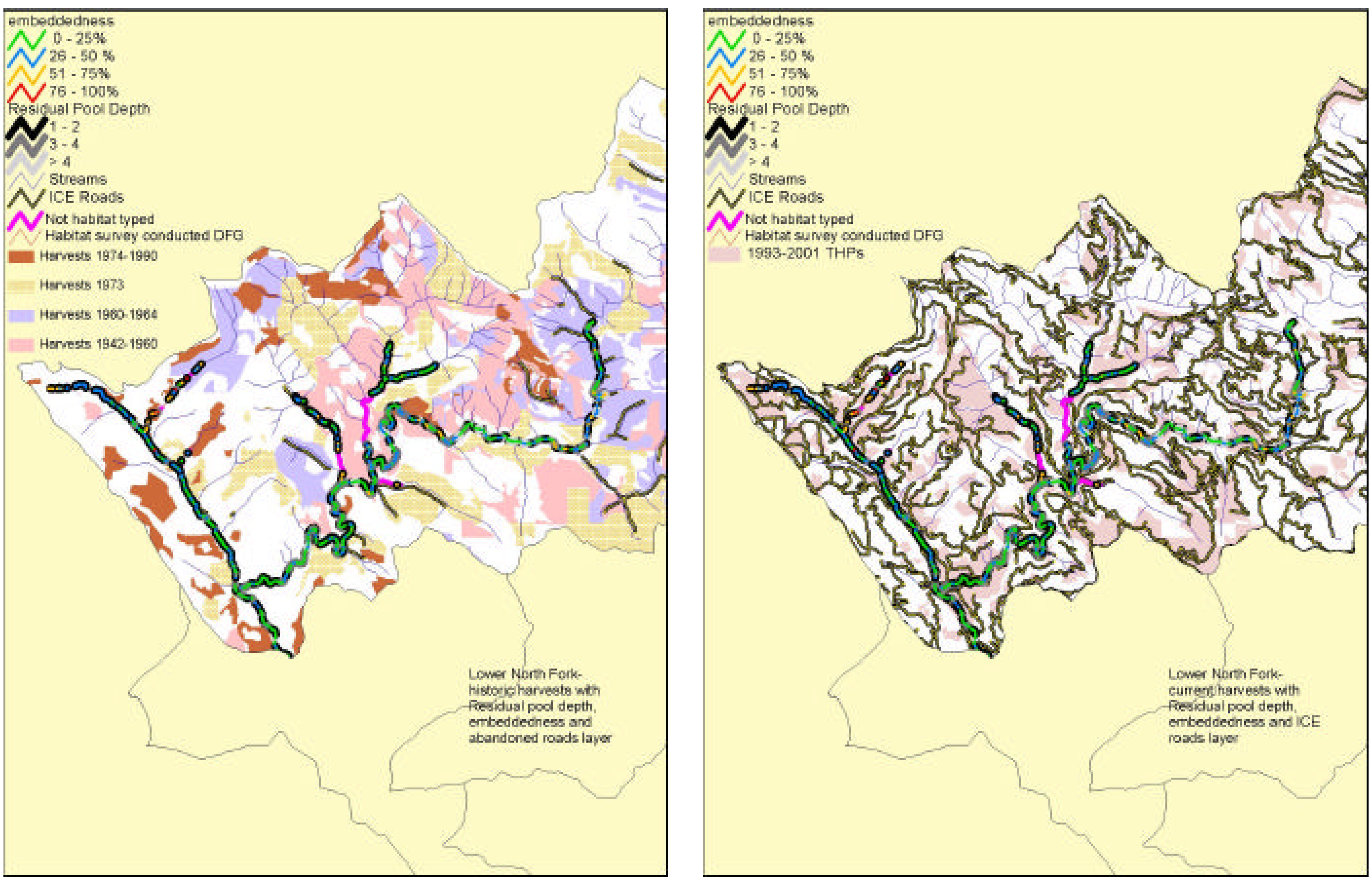


Figure 3: North Fork 2001 embeddedness/ pool depth X pre-1973 tractor era and streamside roads (left). 2001 embeddedness/ pool depth and 1990-2001 THPs/ ICE Roads (right).

Successive aerial photo overlays show that road construction shifts from streamside locations during the mid century to mid slope benches and ridgeline locations during the last two decades. Modern roads cross streams at a perpendicular rather than following the stream to one side. This makes road sediment inputs more related to the immediate road watercourse crossing sites and road approaches to streams. Timber Harvest plans generally indicate that road failures triggered by the 1986 and 1996 storm events represented a major proportion of contemporary sediment pulses in the watershed. Undersized culverts and substandard road crossings are particularly vulnerable during these storms. Modern roads located (1) on steep slopes, and (2) near blue line streams are more likely to fail. The extent by which additional sediment input may have delayed channel substrate recovery is unknown.

Throughout each sub-basin, the synthesis graphics overlay current embededness and pool depth with pre 1973 tractor era harvesting areas as long term sediment sources with residual impacts. A sampling of the streamside road network shows only those roads located at a near equal elevation to the streambank. Most of this historic road network is located slightly up from the stream, but still low on the sideslope. These roads are not shown. A second graphic overlays current embeddedness and pool depth to show current storm activated sediment pulses associated with the current road network. 1991 to 2001 Timber Harvest Plans are overlayed with the "ICE" road mapping of the entire current road network derived from recent air photos. This mapping mostly exludes the older abandoned roads that are vegetated over in these photos.

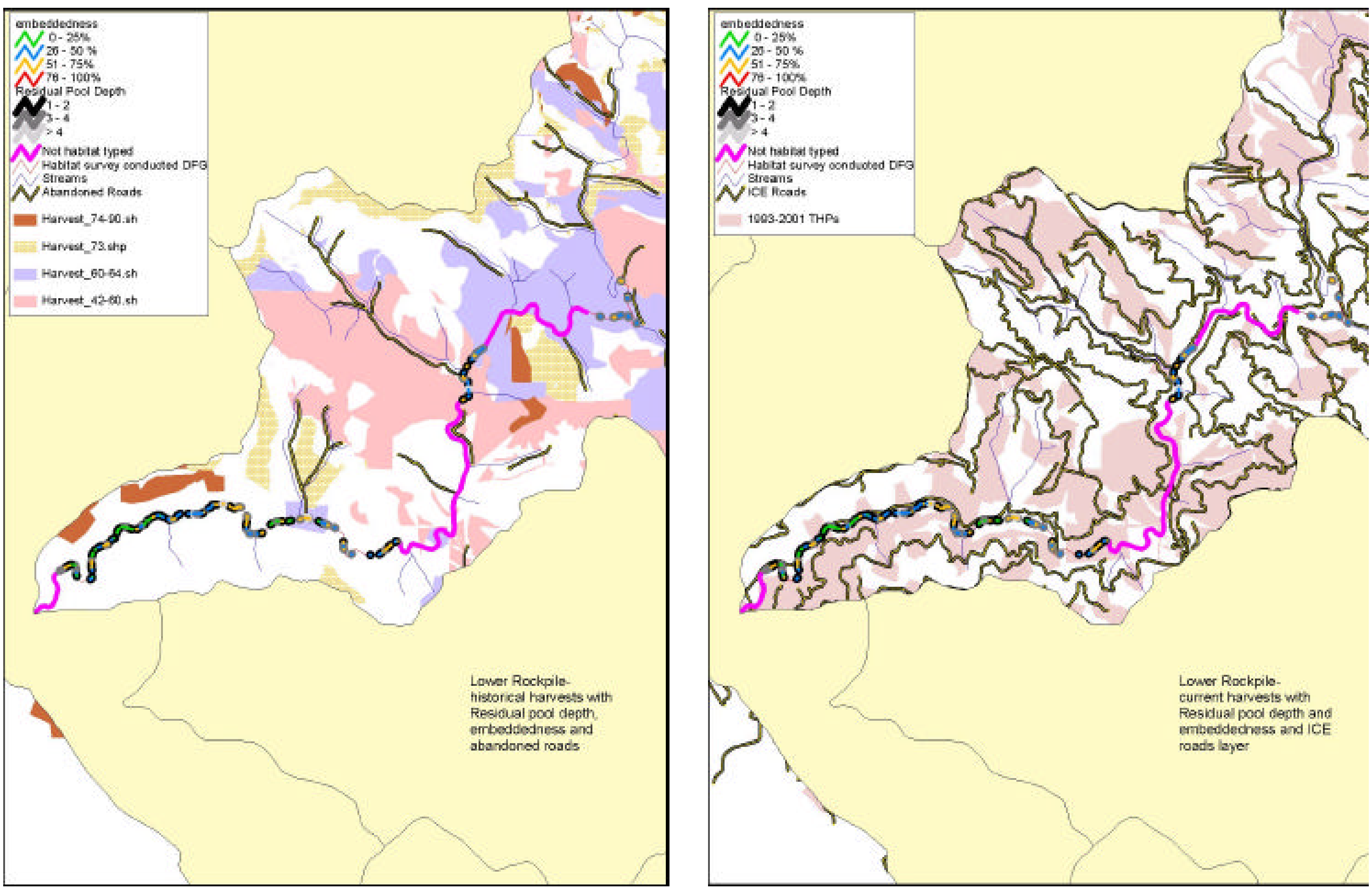


Figure 4: Rockpile embeddedness/ pool depth X pre-1973 era/ streamside roads (left) and 1991-2001 THPs/ ICE Roads (right)

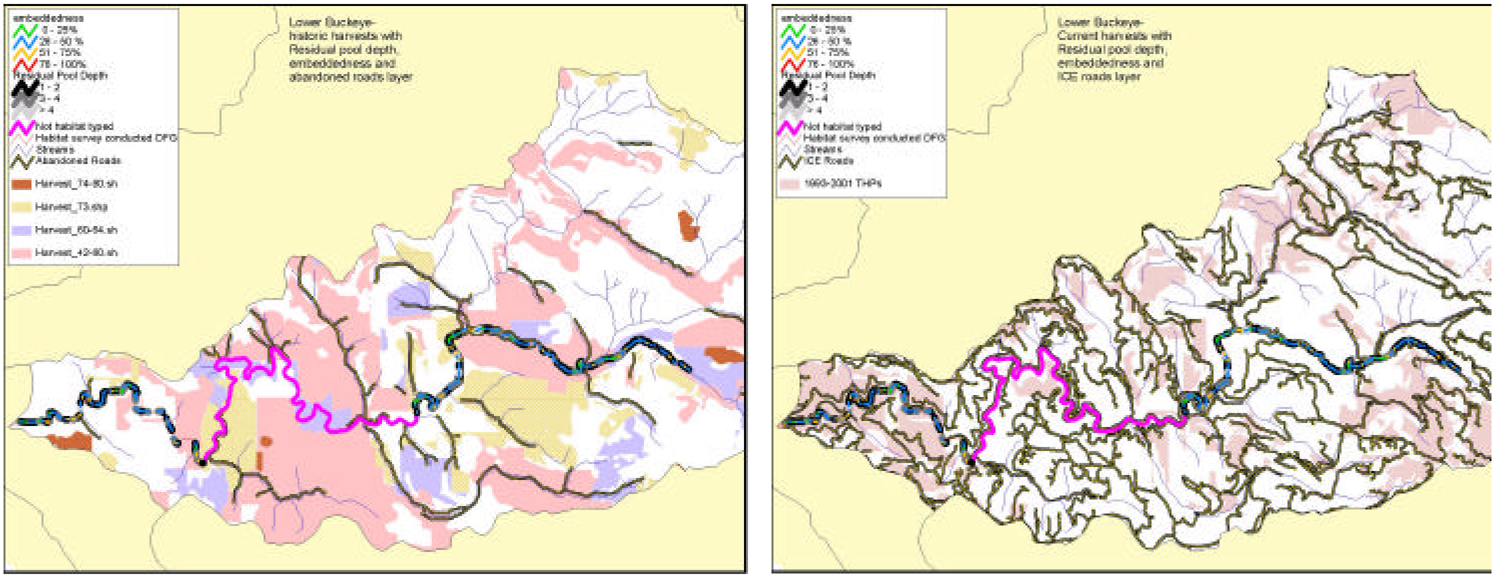


Figure 5: Buckeye embeddedness/ pool depth X pre 1973 era (left) and 1991-01 THPs (right)

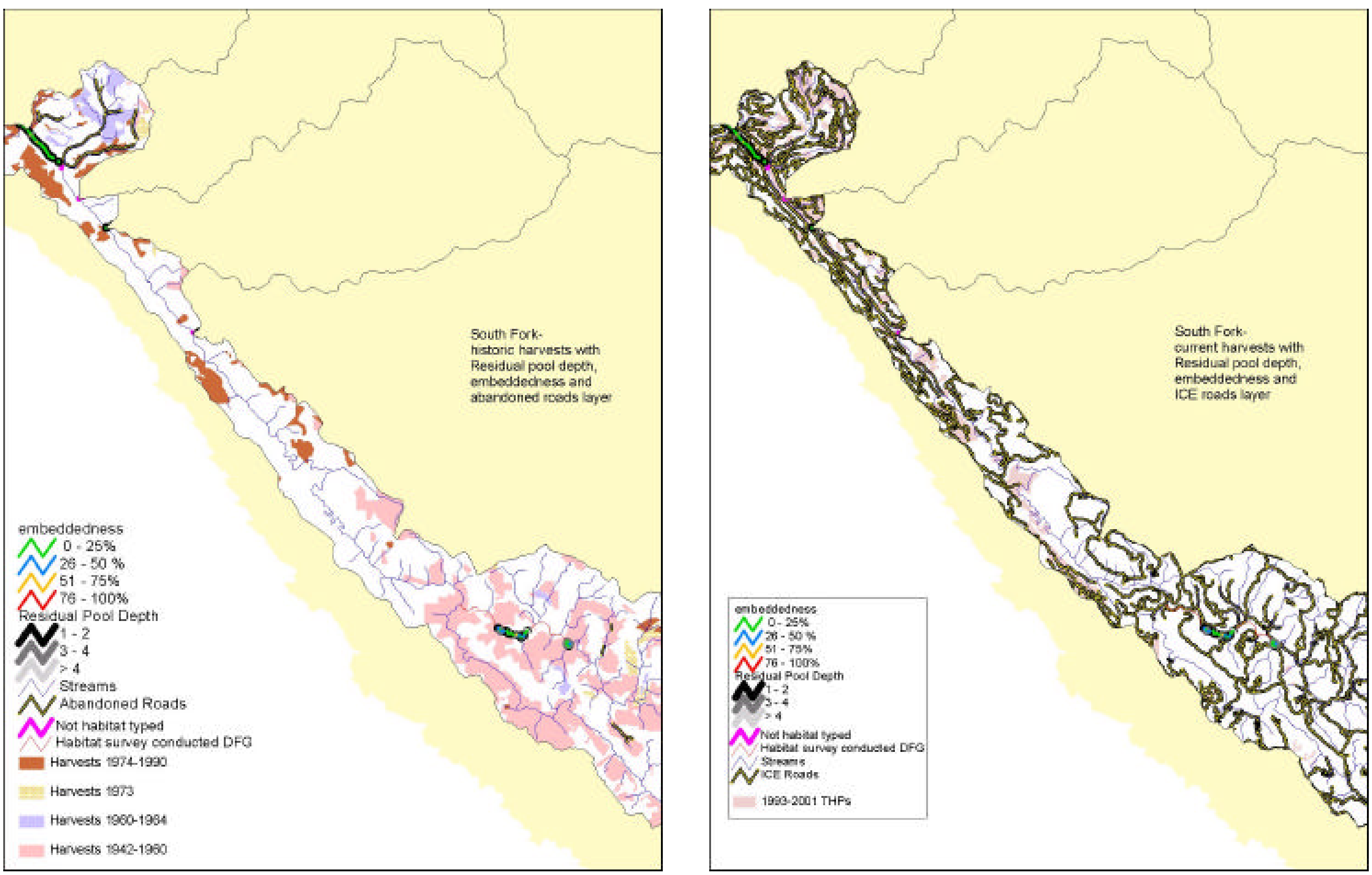


Figure 5: South Fork embeddedness/ pool depth X pre-1973 era (right) and 1991-01 THPs (right)

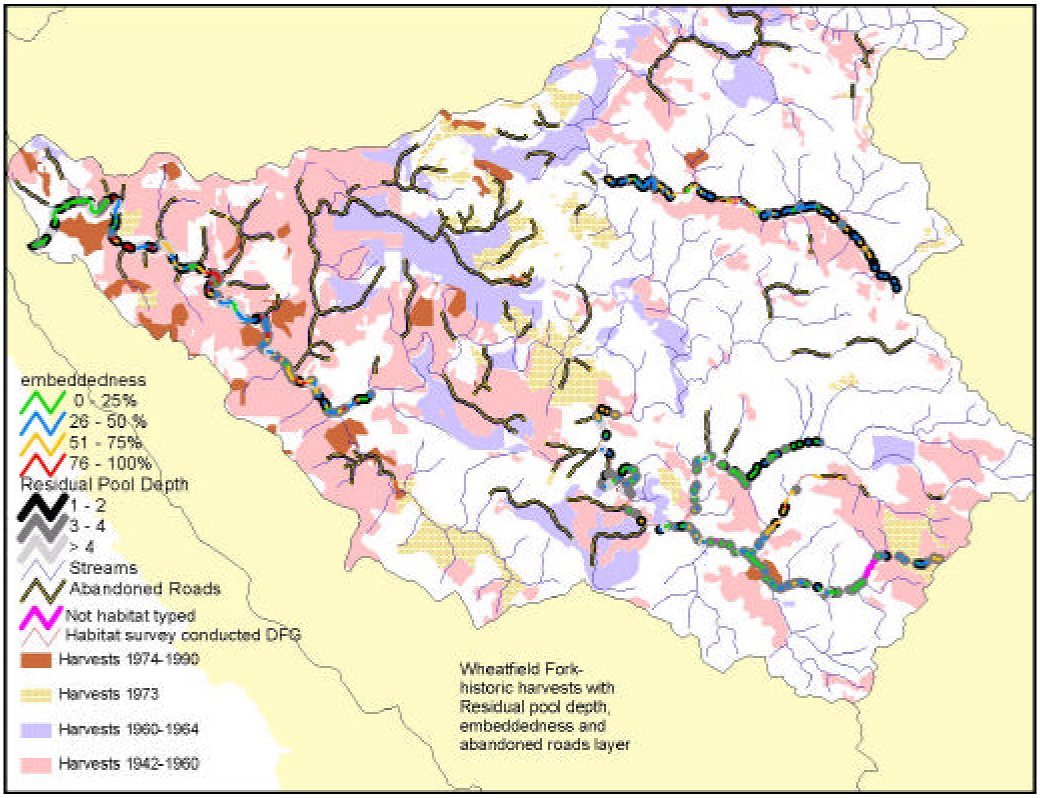


Figure 6: Wheatfield embeddedness/ pool depth X pre-1973 tractor era

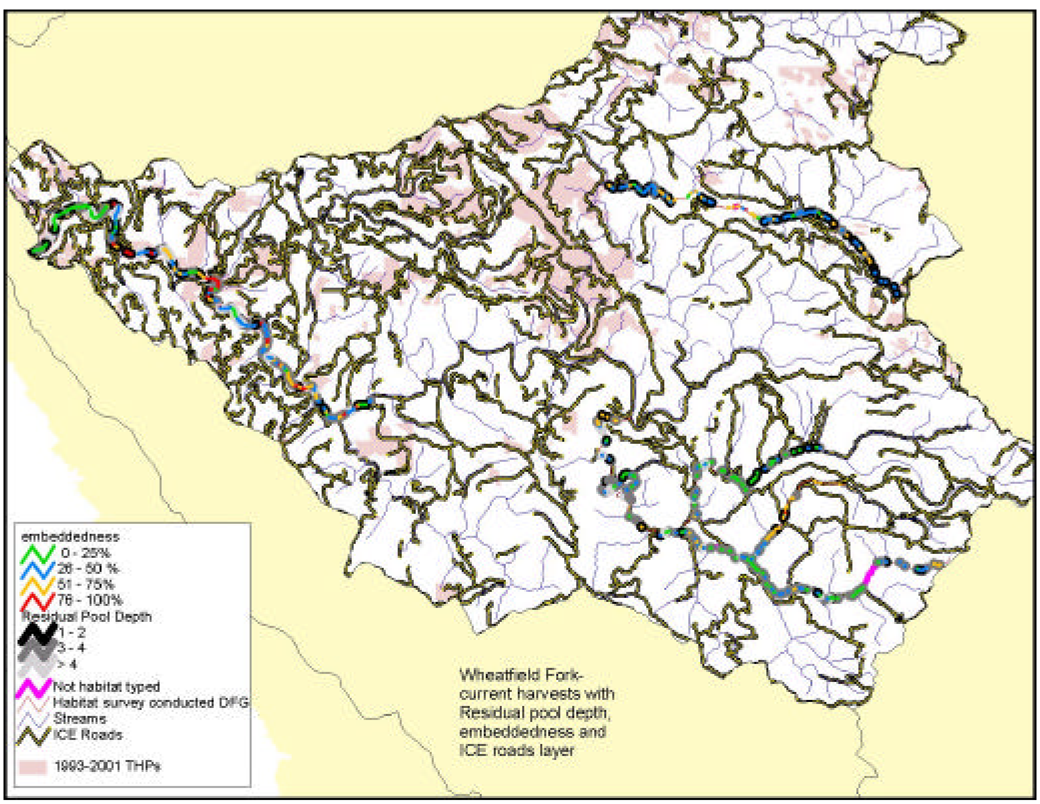


Figure 7: Wheatfield pool depth and embeddedneses X 1991-2001 THPs and ICE Roads

ROAD NETWORK SYNTHESIS

LANDUSE X GEOFLUVIAL

Historic Roads

Built Between 1952 and 1968, streamside/ in stream road and landing networks spanned a large part of fluvial drainage system in the north and central regions of the watershed. These roads dominated stream channel structure throughout the lower and middle reaches of the North Fork, Rockpile, Buckeye, and Wheatfield sub-basins (see Figure 8 below). DMG 1984 fluvial geomorphology mapping showed the residual effects of streamside road grading. Indexes of stream channel disturbance are higher where streamside road networks were built. This includes a larger number of eroding streambanks, braided channel patterns, and delivering landslides to the watercourse.

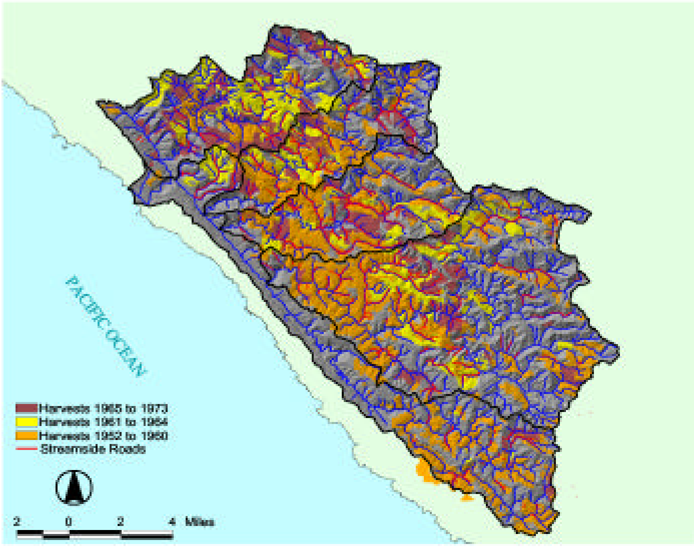
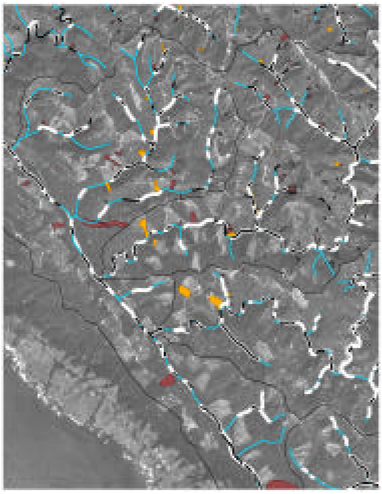


Figure 8: Mid century streamside/ instream roads and landings. Pre-1973 harvests are shown in three separate time strata.

1999/2000 geofluvial mapping generally revealed fewer stream channel disturbances compared to 1984. The following graphics show examples of these comparisons.



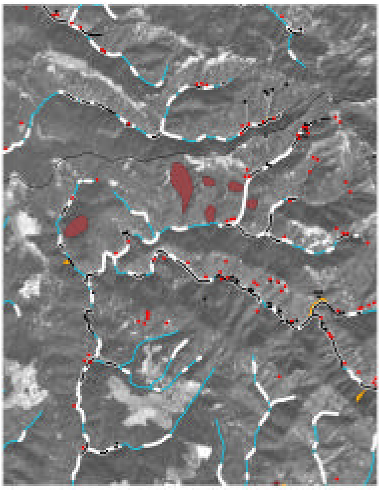


Figure 9: 1984 stream segments showing disturbed channel (white) for the North Fork (left) and Fuller Creek, (right). 1999/2000 length of disturbed channel (black) is reduced compared to 1984, overlayed on white.

The redirection of active roads to ridegelines and mid slope benches during the last two decades has allowed the streamside legacy roads and landings to vegetate and increasingly stabilize. Debris slides from these roads have tapered off over time. Storm generated gullying down mid century roads and skid trails incises deeper to bedrock or hard clay. We clipped the ICE roads within 50 ft. of watercourses to shows few segments of the current road network near streams Throughout the watershed, there are now approximately 10 miles of roads within 50 ft. of a watercourse, compared to 95 miles of historic roads built within or adjacent to streams.

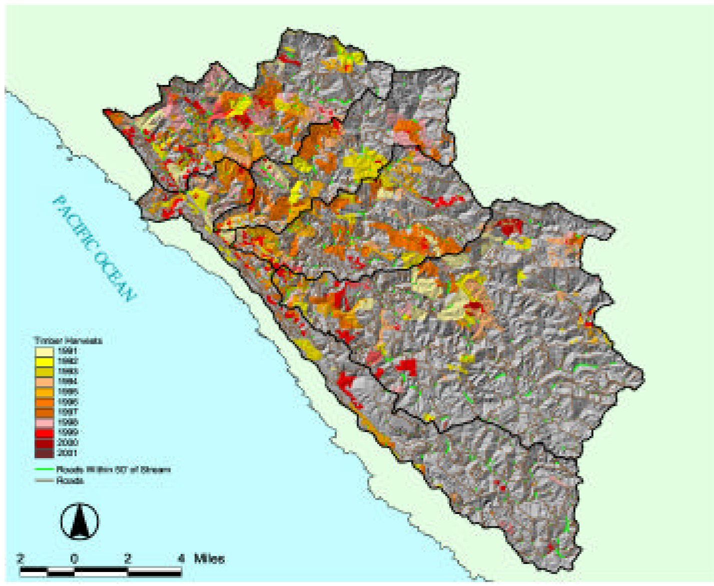


Figure 10: ICE roads located within 50 ft. of a watercourse (green), with 1991 to 2001 THPs.

Indexes of stream channel disturbance show percentage correlations with mid century streamside/ instream road and landing locations.

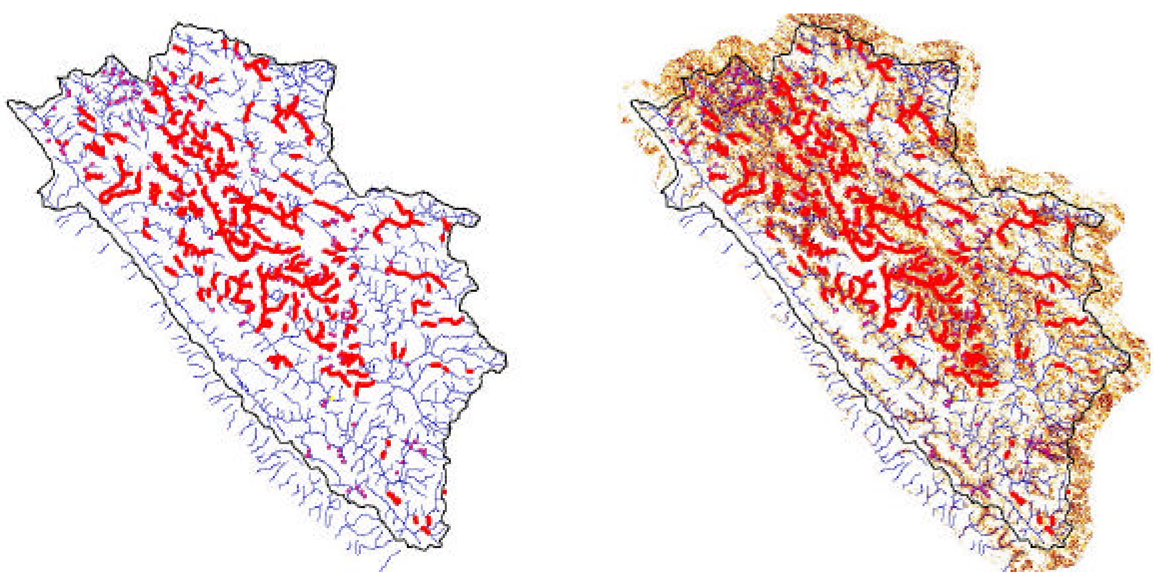


Figure 11: Streamside/ instream roads (red) and in stream landings (purple), occurred principally in steep areas (orange and red background)(right).

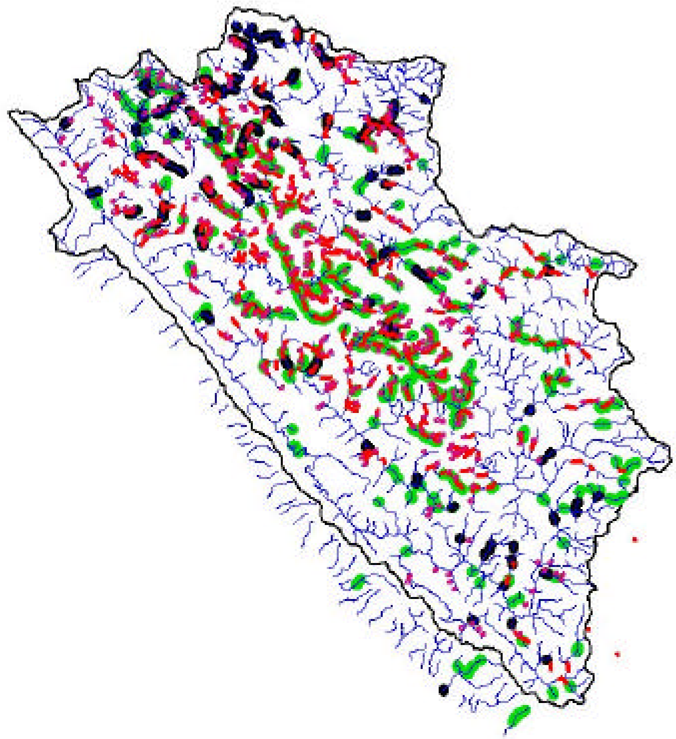


Figure 12: Watershed wide comparison of aggraded (green) and braided (black) channels in 1984 and historic in-stream roads and landings showing good correspondence. In 1984, ~80% of reaches that were aggraded and ~70% that were braided occurred in areas of historic in-stream roads or landings.

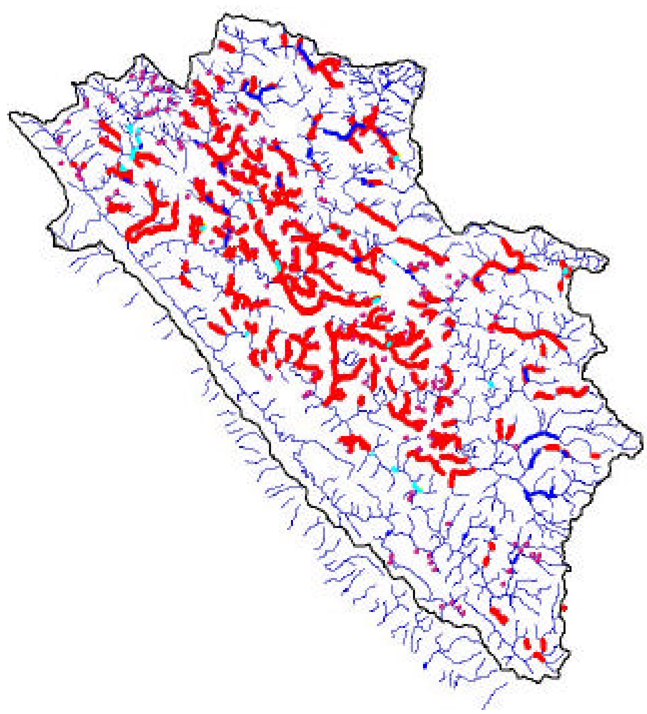


Figure 13: Comparison of braided (dark blue) and aggraded (light blue) channels in 2000 and historic in-stream roads and landings showing reduced significance. In 2000, ~63% of reaches that were aggraded and ~50% that were braided occurred in areas of historic in-stream roads or landings

Synthesis Of Historic Roads and Geofluvial Analysis

In 1984, 145 historic landings were spatially associated with stream aggradation or braiding.
In 2000, 8 historic landings were spatially associated with stream aggradation or braiding.

In 1984, 174 km of historic in-stream roads were spatially associated with stream braiding and aggradation.
In 2000, 67 km of historic in-stream roads were spatially associated with stream braiding and aggradation.

Of those reaches that were aggraded in both 1984 and 2000, 8 out of 9 were spatially associated with a historic in-stream road or landing.
Of those reaches that were braided in both 1984 and 2000, 11 out of 20 were spatially associated with a historic in-stream road or landing.

CONCLUSION:

1. Historic streamside/ instream roads and landings are responsible for most of the disturbed channel patterns observed in the 1984 imagery.
2. There has been a significant shift in the location of modern roads to ridgelines and mid slope benches, leaving most of the historic streamside roads and landings abandoned and vegetated. Some portions of the historic streamside roads continue to be used today.
3. There has been recovery with stream braiding and aggradation patterns between 1984 and 1999/ 2000. There is declining linkage between historic streamside/ instream road networks with stream aggradation patterns between 1984 and 2000. Proper repair and abandonment procedures applied to these roads will speed up this process.

RECOMMENDATION DEVELOPMENT

Identification Of High Priority Site Repair Areas.

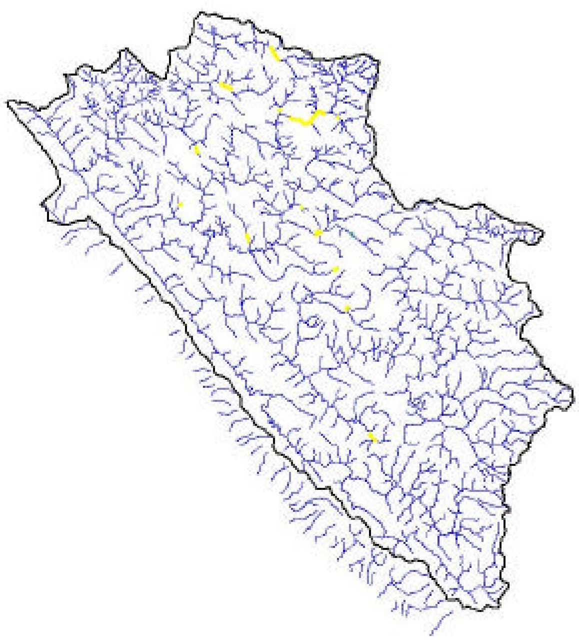


Figure 14: Stream reaches (yellow) with aggradation or braiding in both 1984 and 2000 that are associated with historic in-stream roads and landings. Stream reaches (yellow) with aggradation or braiding in both 1984 and 2000 that are associated with historic in-stream roads and landings.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct on-site evaluation of the significance of historic road and landings in these reaches and consider mitigations.

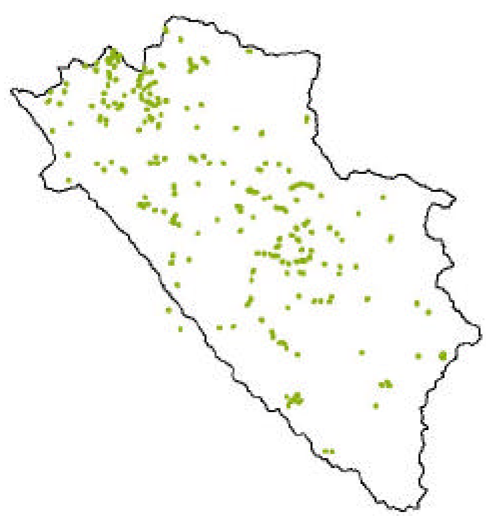
2. Combine these results with the results from the separate evaluation current roads and historically active landslides for a master map showing areas recommended for on-site evaluation and mitigation as appropriate.

Figure 15: Results from: Eva landslides and roads

MODERN ROADS

Although the current road network shows less overall coincidence of debris slides and stream crossing failures compared to historic times, proximity to streams and steep slopes continues to locate most of the contemporary road failures.

Road segments within 60 meters of a historically active point slide.
32 kilometers total.



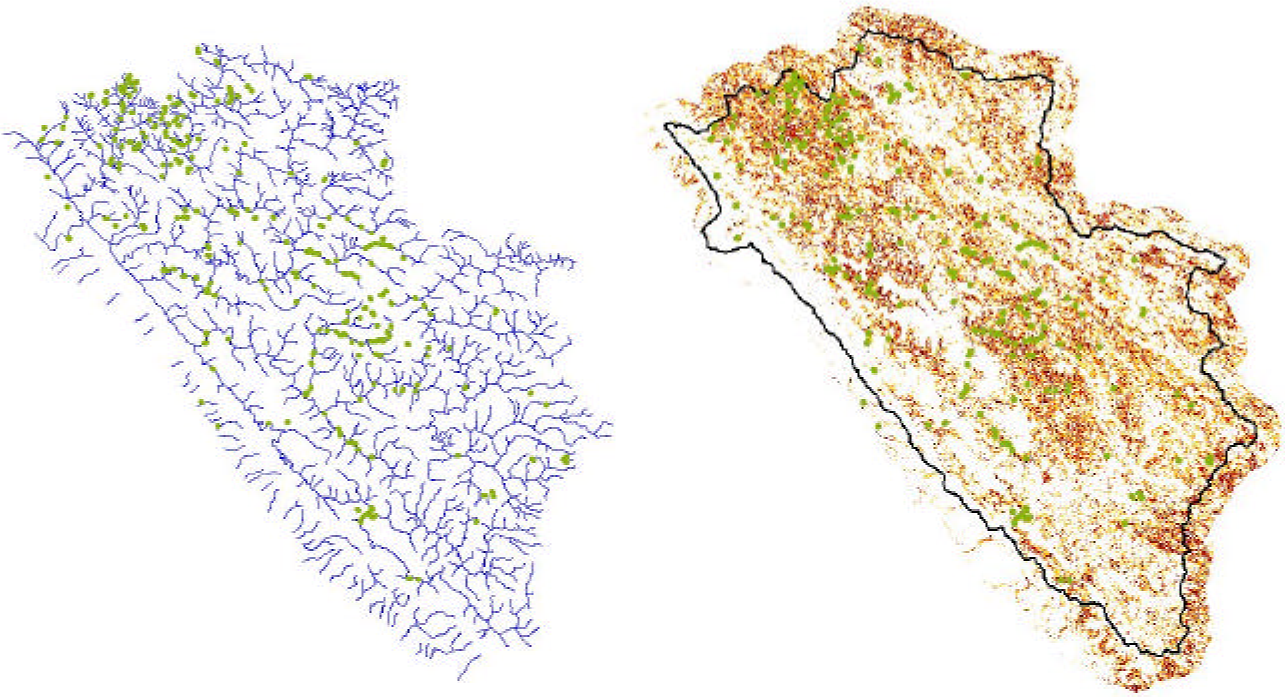
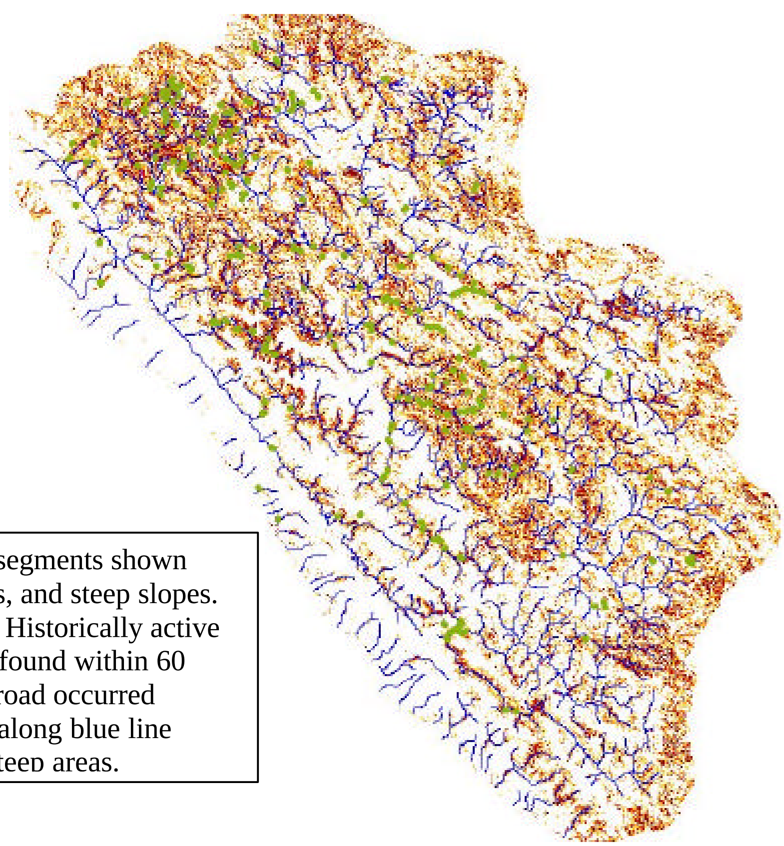
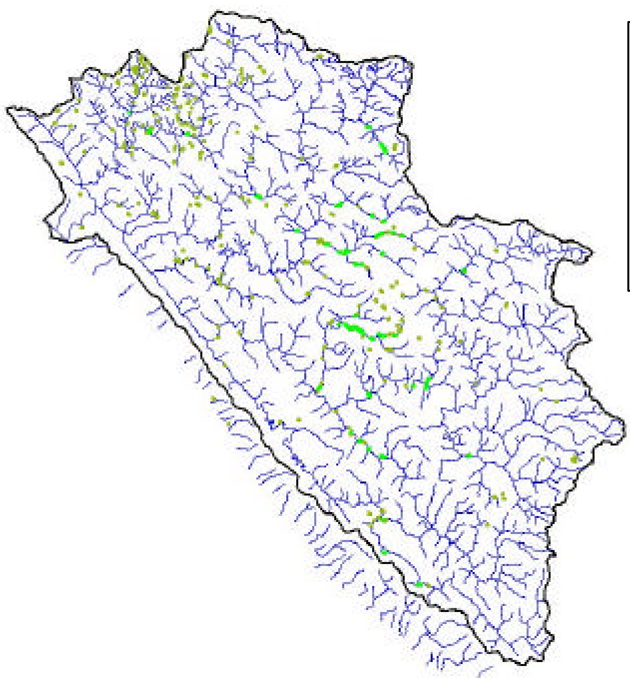


Figure 16: Those road segments shown with streams (left). Note the strong correlation with blue line streams. Right graphic shows road segments with steep slopes indicating a strong correlation.

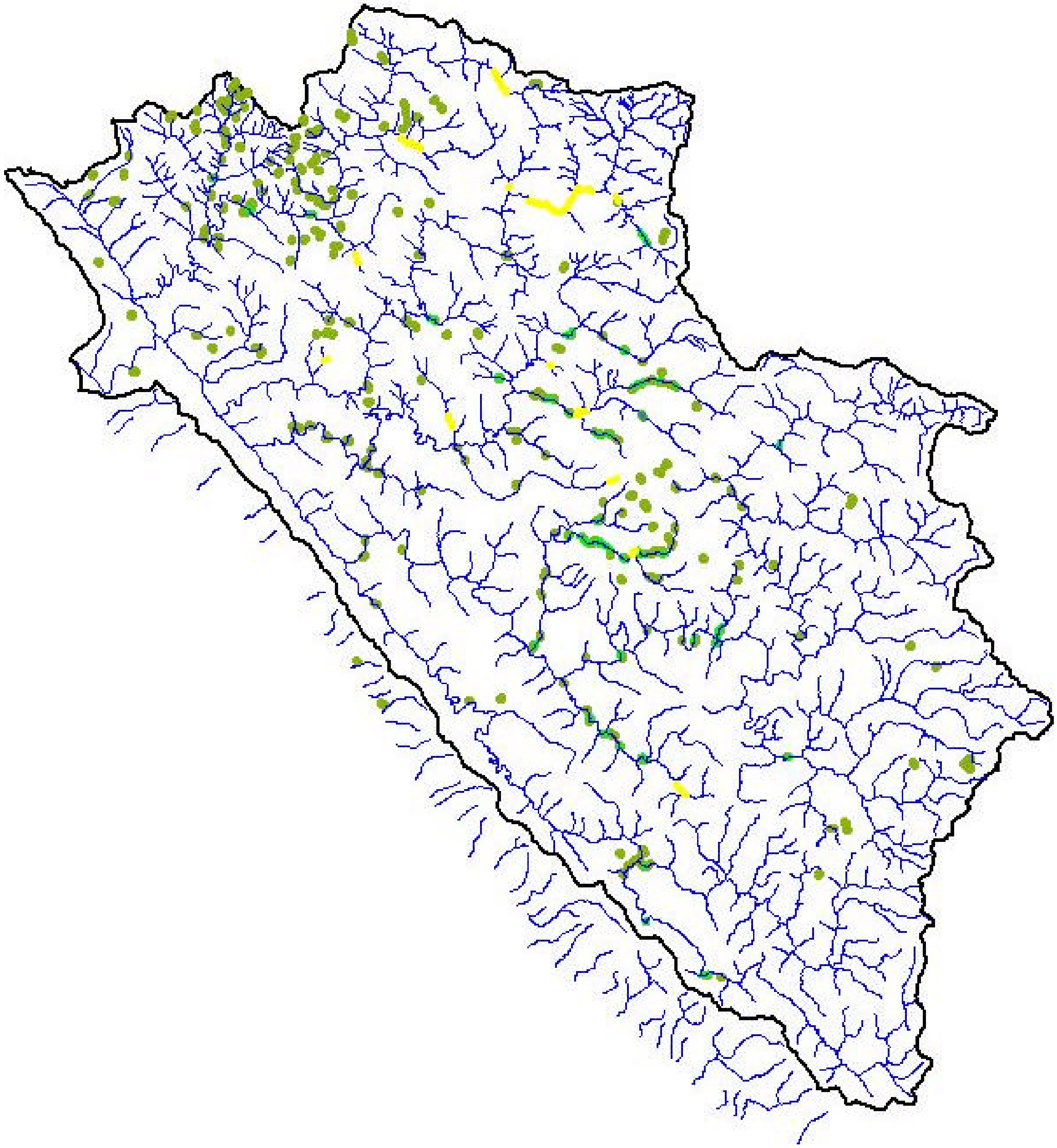


Those road segments shown with streams, and steep slopes. Conclusion: Historically active point slides found within 60 meters of a road occurred dominantly along blue line streams in steep areas.

assumed to have met minimum standards during timber harvest inspections suggesting that needed upgrades were made. Removing those inspected segments from the original set leaves this subset of those roads that were not in recent THPs (right) .



Of those road segments, many are in areas affected by stream bank erosion. Areas of bank erosion adjacent to these road segments are shown in bright green. Upgrades in these areas may require bank stabilization.



Master map of areas recommended for on-site evaluation and mitigation as appropriate. This includes analyses of both historic and current roads.

Appendix 6b
Integrated Analysis

NCWAP developed a number of large tabular presentations of data intended to help identify and highlight relationships across a number of important watershed factors. NCWAP refers to these as "integrated analysis" tables. Key relationships examined include those among land use, landslides, relative landslide potential, and instream fish habitat. The analyses are presented at the subbasin and planning watershed levels.

Tables 1A-1 through 1A-6 explore the relationships between recently active landslide features and land use. "Recently active" landslide features are those that showed signs of having moved within a few years of the year 2000 aerial photo date. The land use or land type categories used are woodland or grassland, THPs from 1991 through 2000, timberland with no recent harvest (i.e., no harvest 1991 or later), and roads. Roads are on a length (miles) basis, and the other categories are on an area (acres) basis. The woodland or grassland category is intended to capture a vegetation type that also implies a given kind of land use. In the Gualala watershed, this land type is typically used for grazing, though there has been recent growth in the establishment of vineyards on this land type. Areas where THPs have been conducted in the 1991-2000 period represent areas of recent, active timber management. Timberland areas with no recent harvest represent areas where there has been no active timber management (i.e., at the level that would require a THP) since 1991, though there could be less substantial forms of timber management, such as pre-commercial thinning.

Table 1A's juxtaposition of land use activities and landslides is not meant to imply an absolute causal relationship between the existence of landslides and the land use activities. While land uses such as timber harvest, roads, or construction can be contributing causal factors to landslide occurrence, determination of causality requires detailed field examinations that are well beyond the scope of NCWAP. Further, the approach that CGS uses to identify landslide features—examination of aerial photos with very limited field reconnaissance—has an inherent bias to it in that landslides under forest canopy are more difficult to identify than those in more open areas such as grasslands or recently harvested forestland.

Tables 2A-1 through 2A-6 look at the relationship between land use or land type and relative landslide potential. These tables allow the consideration of the interaction between the intrinsic likelihood of natural landsliding (relative landslide potential) and land use. Since we know that various land use activities have different potentials for triggering landslides, by looking at these activities in conjunction with relative landslide potential, one may develop an idea of the future landsliding potential resulting from the combination of anthropogenic and natural factors.

Tables 2B-1 through 2B-6 consider timber harvesting conducted from 1991-2000. This period was used because the landslide-triggering effects of timber harvesting can be delayed, for example until the roots of the large trees harvested rot away, resulting in reduced soil shear strength. The other land uses considered are generally of a more ongoing nature and hence are not considered over a particular time period.

Tables 3A-1 through 3A-6 examine the areas of active landslide features (as determined from review of 1985 and 2000 aerial photos) within given distances of blue line streams, as designated in the NCWAP hydrography GIS coverage. The presence of active landslide features proximate to streams is important, given the potential for these features to deliver sediment directly to or in an area likely to deliver to the stream channel, where the sediment has a high likelihood of adversely affecting salmonids and their habitat. The tables look at the areas or linear miles of landslide features within 0-180 feet, 180-660 feet, and more than 660 feet from blue line streams. Landslide features in the closest interval of 0-180 feet have the highest likelihood of delivering sediment. Note, however, that significant areas of active landslide are typically found in the two more remote distance classes. These may still be hydrologically connected in a direct manner to the blue line stream network.

The Tables are contained in four Excel files on the CD:

Gualala IA Table 1a.xls
Gualala IA Table 2a.xls
Gualala IA Table 2b.xls
Gualala IA Table 3a.xls

Appendix 6c
Ecological Management Decision Support (EMDS) Model

Introduction

NCWAP has selected the Ecological Management Decision Support (EMDS) (Reynolds 1999) software to help evaluate and synthesize information on watershed and stream conditions important to salmonids during the freshwater phases of their life history (Note: we are excluding factors related to marine habitat and fishing). EMDS uses linguistically based models, which are frequently utilized in engineering and the applied sciences to formalize expert opinion. The approach is one of several that NCWAP is employing to aid in identifying habitat factors that affect the production of salmonids on California's North Coast Watersheds (see limiting factors discussion in the Synthesis Report). The EMDS appendix describes the general workings of EMDS and the details of the models NCWAP is developing in conjunction with it .

NCWAP scientists have constructed "knowledge base" models to identify and evaluate environmental factors (e.g., watershed geology, stream sediment loading, stream temperature, land use activities, etc.) which taken together shape anadromous salmonid habitat. Based upon these models, EMDS evaluates available data to provide insight into the conditions of the streams and watersheds for salmonids in the region. The synthesis EMDS provides can then be compared to more direct measures of salmonid production—i.e., the number of salmonids recently found in streams. EMDS offers a number of benefits for the assessment work that NCWAP is conducting, and also has some known limitations. Both the advantages and drawbacks of EMDS are provided in some detail in this appendix.

Our use of the EMDS model outputs in this report is tentative. As discussed below, a scientific peer review process conducted in April of 2002 indicated that substantial changes to NCWAP's EMDS modeling approach are needed. At the time of the production of this report, we have been able to implement some, but not all of these recommendations. Hence, we use the model outputs with caution at this time. NCWAP will continue to work to refine and improve the EMDS model, based on the peer review.

Background

Details of the EMDS Software

EMDS (Reynolds 1999), was recently developed by Dr. Keith Reynolds at the USDA-Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. It employs a linked set of software that includes MS Excel, NetWeaver, the Ecological Management Decision Support (EMDS) ArcView Extension, and ArcView™. Microsoft Excel is a commonly used spreadsheet program for data storage and analysis. NetWeaver (Saunders and Miller (no date)), developed at Pennsylvania State University, helps scientists build graphics of the models (knowledge base networks) that specify how the various environmental factors will be incorporated into an overall stream or watershed assessment. These networks resemble branching tree-like flow charts, and graphically show the logic and assumptions used in the assessment, and are used in conjunction with environmental data stored in a Geographic Information System (ArcView™) to perform the assessments and facilitate rendering the results into maps. This combination of Excel/NetWeaver/EMDS/ArcView software is currently being used for watershed and stream reach assessment within the federal lands included in the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP).

NCWAP staff began development of EMDS knowledge base models with a three-day workshop in June of 2001 organized by the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to the NCWAP staff, model developer Dr. Keith Reynolds and several outside scientists also participated. As a starting point, NCWAP used an EMDS knowledge base model developed by the NWFP for use in coastal Oregon. Based upon the workshop, subsequent discussions among NCWAP staff and scientists, examination of the literature, and consideration of California conditions, NCWAP scientists then developed preliminary versions of the EMDS models. The first model was for assessing Stream Reach Condition, and the second was designed to assess conditions over the area of the Watershed Condition.

The two initial NCWAP models were reviewed over 2 days in April 2002 by an independent nine-member science panel, which provided a number of suggestions for model improvements. According to these suggestions, NCWAP scientists revised their EMDS models, and the results of their efforts are presented below.

The Knowledge Base Networks

For California's north coast watersheds, the NCWAP team has constructed five knowledge base networks reflecting the best available scientific studies and information on how various environmental factors combine to affect anadromous fish on the north coast. All five models are geared to addressing current conditions (in-stream and watershed) for salmonids, and to reflect a fish's perspective of overall habitat conditions:

1) The Stream Reach model (Figure 3 and Table 1), addresses conditions for salmon on individual stream reaches and is largely based on data collected under the Department of Fish and Game's stream survey protocols;

2) The Sediment Production model (Figure 4 and Table 2), evaluates the magnitudes of the various sediment sources in the basin according to whether they are natural or management related;

3) The Water Quality model (Figure 5 and Table 4) offers a means of assessing the characteristics of the in-stream water (flow and temperature) in relation to fish;

4) The Fish Habitat Quality model (Figure 5 and Table 3) incorporates the Stream Reach model results in combination with data on accessibility to spawning fish and a synoptic view of the condition of riparian vegetation for shade and large woody debris;

5) The Fish Food Availability model (Figure 5) has not yet been constructed, but will evaluate the watershed based upon conditions for producing food sources for anadromous salmonids.

Figure 1 shows the NCWAP EMDS model parameters in relation to work done by Ziemer and Reid (1997). Figure 1 is a re-working of the figure out of their 1997 paper, called "The Shape of the Problem". The original figure was used by the authors to show the complex linkages among natural and human-related phenomena which combine to affect salmonids in freshwater streams. Here it is redrawn to show more of the flow of various factors (from top to bottom) and with annotation of the parameters that are included in our EMDS models. Graphics such as these help to conceptualize the interrelationships of the problems facing salmonids, and serve as a basis for work such as with building EMDS models to reflect the complex system.

In creating the EMDS models listed above, NCWAP scientists have used what is termed a "top-down" approach. This approach is perhaps best explained by way of example. The NCWAP Stream Reach Condition model began with the proposition: *The overall condition of the stream reach is suitable for maintaining healthy populations of native coho and chinook salmon, and steelhead trout.* A knowledge base (network) model was then designed to evaluate the "truth" of that proposition, based upon data from each stream reach. The model design and contents reflect the specific information NCWAP scientists believed are needed, and the manner in which it should be combined, to test the proposition.

In evaluating stream reach conditions for salmonids, the NCWAP model uses data on several environmental factors. The first branching of the knowledge base network (Figure 2) shows that information on in-channel condition, stream flow, riparian vegetation and water temperature are all used as inputs in the stream reach condition model. In turn, each of the four branches is progressively broken into more basic data components that contribute to it (not shown). The process is repeated until the knowledge base network incorporates all information believed to be important to the evaluation.

Although model construction is typically done top-down, models are run in EMDS from the "bottom up". That is, data on the stream reach is usually entered at the lowest branches of the network tree (the "leaves"), and then is combined progressively with other information as it proceeds up the network. Decision nodes are intersections in the model networks where two or more factors are combined before passing the resultant information on up the network. For example, the "AND" at the decision node in Figure 2 means that the lowest value of the four general factors coming in to the model at that point is taken to indicate the potential of the stream reach to sustain salmon populations.

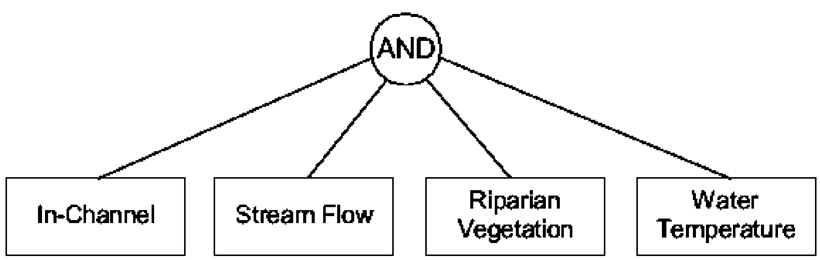


Figure 2. EMDS Stream Reach Knowledge Base Network.
EMDS uses knowledge base networks to assess the condition of watershed factors affecting native salmonids.

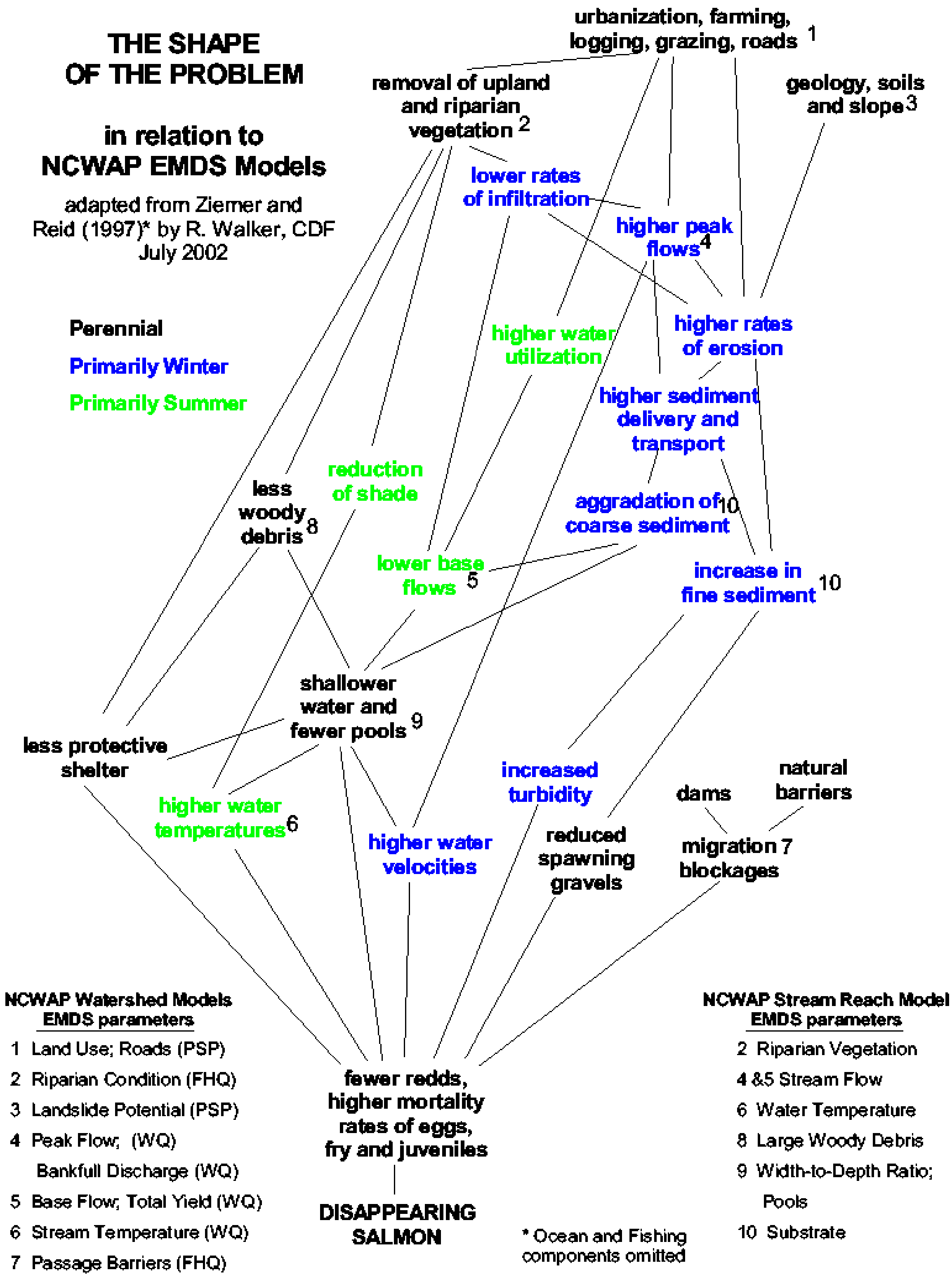


Figure 1. Modified from Figure 1 of Ziemer and Reid (1997) "The Shape of the Problem" to show the relationship between EMDS model parameters and the conceptual diagram of problems facing salmon in north coast California freshwater streams. Abbreviations used for watershed models above are: PSP – Potential Sediment Production model; FHQ – Fish Habitat Quality model; WQ – Water Quality model.

EMDS models assess the degree of truth (or falsehood) of each model proposition. Each proposition is evaluated in reference to simple graphs called "reference curves" that determine its degree of truth/falsehood, according to the data's implications for salmon. Figure 6 shows an example reference curve for the proposition is "*the stream temperature is suitable for salmon*". The horizontal axis shows temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, while the vertical is labeled "Truth Value" and ranges from –1 to +1. The line shows what are fully unsuitable temperatures (-1), fully suitable temperatures (+1) and those that are in-between (> -1 and <+1). In this way, a similar numeric relationship is required for all propositions evaluated in the EMDS models.

Proposition evaluations do not always result in simple "true" vs. "false" assessments – a strength of EMDS is its capability to determine degrees of truth or falsehood, or in effect, the degree to which the proposition is supported in the model by the evidence. For each evaluated propositions in the network, the result is a number between –1 and +1. The number relates to the degree to which the data support or refute the proposition. In all cases a value of +1 means that the proposition is "completely true", and –1 implies that it is "completely false", with in-between values indicate "degrees of truth" (i.e., values approaching +1 being closer to true and those approaching –1 converging on completely untrue). A zero value means that the proposition cannot be evaluated based upon the data available. Breakpoints (where the slope of the reference curve changes) in the Figure 6 example occur at 45, 50, 60 and 68 degrees Fahrenheit. For the Stream Reach model, NCWAP fisheries biologists determined these temperatures by a review of the scientific literature.

For many NCWAP parameters, particularly those relating to upland geology and management activities, effectively no scientific literature is available to assist in determining breakpoints. Because of this, NCWAP has had little alternative but to use a more empirically-based approach for breakpoints. Specifically, for each evaluated parameter, the mean and standard deviation are computed for all planning watersheds in a basin. Breakpoints are then selected to rank each planning watershed for that parameter in relation to all others in the basin. We used a simple linear approximation of the standardized cumulative distribution function, with the 10^{th} and 90^{th} percentiles serving as the low and high breakpoints (Figure 7). Thus the truth values for all Potential Sediment Production model variables are relative measures directly related to the percentile rank of that planning watershed. While not comparable outside of the context of the basin, such rankings do provide an indication of relative conditions within the basin.

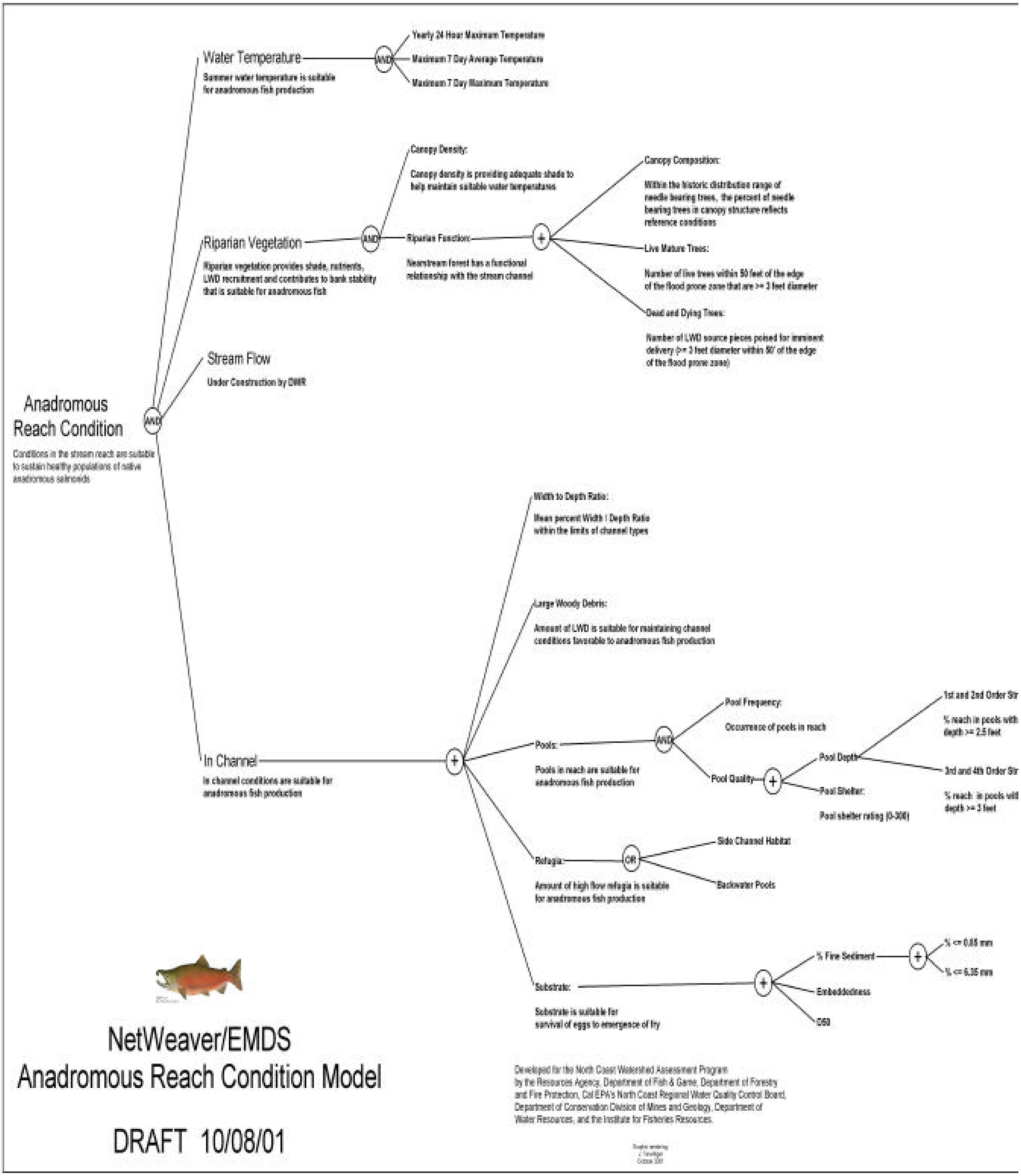


Figure 3. NCWAP EMDS Anadromous Reach Condition Model.

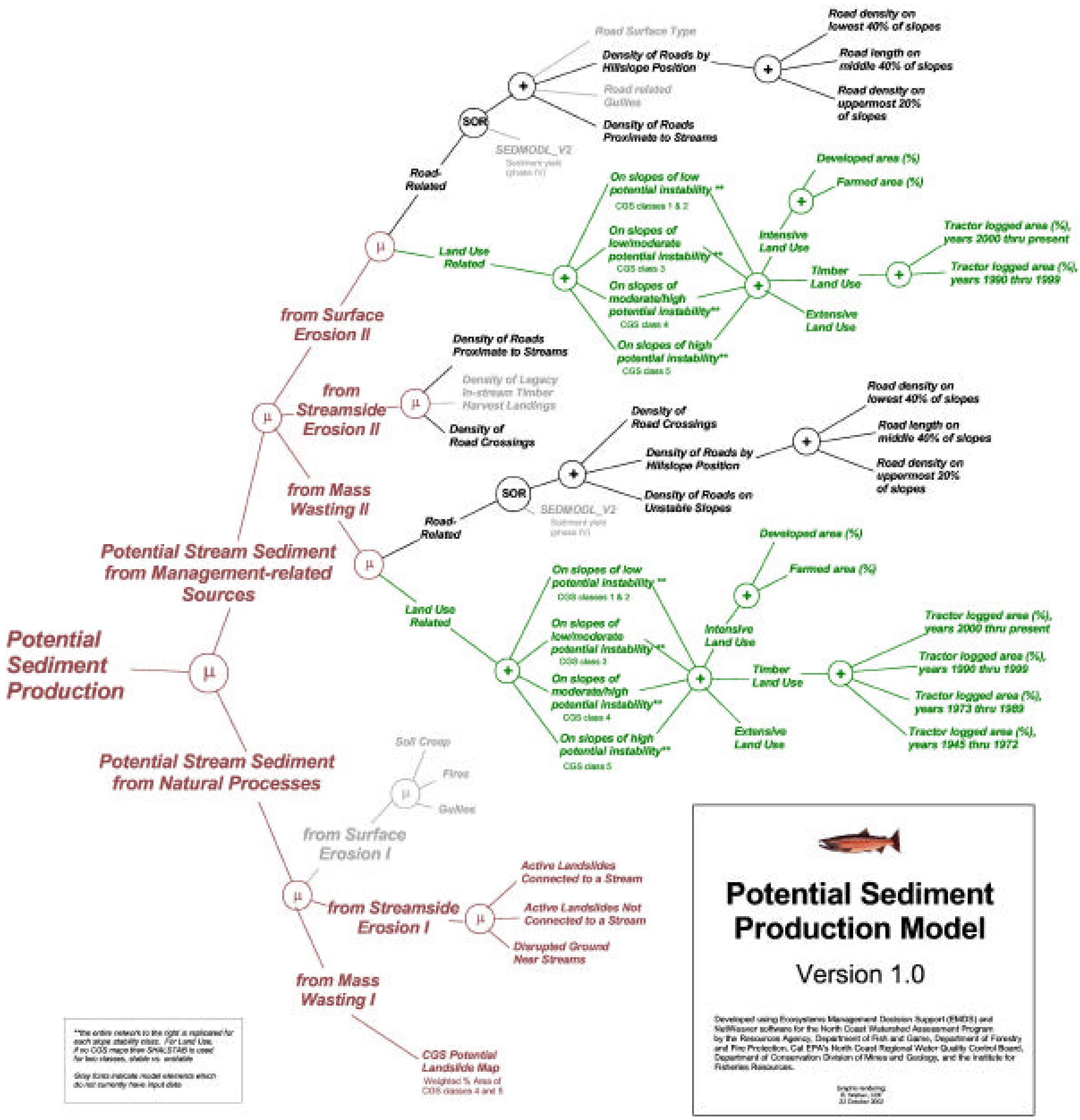


Figure 4. NCWAP EMDS Potential Sediment Production Model.

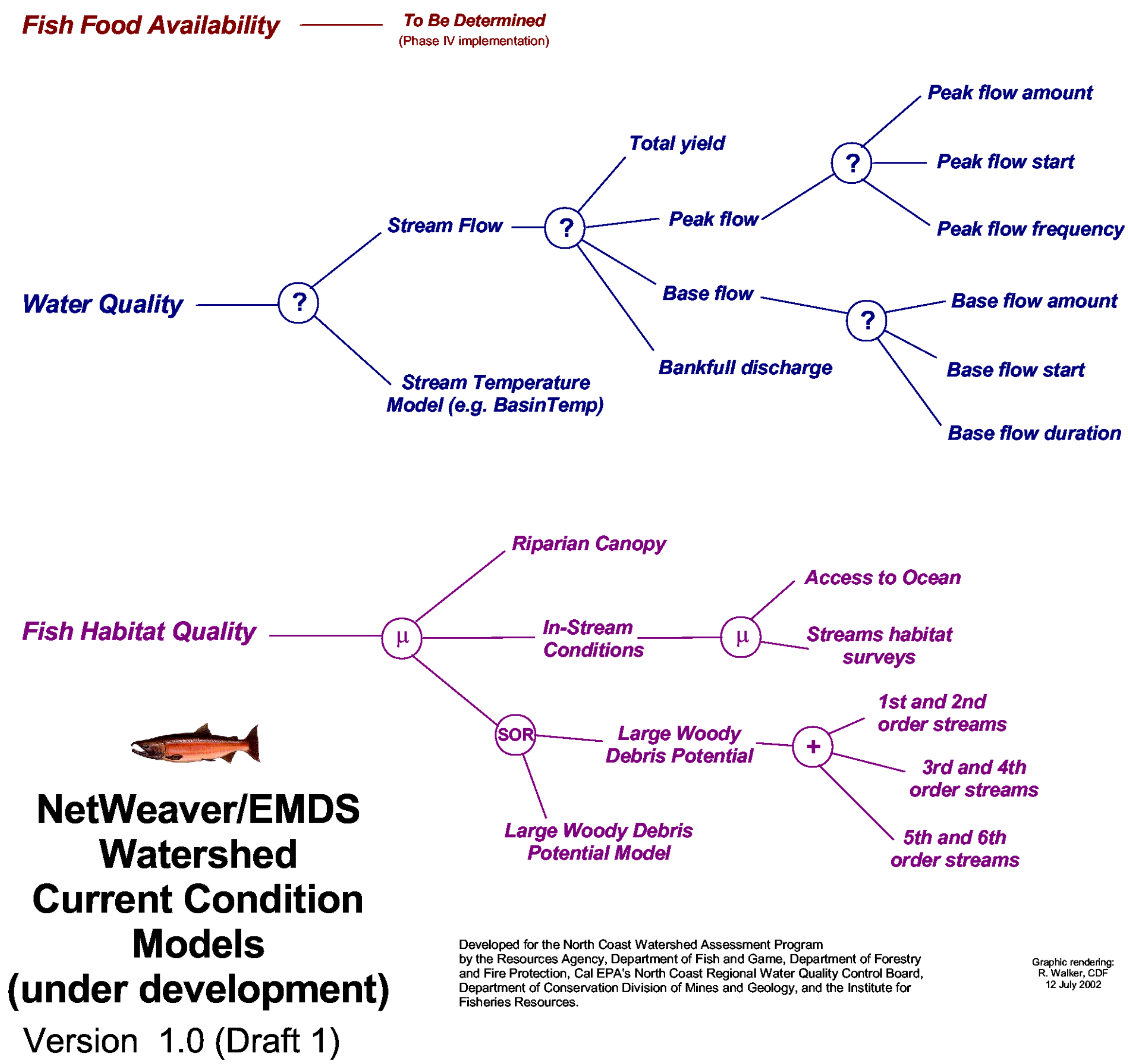


Figure 5. NCWAP EMDS Fish Food Availability, Water Quality and Fish Habitat Quality Models. Note: None of these models has yet been implemented. This graphic shows their current states of development.

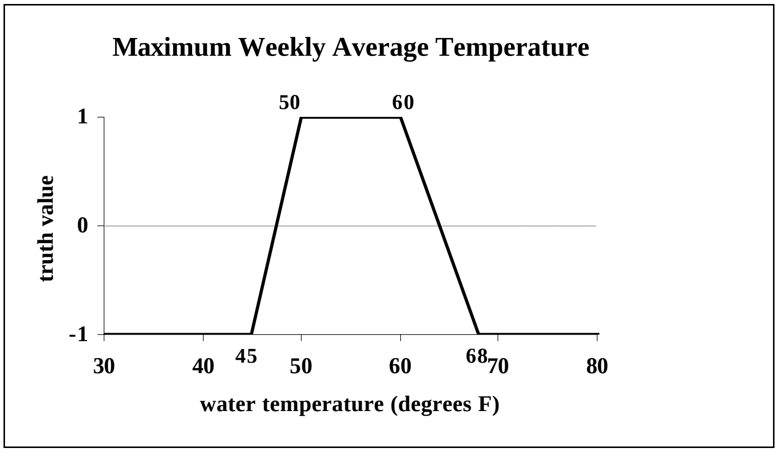


Figure 6. EMDS Reference Curve.

EMDS uses this type of reference curve in conjunction with data specific to a stream reach. This example curve evaluates the proposition that the stream's water temperature is suitable for salmonids. Break points can be set for specific species, life stage, or season of the year. Curves are dependent upon the availability of data.

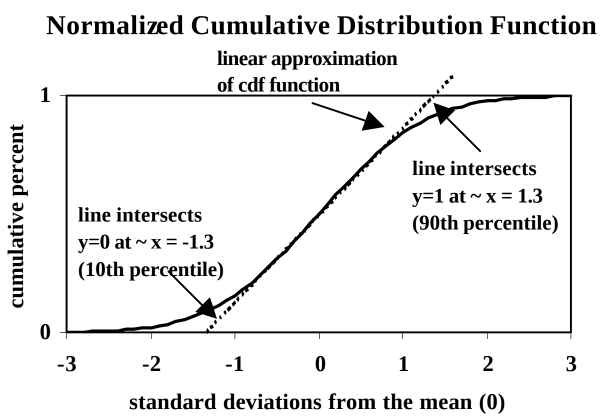


Figure 7. Using the 10th and 90th percentiles as breakpoints (as with Land Use) is a linear approximation of the central part of the normalized cumulative distribution function

The science review panel recommended that this method developed by NCWAP scientists be changed. They advised to use a set of reference watersheds from the region, compute the distributions of land use and other parameters from those watersheds to determine breakpoints. At this point NCWAP staff have not had the resources to select the reference watersheds, nor to process the data for them. This issue will be addressed in future watershed assessment and the breakpoints adjusted as the information from reference watersheds becomes available.

NCWAP map legends use a seven-class system for depicting the EMDS truth-values. Values of +1 are classed as the “highest suitability”; values of –1 are classed as the “lowest suitability”; and values of 0 are undetermined. Between 0 and 1 are two classes which, although unlabeled in the legend, indicate intermediate values of better suitability (0 to 0.5; and 0.5 to 1). Symmetrically, between 0 and –1 are two similar classes that are intermediate values of worse suitability (0 to –0.5; and –0.5 to –1).

In EMDS, the data that are fed into the knowledge base models come from GIS layers stored and displayed in ArcView. Thus EMDS is able to readily incorporate many of the GIS data layers developed for the program into the watershed condition syntheses. Figure 8 portrays an example map of EMDS results.

Reference Curves used in NCWAP’s Current EMDS Models

The tables below summarize important EMDS model information. More technical details and justification for each parameter is supplied in sections II and III of this appendix).

1) The Stream Reach Condition model. Parameter definition and breakpoints for this model (shown in table 1) are based upon reviews the scientific literature;

2) The Sediment Production Risk model. Parameter definitions and respective weights are shown in Table 2. Parameters currently not being used in the model for lack of data are noted in the table. All breakpoints for this model are determined empirically (i.e., based upon percentiles of the data distribution, i.e., Figure 7), due to the use of parameters that have no equivalents nor surrogates in the scientific literature;

3) The Fish Habitat Quality model. This model is still in early stages of development. It will incorporate the results of the Stream Reach model, and breakpoints will be based upon the scientific literature of properly functioning reference watersheds;

4) The Water Quality model. This model is also under development. Water temperature will be modeled with software such as Stillwater Sciences’ BasinTemp. Methods for modeling flow parameters have not yet been determined;

5) The Fish Food Availability model. Recommended by the science panel review, this model has yet to be designed and implemented by NCWAP.

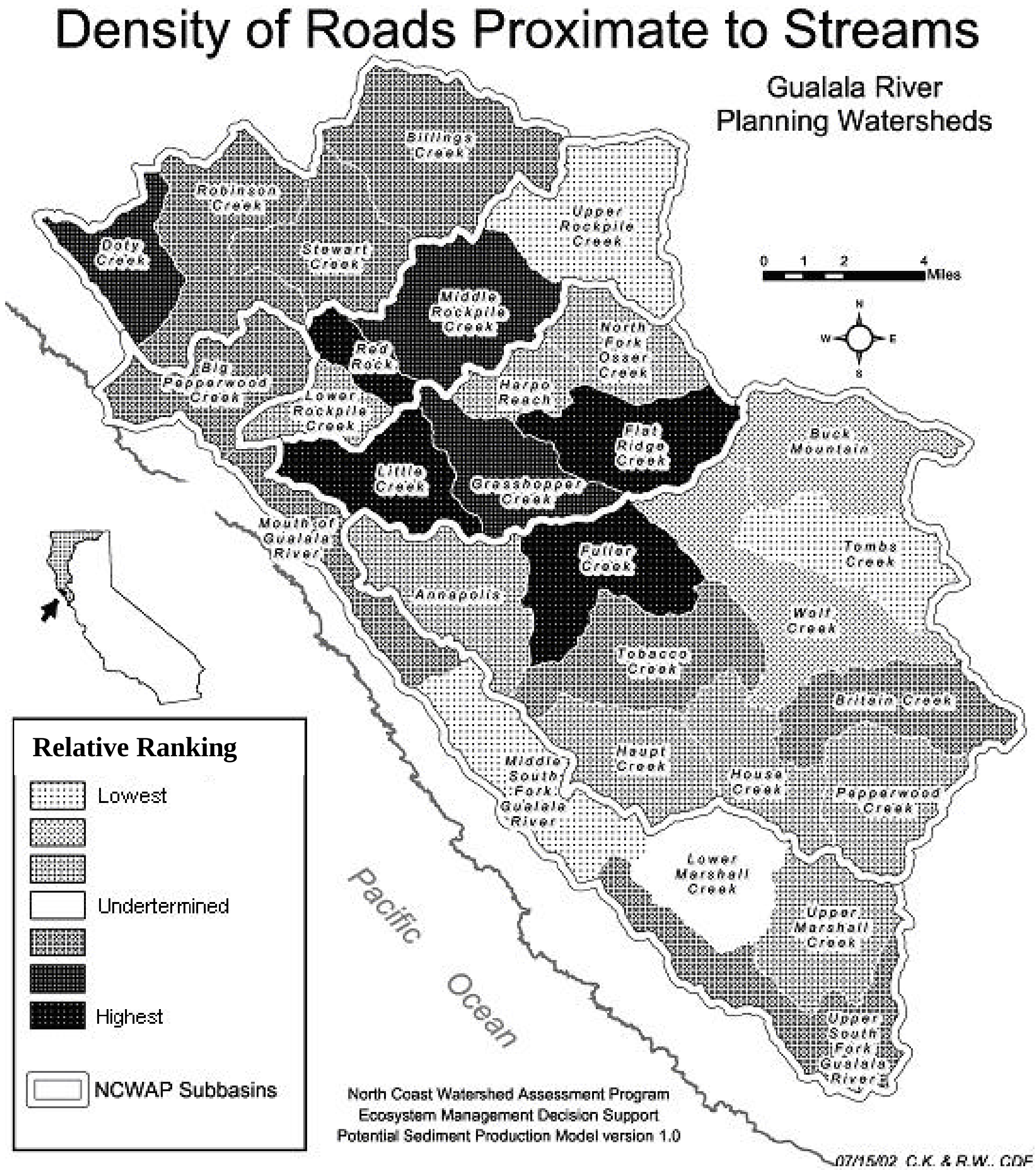


Figure 8. EMDS Graphical Output.

This example illustrates the graphical outputs of an EMDS run, expressing the total length of roads near watercourses. Planning watersheds with a high density of roads near streams indicate where additional field scrutiny is advised to determine the necessity of road upgrade and improvement work. Planning watersheds in lighter tones indicate lower priority areas based on this assessment.

Table 1. Reference Curve Metrics for EMDS Stream Reach Condition Model.

Stream Reach Condition Factor	Definition and Reference Curve Metrics
Water Temperature	
Summer MWAT	Maximum 7-day average summer water temperature <45^o F fully unsuitable, 50-60^o F fully suitable, >68^o F fully unsuitable. Water temperature was not included in current EMDS evaluation.
Riparian Function	
Canopy Density	Average percent of the thalweg within a stream reach influenced by tree canopy. <50% fully unsuitable, =85% fully suitable.
Seral Stage	Under development
Vegetation Type	Under development
Stream Flow	Under development
In-Channel Conditions	
Pool Depth	Percent of stream reach with pools of a maximum depth of 2.5, 3, and 4 feet deep for first and second, third, and fourth order streams respectively. =20% fully unsuitable, 30 – 55% fully suitable, =90% fully unsuitable
Pool Shelter Complexity	Relative measure of quantity and composition of large woody debris, root wads, boulders, undercut banks, bubble curtain, overhanging and instream vegetation. =30 fully unsuitable, =100 - 300 fully suitable
Pool frequency	Under development
Substrate Embeddedness	Pool tail embeddedness is a measure of the percent of small cobbles (2.5" to 5" in diameter) buried in fine sediments. EMDS calculates categorical embeddedness data to produce evaluation scores between –1 and 1. The proposition is fully true if evaluation sores are 0.8 or greater and -0.8 evaluate to fully false
Percent fines in substrate <0.85mm (dry weight)	Percent of fine sized particles <0.85 mm collected from McNeil type samples. <10% fully suitable, > 15% fully unsuitable. There was not enough of percent fines data to use Percent fines in EMDS evaluations
Percent fines in substrate < 6.4 mm	Percent of fine sized particles <6.4 mm collected from McNeil type samples. <15% fully suitable, >30% fully unsuitable. There was not enough of percent fines data to use Percent fines in EMDS evaluations
Large Woody debris	The reference values for frequency and volume is derived from Bilby and Ward (1989) and is dependant on channel size. See appendix for details Most watersheds do not have sufficient LWD surveys for use in EMDS.
Refugia Habitat	Refugia is composed of backwater pools and side channel habitats and deep pools (>4 feet deep). Not implemented at this time.
Pool to Riffle Ratio	Under development
Width to Depth Ratio	Under development

Table 2. Reference Curve Metrics for EMDS Sediment Production Risk Model, version 1.0

Sediment Production Factor	Definition*	Weights**
Total Sediment Production	**The mean truth value from Natural Processes and Management-related Processes**	
Natural Processes	**The mean truth value from Mass Wasting I, Surface Erosion I and Streamside Erosion I knowledge base networks**	**0.5**
Mass Wasting I	The mean truth value from natural mass wasting: Landslide Potential, Deep-seated Landslides and Earth Flows	0.33
Landslide Potential	A selective OR (SOR) node takes the best available data to determine landslide mass wasting potential.	1.0
CGS Landslide Potential Map	(1st choice of SOR node) Percentage area of planning watershed in the landslide potential categories (4 and 5)	1.0
Landslide Potential Class 5	Percentage area of watershed in class 5 (CGS rating)	0.8
Landslide Potential Class 4	Percentage area of watershed in class 4 (CGS rating)	0.2
Probabilistic Landslide Model	(2nd choice of SOR node) Where option 1 is missing, the Probabilistic Landslide Model is used to calculate area of planning watershed with unstable slopes	1.0
SHALSTAB	(3rd choice of SOR node) Where options 1 and 2 are missing, SHALSTAB model is used to calculate area of planning watershed with unstable slopes	1.0
Surface Erosion I	The mean truth value from natural processes of surface erosion: Gullies, Soil Creep, and Fires	0.33
Gullies	Density of natural gullies in planning watershed (currently no data supplied to model here)	0.33
Soil Creep	Percentage area of planning watershed with soil creep (currently no data supplied to model here)	0.33
Fires	Percentage area of planning watershed with high fire potential (currently no data supplied to model here)	0.33
Streamside Erosion I	The mean truth value from natural processes of streamside erosion: Active Landslides Connected to Watercourses; Active Landslides Not Connected to Watercourses; Disrupted Ground Near Watercourses	0.33
Active Landslides Connected to Watercourses	Percentage of planning watershed with Active Landslides connected to watercourses	0.60
Active Landslides Not Connected to Watercourses	Percentage of planning watershed with Active Landslides not connected to watercourses	0.30
Disrupted Ground near Watercourses	Percentage of planning watershed with Disrupted Ground near to watercourses	0.10
Management-related Processes	**The mean truth value from Mass Wasting II, Surface Erosion II and Streamside Erosion II knowledge base networks**	**0.5**
Mass Wasting II	The mean truth value from management-related mass wasting: Road-related and Land Use-related	0.33
Road-related	Coarse sediment contribution to streams from roads from either SEDMODL_V2 (first choice) or the mean of Density of Road/Stream Crossing, Density of Roads by Hillslope Position, and Density of Roads on Unstable Slopes	0.5
SEDMODL-V2	(when model is available – 1st choice of SOR node)	1.0
Density of Road/Stream Crossings	(2nd choice of SOR node, averaged with DRHP directly below) Number of road crossings/km of streams	0.33
Density of Roads / Hillslope Position	Weighted sum of road density by slope position (weights determine relative influence, and sum to 1.0)	0.33
road length on lower slopes	Density of roads of all types on lower 40% of slopes	0.6
road length on lower slopes	Density of roads of all types on mid-slope (41-80 % of slope distance)	0.3
road length on upper slopes	Density of roads of all types on upper 20% of slopes	0.1
Density of Roads on Unstable Slopes	Density of roads on geologically unstable slopes	0.33

Land Use related	Coarse sediment contribution to streams from intensive, timber harvest, and ranched areas (*see below in table**) <10th percentile highest suitability; >90th percentile lowest suitability	0.5
On slopes of *low* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map classes 1 and 2 (or SHALSTAB if CGS maps unavailable)	0.04
On slopes of *low/moderate* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map class 3 (or SHALSTAB if CGS maps unavailable)	0.09
On slopes of *moderate/high* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map class 4 (or SHALSTAB if CGS maps unavailable)	0.17
On slopes of *high* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map class 5 (or SHALSTAB if CGS maps unavailable)	0.7
Land Use related mass wasting parameter details (evaluated separately for each category of potential slope instability)	(Weights, showing the relative influence of each parameter, sum to 1.0)	
• intensive land use		
--developed areas	Percentage of the planning watershed area in high density buildings and pavement	0.2
--farmed areas	Percentage of planning watershed area in intensive crop cultivation	0.2
• area of timber harvests	Percentage of planning watershed area tractor logged weighted by time period (years)	
--Era 0 (2000 – present)	Tractor logged area 2000-present	0.2
--Era 1 (1990 – 1999)	Tractor logged area 1990-1999	0.12
--Era 2 (1973 – 1989)	Tractor logged area 1973-1989	0.06
--Era 3 (1945 – 1972)	Tractor logged area 1945-1972	0.12
• ranched area	Percentage of watershed area used for grazing livestock; estimated based on vegetation type and parcel type	0.1
Surface Erosion II	The mean truth value from management-related surface erosion: Road-related and Land Use-related	0.33
Road-related	Fine sediment contribution to streams from roads from either SEDMODL_V2 (first choice) or the mean of Density of Roads Proximate to Streams, Density of Road-related Gullies, Density of Roads by Hillslope Position, and Road Surface Type	0.5
SEDMODL-V2	(when model is available – first choice of SOR node)	1.0
Density of Roads Proximate Streams	(2nd choice of SOR node, averaged with 3 subsequent road-related measures directly below)	0.25
Density of Roads Hillslope Position	Weighted sum of road density by slope position	0.25
road length on lower slopes	Density of roads of all types on lower 40% of slopes	0.6
road length on lower slopes	Density of roads of all types on mid-slope (41-80 % of slope distance)	0.3
road length on upper slopes	Density of roads of all types on upper 20% of slopes	0.1
Density of Road-related Gullies	Density of gullies related to roads	0.25
Road Surface Type	Percentage of roads with surfaces that are more likely to deliver fine sediments to streams (no data currently supplied to model here)	0.25
Land Use related	Fine sediment contribution to streams from intensive, timber harvest, and ranched areas (*see below in table***)	0.5
On slopes of *high* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map class 5	0.7
On slopes of *moderate/high* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map class 4	0.17
On slopes of *low/moderate* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map class 3 (or SHALSTAB if unavailable)	0.09
On slopes of *low* potential instability	Slope stability defined by CGS map classes 1 and 2 (or SHALSTAB if unavailable)	0.04
Land Use related surface erosion parameter details	(evaluated separately for each of the four categories of potential slope instability)	
• intensive land use	Land where human activity is intensive	

--developed areas	Percentage of the planning watershed area in high density buildings and pavement	0.2
--farmed areas	Percentage of planning watershed area in intensive crop cultivation	0.2
• area of timber harvests	Percentage of planning watershed area tractor logged, by time period	
--Era 0 (2000 – present)	Tractor logged area 2000-present	0.3
--Era 1 (1990 – 1999)	Tractor logged area 1990-1999	0.2
• ranched area	Percentage of planning watershed area used for grazing livestock; estimated based on vegetation type and parcel type	0.1
Streamside Erosion II	The mean truth value from management-related streamside erosion: Road-related and Land Use-related	0.33
Density of Roads Proximate to Streams	Length of all roads within 200' of stream ÷ length of all streams	0.33
Density of Road/Stream Crossings	Number of road crossings/km of streams	0.33
Density of In-stream Timber Harvest Landings	Number of legacy timber harvest landings in-stream per unit length of stream	0.33

***all breakpoints for the sediment production risk model were created from the tails of the cumulative distribution function curves for each parameter, at the 10th and 90th percentiles. Thus all resultant values are relative to the basin as a whole, but are not rated on an absolute basis**
****weights for parameters at each node sum to 1.0; indentation of weight shows the tier where it is summed**

Table 3. Reference Curve Metrics for EMDS Fish Habitat Quality Model, version 1.0 (not yet implemented)

Fish Habitat Quality Factor	Reference Curve Metric
In-Stream	
Access to Ocean	Percentage of historically accessible streams currently accessible to anadromous fish; <10th percentile highest suitability; >90th percentile lowest suitability
Stream Reach Condition model results	Input from EMDS Reach Condition Model (see table 1 above).
Riparian Canopy	Percent area of riparian vegetation within 200' feet of stream and compared to canopy closure on reference streams; <10th percentile lowest suitability; >90th percentile highest suitability
Large Woody Debris Potential	
Large Woody Debris Potential Model	1st choice for SOR node, model not yet identified
Large Woody Debris Potential	2nd choice for SOR node. Percentage of stream bordered by mature forest stands. with quadratic mean diameter of >=24 inches as compared to reference streams; <10th percentile lowest suitability; >90th percentile highest suitability
1st and 2nd order streams	
3rd and 4th order streams	
5th and 6th order streams	

Advantages Offered by EMDS

EMDS offers a number of advantages for use by NCWAP. Instead of being a hidden "black box", each EMDS model has an open and intuitively understandable structure. The explicit nature of the model networks facilitates open communication among agency personnel and with the general public through simple graphics and easily understood flow diagrams. The models can be easily modified to incorporate alternative assumptions about the conditions of specific environmental factors (e.g., stream water temperature) required for suitable salmonid habitat.

Using ESRI Geographic Information System (GIS) software, EMDS maps the factors affecting fish habitat and shows how they vary across a basin. At this time no other widely available package allows a knowledge base network to be linked directly with a geographic information system such as ESRI's ArcView. This link is vital to the production of maps and other graphics reporting the watershed assessments. EMDS models also provide a consistent and repeatable approach to evaluating watershed conditions for fish. In addition, the maps from supporting levels of the model show the specific factors that taken together determine the overall watershed condition. This latter feature can help to identify what is most limiting to salmonids, and thus assist to prioritize restoration projects or modify of land use practices.

Another feature of the system is the ease of running alternative scenarios. Scientists and others can test the sensitivity of the assessments to different assumptions about the environmental factors and how they interact, through changing the knowledge-based network and breakpoints. "What-if" scenarios can be run by changing the shapes of reference curves (e.g., Figure 5), or by changing the way the data are combined and synthesized in the network.

NetWeaver/EMDS/ArcView tools can be applied to any scale of analysis, from reach specific to entire watersheds. The spatial scale can be set according to the spatial domain of the data selected for use and issue(s) of concern. Alternatively, through additional network development, smaller scale analyses (i.e., subwatersheds) can be aggregated into a large hydrologic unit. With sufficient sampling and data, analyses can be done even upon single or multiple stream reaches.

EMDS and NetWeaver are public domain software (NetWeaver on a trial basis), available to anyone at no cost over the Internet. NCWAP will not employ exclusively EMDS and NetWeaver for watershed synthesis – the program will also use various other approaches for further exploration of fish-environment relationships.

Management Applications of Watershed Synthesis Results

EMDS syntheses can be used at the basin scale, to show current watershed status. Maps depicting those factors that may be the largest impediments, as well as those areas where conditions are very good, can help guide protection and restoration strategies. The EMDS model also can help to assess the cost-effectiveness of different restoration strategies. By running sensitivity analyses on the effects of changing different habitat conditions, it can help decision makers determine how much effort is needed to significantly improve a given factor in a watershed and whether the investment is cost-effective.

EMDS results can be fed into other decision support software, such as Criterium Decision Plus (CDP – a student version of the latter software is now bundled with new releases (version 3) of EMDS). CDP employs a widely used approach called Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to assist managers in determining their options based upon what they believe are the most important aspects of the problem.

At the project planning level, EMDS model results can help landowners, watershed groups and others select the appropriate types of restoration projects and locations (i.e., planning watersheds or larger) that can best contribute to recovery. Agencies will also use the information when reviewing projects on a watershed basis.

The main strength of using NetWeaver/EMDS/ArcView knowledge base software in performing limiting factors analysis is its flexibility, and that through explicit logic, easily communicated graphics, and repeatable results, it can provide insights as to the relative importance of the constraints limiting salmonids in North Coast watersheds. NCWAP will use these analyses not only to assess conditions for fish in the watersheds and to help prioritize restoration efforts, but also to facilitate an improved understanding of the complex relationships among environmental factors, human activities, and overall habitat quality for native salmon and trout.

Limitations of the EMDS Model and Data Inputs

At the time of the production of this report, we have not been able to implement all of the recommendations made by our peer reviewers. Hence, the current model outputs should be used with caution. NCWAP will continue to work to refine and improve the EMDS model, based on the peer review.

While EMDS-based syntheses are important tools for watershed assessment, they do not by themselves yield a course of action for restoration and land management. EMDS results require interpretation, and how they are employed depends upon other important issues, such as social and economic concerns. In addition to the accuracy of the expert opinion and knowledge base system constructed, the currency and completeness of the data available for a stream or watershed will strongly influence the degree of confidence in the results. Where possible, external validation of the EMDS model using fish population data and other information should be done.

One disadvantage of linguistically based models such as EMDS is that they do not provide results with readily quantifiable levels of error. However, we are developing methods of determining levels of confidence in the EMDS results, based upon data quality and overall weight given to each parameter in the model.

NCWAP will use EMDS only as an indicative model, in that indicates the quality of watershed or instream conditions based on available data and the model structure. It is not intended to provide highly definitive answers, such as from a statistically-based process model. It does provide a reasonable first approximation of conditions through a robust information synthesis approach; however its outputs need to be considered and interpreted in the light of other information sources and the inherent limitations of the model and its data inputs. It also should be clearly noted that EMDS does not assess the marine phase of the salmonid lifecycle, nor does it consider fishing pressures.

References

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II. NCWAP's EMDS Stream Reach Condition Model: An Explanation of Model Parameters and Data Sources

Introduction

The stream reach knowledge base uses all available data for a stream reach to test the proposition: Conditions in the stream reach are suitable to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

The stream reach knowledge base is composed of four logic networks relating to environmental factors that affect anadromous salmonid habitat conditions: 1) Water Temperature; 2) Riparian Vegetation Function; 3) Stream Flow; and 4) In Channel Conditions (Figure 3). The overall Stream Reach Condition is determined by combining the four evaluations through the "AND" logic node. This evaluates to "true" (+1) when all the network evaluations are "true", "false" (-1) if any of the four network evaluations is "false", or a numerical value between +1 and –1, showing the degree to which the above proposition is "true".

A summary of the Stream Reach Condition knowledge base used in the EMDS model is presented below. For each parameter in the model, its proposition, definition and explanation are presented.

Model Parameters and Data Sources

Water Temperature

<u>Proposition:</u>
Summer water temperature is suitable sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

<u>Definition:</u>
Water temperature at the reach level is evaluated by one of three metrics:

1) Yearly 24 hour maximum temperature
2) Maximum 7-day average temperature
3) Maximum 7-day maximum temperature

<u>Explanation:</u>
The maximum 7-day average temperature measured from continuous temperature recorders are compared to reference values derived from experimentally and empirically determined MWAT's for anadromous salmonids. A review of the literature shows numerous studies stressing the importance of stream temperature for fish (see list of references below). Reference values for this parameter we selected from a synthesis of relevant studies.

<u>Data Sources:</u>
Temperature monitoring devices (such as hobo temps) that provide a sample of stream temperatures.

<u>Reference Values</u>:
The proposition for water temperature is fully true if the maximum 7-day average summer temperature from field observations is between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit (F) and

fully false if the maximum 7-day average summer temperature is below 45 degrees F or above 68 degrees F. The reference value curve for the maximum 7-day average temperature is shown below (Figure 9).

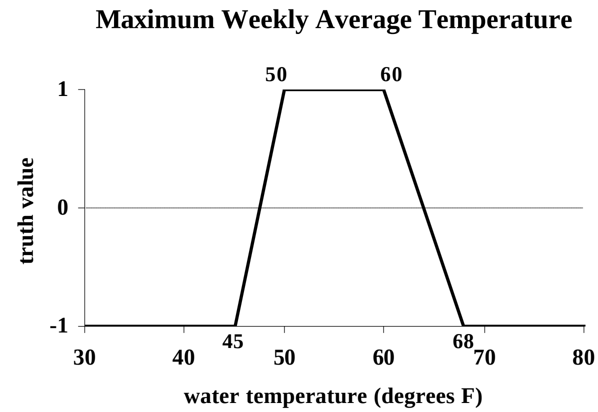

Figure 9. Breakpoints for MWAT Truth Values

Riparian Vegetation Function

Proposition:

Current riparian vegetation provides sufficient shade, nutrients, large woody debris recruitment, and contributes to bank stability to maintain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

The riparian vegetation assessment consists of an evaluation of canopy density, which shades the stream channel, and an evaluation of the near-stream forest's ability to provide LWD and nutrients to the stream channel. (Seral stage and species composition is still under construction).

The Riparian Vegetation Function network is composed of an evaluation of:

1) Canopy Density

and the mean value of the evaluation of:

2) Canopy Species Composition
3) Live Mature Trees
4) Imminent Source of Large Woody Debris.

Canopy Density

Proposition:

Canopy density is provides adequate shade to help maintain suitable water temperature and nutrient input to maintain healthy anadromous salmonid populations.

Definition:

Canopy density is the percent of stream influenced by tree canopy measured with a spherical densiometer from the center of a stream habitat unit.

Explanation:

Shade from streamside canopy helps to reduce stream water temperatures, especially during summer months. This parameter measures the adequacy of the vegetation in performing this important role.

The California Department of Fish and Game's Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual recommends, in general, that revegetation projects should be considered when canopy density is less than 80% (Flossi et al. 1998). Naiman et al. (1992) report that in westside forests the amount of solar radiation reaching the stream channel is approximately 1 - 3% of the total incoming radiation for small streams and 10 -25% for mid-order (3rd to 4rth order) streams.

Data Sources:

Field measurements in the stream reaches.

Reference Values:

The proposition for Canopy Density is fully true if field observations are 85 percent or above and fully false if field observations are below 50 percent (see Figure 10).

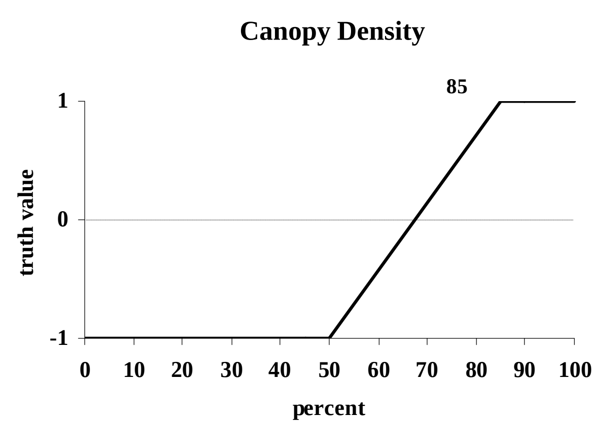

Figure 10. Breakpoints for Canopy Density

Canopy Species Composition

Proposition:

The canopy species composition is within the range of historic species distribution and is suitable to maintain healthy anadromous salmonid populations. (Not yet implemented in the model, due to lack of adequate data).

Definition:

The similarity of species and life forms between the current vegetation and that which exited prior to EuroAmerican colonization.

Explanation:

The species composition of the riparian vegetation can indicate recent historical events that have occurred in and near the stream reach. Some areas currently dominated by broad-leafed trees were dominated in the past by conifers. This can indicate that disturbances have occurred in the watershed, which resulted in this change in species composition. Also, conifers tend to provide more cooling in their shade than broad-leaf trees.

Data Sources:

Measurements from field observations.

Reference Values:

The proposition is fully true if the observed canopy species composition has a high degree of similarity to the pre-EuroAmerican range of species composition and fully false if it has a low similarity.

Live Mature Trees (not yet implemented)

Proposition:

The number of live trees three feet or greater in diameter at breast height within a riparian buffer zone is sufficient to maintain conditions needed to support healthy anadromous salmonid populations. (The reference value curves and other aspects have not yet been developed for Live Mature Trees.)

Imminent Source of Large Woody Debris (LWD) (not yet implemented)

Proposition:

The number of LWD sources poised for imminent delivery to the stream channel is suitable to maintain channel conditions suitable to support anadromous salmonid populations. (The reference value curves and other aspects have not yet been developed for this parameter.)

Stream Flow (not yet implemented)

Proposition:

The stream flow regime is suitable to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids. (This subnetwork of the Stream Reach model is under construction by the Department of Water Resources. It is not yet ready for inclusion in the Stream Reach Condition Model.)

In-channel Conditions

Proposition:

In-channel conditions are suitable to support healthy anadromous salmonid populations

Definition:

In-channel conditions are determined by the mean truth value returned by the evaluation of 5 networks:

1) Large Woody Debris
2) Width to Depth Ratio
3) Pool Habitat
4) Refugia Habitat
5) Substrate Composition.

Large Woody Debris

Proposition:

The amount of in channel Large Woody Debris is suitable for maintaining channel conditions to support healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

The target reference values for LWD frequency and volume is derived from Bilby and Ward's (1989) channel-width dependent regression for unmanaged streams in western Washington. The relationships between channel width and number of pieces (Bilby and Ward 1989) and "key" pieces of LWD (Fox 1994) is presented in the Pacific Lumber company Habitat Conservation Plan, Aquatic Properly Functioning Condition Matrix (work in progress 1997). NMFS also has provisional data for wood in Washington Coast Range Streams. They concluded that where adequate sources for recruitment of wood is present from the riparian zone, properly functioning streams exceed 80 pieces per mile of wood larger than 24 inches in diameter and 50 feet in length.

Explanation:

Large woody debris is important to stream ecosystems because it exerts considerable control over channel morphology, particularly in the development of pools (Keller et al.). Petersen and Quin (1992), cited Elliot, 1986; Murphy et al. 1986; Carson et al. 1990; Beechie and Wyman, 1992, when noting that "in forested streams, LWD is associated with the majority of pools and the amount of LWD has a direct affect on pool volume, pool depth and percentage of pool area in a stream." Stillwater Sciences' Preliminary Draft Report suggests: "One of the working hypotheses concerning coho salmon ecology and management in Mendocino county streams is that large woody debris (LWD), and the rearing habitat that it provides, may currently be the most important factor limiting coho populations." The North Coast Water Quality Control Board in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry (1993) state that,"woody debris benefits all life stages of salmonids (Bisson et al. 1987, Sullivan et al 1987) by creating pools which are used as holding areas during migration. Large woody debris also serves to retain spawning gravels, creates slack water areas which provide opportunities for juveniles to feed on drift, and by providing essential cover from predators and freshets (Murphy and Meehan 1991). Woody debris in stream also increases the frequency and diversity of pool types (Bilby and Ward, 1991)."

The majority of juvenile coho in coastal streams appear to overwinter in deep pools within the stream channel that have substantial amounts of cover in the form of woody debris (Bustard and Narver 1975a, Scarlett and Cederholm, 1984, Murphy et al 1986, Brown and Hartman, 1988).

Swimming ability decreases with temperature and as water temperature falls below 9 C, juvenile coho become less active (Mason, 1966). Feeding is reduced and growth is negligible during the winter period of higher flow and lower temperatures (Shapovalov and Taft, 1954)."

"Deep (>45 cm), slow (<15cm/s areas in or near (<1m) instream cover or roots, logs, and flooded brush appear to constitute preferred habitat (Hartman, 1965, Bustard and Narver, 1975a), especially during freshets (Tschaplinski and Hartman, 1983; Swales et al 1986, McMahon and Hartman, 1989). Underwater observations by Shirvell (1990) found that 99% of all coho salmon fry observed were occupying positions downstream of natural or artificial rootwads, during artificially created drought, normal, and flood stream flows."

Data Sources:

Measurements from field observations.

Reference Values:

(need help on this Steve)

Width-to-Depth Ratio (not yet implemented)

Proposition:

The Width-to-Depth Ratio of the stream reach is suitable for sustaining healthy populations of anadromous salmonids. (The reference values curves have not yet been developed for this parameter.)

Pool Habitat

Proposition:

The pool frequency, pool depth, and pool complexity observed in the stream reach is suitable to support healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

The Pool Habitat sub-network evaluation is composed from evaluations of:

1) Pool Frequency
2) Pool Quality:
    a) Pool Depth
    b) Pool Complexity

Pool Frequency

Proposition:

The number of pools observed during stream surveys is within the suitable frequency range for the channel type, gradient, bankfull width, and channel confinement of the stream reach.

Definition:

The number of pools observed per unit length of stream reach.

Explanation:

Reference Values:

The proposition is fully true if the observed pool frequency has a high degree of similarity to the expected frequency range and fully false if it has a low similarity. (need better definition)

Pool Quality

Proposition:

The percent by stream reach of adequately Deep Pools and the average Pool Shelter Complexity is suitable to support healthy populations anadromous salmonid populations.

Definition:
The percent reach of primary pools is calculated by: length of primary pool habitat / stream reach length.

Explanation:
The percent by stream reach of adequately deep pools or primary pools is determined according to stream order. Primary pools have a maximum depth of 2.5 feet or greater in first and second order streams and have a maximum depth of 3 feet or greater for third order streams. For this analysis, stream order is determined only from streams displayed as solid blue lines on 1:24,000 USGS topo maps.

A DFG field procedure rates pool habitat shelter complexity (Flosi et al. 1998). The pool shelter rating is a relative measure of the quantity and composition of LWD, root wads, boulders, undercut banks, bubble curtain, and submersed or overhanging vegetation that serves as instream habitat, creates areas of diverse velocity, provides protection from predation, and separation of territorial units to reduce density related competition. The rating does not consider factors related to changes in discharge, such as water depth. The proposition for the Pool Shelter Complexity evaluation is fully true if the pool shelter rating is 100 or greater and fully false if the pool shelter rating is 30 or less (Figure 11).

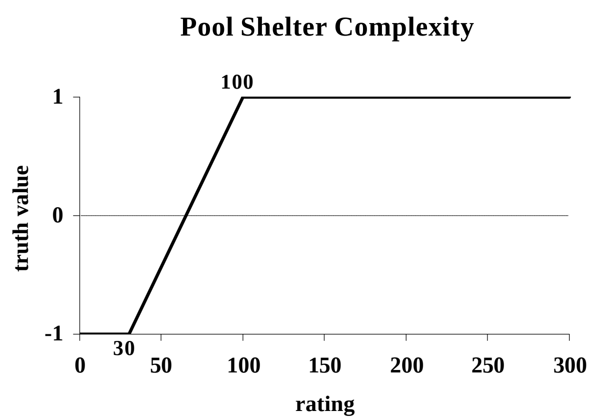

Figure 11. Breakpoints for Pool Shelter Complexity

Data Sources:
Notes from field observations.

Reference Values:
The proposition for the Pool Depth evaluation is fully true if 30 to 55 percent of the reach is in primary pools and fully false if there is less than 20 percent or more than 90 percent primary pool habitat (Figure 12).

Refugia Habitat

Proposition:
The amount of backwater pools, deep pools and side channel habitats is suitable (especially as winter refuge) to support healthy anadromous salmonid populations.

Definition:

Refugia for this evaluation is composed of backwater pools, side channel habitat, and deep pools (>4 feet deep) identified from DFG's stream habitat surveys.

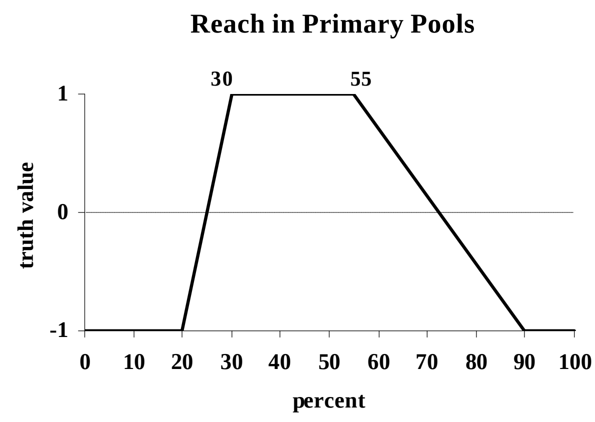

Figure 12. Breakpoints for Percent Reach in Primary Pools

Explanation:

For this evaluation, we believe that the amount of refugia should be approximately 5 percent of the stream reach measured by the length of backwater pools and side channel habitat. The reference values for the suitable amount of deep pool habitat are under development.

Data Sources:

Observations from the field.

Reference Values:

The proposition for the Refugia Habitat evaluation is fully true if there is 5 percent of the stream reach in side channel or backwater pools and fully false if there is no such habitat in the stream reach (Figure 13).

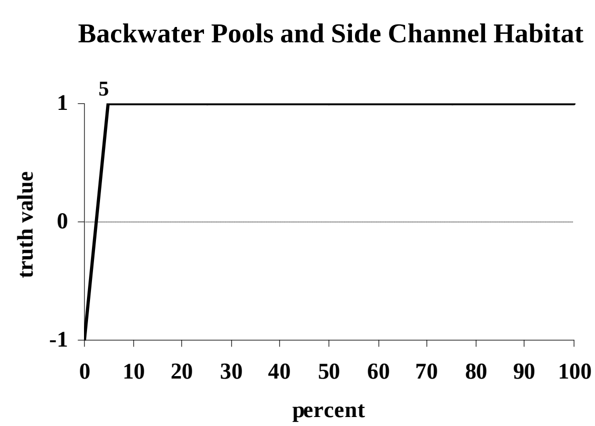

Figure 13. Breakpoints for Percentage in Backwater Pools and Side Channel Habitat

Substrate Composition

Proposition:

The pool tail and riffle substrate is suitable for survival of salmonid eggs to emergence of fry.

Definition:

The model will utilize data describing percent fine sediments collected from McNeil type samples, pool tail embeddedness from DFG habitat surveys, and pebble counts to evaluate substrate composition.

Percent Fine Sediment

Explanation:

Substrate composition is used as a suitability measure of pool tail sediments for survival of eggs to the emergence of fry. Sedimentation resulting from land use activities is recognized as a fundamental cause of salmonid habitat degradation (FEMAT, 1993). Excessive accumulations of fine sediments reduces water flow (permeability) through gravels in redds. The percent of fine sediments is higher in watersheds where the geology, soils, precipitation or topography create conditions favorable for erosional processes (Duncan and Ward, 1985). Fine sediments are typically more abundant where land use activities such as road building or land clearing expose soil to erosion and increase mass wasting (Cederholmn et al 1981; Swanson et al 1987; Hicks et al 1991).

McHenry et al. (1994) Found that when fine sediments (<0.85mm) exceeded 13% (dry weight)salmonid survival dropped drastically. Bjornn and Reiser (1991) show that the salmonid embryo survival drops considerably when the percentage of substrate particles smaller than 6.35 mm exceeds 30 percent.

Data Sources:

Field measurements.

Reference Values:

Reference values curves for Percent Fine Sediment are presented Figures 14 and 15.

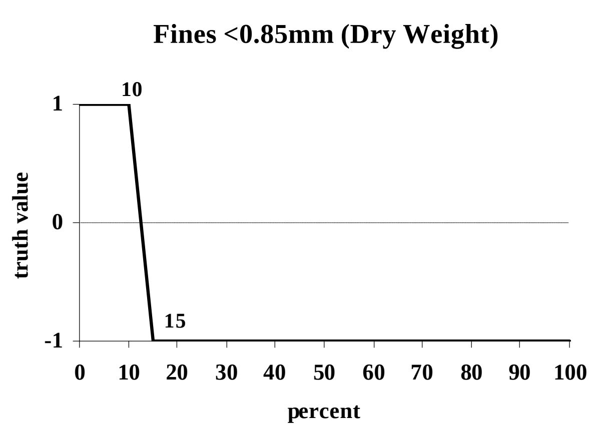

Figure 14. Breakpoints for Percent Dry Weight of Fine Sediments <0.85mm

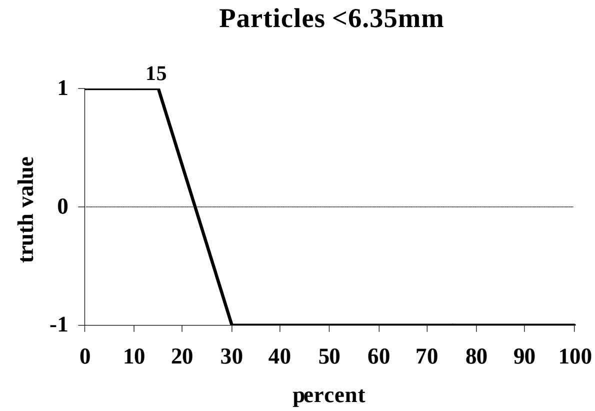

Figure 15. Breakpoints for Percent of Sediments <6.35mm

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III. *NCWAP's EMDS Watershed Condition Model: Potential Sediment Production Model*

Introduction

In June of 2001, watershed and fisheries scientists, NCWAP agency personnel and others began construction on a Watershed Condition knowledge base network for EMDS that reflected the interrelationships of environmental factors which affect populations of salmonids on California's north coast. In April of 2002, an independent panel of scientists reviewed the first draft Watershed Condition model. The panel recognized the model as a good initial step and recommended significant changes. In response to the panel comments, NCWAP scientists have split the first draft model into four separate pieces (as explained in the Appendix Introduction): The Potential Sediment Production Model; the Fish Habitat Quality Model; the Water Quality Model and the Fish Food Availability Model. While the Potential Sediment model assesses current hazards, all of the other EMDS models assess current conditions in the watersheds. This chapter provides details on the first three models (the fourth has yet to be designed), summarizing the NCWAP EMDS knowledge base components and how they are combined into the synthesis of watershed condition.

Note that some metrics (e.g., Road Density by Hillslope Position) are used in more than one place in the model. In all cases the metric will be identical, although the relative weightings can be different in each instance of use.

The Potential Sediment Production Model

The Potential Sediment Production model is evaluated from two equally-weighted branches (Figure 4): Potential Stream Sediment from Natural Processes and Potential Stream Sediment from Management Activities. The final decision node of the model is the mean truth value returned by the two branches.

In the Potential Sediment Production model, all parameters currently use empirical distributions for the break points in the evaluations (see, e.g., Figure 7). The literature is rich in many aspects regarding the effects of roads, riparian condition, stream flows and land use on water quality and salmonid habitat (see references). However, very few studies provide direct guidance on where to set breakpoints for the specific parameters required in the EMDS model (e.g., what constitute good versus poor conditions for anadromous salmonids vis-à-vis length of road near to streams). In light of this fact, NCWAP scientists decided that while an objective evaluation may not be possible (or at least scientifically defensible) on an absolute scale for all watersheds, evaluation of relative conditions within a basin would be more robust, while still being informative. Thus for each hydrologic area (e.g., the Mattole River) breakpoints are determined based upon the normalized distance from the mean (i.e., percentiles) from the statistics of the distribution of given parameter. Within this framework it is still possible with most parameters to look beyond a hydrologic area to larger regions by aggregating the statistics. However, extrapolating in this manner may be more tenuous than looking more locally, due to the likelihood of changes in data quality and availability from one area to another.

As stated in the Introduction, for the longer-term model development, the science review panel suggested that statistics for breakpoints be generated from a set of reference watersheds in the region. At this point, however, we have not identified such watersheds, and consequently have not been able to collect the relevant information.

Below is a more detailed explanation of the technical workings of the NCWAP Potential Sediment Production model.

Potential Stream Sediment from Natural Processes

<u>Proposition:</u>

Potential delivery of sediments to streams from mass wasting events, independent of management activities, does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

<u>Definition:</u>

The Potential Stream Sediment from Natural Processes node evaluates the mean truth value returned from three sub networks: 1) From Mass Wasting I; 2) From Surface Erosion I; and 3) From Streamside Erosion I. Figure 16 shows the diagram on the Potential Stream Sediment from Natural Processes part of the Potential Sediment Production model.

<u>Explanation:</u>

Potential Stream Sediment from Natural Processes represents the potential impacts of the natural landscape on a watershed's sediment loads, and, by extension, on native anadromous fish. Three metrics, listed above, provide surrogates of potential sediment delivery. The metrics are derived using digital data on geology and recent fires. Planning watersheds that have truth values that are at or near +1 show the most positive ratings for sediment risk (i.e., low sediment risk) from natural processes, while conversely those approaching –1 have the most negative characteristics with regard to natural sediment risk.

From Mass Wasting I

<u>Proposition:</u>

Potential delivery of coarse sediments to streams from mass wasting events, independent of management activities, does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

<u>Definition:</u>

From Mass Wasting I is evaluated for planning watersheds using a single parameter: the weighted percentage area within zones of extreme (class 5) or high (class 4) landslide potential. Area of class 5 is weighted 0.8 and area of class 4 is weighted 0.2.

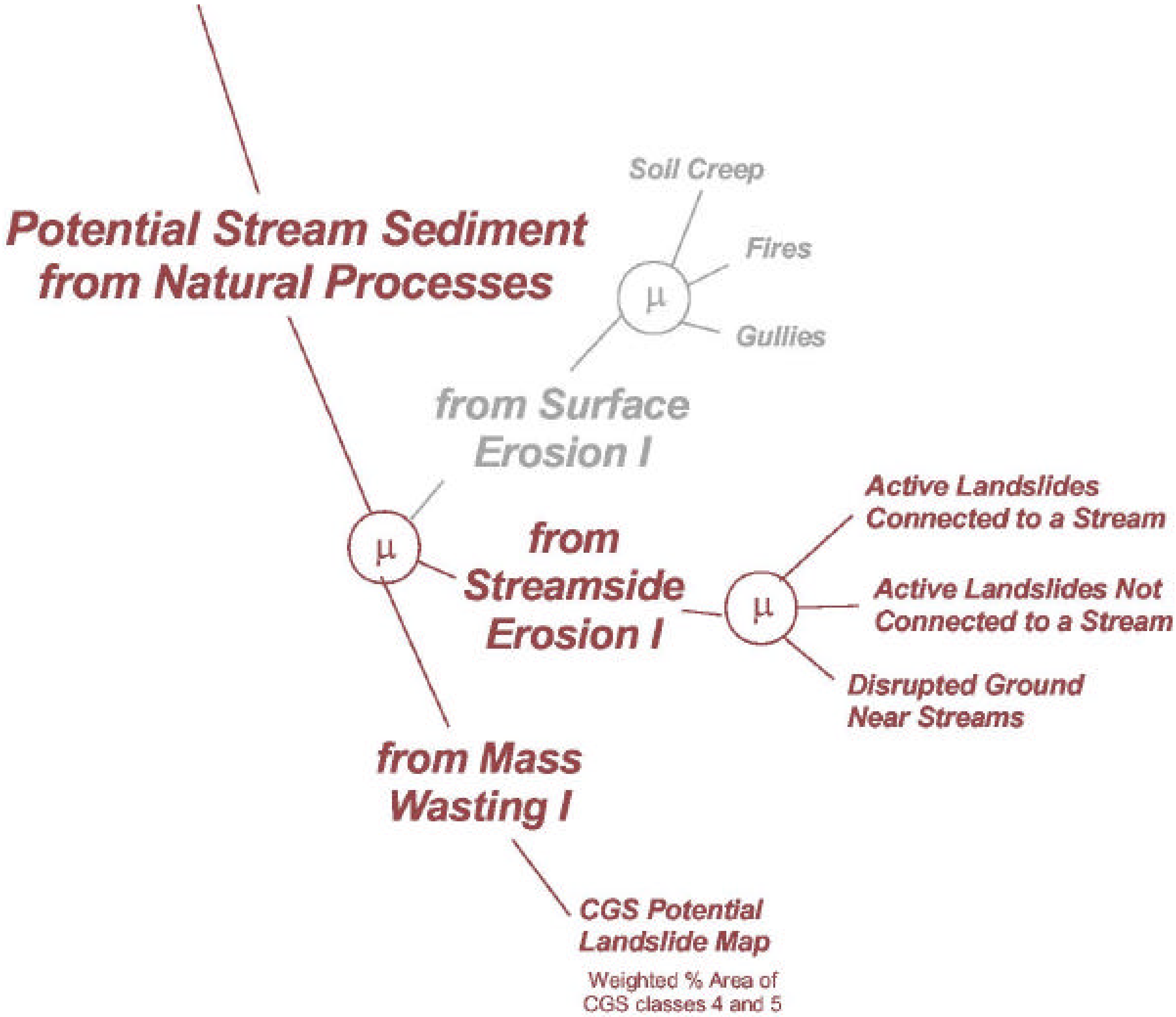

Figure 16. The Potential Sediment from Natural Processes section of the Potential Sediment Production EMDS Model. This section of the model takes data related to geology (and in the future, recent fires) and combines them into an evaluation of their relative importance in each planning watershed. Gray text denotes parts of the model that are not yet implemented and were not used for this basin.

<u>Explanation:</u>

This metric is designed to represent the risk of mass wasting events from natural processes which deliver sediments to streams. Mass wasting events typically deliver coarse sediments which can cause aggradation in the stream, and have a detrimental effect upon salmonid habitat.

Data Source:

The California Geological Survey's (CGS) Landslide Potential Model GIS coverage.

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

From Surface Erosion I

Proposition:

Potential delivery of fine sediments to streams, independent of management activities, does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids. Currently this network has no data provided to the model.

Definition: From Surface Erosion I will be the mean truth value returned from 3 parameters: 1) Soil Creep; 2) Natural Gullies and 3) Recent Fires.

Explanation:

Surface erosion and delivery of fine sediments to streams occurring from natural processes has the potential to negatively impact stream condition through delivery of fine sediments. Increased fine sediments can create higher rates of embeddedness, which can cause problems for the reproduction of anadromous fish. They can also cause high rates of turbidity, which can make foraging and feeding more difficult for fish.

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Soil Creep (no data yet available)

Proposition:

Potential delivery of fine sediments to the stream from natural soil creep does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Data Sources:

CGS coverage.

Natural Gullies (no data yet available)

Proposition:

Potential delivery of fine sediment to the streams from natural gullies does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Data Sources:

CGS coverage.

Fires (no data yet available)

Proposition:

Potential delivery of fine sediment to the streams from recent fires do not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Data Sources:

CDF fires coverage.

From Streamside Erosion I

Proposition:

Potential delivery of coarse and fine sediments to streams, independent of management activities, from streamside erosion does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

From Streamside Erosion I will be based upon the summation of 3 parameters: 1) Active Landslides Connected to Streams; 2) Active Landslides Not Connected to Streams and 3) Disrupted Ground Near Streams.

Explanation:

Streamside erosion occurring from natural processes has the potential to negatively impact stream condition through delivery of both coarse and fine sediments. Increased coarse sediments can cause excessive sediment loading and aggradation of the streams, particularly in the lower response reaches. Aggradation causes more of the water to flow through gravels and rocks below the riverbed, and can effectively reduce flow. Increased fine sediments can create higher rates of embeddedness which can cause problems for the reproduction of anadromous fish. They can also cause high rates of turbidity, which can make foraging and feeding more difficult for fish.

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Active Landslides Connected to Streams

Proposition:

Potential delivery of coarse and fine sediments to the stream from active landslides connected to streams does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Data Sources:

CGS coverage.

Active Landslides Not Connected to Streams

Proposition:

Potential delivery of coarse and fine sediments to the streams from active landslides not connected to streams does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Data Sources:

CGS coverage.

Disrupted Ground

Proposition:

Delivery of coarse and fine sediments to the streams from disrupted ground near streams does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Data Sources:

CGS coverage.

Potential Stream Sediment from Management-related Sources

Figure 17 shows the EMDS model framework for sediment from management-related sources.

Proposition:

Potential delivery of coarse and fine sediments to streams from management-related activities do not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of native anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

Potential Stream Sediment from Management-related Sources node evaluates the mean truth value returned from three sub networks: 1) Mass Wasting II; 2) Surface Erosion II; and 3) Streamside Erosion II. Figure 4 shows the diagram on this part of the EMDS Potential Sediment Production model.

Explanation:

Stream sediment from management-related sources represents the potential impact of management activities in the landscape on the planning watershed's sediment loads, and upon native fish. Three metrics, listed above, provide surrogates of sediment delivery risk. The metrics are derived using digital data on roads and land use (current and historic) in combination with the data on geology. Planning watersheds that have truth values that are at or near +1 show the most positive ratings for sediment risk (i.e., low sediment risk) from management-related sources, while conversely those approaching –1 have the most negative characteristics with regard to sediment risk for this parameter.

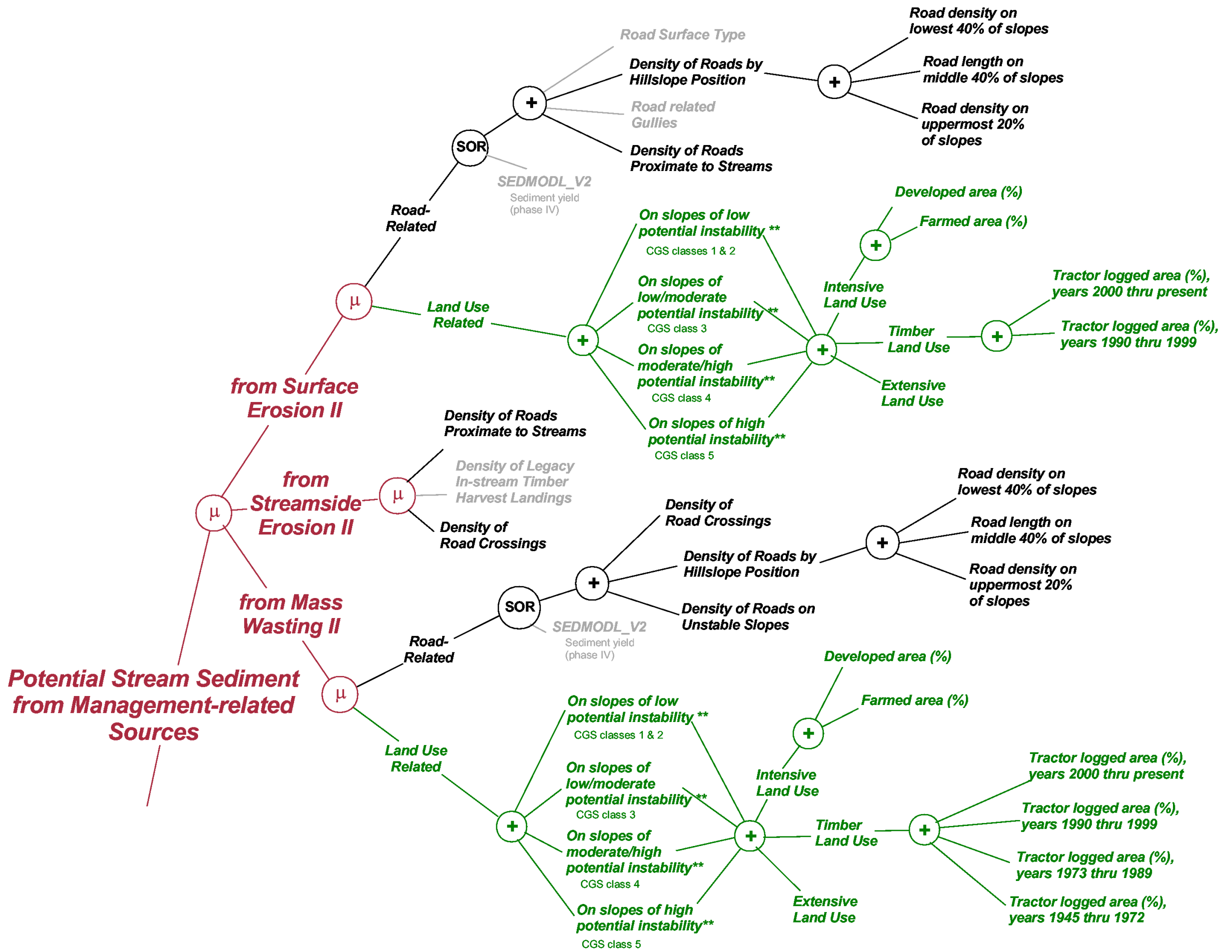

Figure 17. The Potential Sediment from Management-related Sources section of the Potential Sediment Production EMDS model. This section takes data related to current management and management history, and geology and combines them into an evaluation of their relative importance in each planning watershed. Gray text denotes parts of the model that are not yet implemented and were not used for this basin.

From Mass Wasting II

Proposition:

Potential of delivery of coarse sediments to streams from mass wasting events management activities does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

From Mass Wasting II is evaluated for planning watersheds using 2 equally weighted parameters: 1) Road-related and 2) Land Use-related.

Explanation:

This metric relates to the risk of mass wasting events from management-related activities that deliver sediments to streams. Mass wasting events typically deliver coarse sediments that can cause aggradation in the stream, and have a detrimental effect upon salmonid habitat.

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Road-related Mass Wasting

Proposition:

Potential delivery of coarse sediments to the stream from road-related erosion does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

This road-related parameter will be derived from SEDMODL_V2, a model that is under development. Currently Road-related Mass Wasting is computed as the mean truth value returned from 3 sub networks: 1) Density of roads crossing streams, 2) Road density by hillslope position (weighted as a function of hillslope position); and 3) Road density on unstable slopes.

Explanation:

This parameter measures the potential of road-related mass wasting to deliver coarse sediments to streams in a planning watershed. Three metrics, listed above, are used to represent the intensity of road use and the degree to which roads are hydrologically connected to streams. The metrics are derived using digital road, stream, landslide potential and elevation data. All are influenced by the level of detail provided in the roads database. The minimum coverage for a basin corresponds with roads found on 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic maps. In most cases, these databases are augmented with roads interpreted from air photos and those recorded in timber harvest plans. Planning watersheds that have truth values that are at or near +1 strongly support the proposition that Road-related Mass Wasting does not represent a potential threat to the streams.

Data Sources:

CDF-enhanced 1:24K Roads GIS coverages; CDF-enhanced 1:24K digital hydrography (blue line streams); CGS Landslide Potential Models; 10m resolution Digital Elevation Models.

Density of Road Crossings of Streams

Proposition:

Potential coarse sediment delivery to streams, due to the number of crossings (per kilometer) of stream by roads, does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability for sustaining healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

Evaluated as the number of stream crossings by roads per kilometer of stream.

Explanation:

Where Roads cross streams there is often a high potential to deliver coarse sediments into the streams during and after precipitation events. Other impacts associated with this (but not considered in this model) include: alteration of runoff processes, removal of canopy cover and impediments to fish passage. This metric evaluates potential impacts due to coarse sediment delivery. (Road improvements and information on culverts can be incorporated into the model through a "Switch" node, which would reduce from the set of potential impacts those crossings that have been repaired and are no longer considered to have an impact. Currently all crossing are weighted equally, for lack of more detailed information.)

Data Sources:

Road crossings per kilometer of stream in a given planning watershed are derived in GIS from existing roads and streams coverages.

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Density of Roads by Hillslope Position

Proposition:

Potential sediment delivery to streams by mass wasting events related to roads as a function of their hillslope position does not significantly threaten the ability of the planning watershed to sustain healthy populations of native salmonids.

Definition:

Weighted density of roads by hillslope position for each planning watershed. The weights are: Roads on lowest 40% of slopes: 0.6; roads on middle 40% of slopes 0.3; and roads on the uppermost 20% of slopes 0.1. Measurement units are (weighted) mi/mi^2.

Explanation:

Each planning watershed is divided into three hillslope positions: low slope (valley bottom), mid slope and upper slope (ridge top). Previous studies have shown that road impacts differ, all other factors being equal, depending on the location of the road in the watershed. A recent USFS study on Bluff Creek watershed, Six Rivers National Forest, found that roads near streams, in lower hillslope positions, had a much higher failure rate, and thus a greater potential to generate sediment to streams. Based on the Bluff Creek study, slope position was defined as stated in the definition (above).

Data Source:

Slope Position is derived from a 10 meter digital elevation model (DEM). Road Data comes from a variety of sources including: USGS 1:24,000 scale map digital line graph (DLG) data, 1 meter Digital Ortho Quads and digitized timber harvest plans.

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Density of Roads on Unstable Slopes

Proposition:

Potential sediment delivery to streams by mass wasting events related to roads as a function of slope stability does not significantly threaten the ability of the planning watershed to sustain healthy populations of native salmonids.

Definition:

Calculates kilometers of road on unstable upland slopes per hectare of management unit. Unstable slope are defined by CGS Landslide Potential Model.

Explanation:

Roads crossing steep and potentially unstable slopes can contribute to and accelerate the frequency of mass wasting on upland slopes. Where data exists, detailed landslides maps (developed by Division of Mines and Geology) are overlain with roads within a GIS to evaluate the risk roads on steep and unstable slopes.

Data Sources:

Digital CDF-enhanced 1:24K roads data; Landslide Potential Model from CGS

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Land Use-related Mass Wasting

Proposition:

Potential delivery of coarse sediments from mass wasting events related to land use management activities, as measured by the percentage area (by slope instability) of the planning watershed with 1) Intensive use or management; 2) Timber Land Use and 3) Extensive Land Use does not significantly threaten the ability of the planning watershed to sustain healthy populations of native salmonids.

Definition:

The Land Use is the weighed sum of four parameters (sums to 1.0):

Land Use on Slopes of Low Potential Instability (weight: 0.04)
Land Use on Slopes of Low-moderate Potential Instability (weight: 0.09)
Land Use on Slopes of Moderate-high Potential Instability (weight: 0.17)
Land Use on Slopes of High Potential Instability (weight: 0.7)

For each of the above slope instability classes, values are calculated according to the weighted area of Intensive and Extensive land use and Timber Harvest land use. The weights were based upon expert opinion:

Land Use	*Weights*
Developed Area	0.2
Farmed Area	0.2
Extensive LU Area	0.1
Timber Harvest LU Area, Era 0	0.2
Timber Harvest LU Area, Era 1	0.12
Timber Harvest LU Area, Era 2	0.06
Timber Harvest LU Area, Era 3	0.12

Explanation:

Classes of slope instability were defined by the California Geology Survey Landslide Potential Model GIS coverages created for NCWAP. Aside from the split by slope instability classes and corresponding differences in weighting, the four Land Use parameters are defined identically and will be treated as one for the purposes of the discussions below. In the current model, CGS NCWAP personnel provided the weights (in Definition above) given to Land Use as a function of respective slope instability.

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Intensive Land Use

Definition:

The sum of percentages of the watershed that is “Developed Area ” and “Farmed Area”.

Explanation:

Developed areas are those that are urbanized or with clusters of buildings. Farmed areas are those with irrigated crops. This level of land use can create local hydrologic impacts such as high and short duration peak flows, which can cause more erosion and higher stream sediment loads. The combined effects are generally detrimental to the ability of the stream to support native salmonids.

With a few notable exceptions, little of the land in north coast watersheds is developed, and therefore developed areas are in general unlikely to have much influence on the model results (Botkin et al., 1995). This is also true for intensively cultivated areas. Only a few north coast watersheds (e.g., the Scott River, Lower Eel River, Middle Fork Eel) have a significant percentage of land under cultivation.

Data Sources:

A GIS coverage from Region 5 of the US Forest Service and the Fire and Resource Assessment Program of CDF of current vegetation:

County parcel coverages

Four slope classes from CGS Landslide Potential Model

Timber Land Use

Definition:

Timber Land Use is the percentage area affected by tractor-logging activities, weighted according to time of harvest (recent vs. historic) and slope instability.

Explanation:

Time breakdowns were proposed by Walker based upon expert opinion of others. Weights were approximated using information from Jameson and Spittler, inferred by Walker. Tractor logging has been broken into 5 eras (see Table 4).

Table 4. Model weights of eras of human disturbance

Period	*Years*	*Reasoning*	*Weights and Functions**
Recent	<=2.5YBP	New Harvests and activities	y=0.2
Era0	YBP>2.5 to 1990	Digitized Timber Harvest Plans available; last 10 or so years of management still strongly affect current processes	0.4<=y<=1.0 $y=2.088x^{-0.7379}$ (y=0.12)
Era1	1973-1990	Era post implementation of Forest Practice Rules (FPR); also coincides with start of digital Landsat data enabling high quality change detection	0.2<=y<=0.4 $y=2.088x^{-0.7379}$ (y=0.06)
Era2	1945-1973	Main era of tractor logging before FPR; main era of aerial photograph record	0.3<=y<=0.6 y = -0.0085x + 0.8047 (y=0.12)

*x is Years Before Present; in () is single value weight approximation for era

The above breakdowns based on time (and the weighting functions) are an effort to reflect the different magnitudes of potential sediment from erosion relating to timber harvesting practices, and the time since harvesting according to those practices occurred. They are based largely upon a distillation of the opinions of experts such as Marc Jameson (CDF) and Tom Spittler (CGS) (Jameson and Spittler 1995). Other breakdowns are possible, such as those that coincide with major natural disturbance events including large floods and fires.

For this version of the model, we used the constants (in parentheses in the above table) for each respective era of timber harvest. With more time and resources, we will use the functions shown in the table, based upon years elapsed since the event(s).

Data Sources:

Digitized Timber Harvest Plans
Landsat data (MSS change detection) (used to develop GIS coverages)
Aerial Photographs (used to develop GIS coverages)
Historic maps (as from timber companies)
Historic accounts
County parcel coverage (timber company holdings)
Four slope classes from CGS Landslide Potential Model

Extensive Land Use

Definition:

The percentage of the watershed that is managed for extensive land use activities, mainly livestock grazing.

Explanation:

Extensive land use areas are primarily those that are used for livestock grazing. Grazed areas can increase delivery of sediment to streams from effects such as soil disturbance from trampling and from vegetation removal. The effects of grazing, when not in the riparian zone (i.e.,in the upland), are believed to be generally less impacting than those of timber harvesting and more intensive land uses. This is reflected in the proposed weighting for this parameter (see table X above).

Data Sources:

US Forest Service/FRAP coverage of current vegetation
County parcel coverages
Four slope classes from CGS Landslide Potential Model

From Surface Erosion II

Proposition:

Potential delivery of fine sediments to streams due to management activities does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids. Currently this network has no data provided to the model.

Definition:

Like From Mass Wasting II, From Surface Erosion II is the mean truth value returned from 2 parameters: 1) Road-related; and 2) Land Use-related.

Explanation:

Surface erosion and delivery of fine sediments to streams occurring from management activities has the potential to negatively impact stream condition through increased delivery of fine sediments. Increased fine sediments can create higher rates of embeddedness which can cause problems for the reproduction of anadromous fish. They can also cause high rates of turbidity, which can make foraging and feeding more difficult for fish.

Road-related Surface Erosion

Proposition:

Potential delivery of fine sediments to the stream from road-related erosion does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

This road-related parameter will be derived from SEDMODL_V2, a model that is under development. Currently potential roads-related fine sediment delivery is computed as the mean truth value returned from 4 sub networks: 1) Density of roads proximate to streams, 2) Road density by hillslope position (weighted as a function of hillslope position); 3) Density of road-related gullies; and 4) Road surface type. However, the last two of the subnetworks listed currently have no data and are not operating at this time.

Explanation:

This parameter measures the potential of roads to deliver fine sediments to streams in a planning watershed. Four metrics, listed above, represent the intensity of road-related fine sediment issues and the degree to which roads are hydrologically connected to streams. The metrics are derived using digital road, stream, landslide potential, gully and elevation data. All are influenced by the level of detail provided in the roads database. The minimum coverage for a basin corresponds with roads found on 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic maps. In most cases, these databases are augmented with roads interpreted from air photos and those recorded in timber harvest plans. Planning watersheds that have truth values that are at or near +1 strongly support the proposition that the potential of fine sediments being delivery to the streams from roads does not present a significant threat to salmonids.

Data Sources:

CDF-enhanced 1:24K Roads GIS coverages; CDF-enhanced 1:24K digital hydrography (blue line streams); CGS Landslide Potential Models; CGS gully data; 10m resolution Digital Elevation Models.

Density of Roads Proximate to Streams

Proposition:

The potential for delivery of fine sediment from roads proximate to stream channels does not significantly threaten the planning watershed’s ability to sustain healthy populations of native salmonids.

Definition:

Calculates the percent of stream length in the planning watershed that has a road within 200 ft.. For each planning watershed it is evaluated as the sum of all reach lengths that have a road within a buffer distance of 200 ft.

Explanation:

This metric is a measure of hydrologic connectivity. Roads that are adjacent to streams are much more likely to put fine sediments into the stream channel and have a greater potential to negatively impact stream condition. While the main potential impact is increased sediment delivery, studies have also shown adverse effects on stream temperature and alteration of runoff processes. Effects also often extend into the adjacent riparian zone. This metric evaluates potential impacts. Road improvements and road abandonment could be incorporated into the model through a "Switch" node, which would reduce from the set of potential impacts those road segments that have been repaired or decommissioned and are no longer considered to have an impact.

Data Source (all GIS-based):

CDF-enhanced 1:24K digital roads data; CDF-enhanced 1:24K digital hydrography (i.e.,blue line stream) data

Reference Values:

Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Density of Roads by Hillslope Position

(see explanation under Road-related Mass Wasting)

Density of Road-related Gullies

Proposition:

The potential for delivery of fine sediment from gullies related to roads to stream channels does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of native salmonids.

Definition:

Calculates the number of road-related gullies per planning watershed.

Explanation:

Roads can often alter the local hydrologic drainage, concentrating flow and causing gully erosion. Such gullies can be sources of fine sediment in the local stream channel. Currently there is no data used in the model, due to concerns about bias in the sampling techniques used to collect the available information.

Data Sources:

None at present.

Reference Values:

(When available) Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Road surface type

Proposition:

The distribution of road surface types and its relationship to potential delivery of fine sediments to stream channels does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of native salmonids.

Definition:

This parameter weights the potential for fine sediment delivery of roads according to their surface characteristics. Roads with asphalt paving will have the lowest weight, gravel roads will have an intermediate weight, and dirt roads will have the highest weight per unit length.

Explanation:

Roads surface type influences the potential for the road to contribute fine sediments to streams. Roads paved with asphalt or rock generall contribute less sediment than those dirt surfaces. Road use can also greatly influence the fine sediment yield, particularly in the winter (rainy season). At the current time we have incomplete information on road surface types, and no data on road use.

Data Sources:

None at present.

Reference Values:

(When available) Break points: <10th percentile highest potential suitability; >90th percentile lowest potential suitability.

Land Use-related Surface Erosion

Proposition:

The potential for fine sediment delivery to streams from: 1) Intensive use or management; 2) Timber Land Use) and 3) Extensive Land Use, does not significantly impair the watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of native salmonids. (For a full description of the above, please refer to the Land Use-related in the Mass Wasting section, as the parameters used are identical).

From Streamside Erosion II

Proposition:

Delivery of coarse and fine sediments to streams from management-related streamside erosion does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

From Streamside Erosion II is based upon the average of 3 parameters: 1) Density of Roads Proximate to Streams; 2) In-stream Timber Harvest Landings; and 3) Density of Road Crossings of Streams.

Explanation:

Potential streamside erosion occurring from management-related activities can negatively impact stream condition through delivery of both coarse and fine sediments. Increased coarse sediments can cause excessive sediment loading and aggradation of the streams, particularly in the lower response reaches. Aggradation causes more of the water to flow through gravels and rocks below the riverbed, and can effectively reduce flow. Increased fine sediments can create higher rates of embeddedness, which can cause problems for the reproduction of anadromous fish. They can also cause high rates of turbidity, which can make foraging and feeding more difficult for fish.

Density of Roads Proximate to Streams

(See above for a full description of this parameter, where it is used under Road-related Surface Erosion)

In-stream Timber Harvest Landings (not currently used)

Proposition:

Delivery of coarse and fine sediments to the streams from legacy timber harvest landings that were located in the stream channels does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Explanation:

Potential streamside erosion of both coarse and fine sediments can occur from historic landfills constructed in stream channels for use as landings for timber harvest operations. In times of high flows the fill can be undermined and slough into the streams.

Data Sources:

CDF coverage.

Density of Roads Crossings of Streams

Proposition:

Potential delivery of coarse and fine sediments to the streams from road crossings does not significantly threaten the planning watershed's ability to sustain healthy populations of anadromous salmonids.

Definition:

Evaluated as the number of stream crossings by roads per kilometer of stream.

Explanation:

Road crossings of streams tend to interact with stream networks and have the potential to deliver fine sediments. Other impacts associated with road crossings include: alteration of runoff processes, removal of riaprian canopy cover and blocked fish passage. Road improvements and information on culverts could be incorporated into the model through a "Switch" node, which would reduce the potential of fine sediment delivery from those crossings that have been repaired and are no longer considered to have an impact.

Data Sources:

CDF-enhanced 1:24K digital Roads coverage;
CDF-enhanced 1:24K digital hydrography coverage (from USGS blue lines).

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APPENDIX 6D
NCWAP Gualala Data Catalogue

DATA CATALOG

Gualala River Watershed, NCWAP

Name	*Source*	*Description*	*Data Quality*	*Meta data*	*Analytical Use in NCWAP*
Gu10mdem	CDF	Clip of 10 m Digital Elevation Model	Created from original USGS contours. Contains horizontal and vertical errors.	Yes	Base for creation of stream gradient and true surface area data.
Gu10hlshd	CDF	Shaded relief (hillshade) created from 10 m Digital Elevation Model	See above	Yes	Primarily display.
Gu_cw22	CWMC	Clip of watershed boundaries from CalWater 2.2a	High quality	Yes	Base geographic boundary file for analyses.
Gu_cw22ha	CWMC	Clip of watershed boundary including sub-basin and planning watershed boundaries	High quality	Yes	Base geographic boundary file for analyses.
Gu_veg2002	CDF FRAP	Clip of mosaic of vegetation data comprised primarily of Calveg data.	Photo-interpreted. Contains spatial and typing errors. Validation by FRAP in process	Yes	To determine extent of vegetation types within each planning watershed
gual_allv00	CGS	Alluvium mapped from 2000 aerial photographs	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; also used for stream channel determination, stream channel change detection and other analyses.
gual_gul00	CGS	Gullies mapped from 2000 aerial photographs	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; also used for various analyses including stream delivery and landslides.
gual_sfl00, gual_sfl84	CGS	Stream features lines including riparian, bars, etc.	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Various analyses including sediment delivery and stream change detection.
gual_sfpo00, gual_sfpo84,	CGS	Stream features polygons including riparian, bars, etc.	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Various analyses including sediment delivery and stream change detection.
gual_clas	CGS	Stream gradient and Rosgen classes interpreted from aerial photography	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Various analyses including sediment delivery and comparison with DFG in-stream habitat data
gual_geol	CGS	Geologic units (polys) Contacts and faults (lines)	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Analysis of surface geology and comparison of geomorphic features.

Name	*Source*	*Description*	*Data Quality*	*Meta data*	*Analytical Use in NCWAP*
gual_act00, gual_act84	CGS	Active landslides mapped from 1984 and 2000 aerial photographs	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_act81	CGS	Active landslides taken from Davenport, C.W., 1984, DMG Open-File Report 84-48.	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_dor00, gual_dor84	CGS	Dormant landslides mapped from 1984 and 2000 aerial photographs	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_dor81	CGS	Dormant landslides taken from Davenport, C.W., 1984, DMG Open-File Report 84-48.	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_pts00, gual_pts84, gual_pts65	CGS	Point slides (landslides < 100 ft in diameter or across)	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_pts81	CGS	Point slides taken from Davenport, C.W., 1984, DMG Open-File Report 84-48.	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_lin00, gual_lin84	CGS	Linear slide features (mapped as points if < 150 ft long)	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.

Name	*Source*	*Description*	*Data Quality*	*Meta data*	*Analytical Use in NCWAP*
gual_lin81	CGS	Linear slide features taken from Davenport, C.W., 1984, DMG Open-File Report 84-48.	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_sym00, gual_sym84	CGS	Landslide symbology mapped from 2000 and 1984 aerial photographs	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Serves as form of annotation of features
gual_dss	CGS	Debris slide slopes	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_dg	CGS	Disrupted ground	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_ig	CGS	Inner gorge features	Mapped to 1:24,000 scale. Limited by visibility from canopy.	Yes	Basic data to create landslide and relative landslide potential maps; to develop spatial relationships between landslides, roads, and proximity to streams, and sediment source areas.
gual_rlsp	CGS	Relative landslide potential. Derivative coverage based on landslide, geomorphologic, fluvial, geologic, and topographic features	Complete coverage at 1:24,000 scale	Yes	Spatial relationships between areas of relatively higher and lower potential for slope movement
Gu_fire_pers	CDF	Fire history	Maximum extent fire history polygons	No	Limited analytical use.
Gua_unit_merge	CDFG	Unit-level in-stream habitat data	Extensive data set. Contains spatial, typing, and data range errors.	Yes	Used to assess current instream habitat conditions, EMDS, identify limiting factors, refugia, and prioritize restoration.
Gua_habreach	CDFG	Reach-level in-stream habitat data	Extensive data set. Contains spatial, typing, and data range errors. Summarized from unit-level data.	Yes	Used to assess current instream habitat conditions, EMDS, identify limiting factors, refugia, and prioritize restoration.

Name	*Source*	*Description*	*Data Quality*	*Meta data*	*Analytical Use in NCWAP*
Gu_cdf24khydro	CDF	1:24,000 scale routed hydrography	Incomplete at 1:24,000 scale. Digitized from 1:24,000 USGS quadrangle maps. Contains naming and routing errors.	Yes	Base coverage for routing in-stream habitat data. Used with geology and geomorphology data for proximity and sediment delivery analysis.
Gu_lakeclip	DWR	Clip of statewide lake coverage	Created at 1:24,000 scale	Yes	Limited analysis use – primarily cartographic
Gu_500kstrm	DWR	Clip of 1:500,000 statewide stream and river coverage	Created at 1:500,000 scale	Yes	Limited analysis use – primarily cartographic
Gu_strgrad	CDF	Stream gradients for 1:24,000 hydrography	Derivative data created from original DEM contour intervals and routed hydrography	No	Used in conjunction with in-stream habitat data for fish distribution.
thp*xx*	CDF	Timber harvest coverages for 1977 through 2001	Created from 1:24,000 USGS quadrangle maps. Maximum extent polygons. Highly attributed.	No	Base coverage for comparing landslides, roads, and other features to stream proximity.
Gu_minrds, Gu_majrds	Teale	Major and minor roads.	Created from 1:24,000 USGS quad maps. Incomplete data set.	Yes	Limited utility due to incomplete nature of data. Base coverage for comparing landslides, THP's, and other features to stream proximity.
Stream flow data	CDFG	Data collected between July and September 1988 on the north fork Gualala river.	Not digital. Quality unknown	No	Used in conjunction with temperature (future temperature model) and in-stream habitat data.
Salmonid distribution data	CDFG	Map of data indicating potential historic coho and current steelhead distribution. Incomplete coverage.	Not digital. Quality unknown	No	New baseline salmonid distribution, used to identify refugia, and prioritize restoration.
Stream surveys	CDFG	Numerous stream surveys of some Gualala River tributaries conducted during 1964 and 1970.	Not digital. Quality unknown	No	Not comparable to current in-stream habitat surveys, but assisted with changes in habitat conditions from 1964-2001.
Habitat inventories	SSRRCD	Stream inventory data for Fuller, north fork Fuller, south fork Fuller, and Sullivan creeks 1995	Not digital.	No	Used to assess current instream habitat conditions, identify limiting factors, refugia, and prioritize restoration.
Habitat inventories	CDFG CCR	Stream inventory data for Carson, Camper, Wild Hog, and McKenzie Creeks: 1999	Digital	No	Used to assess current instream habitat conditions, EMDS, identify limiting factors, refugia, and prioritize restoration.
Habitat inventories	CDFG NCWAP	Stream inventory data for twenty streams throughout the Basin: 2001	Digital	No	Used to assess current instream habitat conditions, EMDS, identify limiting factors, refugia, and prioritize restoration.
Timber harvest data	Gualala Redwoods, Inc.	Timber harvest plans for 1997-1999	n/a	n/a	Historical land use; Water temperature and sediment data

Name	*Source*	*Description*	*Data Quality*	*Meta data*	*Analytical Use in NCWAP*
Timber harvest data	Mendocino Redwoods, Inc.	Timber harvest plans for 1998-2000	n/a	n/a	Historical land use.
Timber harvest data	Private parties	Timber harvest plans for 1998 and 1999	n/a	n/a	Historical land use; water temperature and sediment data
Tech. Support Document for the Gualala R. TMDL	NCRWQCB	Sediment TMDL data for the Gualala River	Air photo interpretation with some ground truthing	Yes	Sediment sources
Water Temperature Data	GRI/GRWC CFL FSP	Seasonal maxima and maximum weekly average temperatures; digital in Appendix 4	Good to High Quality	Yes	Suitability for salmonids
Water Quality Data	USEPA's StoRet system SWAMP files at NCRWQCB	Water chemistry data from USEPA's data storage and retrieval system and the 2001 NCRWQCB sampling under SWAMP; digital in Appendix 4	Good to High Quality	Yes	Suitability for salmonids; Compliance with Basin Plan standards
Standard quadrangle maps	USGS	Complete set of 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle maps covering the Gualala River watershed.	Created in 1952 and many updated in 1983	Yes	Base data and information for land use, geology, hydrography, and other data mapping.
DOQQs	USGS	Digital orthophotoquads	Mostly 1993 and 1998		Base layer for landslide/other mapping
(Hypsography)	USGS	Topographic elevation contours	Extracted from 1:24,000 USGS quads		Base layer for landslide/other mapping

Source abbreviations
CDF – California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDFG – California Department of Fish and Game
CFL – Coastal Forest Lands, Ltd. (now Pioneer Resources)
CGS – Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey
CWMC – California Watershed Mapping Committee
DWR – California Department of Water Resources
FRAP – Forest Resource Assessment Program
FSP – Forest Science Project
NCRWQCB – North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
RNSP – Redwood National and State Park
SSRRCD – Sotoyome-Santa Rosa Resource Conservation District
Teale – Stephen P. Teale data center, State of California
USGS – United States Geological Survey