



# Technical Memorandum

May 16, 2024

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|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| <b>To</b>           | Heidi Kunstal, County of Del Norte                             | <b>Contact No.</b> | (707) 267-2207   |
| <b>Copy to</b>      | Jennifer Jacobs, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation ; Patrick Sullivan, GHD | <b>Email</b>       | <a href="mailto:Kerry.McNamee@ghd.com">Kerry.McNamee@ghd.com</a> |
| <b>From</b>         | Kerry McNamee, GHD   | <b>Project No.</b> | 12607057   |
| <b>Project Name</b> | Rowdy and Dominie Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project       |                    |  |
| <b>Subject</b>      | Note to File – CEQA  |                    |  |

## 1. Introduction

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Rowdy and Dominie Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project (Project) was prepared in 2021 with Del Norte County serving as the Lead Agency. The State Clearinghouse Number of the ISMND is 2021060436, and it was publicly circulated from June 18, 2021 to July 19, 2021. The Notice of Determination was signed by Del Norte County on August 9, 2021.

### 1.1 Purpose of this Memorandum

This Memorandum is to disclose an update to the Project which includes use of 0.18 acres of additional area located outside of the original Project footprint. The additional area will be used for access and staging by the contractor. Use of these additional access points and staging area would result in a better project because the equipment would not need to traverse over engineered streambed material and rock already placed in the channel, which could potentially move rocks and alter design.

Vegetation within the 0.18-acre area was inventoried by GHD on May 2, 2024 and predominantly includes non-native species such as Himalayan blackberry with limited native species (see enclosed Native Vegetation Assessment Technical Memo). Use of this area would result in the removal and clearing of understory shrub species and the removal of one snag tree, and one red alder that is approximately six inches diameter. The entire 0.18-acre area would be revegetated with native species, and the proposed revegetation would be approved by CDFW prior to implementation.

Use of the 0.18-acre area would not cause a new significant impact or alter any of the impact analysis determinations in the ISMND because the additional vegetation removed will be offset by revegetation and will result in an ecologically improved area via the removal of the abundant non-native species and replacement with native species. No change to the ISMND is warranted. This memo commemorates this Project update.

Regards

**Kerry McNamee**  
Environmental Planner

Enclosed: Native Vegetation Assessment Technical Memo

# Technical Memorandum

May 7, 2024

|                     |  |                    |  |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| <b>To</b>           | Greg O'Connell, CDFW   | <b>Contact No.</b> | (707) 267-2224   |
| <b>Copy to</b>      | Jennifer Jacobs, TDN; Dan Free, NMFS; Heidi Kunstal, Del Norte County; Kerry McNamee, GHD; Patrick Sullivan, GHD | <b>Email</b>       | <a href="mailto:Miles.Hartnett@ghd.com">Miles.Hartnett@ghd.com</a> |
| <b>From</b>         | Miles Hartnett, GHD  | <b>Project No.</b> | 12607057   |
| <b>Project Name</b> | Rowdy and Dominie Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project   |                    |  |
| <b>Subject</b>      | Supplemental Project Access and Staging Areas –Native Vegetation Assessment                                      |                    |  |

## 1. Introduction

Upon conducting site preparations with the selected contractor to implement the Rowdy and Dominie Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project (Project) in late April 2024, it became evident that supplemental access routes to the Rowdy Creek channel and additional staging areas would be necessary to successfully complete Project construction. Both native and non-native vegetation would need to be removed to accommodate the additional access and staging areas. The additional proposed access and staging areas are outside of the original Project footprint considered in CEQA and other regulatory documents for the Project.

## 2. Methodology

The supplemental access and staging areas were assessed and flagged in the field by Patrick Sullivan GHD PE, Miles Hartnett GHD Biologist/Botanist, and the selected contractor on May 2, 2024, and the boundaries were mapped using an Eos Arrow 100 (sub-meter accuracy) Global Positioning System (GPS) device. Miles Hartnett, GHD Biologist/Botanist, characterized the vegetative communities and inventoried native vegetation proposed for removal within the proposed supplemental access and staging area boundaries. The supplemental areas were positioned to avoid and/or minimize impacts to native vegetation and trees greater than 6 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) to the greatest extent practicable.

## 3. Results

The supplemental access and staging areas comprise a total of 8,040 sqft (0.18 acres) and are shown below in **Figure 1**. Quantitative estimates of native vegetation cover proposed for removal within the 0.18-acre access and staging areas are described below and detailed in **Table 1**.

### Area 1:

Area 1 (**Photo 1**) is approximately 715 sqft and is primarily comprised of Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*; non-native) with trace amounts of coast man-root (*Marah oregana*; native). Native vegetation proposed for removal within Area 1 includes trace amounts of coast man-root. Area 1 would be revegetated

with appropriate native vegetation consistent with adjacent areas post construction, which include: coast twinberry (*Lonicera involucrate*), salmon berry (*Rubus spectabilis*) and native grasses.

**Area 2:**

Area 2 (**Photo 2**) is approximately 825 sqft and is primarily comprised of coast twinberry ( native) with trace amounts of Himalayan blackberry, coast man-root, and western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*; native). This area is underneath an existing communications line and has likely been managed for vegetation clearance in the past. One approximate 12-inch dbh snag tree is present within Area 2, and presents a potential hazard to personnel during Project implementation. This snag is therefore proposed for removal. Native vegetation proposed for removal within Area 2 includes approximately 825 sqft of coast twinberry and trace amounts of coast man-root and sword fern. Area 2 would be revegetated with coast twinberry and other native vegetation consistent with adjacent areas post construction.

**Area 3:**

Area 3 (**Photo 3**) is approximately 400 sqft and is primarily comprised of red alder (*Alnus rubra*; native) with Himalayan blackberry, sword fern, litter, and detritus in the understory. Native vegetation proposed for removal within Area 3 includes one 6-inch dbh red alder and approximately 55 sqft of sword fern. The 6-inch dbh red alder proposed for removal is a suppressed, non-dominant tree in the canopy, but does supply some stream shading and riparian cover. Area 3 would be revegetated with appropriate native vegetation consistent with adjacent areas post construction and the red alder replaced at a 3 to 1 ratio which is consistent with the NMFS Biological Opinion riparian mitigation ratio.

**Area 4:**

Area 4 (**Photo 4**) is approximately 6,100 sqft and is primarily comprised of Himalayan blackberry, wild teasle (*Dipsacus fullonum*; non-native), cotoneaster scrub (*Cotoneaster sp.*; non-native), a few emergent red alder trees, with trace amounts of pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*; non-native) and coast man-root. Native vegetation proposed for removal within Area 4 include trace amounts of coast man-root. All red alder trees present within Area 4 would be retained. Area 4 would be revegetated with appropriate native vegetation consistent with adjacent areas post construction.

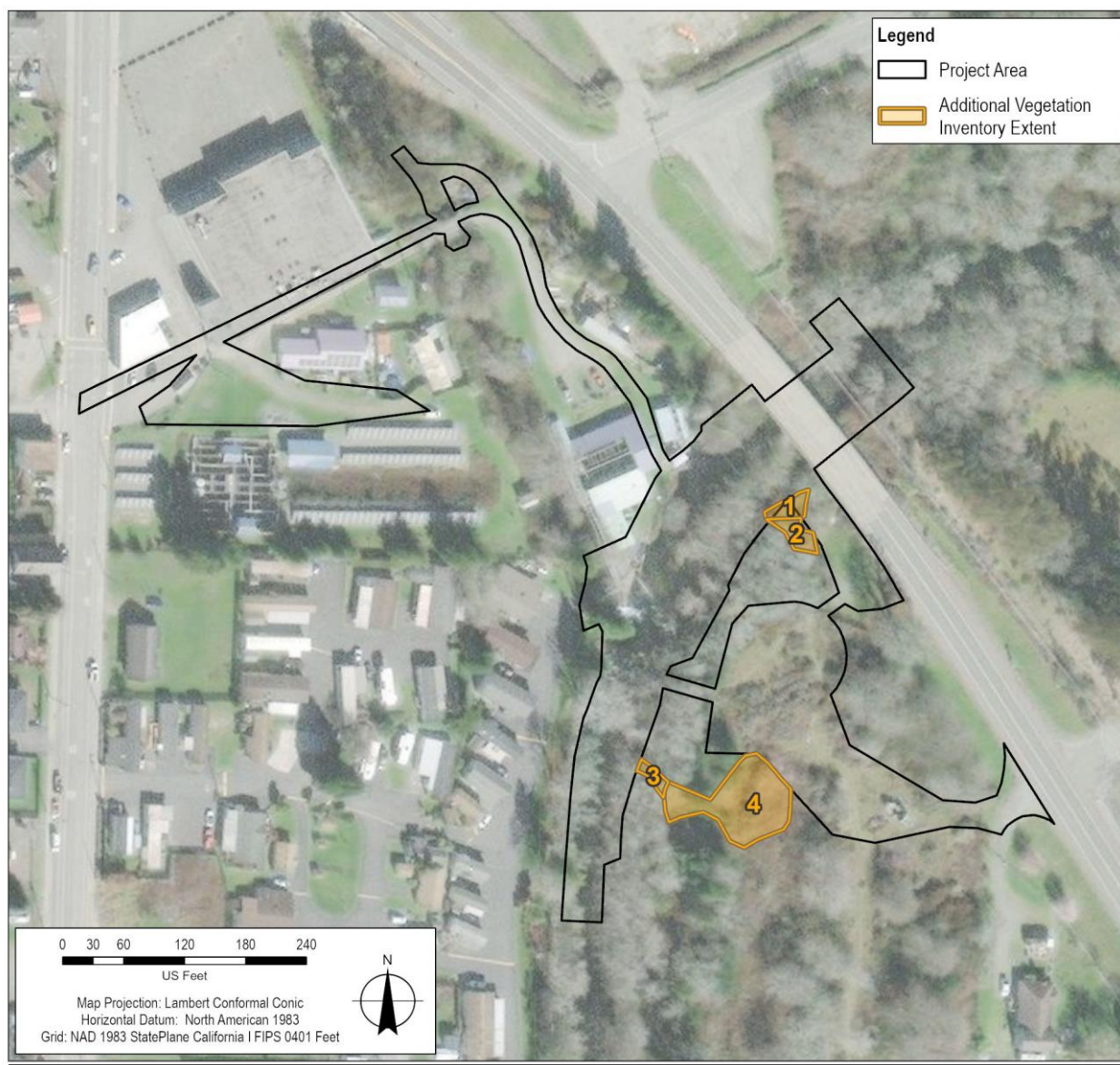
**Table 1 - Native Vegetation Proposed for Removal within All Supplemental Access and Staging Areas**

| Species name                   | Common name        | Form                | Total Quantity: Number/Area (sqft) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Alnus rubra</i>             | red alder          | tree                | 1 – (6” dbh)                       |
| <i>snag - unidentified sp.</i> | snag tree          | snag tree           | 1 – (12” dbh)                      |
| <i>Lonicera involucrate</i>    | coast twinberry    | shrub               | 825 sqft                           |
| <i>Marah oregana</i>           | coast man-root     | perennial herb/vine | trace (<1%)                        |
| <i>Polystichum munitum</i>     | western sword fern | perennial herb/fern | 55 sqft                            |

Regards,

**Miles Hartnett**  
GHD Biologist/Botanist

Figure 1 - Supplemental Access and Staging Areas



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Data source: GHD Project Boundary, 6/17/22; World Imagery: Maxar, Microsoft. Created by: jclark2



**Photos - Supplemental Access and Staging Areas**

Photo 1: Area 1

Vegetation proposed for removal is indicated in red and primarily comprised of Himalayan blackberry.

Surrounding willows (*Salix sp.*) are not proposed for removal.

Area: 715 sqft

Coordinates:  
41.928132, -  
124.143343.

Date: May 2, 2024



Photo 2: Area 2

Vegetation proposed for removal is indicated in red and primarily comprised of coast twinberry. The 12-inch dbh snag tree indicated by the red arrow is also proposed for removal.

Adjacent bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*; native) is not proposed for removal.

Area: 825 sqft

Coordinates:  
41.928134, -  
124.143425.

Date: May 2, 2024





Photo 3: Area 3

Vegetation proposed for removal is indicated in red and primarily comprised of a red alder tree with Himalayan blackberry and sword fern in the understory.

The 6-inch dbh red alder tree indicated by the red arrow is proposed for removal.

Area: 400 sqft

Coordinates:  
41.927452, -  
124.143891.

Date: May 2, 2024



Photo 4: Area 4

Vegetation proposed for removal is indicated in red and primarily comprised of Himalayan blackberry and wild teasel.

Surrounding trees and red alders emergent in the canopy are not proposed for removal.

Area: 6,100 sqft

Coordinates:  
41.927466, -  
124.143448.

Date: May 2, 2024

