

United States Forest Service San Juan Creek Restoration Project Summary

Overview: Improving fish passage opportunities through removal of dams is a national initiative that is a priority for numerous federal and state agencies including, but not limited to the United States Forest Service (Forest Service), United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Removal of barriers is a key component in restoring stream health and function.

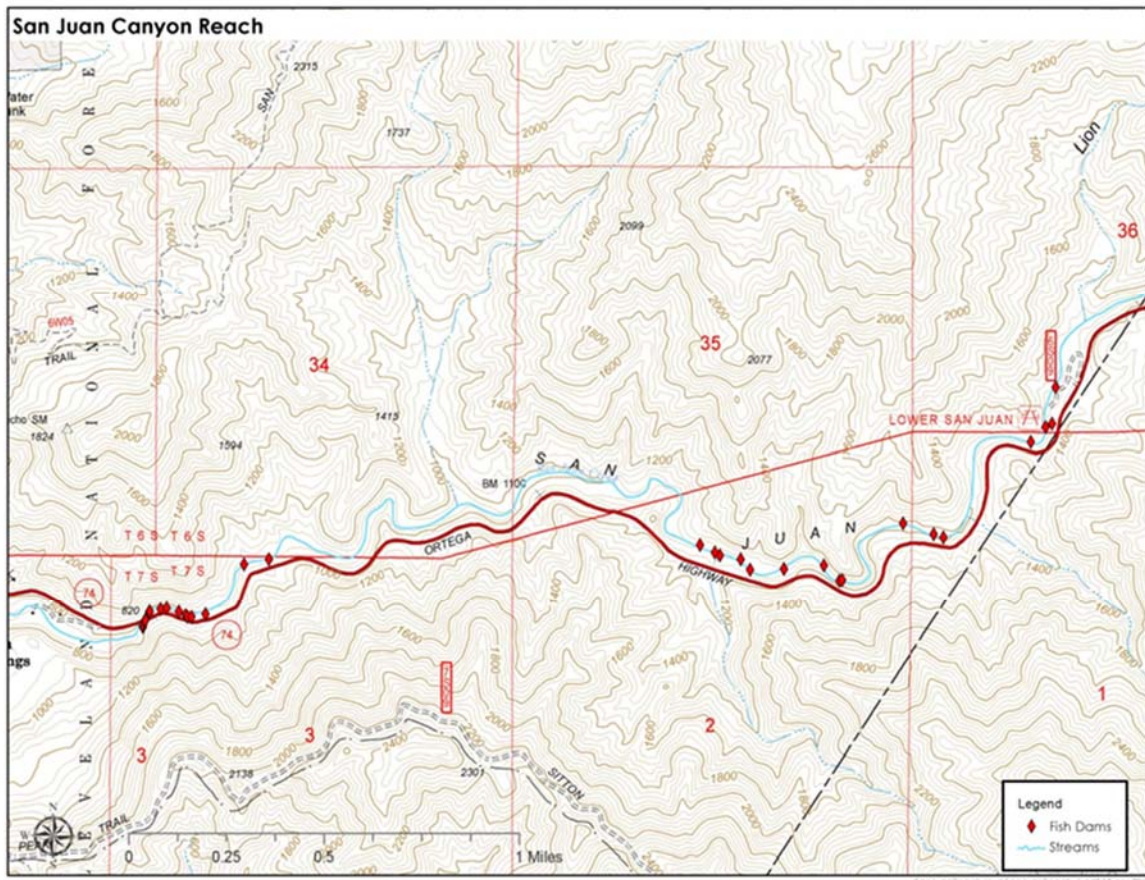
Why: The purpose of the project is to enhance aquatic organism passage and stream habitat in San Juan Creek. Removing manmade dams is essential to supporting resident native aquatic species such as arroyo chub, and providing a suitable habitat for the potential re-establishment of extirpated species, including the Southern California steelhead trout. The existing dams present barriers to native fish and other aquatic organisms, especially during periods of low flow. Dams alter physical stream processes such as bed load and sediment transport, natural surface flows, and channel adjustment. The ability to move up and down stream is essential for aquatic species in order to complete their life cycles and maintain viable populations. Facilitating aquatic organism passage and improving stream habitat would ultimately increase accessible stream habitat for existing and potential populations of native aquatic species.

What will occur: Thirty-one dams are present in San Juan Creek. Four are small remnants that will be left in place. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has agreed to fund the removal of 13 dams. These dams are larger in size and will require traffic control to ensure that the project is completed safely. The County has agreed to fund traffic control for all of the dams that Caltrans is removing. These efforts will leave 14 dams in need of removal. The Forest Service is requesting funding from the Orange County Transportation Authority to remove the remaining 14 dams.

Who will do work: A Forest Service enterprise team and a local conservation crew will be performing the work. Forest Service biologists will monitor the project implementation and will complete monitoring before and after implementation, including three years of monitoring after dam removal. Annual reports will be prepared to discuss the stream recovery after dam removal.

When will work be done: Depending on work schedules, dam removal is anticipated to occur in January and February 2018, and in January and February 2019. Some work may occur outside of this window if fire risk is sufficiently low. All work is scheduled to be completed by June 2019.

Where: San Juan Creek, Orange County, California



Cost Estimate:

Location	Resource	# of weeks	Cost Per Week or Job	Cost
Dams 1-7	Crew Time (12 persons)	3	6,000	\$18,000
Dams 1-7	Equipment Rental	3	2,000	\$6,000
Dams 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 23, and 25	Crew time and materials	2.5	50,000	\$125,000
Dams 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 23, and 25	Traffic Control	1	10,000	\$10,000
All dams	Forest Service Biologist – Monitoring/Reporting	8	2,000	\$16,000
Administration of contract and agreements	Forest Service Administrator	4	2,500	\$10,000
TOTAL:				\$ 185,000