

Canham Meadow Restoration

The restoration of Canham Meadow mitigates impacts to another wetland, near the Newell Creek Dam.





As a mitigation measure to an unavoidable impact to .07 acre of wetlands near the Newell Creek Dam Inlet/Outlet construction project, this restoration project will restore .29 acres of wetlands in the Canham Meadow of Scotts Valley. This project is done in partnership with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the City of Scotts Valley.

Canham Meadow is located in the Glenwood Preserve within the City of Scotts Valley. The preserve is managed by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. Within the preserve, a gully that's approximately 8' wide and 3'-6' deep has formed over time from poor road drainage nearby. The gully acted as a drainage channel, actively lowering the local water table and drying the historically wet meadow. The restoration project filled the gully and recreated wet meadow conditions. The impacted area has been seeded and planted with native vegetation found adjacent to the project site.

A rock energy dissipator and flow spreader has been constructed to distribute flows across the restored meadow surface, preventing concentrated flows from the culvert upslope from forming a gully through the meadow again. Erosion has been further prevented through planting dense vegetation, creating a rough surface and a wide cross-section with shallow flow depths. Storm flows will bypass the project site for up to 3 years after construction, to allow the necessary vegetation time to become established. As a measure to ensure the growth and survivorship of the

plantings, the wetland will be irrigated for up to three years under a strictly evaluated water-conscious irrigation plan. As a further measure to ensure the long term stability of the site and the establishment of the vegetation, fencing has been placed around the wet meadow to exclude grazing cattle.

Now that the construction of the project has been completed, the site will be maintained and monitored for at least 5 years.

December 2021 update: Over the past year, we went from designing the project, coordinating the approval from Scotts Valley and the Land Trust of SCC, and completing construction. Construction involved grading away weed ridden topsoil, filling and compaction of the gully, grading the meadow, installing the protective rock structure at the inlet, planting, and installation of irrigation. The October storm also impacted the project site, which required remediation.

Total project cost: \$1,640,000

Timeline: Construction will occur between July and November, 2021.

Contractor: Ecological Concerns Inc., with engineering and design support by Waterways Consulting Inc.

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