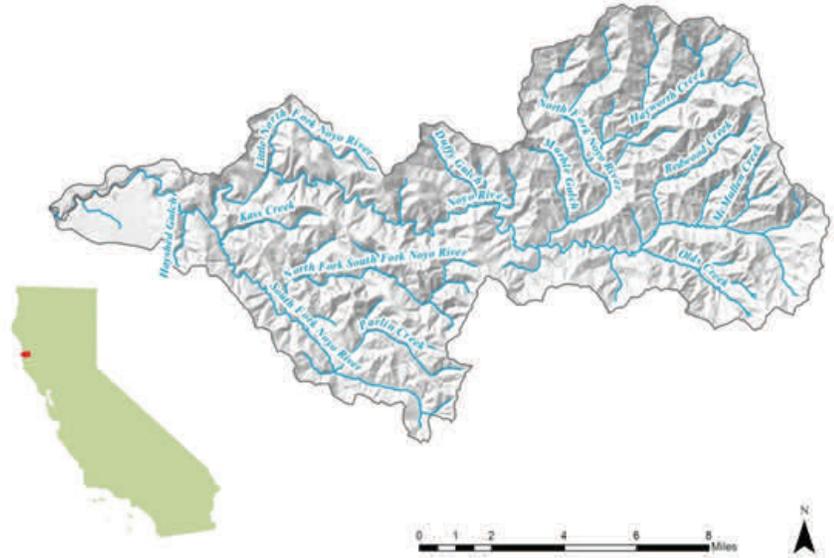


Water Quality Report Card		Sediment in the Noyo River	
Regional Water Board:	North Coast, Region 1	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed <input type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted
Beneficial Uses Affected:	COMM, COLD, MIGR, SPWN, EST		
Implemented Through:	Grants, NPS Permit, Stakeholder Efforts		
Effective Date:	December 1999		
Attainment Date:	2039 (estimated date)	Pollutant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legacy

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

The Noyo River Watershed is a 113-square-mile forested watershed in Mendocino County, which extends West from Willits to the Pacific Ocean at Fort Bragg. In 1998, the Noyo River was added to the 303(d) list due to excessive fine sediment, which negatively impacts anadromous salmon and steelhead trout. Sediment sources include roads, railroads, and timber harvest management. Major landowners within the Noyo River Watershed include Mendocino Redwood Company, Hawthorne Timber Company and Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). The Skunk Train, owned by Mendocino Railway, traverses the Watershed's mainstem channel. The removal of over 5 million board-feet of large wood from stream channels, from 1959 to 1964 negatively impacted salmonid habitat. The USEPA established the [Noyo River TMDL for sediment](#) in December 1999, which identified the need for a 63% reduction in forest management-related sediment delivery to the River. Since 2000, landowners in over 70% of the Watershed are working toward sediment load reductions through regulatory approaches, including harvesting timber pursuant to State Water Board waste discharge requirements, CalFire Forest Practice Rules, and non-regulatory approaches, such as voluntary and grant-funded sediment control and large wood augmentation projects. In 2007, the [Noyo Watershed Alliance](#) created the [Noyo River Watershed Enhancement Plan](#) to help address and identify management objectives and restoration guidelines for improvement of fish habitat and water quality.

Noyo River Watershed



Water Quality Outcomes

- From 2006 to 2015, the CA Conservation Corps installed 632 pieces of large woody debris at 351 sites spanning 12.16 stream miles. Large woody debris helps create and maintain deep pools, trap cool water and provide optimal spawning and rearing habitat for salmonid species through fine sediment and gravel retention. Funding is in place for installing an additional 327 pieces at 133 sites over 3.77 stream miles.
- In JDSF, CalFire has improved 5 miles of road surface, replaced or upgraded 8 stream crossings, and removed 2 fish passage barriers. Another 8 stream crossings are proposed for replacement over 4 miles of roads.
- Private timber companies have upgraded, hydrologically disconnected, abandoned, and decommissioned roads which were discharging sediment. They have improved crossings on Class II and Class III watercourses, and restored channels to historic conditions.
- Currently, the Regional Water Board has been collaborating with Mendocino County to address sediment discharges from County roads. Future actions include restoring in-stream habitat, funding additional sediment control and habitat improvement projects, and expanding watershed stewardship efforts. Additional instream monitoring is needed to help inform about watershed conditions.

TMDL Load Allocations

