

# **Willits Highway 101 Bypass Project: Multi-year Aquatic Bioassessment of Eight Non-Perennial North Coast Stream Challenges and Opportunities**

*California Aquatic Bioassessment Workgroup  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*

*November 8, 2012*

# roduction / Outline

Background/Objectives

atershed Characteristics

ethods

Challenges and Opportunities

sults/Discussion

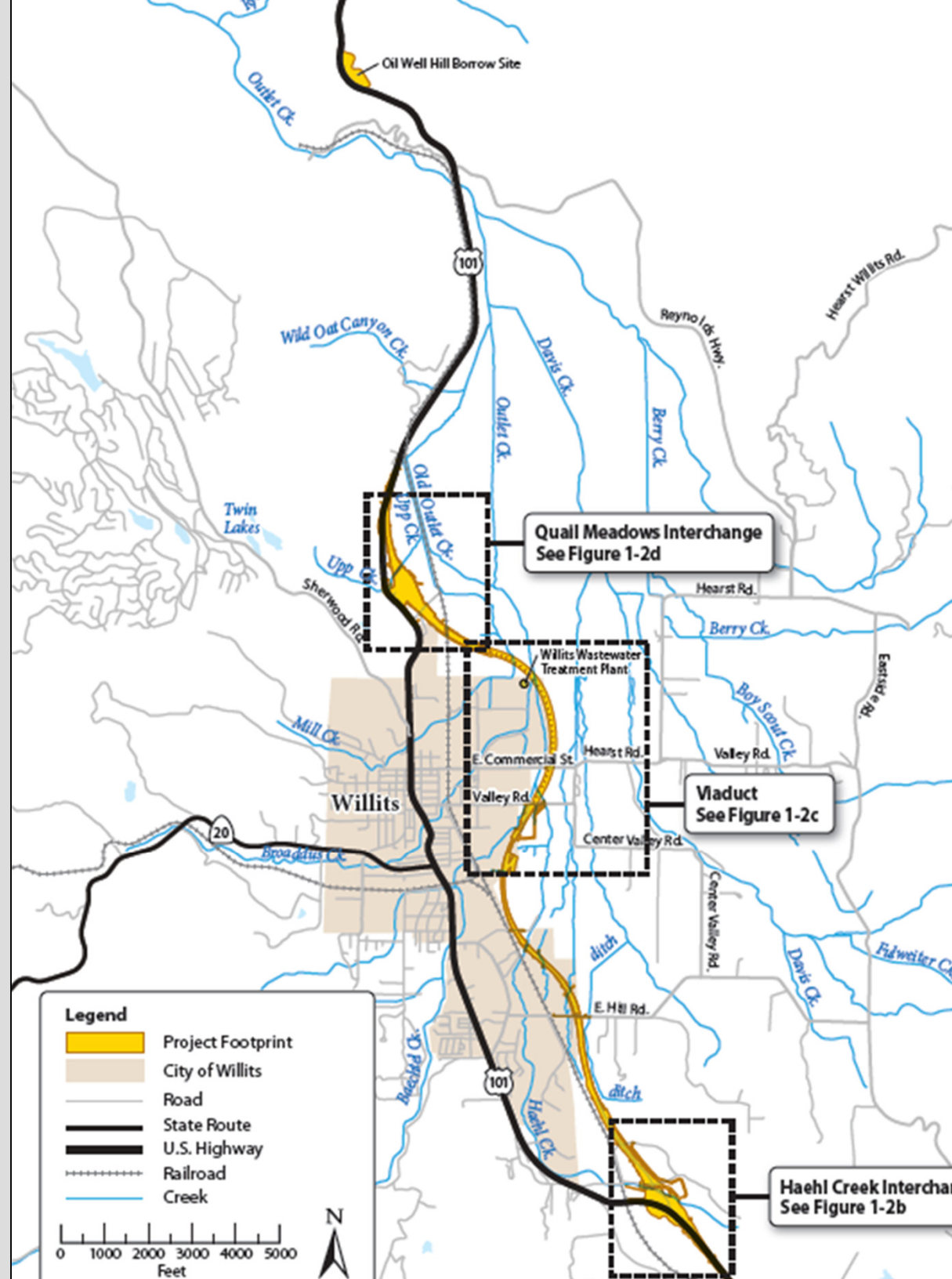
mmmary

# Project Background

Construction of Willits Bypass project, a new section of U.S. Highway 101 to improve traffic circulation

Various mitigation components (onsite vs offsite)

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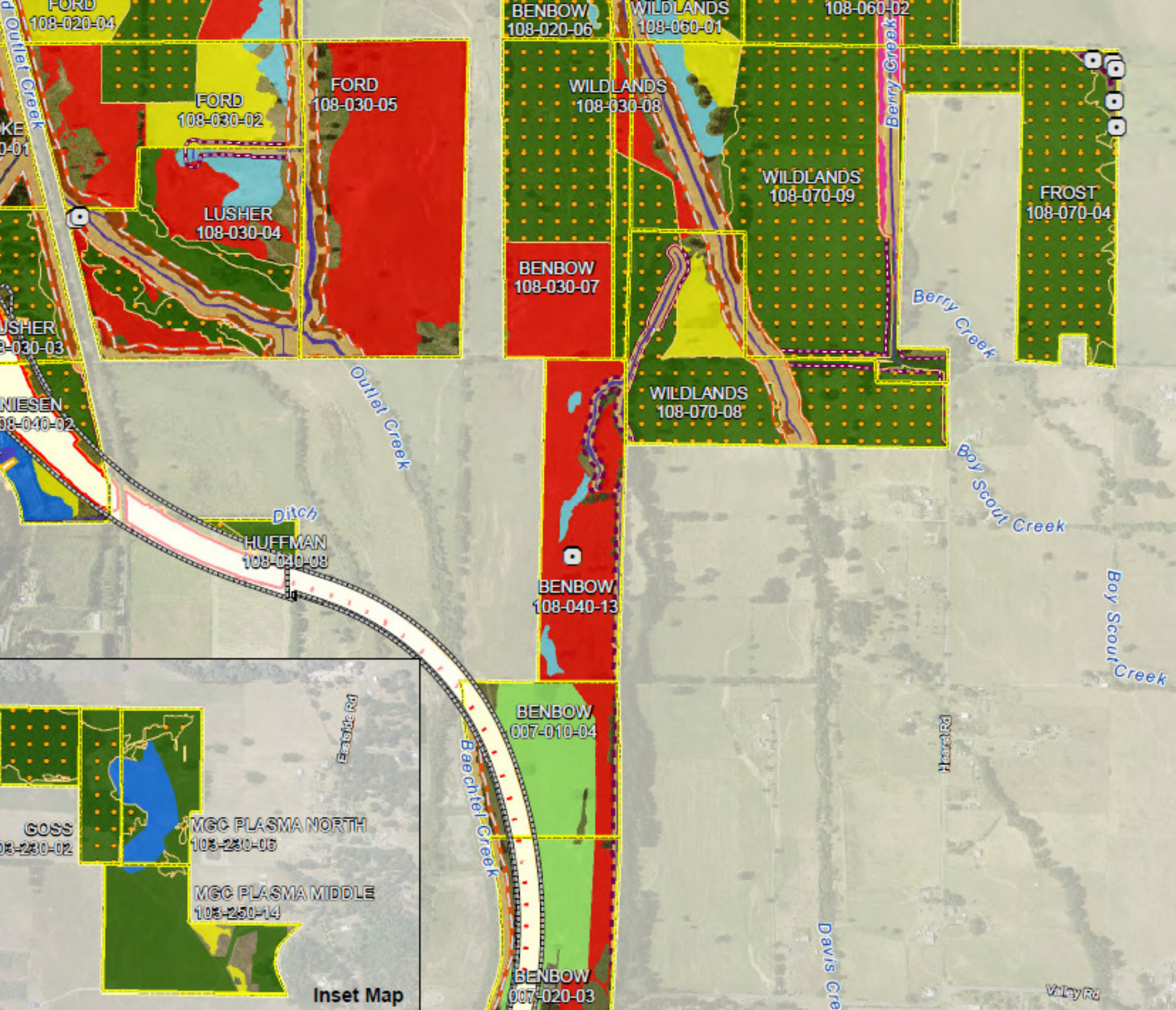


# ect Objectives

*vide RWQCB with baseline conditions*

ess changes in stream ecosystems as result of  
struction and mitigation activities

ess changes to biological integrity of streams und  
ect's mitigation and monitoring program



- Bypass Project**
- Permanent
  - Temporary
  - Right of Way
  - Grazing
- Wetland Management**
- Wetland Establishment
  - Group 1
  - Group 2
- Wetland Rehabilitation**
- Grazing
  - Type 1
  - Type 2
  - Type 3
  - Type 4
  - Type 5
- Riparian Establishment**
- Riparian
- Riparian Rehabilitation**
- Riparian
- Other Waters**
- Other Waters
  - Repair Head
- Oak Woodlands**
- Oak Woodlands
- Stream Categories**
- Category 1
  - Category 2
  - Category 3



Fig. 1  
Offsite Map



# Watershed Characteristics

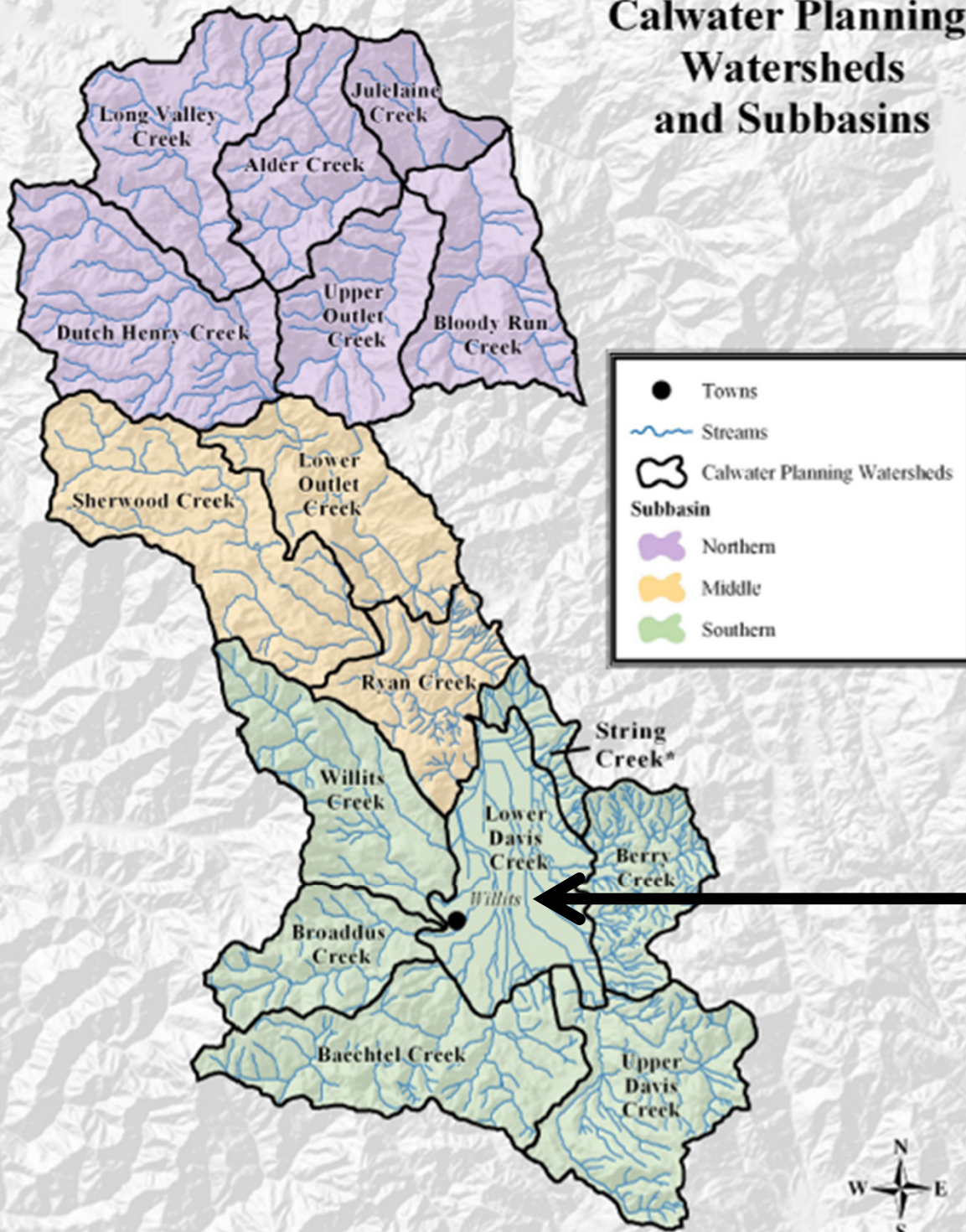
Drainage basin 67 sq miles (43,063 acres)

Named streams in project area!

Former lacustrine setting

Intermittent/ephemeral

# Outlet Creek Basin Calwater Planning Watersheds and Subbasins



**Outlet Creek basin  
w/in Little Lake**

\*Note: This is the portion of the String Creek Calwater that is within the boundary of the Outlet Creek Basin.

CA Dept. of Fish and Game  
Central Watershed Planning  
and Assessment Program  
K. Todd © 2006  
Data Sources: CDFG, CDF, USGS  
Topo Data: CDFG



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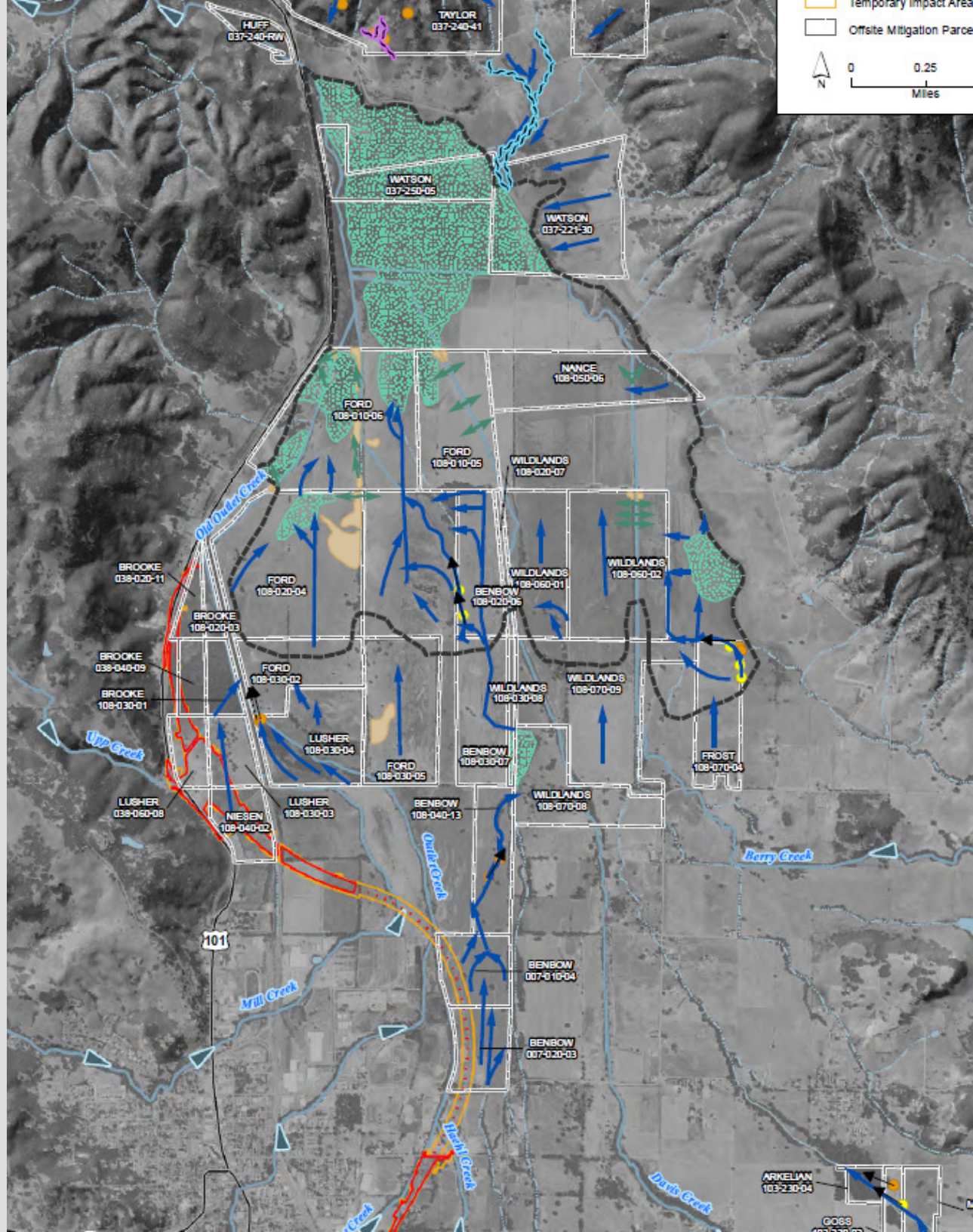




ow patterns

annels

ake



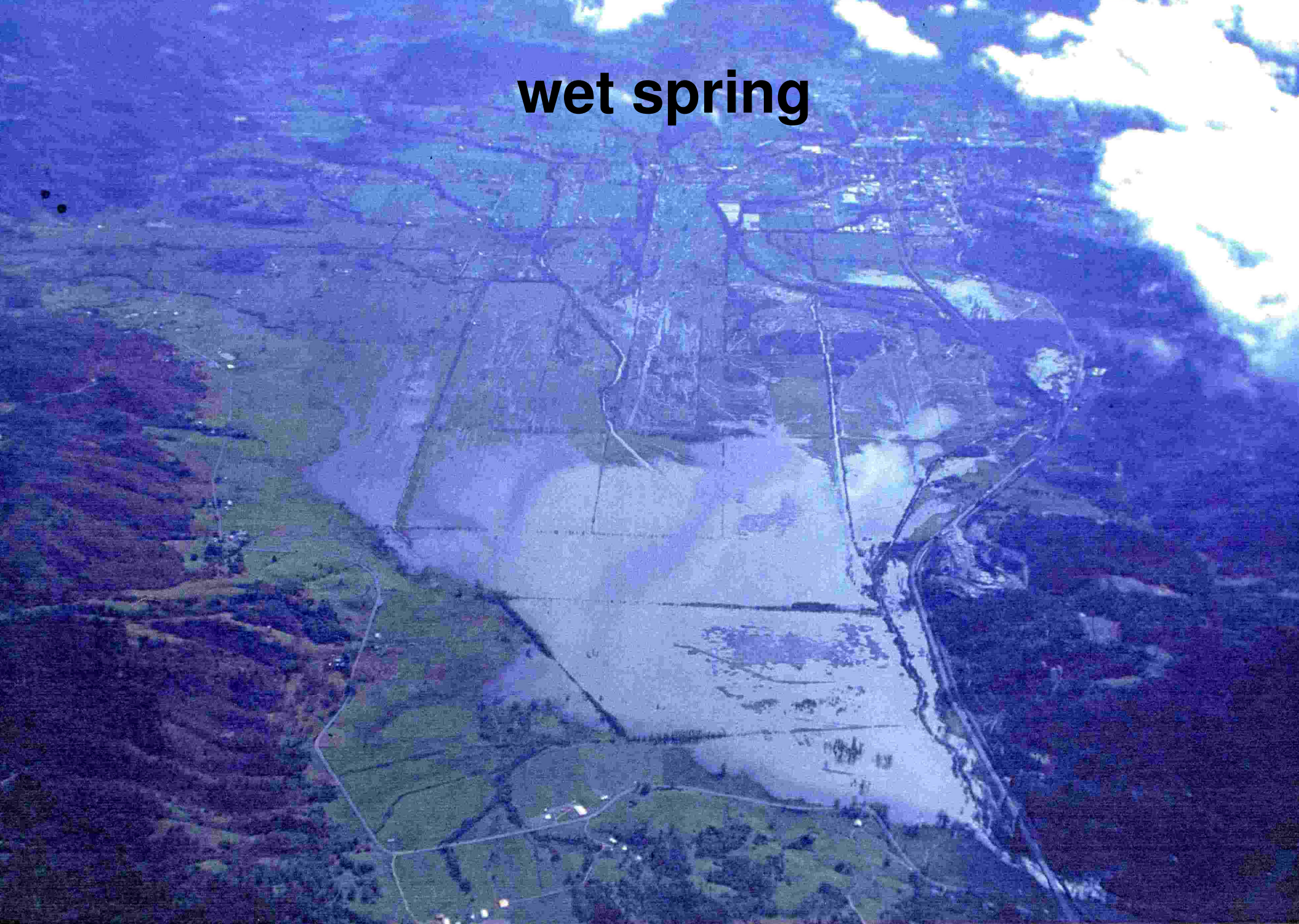




March 26, 2011



# wet spring



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# wet spring



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1956



2005



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# Haeh Baechtel Creek



## Creek



# B Data

Standard methods

Q

Reach conditions

pe

P habitat parameters

in/inner transects

REACH DOCUMENTATION										Standard Reach Length (vetted width) ≤ 100 Alternate Reach Length (vetted width)	
Project Name: <i>Willits Bypass Bioassessment</i>								Date: <i>07/2</i>			
Stream Name: <i>Baechtel Creek</i>								Site Name/Description: <i>below confluence</i>			
Site Code: <i>BA-4</i>								Crew Members: <i>A. Hung</i>			
Latitude (actual - decimal degrees): <i>N 39.412408036</i>								datum: <i>NAD83</i>		GPS Data:	
Longitude (actual - decimal degrees): <i>W 123.340185102</i>								other: <i>WGS84</i>			

AMBIENT WATER QUALITY MEASUREMENTS						turbidity and silica are optional; calibration date required	
Temp (Deg C):	<i>18.2</i>	pH:	<i>7.5</i>	Alkalinity (mg/L):	<i>68</i>	Turbidity (ntu):	<i>0.4</i>
<i>12:58</i>	cal. date:	<i>7/24/11</i>				cal. date:	<i>7/24/11</i>
Dissolved O <sub>2</sub> (mg/L):	<i>8.46</i>	Specific Conduct (uS/cm):	<i>187.5</i>	Salinity (ppt):	<i>0.1</i>	Silica (mg/L):	<i>/</i>
cal. date:	<i>7/24/11</i>	cal. date:	<i>7/24/11</i>	cal. date:	<i>7/24/11</i>	cal. date:	<i>/</i>

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS								check if discharge measurement = left bank (looking downstream)	
VELOCITY AREA METHOD (preferred)						cal. date: <i>7/21/11</i>		Transect Width (m): <i>2.1</i>	
	Distance from Left Bank (cm)	Depth (cm)	Velocity (ft/sec)		Distance from Left Bank (cm)	Depth (cm)	Velocity (ft/sec)		
1	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0.02</i>	11	<i>121</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.58</i>		
2	<i>22</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0.05</i>	12	<i>132</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.45</i>		
3	<i>33</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.09</i>	13	<i>143</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.35</i>		
4	<i>44</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.20</i>	14	<i>154</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.27</i>		
5	<i>55</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.24</i>	15	<i>165</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0.31</i>		
6	<i>66</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.34</i>	16	<i>176</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.43</i>		
7	<i>77</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.25</i>	17	<i>187</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.35</i>		
8	<i>88</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0.38</i>	18	<i>198</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0.10</i>		
9	<i>99</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.33</i>	19	<i>209</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>0.01</i>		
10	<i>110</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>0.66</i>	20					

NOTABLE FIELD CONDITIONS (check one box)	
Evidence of recent rainfall (enough to increase surface runoff)	<i>NO</i>
Evidence of fires in reach or immediately upstream (<500 m)	<i>NO</i>
Dominant landuse/landcover in area surrounding reach	<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban/ <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial

ADDITIONAL COBBLE EMBEDDEDNESS MEASURES (carry over from transect forms if needed to attain target count of 25; measure in %)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	<i>75</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	
	<i>90</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4</i>



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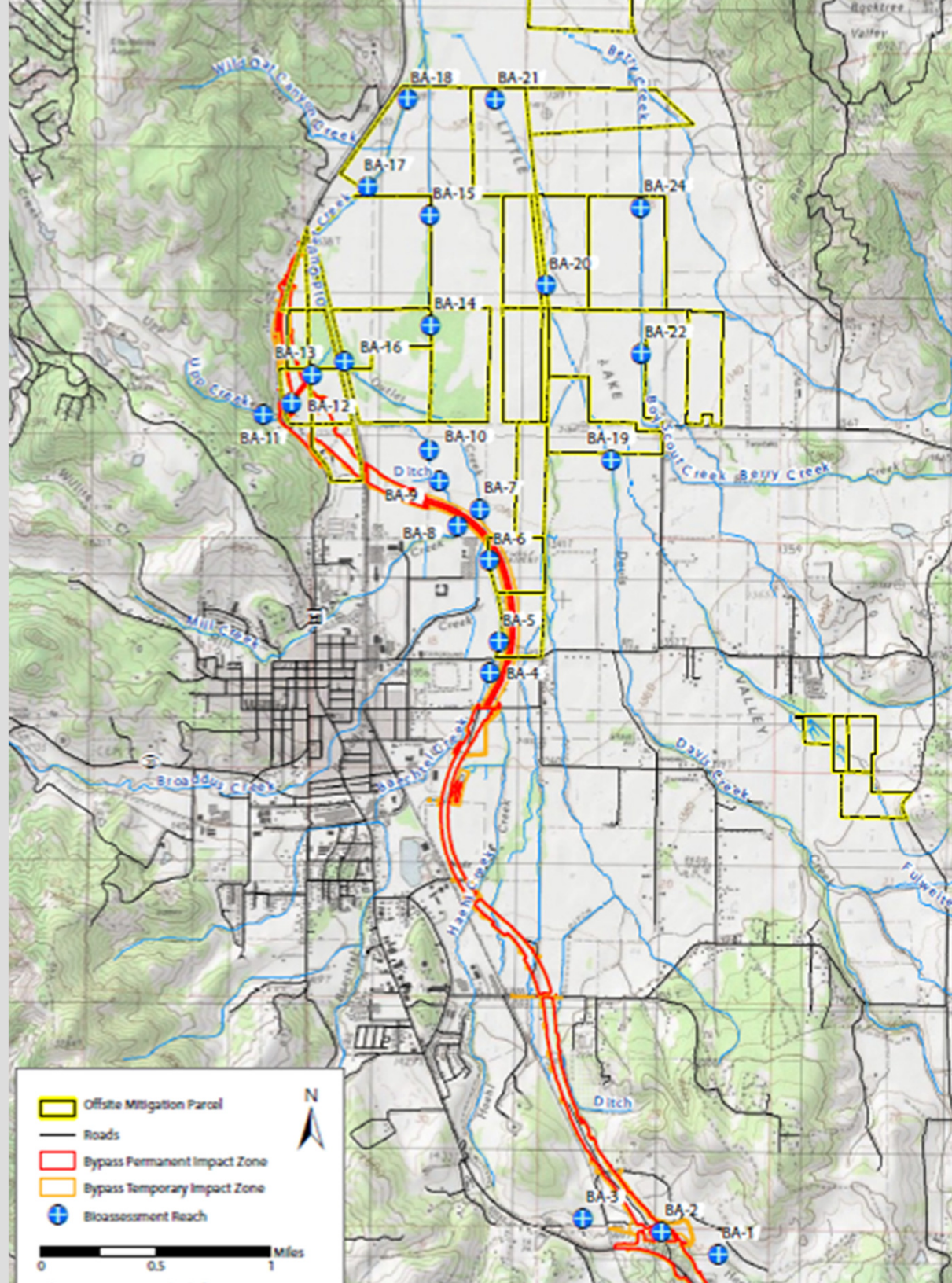


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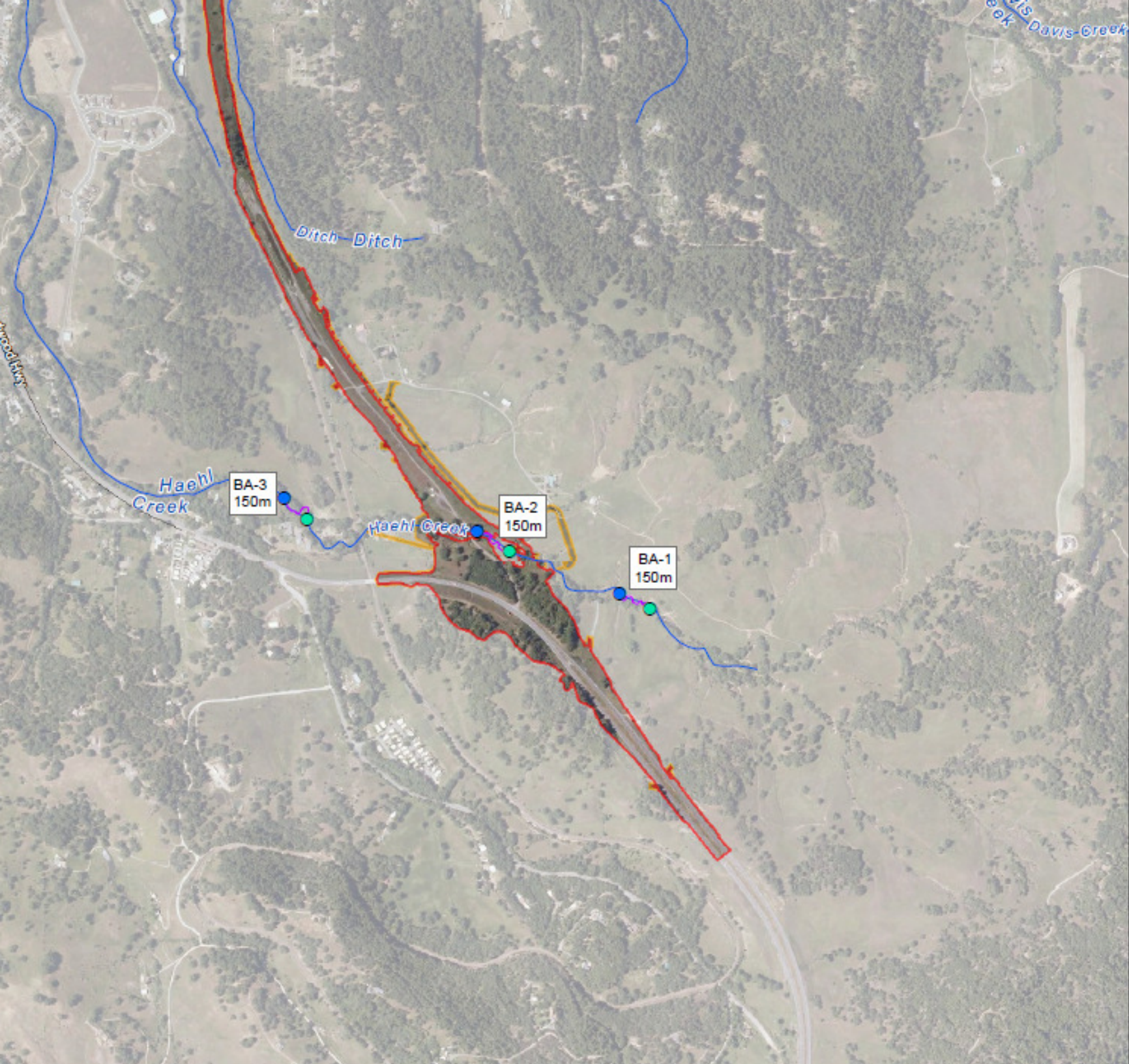


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Offsite Mitigation

Permanent Impact

Temporary Impact

Streams

Bioassessment Site

Bioassessment Site

Downstream

Upstream

BA-1 150m Bioassessment Site and Length

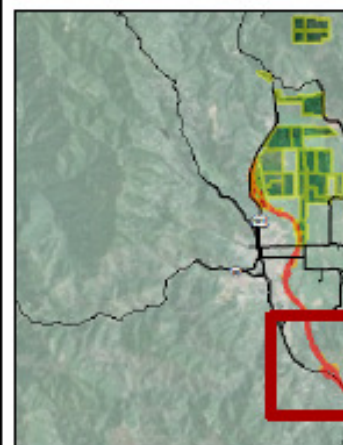
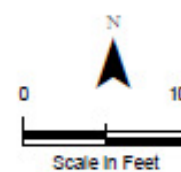
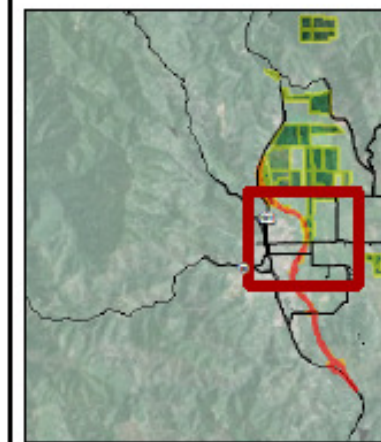
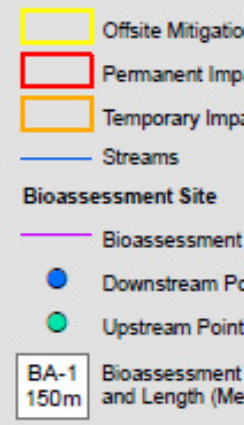
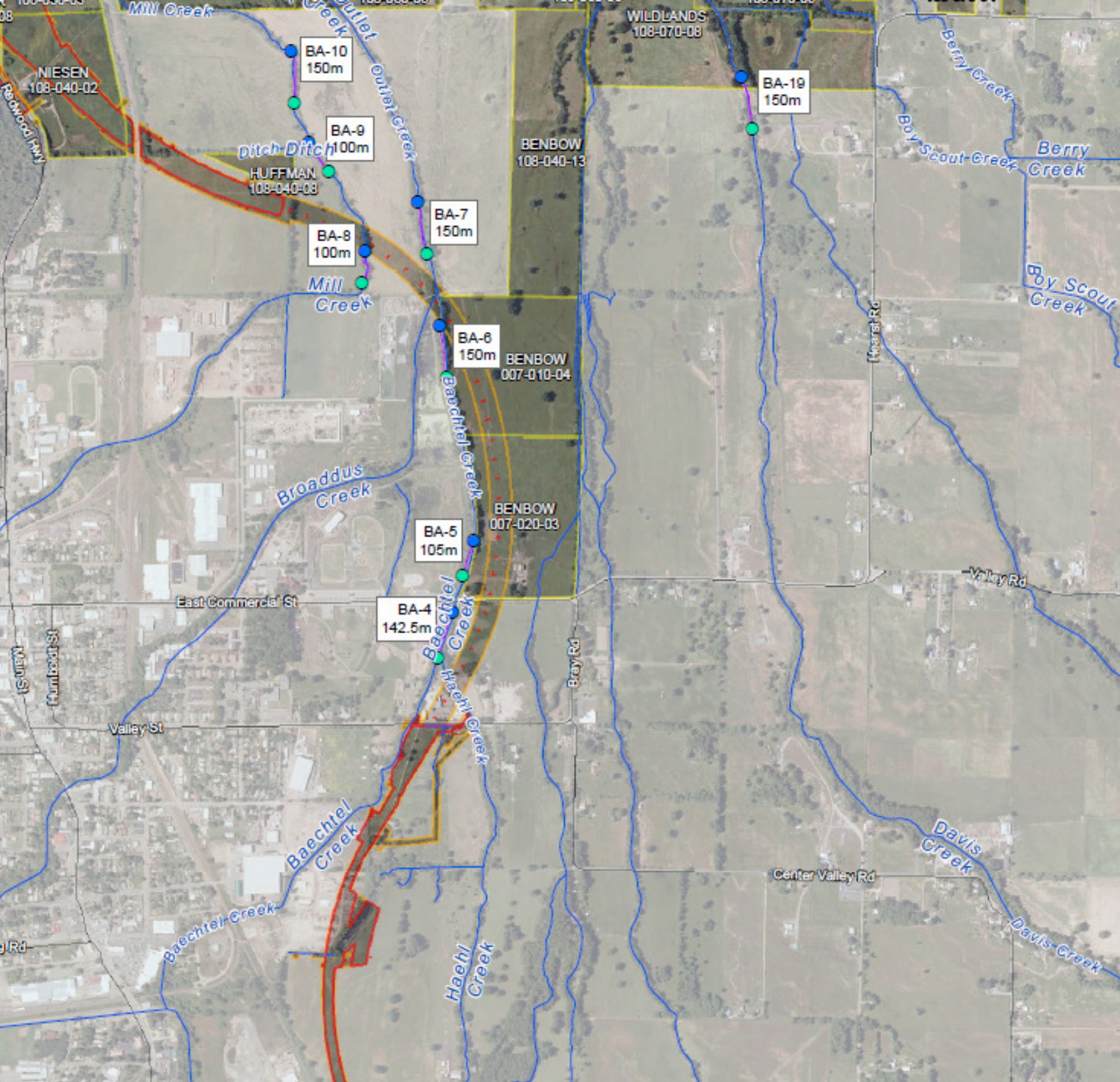


Figure 2  
Bioassessment  
Willits Bypass





**Figure 2b**  
**Bioassessment**  
**Willits Bypass P**



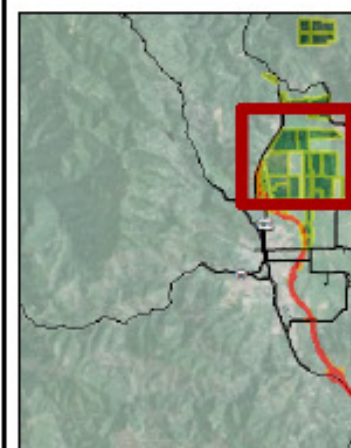
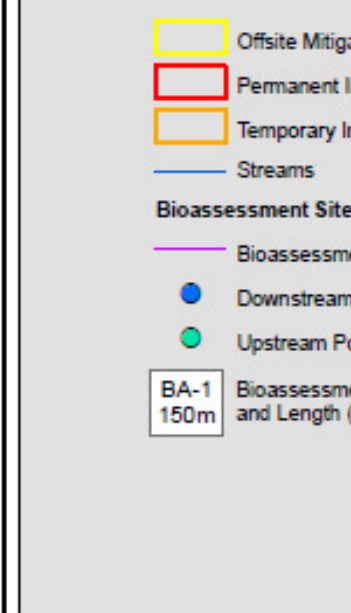


Figure 2  
 Bioassessment  
 Willits Bypass



# 3 Results

cal low-gradient (< 1%) valley  
streams that flow through  
positional substrates

y channelized/incised

substrates and homogenous  
ats (plane-bed)

Site Code: **BA-4** Date: **07/21/2011**

**SLOPE and BEARING FORM (transect based - for Full P)**

Starting Transect	MAIN SEGMENT (record percent of inter-transect distance in each segment if supplemental segments are used)						(reco
	Stadia rod measurements		Slope (%) or Elevation Difference cm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> % <input type="checkbox"/>	Segment Length (m)	Bearing (0°-359°)	Percent of Total Length (%)	
K	98	57					
J <sup>JK</sup>	98	43	0.4	6.5	46	50	
J	98	43	0	6.5	316	50	
I <sup>JS</sup>	98	43	0	6.5	316	50	
I	98	43	0	6.5	348	50	
H	98	435	-0.005	13	2	100	
G	98	435	0	13	2	100	
F <sup>FG</sup>	98	415	0.02	6.5	2	50	
F	98	205	0.21	6.5	12	50	
E <sup>EP</sup>	98	21	-0.005	6.5	340	50	
E	98	20	0.01	6.5	16	50	
D	98	205	-0.005	13	16	100	
C <sup>CD</sup>	98	205	0	6.5	16	50	
C	98	205	0	6.5	2	50	
B	98	205	0	13	2	100	
A <sup>AB</sup>	98	20	0.005	6.5	2	50	
A	98	135	0.065	6.5	356	50	
additional calculation area	slope = rise/run = 0.435/130 = 0.0033						

ADDITIONAL HABITAT CHARACTERIZATION										
Parameter	Optimal					Suboptimal				
Epifaunal Substrate/ Cover	Greater than 70% of substrate favorable for epifaunal colonization and fish cover (50% for low-gradient streams); mix of submerged logs, undercut banks, cobble or other stable habitat					40-70% mix of stable habitat (30-50% for low-gradient streams); well-suited for full colonization potential				
Score:	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
Sediment Deposition	Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than 5% of the bottom affected by sediment deposition (<20% in low-gradient streams)					Some slow increase in bar formation, mostly from gravel, sand, or fine sediment; 5-50% of the bottom affected (20-50% in low-gradient streams)				
Score:	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11
Channel Alteration	Channelization or dredging absent or minimal; stream with normal patterns					Some channelization present, (e.g., bridge abutments); evidence of past channelization (> 20yrs) may be present but recent channelization not present				
Score:	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11



# 3 Results

ing...sediment easily  
lized

rian veg cover varies but  
rally high

habitat parameter scores  
rally low

hy" regime

SWAMP Stream Habitat Characterization Form FULL VERSION

Site Code: **BA-4** Site Name: **Bonhotal Creek at confluence w/ Hawk**

Wetted Width (m): **2.7** Bankfull Width (m): **8.0** Bankfull Height (m): **6**

Transect Substrates								
Position	Dist from LB (m)	Depth (cm)	mm size class	% Cobble Embod	CPOM	Microalgae Thickness Code	Macroalgae Attached	M
Left Bank	0	0	GC		P A	0	P A D	
Left Center	67	3	CB	90	P A	1	P A D	
Center	135	6	GF		P A	1	P A D	
Right Center	202	8	GC		P A	1	P A D	
Right Bank	270	5	GF		P A	0	P A D	

Note: Substrate sizes can be recorded either as direct measures of the median axis of the class categories listed on the supplemental page (direct measurements preferred)

RIPARIAN VEGETATION (facing downstream)		Vegetation Class								INSTREA HABITA COMPLEX	
		Left Bank				Right Bank					
G = Absent (0%) 1 = Sparse (<10%) 2 = Moderate (10-40%) 3 = Heavy (40-75%) 4 = Very Heavy (>75%)											
Vegetation Class											
Upper Canopy (>5 m high)											
Trees and saplings >5 m high		0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
Lower Canopy (0.5m-5 m high)											
All vegetation 0.5 m to 5 m		0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
Ground Cover (<0.5 m high)											
Woody shrubs & saplings <0.5 m		0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
Herbs/grasses		0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4
Barren, bare soil/duff		0	1	2	3	4	0	1	2	3	4

Filamentous Algae  
Aquatic Macrophytes  
Emergent Vegetation  
Boulders  
Woody Debris  
Woody Debris  
Undercut Banks  
Overhang, Vegetation  
Live Tree Roots  
Artificial Structures

HUMAN INFLUENCE (circle only the closest to wetted habitat)		Left Bank Channel Right Bank											
G = Not Present B = On Bank C = Between Bank & 10m from Channel P = 10m-60m from Channel Channel (record only if Not)													
Water Retention/Leakage		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Buildings		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Paved/Cleaned Lot		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Rock/Rubble		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Pipes (Inlet/Outlet)		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Landfill/Trees		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Park/Lawn		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Power Lines		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Pasture/Rangeland		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Logging Operations		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Mining Activity		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Vegetation Management		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Storage/Buildings		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		
Orchards/Vineyards		P	C	B	0	Y	N	0	B	C	P		





**et Creek**

**2010 ↑**  
**2012 →**





# 3 Results and Canopy Cover Task

6. Comparison of Canopy Cover Solar Pathfinder Results to Bioassessment Sampling Reach Densiometer Results.

Assessment Sampling Reach	Reach-Wide (Average) Densiometer Reading (%)	Effective Shade (%)	
		July	August
	82.1	86.79	87.98
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
	87.9	81.99	84.81
	66.0	91.22	90.03
	82.5	82.3	94.1
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
-13 <sup>b</sup>	27.4/32.3	7.83	8.48
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
	89.8	98.74	98.19
	64.2	63.25	60.04
	84.5	86.03	87.06
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
	48.6	72.86	74.44
	50.3	67.55	66.09
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
	29.5	41.88	46.17
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
	29.3	60.21	58.79
	0	0	0
	0	0	0.05
	0	0	0
	0	0	0
	68.9	86.72	82.62
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			
	96.5	89.6	88.33
(y applicable bioassessment sampling reach for comparison)			



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# 3 Results and Canopy Cover Task

rian veg cover varies but  
rally high (densiometer)

rian veg cover varies but  
rally high (solar pathfinder)

## MP WORKS



Lower



# 3 Results and Geomorphology Task

strate composition and  
beddedness

full width and depth

e

osity

## MP WORKS



Wild Oat Can



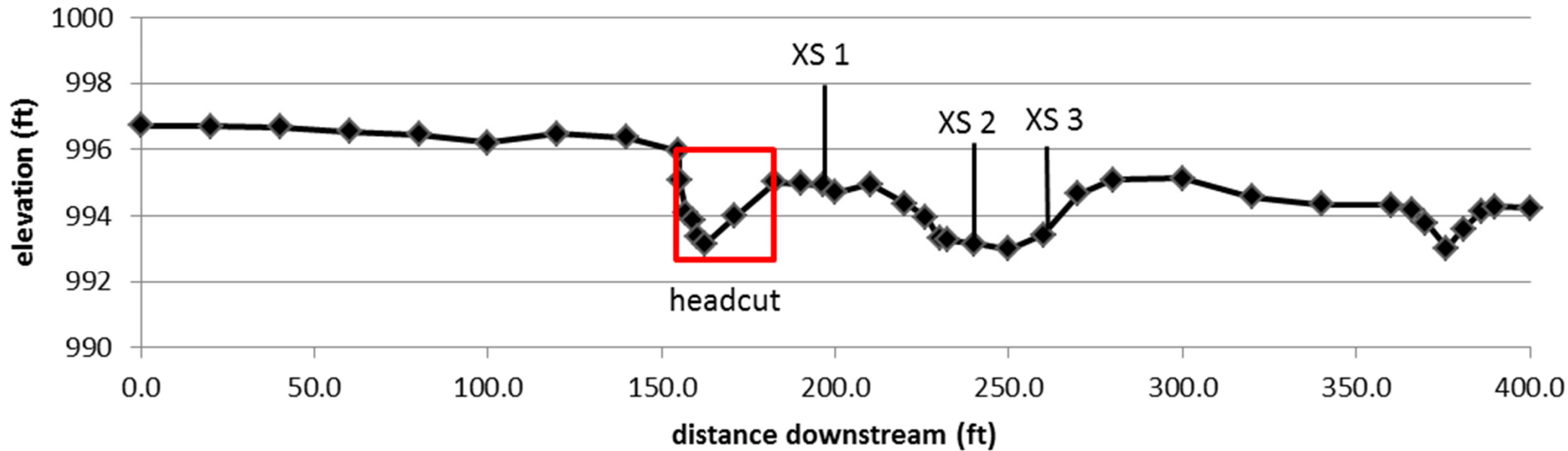


Creek



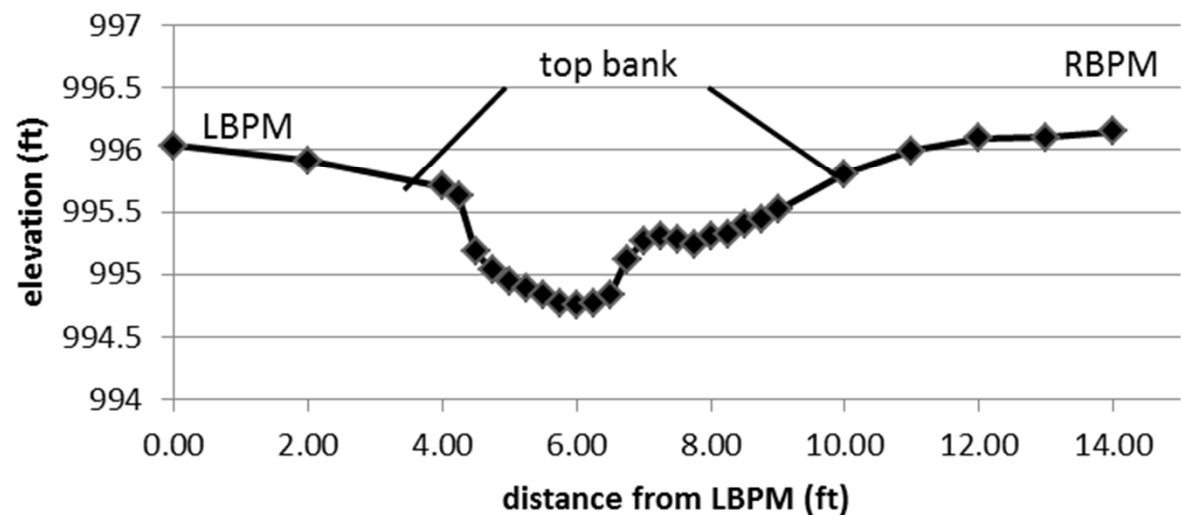
# Benbow 108-040-13\_3

slope = 0.0062, 40x VE



## Benbow 108-040-13\_3

XS 1, 5x VE



# Methods

## Field Collections

13 Reaches on Eight Non-Perennial Streams Surveyed in 20

- Spring and Summer Survey Periods

SWAMP Protocols – BMI (Ode 2007)

- Reach Adjustments/Non-Wadeable Habitats
- PHAB

SWAMP Protocols – Algae (Fetscher, *et al* 2010)

## Laboratory Processing

ECORP Laboratory/EcoAnalysts

## QC

CDFG – Chico Laboratory

## AMP Database Input

## Benthic Analyses

### BMI

- **Selection of Appropriate B-IBI(s) – Nor-Cal? / So-Cal?**
- **Use of Selected Un-Modified Community Metrics**  
(Based on initial summer results)
  - SDI, Simpson Index
  - % Diptera
  - % Oligochaetes
  - Tolerance Indices
  - % Dominant Taxa
  - % Chironomidae
  - Tolerance Value
  - Functional Feeding Groups

## Algae

- **Selection of Analysis Tools**
- **Use of Selected Metrics** (Based on Initial Summer Data Results)
  - Community Composition : Soft Bodied Algae vs. Diatoms
  - Quantitative Diatom Metrics
    - SDI
    - % Dominant Taxa
    - % Pollution Tolerant (Based on Pollution Class)
    - % Motile (Siltation Index)
    - Eutraphentic Species (Based on Trophic Class)
  - Chlorophyll a and AFDM
  - Quantitative Soft-Bodied Algal Collections
  - Qualitative Collections

# Its / Discussion

## AB - BMI - Algae

### Reaches and Seasons Surveyed and Evaluated

3 Reaches in Spring (wet)

6 Reaches in Both Summers (wet)

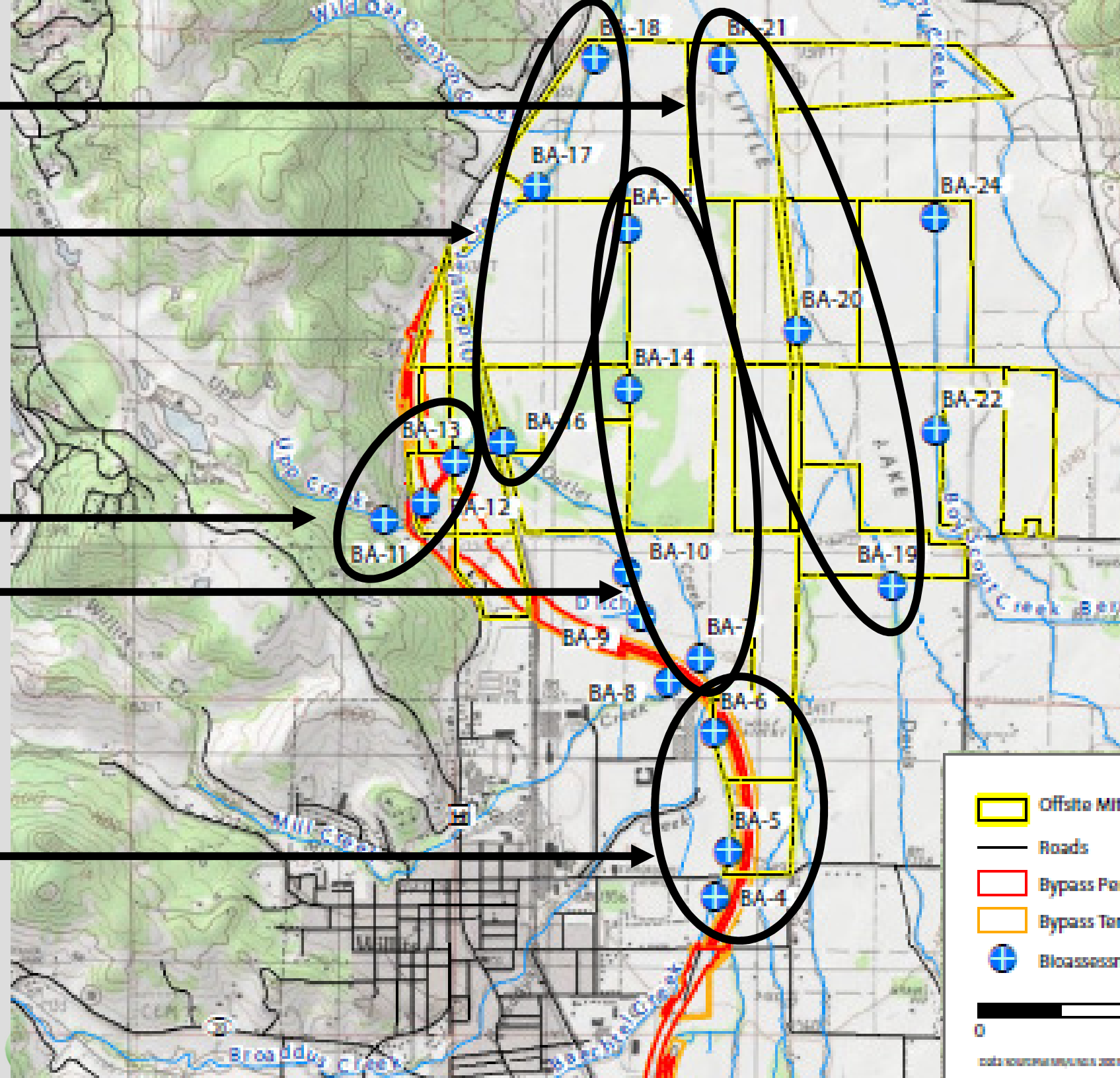
- PHAB Data Only Collected at Dry Sites

### Selected Results for 6 Reaches on 5 Non-Perennial Streams

Outlet Creek / Outlet Creek, Old Outlet Creek, Davis Creek, Upp Creek

Representative of Range of:

- Stream Habitats
- Channel Characteristics / PHAB
- Potential Sources of Effects on Habitat and Biota
- Utilization by Anadromous Salmonids





# Its/ Discussion

## Results Presented by Reach

Comparison of PHAB, BMI, and Algae

BMI Data Provided for:

- B-IBIs
  - Nor-Cal
  - So-Cal
- Selected Un-Modified Metrics:
  - SDI
  - % Dominant Taxa / % Chironomidae / % Oligochaeta
  - Tolerance Value
  - Tolerance Indices

# Its / Discussion

Data Provided for:

Quantitative Diatoms (metrics based on initial summer sampling results)

- SDI
- % Dominant Taxa
- % Motile / % Eutraphentic
- % Pollution Tolerant

Quantitative Soft-Bodied Algae

- % of community

Chlorophyll a



# Its/ Discussion

## Diatoms

- Valuable indicators of stream ecosystem conditions
- Respond quickly and predictably to changes in stream chemistry habitat quality
- Species' sensitivities and tolerances to environmental conditions consistently and reliably related to gradients of human disturbance
- Taxonomically diverse and geographically ubiquitous
- Sensitive to substratum conditions and pollutants
- Excellent indicators of water quality conditions, sensitive to:
  - Nutrient and organic enrichment – Nitrogen / Phosphorus
  - Water temperature, conductivity
  - Water velocity
  - Dissolved oxygen, pH, and more

# Its/ Discussion

## echtel Creek (Reach BA-4)

Migration Corridor for  
Anadromous Salmonids

Adjacent to Horse Pasture,  
City Corporate Yard





# Intel Creek (BA-4)

Flow	BMI - Summer			2010	2011	Algae - Summer
trates: sand at:	Both IBIs in 'Fair Condition' Dominant Taxa: <i>Sigara sp./ Gumaga sp.</i> (caddisfly) 40% 2010 Low SDI / high Simpson's Index 2011 Higher SDI / increased TR Tolerant Organisms: ~ 25% both summers	Nor-Cal B-IBI		42	48	Diversity: high 2010, moderate
		So-Cal B-IBI		43	46	Dominant Taxon: <i>Nitzschia inc</i> Motile species: 57% Eutraphentic species: 80% % Pollution Tolerant species: l
Flow	BMI - Spring			2011		Algae - Spring
trates: sand	Both IBIs in upper 'Fair Condition' Co-Dominant Taxa: Unidentified stonefly 24% and Unidentified mayfly 14% Increased SDI – more balanced community Tolerant Taxa 15%, Intolerant Taxa 28%	Nor-Cal B-IBI			58	Diversity: moderately low
		So-Cal B-IBI			59	Dominant Taxa: <i>Nitzschia sp.</i> 6 Motile species: > 90% Eutraphentic species: 50% % Pollution Tolerant species: l



# Its/ Discussion

## let Creek (Reach BA-7)

Migration Corridor for  
Anadromous Salmonids

Adjacent to City of Willits  
Wastewater Treatment  
Facility and Outfall





# t Creek (BA-7)

w	BMI - Summer	2010	2011	Algae - Summer
ates: vel t: 1 cfs	<p>Nor-Cal B-IBI</p> <p>So-Cal B-IBI</p> <p>IBIs 'Poor Condition' 2010, 'Fair Condition' 2011</p> <p>Dominant Taxa:</p> <p>2010 Chironomidae 81%, <i>Micropsectra</i> / <i>Tanytarsus</i> sp.</p> <p>2011 Chironomidae 43%, <i>Oligochaeta</i> / <i>Tanytarsus</i> sp.</p> <p>SDI high 2010, decreased value in 2011</p>	30	40	<p>Diversity: High 2010, moderately low 2011</p> <p>2010 Dominant Taxa: <i>Nitzschia</i> sp.</p> <p>2010 Motile species: 50%, eutraphentic</p> <p>2011 Dominant Taxon: <i>Nitzschia inconspicua</i></p> <p>2011 Motile species: 60%, eutraphentic</p> <p>% Pollution Tolerant species: low</p>
w	BMI - Spring	2011		Algae - Spring
ates: vel	<p>Nor-Cal B-IBI</p> <p>So-Cal B-IBI</p> <p>IBI in 'Fair Condition'</p> <p>Dominant Taxa:</p> <p>Oligochaeta 57%, Chironomidae 23%</p> <p>Low SDI</p>	41	53	<p>Diversity: high and fairly evenly distributed</p> <p>Co-Dominant Taxa:</p> <p><i>Nitzschia inconspicua</i> &amp; 3 species of diatoms</p> <p>Motile species: 60%, eutraphentic species</p> <p>% Pollution Tolerant species: &gt;8%,</p> <p>Chlorophyll a: highest value (128 mg/L)</p>

# Its/ Discussion

## let Creek (Reach BA-14)

Migration Corridor for  
Anadromous Salmonids

Adjacent to Pasture Land/  
Cattle Grazing (cattle not  
excluded from stream)





# t Creek (BA-14)

Flow	BMI - Summer			2010	2011	Algae - Summer
trates: hardpan at:  s - < 1 cfs	Nor-Cal B-IBI		32	19	Diversity: Moderate - high 2010, 2010 Dominant Taxa: ~20% non-motile and motile sp 2010 Motile species: 45%, eutra 2010 % Pollution Tolerant specie 2011 Dominant Taxa: <i>Nitzschia</i> <b>2011 Motile species: 80%, eutra</b> 2011 % Pollution Tolerant specie Chlorophyll a slightly elevated (7	
	So-Cal B-IBI		37	23		
	IBI in 'Poor Condition'					
	2010 Rep 2 for SoCal IBI in 'Fair Condition'					
	Dominant Taxa:					
	2010 Oligochaeta 33%					
	2010 Chironomidae 42% of community					
2011 Chironomidae 54% of community						
SDI moderately low in both summers						
Flow	BMI - Spring			2011		Algae - Spring
trates: rdpan	Nor-Cal B-IBI		45		Diversity: high and evenly distrib Dominant Taxon: <i>Navicula anton</i>  <b>Motile species: 60%, eutraphent</b> <b>% Pollution Tolerant species: 8%</b> Chlorophyll a slightly elevated (5	
	So-Cal B-IBI		54			
	IBI in 'Fair Condition'					
Dominant Taxa: Oligochaeta 57%, Chironomidae 11%						
SDI low - decreased from summer values						

# Its/ Discussion

## Outlet Creek (Reach BA-18)

Salmonids not Observed

Adjacent to Pasture Land/  
Cattle Grazing (cattle not  
excluded from stream)





# Outlet Creek (BA-18)

t/Flow	BMI - Summer			2010	2011	Algae - Summer
rates:	Nor-Cal B-IBI		24	19		Diversity: High in 2010, moderate
	So-Cal B-IBI		29	20		Co-Dominant Taxa: <i>Navicula</i> sp. a
at:	IBIs in 'Poor Condition' 2010, 'Very Poor' 2011					Motile species: 50%; eutraphentic
	Dominant Taxa:					% Pollution Tolerant species: low
	2010 Chironomidae 83%, <i>Tanytarsus</i> sp.					
	2011 Chironomidae 75%, <i>Tanytarsus</i> sp.					
	Oligochaeta ~ 15% both summers					
t/Flow	BMI - Spring			2011		Algae - Spring
rates:	Nor-Cal B-IBI		11		Diversity: Moderate	
an	So-Cal B-IBI		16		Dominant Taxon: <i>Nitzschia incons</i>	
ayed sampling)	IBIs in 'Poor Condition'					Motile species: 77%; eutraphentic
	Dominant Taxa:					% Pollution Tolerant species: low
	Chironomidae 73%, <i>Tanytarsus</i> sp.					Chlorophyll a slightly elevated (28
	Lowest Taxa Richness, highest Simpson's Index					

# Its/ Discussion

## vis Creek (Reach BA-19)

Migration Corridor for  
Anadromous Salmonids

Within Cattle Ranch (cattle  
not excluded from stream)





# Creek (BA-19)

Flow	BMI - Summer			2010	2011	Algae - Summer
trates:	Nor-Cal B-IBI			54	59	Diversity: Moderate to high, relatively
	So-Cal B-IBI			76	79	2010 Dominant Taxa: <i>Achnanthes min</i>
at: glide	IBIs 'Fair Condition' and 'Good Condition'					2010 Motile species : 33%, eutraphent
	Dominant Taxa: Chironomidae 47% - 50%					2011 Dominant Taxa: <i>Rhoicosphenia a</i>
	Similar SDI, Simpson's Index					2011 Motile species: 34%, eutraphenti
						% Pollution Tolerant species: low both
Flow	BMI - Spring			2011		Algae - Spring
trates:	Nor-Cal B-IBI			63		Diversity: Moderately high
	So-Cal B-IBI			76		Dominant Taxa: <i>Nitzschia inconspicua</i>
	IBIs in 'Good Condition'					Motile species: 55%, eutraphentic spe
	Dominant Taxa: Unidentified mayfly 34%					% Pollution Tolerant species: low
	Chironomidae < 1%					

# Its/ Discussion

## o Creek (Reach BA-12)

Migration Corridor/Rearing/  
Spawning(?) for Anadromous  
Salmonids

Adjacent to Pasture Land/  
Cattle and Horse Grazing





# Creek (BA-12)

Substrate/Flow	BMI - Spring	2011	Algae - Spring
Substrates: Gravel and hardpan Substrate: Silt and clay	Nor-Cal B-IBI	56	Diversity: Moderately low, uneven
	So-Cal B-IBI	70	Dominate Taxon: <i>R. abbreviata</i> 36%
	IBIs in 'Fair Condition' and 'Good Condition' Dominant Taxa: Oligochaeta 19% Mayfly taxa: 33% of community Moderate SDI, most balanced community		Motile species: 13%: eutraphentic % Pollution Tolerant species: low Chlorophyll a: low

# Benthic Macroinvertebrates

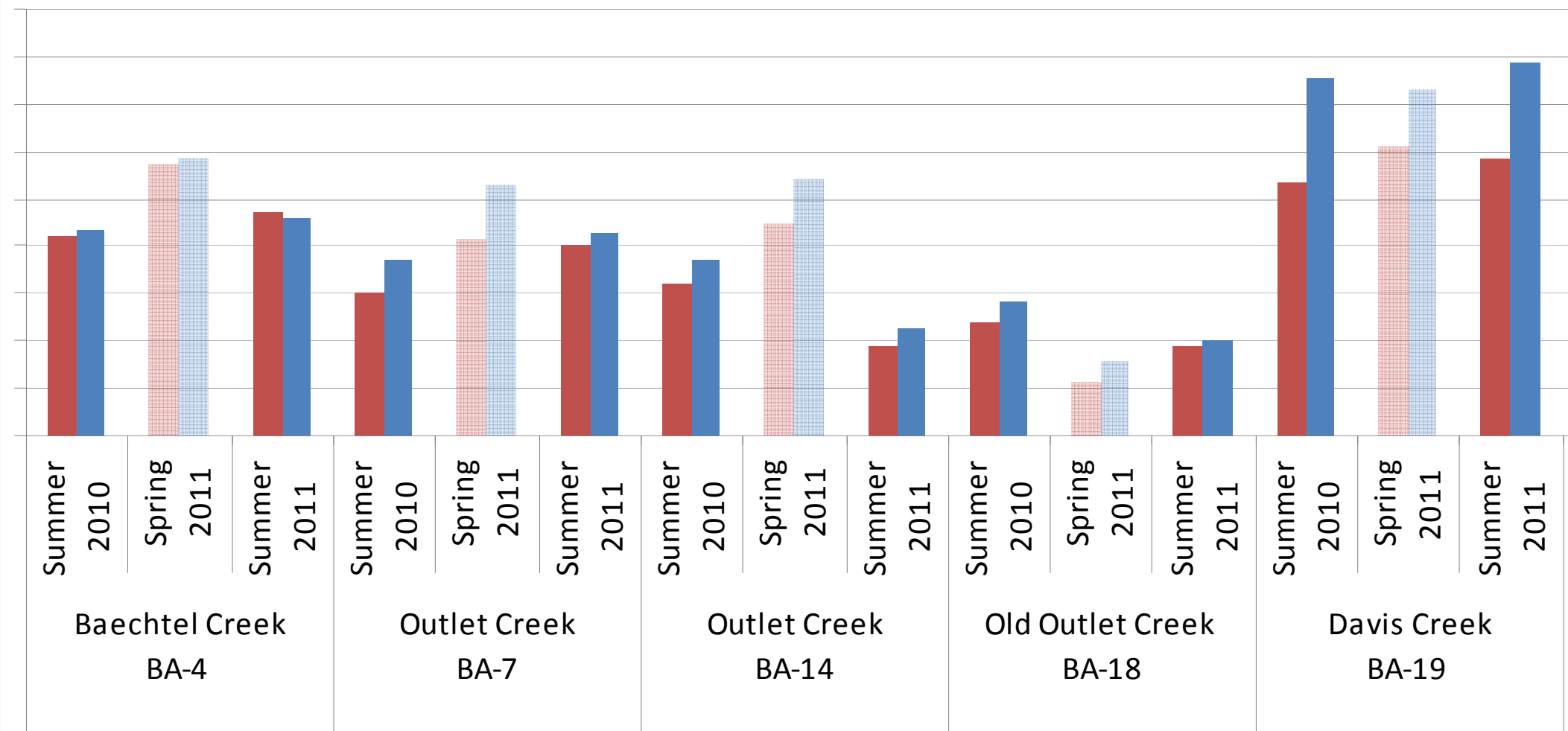




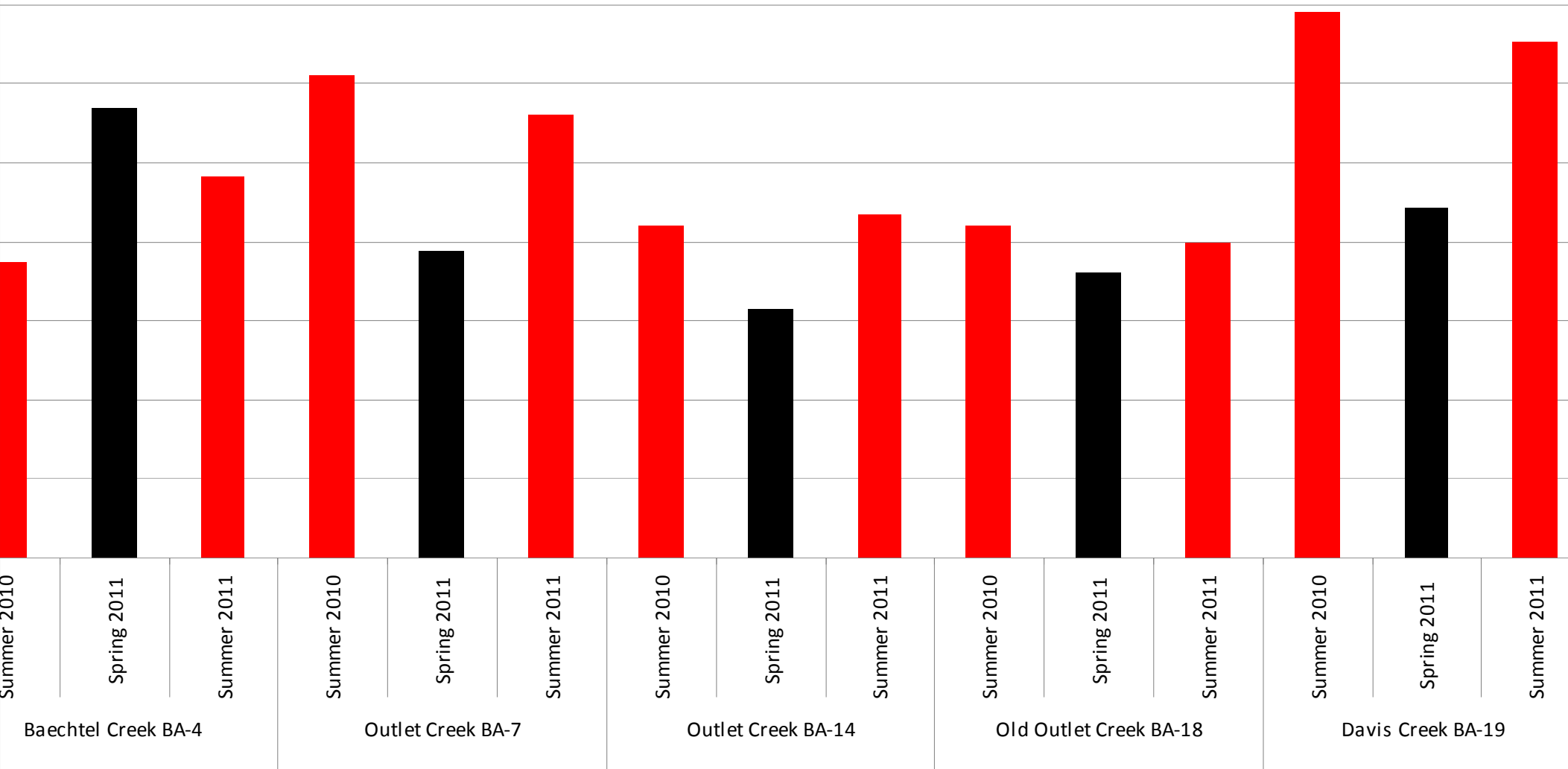
# ices of Biological Integrity

■ NorCal B-IBI

■ SoCal B-IBI



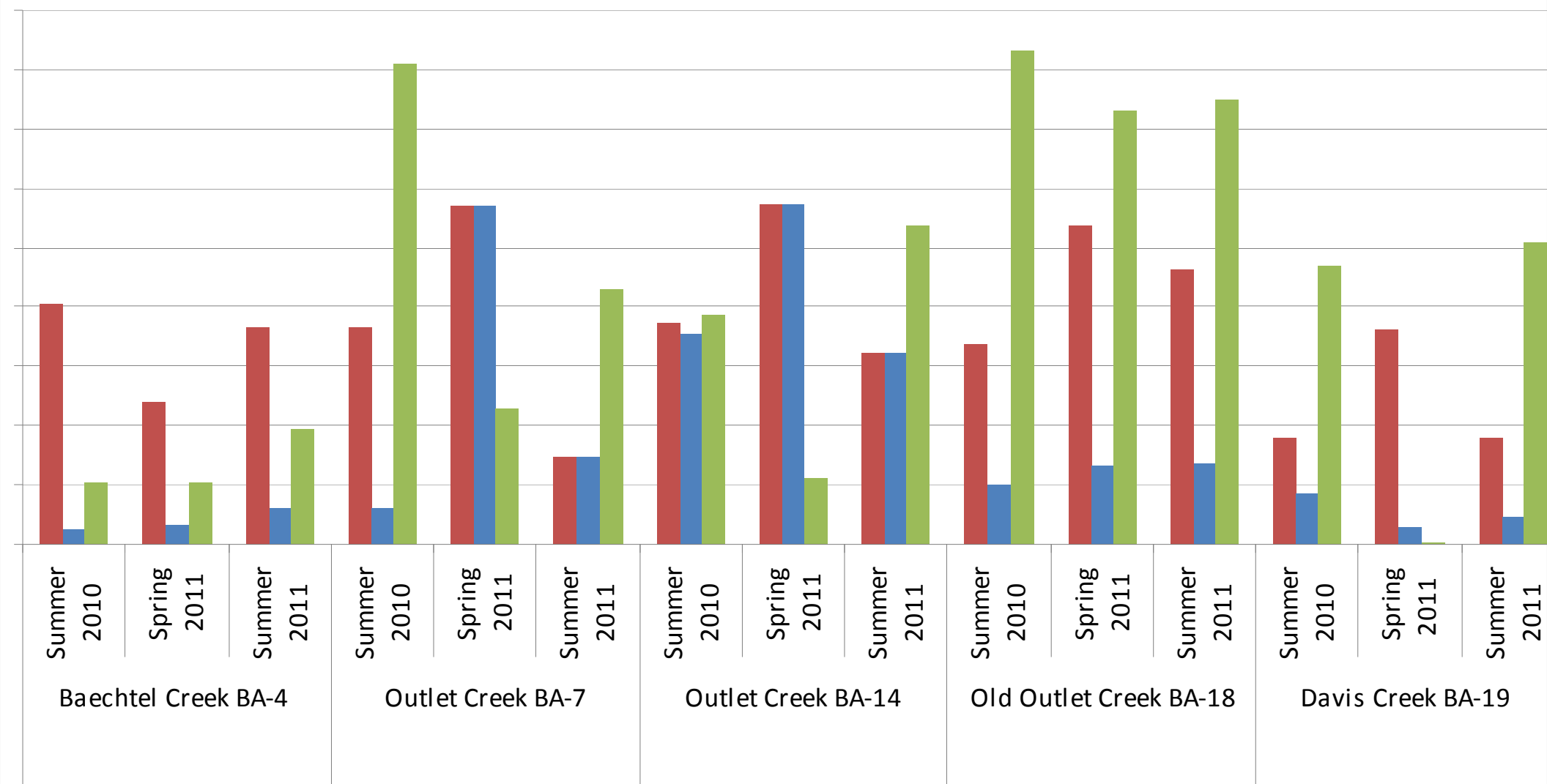
# Non-Diversity Index



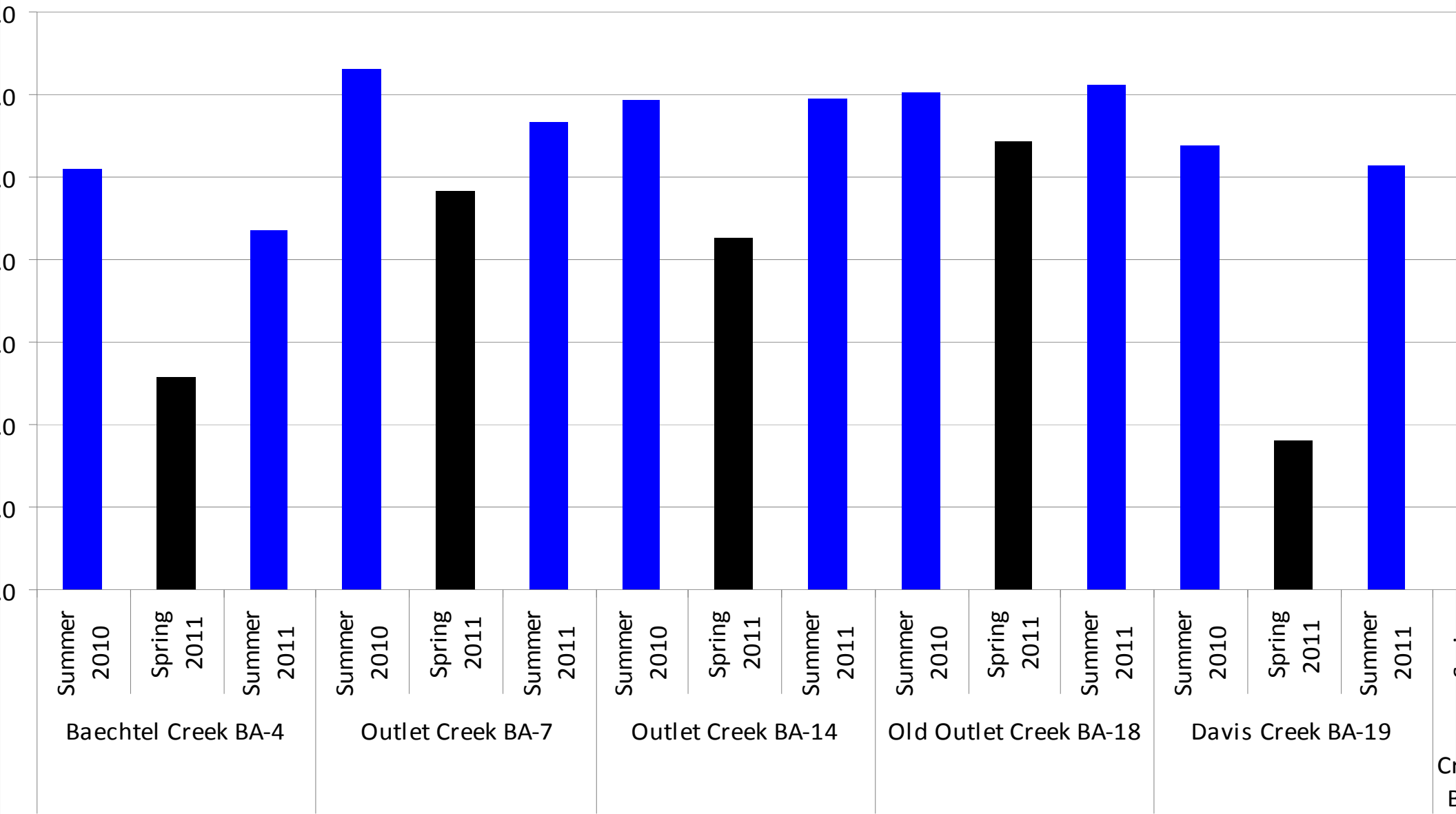


# Dominant Taxa, Oligochaeta and Chironomidae

■ Percent Dominant Taxa    ■ Percent Oligochaeta    ■ Percent Chironomidae

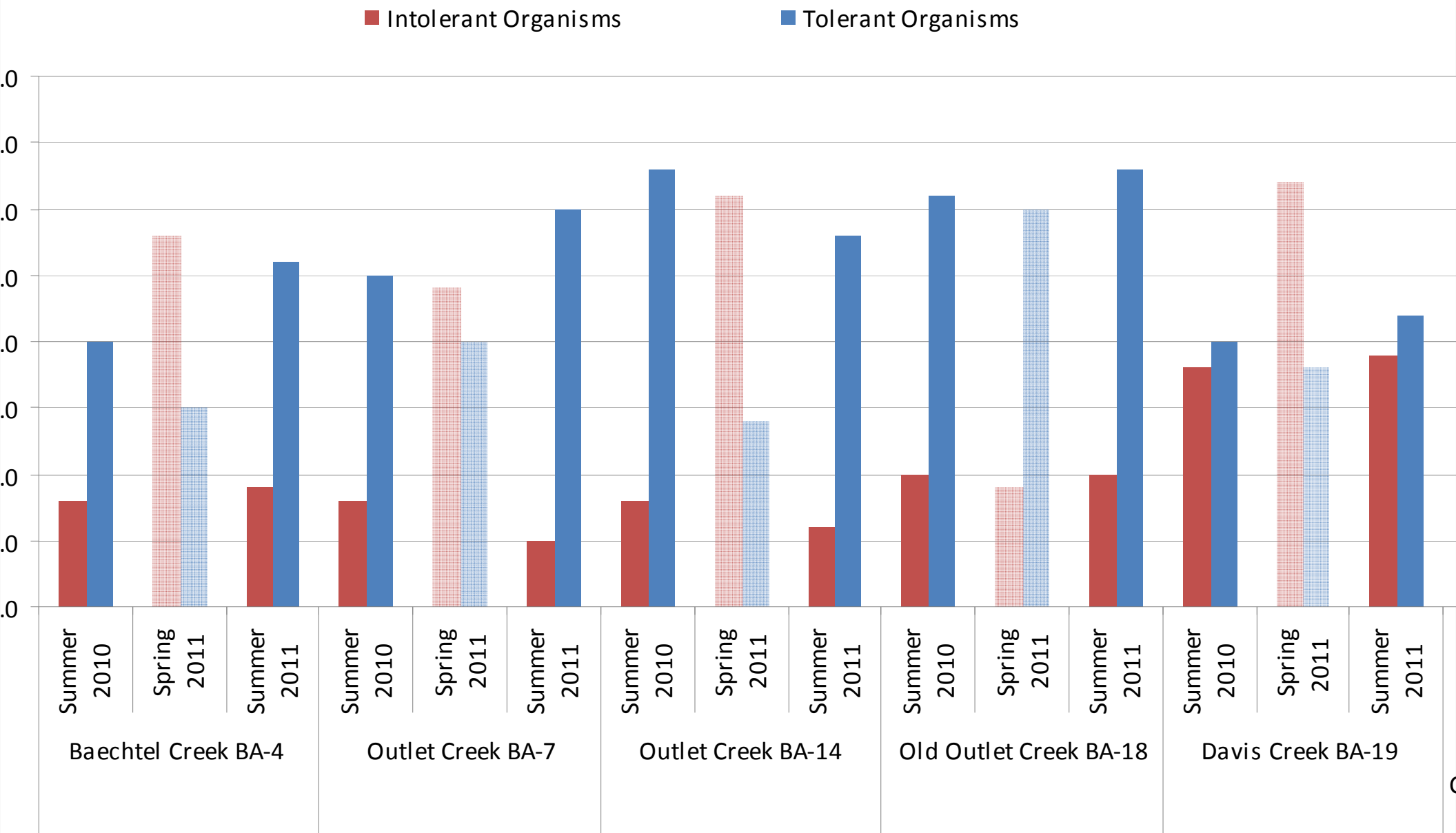


# Tolerance Value

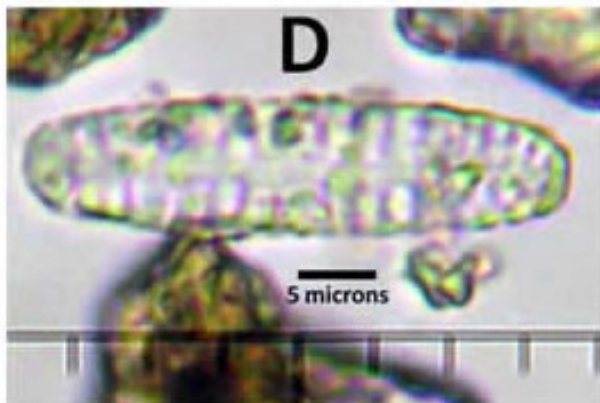
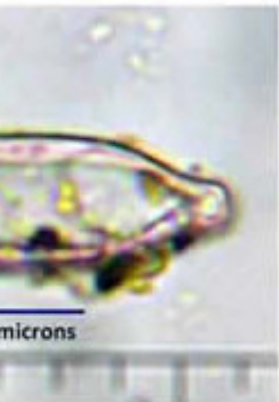
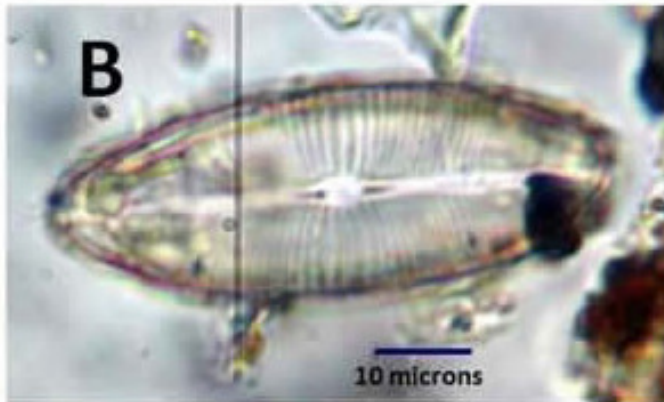




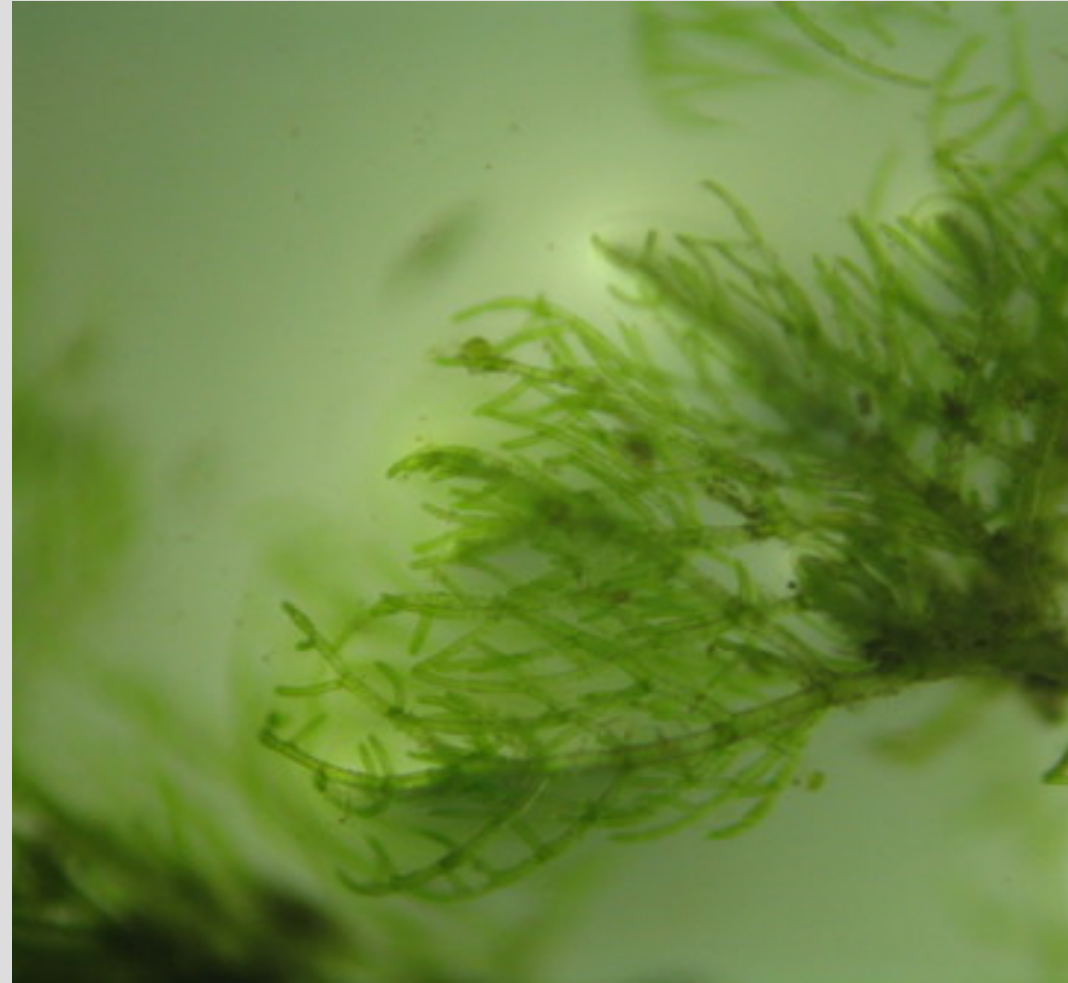
# erance Indices



# Freshwater Algae



*B. Navicula; C. Nitzschia; and D. Rossithidium*



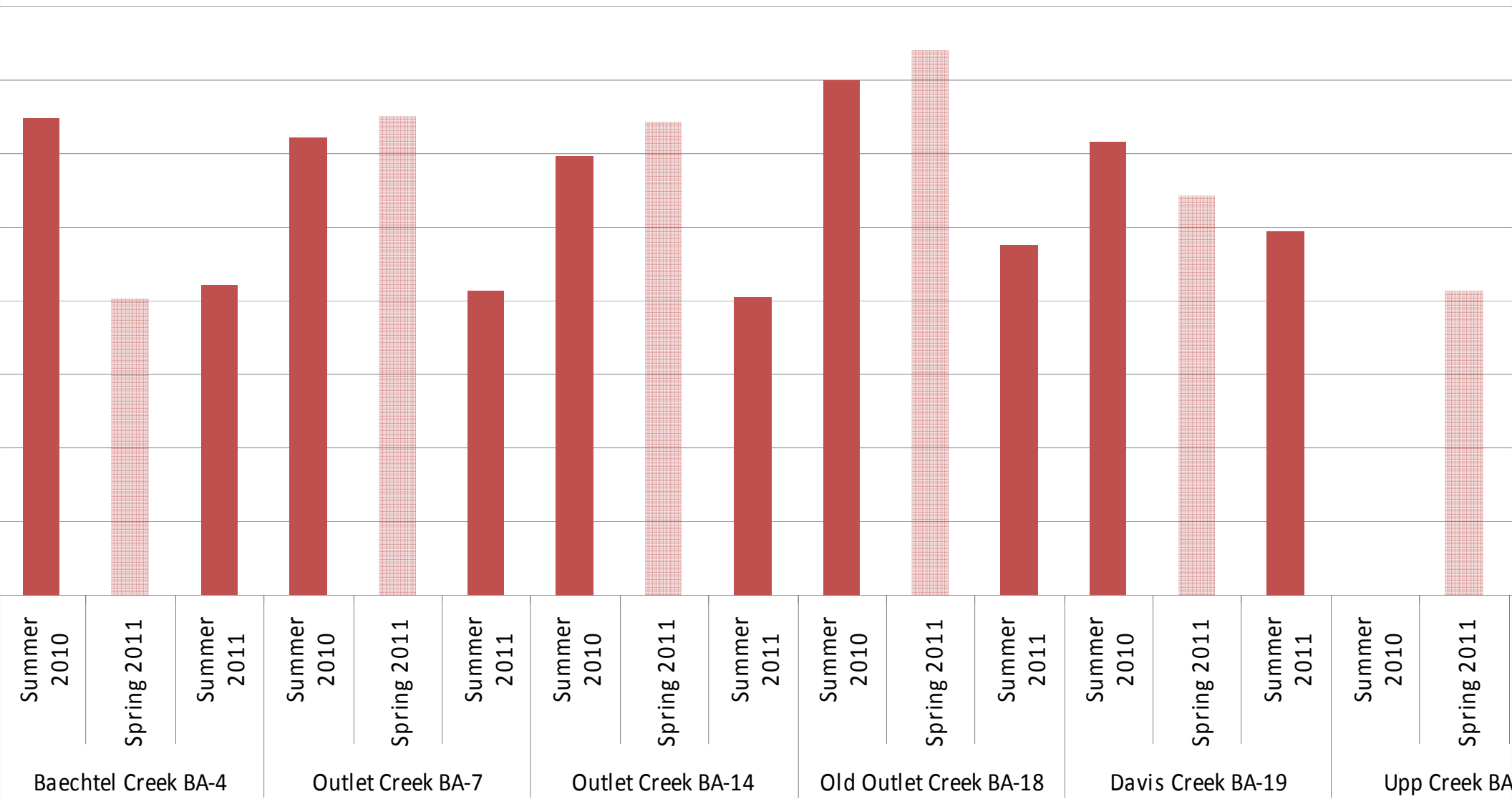
**ECORP Consulting, Inc.**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS





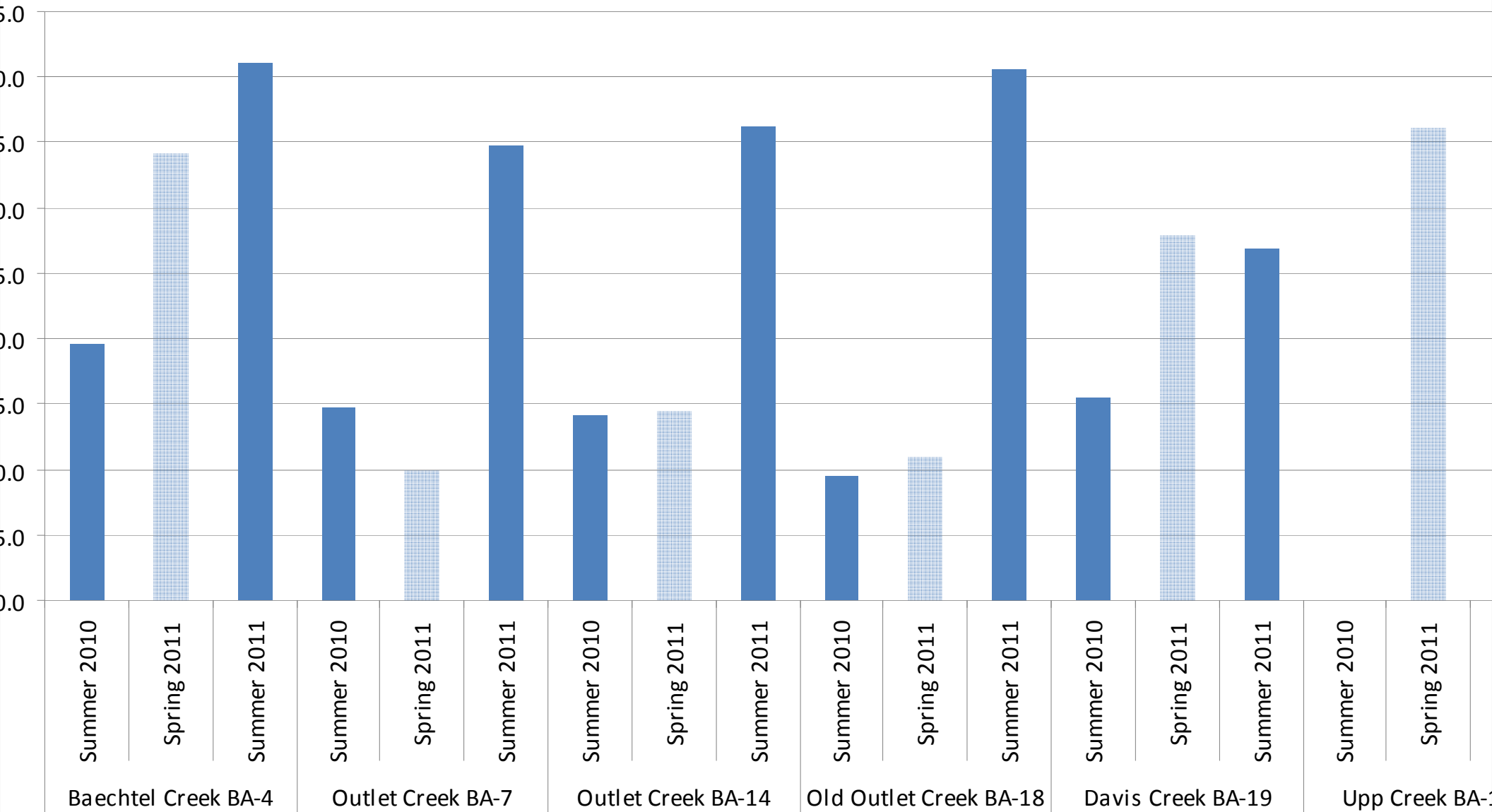
# Tom Shannon Diversity Index\*

Based on 600 count



# Atom Percent Dominant Taxon\*

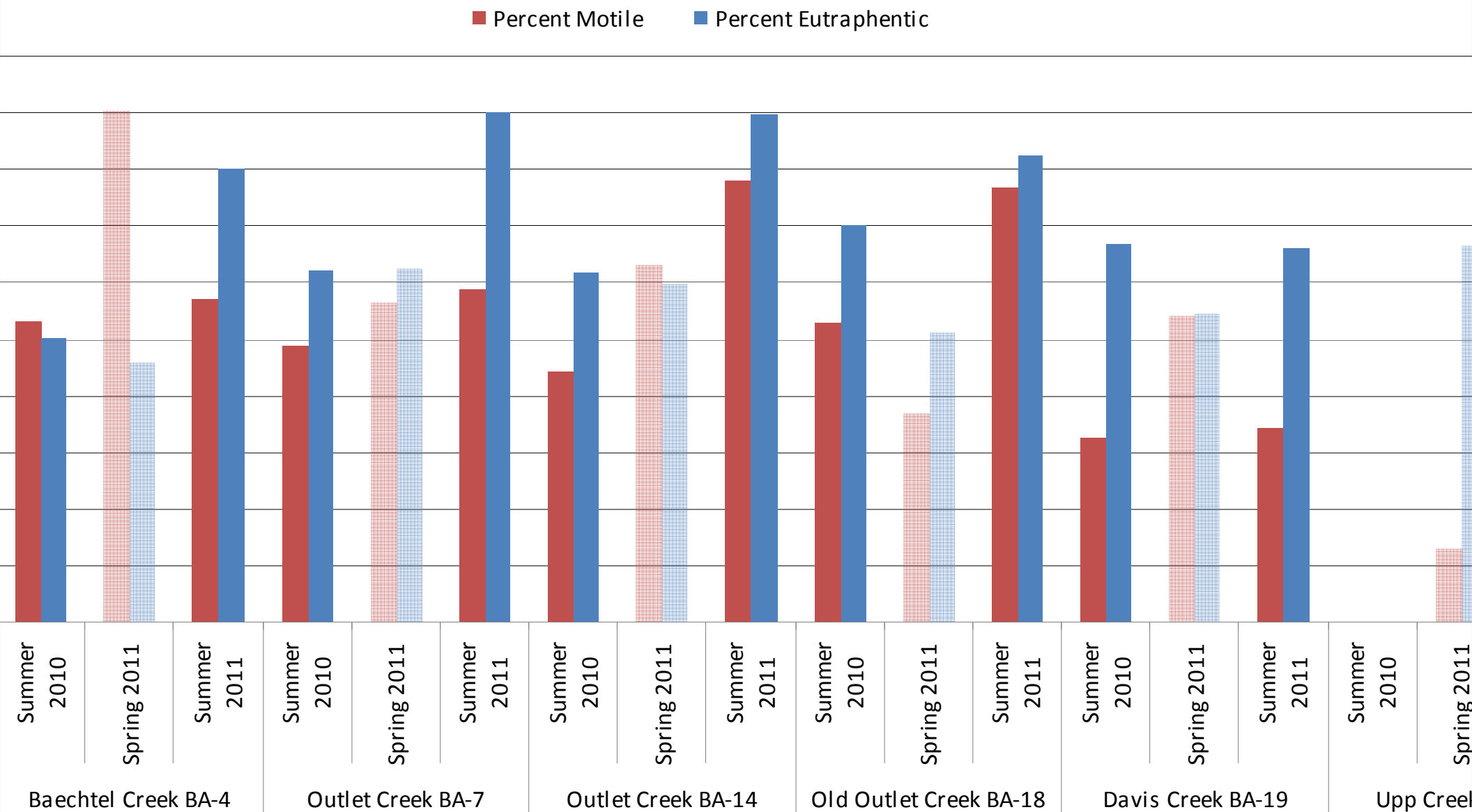
Based on 600 count





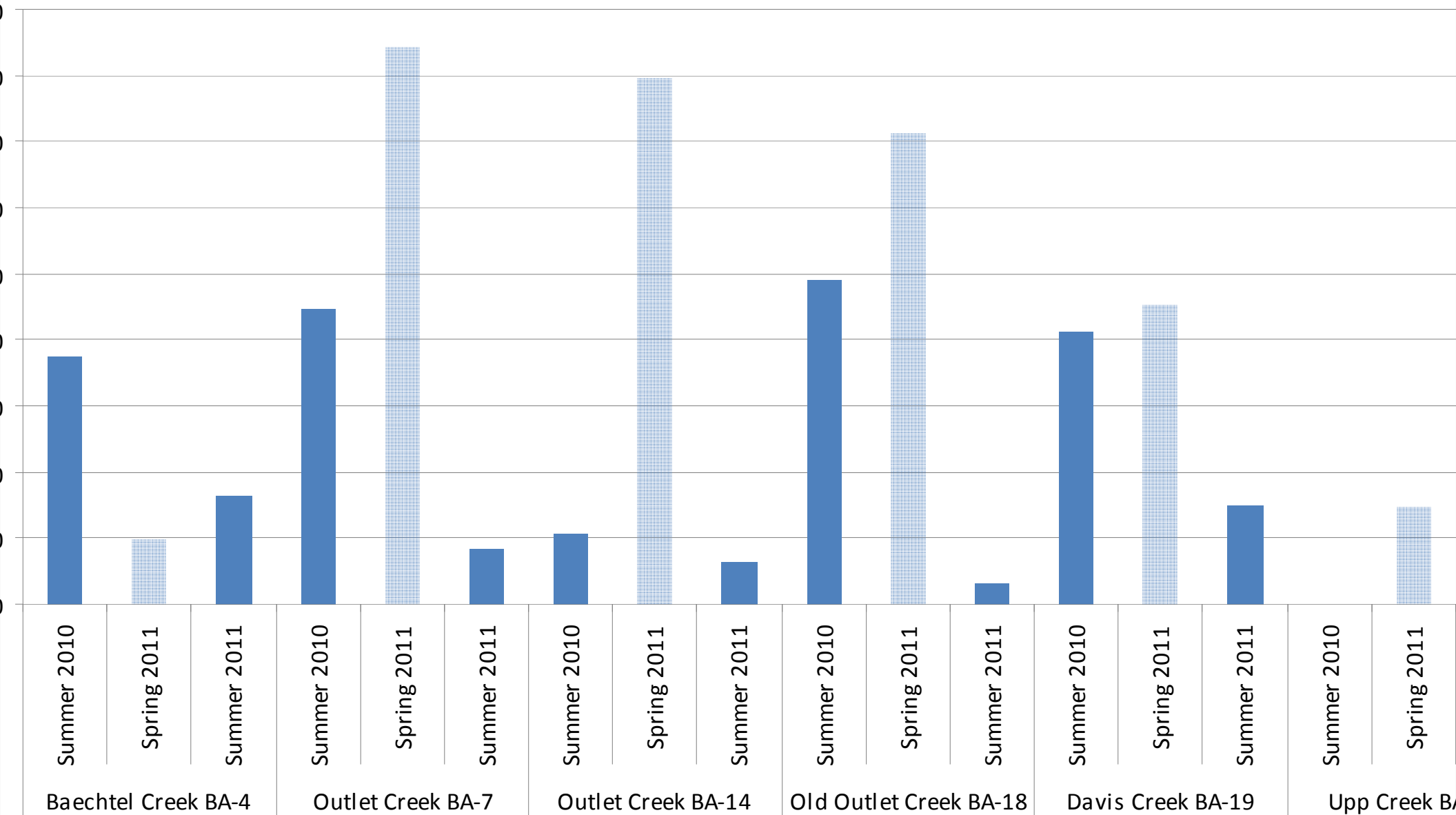
# Percent Motile and Percent Eutraphentic Diatom

ed on 600 count



# Percent Pollution Tolerant Diatoms\*

Based on 600 count



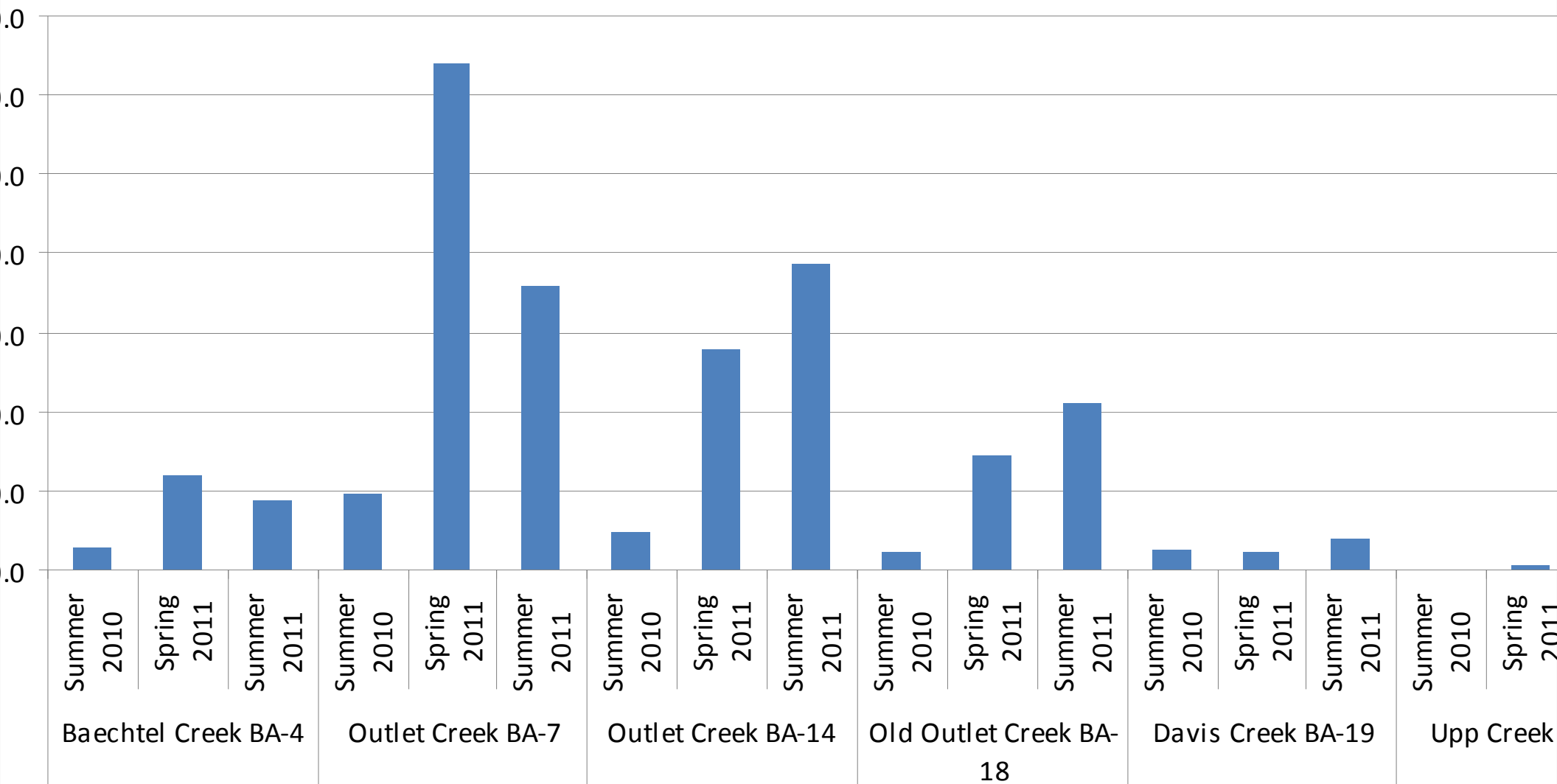


# Chlorophyll a values\*

0.0 mg/m2 = unenriched (Lohman, et. al., 1992)

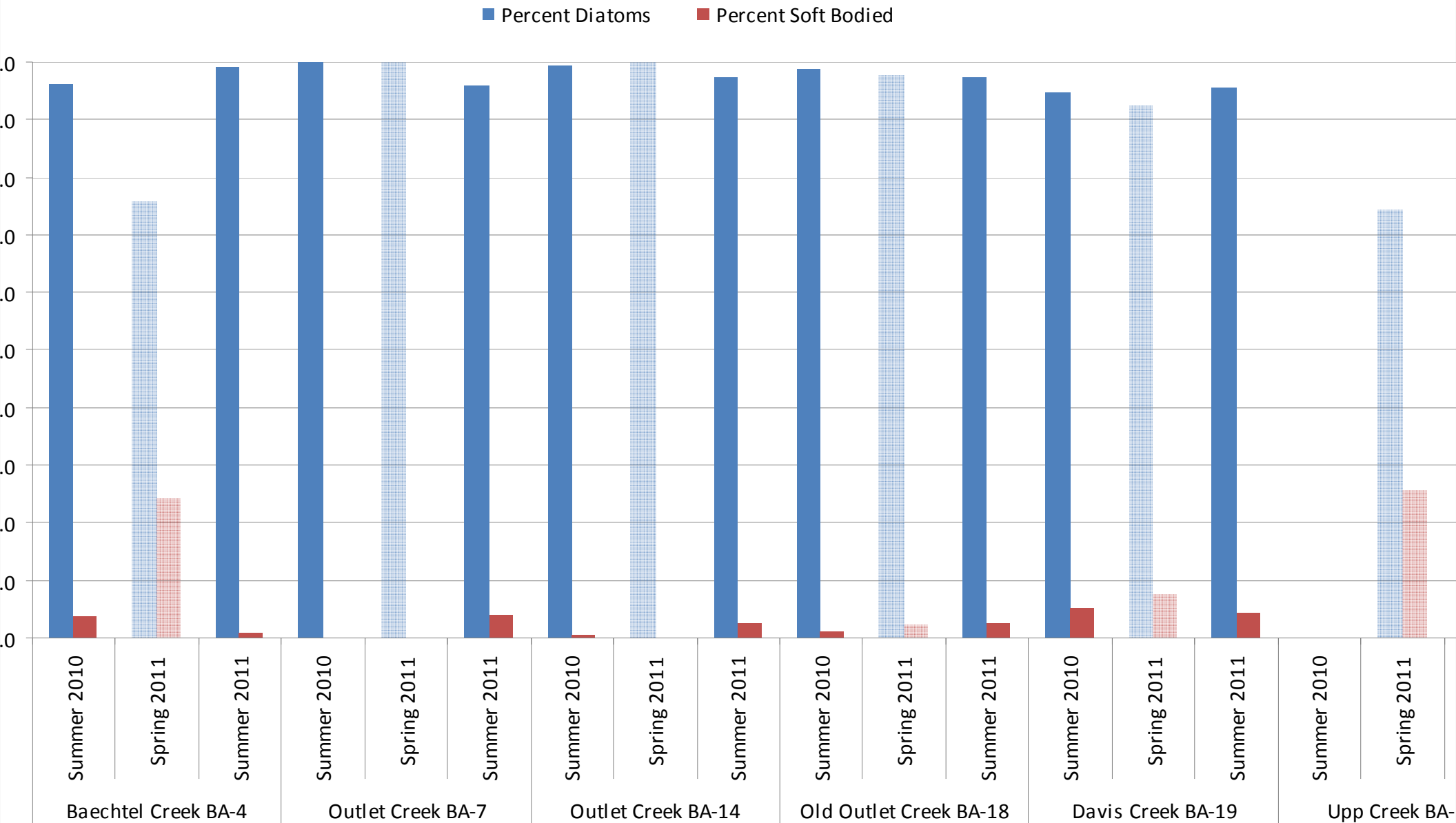
0.1 mg/m2 = moderately enriched (Tetra Tech, 2006)

0.2 mg/m2 = highly enriched



# Quantitative Soft-Bodied Algae Sample Results

Based on 300 count





# Summary

During summer, substrate composition, streamflow pattern, and velocity were the primary characteristics influencing benthic communities. Substrates composed primarily of fine gravel, sand, fines. Higher summer 2011 flows = improved community metrics relative to summer 2010, except for reaches with active grazing.

So-Cal B-IBI appeared to better represent seasonal benthic communities: in non-perennial streams, Percent Tolerant Taxa metric (high at most reaches). Nor-Cal and So-Cal B-IBIs more similar at reaches with singular habitat type (slide), increased flows, low-velocities.

Unmodified metrics provided additional information relative to community composition not reflected in the IBIs, non-distinct taxa excluded.

# Summary

## Summer (summer)

Algae dominated most communities

Most reaches dominated by tolerant taxa adapted to unfavorable conditions

Reaches with easily mobilized substrates dominated by motile diatom genera

- Associated with degraded stream conditions & poor water quality

Reaches with coarser substrates had higher % of non-motile taxa

Reaches with nutrient input (livestock grazing, wastewater treatment facility) had high % of eutraphentic diatoms

Pollution Tolerant species present at many reaches – generally lower % in some

Soft-bodied algae – low TR, low #s – species tolerant of degraded conditions

Chlorophyll a values generally highest at most reaches during summer 2011

Associated with increased nutrient input during spring runoff



mary

ng spring, increased streamflow (relative to both summers),  
strate mobility, and water quality - appear to be the primary  
characteristics influencing benthic communities

Both B-IBI values generally improved

Substantial increases in Percent Intolerant Organisms

Percent Tolerant Organisms generally decreased

SDI values at reaches downstream of nutrient input areas were lower t  
ummer values

Chironomids decreased / oligochaetes increased at most reaches

Un-modified metrics provided additional information relative to commu  
composition not reflected in B-IBIs

# Summary

Spring (spring)

Diatoms dominated communities at all reaches

Percent Motile species variable, lowest values recorded at some

Percent Dominant Taxa values variable relative to summer

Percent eutraphentic diatoms generally elevated at most reaches

Highest Chlorophyll a values recorded at most reaches, some values elevated

Soft-bodied algae more numerous, Taxa Richness similar to summer

# Acknowledgements

y Fetscher  
ington  
gala  
we  
Humphreys  
rown  
na Hadden

SCCWRP  
CDF&G (W?)  
Moss Landing  
ICF  
ICF  
ECORP  
Caltrans

