

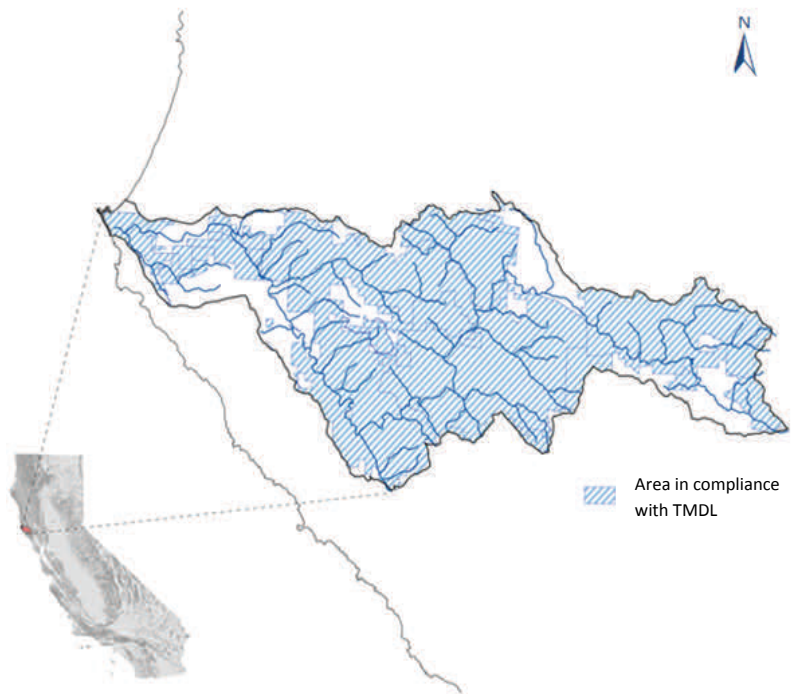
Water Quality Report Card		Sediment in the Garcia River Watershed	
Regional Water Board:	North Coast, Region 1	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditions Improving
Beneficial Uses Affected:	COLD, COMM, EST, MIGR, SPWN		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Inconclusive
Implemented Through:	TMDL Action Plan, Grants, Stakeholder Efforts		<input type="checkbox"/> Improvement Needed
Effective Date:	January 2002		<input type="checkbox"/> Targets Achieved/Water Body Delisted
Attainment Date:	2049	Pollutant Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Point Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonpoint Source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legacy

Water Quality Improvement Strategy

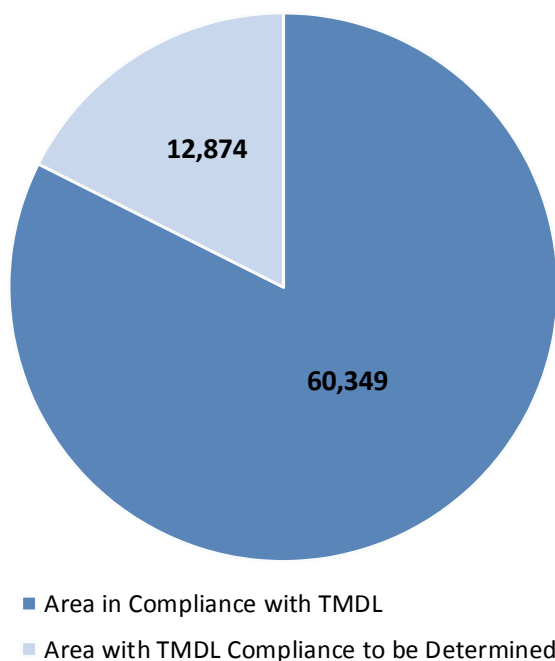
The Garcia River Watershed is a coastal watershed located in southwestern Mendocino County. The Garcia River is impaired by excess sediment and elevated temperatures. The cause of the impairments are primarily attributed to past land use activities such as 19th century splash-dam logging, post-World War II industrial logging (pre-CalFire Forest Practice Rules), gravel mining, agriculture, timberland conversion, and removal of instream large woody material. These activities disrupted the freshwater habitats required by a number of aquatic organisms, and have contributed towards the precipitous decline in populations of native salmon and trout species.

The [Action Plan for the Garcia River Watershed Sediment TMDL](#) is a watershed-wide sedimentation prevention and watershed recovery plan that was adopted into the North Coast Region Basin Plan in 2002. The TMDL requires landowners to address existing human-caused erosion problems on their property, and to prevent the creation of new sediment sources resulting from land use activities. Also, the TMDL includes numeric targets and instream water quality goals for restoring the cold-water fishery habitat, which are expected to be achieved by 2049.

Garcia River Watershed



Garcia River TMDL Compliance Efforts (Acres)



Water Quality Outcomes

- Although instream physical habitat conditions continue to improve as a result of the TMDL and natural watershed recovery, the persistent drought has been negatively influencing the migration, spawning and rearing of native salmon and trout.
- Landowners with properties totaling approximately 82% of the watershed are continuing to work to control erosion, prevent new sediment sources from land use activities, and improve riparian conditions.
- Large wood augmentation and streambank bioengineering projects are ongoing and have been implemented across approximately 20 stream miles to improve habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout.
- The Nature Conservancy and the North Coast Regional Water Board have been collecting watershed data (physical, biological, and chemical) since 2007 to verify trends towards recovery. The status of watershed conditions will be reported upon in late 2015 or 2016.