

On July 16, 2026, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) issued a Notice of Applicability for coverage under the Statewide Restoration General Order (Order No. WQ 2022-0048-DWQ) for the Yurok Tribe's McKinney Post-Fire Restoration Project at McConnell Bar and Humbug Creek (Project). Additionally, the Regional Water Board served as CEQA lead and relied on the SRGO's programmatic EIR for CEQA compliance and filed a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.

The Project is located along the Klamath River, approximately 11 miles downstream of the Interstate 90 crossing near Highway 96 postmile 98. The coordinates for the Project are 41.841339° N, 122.672315° W.

Project Description:

The McKinney Post-Fire Restoration Project at McConnell Bar and Humbug Creek will result in the restoration of approximately 35.72 acres and 6,628 linear feet of instream and floodplain habitat. The Project's restoration activities will provide habitat complexity, provide refuge for fish during high flows, improve hydrologic and hydraulic diversity and complexity, and enhance sediment sorting processes that are critical for all life stages of fish and other aquatic species in the Klamath River system.

The Project's activities include:

- Reconnect the floodplain to increase viable juvenile rearing habitat
- Remove McKinney Fire floods-caused debris, fine sediments and refuse in the Humbug Creek confluence area and on the McConnell Bar elevated floodplain where materials from the fire were deposited
- Realign the Humbug Creek channel from below the bridge to the confluence, and install habitat features in the creek
- Excavate to reconnect historic channels in the greater floodplain of the Klamath River to enhance sinuosity and channel length, and to promote habitat complexity, including:
 - construct meander
 - construct 50/50 split flow channel (on the mainstem Klamath River!!!)
 - open disconnected side channel
 - create pool (backwater alcove)
- Remove an upstream embankment (likely a historical mining remnant) to eliminate an unnatural constriction and lessen the velocity
- Divert flows temporarily from the work areas to prevent excess turbidity
- Install features such as gravel, and large wood (structured log jams) to improve spawning and rearing conditions
- Remove invasive plant species during construction and salvage onsite native vegetation (such as willow bundles) to be replanted post-construction along with additional native plant seeds and other propagules to both stabilize the site and enhance riparian areas.



This photo shows the McKinney Post-Fire Restoration Project at McConnell Bar and Humbug Creek site. Humbug Creek is visible in the center of the photo, and the Klamath River flows from the bottom of the image to the top. The Project area encompasses everything between Klamath River Road (the gravel road on the left) and the Klamath River on the right and extends all the way to the top of the photo.