



North Coast Regional Trend Monitoring Program (North Coast Region)

What is it?

The North Coast Region (Region 1) comprises all of the watershed basins draining into the Pacific Ocean from the California-Oregon state line (including Lower Klamath Lake and Lost River basins) south to the southern boundary of the watershed of the Estero de San Antonio and Stemple Creek in Marin and Sonoma Counties. The highest priority water quality problems of the Region include contamination of surface water due to nonpoint source pollution from storm water runoff, erosion and sedimentation (roads, vineyards, grazing and timber harvest), channel modification, gravel mining and dairies, and MtBE and dioxin contamination.

The North Coast Regional Trend Monitoring Program is a SWAMP-funded ambient monitoring program that rotates annually between four key watershed groupings in northern California; the Russian River watershed, the Eel River watershed, the Coastal River watersheds, and the Klamath and Trinity River Basins. The purpose of the program is to identify local water quality concerns, evaluate spatial and temporal trends of key constituents, and determine whether there is any evidence that beneficial uses are not being protected.

In 2010, Region 1 monitored the Eel River watershed and in 2011 will be monitoring the Russian River watershed as part of this program. The Russian River Trend Monitoring will occur in conjunction with Region 1's Nutrient study in the Russian River (see Eel River Nutrient Study Achievement Report [link]).

Why is it important to the State?

Both the Eel and the Russian Rivers provide vital salmon and steelhead habitat and are known for their exceptional recreational opportunities. In these heavily-forested watersheds, impacts from timber harvest activities are a primary concern. The Russian River watershed is also experiencing

increasing pressure from agricultural activities (in particular vineyards) and urbanization. The results of this trend monitoring program provide valuable information to help determine whether beneficial uses are being protected in the Eel River and the Russian River.

Why is it important to me?

This monitoring program provides information on issues that are important to local residents as well as visitors to the area and other concerned citizens. The monitoring is designed to address local watershed concerns, including impacts to recreation, aquatic life, irrigation supply, and drinking water beneficial uses.

How will this information be used?

Data collected as part of this program provide background water quality information which is used in combination with other available data to assess water quality impairment for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d) which make up the Integrated Report. The data will also be used to help determine future monitoring program design by focusing resources toward identified concerns.