

OHV Impacts in Lower Cache Creek

Presented By The:

Cache Creek Technical Advisory Committee

Yolo County Board of Supervisors

October 26, 2021

ITEM #31

Biological Resources

CCRMP Goals (Sec. 4.2-1): Provide for a diverse, native riparian ecosystem that is self-sustaining and capable for supporting native wildlife.

CCRMP Objectives (Sec. 4.3):

- Conserve and protect existing riparian habitat to the greatest extent possible.
- Establish conditions to encourage development of natural riparian habitat types.
- Implement habitat revegetation and restoration projects to maximize success.
- Avoid disturbance to important wildlife habitat features.

OHV use is inconsistent with these goals and objectives because of:

1. Damage to high-priority natural habitats reduces value to wildlife and may require restoration.
2. Damage to revegetation and restoration sites reduces success and increases costs.
3. Wildlife can be disturbed, injured or killed, especially during sensitive times (nesting/breeding).

Biological Resources

Damage to natural habitat



Biological Resources

Damage to natural habitat



Relatively new OHV road crossing on to creek bank. All the native vegetation on the creek bank has been destroyed.



Across the creek from the Cache Creek Nature Preserve. When the primary OHV road was flooded by a beaver pond, OHV users cleared a path through native vegetation.

Biological Resources

Damage to restoration sites



Moore Siphon Repair Site – OHV Use At Future Revegetation Area

Biological Resources

Wildlife disturbance and injury

- Wildlife disturbance from OHVs has been directly observed, including during nesting / breeding season, which can reduce survival.
- Strong potential of injury or death of wildlife unable to avoid fast-moving OHVs.
 - Ground-nesting birds, small mammals, Western pond turtles, amphibians, snakes, fish, insects.



Water Quality

CCRMP Goal (Sec. 3.2-4): Enhance the quality of water resources by stressing prevention and stewardship rather than costly remediation.

CCRMP Actions (Sec. 3.4): Discourage activities that impact surface water quality of Cache Creek.

Although the cumulative impact of OHV activities on water quality is difficult to measure, OHV use is inconsistent with this objective and recommended action because:

1. Individual OHV use may not create a water quality issue, but gasoline, oil, and other petroleum products will enter the creek over time given 100s or 1000s of users.
2. Turbidity will be also increased due to repeated disturbance of soil and vegetation.
3. Both pollution and turbidity will impact wildlife and habitat on lower Cache Creek.

Water Quality

October 2016



Photo: B. Campos

An OHV user added oil or changed the oil in their vehicle and discarded the oil containers at the edge of the creek. The soil was saturated with oil.

Geomorphology

CCRMP Goal (sec 2.2-2): Establish a more natural channel floodway capable of conveying floodwaters without damaging essential structures, causing excessive erosion or adversely affecting adjoining land uses.

CCRMP Goal (sec 2.2-4): Ensure that the floodway is maintained to allow other beneficial uses of the channel, including groundwater recharge, recreation, and riparian habitat, without adversely affecting flood flow conveyance capacity.

OHV use is inconsistent with this objective because:

1. Vegetation contributes to natural geomorphic processes - disturbed or destroyed vegetation can increase channel instability and degrade habitat.
2. Direct disturbance of channel bank and bed sediments results in more frequent and more extensive channel instability.
3. Individual site impacts may appear minor, but may cumulatively result in significant loss of channel stability and habitat occurring more frequently than without OHV use.

Geomorphology

