Pre-Approved Conservation Practices for the Navarro River

Seven conservation practices have been pre-approved by the regulatory agencies for inclusion in the Navarro River PIR. These practices are promoted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan to improve water quality, protect and restore the health of the watershed and preserve important agricultural lands.

ACCESS ROADS	Improves existing travel routes for moving livestock, produce, and equipment. Improvements to existing roads control runoff, prevent erosion, and maintain or improve water quality while providing access for property management. An example of the practice might include regrading and outsloping a road so that water is less erosive as it travels across and off the road. This practice is used only on existing roads.
CRITICAL AREA PLANTING	Planting vegetation such as trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, or legumes on highly erodible or critically eroding areas. This practice is used to stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources. This practice does not include tree planting mainly for wood products.
FISH STREAM IMPROVEMENT	Improving a stream channel to create new fish habitat or to enhance an existing habitat. This practice is used to improve or enhance aquatic habitat for fish in degraded streams, channels and ditches by providing shade, controlling sediment and restoring pool and riffle stream characteristics. This practice may require the placement of rock. Use of rock is kept to a minimum.
GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE	A structure built into a gully or waterway to control the grade and prevent head cutting in natural or artificial channels. For purposes of our program, this practice will not be installed in fish bearing streams.
ROAD/ LANDING REMOVAL	This practice includes the removal by excavation of old logging and ranch/farm access roads and landing fills from stream channels. This practice does <u>not</u> apply to the creation of new stream channels or altering existing stream channels to a configuration or grade different than what existed prior to the placement of roads and landings in the stream channel. Because of the unique characteristics of each drainage, removal of road and ramp fills will be done in accordance with site specific characteristics, soils and appropriate critical area stabilization techniques necessary to re-establish vegetation.
STREAM BANK PROTECTION	The use of vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries, or excavated channels against scour and erosion. The banks of streams and waterbodies are protected to reduce sediment loads causing downstream damage and pollution, improve the stream for fish and wildlife habitat, and to protect adjacent land from erosion damage.
STREAM CHANNEL STABILIZATION	This practice involves stabilizing the channel of a stream with suitable structures. It applies to stream channels undergoing damage or degradation that cannot be controlled with upstream practices. The design and installation of stream channel stabilization structures produce a stable streambed favorable to wildlife and riparian growth.
STRUCTURE FOR	

WATER CONTROL	A structure in an irrigation drainage or other water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, or maintains desired water surface elevation. This practice will be used to replace existing culverts when they are either not functioning properly or are a barrier to fish passage.