



Bank Swallow Annual Report

2021

February 1, 2022



Cover photo: Bank swallow habitat along the lower Smith River (photo credit: Laura Bradley).

Project Description

Title: Bank Swallow Surveys for Class I Water Crossings

Purpose: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) monitoring

Date Initiated: March 1999

Projected End Date: Ongoing

Manager: Sal Chinnici, Director, Forest Sciences

Executive Summary:

The HRC HCP Section 6.7 (PALCO 1999), Bank Swallow Conservation Plan, requires that surveys be conducted where new road construction crossing low gradient Class I waters is planned and potential bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) habitat exists within 200 feet. HCP objectives are twofold:

1. Avoid impacts to bank swallow nesting colonies on streambanks and hillsides.
2. Prevent nest colony establishment in stock-piled sand associated with instream mining operations.

During the bank swallow breeding period (May – June) in 2021 there was one low gradient Class I watercourse crossing on the Van Duzen River near Corbett Ranch. There was no potential bank swallow habitat within 200 feet of the crossing, however marginal habitat exists both upstream and downstream. Surveys of the marginal habitat were conducted for interest on 10 May and 10 June. No bank swallows were detected on either survey.

In addition, both before and during the bank swallow breeding period in 2022 there were mounds of stockpiled sand and gravel from prior year's gravel extraction operations stored off-channel in south Scotia adjacent to the South Truck Shop. No gravel operations occurred during the breeding period near the stockpiles. For interest only, surveys of the stockpiled sand were conducted on 3 May and 10 June. No bank swallows were detected on either survey. Barn Swallows were noted to be nesting on the truck shop building.

No change in monitoring strategies or intensity is recommended at this time.

Project Manager / Primary Author



Sal Chinnici