

2. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 THE RUTHERFORD DUST RESTORATION TEAM GOAL

To work collaboratively with neighbors and agencies to stabilize river banks, reduce the impacts of flooding, protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, reduce Pierce's disease pressure on vineyards, and to provide ongoing education about the river and its watershed.

The goal is to help the channel adjust to a more natural condition in equilibrium with its surroundings. However, in working towards this goal we must recognize that rivers are never static. 'Stable' rivers exist in a condition of dynamic equilibrium, analogous to a tightrope walker who continuously shifts his weight from one side to the other to stay in balance. Even in a restored condition the river will always create some erosion and deposition, and will slowly attempt to change its course. In a restored state however these adjustments will be relatively small compared with the current conditions, erosion and deposition should be in balance, and changes will be easier to manage. The river will always require a degree of management.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RESTORATION

- Minimize the need for ongoing channel stabilization and maintenance.
- Recreate a landscape and processes that sustain a continuous, native riparian cover in the river corridor.
- Restore natural river/floodplain interactions where possible within the new channel corridor.
- Increase and enhance riverine habitat value and complexity.

2.3 CONSTRAINTS ON THE RESTORATION

- Minimize encroachment onto adjacent farmland and property.
- Minimize encroachment or damage to existing high value riparian corridor habitat (e.g. mature trees on the bank and banktop).
- Restore the river in a way that facilitates permitting agency approval.

2.4 OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY THE RESTORATION

- Obtain external funding for river restoration.
- Replant riparian vegetation to help control Pierce's Disease vectors.