

approvals from Trinity County and the California Department of Fish and Game in some instances, will be necessary. A short implementation period for a significant number of these projects is recommended to quickly increase the quality and quantity of salmonid habitat. The remaining projects may then proceed following an evaluation of the interaction of the channel rehabilitation sites with the new flow regimes.

## 2.2 High Flow and Channel Rehabilitation Implementation

Although flows up to 11,000 ft<sup>3</sup>/s will not likely occur before the completion of bridge and structure modifications, the construction of mechanical rehabilitation projects should begin as soon as possible. This will assure that some modifications will be in place that will allow the river to create additional habitat once high flows can be implemented. It is important to emphasize that projects should be constructed with the understanding that the higher flows as recommended for fishery restoration objectives will occur when floodplain structures have been modified to accept higher flows. Without increased flows, channel and habitat diversity will not be greatly improved at mechanical rehabilitation sites. High flows will help establish proper riparian function by maintaining a higher water table at critical times, sort and distribute coarse and fine sediment adding to substrate complexity, and provide nutrient dispersal across floodplains and within the channel by movement and deposition of wood and riparian debris. River flow is an integral component to restoring aquatic and floodplain habitats. High river flow will continue to be the primary reason for improvements to habitat at mechanical rehabilitation sites and the river as a whole.

## 2.3 Location and Implementation Plan

Twenty-four sites are proposed during the first three years of construction if adequate funding is available. Additional projects will be constructed after evaluation of the first series of projects under Adaptive Environmental Assessment and Management. This evaluation will be ongoing beginning with construction of the first projects, but an interim period without construction activities may be necessary to fully evaluate the effectiveness of project designs and the effect of the new flow regime before beginning construction on the remaining sites.

Locations of project sites will generally occur in areas of historic point bars, channel meander areas, and high flow channels. These sites were determined to be the most suitable areas when analyzed by aerial photos and during reconnaissance surveys in 1995. An additional field survey was conducted in late 1999 to determine if the original 47 proposed sites were still the most appropriate areas for projects. Most of the previously identified sites are still in need of mechanical rehabilitation; however, the morphology at some sites has changed and some sites appear to be more appropriate for more immediate construction than others.

To determine prioritization for construction, the Mainstem Restoration Subcommittee of the Trinity River Task Force has begun the development of biologic and geomorphic prioritization criteria. Potential benefits and the certainty of benefits for each project are evaluated based on several criteria. Each potential site will be evaluated by this process and given a score based on biological and geomorphic considerations. Appropriate agreements with landowners must be obtained before any access or construction on private lands. Other