CALIFORNIA TROUT

FISH · WATER · PEOPLE

RINDGE DAM REMOVAL

Ecological Benefits

Malibu Creek State Park. Photo: Bernard Yin

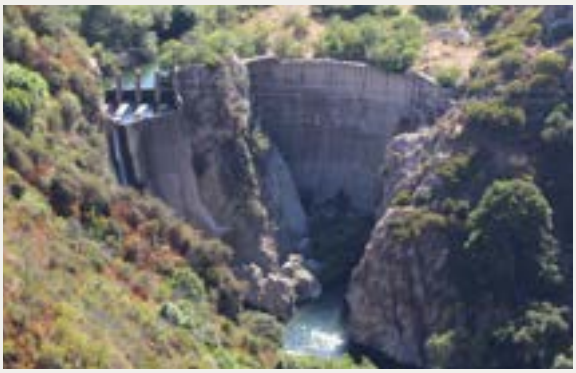
Removing Rindge Dam Will Restore Malibu Creek's Natural Processes and Access to Natural Habitat

780,000 cubic yards of sediment has accumulated behind Rindge Dam over the decades since it was constructed.

Historically, there was hydrologic connectivity between Malibu Creek and its upstream tributaries, and sediment was able to flow into the Pacific Ocean. The construction of Rindge Dam changed that and resulted in changes to vegetation types, segmented habitat, and degraded habitat quality.

- The Rindge Dam Removal Project will restore the watershed's natural hydrology and sediment transport regime.
- The project will beneficially use approximately one-third of the 780,000 cubic yards of impounded sediment to nourish the Malibu shoreline and nearshore areas.

Downtown Malibu and surrounding neighborhoods, 2008. (Wikipedia)

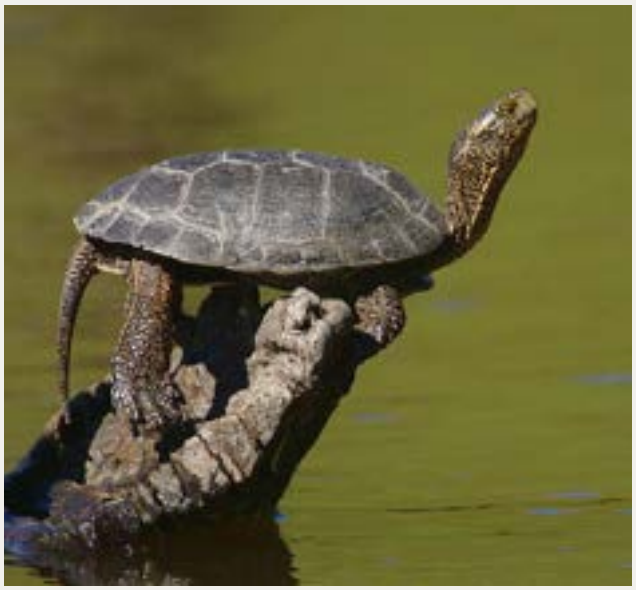


Rindge Dam. Photo: Mike Wier

Pacific Lamprey

Removing Rindge Dam will restore access to critical habitat for the federally endangered Southern California steelhead.

- A portion of lower Malibu Creek is designated critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead.
- Rindge Dam is a total barrier for Southern steelhead migration within this critical habitat.
- The NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service identified removing Rindge Dam as an important step for their recovery.
- Removing Rindge Dam and up to eight upstream fish passage barriers ultimately will restore their access to ~18 miles of habitat.



Western Pond Turtle

Removing Rindge Dam will re-establish habitat connectivity for other wildlife species.

- The unique character of Malibu Creek allows it to support hundreds of native plant and wildlife species such as the Pacific lamprey and Western pond turtle.
- Rindge Dam and upstream barriers have resulted in a loss of connectivity to spawning and rearing habitat for many wildlife species.
- This loss of habitat connectivity has resulted in reproductive isolation, population decline, and habitat segmentation.
- Removing Rindge Dam and upstream barriers will reconnect habitat corridors and give these species a chance to thrive again.

Removing Rindge Dam will benefit the recreational community.

- Restoring the natural aesthetic quality of the Malibu Creek canyon area will enhance wildlife security and public recreation opportunities.
- Completing this project will enhance Southern California's "crown jewels" – Malibu Creek State Park and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.
- Removing Rindge Dam also will address a public safety issue by removing the dam jumping point into Malibu Creek.

Learn More

Final Integrated Feasibility Report:
spl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-Studies/Malbu-Creek-Study/.

California Trout's Rindge Dam webpage:
caltrout.org/campaigns/rindge-dam.

CALIFORNIA TROUT

FISH · WATER · PEOPLE

Ensuring healthy waters and resilient, wild fish for a better California.

CONTACT CALTROUT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST DEREK BERLIN AT DBERLIN@CALTROUT.ORG

RESOURCES LEGACY FUND®
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.