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Ecohydraulic Design of Riffle-Pool Relief and Morphological Unit Geometry in Support of Regulated Gravel-Bed River Rehabilitation

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22 ABSTRACT

23

24 Riffle construction is a common practice in river engineering, but insufficient science exists to
25 guide objective design of riffle-pool relief and the three-dimensional forms of features smaller
26 than the scale of channel width. In this study, numerical experimentation with two-dimensional
27 hydrodynamic modeling and ecohydraulic analysis was used to evaluate the performance of six
28 different configurations of a sequence of riffle-pool units typical of shallow, regulated gravel-bed
29 rivers, emphasizing a range of riffle-pool amplitudes (e.g., low, intermediate with hybrid
30 features, and high). Twenty-two specific performance indicators (16 for physical habitat and six
31 sediment-transport regime) were used to compare designs. It was found that low riffle-pool
32 relief yielded the best performance for the majority of physical habitat indicators and all of the
33 sediment transport regime indicators. The spatial patterns of test metrics revealed the
34 mechanisms responsible for the statistical outcomes. Methodologically, two-dimensional
35 modeling and ecohydraulic analysis are vital tools in project design along with previously
36 accepted hydrologic, geomorphic, and engineering analyses. Scientifically, low-relief riffle-pool
37 units are indicated as the normative condition in gravel-bed rivers where forcing elements
38 driving deep scour are not systematically controlling morphology.

39

40 1. INTRODUCTION

41

42 Ecohydraulics is a rapidly emerging quantitative subdiscipline of river science with use in
43 river engineering and rehabilitation in degraded landscapes (Nestler et al., 2008; Wheaton et al.,
44 2011). Ecohydraulics links ecological functions and hydrodynamic patterns at each spatio-
45 temporal scale (Pasternack, 2011). It is often used for baseline instream flow assessment
46 emphasizing relations between species' physical habitat and discharge. The Instream Flow
47 Incremental Methodology (IFIM) is a widely adopted tool for incorporating quantitative
48 ecohydraulics into flow assessment (Bovee and Milhous, 1978; Bovee, 1982; Jowett, 1997),
49 often facilitated using PHABSIM software (Waddle, 2001). Normally a statistical evaluation of
50 flow and habitat is done, but now spatially explicit (2D) habitat modeling is practical (Ghanem et
51 al., 1996; Pasternack, 2011). Studies have compared semi-analytical, 1D, and 2D ecohydraulic
52 methods (Waddle et al., 2000; Brown and Pasternack, 2009). Many rivers exhibit a spatial
53 anisotropy of channel geometry (Merwade, 2009) capable of steering flow, thereby violating 1D-
54 model assumptions (Brown and Pasternack, 2009). In such cases, 2D modeling and GIS-based
55 spatial analyses are necessary, and even for isotropic, orthogonal geometries they are preferential
56 for evaluating mesohabitat structure (Hauer et al., 2011) as well as microhabitat heterogeneity.
57 Use of 3D models is emerging, but suffers for lack of 3D ecological relations, the high cost and
58 complexity of 3D validation, longer 3D numerical modeling time, and disproportionate GIS data
59 volume and processing time.

60 In the practice of site- and reach-scale river rehabilitation, standard engineering and
61 geomorphic methods have been highly criticized (Wissmar and Beschta, 1998; Simon et al.,
62 2007; Lave et al., 2010), exacerbated by iconic failures against project goals (Kondolf and

63 Micheli, 1995; Doyle and Harbor, 2000). Statistical ecohydraulic methods such as IFIM that
64 depend on static channel assumptions, direct observations of channel hydraulics, and static
65 empirical parameters cannot yield predictions for alternative channel configurations, so they
66 have limited ecohydraulic applicability as a tool for river engineering (as opposed to their
67 strength in river assessment). Design methods that empirically mimic landforms (i.e. “natural
68 channel design”) or hydrology (i.e. “natural flow regime”) are prescriptive and have no
69 independent, quantitative design-testing scheme, yielding a high risk of failure when used alone.

70 The philosophy underlying *ecohydraulic design for river engineering* is that channel
71 geometry is manipulated and then mechanistically tested until it achieves a flow-dependent
72 hydraulic regime with a palette of homogeneity and heterogeneity at different spatial scales that
73 is suitable for the breadth of geomorphic processes and ecosystem functions that are
74 characteristic of a natural river of the type undergoing diagnosis and treatment. A key aspect of
75 this design framework is that landforms designed at multiple spatial scales are not arbitrary, but
76 are founded on scale-dependent physical mechanisms needed for morphologic resilience, such as
77 stage-dependent flow convergence routing (MacWilliams et al., 2006; Sawyer et al., 2010) and
78 pool maintenance by turbulent vortex shedding at forcing elements (Woodsmith and Hassan,
79 2005; Thompson, 2006). Ecohydraulic analysis of 2D hydrodynamic models is rooted in
80 observation, but is structurally more universal than empirical, prescriptive geomorphic methods
81 (Brown and Pasternack, 2009; Pasternack, 2011) and can cope with synthetic channel
82 modifications (Pasternack et al., 2008; Oh et al., 2010). Ecohydraulic design has been tested in
83 different applications and found useful as a tool for evaluating alternatives for channel
84 reconfiguration, gravel injection, floodplain and side channel inundation, increasing habitat

85 complexity, and spawning habitat rehabilitation (Elkins et al., 2007; Manwaring et al., 2009;
86 Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries et al., 2011).

87 Now that the use of spatially explicit ecohydraulics in river engineering is established,
88 there is an opportunity to generate design principles and project guidelines through scientific
89 testing of diverse scenarios. Pasternack et al. (2004) tested the value of four channel patterns for
90 yielding high-quality Chinook salmon spawning habitat on a regulated, degraded gravel-bed
91 river, with two of those outperforming the *ad-hoc* project. Pasternack et al. (2008) used
92 ecohydraulics to test riffle configurations, tailwater levels (imposed by the next downstream
93 riffle that is not being altered), and discharge on physical habitat quality and morphological
94 resilience. Instituting a backwater effect downstream of a design riffle aids both of those desired
95 outcomes. Elkins et al. (2007) corroborated this in a real spawning habitat rehabilitation.

96 The goal of this study was to use ecohydraulic analysis of 2D model results in a
97 numerical experiment to test the relative merits of building sequences of riffle-pool units in
98 regulated gravel-bed rivers with different magnitudes of riffle-pool relief. Such rivers typically
99 have bed slopes of 0.001-0.01, width to depth ratios of 20-100, depth to median grain size ratios
100 of 2-60, and a Shields stress incipient motion threshold of ~0.03-0.06. These dimensionless
101 values express the range for which this study is relevant, except they ignore riffle-pool relief.
102 While metrics for evaluating (let alone designing) riffle-pool relief are limited, alternative-design
103 morphologies were compared using the slope-detrended relief indices of amplitude (A_{RP}), the
104 difference between the maximum riffle crest elevation and the minimum pool trough on the
105 slope-detrended river profile (Vetter, 2011), and asymmetry (A^*_{RP}), the ratio of the absolute
106 values of slope-detrended riffle height and pool depth about the zero-crossing line (O'Neil and

107 Abraham, 1984; Rayburg and Neave, 2008). A high A^*_{RP} indicates a riffle crest sticking
108 disproportionately high above the zero-crossing line.

109 Riffle-pool relief is an important yet untested metric for channel design, because it could
110 play an important role in morphologic resilience during floods (Pasternack et al., 2008). There is
111 no widely used dimensionless metric for riffle-pool relief design and there exist few pristine
112 reference rivers free of anthropogenic influence to evaluate and mimic, especially for design of
113 sub-width channel features. The studies mentioned above did not systematically assess the effect
114 of riffle-pool relief on physical habitat quality and morphological-unit resilience against a range
115 of flows. They also did not look at a sequence of units, just an individual pool-riffle-pool unit.

116 The specific objectives of this study were to assess the consequences of high versus low
117 riffle-pool relief on (1) physical habitat quality for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in their
118 sensitive spawning and fry lifestages at the regulated discharge typical for the periods when
119 those lifestages occur and (2) sediment transport regimes during two geomorphically and
120 ecologically significant flows, as explained below. A third objective looked beyond relief to
121 assess how the consequences from objectives one and two vary between different riffle-pool
122 shapes. The discharges focused on were flows associated with bed occupation during the
123 freshwater reproductive cycle (salmon spawning in autumn, embryo incubation in late autumn
124 and early winter, and fry development in winter) ($8.5 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) and physical-habitat rejuvenation
125 during prescribed spring snowmelt releases, using the highest regulated release as of December
126 2004 ($169.9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$).

127

128 2. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

129

130 The approach used to assess the effect of riffle-pool relief on river rehabilitation was to
131 (a) design six synthetic river digital elevation models (DEMs) with different riffle-pool sequence
132 configurations for a given testbed regulated river reach, (b) conduct 2D modeling of the synthetic
133 designs at two key discharges, (c) extrapolate hydraulic predictions through physical-habitat
134 curves and sediment transport regime equations, and (d) extract and compare performance
135 indicators to determine designs' relative merits. Alternative designs were guided by the science
136 about riffle-pool assemblages and the emerging knowledge of the structure, organization, and
137 function of morphological units (e.g., Padmore et al, 1998; Fukushima, 2001). Previous research
138 established performance indicators for physical habitat quality for indicator species' lifestages
139 and sediment transport regimes (Elkins et al., 2007; Pasternack et al., 2008; Brown and
140 Pasternack, 2008; Brown and Pasternack, 2009), as explained in sections 2.5-2.7 below.

141 A sequence of riffle-pool units on the gravel-bed Trinity River immediately below
142 Lewiston Dam, California, USA (40°43'34"N, 122°47'48"W) was used as a reference
143 assemblage (i.e. "pre-project" or "baseline" scenario) to prepare and validate a 2D model
144 suitable for a straight, gravel-bed, riffle-pool stream in a confined valley (Brown and Pasternack,
145 2008). Then six experimental riffle-pool sequences were fabricated using AutoCAD Land
146 Desktop® to obtain DEMs with different A_{RP} and A^*_{RP} , using the Trinity River's topography as
147 a starting point for experimentation (Fig. 1). These alternatives were not scientific curiosities,
148 but actual morphologies evaluated for construction below Lewiston Dam (Pasternack, 2004a);
149 they were consistent with fluvial landforms in straight reaches of confined gravel-bed rivers that
150 are common in Californian rivers (e.g., Manwaring et al., 2009; Sawyer et al., 2009; Cramer Fish
151 Sciences, 2010).

152 System response was evaluated in terms of flow pattern, fish habitat quality, and
153 sediment transport regime at two discharges within the regulated range permitted by operational
154 rules at the time. Specific methods were previously developed and validated on the Trinity as
155 well as on a similar shallow gravel-bed reach of the Mokelumne River (Pasternack et al., 2004;
156 Wheaton et al., 2004a, b; Elkins et al., 2007). Unlike Pasternack et al., (2008), this study only
157 evaluated a single tailwater water surface elevation for each discharge, using the real observed
158 stage-discharge relation for the study reach as reported by Brown and Pasternack (2008).

159

160 2.1 Baseline Testbed Reach

161

162 Studies of hydrology, geomorphology, fisheries, and reach-scale ecohydraulics of the
163 baseline study reach already exist for the Trinity River (USFWS, 1999, 2002; Brown and
164 Pasternack, 2008; Gaeuman, 2008, 2011) and are briefly described here for context. The Trinity
165 River above Lewiston Dam is an 1860-km² basin that is part of the Klamath Mountain Province
166 in northwestern California. Damming barred access to ~160 km of upstream spawning grounds.
167 Flow regulation and floodplain structures limit flushing of tributary-delivered sand and
168 geomorphic processes that maintain alluvial spawning grounds, while enabling vegetation
169 encroachment that degrades rearing habitat. Salmonid populations have dropped sharply and are
170 the focus of habitat rehabilitation, though systemic factors are also addressed. Since 1972,
171 projects have included gravel augmentation, channel reconfiguration, bank vegetation removal,
172 and flow reregulation.

173 The 760-m Lewiston hatchery reach (LHR) that was the testbed for this study is located
174 immediately downstream of Lewiston Dam and is the uppermost limit of salmonid spawning

175 access. Previous work in the LHR determined that the existing artificial topography and
176 substrates are controlled by anthropogenic and natural boundary and input controls that preclude
177 natural geomorphic processes (Brown and Pasternack, 2008). Historically, the channel was wide
178 with inset active alluvial gravel bars and a forested floodplain, but now it is narrow and straight.
179 The river is confined on its south flank by a fish hatchery and on its north flank by bedrock.
180 These forcings cause uniform high flow widths that preclude differential rates of sediment
181 entrainment among morphological units at the 1-10 channel-width scale. The riverbed is
182 armored by decades of flow and sediment regulation and it has coarse artificial riffle-steps (i.e.,
183 rock weirs) buttressed by boulders, which further degrades the topography for fish habitat.
184 These structures do not have any of the geometric, hydraulic, or sedimentary attributes of riffles
185 utilized by salmonids for spawning. The channel cannot adjust itself regardless of flow. These
186 factors necessitate that channel rehabilitation is dependent on physical manipulation, which is
187 limited by non-deformable boundary controls.

188

189 2.2 Design Concepts and Tools Used

190

191 Six channel configurations (Fig. 1) were developed within the real constraints imposed
192 by site conditions, management objectives, laws and regulations, and other institutional factors.
193 Research to date suggests that flow-dependent width variations between riffle and pool units is a
194 prerequisite for sustainable (i.e., resilient during floods) riffle-pool units, assuming sediment
195 supply is not limiting and in the absence of extreme bed-material grain-size differences between
196 riffles and pools (Carling and Wood, 1994; MacWilliams et al., 2006; Wheaton et al., 2010;
197 Thompson, 2011). Limited space for channel widening (or width undulation) constrained

198 process-based design (Brown and Pasternack, 2008). Therefore, adding gravel/cobble fill and
199 adjusting the amplitude and relief of morphologic units were the primary opportunities to
200 enhance riffle-pool units. Although width undulation aids riffle-pool resilience (White et al.,
201 2010), rivers below most large dams are channelized, constricted, and at least armored, if not
202 scoured to bedrock. Also, flow regulation limits inundation of high-elevation valley wall
203 oscillations. Furthermore, constructing channel designs with gravel/cobble using front loaders
204 involves bulk placement of the sediment mixture (Sawyer et al., 2009); it is uncommon to design
205 and install different surficial bed-material facies. Thus, evaluations of large width oscillations
206 and differential bed texture were not considered.

207 The Spawning Habitat Integrated Rehabilitation Approach (SHIRA) for rehabilitating
208 regulated gravel-bed rivers organized all phases of the project, including design development and
209 final design selection aided by 2D modeling and ecohydraulic analysis (Wheaton et al., 2004a,
210 b). A design objective is a specific goal that is aimed for when a project plan is implemented.
211 To achieve the objective, it is turned into a design hypothesis, which is a mechanistic inference,
212 formulated on the basis of scientific literature and available site-specific data, and thus is
213 assumed true as a general scientific principle (Wheaton et al., 2004b). Next, specific
214 morphological features are designed to work with the flow regime to yield the mechanism in the
215 design hypothesis. Finally, a numerical test is formulated to determine whether the design
216 hypothesis was appropriate for the project and the degree to which the design objective will be
217 achieved.

218 The six alternative designs (Fig. 1) were created with diverse features that have many
219 specific design hypotheses. The list of all design hypotheses is beyond the scope of this book
220 chapter, but is available at the website Pasternack (2004b). A key aspect of the designs for the

221 channel assemblages is that they span a range of different amplitudes of riffle-pool relief (Table
222 1; Fig. 2) and different planview patterns (Fig. 1). For each of these design elements, a suite of
223 concepts and objective design tools aided the creative process of conceptualizing landforms and
224 articulating their value toward hydraulic, geomorphic, and fisheries objectives in the form of
225 design hypotheses. Riffle and bar analogs were generated by visualization from similar
226 morphological-unit scale features in unregulated rivers. Next, these analogs were scaled and
227 overlaid on the pre-project topography. The spacing and location of riffles were determined
228 somewhat by existing locations and more so by fixed forcing elements, but this was varied
229 between designs. Analytical and empirical design and testing of riffle crests was performed for
230 low-flow conditions to determine if crests had gross hydraulic properties suitable with design
231 objectives. The net volumetric fill (m^3) of gravel and cobble for each design was calculated by
232 digital elevation model differencing in AutoCAD Land Desktop® between the baseline
233 topography and that for each design. Finally, 2D modeling of design surfaces was used to
234 evaluate each design with respect to performance indicators and spatial mechanisms.

235 For riffle-pool relief, some of the relevant design concerns included base flow riffle and
236 pool habitat suitability and quality, stage-dependent riffle scour potential, knickpoint migration
237 through riffles, and the resilience of riffle-pool relief. Initial riffle-crest sizing was done
238 iteratively aided by depth and velocity estimates using the Cipoletti weir equation and mass
239 conservation for specified discharges, because a crest functions like a weir to cause a backwater
240 effect (USBR, 1953; Clifford et al., 2005). Hydraulic estimates for the regulated baseflow
241 typically present during salmon spawning, embryo incubation, and fry development were used to
242 check habitat quality and gravel scour potential at that flow. Riffle-pool relief metrics (A_{RP} and

243 A^*_{RP}) were computed for each individual pool-riffle pair in each design and averaged by design
244 according to the method of Pasternack and Brown (2011).

245 For plan view morphology, design factors included the lateral distribution of
246 mesohabitats, stage-dependent resilience of microhabitat patches, sediment routing through
247 pools, knickpoint migration through riffle crests, the resilience of riffle-pool relief, and
248 accessibility of pools preferred for recreation fishing. Some specific design morphometrics
249 included degree of pool constriction for flow convergence, shape of riffle exit (e.g. horseshoe
250 shaped, straight, or convex), crestline obliquity for flow divergence, partial riffle-crest
251 notches/chutes for flow bypassing, and central bars for stage-dependent microhabitat resilience.

252

253 2.3 Experimental Riffle-Pool Assemblages

254

255 Due to page limits, readers are directed to Pasternack and Brown (2011) for thorough
256 explanations of designs, with a brief overview here. Designs One, Two and Three involved high
257 riffle-pool relief (aka “accentuated topography”) and higher bed slope, while Designs Four, Five,
258 and Six involved low riffle-pool relief (aka “blanket fill), lower bed slope, and ~3-m widening
259 on river right (Table 1). The concept for Design One was to maintain the existing pattern of
260 features, but accentuate them by building up riffles and increasing bed slope, yielding a high
261 riffle-pool relief of 1.54 m (Fig. 2a). The three large riffles were conceived to provide for
262 salmon spawning, the pools for adult holding, and the low-velocity bank fringe for fry habitat.
263 Design Two had two large broad flat riffles with transverse orthogonal crests and accentuated
264 pools, yielding a high riffle-pool relief of 1.58 m and a high asymmetry value of 2.57 (Fig. 2b).
265 The central pool was designed to be large, channel-spanning, and have a lot of submerged

266 features for juvenile rearing and adult holding. The large riffles were designed for Chinook and
267 steelhead spawning. Using preliminary lessons learned from “stress testing” Designs One and
268 Two with ecohydraulic analysis, Design Three was a modification of Design One that had a
269 significantly lower slope, longer riffles, and smaller, narrower pools (Fig. 2c). It was
270 conjectured that the central bar and flanking pools at the end of the design would provide adult
271 holding habitat proximal to spawning habitat and habitat heterogeneity in the face of fluctuating
272 spawning flows. Also, the two small pools might serve as sediment traps to retain sediment
273 placed upstream in this key spawning reach over time. Design Four had a blanket fill with three
274 riffles; the upper two had similar shapes as those in the previous designs with shallower
275 intervening pools, while the third riffle was long and broken up with local crests and chutes (Fig.
276 2d). Even though riffle amplitude was very low, the fact that the bed undulation occurred on top
277 of fill created a strong asymmetry for the last pool-to-riffle unit. This design sought to increase
278 fluvial complexity, while maintaining low feature-to-feature slopes. A new feature for this
279 design that was also used in Designs Five and Six was that the channel was widened three meters
280 on river right to remove encroached vegetation and provide low-velocity, shallow habitat for fry.
281 The biggest difference from the earlier designs was the presence of a long glide that featured a
282 pair of tightly-spaced alternating bars at the end of the reach. Glides can serve for salmon
283 spawning, especially for steelhead, so it was a worthwhile landform to evaluate. Design Five
284 had a blanket fill with three simple riffle crests and a straight longitudinal bar (Fig. 2e). The goal
285 for Design Five was to have the lowest change in riffle-pool relief to limit the amount of gravel
286 fill, while still maintaining the same slope as in the baseline topography as well as to increase
287 fluvial complexity and spawning habitat, while minimizing low-flow scour of that habitat.
288 Design Six continued the evolution of the blanket-fill concept from Design Five by significantly

289 increasing the sizes and amending the shapes of the second and third riffles, which resulted in a
290 lower overall bed slope (Fig. 2f). It also used two longitudinal bars, each with a hook at the end
291 to force flow divergence. The exit slope of the last riffle was graded convexly to cause flow
292 divergence instead of convergence, and thus reduce scour on the riffle exit in the thalweg and
293 shift scour energy to the rough banks where it would have little impact. Overall, the six designs
294 use a lot of different specific elements, but share some commonality dictated by geomorphic and
295 ecohydraulic knowledge. For comparison, the baseline real longitudinal profile is shown in
296 Figure 2g. That profile shows little coherent landform organization, with just a few rock weirs
297 peaking up above the slope-detrended median bed elevation.

298

299 2.4 2D Numerical Model

300

301 A 2D hydrodynamic model, Finite Element Surface Water Modeling System 3.1.5
302 (FESWMS), was used to simulate hydrodynamics for the baseline channel and the six alternative
303 designs. FESWMS solves the vertically integrated conservation of momentum and mass
304 equations using a finite element method to acquire depth-averaged 2D velocity components (U ,
305 V) and water depths (H) at each computational-mesh node. FESWMS simulates subcritical and
306 supercritical flows. Froehlich (1989) described hydrodynamic equations, discretization and
307 solution methods, and other FESWMS details. This model has been frequently validated for use
308 in shallow, regulated gravel-bed rivers (Pasternack et al., 2004; Wheaton et al., 2004b,
309 Pasternack et al., 2006; Elkins et al., 2007; Moir and Pasternack, 2008; Manwaring et al., 2009;
310 Sawyer et al., 2010). Brown and Pasternack (2008) developed, calibrated, and validated a

311 FESWMS model of the LDR baseline channel, which is summarized below to characterize the
312 uncertainties that affect experimental simulations.

313 FESWMS was implemented using the Surface Water Modeling System v. 8.1 (Aquaveo,
314 LLC). Computational design meshes had a typical internodal distance of 1.37 m, which was
315 comparable to the spacing of the original topographic survey data from the reference reach
316 (Brown and Pasternack, 2008). Based on past experience with evaluating numerical diffusion
317 and numerical stability, the mesh resolution was high enough to avoid those problems for the
318 finite element method. Meshes only covered the wetted channel and a few periphery dry cells,
319 yielding slightly different final meshes for each discharge and channel configuration.

320 To run FESWMS in a single channel, inflowing discharge and the associated exit water
321 surface elevation (WSE) are required. The ecologically significant discharges of 8.5 and 169.9
322 $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ were specified at the end of the introduction section. Flow was assumed to be normal to
323 the upstream boundary and it was distributed across the channel in proportion to the cross-
324 sectional area of each boundary mesh element. These assumptions were validated by measuring
325 H and U near the upstream boundary in the reference reach (Brown and Pasternack, 2008).
326 WSEs at the downstream end of the reference reach were measured at Q's between 8.5-169.9 m^3
327 s^{-1} using a total station to obtain a stage-discharge rating curve useful for simulating any flow in
328 this range. For the six fabricated channels, the model's downstream boundary was in a pool and
329 corresponds with the level imposed by the next downstream riffle, which can be natural or re-
330 engineered to any desired elevation (Elkins et al., 2007; Pasternack et al., 2008). Therefore, the
331 designs upstream of the model exit had insignificant effect on the WSEs at the model's exit
332 boundary.

333 The two primary model parameters in FESWMS are the eddy viscosity (E) and bed
334 roughness (n). Pasternack and Brown (2011) explain how these were obtained. E was spatially
335 distributed, but used a constant coefficient parameter value of 0.6. Roughness associated with
336 resolved meter-scale bedform topography was explicitly represented in the detailed channel
337 DEM. 2D models are highly sensitive to DEM inaccuracies (Horritt et al., 2006). For
338 unresolved roughness, a global n of 0.043 was used with all meshes (Pasternack et al., 2004,
339 2006, 2008; Moir and Pasternack, 2008). This was not numerically calibrated; it was validated
340 by comparing observed and predicted WSEs along the reference reach at different Q's as well as
341 by comparing observed and predicted H and U values at cross-sections. In gravel placement,
342 added material is well mixed and not differentiated between riffles and pools, so uniform
343 roughness is appropriate.

344 In this study FESWMS was used for exploratory experimentation using fabricated,
345 theoretical channel configurations to improve ecohydraulic and geomorphic understanding of
346 basic riffle-pool functioning as well as to improve the application of gravel-bed river design.
347 Acceptance of the numerical approach requires reasonable confidence in FESWMS' predictions.
348 Three different tests assessed model uncertainty for the LDR channel (Brown and Pasternack,
349 2008). First, the range of E values in model output was checked against field-based estimates
350 and found to be similar ($\sim 0.02\text{-}0.1 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$).

351 Second, recognizing that in a straight confined reach lateral and longitudinal variation in
352 velocity magnitude in a river is highest at low discharge (Clifford and French, 1998) and that
353 2D-model validation performance has been found to be insensitive to discharge (e.g., May et al.,
354 2009; Pasternack and Senter, 2011), model validation of H and U was performed at $12.9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$.
355 Predictions evaluated in detail by Brown and Pasternack (2008) and also shown in Pasternack et

356 al. (2008) yielded the typical results, with H accurately predicted and U adequately predicted.
357 Abrupt lateral gradients in U were not predicted accurately, but at many points U was very
358 accurately predicted.

359 Third, a total station was used to measure the WSE at 14 locations at $169.9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$
360 (vertical accuracy of $<1 \text{ cm}$). Modeled WSE was systematically slightly higher than observed
361 ($\sim 5\%$ of mean cross-sectional depth), but not enough to warrant iterative calibration of the n-
362 value. Overall, validation analysis showed that FESWMS is accurate enough to provide
363 confidence that the reported spatial patterns in depth and velocity are real, but is not accurate
364 enough to characterize poorly mapped regions with very strong lateral variation precisely, for
365 which better mapping and 3D numerical modeling would be better. As this study used synthetic
366 topography, map accuracy is irrelevant, while inadequate lateral velocity variation is an
367 uncertainty.

368

369 2.5 Fish Habitat Quality

370

371 Physical habitat quality predictions were made by extrapolating 2D model depth and
372 velocity predictions through local, independent habitat suitability curves (HSC) for H and U
373 from USFWS (1999). Although many local HSC were used in the LDR rehabilitation design,
374 this study focused on physical habitat metrics for spawning and fry rearing lifestages of
375 anadromous Chinook salmon and steelhead trout (Fig. 3), which are particularly sensitive to flow
376 and topography, as expressed in 2D hydraulic patterns. Because ideal substrates would be placed,
377 no substrate HSC was needed to compare designs.

378 A global habitat suitability index (GHSI) was calculated at each computational node as

379 the geometric mean of the H and U indices (Pasternack et al., 2004). To account for H and U
380 uncertainty, GHSI values were binned with $GHSI = 0$ as non habitat, $0 < GHSI < 0.1$ as very
381 poor habitat, $0.1 < GHSI < 0.4$ as low quality, $0.4 < GHSI < 0.7$ as medium quality, and $0.7 <$
382 $GHSI < 1.0$ as high quality. These broad classes reduce the impact of H and U prediction error,
383 since they are largely insensitive to ~0-25 % U error, unless a value is very close to a bin edge
384 (Brown and Pasternack, 2009). Use of low-quality habitat depended on the degree of channel
385 degradation and fish density. Elkins et al. (2007) reported a significant spawner preference for
386 medium- and high-quality habitat ($GHSI > 0.4$) and an equally strong, statistically significant fish
387 avoidance of nonhabitat and very poor quality habitat ($GHSI < 0.1$). Pasternack (2008) reported
388 preference for $GHSI > 0.4$ and avoidance for $GHSI < 0.4$ for three tests at a highly utilized
389 spawning site on the lower Yuba River. As a result of those findings, the terms “suitable
390 habitat” and “preferred habitat” are used to refer to all areas with $GHSI > 0$ and $GHSI > 0.4$,
391 respectively. Although no equivalent comparison was available for fry, regional expertise
392 suggests that fry occur in suitable habitat of any quality, avoiding just nonhabitat areas (T.R.
393 Payne, pers. comm., 2010). All performance indicators were checked for both species’
394 lifestages, but a higher qualitative weighting was given to the habitat-suitability metric for fry
395 and the habitat-preference metric for spawners.

396

397 2.6 Sediment Transport Regime

398

399 It is natural and unavoidable that in a regulated river with zero bedload influx, placed
400 gravel/cobble will be entrained during floods, potentially degrading artificially contoured fluvial
401 landforms (Merz et al., 2006). The use of concepts from fluvial geomorphology (e.g. Thompson,

402 2006; MacWilliams et al., 2006; Wilkinson et al., 2008; Caamaño et al., 2009; Sawyer et al.,
 403 2010) in the project aimed to focus scour in appropriate locations and yield downstream
 404 deposition beyond the project area, such that the overall integrity of gravel bars remains intact,
 405 even if sub-width features adjust. When coupled with a regular program of a suitable quantity of
 406 gravel injection at the entrance of the reach, it ought to be feasible to sustain the constructed
 407 topography (e.g. design hypothesis tests of Wheaton et al., 2004b; Wheaton et al., 2010).
 408 However, since the channel width was unavoidably constricted in the testbed reach, it was
 409 understood from the outset that flow-convergence routing was infeasible- scour would always be
 410 higher over riffles than pools in this area, tending toward diminished riffle-pool relief.
 411 Nonetheless, flow-dependent channel resilience could still vary significantly as a function of
 412 channel configuration, so that was an important basis for performance evaluation.

413 Pasternack et al. (2006) validated the suitability of FESWMS for predicting bed shear
 414 stress in shallow gravel-bed rivers, finding that the model is as good as field estimation methods
 415 most of the time; the exception being in very shallow water ($H \sim d_{90}$, size that 90% of the bed
 416 material is smaller than). In this study, Shields stress was calculated at each mesh node to
 417 evaluate the sediment transport regime and channel stability under different flow conditions:

$$418 \quad \tau^* = \frac{\tau_v^b}{(\gamma_s - \gamma_w)d_{50}} \quad (3)$$

$$419 \quad u^* = \frac{U}{5.75 \log\left(\frac{12.2H}{2d_{90}}\right)} \text{ and } \tau_v^b = \rho_w u^{*2} \quad (4,5)$$

420 where τ^* is Shields stress, τ_v^b is bed shear stress in the direction of the velocity vector, d_{50} is the
 421 median grain size, d_{90} is the size at the 90th percentile of the cumulative distribution function for
 422 bed material grain size distribution, γ_s is sediment specific weight, γ_w is the water's specific

423 weight, and ρ_w is water density. As with GHSI, τ^* was binned to account for H and U
424 inaccuracy. Lisle et al. (2000) defined sediment transport regimes relative to τ^* as $\tau^* < 0.01$
425 represents no transport; $0.01 < \tau^* < 0.03$ represents probabilistically intermittent entrainment;
426 $0.03 < \tau^* < 0.06$ represents the “partial transport” domain of Wilcock et al. (1996); $0.06 < \tau^* <$
427 0.1 represents full transport of a “carpet” of sediment $1-2 \cdot d_{90}$ thick, and $\tau^* > 0.1$ corresponds
428 with potentially channel-altering conditions. These threshold delineations have uncertainty, but
429 provide a reasonable basis for characterizing and comparing sediment transport conditions
430 (Sawyer et al., 2010).

431

432 2.7 Test Analyses and Outcome Indicators

433

434 Tests evaluating physical habitat and sediment transport regime involved computing and
435 comparing statistical distributions for the performance indicators for GHSI and Shields stress
436 datasets as well as visual comparisons of the spatial patterns of GHSI and Shields stress to
437 evaluate mechanisms. A summary table was produced in which the best performing design(s)
438 were identified for each GHSI indicator, and then the best overall design was evident as the one
439 with the most occurrences as the best performer across all the metrics. An identical analysis was
440 done for Shields stress. Picking the best design was a necessary part of the real-world project,
441 while the comparison alone is more interesting to appreciate the circumstances in which each
442 landform sequence has value for different sets of project objectives. Therefore, design response
443 according to different performance indicators was assessed relative to differences in A_{RP} and
444 A^*_{RP} .

445 For physical habitat quality, the performance indicators were the percent distribution of
446 GHSI bins, the habitat efficiency for habitat creation (defined below), the habitat efficiency for
447 habitat improvement (defined below), and spatial pattern of GHSI. Each of these indicators was
448 used for each species' lifestage. For the baseline channel and each alternative design, the percent
449 of wetted area for each GHSI bin was plotted as a stacked column for each species' lifestages
450 and the one with highest percentages of suitable and preferred habitat (as defined in section 2.5)
451 were identified. Because each design has a different wetted area, care is required in cross-
452 comparing this metric, as the design with the highest percent of something is not necessarily the
453 one with the most area of it. Habitat efficiency is a cost/effectiveness metric where the cost is
454 the amount of coarse sediment needed (in m^3 , but could be expressed in dollars per m^3 of gravel
455 placed) and the effectiveness is the amount of habitat, which can be expressed in different
456 specific metrics as well. Habitat added means the net increase in suitable-habitat area (m^2) per
457 m^3 of gravel added, while habitat improved means the net increase in preferred-habitat area (m^2)
458 per m^3 of gravel added. Designs were directly compared for their performance in habitat
459 efficiency. Habitat efficiency is a particularly useful metric when trying to prioritize among
460 possible projects across many different sites of widely different morphologies. Assessing the
461 relative merits of habitat efficiency in terms of addition of suitable habitat versus improvement
462 of habitat to the preferred state involves more professional judgment, so both metrics are worth
463 considering as performance indicators. As justified earlier, more weight was given to habitat
464 improvement for spawning, while more weight was given to habitat addition for fry. These
465 choices hinge on expert judgment or stakeholder consensus- the key is that this study shows the
466 relative merits of different landforms with different types of riffle-pool relief. Finally, visual

467 inspection of the spatial pattern of GHSI bins relative to the DEM for each design established the
468 link between morphology and microhabitat pattern to explain the latter.

469 For sediment transport regime, three performance indicators were used. First, the %
470 wetted area with $\tau^* > 0.06$ and that for $0.03 < \tau^* < 0.06$ for each scenario when discharge is 8.5
471 $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ were used to compare the risk of unacceptable ecological disturbance during the period of
472 bed occupation by redds, embryos, and fry. Second, the % wetted area with $\tau^* > 0.06$ and that
473 for $0.03 < \tau^* < 0.06$ for each scenario when discharge is $169.9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ were used to compare the
474 potential of channel change for the ecological function of “bed preparation” (Escobar and
475 Pasternack, 2010). Finally, the stage-dependent location of peak τ^* for each scenario was
476 inspected for evidence of flow-convergence routing of sediment through pools as a performance
477 indicator of the resilience of riffle-pool relief under existing reservoir operations.

478

479 3. Results

480

481 3.1. Physical Habitat

482 The statistical distribution of GHSI bins shows systematic differences in habitat benefits
483 between designs using accentuated topography and those using blanket fills in terms of riffle-
484 pool relief (Fig. 4). Depending on what the habitat goals of a rehabilitation project are aiming
485 for, clear landform preferences are evident. Designs One and Two had the most accentuated
486 topography and they yielded the largest percent areas of suitable and preferred Chinook fry
487 habitat. A key result was found in comparing Chinook and steelhead fry performance in percent
488 area of habitat. Because the steelhead-fry velocity HSC (Fig. 3b) has a broader range and a
489 higher velocity of peak preference than that for Chinook fry, the blanket-fill designs yielded

490 significantly higher percent areas of suitable habitat compared to the accentuated-topography
491 ones. However, the accentuated-topography designs provided the highest percentages of
492 preferred steelhead fry habitat. Designs Four, Five, and Six all yielded high-quality Chinook
493 spawning habitat over >55% of the wetted area and medium-quality habitat over another 28-39%
494 of it. Preferred steelhead spawning habitat was also present in high percentages for these
495 blanket-fill designs. The accentuated topography designs provided improvements over the
496 baseline in terms of percent area of suitable habitat, but did not necessary achieve that for
497 preferred habitat, which is the more important metric for spawning habitat.

498 The habitat-efficiency performance indicators yielded similar outcomes as those using the
499 GHSI bins for spawning, but were particularly helpful in distinguishing relative benefits within
500 each riffle-pool relief grouping (Fig. 5). The habitat-addition and habitat-improvement
501 efficiencies of Design One were more than double those of the next highest performer (Design
502 Two) for Chinook fry. Also, while Design One had the least harmful effect on steelhead fry
503 preferred-habitat loss, it caused the most loss of suitable habitat for steelhead fry. Design Six
504 had the opposite outcome, yielding more than double the gain in suitable steelhead fry habitat
505 compared to the next best performing designs (Four and Five). For both Chinook and steelhead
506 spawning, the blanket-fill designs performed best across habitat efficiency metrics, and among
507 those Design Six was the best. Across all eight habitat-efficiency metrics for all species'
508 lifestages (Table 2, efficiency columns), Design Six was the best for five and the worst for only
509 one (Chinook fry habitat-improvement efficiency).

510 The maps of the spatial patterns of GHSI bins (Fig. 6) provide insight about why the
511 designs perform differently. For brevity and illustration purposes, only those for Chinook are
512 shown and only for designs One and Six, since those show the sharpest contrast (and the rest for

513 all species' lifestages are all available at the website provided in the introduction to section 2).
514 For Design One, preferred spawning habitat is located in riffle entrances and to a much smaller
515 extent on the periphery of channels, especially where there are lateral bars. Accentuating the
516 topography created riffles that were too short, shallow, and fast to serve as spawning habitat.
517 Since the pools are nonhabitat for spawning, then there is just too little area for spawning when
518 topography is accentuated. An interesting nuance to that outcome is evident in the first riffle in
519 Design Three, which had a small, high crest bounded by longer flat shelves of riffle entrance and
520 exit. For that riffle, the crest was only low-quality habitat, but both shelves had medium-quality
521 habitat with high-quality habitat along both banks. That suggests some benefits to having
522 multiple elevation tiers to a riffle. Nevertheless, the really important result was the finding that
523 Design Six yielded nearly ubiquitous high-quality Chinook spawning habitat and widespread
524 preferred steelhead spawning habitat. Design Six had diverse landform features at multiple
525 spatial scales and many of them had spawning value from a hydraulic perspective.

526 In terms of the fry lifestage, the GHSI maps show that the accentuated-topography
527 designs yield significantly more preferred fry habitat, because they produce slackwater areas
528 (sometimes large, slowly recirculating eddies) on the periphery behind each riffle crest. Abrupt
529 bed-elevation increases caused flow to converge, yielding a narrower effective flow width
530 bounded by slackwater or recirculating eddies. The higher the bed-elevation increase, the
531 stronger the effects. This is the concept used in whitewater park design, where bed and width
532 constrictions focus flow to produce standing waves for kayak stunts and intervening peripheral
533 pools for kayakers waiting in line for their turn. Numerically, the blanket-fill designs performed
534 poorly for Chinook fry habitat, because velocities were too fast, given an exponentially
535 decreasing velocity HSC. The blanket-fill designs in this study yielded insufficient depth and

536 width undulations to create the sheltering observed in the accentuated-topography designs.
537 However, steelhead fry use the widespread, moderately higher velocities found in the blanket-fill
538 designs, so the blanket fill is beneficial for them (Fig. 6).

539

540 3.2 Sediment Transport Regimes

541

542 The statistical distributions of Shields stress bins for $\tau^* > 0.06$ and $0.03 < \tau^* < 0.06$
543 indicated the relative resilience of each design across an order of magnitude of discharge (Fig.
544 7). At low discharge ($8.5 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$) when embryos are at risk of being scoured out, $< 5\%$ of the
545 wetted area was in the full transport regime for each design, with the highest values associated
546 with the designs having the highest A_{RP} (One, Two, and Three). The partial-transport bin
547 showed at-risk areas of $< 9\%$, with the highest values associated with designs having the highest
548 overall bed slope (One, Two, and Five). The τ^* maps helped explain the difference in response
549 of these two metrics at low flow (Fig. 8a,b). Higher overall bed slope drives higher overall
550 velocities, especially on riffles at within-bank flows, which is indicative of a higher area with τ^*
551 > 0.03 . Higher A_{RP} is indicative of the presence of over-steepened riffle exits, which causes an
552 abrupt local velocity increase capable of driving knickpoint migration.

553 At high discharge ($169.9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$), there is a marked difference in resilience between
554 accentuated and blanket-fill topographies. Similar to low discharge, the designs with the highest
555 A_{RP} (Designs One, Two, and Three) had the largest percent area of full bed mobility (4.4-21%).
556 Meanwhile, the designs with the lowest slope had the highest percent areas of partial transport
557 (60-76%). These patterns are explained using the τ^* maps (Fig. 8c,d) and Stewardson and
558 McMahon's (2002) conceptual model of hydraulic variations within stream channels, as applied

559 to the Trinity River by Brown and Pasternack (2008). According to this concept, there is a flow
560 dependence to the transition of a river's hydraulic regime from one dominated by longitudinal
561 velocity variation at low flow to one dominated by lateral velocity variation at high flow. As
562 illustrated in this numerical experiment, the exact discharge required for the transition is
563 dependent on riffle-pool relief. Specifically, for the accentuated-relief designs, the riffle crests
564 are so high that even at $169.9 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$, there is a strong longitudinal velocity variation with high
565 velocities and shear stresses focused on riffle crests and an abrupt increase in velocity at the
566 oversteepened riffle exits (Fig. 8c). In contrast, this discharge is high enough for the blanket-fill
567 channels to surpass the transition in hydraulic regime to lateral-variation dominance. As a result,
568 these channels distribute velocity response to overall bed slope evenly along their length,
569 avoiding focal points for scour (Fig. 8d). Design Three is a hybrid between the two in that its
570 A_{RP} is just enough that the riffle crests peak up causing a longitudinal hydraulic variation at this
571 flow and focusing scour at riffle exits somewhat.

572 Based on the six τ^* -bin performance indicators, all the blanket-fill designs outperform
573 the accentuated-topography designs, but among them there is not a universal standout (Table 3).
574 Design Six is the best performer at low flow, because it exhibits the lowest percent area of partial
575 transport, highest percent area of $\tau^* < 0.03$, and best pattern of τ^* in terms of avoiding riffle-
576 crest scour. The only problem with Design Six, which is very minor, is that the very end of the
577 last riffle exit drops off enough to cause a sliver of partial transport, with a few spots
578 experiencing full bed mobility. Design Four has a more gradual final riffle exist, so it avoids that
579 problem, but does have larger zones of partial transport in other places on riffle crests. Design
580 Five is the best performer at high flow, because its bar configuration helps to focus flow in the
581 center where peak velocity is the most even along the channel among design and yielding the

582 strongest lateral velocity variation. Design Six also has those bars and it has just enough lateral
583 constriction after each riffle to help induce a similar centralized focusing of velocity and scour
584 potential over pools. However, its long, shallow riffles do experience partial transport over
585 nearly their full width.

586

587 4. Discussion and Conclusions

588

589 4.1 Lessons from Numerical Experimentation

590

591 Sequences of riffle-pool units designed with different riffle-pool relief attributes exhibit
592 systematic and predictable variations in flow-dependent physical habitat patterns and
593 geomorphic processes in a setting with a relatively uniform channel width. In general, this study
594 found that modest riffle-pool amplitudes (<0.75 m; $A_{RP}/D_{50} \sim 10-12$, where D_{50} is median bed-
595 material particle size) from blanket-fill designs yielded the largest habitat addition and habitat
596 improvement efficiencies, especially for salmon spawning. The Chinook fry lifestage was the
597 exception, as high riffle-pool relief yielded large peripheral eddies in the lee of riffle crests (Fig.
598 6c). Similarly, analysis of patterns of sediment transport potential found that high-relief
599 configurations had significantly more area of full bed mobility, regardless of flow. These
600 configurations would be expected to fall apart quickly after construction as a result of knickpoint
601 migration through riffle crests, due to oversteepened riffle exits.

602 For a given riffle-pool amplitude, differences in 3D bar morphology (including A^*_{RP} , but
603 not well explained by it) yield significant differences in habitat and channel stability. For
604 example, Designs Five and Six had ARP values of 0.75 and 0.74, respectively, but their

605 performance indicators were significantly different. The use of longer riffle crests and curved
606 tailouts in Design Six turned out to be important drivers of superior habitat performance.
607 Meanwhile, the orthogonal bar forms and lower riffle exit slopes in Design Five helped avoid
608 knickpoint migration, which is a risk in Design Six, especially at even higher flows that were not
609 modeled in this study. Design Five had a small peak to its last riffle crest that was predicted to
610 experience a higher velocity at the high flow, but it is still in the partial-transport regime, so it is
611 resilient. Design Six had longer riffle-crest features to give them more resilience if knickpoint
612 migration were to take place, but that evidently comes at the cost of increased knickpoint
613 migration risk due to oversteepened riffle exits and the spreading of partial-transport across the
614 full width of riffles. In evaluating these design alternatives, it was conjectured that at expected
615 higher floods in the future, the last riffle crest in Design Five would likely transition into the full-
616 mobility domain and not have enough crest area to absorb the erosion and avoid the “reverse
617 domino” riffle sequence collapse mechanism described by Pasternack et al. (2008). In contrast it
618 was conjectured that the evident lower-flow full mobility at the riffle exits in Design Six would
619 simply lead to sloughing of material to naturally form a more gradual slope, because the length
620 of full-mobility and the amount of bed-material cohesion are likely insufficient to sustain a
621 migrating knickpoint. Therefore, it was deemed more valuable to have longer riffles more
622 resilient to the largest flood releases than to have short riffles with certain resilience to the
623 modeled flood release. Ultimately, the lack of feasibility of significant width increases at riffle
624 crests fundamentally constrained instituting flow-convergence routing through this riffle-pool
625 sequence, and that was repeatedly explained to project sponsors to ensure understanding of what
626 Design Six would yield.
627

628 4.2 Merits of Iterative Design and Construction

629

630 Ecohydraulic river rehabilitation seeks to modify river geometry to achieve specific
631 hydraulic and sedimentary characteristics for target aquatic organisms. In doing this, multiple
632 topographic outcomes may be possible depending on site constraints. Iterative design is the
633 process by which a single scenario is continually modified until ecohydraulic design criteria are
634 satisfied. Iterative design is a key feature in the Spawning Habitat Integrated Rehabilitation
635 Approach (Wheaton et al., 2004a; Elkins et al., 2007), and ought to be one in the more general
636 practice of ecohydraulic design for river engineering. This study illustrates how iterative design
637 can yield topographic surfaces that meet the needs of target organisms despite a wide range of
638 potential scenarios. Without iterative design it would be difficult to determine the relationship
639 between potential topographic manipulation and the optimal configuration of channel geometry.

640 Similarly, iterative construction that builds a design of a long sequence of riffles and
641 pools over a period of years has several merits over attempting a single, massive project (Elkins
642 et al., 2007). First, institutional barriers and regulatory hurdles seem to be lower for a series of
643 smaller projects compared to a single massive one. Stakeholders perceive small projects to be
644 “pilots” and are often willing to allow these with less scrutiny to see what happens, since the
645 risks are low. Inevitable turnover in technical staff and stakeholder participants every few years
646 often confounds large projects, whereas an incremental approach can be understood by
647 neophytes with less effort, as they can focus on just understanding the current iteration first and
648 learning the broader plan over time. Following the iterative approach, before people really grasp
649 events, a significant overhaul in a river has been instituted on a transparent, scientific basis
650 following the original plan. Second, for those who are closely monitoring and implementing the

651 sequence of projects, iterative implementation allows for adaptive management to test design
652 hypotheses for individual design elements and then adjust the overall design when performance
653 indicators show that design hypotheses are not being corroborated. Finally, rivers degrade over
654 decades, so it is sensible to rehabilitate them over a moderate duration, respecting the emerging
655 status of the science and engineering underlying river rehabilitation as well as the unknowable
656 uncertainty in predicting the future. No matter how critical river rehabilitation may be to avoid
657 systemic ecological collapse, rushing large projects is most likely to yield further ecological
658 disturbance rather than solve outstanding problems.

659

660 4.3 Actual Design Selection

661

662 In this study, Design Six was determined to be the best alternative, but at that point
663 additional work is performed to fine-tune the design and generate multiple flow, habitat, and
664 geomorphic predictions across a range of discharges for later evaluation. Small changes in the
665 selected design often must be made to insure that all available gravels and boulders are used as
666 well as to account for new constraints that emerge when the design is vetted among all
667 stakeholders and the public. Further thought and testing may enhance even the best of the
668 alternatives with subtle changes. It may be desired to add layers of complexity onto the basic
669 topography using specific structures at the hydraulic-unit scale (~ 0.1 -1 channel width), such as
670 boulder clusters, riparian shade, and streamwood jams. Hydraulic effects of jams are extremely
671 difficult to simulate, but boulder clusters are feasible. Because habitat quantity and quality is
672 stage-dependent, a more comprehensive view of the final design is obtained by modeling as wide
673 a range of flows as the original topographic and on-going monitoring data allow. The final

674 project design is converted into an easily followed grading plan for use by the contracted front-
675 loader operator.

676

677 4.4 Outlook for Ecohydraulics

678

679 Ecohydraulics is an emerging scientific subdiscipline and professional practice.

680 Traditionally, use of heuristics in river assessments provided a deep understanding of habitat

681 patterns and geomorphic processes, but lost favor for being opaque, non-reproducible, and

682 dependent on “experts”. The rise of statistical analysis in ecology and geomorphology

683 democratized river assessment and promoted greater transparency and quantification, but came at

684 the cost of oversimplification of phenomena. Today, the combination of remote sensing,

685 mechanistic modeling, and GIS-based analysis in “near-census” ecohydraulics (i.e. sampling at

686 ~1-m resolution throughout long river segments) is poised to yield a decisive transformation in

687 the practice of river science in which the best features of heuristics and statistics blend to yield

688 deep and repeatable process-based, spatially explicit predictions of river behavior. New

689 technologies will further enhance the capability, but the paradigm is now accessible for scientific

690 exploration and professional practice (Pasternack, 2011).

691

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698

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921 Figure 3. Chinook salmon and steelhead trout habitat suitability curves for sensitive fry and
922 spawning lifestages on the Trinity River. Data from USFWS (1999).

923 Figure 4. Stacked column plot comparing the percent wetted area of each GHSI bin for each
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926 black is high, dark gray is medium, medium gray is low, and light gray is very poor quality.
927 white is non habitat.

928 Figure 5. Habitat efficiency metrics comparing the designs at $8.5 \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$ for four different
929 species' lifestages. Higher bars are better.

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933 bars show the area of full mobility and gray bars show the area of partial transport. Lower
934 black bars are better.

935 Figure 8. Examples of Shields stress maps at two discharges for two designs. The color legend is
936 as follows: white and light grey are no transport, medium grey is probabilistically
937 intermittent entrainment, darker medium gray is partial transport, dark grey is full mobility,
938 and black is potentially channel-altering conditions.

939

Table 1. Riffle-pool relief metrics for each channel configuration.

Metric	Pre	Design Number					
		D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6
Bed slope (%)	0.22	0.23	0.20	0.18	0.17	0.22	0.17
Number of units	3	3	2	4	3	3	3
Average A_{RP}^1 (m)	0.78	1.54	1.58	0.88	0.58	0.75	0.74
Average A_{RP}^{*2} (m)	0.99	2.18	2.57	2.20	3.01	2.01	0.89
Design/pre A_{RP}		1.98	2.03	1.13	0.74	0.97	0.95
Design/pre A_{RP}^*		2.21	2.61	2.24	3.06	2.04	0.91
Net fill volume (m ³)		5505	8257	7493	6116	3440	3889

¹Pool-to-riffle amplitude

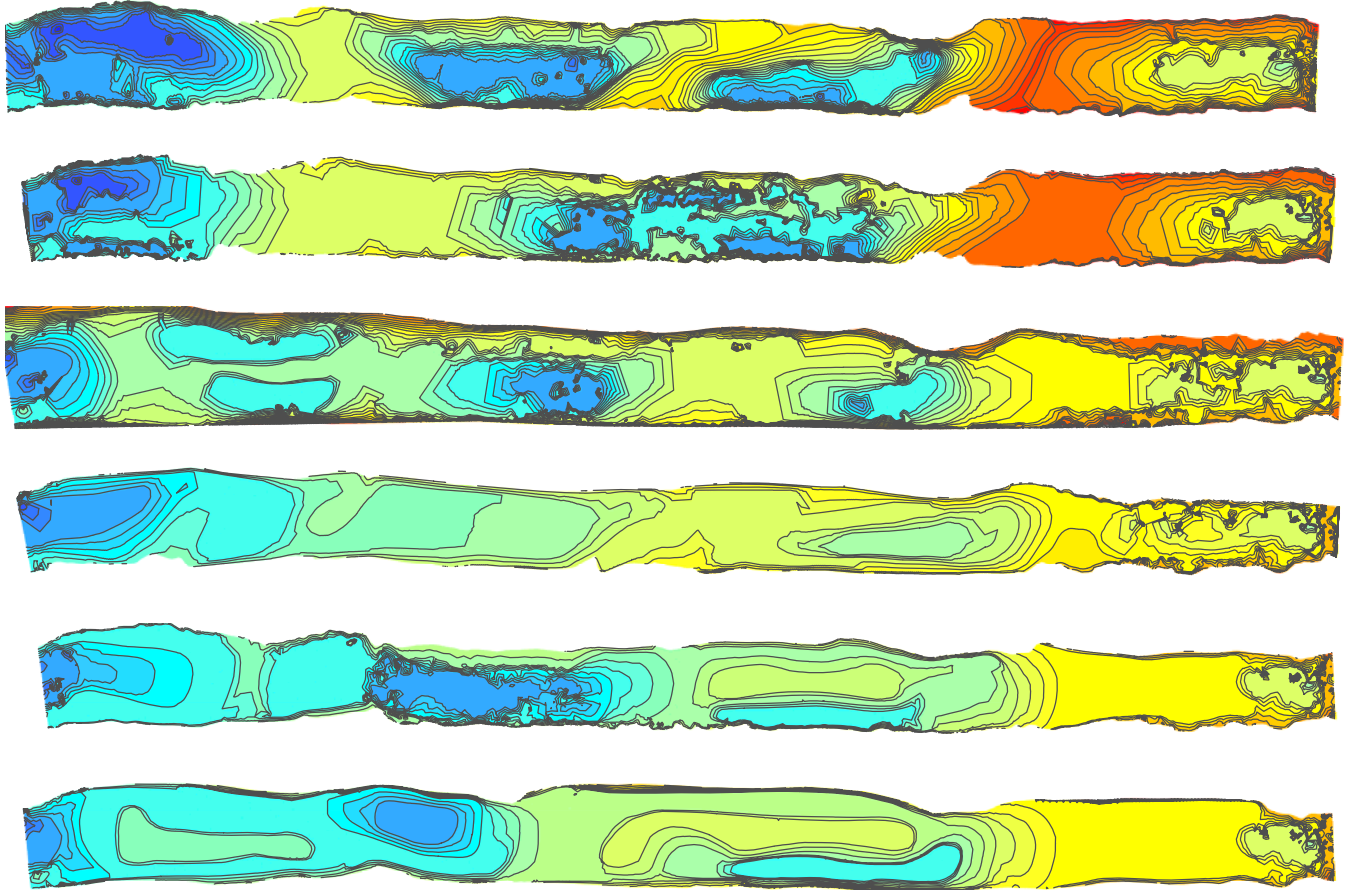
²Pool-to-riffle asymmetry

Table 2. Design number of the best performing design(s) for each indicator and the best design number overall.

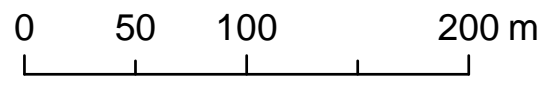
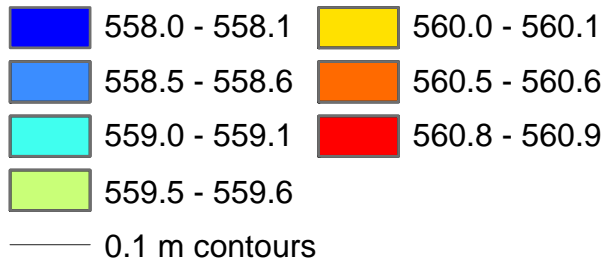
Lifestage	Design number				
	GHSI bins	habitat addition efficiency	habitat improvement efficiency	GHSI spatial pattern	Best overall
Chinook fry	1-2	1	1	1	1
Steelhead fry	4-6	6	1	6	6
Chinook spawning	4-6	6	6	6	6
Steelhead spawning	4-6	5,6	6	6	6

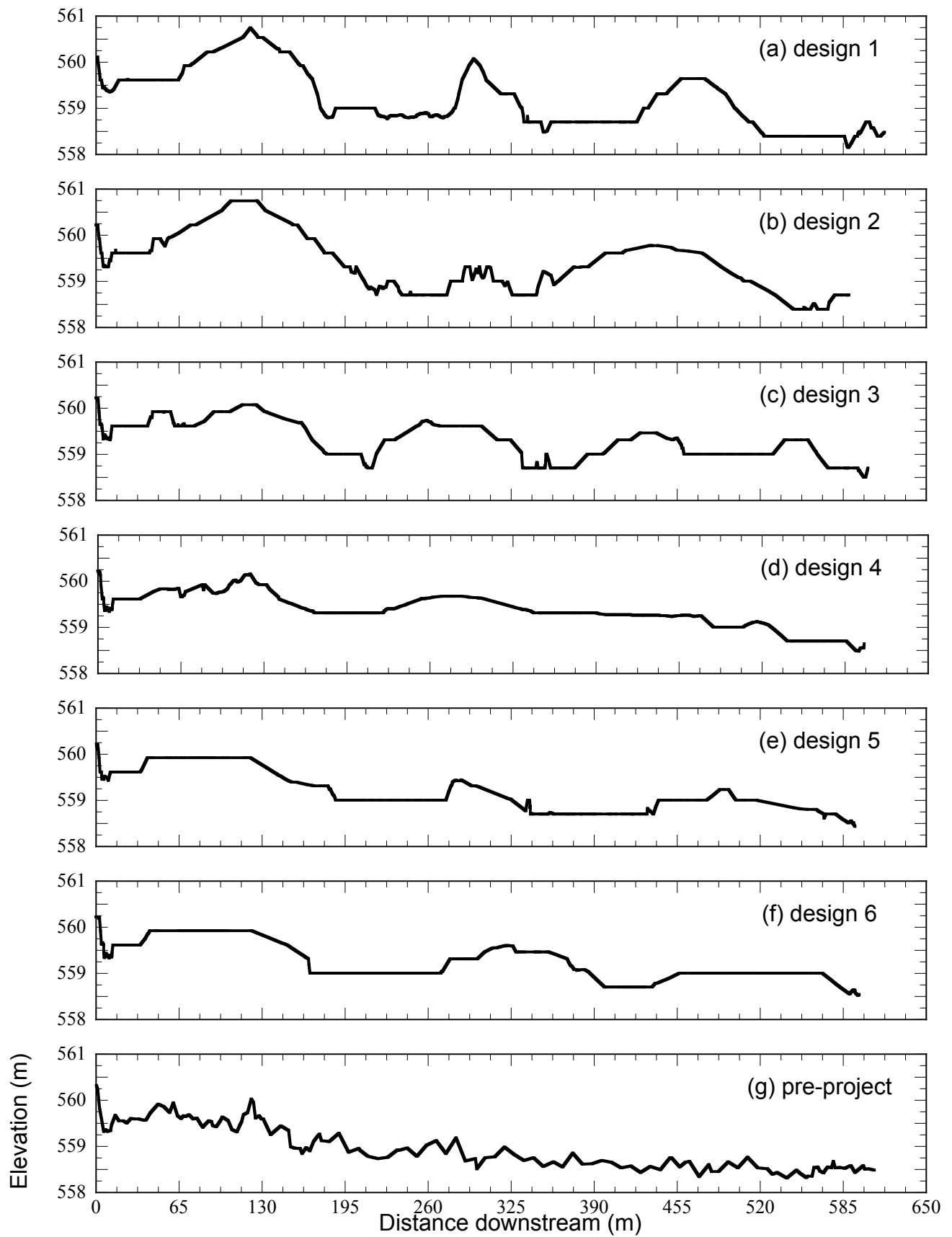
Table 3. Design number of the most resilient design(s) against scour and instability for each indicator and the best design number overall.

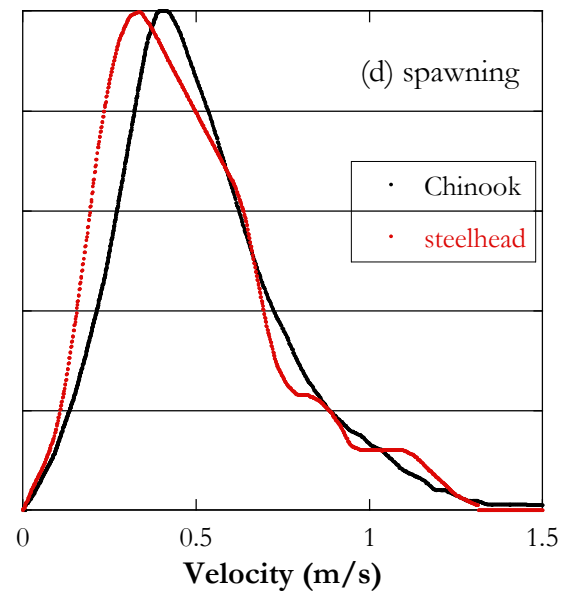
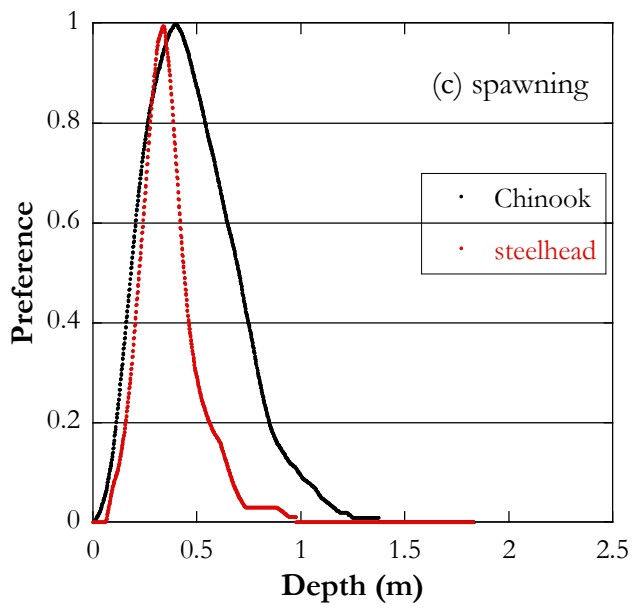
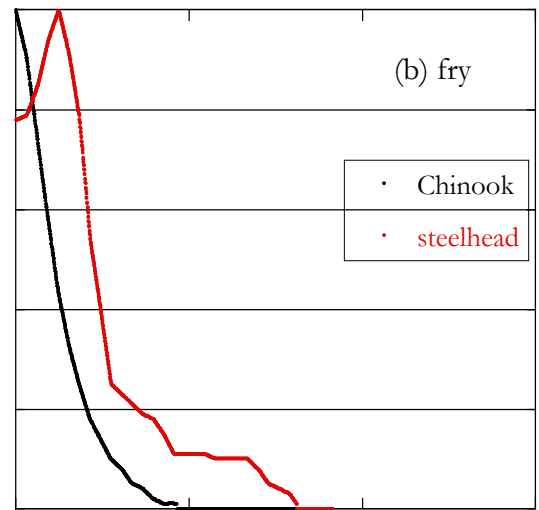
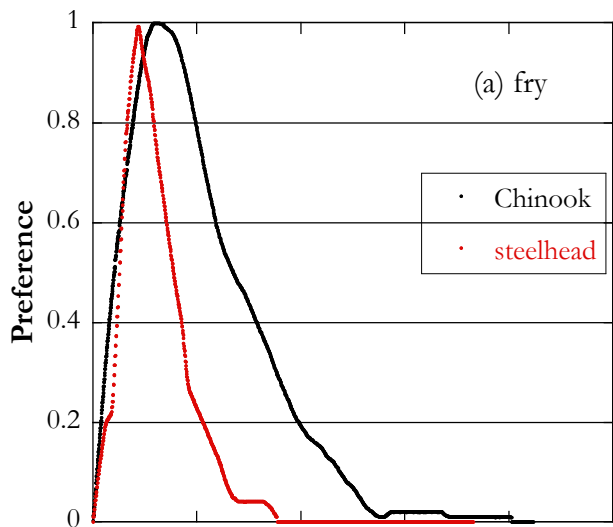
Discharge	Design number			
	full bed mobility	partial transport	τ^* spatial pattern	best overall
low	4	6	6	6
high	5	5	5	5

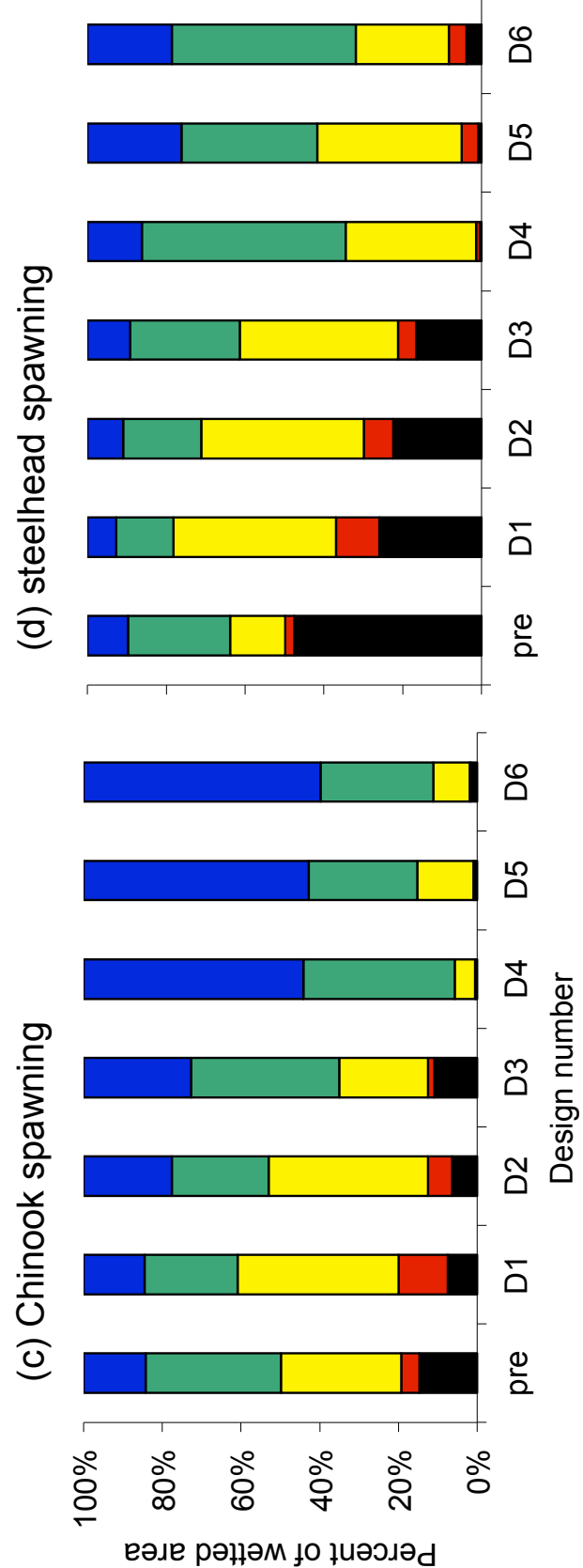
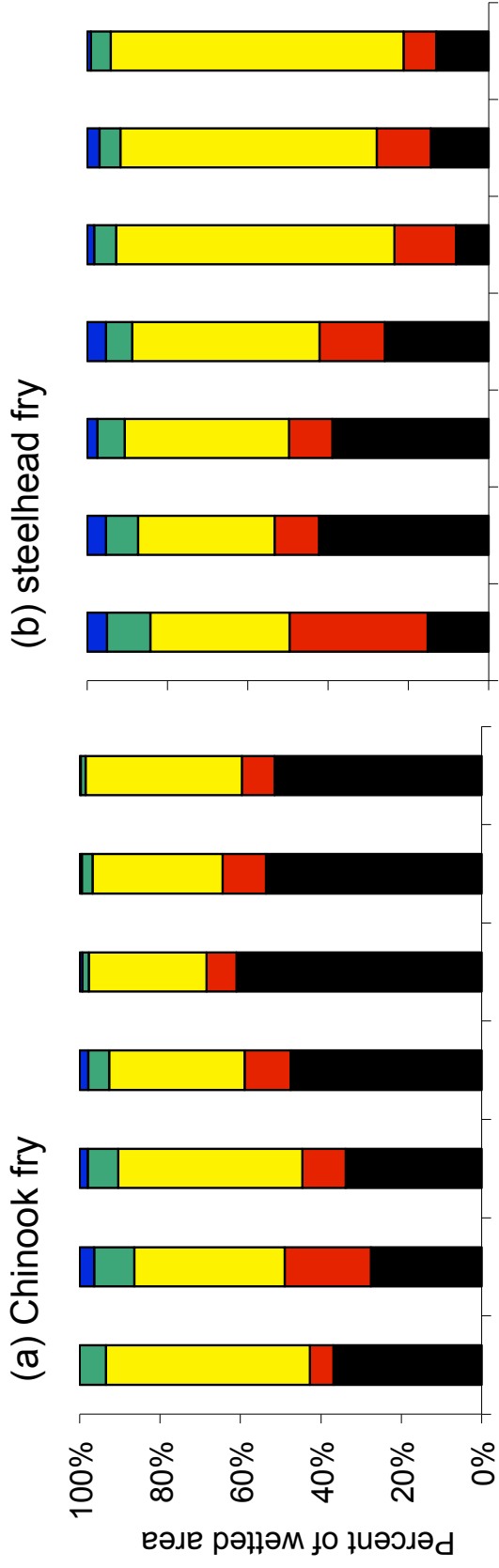


Elevation (m)

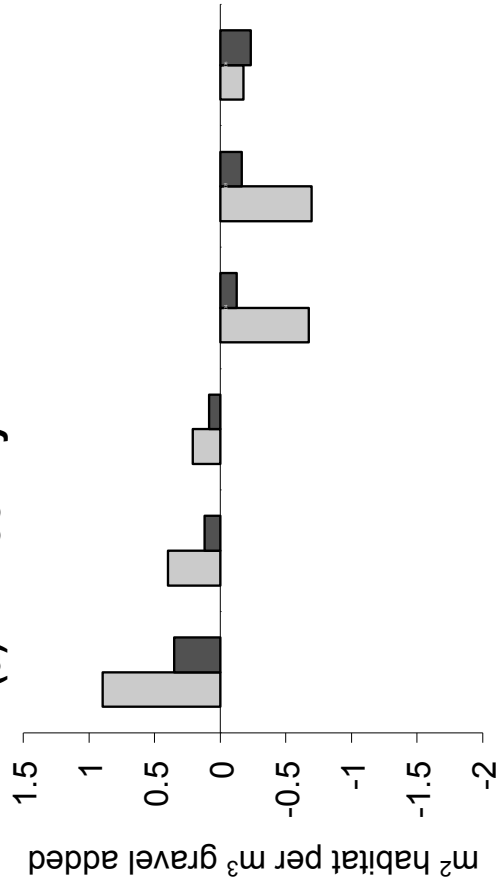




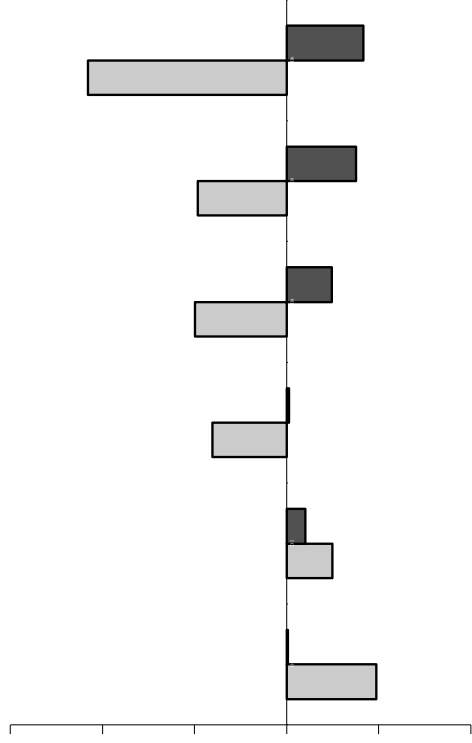




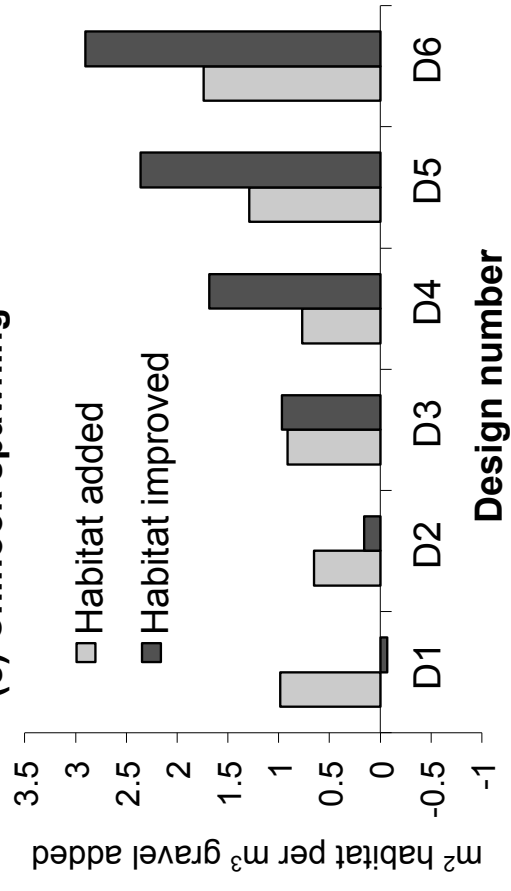
(a) Chinook fry



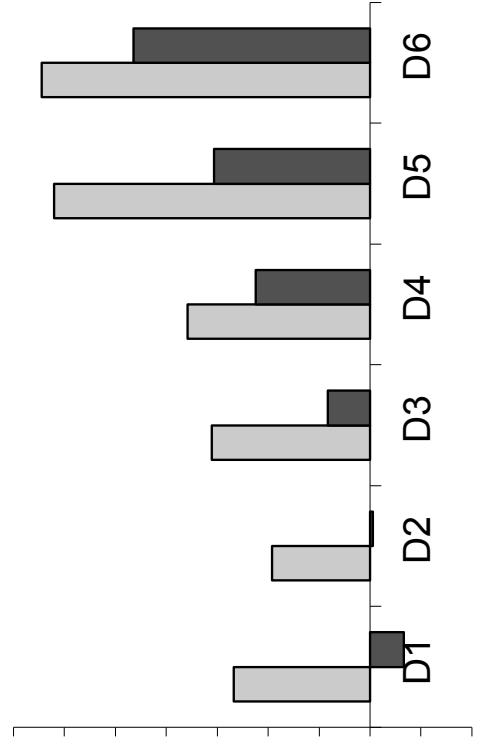
(b) steelhead fry



(c) Chinook spawning



(d) steelhead spawning



(a) design 1 Chinook spawning GHSI ($8.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)



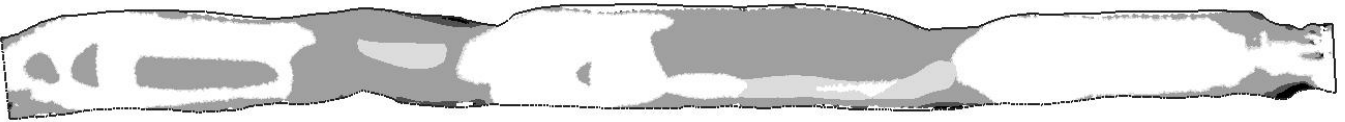
(b) design 6 Chinook spawning GHSI ($8.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)

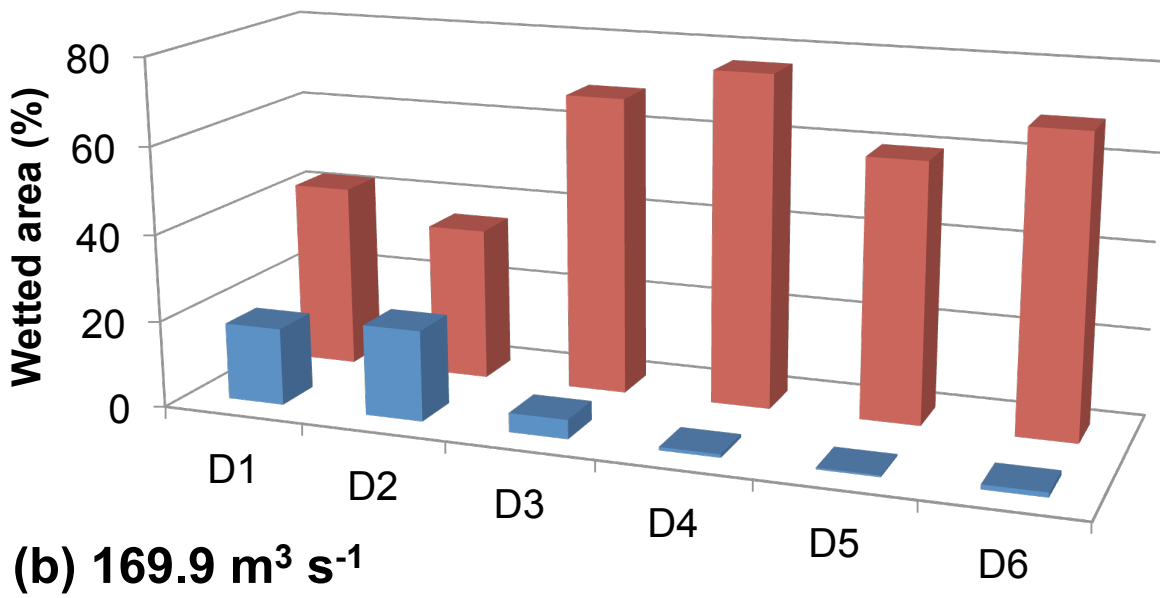
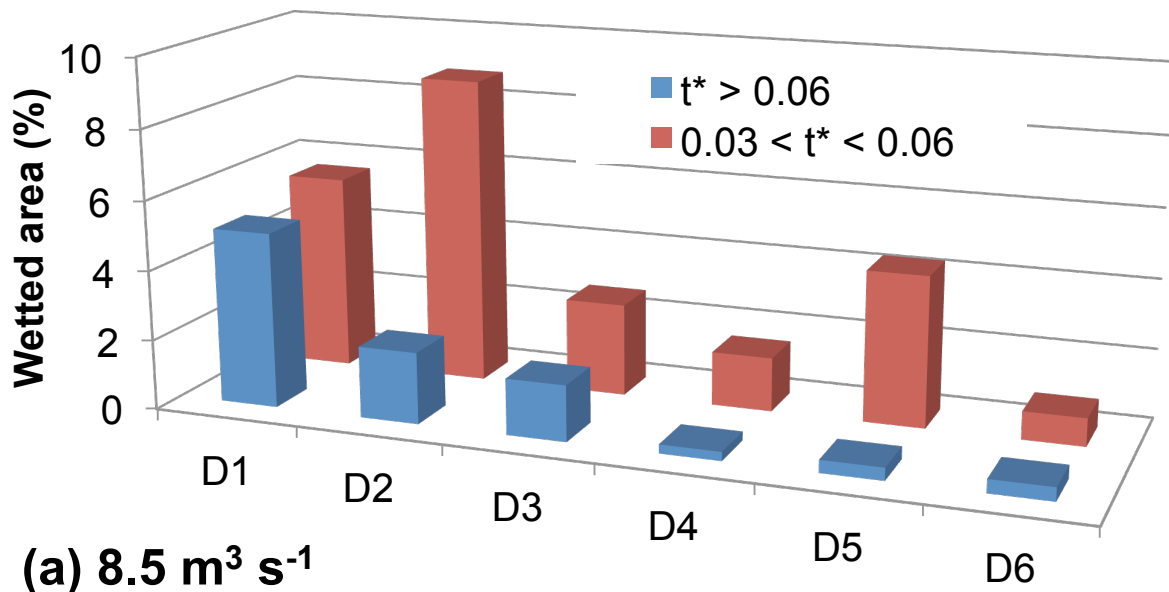


(c) design 1 Chinook fry GHSI ($8.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)

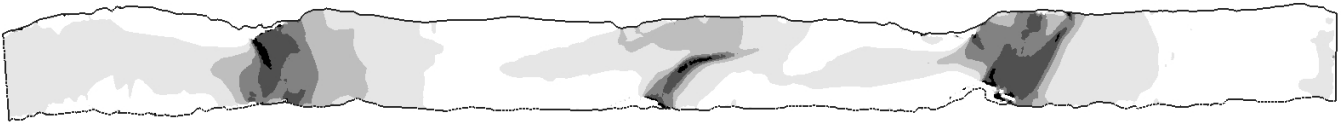


(d) design 6 Chinook fry GHSI ($8.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)





(a) design 1 Shields stress ($8.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)



(b) design 6 Shields stress ($8.5 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)



(c) design 1 Shields stress ($169.9 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)



(d) design 6 Shields stress ($169.9 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$)

