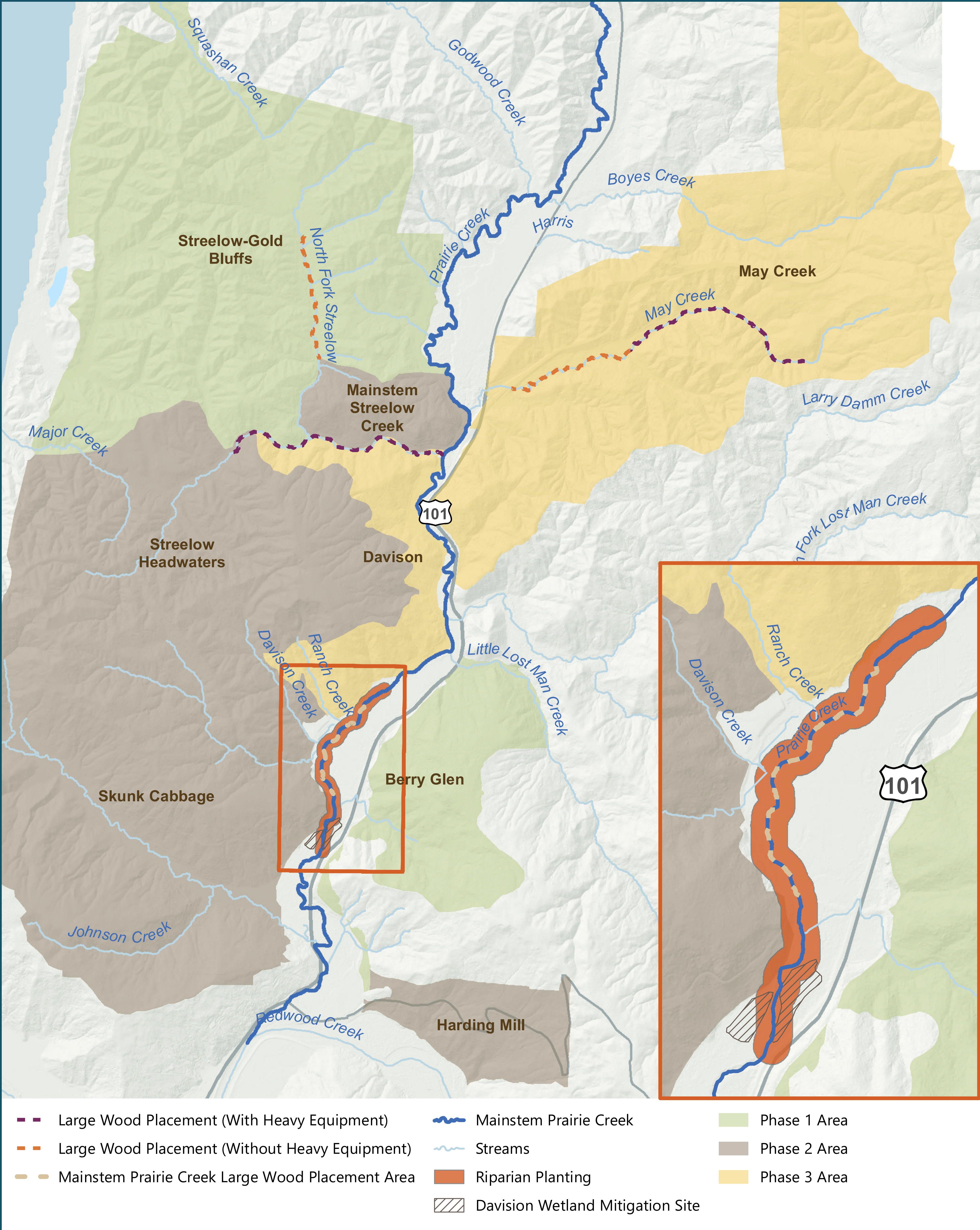


GREATER PRAIRIE CREEK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

Aquatic Restoration



May Creek Juvenile Coastal Cutthroat Trout



Prairie Creek Watershed Juvenile Steelhead Trout

The Proposed Action involves placement of large wood in streams, planting trees in the riparian corridor and around wetlands, and treatment of a planted alder forest (Davison Riparian Mitigation Site) along mainstem Prairie Creek. Control of invasive plants would occur in all phases of the project.

Large wood would be placed in Prairie, Streelow, and May Creek channels to restore instream fish habitat complexity. Large wood would create areas of lower velocity during higher flows, provide additional instream cover for fish, scour pools, and recruit wood floating downstream. Large wood placement would occur as wood becomes available throughout the life of the project.

Riparian trees and understory vegetation would be planted along both banks of Prairie Creek in a randomized pattern. Planting would occur near areas where large wood is placed in the stream, and within about 200 feet of each bank. Riparian and wetland planting will increase the extent and diversity of tree species in riparian zones and around wetlands. As planted trees grow, they will help shade out invasive plant species along streambanks and wetlands and when they eventually fall, they can provide large wood to the stream channels.

An existing riparian mitigation site would be treated to increase plant variability and diversity. The alder forest would be thinned to increase variability in tree spacing, and additional native shrubs and trees would be planted to increase diversity. Many highly invasive plants are present on site but are currently suppressed due to the dense alder canopy. Understory plantings would discourage the growth and spread of these invasive plants.

The stream channels lack large wood and large conifers in the adjacent riparian zones.



May Creek



Streelow Creek



Prairie Creek