



Salmonid Restoration Federation

11th Annual Coho Confab August 15-17, 2008 on the Smith River

The Coho Confab is a symposium to explore watershed restoration, learn restoration techniques to recover coho salmon populations, and to network with other fish-centric people. To confabulate literally means to informally chat or to fabricate to compensate for gaps in one's memory. Not to imply that restorationists are prone to hyperbole when recounting the size of a rescued fish, the magnitude of the waterfall coming out of the culvert, or the heroics of a particular restoration job. The Confab is an informal gathering of fishheads that allows for participants and instructors to learn from each other's experience. Participants learn skills and practices that can be applied to restore habitat in their home watershed. Each year the Confab is held in another location on the North Coast.

The 11th Annual Coho Confab will be held on the South Fork of the Smith River in the far northwestern corner of California. This dynamic event is sponsored by Salmonid Restoration Federation, Trees Foundation, Smith River Alliance, Smith River Advisory Council, and Cal Trout. This year's Confab will feature restoration tours in the Mill Creek watershed to learn about the Mill Creek Fisheries Monitoring Program. Mitch Farro of Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association (PCFWWRA) will lead a tour in the State Park to discuss erosion control and prevention related to roads. Lathrope Leonard and State Parks personnel will highlight efforts to restore older forests from young forest plantations. State Park geologist Rocco Fiori will discuss instream habitat creation. Dan Burgess of Rural Human Services will lead a tour of the native plant nursery for Mill Creek restoration. Zack Larson, watershed coordinator of the Smith River Advisory Council, will facilitate a Smith River fish identification workshop.

Michael Love and Associates and Smith River Watershed Coordinator will discuss Yontocket Slough Planning and other Del Norte County fish passage projects. Other workshops may include macro-invertebrate sampling, underwater fish identification, riparian invertebrate monitoring- stream health assessment, and high-tech water quality monitoring. There will also be open forums and resource workshops. Saturday night will culminate with a wild salmon feast, a cabaret, and the Joanne Rand band.

Advanced registration fees are \$100 that includes all camping, food and lodging. After August 1st, registration is \$125. For more information about the Confab, please visit www.calsalmon.org or www.treesfoundation.org to register online and obtain logistical info.