

Salmonid Restoration Federation

Summer 2004

The Coho Confab Migrates South to Marin County this August



SPAWN conducting a fish rescue workshop in the Lagunitas Creek.

Photo By Reuven Walder

The 7th Annual Coho Confab sponsored by the Trees Foundation, Salmonid Restoration Federation, and Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) will be held August 13-15 at Samuel P. Taylor State Park in Marin County. The Coho Confab is a dynamic annual event that brings together community members, landowners, activists, scientists, and restoration ecologists in an effort to recover imperiled salmon and steelhead and countless other species in our coastal watersheds.

The Confab is a weekend of hands-on workshops, project site tours, and networking. The workshops are designed to provide participants with the latest restoration field skills and ideas necessary to recover our home watersheds.

Native Plant Restoration Ecologist Karen Gaffney of Circuit Riders Productions Inc. will discuss how to restore a watershed in her workshop "From the Big Picture to on the Ground Work." This workshop will offer a watershed scale approach to restoration projects where participants will learn how to think about the 'big picture' and then delve into restoration principles and issues affecting the watershed. Participants will design and work on a small-scale restoration project.

There will also be a "Native Plant Seed Collection" workshop with Nursery Manager Rose Roberts of Circuit Riders Productions Inc. This workshop will focus on training participants on how to identify, collect, store, and propagate local native seed stock for future restoration projects.

"The Creek is Going Dry—Save those Salmon!" fish rescue workshop led by SPAWN will explore issues that affect creek flow dynamics and address ways in which watershed groups can help save remnant salmonid populations. Participants will learn about issues related to creek drying, techniques for fish rescue, how to navigate through the permitting process, and how to recruit long lasting volunteers.

"Watersheds to Waterspreads" will teach techniques for saving water and the value of hands-on restoration with Restoration Ecologist Brock Dolman of Occidental Arts and Ecology.

Stream Ecologist Leslie Ferguson will offer the workshop, "Underwater Exploration of Salmonids and their Habitat," where participants will learn how to identify salmonid species in the Lagunitas Watershed and explore their habitat underwater. This workshop will provide a background on stream processes and principles such as sediment delivery, habitat conditions, and stream bed dynamics while giving you a firsthand look into salmonid habitat.

Bioassessment Pioneer Jim Harrington will teach Stream Health Monitoring. California's aquatic habitats have become degraded by pollution and development, and species biodiversity is being lost as growing human populations and developments make increasing demands on natural resources. Learn about a new technique to assess stream health by studying biological communities and doing macroinvertebrate sampling.

Other workshops will include: a Tour of Restoration Projects in Marin's watersheds with site visits to fish passage, erosion control, and woody debris habitat enhancement projects;

Road, Repair, Restoration, and Removal: hands-on opportunity to learn various techniques to prevent runoff and excessive sediment from degrading watershed habitat;

Water Quality Testing: learn about how to set up a program, why to do it, what to test, in-field sampling techniques, and interpreting the data;

Effective Strategies for Watershed Groups: an opportunity to network and learn some skills that can improve your ability to restore your watershed.

To get more information about this year's Coho Confab, please contact Salmonid Restoration Federation at srf@northcoast.com or visit our web site at www.calsalmon.org or call the Trees Foundation at (707) 923-4377 or visit www.treesfoundation.org/cohoconfab



Underwater exploration and fish identification are a fun part of the Coho Confab.

Photo By Traci Bear Thiele

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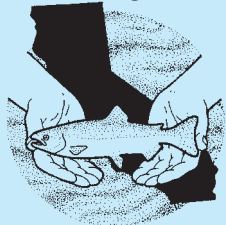
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Special thanks to Trees Foundation
for Layout and Design.



Ripple Effects

by Josh Israel



The Salmonid Restoration Federation is experiencing exciting growth. Following the organization's most competitive election, new Directors joined the Board which will broaden the organization's geographic scope and increase the potential for more Californians to understand the importance of restoring salmonids in their home watersheds from Freshwater Creek to the Los Angeles River. We welcome these new Directors and look forward to continuing to develop SRF's programs and outreach capacity across the state. We hope to expand our efforts to educate more restorationists about the best conservation and restoration science available and important policy changes that may affect their work.

Thus far in 2004, a number of critical state and federal policy issues have appeared which are important for restorationists to be aware of. These include prevailing wage determinations for restoration projects, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund authorization, California state Coho recovery efforts, and CALFED Bay-Delta reauthorization. SRF is playing a role in bringing the perspectives of restorationists to critical state and federal legislators trying to solve these issues. More importantly, through the SRF website, we are providing information so restorationists can comment on these issues themselves. As our website grows, we will continue to post information on advocacy issues, restoration and conservation science for salmonid recovery, and updates about our many training opportunities.

SRF relies on your membership dues to research critical issues and communicate them to legislators. Please take the time to read about the issues affecting the restoration field and take ten minutes to write your state Assembly member and Congress member about why restoration and recovery of salmon and steelhead is important to you. Together, we will work proactively towards restoring our creeks and rivers for salmonids to return year after year.

Prevailing Concerns

The California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) issued a ruling that effectively changed interpretation of the California Labor Code (*Labor Code § 1720, et seq*) which now requires fisheries and watershed restorationists to be paid a prevailing wage on many projects being funded with public dollars. These DIR requirements threatened the ability of engaging volunteers on public works projects. In 2003, SRF worked with a number of groups as part of the Coalition to Protect Watershed Volunteers and California's Prevailing Wages to advocate for volunteerism and a prevailing wage, to track the development of *AB 2690* (Hancock), and to try to grasp how this will impact restorationists. SRF has been involved in discussions on language for *HR 2690*, which focused on permitting volunteers to assist on environmental restoration projects. This Assembly bill passed on May 26, 2004 and allows volunteers to return to watershed and environmental restoration, clean-up, and education projects; provides opportunities for landowners to participate in restoration projects as a match; and includes an exemption for the California Conservation Corps (CCC). The bill still needs to go to the state Senate. SRF is working to resolve these issues by providing Coalition and labor advocates in Sacramento with information on what problems restorationists are facing as a result of the DIR decision. Please write the Governor, your Assembly member, and your grant program staff to let them know how the DIR decision is affecting your restoration project and organization.

SRF co-sponsored a forum on the prevailing wage issue, co-authored the Prevailing Wage 101 primer on our web site, and is advocating for amnesty for paying back wages on past projects. We are researching the economic feasibility of doing a statewide survey so restorationists can develop their own pay scale. We will also hold discussions workshops at the Coho Confab and 2005 Salmonid Restoration Conference regarding this issue. Finally, SRF will continue building support among Californians for agency grant programs that benefit the restoration field.

22nd Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference Recap

Salmonid Restoration Federation hosted our 22nd Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference March 17-20 in Davis in coordination with the 14th International Salmonid Enhancement Workshop. The focus of this year's conference was, "Collaborative Watershed Efforts for Salmonid Recovery."

The conference was attended by nearly 400 people interested in salmon restoration. The event included full-day workshops on fish-friendly agricultural practices, effectiveness and validation monitoring of restoration projects, urban creek restoration, advanced GIS analysis for watershed management, increasing your watershed and fish restoration organization's capacity, and instream flow requirements for salmonids.

Field tours included tours of salmonid and associated ecosystem restoration sites along Putah Creek, Cache Creek, the Yolo bypass, the City of Davis' Village Homes and water systems, and the Mokelumne and American Rivers.



Conner Everts, Executive Director of Southern California Watershed Alliance and a newly elected SRF Board member, awards Ann Riley with the Nat Bingham Restorationist of the Year award.

The plenary session highlighted Global, Pacific Northwest, California and Regional salmonid issues presented by four acclaimed presenters — Robert Lackey (EPA), Dune Lankard (Copper River, Alaska), Diana Jacobs, (CDFG), and Mark DuBois (Cofounder of Friends of the River). Their presentations addressed the recovery of salmon at different landscape scales. Nine concurrent sessions included presentations on policy topics as well as biological and physical issues facing salmon and watershed restorationists.

SRF would like to extend our deepest gratitude to co-sponsors whose support helped make this event affordable for salmonid restorationists: AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project, Butte Creek Brewery, Cache Creek Casino, California Salmon Partnership-NOAA Fisheries, California Conservation Corps, CAL Trout, California Department of Fish and Game, California Watershed Network, City of Davis, East Bay Municipal Utility District, EDAW, Eyak Preservation Council, Forest, Soil and Water, Friends of the River, Information Center for the Environment, Jones and Stokes, La Rocca Vineyards, Putah Creek Council, Prunuske Chatham, Rose Foundation, Solano County Water Agency, Sacramento River Watershed Program, South Yuba River Citizens' League, Trout Unlimited, Western Division American Fisheries Society, and Urban Creek Council.



Longtime SRF Board member Jan Duncan-Vaughn gives previous restorationists of the year their keeper awards. From left to right stands our heroes: Gary Peterson fisheries biologist and pioneer of the restoration movement on the Mattole and a proud member of the Salmon Brothers band, Mike Kossow who ran the SRF Field School in Quincy for many years, Philip LaFollette of the California Conservation Corps, Michelle Rose who founded the Watershed Stewards Program, Richard Gienger, man of many hats and suspenders and a tireless restorationist, preservationist and salmon advocate, and Harry Vaughn of Eel River Salmon Restoration Project.

The SRF Restorationist of the Year Award

was conceived as a way to honor grassroots restorationists. It was first presented, in 1992 to Bill Eastwood, co-director of the Eel River Salmon Restoration Project to acknowledge his work to help salmon and for his innovative design modification to the McBain downstream migrant trap.

The award was renamed the Nat Bingham Memorial Restorationist of the Year award following Nat's death in 1998. Nat was a fisherman and a tireless advocate for salmon.

Since his death, SRF has honored a restorationist each year at our annual conference with a roast and toast fitting for our cabaret. Each year the recipient gets to steward a most exceptional brass sculpture, created by noted sculptor Dick Crane, that captures the spirit of salmon, fish-loving people and the state of California where these practitioners live and work a life dedicated to the recovery of the species. Each year the last restorationist of the year has to part with their "precious" sculpture and pass it on to the next honoree. SRF decided that each restorationist of the year deserved their own award so this year we honored the past restorationists who were at the 2004 conference with wooden fish sculptures of their own created by John Sutter.

This year's award was bestowed upon Ann Riley who is currently the Watershed and River Restoration Advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area Region, the other eight regional boards and the California Water Resources Control Board. Riley founded Urban Creeks Council, has many "Riley's Believe It Or Not" stories of stupendous restoration projects, wrote the Urban Creek bible, "Restoring Streams in Cities" (Island Press, 1998), and makes fine home brew that she brings to the conference. She was an obvious choice!

The 2005 Salmonid Restoration Conference will be at the Fortuna River Lodge March 2-5. Please send us your recommendations on keynote speakers, field tours, and workshop topics.

Water Conservation Saves Salmon

by Joelle Geppert and Conner Everts

Water is the gift of life. Without water, most living organisms can't survive, let alone thrive. Salmon are certainly no exception. All of the best restoration efforts are useless unless salmon have ample cool water for spawning and rearing. Most of us are aware of the need to conserve water. Whether you live in an urban or rural setting, it is likely that your water use directly impacts salmon. With growing populations, the stress on water supplies will only increase. That is why it is critical to reduce, reuse and conserve water whenever possible. There are a wide variety of ways that each of us can help to ensure there is water left in streams which include the choices we make



about how we garden, the appliances we use, the organizations we support, as well as the energy we choose. Here are some measures you can take to conserve water.

Gardening

There are many ways to reduce water consumption regardless of whether you directly pump your water from a creek or whether you turn on a city line faucet.

- *Drip Irrigation systems* provide a more efficient use of watering than overhead sprinkler systems. Drip irrigation allows you to water just the plants that need it and water is distributed throughout the soil in a manner that better services a plant's root system. There is a lot of information on the internet about drip irrigation and many nurseries can also assist. Try <http://www.irrigationtutorials.com/dripguide.htm> or do your own search! If you use an automatic timer system, make sure it has a rain setting.

- *Mulching* can significantly reduce evaporative losses, and it reduces the need to weed and lowers soil temperature, which reduces stress on plant roots. The trick with mulch is to use thick layers of organic materials, making sure it is weed free and not dry material such as wood chips.

- *Drought Tolerant Landscaping.* California is a fairly arid region, particularly in the summer months and in the southern area. It makes water sense to landscape with plants that can get by without much water. Your local nursery should be able to help

you locate plants that are suitable for your area and are drought tolerant. Look for native plants. They evolved for your region.

- *Community Gardening.* Perhaps there are others in your neighborhood or community that you could share gardening with. It might help to save water if one person grows tomatoes and another grows cucumbers.

- *Grow only what you need.* If you're like me, you may tend to plant with exuberance, thinking you're going to feed the world or can your veggies as if it's the end of the world. Think about it before you plant, do you really need 50 tomato plants?

- *Grow crops appropriate to your climate/site.* For years I tried to grow cucumbers in the same garden that I grow my tomatoes. Full sun exposure is great for tomatoes but brutal on the water needs of cucumbers. So I moved my cucumber bed to a place that gets less sun, using less water.

- *Use water retentive soil.* Adding amendments such as chicken manure or worm castings to a sandy soil can increase a soil's ability to retain water. Compost can be home-grown, bring good worms into the soil and is friable.

- *Water in the evening or at night.* Watering in the evening reduces the evaporative losses during the day. In addition, plants are more likely to utilize water during the cooler evening temperatures, so your plants get more out of the water they're given.

- *Plant perennials in the fall or winter.* If perennials are planted during the rainy season, their root systems will get larger before the hotter summer months. They'll be better established and need less watering in the summer.

- *Lawns.* Remove, replace or water only as needed. A lush green lawn certainly is comfortable on bare feet and pleasing to the eye. However, large lawns tend to use a lot of water. Several ways to reduce the water use of a lawn is to reduce the overall size, replace the grass species with a more drought tolerant species, or even let it go brown toward the end of summer (or completely). Many people tend to over-water



Photo by Thomas Tankin

their lawns. Check before you water. If you press on the lawn and it has some give and bounces back, it doesn't need to be watered yet. You may even consider removing your lawn and replacing it with drought tolerant landscaping (no mowing either)!

Residential

Besides implementing water-smart gardening and landscaping methods, there are many ways individual households can help save water for fish.

- *Check for and fix leaks,* they add up and often are silent (check toilet leaks with dye in the tank).

- *Use ultra-low flow toilets,* shower heads, and high efficiency washing machines.

- *Don't leave the water running.* Sounds basic, but how often do you leave the water running when you brush your teeth or wash your face?

- *Cover your car* to reduce the need to wash it. Dust and other environmental pollutants may damage your car's paint job and cars do need to be washed. But please think about how often your car really needs a good washing.

- *Install a greywater system.* A significant portion of residential wastewater is only mildly "polluted" from dishwashing, hand washing, showering etc. Although not appropriate or feasible for all residential users, a greywater system could be a great way to irrigate fruit trees or ornamental plants and reuse water. There are many ways to install and use greywater systems, particularly the blancher greywater system. State guidelines for greywater systems allow for systems even in urban locations. For design considerations and use limitations please refer to: <http://oikos.com/library/greywater/branched.html>, or <http://greywater.net>

- *Installing meters* like they use in Davis can save 30% over unmetered areas. Legislation is moving forward to meter the entire

state. In addition, some areas are offering landscape meters, providing incentives to save water and money from high sewer rates. Many resources are available to commercial water users to reduce water consumption, often with significant economic incentives. Check out: <http://www.rivernetnetwork.org/>

The California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) has a library of water conservation guides, studies and a web site that includes a virtual water conservation house and a plant platelet with sustainable landscaping tips. Check out <http://www.cuwcc.org>. If you and your local utility are both members of the CUWCC, you can use this website to check out what your utility is doing to conserve water. Soon all urban utilities will be required to be members as part of the CALFED requirements.

Rural Water Supplies



Many Californians live or are looking to live outside of urban developed areas. This often requires the development of an independent water supply that diverts water from a spring or stream. In the late summer of 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003, portions of the upper Mattole watershed, which typically provide summer rearing habitat for juvenile coho and steelhead, had little or no above surface water due to low flow conditions combined with water extraction from rural dwellers. Based on this crisis situation, the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC), with cooperation from Sanctuary Forest and local landowners launched a water conservation program (see <http://www.mattole.org/> for more details). Even if your spring or stream does not contain fish, it is likely that it feeds a fish-bearing stream and is just as important to conserve water. Often it's especially important to protect these small stream flows as they tend to have colder water than the larger fish bearing streams and are important temperature controls.

Measures that rural water supply users can implement in addition to basic residential conservation measures include:



- *Fix leaks.* Often in rural water systems there are many locations (pipe and valve connections) that lend themselves to leaking. Lots of small drips or leaks can add up to significant water loss.

- *Return overflow to creek or install a float valve.* This is particularly important for

those homesteaders fortunate enough to have gravity feed water. Installation of a float valve or switch can keep your tanks topped off and "excess" water in the creek. Please refer to the MRC's Water fact sheets for some simple design solutions at http://www.mattole.org/program_services/factsheets.htm

- *Store winter flows/rain water using large tanks.* California is a rain or shine kind of place. Storing water for domestic and agricultural use during the wet season can ensure there is water in the streams for fish in the hot, dry summer months. There are a variety of tank types and sizes available. The best way to determine the appropriate size for tanks is to calculate your water needs. There are many ways to do this. The MRC provides a simple method on their fact sheet pages (see web link above).

Energy Production and Other Large Scale Water Uses

All over California, rivers have been dammed to create power or divert water for large-scale agricultural production and have caused serious damage to wild fisheries. This is certainly not a new development; however, the detrimental impacts to threatened and endangered fish populations have reached new critical levels. The fish kills in the Klamath River and Butte Creek and the long term degradation of native fisheries on the Eel River are only a few examples of how restriction and alteration of natural flows can be lethal to salmonids. While it may seem that the socio-economic drivers that currently appear to control the destinies of these rivers (and their fish!) seem so large, there are ways that individuals can help make a difference to ensure the rights of fish are protected. For more information and ways you can help get very needed water back into these watersheds, check out:

Klamath river fish kill: <http://www.hoopa-nsn.gov/news/fishkills.html>

Friends of Butte Creek: <http://www.buttetree.org/>

Friends of the Eel River: <http://www.eelriver.org/>

Efforts to Purchase Water Rights

Water conservation efforts of individual households are often not enough to ensure there is enough water for salmon. Groups have begun to purchase water rights to ensure that water stays in streams and cannot be diverted for agricultural, energy or other commercial use. Two such groups

include Huey Johnson's Resource Renewal Institute Water Heritage Trust (WHT) based in San Francisco and Water Trust based in Oregon. The WHT was created to restore water to America's rivers, streams and wetlands that are vital to wildlife, natural resources, and human communities. Using a unique process of water rights acquisition, WHT acquires by gift, purchase, lease, or trade, water rights to be permanently managed for environmental protection and for recreational opportunities. WHT works in cooperation with concerned individuals, local communities, and local, state, and federal government agencies. For more information on the WHT please refer to <http://www.wri.org/projects/water.html>. The Water Trust is a similar organization that works to craft cooperative, free-market solutions. They acquire water rights through gift, lease, or purchase from willing landowners and convert them to instream water rights. <http://www.owt.org/> Consider lending financial support to these groups or starting a similar project in your watershed.

The largest single use of energy in California is pumping water from northern California over the mountains to southern California. Water conservation and energy conservation are key to reducing stress to streams and rivers. Individual action is important and basic conservation can maintain water demand levels in urban areas despite population increases. The missing link is connecting water saved to returning instream flows. The Mono Lake decision (*Fish and Game rule 5937*) mandated that water diverted for Los Angeles' drinking supply had to be replaced by conservation programs delivered by community based-organizations. On the Ventura River, efforts to restore native steelhead populations by installing a fish ladder and eventually removing Matilija Dam rely on enforcing the local water district's own water conservation plans. On the Santa Ynez River similar efforts created an excellent water conservation report, "Waste Not, Want Not," available from the Pacific available at <http://www.pacinst.org>

Water Conservation Resources

There is a lot of information available via the internet on water conservation measures and efforts. Check out these useful sites in addition to those already mentioned in this article:

Salmon 2100 Project

By Robert Lackey

Two dozen salmon scientists and policy experts have joined forces in an innovative project to identify ways that, if adopted, likely would restore wild salmon runs in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia.

The Salmon 2100 Project has been organized jointly by Oregon State University's Center for Water and Environmental Sustainability and the EPA research laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon.

The Project will synthesize and apply the best available scientific information to the challenge of protecting and restoring salmon runs in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia. The Project will identify and describe specific, practical policy options that, if adopted, would successfully sustain wild salmon through this century.

To identify those policy options, the Project has enlisted 24 leading Pacific Northwest scientists and policy experts, each of whom possesses stellar scientific and analytical credentials, a track record for innovative thinking about salmon and ecosystem recovery, and a demonstrated ability to think beyond the status quo. Project participants are writing chapters for a book to be published by the American Fisheries Society.

Restoring wild salmon to the Pacific Northwest is a daunting challenge. Since the discovery of gold in California in 1848, salmon runs have dramatically declined across the region due to water pollution, loss of spawning, rearing and riparian habitat, a history of over-fishing, dam construction and operation, water withdrawal for irrigation and industrial cooling, competition with hatchery-produced salmon, competition with various non-indigenous fish species, predation by marine mammals and birds, and climatic and oceanic shifts.

Many experts conclude that current salmon recovery efforts, as earnest, expensive, and socially disruptive as they currently are, do not appear likely to sustain significant wild salmon runs through 2100. It appears that other recovery strategies must be adopted if wild salmon are to survive in significant numbers through the century. Key Project results also will be disseminated to policy makers and others through a regional symposium (Corvallis, February, 2005) and an international symposium (Anchorage, September, 2005) held in conjunction with annual conferences of the American Fisheries Society.

Project Leaders are Robert T. Lackey with the EPA, lackey.robert@epa.gov and Denise H. Lach from Oregon State, denise.lach@oregonstate.edu



Bill Eastwood and Harry Vaughn, co-directors of the Eel River Salmon Restoration Project, releasing their last chinook salmon fry into Redwood Creek. The program, which traps and rears salmon eggs from wild stocks, was started in 1983 by local fishermen and other concerned citizens to try and restore salmon runs on the South Fork Eel River. A decision was made by DFG to not fund any of the small-scale restoration hatcheries in Region 1 for 2004-2005.

Photo By Jan Duncan-Vaughn

Water Conservation continued from page 5

Water conservation ideas for the southern California area:

<http://www.monolake.org/socalwater/wctips.htm>

Department of Water Resources:

<http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/>

Guide to water-wise gardening for the southern California area:

<http://www.bewaterwise.com/>

Resources of global water issues: www.waterwatch.org.uk

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Prevailing Wage Concerns

- 1. The current DIR interpretation of prevailing wage requirements leaves organizations susceptible to not being able to pay employees and liable for back wages on projects completed in the last three years.** California's agencies and legislators must address the liability assumed by grantees on work already funded by state. All solutions should include an exemption for current grants funded and contractually agreed upon by the state. There should be an amnesty clause so restoration contractors are not liable for back wages for projects that have been completed in the last three years.
- 2. Landowner participation and their financial matches are critical to many restoration projects.** How will their contribution be affected by the current interpretation? Currently, it seems landowners are able to contribute equipment and personnel at the wages and costs of their operations when they occur on their property. However, these issues are not well addressed by AB2690 and additional clarification is necessary to protect grantees and cooperating landowners.
- 3. Most restoration projects are completed on private lands and are nonpermanent.** Why are we now classifying these as "public works?" On the North Coast, approximately 70% of the land is privately owned and up to 90% of restoration projects are on private land, yet the restoration projects are often considered public works projects according to state classifications. The 2002 law lumped these projects into the "public works" classification based upon the equipment and personnel used.
- 4. Changes in prevailing wage requirements will lead to less restoration being completed in California.** This impact could cause serious ripple effects throughout the state and federal programs that currently fund watershed and fisheries restoration. If less work is completed per dollar, landowners will see less of a cost-benefit to completing restoration on their properties. Overall, people may perceive these programs that fund restoration to be too expensive for the limited results they will provide. California will be the only state requiring prevailing wage on restoration projects.

So, if you live in a rural area with local water supplies, save water and it will go back into the river and help restore fish populations. If you're in an urban area that brings its water from faraway watersheds, save water and request that your city and water agency return that water for the environment. Finally, wherever you are, reduce your pollution imprint and increase water quality for fish and drinking.



State and Federal Restoration Legislation



The Salmonid Restoration Federation has been working hard to ensure that salmon restoration is a priority for state and federal decision makers. We've been busy in Sacramento and Washington, DC, bringing science and on-the-ground experience to our elected representatives.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)

In the past budget year, \$90 million was appropriated for Pacific Coast salmon recovery efforts in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska. Although Congress has made this investment annually, a bill by Rep. Mike Thompson (D-North Coast) to re-authorize the program for a three year period has been stalled. His bill, *HR 1945*, would bring a number of improvements to the Fund, including an increased appropriation of \$200 million per year, to be divided equally among the five states and selected Native American tribes. For the bill to move forward, the Senate must act to pass companion legislation to *HR 1945*. The Salmonid Restoration Federation is submitting a letter to Senator Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), a key decisionmaker on these issues, requesting his support for a Senate companion bill. SRF feels that Congressional authorization both demonstrates the importance of salmon recovery as federal policy and provides stability to this important source of federal recovery funds.

Between 2000 and 2003, these funds were distributed to 254 habitat restoration projects, 168 assessment and monitoring efforts, and 45 educational projects. California received \$55.1 million of the \$347.8 million appropriated to the eligible states and tribes. These monies are critical for securing state and local funding for salmon recovery, with the California Dept. of Fish and Game spending \$1 for every \$1.13 of federal funds.

Vandalism at Hatchery Kills 8,000 Salmon Fry

\$3,200 Reward Offered for Tips Leading to Arrests

By Daniel Mintz, Independent Staff Writer

In an epic and disturbing act of sabotage at the Arcanum fish hatchery, vandals broke into the facility and killed 8,000 chinook fry by shutting off their water supply. The culprits have prices on their heads — a donation-fueled reward kitty is up to \$3,200.

Mattole Salmon Group staff at the hatchery arrived there on the morning of May 24 to find that six months of work had been blown out in one night. The water line had also been torn away from the tank. Deprived of oxygen, thousands of the fry were asphyxiated and only 740 of the fish in the tank survived.

The hatchery is located near the Mendocino County border south of Whitethorn. Staff members are allowed to take a certain number of wild chinook from the Mattole River, spawn them, raise the fry and release them into the river. The fish are marked for tracking and to make sure that they aren't trapped for spawning in the next season.

The fish that were killed had just been marked the day before and were ready for release.

More information is available at the following websites:

NOAA-Fisheries website: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/pcsrff/>
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission website:
<http://www.nwifc.wa.gov/recovery/index.asp>

CALFED Bay Delta Authorization

Senator Dianne Feinstein has authored *SB 1097*, which would provide funding for the federal government to participate in the CALFED Bay Delta partnership, meant to improve habitat quality in the Bay Delta while assuring reliable water supplies statewide. Congressman Ken Calvert (R-Visalia) has introduced a competing bill (*HR 2828*) that appears to have momentum. Unfortunately, this bill contains three serious problems for California's rivers and salmonids. It permits the US Department of Interior to authorize new dam projects without further specific authorization by Congress. Proposed limitations on ecosystem restoration projects could affect restoration projects that are part of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and on National Wildlife Refuges. Furthermore, it will change the purpose of the Environmental Water Account (EWA), an essential element of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Record of Decision, to allow the "environmental water" to be used to meet water quality standards. If EWA water is used to meet water quality standards, it will limit the use of the account for the specific purposes originally outlined in the CALFED Bay Delta Program. The Environmental Water Caucus submitted a letter outlining these concerns to critical federal legislators. *HR 2828* is likely to reach the house floor in June.

Detailed legislative information is available at
<http://thomas.loc.gov/>



Photo By Campbell Thompson

Ray Lingel, Director of the Mattole Salmon Group, said that he and the other staff members at the hatchery have been "devastated" by the loss. He called the hatchery project "a heartfelt community effort" in support of the Mattole River's ecology.

The time and effort it takes to trap fish, carefully spawn them out, tend to their eggs and feed the fry equates to many thousands of dollars. MSG is funded by the state Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and in its 20 years of operation, has released hundreds of thousands of fish into the Mattole.

Since chinook salmon is a federally listed threatened species, a National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) officer is also investigating.

Information can be reported to NOAA Special Agent Dave Riley at 826-9248 or DFG Game Warden Larry Bruckenstein at 923-9349. To leave a message or make a donation, please call: (707) 629-3433.

Salmonid Restoration Federation

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Installing a live woven willow wall to stabilize and revegetate an eroding bare stream bank.

Photo Courtesy of Bioengineering Associates



SRF recently hired Francine Allen to help coordinate our North Coast field school and the 2005 conference. For a \$50 membership you too can receive this cool organic cotton t-shirt! Please see www.calsalmon.org to order merchandise.

SRF Bioengineering Field School in Hopland, CA September 13-17

The Salmonid Restoration Federation with the support of the Department of Fish and Game will sponsor a Bioengineering Field School in Hopland, California September 13-17. Instructor Evan Engber of Bioengineering Associates will teach bioengineering techniques to restore riparian habitat, control erosion, and stabilize banks to key audiences including watershed restorationists, agency personnel, landowners, and tribal members. Our hope is that the field school will enhance fish habitat by creating structures that increase native riparian vegetative cover, pool habitat, and reduce sediment supply from eroding banks.

The course will be held over a five-day period. There will be a half-day of classroom teaching using a power point presentation/slideshow. One day will be devoted to touring previously completed restoration sites on Dooly Creek where we will see bank stabilization with live willow brush mattresses and boulder wing deflectors with logs and live willow brushes. Another day will include site visits to the West Fork Russian River to see willow mattresses, deep cluster planting and some boulder and log structures and mini-baffles, and to Forsythe Creek to view woven willow walls. Two days will be available for hands-on restoration projects on Dooly Creek to build brush mattresses for bank stabilization/revegetation and siltation baffles to stabilize and revegetate flood plains. The final morning will be available for evaluations, networking, and discussing how the skills that participants learned can be shared with peers, constituents and watershed communities.

To register please call SRF at (707) 923-7501 or email srf@northcoast.com.
You can also download a registration form from our website at www.calsalmon.org