



## Shelter in the Slow Lane: Off Channel Ponds and Beaver Influenced Habitats

A Conference Session at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference held in Fortuna, CA from April 6-9, 2016.

# + Session Overview

- Session Coordinator:
  - Eli Asarian, Riverbend Sciences

Off-channel wetlands, ponds, and side channels provide slow water habitat where juvenile salmonids can find refuge during high winter flows. These refugia are particularly important to coho salmon. These slow water habitats can also offer rich invertebrate food resources, which in combination with reduced metabolic demand can result in high fish growth rates. Channelization, diking, and filling have caused widespread loss of such habitats. Restoring these critically important habitats is a currently a major focus of fisheries restoration, with techniques including reconnection of existing (but disconnected) ponds/wetlands, excavation of new ponds, and construction of channel-spanning structures such as large wood and beaver-dam analogs. Natural forces contributing to formation, maintenance, and complexity of slow water habitats include large wood, beavers, and channel migration. In addition to building dams, beavers can also promote cover and habitat complexity by digging tunnels into streambanks and bringing wood into the water including in side channels and backwaters. This session will feature presentations focusing on the lessons learned from experiences creating off-channel ponds/wetlands but will also include research on the ecology of slow water habitats.



# + Presentations

(Slide 4) Fast Life In The Slow Lane - Or How Flooding Facilitates The Floodplain Fatty Feeding Frenzy

Jacob Katz, Ph.D., California Trout

Slowing Down Fast Traffic: Adapting a Levee System Built For Speed to Provide a Bit of Comfort (and a Fatty Feeding Frenzy)

Eric Ginney, Environmental Science Associates (ESA)

\*presentation not included

(Slide 66) Creating Off-Channel Coho Rearing Habitat in the Middle Klamath River Sub-basin: A Status Review of Constructed Projects (2010-2015)

Will Harling, Mid Klamath Watershed Council

(Slide 127) The Influence of Habitat Characteristics on Juvenile Coho Salmon Abundance and Growth in Constructed Off-Channel Habitats in the Middle Klamath River Sub-basin

Michelle Krall, Humboldt State University

(Slide 160) Physical and Biological Monitoring of Beaver Dam Analogs in the Scott River Watershed

Erich Yokel, Scott River Watershed Council

(Slide 202) The Role Beavers Have in Creating Salmonid Rearing Habitats in Coastal California Streams Lacking Perennial Beaver Dams

Marisa Parish, Humboldt State University and Smith River Alliance, and Justin Garwood, California Department of Fish and Wildlife



# Fins, Feathers, Farms and Flood Control

## Managing Floodplain Productivity for Multiple Benefits

Jacob Katz – California Trout



C. Jeffres

# Managing floodplains for multiple uses:

- Flood protection
- Agriculture
- Aquifer recharge
- Critical habitat for:  
Native fish and wildlife
- Food web production



# Inland Sea



K, STREET, FROM THE LEVEE.

**INUNDATION OF THE STATE CAPITOL,  
City of Sacramento, 1862.**

Published by AROSENFIELD, San Francisco.

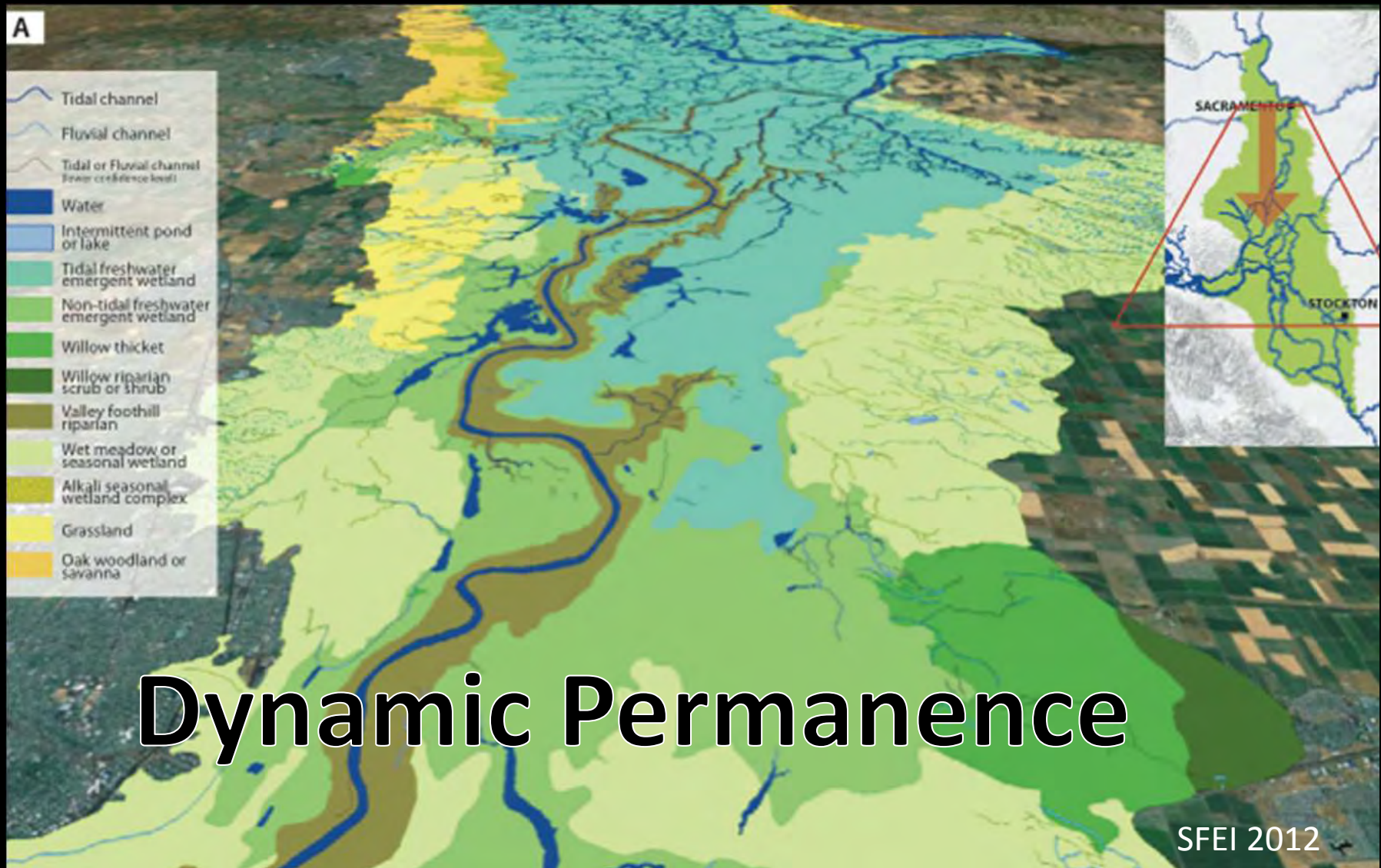


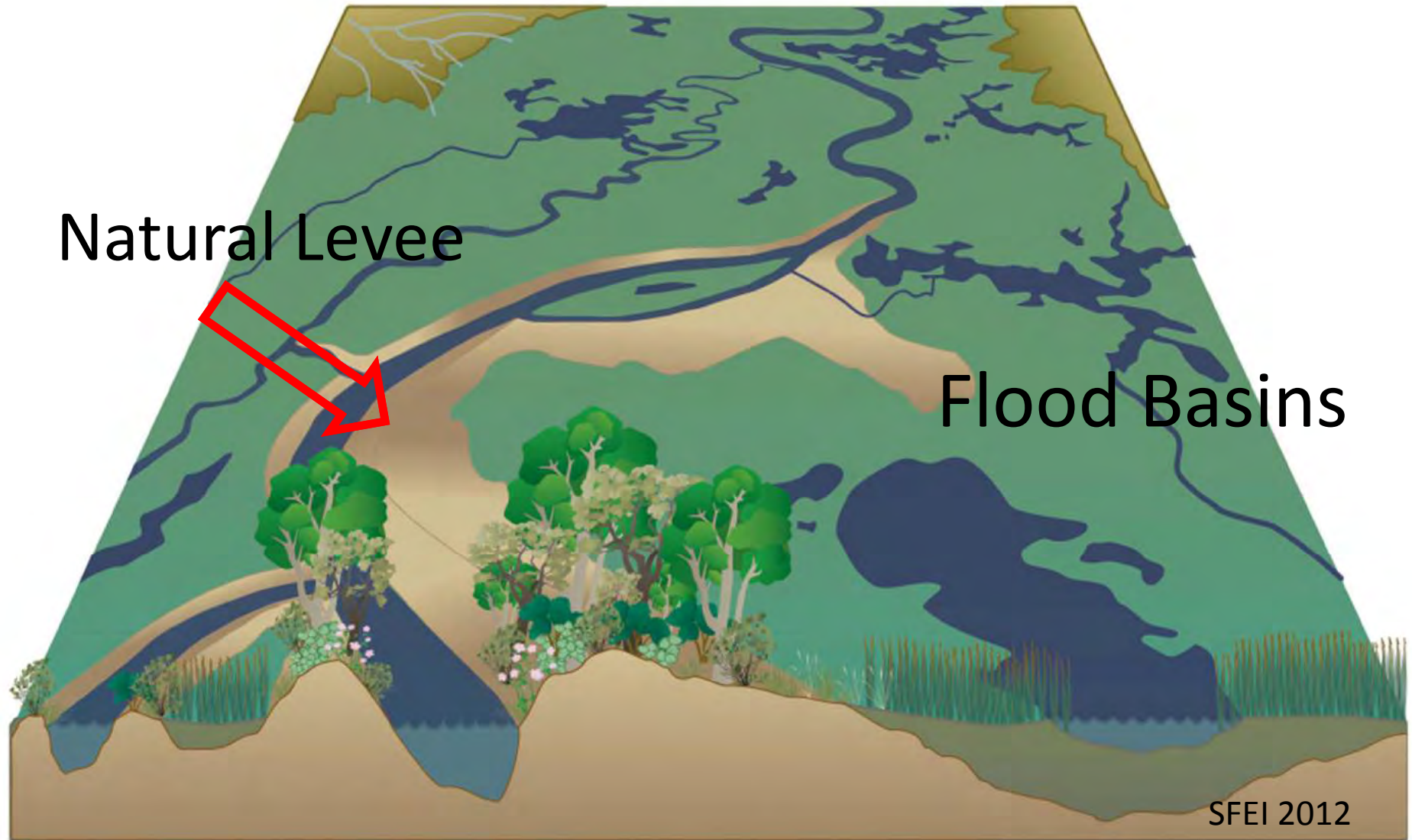
J street



# Flood of 1862

# A Shifting Mosaic of Wetland Habitat Types

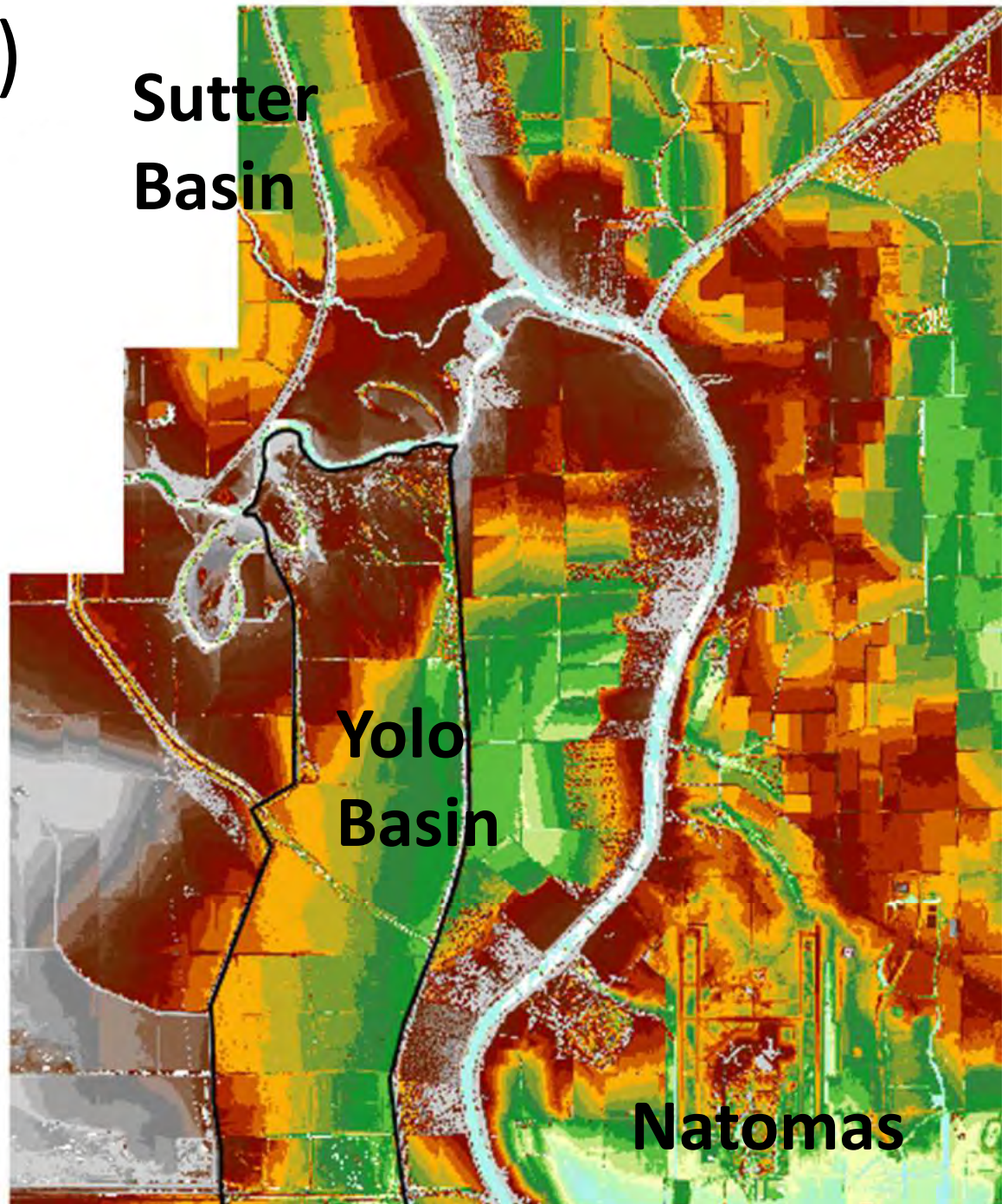
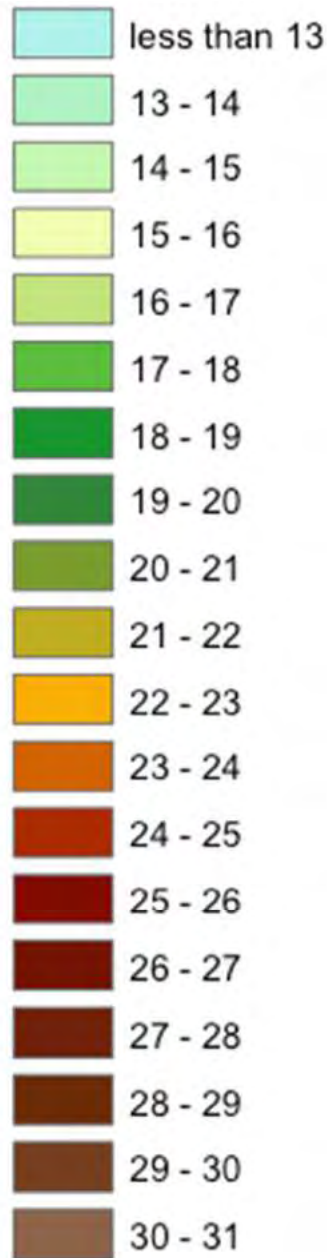




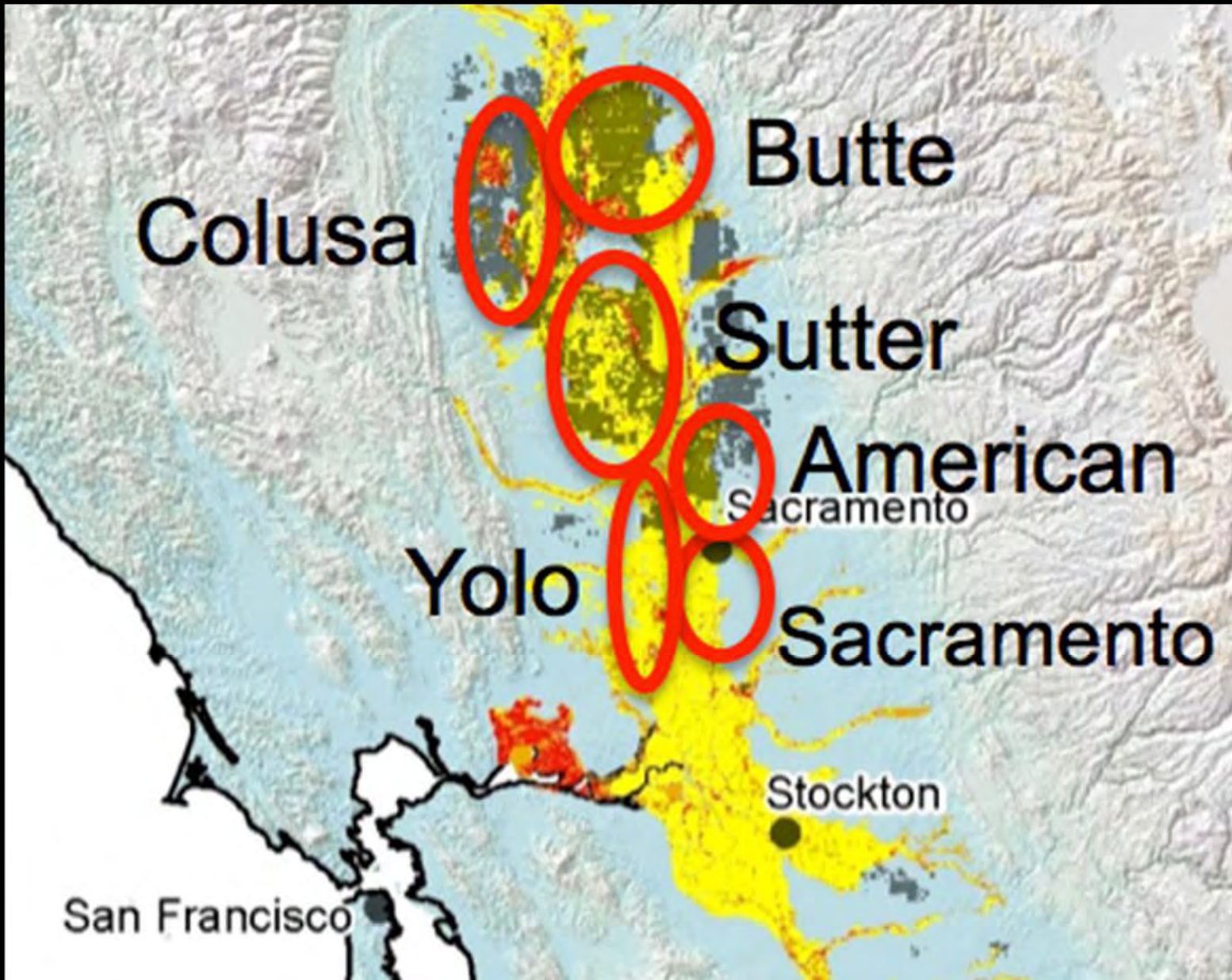
# Fluvial Processes



# Elevation (feet)

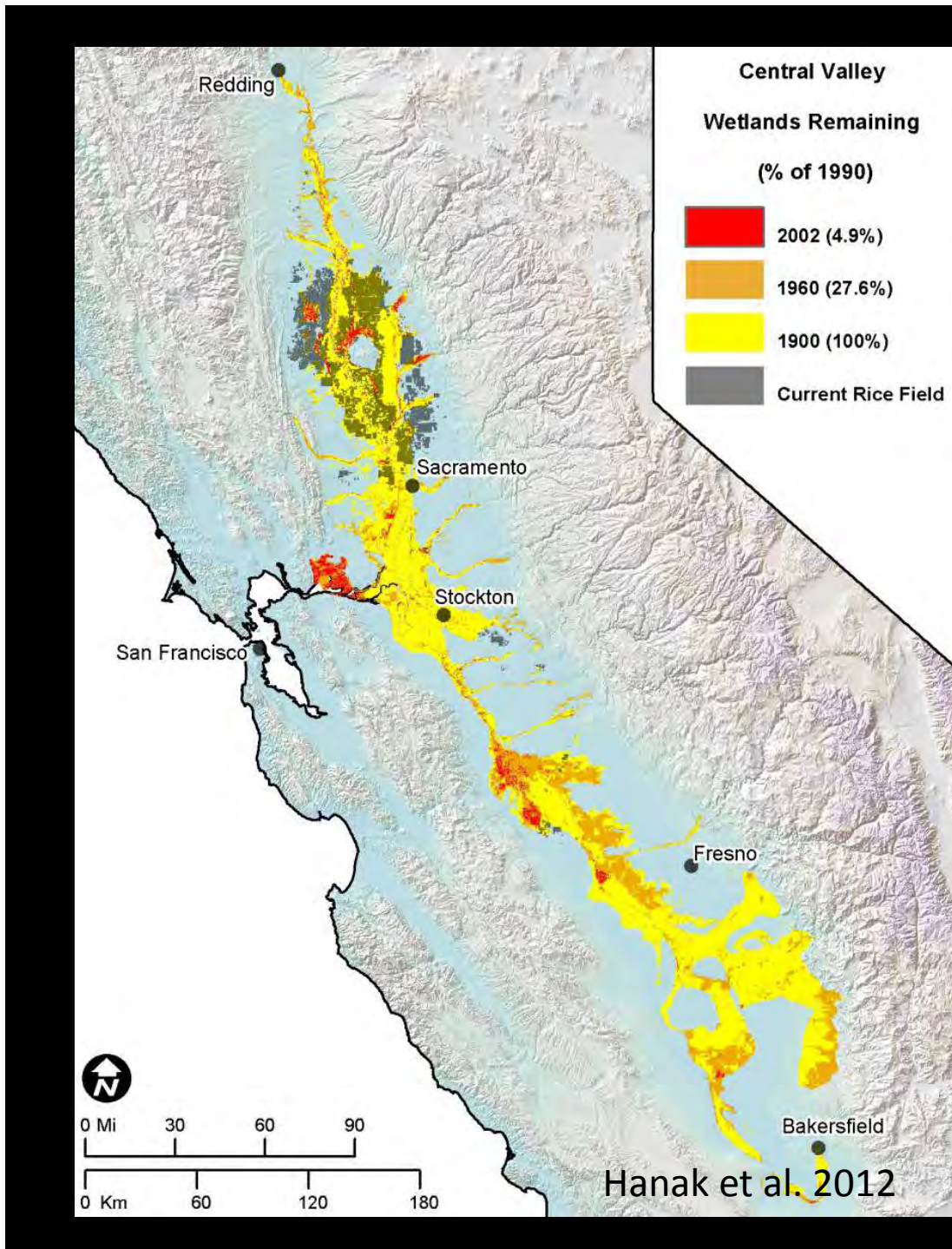


# Sac Valley Flood Basins



# 13,000 miles of levees





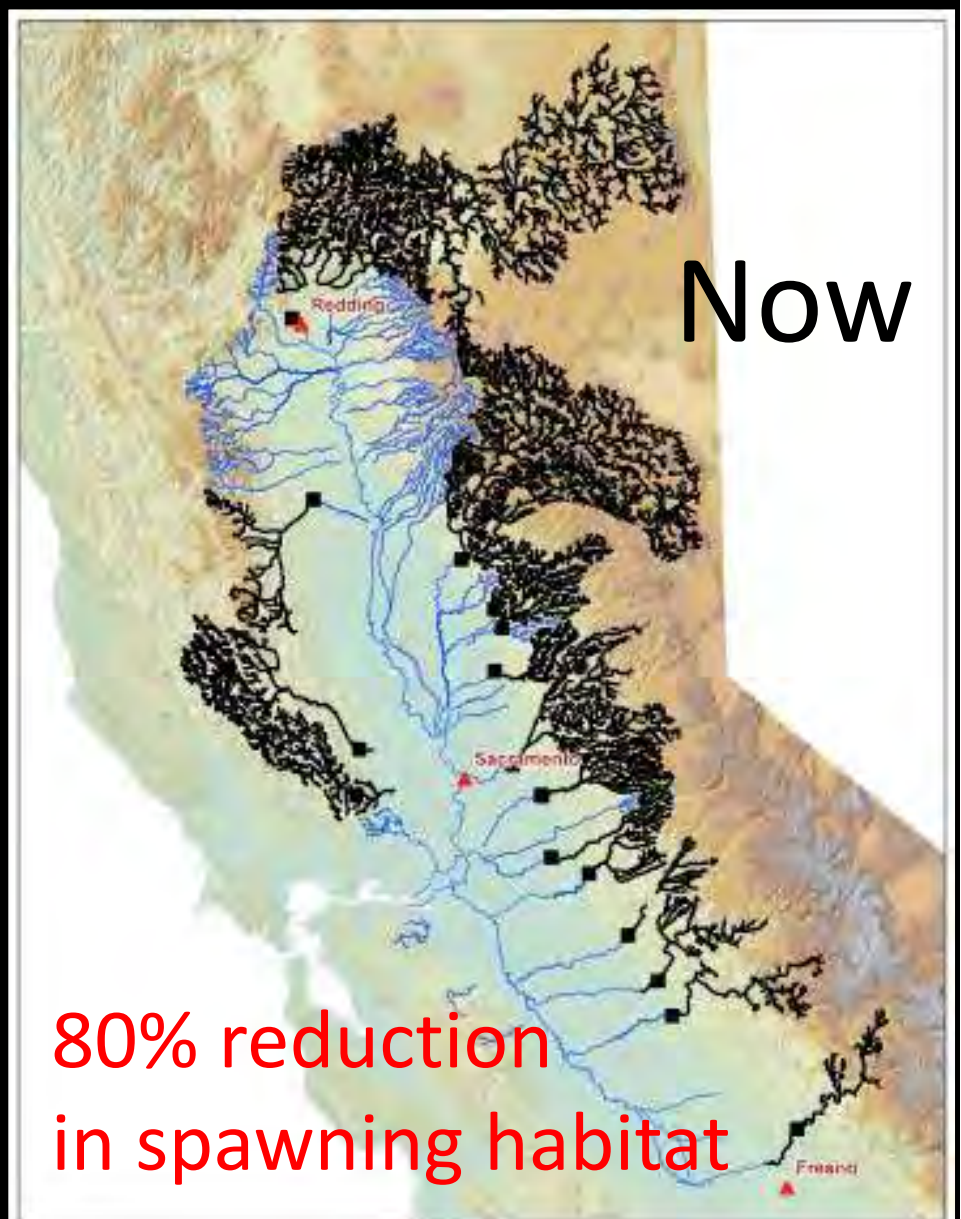
Central Valley  
Floodplain  
reduced  
by more  
than **95%**  
  
**Rearing  
Habitat  
lost**

# Every major river in California dammed-



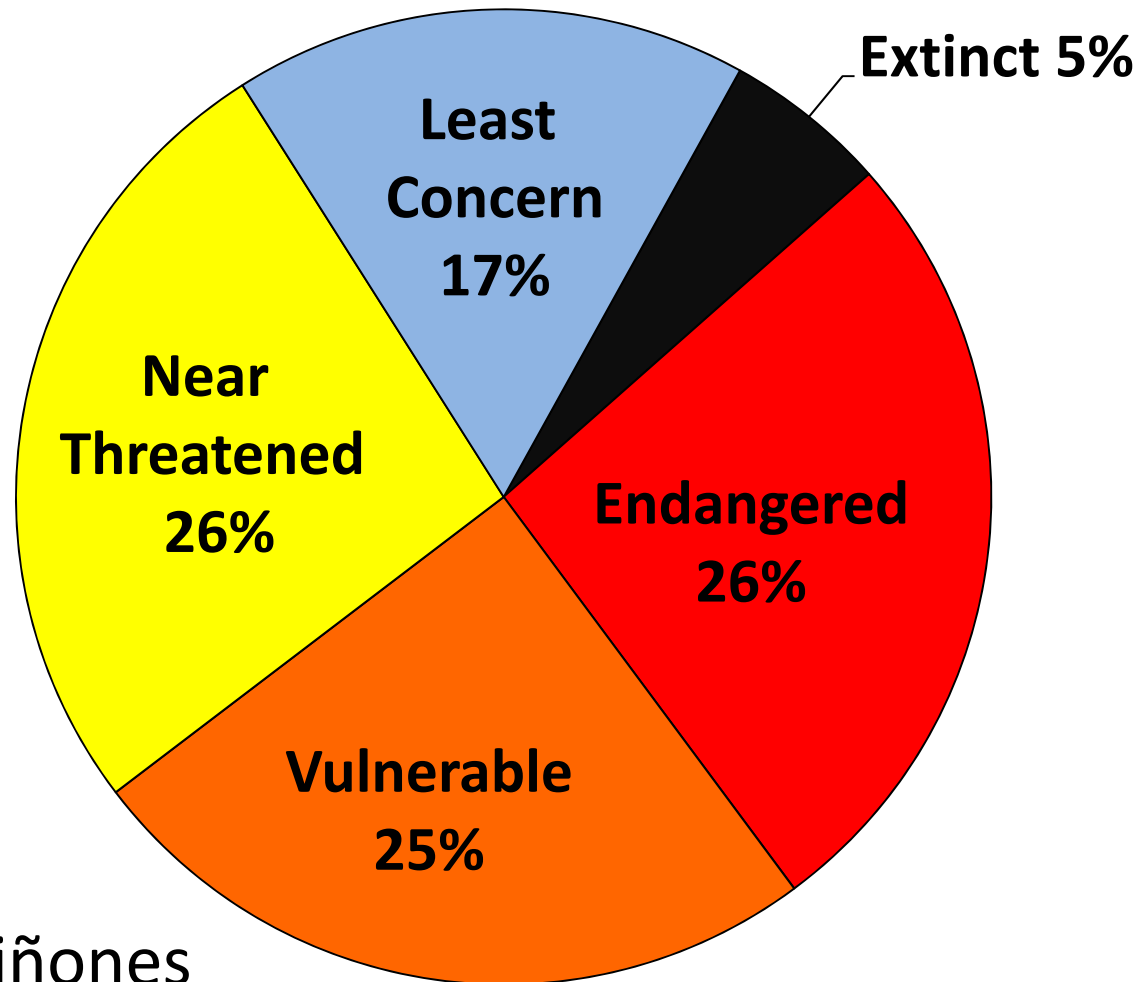
At least  
once

# Central Valley Water Infrastructure – Dams



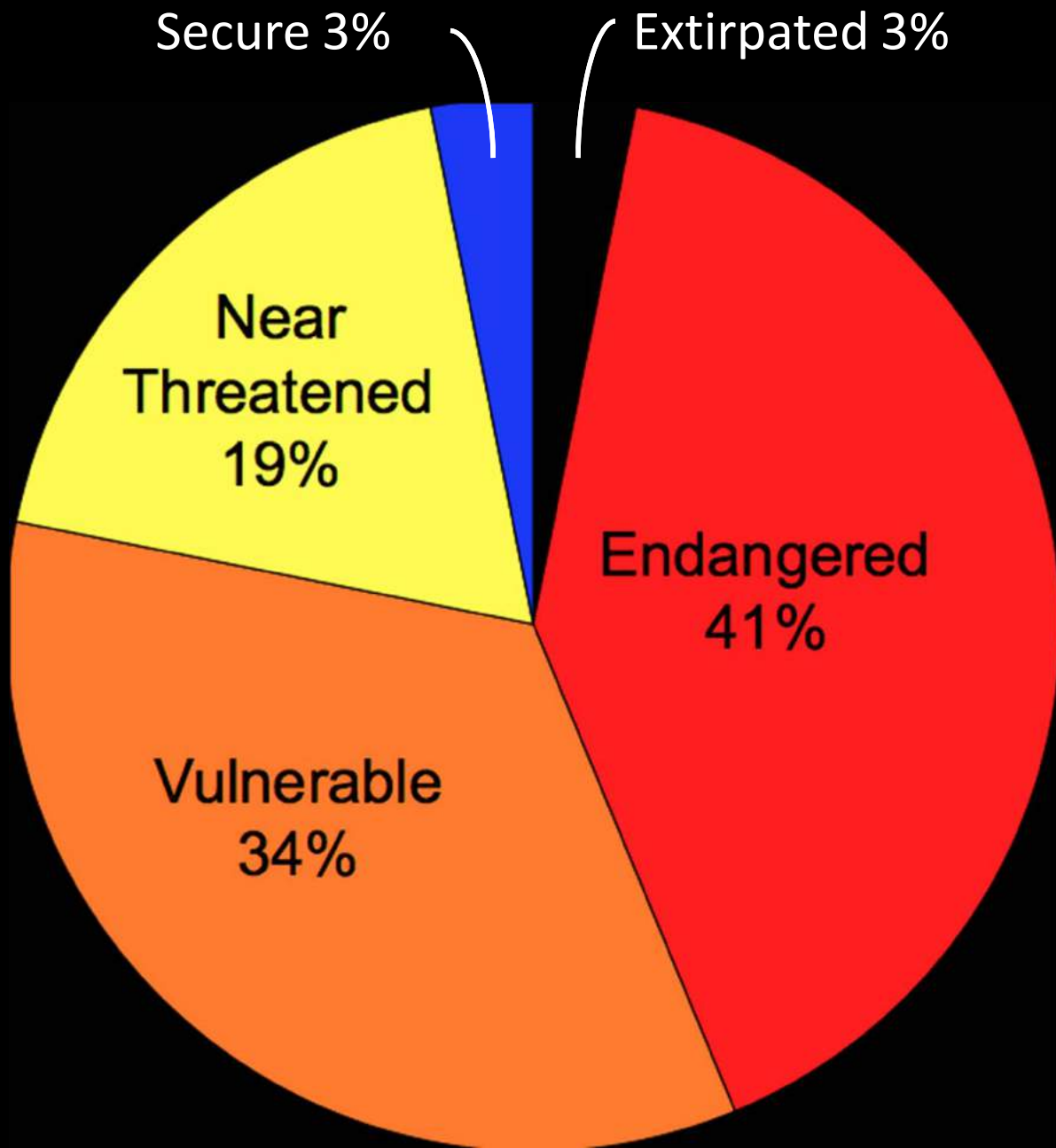
# CA NATIVE FISHES

**83%**  
Extinct or  
in decline



Moyle, Katz & Quiñones  
Biological Conservation,  
Vol 144, issue 10, Oct. 2011

**N=129**



Vast Majority (94%) of California native salmonids in sharp decline

*Impending extinction of CA salmonids*

Katz et al. 2013  
Env. Biology of Fishes 10



# Central Valley Chinook



Of 4 runs

3 are endangered, the other is dominated by hatcheries

# Cosumnes River 2008



No Dams = Floods with winter rain events = inundates floodplain

River

Floodplain



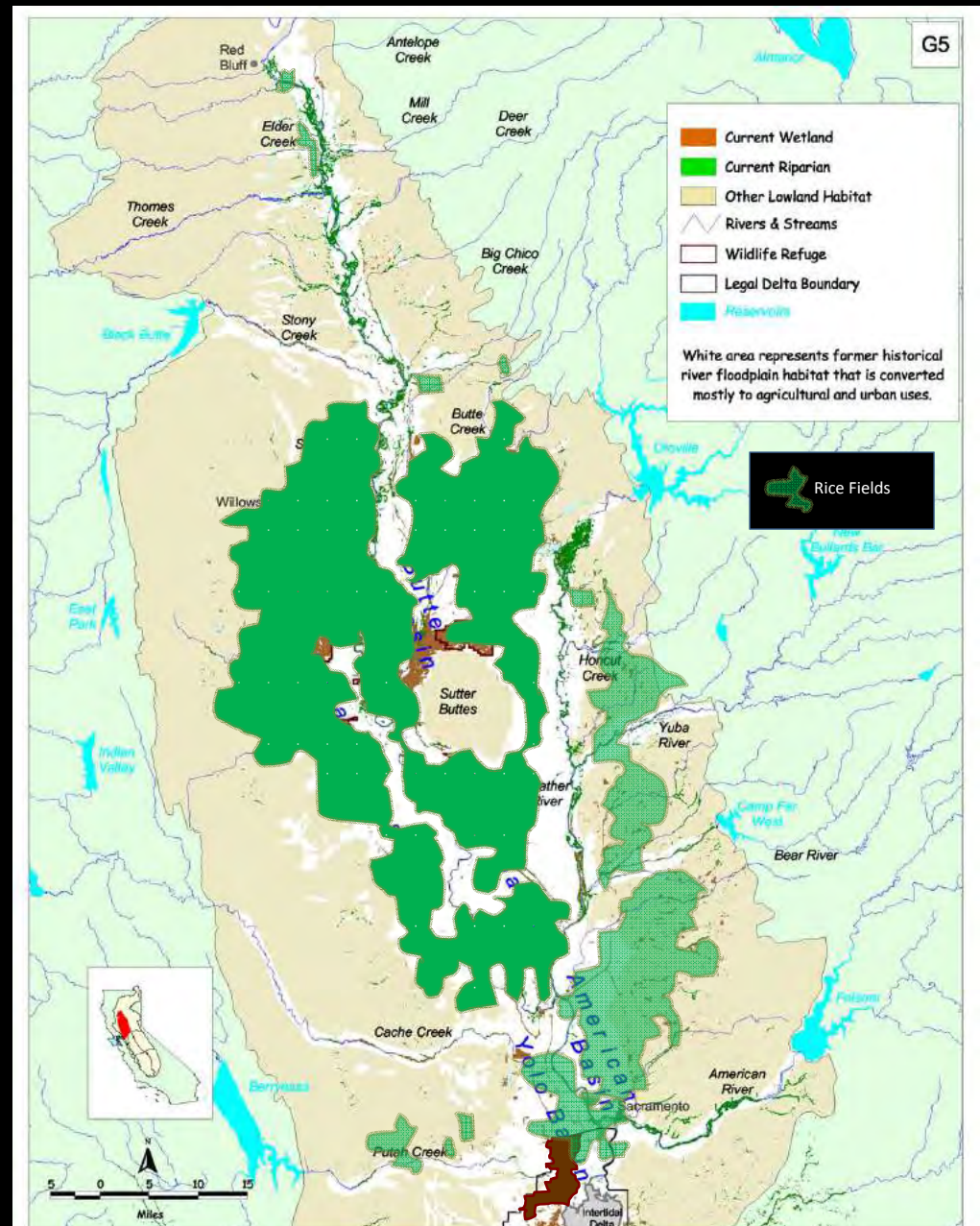
Jeffres et al. 2008

# Historic:

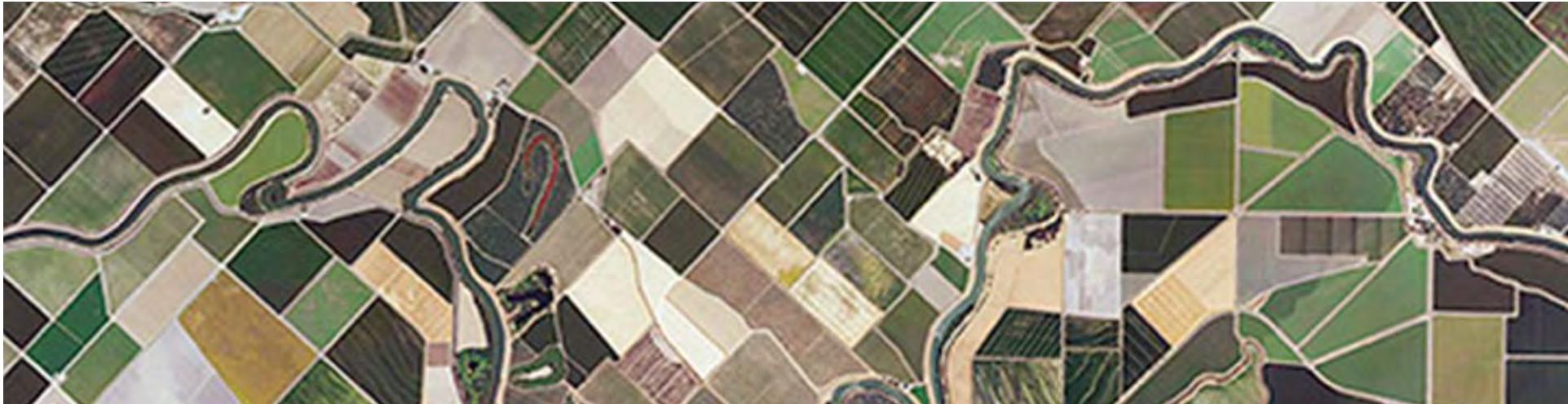
Fall run Chinook evolved rearing on floodplains

# TODAY:

- **95%** of floodplains lost
- drained and converted to rice.
- In California 550,000 acres of rice is farmed annually.
- Now, many of the rice fields are managed for migrating birds during winter months.



Sacramento Valley Current River Floodplain Ecosystem



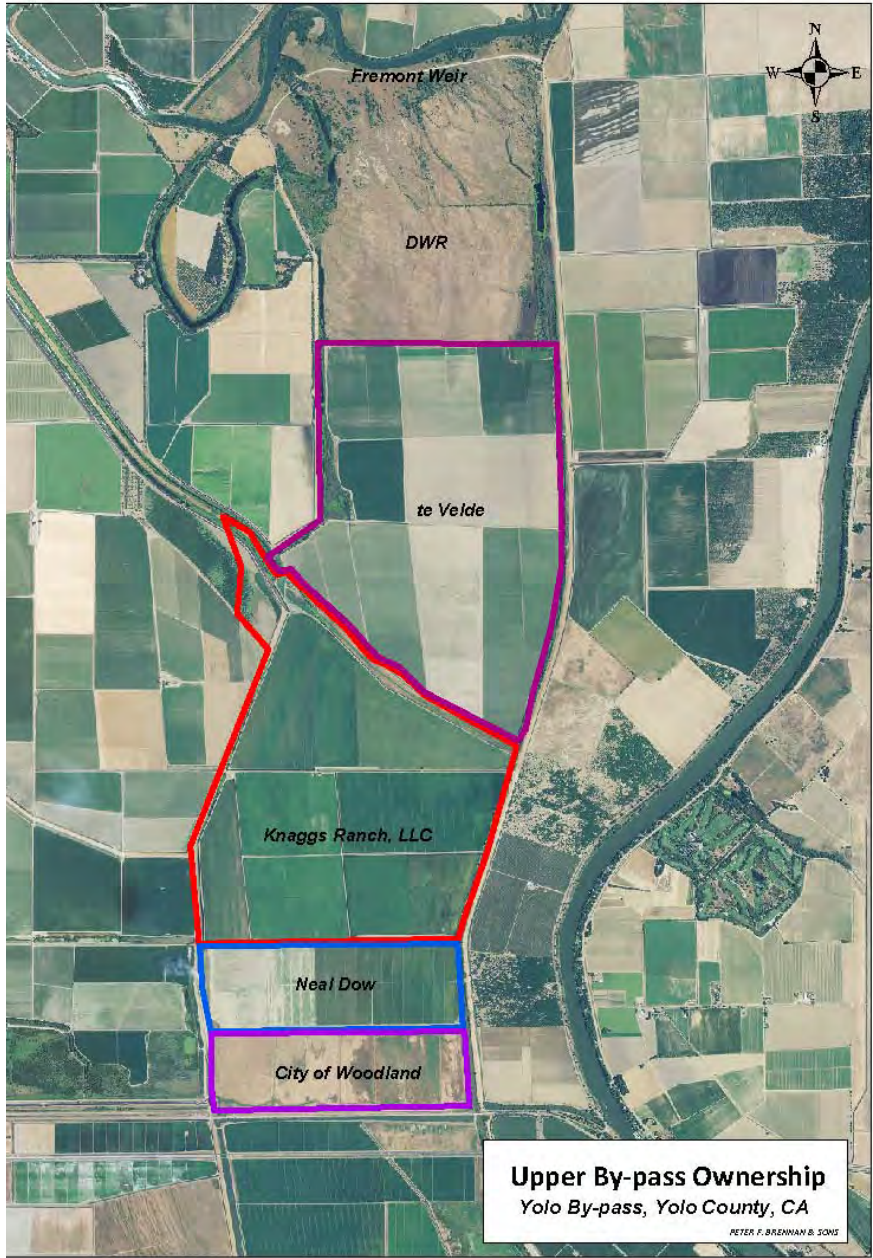
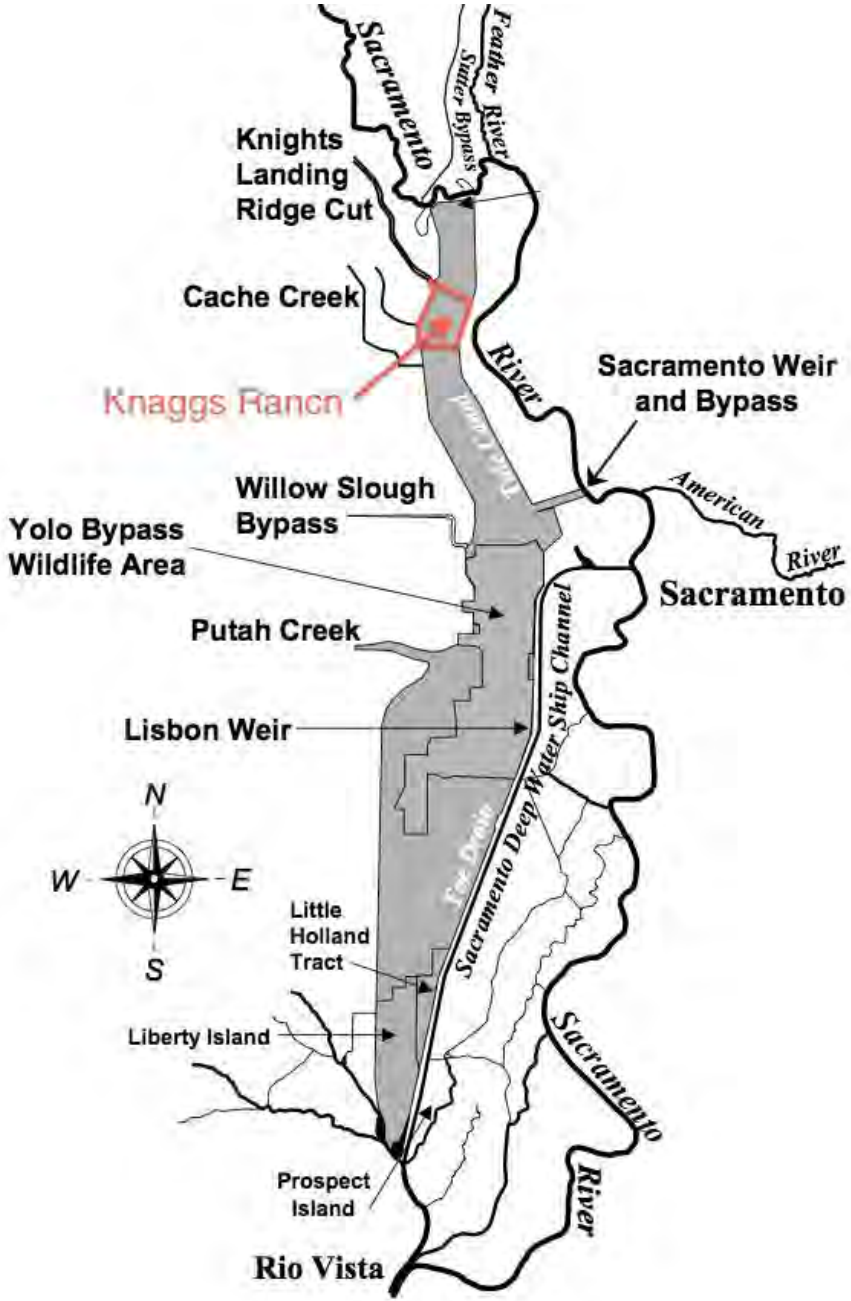
**We are never going back**





Mimicking natural floodplain processes  
in post-harvest floodplain rice fields

# Knaggs Ranch on Yolo Bypass



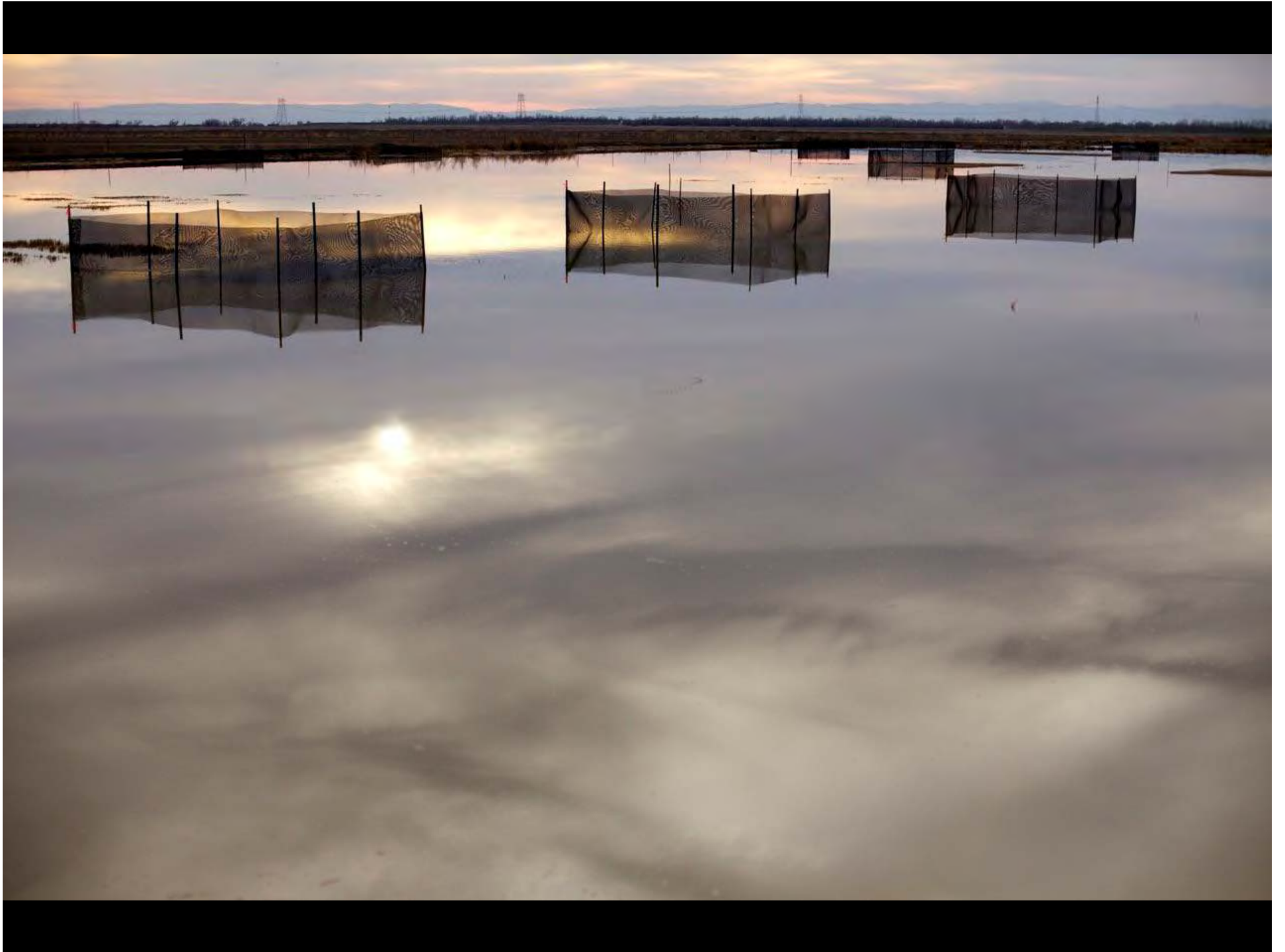
# Post Rice Harvest - November



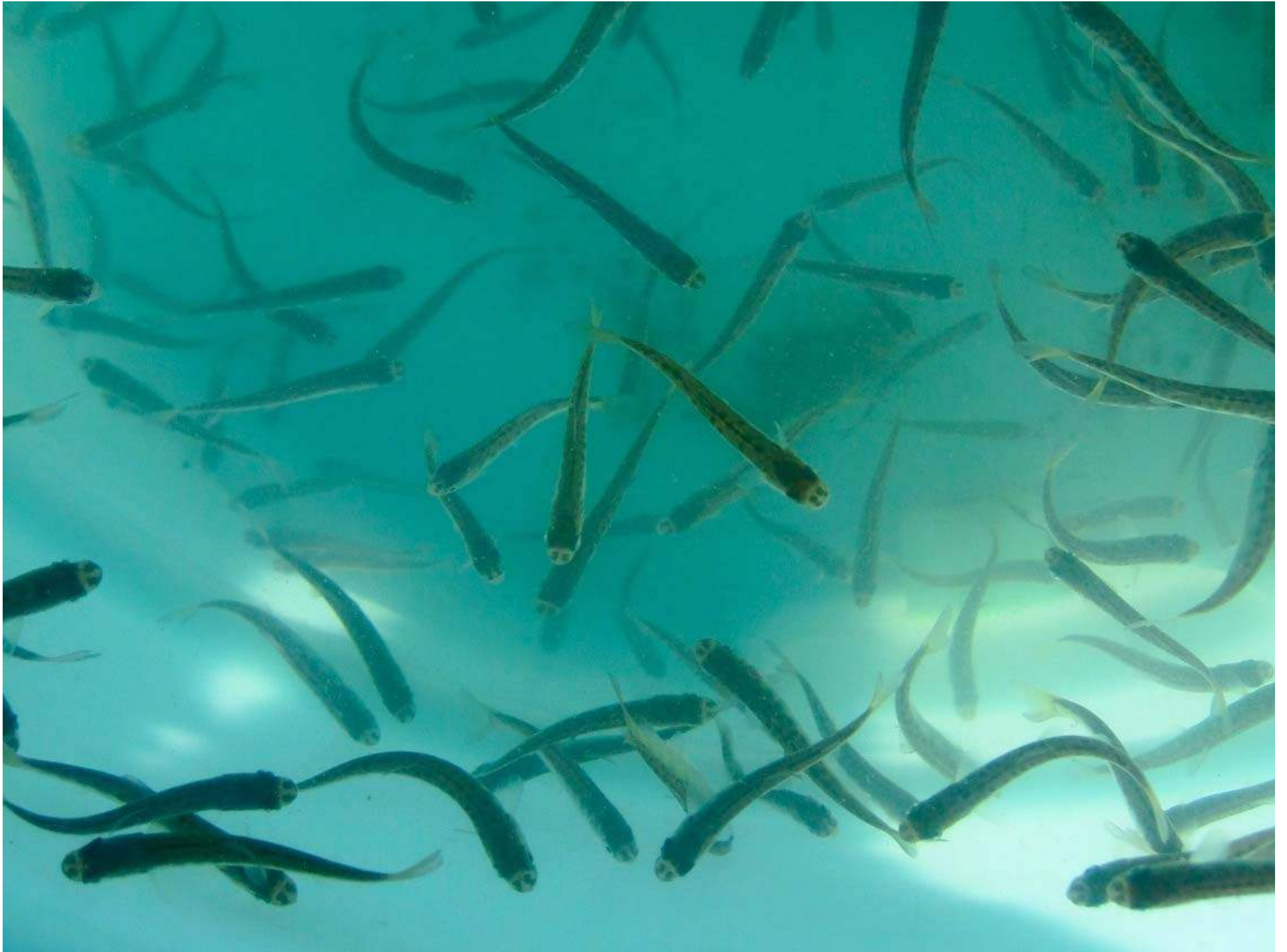




Carson Jeffres





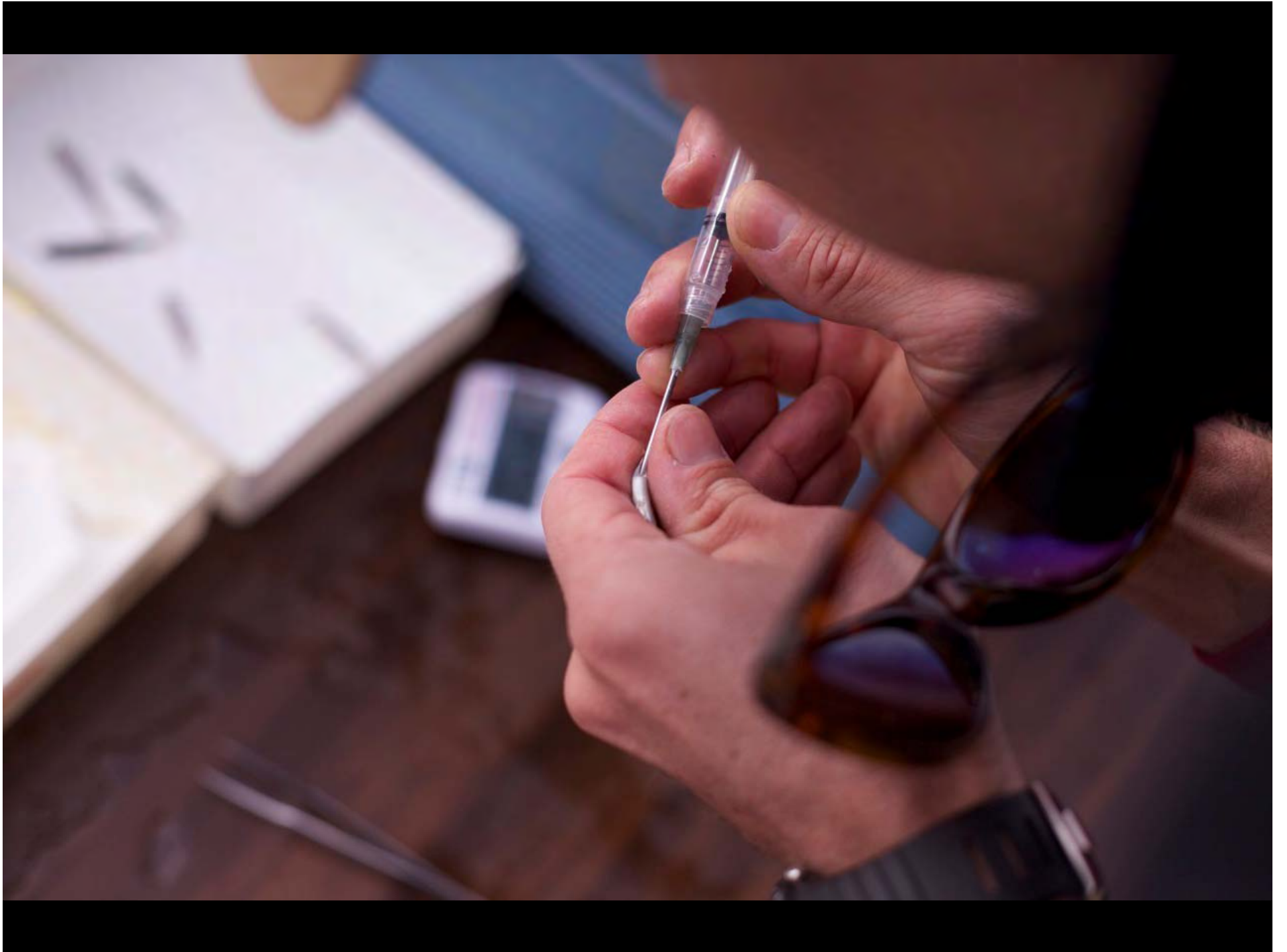






# Passive integrated transponder (PIT tags)







Fish measured every 2 weeks



After 6 weeks field drained





Fish measured and  
tags read



**Jan 31 – Week 0 – planted in rice field**



**March 12 – Week 6 – released from rice field**



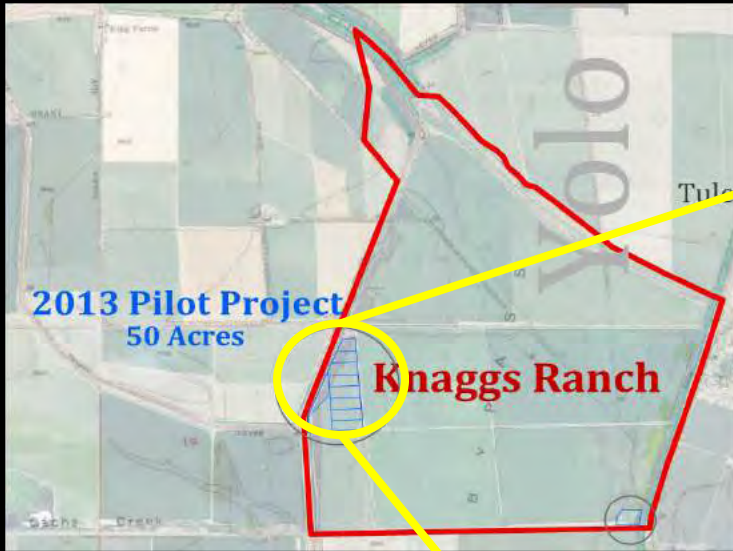
**April 13 – Week 10 – 13 miles downstream**

**G  
R  
O  
W  
T  
H**





# Nine 2-acre fields



Substrate type?



Fallow



Stubble



Stomped

# 2013: Farm Practices?

42,000 hatchery fish

Day 0

Day 38

2013



3/19

53 mm

1.5 g

4/27

90 mm

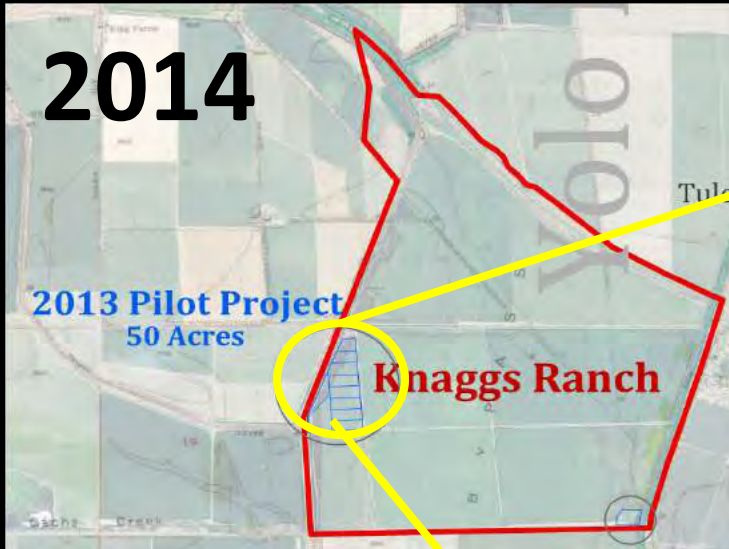
9.4 g

0.94 mm/d

0.18 g/d



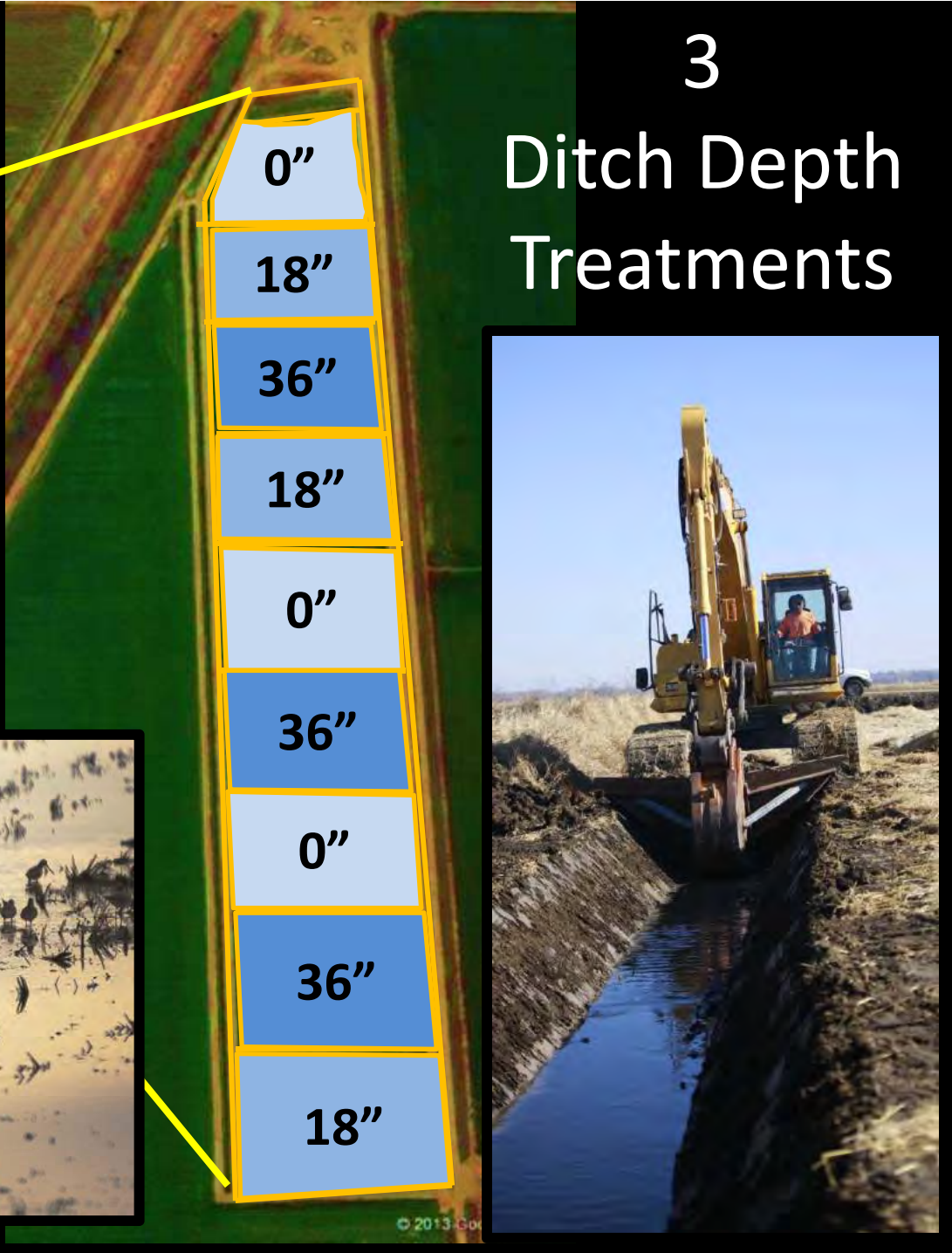
**2014**



45,000 hatchery fish,  
400 Feather River "wild" fish



**All Fields Stomped**



**3**

**Ditch Depth Treatments**





2014

Similar Growth  
(1 mm/day)

Better  
Survival

(Approx. 50%)

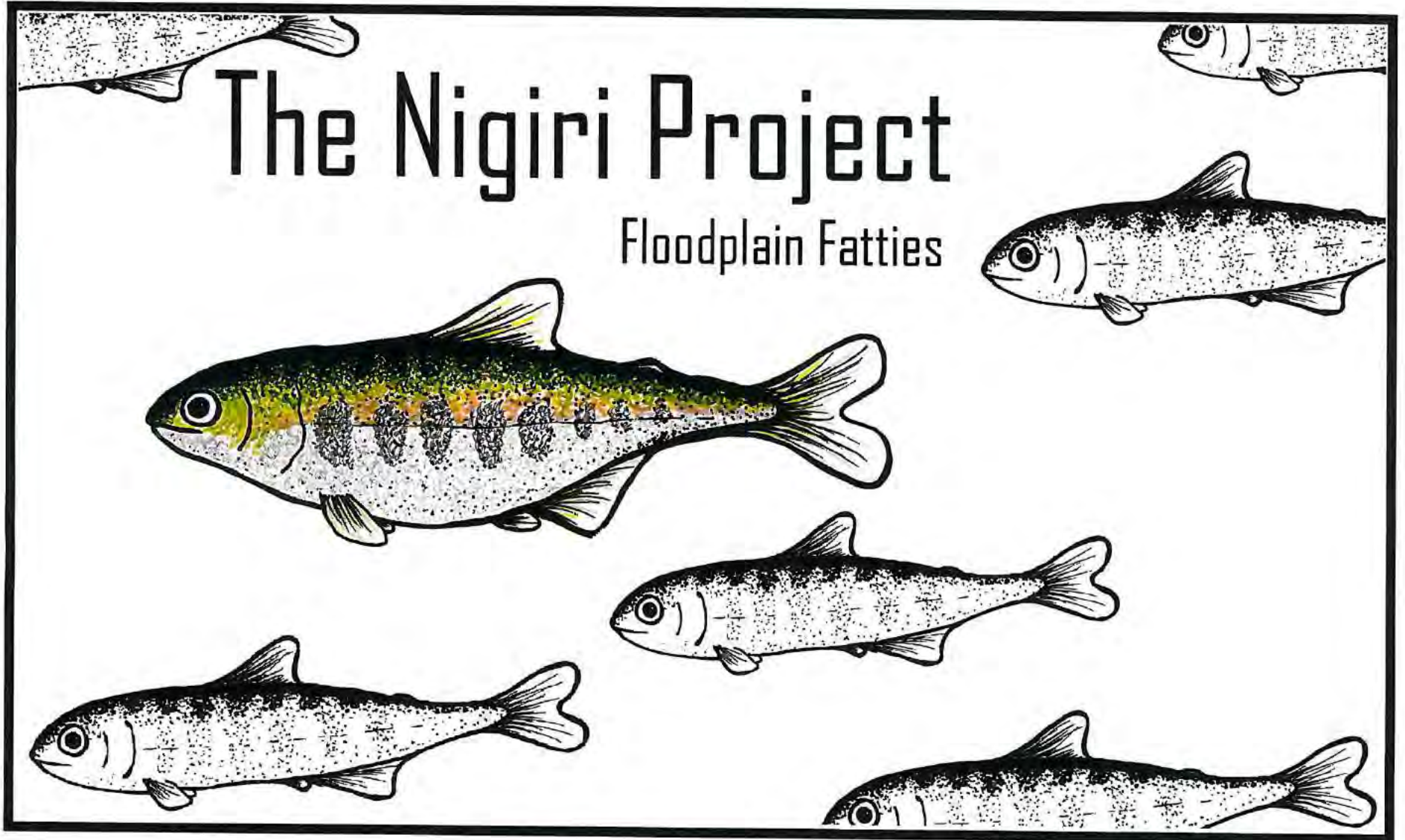
# CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT · CALIFORNIA ·

UNITED STATES · DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

## 2015: Fish at Multiple Locations



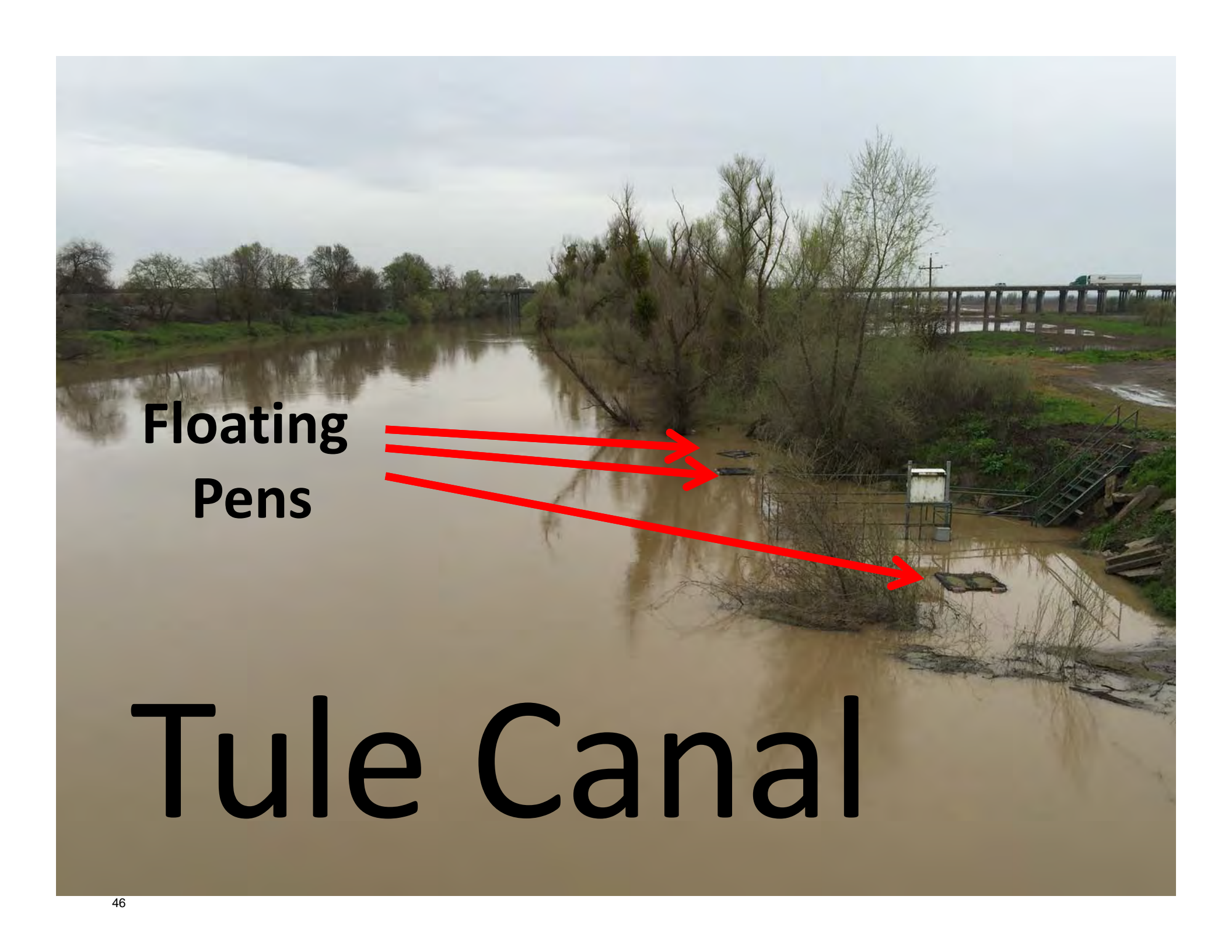
# Same Result



# Sacramento River

10 PIT tagged  
fish per pen

Floating  
Pens

A photograph of a canal with floating pens. The water is murky brown. On the right bank, there are several rectangular floating pens. A bridge is visible in the background. The sky is overcast. Three red arrows point from the text 'Floating Pens' to the pens in the water.

**Floating  
Pens**

**Tule Canal**

# Managed Agricultural Floodplain At Knaggs Ranch on Yolo Bypass



**Floodplain**

**Canal**

**River**



**These fish were the same size 3 weeks ago**

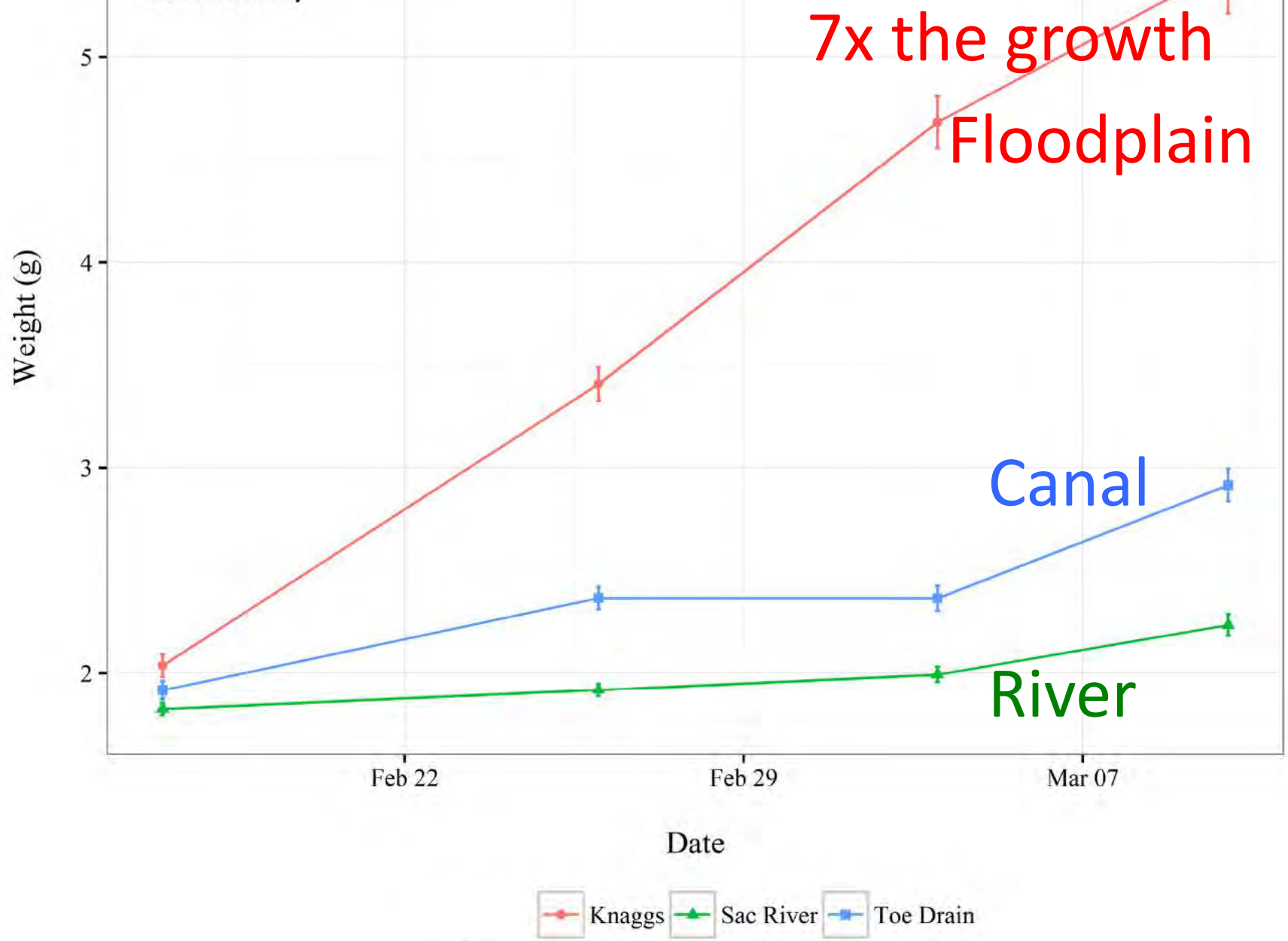
**3-11-2016**

Photo: J. Katz

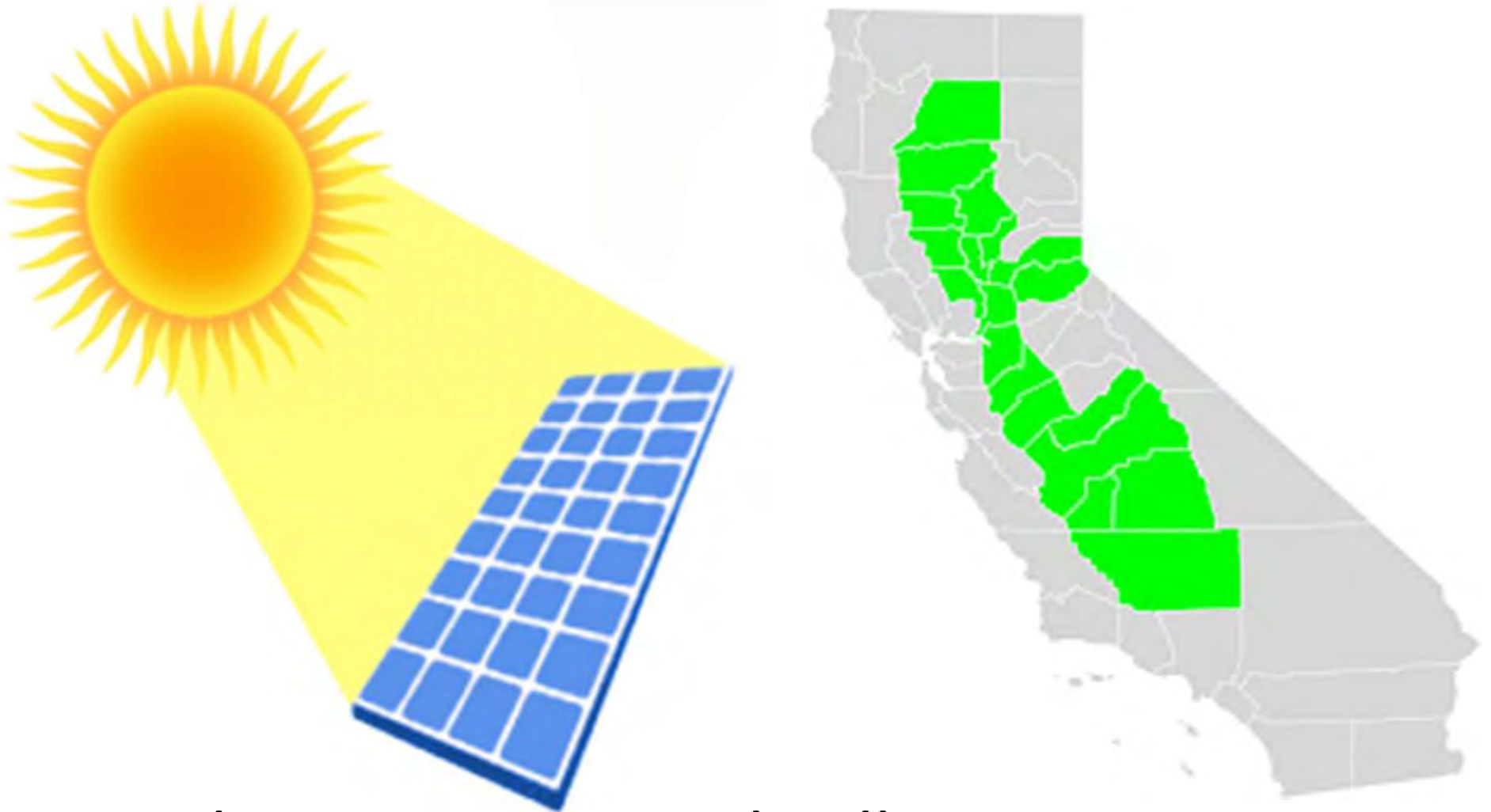


Preliminary Results from  
2016 Central Valley Riverine  
Transect Study

# Growth

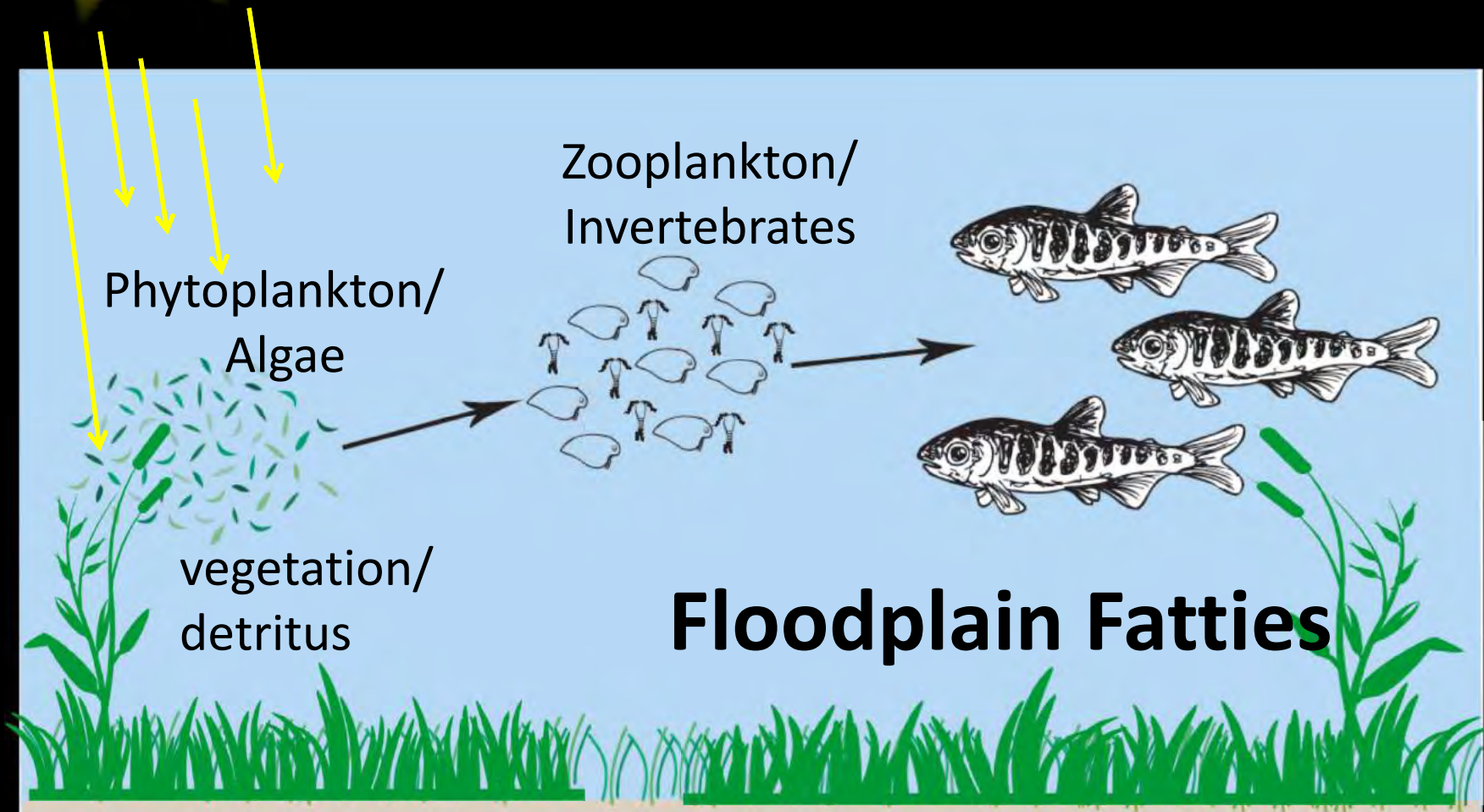


# Floodplains are the solar collectors



That power Central Valley aquatic  
food webs

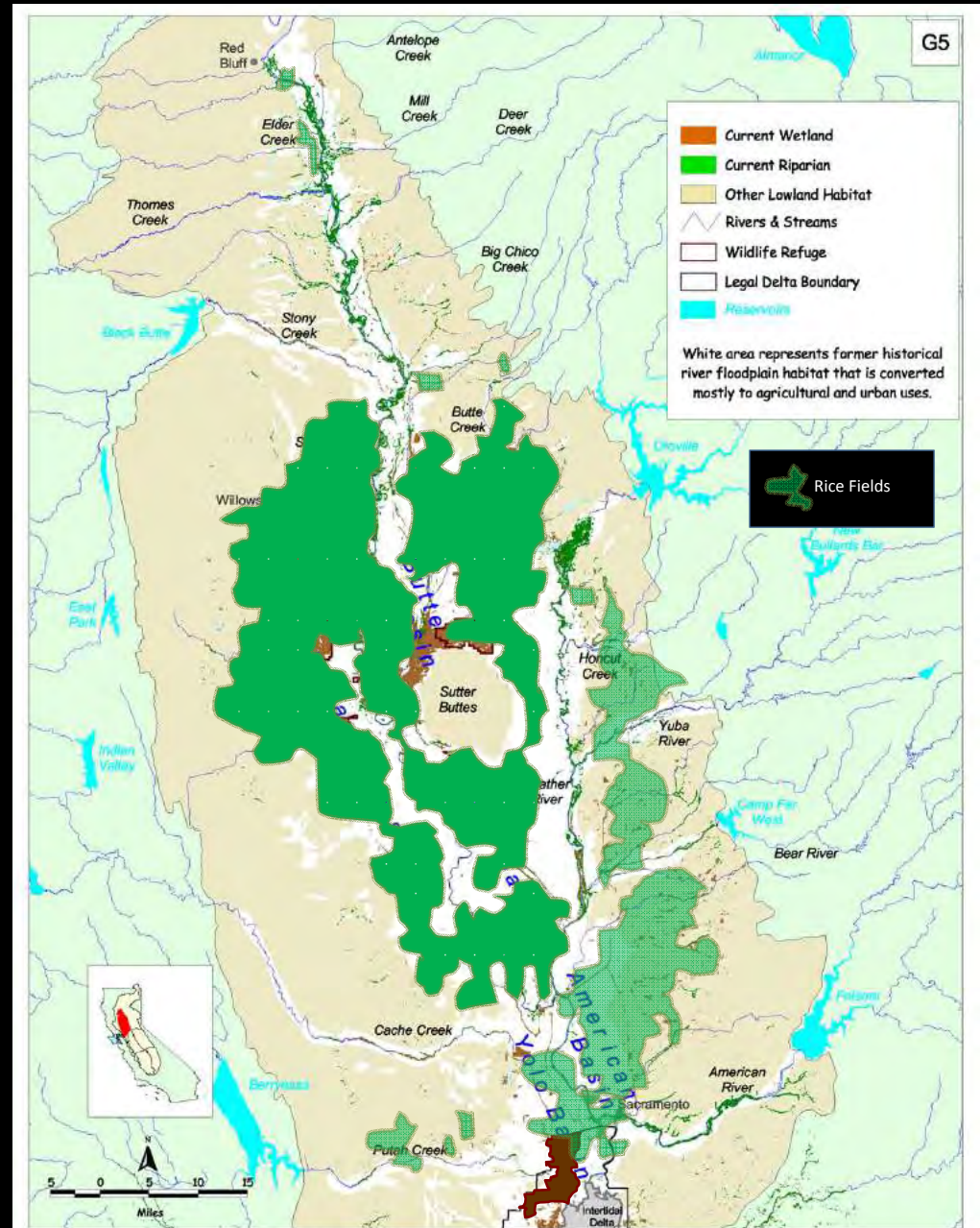
# Prolonging floodplain inundation: Mimicking Hydrologic Process To restore Ecological Function



95%  
of loss of  
floodplains

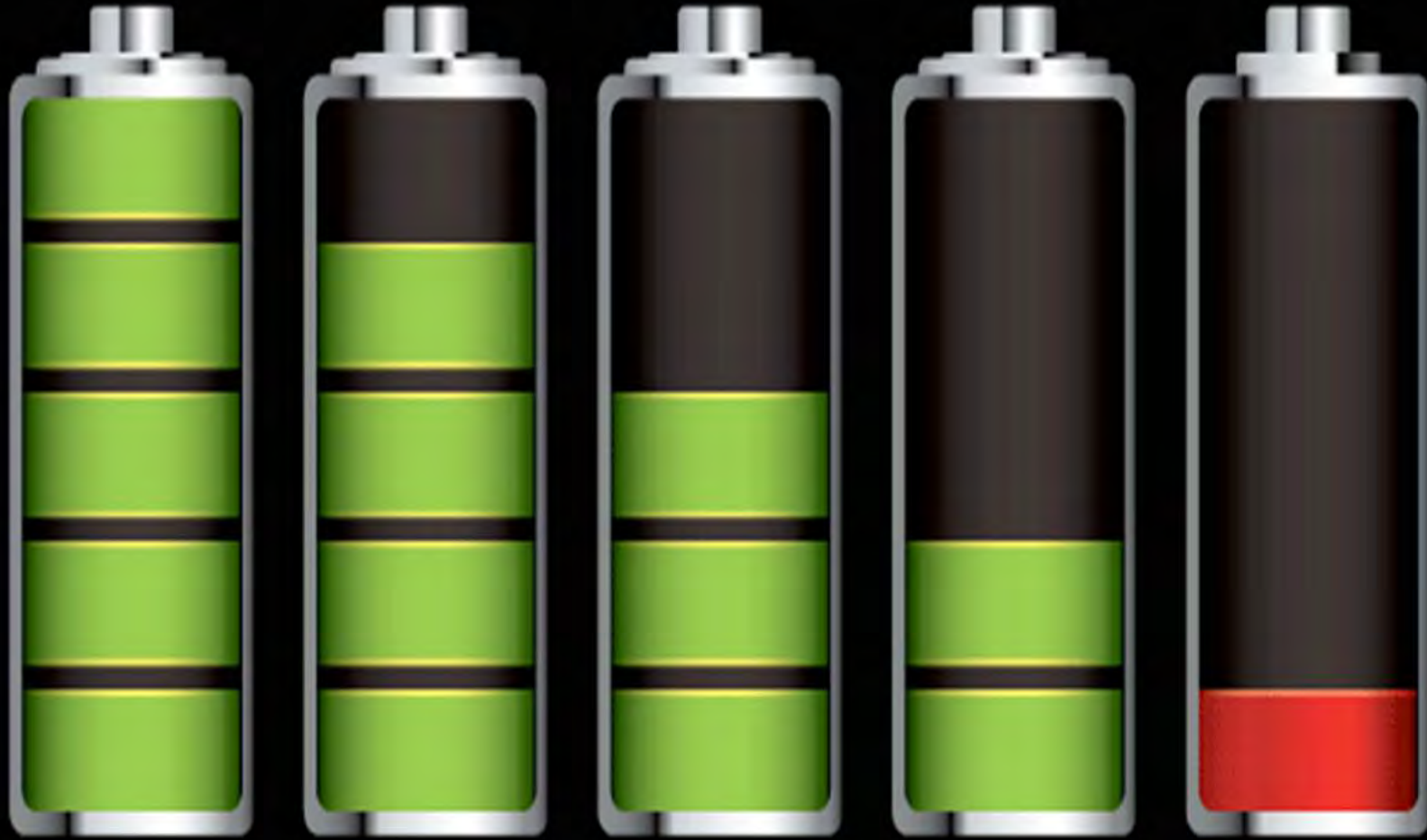
=

Running on  
fumes



Sacramento Valley Current River Floodplain Ecosystem

# Extent of Seasonally Inundated Floodplain



Pre-development



Today

**Ecosystem Running Out of Power!**

Slow it down!

Spread it out!

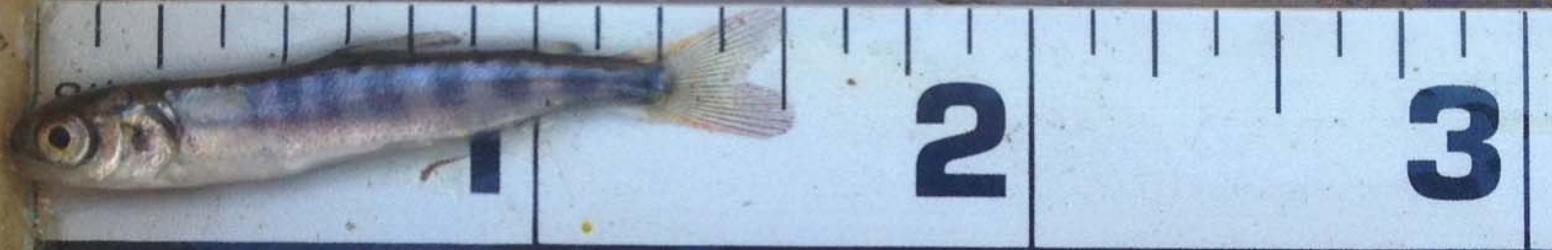


Grow them up!



# Fish Gotta Eat Too!

**River**



**Floodplain**

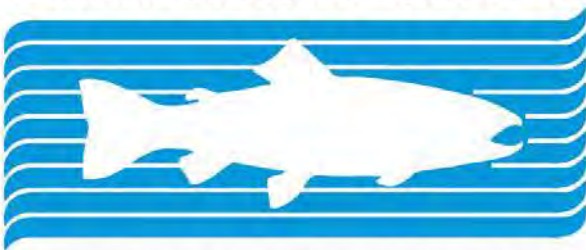
Feb 2014

# Rice Can Help Save Salmon If Farms Are Allowed to Flood

The Nigiri Project aims to restore the beloved fish by cutting a notch in a California levee and letting some floodplains return to nature

**J**acob Katz stands atop a long, narrow wall of rock and gravel, gazing east over an expanse of off-season rice fields a few miles west of Sacramento. The sky is winter gray and the levee clay is damp and sticky after a brief morning shower.

## CALIFORNIA TROUT



FISH · WATER · PEOPLE

“When some people look out here, they see a field of mud,” says Katz, a fishery biologist with the conservation group [California Trout](#). “I see the potential for a biological solar panel that can power our entire river system.”

[By Alastair Bland](#)

March 23, 2015



# Yolo Bypass

APRIL 2015





# A Cooperative Partnership



## California Trout

The California Department of Water Resources

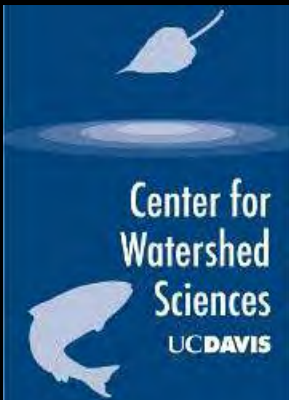
The UC Davis Center for Watershed Science

Cal Marsh and Farm Ventures, LLC

Knaggs Ranch, LLC

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

NOAA – Southwest Fisheries



# Questions?



Carson Jeffres

# Process-Based Reconciliation

Integrating a working knowledge of natural process, into management of natural resources





Thames



Mississippi



Seine





# Danube





## Near-Term **EcoRestore** & 2009 Biological Opinion Fish Passage Projects

- A** Knights Landing Outfall Gates
  - B** Wallace Weir
  - C** Tule Ag. Crossings
  - D** Fish Ladder Modifications
  - E** Lisbon Weir
- } 2009 BiOp

In advance of the Nov. 2015 completion of the voluntary Knights Landing Outfall Gates fish barrier, efforts are pivoting towards implementation of near-term fish passage projects per the 2009 BiOp. Wallace Weir will likely be pursued first (target groundbreaking in Summer 2016). Tule Ag. Crossings, Lisbon Weir, and Fremont Weir Fish Ladder modifications will be pursued simultaneously, with planned groundbreaking in 2017. Together, these efforts will effectively eliminate stranding in the Colusa Basin and significantly improve adult fish passage within the Bypass and across the Fremont Weir.



Time now to put the science into  
action and scale up

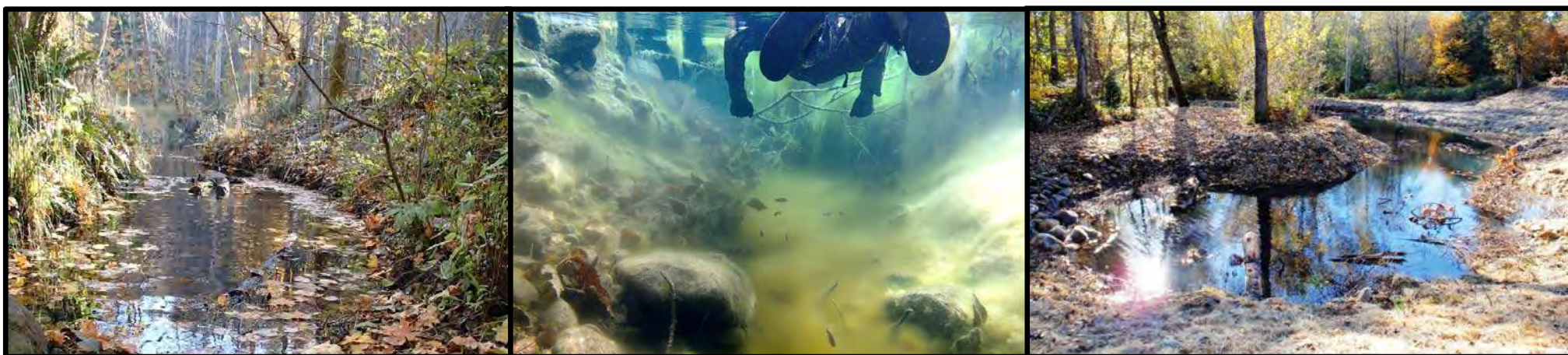
Use it to update obsolete  
water infrastructure built 100 years  
ago before anyone cared about fish

Working towards a mutually preferred  
alternative that creates greatest fish  
benefit, sustains ag and improves  
flood safety



Creating Off-Channel Coho Rearing Habitat in the Middle Klamath River Sub-basin  
**A Status Review of Constructed Projects (2010-2015)**

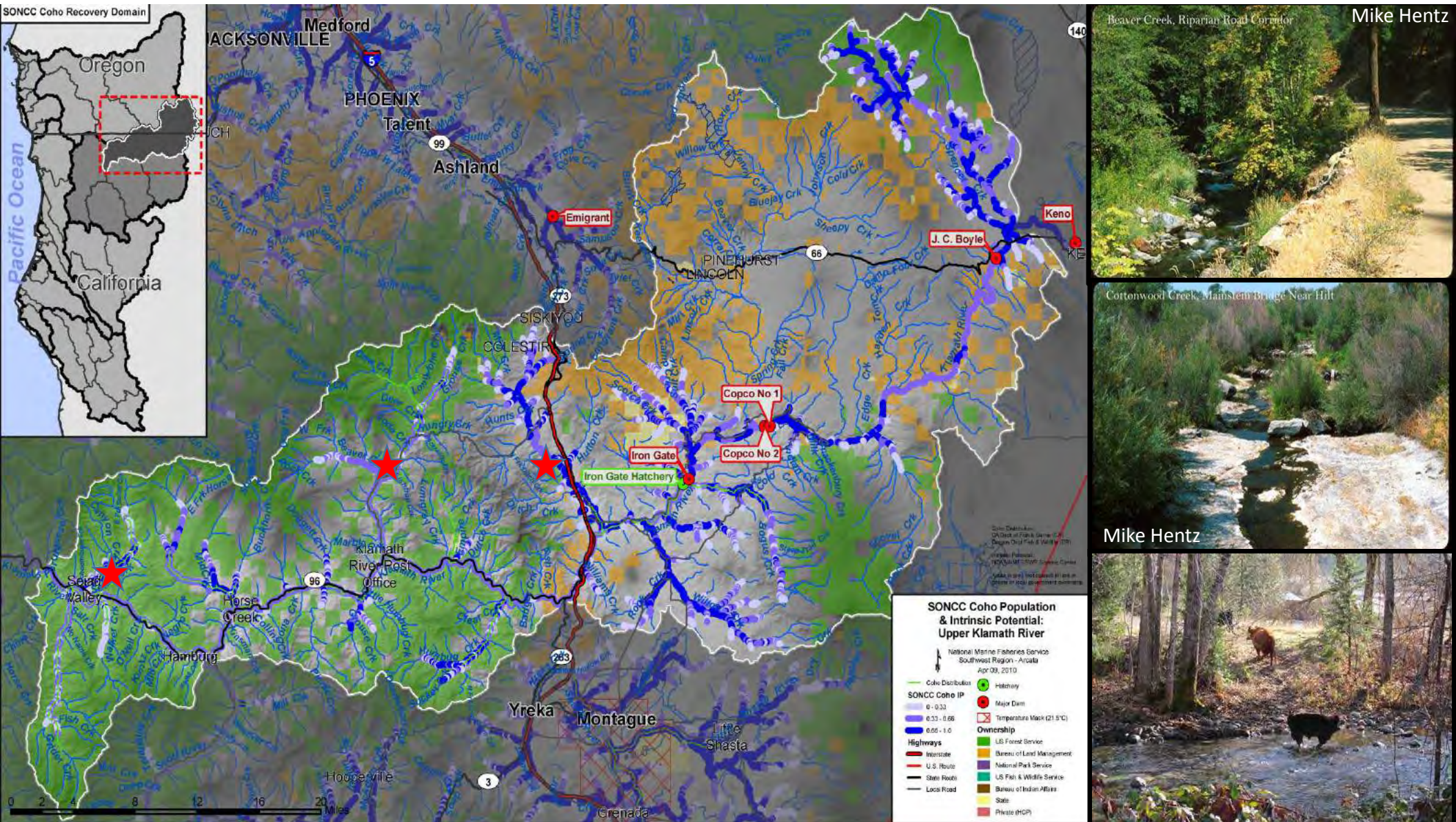
*Will Harling, Director, Mid Klamath Watershed Council*





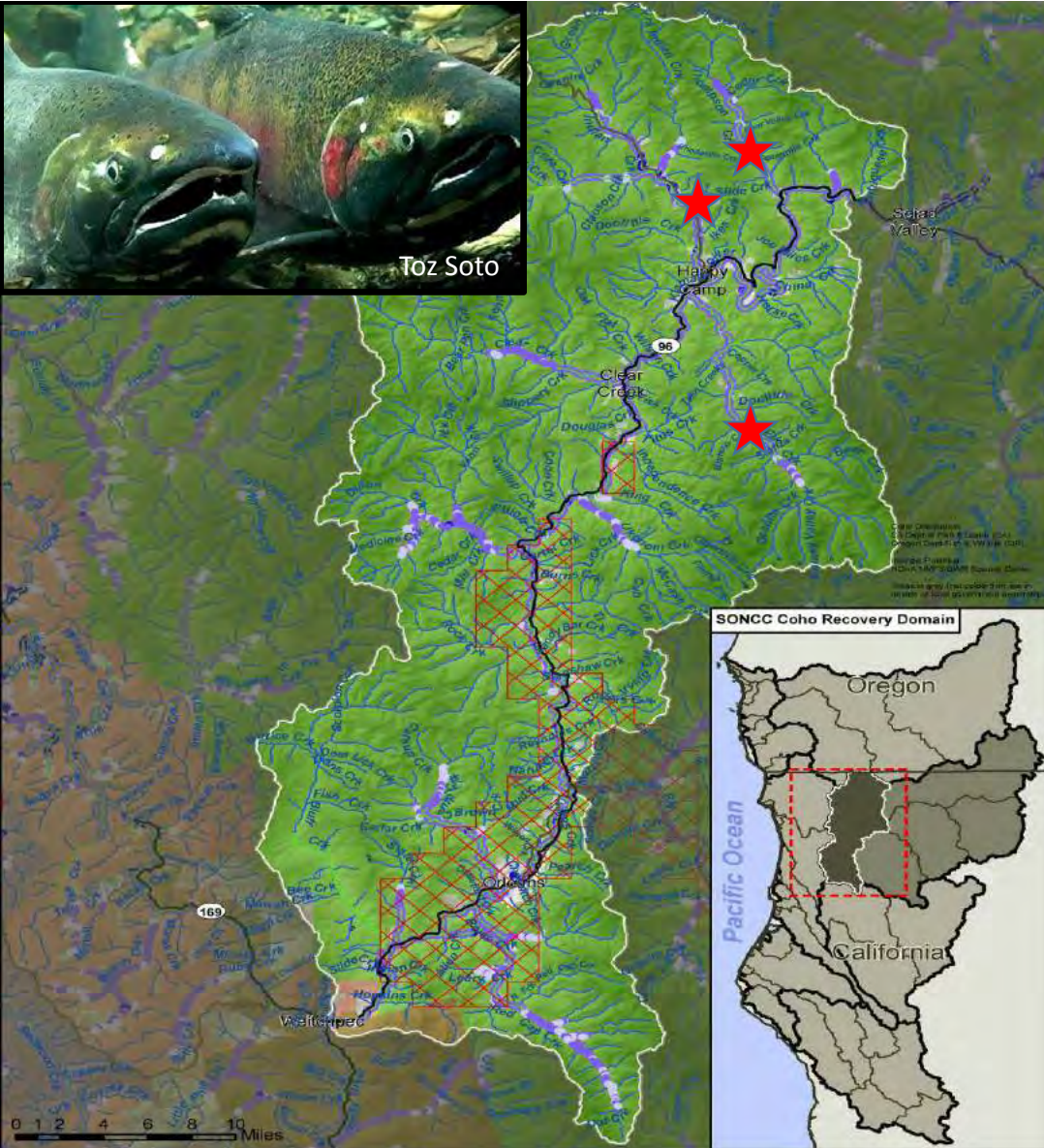
# OUTLINE

- Intro to the Mid Klamath
- Overview of Off-Channel Habitats Constructed 2010-2015
  - Process for Selecting Project Sites
    - What Makes a Good Site?
    - Lessons learned the Hard Way
  - You Cannot Always Tell by Looking What is Happening
    - Adapting to the Unseen/Unknown
    - Listen to the Fish
- Recommendations for Future Off-Channel Habitat Projects



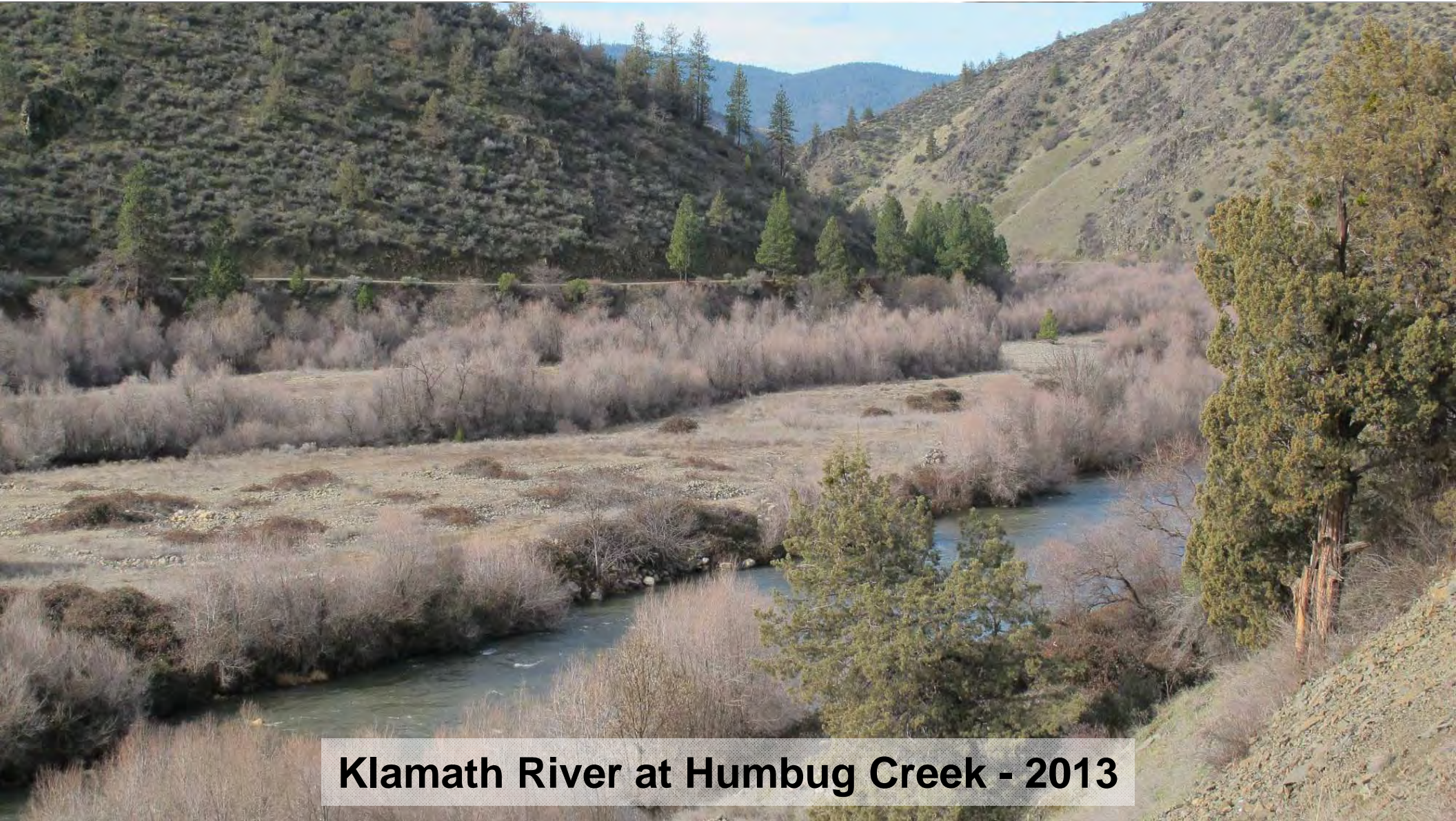


Toz Soto



Slater Butte, 1987 Fire

Mike Hentz



**Klamath River at Humbug Creek - 2013**

# Seiad Creek at Hwy 96 Bridge 2006 Flood Event



Toz Soto





Mike Hentz



Elk Creek During the 2014 Happy Camp Complex Fire



2014 White Fire



2014 Beaver Fire

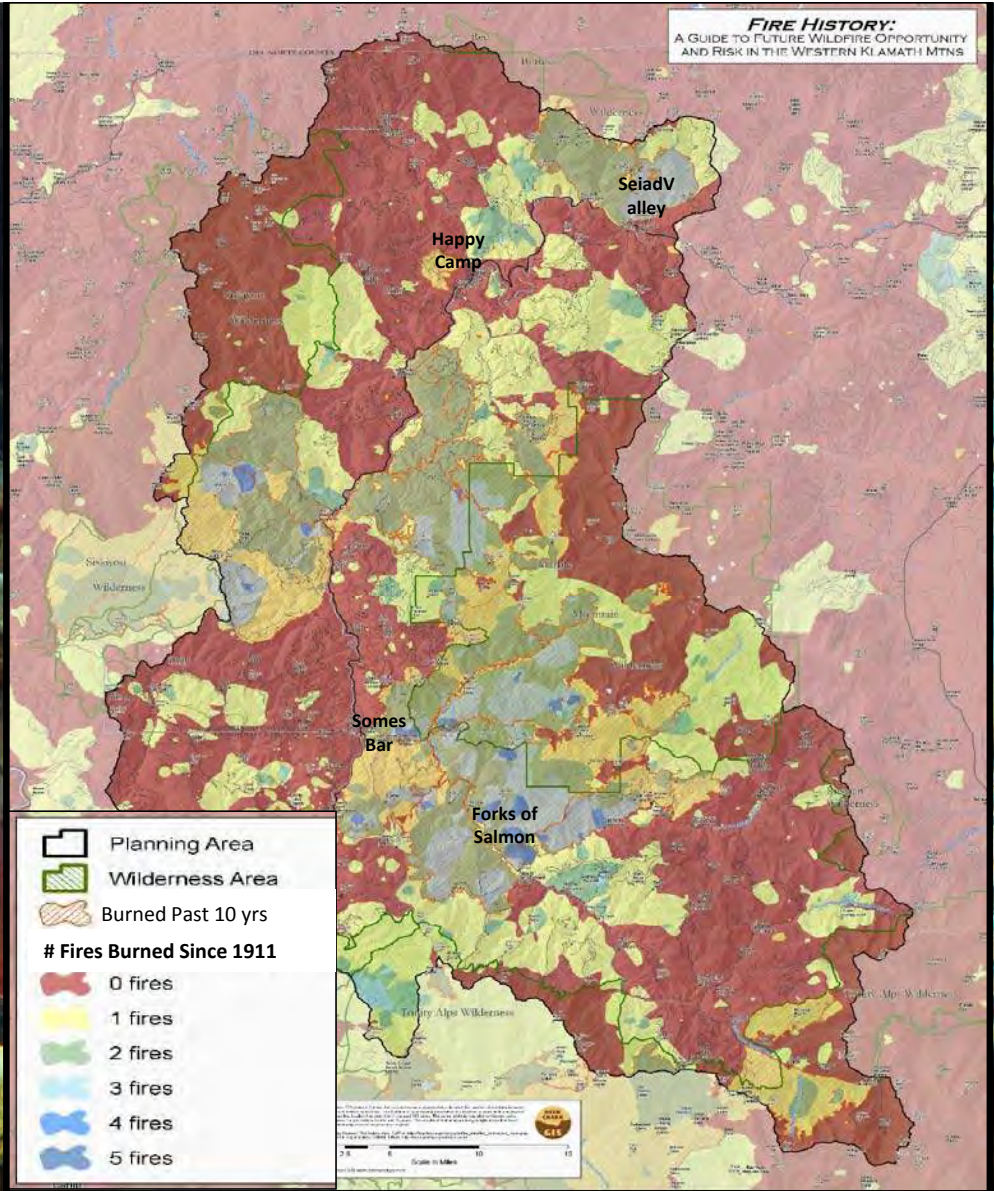
Photo: Scott Harding / Lighthawk



Grider Creek at PCT Trailhead  
After July 2015 T-Storm

Photo: Mark  
Motyka

July 2015







David McLain









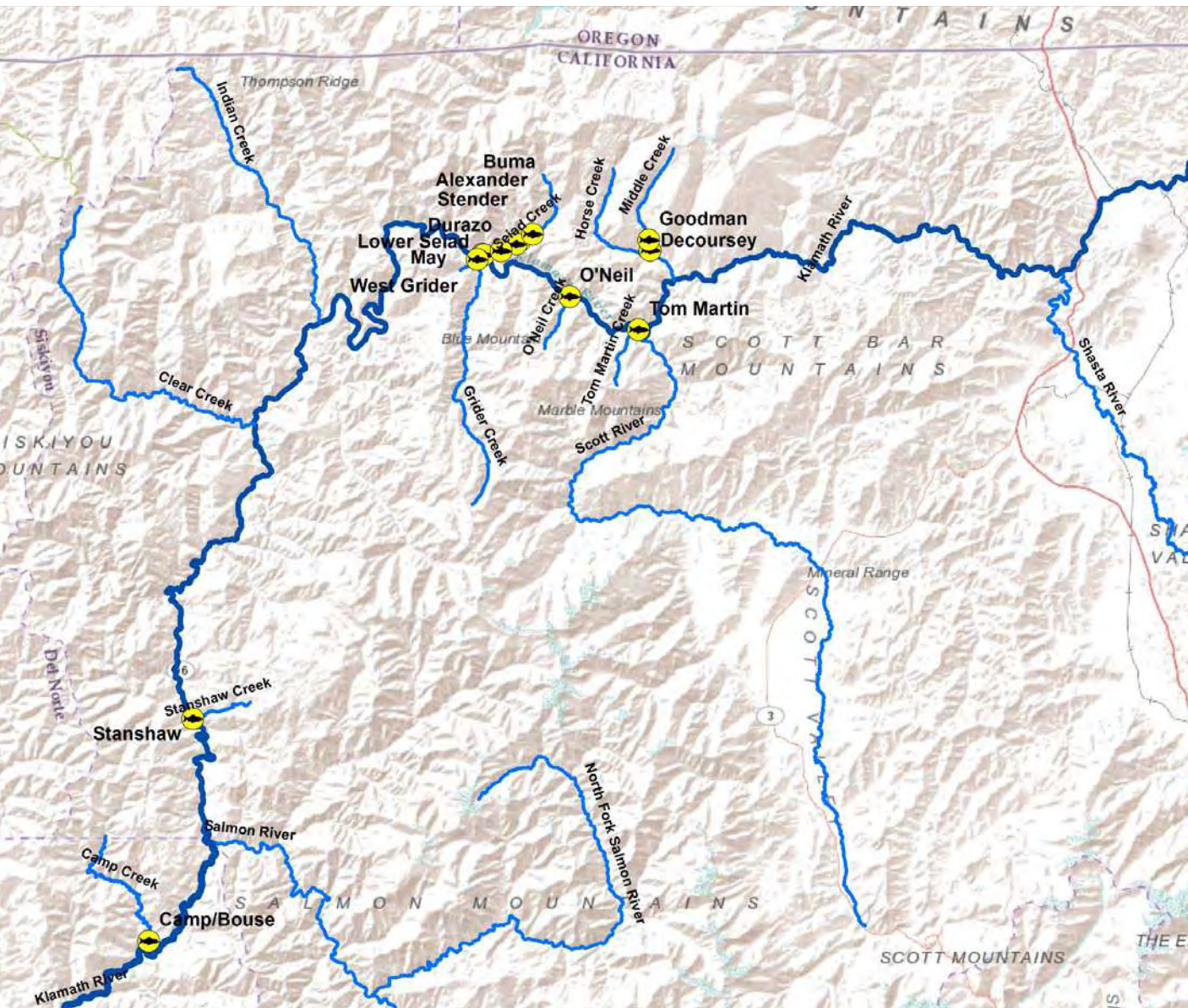
Photo: Mary Huffman (TNC)

# Off-Channel Habitat Construction for Juvenile Coho Salmon



- 2010: Stender, Buma, Alexander Ponds – All on Seiad Creek
- 2011: Lower Seiad and West Grider Ponds
- 2012: May Pond on Seiad Creek
- 2013: Ponds on Tom Martin, O’Neil, Camp, and Stanshaw Creeks
- 2014: DeCoursey Pond (Middle Creek – trib to Horse Creek) and Durazo Ponds on Seiad Creek.
- 2015: Goodman Pond on Middle Creek.
- Primary objective is to rapidly increase coho winter rearing habitat, however summer use has been documented in all ponds.
- Extensive Monitoring: water quality (DO, temp), snorkel surveys, mark/recap popn estimates, maintaining habitat connectivity.
- Shari Anderson MS thesis (2014) on coho growth, density, and abundance in constructed habitats, as well as tributary and beaver influenced habitats. HSU grad student Michelle Krall about to publish MS thesis.
- Funding: USFWS Partners Program, NFWF/PacifiCorp, FishAmerica/NMFS, Caltrans/USFS and CDFW.







## Klamath River Coho Ecology Study

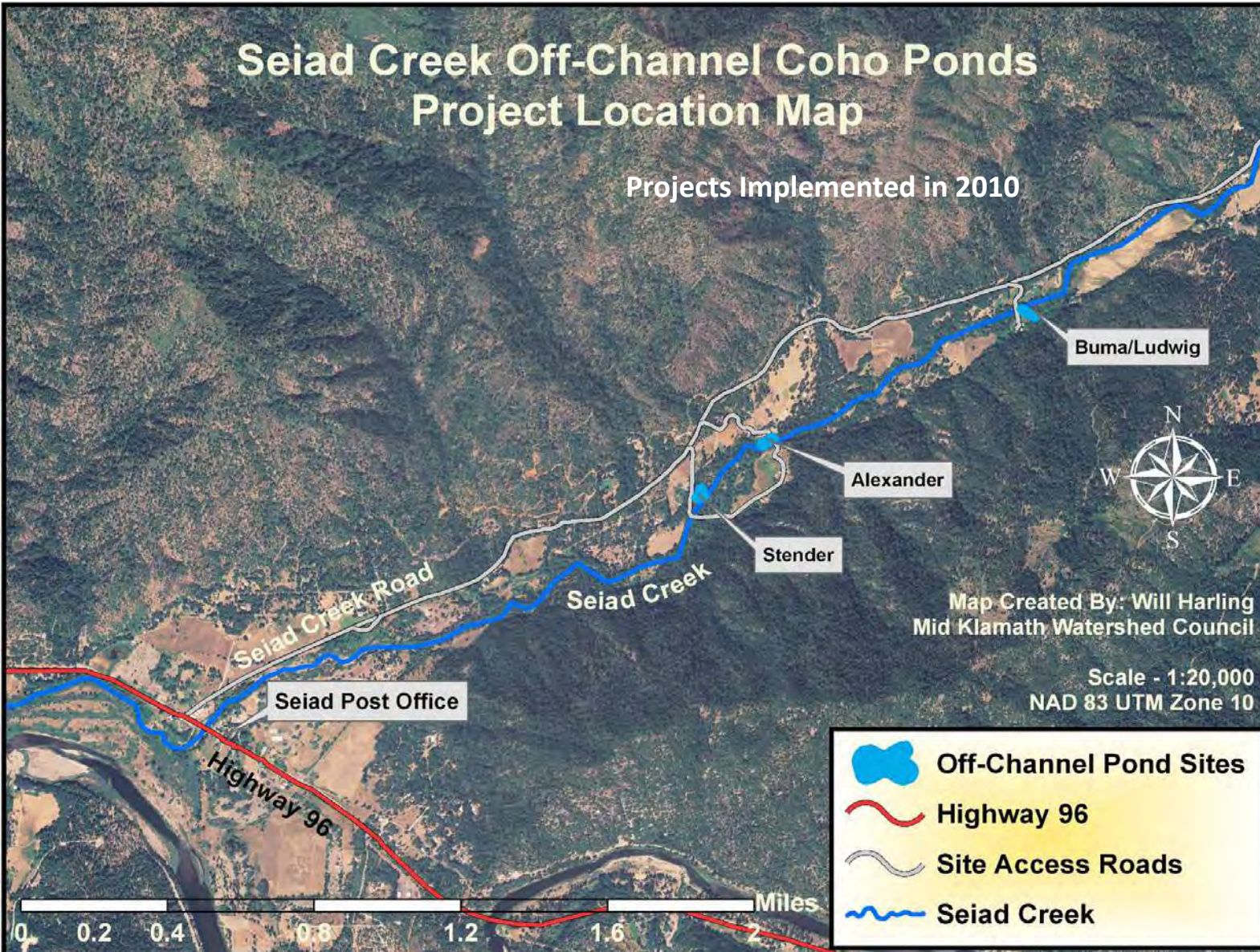
- Karuk Tribe, Yurok Tribe and partners have detailed coho life history patterns/movement in the Middle and Lower Klamath over the past decade +.
- These studies indicate winter rearing habitat is a major limiting factor to coho smolt production in many Klamath tributaries. (Soto et al 2008).
- This science is the basis for restoration actions occurring in the Klamath Basin from Iron Gate Dam to the mouth of the Klamath River.

**“Overwinter survival of juvenile coho is approximately 2-6 times greater in off-channel habitats than within main channel habitats. This difference in survival rates is especially important in watersheds that have undergone significant changes due to land use.”**

Larry Lestelle (2007)

# Seiad Creek Off-Channel Coho Ponds Project Location Map

Projects Implemented in 2010



- Key coho stream in Mid Klamath.
- Heavily impacted by channelization (levees) to make room for ag/domestic use, and past mining.
- Willing landowners in a hostile landscape.
- Working in an altered landscape.
- Experimenting with site longevity based on connectivity during flood events.

# Buma Ludwig Off-Channel Salmonid Rearing Habitat on Seiad Creek 2009-PARTNERS-HR-14



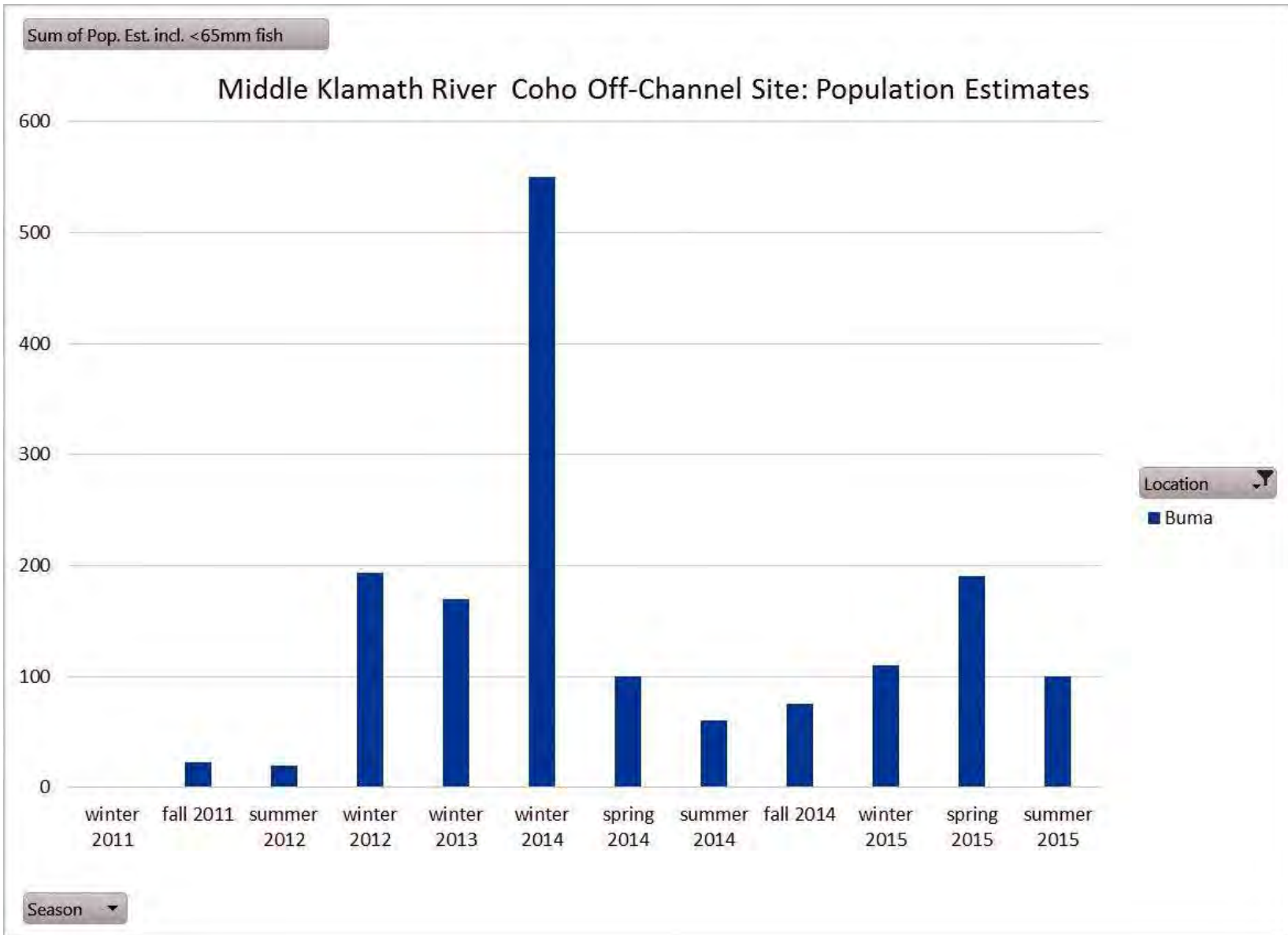
- Dug into side channel w through flow in 5-10 year flood event.
- Very low cost of construction (~\$10,000).
- Beaded channel design.
- Early issues with connectivity. Entered Seiad Creek mid-riffle...

Buma Pond: After Construction 11-3-10









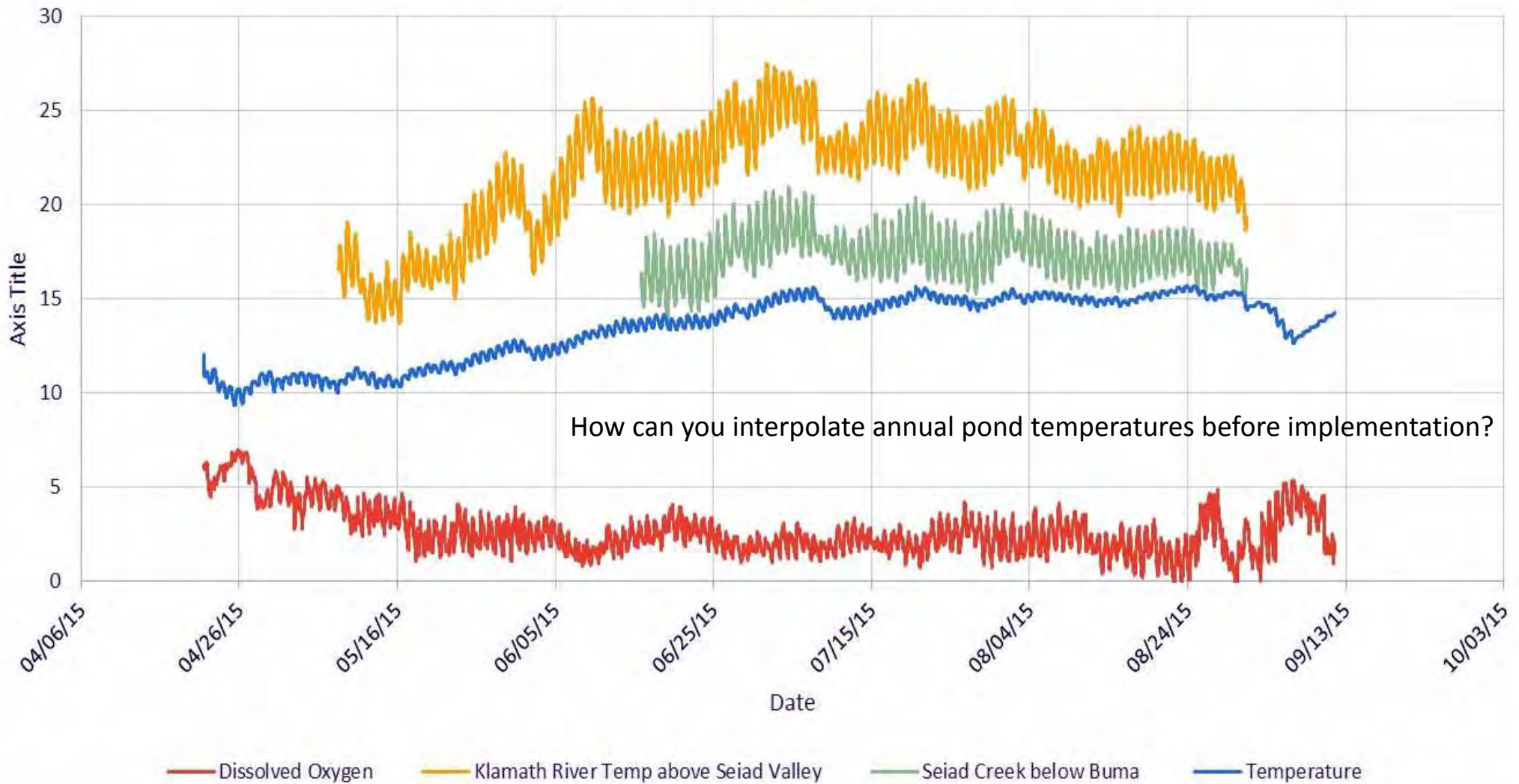
An underwater photograph of a stream or pond. The water is clear, revealing a rocky and leaf-strewn bottom. Several fish, likely Coho salmon, are visible. One fish in the foreground is larger and has a speech bubble. Another fish in the background has a speech bubble. A semi-transparent text box is at the top.

Buma Pond – High Retention - High Numbers of Large 1+ Coho

To the Ocean!!!

SIZE MATTERS!!!

## 2015 Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Data: Buma Pond





Before – November 2009



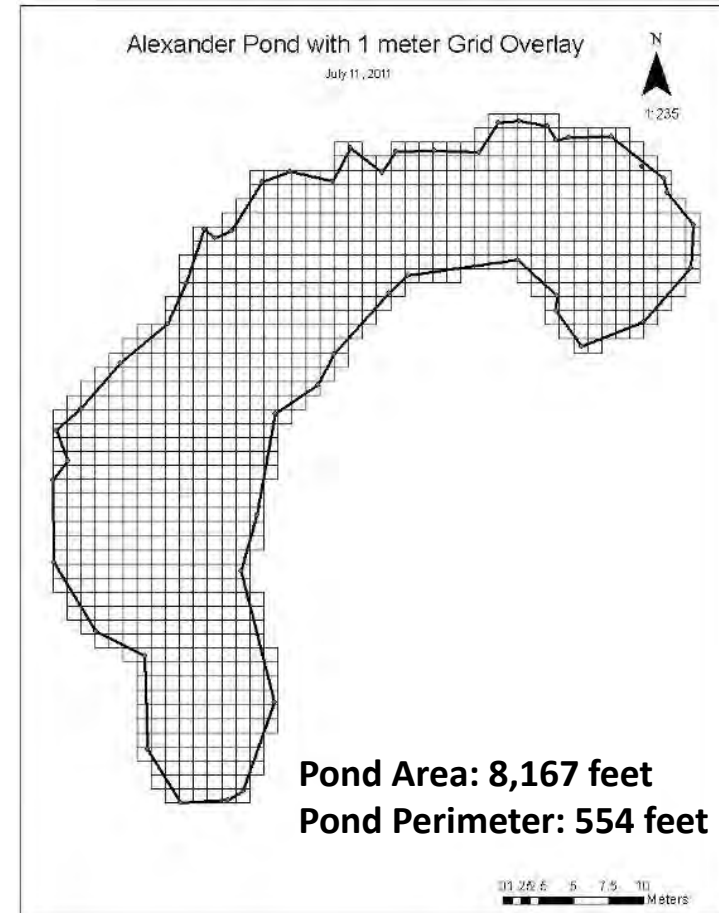
During – October 2010



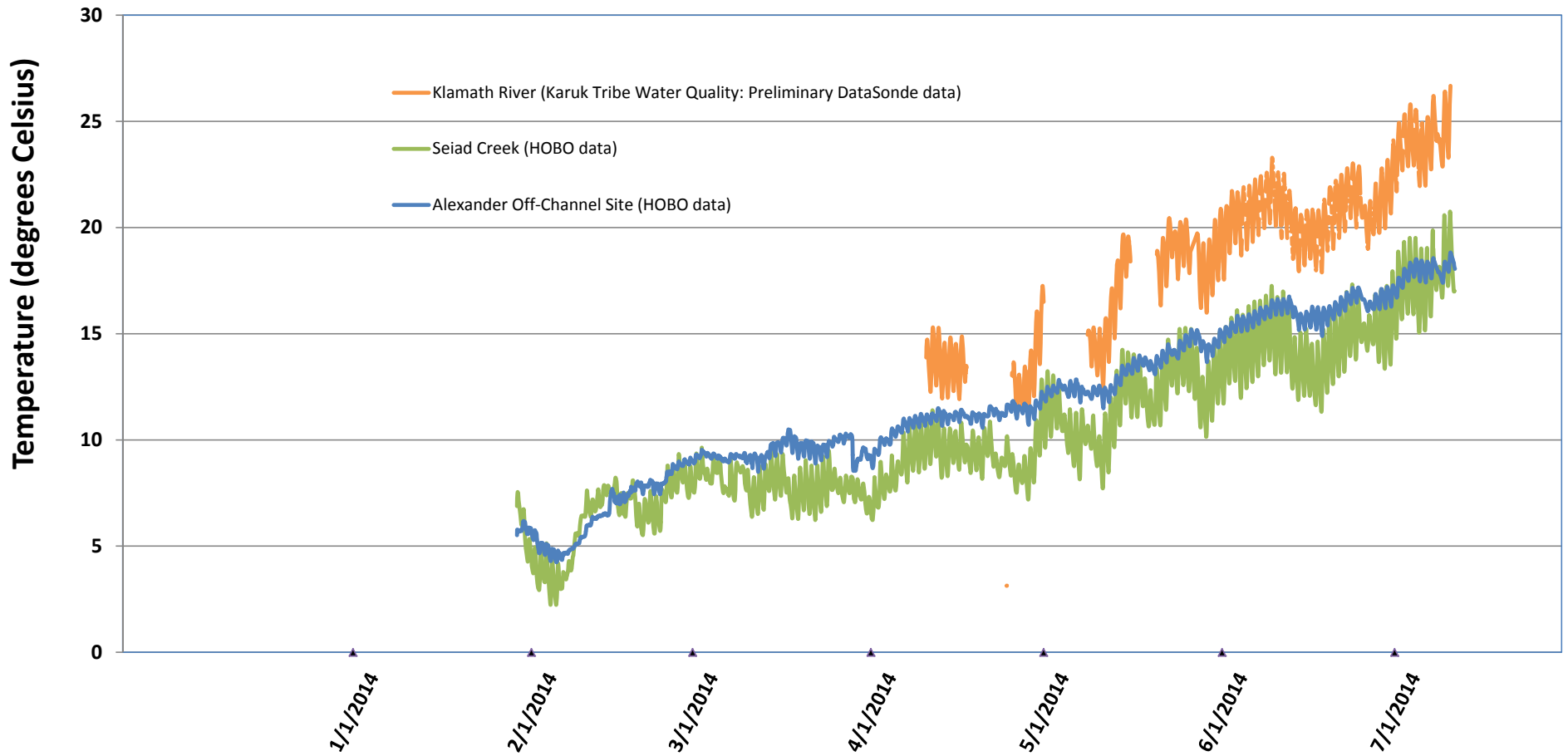
After – February 2011

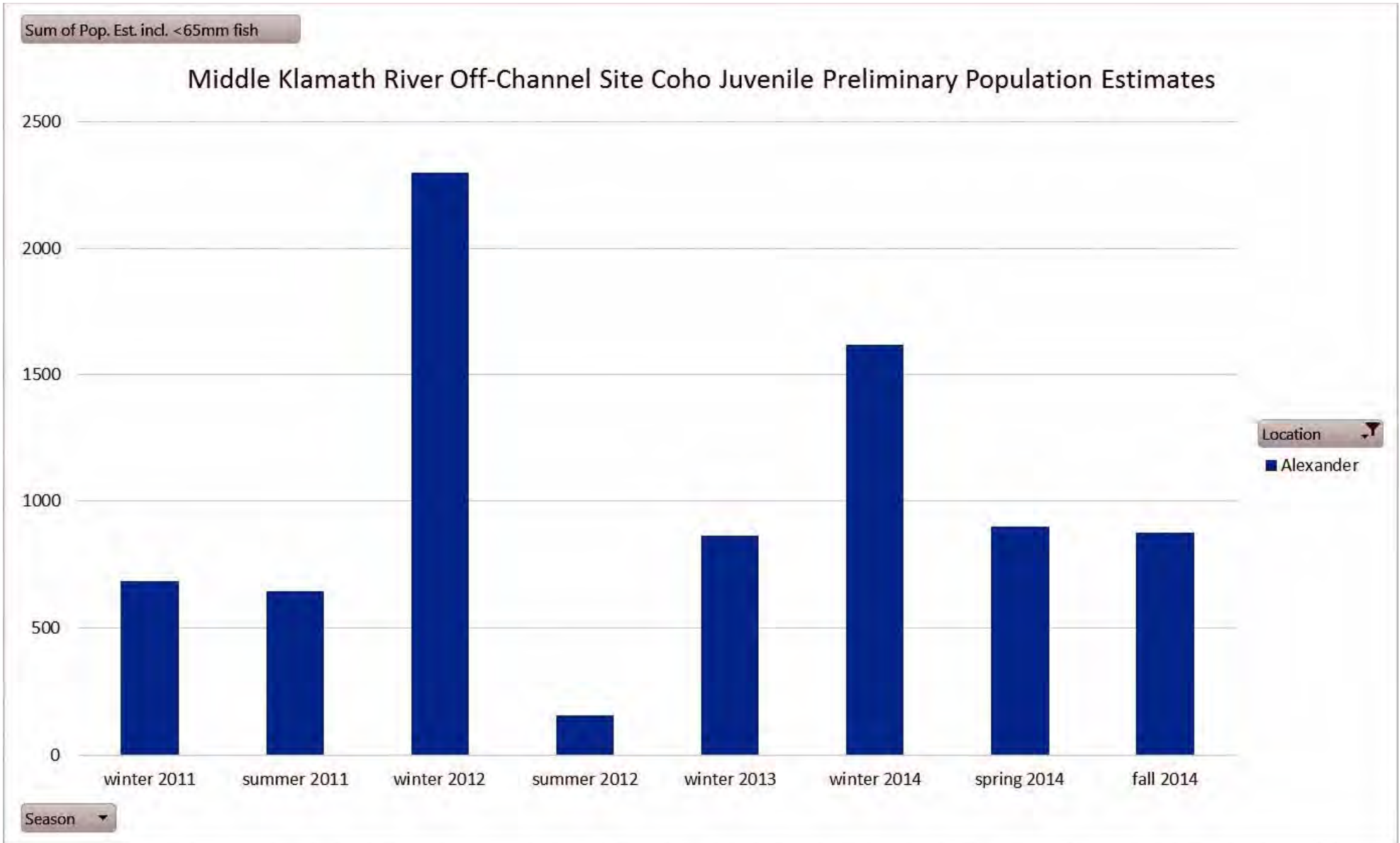
# Alexander Pond

~ 2 mi. up Seiad Creek



## Alexander Off-Channel Site 2014 Temperatures







## Alexander Pond - Why Do Coho Love It?

- Located just downstream of a key spawning reach on lower Canyon Creek.
- Eight feet deep at summer base flow.
- Suitable summer temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels.
- Complex wood structures
- High plankton levels may help to deter predation.
- Connection to Seiad Creek increases from two feet to nearly 20 feet during high flows. This may increase the ability for juvenile coho to find the site during high water events.

# Stender Pond 2010-2015

2010



2011



2012



2015

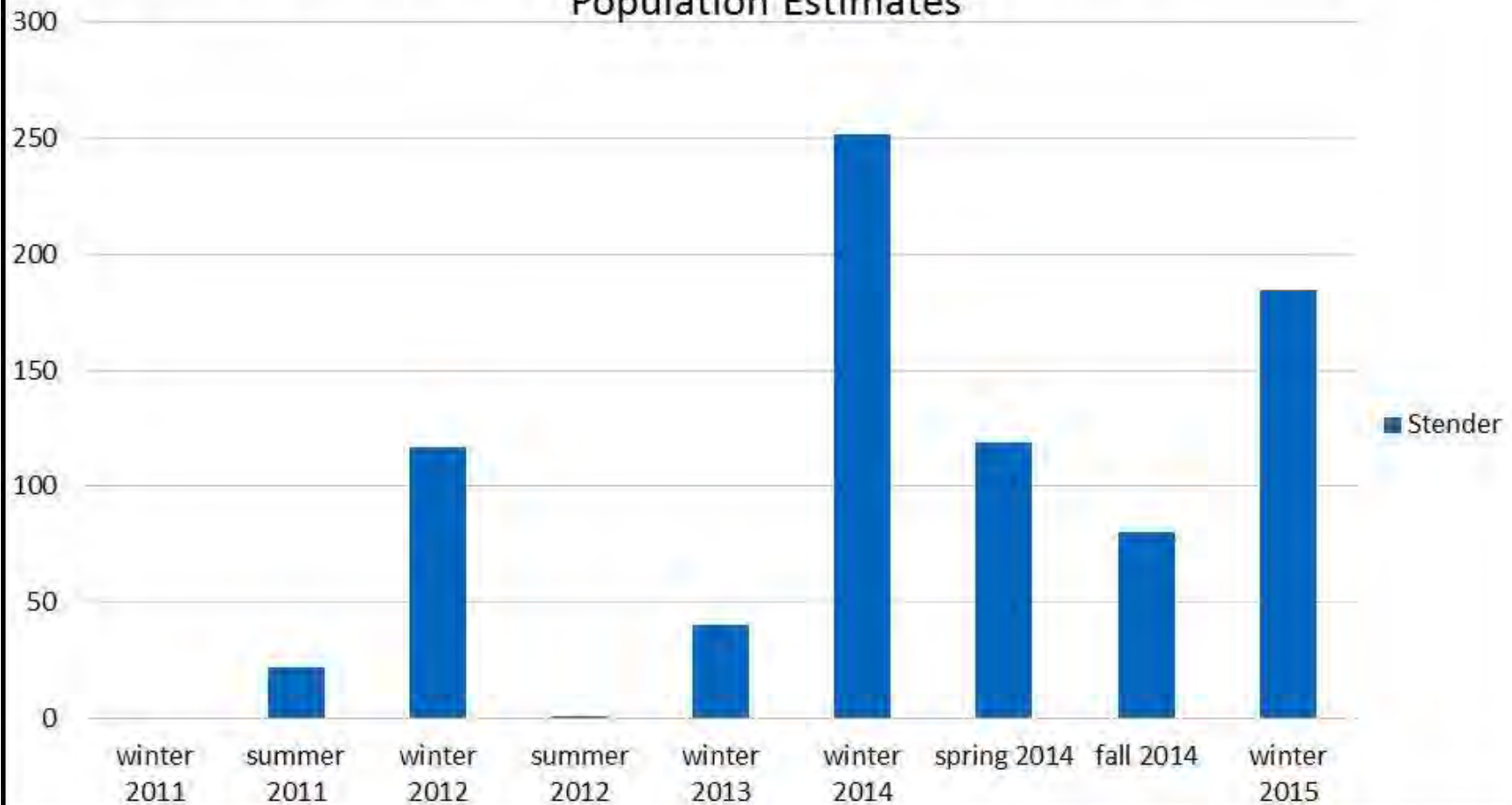




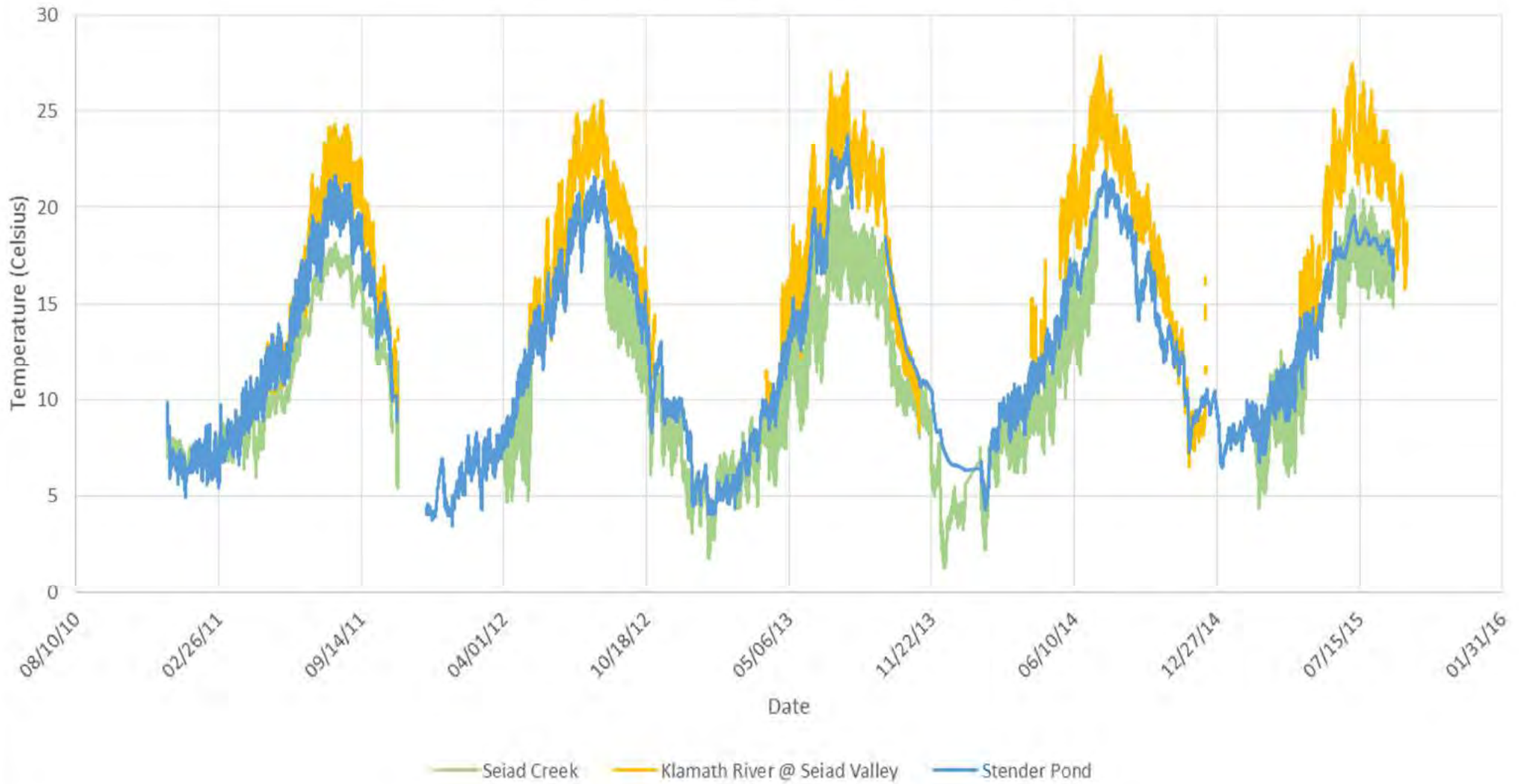
Summer 2012 – Debris Flow Into Stender Pond



### Middle Klamath River Off-Channel Site Coho Juvenile Preliminary Population Estimates



Stender Pond Hobo Temperature Data: 2010-2015





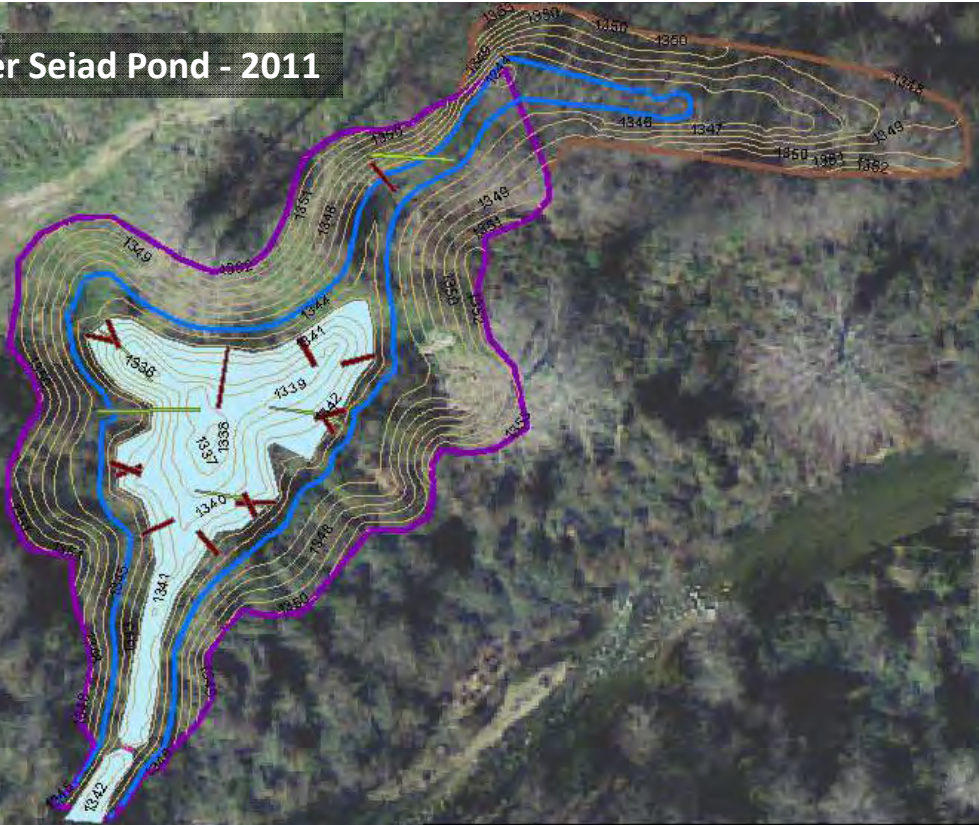
## Stender Pond – Stochasticity and Adaptive Management

- Built to withstand large flood events – first to “fail”
- Complex wood structures at all depths provide optimal cover
- Don't set a hard sill if there's drop from inlet to creek at summer base flow and limited groundwater output.
- Riparian and aquatic vegetation appear to be moderating summer temperatures

# 2012 May Off-Channel Coho Rearing Habitat Project on Seiad Creek



# Lower Seiad Pond - 2011

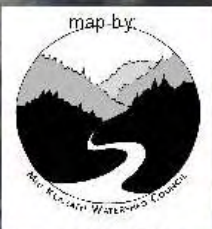


Seiad Creek

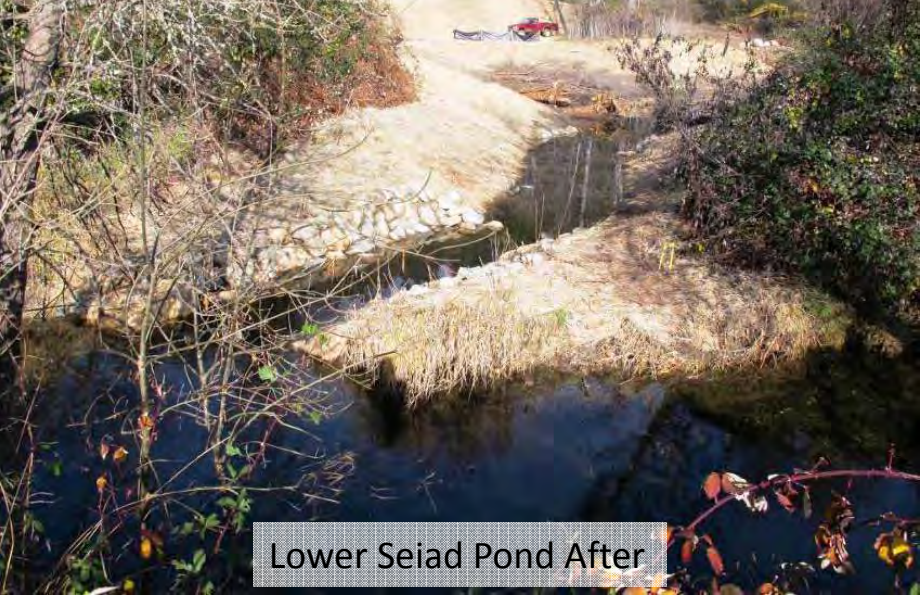
- 1 foot contours from December 2011 Trimble GPS data
- Excavation Area (Cubic Yardage Excavated = approx. 4000)
- Existing Trench Area
- 1345 ft. contour (8070 square feet of habitat)
- 1343 ft low flow level (4160 square feet)
- Log Sill (Elevation is 1342.1 feet)

**Wood Cover**

- conifer
- willow



Lower Seiad Pond Before



Lower Seiad Pond After



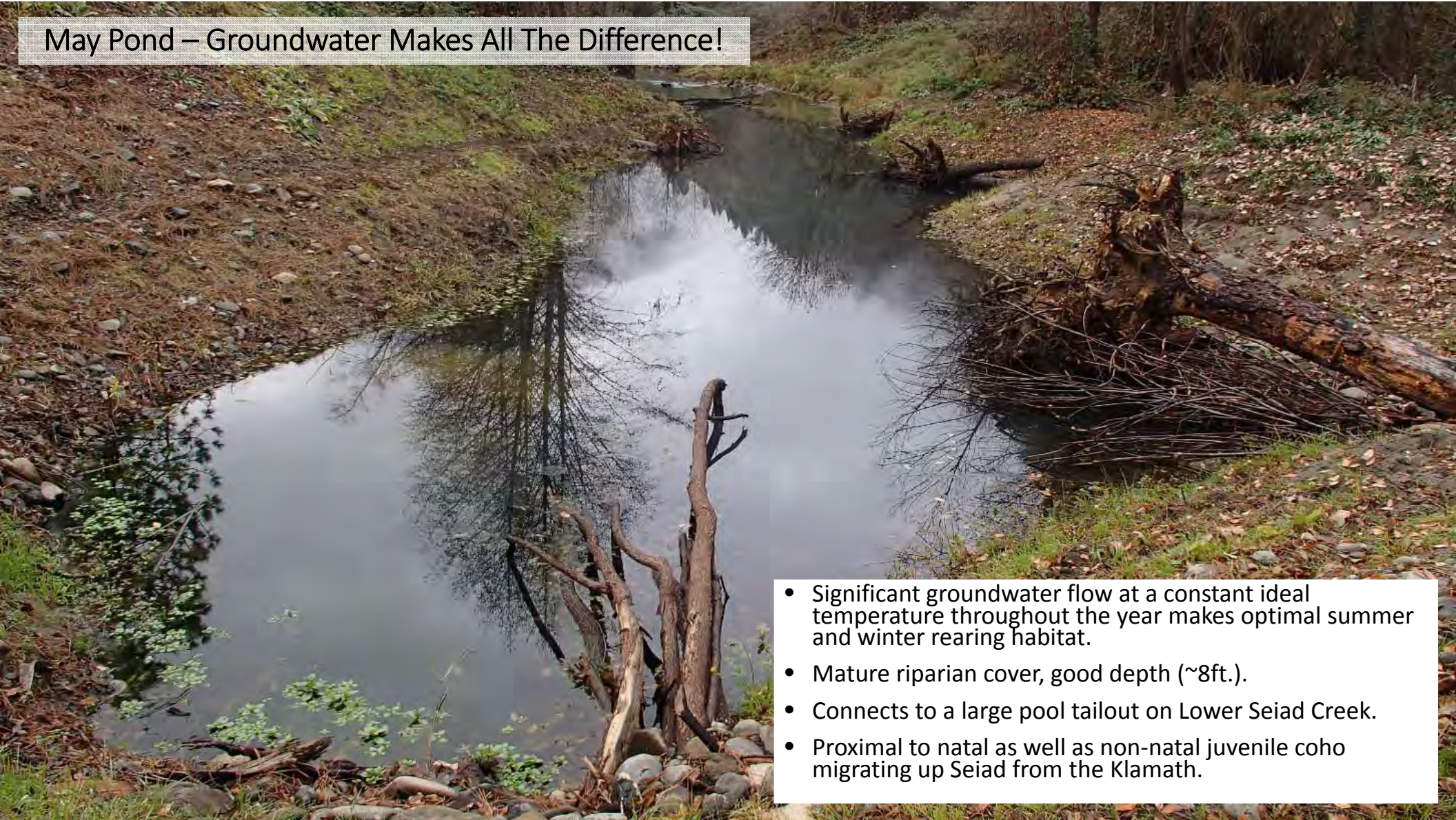




Lower Seiad and May Pond (Under Construction)

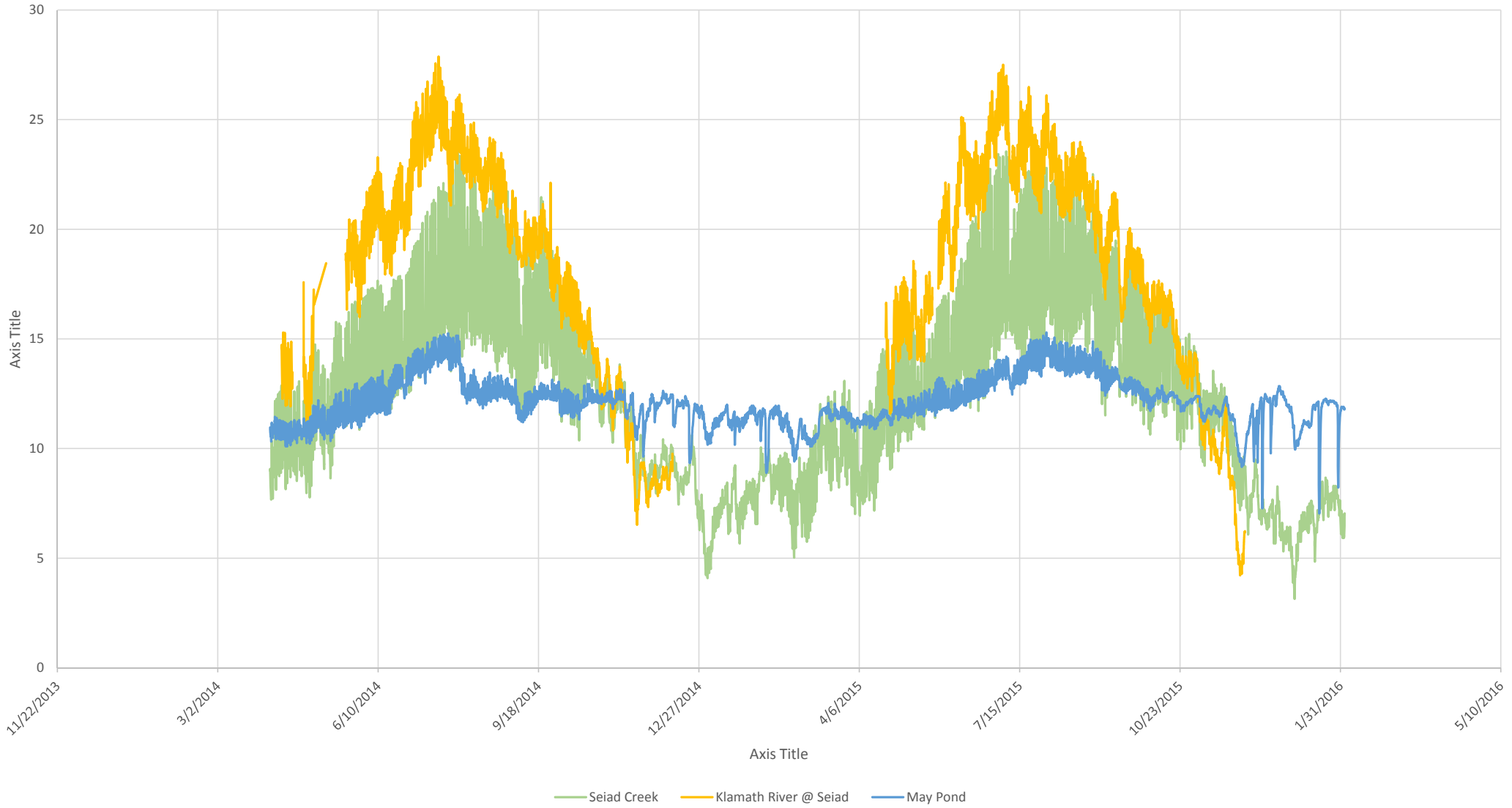


## May Pond – Groundwater Makes All The Difference!

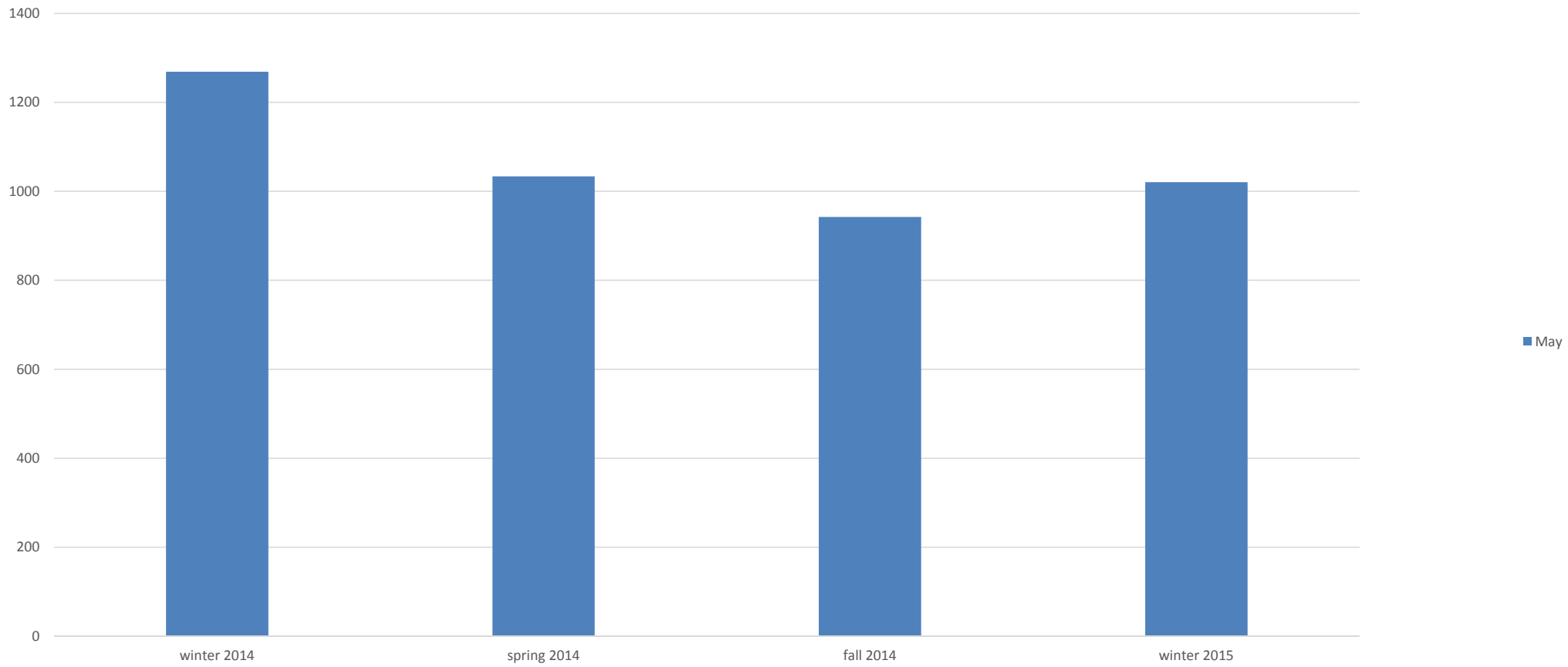


- Significant groundwater flow at a constant ideal temperature throughout the year makes optimal summer and winter rearing habitat.
- Mature riparian cover, good depth (~8ft.).
- Connects to a large pool tailout on Lower Seiad Creek.
- Proximal to natal as well as non-natal juvenile coho migrating up Seiad from the Klamath.

2014-2015 Temperature Data: May Pond



### Middle Klamath River Coho Off-Channel Site: Population Estimates



# Seiad Valley

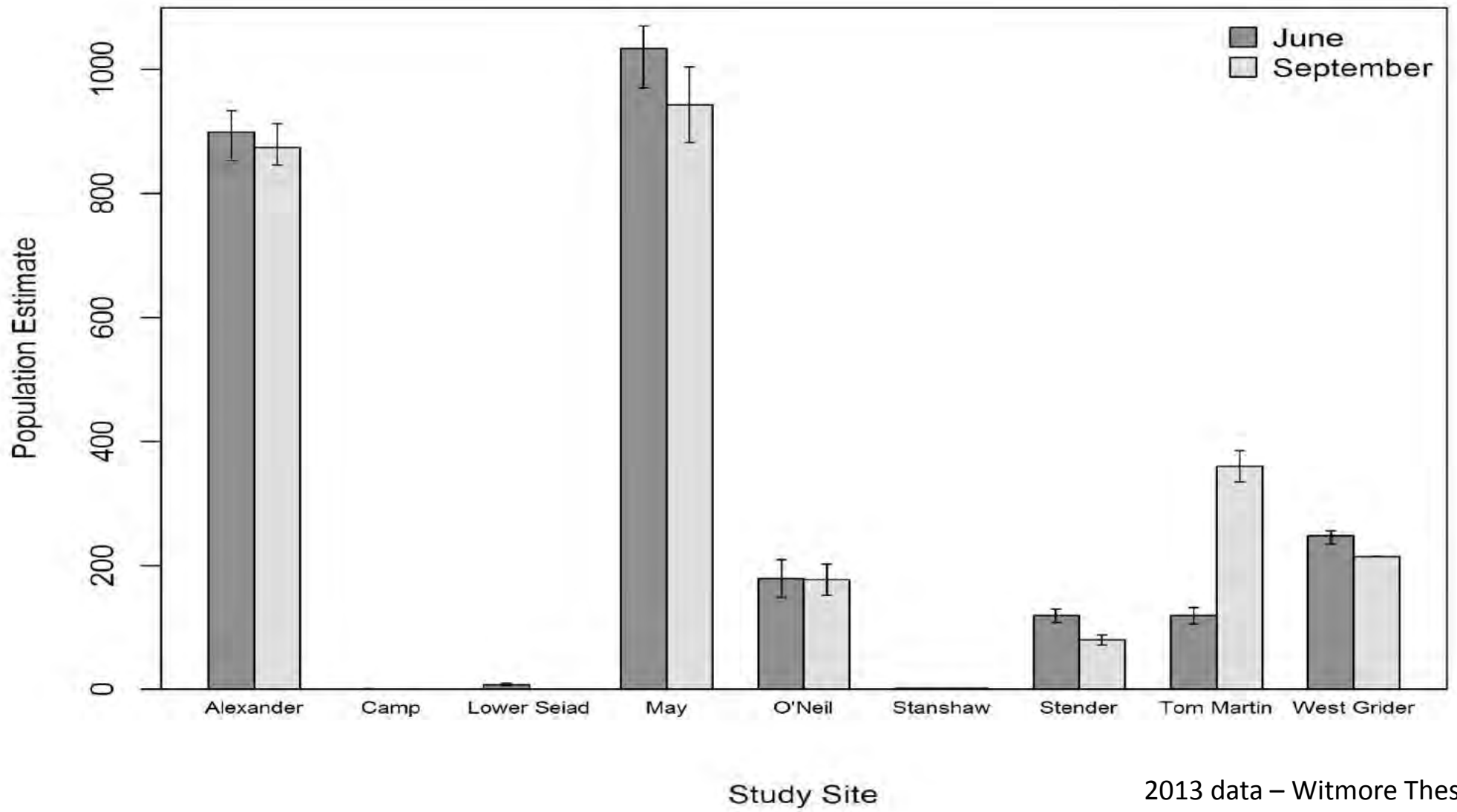
1944



# Seiad Valley

1964 - Before Flood

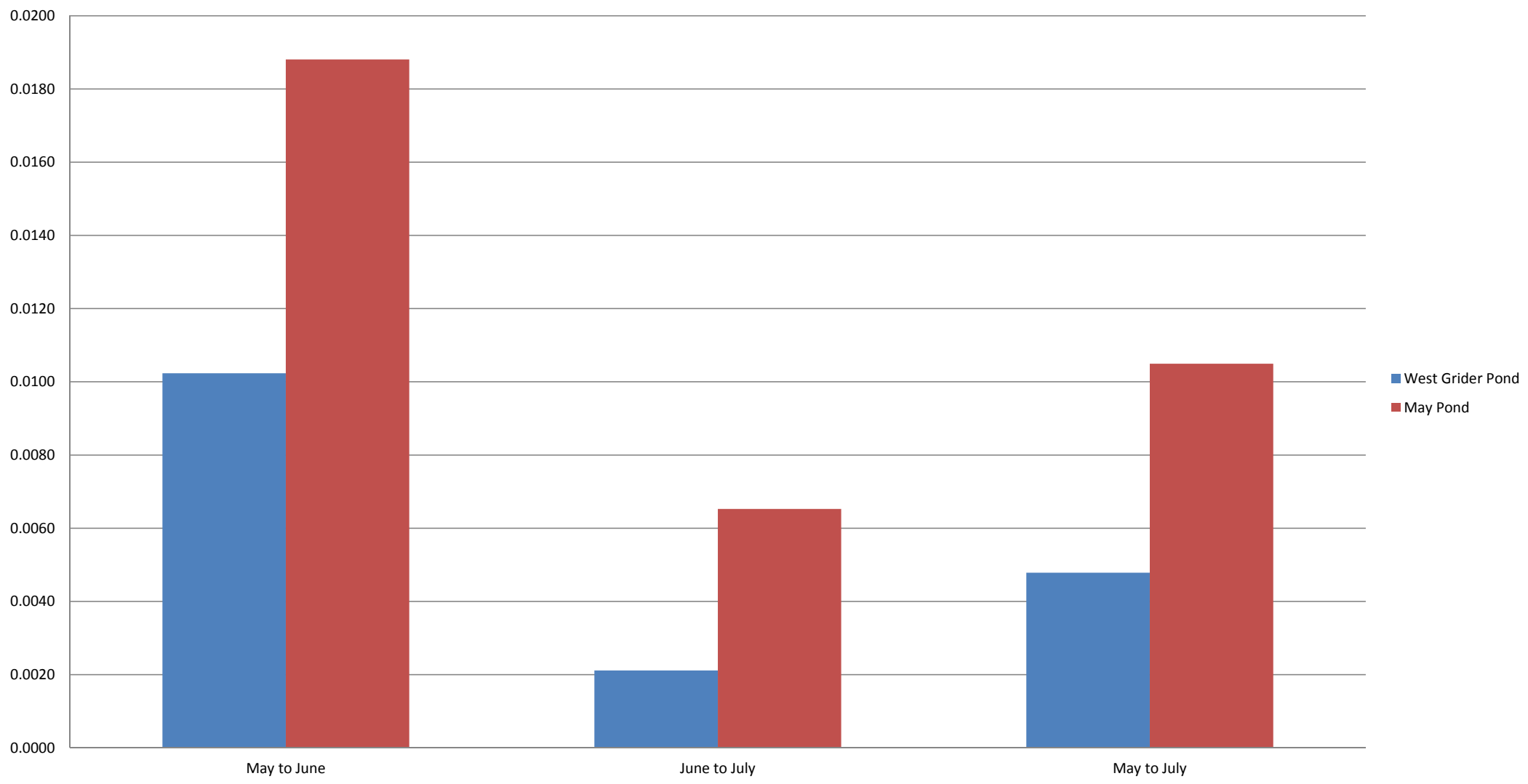




2013 data – Witmore Thesis



### Growth Rate Comparison Between West Grider and May Ponds



## Coho Spawning Surveys

Seiad Creek Winter 2013-2014 Spawning Escapement More Than 2x Any Previous 10 Years Monitoring



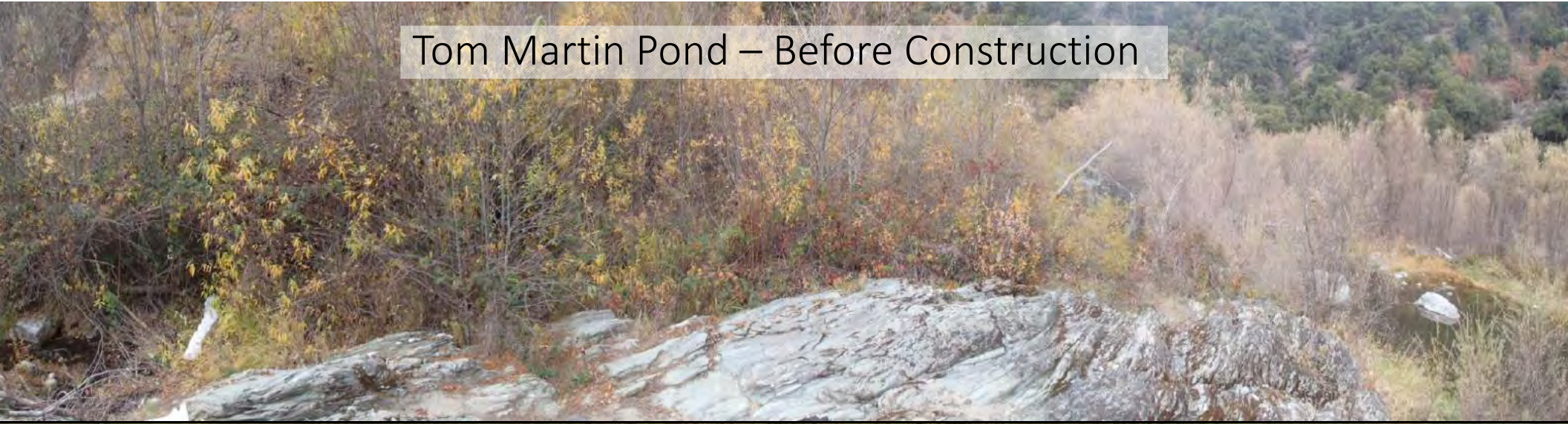
2012 Tom Martin Off-Channel  
Coho Rearing Habitat Project



## Tom Martin Creek

- First thermal refugia below Scott River
- 748 coho observed in 200' section below Hwy 96 culvert (Summer 2012).
- First project with specific focus to expand summer thermal refugia.
- Implemented November 2013



A photograph showing a rocky, elevated area with sparse vegetation and a small, shallow pond in the distance. The vegetation consists of dry, brownish shrubs and trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The rocks are light-colored and layered.

Tom Martin Pond – Before Construction

A photograph showing a larger, more developed pond surrounded by dense, lush green vegetation. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding greenery. The pond is situated in a valley-like area with thick bushes and trees.

Tom Martin Pond – After Construction

# Tom Martin Pond



## Tom Martin – After Brush Bundles





# Tom Martin Pond After Feb 2015 High Flow Event

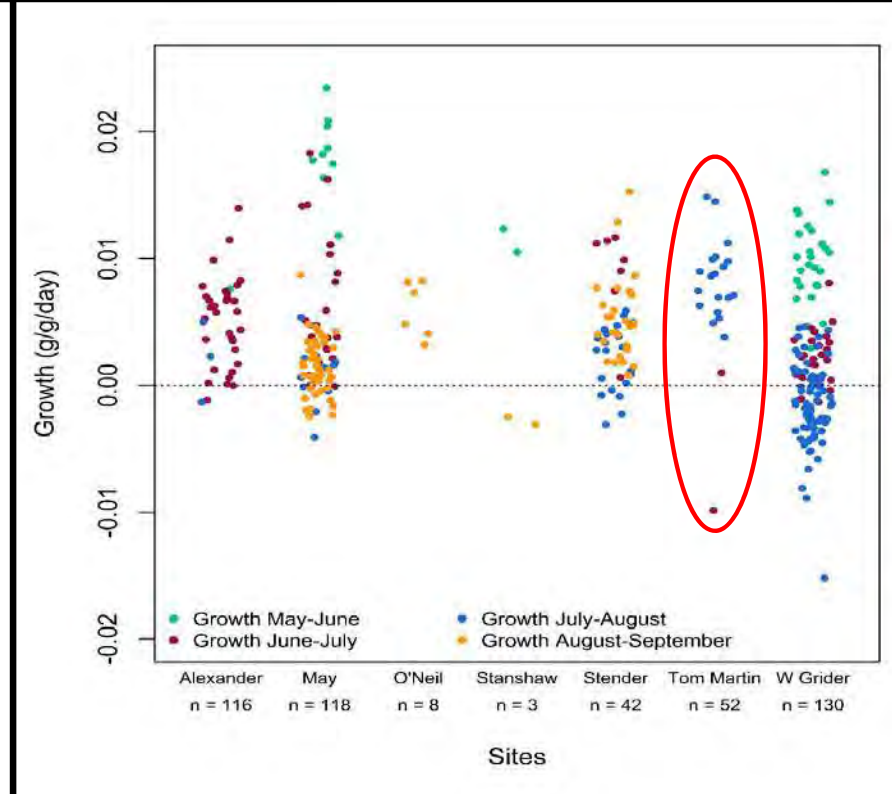
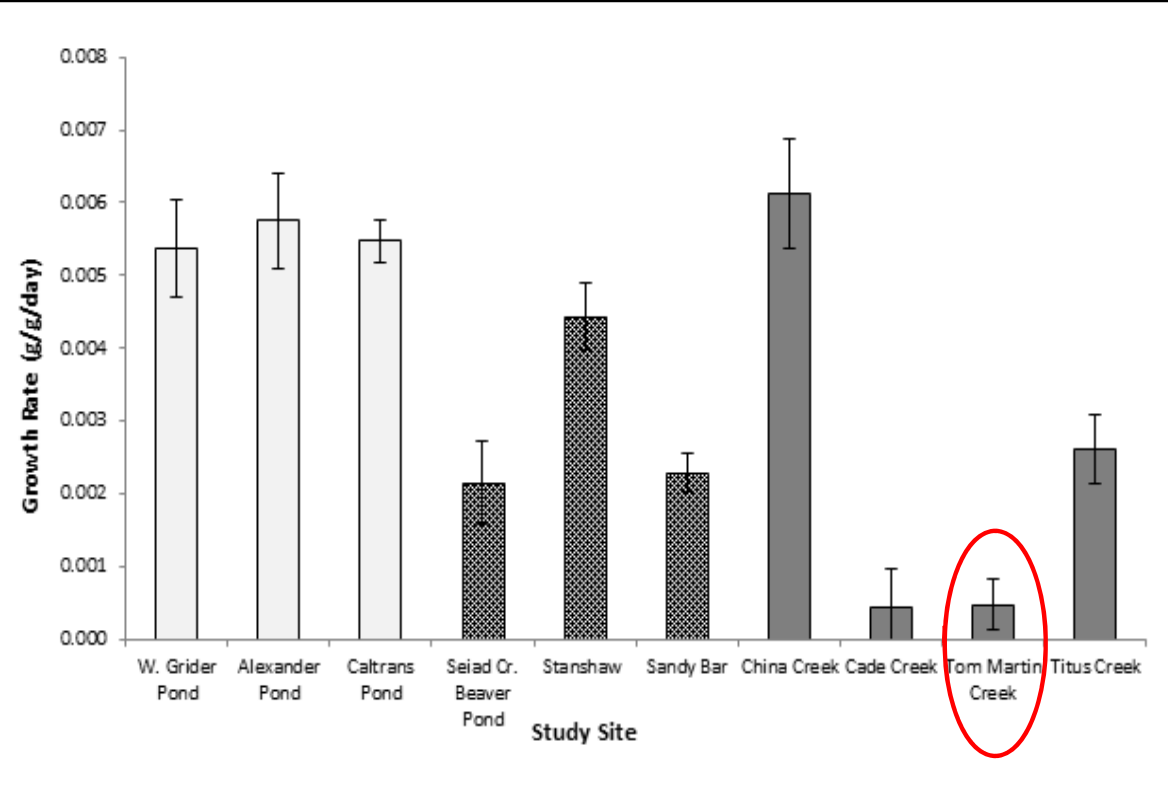




# Summer Growth Rates in Tom Martin Creek Pre- and Post-Construction

Data from Shari Witmore MS Thesis (2014)

Data from Michelle Krall MS Thesis (preliminary)





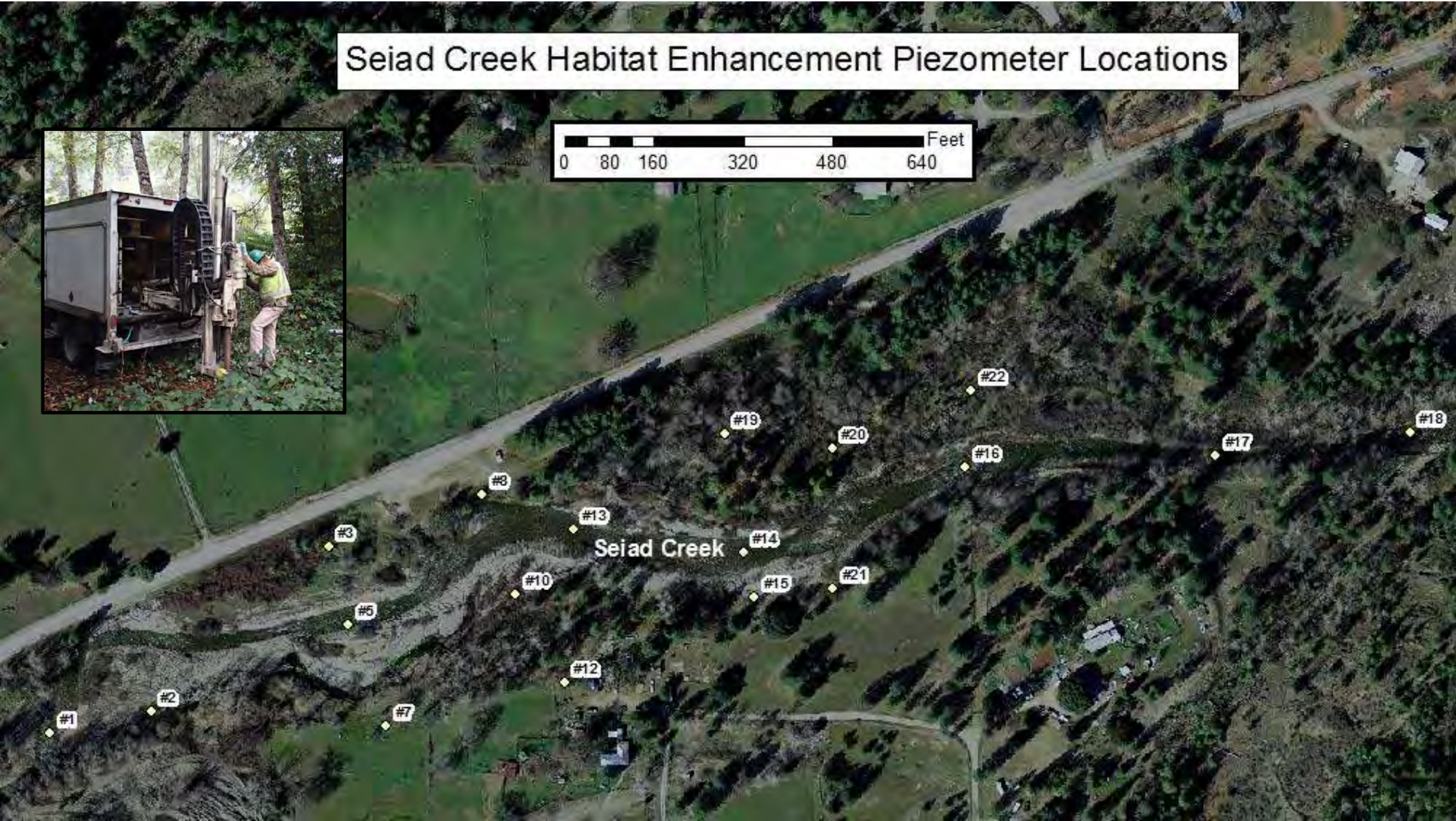
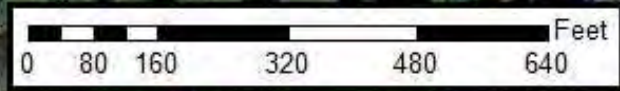
## Tom Martin Pond: Elbow Room at the Chill Cafe

- Increased coho rearing habitat in Tom Martin Creek by ~400%
- Weathered two large through flow events with no residual sedimentation.
- Do flushing flows maintain water quality over time?
- Quirky landowners sitting on key coho hot spots take special attention.

- **Don't skimp on wood!**
- **Design Inlet/Outlets to be inviting during larger flow events.**
- **Avoid hard sill outlets if possible to maximize connectivity.**
- **In temperature stressed environments, maximize riparian cover.**
- **Know thy groundwater!**



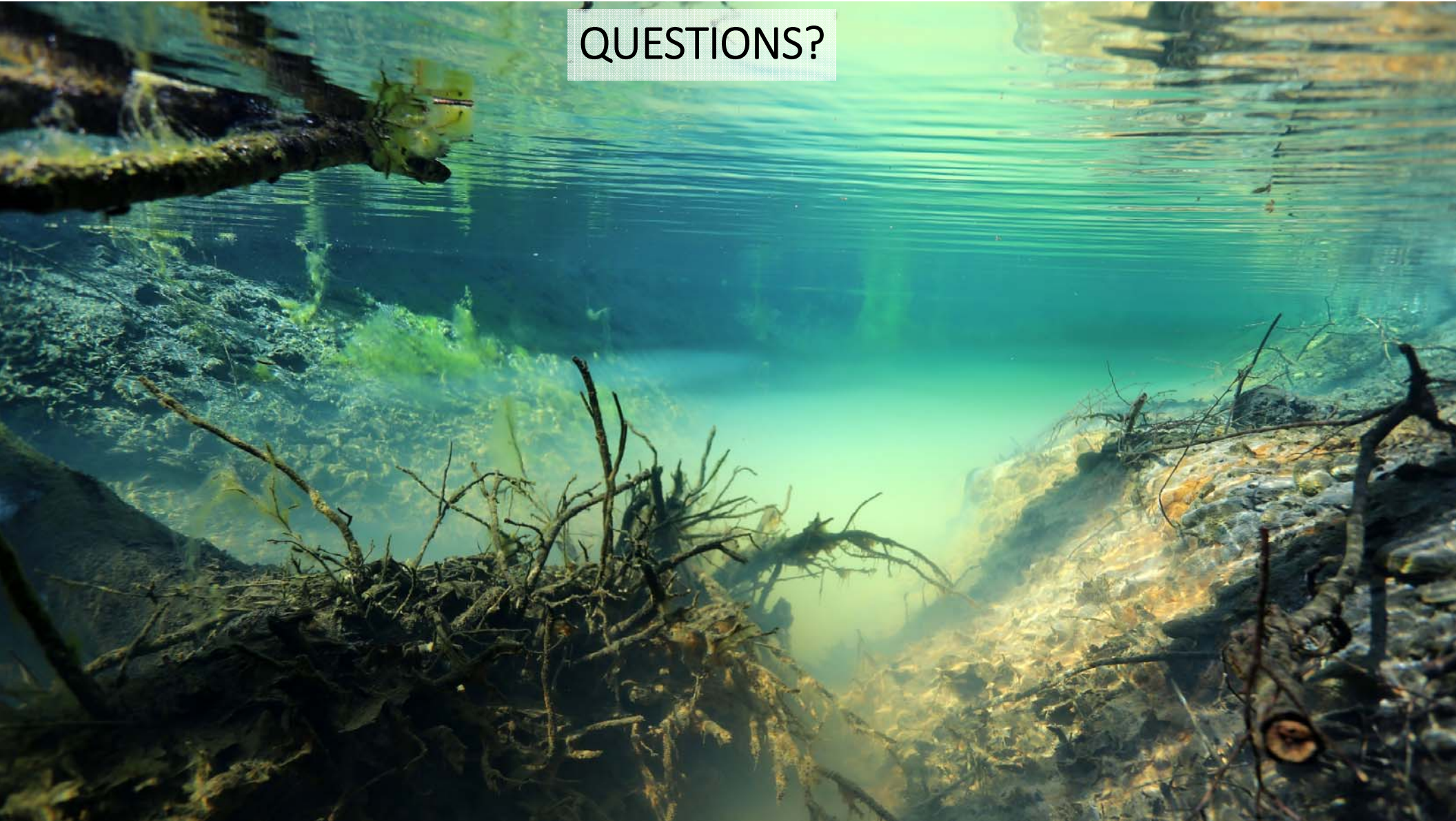
# Seiad Creek Habitat Enhancement Piezometer Locations



- Site projects based on coho life history observations (hot spots), groundwater observations and fluvial geomorphic processes. Work across property boundaries.
- Engage robust design team to increase likelihood of success.
- Monitor to determine potential direct benefits to the fish or necessary modifications.
- Share results so other restorationists can learn from our successes and failures (SRF! Klamath Fisheries Field Exchange).

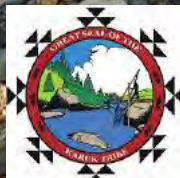


QUESTIONS?



The influence of habitat characteristics on juvenile Coho Salmon abundance and growth in constructed off-channel habitats in the Middle Klamath River subbasin

**Michelle Krall**  
**Humboldt State University**



# Outline

- Short Introduction
- Methods
- Results
  - Abundance
  - Diets and Growth
- Conclusions



# Introduction

- Coho in the Klamath Basin in SONCC ESU
  - Listed as threatened in 1997
- Stresses & Threats in Klamath Basin
  - “Lack of quality summer and winter rearing habitat that is protected from warm temperatures and high winter flows, respectively...”
  - “[Summer] rearing is limited in terms of its quality, quantity, and connectivity...”



# Introduction

Stender Pond

May Pond

West Grider Pond

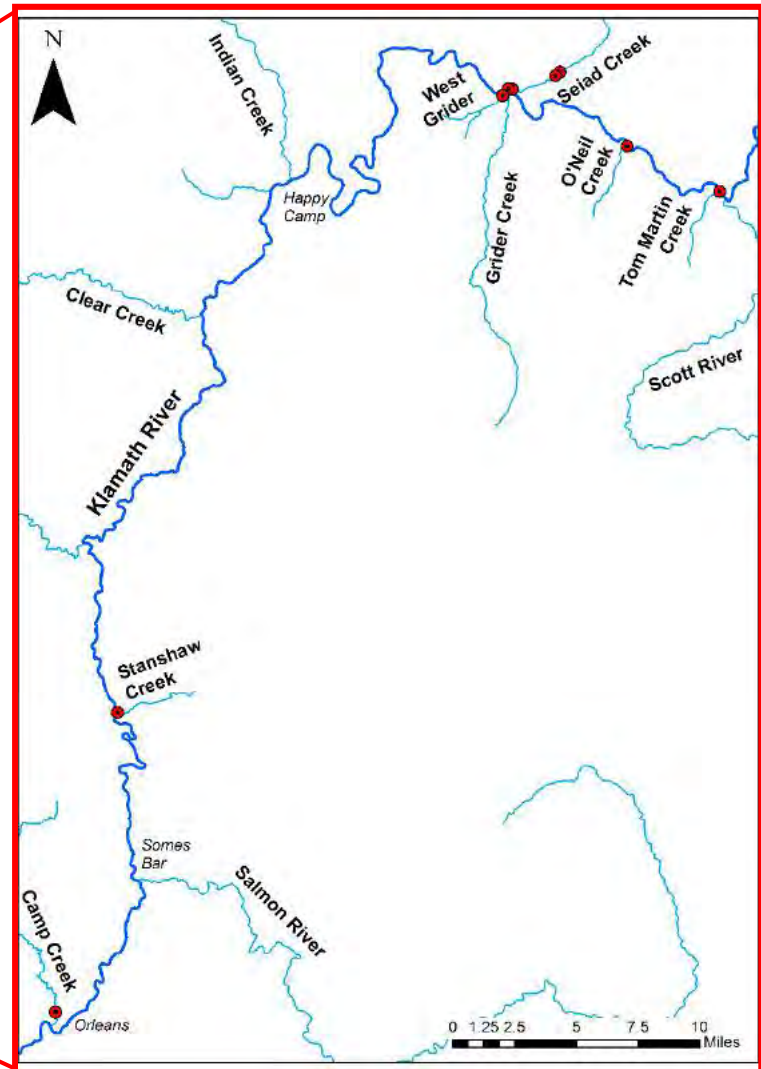
Before



After



# Introduction



# Research Questions

1. Is summer abundance of juvenile coho in constructed habitats better predicted by measures of **accessibility** of the habitat or **habitat conditions** within the site?
2. Is juvenile coho **growth** in constructed habitats greater in sites with abundant **food** and lower **densities** of coho?

## Methods: Fish

- One time/month: May – September 2014
- Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags



- Growth rate estimates (% body weight per day)

$$G = \left( \frac{\ln(\text{weight}_{final}) - \ln(\text{weight}_{initial})}{\text{days passed}} \right) \times 100$$

# Methods: Fish

- Lincoln-Peterson Population estimates in June & September

$$\hat{N}_p = \frac{n_1 n_2}{m_2}$$

$n_1$  = total # captured day 1

$n_2$  = total # captured day 2

$m_2$  = total # recaptured on day 1 & 2



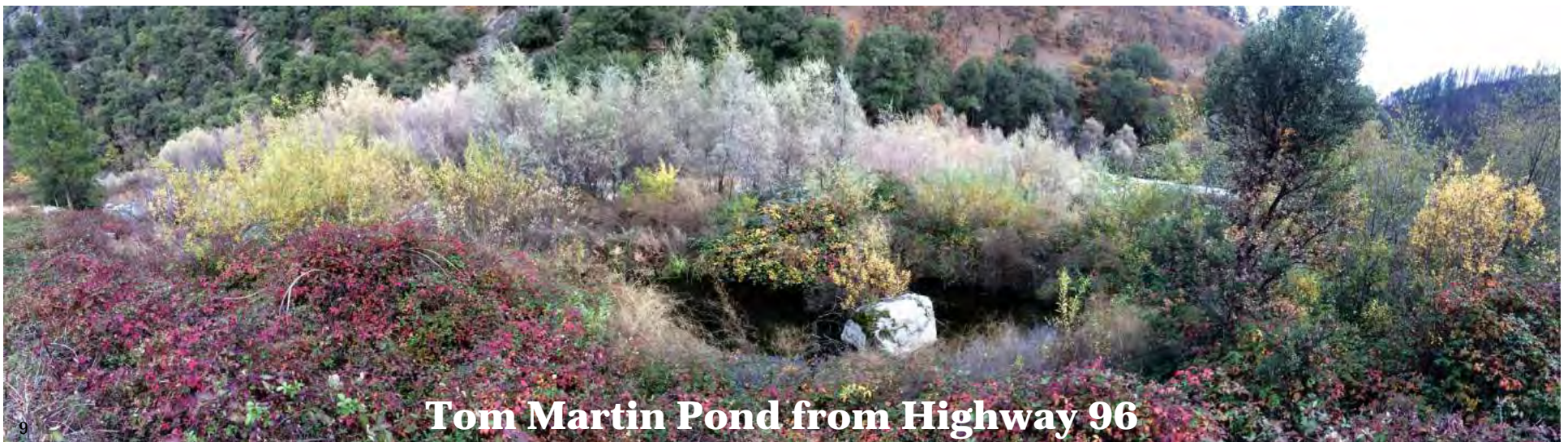
# Methods: Accessibility

- Inlet depth
- MWMT of adjacent channel
- Habitat at inlet
  - Riffle or pool
- Distance & gradient from Klamath River



# Methods: Within Off-Channel Pond

- MWMT
- Average diel variation
- Dissolved oxygen
- Suspended chlorophyll *a*
- Aquatic vegetation cover
- Turbidity
- Pond volume
- Average pond depth

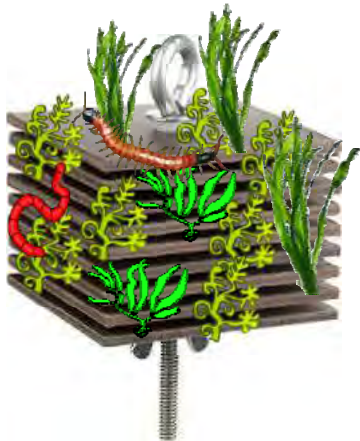


**Tom Martin Pond from Highway 96**



# Methods: Food

- Available Food
  - Hester-Dendy samplers
- Diet composition
  - Gastric lavage



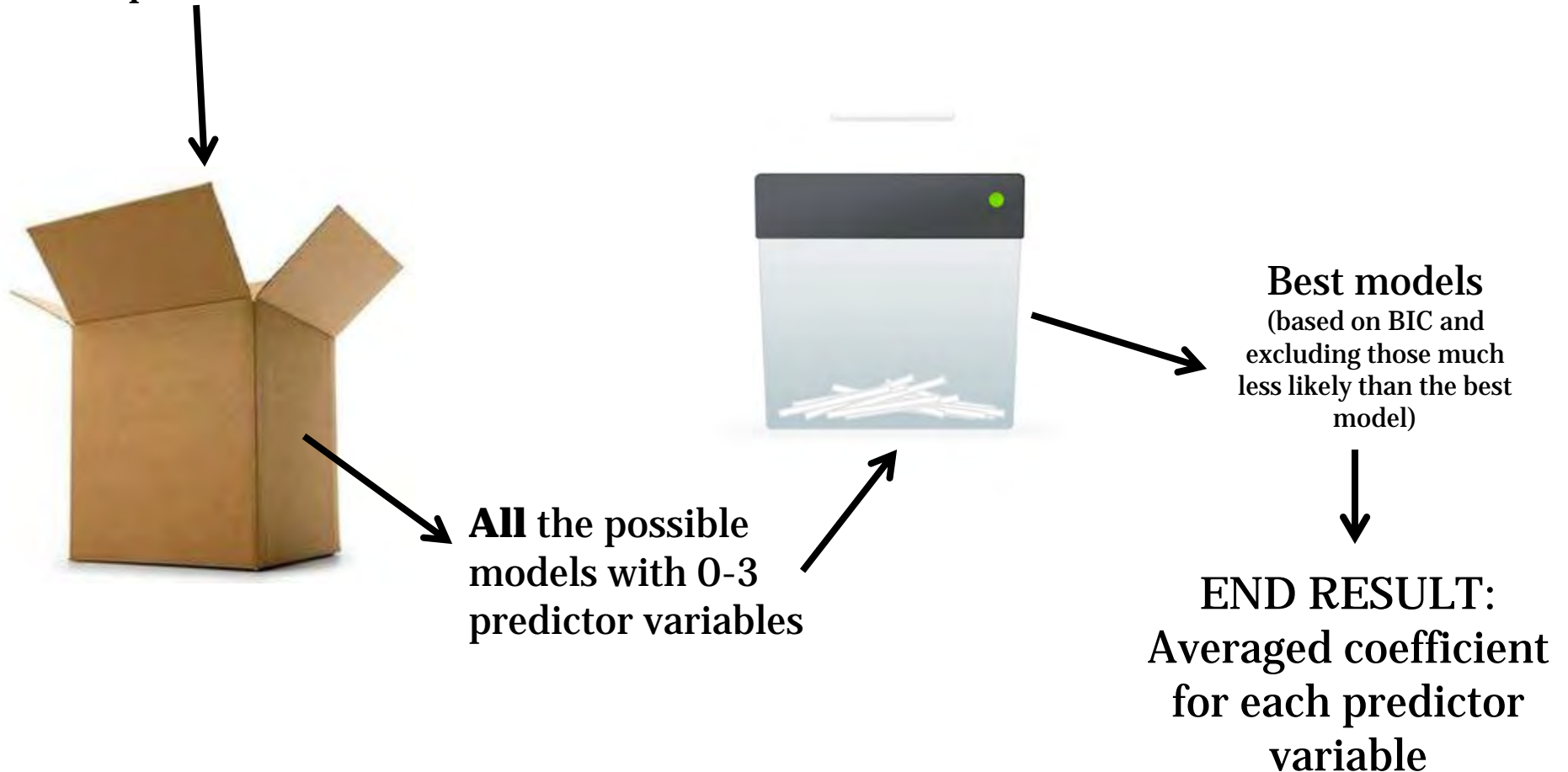
# Methods: Statistical Analysis

## 1. Access vs. Habitat Conditions

- Lots of variables, few (nine) ponds = bad analysis
- Exploratory Analysis

# Methods: Statistical Analysis

- Lots of predictor variables
- 1 response variable



# Methods: Statistical Analysis

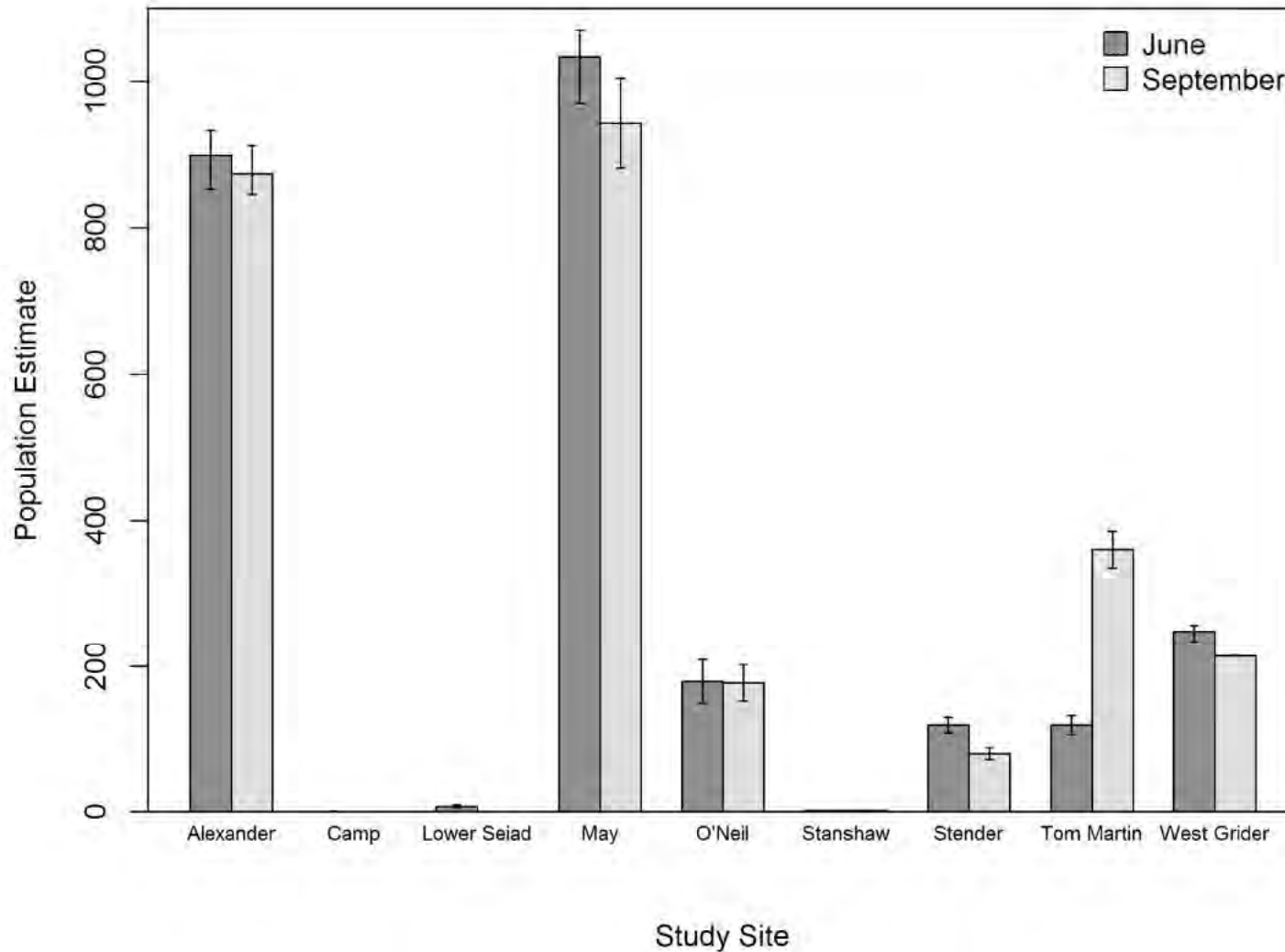
## 1. Access vs. Habitat Conditions

- Lots of variables, few (nine) ponds = bad analysis
- Exploratory Analysis
  - Throw in lots of predictor variables
  - Limit the # of variable in output
  - Candidate models selected based on minimum BIC
  - Averages the coefficients of candidate models
- Response variable: Abundance
- Predictor variables:
  1. All access variables (6)
  2. All habitat variables (8)

## 2. Growth

- Nonmetric multidimensional scaling (NMDS)

# Results



# Results

## Habitat conditions within the pond

predicted coho abundance better than

## Accessibility to site

Habitat Predictor Variables	Coefficient (SE)
<b>Relative Chlorophyll a</b>	-0.45 (0.2)
<b>Algae/Aquatic Vegetation Cover (%)</b>	-0.05 (0.03)
<b>Average Diel Variation (°C)</b>	-0.35 (0.6)
Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	--
Average Pond Depth (m)	--
Turbidity (NTU)	--
MWMT (°C)	--
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	--

Top model:  $R^2 = 0.78$ , BIC = -5.7

Accessibility Predictor Variables	Coefficient (SE)
<b>Distance from Klamath River</b>	0.0004 (0.0005)
Gradient (%) from Klamath River	-0.29 (0.6)
<b>MWMT of Nearby Channel</b>	1.14 (0.8)
Natal Stream	--
Habitat at Inlet	--
Inlet Depth (m)	--

Top model:  $R^2 = 0.61$ , BIC = -3.3

# Results

## Habitat conditions within the pond

predicted coho abundance better than

## Accessibility to site

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Average Pond Depth (m)	--
Turbidity (NTU)	--
MWMT (°C)	--
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	--

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# Results

## Habitat conditions within the pond

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Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	--
Average Pond Depth (m)	--
Turbidity (NTU)	--
MWMT (°C)	--
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	--

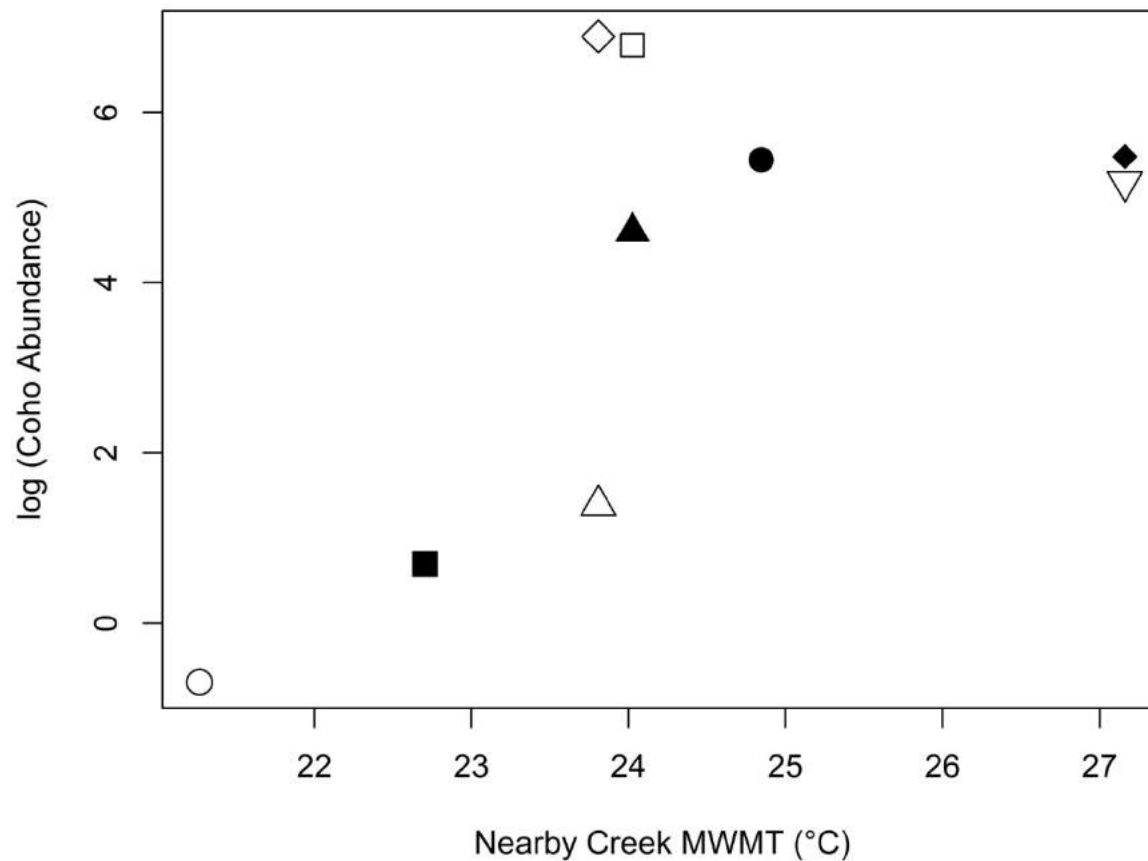
Top model:  $R^2 = 0.78$ , BIC = -5.7

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Natal Stream	--
Habitat at Inlet	--
Inlet Depth (m)	--

Top model:  $R^2 = 0.61$ , BIC = -3.3

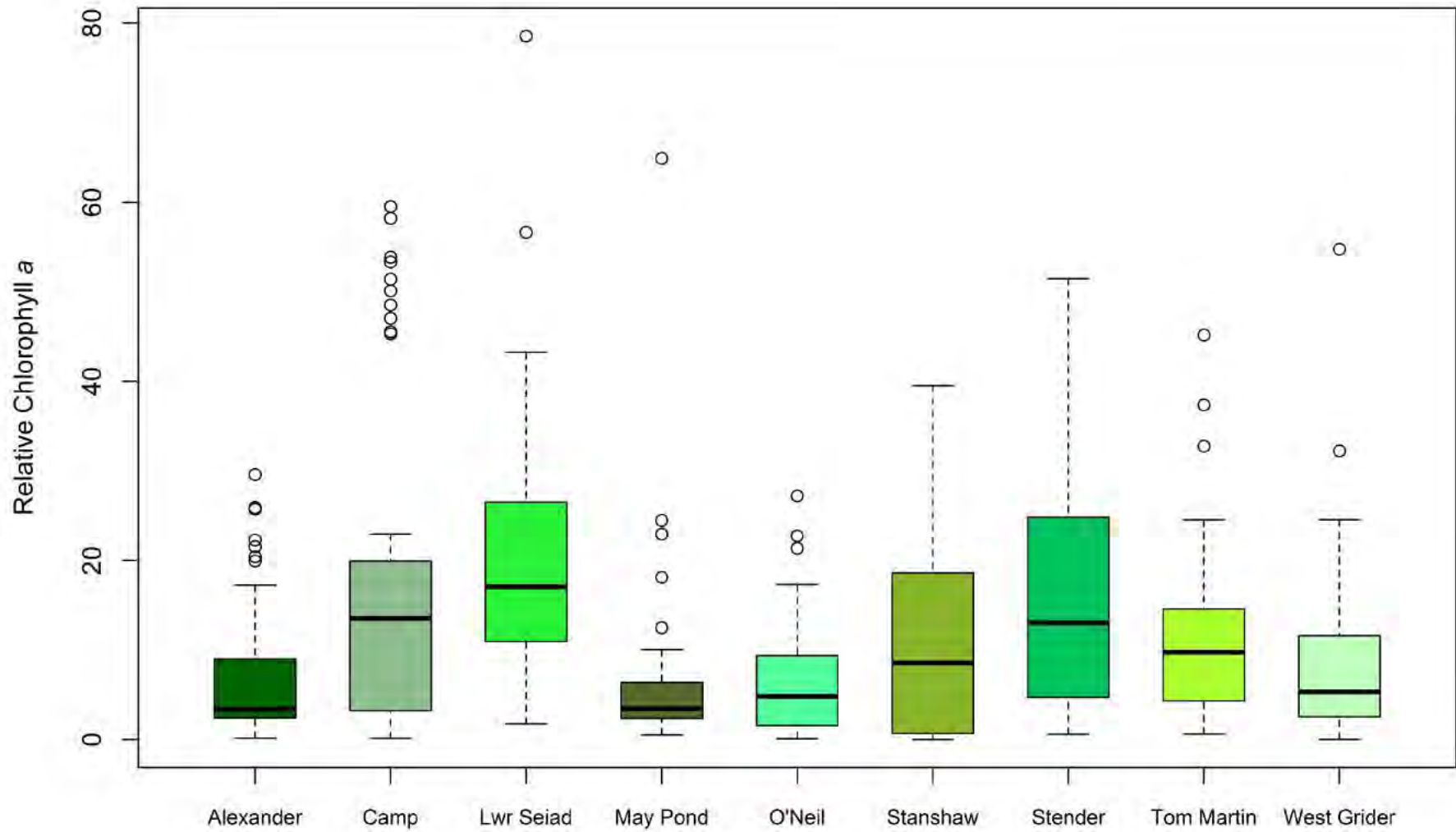


# Results

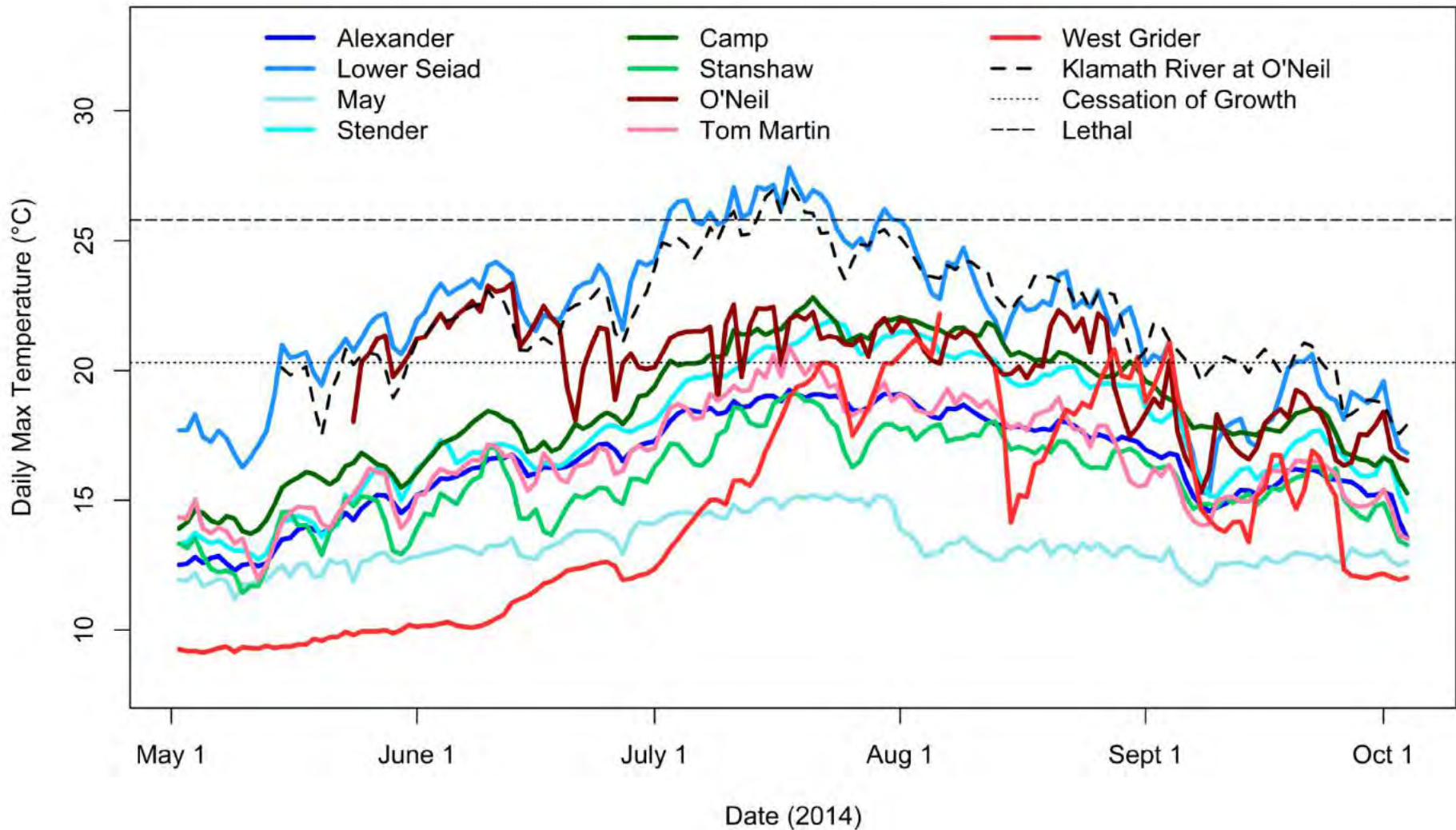


- **Camp and Lower Seiad ponds**
  - MWMT within habitat higher than nearby creek

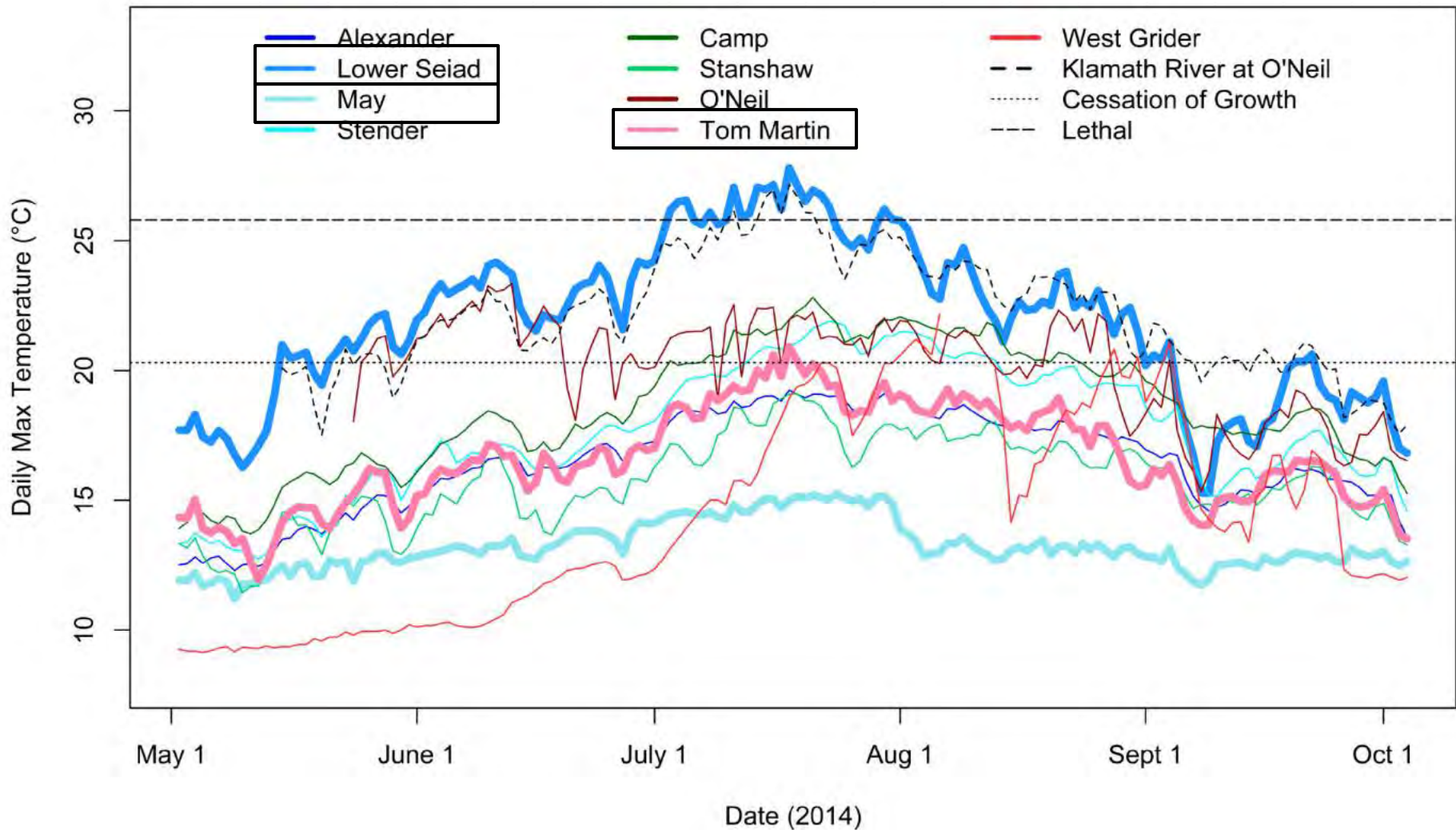
# Results



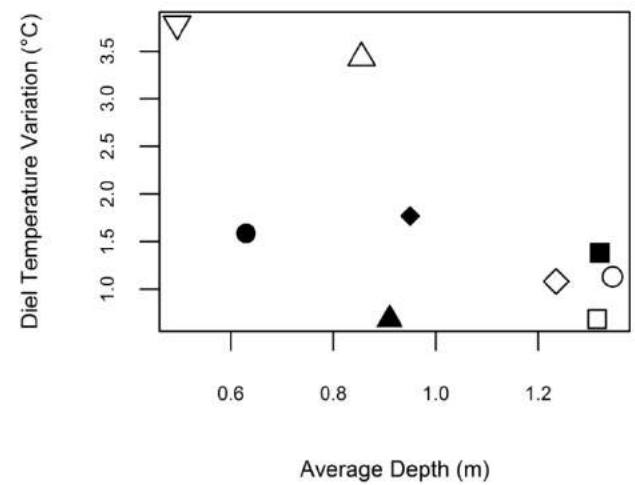
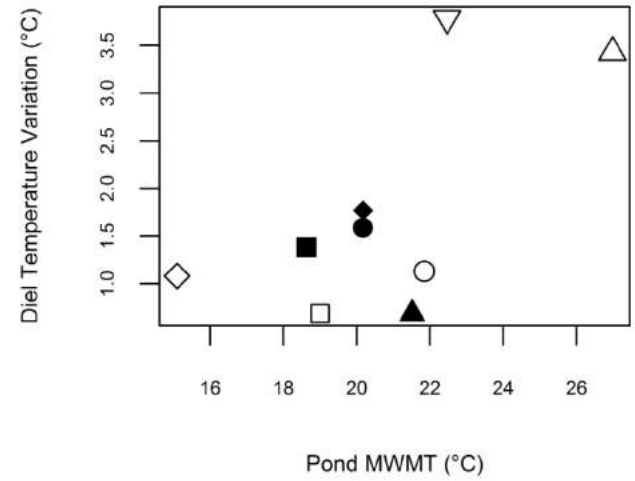
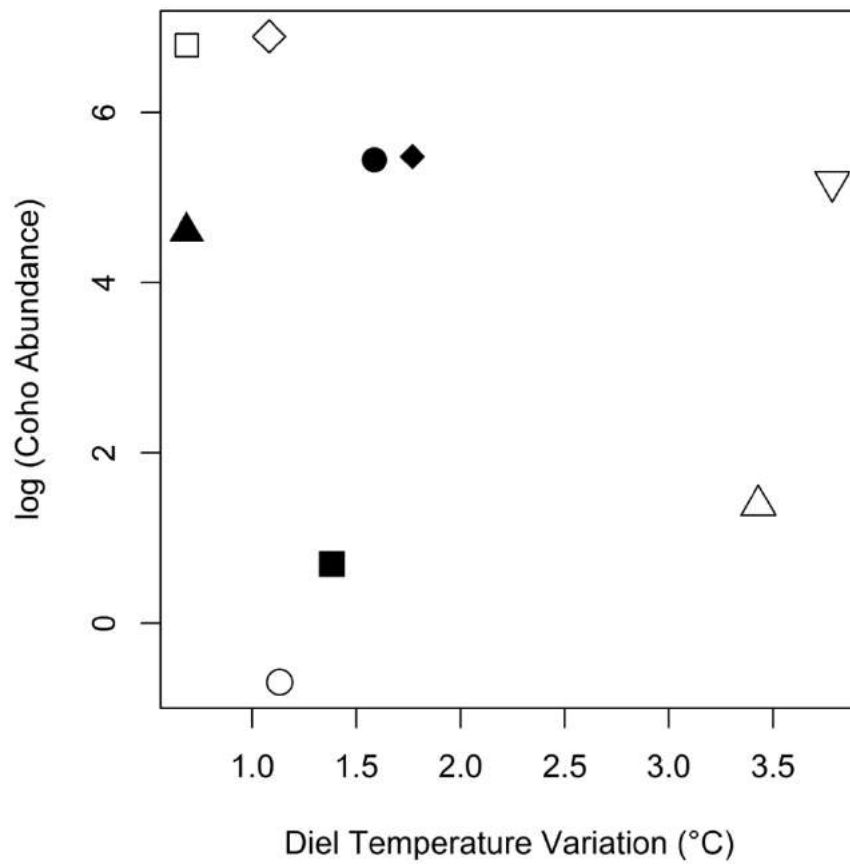
# Results



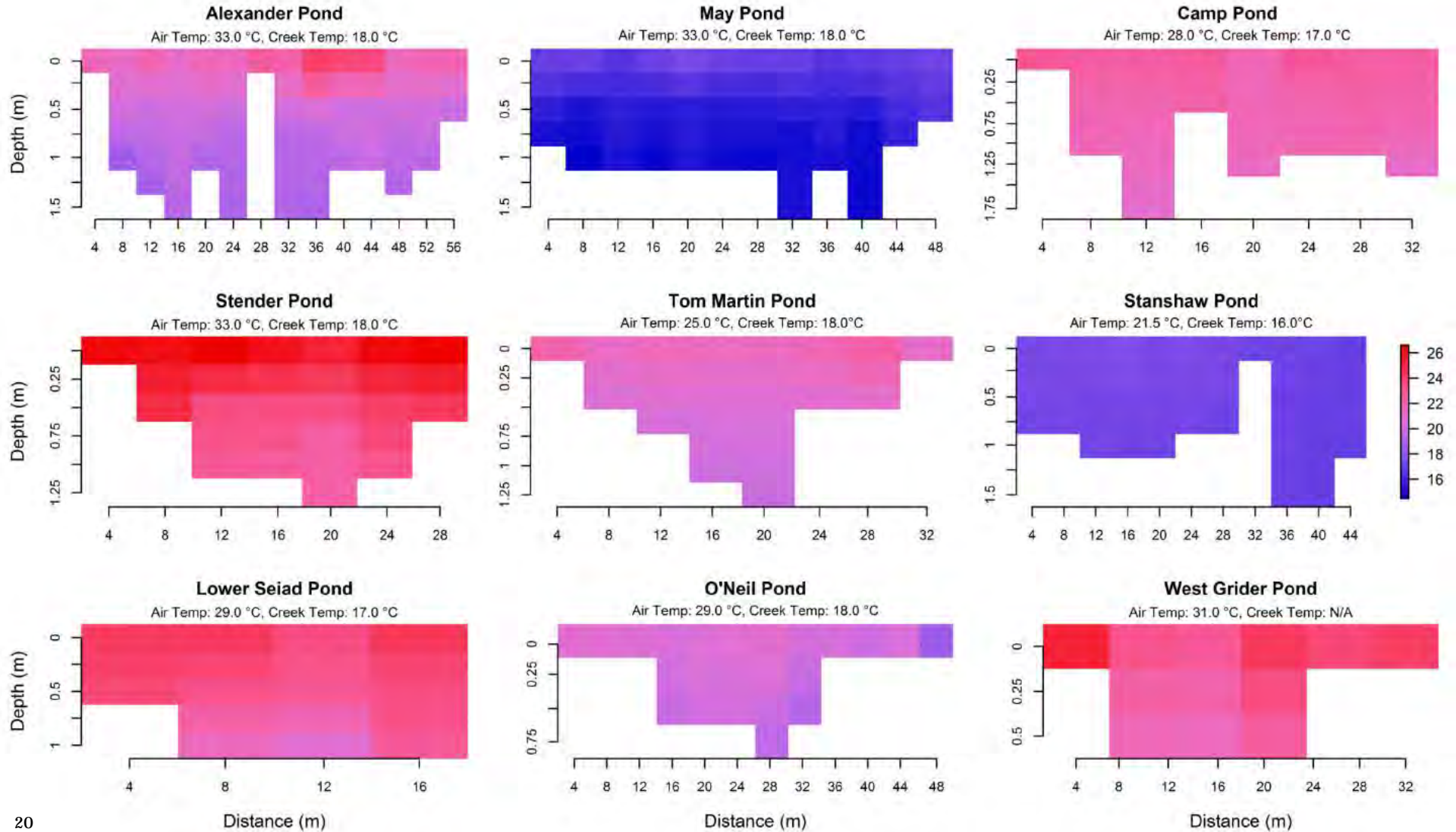
# Results



# Results



# Results



## Question #2

**Is juvenile coho growth in constructed habitats greater in sites with abundant food and lower densities of coho?**



# Results

- Dominant three taxa on Hester-Dendy samplers by biomass in all sites



Gastropoda



Worm-like



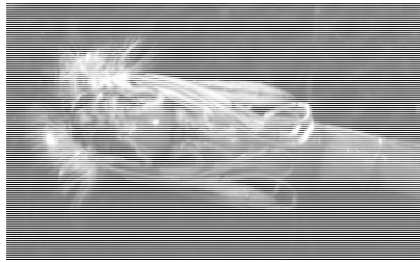
Odonata



# Results

- Dominant taxa in the diets based on biomass

## Alexander



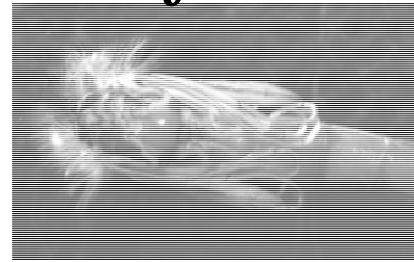
1. **D. Chironomidae (P)**
2. Ephem/Trichop (A)

## Lower Seiad



1. **Diptera (A)**
2. Ephem/Trichop (A)

## May Pond



1. **D. Chironomidae (P)**
2. Gastropoda

## O'Neil



1. **Diptera (A)**
2. Hemiptera

## Stanshaw



1. **Megaloptera**
2. Diptera (A)

## Stender



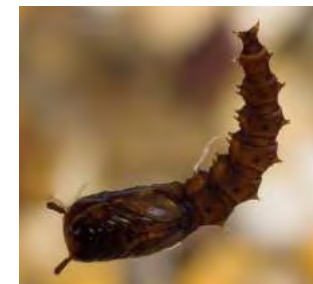
1. **Odonata (L)**
2. **D. Chironomidae (P)**

## Tom Martin



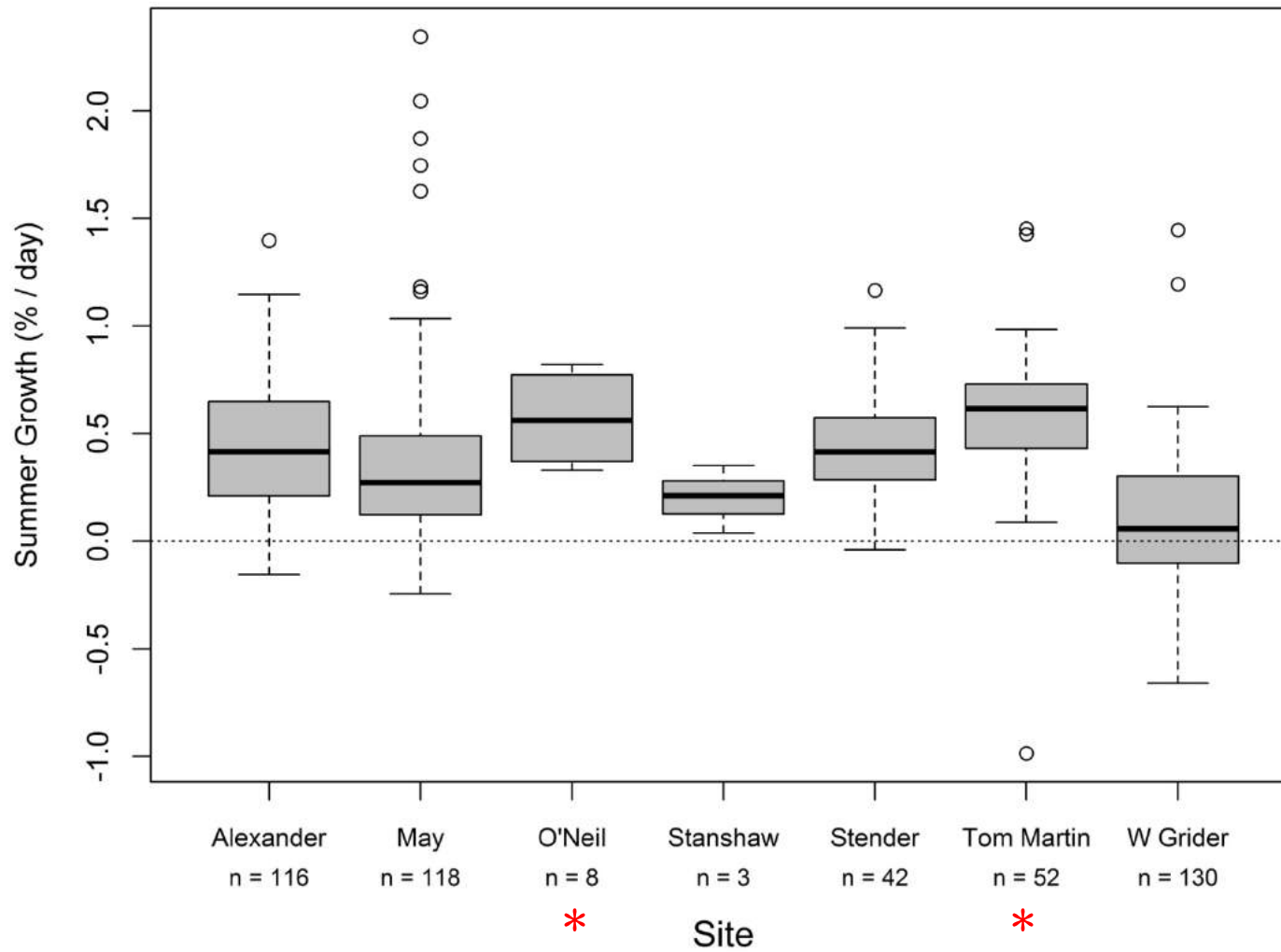
1. **Diptera (A)**
2. Ephemeroptera (L)

## West Grider

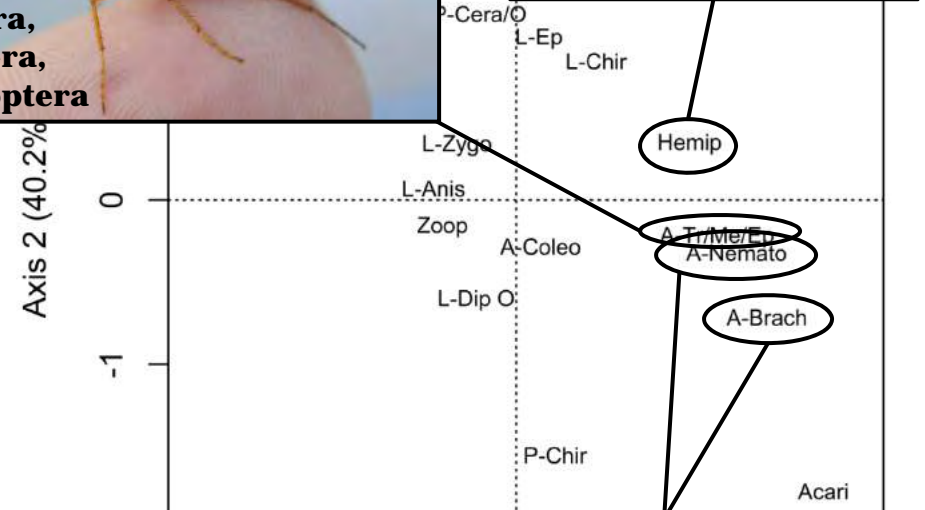
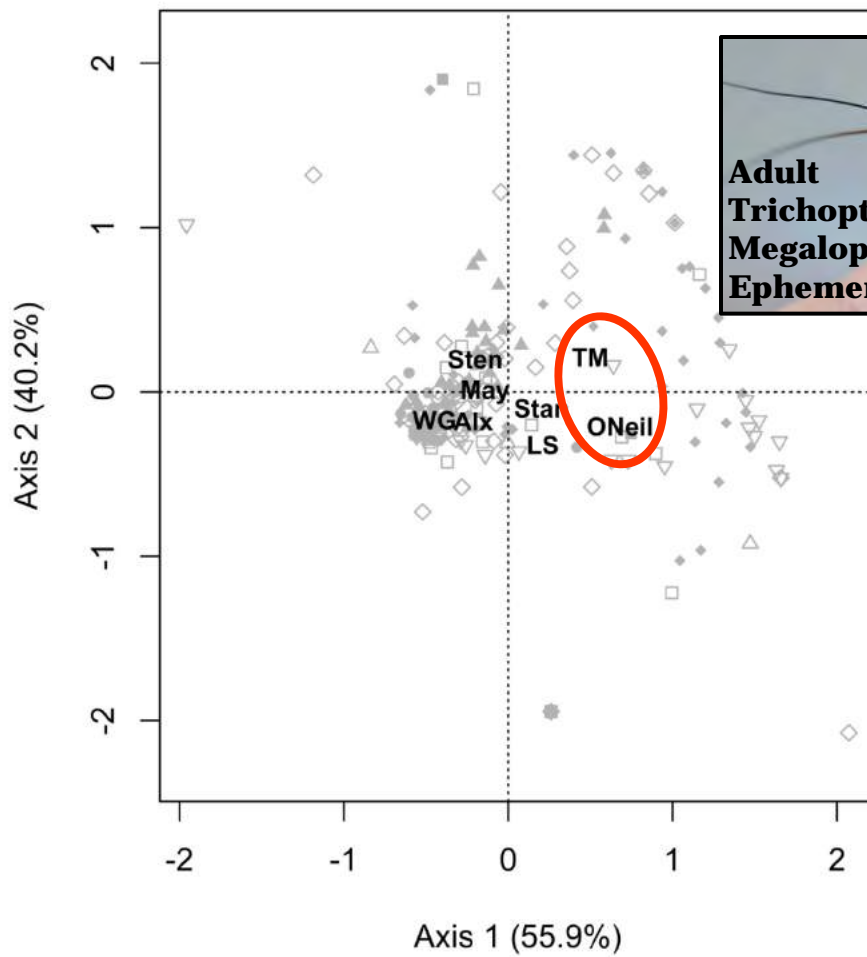


1. **D. Ceratopogonidae (P)**
2. Diptera (A)

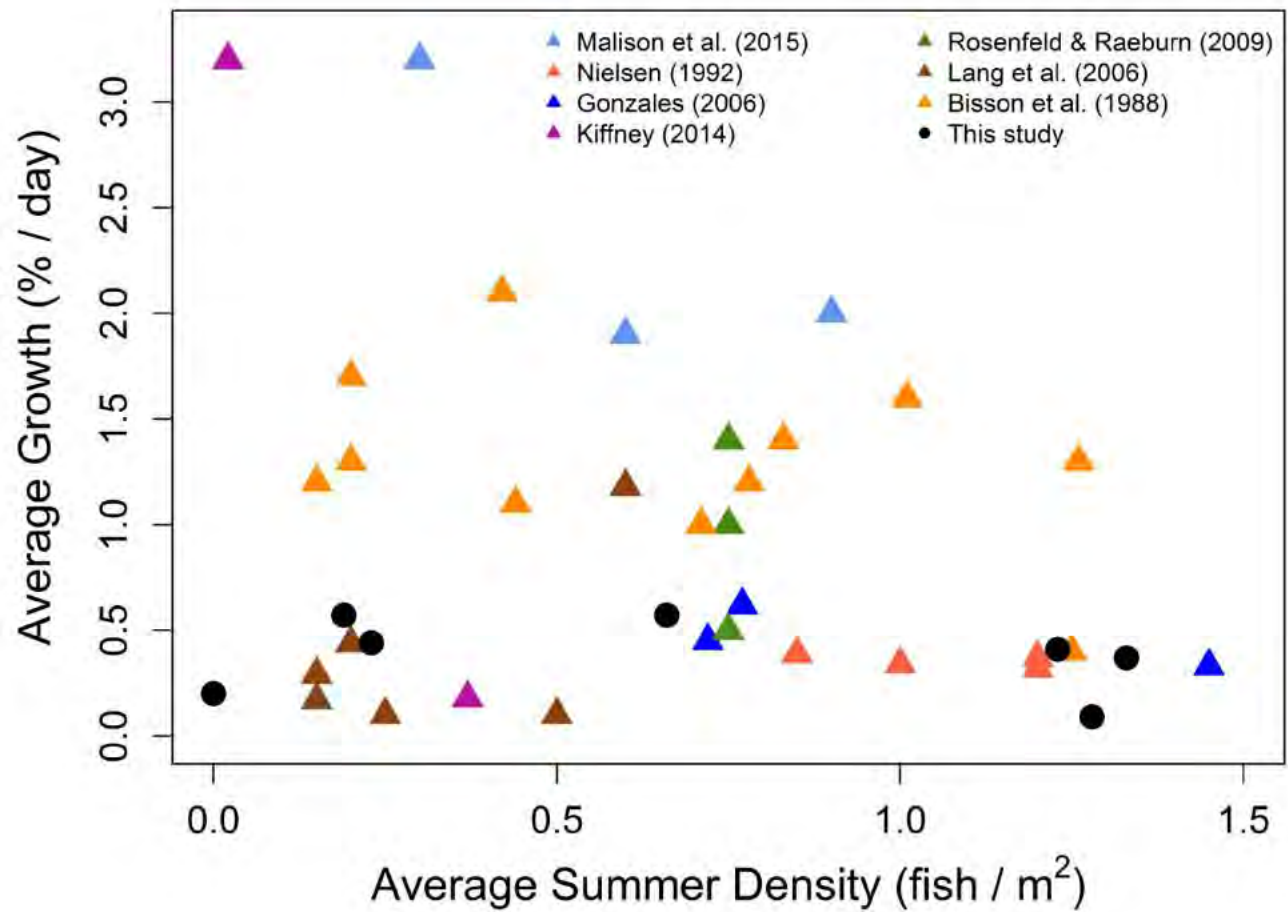
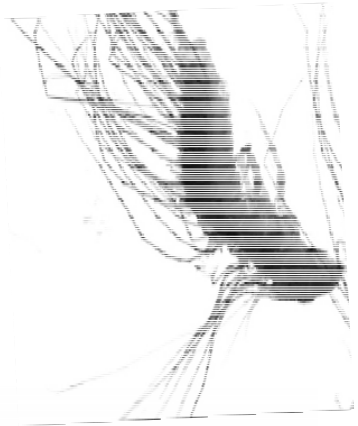
# Results



# Results



# Results



# Conclusions

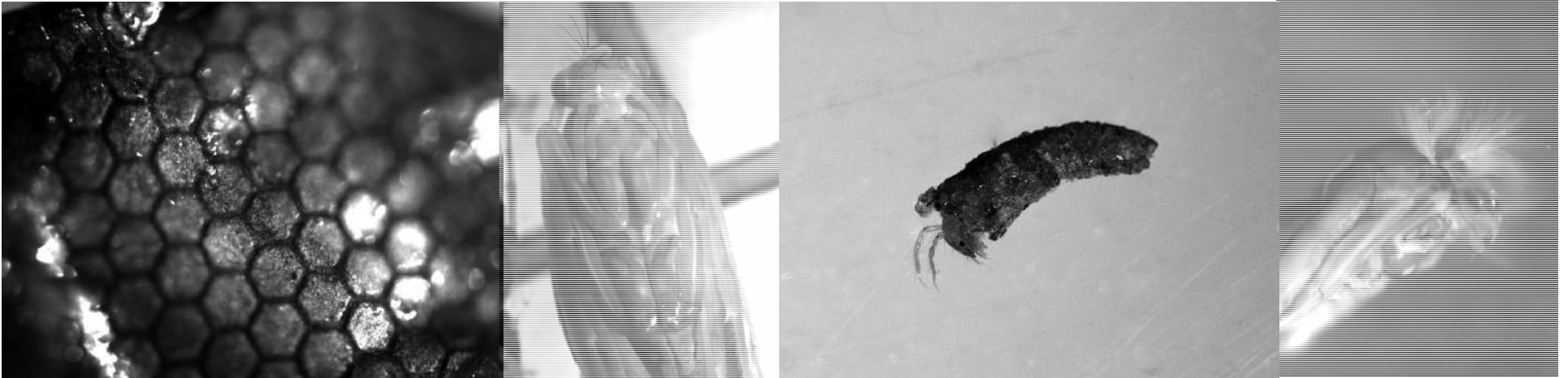
- Utilized in the summer
  - Temperature within habitat and in adjacent channel
- Depth of habitat
  
- **Aerial and surface feeding**
- **Good connection may allow for drift feeding in adjacent channel**
  - **Witmore (2014), Rosenfeld & Raeburn (2009)**
- **Variability in available food and food consumed**
  - **Distance from Klamath, floodplain level, pond morphometry, substrate, and vegetation**



# Acknowledgements

- **Karuk Tribe**
  - **Research funding**
  - **Toz Soto, Fisheries Crew**
- **Mid Klamath Watershed Council**
  - **Research funding**
  - **Will Harling, Charles & Mitzi Wickman, Fisheries Technicians**
- **Committee Members: Darren Ward, Bret Harvey, Peggy Wilzbach**

# Questions?



# Physical and Biological Monitoring of Beaver Dam Analogues in the Scott River Watershed

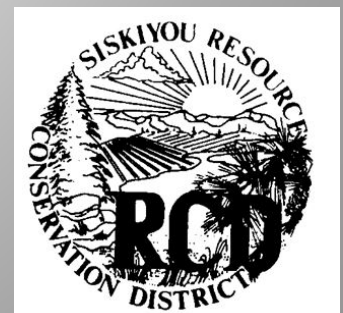
Erich Yokel – Scott River Watershed Council

Michael M. Pollock, PhD - NOAA, Northwest Fisheries Science Center

Mark Cookson - US Fish and Wildlife Service-Habitat Restoration Branch

Chris Adams – CDFW – Michigan Technological University

Lindsay Magranet – Siskiyou Resource Conservation District







# Scott River Watershed

- Historic legacy effects in the Scott River have reduced stream complexity, flood plain connectivity, riparian forest condition and groundwater surface water interactions.
- The effects create water quality impairments (temperature and sediment) and significant reductions in instream habitat volume and quality.



# Ecological Benefits from BDAs

- Provide flow resistance to reduce water velocities, retain sediment and increase water surface elevation
- Create and enhance pools, ponds and wetlands
- Increase the water table of surface water and connected groundwater - increasing the instream habitat volume and riparian habitat condition.

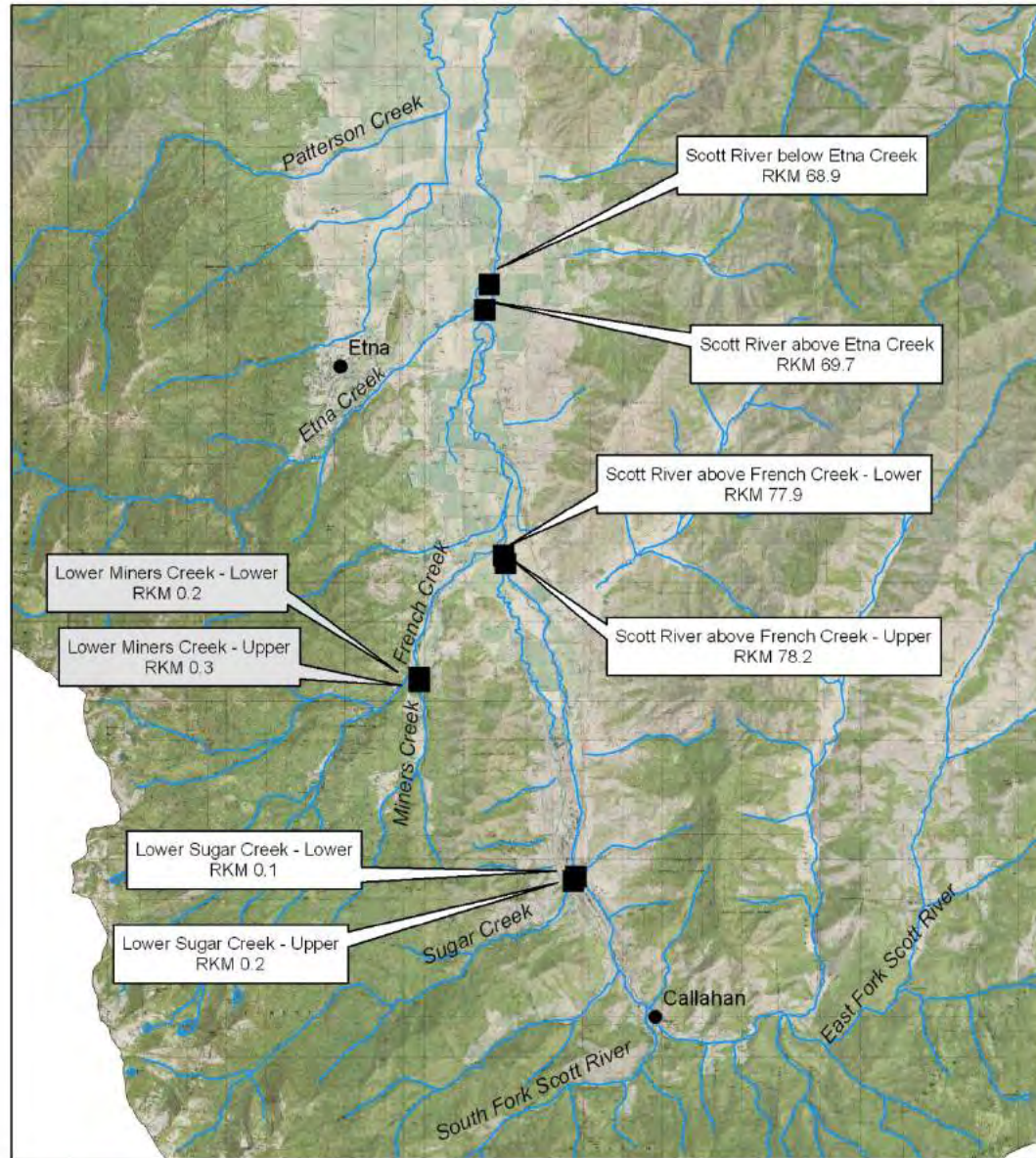


# Monitoring

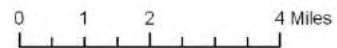
- Surface and Ground Water Elevations
- Geomorphic Change
- Water Quality
- Fish Passage
- Habitat Characterization
- Fish Utilization
- Multi-species Benefit



# Installed BDA Structures - 2014 & 2015 Watershed View



E. Yokel  
1/2/2016

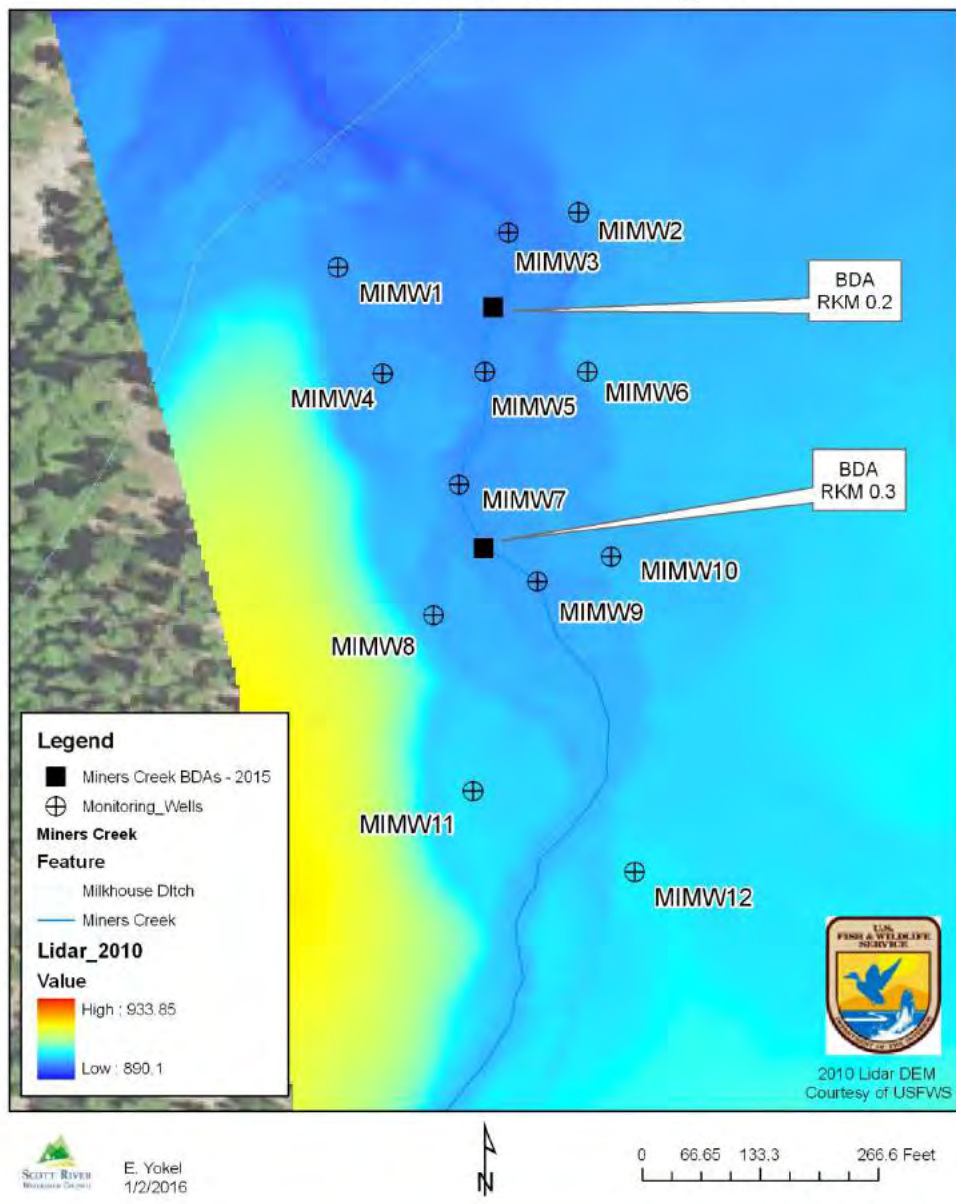




# Water Surface Elevation (WSE) Monitoring



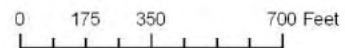
# Miners Creek BDAs - Monitoring Wells



# Scott River above French Creek BDAs - Monitoring Network

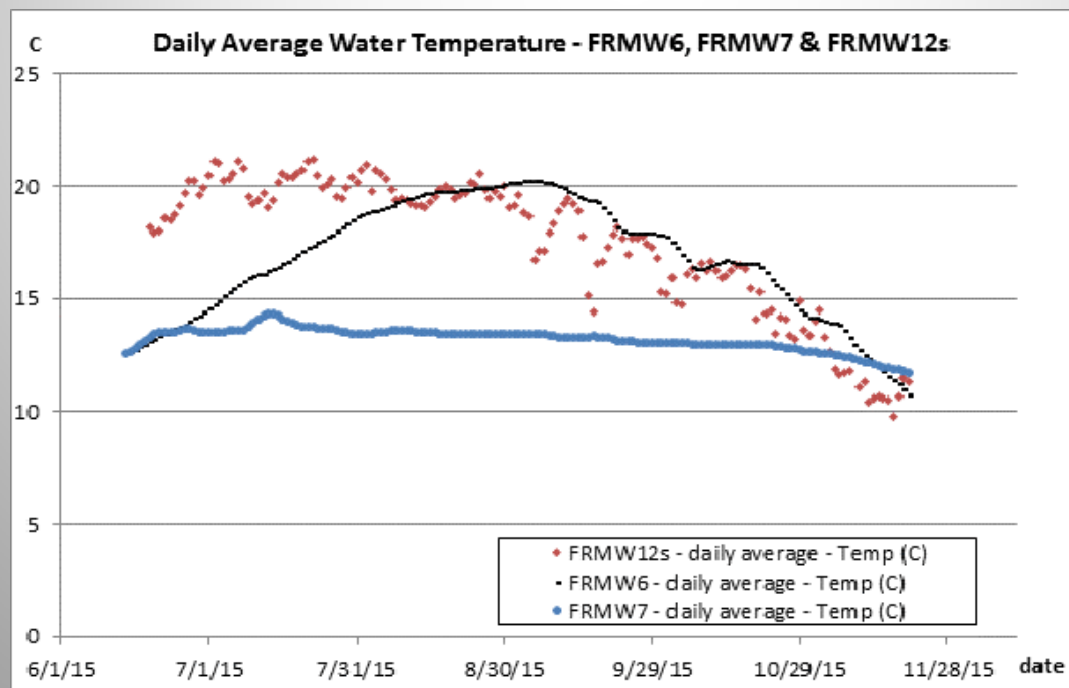
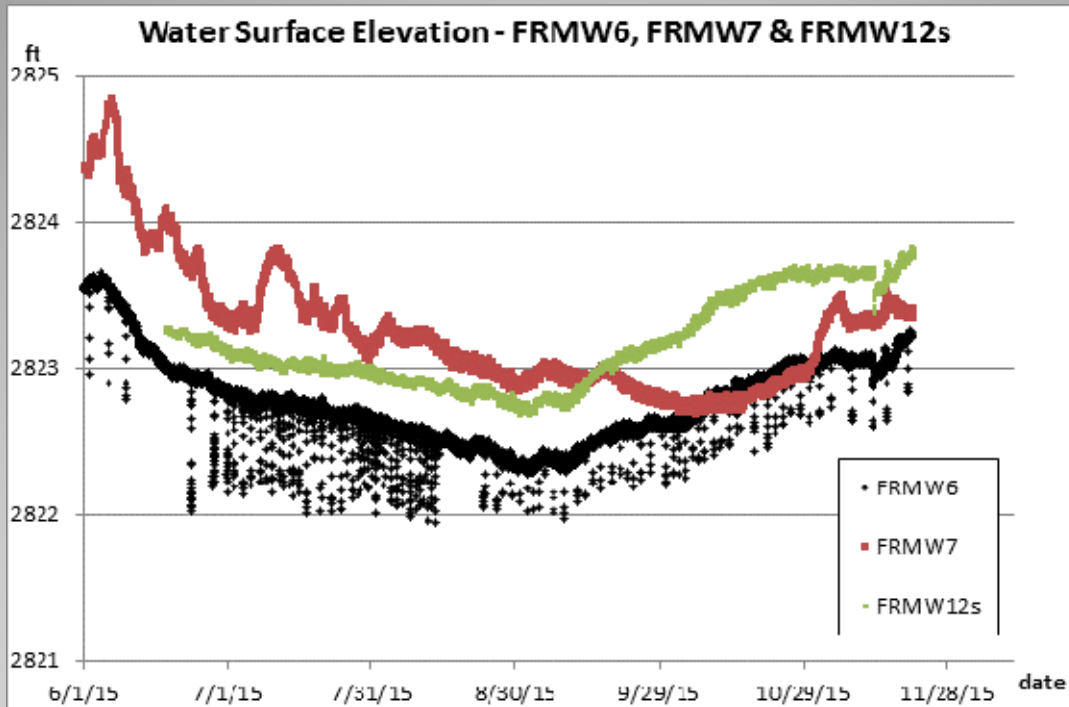


E. Yokel  
12/31/2015

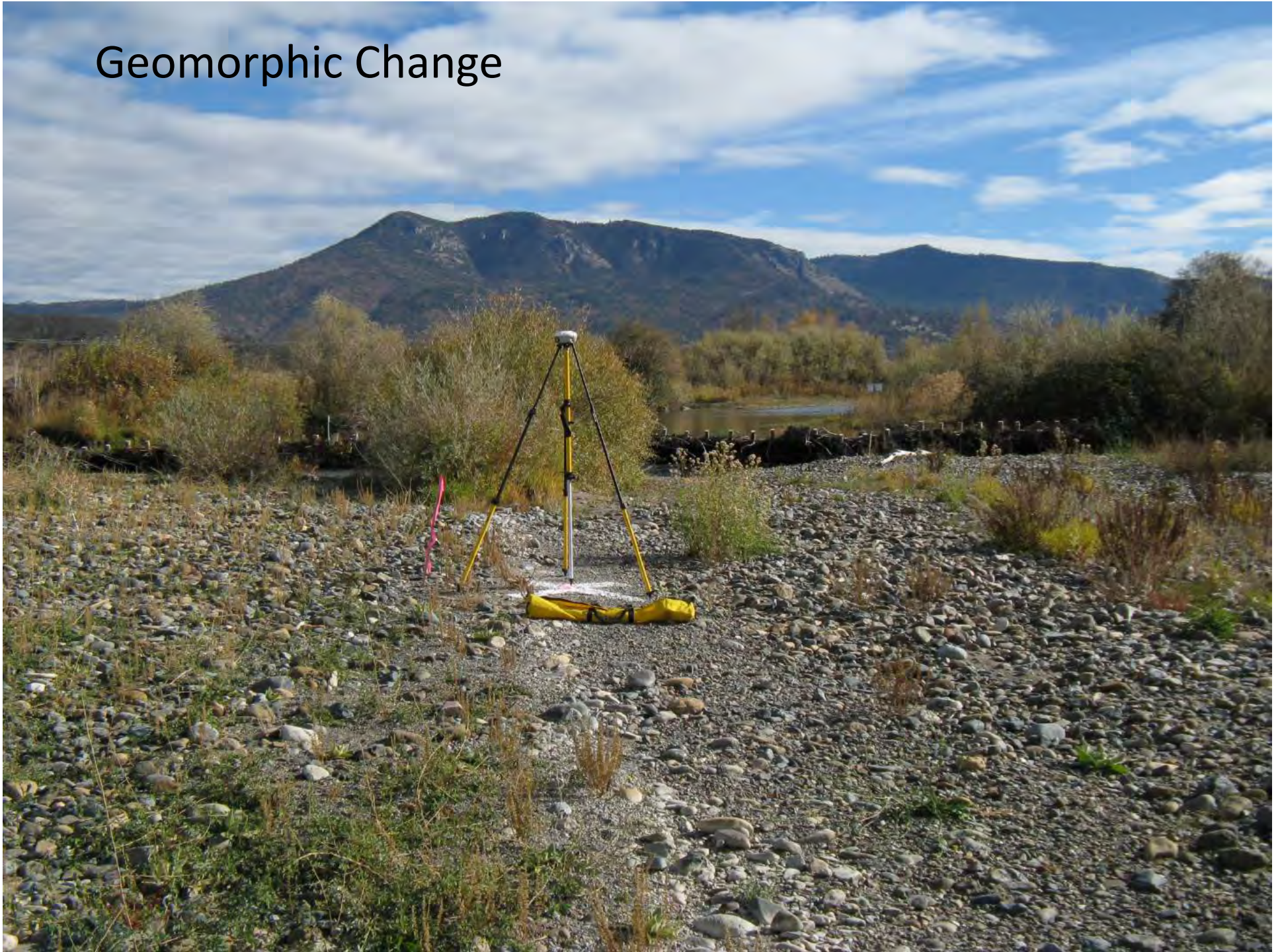




11/11/2015



# Geomorphic Change







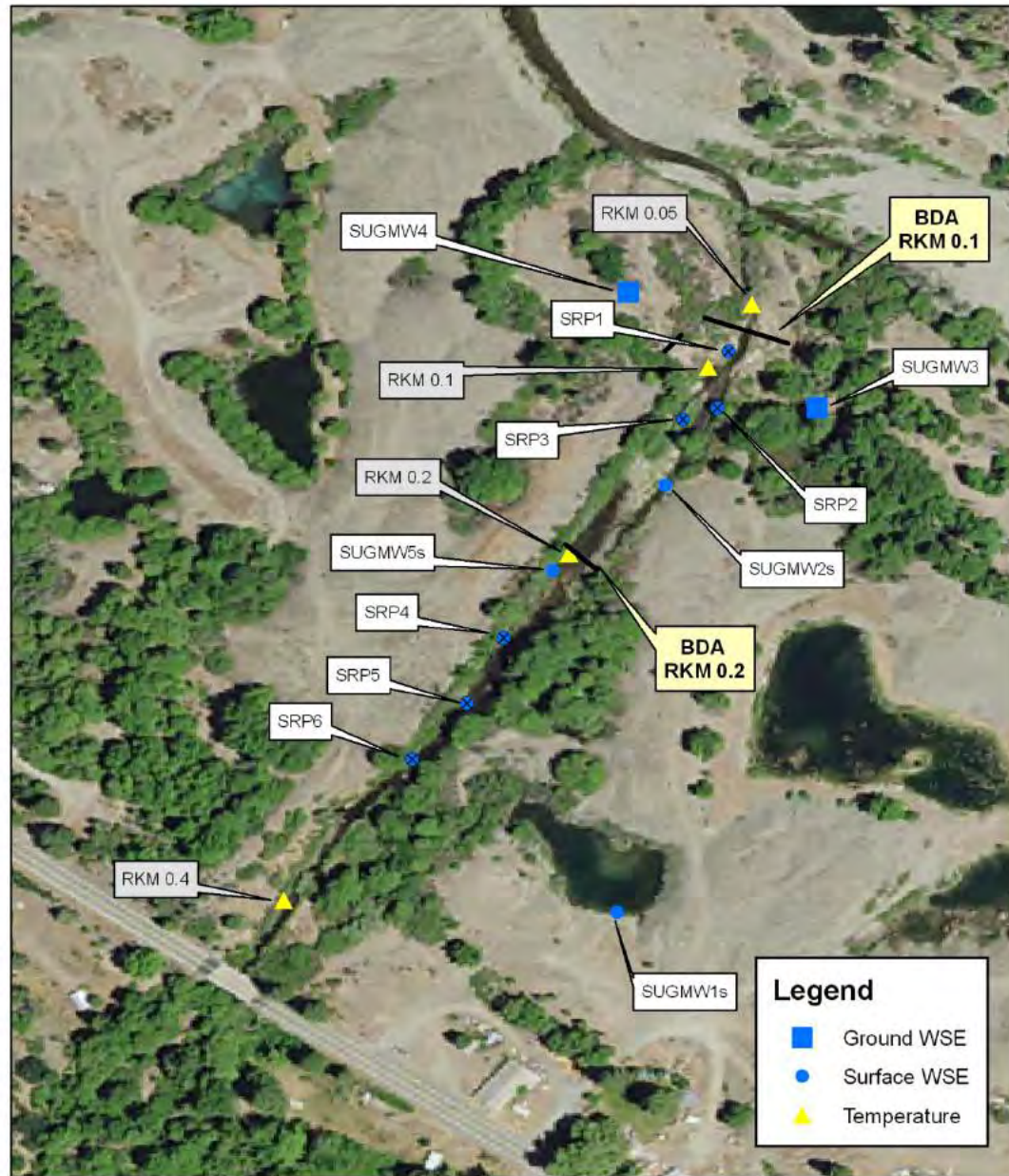
7/25/2014



9/9/2015



# Sugar Creek BDAs - Monitoring Network



E. Yokel  
12/31/2015



0 100 200 400 Feet

# BDA maintenance in Lower Sugar Creek

- SRWC performed maintenance on the BDAs of Lower Sugar Creek on 6/23 – 6/25/2015
- Documented 0.75 ft increase in WSE of BDA RKM 0.1 pond
- Documented significant increase in groundwater and off channel pond WSE associated with maintenance
- Estimate approximately 1,500 cubic meter habitat volume increase

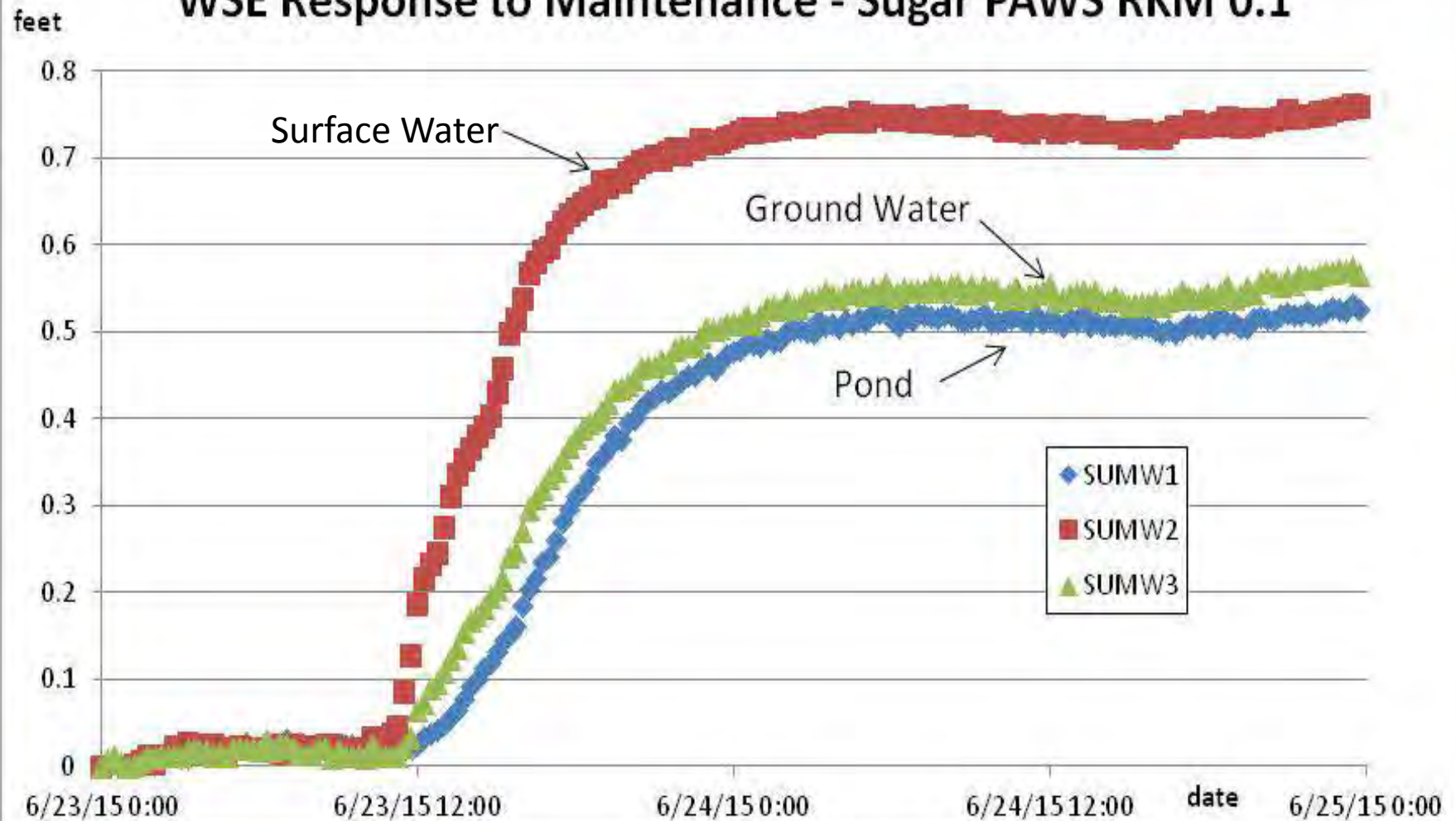


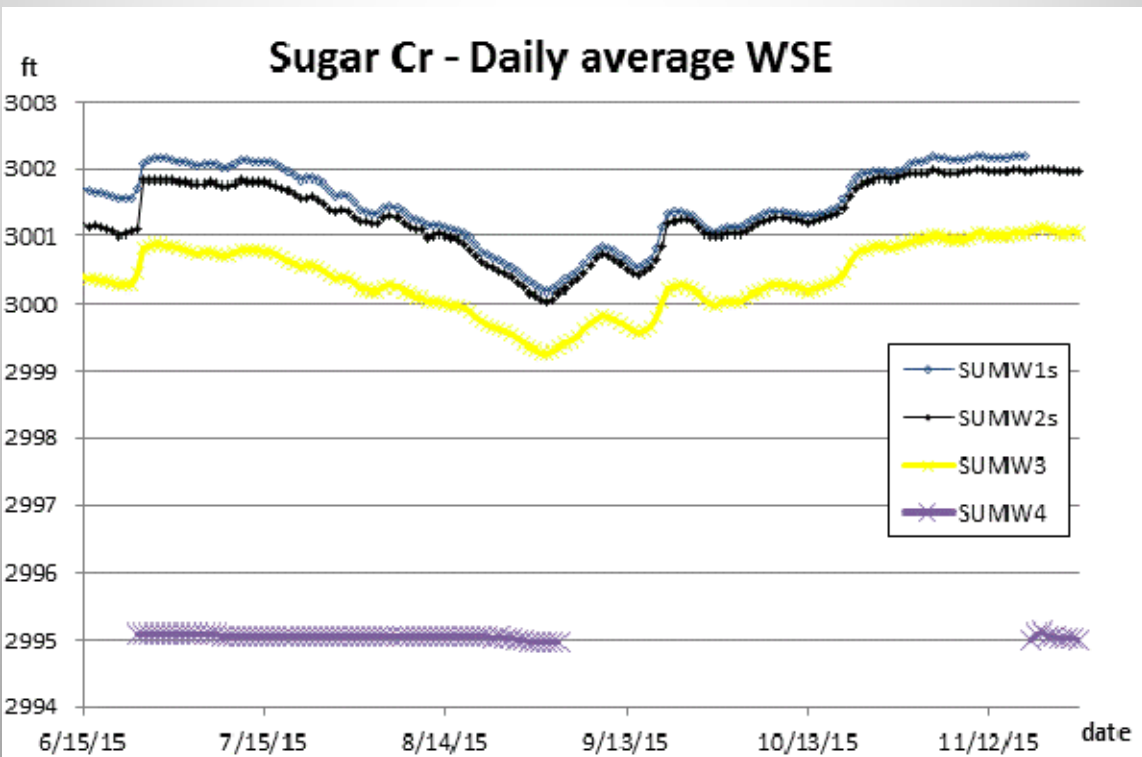
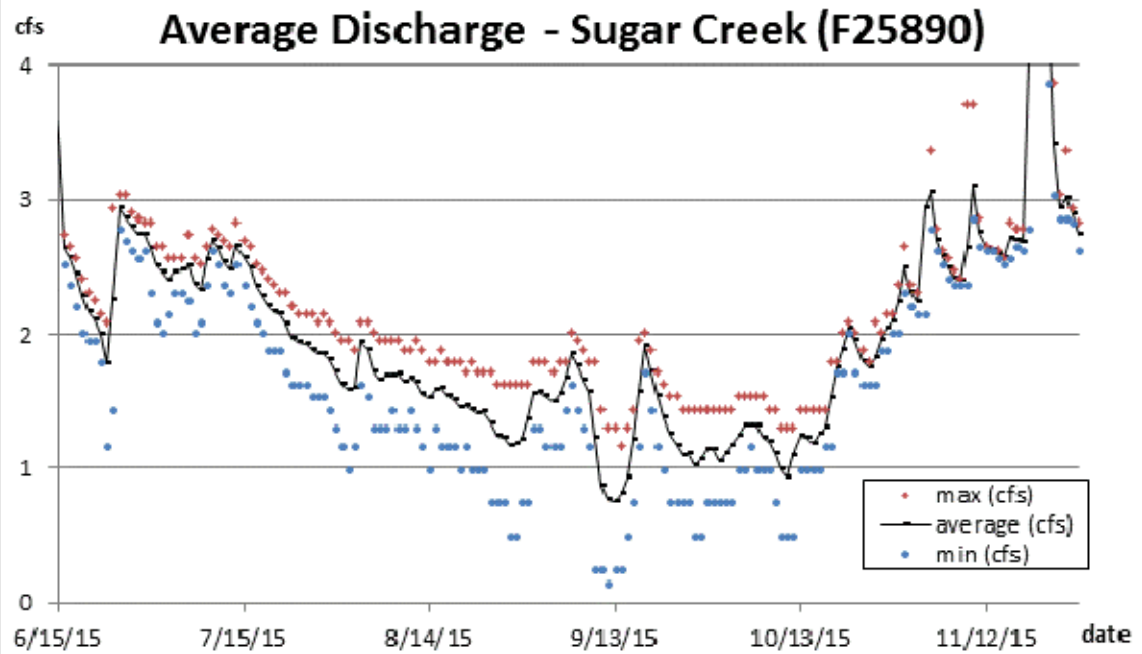
6/23/2015



7/6/2015

## WSE Response to Maintenance - Sugar PAWS RKM 0.1







# Habitat Characterization and Fish Utilization

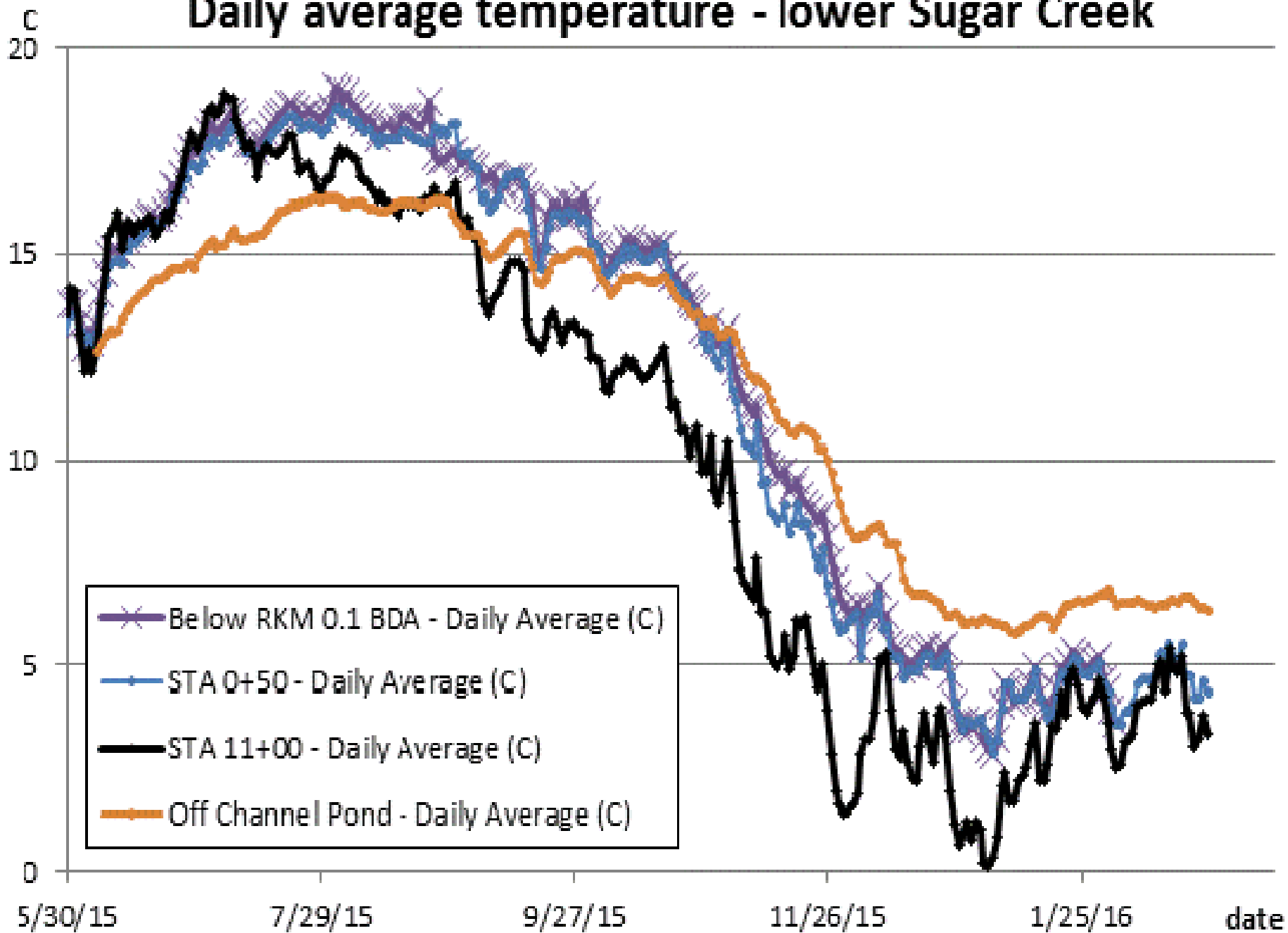




# Sugar Creek BDAs - Temperature Monitoring



# Daily average temperature - lower Sugar Creek



# Scott River coho population

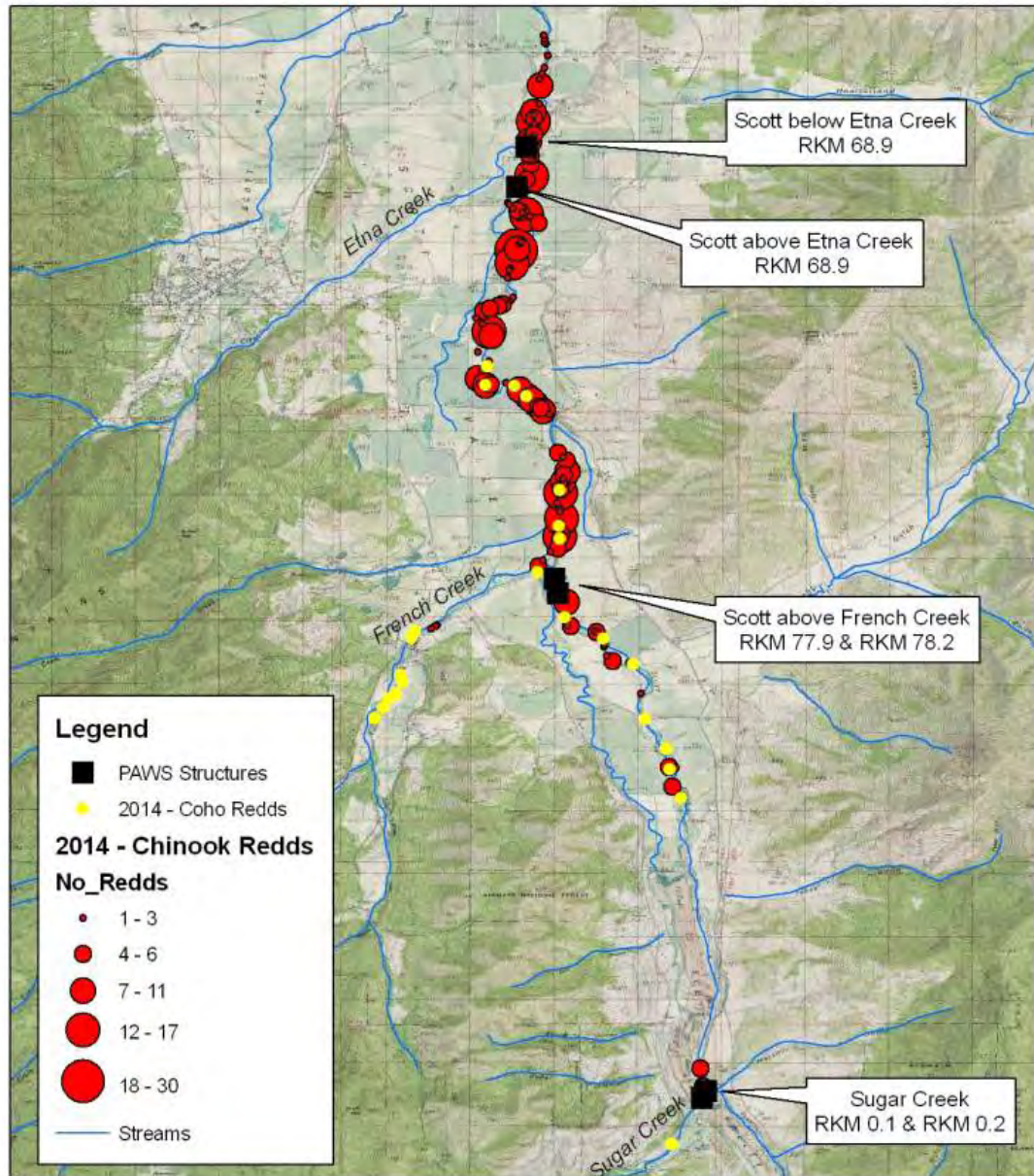
- The Scott River supports a Core, Functionally Independent Population of SONCC coho within the Interior Klamath River diversity stratum
- The Scott River population is at a Moderate Extinction Risk
- The Scott River population is likely above depensation threshold
- The Scott River population serves as a source of juvenile and adult strays for nearby populations in the Klamath Basin

National Marine Fisheries Service. 2014. Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). National Marine Fisheries Service. Arcata, CA

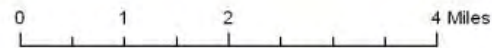
# Adult Fish Passage



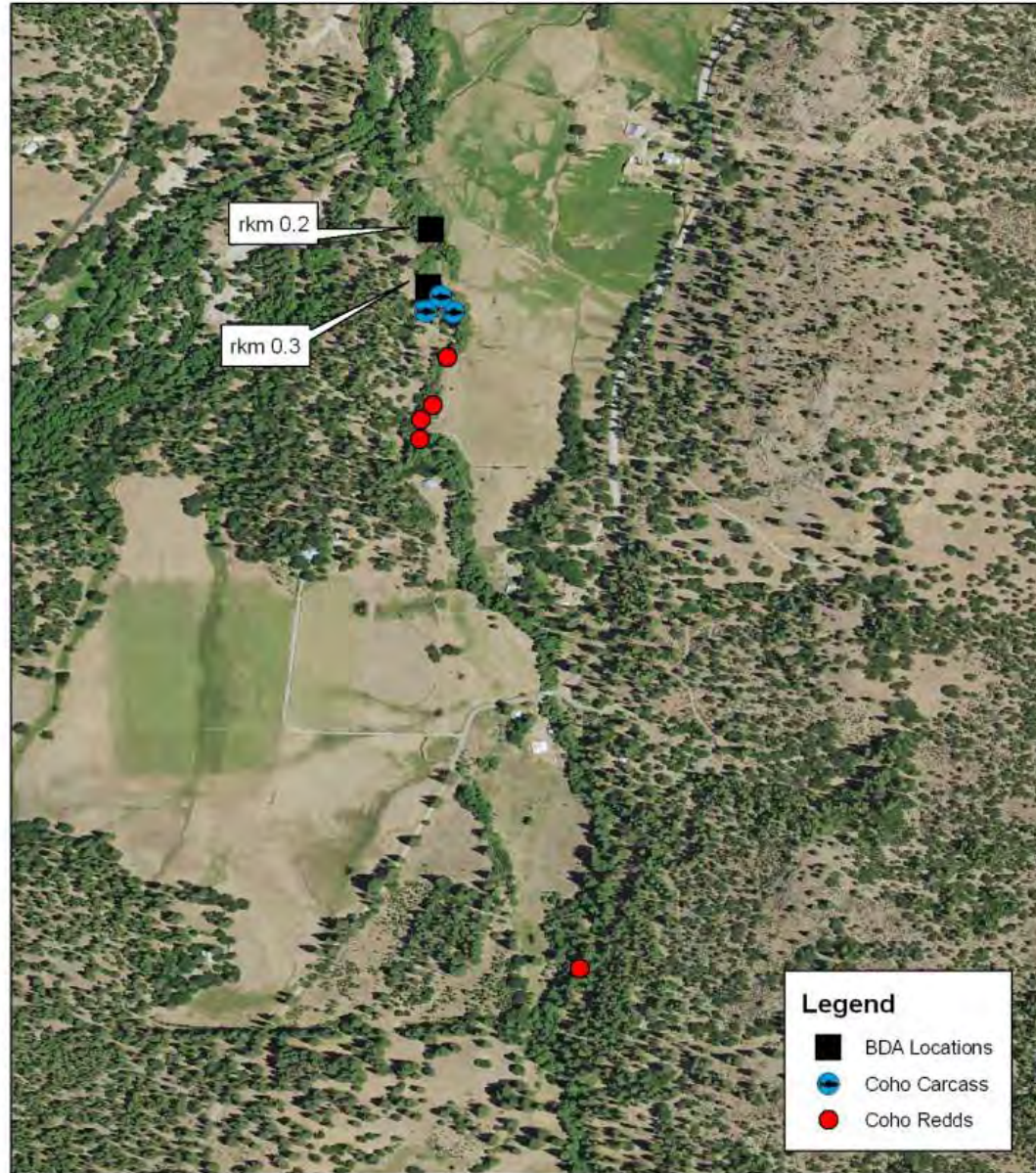
# 2014 Chinook and coho redds



Spawning Ground Data  
 Courtesy of Siskiyou RCD  
 Cartography by E. Yokel  
 11/02/2015

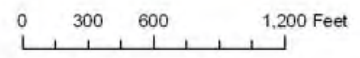


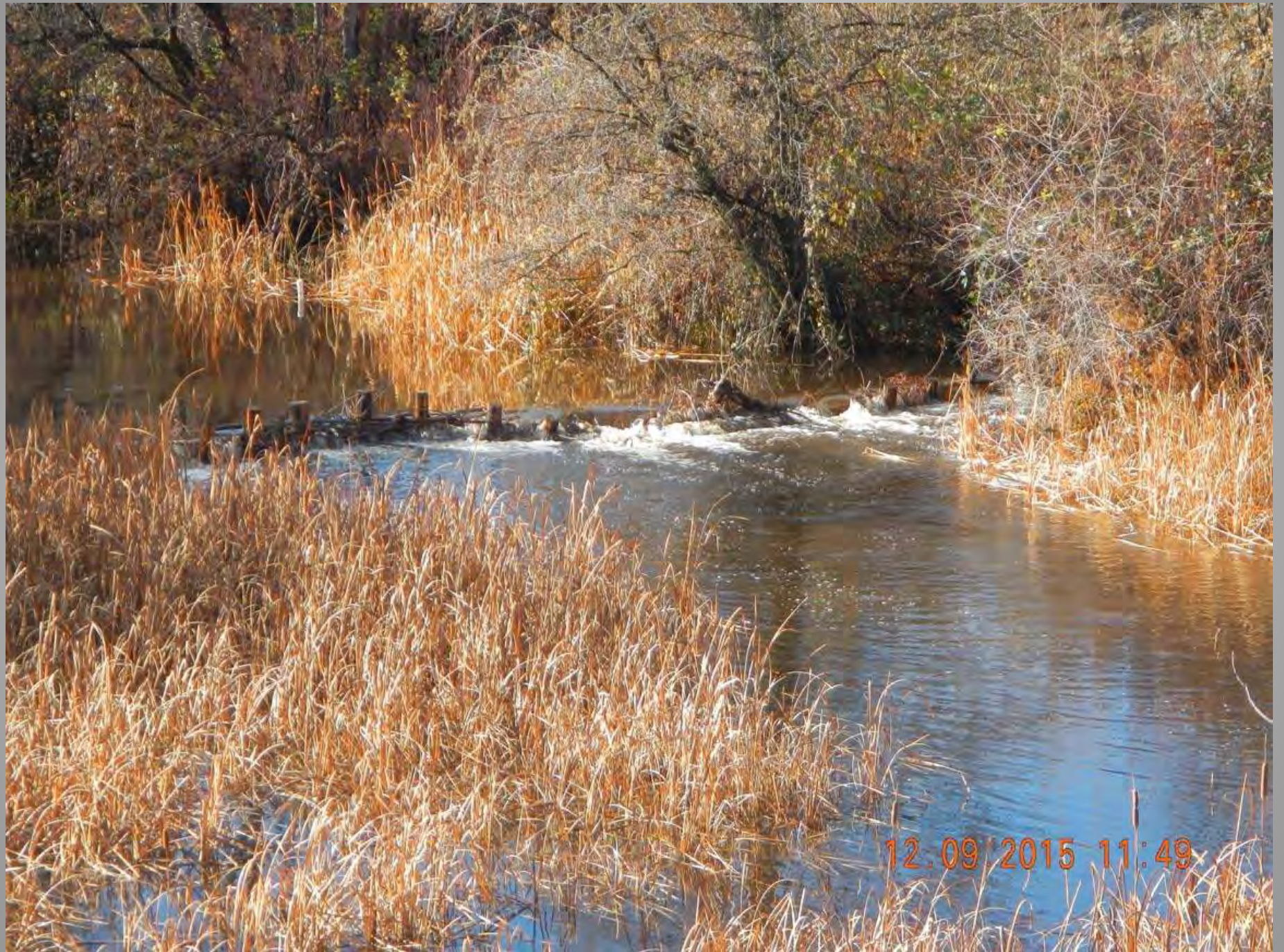
# Coho redds - Miners Creek 2015-16



Spawning Ground Data  
Courtesy of Siskiyou RCD

Ortho - Image - NAIP 2014





# Slow Water Habitat Survey

## Lower Sugar Creek PAWS

Slow Water Habitat Transects

### Legend

- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- PAWS





# Direct Observation Surveys



August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

<b>Age Class and Species</b>	<b>0+ Coho</b>	<b>1+ Coho</b>	<b>0+ Chinook</b>	<b>1+ Chinook</b>	<b>0+ Trout</b>	<b>1-2+ Trout</b>
<b>Downstream of Project Site</b>	1	0	32	0	38	2
<b>Lower PAWS Impoundment</b>	1	0	3	0	26	1
<b>Upper PAWS Impoundment to Bridge</b>	770	0	13	0	70	0
<b>Total Fish Counted</b>	772	0	48	0	134	3



May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

<b>Age Class and Species</b>	<b>0+ Coho</b>	<b>1+ Coho</b>	<b>0+ Chinook</b>	<b>1+ Chinook</b>	<b>0+ Trout</b>	<b>1+ Trout</b>
<b>Downstream of Project Site</b>	255	0	95	0	1,005	15
<b>Lower PAWS Impoundment</b>	350	0	10	0	500	5
<b>Upper PAWS Impoundment</b>	320	0	0	0	500	0
<b>Total Fish Counted</b>	925	0	115	0	2,005	20



June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

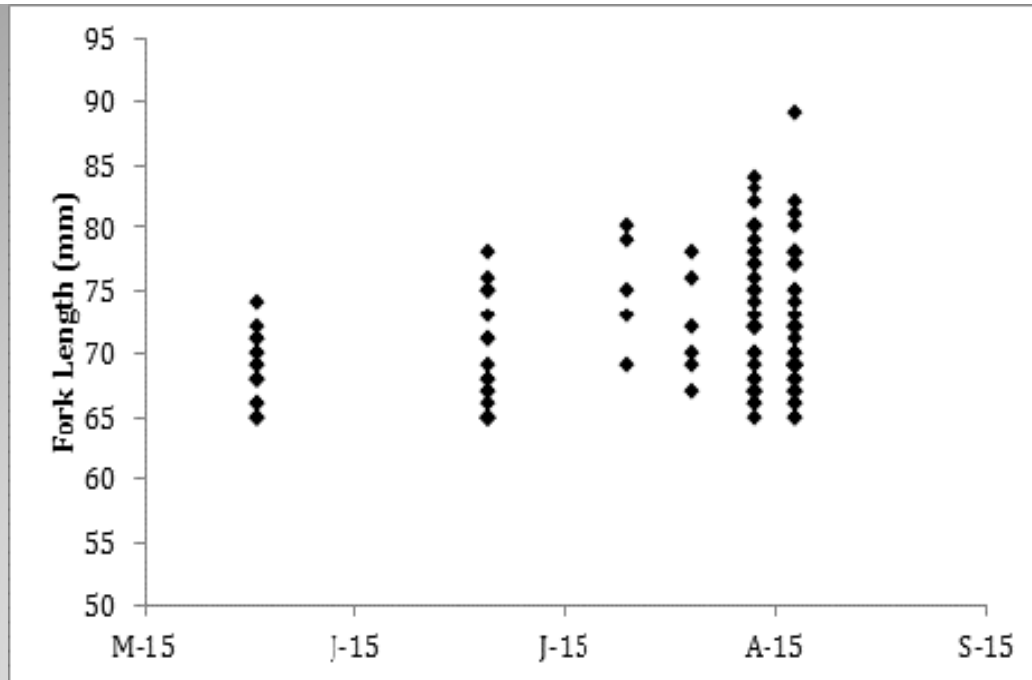


# PIT Tag Program

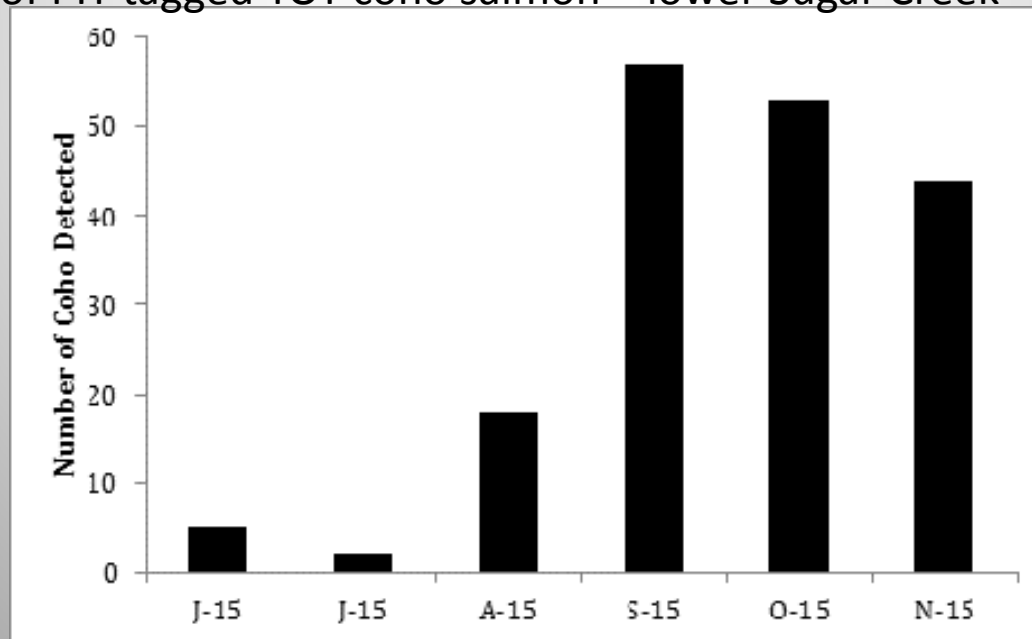




California Department of  
Fish and Wildlife



Forklength of PIT tagged YOY coho salmon – lower Sugar Creek – BY14 (n = 124)



Monthly total number of BY2014 coho detected at the Sugar Creek Rkm 0 antenna station.

# Documentation of Movement

- YOY Juvenile coho salmon PIT tagged in the Scott River in 2014 and released in the South Fork Scott and Scott River entered Sugar Creek during winter (Dec. 14 – Feb. 15) and out migrated in May 2015.  
(C. Adams, 2016)
- YOY Juvenile coho salmon PIT tagged in Sugar Creek in 2011 were observed rearing in Waukell Creek (Klamath RKM 53.0). Out-migrant coho salmon estimates for Waukell Creek in 2012 were  $11,955 \pm 869$  and were all non-natal fish  
(M. Olswang, 2015)

# Off Channel Pond Habitat in Lower Sugar Creek



NFWF



# Multi-species Benefits



Common Yellowthroat  
5/7/02, Denman Wildlife Area  
Photo by James Livaudais

Copyright of Jim Livaudais



Golden-crowned Sparrow  
2/3/11, Salt Creek Road Ore.  
Photo by James Livaudais

Copyright of Jim Livaudais



Virginia Rail  
4/16/06, Denman WA, Ore.  
Photo by James Livaudais

Copyright of Jim Livaudais



Sora  
3/20/04, Lincoln School Ore.  
Photo by James Livaudais

Copyright of Jim Livaudais







Thank you!

12/22/2015

A photograph of a person wearing a red life vest and dark clothing, wading through a shallow stream. The water is clear, revealing a rocky and pebbly bottom. The stream is bordered by dense green vegetation and trees. Several beaver dams, constructed from sticks and branches, are visible in the background, partially blocking the stream. The overall scene is a natural, forested stream environment.

# The Role Beavers Have in Creating Salmonid Rearing Habitats in Coastal California Streams Lacking Perennial Beaver Dams

**Justin Garwood**

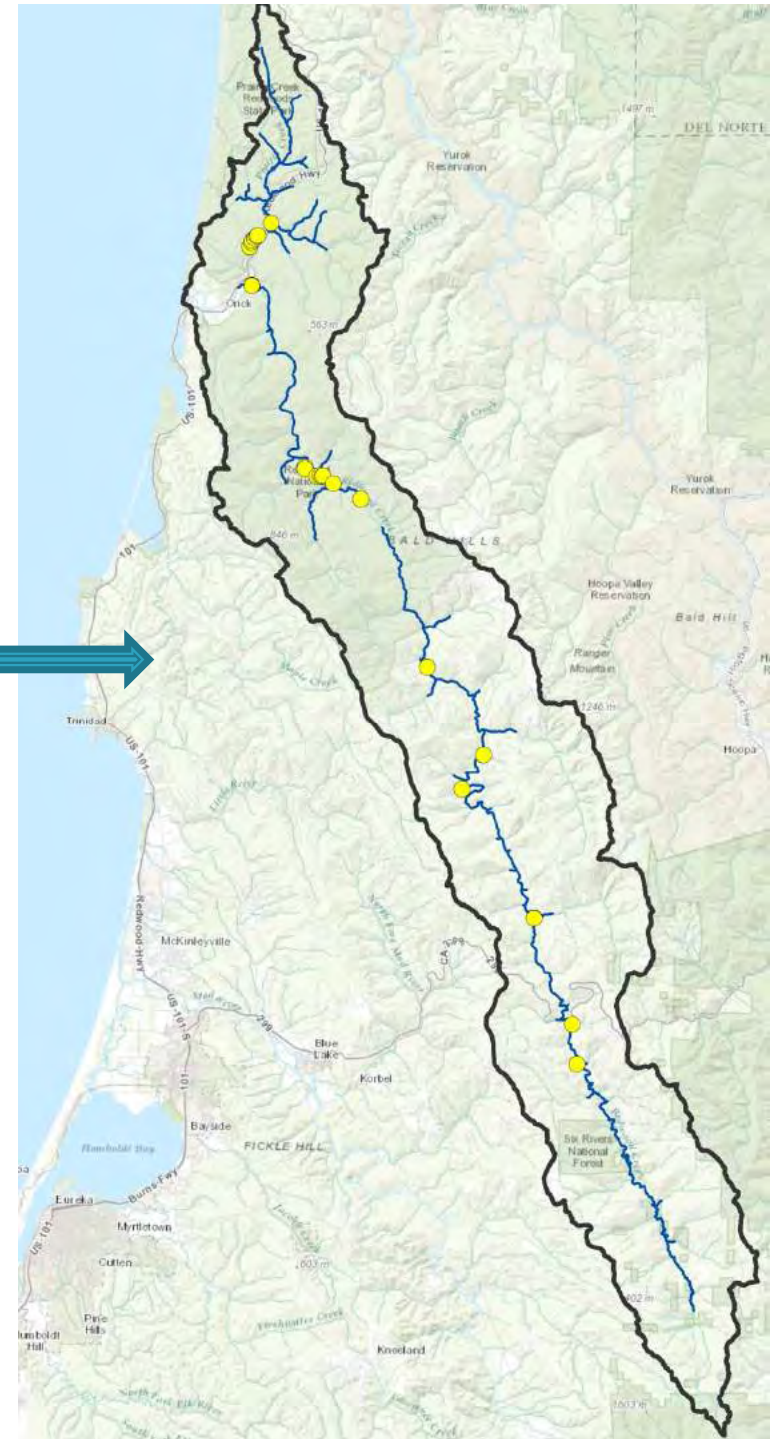
California Department of Fish & Wildlife

**Marisa Parish**

Humboldt State University, Wildlife  
Department

# Coastal creeks and rivers have beavers

- ▶ Smith River
- ▶ Elk Creek
- ▶ Klamath River
- ▶ Redwood Creek
- ▶ Big Lagoon/Maple Creek
- ▶ Little River
- ▶ Strawberry Creek
- ▶ Mad River
- ▶ Eel River





# Past Research:

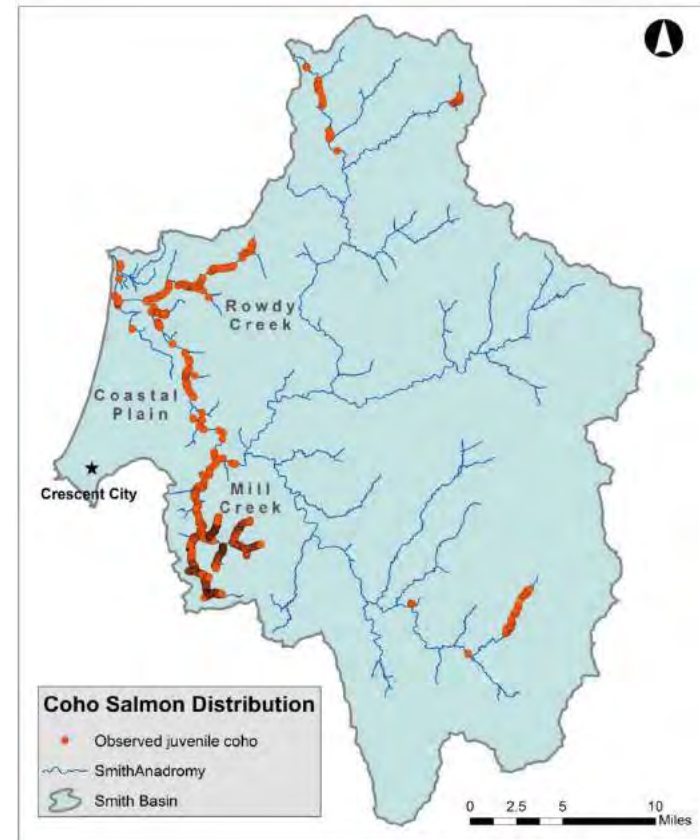
## Beaver dam influence on salmonids

- ▶ Increased salmonid growth and productivity in streams with beaver dams when compared to streams without dams (*Bustard and Narver 1975*).
- ▶ Significantly higher densities of juvenile Chinook salmon in tidal beaver ponds than other tidal channel habitats (*Hood 2012*).

# Smith River SONCC Coho Salmon

## Threatened Species

- ▶ 1997 – Federal ESA
- ▶ 2002 – California ESA



Mouth and estuary of the Smith River

# Dams are not the whole story



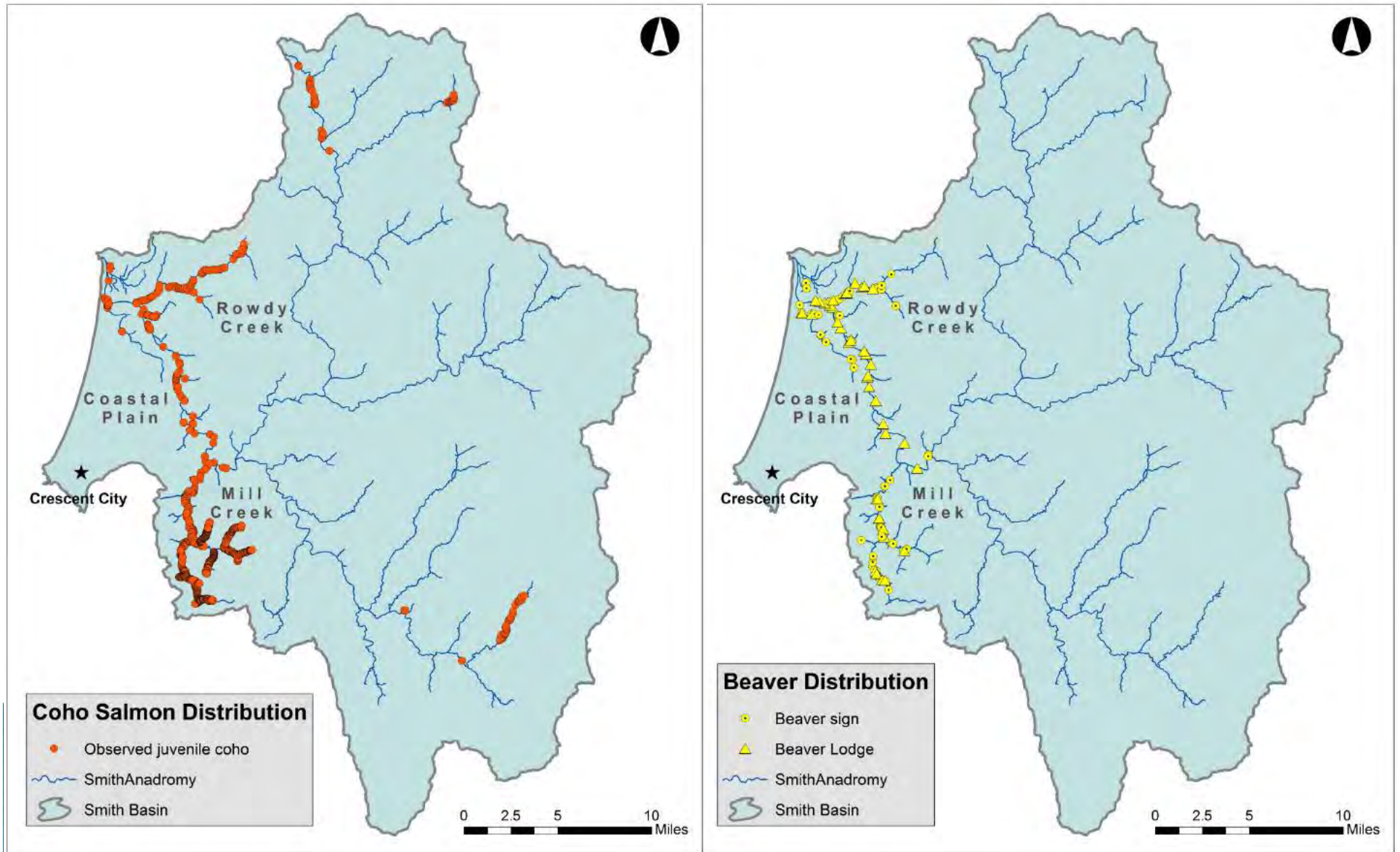
*Marisa Parish-DFW*

# Bank Lodges = River Reefs





# Beaver and Coho salmon overlap

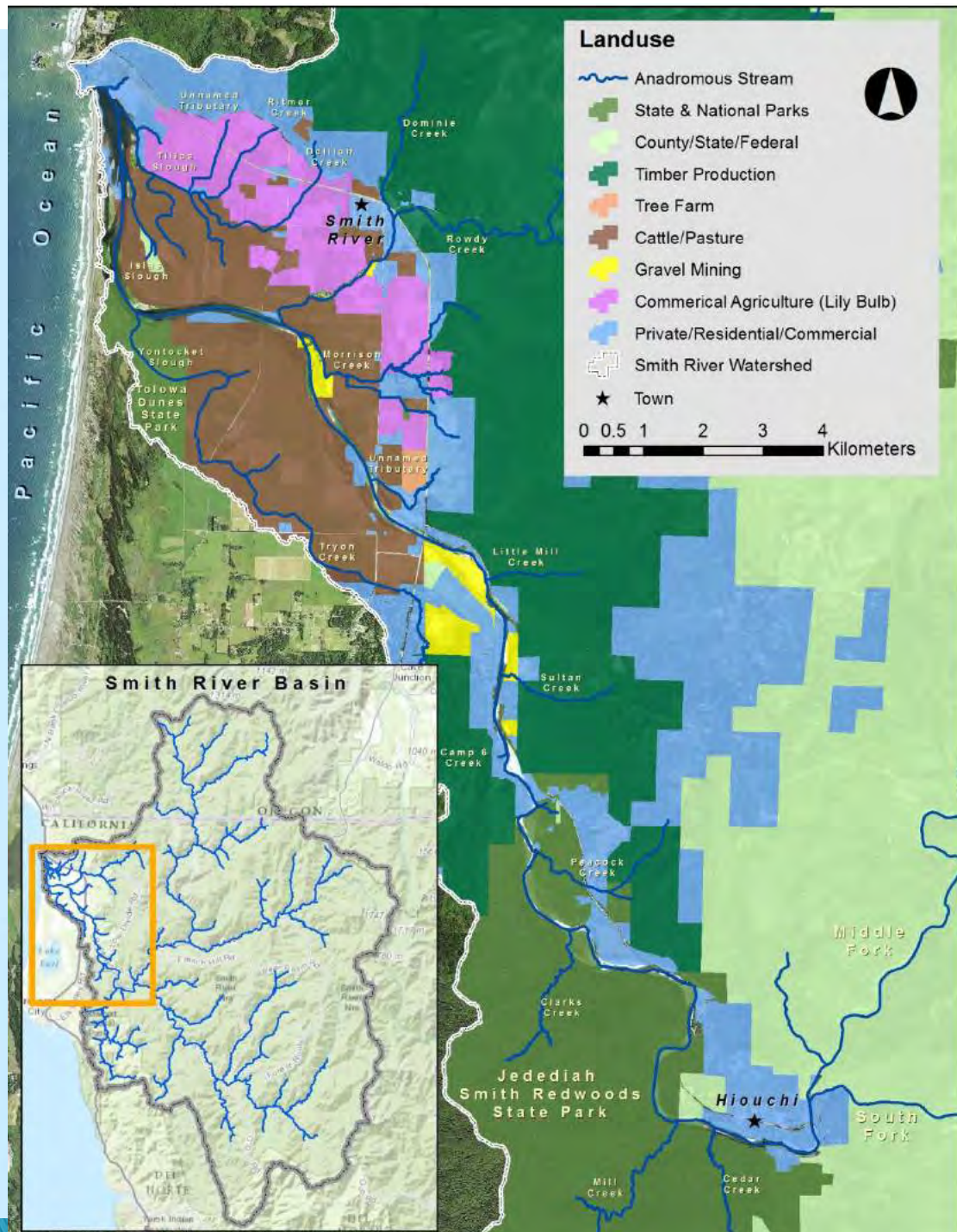


# Outline



- ▶ Study Area/Background
- ▶ Thesis (2)
  - Objectives
  - Methods
  - Results
- Summary
  - Restoration and Management Considerations





# Past Research: Beaver Habitat Suitability

- ▶ Beavers prefer seasonably stable water levels
  - Large rivers and lakes where water depth cannot be controlled are partially or wholly unsuitable for beavers *(Allen 1983)*



# Smith River

- ▶ Annual average precipitation = 92.3 inches
  - 84% received from Oct – Mar
- ▶ Thin serpentine soils support poorly vegetated steep slopes



# Sanity with the trap Winter storms



# Past Research:

- ▶ Beavers prefer seasonably stable water levels
  - Large rivers and lakes where water depth cannot be controlled are partially or wholly unsuitable for beavers (*Allen 1983*)
- ▶ Beavers prefer deeper water that meets the demands of the colony without requiring alteration (*Beier and Barrett 1987, Dieter and McCabe 1989*)

# Bank Lodges / Bank Burrows





# Thesis Objectives – Beavers

1. Identify beaver distribution and gain understanding of lodge site selection and abundance throughout the Smith River coastal plain



# Beaver Distribution – methods

- ▶ Summer 2014
  - Surveyed 88.5 km across the mainstem and coastal tributaries
    - Kayak
    - Bank
    - Snorkel
    - Game Cameras



# Lodge Site Selection – methods

- ▶ Compared Lodges with paired random sites

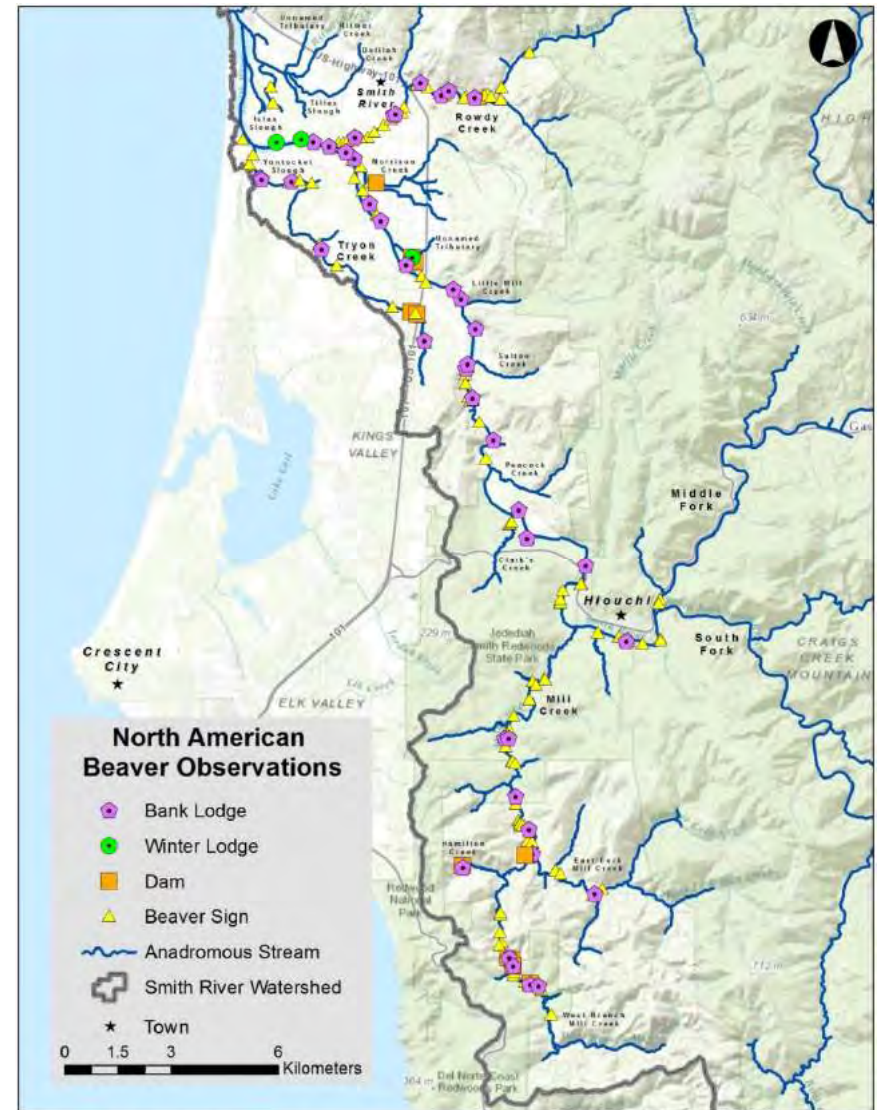
## Measured

- ▶ Canopy Cover
- ▶ Water depth
- ▶ Substrate
- ▶ Bank height
- ▶ Bank length
- ▶ Bank slope
- ▶ Presence of a hydraulic control



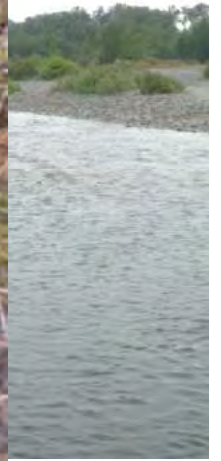
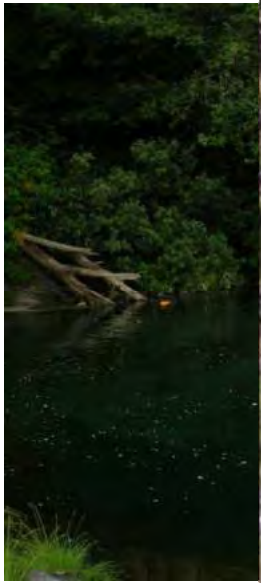
# Beaver Distribution – results

- ▶ Distributed across 59.9km
  - 41 Lodges (0.82 lodges/km)
    - Across a diversity of land use
    - Winter: 3 additional lodges distribution – 71.1 km
  - 12 Dams
    - Only 1 active year round
- ▶ Seasonal variation



Lodge

Its



- ▶ Hyd  
ban
- ▶ Taller bank provides more area for denning chambers at a wider range of flows

# Thesis Objectives – Coho

1. Identify beaver distribution and gain understanding of lodge site selection throughout the Smith River coastal plain
2. Utilize multi-season occupancy models to analyze beaver non-damming influence on juvenile salmonid non-natal rearing habitats for summer and winter

# Multi-season Occupancy

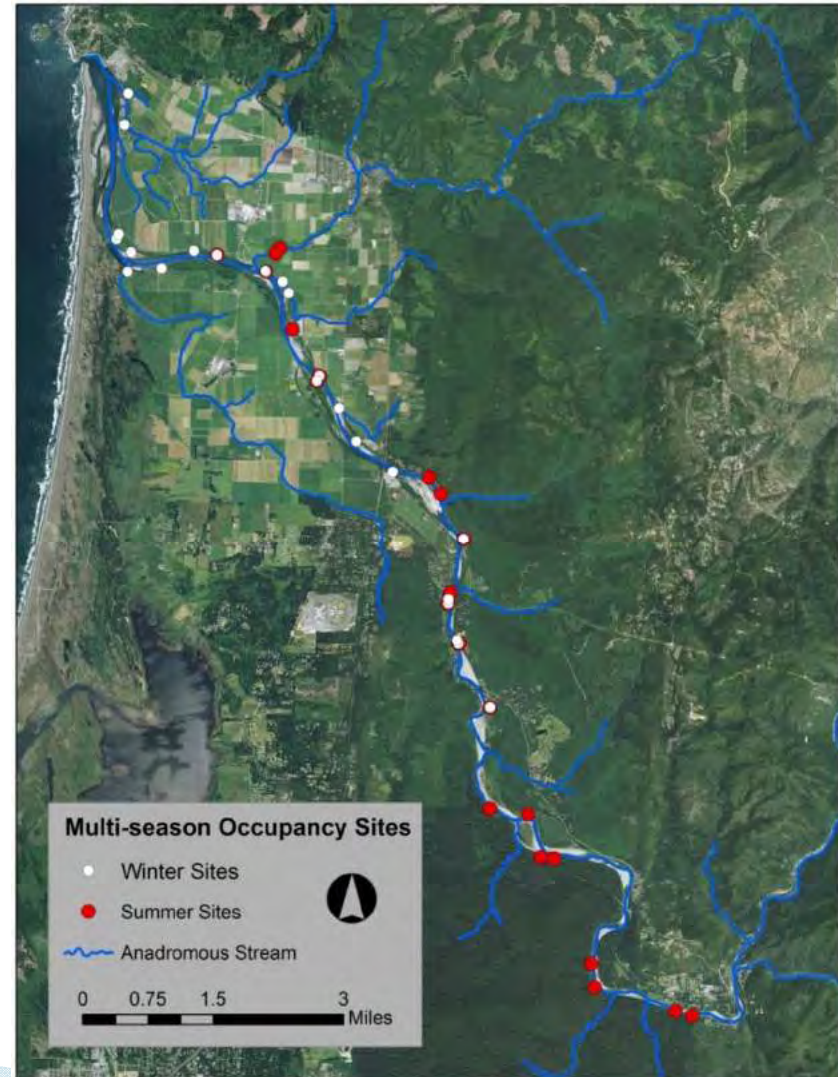
## 24 Fish monitoring sites

½ bank lodges

½ non-lodges

Repeat surveys conducted  
4 visits per season

- Summer 2014  
(June – September)  
across 22.5 km
- Winter 2014–15  
(January – March)  
across 15.8 km



# Measurements

- ▶ Habitat measurements
  - Cover created by beaver
  - Total cover
  - LWD
  - Depth
  - Canopy cover
- ▶ Water quality measurements
  - Dissolved Oxygen
  - Salinity
  - Temperature





# Methods – detection < 1

## Summer – Snorkel surveys

- 2 independent divers on the same day



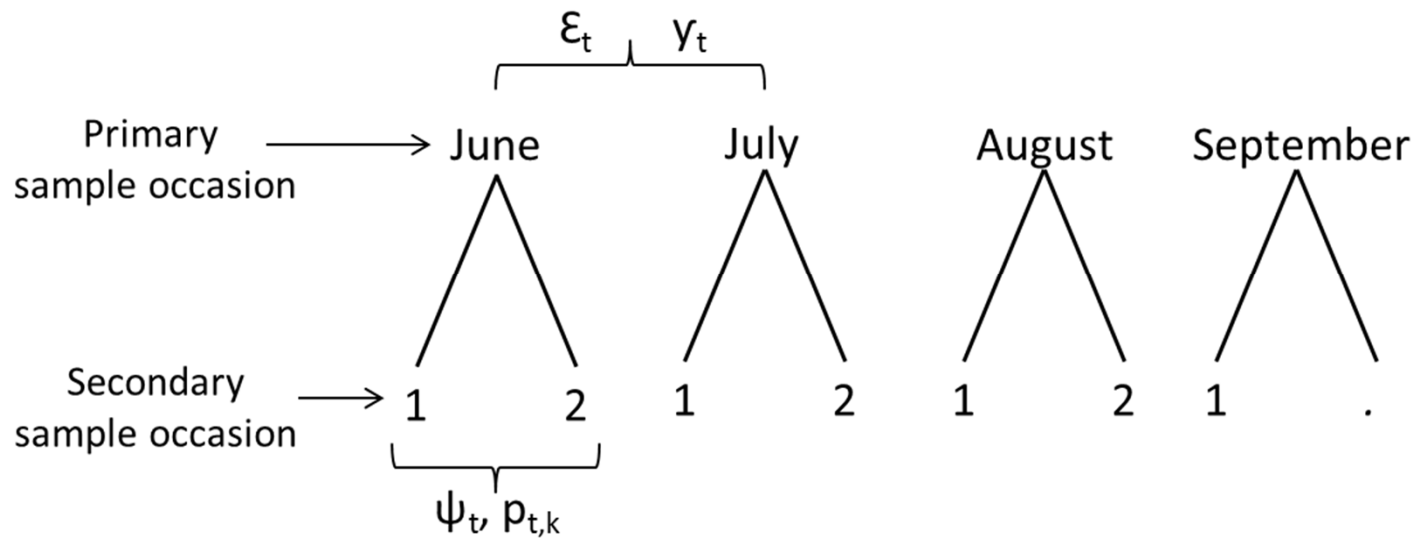
## Winter – Minnow trapping

- Back-to-back days (traps soaked for 80–120min/day)



# Multi-season Occupancy

## Pollock's Robust Design



$\psi$ : Occupancy

$\epsilon$ : Extinction (emigration)

$\gamma$ : Colonization

$p$ : Detection

# Seasonal Occupancy



## Summer

species	Occupancy ( $\psi$ )				Colonization ( $\gamma$ )			Extinction ( $\epsilon$ )			Detection ( $p$ )		
	June	July	August	September	Estimate	SE	95% CI	Estimate	SE	95% CI	Estimate	SE	95% CI
coho salmon	0.80 ± 0.08 (0.59 - 0.92)	0.76 ± 0.08 (0.62 - 0.91)	0.74 ± 0.09 (0.57 - 0.91)	0.72 ± 0.10 (0.52 - 0.92)	0.14	0.1	0.03 - 0.44	0.08	0.04	0.02 - 0.21	0.93	0.03	0.86 - 0.96
Chinook salmon	0.88 ± 0.07 (0.68 - 0.96)	0.69 ± 0.08 (0.54 - 0.84)	0.55 ± 0.10 (0.36 - 0.74)	0.44 ± 0.11 (0.23 - 0.65)	0.03	0.06	<0.01 - 0.83	0.22	0.07	0.11 - 0.38	0.89	0.04	0.80 - 0.94

## Winter

species	Occupancy ( $\psi$ )				Colonization ( $\gamma$ )			Extinction ( $\epsilon$ )			Detection ( $p$ )		
	Early Jan	Late Jan	Mid-Feb	Mid-March	Estimate	SE	95% CI	Estimate	SE	95% CI	Estimate	SE	95% CI
coho salmon	0.19 ± 0.11 (0.05 - 0.50)	0.20 ± 0.08 (0.04 - 0.36)	0.20 ± 0.09 (0.03 - 0.38)	0.20 ± 0.10 (0.01 - 0.40)	0.11	0.06	0.04 - 0.28	0.42	0.25	0.09 - 0.84	0.44	0.15	0.19 - 0.72

$\psi$ : Occupancy,  $\epsilon$ : Extinction (emigration),  $\gamma$ : Colonization,  $p$ : Detection



# Seasonal Occupancy



## Summer

species	Occupancy ( $\psi$ )				Colonization ( $\gamma$ )			Extinction ( $\epsilon$ )			Detection ( $p$ )		
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<b>coho salmon</b>	<b>0.80 ± 0.08</b> (0.59 - 0.92)	<b>0.76 ± 0.08</b> (0.62 - 0.91)	<b>0.74 ± 0.09</b> (0.57 - 0.91)	<b>0.72 ± 0.10</b> (0.52 - 0.92)	<b>0.14</b>	0.1	0.03 - 0.44	<b>0.08</b>	0.04	0.02 - 0.21	<b>0.93</b>	0.03	0.86 - 0.96
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# Seasonal Occupancy



## Summer

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# Seasonal Occupancy



## Summer

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Chinook salmon	0.88 ± 0.07 (0.68 - 0.96)	0.69 ± 0.08 (0.54 - 0.84)	0.55 ± 0.10 (0.36 - 0.74)	0.44 ± 0.11 (0.23 - 0.65)	0.03	0.06	<0.01 - 0.83	0.22	0.07	0.11 - 0.38	0.89	0.04	0.80 - 0.94

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$\psi$ : Occupancy,  $\epsilon$ : Extinction (emigration),  $\gamma$ : Colonization,  $p$ : Detection

# Results

## Summer

Model	AICc	$\Delta$ AICc	AICc w	Accumulated Weight	k
{ $\psi$ (Beaver Cover), $\epsilon$ (.), $\gamma$ (.), $p$ (.)}	131.44	0	0.31	0.31	5
{ $\psi$ (.), $\epsilon$ (.), $\gamma$ (.), $p$ (.)}	132.21	0.77	0.21	0.52	4
{ $\psi$ (June MWMT), $\epsilon$ (.), $\gamma$ (.), $p$ (.)}	133.39	1.95	0.12	0.64	5
{ $\psi$ (CC), $\epsilon$ (.), $\gamma$ (.), $p$ (.)}	133.67	2.23	0.10	0.74	5
{ $\psi$ (Volume), $\epsilon$ (.), $\gamma$ (.), $p$ (.)}	133.67	2.23	0.10	0.84	5
{ $\psi$ (LWD), $\epsilon$ (.), $\gamma$ (.), $p$ (.)}	134.09	2.65	0.08	0.92	5
{ $\psi$ (Lodge), $\epsilon$ (.), $\gamma$ (.), $p$ (.)}	134.24	2.80	0.08	1	5

$\psi$ : Occupancy,  $\epsilon$ : Extinction (emigration),  $\gamma$ : Colonization,  $p$ : Detection

## Winter

- No significant difference in beaver created cover at sites with and without coho salmon
  - Depth only habitat variable that differed

# Beaver seasonal variation & movement

- ▶ Summer
  - Constantly modify lodge to maintain underwater entrance
- ▶ Winter
  - Utilize and build dams in intermittent streams, that were dry in the summer



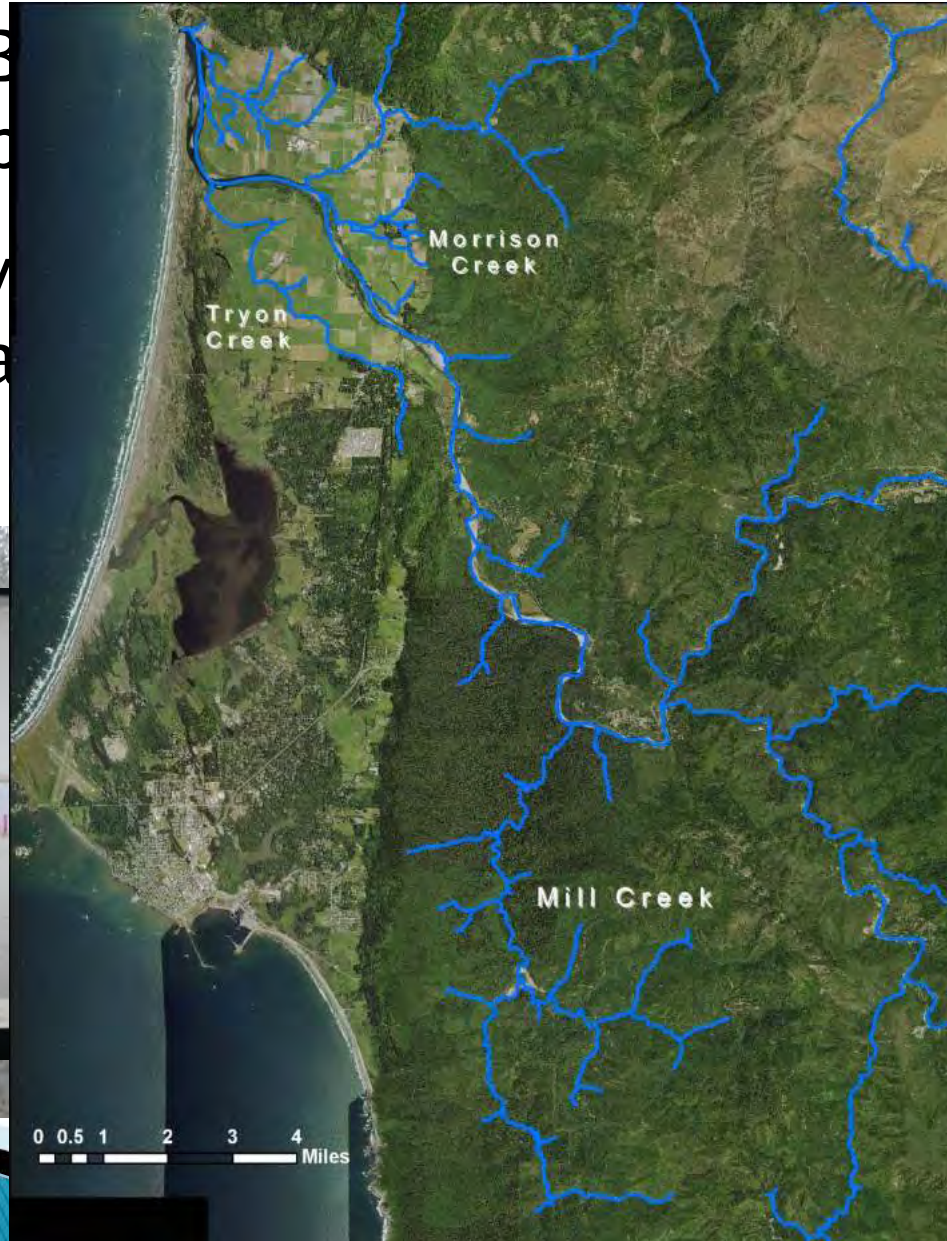
~18 m wide and 25 cm tall



# Fish seasonal movement

- ▶ Summer: B... habitat type
- ▶ Seasonal v... beaver sea

linked other  
ration  
n mimics



# Restoration and Management Considerations

- ▶ Assess beaver distribution and abundance
  - Seasonal and annual variation
- ▶ Beaver protection and management
  - Maintaining habitat and increase underwater complexity
  - Natural revegetation
- ▶ Project designing: Consider beaver habitat needs (Bank stabilization and revegetation)

# Thanks to Supporters



SMITH RIVER ALLIANCE

Fisheries Restoration Grants Program



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY



GOLDEN WEST WOMEN FLYFISHERS



MARIN  
Rod &  
Gun Club  
*Established 1926*



Humboldt (CA) Branch



# Questions?

