

# Changing the Current: Lightning Tales from a New Generation



A Concurrent Session at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference  
Redding, California, May 1, 2026

## Session Coordinators: Ashley Shannon, Cal Trout



This is a Lightning Tales session, featuring five- ten-minute talks geared towards young professional development in the world of fisheries and restoration science. It is a space for growth, grit, and claiming your place in a field that does not always look like the future you want to build. This session also highlights how thoughtful, values-based decision-making and emotional awareness are essential to shaping a resilient and inclusive future in fisheries and restoration science. Our speakers will bring fresh perspectives, lived experiences, and diverse career paths to learn from, all while moving forward the values that drive our generation. And we encourage more experienced folks to sign up or listen in, because the future of this field depends on listening across generations. These talks will be short enough to keep your attention but packed with insights that will stick with you long after. Together we will reflect on how we got here, imagine where we are headed, and share the tools and tips to grow our visions, just like healthy rivers grow strong fish.

# Presentations



- **Womxn in Watershed Science: Taking Space in Male Dominated Fields**, *Katherine Stonecypher, M.S., Senior Fisheries Research Assistant, U.S. Geological Survey California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Cal Poly Humboldt*..... Slide 6
- **Intern to Executive Director, Preparing Youth for Future, Save California Salmon**, *Brook M Thompson, Interim Executive Director, Save California Salmon*..... (talk only) Slide 11
- **Sweaty Pits and Writing Permits: Environmental Regulation, Anxiety, and Saving Everything**, Shannon Husband, Environmental Scientist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife..... Slide 12
- **River Partners Fellows Program: Building the Next Generation of Restoration Scientists**, Holly Ferrara, Restoration Science Ecologist / Project Manager, River Partners.....Slide 14
- **We Are Being the Power of the River: Restoration Stories from the Riparian Zone of the Trinity River**, Simone Groves, Riparian Ecologist, Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries, Trinity River Restoration Program; and Chase Niesner, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow, Environmental Science, Policy, and Management, University of California.....Slide 22
- **Quotes Offer Sound Advice and Inspiration to Younger Generations of Stream Scientists and Restorationists**, *William J. Trush, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor, Cal Poly Humboldt, River Institute*..... Slide 31
- **Momentum from Mentorship**, *Jason White, M.E.S.M., South Coast Habitat Restoration, University of California, Santa Barbara, Lecturer, SRF Board Member*..... Slide 53

# Presentations



- **Landscape Healing: Building Baselines for Accomplices**, *Karley Abi'hu'laro Rojas, M.A. (Higuayagua Taíno of the Caribbean) Ethnobotany and Cultural Stewardship Manager, Blue Lake Rancheria; Lecturer, Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab & Traditional Ecological Knowledges Institute..... Slide 76*
- **Swimming Upstream: How to Navigate a Changing Job Market as a Young Professional**, *Megan Kownurko, Agricultural Enhancement Coordinator, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District..... Slide 85*
- **Changing the Tone for GIS and Empowering Folks for Discovery**, *Robert George, M.S., North Coast Project Manager, California Trout..... Slide 107*
- **Growing a Conservation Coalition in Southern California Using Traditional and Modern Engagement Strategies**, *Elizabeth Burns, M.S., South Coast Project Coordinator, Southern Steelhead Coalition, California Trout..... Slide 112*
- **The Power of Art and Natural History in Fisheries Restoration and Stewardship**, *Edgar Cruz, Pacific Watershed Associates..... Slide 124*
- **Political Ecology as a Lens for Understanding Fishery Declines from the U.S. to Gaza**, *Stella Baumstone, Watershed Stewards Program Corpsmember, Bureau of Land Management, Arcata.....Slide 130*
- Post-talk Discussion, Ashley Shannon, North Coast Project Manager, California Trout, and Milton Reynolds, Board Member, California Trout



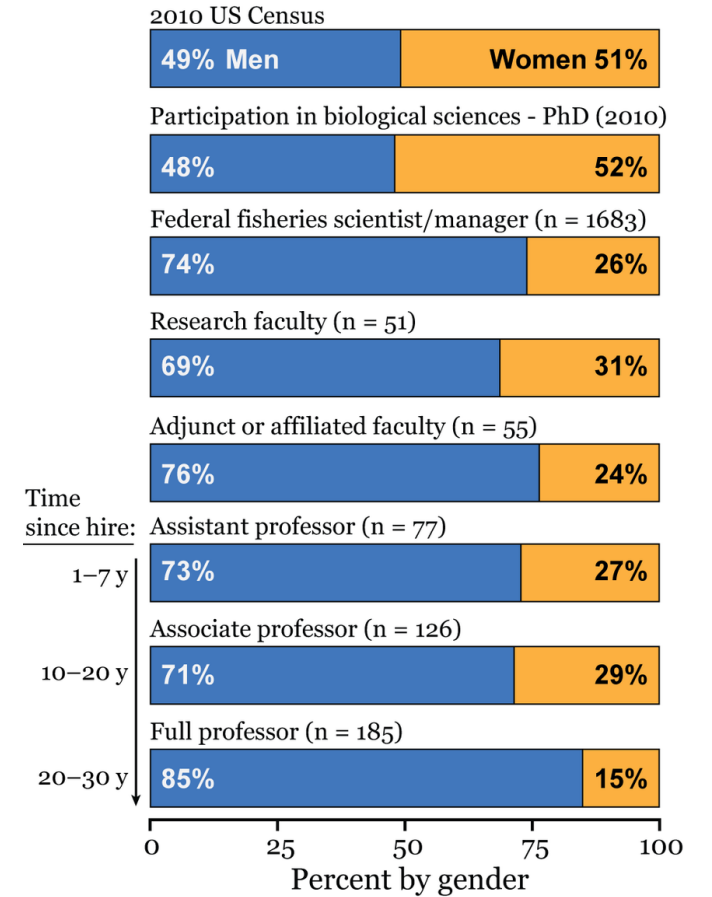
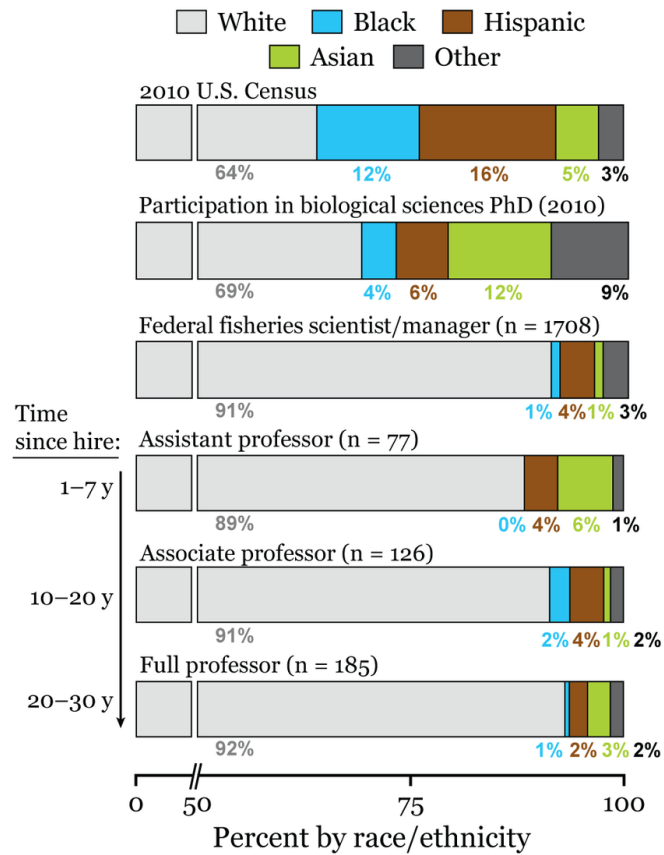
43<sup>RD</sup> Annual

Salmonid Restoration Conference  
*Bridging the Gaps in Restoration*

APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 2026 REDDING, CA

Changing the Current: Lightning Tales  
from a New Generation

Source:  
Arismendi and Penaluna 2016



# Challenges for Womxn Working in Watershed Science

## Systemic barriers

- “motherhood penalty”
- Invisible labor
- Inadequate maternity leave
- Pay gap

## Biases and cultural norms

- Harrassment/discrimination
- Math anxiety
- Pre-conceived notions about strength

## Safety

- Differences in risk evaluation between men and women
- Exposure to violence through interactions in remote field settings
- Inadequate gear

# Do's and Don'ts of Taking Space as a Womxn

- DO be professional
  - This does not include:
    - Being thin
    - Being pretty
    - Being perfect
    - Being “tough”
    - Being overly kind outside reasonable expectations
- DO be accountable
  - Watch out for internalized misogyny
  - Hold yourself to a high standard of professionalism
  - Collaboration over competition
- DO hold others accountable
  - **If you see something, say something!**
  - Confront biases calmly and directly
  - Maintain good communication within the workplace

- DON'T ignore your intuition  
(It is there for a reason)
- DON'T neglect your health



**Womxn have always been a part of fisheries and watershed science  
and will always be a part of fisheries and watershed science**



# Further Reading

Arismendi, I., & Penaluna, B. E. (2016). Examining diversity inequities in fisheries science: a call to action. *BioScience*, 66(7), 584-591.

King, B. D. (2023). Social identities, intersectionality, and the experiences of women and women of color in marine, aquatic, and fisheries science professions. *Fisheries*, 48(1), 20-28.

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Intern to Executive Director,  
Preparing our Youth for Future,  
Save California Salmon

**Brook M Thompson**

Interim Executive Director, Save California Salmon

# Sweaty Pits and Writing Permits: Environmental Regulation, Anxiety, and Saving Everything

Shannon Husband  
CDFW Environmental Scientist





DA 10/12



RIVER  
PARTNERS

# Interns, Our Future.

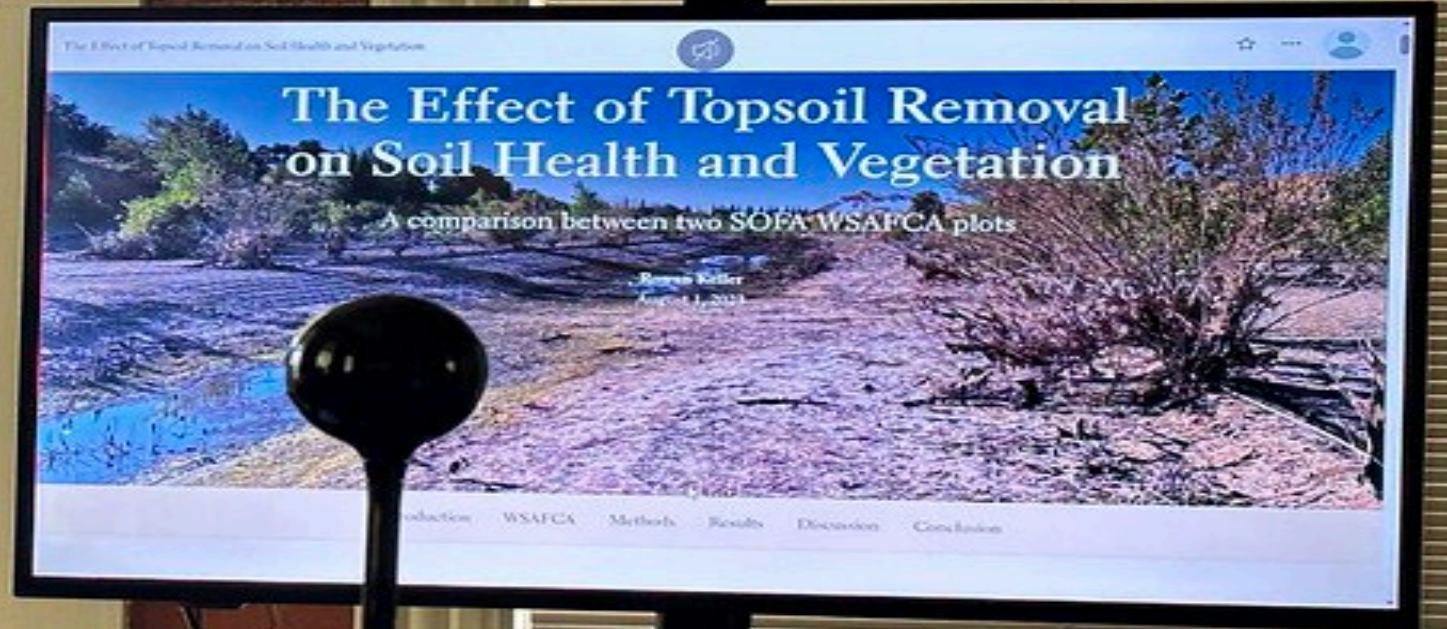
Holly Ferrara  
Restoration Ecologist  
Project Manager  
Intern Program Coordinator

# Restoration Fellows Program





# Aspects of the Program



“I got my start at River Partners in 2000 working as a science intern. That opportunity exposed me to the nuances associated with restoration design, monitoring, and project implementation on a scale I could not have imagined. I never anticipated that 20 years later I would be serving in a senior role and shaping the pace and course of riparian restoration in California.”-Helen Swagerty, Director of Development, River Partners



“Seeing firsthand the impacts of erosion, levees, and water management sparked something. You build those little relationships that are so small but very meaningful,”- Lambert Ngenzi



“My internship at River Partners allowed me to experience a wide range of what is going on in restoration, I had no idea that these large-scale restoration projects are even happening, let alone in my backyard.”-Francis Ulep



“I first interned with River Partners in Southern California in 2021, where I discovered my passion for ecological restoration and the interconnectedness of plant communities, wildlife, and the broader environment, an experience that ultimately shaped my path in ecology during undergrad. After completing my master’s in biology, I returned in 2024 as a full-time biologist, where I now help plan and implement large-scale restoration projects.”



# Alumni LinkedIn Page

The screenshot shows the LinkedIn interface for a group. At the top, there are navigation icons for Home, My Network (with 1 notification), Jobs, Messaging (with 1 notification), and Notifications (with 22 notifications). A search bar is present with the text 'Search for posts in this group'. The group profile is owned by Holly Ferrara CWB®, created in August 2024. The group has 5 members, including Trevor Ramsey and 1 other connection. The group's analytics show 7 active members (59% decrease), 1 new member (0%), 0 posts (100% decrease), and 19 post views (55% decrease). The main content area features a post by Holly Ferrara CWB®, a Restoration Ecologist and Admin, with the text 'Tell us what you have been up to since your internship with River Partners.' The post includes a photo of a group of people with a red tractor in a field. The post is currently pinned to the top of the group.

**Navigation:** Home, My Network (1), Jobs, Messaging (1), Notifications (22), Me, For Business, Retry 1 month of Premium for \$0

**Search:** Search for posts in this group

**Group Profile:**  
Holly Ferrara CWB®  
Owner  
Group created: Aug 2024

**Group Stats:**  
Pending posts: 0  
Requests to join: 0  
Manage group  
Edit group

**Recent Groups:**  
River Partners Restoration Sch...  
Wildlife Professionals

**Group Name:** River Partners Restoration Scholars Alumni  
Public group  
Earn an Active Group badge

**Analytics (Last 15 days activity):**  
7 Active members (▼ 59%)  
1 New members (● 0%)  
0 Posts (▼ 100%)  
19 Post views (▼ 55%)

**Post:**  
Start a public post  
Media | Poll

**Post Content:**  
All | Recommended  
Highlight this post by pinning it at the top. [Pin this post]  
Holly Ferrara CWB® • You  
Restoration Ecologist  
★ Admin • Admin • 2w • [Share]

**Post Text:** Tell us what you have been up to since your internship with River Partners.

# Into the Future





RIVER  
PARTNERS

**Thank You!**

[hferrara@riverpartners.org](mailto:hferrara@riverpartners.org)

**Find us on Instagram and LinkedIn!**



**Summer 2027 Internship Opportunities open Feb 2027!**



‘Being the Power of the River’:  
*Restoration Stories from the  
Riparian Zone of the Trinity River*

By Simone Groves and Chase Niesner

With Brian “Iddy,” Chamelee, Alex and Jess



12:29



**What are three words that  
come to mind when you  
think of the Trinity River?**

**Word 1**

**Word 2**

**Word 3**



Powered by Qualtrics [↗](#)



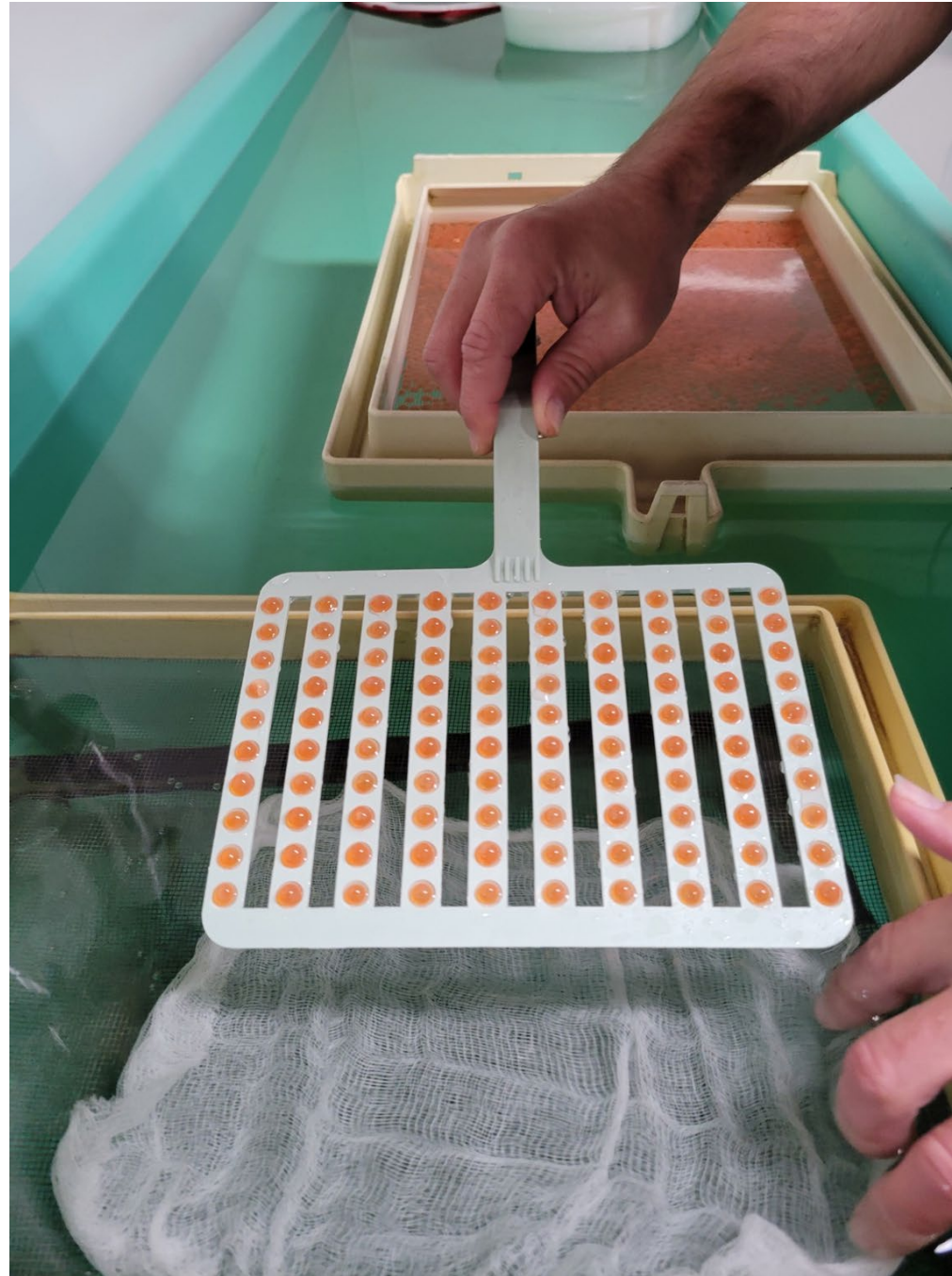
Full Circle



Family (or Knowing)



# River Time



# Labor (of Love)





# Quotes Offer Sound Advice and Inspiration to Younger Generations of Stream Scientists and Restorationists

Dr. William J. Trush

Cal Poly Humboldt River Institute

## River Ecologist: Profession and Passion

It's not a job. It's not a career. It is a life-long adventure. First, accept Charles Bukowski's challenging quote: "Find what you love, then let it kill you."

Next, you'll need to embrace, if not seriously consider, these actions/attitudes/realities each summarized by Bukowski's notable quote: (a) "A man ceases to be a beginner in any given science and becomes a master in that science when he has learned that ... he is going to be a beginner all his life."

R.G. Collingwood in *The New Leviathan* (1942),

(b) To enjoy (def.): "To love something for its own sake and for no other reason" (Leonardo Da Vinci in *Fieldbook No.2*), and

(c) "Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication." (Leonardo Da Vinci). An incredible life-long experience will be sharing your adventure with others, thus accomplishing life's meaning and purpose: "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give your gift away." (Pablo Picasso).

“The first principle is that you must not fool yourself  
and you are the easiest person to fool.” Richard Feynman

Perhaps the best Feynman quote of all (from a 1974 address), and the best advice to scientists and anyone else who seeks the truth about the world. The truth may not be what you'd like it to be, or what would be best for you, or what your preconceived philosophy tells you that it is. Unless you recognize how easily you can be fooled, you will be.

“Every student who enters upon a scientific pursuit, especially if at a somewhat advanced period of life, will find not only that he has much to learn, but much also to unlearn.” Sir John Herschel

“When we say ‘striving,’ I think we imply an effort of the mind as well as a disturbance of the emotions. It is inconceivable to me that we can adjust ourselves to the complexities of the land mechanism without an intense curiosity to understand its workings and an habitual personal study of those workings. The urge to comprehend must precede the urge to reform.” Aldo Leopold in Round River 1953 (pp.155-156)

“Don't think about what you want to be, but what you want to do.”

Richard P. Feynman

“Never confuse education with intelligence, you can have a PhD and still be an idiot.” Richard P. Feynman

“Study hard what interests you the most in the most undisciplined, irreverent and original manner possible.” Richard Feynman

“I’m smart enough to know that I’m dumb.”

Richard P. Feynman

“Curiosity and questions will get you further than confidence and answers.”

Maxime Lagacé

Becoming a Lifelong River Ecologist? What will it take?

R.G. Collingwood in *The New Leviathan* (1942) states

“A man ceases to be a beginner in any given science and becomes a master in that science when he has learned that ... he is going to be a beginner all his life.”

## **e.e. cummings Quote**

“We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us something is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourself we can risk curiosity, wonder spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.”

## **Pablo Picasso Quote**

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give your gift away.” An incredible life-long experience will be sharing your adventure with others, thus accomplishing both life’s meaning and purpose.”

## **Leonardo Da Vinci in Fieldbook No.2**

“To love something for its own sake and for no other reason.”

## **Sir John Herschel Quote**

“Every student who enters upon a scientific pursuit, especially if at a somewhat advanced period of life, will find not only that he has much to learn, but much also to unlearn.”

## **Richard P. Feynman Quote**

"Nature uses only the longest threads to weave her patterns, so that each small piece of her fabric reveals the organization of the entire tapestry." Interconnectedness of the universe and the idea that universal laws (fundamental patterns) are found in even the smallest parts of nature. It is often used to describe how studying a small part of a system can reveal universal principles that exhibit elegance and the simple efficiency of natural laws.

“Look deep into nature. You will understand everything better.” Albert Einstein Quote

“Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.” Jim Rohn Quote

## Theodor Roosevelt Quote

“Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.”

## Theodore Roosevelt Quote

“There is nothing more practical than the preservation of beauty, than the preservation of anything that appeals to the higher emotions of mankind. Conserving them is a duty for future generations.”

## R. Buckminster Fuller Quote

“Never forget that you are one of a kind. Never forget that if there weren't any need for you in all your uniqueness to be on this earth, you wouldn't be here in the first place. And never forget, no matter how overwhelming life's challenges and problems seem to be, that one person can make a difference in the world. In fact, it is always because of one person that all the changes that matter in the world come about. So be that one person.”

## R. Buckminster Fuller Quote: Dare to be Naïve

"Dare to be naive. That's the only way you'll ever learn anything. Mistakes are great, the more I make the smarter I get. Never forget that you are one of a kind. Never forget that if there weren't any need for you in all your uniqueness to be on this earth, you wouldn't be here in the first place."

## R. Buckminster Fuller Quote: Who/What am I?

"I live on Earth at present, and I don't know what I am. I know that I am not a category. I am not a thing -- a noun. I seem to be a verb, an evolutionary process -- an integral function of the universe."

## Marcus Aurelius Quote

“You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength.”

## Winston Churchill Quote

“Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.”

## Leonardo da Vinci Quote

“I have offended God and mankind because my work didn't reach the quality it should have.”



## Jason White

Senior Project Manger—South Coast Habitat Restoration  
U.C. Santa Barbara—Lecturer  
Salmonid Restoration Federation—Board Member  
Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Collective—Board Member



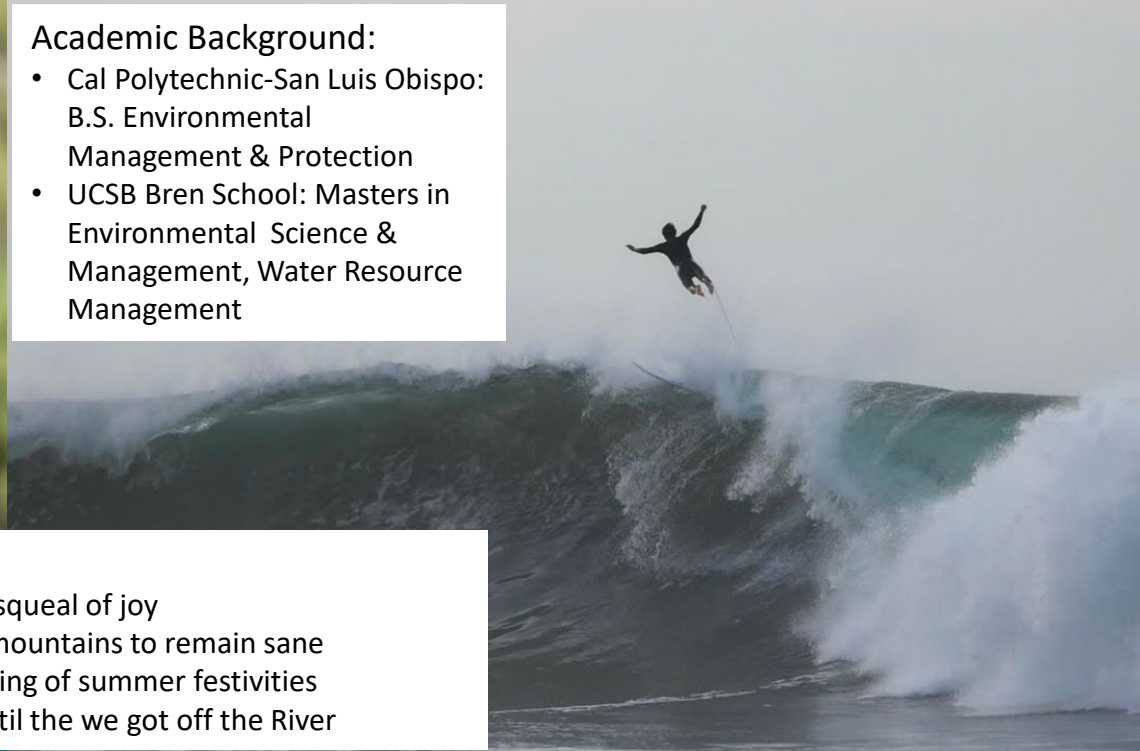
### Area of Expertise:

- Fish Passage Projects! Translating ecological science into implementable designs, securing diverse funding, managing engineer and contractor products, and fostering long-term agency, stakeholder, and diverse landowner partnerships.



### Academic Background:

- Cal Polytechnic-San Luis Obispo: B.S. Environmental Management & Protection
- UCSB Bren School: Masters in Environmental Science & Management, Water Resource Management



### Miscellaneous Details:

- If you told me as a kid, I would sometimes ride my dirtbike on backcountry roads to help “save trout”, I’d squeal of joy
- My spirit animal is a steelhead as I spend most my time in the ocean surfing, but also need to get to the mountains to remain sane
- Almost all my friends know about “Salmon Week” and use it as a reference of time to indicate the beginning of summer festivities
- I rafted the Grand Canyon just before COVID shut down the world, but we didn’t know a thing about it until the we got off the River

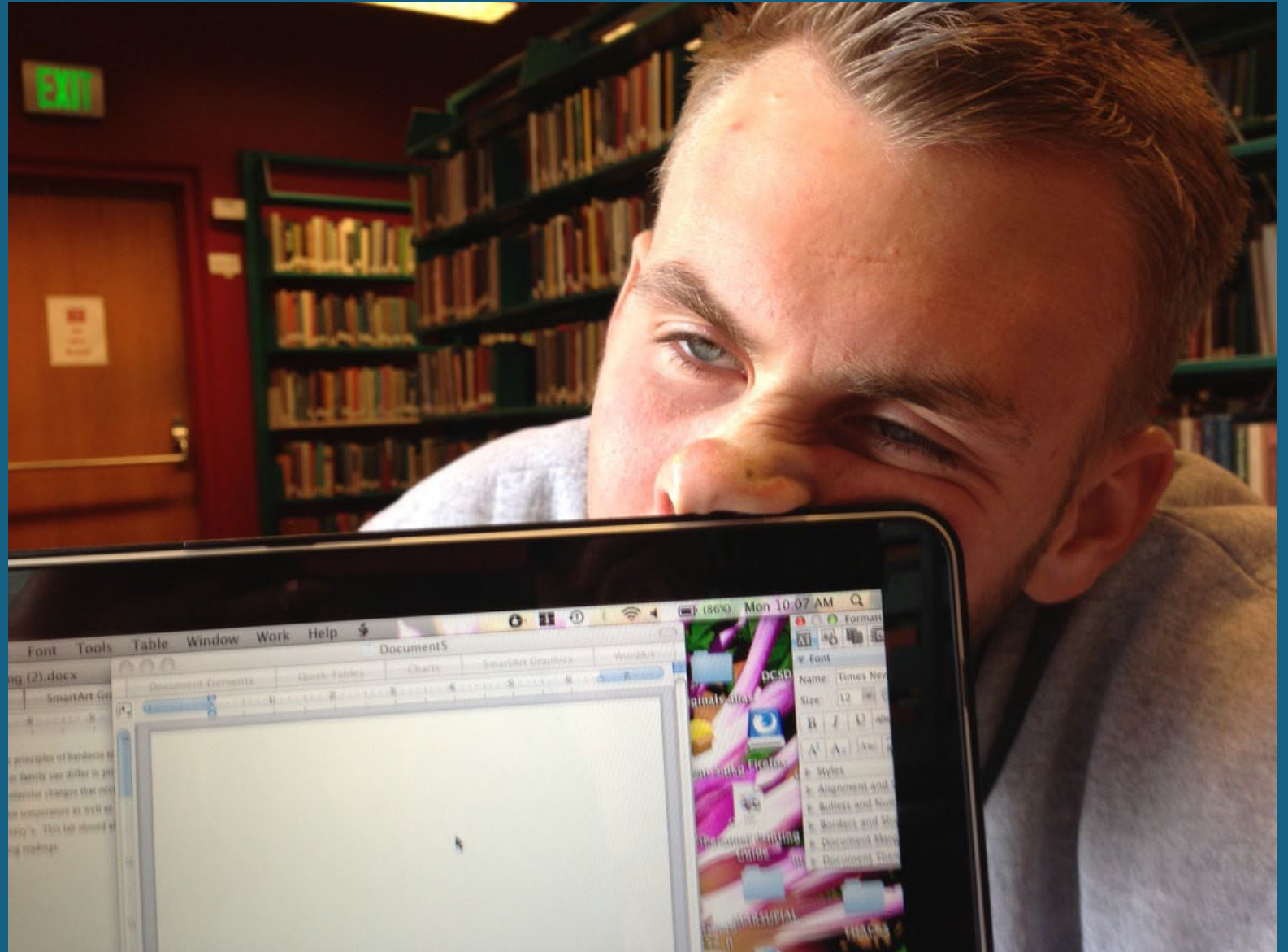
# *Momentum from Mentorship*



Jason White  
SRF 2026

College is great....

but what am I going to  
do for the rest of my  
life???



Then this guy walks into your  
classroom

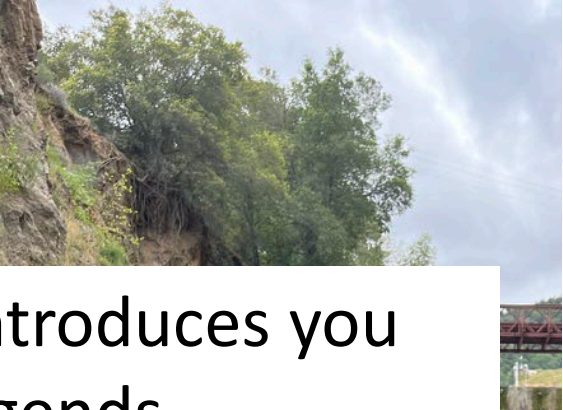
Freddy Otte, City of San Luis Obispo  
Biologist



He takes you here



He introduces you to legends



He takes you E-Fishing

Most importantly—He takes you here



## SRF Conference—Fortuna 2016!



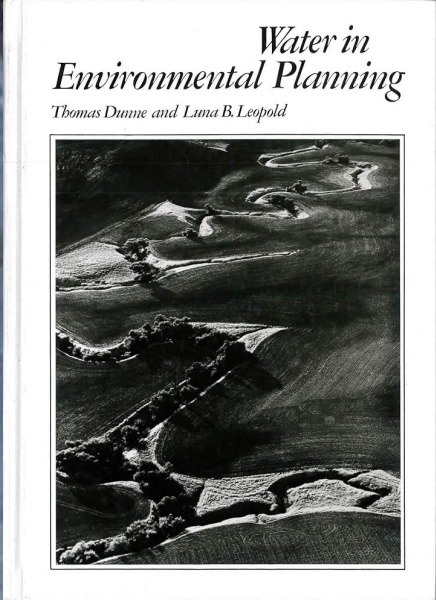


Will *I*  
have to do it?



Purpose Found—Off to Grad School

Study under Tom Dunne—Need to understand rivers as much as possible



# SRF Steelhead Summit 2016!

Sandra Jacobson

My (future) boss  
Moe Gomez

Tim Robinson

Ross Taylor

Rosi Dagit

Laura Riege

Current  
Colleagues

Brian Leneve

Goofy Best Friend



Moe Gomez—Director, South Coast Habitat Restoration

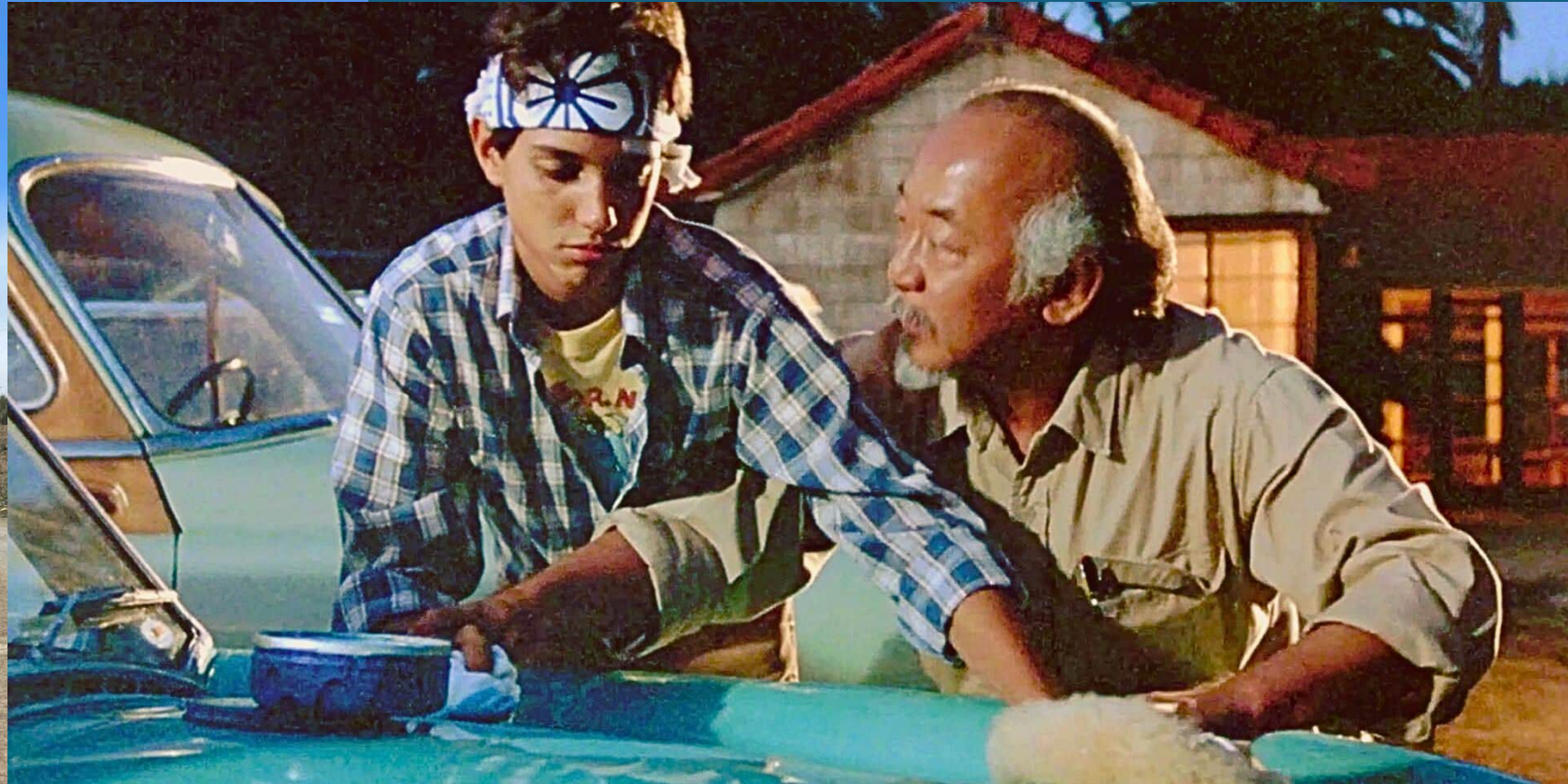


## SCHR Accomplishments since 2018

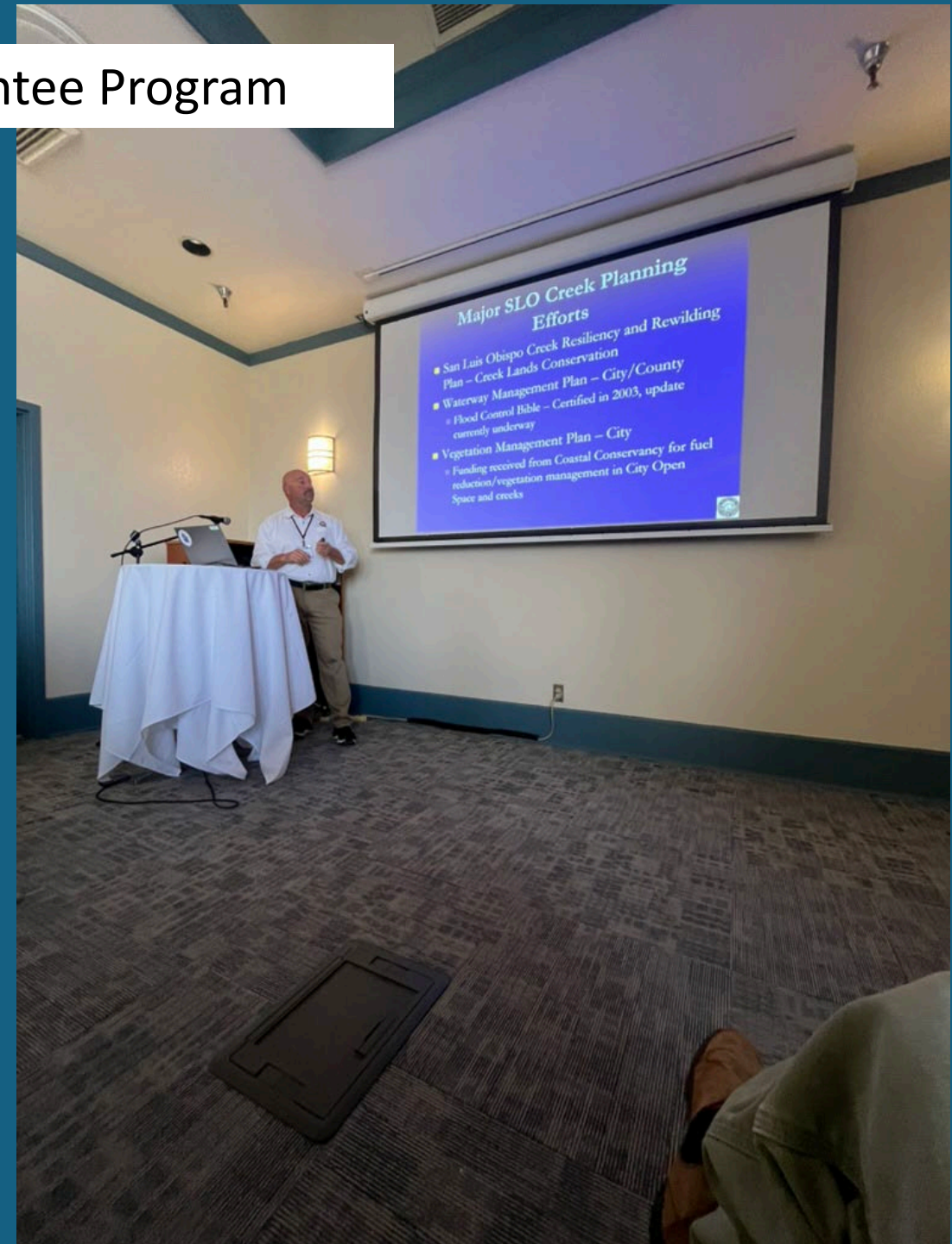
- 12+ Barriers Removed
- 12+ Engineering Designs Developed
- \$18 million in funds put towards restoration



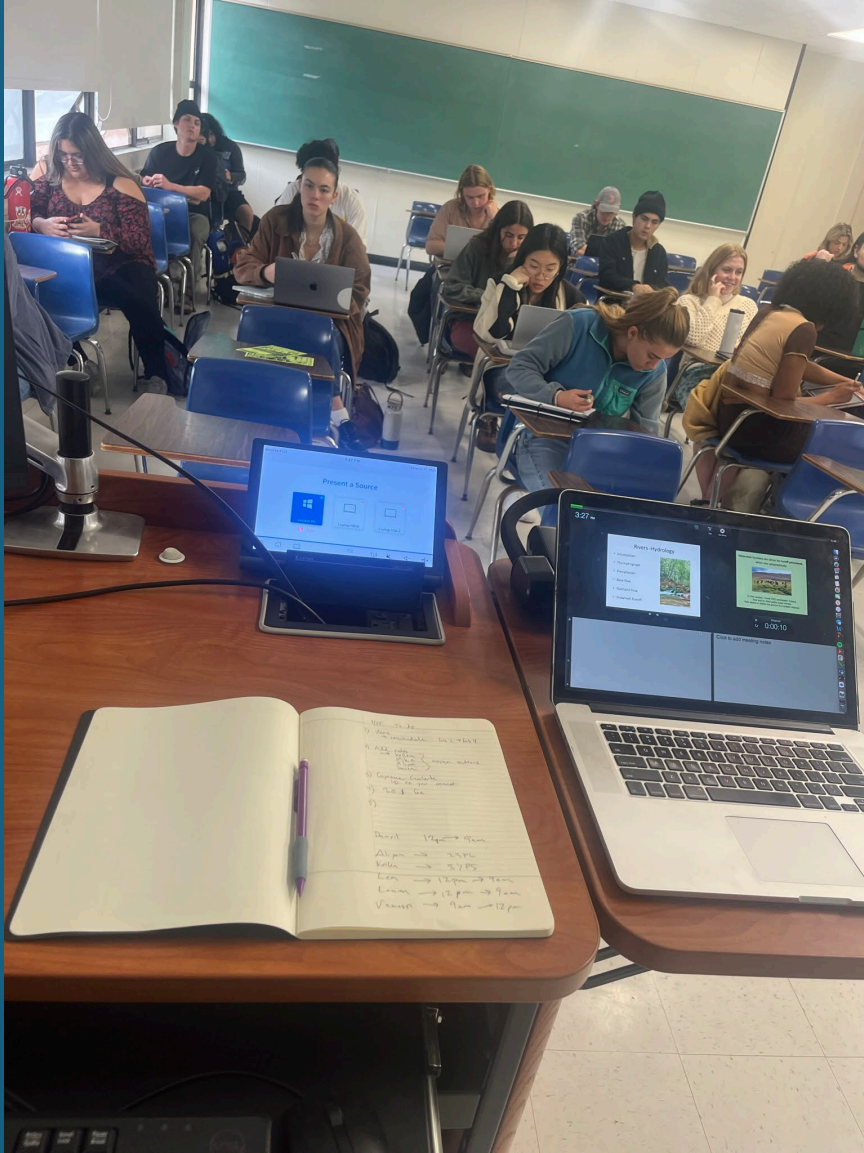
## The switch from Mentee to Mentor



# SRF Mentor/Mentee Program



# UCSB Lecturer—Applied Watershed Management



# SRF Steelhead Summit 2016!

My boss  
Moe Gomez

Sandra Jacobson

Tim Robinson

Ross Taylor

Laura Riege

Rosi Dagit

Current  
Colleagues

Brian Leneve

Goofy Best Friend



Tim Robinson, Cachuma  
Operations Maintenance Boards



Laura Riege, The Nature  
Conservancy



## Advice for young professionals

- Cling to mentors and ask questions
- Come early, stay late—don't underestimate the power of setting up and breaking down chairs
- Invest in yourself—go to conferences, events, and volunteer. Maybe consider grad school. Develop a network
- Be vulnerable

## Advice for established professionals

- Offer an invitation to real world exposure
- Sit down with inquisitive minds
- Offer transparency
- Inspire young professionals to dream big
- Be vulnerable





Thank you!

Jason White

[jwhite@schabitatrestoration.org](mailto:jwhite@schabitatrestoration.org)



# Landscape Healing: Building Baselines for Accomplices

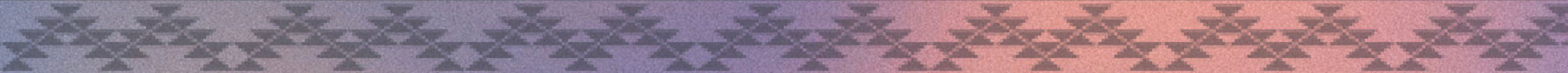
**Karley Abi'hu'laro Rojas, M.A.** (Higuayagua Taíno of the Caribbean)  
*Ethnobotany and Cultural Stewardship Manager, Blue Lake  
Rancheria*

*Lecturer, Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab & Traditional  
Ecological knowledges Institute*



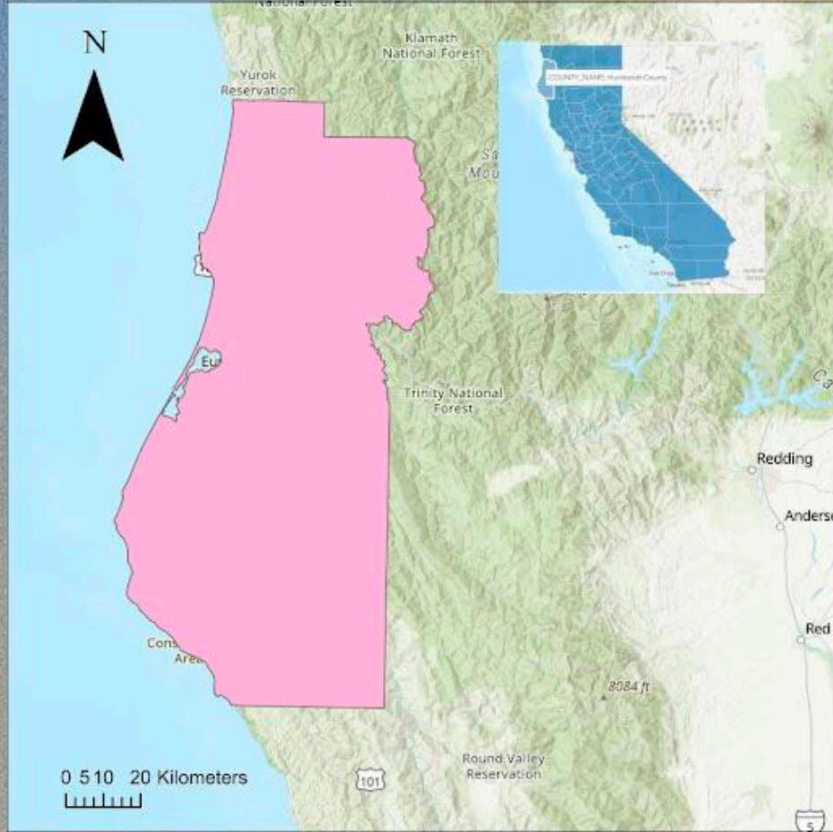
# SCOPE

- *POSITIONALITY*
- *INDIGENOUS LANDSCAPE HEALING  
FRAMEWORK*
- *BASELINES FOR ASPIRING ACCOMPLICES*





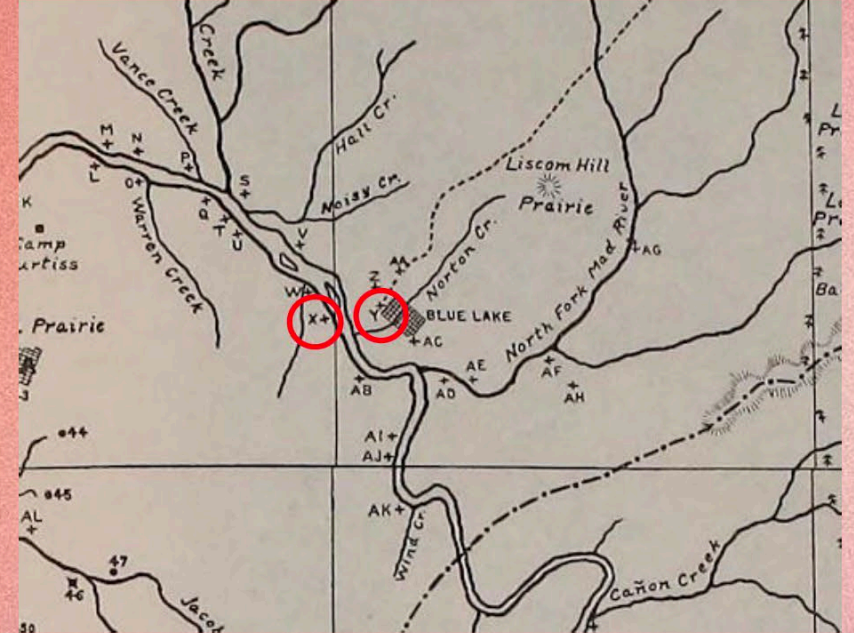
# Landscape Situationality



Map Cr: Tori McConnell (Yurok Tribe, Karuk)



# Blue Lake Rancheria: Landscape Healing Frameworks



Loud, 1918, P 402.  
x:= "woodpecker place"  
Y:= BLR



# Baselines for Aspiring Accomplices

- Epistemological Baseline

*“Knowledge and culture were as much a part of imperialism as raw materials and military strength. Knowledge was also there to be discovered, extracted, appropriated and distributed.”- Tuhiwai Smith, L. (2012). Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples, p.61. Second Edition, Zed Books, Ltd.*

*“Indigenous Asian, American, Pacific and African forms of knowledge, systems of classification, technologies, and codes of social life, which began to be recorded in some detail by the seventh century, were regarded as ‘new discoveries’ by Western science. These discoveries were commodified as property belonging to the cultural archive and body of knowledge of the west.”  
(Tuhiwai Smith, p. 64)*

Who have you *listened* to in forming your methodologies?



# Baselines for Aspiring Accomplices

- Disciplinary Baselines

What are we restoring *TO*?

What are your assumptions in doing this work?



# Baselines for Aspiring Accomplices

- Community Baseline

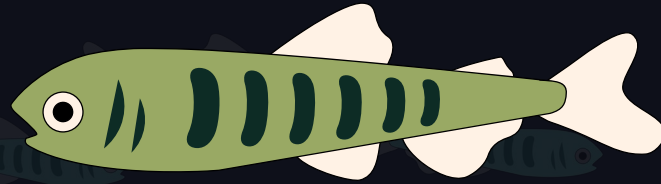
Who is in the room? Who is leading the work and directing the building of new worlds?



Arikoma bu!

**CONTACT:** KARLEY ABI'HU'LARO ROJAS  
KROJAS@BLUELAKERANCHERIA-NSN.GOV





# SWIMMING UPSTREAM

How to Navigate a Changing Job Market  
as a Young Professional

**WHO ARE YOU**

# Megan Kownurko

- Agricultural Project Coordinator at Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- Year 30 Alumna of Watershed Stewards Program at the North Coast Water Board
- B.S. Environmental Resource Management Penn State



**PennState**

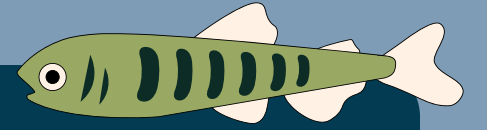


**North Coast  
Regional  
Water Board**

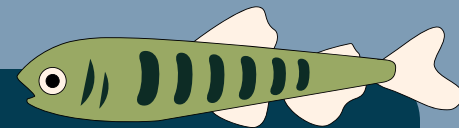
Humboldt  
County



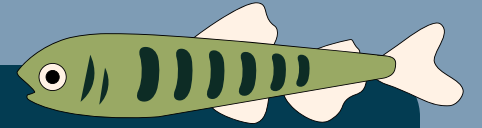
**RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



# NETWORKING



~~NETWORKING~~



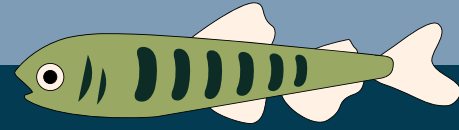
bestie-fying!

~~NETWORKING~~

Talk to people!

Build strong relationships with coworkers,  
supervisors, landowners/managers, and project  
partners

Ask advice!



# JOB APPLICATIONS

Never count yourself out!

Find your “in”

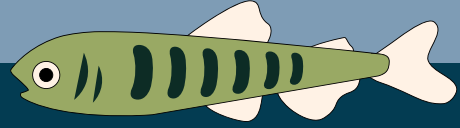
Cold emails

Word of mouth

Be willing to move

# Living Resume

Don't get discouraged!



# BUILDING SKILLS



need a skill to get the  
job

don't have the skill b/c you  
can't get the job





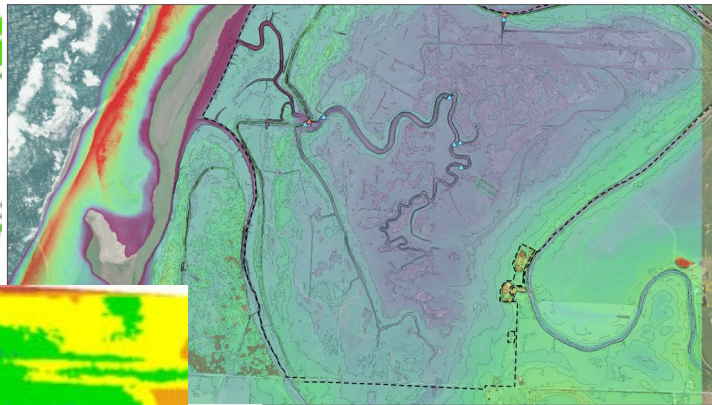
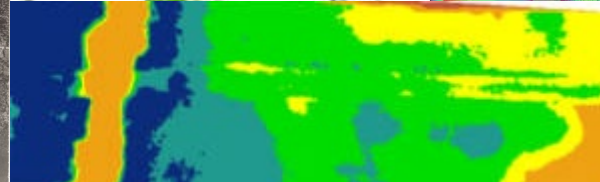
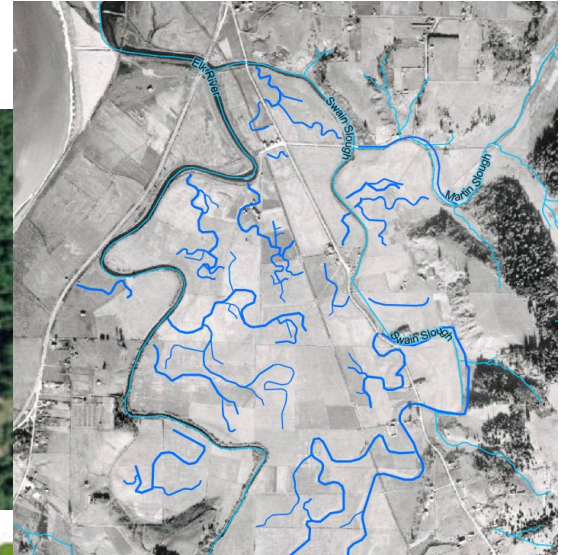
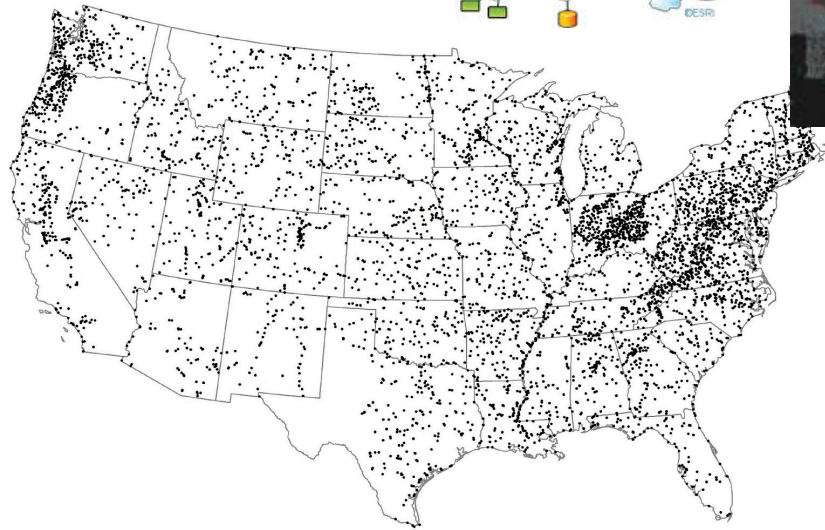
need a skill to get the  
job

don't have the skill b/c you  
can't get the job

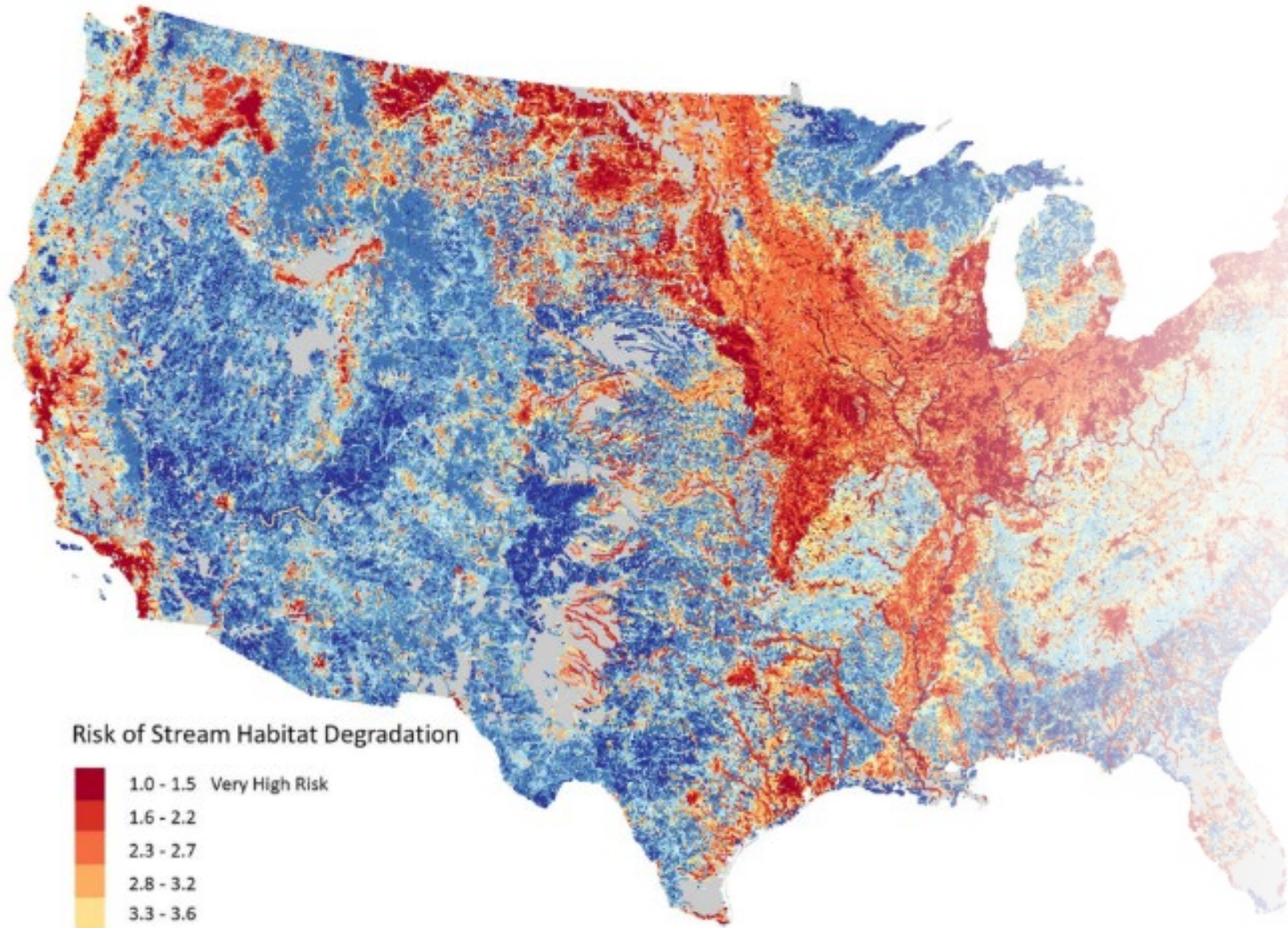
- have a running list of skills you want/need from talking to people
- at your current job, ask for those opportunities
- ask to shadow people, volunteer, attend community science events

# Changing the Tone for GIS and Empowering Folks for Discovery

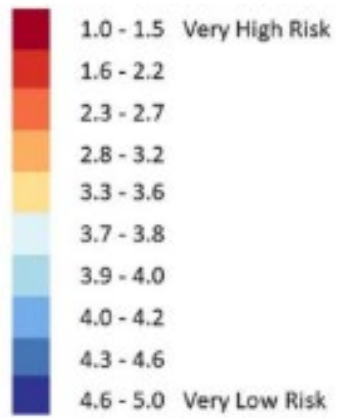
Rob George, M.S.  
North Coast Project Manager  
California Trout



PROJECT: 2008020  
PL: 002002  
PROJECT: GPO\_20191219  
PID: 2020062  
0 200 400 1000 feet



Risk of Stream Habitat Degradation



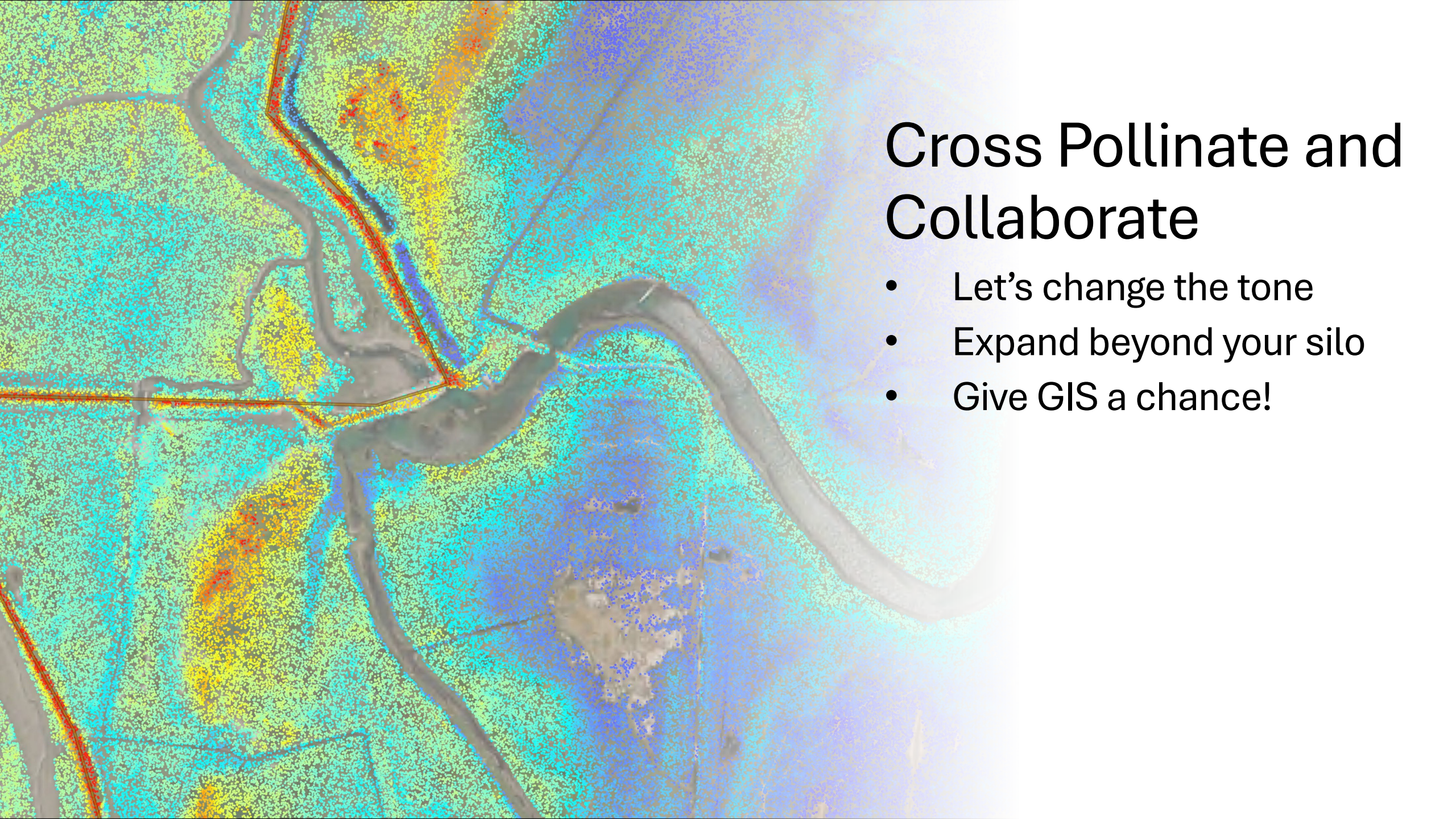
# Why GIS?

- The science of where
- Tell a BIG and compelling story
- Reach a wide audience

A topographic map of a river basin, showing a network of streams and rivers. A prominent red line traces a path through the terrain, likely representing a specific route or boundary. The map uses a color gradient from green to brown to indicate elevation, with the red line following a path that generally descends from the upper left towards the lower right.

# Empower Yourself

- Revel in interdisciplinary collaboration
- Deepen understanding
- Promote access

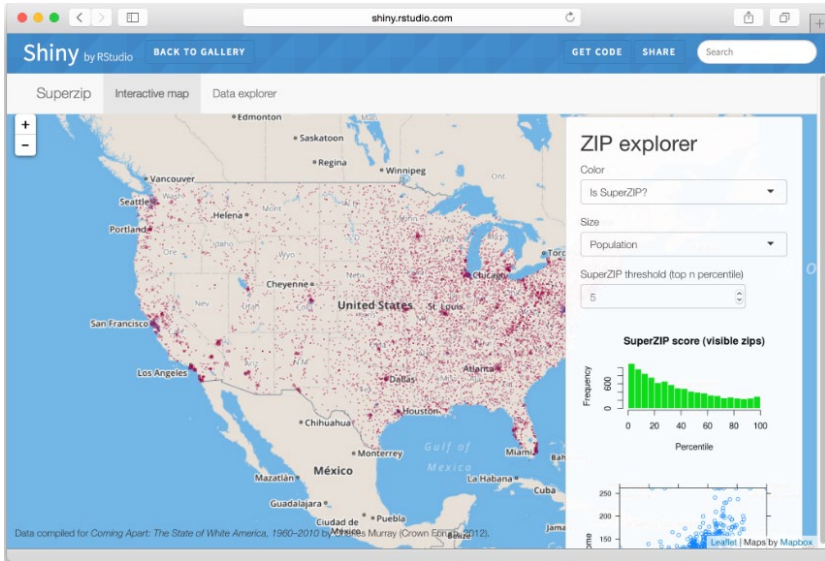


# Cross Pollinate and Collaborate

- Let's change the tone
- Expand beyond your silo
- Give GIS a chance!



R Studio



# Resources Available at our Fingertips

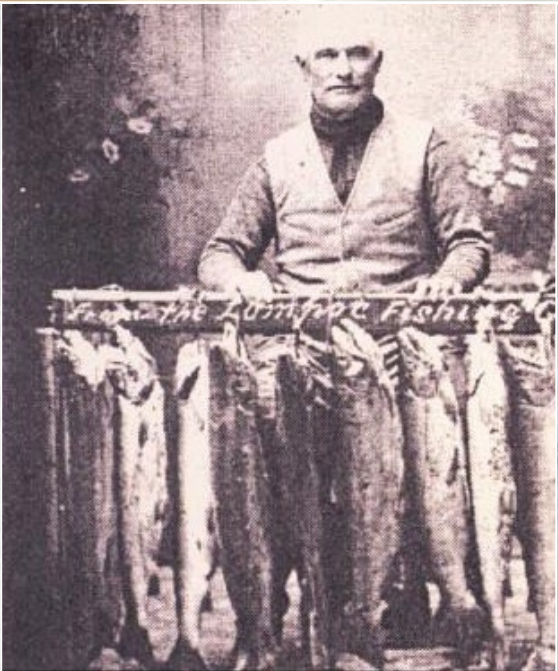


# **Growing a Conservation Coalition in Southern California Using Traditional and Modern Engagement Strategies**

**Elizabeth H. Burns**



# Southern steelhead species name: *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

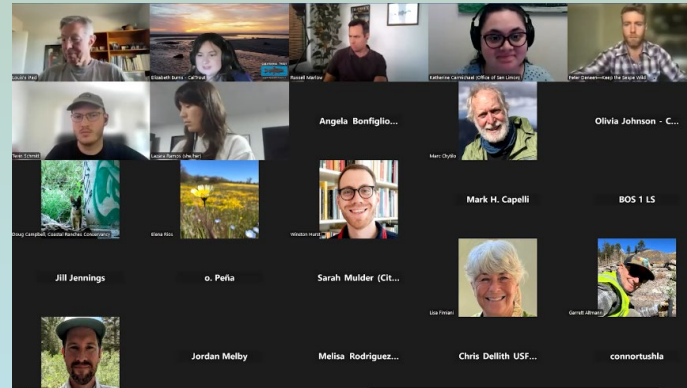


# Southern Steelhead Coalition



The Coalition's goal is to restore critically endangered Southern Steelhead.

- Area of focus is from Santa Maria to Santa Monica Mountains.
- Members are agencies, NGOs, local gov, academia, tribes, etc
- Coalition general activities:
  - Quarterly meetings
  - Collaboration on events
  - Outreach together



# How we started....

**Santa Ynez Watershed**



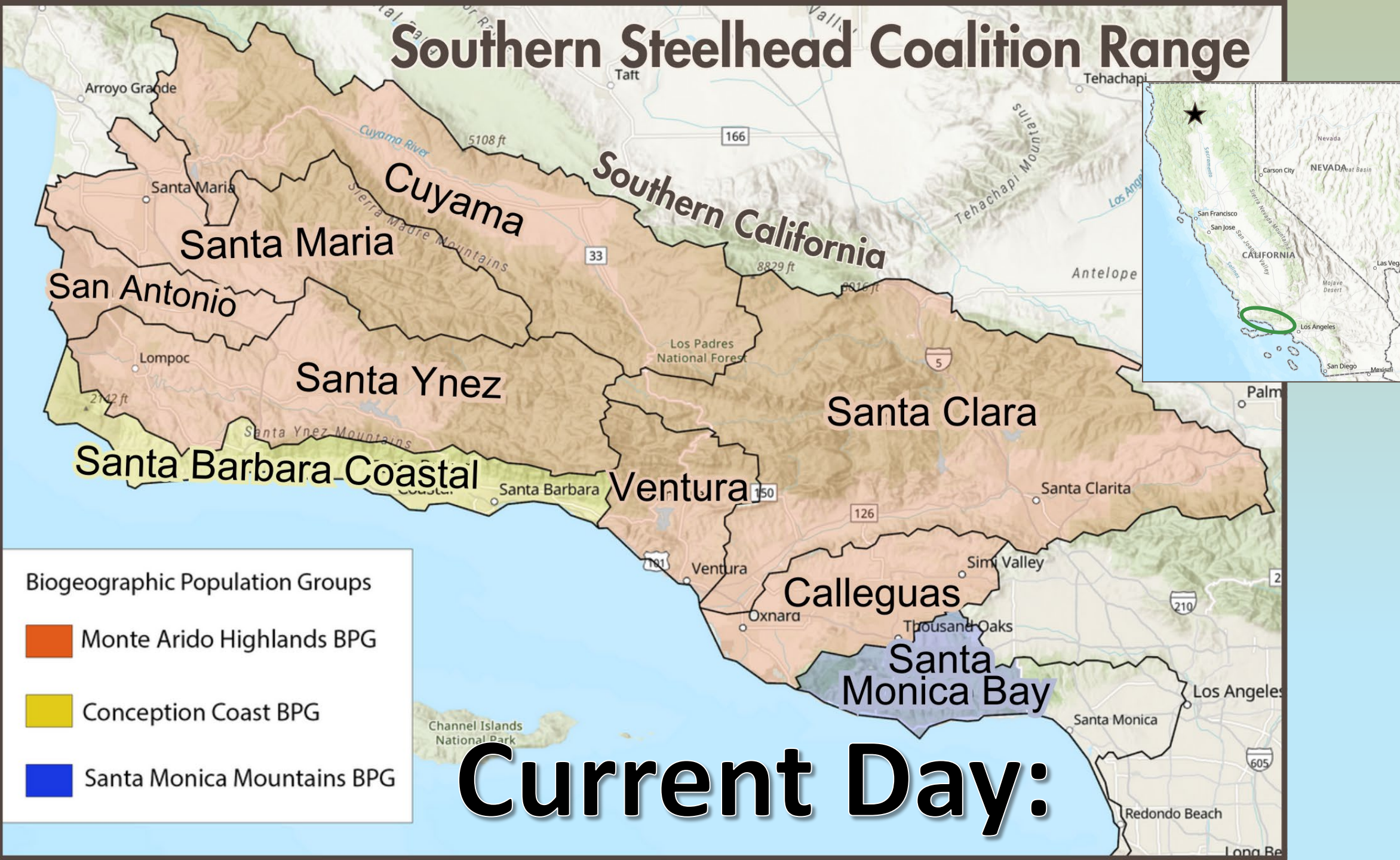
**Santa Clara Watershed**



20 km  
20 mi



# Southern Steelhead Coalition Range



# Current Day:

# SSC Statistics:

- Highest attended meeting: 80+ people
  - SSC Southern Steelhead Symposium
- Average attendance at meetings 40 attendees
  - Increasing with every meeting
- Socials:
  - Views
    - 537 YouTube – edit recording and post
    - 17,495 Jan – March 2026 Instagram



# How do we get engagement?

- Growing from 1 to several watersheds in 3 years...
- The coalition can only grow if it is useful to the community.
  - **It can't be another obligation**
- **How do we get our community to engage with the coalition?**
- Use traditional and modern means:
  - Accessibility
  - Interaction
  - Participation



# Accessibility – Is the most important

- Watersheds are huge and schedules are packed
  - Online meetings ZOOM - Modern
  - Recording processes are great for archival
    - Send them a link to YouTube
- Can't only be online, in person make deeper connections
  - Southern Steelhead Symposium
  - SSC Field Trips
- In person meetings cement online connections



# Interaction - Online & Showing Up

- Sincerity
- Showing up in person: (Traditional)
  - Meetings, events, comment letters, Etc
- Show up on socials (Modern)
  - Sharing as much as possible
    - Helps your socials too
- Graphic design
  - Creating own posts for others
- Archive as much as possible
  - Meetings and outreach
  - Archive that helps partners and funders



# Participation and Membership

- No set rules for membership (Modern)
  - Attend a meeting and you are a member
    - Can request to not be
  - Does not lock them into coalition.
    - It allows for elasticity
- Growing membership (Traditional)
  - Reach out and Cold call
  - Sometimes hard to get ahold people who should be members – ask them call or email or walk up

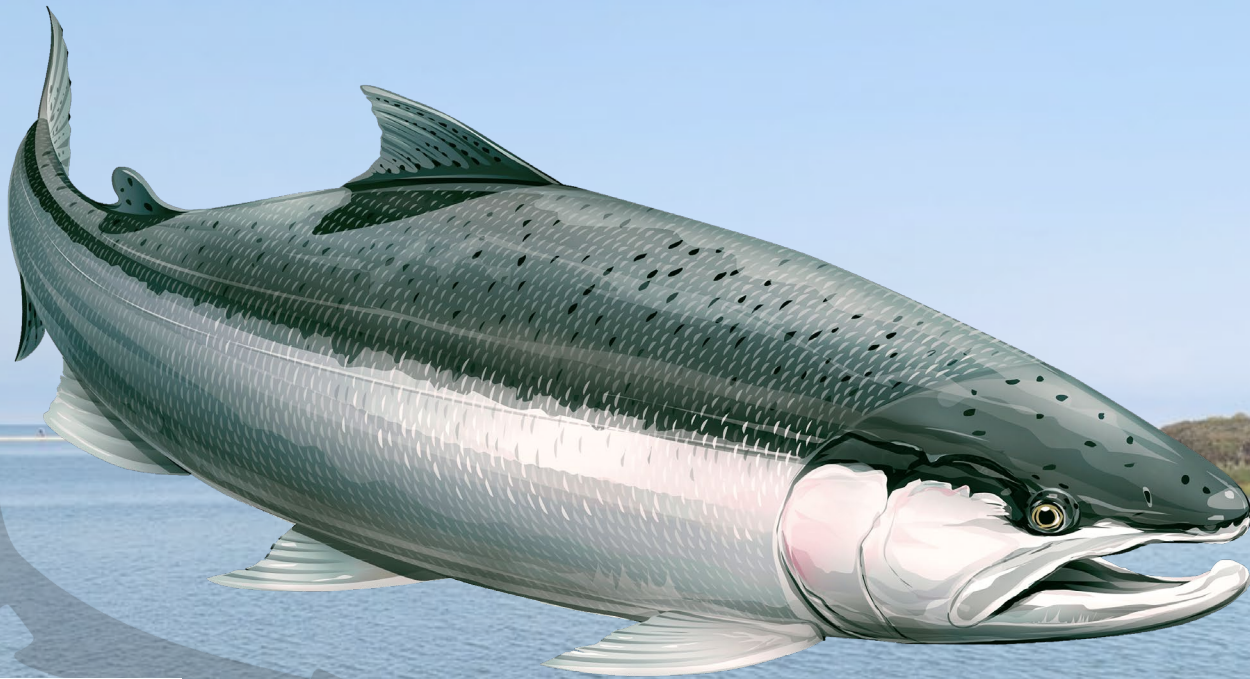


# Website, Socials Update, and Calendar

- Website and Carrd
  - <https://southernsteelhead.org/>
- Socials
  - Instagram - **@southernsteelheadcoalition**
  - Twitter - **@SoSteelheadCOA**
  - Facebook – **southernsteelheadcoalition**
  - YouTube - **@southernsteelheadcoalition**
    - Watch archived meetings



Questions?



Email: [eburns@caltrout.org](mailto:eburns@caltrout.org)

Phone: (415) 392-8887 x161



# the power of art and natural history in restoration and stewardship.



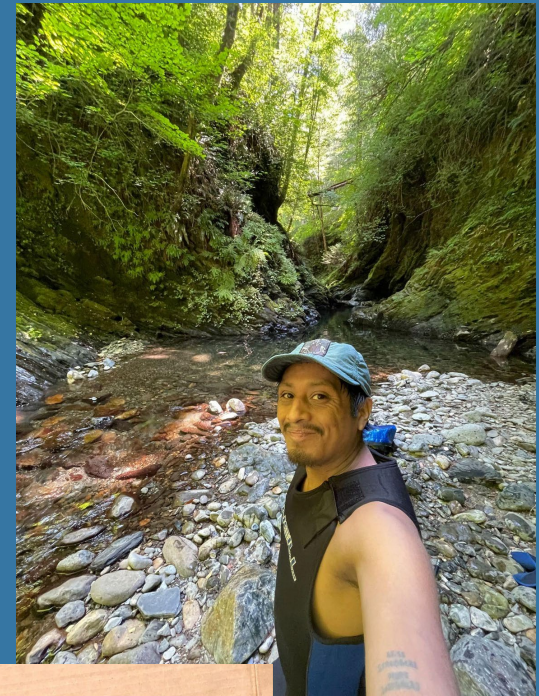
**edgar cruz**



All photographs are taken by me unless otherwise stated

# About Me

- Art and Natural History at UC Santa Cruz
- Fisheries Field Biologist, Naturalist, and Visual Artist



**Top Left:** Cyanotype print

**Top Middle:** *Gilia tricolor* specimen

**Top Right:** Snorkel Survey on Hurdygurdy Creek, Smith River Basin

**Bottom Right:** Pressing plant species inside a Jepson Manual

**Bottom Right:** Sun exposure of a cyanotype print.

# What is Natural History?

- Study of the natural world and its organisms
- Foundational practice for “-ologies” and scientific method
- A continual and iterative investigation



**Left:** Measuring Soil Hydrophobicity in a Post-Wildfire Forest in Big Sur.  
(Photo by Steven Glascock)

**Right:** Observing a Plant Specimen Through a Hand Lens in Big Sur.

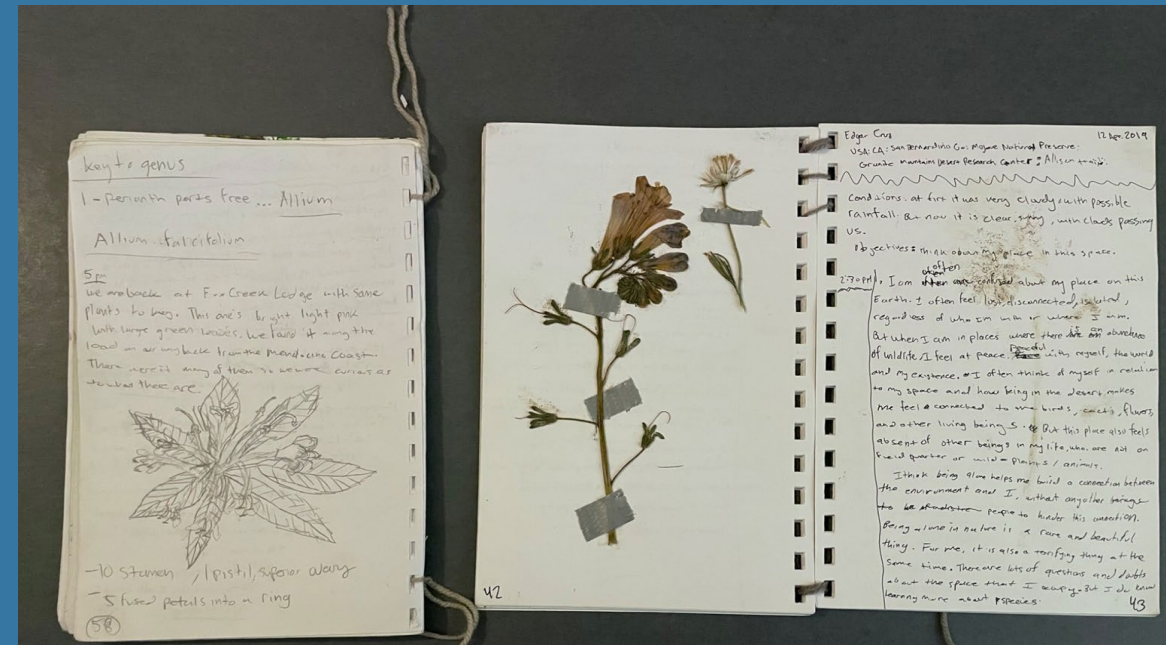
# How to practice Natural History on your own!

1. Observe, ask questions, spin the wheel.
2. Field Journal (Grinnell Format)
3. Slow down and match nature's rhythms.
4. Build a direct and personal relationship with the natural world.
5. De-emphasize the traditional one-way transmission of knowledge.
6. Remain humble and be thankful.

Top: Field Notes from Natural History Field Quarter, Spring 2019

Bottom Left: Plant specimen through a hand lens

Bottom Right: Hugging a Joshua Tree





**Left:** Cyanotype print

**Middle:** Hand and plant cyanotype exposure. (Photo by Shmuel Thaler)

**Right:** Examination of seaweed through art.

**Top Left:** Tidewater Gobi, Lower Little River

**Top Right:** Cyanotype exposure of collected plant specimens

**Left:** Sunset at Gamboa Point, Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve

**Middle and Bottom Right:** Chinook Salmon carcass, North Fork Baduwa't.



# Political Ecology and Fishing Collapse from Gaza to California

Stella Baumstone



An aerial photograph of a large dam and reservoir. The reservoir is a bright blue, irregularly shaped body of water. The dam is a long, low concrete structure with a spillway on the left side. Below the dam, the water is turbulent and white with foam. The surrounding landscape is semi-arid, with brownish soil, sparse green shrubs, and scattered trees. The sky is clear and blue.

# What is Political Ecology?

*A critical research field that examines how and why economic structures and power relations drive environmental change in an increasingly interconnected world.*

# Food as a Weapon

- Throughout modern history, food has been deployed as a [weapon by colonial regimes to control and displace Indigenous populations](#). The current crisis in Gaza has brought this into sharp focus as the Israeli state has engaged in the [systematic destruction of Palestinian food systems](#), with devastating consequences.
- Israel's blockade of Gaza, in place since 2007, has cut off access to essential agricultural areas and restricted fishing activities. Gaza farmers are often unable to access their land, while fishers are constantly barred from accessing the coast, harassed, intimidated and even killed by Israeli forces.

# The United States' Use of Food Weaponization

- Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the [United States government employed similar tactics](#) to restrict Indigenous Peoples' access to land, food and water. [Colonial policies](#) like the Indian Act, the Homesteading Act and [the Pass System](#) confined Indigenous Peoples to reserves, prohibited hunting and fishing and forced reliance on [inadequate government food rations](#).
- This led to malnutrition and starvation, [particularly in response to Indigenous resistance to settler expansion](#). The use of food as a weapon was part of a broader project to eliminate or otherwise undermine Indigenous identity and self-determination, a process that [continues today](#).

# Israel Targets Fishing Infrastructure

- The destruction of Gaza's two main aquaculture farms, docks, ports, along with the hatchery facility, has left the sector unable to replenish its fish stocks
- According to the United Nations, by the end of 2024, the sector was operating at less than 7.3 percent of its pre-October 2023 production capacity. The UN also estimated that 72 percent of Gaza's fishing fleet had been damaged or destroyed.



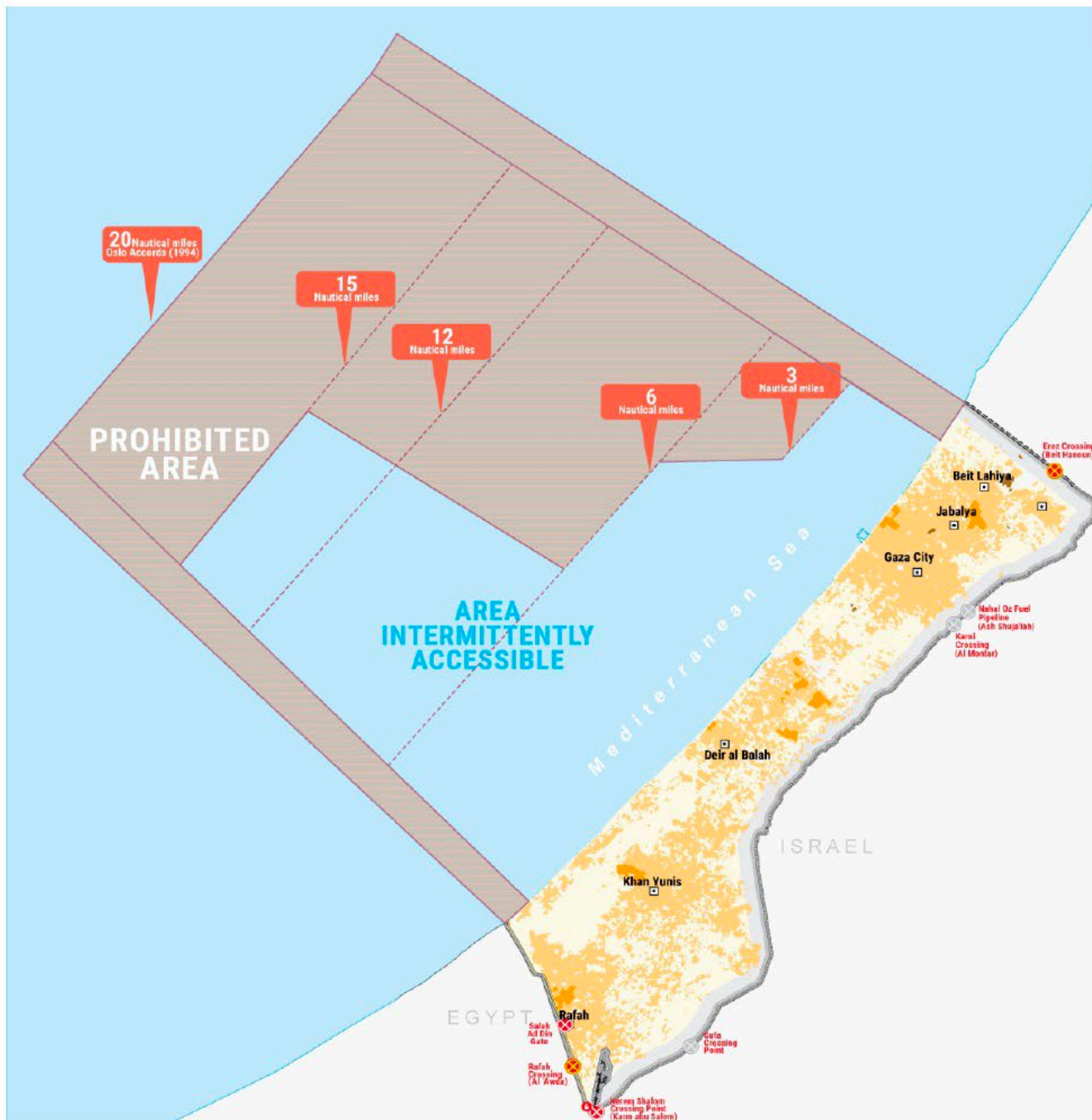
Fishing boats destroyed by Israeli forces, now used as tents supports [Ahmed Al-Najjar/Al Jazeera]



Fisherman in Gaza Port. Posted on the Facebook page of Zakaria Bakr, head of the Gaza Fishermen's Union, February 2025

# Effects of Restricted Fishing Zones

- A decline in catches: The reduced fishing zone has resulted in a significant decline in catches, making it difficult for fishermen to make a living.
- Increased poverty: The decline in catches has led to increased poverty among fishing communities, as fishermen struggle to provide for their families.
- Food insecurity: The reduction in local fish supplies has led to increased reliance on imported food, exacerbating food insecurity in the Gaza Strip.



Year	Fishing Zone (nm)	Number of Fishermen	Annual Catch (tons)
1993	20	3,500	10,000
1995	12	3,000	6,000
1997	9	2,500	4,000



*Palestinian farmer working at his fish farm (AL-Bahar) in Gaza City, 20 June, 2019. © Photo by FAO/Alaa Bardeneh*



The Political Ecology of Agricultural Science and Settler Colonialism Between the US and Palestine

# Key Takeaways

- The struggle for food sovereignty is inseparable from broader struggles for land, justice and self-determination.
- There is a need for comprehensive environmental monitoring, targeted restoration initiatives, and strengthened international support to rehabilitate Gaza's marine ecosystems.
- The same colonial systems of dispossession, land theft, and famine that have destroyed Gaza's fishing sector are also responsible for the depletion of Pacific Salmon stocks in the United States.

# Works Cited

- [“We are about to witness in Gaza the most intense famine since the second world war”](#) (*The Guardian*, March 21, 2024, by Alex de Waal)
- [“Witnessing famine: the testimonial work of famine photographs and anti-colonial spectatorship”](#) (*Journal of Visual Culture* by Tanushree Ghosh, 2019)
- [“Marine Ecosystems in Peril: The Impact of the Recent War on Gaza’s Coastal and Marine Life”](#) (Abdullah, N.A. *et al*, 2025)
- [““A fairly good crop for white men:” The political ecology of agricultural science and settler colonialism between the US and Palestine”](#) (*Journal of Political Ecology*, Gabi Kirk, 2024)
- [Palestinians risk life and limb to fish in Gaza’s Israeli-controlled sea](#) (Al Jazeera, [Ahmed Al-Najjar](#), 2026)

# Guided Discussion

Ashley Shannon, CalTrout North Coast Project Manager

Milton Reynolds, CalTrout Board Member