

The Virtual 38th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference

2020 Vision for California's Salmonscape

Today is the day that the SRF Conference Proceedings would have been going to the printer in preparation for the 38th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference in Santa Cruz. The Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference is one of the few conferences that still prints a conference proceedings to have something tangible to provide at the conference, to create a lasting resource, and to honor the presenters and coordinators who generously share their knowledge and expertise.



*Dana Stolzman,
SRF Executive Director
and Conference Agenda Coordinator*

The theme of this year's conference is *2020 Vision for California's Salmonscape* with a focus on preserving California's wild salmon population with the acuity required for 2020 and beyond. In this surreal moment where we must indefinitely postpone the conference, perhaps we will have the time and space to cultivate a keener vision about viable recovery actions, and the delicate act of balancing human actions with community and watershed needs.

The coronavirus global pandemic threatens our health and social norms including the freedom to convene and strategize for our beloved salmon. A week ago cancelling our annual conference seemed unthinkable, and today we know it to be inevitable and the right thing to do given the gravity of this unprecedented pandemic. Our minds are flexible, we can adapt to new information and scientific input.

Adaptability—the predominant trait of the salmon and watershed restoration field. Salmon and steelhead survive through adaptation, and so will the restoration field. Protecting, conserving, and restoring California wild salmon and steelhead populations will require laser focus on restoration strategies that show a strong fish response. If our best thinking got us to this precipice of salmonid recovery, our way forward will require clarity and acuity beyond what we have practiced in the past decade.

The salmon restoration field intersects with many disciplines including science, engineering, communities, infrastructure, planning, food production, and land use practices. These intersections animate the lively debate and discussions about the most appropriate strategies and techniques to achieve restoration milestones. Nowhere is this more evident than the SRF Conference, where practitioners from many fields converge to address the very issues that are germane to salmonid recovery.

Like salmon, the SRF Conference has had to adapt to cataclysmic changes that limit our movement and pose risks to our health and collective wellbeing. Our movement is nothing if not resourceful and adaptive. SRF will reschedule the conference in Santa Cruz as soon as it is prudent and feasible to do so.

Producing the conference is a yearlong interactive process that engages SRF's Board of Directors, our co-sponsors, and our colleagues. We sincerely thank all of the field tour, workshop, and session coordinators who did an outstanding job of creating a dynamic agenda and were able to pivot and lead by example in this trying time. SRF greatly appreciates all of our co-sponsors who generously contribute their ideas, time, and resources to the production of the conference.

Thank you to all of the SRF members, presenters, and conference attendees who have showed compassion and patience in this unprecedented time.

We shall persist!