



# THE RIVER MOUTH

## Veterans First Fly Fishing Days at Shadow Cliffs

By Ken Brunskill, Chairman Veterans First Fly Fishing  
On Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, members of the Diablo Valley Fly Fishers, Mission Peak Fly Anglers, Mt Tam Fly Fishers, Tri Valley Fly Fishers, and Let's Go Fishing Ministries, assisted nine veterans from the Livermore VA CLC (a nursing Convalescent unit) on a fishing trip. There were more than 1,000 trout in a netted-off area at Shadow Cliffs Regional Park. These folks used conventional gear as they are for the most part confined to wheelchairs. The largest trout these veterans caught was a 2 lb 12 oz trout caught by Paul, who is one of our fly tying workshop regulars.



Line up of veterans fly fishing

Then on Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 15 veterans fly fished for the 900 or so trout remaining in the netted-off area that the East Bay Regional Parks District had kept corralled. You may have thoughts about "shooting fish in a barrel," but it did not turn out that way. We had five or six lines in the water at any one time and the catch rate was a fish about every 10 minutes.

Big thanks go out to the fantastic group of 34 fly fishers and five Lions Club members who came together to host the 15 veterans and six VA staff on this wonderful day at Shadow Cliffs Park. These terrific volunteers were from the following clubs (alphabetically):

- Diablo Valley Fly Fishers (2)
- Fly Casters of San Jose (5)

*Continued on page 2*

## President's Message

by Gene Kaczmarek

This is now my second year elected as the council president. Some of the elected directors are new to the council and some are returning for a second or third term.

To those who are not returning:

- Anne-Marie Bakker
- Bob Cooper
- Bobbie Armor
- Chuck Bucaria
- Dave Ford
- Derrell Bridgman
- Richard Izmirian
- Robin Egan
- Sheree Kajiwara
- Vicki Fenner

I say THANK YOU. The time and effort of your past service is very much appreciated.

I would like to welcome the following new BOD members:

- Jim Berdan – VP Communication
- John Brahy
- Brian McManus
- Harold Whitmore – VP Development

And those returning directors:

- Ken Bush - Treasurer
- Gerry Ng – Secretary
- Larry Lack – First Vice President, VP Education
- Cindy Charles – Co VP Conservation
- Ron Forbs

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*PRESIDENT: Gene Kaczmarek*

*THE RIVER MOUTH* seeks articles, news items, story ideas, photographs, and any other material which would be of interest to the NCCFFF community. Please send your newsletter contributions to the editor at: [newsletter@nccfff.org](mailto:newsletter@nccfff.org)

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Internet: [www.nccfff.org](http://www.nccfff.org)

**2012-13 NCCFFF Officers**

**PRESIDENT:** GENE KACZMAREK

**SECRETARY:** GERRY NG

**TREASURER:** KEN BUSH

**2012-13 NCCFFF Directors**

Jim Berdan  
John Brahy  
Cindy Charles  
Ron Forbes  
Steve Karr  
Rudy Knudsen  
Larry Lack  
Dan McDaniel  
Mike McKinzie  
Brian McManus

Roger Miller  
Jerry Peterson  
Frank Rinella  
Mark Rockwell  
John Ryzanych  
Dougald Scott  
Tom Smith  
Jim Victorine  
Harold Whitmore

*VFFF from Page 1*

- Mission Peak Fly Anglers (11)
- Mt Tam Fly Fishers (1)
- Peninsula Fly Fishers (5)
- Tracy Fly Fishers (4)
- Tri Valley Fly Fishers (5)
- Non aligned volunteers (2)
- Pleasanton Lions Club, crew of (5)

The day started with a breakfast of pancakes & Sausage, Orange Juice, Coffee and tea cooked by the Lions club. It was a wonderful job and all the volunteers, staff & veterans had a good meal!

Following breakfast, there were two hours of Fly Fishing related activities:

- Larry Lack of Mt Tam Fly Fishers led a Casting instruction area.
- Ben Byng of Tracy Fly Fishers led a Fly Tying area.
- Jim McGoff of Mission Peak Fly Anglers led a team cleaning the fish.
- Bob Shoberg of Fly Casters of San Jose led a team teaching Knot tying.
- Judy Nakawatase of Fly Casters of San Jose, weighed and recorded the weight of the fish caught.
- Harry Levin of Tri Valley Fly Fishers led the team controlling the beach and putting fly fishers with veterans to help them learn the fun of fly fishing.

Harold Whitmore & George de Cossio of Mission Peak Fly Anglers led a crew of seven from several clubs that put on an absolutely terrific

*Continued on page 3*



*The cooking crew*



*Group photo at Shadow Cliffs*

VFFF from Page 1



*Emory with trophy for largest Shadow Cliffs trout*



*George Lee with 2 Lb trout*

lunch that will be remembered for a long time. These folks worked several days ahead of the event marinating then barbecuing tri-tip and pulled pork, and serving cole slaw, potato salad, chili, and garlic bread to fill out the meal – all I heard was WOW these guys can really cook! (Bet they get recruited for more events!)



*Carlos Sanchez and Larry Lack net a nice fish at the VFFF Shadow Cliffs Fishing Day*

After lunch the veterans fished until the Park folks pulled up the nets at 2 PM. Everyone had a great day.

The following remarks are from the Recreational Therapist who works with our group:

*“On behalf of all of the veterans who participated, and staff who work with those clients, a heartfelt thanks to all of you for helping to make this event happen. It is a truly special event that our veterans look forward to, and get so much from – one even postponed his discharge so that he might attend. All of your efforts helped make the event run smoothly, and ensured that everyone who participated took away something positive from the experience. Many had never fly fished before; some hadn’t even fished before; and for most, it had been many years. It was an experience that will have effects well beyond the day, the week, the month and even the years. I’m certain that for some, the experience will have a significant effect on the course of the lives. Many of our veterans have so little, and an event like the one you all put on at Shadow Cliffs means so much, and will be remembered.”*

I think that that the above testimonial sums up why each and every volunteer there gets as much out of the experience as the veteran does, I know I do!



## VFFF Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Workshops

contact Ken Brunskill at [steamntrout@comcast.net](mailto:steamntrout@comcast.net) for more information

Livermore VA Clinic  
10-11:30 AM, first and third Wednesdays

Menlo Park VA Clinic  
10-11:30 AM, second and fourth Fridays

San Jose VA Clinic  
10-11:30 AM, third Thursdays

4951 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA 94550 – Room 544 for outpatients. Community Living Center Dining Room for residents.

795 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025, Bldg 334

80 Great Oaks Boulevard, San Jose, CA 95119

## Communications Report

By Bob Cooper, former VP Communications

Following is a discussion on the various Communication areas that the Communications Committee members have been working on. At the end of this report is also the proposed Communication budget for the next year.

### The River Mouth

Dougald Scott, our newsletter editor continues to publish one of the best looking newsletters I've ever seen. As you all know we no longer mail out any hard copies of the newsletter. Dougald prepares the entire newsletter electronically and e-mails it out to the members.

In the last couple of months we've made a major effort to get e-mail addresses for all members. We've called, cajoled, and otherwise made contact with just about everyone. We're still missing a few e-mails, but I'm sure the few that we're missing will continue to diminish. Remember, whether you have e-mail or not, the current edition of The River Mouth is always available on the website.

### Facebook

Our presence on Facebook (FB) continues to grow. Robin Egan has been managing FB and her efforts have allowed us to grow over 300% in past year. We are continuing to add more content to Facebook and we are also getting more visitors. I still wish that more board members would take the plunge and get involved with FB. Too many of you think you can rely on getting timely information from the website. That is not true. The website only gets updated when the webmaster can get it updated and that is usually not timely. On FB any of you can post information immediately and that information is then immediately available to anyone who is on FB.

Robin will not be serving on the board this next year but she has volunteered to continue to manage NCCFFF efforts on FB. She has done an excellent job and I hope she will be able to continue.

### nccfff.org – The Website

The website is still, in my opinion, a work in progress. Maybe it will always be a work in progress. It looks nice, but getting pertinent content from the board is always a struggle. I think as a board we need to recognize that getting content will most likely always be an issue and that is really the major reason that I feel we should really refocus some of our communications toward Facebook.

In the budget I've attached at the end of this report, I have proposed that Greg LaPolla be retained as our System Administrator (Webmaster). Greg developed the website that we have now and he is also the webmaster for the Southwest Council (<http://southwestcouncilfff.org>) I think Greg will do a great job for relatively minimal cost. I recommend him to the Board.

### *President from page 1*

- Stephen Karr
- Rudy Knudsen
- Dan McDaniel
- Mike McKenzie
- Roger Miller
- Frank Rinella
- Mark Rockwell
- John Ryzanych
- Dougald Scott
- Tom Smith
- Jim Victorine

I am looking forward to working with all of you in the next year.

The year ahead will need every FFF member to join hands and work to keep the Delta project alive and make the public aware of the dangers of the water grab. Conservation has always been a major issue for this Council.

We need all FFF members to help carry the banner of conservation if we want to have "Water for Fish" in the future.

The Board meeting at Camp McCumber produced a new set of By-Laws that will shortly be posted on the web site.

Also some great ideas for fund raisers that we have never done before were suggested.

Harold Whitmore was at the meeting as a guest and decided to accept the position of Development VP and the new BOD voted to seat him on the board.

Thank you for your membership in the FFF, it is because of your support that we can work with the movers and shakers in Sacramento to improve our water for fish. 

### E-Mail Lists

The various listserves seem to be under control. With the help of our System Administrator and former board member John Daniels we've taken steps to almost, that is almost, eliminate the spam we have experienced in the different lists.

The Members list contains all those who are members of the FFF and are within the NCC's jurisdiction. Currently, this list is used only to electronically distribute The River Mouth. No one is allowed to post to the list except our newsletter editor, Dougald Scott and that restriction has virtually eliminated all spam.

There has been talk from time to time on the board that we should also use this list to put out "important" announcements to the members. Frankly I think that would be a mistake and wouldn't do much more than create some animosity from those members who are in one way or another receiving many other "important" announcements. I think the board should continue to trust that the individual club presidents and their respective conservation officers will distribute information to the members as they see fit.

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## SMITH RIVER 2012 REGULATION PROPOSALS

By Chuck Bucaria

Since early in 2012 NCCFFF has been urging the State Fish and Game Commission and the Department of Fish and Game to strengthen Smith River anti-snagging regulations. This is particularly a problem during the Chinook Salmon runs of the early fall. Thus far the Department's answer has been to ignore our requests and present the Commission with a single, and we think, inferior alternative. In response, NCCFFF has sent a special Petition asking the Commission to consider the following proposals, along with those of the Department, during the 2012 Regulatory year. Our request is for a three-year trial to determine if they might be useful elsewhere in California.

### Anti-Snagging Rule:

- Permit only one single-point barbless hook point per angler at all times on the Smith.

This would eliminate one or more treble hooks permitted under present regulations. Under present California rules up to three lures may be used on a single rod. Each lure may have three trebles. This means up to 27 hook points might be used per rig. Banning trebles and requiring single barbless hooks should make snagging more difficult.

### Catch-and-Release:

- Allow only catch-and-release angling in the Low Flow Closure area of the lower Smith during low flow conditions.

The Low Flow Closure area is roughly a 1.5 mile reach of the river, extending from its mouth to Rowdy Creek, where catch-and-keep angling is presently allowed when flows drop below 400 cfs. These conditions typically occur during October, and sometimes in early November. Salmon holding in the few deeper holes there are particularly vulnerable to snagging.

If catch-and-release angling is the only method allowed we believe that enforcement of regulations by Department Wardens would be made easier and that peer pressure will eventually reduce the number of those that regularly use snagging techniques. In addition, if all lures, Kastmasters as well as flies, and bait, were required to use single-point barbless hooks, snagging would be more difficult.

### Maintain the present 400 cfs river flow volume Low Flow Closure trigger.

When coupled with Proposal Nos. 1 and 2 (above), a flow volume of 400 cfs maximizes catch-and-keep angling opportunities. This is important to most traveling anglers, given that it takes days to reach the Smith from major urban areas. When compared with the DFG proposal that the closure trigger be increased to 600 cfs, we have calculated that an average of 6 days per season would be lost from the possibility of fishing in the area upstream of the

present Low Flow Closure area. If our Catch-and-Release low flow-closure-proposal were implemented anglers of all persuasions would be able to fish in the lower river throughout the time that flows were low and the river would be open longer for catch-and-keep angling.

DFG has analyzed the sonar fish counting records that have been gathered the past two years. Department Biologists have noted that even though fish can move upstream at very low flow levels, they are more likely to move as flows increase. On that basis they have proposed solving the snagging problem by moving the low-flow-closure trigger upward from 400 to a new 600 cfs. At the Fish and Game Commission meeting in Eureka in April we argued that such an increase in flows would not deter snaggers, particularly in the first holding hole above tidewater, the Sand Hole. There, we noted, bank anglers, many of whom snag, are located on a high bank that sits above a long, relatively narrow slot that fish typically follow, because that is where the river's current is strongest. They can snag there, no matter whether flows are the present 400 cfs, or when fish are moving through at a higher 600 cfs level. Our objection to that answer includes the fact that increasing the low flow closure to 600 cfs has no effect on snagging throughout the Smith River when the river rises above its legal minimum, no matter what the flow.

NCCFFF has used regulations now in effect in Washington State as a model for our single-point anti-snagging proposal. Their Fish and Wildlife Department rules also include another desirable regulation requiring that all lures be kept moving at all times. If enacted in California that would mean those using heavily weighted spoons that are allowed to rest on the bottom until a fish hits the monofilament line could be arrested if caught attempting to snag fish. We backed off of advocating this regulation because of the difficulty in defining the term "moving." For instance, when a fly is allowed to drift with the current, is it "moving," or does that term only apply when the fly is being retrieved?

The Fish and Game Commission will decide the fate of our Petition later this summer. We have asked their support when new regulations are adopted late this fall. No set of regulations is perfect. And we aren't seeking perfection in our proposals. What we're after is a level playing field, one in which all anglers treat our fishery resource in a sportsman-like manner. Others will pick up the challenge of perfection in the future. Our goal is to move closer to a balance between wise use and protection of a treasured fishery asset. More later.



# A Rapid Assessment of Sediment Delivery from Clearcut Timber Harvest Activities in the Battle Creek Watershed, Shasta and Tehama Counties, California: Executive Summary

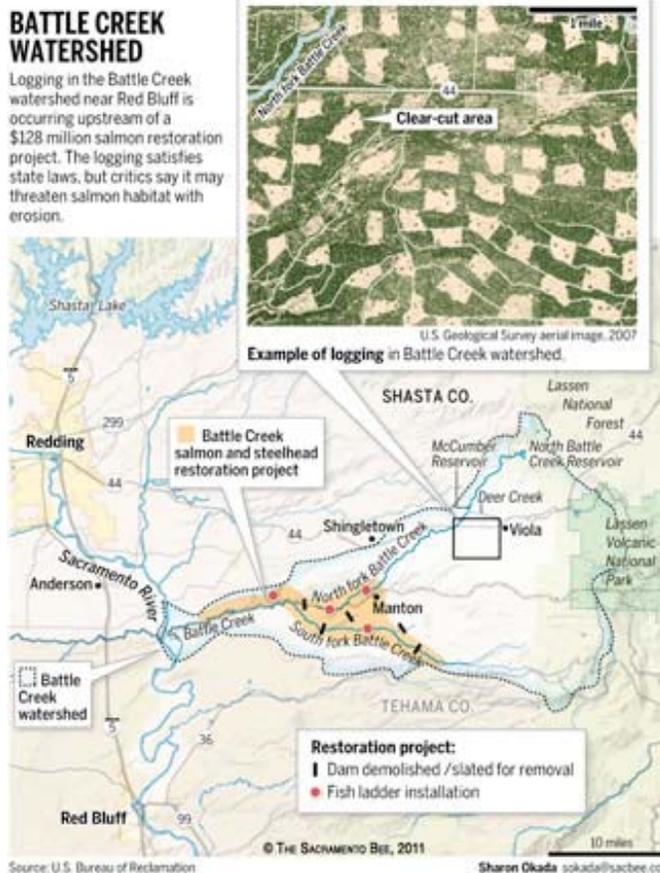
By the Battle Creek Task Force, November 2011

*Editor's Note: Mike Laing has represented NCCFFF in matters dealing with forestry issues for many years. More recently, he has followed the controversy over clearcutting operations in the Battle Creek watershed. He recommended the following report as a good summary of the current situation. The complete report may be downloaded at: [www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board\\_business/other\\_board\\_actions/battle\\_creek\\_report/final\\_battlecreek\\_taskforce\\_report.pdf](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/board_business/other_board_actions/battle_creek_report/final_battlecreek_taskforce_report.pdf)*



The Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project is a cornerstone for the recovery of listed salmonid species in the Sacramento Valley, northern California. The spring-dominated, relatively cold waters of Battle Creek provide important potential refugia for salmon and steelhead in the event of rising global temperature. As restoration activities focus on the removal of downstream barriers for salmonid migration, much of the headwaters of Battle Creek are being managed for high-yield timber production by the largest private landowner in the watershed - Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). SPI's use of clearcutting, coupled with the rate of harvest in the upper watershed, has alerted local environmental stakeholders to the potential for water quality impacts from these harvest practices. These concerns have garnered State-wide attention with the recent publishing of several stories in the Sacramento Bee detailing the potential for clearcut-related impacts to the success of the restoration in Battle Creek. In response to public concern, staff from the Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) Review Team agencies formed the interagency Battle Creek Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force performed a rapid assessment to deter-

mine if timber operations associated with SPI clearcut harvesting in Battle Creek had resulted in observable erosion and subsequent delivery of sediment which has resulted in violation of state law or observable negative impact to fisheries.



Over a five-day field period in September 2011, the Task Force assessed the potential for water-quality impacts at 135 sites they determined to have a high risk for sediment delivery to waters of the state. Of these sites, 55 were clearcut harvest units, 39 were road crossings of watercourses, 24 were watercourse-adjacent road segments, 6 were watercourse-adjacent landings, 5 were tractor crossings of watercourses, and 3 were associated with other sources of erosion. Despite assessing approximately 16 miles of riparian buffers directly adjacent to clearcut harvest units (i.e., 47 percent of the total buffer-zone length adjacent to harvested clearcuts), the Task Force only found one instance of low-magnitude sediment delivery (less than 1 cubic yard) directly associated with a clearcut. However, sediment delivery associated with this site resulted from a Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) violation (en-

*Continued on Page 7*

## Salmonid Restoration Conference

By Dougald Scott

The 30th annual Salmonid Restoration Conference in Davis was a huge success. This is the premier and largest salmon restoration conference in California and the Pacific Northwest. It brought together a diverse group of 650 scientists, land managers, policy makers and conservation groups to share their work and ideas about restoring salmonids and their habitat.



*SRF Field Tour of a Newly Restored Reach of Putah Creek in Winters*

After two days of workshops covering a broad range of topics including fish passage and instream flows, and field tours to Putah Creek and the Yolo Bypass, a plenary session kicked off the main Conference. "We need to dispel the 130-year-old myth that we can return salmon to healthy levels by focusing on fish hatcheries instead of habitat restoration," said plenary session speaker Jim Lichatowich, author of the book *Salmon Without Rivers*. Other plenary session speakers included: newly appointed director of the California Department of Fish and Game and former California director of Trout Unlimited, Chuck Bonham; Marin County Assemblyman Jared Huffman; and John Laird, secretary of California Natural Resources Agency and Bonham's boss.

A day and a half of intensive concurrent sessions followed the plenary session. Our own Mark Rockwell led off the session "Managing the Bay Delta for Water and Fish" with a presentation analyzing the two, sometimes conflicting, California Delta Plan and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Other session speakers presented problems and possible solutions to the Delta planning process. NCCFFF was the proud sponsor of this important session.

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## *Battle Creek Clearcutting from Page 6*

croachment of a tractor into an equipment-limitation zone adjacent to a watercourse), rather than from erosion generated within the adjacent clearcut unit.

The Task Force field study found the likelihood of sediment delivery in the assessment area to be highest for tractor crossings, road crossings, watercourse-adjacent road segments, and watercourse-adjacent landings, respectively. All 5 tractor crossings delivered sediment, but were generally delivering only a low-magnitude of sediment to waters of the state. Road crossings and watercourse-adjacent road segments delivered sediment 69 percent and 67 percent of the time, respectively. The magnitude of sediment delivery from road crossings and watercourse-adjacent road segments with implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs) was generally low or unobservable. The highest magnitudes of sediment delivery from roads were associated with poor BMP implementation (e.g., poor road drainage) and/or poor location (e.g., road segments within 30-50 feet of a watercourse). Poor BMP implementation was commonly associated with county-managed roads or SPI-managed roads with public access. Watercourse-adjacent landings associated with recent Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) delivered no sediment, and the lack of delivery was attributed to the protective ground cover provided by application of a wood--chip mulch.

Overall, the Task Force saw no significant direct water quality impact related to clearcut harvesting in the assessment area. Most observed timber-harvest-related water-quality impacts were found to be associated with publicly and privately managed roads. These roads are used for all types of timber harvesting in the watershed, whether clearcutting, selection, or some intermediate silvicultural method. Due to the limited time period of the assessment, the Task Force was unable to evaluate the potential for indirect waterquality impacts that may result from clearcut harvesting (such as possible increases in suspended sediment and turbidity associated with logging-induced increases in peak flows). Recommendations developed by the Task force are provided herein to improve the water-quality-related performance of forest roads and to further evaluate the potential for logging-induced water quality impacts in the Battle Creek watershed.



## Tuolumne River Needs Water

By Cindy Charles, Co-VP Conservation

A few weeks ago, I wrote that I was going to take my kayak and participate in the Tuolumne River Trust's Paddle to the Sea event in order to raise consciousness and a few bucks for this wonderful, but beleaguered river. This Saturday [June 9], I will be floating down the river from Basso Bridge to the Turlock Campground, which is outside of Modesto, a distance of 11 miles of amazing Central Valley riparian habitat. Thanks to very generous contributions from many of you, I have reached my goal of nearly \$1,000! Here is a link for further information about this event (and it's not too late to make a pledge): <http://www.paddletothesea.org/paddle/participantpage.asp?fundid=1968&uid=3440>

This river is home to Central Valley Steelhead and Fall run Chinook Salmon. I heard there was a large population of young fish in the river this spring. However the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts are dropping flows, which can get as low as 50 cfs. Flows this low are not adequate to support the steelhead remaining in the river during the summer. The Trust and other members of the conservation groups coalition, of which I represent GWWF and NCCFFF, are on the alert for dying fish given these conditions.

We are in the middle of a FERC relicensing process for the Don Pedro dam, yet with so much attention on this river right now (the State Water Board will be issuing mandates on flows for tributaries to the San Joaquin this year, a long overdue and important act), the Irrigation Districts are still turning down the flows even though their reservoir looks pretty full to me since I drive over it almost weekly.

A lot is going on with the Tuolumne right now. NMFS is pushing aggressively for fish passage over Don Pedro dam and we're doing everything we can to fight for better flows. In the face of a fish kill, I am calling everyone I can to stir up notice of this unacceptable situation. If you have questions, please feel free to get in touch with me.



Cindy Charles

The Lower Tuolumne River

### SRF from Page 7

Other concurrent sessions included: Genetic Effects of Hatcheries on Chinook Salmon Population Dynamics in the Central Valley; The Downstream End: the Role of Coastal Lagoons and Ocean Conditions on Salmonid Restoration;



Mark Rockwell addressing the SRF Conference

Restoring the San Joaquin: A Future for Chinook Salmon; Frontiers in River Restoration and Geomorphology; The Role of Artificial Propagation in Recovering Salmon Populations; Utilizing Existing Fish Tagging Data to Guide Restoration Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation; Dam Removal to Benefit Salmonid Recovery; Floodplain Processes and Restoration; Steelhead Restoration and Recovery

Conferences like these are important occasions for sharing ideas, sharing information and advancing the conversation on salmonid recovery. In the words of Chuck Bonham, "If all we're doing is talking to ourselves, we ain't getting closer to solving our problems." Of course nothing is easily solved when it comes to California salmonids and water; and there is always more to learn.

Here is an excerpt from the thank you letter from SRF to NCCFFF:

*SRF greatly appreciates the generous support our sponsors provide which enables us to produce the largest, most dynamic and informative salmon restoration conference in the country at an economical rate for restoration practitioners, agency personnel, and watershed members and to offer scholarships for students and Native American tribal members. SRF acknowledges co-sponsors in our publicity materials and at the conference.*

*Thank you once again for your generous contribution,  
Dana Stolzman*



## Ecosystem Engineers That Work for Free!

By Dougald Scott

Abundant research over the past two decades has clearly demonstrated that the presence of beaver greatly improves the health of riparian corridors and fish habitat. Among other enhancements, beaver dams have been shown to increase wetlands, raise water tables, increase downstream flows, improve water quality and lower water temperatures. Beaver are considered a keystone species for riparian ecosystems.

Many in the fly fishing community are under the impression that beaver dams are detrimental to salmonid populations, mainly because they hinder fish passage. It was, and still is in some places, common practice for fish managers to remove beaver dams for this reason. To the contrary, research has shown that in most cases passage is not an issue. Most beaver dams are at least partially breached during storm runoff, and often fish can jump dams, bypass them through side channels, or pass through the interwoven sticks and mud. In a study of trout in Sagehen Creek, which flows into the Little Truckee River, brown, brook, and rainbow trout were marked and released to test their ability to cross a series of 14 beaver dams. With the exception of the lowermost dam, all dams were crossed in both directions during spring, summer and fall.

Comparing trout and salmon productivity in stream reaches above beaver dams with reaches where dams are absent, a number of studies have found that the reaches above dams produce either more fish, larger fish, or both. The Sagehen Creek study noted above found similar numbers of trout (rainbow, brook and brown) in the dam and no-dam reaches, but the fish above beaver dams were much larger. On the other hand, a similar New Mexico study found more than four times as many trout in the above dam reaches. A Wyoming study noted that by damming very small streams and seeps, beaver created trout habitat where previously none existed, sub-

stantially increasing available trout habitat and allowing for the development of a productive fishery. In a Colorado study, female mayflies (*Baetis*) immediately downstream of beaver dams were found to emerge at a larger size and produce more eggs, providing a more robust mayfly population. This effect was attributed to lower water temperatures below the dams.



*Kristina Ramstad*

*Sockeye Salmon Jumping a 5 foot high beaver dam*



*Cheryl Reynolds Worth A Dam*

While it's clear that beaver are good for salmonids in general, they really shine when it comes to coho salmon. Coho salmon populations are listed as threatened or endangered in California, Oregon and parts of Washington. Numerous studies have shown that a key component to their recovery is providing deeper slow-moving pools and side channels for rearing coho juveniles. Recovery efforts to restore salmon habitat have primarily focused on establishing large woody debris in streams to slow flows and create pools for young salmon, a process that is labor intensive and expensive.

*Continued on Page 11*



*California Conservation Corps*

*CCC crew installing large woody debris*

## Butte Creek Spring Chinooks

By FISHBIO ([www.fishbio.com](http://www.fishbio.com))

Last week [May 7-12, 2012] we had the opportunity to observe spring-run Chinook salmon ascending the Parrot-Phelan diversion dam on Butte Creek near Chico. Currently the largest naturally spawning spring-run Chinook population in California, adult returns in Butte Creek have increased tenfold over the past decade. The increase has been attributed to habitat restoration, including the removal of four dams, the addition of eight adult passage ways and the installation of screened barriers to prevent juvenile fish from being diverted with water destined for irrigation.



April and May are peak months for upstream migration of spring-run Chinook salmon in the Central Valley. The migration typically coincides with runoff from snow melt, often allowing them to ascend farther upstream than would be possible during lower flows in late summer and early fall, when their fall-run conspecifics arrive back at



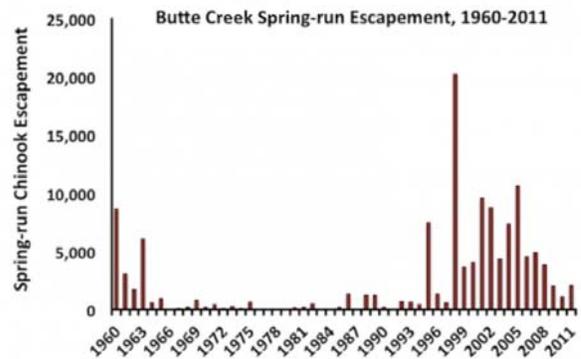
their natal spawning grounds. Unlike fall-run fish, which arrive on the spawning grounds with fully developed eggs, spring-run Chinook enter tributaries reproductively immature and

spend the summer in cold, deep pools without feeding. They rely exclusively on fat reserves they accumulated while feeding in the ocean to sustain survival and gonad development until they complete migration to their spawning grounds once water temperatures decline in early fall. Since they are spawning earlier than fall-run Chinook, their fry will typically emerge from the gravel in December. A fraction of juveniles will out-migrate soon after emergence (December) while some will reside in freshwater for up to a year prior to migrating to the ocean.

Spring-run Chinook are genetically distinguishable from the other runs of Chinook in the Central Valley (CV), though some interbreeding does occur. Interestingly, spring-run Chinook within each stream are more geneti-

cally similar to fall-run Chinook from the same stream than to spring-run Chinook from other streams, suggesting that multiple stocks have adapted this special life history independently of one another ([Waples et al. 2004](#)).

Despite recent population increases in some Sacramento River tributaries, spring-run Chinook in the CV are still listed as “Threatened” under state and federal legislation. Similar to other anadromous salmonids within the CV, their habitats have been highly impacted by the construction of dams and are currently found in a small fraction of CV watersheds they once occupied, including the Yuba and Feather Rivers, Big Chico, Deer, Mill, and Clear Creeks and, of course, Butte Creek.



*Editor's Note: FISHBIO produces an excellent blog called Field Notes which this article is from. Visit their website to subscribe: [www.fishbio.com](http://www.fishbio.com).*

### Communications from Page 4

#### Communications Budget

The last page of this report is the proposed Communications budget. Please note that there are a few items that cost nothing. Yes, that is good, but I would hope the Board will see the value in retaining a paid System Administrator and Webmaster so that we can continue to project a professional image on a small budget. I recommend you adopt the proposed budget.

This is my last report as V.P. Communications. Though I won't be serving on the Board next year I hope to be involved, at least on a limited basis and at the pleasure of the President, with Membership and Outreach. My day job is taking more and more of my discretionary time than ever before. I hope in the future I could again serve on the NCCFFF Board. Thank you all for your support and patience during my tenure as V.P. of Communications.

Beaver from Page 9

A ground breaking study on the Stillaguamish River in Washington state found that the average summer coho smolt production per beaver dam ranges from 527 to 1,174 fish, whereas the summer smolt production from a pool formed by instream large woody debris is about 6–15 individuals. This suggests that re-establishment of beaver populations would be about 80 times more effective than the costly large woody debris programs (remember beavers work for free).

Before their near extirpation by trapping, beaver occurred from the arctic circle to the deserts of northern Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts. They are thought to have numbered in the hundreds of millions and ranged across most landscapes. Demand for beaver pelts drove much of the early exploration into the West. During the era of the Mountain Man (1806–1838), the West was thoroughly explored and the beaver was brought to the brink of extinction.

A 1942 DFG publication described the historical range of beaver in California as roughly the Delta and Central Valley streams below elevations of 1,000 feet, the Klamath River watershed, and the Colorado River. The question of where beaver naturally occurred before the intensive trapping was complicated when DFG began restocking beaver throughout California in 1923. However, more recent analysis of indirect and direct evidence shows that beaver were naturally distributed throughout the state. Some of the evidentiary locations include: Saratoga Creek; Alameda Creek; Russian River; Sespe River in Ventura County; Los Angeles River; and Beaver Hollow Creek (note the name) in San Diego County. Recently, the remains of an ancient beaver dam at 4,000 feet elevation on Red Clover Creek in the Feather River watershed was discovered and dated at 544 AD, nullifying the notion of the 1,000 foot elevation limit to beaver distribution.

Beaver should be considered a key component to riparian habitat restoration in California. They are the most cost effective restoration engineers available – they work for free 24/7, and don't need permits. Wildlife departments in Washington, Oregon, Utah and New Mexico have instituted beaver restocking programs for riparian recovery. California should follow suit and develop a plan for beaver reintroduction where it is deemed appropriate.

Many thanks to Rick Lanman for his input for this article. Be sure to check out his well documented Wikipedia pages on beaver: *North American Beaver*; *California Fur Rush*; and *Beaver in the Sierra Nevada*.

Also check out an excellent video on how beaver improve steelhead habitat:  
[www.opb.org/programs/ofg/segments/view/1758](http://www.opb.org/programs/ofg/segments/view/1758).



Excerpts from Rick Lanman's Wikipedia article, "California Fur Rush"

- *In 1828 fur trapper Michel La Framboise travelled from the "Bonaventura River" (Sacramento River) to San Francisco and then the missions of San Jose, San Francisco Solano (Sonoma Mission) and San Rafael Arcangel. La Framboise stated that "the Bay of San Francisco abounds in beaver", and that he "made his best hunt in the vicinity of the missions".*
- *In the 1840's Kit Carson was granted rights to trap beaver on Alameda Creek in the East Bay where they "abounded...from the mouth of its canyon to the broad delta on the bay."*



Cheryl Reynolds Worth A Dam

## Membership Update

By Vicki Fenner, former VP Membership

Many thanks to the new members who have joined our organization this year and thanks also to those of you who have renewed your membership. With our membership numbers down 11% from what they were last year at this time, we want you to know that your membership is important. As you may know, members' dues are what allow us to support our All Fish, All Waters efforts. We also continue to educate others, while maintaining and preserving what we have already accomplished. The fight of protecting our waters is an on going struggle and we are at the forefront in the many attempts to provide a healthy environment for our fisheries.

We have spent the last three months, attempting to update our membership contact information, so you may have received a phone call or email from one of our Directors. We hoped to accomplish two things. One was to get the membership updated so that we can keep you informed of our accomplishments. The other was to help save money. By having your correct contact information, The River Mouth newsletter and other information can now be sent electronically, rather than US mail. This will save printing and postage, and allow us to use the money for other endeavors.

Again, thanks for your membership and for believing in what we do. We depend on you and your support. 

## Paddle to the Sea Rally for the River!

Monday, June 18 – 12-1pm, Steps of the State Capitol, 1315 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Join Paddle to the Sea paddlers from the Tuolumne, American, and Merced Rivers for a special day in Sacramento as Paddle to the Sea passes within 8 blocks of the State Capitol. We will pull out the kayaks, process them up the Capitol Mall, and throw a lunchtime Rally for the River! Right now, the State Water



Board is setting new water quality and flow standards for the San Francisco Bay Delta and all the rivers that feed into it. Join Paddle to the Sea (either on the water, or just on land) as we call on Governor Jerry Brown and the members of the State Water Board to "Let the Rivers Flow!" We are asking them to set water quality standards that are sufficient to revive the SF Bay Delta and the rivers that are all connected to it - from the Sierra to the Sea. Learn more about about Paddle to the Sea at:

[www.paddletothesea.org/paddle/](http://www.paddletothesea.org/paddle/) 

## NCCFFF CALENDAR

| DATE              | EVENT                                   | LOCATION/CONTACT  | MORE INFO  |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
| <b>2012</b> Jun 9 | Shasta Trinity Fly Fishers Spey Fest    | Sacramento River at the Barge Hole Gravel Bar near Anderson, California | <a href="mailto:Bill.Lenheim@msn.com">Bill Lenheim at 530/223-6090 or lenheimw@msn.com</a>             |
| Jul 10-14         | International Fly Fishing Fair          | Spokane Convention Center   | <a href="http://www.fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair">www.fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair</a>         |
| Jun 18            | Paddle to the Sea Rally for the River!  | Steps of the State Capitol, 1315 10th Street                            | <a href="http://www.paddletothesea.org/paddle/events.asp">www.paddletothesea.org/paddle/events.asp</a> |
| Aug 16-17         | 6th Annual Spring-run Chinook Symposium | Trinity River, California   | <a href="http://www.calsalmon.org/">www.calsalmon.org/</a>   |
| Aug 17-19         | 15th Annual Coho Confab                 | Trinity River, California   | <a href="http://www.calsalmon.org/">www.calsalmon.org/</a>   |
| Sep 1             | NCCFFF Board Meeting                    | TBA   | <a href="http://www.nccfff.org">www.nccfff.org</a>   |
| Sep 13-16         | SWCFFF Fly Fishing Fair                 | Mammoth Lakes, CA   | <a href="http://southwestcouncilfff.org/faire">http://southwestcouncilfff.org/faire</a>                |
| Nov 3             | Striperfest                             | Sugar Barge, Bethel Isl.  | <a href="http://www.danblanton.com">www.danblanton.com</a>   |
| Dec 1             | NCCFFF Board Meeting                    | TBA   | <a href="http://www.nccfff.org">www.nccfff.org</a>   |