Salmonid Restoration Federation

Summer 2008

11th Annual Coho Confab

September 26-28, 2008 on the Smith River

The Coho Confab is a symposium to explore watershed restoration, learn restoration techniques to recover coho salmon populations, and to network with other fish-centric people. To confabulate literally means to informally chat or to fabricate to compensate for gaps in ones memory. Not to imply that restorationists are prone to hyperbole when recounting the size of a rescued fish, the magnitude of the waterfall coming out of the culvert, or the heroics of a particular restoration job. The Confab is an informal gathering of fishheads that allows participants and instructors to learn from each other's experience. Participants learn skills and practices that can be applied to restore habitat in their home watershed. Each year the Confab is held at a coho salmon refuge on the North Coast.

The 11th Annual Coho Confab will be held on the South Fork of the Smith River in the far northwestern corner of California. Salmonid Restoration Federation and Trees Foundation are the permanent co-hosts of this educational event and this year the Confab is also sponsored by Smith River Alliance, Smith River Advisory Council, and Cal Trout. Orientation presentations will include an opening talk about the significance of the Mill Creek watershed acquisition in protecting and restoring a salmon stronghold by Grant Werschkull of Smith River Alliance. Tom Weseloh of Cal Trout will discuss coho salmon from State CESA listing to local restoration projects. Research Ecologist Frank Lake will present on how upslope fire and forest management affect fish by providing a review of tribal and scientific knowledge about the effects of fires on fisheries.

This year's Confab will feature restoration tours in the Mill Creek watershed, tributaries of the South Fork, Yontucket Slough, and the Smith River estuary. Randy Lew of Pacific Watershed Associates will lead a tour of road decommissioning and erosion control projects in Dominie and Rowdy Creeks. State Park geologist Rocco Fiori will discuss experimental wood loading designs to enhance stream function and salmonid habitats. A full-day tour of Mill Creek restoration projects will include presentations by Dan Burgess of Rural Human Services who will lead a tour of the native plant nursery for Mill Creek restoration, Lathrope Leonard of Redwood National and State Parks will lead a forestry tour focused on restoring late seral forests, and Brian Merrill of California State Parks will discuss backcountry road management and rehabilitating watershed function in North Coast Redwoods State Parks. Rod McLeod of the Mill Creek Monitoring Program will lead a hands-on workshop assessing juvenile coho summer abundance estimation in Mill Creek.

The Smith River Estuary

photo: Greg King

Confab participants can tour Mill Creek to view fisheries monitoring efforts, channel morphology, riparian conditions, and recent restoration efforts.

photo: Thomas B. Dunklin

Additionally, Zack Larson, Watershed Coordinator of the Smith River Advisory Council, will facilitate a Smith River fish identification workshop. Antonio Llanos of Mike Love & Associates will lead a tour of fish passage projects and will co-lead a tour of Yontocket Slough and the Smith River estuary with Zack Larson. Other workshops include instream fish identification, and macro-invertebrate sampling and stream health assessment. There will be an open forum entitled "Stories and Songs of Salmon" with native stories from Frank Lake and river troubadour Alice di Micele. Saturday night will culminate with a BBQ and a performance by musician Alice di Micele.

Advanced registration fees are $100 that includes all camping, food, and workshops. After September 5th, registration is $125. For more information about the Confab, please visit *www.calsalmon.org* or *www.treesfoundation.org* to register online and obtain logistical info.

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26th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference Recap

Salmonid Restoration Federation hosted the 26th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference in Lodi, California, March 5-8, 2008. SRF believed that the time was ripe to host the conference in the San Joaquin Valley due to the significance of the recent San Joaquin Restoration settlement. This state-of-the-art conference included two full days of workshops and field tours on fisheries restoration topics, a plenary session with prominent keynote speakers, and concurrent sessions focusing on environmental, biological, and policy issues that affect salmonid recovery. This premier restoration conference featured all-day field tours of Tuolumne and Stanislaus River restoration and monitoring projects, a Fisheries Monitoring and Management tour of the Mokelumne River, and half-day workshops and tours of fish-friendly vineyards, and the Cosumnes River Preserve, as well as an evening tour of watershed education projects in Lodi. Workshops include Fins and Zins: Sustainable Agriculture and Watershed Management, Fish Passage: Managing Flows on Regulated Rivers and Streams, Floodplain Restoration, and Invasive Species.

Hundreds of people from around California attended the Plenary session which focused on Delta issues, repopulating the San Joaquin with native fish, climate change, and projections for salmonid recovery.

photo: Dana Stolzman

The Plenary session included presentations by Christina Swanson, Senior Scientist of the Bay Institute, who discussed Bay Delta recovery issues. Gordon Grant, Research Hydrologist at the USFS Pacific NW Research Station in Corvallis presented on climate change and its affect on water in the west. UC Davis Fisheries Professor and *Inland Fishes of California* author, Peter Moyle discussed the state of California salmonids and restoring native fishes to the San Joaquin. Scientist Robert Lackey from the EPA discussed the Salmon 2100 Project that factors global conditions into long-term projections about salmon recovery around the world.

Concurrent sessions focused on the policy and biological considerations in formulating the San Joaquin Restoration Program, Recovery Planning Models, Central Valley Salmonids Restoring Natural Hydrographs, Dam Removal and Salmonid Recovery, Engaging the Community in Salmonid and Watershed Education, and Monitoring and Management issues in the Central Valley.

Other highlights of the conference included the *Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival*, a Watershed Stewards Project & California Conservation Corps Social, a poster session and reception, and a cabaret, a Copper River salmon banquet, and a lively dance party with Latin-dance band Sambada.

Scott McBain coordinated the Tuolumne River field trip that toured restoration and monitoring projects.

photo: courtesy SRF archives

SRF has posted several of the presentations at our web site at *www.calsalmon.org*

The 27th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference will be March 4-7, 2009 in Santa Cruz, California.

For more information, please see www.calsalmon.org *or contact SRF at (707)923-7501.*

3rd Annual Spring-run Salmon Watershed Symposium

July 10-12, 2008 in Nevada City, CA

SRF and South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) are hosting the 3rd Annual Spring-run Salmon Symposium in Nevada City on July 10. The symposium will be followed by field tours on Friday and Saturday, July 11-12 to provide first-hand investigations of important restoration projects and opportunities concerning the recovery of the California's Spring-run Chinook salmon populations.

SRF and SYRCL have coordinated with salmon recovery scientists and those who were active in the former Spring-run workgroup to produce this dynamic event. The purpose of the symposium is to promote knowledge and advance strategies that most effectively protect and restore threatened spring-run Chinook populations of California.

The format will include presentations, panel discussions, and workshops to address the historic range and life history diversity of Spring-run Chinook Salmon, status of Spring-run Chinook populations in California, current and potential actions for recovery, salmon and water resources of the Sierra-Nevada, and evaluating options for providing new habitat and for improving freshwater survival.

Presentations will include an overview of the ecology and biology of Spring-run Chinook, Spring-run recovery efforts in the Central Valley, Klamath Basin, and Sierra tributaries, as well as presentations on the affects of climate change and habitat restoration techniques. Concurrent breakout sessions will focus on recovery through habitat enhancement and protection, prioritizing habitat restoration needs, and addressing issues of water quality, water diversions, and incidental take.

The Yuba River float from Hammon Grove to below Daguerre Point Dam will provide uniquely rich perspectives on the riverine impacts of past dredger mining, and opportunities for habitat restoration, as well as the fishery impacts of Daguerre Pt Dam and associated diversions.

photo: Jeff Martinez

Field tours will highlight habitat enhancement, water conservation, and restoration opportunities afforded through the FERC relicensing process. A Yuba River Float trip from Parks Bar to Daguerre Point Dam will investigate remnant channel complexity and rearing habitat. The tour will provide uniquely rich perspectives on the riverine impacts of past dredger mining, and opportunities for habitat restoration, as well as the fishery impacts of Daguerre Pt Dam and associated diversions.

Another tour will visit the Bear-Feather Floodplain Set-back Project by way of the Lower Yuba to provide historical and geomorphological view of the limited floodplain habitat of the lower Yuba River. The main stop will be at the site of the largest floodplain setback project in California that incorporated salmon recovery objectives into the design concept. Workshop-style discussions of floodplain restoration for salmonid habitat will be grounded in the lessons learned in construction of this site. Participants will also learn about restoration opportunities through the FERC relicensing process when visiting projects up for relicensing on the South Yuba River.

Participants will visit Butte Creek in the Northern Central Valley that contains the best remaining habitat for Spring-run salmon. This tour will visit the PG&E facilities that were retrofitted to allow increased flows for salmon. The final workshop will include snorkeling investigations of the South Yuba River to understand temperature/trout relationships.

SRF hopes that this type of hands-on educational event will foster cooperation and be conducive to creating long-term solutions to balancing human water supply needs with instream flows required for salmonid recovery.

To learn more about this exciting event, please visit www.calsalmon.org

Participants on the Butte Creek tour will visit PG & E facilities that were retrofitted to allow larger instream flows for salmonids as well as prime stream habitat and deep pools where Spring-run Chinook congregate.

photo: Thomas B. Dunklin

Klamath River Hydro-Electric License

The FERC Process and Settlement

by Petey Brucker, Salmon River Restoration Council

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydroelectric re-licensing process affords an opportunity to evaluate the costs and benefits of the Klamath Basin dams which are owned by PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of Warren Buffet's Mid-American Energy. PacifiCorp is in the 7th year of their process to relicense their dams and reservoirs in the Klamath River. Three of these hydro-generation facilities are in California (Iron Gate, Copco 1 & 2) and one is in Oregon (JC Boyle). In addition, PacifiCorp uses Keno dam and reservoir for storage to regulate their peaking power activities at JC Boyle.

PacifiCorp has indicated that they want to abandon this potentially toxic site, as well as decommission the East and West Side power generators near Upper Klamath Lake and turn their managing responsibilities on Link River dam back to the US Bureau of Reclamation.

PacifiCorp acknowledges that their dams/reservoirs provide little or no flood control and protection to the Klamath River downstream of their facilities, due mostly to their relatively small storage capacity. Analysis of water samples from Copco and Iron Gate Reservoirs reveal extremely high levels of the toxic blue-green algae *Microcystis aeruginosa* which produces a compound known to cause liver failure and promote tumor growth. These reservoirs are also known to grow some of the highest concentrations of toxic algae in the country according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Klamath River Dams impede fish passage for salmon and contribute greatly to toxicity and sediment issues. Keno Dam (pictured above). Iron Gate (left) is the lowest and biggest dam on the Klamath and contains toxic algae harmful to humans and fish.

photos this page: Thomas B. Dunklin

The FERC relicensing process provides an opportunity to address the problems associated with these dams. In their Draft EIS, FERC concluded that it was cheaper for PacifiCorp and their ratepayers to remove the two dams rather than to install fish ladders, and screens etc. FERC is due to come out with their Final EIS and preferred alternative sometime in the future.

Oregon and California also have to provide a water quality certification of the proposed project prior to proceeding with a new license. The California State Water Resources Control Board certification requirement for the 401 permit and the TMDL process is underway in the Klamath River and will require PacifiCorp to address their toxic algae problem in these reservoirs prior to approval by FERC for a new license.

Both PacifiCorp and FERC are delaying the relicensing process and relying on interim measures which don't address the immediate needs of the salmon for adequate instream flows, fish passage, and water quality improvments. The public must participate in the FERC process so these hydroelectric projects are not relicensed for another 50 years and to advocate for removal of the Klamath dams. Removal of the dams/reservoirs would also improve water quality for fish and the river. Administrative Judge McKenna ruled in August 2006, that fish could be successfully reintroduced into the Upper Basin where they once lived and will not significantly impact other native species.

A preliminary sediment study of the reservoirs indicates that of the over 20 million yards of sediment currently accumulated in the reservoirs, only four million yards are in the active river channel (up to high water/flood level). The sediment is largely made up of fine materials likely to flush through the Klamath River and into the ocean, without settling in the river. The California Energy Commission has identified that PacifiCorp generates very little power annually (approx. 60 megawatts) and that removal of the dams and replacement of this power with other renewable energy would be most appropriate.

In addition to FERC's process, several stakeholders have been working together to develop an alternate resolution process through a comprehensive settlement that benefits the interested parties. Many involved are hoping to address the dams and reservoirs owned and run by PacifiCorp in the Klamath River and many of the long standing conflicts over resources in the Klamath Basin. Parties are waiting for PacifiCorp to agree to remove the dams in order for the settlement to move forward this year.

The Salmon River Restoration Council has been an active participant in the FERC process and in the settlement negotiations. Salmon River Spring-run Chinook whose migrations are known to be affected and driven by snow melts and cooler water temperatures, may be a key run in a reintroduction effort for the Upper Basin. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is currently updating their fisheries management plan in the Klamath and will decide soon which stocks to reintroduce above Upper Klamath Lake. ODFW may decide to use stocks from outside the Klamath River Basin above Upper Klamath Lake and this could have a negative affect on the Salmon River Spring-run Chinook.

SRRC is currently looking into bringing together the Sub-basin to discuss this and other needs for fish restoration in the Klamath River Basin.

For more info see www.srrc.org

Recovering Spring-run Salmon of the Central Valley

by Gary Reedy, South Yuba River Citizens League

Spring-run Chinook salmon are evolutionarily distinct from Fall-run Chinook salmon due to spatial segregation during spawning. The snowmelt hydrology of rivers, such as those draining the western slope of the Sierra-Nevada, provide adult salmon the best conditions for ascending falls and rapids during the April-June period. Migrating as far upstream as flows and natural barriers would allow, then holding in cold pools until early fall, spring-run would spawn in the same season as fall-run, yet up to 5000' higher in elevation.

Over 90% of the historic spawning habitat for Spring-run salmon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Basin (Central Valley) has been blocked by dams. In addition to this dramatic loss of critical upper habitats, the National Marine Fisheries Service has identified two other main factors threatening Spring-run Chinook salmon with extinction: degradation of remaining habitat, and genetic threats from the Feather River Spring-run Chinook salmon program (*http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery/Chinook_CVSR.htm*).

A Recovery Plan for the Central Valley Spring-run Chinook salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) is still forthcoming. However, the Technical Recovery Team for the Central Valley ESU has produced several documents that assess the viability of the ESU and provide useful perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for "recovery" (i.e. reduced risk of extinction).

Spring-run Chinook salmon

photo: Thomas B. Dunklin

Of the 18 former populations of Spring-run Chinook salmon in the Central Valley identified by Lindley et al. (2007), no more than four populations have remained independent and avoided extinction. Only in the small watersheds of Mill Creek and Deer Creek can spring-run still migrate unimpeded by dams. The Butte Creek spring-run population has greatly benefited from improvements in fish passage and release of cold-water from upstream hydro-projects.

Central Valley Spring-run Chinook salmon are "not currently viable" as an ESU according to Lindley et al (2007) whose analysis included vulnerability from potential catastrophic disturbances. They stress that recovery will require opportunities such as "restoring flows and habitat in the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam and in Battle Creek, and restoring access to the Yuba River above Englebright Dam."

The Yuba as a Keystone to Recovery

The Yuba River Spring-run were thought to be extinct, but recent monitoring has revealed a population range of 242 to 1200 fish annually. Restricted to the lower Yuba River below Englebright Dam, Yuba Spring-run Chinook are suffering introgression with Fall-run Chinook and strays from Feather River Hatchery (FRH).

Yuba River Spring-run is the fourth extant population of Spring-run Chinook salmon in the Central Valley. Unfortunately, the status of the population as independent is uncertain due to proximity to the Feather River Hatchery and insufficient data for analysis of comparative genetics. If introgression with hatchery fish has been too severe, the independent population is a FRH-Yuba hybrid. Even in this case, the Yuba River represents a unique opportunity to restore a robust salmon population.

Antiquated fish ladders at Daguerre Pt. Dam impede fish passage.

The Upper Yuba River Studies Program has produced reports indicating that partially enhanced flow below hydro-projects could provide enough habitat for viable salmon and steelhead populations above Englebright. The relicensing of all major hydroelectric facilities in the basin will occur in 2013 and 2016. Native Americans have resurrected their ancient Calling Back the Salmon Ceremony and gathered with many friends on the Yuba River to prepare the way.

The action plan for Yuba River Salmon involves:

1) Providing unimpaired passage at Daguerre Point Dam;
2) Providing access to upper Yuba habitat for salmon and steelhead by means of fish passage at Englebright Dam;
3) Enhancing Middle and South Yuba river habitat with more cold water from hydro-projects;
4) Restoring quality rearing habitat in the Lower Yuba and Feather Rivers through the setting back of dredgers' levees and other enhancement actions.

For more information, see *www.saveyubasalmon.org.*

Recovery Requires Action

Reducing the risk of extinction for Spring-run Chinook salmon of the Central Valley will require some very large projects, and those projects must result from multiple processes, including the NMFS Recovery Plan, critical habitat designation, and FERC relicensing. The quality and progress of these processes depends on professional and public input. We have the best chance of recovering Spring-run Chinook if we act collaboratively and quickly.

The 2008 California Salmon Closure—Ten Actions We Need to Take Now!

Excetpted from Dan Bacher's the The Fish Sniffer

Central Valley Chinook salmon and other imperiled salmon runs on the West Coast are in an unprecedented state of collapse. Increases in water exports and the decline in water quality in the California Delta are the primary reasons for the collapse but there are a number of fresh water factors that have contributed as well.

The Bush and Schwarzenegger administrations continue to blame "ocean conditions" for the Central Valley salmon collapse to escape any responsibility for fostering the abysmal conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta that led to the collapse. However, Peter B. Moyle, U.C. Davis Professor of Fish Biology, says blaming ocean conditions for salmon declines is like blaming the iceberg for sinking the Titanic. "Ocean conditions may be the potential icebergs for salmon populations, but the ship is being steered by us humans. Salmon populations can be managed to avoid an irreversible crash, but continuing on our present course could result in loss of a valuable and iconic fishery," said Moyle.

Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, discusses how the Sacramento River fall run chinook run has declined in direct relation to increases in state and federal water exports out of the California Delta.

photo: Dan Bacher

This action alert proposes immediate actions to address water exports and water pollution—and shows how you can pressure the federal government to deliver disaster relief to salmon fishing families and communities and Congress to conduct an oversight hearing on Pacific salmon management.

For More Information on what you can do, contact the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermens Associations at www.pcffa.org

Saving Fishing Communities Bringing Back the Salmon

The 10 Actions You Need to Take Now!

1 Contact U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, 1401 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230, requesting an immediate declaration of a Fishery Failure for the West Coast salmon fishery.

2 Contact your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative requesting federal disaster relief through a Congressional Appropriation for direct assistance to salmon fishing families and communities and, further, requesting Congressional oversight hearings on Pacific salmon management and the stock collapse.

3 Contact and attend meetings of the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board), 1000 I Street, Rm. 1629 Sacramento, CA 95814, demanding the development of the San Francisco Bay/ Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta) Program—Strategic Workplan. A halt to pumping is mandated at the State (SWP) and Federal (CVP) Delta facilities when any salmon are present.

4 Contact the Chair of the State Board and the Director of the California Department of Fish & Game demanding the adoption, implementation, and enforcement of freshwater flows into and through the Delta to San Francisco Bay necessary for the ecological functioning of this estuary and the protection and restoration of salmon.

5 Contact and attend meetings of the State Board demanding the end to the discharge of toxic fish killing water into the Delta and its tributaries.

6 Contact and attend meetings of California's Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, c/o CALFED Bay-Delta Program, 650 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814, to oppose any peripheral canal and any further diversion of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed; demand the Delta be made salmon-friendly again.

7 Contact the Director of California Fish & Game, and the Fish & Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, demanding all state salmon hatcheries be operated at full capacity to fully mitigate losses from dams and water projects and call further for the trucking of hatchery fish around the Delta for release into acclimation pens in San Francisco Bay—at least until such time as the pumping, flow, and wastewater discharge issues in the Delta are resolved.

8 Contact Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Members of the California Legislature, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814, demanding the state's policy for doubling natural spawning salmon populations be met. Contact U.S. Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240, demanding compliance with Federal policy (under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act) for doubling Central Valley natural spawning populations of anadromous fish (e.g., salmon).

9 Don't forget the Klamath. Contact Governor Ted Kulongoski, 160 State Capitol, 900 Court Street, Salem, OR 97301 and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, requesting state negotiators expedite the process for removal of the four PacifiCorps dams on the Klamath. PacifiCorp is owned by billionaire philanthropist Warren Buffett; contact Mr. Buffett at 1440 Kiewit Plaza, Omaha, NE 68131.

10 Contact the Pacific and North Pacific Fishery Management Councils demanding an end to salmon bycatch in Pacific Whiting, Pollock, and other fisheries.

The Rising Cost of Restoration

by Don Allan, Redwood Community Action Agency

We are all familiar with the rapid rate of inflation with fuel prices. Diesel costs approximately $5 per gallon and is likely to increase. Several weeks ago I called a heavy equipment operator that I have worked with in the past and asked him if he could send me a rate sheet for a prevailing wage job in 2010—the year we would be implementing a project if our grant application is successful. He laughed at me—"You want me to predict my charge out rate 2 years from now!! I'm having a hard time predicting what my cost is going to be by the end of the summer!" Regardless, he sent me his rate sheet and I swallowed hard as I looked at $210 per hour for an excavator (compared to $160 per hour in 2007), $190 per hour for a dozer, and $92 per hour for a laborer.

The cost of materials made with steel, (i.e., culverts, bridges, cable, etc.) has dramatically increased and like all other commodities, the increase in fuel prices will be reflected in the cost of materials used in restoration projects.

And labor—most of us have probably also encountered the prevailing wage issue. This issue rose to the forefront a few years ago when fisheries restoration caught the eye of the Division of Industrial Relations (DIR), the state department that determines the wage rates (available on the web at *http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSR/DPreWageDetermination.htm*) that are to be paid for all public works projects. Public works projects are defined as any project performed with public funding, by a public agency, or on public property. The California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) Fisheries Restoration Grants Program (FRGP) is the only program that has an exemption—for projects greater than $50,000 (less the cost of gravel). For all other public funding sources, such as the State Water Resources Control Board, US Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Community-based Restoration Program, State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Water Resources, etc., there is no such exemption. The California Conservation Corps were exempted from the DIR wage determinations by special legislation and they have saved a lot of projects that might have otherwise become cost-prohibitive.

Permit fees are also rising. Again the FRGP turns out to be the best deal in town, if you are implementing a project that falls within the activities described in the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual. CDFG prepares the CEQA document for projects they fund and through their Regional General Permit with the Army Corps of Engineers, most implementation projects funded by the FRGP require only the streambed alteration agreement application and fee. However, as is the trend with state and local agencies, they need to cover the cost of their services through their fee schedule so CDFG increased their fees recently too (for the streambed alteration agreement fee schedule see *http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/Forms.html*).

If you don't have funding through the FRGP, be prepared to shell out some big bucks for CEQA compliance and permits (see table below for price increases). A recently filed Conditional Use Permit application in Humboldt County for an estuary restoration project required a deposit of $2,523 (that's the minimum cost and it could go up depending on how much staff time is spent on the application) plus $1,876.75 for the CEQA review fee that the County has to pay to CDFG. The Coastal Commission recently raised their fee and the $600 permit fee went to $5,000 (you can check out the Coastal Commission's new fee schedule at *http://www.coastal.ca.gov/legal/13055-3-17-2008.pdf*) On top of that there are fees for State Water Resources Control Board ($500) and depending on the location, there may be fees required for other local jurisdictions (such as harbor, reclamation, or special districts). The Harbor District was a bargain at $100, and so far the Army Corps of Engineers has not required a fee. Total cost for permit fees for one small estuary restoration project—$9,999.75 or more. Plus there are the staff costs to prepare permit applications, a storm water pollution prevention plan (required for any project disturbing more than one acre), and the engineering and design costs associated with developing detailed analyses and plans needed to acquire the permits. The days of going out with the CDFG habitat specialist and biologist and sketching out the plan in your field book are long gone.

Some cost increases are to be expected and a prudent project planner/grant writer will anticipate inflation over the life of the project. The cost increases that we are seeing today though were highly unpredictable when grant applications were prepared two to three years ago. So what effect will rising costs have on fisheries restoration and salmon recovery? The value of your grant dollar just went way down. What would have cost you $100,000 in 2007 could very well cost you $150,000 in 2010. What does it mean for salmon recovery? Projects are going to cost a lot more and the limited funding available is not going to go nearly as far as it did a few years ago. So—prioritizing projects and getting priorities right are more important than ever. Good luck to all of us in staying on task and within budget—it's going to be a challenge.

Agency	Permit	Old Fee	New Fee
County	CEQA/ CDP	$2,000	$4,399.75
Coastal Commission	Coastal Development Permit	$600	$5,000.00
California Dept. of Fish & Game	Streambed Alteration Agreement	$750	$750.00
Army Corps of Engineers	Nationwide Permit	No fee	No fee
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Waste Discharge Permit (401 Certification)	$500	$500.00
SWRCB—Notice Of Intent*	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	$332	$332.00
TOTAL		$4,182	$10,981.75

Note—this is for a small project, i.e., less than $100,000. *required for all projects disturbing more than one acre

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Save These Dates!

27th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference

March 4-7, 2009 in Santa Cruz

The 27th Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference will be held March 4-7, 2009 in Santa Cruz. The conference will probably feature all day field tours of urban lagoons and estuaries, road decommissioning and erosion control projects, and restoration projects on the Carmel River. Workshops will include fish passage design and implementation and other technical education trainings.

Concurrent sessions will focus on Coho salmon, dam removal, instream flows, and Central Valley water supply issues. To see the call for abstracts, please visit see *www.calsalmon.org*

Scotts Creek Watershed in Santa Cruz
photo: Kristen Kittelson

Bioengineering Field School on the Central Coast

Oct 19-21, 2008 in Santa Barbara

Participants will visit bioengineering projects completed by the California Conservation Corps and will have the opportunity to construct willow walls.
photo: courtesy CCC archives

SRF, with the support of the Department of Fish and Game, will sponsor a Bioengineering Field School on the Central Coast. Instructor Evan Engber, of Bioengineering Associates, will teach techniques to restore riparian habitat, control erosion, and stabilize banks. Participants will tour projects in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties and learn how to build willow matresses and live siltation baffles. Willow siltation baffles are designed to achieve several objectives. According to the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual their function is similar to a wing deflector which can be used for bank protection and energy dissipation. They are designed to work in a series and pass flow through the structure, sort bedload, dissipate energy, and trap fines. A vegetated buffer on the top of the bank is created by planting native trees and shrubs.

To register for the course, please visit *www.calsalmon.org*