Salmonid Restoration Federation

Friends of Butte Creek

5th Annual Spring-run Chinook Symposium in Chico, CA July 22-23

The Salmonid Restoration Federation is hosting the 5th Annual Spring-run Chinook symposium July 22-23 in Chico, California. This is a truly collaborative educational event with diverse symposium partners including Friends of Butte Creek, Pacific Gas & Electric, Department of Water Resources, and Big Chico Creek Watershed Alliance. "Spring Run Salmon are in serious decline in California, now is the time to learn about the problems, and make commitments to restoration. The fish can't wait," said Executive Director of Friends of Butte Creek, Allen Harthorn.

SRF is pleased to offer this opportunity for local landowners, restorationists, fisheries biologists and agency staff to participate in the Chinook Symposium which includes field tours and presentations on problems and solutions specific to Spring-run Chinook. The Spring-run Chinook Symposium offers restoration practitioners training and networking opportunities on issues affecting California's threatened Spring-run Chinook populations. Thursday tours will include a tour of Upper Butte Creek Salmonid Habitat, Hydroelectric Influences and the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve, a tour of the Lower Feather River including Oroville Dam Visitor's Center and Department of Water Resources Projects, and a Big Chico Creek Tour of Salmonid Restoration Projects. Thursday evening SRF will host a dinner social with symposium keynote speaker PhD. Lisa Thompson from UC Davis and UC Cooperative Extension who will give a presentation, "Wilderness First Aid: Stabilizing Spring-run Chinook Populations While We Work Toward Recovery."

Friday Tours will include a Lower Butte Creek tour beginning at Durham Mutual Dam where spring run Chinook have been stranded for the last three years, a drive by on two other dams and on to the site of the Western Canal Siphon Project, where four dams were removed. After lunch we will visit the Weir 2 in the Sutter Bypass that is scheduled to be retrofitted by the Department of Water Resources. Chris Mosser, a graduate student from UC Davis will give a presentation regarding Monitoring of Rescued Salmon in Lower Butte Creek. The Willow Slough restoration project, which is currently under construction near the mouth of Butte Creek in the Sutter Bypass, will be presented at lunch. There will also be a tour of Deer Creek and Mill Creek Restoration Projects with Holly Savage of the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy and a representative of The Nature Conservancy. The tour will begin at the Abbey of New Clairvaux and will include a brief overview of the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy's goals for salmonids in Deer Creek.

The tour will visit sites proposed for improvements in the Deer Creek Flood Corridor Protection Project. This project will increase floodway width through setback levees and conservation easements to improve flood protection and ecosystem function. Increasing the floodway width in this reach would provide a number of ecological benefits, including increased area for channel migration, ability for natural sediment transport and deposition that improves channel complexity without damaging infrastructure, and increased area for riparian vegetation growth while maintaining flood conveyance; greater channel complexity and gravel size diversity via reduced water velocities and shear stress in the reach; more confined low flow channel to improve adult salmonid fish passage and juvenile rearing habitat; and many others.

We will also visit areas in the creek where fish passage has been an issue and discuss the Deer Creek Flow Enhancement Program (DCFEP) where local irrigators provide bypass flows for fish during low flow conditions. The DCFEP is designed to fulfill the water needs of local agriculture and domestic water users while achieving the fisheries flow objectives in Deer Creek and the groundwater protection requirements set forth by the Tehama County AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan.

For more information about this exciting event please check out the Salmonid Restoration website at www.calsalmon.org or call (707) 923-7501.

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