

## SPRING-RUN CHINOOK SALMON WORKGROUP

September 16, 1997  
The Grange Hall, Manton, CA

### DRAFT NOTES

1. Opening. Nat Bingham called this 52nd meeting to order shortly after 10 a.m. He thanked the many local residents for hosting and attending the Workgroup, and described its role in facilitating and supporting locally-based restoration initiatives. Forty participants introduced themselves, half of them attending for the first time. The meeting notes for August were discussed and accepted, and the agenda reviewed and modified.
2. Announcements. Leon Davies made the calendar of upcoming events available on the entrance table, along with prospectuses for many of them. A CALFED Public Scoping Meeting on Habitat Conservation Plans was scheduled for that evening in Redding, and other CALFED meetings were announced for Chico (Sept 26) and for the North Sacramento Valley and Cottonwood Creek Ecological Zones (Sept 30). Several October events were highlighted, as the next regular meeting would not until mid-November. Places were still available for the upcoming Delta boat tour.

Leon also circulated two new publications for perusal: *Pacific Salmon and Their Ecosystems: Status and Future Options* (Deanna J. Strouder, et al., eds.), Chapman & Hall, 1997; and *Principles and Guidelines for Effective Restoration Investments in California's Forested Watersheds*, a 1997 report prepared by Robert Hrubec & Associates for The Planning and Conservation League Foundation, Sacramento.

Buford Holt announced the availability of the FY 1998 RFP for the Bring Back the Natives partnership, due at NFWF on October 15, and reminded that the State Water Control Board for application process for \$14 1/2 million would close in January.

3. The WITS Sacramento River Basin Watershed Page. Rebecca Fawver demonstrated the Watershed Information Technical System (WITS), one of five websites accessible from the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES - <http://ceres.ca.gov>). The California Resources Agency has facilitated its development to support community-based watershed planning and management at the local level. To date, information has been compiled about watershed planning and assessment resources, restoration, regulations and permitting processes, education and training opportunities, funding mechanisms, and points of contact. Two pilot pages have been developed (for the Russian River and the Mendocino Coast) and the next (for the Sacramento River Region) is due for preview on October 9 (at The State of the Watershed Conference). A short discussion on the usefulness of this kind of online information followed.
4. Reports and Updates. The recent decision of the Fish and Game Commission (Aug 29) for continued Delta pumping during times of spring-run out-migration, despite testimony from fishing and environmental groups, was based on the reasoning that this year there are no yearlings in the water and the special order can be changed, reported Allen Harthorn and Paul Ward. Allen also reported on a well-attended fluvial geomorphology workshop (Chico, Aug 30). Nat had attended the American Fisheries Society meeting (Monterey, Aug 24-28). He commented that the main theme of the Shasta Bioregional Gathering (Patrick's Point, Sept 4-6) had been Native Americans

and watershed restoration groups, and that organizers were anticipating the next one in the Sierra Foothills. Leon had done a valuable workshop, *From Conflict to Collaboration* (Sacramento, Sept 11). Bill Kier and Jim Smith reported that the Salmon Summit (Seattle, Sept 13-14) had excluded California this year.

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy was holding a WAC meeting in Vina that day. For Clear Creek, Jeff Souza brought up the question of a source of spring-run fish for possible restocking if Saeltzer Dam could be removed; this issue would be part of an agenda focused on Clear Creek in November. For Butte Creek, Kathy Hill updated the spring-run count to 635 and Allen said the two watershed coordinator finalists would be interviewed that evening. Melanie McFarland said she would report on the Forest Service Plan for the five anadromous habitats under Pacfish also at the November meeting. She noted that last year a landscape analysis was prepared for the tributaries to Battle Creek and now projects were starting (but the wording of the Quincy Library Group's Bill, now in the Senate, could be a problem since it precludes riparian restoration). The new Forest Supervisor (Kent Connaughton) had been out in wetsuit to see fish being surveyed.

5. Battle Creek Watershed Project(s). Progress on Battle Creek since the meeting and tour last year and since CALFED funding in 97 was reviewed first from the social aspect and then from the technical. Laurie Aumack, the Watershed Coordinator, spoke on the meetings in the community having led to readiness to start on issues, acknowledging in particular the contributions of Bob Lee, Leland Davis and Hank Pritchard. She made available copies of the recent first issue of the *Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy News*, which gave the background for a conservancy.

Harry Rectenwald first described the geology of the area, the central mound of volcanic deposit which puts the north and south forks at the edges of the watershed and supplies a steady source of cool spring water at a constant 52 degrees year-round. (The average annual runoff is 355,000 acre feet, with an average base flow in the late summer of 255 cfs. This drought-resistance makes the creek a potential 50 miles of refuge anadromous habitat. It is the one remaining Sacramento River tributary most like the streams draining Mount Shasta now blocked by Shasta Dam.) He then reviewed the effects of the hydroelectric diversions (installed in the 1920's) and the Coleman Hatchery with its barrier dam (1943), noted the absence of land use problems, and summarized the planned phases of restoration (to be covered in the next *Conservancy News*). Jim added a briefing on the USFWS spring-run monitoring this year (to be concluded in October), and Bill Kier was also available for questions.

6. Lunch. Nat adjourned the meeting at 12:45 and participants continued conversations over sandwiches made available by Laurie.

#### TOUR OF EAGLE CANYON, BATTLE CREEK WATERSHED

From 1:15 to 3:15 Leland Davis hosted Workgroup participants on his family property and they walked down the canyon to view the extraordinary cascades of cold spring water emerging from its wall. Also impressive was PG&E's system of pipes and flumes, now disconnected and letting the water enter the creek.

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Participants, September 16, 1997  
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(plus 3 others who did not sign in)