

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2008

CONTACT: Severn Williams, California Trout
510-336-9566
Holly Sheradin, California Department
of Fish and Game 916-327-8658

DFG ANNOUNCES CA FISHERIES RESTORATION GRANTS

Critical Projects Funded at Watershed Moment for State Fish Populations

Sacramento – The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) recently announced the recipients of its 2007-08 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP). The awards total nearly \$10 million. The National Marine Fisheries Service provided approximately \$7 million toward the total grant amount. The funds will be used for projects throughout the state to restore critical habitat for native salmon and steelhead populations. Recent reports have shown a decline in salmon and steelhead populations in many areas throughout California.

California Trout's North Coast Regional Manager, Tom Weseloh, serves on the committee that determined how the grants would be distributed. "The Fisheries Restoration Grant Program is a cornerstone of fisheries restoration efforts throughout California," he said. "As a member of the grant Peer Review Committee I am grateful to DFG and the National Marine Fisheries Service for providing these critical funds as salmon and steelhead populations face increasing challenges to their survival."

Both salmon and steelhead are anadromous fish species, meaning they migrate to freshwater rivers and streams for breeding and spend the majority of their adult lives in the ocean. Because these fish migrate significant distances, enabling passage to traditional breeding grounds is a key focus of the FRGP. The majority of FRGP funded projects address fish passage, sediment reduction and legacy road removal, riparian planting, instream habitat improvement, fish population monitoring, and planning and technical education around the preservation of critical habitat.

Each year DFG works with a Peer Review Committee to determine which projects will be funded. Committee members include representatives from conservation organizations; representatives from the agricultural, timber, and public water agency industries; fisheries researchers; and several elected county supervisors from throughout the state.

Water and fish conservation group California Trout has local experts across California that can comment in detail on these funded projects. Contact Severn Williams at 510-336-9566.

2007-08 Fisheries Restoration Grants Highlights

San Francisco Bay Area

- Pescadero Creek Riparian Habitat Improvement Project (including seasonal dam removal)

Southern California

- Lion Creek Bridge Replacement Project - Ventura River
- Gobernador Creek Widdoes Fish Passage Project - Ventura River
- Mission Creek Fish Passage Projects - Mission Creek

- Fish Passage Improvements at Cross Creek Ranch, El Jaro Creek - Santa Ynez River
- Solstice Creek Habitat Improvement Project - Solstice Creek

North Coast

- Redwood Creek Dam Modification/Salmonid Habitat Improvement (Eel River system)
- Blue Goo Slide Stabilization Project - Redwood Creek (Eel River system)
- North Fork Lost Man Creek Fish Passage Project (Redwood Creek system)
- Smith River Watershed Coordinator Funding

Mt. Shasta Region

- Klamath River Off-Channel Coho Habitat Enhancement Project
- Little Shasta Fish Passage and Screening Project - Shasta River
- Road Decommissioning Bluff Creek Watershed at Fish Lake - Klamath River
- Scott River Tributary Flow Gauging and Precipitation Monitoring
- Scott River Off-Channel Habitat Enhancement

Statewide

- Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference Funding

About California Trout: Founded in 1971, California Trout was the first statewide conservation group to focus on securing protections for California's unparalleled wild and native trout, salmon, and steelhead diversity. Working with local communities, business, partners and government agencies, California Trout employs conservation science, education, and advocacy to craft effective policy for California's water resources and fisheries.

About the DFG Fisheries Restoration Grant Program: FRGP was established in 1981 in response to rapidly declining populations of wild salmon and steelhead trout and deteriorating fish habitat in California. DFG's competitive grant program has invested over \$180 million to support projects from sediment reduction to watershed education throughout coastal California. Besides National Marine Fisheries Service, contributing partners include Wildlife Conservation Board, State Coastal Conservancy, tribes, water districts, fisheries organizations, watershed restoration groups, the California Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps, and private landowners.

For a complete list of FRGP 2007-08 funded projects, see www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Administration/Grants/FRGP/FundSummary.asp (click on funded projects).

###