Spring 2015

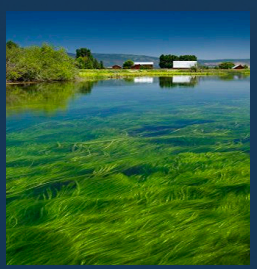
the current

abundant wild fish · healthy waters · better California

CALIFORNIA TROUT

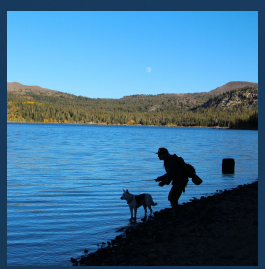
The Eel River Estuary

Tackling fish passage and delta resiliency



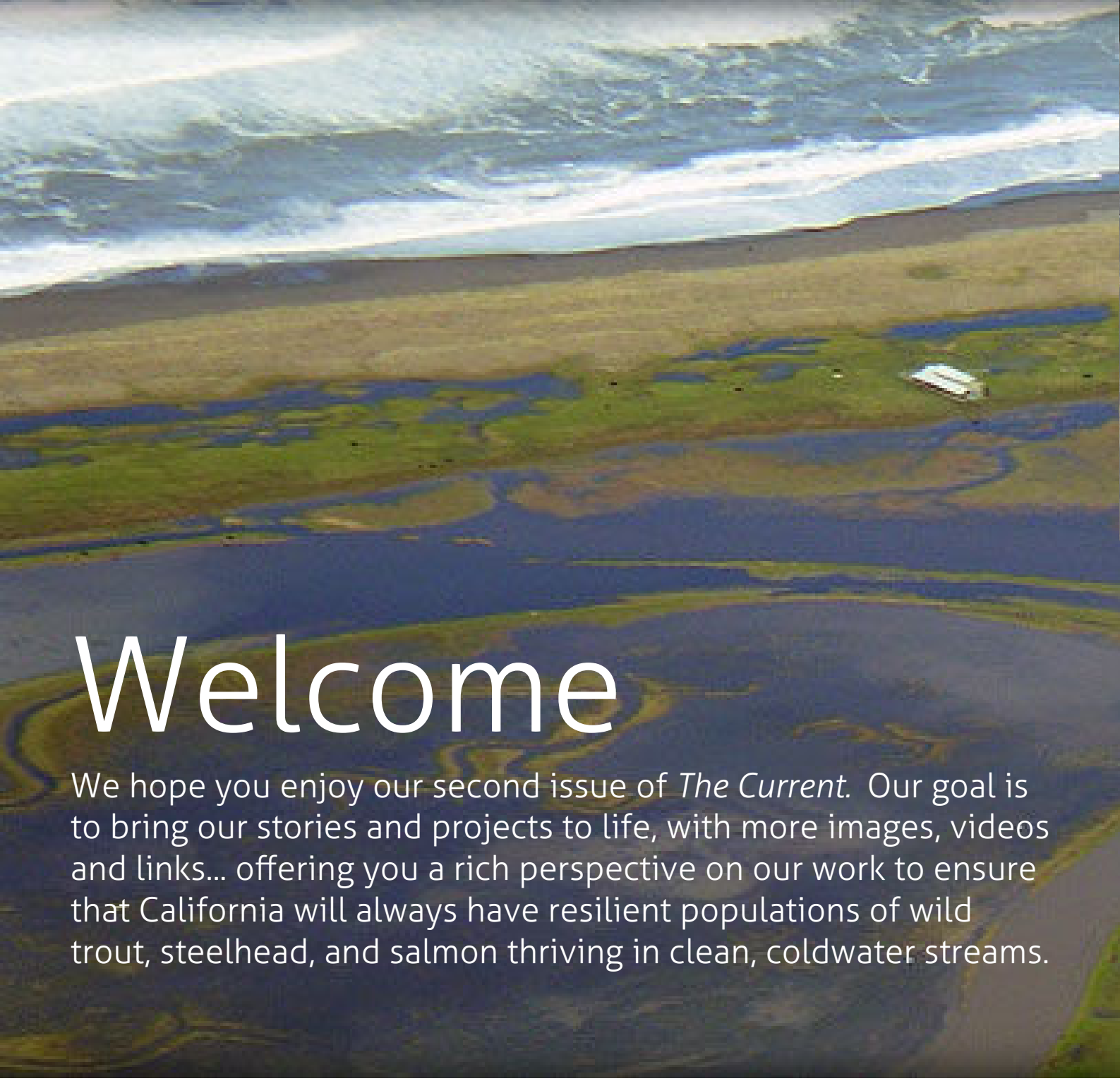
FALL RIVER CONSERVANCY

Partners in restoring a legacy



MIKEY WIER

All you need to know about Caples Lake



Welcome

We hope you enjoy our second issue of *The Current.* Our goal is to bring our stories and projects to life, with more images, videos and links... offering you a rich perspective on our work to ensure that California will always have resilient populations of wild trout, steelhead, and salmon thriving in clean, coldwater streams.

FEATURE

PROJECTS

REFLECTIONS

REGULARS

VIDEOS

Who We Are

At CalTrout, we believe abundant wild fish mean healthy waters and healthy waters mean a better, more prosperous California. We work towards this by solving the state's complex resource issues while balancing the needs of people and wild fish.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

JACOB KATZ Central California Director

Jacob was born with gills. Fascinated with what happened below th water line he grew up chasing fish in every creek, puddle, river and por he could find. Eventually Jacob was hooked by school taking a PhD ecology at the UCD Center for Watershed Sciences under Dr. Pet Moyle. Jacob is the Central California Director at CalTrout where his wo focuses on integrating biologic science & natural history into th management and operation of California's water infrastructure ar developing ways to get greater fish and wildlife benefit out of workin agricultural landscapes while ensuring that California is always home self-sustaining runs of wild salmon. You can read about his Nigiri proje in this issue.

Central Office Staff

Executive Director
Curtis Knight cknight@caltrout.org

Finance & Administration Director
Alan Roesberry aroesberry@caltrout.org

Accounts Payable
Richard Locicero rlocicero@caltrout.org

Membership Manager
Tony Van Houten tvanhouten@caltrout.org

Development & Foundations
Gaby Roff
groff@caltrout.org

Grants Manager
Melissa Racklyeft mracklyeft@caltrout.org

Development/Individual Giving
Lisa Clarke
lclarke@caltrout.org

Marketing
Tracey Diaz
tdiaz@caltrout.org

Fly Fishing & Community Outreach
Mike Wier
mwier@caltrout.org

Fly Fishing Ambassador
Craig Ballenger craig@craigballenger.com

Governors
Doug Ballinger, Chair

Friends & Partners

Linda Rosenberg Ach
Gary Arabian
Andrew Bassak
Tony Brookfield
Andy Eckert
Bill Epstein
Dick Galland
Nick Graves
Rick Kaufman
Tom Larsen
Laureston McLellan
Stephen Rogers
Bob Rosenberg
Alan Vidinsky
Richard West
Jerome Yesavage, MD

Emeritus Governors
Roy Crawford

Conservation Staff

Mt. Shasta/Klamath

Drew Braugh
dbraugh@caltrout.org

Meadow Fitton
mfitton@caltrout.org

North Coast

Darren Mierau
dmierau@caltrout.org

Mary Burke
mburke@caltrout.org

Sierra Headwaters

Mark Drew, PhD
mdrew@caltrout.org

Central California

Jacob Katz, PhD
jkatz@caltrout.org

Southern California

Sandra Jacobson, PhD
sjacobson@caltrout.org

Candice Meneghin
cmeneghin@caltrout.org

Nicholas Di Croce
Craig Fusaro, PhD
Bill Hooper
Richard May
Frank Pipgras
Joel Scheinberg
John Slezak
Will Trefry

Academic/Science Partners

UC Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences
Dr. Peter Moyle
Dr. Jeff Mount
Dr. Jay Lund
Carson Jeffres
Dr. Rob Lusardi, Leader, CalTrout/ UC Davis Wild Fish Partnership

Humbolt State
Dr. Walt Duffy
Dr. Bill Trush

University Nevada-Reno
Dr. Sudeep Chandra

UC Santa Barbara
Dr. Tom Dudley

Strategic/Legal Advisors
Jeff Thompson, Business Strategy Advisor
Conservation Strategy Group
LFJ Strategies
Water Power & Law Group, Richard Roos Collins
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberg
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips

Sacramento Advocacy Consultants
EEC
CNRG

Contact us
360 Pine St., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 392-8887
info@caltrout.org
Visit us on the web:
caltrout.org

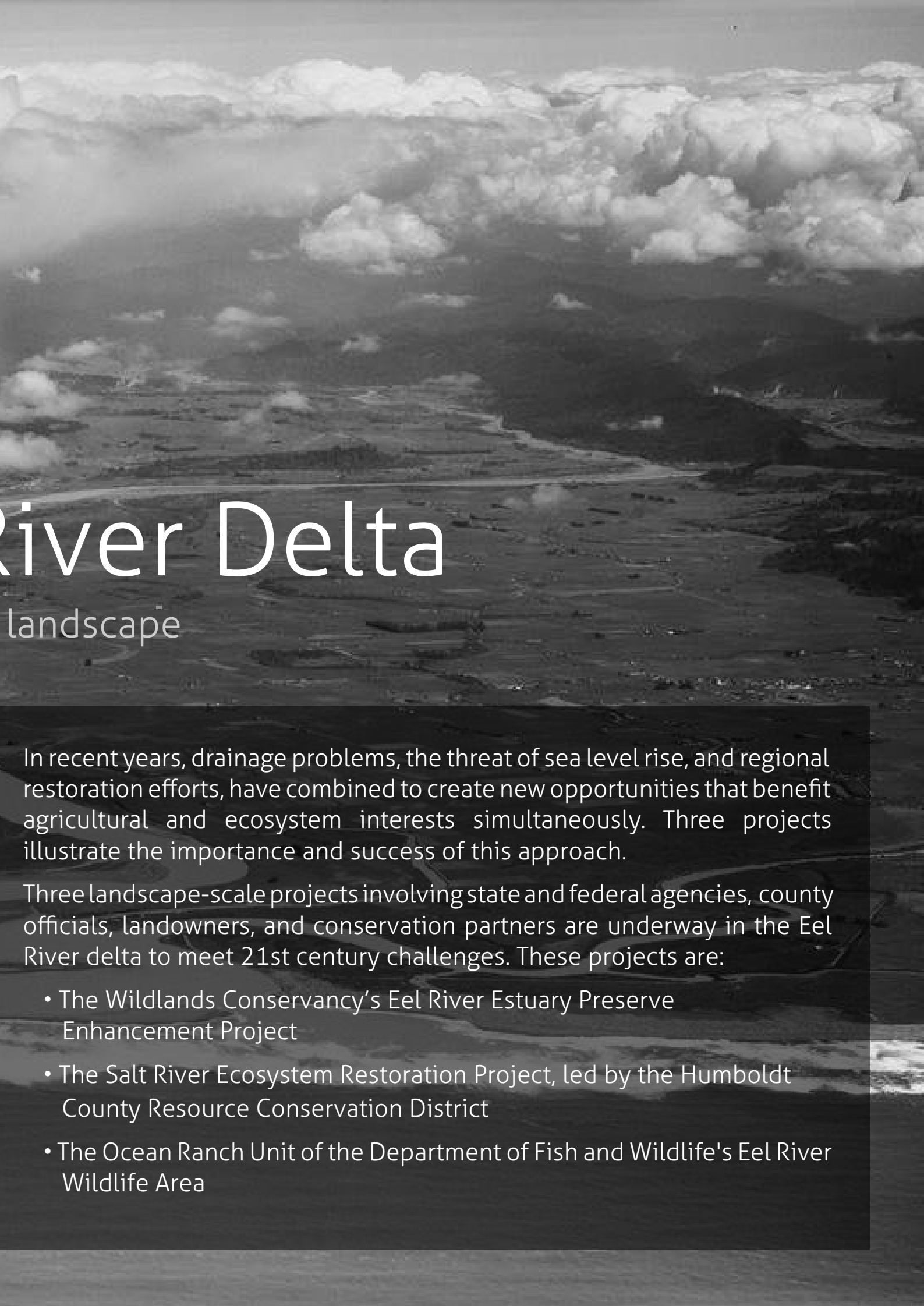
Restoring the Eel R

A team of restoration partners helps transform a

By DARREN MIERAU
North Coast Director

Darren is a native Californian, a river ecologist, and joined CalTrout in 2012.

The Eel River once possessed one of the largest and most productive estuaries on the West Coast. More than 6,500 acres of this rich delta of perennial and seasonal wetlands, and miles of tidal sloughs and river channels, provided an expanse of habitats for a rich diversity of aquatic and terrestrial species, as well as critical nursery habitat for major salmon and steelhead runs. But a century and a half of 'reclamation' reduced the estuary by more than half, transforming the remainder into a lucrative working landscape of ranching and dairy lands.



iver Delta

landscape

In recent years, drainage problems, the threat of sea level rise, and regional restoration efforts, have combined to create new opportunities that benefit agricultural and ecosystem interests simultaneously. Three projects illustrate the importance and success of this approach.

Three landscape-scale projects involving state and federal agencies, county officials, landowners, and conservation partners are underway in the Eel River delta to meet 21st century challenges. These projects are:

- The Wildlands Conservancy's Eel River Estuary Preserve Enhancement Project
- The Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project, led by the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District
- The Ocean Ranch Unit of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Eel River Wildlife Area

Eel River Estuary Preserve Enhancement Project

In 2012, CalTrout joined forces with The Wildlands Conservancy, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a top-notch team of engineers and planners. Together this team began the process of designing ecosystem enhancement elements across the Preserve's 1,200-acre property at the mouth of the Eel River.

The Wildlands Conservancy's project team will restore tidal marshland and coastal dune habitat, fish passage into newly restored high quality aquatic habitat for salmonids and estuarine fish species, freshwater ponds for migratory waterfowl use, and native riparian vegetation along Russ Creek and soon-to-be-re-excavated and restored Centerville Slough.

The project will also protect and maintain hundreds of acres of highly productive pasture-lands for livestock grazing, ensuring the viability of the

area's important agricultural economy. And, central to The Wildlands Conservancy's mission, the project will enhance recreational uses of the Preserve to allow wildlife enthusiasts and youth educational programs to experience the ecological wealth of the Preserve.

A portion of the Preserve's lands will be returned to their historic function as an extensive network of slough channels draining tidal marsh, seasonal marsh, and freshwater streamflow from Russ Creek and Centerville Slough. These wetland areas and tidal channels will provide high quality habitat for Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead, as well as endangered tidewater goby, Dungeness crab, and dozens of estuarine-dependent fish species.

Tide Gate Replacement

Every salmon and steelhead from the Eel River watershed passes by the Eel Rive on its way out to the sea. But reclamation of the Eel Delta has largely preve juvenile salmonids from accessing historic rearing habitat. Thus, an integral project is replacing the failing tide gates at the mouth of Cutoff Slough with friendly tide gates. Newer technology in tide gate design will allow fish to Preserve's newly restored habitats, while also enhancing drainage efficiency for su agricultural land. In the springtime, fish access to rearing habitat in Cutoff Slough Centerville Slough, and numerous tidal creek channels will allow juvenile salm other aquatic species the opportunity for rapid growth and thus better survival b migrate out to sea.

The design phase of the project will be finished in 2016.

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About The Wildlands Conservancy

The Wildlands Conservancy, a 501(c)3 public benefit corporation, owns and operates California's largest nonprofit nature preserve system. TWC properties include 12 magnificent landscapes spanning over 145,000 acres of diverse mountain, valley, desert, river and ocean front properties. The Wildlands Conservancy also funded the largest conservation land gift to the American people in U.S. history - over 560,000 acres in the California desert.

TWC purchases and restores landscapes and builds national park quality visitor facilities that are open to the public at no cost. For the last ten years, TWC has been California's nonprofit leader in providing free outdoor education programs, servicng over one million children.

Eel River Estuary Preserve

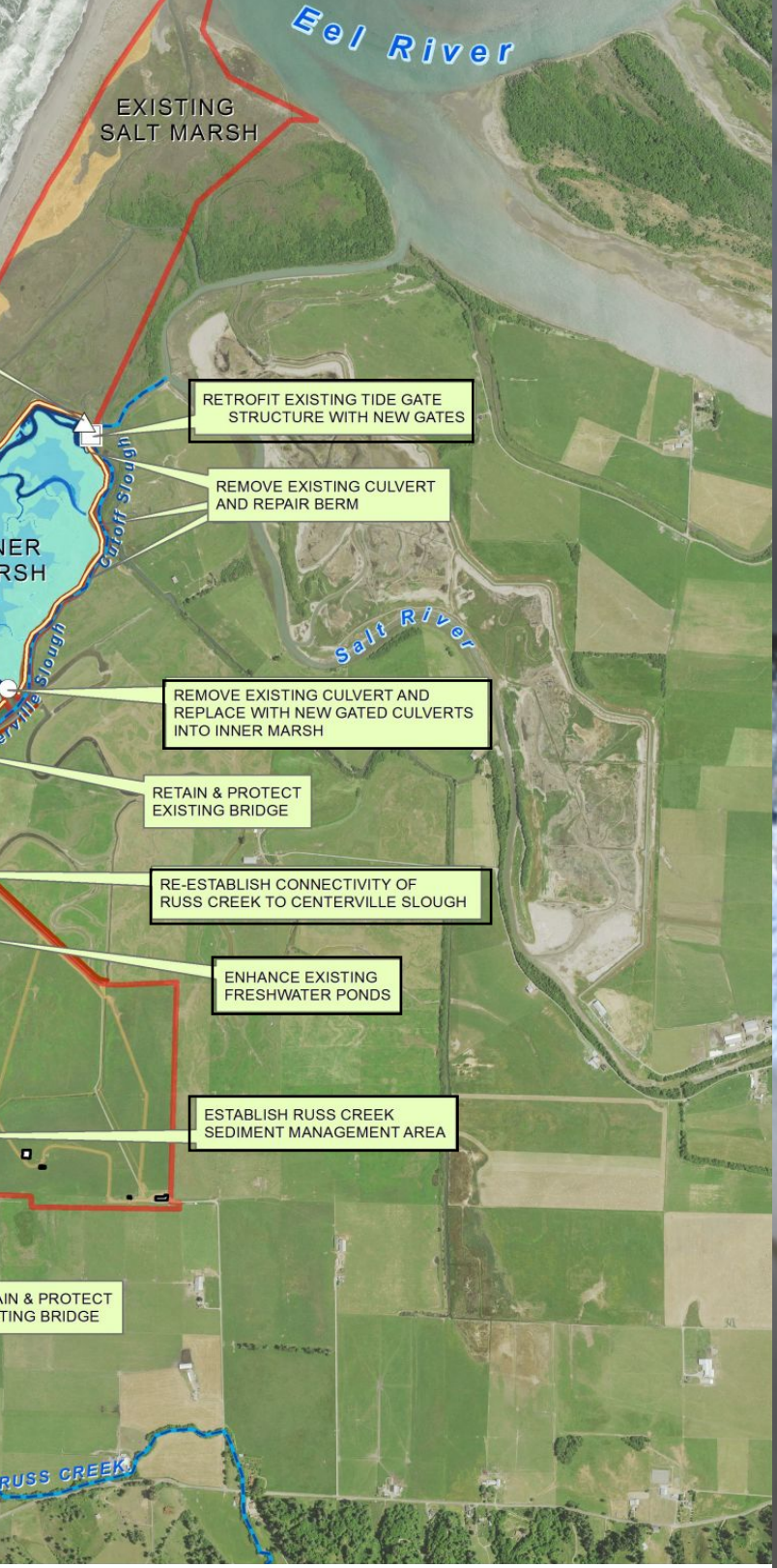
Bounded by the Eel River on the north, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Wildcat hills to the south, the 1,255 acre Eel River Estuary Preserve is a place of unparalleled beauty. A tantalizingly infeasible restoration priority to the State of California for decades, the Preserve – thanks to the Wildlands Conservancy – now offers an historic opportunity for enhancement within one of California's most valuable and productive coastal estuaries.

The Wildlands Conservancy purchased the Eel Preserve in 2008 with private funds, and now in partnership with CalTrout, the Coastal Conservancy and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, have embarked on this vital resource enhancement project. TWC also owns and manages the 5,832 acre Spyrock Reserve, with five miles of river frontage on the National Wild and Scenic main-stem Eel River.

ESTUARIES

Project A

Click on the map to see t



Proposed Project Components

- Existing Drainage
- Channel Enhancement
- Channel Reestablishment
- Historic Drainage to be Abandoned
- Freshwater Pond Conveyance

Proposed Project Components

- Enhanced Freshwater Complex
- Brackish Off-Channel Habitat
- Sediment Management Area
- Dune Restoration Area

Inner Marsh Muted Tide Levels

- < 2.5'
- < 3.0'
- < 3.5'
- < 4.0'
- < 5.0'

Activities

the call-outs more clearly

Hat Creek

By ANDREW BRAUGH
Shasta/Klamath Director

Andrew has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) and has worked with CalTrout since 2007.

The Hat Creek Restoration Project goes beyond fl
This project engages tribal youth in the stewards
paying jobs in the process.

The Hat Creek Restoration Project originated to restore a legacy of spring-creek fly fishing in Northern California: and this we will do. But as we proudly break ground restoring native trout habitat we would like to highlight a different part of the project: reconnecting native tribal youth to their ancestral lands and providing jobs for young people.

At CalTrout we often talk about how our projects affect people. On a basic level, fish indicate how clean our water is and how well our environment functions. Reliable sources of clean water dramatically improve our quality of life.

ly-fishing and ecosystem restoration.
hip of their ancestral lands and provides

The Hat Creek Restoration Project, however, goes beyond fly-fishing and ecosystem restoration. This project engages tribal youth in the stewardship of their ancestral lands and provides paying jobs in the process. In the Burney inter-mountain region, more than half of the population under the age of 18 lives below the poverty line. Despite living in a region of California known for exceptional natural resources – timber, hydropower, outdoor recreation, etc. – young people caught in poverty rarely benefit from these resources in the form of jobs, health, or cultural heritage.

Changing the Status Quo

Two years ago, CalTrout began hiring and training local youth to help resto
Hat Creek. With grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundatio
Orvis, and the California Natural Resources Agency, we developed 17 payi
jobs and a mentorship program designed to train young people in riv
conservation. We rented vans for transportation to ensure that participar
could get to and from the project site.

We toured the regional Forest Service office to learn how to write and form
resumes and apply for federal resource management jobs. Our science partne
volunteered to demonstrate how to measure flow and water quality, carry o
fish population surveys, and assess the health of stream banks and riparian are

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Changing the Course of Kids' Lives

Sadly, despite numerous sacred burial grounds, artifacts, and documented village sites, many native young people no longer associate the Hat Creek Wild Trout Area with their cultural heritage. Many have no connection to the river at all.

The Hat Creek Restoration Project presents an opportunity for native tribal youth to re-engage in the stewardship and management of their ancestral lands. In addition, they'll earn wages and benefit from on-the-ground job training in the conservation field.

This project presents an opportunity for native tribal youth to re-engage in the stewardship and management of their ancestral lands.

To donate to projects like this CLICK HERE

At Caltrout, we care deeply about restoring fisheries and protecting water. We also recognize that to succeed in the long-term we must invest in the people that actually depend on these resources for their livelihoods, cultural heritage, and personal identity. While we're proud to restore a legacy of fly-fishing in Northern California, we're just as proud to help restore a sacred timeless bond between people and a place.

Our rivers depend on it.

Nigiri Project

Cultivating Ecological Solutions on Agricultural Land

By JACOB KATZ
Central California Director

Jacob Katz has a Ph.D in ecology from UCD Center for Watershed Sciences and joined CalTrout in 2012.

Human alteration of Earth's natural systems has been so pervasive that we a
Anthropocene, in which human actions have become the main driver of globa
As the global human footprint expands, the area available to wild species is
38% of the non-ice terrestrial surface of the planet dedicated to crop and pas
the dominant human land use. Accordingly, agriculture is a major driver o
degradation of aquatic ecosystems, and greenhouse gas emissions. Habitat loss
of the current global extinction crisis where the earth is losing species faster
65 million years. Some scientists predict extinction of 30-50% of the species
50 years. Increasing the benefit to native species provided by working agric
represents one of conservation's biggest challenges and greatest opportuniti

**CalTrout's "Nigiri Project" is demonstrating how this type of ecological reco
can be accomplished.** The project (named for a form of sushi with a slice of f
is a collaborative effort between farmers and researchers to help restore
reintroducing young salmon onto winter-flooded rice fields.

re now in a new era, the
al environmental change.
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f terrestrial habitat loss,
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cultural lands, therefore,
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onciliation on farmlands
ish atop a wedge of rice)
salmon populations by

PROJECT UPDATES

River

Floodplain

Farm Fields Prove Vitally Useful

Working with landowner Knaggs Ranch and the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences and the California Department of Water Resources the experiment has shown that off-season agricultural fields can provide critical floodplain habitat for endangered fish. These "surrogate wetlands" mimic the floodplain rearing habitat used by young salmon, which has been largely eliminated by the development of the Central Valley for farms and houses. The purpose of the project is to test the hypothesis that, through better planning and engineering, farm fields that produce agricultural crops in summer can also produce food and habitat for fish and wildlife during winter when crops are not grown.

Study Expands to Six Sites

Past studies have shown that salmon that have access to floodplains grow large counterparts and therefore are more likely to survive predation and thrive onc to complete their growth cycle. For three consecutive winters the Nigiri Project, c at the Knaggs Ranch property on the Yolo Bypass, has documented the fastest gro salmon ever recorded in the Central Valley. For the first time this year, salmo multiple other floodplain locations in the Central Valley, including two addit Bypass; a site on the Sutter Bypass; on the USGS-managed Cosumnes River Pre Ranch, near the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers.

Approximately 45,000 hatchery-bred juvenile Chinook salmon were released o the Knaggs Ranch on February 5th. Smaller experimental groups were also plac various satellite sites. Scientists compared salmon growth rates and looked fo different floodplains on the Sacramento, American, Feather, Cosumnes and San

Jacob Katz (left) and Carson Jeffres of UC Davis count young salmon to be stocked into the fields.

r than their river-raised
e they reach the ocean
conducted on rice fields
wth of juvenile Chinook
n were also planted at
ional sites on the Yolo
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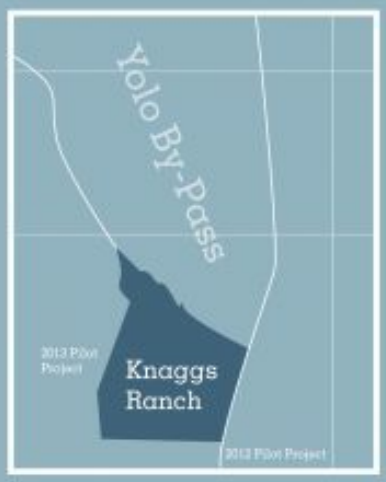
on flooded rice fields at
ced in enclosures at the
r patterns among these
n Joaquin Rivers.

The Nigiri Project: Salmon Restoration

After 6 weeks in the rice fields salmons weight increased fivefold from 0.92 grams to 6.45 grams showing the immense nutrients of the fields. Their length also increased from 47mm to 81mm.

Project Location:
Knaggs Ranch

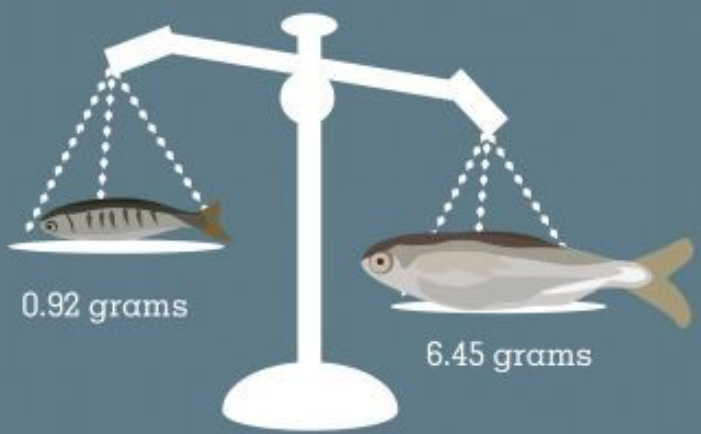


Length:

January 31, 2012 — 47 mm

March 12, 2012 — 81 mm

Weight:



Water dipped from the fields swarms with so many zooplankton that Katz calls it "zoop soup."

Sunlight Into Fish Food

The results indicate that the benefits of floodplains are larg
the process of spreading and slowing floodwaters and are
confined to any single location or water source. Just as ag
plants convert sunlight and soil nutrients into food for pe
is created as sunlight falls on to the water and algae, or phytoplankton
the water's surface use photosynthesis to convert sunlight into sugars.

The simple act of sunlight falling on water is the foundation of the ri
sunlight makes algae, algae makes bugs, bugs make fish. When floodwat
across the floodplain, a lot more sunlight hits the water than when river
between their banks allowing floodplains to function as the "solar pane
aquatic life in river systems. Over the last century construction of leve
95% of the Central Valley's floodplains from its rivers. *Story continued o*

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Our commitment requires your commitment.

At CalTrout, we believe that abundant wild fish mean healthy water
waters mean a better California. We're committed to a better Calif
the state will always have resilient populations of wild trout, steelh
thriving in clean, coldwater streams.

CALIFORNIA TROUT

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head, and salmon

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PARTNER PROFILE

Restoring California's Largest

By Allison Sherlock, Watershed Coordinator, Fall River Conservancy

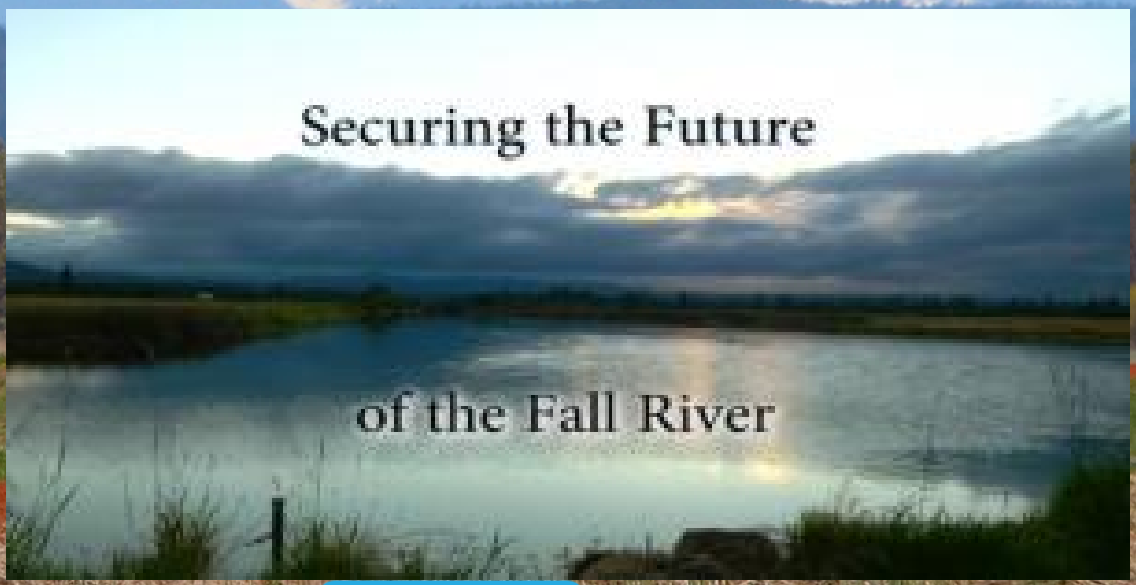
Allison Sherlock received her Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management from the University of British Columbia. In 2013, Ally launched the Hat Creek Youth Initiative with California Trout. Ally joined the Fall River Conservancy in 2013 as the Watershed Coordinator.

CalTrout, the Fall River Conservancy, the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences are teaming up in 2015 to expand our Fall River Wild Trout Monitoring Program.

Together, we've tagged with tracking devices over 1000 native trout as a way to investigate the existing condition of the fishery and prioritize restoration projects on over 20 miles of CA's largest spring-fed river.

In 2013, CalTrout and FRC formed an official partnership to work on Fall River conservation issues. The combination of a larger statewide organization like CalTrout with a locally established, landowner driven

Spring-fed River



organization like FRC makes f rly e partnership. In 2015, we secured $50,000 fro Fish life Foundation to expand the fish tagging project.

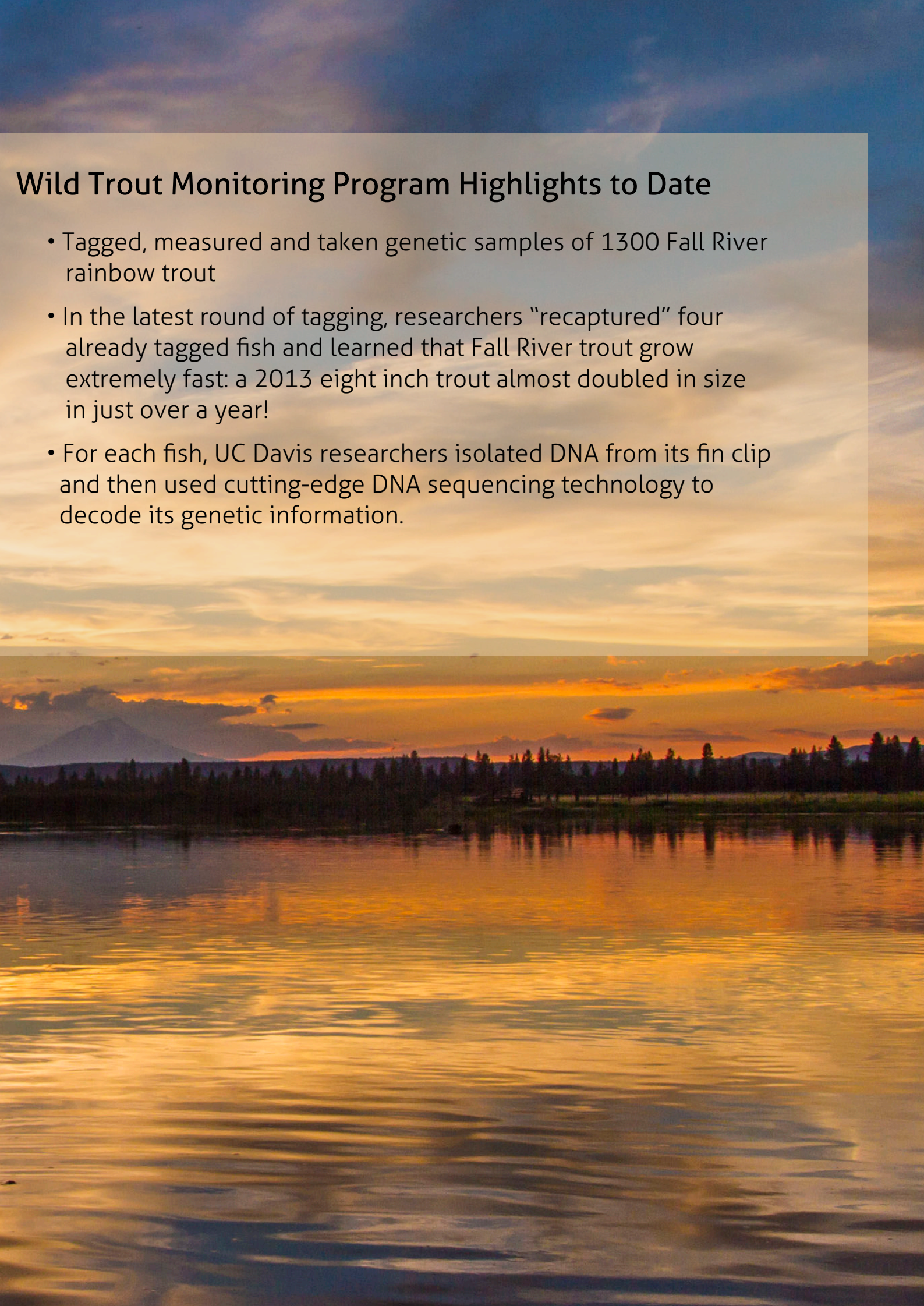
Like CalTrout, FRC believes in multi-stakeholder solutions to the complex problems facing California's rivers during these extreme drought years. Like CalTrout, they engage land-owners, agricultural operators, ranchers, and other stakeholders to devise viable solutions for restoring working landscapes. Also like CalTrout, they ground their projects in sound science. As such, partnering on the Wild Trout Monitoring Program was a natural fit.

History of the Wild Trout Monitoring Program

In 2013, California Trout and its partners the Fall River Conservancy, the

UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife launched the Fall River Wild Trout PIT Tagging Program. To date, the team has tagged and collected genetic analysis on 1300 Fall River rainbow trout with passive integrated responders, or P.I.T. tags, that help researcher's track the movement of wild trout throughout the river.

For each fish, we measure fork length, take photographs, insert a uniquely identifiable PIT Tag, and take a small fin clip for genetic analysis in a UC Davis laboratory. We then release the fish unharmed at the same location of their capture. This research will allow us to assess scientifically the current health of the fishery, establish a baseline, and identify threats to Fall River native trout over time.



Wild Trout Monitoring Program Highlights to Date

- Tagged, measured and taken genetic samples of 1300 Fall River rainbow trout
- In the latest round of tagging, researchers "recaptured" four already tagged fish and learned that Fall River trout grow extremely fast: a 2013 eight inch trout almost doubled in size in just over a year!
- For each fish, UC Davis researchers isolated DNA from its fin clip and then used cutting-edge DNA sequencing technology to decode its genetic information.

Early Genetic Research Findings

The most obvious and striking result from our initial genetic analysis is that the **Fall River contains two very genetically distinct populations of rainbow trout.** These races essentially behave as independent populations with very little genetic exchange. By cross referencing the genetics with movement and collection location data, we determined that one population corresponds to fish that reproduce in Bear Creek and the other is fish that spawn within the spring-fed system.

Another interesting result is that these two populations are not only genetically differentiated, but the genetic patterns demonstrate they are also adaptively differentiated with distinct growth rates. Fish from the Bear Creek population contain gene variants that will make them grow faster than the spring-fed population. This is likely necessary to compensate for the colder water temperatures experienced by Bear Creek fish early in their life.

Wild Trout Monitoring Program Moving Forward

These results are only the tip of the iceberg as far as what will be unveiled as our genetic data collection and analysis are expended. California Trout and the Fall River Conservancy are committed to ensuring that important research like this continues on the Fall River so that we can better understand the ecological issues with real science findings. To ensure this happens, California Trout has secured funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to continue this important work in the next couple of years.


Accuware
Powder-Free Textured Latex Exam Gloves

PARTNER PROFILE

To donate to projects like this **CLICK HERE**

Craig's Corner

by Craig Ballenger, CalTrout Ambassador

The remarkable river with a common name, California's Smith River draws anglers from far away for a chance at it's wild salmon and steelhead. Geology and location result in a unique river, draining from the Siskiyou Mountains and the Coast Range. While elsewhere, Northern California's Coast range represents the Franciscan Formation, primarily sandstone, here it more closely aligns with the geology of the Klamath Mountains.

Steep canyons, combined with heavy rainfall (in some areas, over 200 inches per year) scour these bedrock gorges. The river rises fast, yet recedes just as quickly. Very little sediment is carried by the Smith, resulting in the remarkable jade green and sapphire blues of water so clear, you might be inclined to jump off the drift boat and wade to shore. As one nameless person on our trips discovered, the Big Gulp is a simple step away.

The Smith River has become a poster-child for how, with forward thinking and by dint of hard work, an entire watershed can be protected. Here there are no dams, no wretched clear-cut blocks, no mitigating hatcheries. Instead ancient forest including iconic redwood cloak canyon walls.

The fishery as a result is remarkable. Salmon over 60lbs, and the state record for steelhead, over 27lbs. Species genetically adapted to heavy fast water, featuring massive caudal fins, or as expert angler Dustin Revell calls their tails, 'giant paddles.' These fish will make you feel under gunned even with a stout rod.

And they're not easy to catch..

Coming soon... our Indiegogo campaign to support our Smith River film!

CalTrout is helping to solve California's complex resource issues while balancing the needs of people and wild fish. Proceeds from the sale of our gear go towards this effort.

Baseball hat $22
One size - khaki or navy

CalTrout logo t-shirt $25
Women's & Youth sizes available

California Rep
Women's sizes

CALTROUT GE

All these items and more are available to buy on our website, caltro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$25
$30
CALIFORNIA TROUT
KEEPER OF THE STREAMS
Water bottle
Stainless steel
$10
CALIFORNIA TROUT
Trucker hat
One size
$25
New
ublic t-shirt
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EAR
ut.org

Spot Check

by Mikey Weir

Caples Lake

Nestled amongst some of the Central Sierra's most prominent peaks is the high country lake of Caples. Caples Lake is located off Highway 88 just east of Kirkwood Ski Resort. The lake is named after an old hermit, Doc Caples, who built a cabin along its banks in the late 1800's. Back then, Caples was actually two lakes called Twin Lakes and the Mormon Immigrant Trail went right in-between them. Almost all the early pioneers passed this historic route.

Above the lake to the north, Red Lake Peak was where famous explorer, John C. Freemont, became the first pioneer to ever set eyes on Lake Tahoe. In the 1960s a small dam and spill way were built that raised the water level and created a small reservoir now known as Caples Lake. Caples is one of my favorite high country lakes. There's a nice population of wild rainbows, browns, brook trout and even lake trout.

The lake also receives plants of rainbows throughout the summer by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Caples is owned by the El Dorado Irrigation district, which also occasionally pays to have larger fish stocked into the lake from private hatcheries.

Caples is a four season lake, open to fishing year round. It freezes during the winter allowing for ice fishing for

ose willing to brave the cold. One my favorite times to fish the lake right at ice off. Ice off is when the e begins to melt from around the ges and one can begin to cast lures flies again. Times will vary pending on the severity of the nter but I've seen ice off as late as y and as early as March. I like to rk the patches of water between e shoreline and the edge of the ice st as it begins to melt off. It seems fish best when there's just a casting stance worth of water exposed.

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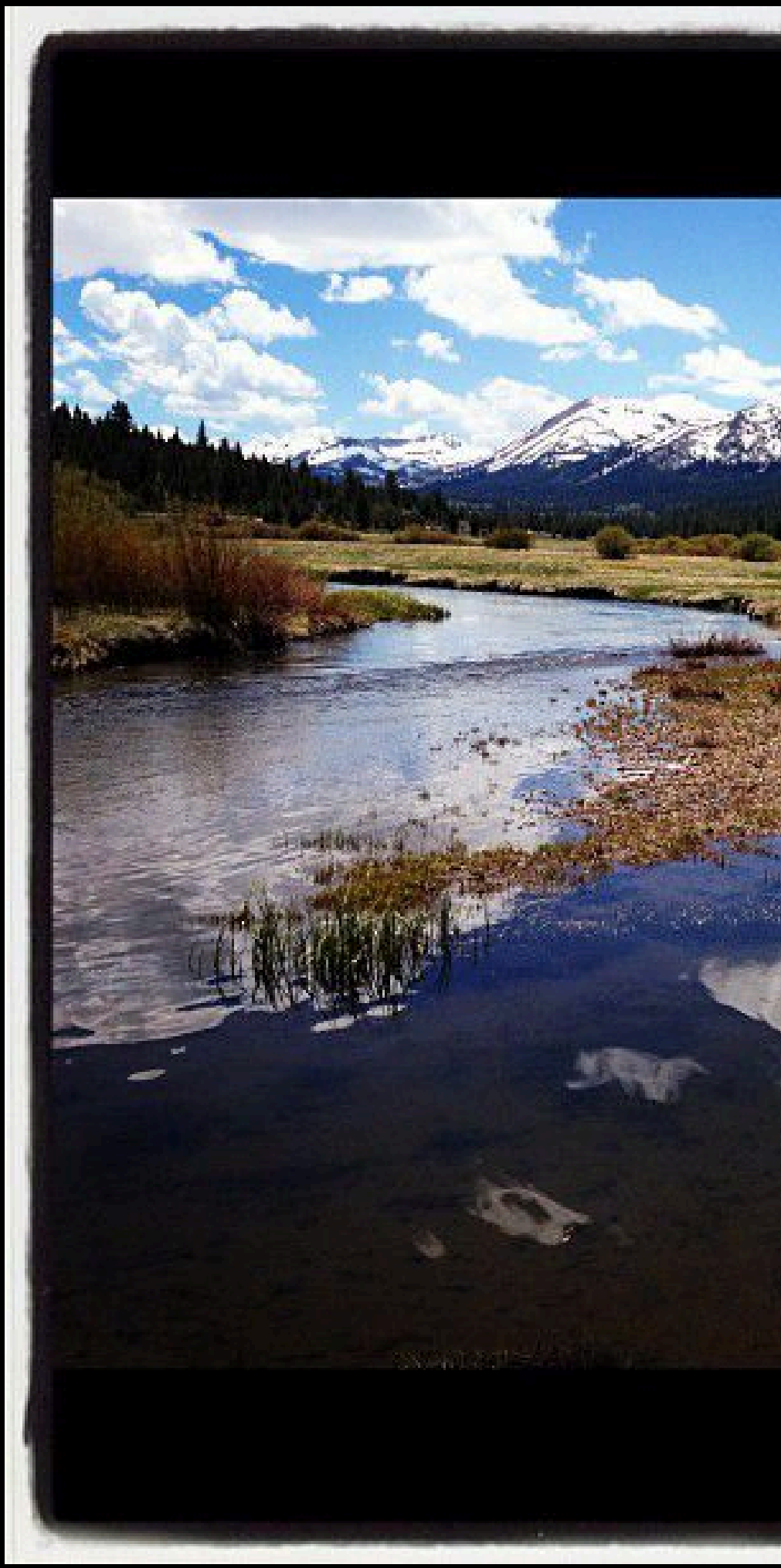
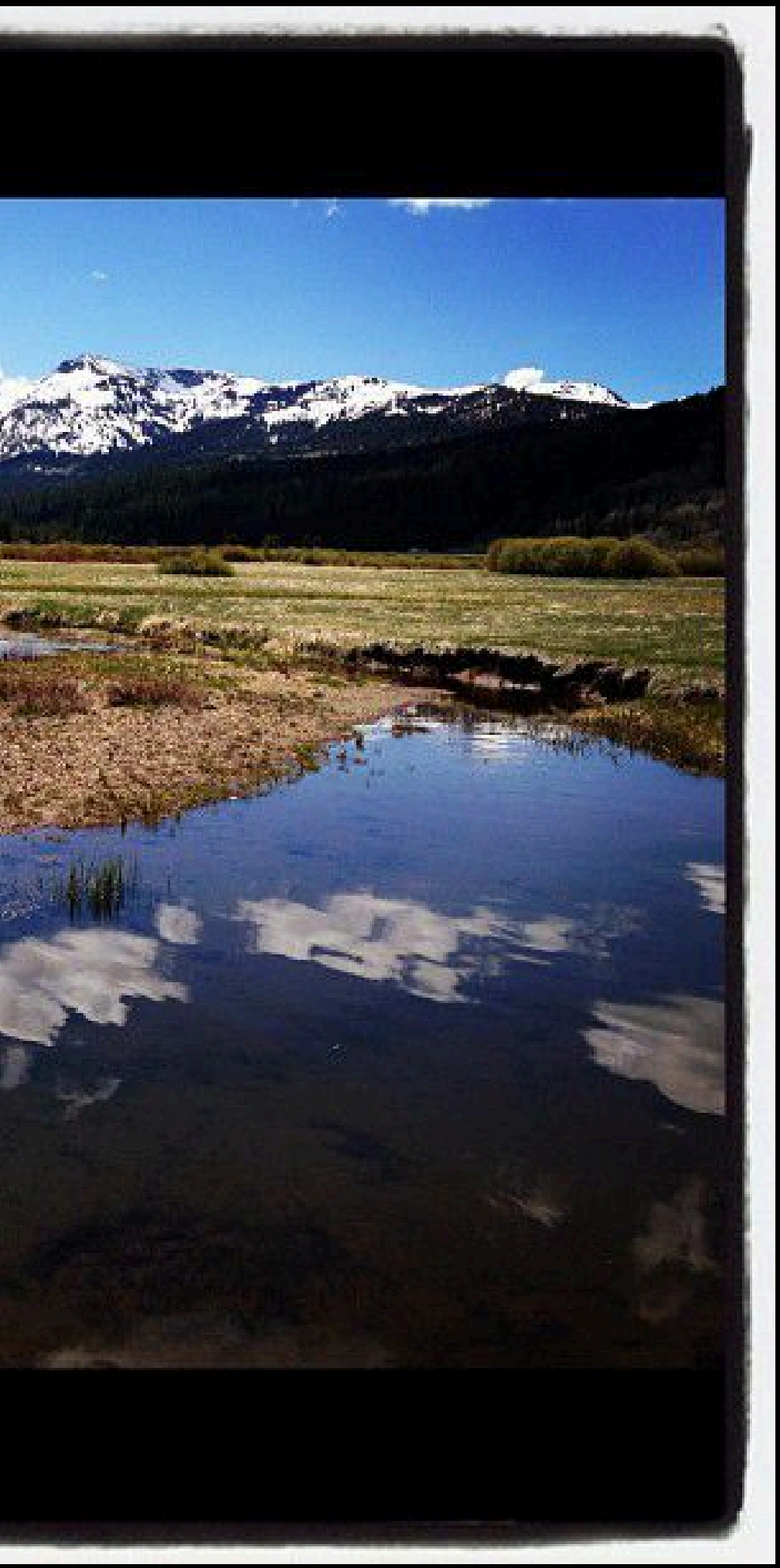
SIMON KURTH, South Lake Tahoe, CA: *'Land of Sky Blue*

REFLECTIONS



e Waters. West Carson River.'



GLENN KUBACKI, Cupertino, CA: *'Brookie on Parachute*

e Adams, Grassy Creek, Lassen Volcanic National Park, CA'

DUSTIN REVEL, Arcata, CA: *'Headwaters of the Salmo*

n River, Trinity Alps Wilderness'

SEBASTIAN VIDO, Hercules, CA: *'Angler Joey Paxman*

n casting to rising fish on the Pit River.'

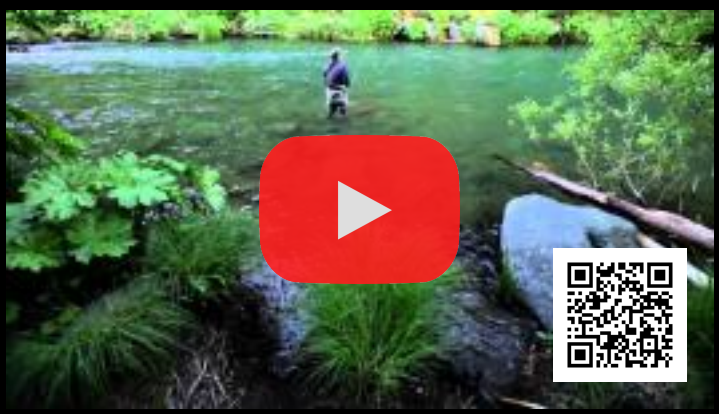
ED HOMICH, Vacaville, CA: *'An angler hikes above Bri*

dgeport, CA during a summer monsoonal storm.'

CALTROUT VIDEO VAULT

CALIFORNIA TROUT = FISH, WATER, PEOPLE

California Trout is working to ensure resilient populations of wild fish in clean, coldwater streams for a better future of California. Take a moment, watch this video and learn about what inspres us.



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

Enough is Enough is a story about the fabled McCloud River in Northern California. This movie follows the stories of three anglers and the river they love. Follow CalTrout Executive Director Curtis Knight, CalTrout Ambassador Craig Ballenger and McCloud River fishing guide Ron Heart on a soulful and heart felt journey into on of America's premier rivers.

MCCLOUD MARK & RECAPTURE

In fall of 2013 CalTrout was involved with the Department of Fish and Wildlife on a Mark and Recapture study on the Nature Conservancy stretch of the McCloud River. The study was originally conducted in 1998 to help gain a baseline population estimate for wild Rainbow Trout. The original study was replicated here to update info for the department to be used in management decisions to help protect and enhance this magnificent population of wild McCloud River rainbow trout.

SURFING THE WEB

SALMON DEADLY SINS
Steven Vander Meer

HOOKED
Anna Miller

RETURN OF THE RIVER - TRAILER
BLUE OceanFilmFest

60 MINUTES CALIFORNIA'S GROUNDWATER CRISIS
lifesukzzdie

A RIVER BETWEEN US TRAILER
Documentary about the Klamath River Basin.
A Film by Jason A. Atkinson and J. Martin

HAVE A GREAT VIDEO YOU WANT US TO SHARE IN THE CURRENT?

Send us the link –
current@caltrout.org

Nigiri Project *continued from page 27*

Over a hundred years ago, before the Central Valley was leveed and drained, food made on inundated floodplains supported huge fish and wildlife populations both in the Central Valley and downstream in the Delta. Today, rivers are cut off from floodplains by steep banks and only 5% of floodplains remain. Our levees are starving our salmon and smelt populations. Fortunately, over the past three years, we've seen that it's possible to mimic natural floodplain productivity to feed fish by inundating farm fields on Yolo Bypass in winter when they are not in use by farmers.

As California's ongoing drought continues, the stress placed on the state's limited water supplies is intensifying. Experiments like the Nigiri Project are likely to play an important role in shaping water policy in the years to come, particularly as state agencies turn toward a multi-benefit approach to water management and flood protection, that must take the health of fish and wildlife populations into account.

"Every year, rice farmers flood their fallowed fields in winter to provide habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds," explained John Brennan of Robbins Rice Company, owner of Knaggs Ranch. "The Nigiri Project is showing that farms can also support threatened salmon if we manage our fields and flows in the right ways."

"The Nigiri Project experiment takes precisely the type of multi-benefit approach that is a key component of the California Water Action Plan," said Louise Conrad of the California Department of Water Resources. "State legislators have directed us to take a new approach to improving flood safety in the Central Valley, one that takes advantage of natural processes and helps to support imperiled species while also supporting ongoing agriculture."

Just like the rest of us, fish need to eat. In order for California's water system to work effectively threatened fish populations must have access to the abundant food created on floodplains. This experiment shows that we have a realistic chance at recovering salmon and smelt populations, even during times of drought, if we can get the most pop per drop out of the water we use by putting it to multiple benefits for both fish and people.

For more on the project, read some of the recent press:
Smithsonian Magazine
The California Aggie
ABC News 10 Sacramento
Capital Public Radio

Spot Check

the severity of the winter but I've early as March. I like to work th shoreline and the edge of the ice ju to fish best when there's just a exposed.

It's hard to image but, thousands migrate over the Sierras in the winte down in the wind or by storms and As the ice melts it releases a ple Because the fish haven't seen muc they are less weary of anglers and m This is a great time to target fish or nymphs. Try the banks along the inlet at woods creek on the east si best chance of getting a lake trout

During the summer, anglers employ There's a boat launch on the easter that is owned and operated by the small fee you can park there and la tube fishing is also popular am congregate near the dam or spill stand-up paddleboarding, I typicall like a wooly bugger or small minno or kick trolling will both produce f

As summer progresses the surface warm and there can be some great h There are also many terrestrial inse ants, beetles, lady bugs and term trout's diet. One of my favorite tec walk the shorelines and stalk cruisi fly. There are plenty of big boulde vantage point to see into the wat cruise close to the surface looking typically, the farther from the roa fishing will be.

If I spot a cruising fish I will try to a lay a cast about 10 to 15 feet in fro very visual and explosive strikes! S fly is one of my all-time favorite going to try this technique you'll ne a hat to cut the glare and a good p around on the granite. The wind wi or the other so choose the leeward s have some pockets of glassy wate

Happy hunting!

continued from page 41

seen ice off as late as July and as e patches of water between the st as it begins to melt off. It seems casting distance worth of water

of insects are air born trying to er. Many of these bugs get knocked d end up frozen in the snow pack. ethora of food for foraging trout. h fishing pressure over the winter nore apt to venture closer to shore. n a fly rod with small streamers or road side of the lake and also the de of the lake. Ice out is also your t on a fly rod!

most standard fishing techniques. n end of the lake just past the dam El Dorado Irrigation District. For a unch a boat, canoe or kayak. Float ongst fly anglers who typically way. If float tubing, canoeing, or y fish a sinking line with a streamer w patterns. Casting and stripping ish here.

temperature of the lake begins to natches of large callibetis mayflies. ects near the lake such as hoppers, ites that become a staple of the chniques mid to late summer is to ing fish with a floating line and dry ers you can get up on for a better er. Many of the feeding fish will for an easy meal. Not always, but d you get the better the surface

anticipate his direction and gently ont of him. This can provide some Sight fishing still waters with a dry aspects of fly-fishing. If you are ed a good pair of polarized glasses, air of boots or shoes for jumping ll always be blowing one direction side of the lake and you will always r.

Did you enjoy *The Current*?

In the next issue we hope to include letters and more contributions from our members and friends, so please do get in touch! current@caltrout.org or visit us on the web at caltrout.org.

Photo: John Kim