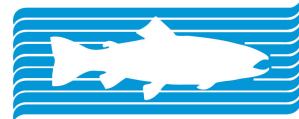


the current

abundant wild fish · healthy waters · better California

Winter 2014

CALIFORNIA TROUT



Premier
issue of
CalTrout's
e-magazine

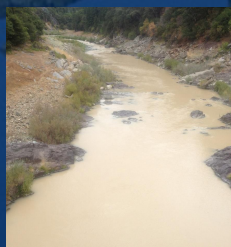
Mono @20

Lessons learned & future impact
from historic Agreements



UC DAVIS Center for
Watershed Sciences

Putting the science into conservation



CRAIG
BALLENGER

Solves the mystery of
the McCloud mud flow



Welcome

We hope you enjoy our first 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

6 HEADWATERS

Twenty years on from a landmark decision, we revisit Mono Lake.

PROJECTS

10 PIT RIVER

Fish monitoring in the name of

science.

12 BRIDGE CREEK

Not your usual fish passage project. If you remove it, they will come.

14 WATER TALKS

Shasta Integrated Regional Water Management

18 PARTNER PROFILE

UC Davis Center

for Watershed Sciences - the perfect CalTrout Partner in science and spirit.

REFLECTIONS

26 PHOTO CONTEST



18



26



12



6

d The Top 10
winners of the
2014 CalTrout
Photo
Competition in
glorious digital
color.

T
REGULA

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



Andrew Braugh began working at CalTrout in 2007 as a project coordinator, carrying out conservation programs in the Mount Shasta Region. In 2014, Andrew became Regional Conservation Manager for Northeastern California. In his flagship Hat Creek Restoration Project, Andrew worked on project design, secured over \$1m in project funding, and brought together a successful partnership including PG&E, the Pit River Tribe, the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences.

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 craigballenger.com

Governors

Linda Rosenberg Ach, Chair
Gary Arabian
Doug Ballinger
Andrew Bassak
Tony Brookfield
Andy Eckert
Bill Epstein
Dick Galland
Nick Graves
Rick Kaufman
Tom Larsen
Laureston McLellan

Friends & Partners

Stephen Rogers

Bob Rosenberg

Alan Vidinsky

Richard West

Jerome Yesavage, MD
Emeritus Governors

Roy Crawford

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 Jeffries

Dr. Rob Lusardi, Leader, CalTrout/UC Davis Wild Fish Partnership

Humboldt State

Dr. Walt Duffy

University Nevada-Reno

Dr. Sudeep Chandra



Regional Conservation Staff

Mt. Shasta

Drew Braugh
dbraugh@caltrout.org

Meadow Fitton
mfitton@caltrout.org

North Coast

Darren Mierau
dmierau@caltrout.org

Mary Burke
mburke@caltrout.org

Eastern & Northern Sierra

Mark Drew, PhD
mdrew@caltrout.org

Central California

Jacob Katz
jkatz@caltrout.org

Southern California

Kurt Zimmerman
kzimmerman@caltrout.org

Sandra Jacobson, Ph.D.
sjacobson@caltrout.org

Candice Meneghin
cmeneghin@caltrout.org



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 &

Contact us

info@caltrout.org

Mono @20

This year marks two decades since the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued its landmark decision on water diversions affecting Mono Lake and its tributaries.



FEATURE CONTRIBUTOR


Frank Eldredge, 26-year member of Cal Trout, joined Cal Trout in 1989 and is embarking on a second career of writing about conservation and fly fishing topics.

This year marks two decades since the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued its landmark

decision on water diversions affecting Mono Lake and its tributaries. Known as Water Right Decision 1631 (D1631), the ruling amended the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's LADWP water rights, setting required flow levels for Mono Basin streams and a level of 6,392 feet for Mono Lake. D1631 was the culmination of a series of landmark court cases that began more than 30 years ago. It was the first decision in the state's history to integrate California's water code, Fish and Game code, and the common

law of public trust.

The Mono @ 20 Symposium, November 17th in , brought together experts from multiple disciplines to share lessons learned from a concerted effort to implement the decision. In addition to progress in implementing the past two decades, speakers explored how these decisions mean for other areas, such as those involving the Central Valley.



Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued its landmark decision on
What have we learned since?

Photo: Sean Davis

posium, held on
Sacramento,
experts from
to distill the
20 years of
implement the
to reviewing
gD1631 over
the panelists
ed what the
er water rights
the Delta and



1979
Public
Trust Suit

1983
Public
Trust Ruling

1984
Rush Creek
Lawsuit

1985
Rush Creek
Injunction

1985
Water
License
Challenge
Lawsuit
(CalTrout I)

1989
Coordinated
Proceedings

1990
Water
License
Challenge
Lawsuit
(CalTrout II)

1994
SWRCB
Decision
D1631

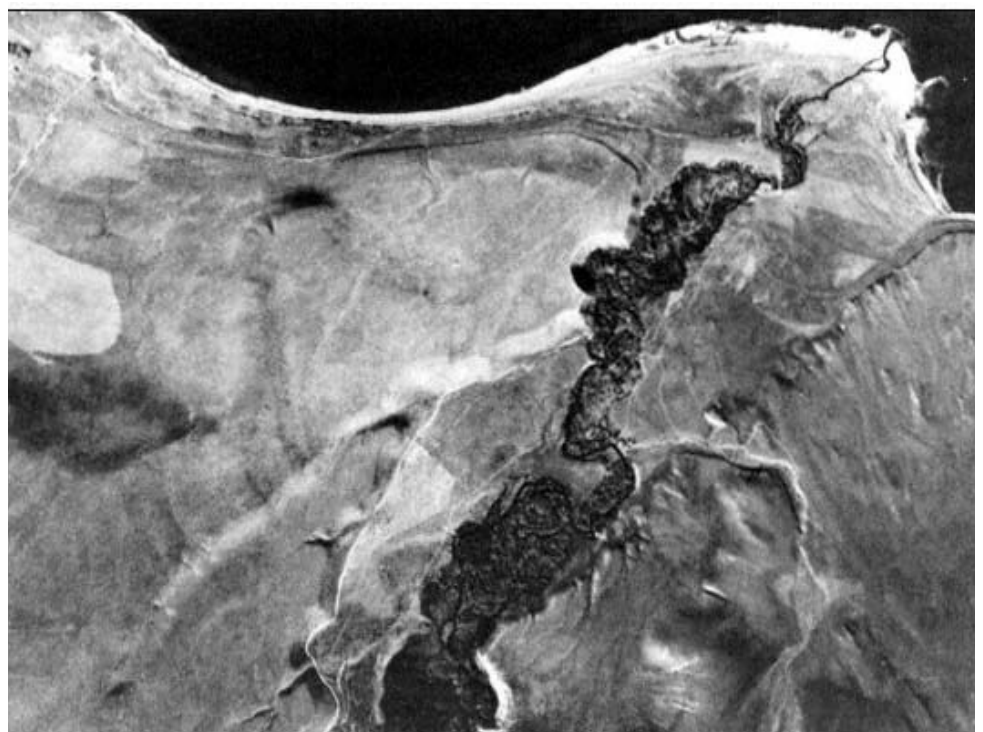
1998
Scientific
Research

M
R
A

from previous



2010	2013	2014
Mono Basin Stream Restoration Agreement	Mono Basin Settlement Agreement	Mono @20 Symposium



Photos courtesy of Universtiy of California Press

Pit River Float

The crew from CalTrout explore the Pit River on Pit 3 and 4; "an easy float punctuated by sheer terror!"

By Andrew Braugh, Shasta Manager

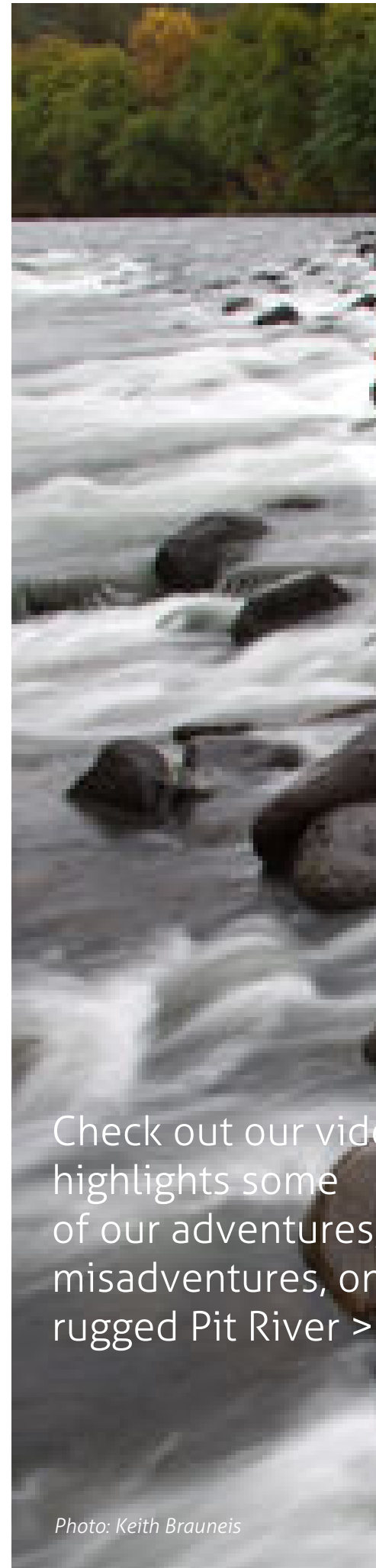


Andrew has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) and has worked with CalTrout since 2007.

This summer, CalTrout staff did a reconnaissance run on the Pit River with inflatable kayaks. We found this to be a productive way to access some otherwise hard-to-get-to water of Pit 3.

It is certainly not for everybody – we encountered some challenging rapids and sections of the river that were channelized and completely overgrown. It is a trip for only those experienced in whitewater boating.

The fishing was great, yielding



Check out our video highlights some of our adventures, misadventures, or rugged Pit River >

Photo: Keith Brauneis

To donate
to projects
like this
CLICK HERE



Building Bridges

CalTrout and partners complete the first of two Northwest
ern Pacific Railroad Fish Passage Projects
at Bridge Creek.

By *Darren Mierau, North Coast Manager*



*Darren has a Masters Degree in Fisheries
Biology from Humboldt State University
and joined CalTrout in 2012.*

The Northwestern Pacific (NWP)
railroad line celebrated its
centennial in October of this year.
Completed in 1914, the NWP
stretches 271 miles from Schellville
(Sonoma) to Eureka, and opened a
century ago to bustling freight and
passenger service. But in stark
contrast to the original fanfare, there
was no celebration this year. The
railroad line lay in ruins and has
been out of service since 1998,
overtaken by floods, fires, and
landslides.

Instead, another kind of celebration
was held. This one for the fish!
Along a portion of NWP line in the
Eel River (from Willits to Fortuna),
CalTrout began an effort in 2010 to
explore the many stream tributaries
to the Eel River interrupted by
construction of railroad crossings.
We analyzed 22 crossings that had
potential fish passage blockages,
places where salmon and steelhead
have been denied access into their
natal streams. Finally, with our
“inventory” completed in 2012, we
narrowed our focus to the top two
priorities – Woodman Creek near

Dos Rios, and Bridge Creek near
Scotts Bluff.

Along the mainstem of the Eel River
about 35 miles from the Pacific
Ocean, Bridge Creek drains its
watershed into the famous Holmes
Hole, a gigantic pool guarded by
towering sandstone walls, and deep
water that annually provides safe
haven for thousands of adult salmon
and steelhead on their way up river
to their natal spawning grounds.

For many decades those fish have
been blocked from migrating into
Bridge Creek by the NWP crossing,
which long ago erected a 45 foot
high earthen dam and culvert system
through which no adult fish could
ever pass. Now this barrier is gone.

And, not only is Bridge Creek able to
flow freely to the Eel River once
again, but the project has revealed a
rather unique geologic feature at the
creek-river confluence, exhumed
after lying buried under railroad fill
for decades. Sandstone cliffs,
mirroring those at the Holmes pool
carved by the Eel River, also rise high
along the lower reaches of Bridge
Creek. Incredibly, these cliffs were
buried by the construction of the
railroad, and no one could remember
what lay hidden under the mound of
dirt.

CalTrout and our partners have
completed the construction phase of
the Bridge Creek Fish Passage
Project. Following several years
spent lining up funding and support
from the North Coast Rail Authority
(NCRA), and another year finalizing
construction plans, the project was
launched into construction early this
summer. Project funding comes from

the CDFW Fisheries Res
Grants Program and the
Coastal Conservancy, w
share of costs and tons
determination from our
partners. In addition to
the Bridge Creek projec
received unanimous sup
the NCRA board, and en
oversight from the NCRA
engineers. From start to
project has been in the
hands of Pacific Watersh
Associates (PWA) and ou
construction contractor,
Construction.

Many technical aspects
project of this scale, suc
deconstructing and sto
railroad tracks and woo
routing the creek and di
water away from the Eel
removing trees and veg
the biggest task for this
simply moving dirt, tons
Excavators and dump tr
for more than eleven we
removing layers of fill fo
In total, we've removed
55,000 yards of dirt and
safely along the railroa
mere 2,750 truck-loads
less) with the gigantic 2
road dump truck we use
dirt-moving complete, c
crews worked to re-crea
Bridge Creek stream cha
banks, and a new conflu
the Eel River. Large woo
boulders will be placed
streambed to armor the
with extensive erosion c
measures to minimize w
erosion. Now we wait fo
arrive.

We would like to acknow
invaluable support from

toration
State
with a small
of
project
our funders,
t has
upport from
ngineering
A and NMFS
finish, the
capable
hed
ur
Ryan Rice

challenge a
ch as
ckpiling
den ties, re-
verting dirty
, and
etation. But
project was
s of it.
ucks toiled
eeks,
oot-by-foot.
more than
d stockpiled it
d line. That's a
(more or
0-yard off-
ed. With the
onstruction
ate a natural
annel and
ence with
d logs and
back on the
bed, along
control
winter
or the fish to

wledge the
a private

To donate
to projects
like this
CLICK HERE

The project in numbers

- 55,000** Cubic yards of dirt moved
- 31** Feet a football field would be buried by the dirt removed
- 12** Weeks of construction from project start to end
- 12** Years it took to align all the parties
- 2002** Year initial effort was made by CDFW and PWA to get all parties and funding aligned.
- 50-100** Guestimated number of salmon and steelhead that historically spawned in BC (there are no historical data)
- 1,040** Length of Bridge Creek, in feet, treated by our project
- zero** Pre-Project number of salmon and steelhead found above the railroad crossing

Water Talks

CalTrout and the City of Mt. Shasta received \$42M in Emergency Drought Funding for the Upper Sacramento, McCloud and Lower Pit.

By Meadow Fitton, Water Talks Program Manager



Meadow has been working with CalTrout in the Mount Shasta region for 10 years since completing her Master's Degree in Environmental Conservation Education. She is passionate about water policy, science and education, and developed the Water Talks program for CalTrout.

California Trout and the City of Mount Shasta developed two integrated projects through the Upper Sac IRWMP and received funding in November 2014 from the IRWM Emergency Drought funding round. The projects funded are a Water Supply Line Replacement project and a Water Meter Installation project, both of which will be implemented over the next year. The CalTrout portions of the projects include a Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis of the City's water supply and Water Conservation Measures, including a water conservation mailer, "Get to Know Your Water Supply" video and three special Water Talks programs focused on water conservation.

About CalTrout's Water Talks Program

The Water Talks program is an ongoing series of educational events designed to provide people a place to learn about water related topics. The community generates topics for

the Water Talks. Local and regional experts volunteer their time to presentations and interact with community members in a professionally facilitated atmosphere that fosters civil dialogue. Spring 2015 topics will include "Shasta River Studies," "Water Management" and "Mount Shasta Mud Flows." To learn more contact the Water Talks program manager

Meadow Fitton at mfitton@caltrout.org.

To learn more about the Upper IRWM region

and its issues, watch these videos:
Overview Video: <http://upperirwm.org/>

Curtis Knight: <http://vimeo.com/76729502>

Meadow Fitton: <http://vimeo.com/74384480>





To donate
to projects
like this
CLICK HERE





Your Support

Being a CalTrout member brings you into a community of Californians who believe that clean, cold water and wild rivers benefit fish *and* people. Our work relies on the support of our members. Please renew your membership in 2015. If you're not yet a member, join today, it's easy!

Our commitment requires your commitment.

At CalTrout, we believe that abundant wild fish mean healthy waters and healthy waters mean a better California. We're committed to a better California where our state will always have resilient populations of wild trout, steelhead, and clean, coldwater streams.

CALIFORNIA TROUT



Please support Caltrout in the most sustainable, cost-effective way; donate online with a recurring gift today at www.caltrout.org.



Join online
by 12/31
and you'll be
entered to win
a Trout Camp
trip!

and that healthy
ia and to ensuring the
and salmon thriving in

Support California Trout in 2015

Donate online
and receive this
trio of limited
edition stickers



At \$100 or any recurring gift
(monthly or annual) receive
this stainless steel
CalTrout water bottle

Putting Science into Action

By Ann Willis and Dr. Robert Lusardi



Ann Willis is a staff researcher at the Center for Watershed Sciences. Her work focuses on water temperature management of streams to support cold water conservation. Dr. Robert Lusardi is the CalTrout/Water and Coldwater Fish Partnership Lead.

At University of California at Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences, we are committed to developing research with practical conservation applications to solving problems. We house some of the preeminent experts on coldwater fishes and ecology, hydrology, and water resources planning in California. In 2007, fueled by a common enthusiasm and passion for California's water and fish, we embarked on an ambitious partnership with the California Trout. CalTrout's efforts to drive innovative solutions that put science into action

for the benefit of fish, farms, commerce and community is the basis for a strategic partnership between two organizations. The key to the partnership is a cross-disciplinary research that informs complex resource balance water demands of people and fish. The partnership between CalTrout and the Center for Watershed Sciences (CWS) has established a valuable framework that connects academic research to broad stakeholder and conservation scientific foundation for co-



Coho enclosure study on Big Springs Creek and the Shasta River, where Dr. Robert Lusardi is investigating environmental variables on coho growth during summer rearing.

e, and the
the strong
between our
keystone of
developing
ch that
e issues to
people and
between
Watershed
ablished a
t utilizes
dly engage
truct the
nservation



Photo: Dr. Robert Lusardi

the relative role of different

"CalTrout's work is based on a foundation of science to inform our restoration, policy and legal work. Our partnership with UC Davis is a great example of how we put science into action."

- *Curtis Knight, CalTrout Executive Director*



Juvenile coho salmon feeding on Big Springs Creek, a tributary to Shasta River. Video by Carson Jeffries

Ultimately, we are helping CalTrout achieve their goal of developing and executing practical approaches to improve habitat conditions for native trout, steelhead, and salmon throughout California. The CWS has collaborated with CalTrout on numerous projects over the last decade and the partnership's scope and breadth continues to broaden. More recently, our partnership has focused on the Knagg's Ranch project in the Central Valley and the Shasta River in northern California. While the projects have different conservation implications, and, likely, outcomes, they overlap in the most basic sense of the partnership: the use of science to inform conservation policy and engagement with the local community.

UC Davis Partnership: continued from previous page



CalTrout relies on the Center for Watershed Sciences to scientifically study juvenile Chinook. Collect data on characteristics of juvenile growing habitats, test hypotheses, understand the impact of habitat inundated for the study for the Chinook.

Collect data on characteristics of juvenile growing habitats, test hypotheses, understand the impact of habitat inundated for the study for the Chinook. This allows stakeholders on the benefits of a multi-use landscape, inform future land use and policy decisions where fish and farmers coexist, and, most importantly, use the data to improve habitat conditions for native fish.

Knagg's Ranch Project

This collaborative effort between farmers and fish biologists uses winter-flooded rice fields in the Central Valley as "surrogate wetlands" in order to promote floodplain rearing historically used by juvenile Chinook salmon. The results show that these young salmon grow at accelerated rates when compared with other habitats and this could have major implications for ocean survival, and, ultimately, adult returns. Strongly rooted in the concept of reconciliation ecology, the project brings together a broad consortium of individuals, including Cal Marsh and Farm Ventures, the California Waterfowl Association, the Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, CalTrout, the Center for Watershed Sciences, and others.

Shasta River Project

CalTrout and the Center for Watershed Sciences have been extensively involved in the Shasta River since 2006. An exceptionally productive ecosystem with a high intrinsic potential for recovery of federally threatened coho, the Shasta River once supported large runs of coho salmon. However, elevated stream temperatures during the summer, among other factors, have strongly limited habitat availability. Substantial improvements to habitat have resulted from research conducted at the Center for

Watershed Science in partnership with CalTrout, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Collaboratively, we are conducting long-term research to better understand solutions to the watershed challenges which have already moved us towards success.

As part of the broader project, we recently conducted a growth experiment in order to better understand the environmental factors affecting growth during rearing of coho in the Shasta River. Researchers are studying temperature, food resources, and the results from the experiment to develop temperature criteria for coho in the Shasta River. In addition, we are monitoring water temperature to identify thermally stressed fish and potential thermal movement. This information will be used by CalTrout and partner landowners beyond management criteria and comprehensive understanding of the quantity and quality of water to sustain coho rearing in this historically stressful river. This research will also help meet conservation objectives, provide flexibility to landowners, as well as provide constructive feedback for successful long-term resources management.

Parallel to this scientific work, CalTrout is working with landowners and the Farther Shasta River to identify and improve conditions

[click here.](#)

To donate
to projects
like this
CLICK HERE



Craig's Corner

by Craig Ballenger, CalTrout Ambassador

California's McCloud River is unique among the state's rivers because of its origin at the base of Mount Shasta, the largest composite dome in the Cascade Range. Rising solitary from its surroundings to 14,179 feet, it encompasses a volume of more than 80 cubic miles. The Guinness Book of World Records reveals the largest recorded snowfall within a 24 hour period occurred here at the old Ski Lodge. Yet few, if any, streams drain from it.

Where does all that snow melt go?

Unlike Sierran streams, the McCloud receives the majority of its waters from two sets of aquafir springs emerging from the flanks of the mountain. This results in a constant flow of water which made the river once the richest spawning ground in the Sacramento River system for anadromous salmonids.

Yet geology here is alive, and one of the glaciers has receded greatly since 1895. In this episode I examine how drought and geology combined last September to foul the McCloud, sending volcanic ash downstream, turning the aqua-blue glacial trout stream to the color of a chocolate milkshake.



Stock up CalTrout

The elves have
 been busy....

Visit the gear shop at caltrout.org/caltrout-gear
 to see lots of new items for 2015. Great as gifts
 any time throughout the year!

\$15

License
 plate
 frame



CalTrout twill
 baseball cap

\$22



\$25

NEW!
 CalTrout
 trucker hat



CALIFORNIA TROUT



on your trout gear!

\$25

CalTrout logo
t-shirt
Youth sizes
available



\$30


CA Republic
& Retro
t-shirts each



\$15

Stainless
steel water
bottle





Spot Check

by Mikey Weir

Meandering right through the heart of California's capital city of Sacramento is the Lower American, one of the state's best urban fisheries.

The Lower American refers to the 23-mile stretch between Nimbus Dam and its junction with the Lower Sacramento River. For being right in the heart of a major metropolis you'd be surprised at how intact the riparian belt is. It is not uncommon to see a diverse abundance of wildlife along the banks of the river including otter, raccoon, deer, trucky, coyote, fox and even the occasional bobcat or mountain lion.

There is lots of easy access to the river from the many trails and bridges and there are several easy floats with good put in and take out points along the river.

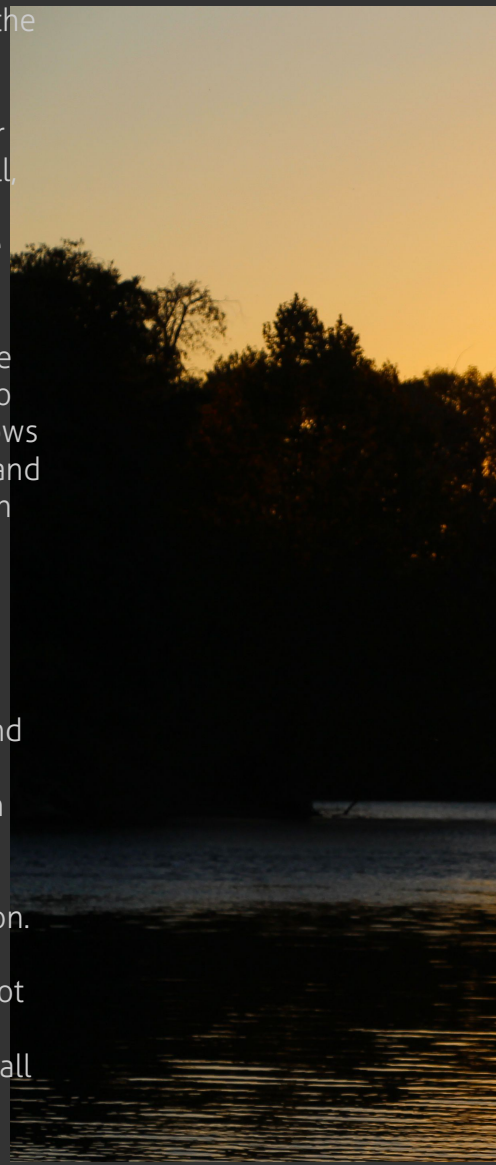
Being connected to the Delta means the Lower American has runs of a multitude of anadromous (ocean going) fish including Chinook salmon, steelhead, shad and striped bass. There is a state-run hatchery at Nimbus that supports a run of fall Chinook and winter steelhead. The river also supports a healthy population of wild trout.

Due to the different runs, different species are more abundant at different times of the year. In general, spring is a good time for half-pounder steelhead and trout. Late

spring and early summer is when the shad come in. Late summer and early fall can be a good time to chase striped bass while the water temperatures are warmer. Late fall the salmon come into the system and winter is a great time to chase adult steelhead.

With such a large watershed above it, the Lower American is subject to diverse flow regimes. The best flows for fly fishing are between 2,000 and 3,000 csf. Below 1,500 csf the fish can get a bit spooky. Above 5,000 csf, wading the river becomes dangerous and fish become more spread out.

The Lower American is a year-round fishery though there is a few-mile stretch of the upper river between Ancel Hoffman Park and Nimbus Dam that closes in the fall to accommodate the spawning salmon. Be sure to check the DFW regulations for closer times and slot limits on keeping fish. We recommend catch and release for all wild fish.



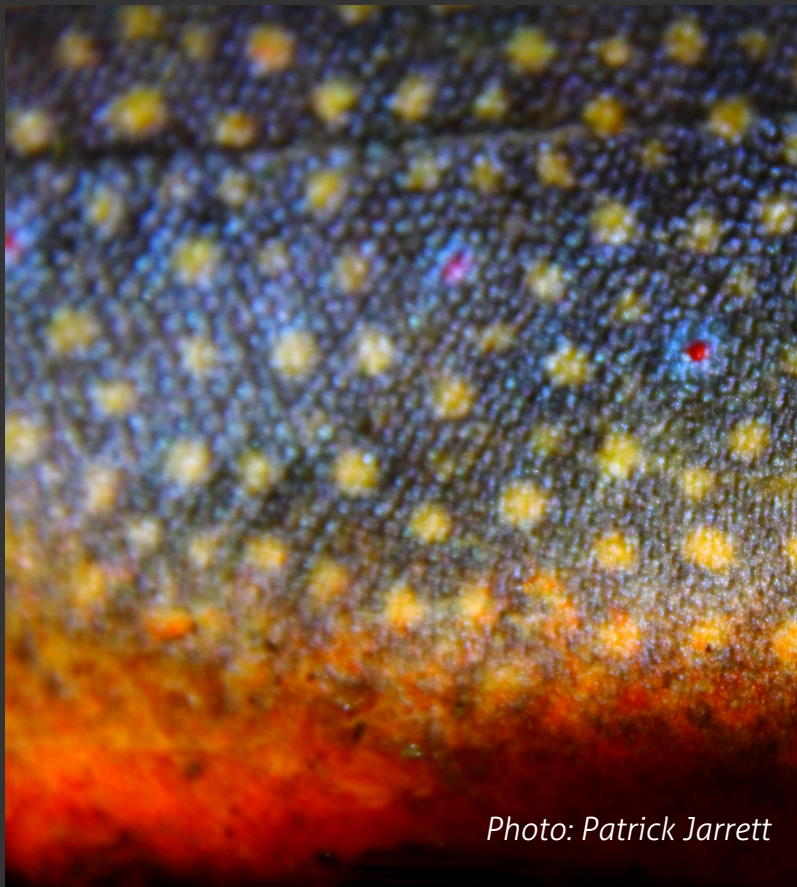


Photo: Patrick Jarrett

Winners of the 2014 CalTrout Photo Competition

GRAND PRIZE WINNER Phil Reedy, Davis, CA: "I won't stop"

PHOTO SELECTIONS



nder what they're taking today?"



REFLECTIONS

Winners of the 2014 CalTrout Photo Competition

SECOND PRIZE WINNER Steve Davis, Lafayette, CA



: 'Roll casting at a secluded lake in Desolation Wilderness.'



REFLECTIONS

Winners of the 2014 CalTrout Photo Competition

THIRD PRIZE WINNER Sebastian Vido, Hercules, CA



: 'Angler Joey Paxman playing a very large rainbow in the Nature.' Conserv



REFLECTIONS

Winners of the 2014 CalTrout Photo Competition

FOURTH PLACE WINNER Kevin Eastman, Washington



on D.C.: *'The Upper Owens meanders through the Eastern Sierras.'*



REFLECTIONS

Winners of the 2014 CalTrout Photo Competition

FIFTH PLACE WINNER Derrick Busch, Costa Mesa, CA



CA: 'Kern River, CA'



REFLECTIONS

Winners of the 2014 CalTrout Photo Competition

SIXTH THROUGH TENTH PLACE WINNERS

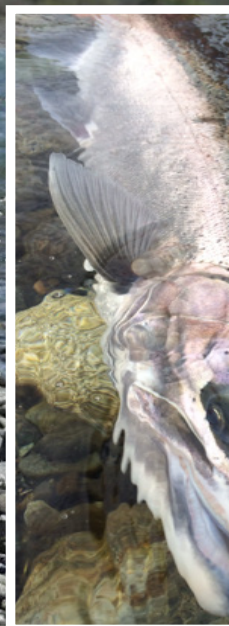




Mad River Alliance & **HUMBOLDT STEELHEAD**

January 23 to February 1

Catch a Steelhead on



1st Prize!

2nd Prize!

\$25 Fishing Contest Entry Includes
Free Memberships to Mad River Alliance
Plus Local Microbrews, Kid Activities
Tickets available online

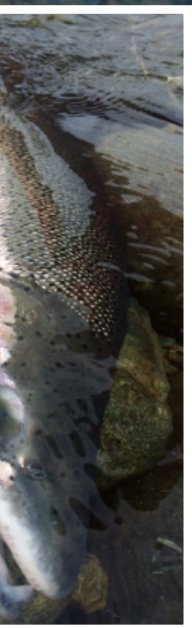
www.madriveralliance.org or www.c...

& California Trout's

STEELHEAD DAYS

February 7, 2015

on and off the water!



3rd Prize!

Kick off Party at Mad River Brewing Co.



Prize!

**s: Prize Eligibility, Awards Dinner,
r Alliance and California Trout.
ivities and lots of Fishing Prizes!
e at HoldMyTicket.com**

caltrout.org/regions/north-coast-region



**ASK FOR THE
STEELHEAD
ROOM RATE
SPECIAL!**



CALTROUT VIDEO VAULT



SWING NORTH

Hidden behind deep gray fog, California's North Coast is one of the most pristine habitats in the state. But the thick redwood forests and slate green rivers were almost devastated by the impact of industry. Once hosting runs of more than a million salmon and steelhead, the annual fish counts on the Eel River now often number less than 1,000. Yet, the salmonids persist. In recent years, signs of a recovery ripple through the waters. In Swing North, fishermen Mikey Wier and Jason Hartwick hook into the growing population of wild winter run steelhead on the Eel, and discover a river that holds hope for one of California's great remaining wild fisheries.



SHASTA RIVER

The Nature Conservancy and CalTrout have partnered to help restore the Shasta River. 2012 was a great year for Chinook Salmon and a good indication all the hard work is paying off.



FALL RIVER FISH TAGGING

In Spring of 2013 CalTrout partnered with the Fall River Conservancy, UC Davis Center For Watershed sciences and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct fish tagging on Fall River. This data will track fish movements throughout the system to help know how the fish utilize this vast spring creek system at different times of year, where they spawn and when. This important information can help manage this wild trout population into the future.



AGAINST ALL ODDS

Southern California Steelhead: Against All Odds is a documentary about one of California's most magnificent and endangered native fish species. Once numbering in the tens of thousands, these resilient fish are now on the brink of extinction. Dams, development, water extraction, pollution and climate change have all taken their toll. However, these fish are not doomed to extinction and a small number of people can make a big difference in helping recover this iconic species.

SURFING THE WEB



S*#^ FLY FISHERMEN SAY

Rocky Mountain Angler



LAST WEEK TONIGHT with John Oliver

Salmon Cannon (HBO)



MOUNTAIN LAKES AND HUNGRY TROUT

Philip Nguyen



GREASY BEAKS 2014

Greasy Beaks



FLY FISHING THE TRINITY RIVER

GoPro

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

Send us the link -
current@caltrout.org

Three main goals were established by D1631: 1) maintain minimum flows in the four tributaries to keep fish in good condition below the dams, 2) provide higher flows periodically to develop and maintain the stream channels, and 3) develop a water diversion formula that would eventually restore Mono Lake to a level of 6,392 feet. The decision also called for regenerating a healthy riparian habitat, eliminating livestock grazing, and restricting vehicle access in the vicinity of the streams.

LADWP initially objected to the recommendations in the Synthesis Report, raising the specter of more lawsuits and delays. But, rather than see the process bogged down in litigation, CalTrout's Eastern Sierra Regional Manager, Dr. Mark Drew, along with partners, engaged LADWP in a facilitated mediation process that, after three years, resulted in a significant settlement. The 2013 settlement establishes a comprehensive set of restoration activities providing for Mother Nature to return Rush and Lee Vining Creeks to the world-class fisheries Field and Stream magazine claims they were in the 1930s.

Let the Work Begin

One of the Synthesis Report's key recommendations for the recovery of Rush Creek calls for periodic releases of high volumes of water to mimic natural snowmelt runoff conditions. This will not only maintain stream channels, but also create deeper pools in the creek which are needed to promote better growth rates in brown trout and winter holding habitat. The report also makes recommendations about how to promote riparian

recovery and provide for cooler water releases from Grant Lake into Rush Creek.

It's worth recalling that there were no trout in Rush Creek and the other feeder streams prior to the 1870s when early European settlers introduced trout in the local streams. The main goal of the restoration efforts is to approximate the ecological conditions that existed in Rush Creek and the other feeder streams prior to the water diversions that began in the 1940s, providing the basis for a thriving trout population.

When asked about the prospects for Rush Creek recovery, Mark Drew expressed optimism. "I think we are on a good recovery trajectory now. The science and research that has taken place over the last twelve years will help to accelerate the recovery of the broader ecosystem. It's going to take some time, and we all need to be patient, but the framework and the tools are in place."

Mark also described CalTrout's role in the next phase of recovery. "The terms of the settlement agreement have been incorporated into the LADWP water license, and the parties are going before the Water Board to finalize the amended license terms. CalTrout's primary role will be as a member of the monitoring and administration team that is tasked with ensuring that the terms of the agreement are

implemented and modified, as needed, based on changes to the ecosystem caused by increased flows and other aspects of the restoration recommendations included in the Synthesis Report."

Statewide

Implications

One of the main questions at the Mono @ 20 Symposium was whether the lessons of the Mono Basin case could be applied to other water recovery projects. Felicia Marcus, the Chair of the SWRCB, told attendees in her remarks that the dialogue about water rights in other parts of the state is often too polarized: fish and wildlife vs. urban needs vs. wildlife. She encouraged an approach that recognizes the historical context of water negotiations. For example, she should be acknowledged for having built a livelihood out of agricultural components in the economy over the past century, more based on an assumption of water supply for irrigation than granted that certain uses might need to be adjusted to a better balance for fish and wildlife environment, but she encouraged parties in a water dispute to try a collaborative approach that everyone's needs are met as part of the overall solution.

Mark Del Piero, who was the officer for the SWRCB during the proceedings that resulted in the settlement, echoed Felicia's sentiment. He noted that a key factor in the Mono Lake success story was the involvement of advocates who convinced LADWP to replace the water supply. Members of the Mono Lake Committee worked with LADWP to establish water recycling, storm capture, and other programs that provided local sources of water for

Later in the symposium, Felicia, who was the leader of the Mono Lake Committee during the settlement, described how she and other members of the Committee started in a grass roots campaign in Los Angeles to ensure the

ions posed at
posium was
of the Mono
plied to other
s in the state.
r of the
n her opening
og on water
f the state is
h vs. farmers,
fe, etc. She
proach that
al context in
r example, it
d that farmers
and a critical
nt of our
st century or
med level of
tion. Felicia
water rights
ted to strike a
ish and the
ncouraged the
e to engage in
n that ensures
re considered
lution.

as the hearing
3 during the
ed in D1631,
timents and
in the Mono
as the active
es in assisting
e lost water
e Mono Lake
hand-in-hand
ablish water
e, and similar
d for reliable
or Los Angeles.

Martha Davis,
of the Mono
the 1980s,
and other
ttee engaged
paign in Los
at the water



Mark has played an instrumental role in the Mono Basin Agreements, facilitating the discussion and ultimate resolution between all parties.

Mono @20 *continued* from page 43

The symposium speakers and panelists addressed why the Mono Basin story is unique and has been so hard to replicate in other major water disputes. Richard Roos-Collins, legal counsel for CalTrout, talked about some of the factors that made the Mono Basin more narrowly focused than other state water disputes. There was only one defendant (LADWP); only the water rights to the headwaters of a watershed were in dispute; and no migratory fish (such as salmon) were involved. Contrast that situation with the San Joaquin River, for example, which has a myriad of water right licenses, multiple water districts, recreational uses on reservoirs, historic runs of salmon and steelhead, and other competing "beneficial uses" that need to be reconciled.

Several legal experts pointed out that it is not the responsibility of the courts to dictate how or when a water system should be restored. The courts act when plaintiffs bring a case to trial, but the judge will always refer the parties to an agency such as the SWRCB to work out the detailed restoration plan. Another challenge is that the SWRCB is inadequately funded to hire scientists and consultants to conduct the studies that form the basis for a detailed restoration plan. As in the Mono Basin case, the board will require one of the parties (LADWP, in this instance) to pay for the scientific analysis and report.

At the conclusion of the symposium, Mark Drew offered his perspective, "The process that has taken place in the Mono Basin is a model that can be replicated in other places. It's true that in the Mono Basin there is only one water right holder (LADWP), and that is fairly unique. But in terms of how we went about it, using law initially

(upwards of 30 years ago) to set a course that resulted in a restoration plan for the ecosystem, that model is replicable."

Mark continued, "We had a choice in 2010 when the Synthesis Report came out: the LADWP could have rejected the recommendations in the report, and then the parties would have gone down a court battle path. At that point, CalTrout partnered with the LADWP and jointly went before the SWRCB and asked to be granted an opportunity to see if we could resolve our differences. I'm very proud of the role CalTrout played in these negotiations. CalTrout was pivotal in bringing the parties together to find that middle ground."

Looking Forward

Happily, here at the 20-year mark, we can celebrate that we are turning that scientific knowledge into the next wave of on-the-ground stream restoration. Last year's landmark Mono Basin Stream Restoration Agreement is a turning point in restoring Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks to good health. Construction of the new outlet in Grant Dam and the implementation of stream flows that mimic natural snowmelt patterns will be a huge restoration advance. In the coming years, fly fishermen can look forward to fishing for large brown trout that have been missing for the past 75 years.

UC Davis Partnership *continued* from page 21

In addition to this valuable project work, California Trout and the Center for Watershed Sciences have recently extended the partnership by establishing two key positions. The Peter B. Moyle and California Trout Endowed Chair in Coldwater Fishes

and the CalTrout-UC Davis Coldwater Fish Partnership were established to ensure resource issues with management implications to be informed by robust findings from these coldwater fish and will continue to develop strategies throughout California.

The Peter B. Moyle and California Trout Endowed Chair in Coldwater Fishes was established in honor of Peter Moyle and the working relationship between CalTrout and UC Davis. Peter Moyle is a professor at UC Davis and the Chair of the Department of Fish and Conservation Biology. He is the author or co-author of many publications and has dedicated his career to the conservation of freshwater fish. Moyle's enthusiasm, expertise, and vision are reflected in his work and unparalleled contributions to the ecology and conservation of California fishes. His teachings, and outreach efforts, have helped California's coldwater ecosystems, especially steelhead and steelhead. These efforts are fundamental to the mission of the endowment, and will ensure Moyle's essential work for California salmonids and steelhead will carry on for decades, greatly influencing CalTrout.

In addition to the endowment, CalTrout also helped establish the CalTrout/UC Davis Coldwater Fish Partnership position, which establishes the long-term science specific relationship between wild and coldwater fish. This joint appointment between CalTrout and the Center for Watershed Sciences further strengthens the relationship between the two organizations and ensures CalTrout has a dedicated researcher at UC Davis.

avis Wild and
hip Lead were
e that water
or policy and
ons continue
t science. The
ollaborations
inform broad-
conservation
alifornia.

nd California
in Coldwater
n honor of Dr.
ne historical
o between
Dr. Moyle, a
and former
nt of Wildlife
Biology, is the
more than 170
dedicated his
ecology and
water fish. Dr.
experience, and
his profound
contributions to
ervation of
his research,
h are tied to
er aquatic
salmon, trout,
elements are
ission of the
nsure that Dr.
k to recover
d other fishes
des to come,
rout's work.

dowed chair,
establish the
Wild and
hip Lead. This
basis for long-
to CalTrout's
sh initiatives.
ent between
For Watershed
ngthens the
the two
nsures that
ted full-time
s working on



CALIFORNIA TROUT

*Stock up on your
CalTrout gear!*

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

Check out our range of t-shirts and lots of
new items. Great as gifts!

caltrout.org/caltrout-gear



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