SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way, MP-170
Sacramento, Calif. 95825-1898

Field Activity Advisory
Fish Telemetry Study
March 19, 2012

This notice is to inform you of an upcoming research study to collect data that will help the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) understand how juvenile Chinook salmon may move through the San Joaquin River and bypass system once spring-run and fall-run salmonids are reintroduced to the river. There will be limited opportunities for essential data collection and this study will assist the SJRRP in determining fish needs and limitations.

Who: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

What: Installation and operation of acoustic telemetry receivers at up to 30 locations in the San Joaquin River and connected bypass systems, depending on expected flow conditions, to track the movement of up to 350 acoustically tagged juvenile fall-run Chinook salmon to be released, along with approximately 1,500 coded wire tagged pilot fish, at several locations in the San Joaquin River. These unlisted anadromous fish species were made available from the DFG Feather River Hatchery and the SJRRP's interim facility. Environmental disclosure documents have been prepared including a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption (NOE) and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion and are available upon request.

FWS and DFG staff working in two teams from a boat and/or a support vehicle will install the temporary sensors in the river and connected bypasses as noted below.

The battery-powered sensors collect information from transmitters implanted in a small group of fish and all fish will be coded wire and PIT tagged. Acoustic tags, coded wire tags, and PIT tags are internal tags and cannot be detected externally on the fish. The adipose fin of all fish will be removed identifying it as a study fish. It is requested that any recovered fish be reported to the contacts listed at the end of this advisory. Each sensor is weighted to keep it submerged and includes a buoy to keep it vertical in the river (see picture at right). The information collected through the study will support spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon reintroduction decisions in the future.

When: From March 20 - 30, 2012, crews will install the receivers, which will operate for approximately two months and should be removed by July 31, 2012, with potentially up to three site visits to log data prior to removal.

Where: Temporary sensors will be installed in seven general areas in the San Joaquin River and connected bypasses to track fish movement around bypasses, canals, and captured mine pit areas.

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Access will occur from the public right-of-way or in areas where private landowners have granted access.

Questions about this activity should be directed to the study's agency points-of-contact using the information provided below.

Kim Webb, Project Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office: (209) 946-6400 x311
E-mail: kim_webb@fws.gov

Gerald Hatler, Environmental Program Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
Office: (559) 243-4014 x259
E-mail: ghatler@dfg.ca.gov

Questions about the SJRRP's field activities on public and private land should be directed to the SJRRP Landowner Coordinator using the information provided below.

Craig Moyle, Landowner Coordinator
Office (operator): 916-924-8844
Office (direct line): 916-418-8248
Mobile: 916-642-6383
Fax: 916-924-9102
E-mail: craig.moyle@mwhglobal.com

For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net.