



## Field Activity Advisory San Joaquin River Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Monitoring Study February 15 – June 30, 2016

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program is conducting a monitoring survey upstream of the Merced River confluence to identify presence of adult spring-run Chinook salmon originally released to the river as juveniles in 2014. The survey will include installation of a net barrier that will guide fish through a chute that will count and identify passing fish. The barrier will be constructed to allow passage of boats; however, river users are asked to take caution. If adult spring-run Chinook salmon are found, the Program will implement an adult trap and transport effort to move migrating fish into a section of Reach 1A to complete their life cycle.

**Who:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation

**What:** The net weir will span the river channel and be reinforced with metal poles at various intervals. The structure will be staked on land with posts and incorporate boat passage features. An opening will be constructed along the weir to allow passage of salmon and other native fishes. Signage and warning lights will be positioned upstream and downstream of the structure to notify boaters of the location of the net weir. Video monitoring equipment will record and count fish passing through the chute. Staff will visit the site periodically to download images and maintain the facility.



Photo 1: Example of net weir with fyke net.

If spring-run Chinook salmon are identified, the Program intends to implement adult trap and transport efforts consistent with previous studies for adult fall-run Chinook salmon. This will consist of installation of net weirs and fyke nets at selected locations (See Photo 1 for fyke net weir example). Staff additionally will dip net fish from areas known to collect stray fish. Trapped and transported fish will be tagged and monitored following their release into Reach 1B.

**Why:** In 2014, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released 54,000 juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon from the Feather River Fish Hatchery into the San Joaquin River above Merced River. Fish from this release would begin to return to the San Joaquin River beginning the spring of 2016. The release of these fish was permitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service under the authority of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The monitoring and management activities are requirements of the 10(a)(1)(A) permit.

**Where/When:** The monitoring facility will be installed near the Merced River confluence at a location known as Hills Ferry. Studies will begin in late February and continue through the end of June. These monitoring activities, however, could be extended depending on the presence of fish.

If you have questions, please contact the SJRRP Landowner Coordinator, Craig Moyle. Craig's contact information is provided below.

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**Contact the SJRRP Hotline, 916-978-4398, or email [RestorationFlows@restoresjr.net](mailto:RestorationFlows@restoresjr.net) if you see any problems or have any concerns.**

**For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at [www.restoresjr.net](http://www.restoresjr.net).**

**Field Advisories for activities are available at [www.restoresjr.net/activities/field/index.html](http://www.restoresjr.net/activities/field/index.html)**