Field Activity Advisory
San Joaquin River Spring-Run Chinook Salmon Monitoring Study
February 15 – June 30, 2017

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program will conduct 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 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2014 and 2015. The survey includes 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.

Figure 1: Net weir and fish monitoring facility at Hills Ferry in 2016.

The 2014 and 2015 release included approximately 54,000 and 60,000 juvenile spring-run Chinook salmon, respectively, from the Feather River Fish Hatchery into the San Joaquin River above Merced River. No Chinook salmon were discovered during spring 2016 monitoring conducted by the agencies. 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.

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

What: The net weir (see Figure 1) will span the river channel and 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, buoys, and warning lights will be positioned upstream and downstream of the structure to notify boaters of the location of the net weir. A Vaki RiverWatcher Fish counter will capture images and count fish passing through the chute using infrared scanner plates. Staff will visit the site periodically to download images and maintain the facility.

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. 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.

Where: 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.

When: February 15 – June 30, 2017. Studies will begin in late February and last through the end of June. These monitoring activities, however, could be extended depending on the presence of fish.

Considerations: Access to the locations 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 provide below.

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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.

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**Contact the SJRRP Hotline, 916-978-4398, or email 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.
Field Advisories for activities are available at
www.restoresjr.net/activities/field/index.html**