

Field Activity Advisory California Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon Trap and Haul April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022

As part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP), biologists will perform a Trap and Haul of adult Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*; CV SRCS; Figure 1) in the lower San Joaquin River (SJR) and its adjacent sloughs. Adult salmon accessing the SJR upstream of the Merced River confluence could be exposed to loss into sloughs and would not have access to appropriate spawning habitat due to impassable barriers. As a result, the SJRRP has implemented an Adult Trap & Haul (ATH) for the SJR upstream of the Merced River confluence that would, in the event of a capture, document and transport the fish to suitable habitat in Reach 1 of the SJRRP.

Who: Bureau of Reclamation

What: CV SRCS Trap & Haul is an important SJRRP effort to ensure its commitment to restore and maintain fish populations within the Restoration Area.

Three sampling methods may be implemented for CV SRCS ATH:

1. **Fyke Nets and Traps** — Fyke nets with wing walls, or steel fyke traps (Figure 2), will be used to sample upstream migrating CV SRCS. These traps are funnel-shaped and are held open by hoops and specifically constructed for capturing salmonids without causing inadvertent injury. Traps will be checked at least once a day. Ample boat passage will be made available and fluorescent flagging, orange buoys, and flashing amber caution lights will alert river-users to sample gear.
2. **Trammel Nets** — Trammel nets consist of three parallel vertical layers of netting; the inner net has a smaller mesh size (small hole spacing to prevent steelhead from becoming gilled), while the outer nets have mesh size large enough for fish to pass. Trammel nets will be deployed as a stationary gear or used as a seine to sample low velocity habitats difficult to access to deploy other sampling gear. Trammel nets will be monitored continuously for presence of fish (noted by net disturbance) and checked, at a minimum, every hour. If used as a seine, the nets will be deployed and retrieved simultaneously to maintain fish health.

In the event that CV SRCS are captured during this effort, fish will be recorded, measured, sexed (if possible), sampled for tissues, and checked for injuries and presence of tags. Fish will be tagged with; Floy, Passive Integrated Transponder, and acoustic tags, each with a unique identification number to document any recaptures and passive monitoring that may occur in the study area. Captured CV SRCS will be transported upstream to Reach 1 of the SJRRP in a 680-gallon fish transport tank. Transported CV SRCS will be acclimated in the transport tank to receiving water temperature at a predetermined release location before release.



Figure 1. Adult California Central Valley Chinook salmon being released into the San Joaquin River Restoration Program Restoration Area.



Figure 2. Fyke trap used to capture adult California Central Spring-run Chinook Salmon.

Where: CV SRCS T&H activities are proposed for the area below Mendota Dam, or to the uppermost contiguous wetted section of the SJR, from the confluence with the Merced River, including adjoining sloughs.

When: April 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022. CV SRCS monitoring activities will occur continuously during noted months within Restoration Area.

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 point-of-contact provide below.

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Questions about Program field activities on public and private land should be directed to the Landowner Coordinator using the information provided below. Questions regarding the SJRRP can be directed to Public Affairs Specialist using the information below.

Josh Newcom, Public Affairs Specialist

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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. Follow us on Twitter at [@sanjoaquinresto](https://twitter.com/sanjoaquinresto)

Field Advisories for activities are available at <https://www.restoresjr.net/get-involved/field-advisories/>