Adult Translocation (Trap and Haul)

The primary purpose of this multi-year study is to capture and successfully relocate Chinook Salmon to Reach 1 of the Restoration Area that are lost upstream of Hill's Ferry Barrier. In addition to the primary goal, a secondary goal was to evaluate the feasibility of using trap and haul to transport adult Chinook Salmon around existing barriers in the San Joaquin River to suitable holding and spawning habitat, develop protocols to successfully trap and haul adult salmon in order to achieve the restoration goal of reintroducing salmon in a timely manner, assess survival (measured as days alive after trapping), egg viability (of female transportation mortalities, and of streamside spawned females), and spawning success of released fish.

Activities for this study began on October 1 and continued through December 15, 2013 with trapped fall-run Chinook Salmon relocate to reach 1 of the restoration area for use in either artificial spawning or for in-river spawning habitat use investigations. A total of 367 fall-run Chinook (244 male; 123 female) were trapped and transported during the 2013 season; 167 fish captured in fyke nets upstream from the Hill's Ferry Barrier and an additional 200 fish captured in irrigation canals. A total of 52 females were implanted with acoustic transmitters and monitored via stationary receivers and mobile tracking surveys. A total of 31 tag codes were detected during mobile tracking/redd/carcass surveys. Additionally, 68 redds were identified in Reach 1 and 30 carcasses found during these surveys. Further, a total of 6 males and 6 females were artificially spawned at the mobile fish lab located in Friant, CA.