

Battle Creek Watershed: January 2012 Update
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Activities

RED BLUFF FISH & WILDLIFE OFFICE

JIM SMITH, PROJECT LEADER

Hatchery Evaluation Program:

Kevin Niemela

The Hatchery Evaluation Program at the Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office has completed collecting biological data, samples, and coded-wire tags (collectively called “bio-sampling”) from more than 42,000 fall adipose fin-clipped Chinook collected at the Coleman NFH in 2011. Bio-sampling of late-fall Chinook and steelhead are on-going.

Battle Creek Fall Chinook Counting Weir

The Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife Service staff have ended the seasonal fish counting at the video weir in lower Battle Creek. The fish counting weir began operation on 17 August and continued to 29 November 2011 for the purpose of estimating the abundance of fall Chinook in Battle Creek. In-season counts can be found on the Service’s web page:

http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/he_reports.aspx. Final run size estimates will be derived by DFG after the data has been checked for accuracy. The final data is reported in Grand Tab (the DFG annual report summarizing Chinook population estimates for the Central Valley <http://www.calfish.org/tabid/104/Default.aspx>).

Cottonwood Creek and Sacramento River Fall Chinook Salmon Surveys

The Hatchery Evaluation Program conducted new surveys on Cottonwood Creek and the Sacramento River to collect coded-wire tags, biological and genetic samples, and associated information from fall Chinook salmon in tributaries of the Sacramento River, as recommended in the draft Central Valley Chinook Salmon Escapement Monitoring Plan. Surveys were conducted from mid-October through mid-December, 2011. We recovered 414 Chinook salmon carcasses on Cottonwood Creek and 119 Chinook salmon carcasses on the Sacramento River. Survey areas on the Sacramento River were downstream of primary spawning areas, and downstream of the long-term surveys that are conducted annually by the California Department of Fish and Game.

Battle Creek Monitoring

Matt Brown

Adult Salmonid Monitoring

The 2011 barrier weir adult salmonid monitoring season took place between March 1 and August 1, 2011. **Revised preliminary data: This year, 159 spring Chinook (19 clipped) and 327 rainbow trout/ steelhead (*O. mykiss*) (19 clipped) were seen at the fish ladder into upper Battle Creek during monitoring season.**

Spring Chinook Snorkel Surveys

Snorkel surveys to count redds and carcasses began in late September and concluded in early November.

Juvenile Salmonid Monitoring

The 2010-2011 juvenile salmonid production monitoring season ended on June 30, 2011. We captured 4,864 spring Chinook salmon in the rotary screw trap.

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COLEMAN NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX

Scott Hamelberg, Project Ldr

Broodstock collection and spawning:

The fish ladder from Battle Creek into CNFH adult holding ponds opened in early October to collect fall Chinook salmon broodstock. Collection of adult steelhead broodstock also began in October. Spawning of steelhead and Late-fall Chinook began in late December.

Fish releases

In the past two months, approximately 1,000,000 steelhead were released.

Winter Chinook: John Rueth

Coded wire tagging of 194,734 winter Chinook juvenile fish began on December 7, 2011 and January 6, 2012. The fish will be released into the Sacramento River near Redding on February 2, 2012.

Outreach:

The Return of the Salmon Festival was October 15. See flier or the hatchery's web page http://www.fws.gov/coleman/pdf/sf_2011_web.pdf Docent training occurred on Sept 16. At the barrier weir, efforts are underway to retrofit the overshot gate and construct a salmon viewing platform (concrete). The **Friends Group** is now established as a tax exempt, 501(c)(3), organization. They have submitted a proposal to the National Environmental Education Foundation for capacity building. Friends Group Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month. Contact CNFH for details 530-365-8622.

The project leader also forwarded a great video of the de-construction of Condit Dam, fyi:

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/environment/freshwater/us-condit-dam-salmon.html>