APPENDIX B

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MATERIALS

INTRODUCTION

As part of the project, a public outreach and education program was developed and conducted to put information in the hands of the landowners and the public on what actions they could undertake to protect and restore steelhead and other sensitive species and their habitat. Educating the public helps foster individual actions to restore and protect watersheds and collective support for watershed restoration activities. Providing landowners with the tools necessary to carry out restoration activities on their property would help to improve habitat quality in the mainstem and tributaries and ultimately within the watershed.

The goal of the public outreach program was to bridge the gap and create opportunities for partnerships between those working to improve habitat conditions for steelhead specifically, and native habitats and species, in general, and private landowners and the public. This was carried out through the development of a webpage, distribution of two newsletters, and the implementation of two workshops. The specific activities and products generated as a result of each of the three outreach components are summarized below.

Webpage

A webpage was developed with the assistance of Casitas Municipal Water District. The web address is www.casitaswater.org with a link to the Ventura River Watershed HCP (habitat conservation plan) homepage. The homepage gives a brief overview of the agencies involved, the goals and objectives of the project, information about sensitive species including steelhead, and links to other resources. The following links can be accessed from the homepage:

- List of the Cooperating Agencies and their contact information (mailing address, phone number and email address if available);
- List of other agencies and organizations involved in the watershed and their contact information (sites for federal agencies, state agencies and Ventura County non-profit groups);
- General HCP process;
- Ventura River Watershed HCP description and process (includes a schedule for public review);

- Tools for landowners (planning, permitting, and funding information and assistance available to landowners on the web);

- Newsletters;

- Workshop curricula (presentation and handouts);

- Steelhead link which includes life history information, current distribution of southern steelhead in the Ventura River watershed and their listing status;

- Information on aquatic and riparian special-status species inhabiting the watershed (steelhead, tidewater goby, California red-legged frog, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and western snowy plover);

- Upcoming events; and

- Contact information (the point of contact is Karen Waln with the City of Ventura).

As new information becomes available throughout the HCP process, it will continue to be posted on the website. The website has been publicized through the newsletters and workshops.

Newsletters

Two newsletters, entitled "Ventura River News," were designed and distributed to people on the mailing list originally established from the Steelhead Restoration and Recovery Plan, and expanded during the scoping period for the HCP and members on the Matilija Dam Coalition list. The newsletters were distributed to over 300 people in the Ventura River watershed. The first newsletter covered such topics as steelhead life history information, limiting factors for steelhead in the Ventura River, and a description of the types of activities currently being conducted in the watershed. The newsletter also included an invitation to attend the workshops scheduled for mid-February and discussed ways the public and landowners could help in restoring habitat quality within the watershed.

The second newsletter focussed on the types of activities that landowners and public could undertake to restore and improve habitat quality within the watershed, as was presented at the workshops. The newsletter included contact information (name, phone number, web/email) and an overview of the technical and financial assistance resources available to landowners. The newsletter specifically addressed *Arundo* management, water quality protection and current monitoring efforts in the watershed, livestock waste management, and volunteer opportunities.

As noted above, these newsletters have been made available on the website and will be kept in the offices of several of the Cooperating Agencies for distribution to interested parties. Copies of the two newsletters are included in this appendix.

Landowner and Public Workshops

Two workshops were conducted in February to inform the landowners and public on stream restoration activities currently being implemented throughout the watershed and what could be done on an individual level to improve habitat quality. The first workshop on February 19th was held at the E.P. Foster Library and there were approximately 15 attendees. The workshop was led by ENTRIX and included presentations by Jessie Altstatt from the Santa Barbara Channelkeepers, Peggy Rose from the Resource Conservation District representing the Arundo Task Force, and Don Davis from the City of Ventura representing the eleven Cooperating Agencies involved with the HCP process. Brochures and leaflets were made available to the attendees which included information on the southern California steelhead Evolutionarily Significant Unit, the National Marine Fisheries Service's recovery planning process for steelhead, the types of activities most likely to harm fish in the watershed, water quality monitoring efforts and volunteer opportunities, manure management, and *Arundo* management. The workshop concluded with the types of stream restoration projects that landowners could undertake on their property that would benefit both them and steelhead as a brief lead-in to the following night's workshop.

A follow up workshop was held on February 20th at the Oakview Community Center to discuss the types of funding and technical assistance available to assist landowners in implementing the programs on their property as discussed at the first workshop. The workshop opened with an overview of the types of restoration activities landowners could undertake on their property. The workshop was led by ENTRIX and included presentations by Lisa Roberts from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Jim Engel from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Although they were unable to attend, Mary Larson with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) provided information on the Fishery Restoration Program and Kate Symonds from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) provided information on the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. There were approximately 20 people, both landowners and members of the Cooperating Agencies, who attended the workshop. Brochures, newsletters and leaflets were made available to the attendees and included information on the funding assistance available to landowners from DFG, USFWS, NRCS and the Coastal Conservancy's Wetlands Recovery Project Small Grants Program. There was also information available on *Arundo* management and the newsletter from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy entitled "Open Spaces."

Copies of the workshop presentations and the information distributed at each of the workshops are included in this appendix.

NEWSLETTERS



Ventura River News

Sponsored by the California Department of Fish & Game in Conjunction with the Cooperating Agencies of the Habitat Conservation Planning Process

February 7, 2003

Features:

- **Habitat quality improvements in the Ventura River can benefit landowners, the public and steelhead**
- **Workshops are being held in February to provide more information**
- **Local agencies/groups are working to improve conditions for fish**

Inside this issue:

Working Together to Restore Steelhead in our Watersheds

Q: *What can landowners do?*

A: Attend upcoming workshops and work with the community to help improve our waterways.

Q: *Why should landowners care about steelhead?*

A: Steelhead are a good indicator species of the health of the Ventura watershed.

Q: *Where can I find steelhead in my area?*

A: In the ocean, Ventura River and local creeks and streams.

Q: *Why are the steelhead in trouble?*

A: Because of poor habitat quality and loss of habitat in our rivers and creeks.

Photo by J. Southwick

Q: *What's the problem with the Ventura River?*

A: Poor water quality, migration barriers to access upstream habitat, and invasive weeds (like the *arundo*) encroaching our waterways.

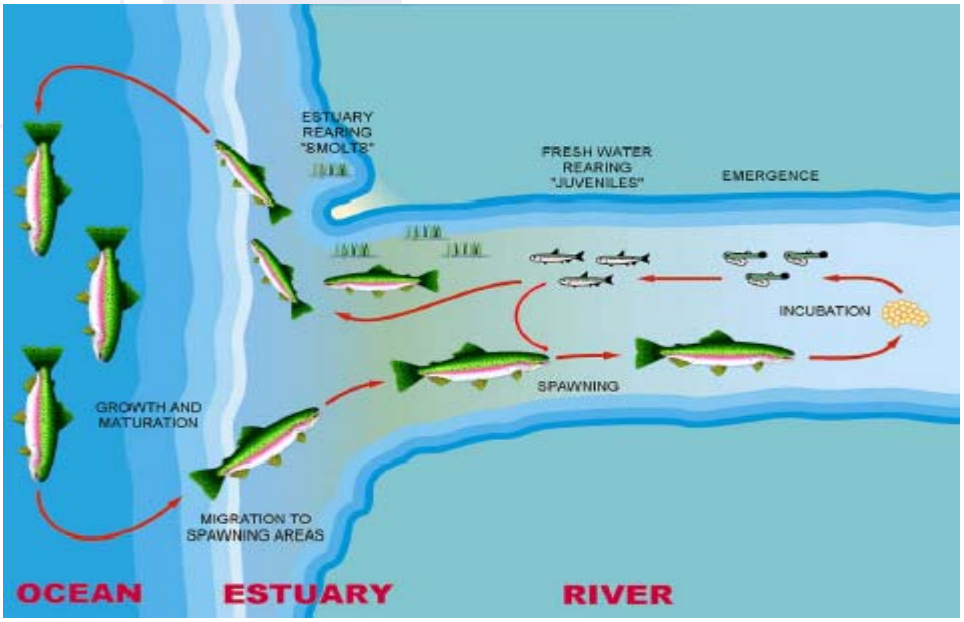
Q: *How can I help to restore the steelhead population?*

A: Halt the dumping of wastes (e.g. garbage, litter, animal and green waste) into the River and creeks, careful use of pesticides near our waterways, improve habitat on your property, and support local restoration efforts.

Steelhead in the Ventura River

The Ventura River reportedly supported a substantial run of steelhead (now an endangered fish) until the late 1940's when a prolonged drought and the construction of Matilija Dam apparently contributed to the decline of the species. Currently, steelhead can occur in the Ventura River below Robles Diversion Dam and in portions of San Antonio Creek and its tributaries. Public and private agencies are working to restore habitat in the Ventura River.

Steelhead Trout Life Cycle



Graphic Courtesy of Sonoma County Water Agency

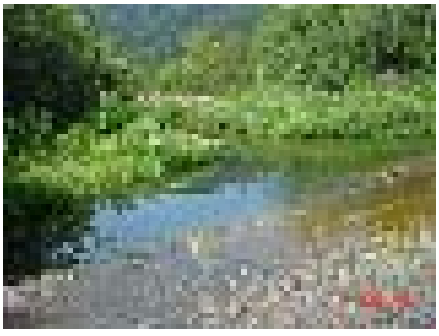
"Steelhead spend part of their life in the ocean and part in freshwater."

-Shapovalov and Taft (1954)

Steelhead trout are the anadromous form of rainbow trout. Anadromous means that the fish migrate as juveniles from freshwater to the ocean, then return to spawn (reproduce) in freshwater. Steelhead in coastal rivers/streams make their way out to the ocean where most of their growth occurs. As adults, they return to streams to spawn. Unlike their cousins, the salmon, they do not necessarily die after spawning and may return to the ocean.

Most steelhead spawn from January through April in small streams with cool water. The female selects a site with a gravel substrate, digs a nest and deposits her eggs while the male fertilizes them. Juveniles can spend up to 4 years in freshwater before moving out to the ocean to complete their maturation.

Limiting Factors for Steelhead in the Ventura River



Old Creek Road Low Flow Crossing

- Water withdrawal
- Reductions in streamflow
- Passage barriers (manmade and natural)
- Problems with stream sediments
- Lack of riparian vegetation
- Water quality
- Low numbers of adult spawners

Matilija Dam

How Organizations and Agencies are Helping You

Nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government agencies alike are working together to improve water quality conditions and restore habitat in the Ventura River.

Some efforts currently underway by these groups in the area to ensure a healthy ecosystem and restore the Ventura River watershed include:

- A Habitat Conservation Plan (known as an HCP) is being developed; see below
- Water quality testing by the Santa Barbara Channel Keepers
- Matilija Dam Coalition and other local partners are working together to decommission Matilija Dam
- Ventura County's Stormwater Monitoring Program
- City of Ventura's waste reduction and recycling program
- Ojai Valley Land Conservancy provides educational programs and assists with restoration efforts throughout the Ojai Valley
- Ventura County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation is working with local and state agencies to solve beach erosion problems

Photo by Tom Taylor

A Plan for Steelhead on the Ventura River

Steelhead living in the Ventura River watershed are an endangered species. So any project or action that could affect steelhead and its habitat or other endangered species along the River will require consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to obtain a permit, or to modify the proposed action to avoid any harm to the species.

A group of local and public agencies with responsibilities for surface water, groundwater, and flood control have joined together to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for their activities in and adjacent to the Ventura River. The objectives of the Plan are to:

- Implement a wide range of opportunities for the restoration and recovery of steelhead
- Avoid impacts to steelhead/other species or to mitigate for any unavoidable impacts during routine operations and maintenance

"On August 11, 1997, steelhead were listed as an endangered species by the National Marine Fisheries Service (also known as NMFS) under the Endangered Species Act."

-NMFS (1997)

Workshops for Landowners and Public Residents

Workshop I: Restoration activities currently being conducted in the watershed to benefit both steelhead and local residents.

Workshop II: How to ease the ESA burden on landowners with special focus on funding opportunities available for implementation of restoration projects.

When and Where: Workshop I, February 19th at 7:00 pm, at the County of Ventura Library and Workshop II, February 20th at 7:30 pm, at the Oak View Community Center.

Contact Info: For maps and directions to the workshops, please visit our website at **www.casitaswater.org**

Mark your calendars!

How You Can Help!

- *Participate in the landowner workshops*
- *Work to improve water quality in our waterways*
- *Attend public meetings to get involved in the HCP process*
- *Visit our website to stay current on the Habitat Conservation Planning progress and upcoming events*
- *Provide input and feedback*
- *Review public documents as they become available*
- *Contact your local water agency for information on clean water programs and disposing of wastes and/or pollutants in your area*

Ventura River at Foster Park

For additional information about the workshops, to provide input on the HCP, or to put your name on the mailing list for future meetings, contact:

Karen Waln

City of Ventura

Phone: (805) 677-4128

Fax: (805) 677-4101

Email: kwaln@ci.ventura.ca.us

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CASITASWATER.ORG AND CLICK ON THE ICON FOR VENTURA HCP

WE WILL HAVE THE WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING BY MID-FEBRUARY!

Ventura River (downstream of Santa Ana Road Bridge)

March 7, 2003

FUNDED BY
ELEVEN COOPERATING AGENCIES OF THE VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN & DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME PROP 13 FUNDS

Ventura River News

Cooperating Agencies: Casitas Municipal Water District; City of San Buenaventura; Meiners Oaks County Water District; Ojai Basin Ground Water Management Agency; Ojai Valley Sanitary District; Southern California Water Company; Ventura County Parks Dept., Ventura County Env., Energy, and Resources Dept.; Ventura County Transportation Dept.; Ventura County Watershed Protection District; Ventura River County Water District

Workshop Update

The recent February workshops focused on restoration activities that both landowners and the public could undertake to protect and restore the health of our watershed. Please read on to learn more about the programs and activities that are available. For more information and copies of handouts that were distributed at the workshop, please visit our website at www.casitaswater.org and click on the link workshop curricula or contact Karen Waln at (805) 677-4128!

Restoration Activities for Landowners

By definition, a conservation practice is any activity that improves, protects or restores a natural resource. One way landowners could get involved is by implementing conservation practices or restoration activities that protect their property. Some of the practices and activities discussed at the workshops were:

Low water crossing maintenance

Benefit: Reduce future structure failure and erosion; and allows fish passage

Riparian vegetation management & maintenance

Benefit: Maintain flood flow capacity and increase available habitat for fish and other aquatic resources

San Antonio Creek

Waste handling & livestock management

Benefit: Improve and protect water quality

Bank stabilization and erosion control

Benefit: Reduce erosion, preserve property and improve and/or remove migration barriers for aquatic species

North Fork Matilija Creek

Projects that target on-the-ground efforts help to preserve the health of our watershed!

Inside this issue:

Highlights:

- *Find out about the types of funding and technical assistance available to landowners*
- *Learn more about Arundo and how it is threatening our streams*
- *Be informed and proactive about water quality impacts and livestock management*
- *Learn more about who is conducting water quality monitoring in the Ventura River Watershed*

Funding Assistance Available to Landowners

Help is available! There are resources out there to help landowners restore the quality of habitat on their property. The following agencies and organizations provide financial assistance to private landowners to voluntarily restore or enhance native habitats on their land. These same organizations also provide technical assistance, read below for more details!

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service-Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Funding for landowners that target on-the-ground efforts to restore or enhance native plant and animal communities.

For more information, contact:

Kate Symonds, Program Coordinator
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
(805) 644-1766 or
kate_symonds@r1.fws.gov

California Department of Fish & Game –Fishery Restoration Grants Program

Funds projects that restore, protect, and improve salmonid habitat throughout its coastal range in California.

For more information, contact:

Mary Larson
(562) 342-7186 or mlarson@dfg.ca.gov
Grant information is also available at
www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/fishgrant.html

California red-legged frog

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) & Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Funding for landowners to develop and improve wildlife habitat or install conservation practices on their property.

For more information, contact:

Lisa Roberts
(805) 386-4489 or
lisa.roberts@ca.usda.gov

Coastal Conservancy– Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) Small Grants Program

Funding for community-based restoration projects in coastal wetlands and watersheds in the region.

For more information, contact:

Shawn Kelly, WRP Grants Administrator
(805) 984-9531 or oriley@adelphia net

Technical Assistance Available to Landowners

Besides financial assistance, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) help land users and communities approach conservation planning and implementation with an understanding of how natural resources relate to each other, and how land use activities affect natural resources.

The NRCS and RCDs are non-regulatory entities that do not provide permits, just help. The NRCS-RCD connection can provide the following assistance:

- Clarify local objectives
- Inventory and assess resources
- Analyze resource problems
- Evaluate alternatives and recommend specific actions
- Develop planning procedures
- Plan projects including the scope, cost, schedule, staff, procurement, and contracting

Contact your local NRCS office at (805) 386-4489 and RCD office at (805) 386-4685 today!

A small steelhead smolt

Public Involvement

What can the public do to help preserve the health and beauty of our watershed?

Like landowners, there are activities that the public could undertake to protect and restore aquatic habitat within the Ventura River watershed. Some of the activities discussed at the workshop were:

- Work to improve water quality by avoid dumping trash to our storm drains, reducing the amount of pesticides and fertilizers applied to plants and lawns, and picking up after our pets and disposing of their wastes in a responsible manner
- Keep informed of actions affecting the Ventura River Watershed
- Provide input and feedback on projects and programs
- Volunteer your time

For more information, contact the City of Ventura at (805) 652-4525 or the County of Ventura at (805) 650-4064

Algae growth and a "Stream Team" volunteer

Arundo Management

What is Arundo?

Arundo (*Arundo donax*), also called giant reed or giant cane, is an extremely fast-growing plant resembling bamboo. It can grow four inches a day, and up to 30 feet tall. Arundo grows in moist places, usually along streams in ditches. Arundo is not native to the Americas, and provides little food or habitat value for insects, birds, or other wildlife.

Why is Arundo such a threat to California's streams?

- Fast-growing invader
- Highly flammable
- Displaces native plants
- Destroys fish and wildlife habitat
- Uses three times more water than native plants
- Creates flooding problems

What you can do to help?

Landowners and small groups can make a huge difference in ridding our waterways of this invasive plant. The easiest and most economical way to control this plant is to treat it early, before it gets well-established. For more information on removal methods, see the Team Arundo del Norte website at www.ceres.ca.gov/tadn.

What is being done about Arundo in the Ventura River Watershed?

The Ventura County Arundo Task Force, in association with the Ventura County Resource Conservation District, is a newly established organization dedicated to controlling Arundo in our streams. For more information on Arundo and on local eradication efforts, please contact Peggy Rose at (805) 386-4685

Arundo, giant reed

Water Quality Protection

What is impairing our water quality?

There are several types of pollutants that regularly result from common land use practices. Nutrients and eroded soil are the most common pollutants causing degradation of our water resources.

What are nutrients?

Nutrients are compounds that stimulate plant growth. The two most common nutrients reaching our waters are nitrogen and phosphorous.

What are the impacts of nutrient overloading?

- May kill the plants and animals that inhabit our waterways;
- Decrease oxygen levels in the water;
- Affect the quality of surface water used for drinking; and/or
- Lower the property value of land near polluted waters.

You can make a Difference!

Read below about managing livestock waste.

Ventura River

Livestock Waste Management

Although horse and cattle wastes (manure, urine and soiled bedding) are organic, biodegradable materials, many of their biological and chemical properties can be detrimental to our aquatic life if those wastes get into our local waterways.

How to manage horse and cattle waste?

- Clean up manure and soiled bedding on a regular basis to limit seepage of nutrients into ground water or runoff of manure into waterways.
- Water areas where horses frequently deposit manure to help decompose the residual waste.
- Store horse waste away from waterways on an impervious surface (concrete pad or plastic tarp) to prevent leaching or runoff of pollutants.
- Composting is a cost effective and excellent way to handle large quantities of manure and create a useful product.
- Use fencing to help manage horse and cattle access to our waterways.

Who can you contact for more information?

Call your local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) at 805-386-4489 Ext 3 for assistance on managing manure and for your free Manure Management Practices Guide today!

For More Information

Visit us on the web at www.casitaswater.org and click on the link for Ventura River Watershed HCP
or
Contact Karen Waln at (805) 677-4128 or kwaln@ci.ventura.ca.us

«First Name» «Last Name»
«Business»
«Address»
«City» «Zip»

If you are interested in receiving future newsletters from the eleven cooperating agencies of the Ventura River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan, please contact Karen Waln via email or by phone.

San Antonio Creek

Ventura River at Foster Park

Ventura River Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Programs

Who is conducting water quality monitoring in our watershed?

Several of the eleven cooperating agencies such as the City of Ventura, the County of Ventura, Casitas Municipal Water District and Ojai Valley Sanitary District currently conduct water quality monitoring in the Ventura River watershed. Some of the individual programs are the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Monitoring Plan and the City's Sanitary Survey of the Ventura River Watershed.

For more information about these programs, contact the City of Ventura's Water Superintendent at (805) 652-4500 or the Ventura County Watershed Protection District at (805) 650-4064.

Local volunteers are also getting involved in water quality monitoring efforts. Read on to learn more!

What is "Stream Team"?

Stream Team was established in the spring of 2000 as a joint project between the Santa Barbara Channelkeepers and the Ventura Chapter of Surfrider to develop and implement regular and precise testing of standard water quality parameters throughout the Ventura River Watershed. The program provides a monthly opportunity for volunteer involvement in a scientific field study that generates useful water quality data.

How you can get involved?

Volunteer your time or expertise to help preserve the health of your watershed. Contact Jessie Altstatt at (805) 563-3399 for more information on how to help with the Stream Team Water Quality Program!

"Stream Team" volunteers at their Main Street Bridge sampling site

MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Building a Partnership for the Recovery of Steelhead

Presented by

The Eleven Cooperating Agencies of the Ventura River Watershed Habitat Conservation Planning Process in association with the Department of Fish & Game

February 19th, 2003
E.P. Foster Ventura Public Library
Topping Room from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

The following are topics to be discussed at the first of two 2003 Landowner and Public workshops.

Agenda

(1) *Welcome*

(2) *Steelhead are a good indicator species of the health of the river*
   a) Status of the southern steelhead population and current distribution within the watershed based on recent habitat studies and observations
   b) Discuss potential limiting factors for steelhead within the watershed
   c) Review the recovery planning process for steelhead as outlined by National Marine Fisheries Service

(3) *How the public can get involved*
   a) Arundo Task Force (Ventura County) [Peggy Rose]
   b) Water Quality Testing (Santa Barbara Channel Keepers) [Jessie Altstatt]
   c) Ventura River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan
   d) Ojai Valley Land Conservancy future restoration projects

(4) *What landowners can do to help*
   a) Types of stream restoration activities
   b) Attend tomorrow's workshop

(5) *Q&A Session and Closing Remarks*

Attention: There will be a follow up workshop to this one tomorrow at the Oak View Community Center (large room) from 7:30 – 9:00 to discuss the types of funding opportunities available to assist local residents in implementing these programs on their property.

National Marine Fisheries Service Information

Please visit the Southwest Region Web Site http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/salmon.htm for additional information on the recovery planning process for salmon and steelhead.

Tips For Getting Your Project Approved

Any governmental entity, business or individual can use the following risk assessment evaluation steps to determine if their activity is likely to cause a take:

1. Identify the program or activity (for state and local governments, this may include activities it funds, authorizes, or carries out);
2. Evaluate whether the program or activity is likely to take or harm listed fish;
3. If the program or activity is not likely to take or harm listed fish, then there is no need to modify the activity, or to contact NMFS;
4. If, however, after reviewing the program or activity, it seems likely it will take or harm listed fish, or there is uncertainty about whether take or harm may occur, the acting agency, entity, or individual should contact NMFS to seek more information on evaluating the activity's impacts and determining ways to avoid harming the fish and violating the ESA.

"Take" is defined as "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct" (ESA section 3[19]). It is also illegal under ESA section 9 to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any species that has been taken illegally (ESA section 9[a][1]). Violating the take prohibitions may result in civil or criminal penalties.

"Harass" is defined as an intentional or negligent act that creates the likelihood of injuring wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 CFR 17.3).

"Harm" is defined as an act that actually kills or injures a protected species (50 CFR 222.102 (64FR 60727)). Harm can arise from significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures protected species by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding, or sheltering.

The Types of Activities Most Likely to Harm Listed Fish

A. Constructing or maintaining structures like culverts, berms, or dams that eliminate or impede a listed species' ability to migrate or gain access to habitat.

B. Discharging pollutants, such as oil, toxic chemicals, radioactivity, carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens, or organic nutrient-laden water (including sewage water) into a listed species' habitat.

C. Removing, poisoning, or contaminating plants, fish, wildlife, or other biota that the listed species requires for feeding, sheltering, or other essential behavioral patterns.

D. Removing or altering rocks, soil, gravel, vegetation or other physical structures that are essential to the integrity and function of a listed species' habitat.

E. Removing water or otherwise altering streamflow in a manner that significantly impairs spawning, migration, feeding, or other essential behavioral patterns.

F. Releasing non-indigenous or artificially propagated species into a listed species' habitat or into areas where they may gain access to that habitat.

G. Constructing or operating dams or water diversion structures with inadequate fish screens or passage facilities.

H. Constructing, maintaining, or using inadequate bridges, roads, or trails on stream banks or unstable hill slopes adjacent to or above a listed species' habitat.

I. Conducting timber harvest, grazing, mining, earth-moving, or other operations that substantially increase the amount of sediment going into streams.

J. Conducting land-use activities that may disturb soil and increase sediment delivery to streams--such as logging, grazing, farming, and road construction--in riparian areas and areas susceptible to mass wasting and surface erosion.

K. Illegal fishing. Harvest that violates fishing regulations will be a top enforcement concern.

L. Various streambed disturbances may trample eggs or trap adult fish preparing to spawn. The disturbance could be mechanical disruption caused by constructing push-up dams, removing gravel, mining, or other work in a stream channel. It may also take the form of egg trampling or smothering by livestock in the streambed or by vehicles or equipment being driven across or down the streambed (as well as any similar physical disruptions).

The Types of Activities Most Likely to Harm Listed Fish

M. Illegal interstate and foreign commerce dealing in, imports, or exports listed salmon or steelhead.

N. Altering lands or waters in a manner that promotes unusual concentrations of predators.

O. Shoreline and riparian disturbances (whether in the river, estuary, marine, or floodplain environment) may retard or prevent the development of certain habitat characteristics upon which the fish depend (e.g., removing riparian trees reduces vital shade and cover, floodplain gravel mining, development, and armoring shorelines reduces the input of critical spawning substrates, and bulkhead construction can eliminate shallow water rearing areas).

P. Filling or isolating side channels, ponds, and intermittent waters (e.g., installing tide gates and impassable culverts) can destroy habitats that the fish depend upon for refuge during high flows.

Building a Partnership for the Recovery of Steelhead

Presented by

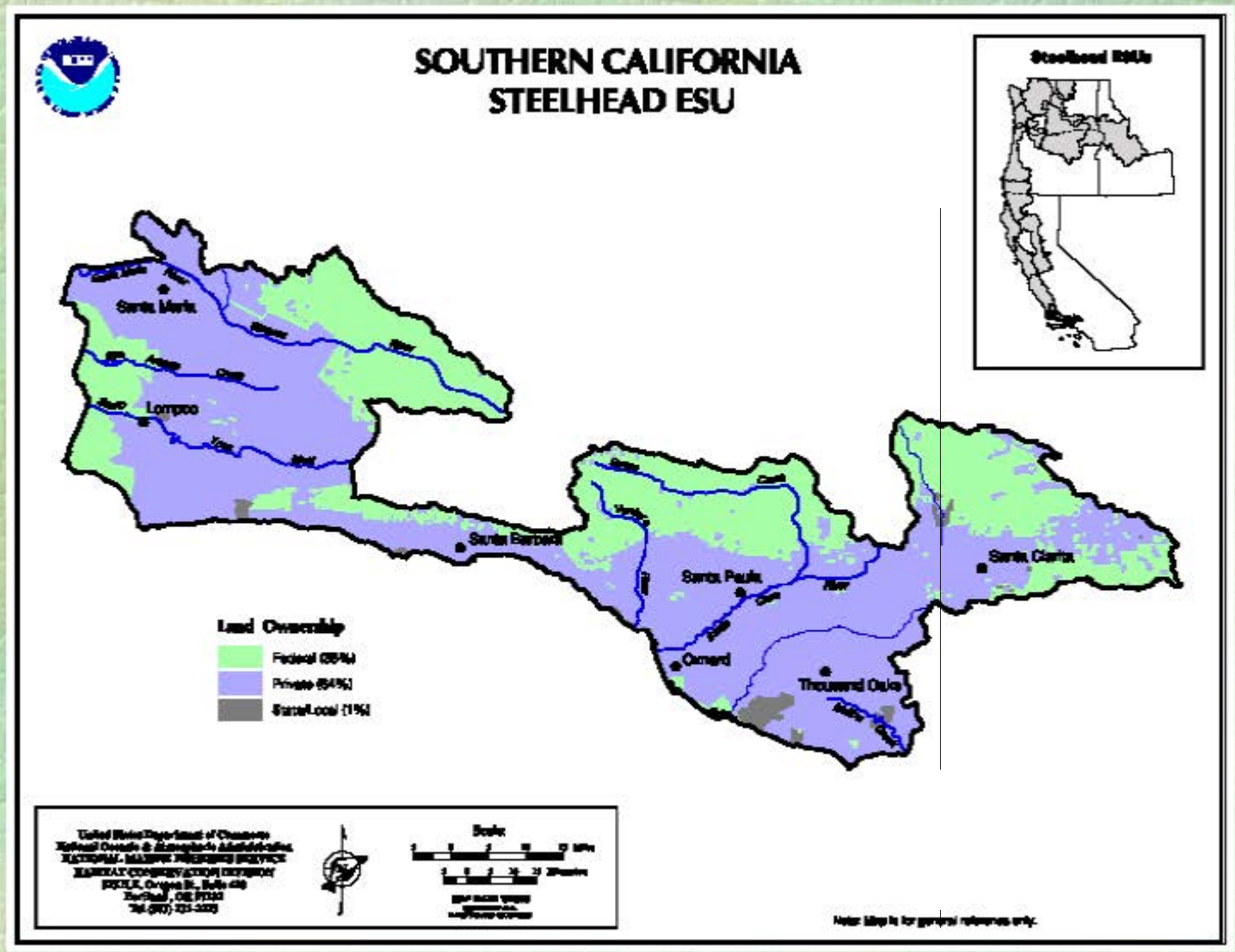
Eleven Cooperating Agencies of the Ventura River Watershed Habitat Conservation Planning Process in association with DFG

Welcome

- Workshop Focus
  - Balance the needs of aquatic/riparian species with the needs of local residents
  - How to get involved
- Workshop Organization
  - Southern steelhead
  - Public participation
  - Landowner participation
  - Q&A session

Southern Steelhead

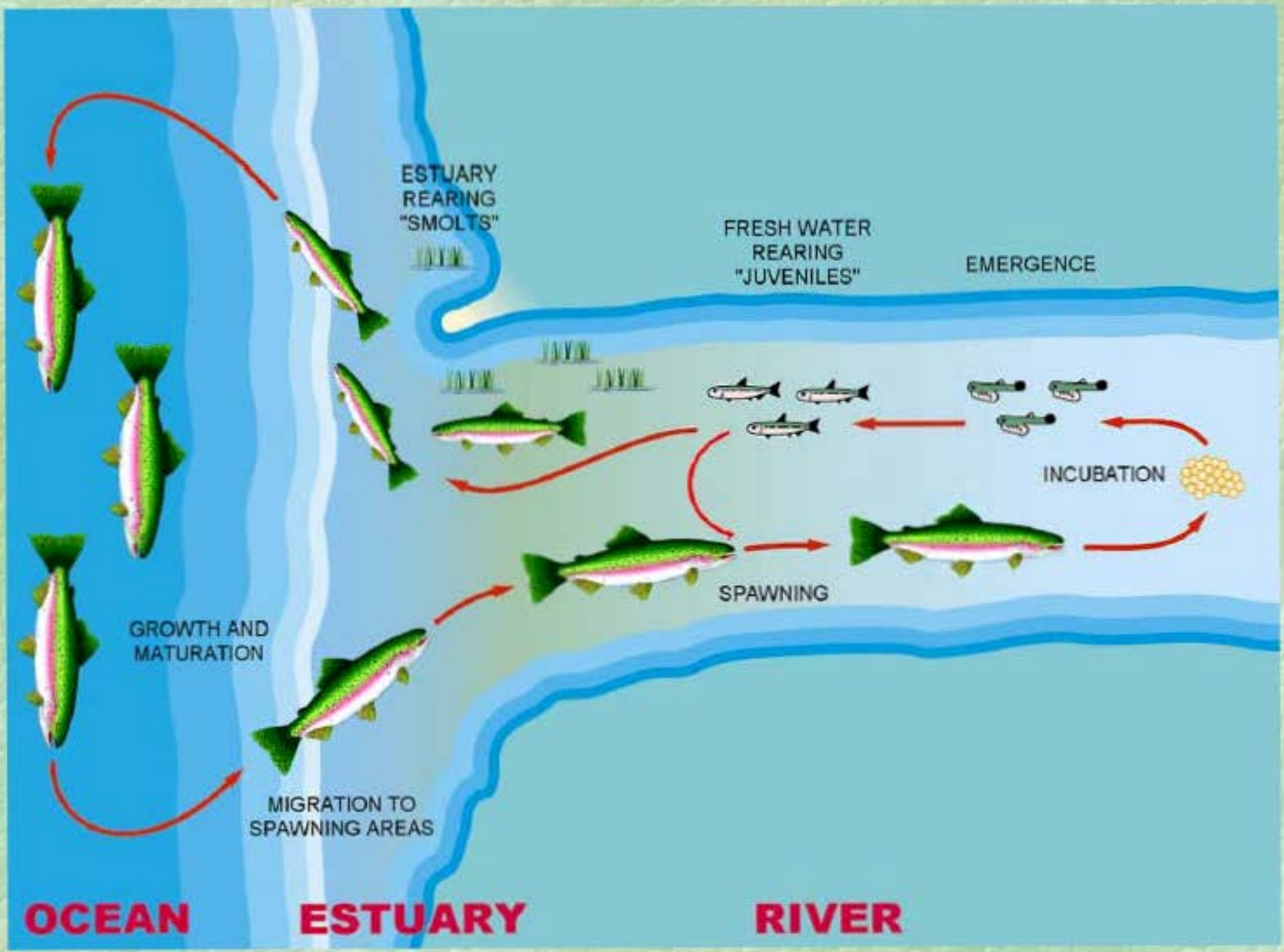
- Vital indicators of the overall health of the aquatic ecosystems of Southern California coastal watersheds
- Endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Southern California ESU includes all naturally spawned steelhead populations in streams from the Santa Maria River to Mexican Border
- Current Ventura River distribution



Note: Graphic does not reflect recent extension south to the Mexican Border

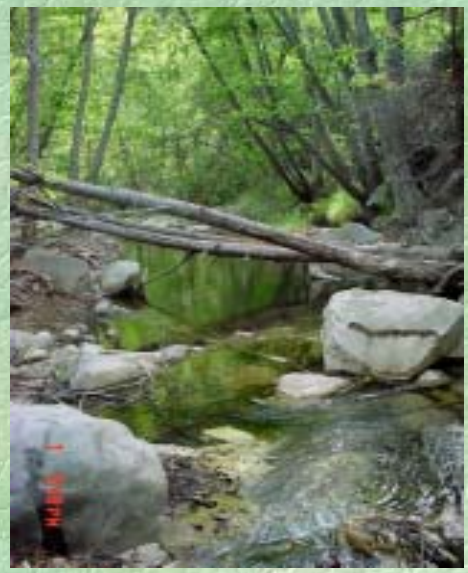
Steelhead Life Cycle

- They are all born in freshwater, move to the ocean, and return to their native stream to spawn. Their life cycle makes them anadromous.



Source: Sonoma County Water Agency

Steelhead Habitat Needs



- Access to stream habitat
- Pools that are cool and deep
- Instream shelter where fish can hide
- Clean gravels where adults can build nests (redds)
- Overhead cover to provide shade and sources of food
- Side channels and smaller tribs for over-wintering use
- Cool, flowing water with good water quality
- Estuary space

Potential Limiting Factors for Steelhead

- Water withdrawal
- Reductions in streamflow
- Passage barriers
- Problems with stream sediments
- Lack of riparian vegetation
- Water quality

Recovery Planning Process for Steelhead

- NOAA Recovery Planning Guidelines (http://research.nwfsc.noaa.gov/cbd/trt/index.html)
- A series of discrete geographic areas, or domains
- South-central California Coast domain includes:
  - South-central California Steelhead
  - Southern California Steelhead

Recovery Planning Process for Steelhead

- ESA requires recovery plans to contain:
  - (1) objective, measurable goals for delisting;
  - (2) a comprehensive list of the actions necessary to achieve the delisting goals; and
  - (3) an estimate of the cost and time required to carry out those actions
- Phase I - Technical or Science Component
- Phase II - Policy and Implementation Component

Public Involvement - How you can help!

- Work to improve water quality
- Attend public meetings concerning the Ventura River watershed
- Provide input and feedback on projects and programs
- Volunteer your time

Ventura River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan

- A group of local and public agencies with responsibilities for surface water, groundwater, and flood control
- The objectives of the HCP are to:
  - obtain an ESA permit for their activities
  - implement a range of opportunities for the restoration and recovery of steelhead
  - avoid or mitigate impacts to steelhead/other species during routine operations and maintenance

Cooperating Agencies

- Casitas Municipal Water District
- City of San Buenaventura
- Meiners Oaks County Water District
- Ojai Basin Ground Water Management Agency
- Ojai Valley Sanitary District
- Southern California Water Company
- Ventura County Parks Department
- Ventura County Env., Energy & Resources Dept.
- Ventura County Transportation Department
- Ventura County Watershed Protection District
- Ventura River County Water District

Types of Stream Restoration Projects

- Bank Stabilization
  - To reduce erosion; preserve property
  - Improve habitat and/or remove migration barriers for aquatic species
  - Options: riprap, root-wad revetment, or bio-engineered combinations
- Low Water Crossing Maintenance
  - Reduce future failure
  - Reduces erosion and facilitates fish passage
  - Options: upgrade to a larger sized structure, removal of crossing, rock/riffle fishway or bridge replacement

Types of Stream Restoration Projects

- Riparian Vegetation Management/Maintenance
  - Maintains flood flow capacity
  - Enhances biodiversity and increases the available habitat space for fish and other aquatic species
  - Options: hand or mechanical removal, herbicides; establish native riparian vegetation
- Handling Wastes (nutrient overloading)
  - Improves water quality
  - What you can do - insure that pollutants (i.e. animal waste, automotive fluids, garbage and chemicals) do not end up in storm drains and ultimately our creeks
  - Options: City/County resources available

Thank You

Workshop Focus

- Goals
  - Balance the needs of aquatic/riparian species with the needs of local residents
  - Ways both the public and landowners can get involved

MATERIALS FOR LANDOWNER WORKSHOP

Building a Partnership for the Recovery of Steelhead

Presented by

The Eleven Cooperating Agencies of the Ventura River Watershed Habitat Conservation Planning Process in association with the Department of Fish & Game

February 20th, 2003
Oak View Community Center
7:30 – 9:00 pm

The following are topics to be discussed at the second of the 2003 Landowner and Public workshops.

Agenda

(1) *Welcome*

(2) *Overview on the types of actions local landowners can undertake to protect and restore aquatic habitat within the watershed*
   a) Bank Stabilization
   b) Low Water Crossing Maintenance
   c) Riparian Vegetation Management/Maintenance
   d) Waste Handling, Storage and Disposal

(3) *Navigating the Implementation Process*
   a) Steps Involved
   b) Bank Stabilization Project Example

(4) *Information on funding and project assistance opportunities available to landowners to improve habitat quality in the Ventura River watershed*
   a) NRCS/RCD [RCD Assistance Grants Program, EQIP, WHIP] [Lisa Roberts]
   b) DFG [presentation]
   c) FWS [Kate Symonds to provide info]
   d) California State Coastal Conservancy [Jim Engel from OVLC to speak about the grant from CSCC to assist with restoration project]

(5) *Q&A Session and Closing Remarks*

Tips For Getting Your Project Approved

1) Carefully select and design your site.
Do not secure property rights to a site without carefully studying the environmental constraints and surrounding land uses. Evaluate several alternative sites, if possible, before making your choice.

2) Write a complete project description.
Expect that with each agency, you may need to provide a written description as well as a map and site plan of your project at your first meeting. Get professional assistance, if necessary, for designing and constructing your project in conformity with the natural function of the stream or river. For large projects or projects that have the potential for impacts, engineering designs may be required.

3) Contact Agencies early!
Consultation with permitting and regulatory agencies should begin as early as possible in planning your project. At this point potential concerns can be addressed and potential roadblocks eliminated or reduced. To save time, try to schedule one day for a visit from all the involved agencies.

3a) Contact Assistance Organizations
Your local NRCS and RCD can offer technical and financial assistance with projects and permitting. They are a vital resource and can act as liaisons between you and the regulatory agencies. Refer to Section 1 for a full listing of assistance organizations and their contact information.

3b) Know the players
Become familiar with the regulators and how they function.

3c) Learn the Rules
Take time to study the protocols and regulations of those agencies that must approve your project. Study all applicable state, local and federal agency permitting requirements.

4) Involve the Public
Plan a public participation group. Meet with neighbors, get their ideas and views. Use press releases and announcements to keep them informed about the progress of your project. Avoid surprises.

5) Approach the process with a positive, non-adversarial attitude
The permitting process can be challenging, but resisting the process is counterproductive. Diplomacy and courtesy go further than animosity in navigating your way through.

6) Pay attention to details
Follow all the rules. Respond promptly to requests for information. Be on time for meetings with regulators. Do not cut corners.

7) Be willing to negotiate
The permit process has been established because of the public concern for protecting waterways and species of concern, and this is the prime responsibility of the agency reviewer. Further, the reviewers are sensitive to the concerns of individuals for their property rights and are willing to consider alternative project designs to meet the needs of the property owner while still protecting the natural functions of the stream.

8) When in doubt, ask
If you are not sure whether your project needs a permit or whether it is regulated at all, ask. Going ahead without all the proper permits or without following conditions of approval very likely will cost you more time, money and goodwill.

Tips For Getting Your Project Approved

9) Get everything in writing
With each agency that you contact with permitting questions, request that they put everything in writing. This will help prevent any later misunderstandings.

10) Minimize impact to the project area
Design your project to eliminate or reduce as many potential environmental impacts as possible. Incorporate the suggestions you learned during early consultation. Where appropriate, consider bioengineering methods to minimize project impacts. Streamside vegetation is important to the health and stability of a stream and can save you money in future costs for erosion control measures. Native vegetation should be removed only to the extent necessary to construct the project. Disturbed areas should be revegetated as soon as possible to avoid erosion and prevent weed invasion. Consider potential impacts of your project such as temporary increases in turbidity, erosion, fisheries and aquatic life impacts due to timing of projects, etc., and include in your application how impacts will be minimized. Agencies may approve permit applications contingent upon modifications and may change the timing of the project to minimize impacts.

Resources & Printed References

California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual
CA Dept of Fish & Game, 1807 13th Street, Suite 104, Sacramento, CA 95814. (916) 324-6903.
This document is available online for download on the following website:
http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fishing/manual3.pdf

Field Office Technical Guides (FOTGs)
FOTGs are the primary technical reference for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources. Technical guides used in each field office are localized so they apply specifically to the geographic area for which they are prepared. These documents are referred to as Field Office Technical Guides. You can find the FOTG for your specific geographical area online at your state NRCS office website or by contacting your local NRCS office.
http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/rts/fotgintro.htm

California Environmental Handbook
USDA-NRCS California State Office, 430 G Street #4164, Davis, CA 95616-4164. (530) 792-5600. This document is available online for download on the following website:
http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/rts/ENVHNB/environhandbook1.html

Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads: A guide for planning, designing, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining and closing wildland roads.
by William E. Weaver, Ph.D. and Danny K. Hagans, Pacific Watershed Associates for the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, June 1994. $25 including shipping. Available from: Mendocino County RCD, 405 Orchard Ave., Ukiah, CA 95482. (707) 468-9223.

Stream Corridor Restoration: Principles, Processes and Practices
USDA: NRCS
Published October 1998, revised August 2001.
This document is available online for download on the following website:
http://www.usda.gov/stream_restoration

Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection
U.S. EPA Office of Water
Document number EPA 841-B-99-003, December 1999
This document is available online for download on the following website:
http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/fund.html

Guide to Regulatory Compliance for Implementing CALFED Actions
Volume 1&2, June 2001, CALFED Bay-Delta Program
This document is available online for download on the following website:
http://www.calfed.water.ca.gov/RegGuide/Calfed-guide.html

Useful Out-Of-State Documents

Guide for the Acquisition of Permits
People for Salmon, P.O. Box 1106, North Bend, WA 98045. (425) 831-2426. This document is available online for download on the following website: http://www.peopleforsalmon.org
A Guide to Oregon Permits Issued by State & Federal Agencies with a focus on permits for Watershed Restoration Activities
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, 775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360, Salem, OR 97301. (503) 986-0178. This document is downloadable from the following websites:
http://www.oweb.state.or.us/publications/index.shtml
http://www.oregon-plan.org/guidelines/index.html

Websites - Permit Assistance

CAL-GOLD Permit Assistance
http://www.calgold.ca.gov/
State of California Dept. of Commerce, Office of Permit Assistance
http://www.commerce.ca.gov/state/ttca/ttca_homepage.jsp
Choose *Permits & Licenses* from the menu choices.
California Wetlands Information System Permitting Flowchart
http://ceres.ca.gov/wetlands/permitting/chart.html
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Websites - Funding

California Watershed Funding Database
http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/wma/Funding/fundingdatabase.html
State Agency Biodiversity Funding
http://ice.ucdavis.edu/guide_to_california_programs_for_biodiversity_conservation/sfundopp.htm
Funding Opportunities within Non-governmental Organizations
http://ice.ucdavis.edu/guide_to_california_programs_for_biodiversity_conservation/nfundopp.htm
Funding Sources for Water Quality
http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic/funding.html
UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/grants/request.htm
State Water Resources Control Board Funding
Overview of Funding Sources: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/ofundsrc.html
Citizen Monitoring & Water Quality: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/funding.html
Bond programs: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/prop13/bond.html
NOAA NMFS Funding Opportunities for Community-Based Restoration
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding.html
NRCS Financial Assistance Programs
Locally led Conservation Groups are encouraged to contact the NRCS State Office for more specific information on what programs are available for their projects.
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html

Building a Partnership for the Recovery of Steelhead

Presented by

Eleven Cooperating Agencies of the Ventura River Watershed Habitat Conservation Planning Process in association with DFG

Welcome

- Workshop Focus
  - Balance the needs of aquatic/riparian species with the needs of local residents
  - Landowner involvement
- Workshop Organization
  - Stream restoration projects
  - Implementation process
  - Funding and assistance resources

Types of Stream Restoration Projects

- Bank Stabilization
  - To reduce erosion; preserve property
  - Improve habitat and/or remove migration barriers for aquatic species
  - Options: riprap, root-wad revetment, or bioengineered combinations
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  - Improves water quality
  - What you can do - insure that pollutants (i.e. animal waste, automotive fluids, garbage and chemicals) do not end up in storm drains and ultimately our creeks
  - Options: City/County resources available

Navigating the Implementation Process

- Select site and design your project
  - Project description
  - Get professional assistance
  - Design drawings

Navigating the Implementation Process

- Permitting
  - Should be initiated up to a year before the project start date
  - Types:
    - Local
    - State
    - Federal
    - Regional

Navigating the Implementation Process

- Construction
  - Hire a contractor to construct restoration design

Case Study
Pre-Project Conditions

- Typical streambank failure due to streambed incision and undercutting of root zone
- Soil lacks shear strength to support it's own weight without root structure

Bank Stabilization Project

- Steps involved on Rush Creek:
  - Surveyed existing channel conditions and developed a concept design
  - Prepared construction documents for project design using bioengineering techniques to control accelerated erosion
  - Obtained necessary environmental permits
  - Construction
  - Monitoring

Post-Project Conditions

- Applied bioengineering techniques (soft armoring)
- Mechanically recontoured the banks and used native cobbles, sod and woody materials

Navigating the Implementation Process

- Funding and Project Assistance
  - Seek financial and technical assistance
  - Grants available to private landowners from:

    -NRCS

    -DFG

    -CCC

    -FWS

Thank You

FISHERY RESTORATION GRANTS PROGRAM

California Department of Fish and Game
Native Anadromous Fish and Watershed Branch

The Fishery Restoration Grants Program (FRGP) was established in 1981 as a response to rapidly declining populations of salmon and steelhead trout, and deteriorating salmonid habitat.

The Fishery Restoration Grants Program Provides Funding to Restore, Protect, and Improve Salmonid Habitat Throughout its Coastal Range in California

Since 1981, The FRGP Has Awarded Funding To More Than 2,325 Projects, Totaling More Than $100 Million In Grant Funds.

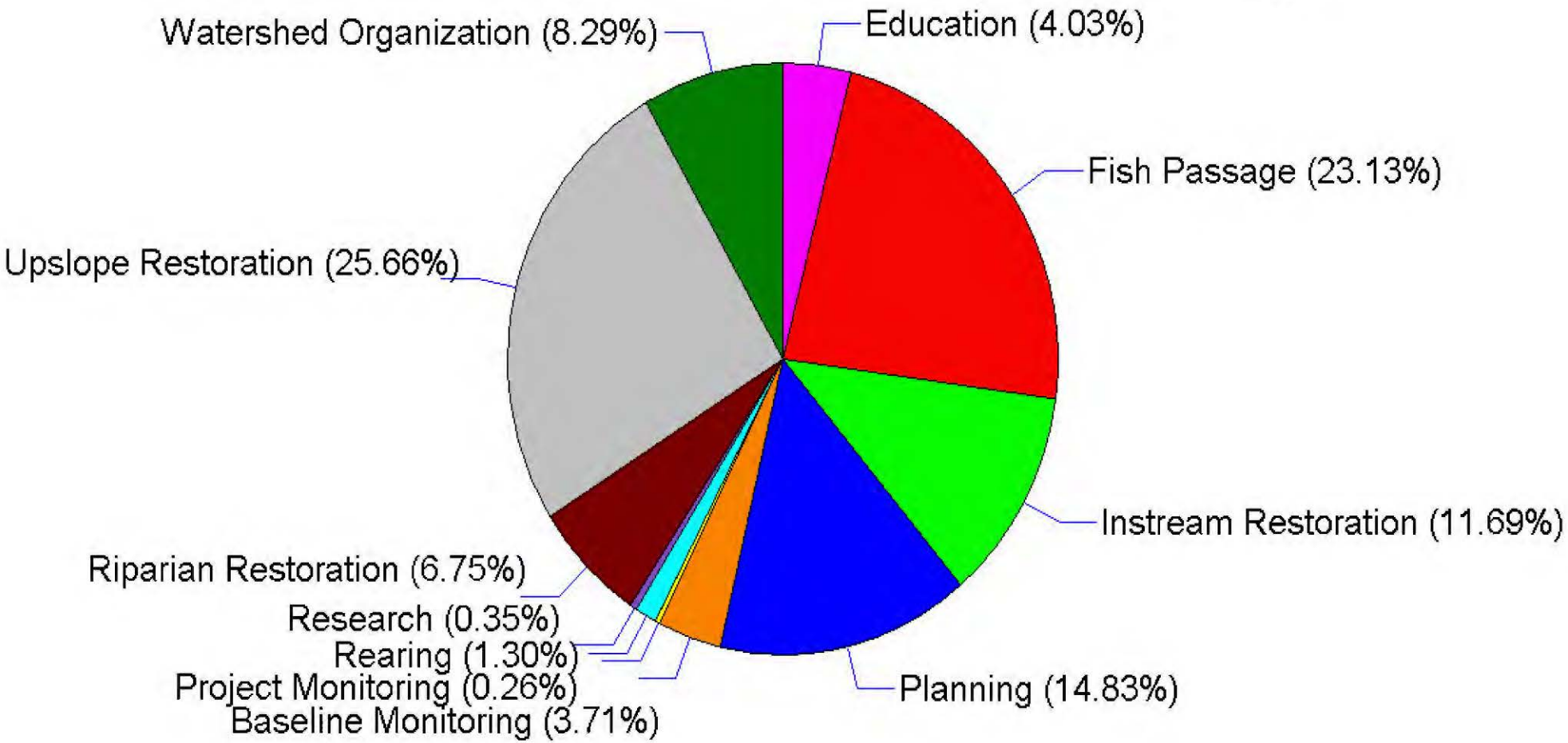
The majority of this funding was awarded for habitat restoration projects that provided:

- improved overhead cover
- spawning gravels, and pool habitat
- reduced or eliminated erosion and sedimentation impacts
- screened diversions
- Removal of barriers to fish passage

Funds were also awarded for indirect habitat restoration activities such as:

- cooperative fish rearing
- acquisitions of riparian easements
- research
- project monitoring
- watershed assessment and planning
- support for watershed organizations
- public outreach and education

Grants Funded 00/01 by Project Type



Funding for the Fishery Restoration Grants Program has been Provided by:

- AB 951
- Commercial Salmon Stamp Fund
- Proposition 19
- SB 400
- AB 1705
- The California Wildlife, Coastal, and Parkland Conservation Act (Proposition 70)
- The Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund (Proposition 99)
- Steelhead Catch-Restoration Card Fund
- The Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account
- The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
- The Water Bond Act (Proposition 13)
- Proposition 40

To Qualify for a Grant

Proposed projects must improve, protect, restore or lead to the improvement, protection, or restoration of salmon and steelhead habitat.

The Grant Process

Grants are Awarded Through a Competitive Solicitation of Grant Proposal (SGP) Process.

- The SGP is usually advertised in late February of each year in the State Contracts Register.
- Proposals are typically due in early May.
- Proponents are usually notified in writing in early January.
- Grants are awarded for a 24 months time span.

The SGP is mailed to more than 1,400 recipients.

To get on this mailing list, contact Kimberly Karcher at (916) 327-8849, or email her at: kkarcher@dfg.ca.gov

The Proposal Selection Process

- **Once the proposals are received by the Department, they are reviewed for compliance.**
- **Proposals are then field-reviewed and scored.**
- **Following this, proposals are reviewed from a statewide perspective by a DFG Technical Review Team.**

Proposal Evaluation

The suggested numeric score determined by the Technical Review Team will include consideration of the following factors:

- Extent to which the proposal benefits priority species and habitat.
- Consistency of proposals with Fish and Game objectives.
- Consistency and integration of projects.
- **Projects for listed or candidate species under endangered species acts will be given top funding priority.**

Advisory Committee Review

Projects are sorted by score and transmitted to one or more of the following of the following advisory committees:

- California Coastal Salmonid Restoration Grants Peer Review Committee.
- Commercial Salmon Trollers Advisory Committee
- Steelhead Subcommittee for Steelhead Catch-Restoration Card

Advisory committee recommendations are then forwarded to the DFG Director for final funding approval.

What types of projects can be funded?

The following types of projects are limited to coastal drainages:

- Instream habitat restoration
- Watershed and riparian habitat restoration
- Project maintenance for completed instream habitat, riparian habitat and watershed restoration projects
- Watershed evaluation, assessment, and planning, including multi-year grants for watershed planning
- Conservation easements that protect and improve water quality and quantity, including acquisition and leasing of water rights and the acquisition of permanent easement or fee title to riparian buffer strips.
- Effectiveness and implementation monitoring following project completion
- Validation, baseline and trend monitoring of population, and watershed response to restoration treatments and management actions.
- Watershed organization support and assistance, including local and regional/county capacity building efforts
- Private sector technical training and public education project grants
- Public school watershed and fishery conservation education projects
- Cooperative fish rearing
- California forest incentive program (CFIP) projects meeting CFIP guidelines

The success of restoration is in your hands

For more information contact Mary Larson at (562)342-7186 or via e-mail at mlarson@dfg.ca.gov

Grant information is also available at:

www.dfg.ca.gov/nafwb/fishgrant.html

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
http://ventura.fws.gov/

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

a voluntary cost-sharing program for ecological restoration on private lands **(non-State or non-Federal)**

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provides financial and technical assistance to private landowners to voluntarily restore or enhance native habitats on their land.

Eligible Landowners

- Private landowners, corporations, local agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and tribal governments.
- A third party is eligible to apply for funding to conduct the project in cooperation with a private landowner.
- Federal and State lands **are not** eligible for the program.

Representative Projects

- Projects target on-the-ground efforts to restore or enhance native plant and animal communities.
- Methods to implement a project usually are simple but effective. Examples include, but are not limited to, installation of fences to protect riparian and other sensitive habitats, planting of native trees and shrubs to provide nesting habitat and to control erosion, and removal of invasive weeds.
- Environmental education activities are eligible if related to habitat restoration.
- Projects should be completed within 1 to 2 years of funding approval.
- **Non-eligible** activities include research, surveys, long term monitoring, land acquisition, and activities required by a permit or other mandate.

Program Sign-up

- Landowners may request assistance at **any time** during the year.
- Landowners simply contact the local Partners Program representative.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife representative will work with landowners to develop goals and methods for their projects.
- Proposals are submitted generally by January but the Field Office should be contacted well in advance. Proposals compete for funding with other Partners project proposals from CA and NV. Almost 60 projects totaling $750,000 were funded in CA and NV in FY 2002.

Project Selection Factors

- Projects are selected based on their benefits to Federal trust resources, including migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, declining species, anadromous fish, and their habitats.
- General order of priority for funding: (1) restoration; (2) enhancement; and (3) creation.
- Other factors can influence project selection and include a higher cost share ratio, greater habitat benefits, longer commitment to maintain the improvement, project readiness, and more project partners. Project selection occurs once a year and notification is generally made by March.

Wildlife Extension Agreement

- To protect taxpayer investment, landowners agree to retain habitat improvements for at least 10 years, longer commitments are welcome.
- The Partners Program representative conducts periodic site visits to monitor progress of project.
- No public access is required. The landowner retains all rights to the property including the right to control access.

Reimbursement of Project Costs

- The Partners Program strives to maintain a minimum 1:1 cost share ratio. Cost share funding is generally limited to $25,000 per project and is paid on a reimbursable basis. Cost sharing by the landowner or other project partners can be in the form of cash, or materials and services valued at local market rates (in-kind services). For example, the landowner may provide the labor and use of specialized equipment, while the Partners program may reimburse (within 45 days) for cash expenditures. Outside contributions are encouraged to expand the partnership and improve the cost-sharing ratios. Landowners do not receive rental, easement, or maintenance payments.

Can others contribute?

- The Partners Program can match funds to help finance a restoration project. Funding can come from Federal, State and local agencies, soil and water conservation districts, and a wide variety of non-governmental partners such as Ducks Unlimited and land trusts.
- We cannot implement projects that fulfill mitigation requirements.

Where can I get more information online?

- Frequently Asked Questions: http://pacific.fws.gov/capartners/FAQ.htm
- Partners Proposal form: http://pacific.fws.gov/capartners/proposal.html
- Example Wildlife Extension Agreement: http://pacific.fws.gov/capartners/Wea%20template.htm
- National Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program: http://partners.fws.gov/
- California Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program: http://pacific.fws.gov/capartners/index.htm
- Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office: http://ventura.fws.gov/

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office Program Contact:

Kate Symonds
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Coordinator
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003
TEL: 805-644-1766 FAX: 805-644-1766
kate_symonds@r1.fws.gov

The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office serves the following counties (darker shade on the map):

Ventura, Los Angeles (north and west part), Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo (excluding Carrizo Plain), Monterey, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Kern (southeast part), San Bernardino (Mojave portion), Inyo and Mono (south part).

For assistance with projects located in other counties in California, contact Debra Schlafmann or Dan Strait at the USFWS California and Nevada Operations Office (CNO) in Sacramento at 805-414-6446.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve native fish, wildlife, and plants, and their habitats, for the continuing benefit of the American people.

2003-2004 Small Grants Program
PROGRAM SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is a partnership of 17 state and federal agencies working in concert with local government, businesses, and the environmental community to implement a regional wetlands recovery strategy for coastal Southern California (stretching from Point Conception to the border with Mexico). The WRP is headed by a Governing Board comprised of top officers from each of the state and federal agencies. The Wetlands Managers Group, which is comprised of staff representatives from the state and federal partners, is the body with primary responsibility for project evaluation and selection. The WRP also has a Science Advisory Panel and a Public Advisory Committee to help guide its efforts, and it has initiated a wetlands task force in each of the five Southern California coastal counties to help coordinate efforts within each county. Finally, the Coastal Conservancy serves as staff to the Wetlands Recovery Project. Projects that are selected for the WRP Work Plan are carried out by the Coastal Conservancy in cooperation with local partners.

The long-term vision of the WRP is to reestablish a mosaic of functioning wetland and riparian systems that supports a diversity of fish and wildlife species. The *WRP Regional Strategy* defines six overarching goals to guide the efforts of the Wetlands Recovery Project towards achieving this vision. The regional goals provide a framework for setting policies and priorities for wetlands' acquisition and restoration projects. The *Five Year Implementation Plan* is a mid-range planning document that identifies specific actions for achieving the regional goals. Both the Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan are available for review on the WRP web site: http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp.

The WRP Small Grants Program provides funding for community-based restoration projects in coastal wetlands and watersheds in the region. The purpose of the program is to further the goals of the WRP Regional Strategy; build local capacity to plan and implement wetland restoration projects; promote community involvement in wetlands restoration activities; and foster education about wetlands ecosystems. Environment Now, a non-profit group located in Santa Monica (http://environmentnow.org), administers the program.

The application packet includes more details about the Wetlands Recovery Project, the small grants programs, and the application guidelines.

For more information, contact Shawn Kelly, WRP Grants Administrator, at (805) 984-9531 or oriley@adelphia.net.

OPEN SPACES

The latest news from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Vol. 10 No. 1 | *Working to Protect The Ojai Valley's Future - Today* | Special Edition

Protecting River and Ranch Open Space Within Reach

Conditional Approval Received For $3.1 Million Grant

On January 23, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) received tentative approval for a $3.1 million grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy (CSCC) to assist with the protection of the historic and scenic 1,566-acre open space on the west side of the Ojai Valley. The state agency's grant funds will come from Conservation Bonds Acts 12 and 40. These propositions were approved by a majority of California voters and the funds are considered immune from the present budget crisis in Sacramento. Funding from this grant will also allow for the creation of a resource and recreation management plan that will guide the protection of plant and animal species, while allowing for safe public enjoyment by hikers, horseback riders, and bicyclists.

June Deadline For $630,000 Fundraising Goal

Final approval is contingent on evaluation of the OVLC's ability to manage the land in perpetuity and on completion of a conservation easement on 150 acres. "We look to see if the organization has the financial and professional expertise to make an open space deal successful," explains Peter Brand, CSCC Senior Project Manager. "OVLC definitely has a great combination of staff and volunteers, but we still need to see if they have enough funds to implement the project." OVLC has set a deadline of June 2003 to raise the remaining $630,000 in donations and pledges for the protection of the largest privately held parcel in the Ojai Valley and vital wildlife habitat. If the campaign is not successful at least ten homes will be built on the ridgeline near Rancho Matilija and Wills Canyon. In this case, donors will have the option to have their gifts designated to another project or receive a refund.

photo by Michael McFadden

Pledges

Donors will be allowed to stretch out payment of their gifts over several years. This encourages donors to make larger gifts, which would not be possible if they had to complete the gift all in one year.

Naming Rights

The OVLC offers naming rights as an opportunity to honor or memorialize family, friends or mentors. These naming rights range from $500 on a bronze plaque at the Preserve entrance to $1.5 million for the naming of the Preserve. Most naming rights will range from $10,000 to $100,000 and include: trails, trailheads, and geographic features. A large number of donors from past campaigns have taken advantage of these opportunities.

See reverse side for details on naming rights.

Ventura River & Ranch Campaign Update

Every $1 Donated Will Be Matched By $3 From State Grant

Campaign Goal	**$4 million**
Pledges & Gifts Raised - 84% of goal	**$3.37 million**
Pledges & Gifts Still Needed	**$630,000**

"The time is now for those of us who believe this beautiful land is worth protecting. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to set aside this special gift for our children and future generations."

Jim Engel,
OVLC Executive Director

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
P.O. Box 1092
Ojai, CA 93024

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Ojai, CA

Opportunities To Make A Difference In The Future Of The Ojai Valley

The OVLC is offering a limited number of gift naming rights for donors who wish to honor or memorialize family, friends, or mentors. All gifts can be made over a two-year period and will be used for the preservation and care of Ojai's last remaining open spaces.

Gift Naming Rights At The Ventura River And Ranch Property

- $500 Bronze Historical Marker
- $1,000 Carla Bard Memorial (30)
- $10,000 Benches (10) - *2 reserved*
- $25,000 Trailheads (3) - *1 reserved*
- $50,000 Trails Near Trailheads (2) *1 reserved*
- $100,000 River Trails (2)
- $150,000 Rice Canyon Trail
- $200,000 Upper Wills Meadow
- $200,000 Oso Ridge Trail (near Rancho Matilija)
- $250,000 Wills Canyon Trail
- $250,000 Oso Ridge (High point of property)
- $300,000 Unnamed canyon
- $1.5 M Preserve Name

Gift Naming Guidelines

- All gift naming contributions can be made over a two year pledge
- All naming right opportunities are to be provided on a first come, first serve basis and once they are secured by a gift or pledge, the naming will no longer be offered.
- No more than two individuals or families can share on a gift naming right
- Gift naming donors will be offered a recognition plaque to be placed near the naming right location

For a confidential discussion and a naming rights map, please call 646-7930 or ovlc@ojai.net and ask for Jim Engel, Executive Director

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