

Field Activity Advisory Predator Assessment May 25, 2012

This notice is to inform you of an upcoming research study to collect data that will help the San Joaquin Restoration Program (SJRRP) assess the current status of predatory fish populations in existing captured mine pit habitat in Reach 1 of the Restoration Area. There will be limited opportunities for essential data collection and this study will assist the SJRRP in determining fish and restoration needs in this area.

Who: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

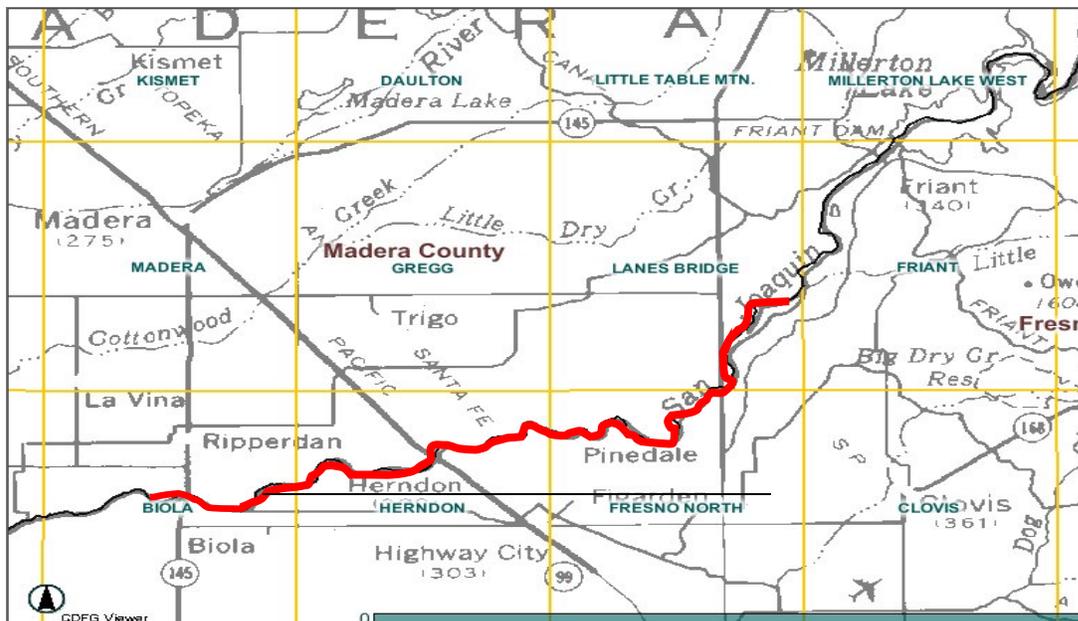
What: Electrofishing boats and small boats will be used for fish sampling, and deploying nets and temperature loggers. Field activities include boat electrofishing, setting large nets to catch predators, hook and line sampling, and gut content collection (gastric lavage). Individuals captured will be identified, weighed, measured, and tagged with an external tag that will provide individual identification (e.g., numbered floy tags). All field activities will take place between dawn and dusk, with no overnight sampling. All nets set in the water will be monitored by field staff until retrieved.

Environmental disclosure documents, including a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption (NOE) and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exemption, will be completed prior to any field activity and will be available upon request.

The information collected through the study will support decisions related to spring-run and fall-run Chinook salmon reintroduction and habitat restoration of mine pit habitat.

When: May 29 - June 6, 2012. Crews will be sampling by boat to capture predatory fish species, and installing temperature sensors in predator habitat.

Where: Sampling will occur from River Mile 260 just upstream of Hwy 41 to River Mile 231, downstream of Hwy 145. (see map).



Access will occur from the public right-of-way or in areas where private landowners have approved access.

Questions about this activity should be directed to the study's agency points-of-contact using the information provided below.

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Questions about the SJRRP's field activities on public and private land should be directed to the SJRRP Outreach Coordinator using the information provided below.

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For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net.