

# South Coast Habitat Restoration Spring 2012 Newsletter

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Spring 2012



MONTEREY ENSATINA



GAVIOTA CREEK



PACIFIC TREE FROG



Post Office Box 335,  
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[www.schabitatrestoration.org](http://www.schabitatrestoration.org)

Place  
Stamp  
Here



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Coast is now complete

### Upper Gobernador Creek Restoration Complete

SCHR is excited to announce that the Upper Gobernador Creek barrier removal project is complete. The project removed the last barrier to migration within the Gobernador drainage, the main tributary to the Carpinteria Creek watershed. The project broke ground in October. Major construction in the stream channel, including the removal of the barrier and installation of the bridge was completed in early December. Re-vegetation efforts at the site with native species occurred following rains in January. The California Conservation Corps and our Watershed Stewards helped plant 140 native plants at the site and 14 native trees. The project has increased upstream passage for steelhead trout by over a mile and a half up to a natural waterfall. This was accomplished through the removal of a low flow concrete crossing, creation of step pools and installation of a clear span bridge. This winter was the first time in many decades that returning steelhead trout would have had access to the headwaters of Gobernador creek but low rainfall has prevented Carpinteria Creek from connecting to the ocean. We are hoping for a wet Spring which may allow anadromous fish to enter the watershed and make their way upstream to spawn.

The project has been funded by the CDFG and NOAA. This project is an essential component of the efforts to restore steelhead runs to the Carpinteria Watershed and is has been a goal of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition for many years. Waterways Consulting Inc. did the engineering and designs for the project and was on site to over see Peter Lapiduas Construction during construction. SCHR looks forward to the opportunity for the migration of steelhead to return to the headwaters of Gobernador Creek. We have already observed a few resident fish making use of the newly constructed pools.



BEFORE UPSTREAM VIEW OF THE BARRIER TO STEELHEAD MIGRATION WHICH WAS REMOVED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT.



AFTER UPSTREAM VIEW OF REMOVED BARRIER AND NEWLY INSTALLED BRIDGE AND POOLS.

The mission of **South Coast Habitat Restoration** is to protect, conserve, and restore the various habitats and native biodiversity of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

For more information please visit us at:  
[schabitatrestoration.org](http://schabitatrestoration.org)

**Support SCHR**  
[Click here to support our ongoing efforts.](#)  
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## CREATURE FEATURE: BOBCAT *Lynx rufus*



The Bobcat is a member of the cat family (Felidae), ranging from southern Canada down to northern Mexico, with twelve recognized subspecies. The Bobcat is an adaptable predator that inhabits a variety of habitats including forest and woodland areas, semi-arid deserts, chaparral, grasslands, as well as urban wild land edges. Adult Bobcats typically weigh anywhere from 10 – 28 lbs, with females being on the smaller end of the range. It has distinctive black bars on its forelegs and a black-tipped, stubby tail, from which it derives its name. A typical life span is around 12 years. Bobcats typically prefer a diet made up of rabbits and hares, but are known to hunt anything from insects to young deer. Prey selection varies widely and depends on the location, and season. Like most cats, the bobcat is territorial and usually solitary, although there is some overlap in home ranges. It uses several methods to mark its territorial boundaries, including claw marks and deposits of urine or feces. The Bobcat breeds from winter into spring and has a gestation period of about two months. It persists in much of its original range and most populations are considered healthy or stable. We frequently see a Bobcat out at the Upper Gobernador project site and have seen more than one at the Tajiguas property.

## Upcoming Events

### Wild and Scenic Film Festival

Once again, the Ventura Hillside Conservancy will host two back to back evenings of informative, entertaining and inspiring selections from SYRCL's Wild & Scenic Film Festival On Tour program. Friday and Saturday March 23rd and 24th, from 7:00pm - 10:00pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura. For more information <http://www.venturahillside.org/>

### Salmonid Restoration Conference

The 30th annual, 2012 Salmonid Restoration Conference, will be held in Davis, California this year. The conference is entitled "Focusing on a new generation of Watershed Recovery" and will be held at the Veterans' Memorial Center, April 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. More information and to register at [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org)

### Earth Day

Santa Barbara's Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara, will be held on Saturday & Sunday, April 21st and 22nd from 11am - 7pm. Ventura will also be hosting an Earth Day event, Saturday April 14th at Promenade park and Ojai celebrates Earth Day, Saturday April 21st at Oak grove School.

### Tri County FISH Team meeting

The next Tri-County FISH Team meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, April 24th, in Santa Barbara. It will include an overview of the Southern Steelhead Recovery Plan, and strategic approaches to implementing the recovery plan in the tri-county area. The Tri-County fish team is a partnership between local government agencies, and non-governmental organizations within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties to develop a regional approach for salmonid restoration in the tri-county area. For more information [fishteam.org](http://fishteam.org).

### 8th Street Bridge restoration event

Stay tuned for dates to be announced for one last planting and weeding event at the 8th street pedestrian bridge in Carpinteria.

## Pinkham Project Update

South Coast Habitat Restoration is thrilled to announce that a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program has been awarded to SCHR for a steelhead passage restoration project in the Carpinteria Watershed. The project will replace an undersized rail car bridge with a new wider and taller bridge. It will also remove 90 feet of concreted stream channel and banks. When the project is complete the newly regraded creek channel will allow steelhead trout access to an additional 0.5 miles of upstream habitat to the Lillingston Debris Basin which is in the process of modification and should be completed over then next few years. When both the Pinkham project and the County Debris Basin are complete in total 1.09 miles of habitat would be opened up. SCHR is working to reach out to the property owners of what will be the last remaining barrier in the watershed and look forward to working with them in an effort to complete the restoration



THE CURRENT PINKHAM CROSSING IS A COMPLETE BARRIER TO STEELHEAD PASSAGE.

of steelhead migration in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed.

The initial designs for the project were done by Questa Engineering and submitted as part of a grant application to the Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program last year. SCHR will be working with Questa Engineering to complete the final designs over the next couple months so that construction at the Pinkham site can begin this summer, 2012. SCHR will be working with the property owner over the next couple months to secure all the required permits for the project.

In addition SCHR will be hiring a contractor to implement the project, and finalizing the restoration plan. We are excited that our work with the property owner on this voluntary habitat restoration project is moving forward and will make considerable improvements for steelhead trout. Stay tuned for updates on this project.



VIEW OF CONCRETE IN THE CREEK WHICH INHIBITS STEELHEAD MIGRATION.

## Watershed Stewards and City of Carpinteria 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Restoration



Our local Watershed Stewards, Allison Krist and Andrea Blue organized two volunteer events in partnership with the City of Carpinteria, SCHR, and the CCWC at the 8<sup>th</sup> street pedestrian bridge in Carpinteria. The goal was to remove non natives like Smilo Grass and English Ivy from the site and plant over 100 native container plants. Events took place on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>. In total 38 volunteers came out to help and the events were a great success. Thank you to all the volunteers that came out to beautify and help restore this section of Carpinteria Creek. Stay tuned for one more planting and weeding event in April, dates are still to be announced.

These two dedicated AmeriCorps members have been working with SCHR in partnership with the Department of Fish and Game office in Santa Barbara and the California Conservation Corps in Camarillo. They have helped with restoration efforts including native plantings, building biotechnical bank stabilization structures, setting up irrigation, and site maintenance. They have participated in steelhead monitoring efforts, channel topography surveys, and vegetation monitoring surveys. SCHR hopes to continue to be involved in this partnership again next year. If you are interested in bringing Watershed Stewards to your community applications for mentor sites are due on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If you are interested in more information about the project please check out [ccc.ca.gov/go/wsp](http://ccc.ca.gov/go/wsp).



THE CALLE OCHO SIDE OF THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE JUST AS THINGS WERE GETTING STARTED (LEFT) AND AFTER THE SECOND VOLUNTEER DAY (RIGHT).



VOLUNTEERS WORKING TO REMOVE NON NATIVE SMILO GRASS (LEFT) AND REVEGETATE THE SITES WITH NATIVES (RIGHT). OVER THE TWO DAYS 38 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS MADE IT OUT TO HELP WITH THIS EFFORT.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual, 2012 Salmonid Restoration Conference, will be held in Davis, California. The conference is entitled "Focusing on a new generation of Watershed Recovery" and will be held at the Veterans' Memorial Center, April 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The four day conference consists of two days of workshops and field tours on Wednesday and Thursday, followed by two days of concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday. Erin Brown, Project Manager for SCHR will be co-presenting with Rachel Shea, Engineer with Michael Love and Associates about the Tajiguas Project during a workshop on Wednesday as part of the conference. In addition to the presentation on Wednesday SCHR will have a poster describing our recent restoration efforts, at the Friday night poster session.

The Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) was formed in 1986 to help stream restoration practitioners advance the art and science of restoration. SRF promotes restoration, stewardship, and recovery of California native salmon, steelhead, and trout populations through education, collaboration, and advocacy. Registration is now open. If you are interested in attending or for more information about SRF check out [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org)



## EARTH DAY FESTIVALS

### Santa Barbara



Each year the Community Environmental Council (CEC) hosts Santa Barbara's Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara. This year the theme is "Mobilize For The Earth" and will include a Green Car Show, Live Green section, a Kids corner as well as an Eco marketplace. The Festival will feature around 250 exhibitors as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Green Shorts Film Festival and Live Music.

Join SCHR Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 at Alameda Park in Santa Barbara to celebrate Earth Day. For more info go to [www.SBEarthDay.org](http://www.SBEarthDay.org)

### Ventura



#### earthday ecofest

Saturday, April 14, 2012  
Ventura

#### Ventura's

Earth Day Ecofest event will take place on Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am to 5:00pm. The all day event will be held at Promenade Park in Ventura and includes over 100 eco exhibitors. Entertainment and food will be available as well as a bike valet. For more information please visit [www.venturaearthday.org](http://www.venturaearthday.org)

### Ojai



Ojai's Earth Day festivities know as "Earthplay" will take place Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>, from 11:00am to 4:00pm at Oak Grove School, 220 West Lomita Avenue, in Ojai. The event will include over 55 exhibitors with environmental information, outdoor activities, earth friendly products and services, and hands on activities. There will also be live entertainment and world foods. For more information visit [www.ojaiearthday.org](http://www.ojaiearthday.org)

## Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

SCHR is working with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History to apply for a grant from the Department of Fish and Game's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. The grant would be for funding to start designs and planning for a restoration project along Mission Creek on the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's property. The overall goal of the project is to work towards removing a creek bank wall and a concrete apron across the creek which is a partial impediment to upstream steelhead migration.

The funding would be used to hire an engineering firm to gather the necessary information and conduct a feasibility study. This process will allow for the Museum to consider different design alternatives and figure out the best way to improve conditions in the creek under the constraints of the Museum's current buildings and structures. SCHR is excited to be working on this large project in partnership with the Museum. Just last month while at a meeting at the Museum two resident steelhead trout were observed just downstream of the proposed project site. The two fish were around eleven and twelve inches long, and observed digging a redd (pictured below on left). The project site is pictured below, removing the large section of stone wall and laying the creek bank back



TWO RESIDENT STEELHEAD OBSERVED SPAWNING NEAR THE BRIDGE OVER MISSION CREEK ON THE SANTA BARBARA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PROPERTY.

will allow for the restoration of the riparian canopy and more natural hydrology of the stream channel to return. Removing the concrete apron will better allow for the passage of all life stages of steelhead trout.

This project would contribute to the larger effort of restoration work that is occurring in Mission Creek. Both the City of Santa Barbara's Creek Division, the Environmental Defense Center, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, and the Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB) have been working to improve fish passage and habitat in Mission Creek. These projects have included modifications to the mile long concrete flood control channel to allow for resting habitat and a low flow channel. The Tallant bridge project which was modified to have a low flow channel under the bridge and a series of weirs to build up the downstream channel to reduce the jump height for fish to make it up stream. The modification of the highway 192 bridge over Mission Creek is a project that the City's Creek Department and COMB are currently working on. Steelhead have been seen in Mission Creek in recent years and we look forward to being a part of the larger effort to remove barriers in the watershed to improve conditions for steelhead trout.



LOOKING UPSTREAM FROM THE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT THE WALL AND CONCRETE APRON WHICH WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS REMOVING.

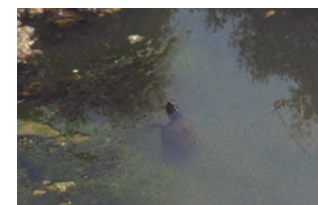
## Tajiguas Project Update

SCHR is excited to have completed the Rancho Tajiguas Barrier Removal Project. The project removed five low flow concrete crossings and installed one bridge. Removal of the barriers has increased upstream access to steelhead trout habitat by over a mile and a half. The project has significantly improved conditions for steelhead in the watershed. The large project on the Gaviota Coast broke ground last August, with construction through the Fall, and the installation of erosion control measures, and planting of native plants continuing through December.

In total the project planted over 700 native plants at the site, with the help of the California Conservation Corps, and our Watershed Steward members. Native plants for the project were grown by Santa Barbara Natives and included native trees like Western Sycamore, Black Cottonwood, and California Bay, as well as native shrubs and understory species. As part of the project two biotechnical bank stabilization methods were employed at two of the five crossings. At one crossing a willow wattle fence was installed to help stabilize a section of steep bank which was formally stabilized by metal revetment. At the second, a 150 foot stretch of bank was protected by a willow mattress. These living structures have begun to sprout and show significant growth over the last few months. In January SCHR organized the CCC's Weed Strike team to come out and remove a large area of non natives including Arundo, Tobacco Tree, and Castor Bean from the watershed. The project has been funded by the California Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program as well as by the property owner. SCHR will be working with the property owner on the ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the project sites over the next few years. SCHR is looking forward to working with the property owner on future voluntary habitat restoration to make improvements for steelhead trout on the ranch.



CCC WEEDSTRIKE TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVING TRAINING ON HOW TO REMOVE A TOBACCO TREE WITH A WEED WRENCH.



ONE OF TWO WESTERN POND TURTLES RECENTLY OBSERVED USING THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED POOL HABITAT



UPSTREAM OF THE NEW BRIDGE, SHOWING THE LARGE AMOUNT OF WILLOW GROWTH OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

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## FISHERIES RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE



In January the Department of Fish and Game released its list of funded projects for the 2011 Fisheries Restoration Grant

Program. SCHR is pleased to announce that we have been awarded funding for a grant application we submitted to support our organization for an additional 2 years. The funding supports SCHR's continued efforts to reach out to property owners across the south coast in an effort to implement voluntary steelhead trout restoration projects. It additionally funds our time to coordinate the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition and attend/organize outreach and educational events in our community.

In addition to our organization support grant we also submitted a proposal for construction funding for the Pinkham property project. We are pleased to announce that this proposal was also successful and we are moving forward with plans for that project to go to construction during the Summer of 2012. This years grant application period is now open. Applications must be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup> to be considered. For more information check out <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Administration/Grants/FRGP/>

Thank you to the Department of Fish and Game for their continue support of our efforts.

The Mission of South Coast Habitat Restoration is to protect, conserve, and restore the various habitats and native biodiversity of Santa Barbara and Ventura. For more information please visit us at: [schabitatrestoration.org](http://schabitatrestoration.org)

Support SCHR Visit [www.earthisland.org/schr/donate](http://www.earthisland.org/schr/donate) to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible

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