

South Coast Habitat Restoration

Spring 2013 Newsletter



S C H R

South Coast Habitat Restoration Newsletter

Spring 2013



GREEN HERON



RINCON CREEK



HUMBOLDT LILY



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Annual Conference in Santa Barbara

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

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Rancho Tajiguas Barrier Removal Work Continues

SCHR is excited to announce that the Rancho Tajiguas Barrier Removal Project, Phase Two has been awarded implementation funding from the Department of Fish and Wildlife's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. The project will remove two low flow concrete crossings from the stream channel and install two aluminum arched culverts in their place.

The project will significantly improve conditions for steelhead in the watershed. Phase 2 follows on the success of Phase 1 which removed 5 low flow crossings from Tajiguas Creek in 2011 and replaced them with a single free span bridge. SCHR is planning for this second phase of the project to start this coming September with construction through the fall. The installation of erosion control measures, and planting of native plants will occur in to December.



ONE OF THE TWO CONCRETE CROSSINGS
SCHR WILL WORK TO REMOVE THIS SUMMER
THROUGH A GRANT FROM CDFW

SCHR will work over the next several months with the property owners to secure the necessary permits. Stay tuned for more updates on the project and for information about Phase 3 which will remove an additional two barriers from the watershed. Once Phase 3 is complete, a total of 5.47 miles of historic steelhead habitat will once again be accessible to steelhead trout.

Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition's Quarterly Evening Presentation Series

The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition recently hosted the first in a series of evening community presentations. The presentations will take place quarterly on the third Thursday of that month. The first presentation by Mauricio Gomez, gave an overview of the restoration efforts that coalition members have initiated in the watershed over the last several years. The remaining presentations for the year are scheduled for June 19th, September 20th, and December 20th and topics include water quality issues and

monitoring, non native removal with bio-control, and biological monitoring efforts in the watershed.



SCHR DIRECTOR MAURICIO GOMEZ
PRESENTING ON THE COALITION'S EFFORTS

CREATURE FEATURE: PRICKLY SCULPIN (*Cottus asper*)



The Prickly sculpin is a fish native to the Pacific drainages from Alaska to the Ventura River. In addition, the prickly sculpin was introduced to the Santa Clara and Santa Ana Rivers and several reservoirs, possibly through the California aqueduct system. The prickly sculpin has two genetically distinct forms that are separated by habitat preference. One form occurs in inland sandy and rocky shores of lakes and the other occurs in small to medium coastal rivers in sandy habitats in fresh or brackish water. Prickly sculpin generally migrate to the estuaries to spawn, however some adults spawn in streams rather than expending energy on migration. During spawning, a male sculpin digs his nest under a rock or large woody debris structure and escorts a female or females to the nest. A female sculpin will lay up to 10,000 eggs that adhere to the nest’s surface, but males may escort more than one female to the nest resulting in a nest of up to 30,000 eggs. Males guard the nest from other males and aerate the eggs until they all hatch. The prickly sculpin can reach lengths as large as 30 cm, but on average is much smaller, around 7 cm in length. They feed on aquatic macroinvertebrates, salmonid eggs, and small fishes.

Upcoming Events

Tri-County Fish Team Meeting

The next Tri-County Fish Team Meeting will be held on April 12th, from 1:30 -3:30 at the Ventura City Hall. The meeting will focus on the regulatory permitting process with a panel of agency representatives. For more info fishteam.org

Earth Day Festivals

Santa Barbara's Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara, will be held on Saturday & Sunday, April 20th and 21st from 11:00am - 6:00pm. More info at sbearthday.org

Ventura will also be hosting an Earth Day event, Saturday April 20th at Promenade park from 10:00am - 5:00pm. More info at venturaearthday.org

Ojai will celebrate Earth Day, Saturday April 20th at the Oak Grove School from 11:00am -4:00pm. For more information check out ojiaearthday.org

Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks Cleanup

A creek cleanup will be on Saturday April 27th, and will focus on Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks followed by non native removal from the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. The event will run from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Meeting location is TBD, If you would like any more information about the event please contact Diana La Riva at Diana.LaRiva@ccc.ca.gov

SERCAL Conference

The 20th annual, California Society for Ecological Restoration or SERCAL Conference, will be held at UCSB, May 14th-16th, 2013. The three day conference will include workshops field tours, presentations, and other educational activities dealing with the restoration of California native habitats. For more information sercal.org

CCWC Quarterly Presentation Series

The CCWC will be hosting quarterly evening presentations about the Watershed. The first presentation took place in March and highlighted steelhead trout recovery efforts. Additional evening presentations will be held on Thursday June 20th, September 19th and December 19th. For more information check out carpinteriacreek.org

WSP Members Plan Carpinteria Creek Cleanups!

Our local Watershed Stewards, Riley Kriebel and Diana La Riva are working to clean up Carpinteria’s Creeks. Riley and Diana have been working to organize these volunteer events in partnership with the City of Carpinteria, SCHR, and the CCWC. The first of the two events was held on Saturday March 9th, from 9:00am-1:00pm. Riley lead a group of 27 volunteers through the City owned portions of Carpinteria Creek. They successfully removed over 70lbs of trash, in addition to the Creek Clean up the volunteers helped to plant 35 native plants at the 8th Street Bridge and remove non native invasive



VOLUNTEERS GETTING READY TO REMOVE TRASH FROM THE LOWER SECTION OF CARPINTERIA CREEK



VOLUNTEERS RECEIVING A PLANTING DEMONSTRATION FROM RILEY KRIEBEL AT THE 8TH STREET BRIDGE

species from the site. It was a very successful day and we wanted to say thank you to all of the volunteers that came out to help.

The next creek cleanup will be on Saturday April 27th, and will focus on Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks. The event will run from 9:00am – 1:00pm. The meeting location is to be determined, please wear appropriate attire (ie. Pants and closed toed shoes). Gloves and trash bags will be provided. If you have questions or would like any more information about the event please contact Diana La Riva at Diana.LaRiva@ccc.ca.gov

Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival



Join SCHR Saturday, April 20th and Sunday, April 21st, 2013 at Alameda Park to celebrate Earth Day. We will have an exhibit as part of the festival which will include kids activities as well as information about SCHR and our efforts. Each year the Community Environmental Council (CEC) hosts Santa Barbara’s Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara. This year’s events 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 5th annual Green Shorts Film Festival. For more info go to www.SBEarthDay.org

SERCAL Conference comes to Santa Barbara

The 20th annual, California Society for Ecological Restoration or SERCAL Conference, will be held in Santa Barbara this year. The conference will be held at UCSB, May 14th-16th, 2013. The three day conference consists of workshops, field tours, presentations, and other educational activities dealing with the different practices and aspects involved in the restoration of California native habitats. SCHR Director Mauricio Gomez will be chairing a two day session on Habitat Restoration in Santa Barbara County. SCHR Project Manager Erin Brown will be presenting on our steelhead restoration efforts across Santa Barbara County as part of this session.



SERCAL is dedicated to the purpose of bringing about the recovery of damaged California ecosystems. For more information on the conference or to register please visit www.sercal.org/

Carpinteria Creek Project Updates

SCHR is moving forward with the necessary permit process in order for a restoration project in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed to also go to construction this coming fall. The Pinkham project as it is called was awarded grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program last year. The project was just recently awarded additional funding necessary to complete construction from the California State Coastal Conservancy. SCHR will be working with the property owner over the next couple months to secure the required permits for the project so that construction can begin at the site in September of this year. In addition SCHR will be hiring a contractor to implement the project and helping to finalize the engineering designs.



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

We are also continuing our efforts to work with the downstream property owners to determine a solution for the last remaining barrier in the watershed. We look forward to working with the owners on this voluntary habitat restoration project which will allow steelhead trout to once again access the headwaters of Carpinteria creek. Stay tuned for updates on this project.



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

Support SCHR Visit www.earthisland.org/schr/donate to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible

Contact us: SCHR Director: Mauricio Gomez
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SRF's Fish Passage Design and Engineering Field School



The Salmonid Restoration Federation hosted a training event in Ventura in January that demonstrated innovative and technical methodologies used in salmon restoration to professionals in the field. SCHR was asked to participate in the workshop by leading a field tour of some of our project sites. The training was well attended, with roughly 40 participants. The group toured three of SCHR's project sites in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed to see first hand examples of completed steelhead passage restoration projects.

1% For The Planet Recipient



SCHR is excited to announce we have been chosen as a 1% for the planet recipient. A new local company called Newf Surfboard Net is sponsoring SCHR as a recipient of their 1% for the planet investment. The Newf Surfboard Net is a lightweight, durable, multi-functional surfboard-carrying bag. The bag is made with a black nylon mesh that allows water, debris, and air to flow through the bag. The mesh design allows you to roll up your bag to be easily hidden in the rocks while you surf or to be stored in your vehicle when not in use. For more information about the Newf Surfboard Net check out their website at newfsurfboardnet.com

