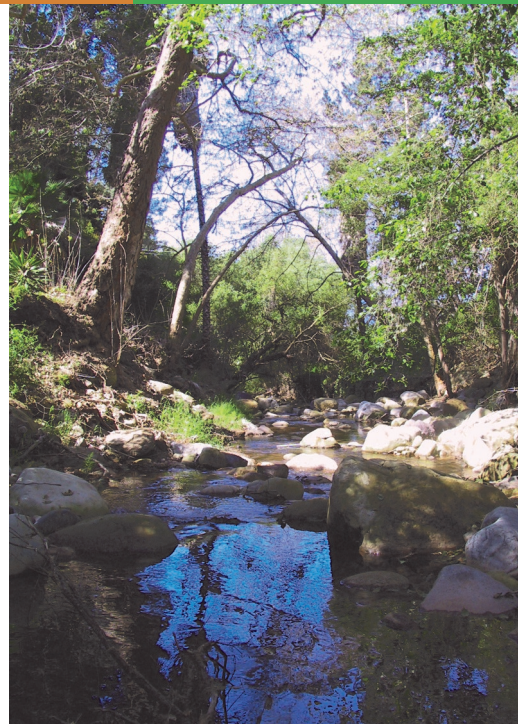


South Coast Habitat Restoration Spring 2015 Newsletter



CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG



RINCON CREEK



LARKSPUR



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South Coast Habitat Restoration Newsletter

Spring 2015

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Circle G Ranch Barrier Removal Project Receives Implementation Funding

The Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) announced its 2015 funding awards in early February. SCHR is excited to announce that our application to FRGP for the Circle G Ranch project was successful and awarded funding. The funding will be used to remove the last major barrier from the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. The project has additional support and funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, The California Fish Passage Forum, and will likely receive support from the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF).

The project will remove and undersized bridge and 98 foot section of concreted stream channel and banks in order to restore



PHOTO OF THE CIRCLE G RANCH BARRIER ALONG THE MAINSTEM OF CARPINTERIA

the stream channel and provide fish passage through the site. Thank you to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the property owners for their continued support of our efforts. We look forward to completing the implementation portion of the project this fall and once again seeing adult steelhead in the headwaters of Carpinteria Creek. Hopefully next year brings some much needed winter rains.

New Restoration Assistants!

The UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund has once again chosen SCHR to be a recipient of funding that allows us to work with and mentor UCSB students while completing on the ground restoration efforts. Thank you to winter quarter interns Lia Nelson and Aleksandra Evert for all of their hard work. Aleksandra graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies at the end of winter quarter. She hopes to pursue a career in wildlife conservation and management. Aleksandra is currently traveling and visiting family in Russia and Europe before walking in graduation ceremonies this June. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

This quarter Lia Nelson is returning to work with SCHR for her third and final quarter. Lia is graduating from UCSB in spring with a B.S. in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in *continued on page 3*



LIA NELSON AND ALEKSANDRA EVERT HELPING WITH A CREEK SURVEY IN CARPINTERIA

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

Support SCHR
[Click here to support our ongoing efforts.](#)
[your contribution is tax deductible](#)

CREATURE FEATURE: SOUTHERN PACIFIC RATTLESNAKE (*Crotalus oreganus helleri*)



The Southern Pacific rattlesnake, also known as the Pacific rattler, is a subspecies of the western rattlesnake, and ranges from southern California down to Baja California in Mexico. Pacific rattlers can be found in a wide variety of habitats from seaside dunes, to desert scrub, rocky hillsides, chaparral, open woodlands, and agricultural areas. The mountain rattler tends to be an overall brown to olive-brown color with dark brown blotches that are outlined by light pigment on its back, and has a pale underbelly. Adults tend to be about 30 to 44 inches in length, but can reach up to 54 inches long. The Pacific rattler is primarily nocturnal and crepuscular, but can be found active during daylight hours when the temperature is cooler. The Pacific rattler's diet mostly consists of birds, lizards, snakes, frogs, insects, and small mammals such as mice, rats, rabbits, and ground squirrels. Mating normally happens in the spring and in late summer/early fall, and young are born between August through October.

Upcoming Events

CCWC Quarterly Presentation Series

The CCWC will be hosting its quarterly evening community presentation on Tuesday April 28th at the Veterans' Memorial Hall in Carpinteria, 941 Walnut Avenue, from 7:00pm—8:00pm. This month's talk will focus on the effects of drought on our local creeks and steelhead trout. For more information check out carpinteriacreek.org

Earth Day Festivals

Santa Barbara's Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara, will be held on Saturday & Sunday, April 18th and 19th from 11:00am - 6:00pm. More info at sbearthday.org

Ventura will also be hosting an Earth Day event, Saturday April 25th at Promenade park from 10:00am - 5:00pm. More info at venturaearthday.org

Ojai will celebrate Earth Day, Saturday April 18th at the Oak Grove School from 11:00am -4:00pm. For more information check out ojaiearthday.org

SERCAL Conference

The 20th annual, California Society for Ecological Restoration or SERCAL Conference, will be held at the Marina Village Conference Center in San Diego May 12^h-14th, 2015. 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

Tri-County Fish Team Trainings

The Tri-County Fish Team is putting together a series of technical trainings on a variety of topics. A two day training lead by Regina Hirsch will focus on rainwater, grey water and storm water harvesting, May 5-6th at Return to Freedom Ranch in Santa Ynez. An additional one day training on snorkel survey techniques will be held on May 19th in the Ventura Watershed and May 20th in the Santa Ynez. For more information or to register visit centralcoastsalmon.com/education/

Maria Ygnacio Fish Passage Restoration

SCHR has finished construction and re-vegetation efforts at a project site in the Maria Ygnacio Watershed. The fish passage restoration project removed a concrete low flow crossing from a private ranch within the upper perennial portion of Maria Ygnacio Creek. The barrier was removed, the channel was regraded, two large pools with root-wad structures were installed, and a new clear span bridge was constructed to provide the property owners safe access across the creek. Construction was completed in December and erosion control and native planting was completed in early January.

This fish passage restoration project was funded by the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and through a small grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. SCHR is excited to be working in this locally important watershed. The Maria Ygnacio Creek Watershed is part of the Goleta Slough Complex which the National Maine Fisheries Service has ranked as a Core 2 watershed for the recovery of steelhead.

Tri-County Fish Team Trainings



The Tri-County Fish Team is putting together a series of technical trainings related to steelhead and watershed restoration. Previous trainings have included a Fish Passage Barrier Assessment training and a Water Conservation workshop. The next in the series will focus on rainwater, grey water and storm water harvesting. The two day training lead by Regina Hirsch will take place May 5-6th at Return to Freedom Ranch in Santa Ynez. An additional one day training on snorkel survey techniques will be held on May 19th in the Ventura Watershed and May 20th in the Santa Ynez. The cost of attendance for the workshops ranges between \$45- \$75. For more information or to register visit <http://www.centralcoastsalmon.com/>



NOW REMOVED CONCRETE LOW FLOW CROSSING



THE REGRADED STREAM CHANNEL AND NEW BRIDGE NOW ALLOWS FISH TO FREELY MIGRATE UPSTREAM

SCHR is currently working with the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department through a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to address additional fish passage barriers in the Maria Ygnacio watershed through the development of initial designs and hydraulic models at six sites.

Watershed Restoration Assistants continued

continued from page 1

habitat restoration and wildlife conservation. Lia has studied abroad in Australia where she conducted research on coral bleaching, and she is currently in the process of writing her senior thesis on the environmental implications of hydraulic fracturing proppants. She hopes to pursue a career working with animals and their habitats in order to help preserve wilderness areas for the future.

In addition Alex Ehrens will be joining us this quarter. He is currently in his third year at UCSB pursuing a BS in Hydrology with a Physical and Chemical emphasis. He looks forward to learning his native and non-native plants, and more about stream restoration while working with us. Alex is originally from outside Chicago, Illinois. In his free time he enjoys being outdoors hiking and exploring our local mountains.

National Forest Foundation

SCHR would like to thank the National Forest Foundation (NFF) for their support of our efforts through their Community Capacity and Land Stewardship Program. Last year SCHR received a grant from the NFF that provided us the opportunity to work with the local Los Padres National Forest office to develop fish passage and watershed restoration projects on their lands. In addition SCHR was able to attend a number of relevant training opportunities including a NEPA CEQA

integration course that we helped to organize with the Northwest Environmental Training Center. SCHR hopes to build upon this training and link together existing programmatic permitting to streamline future permitting of restoration efforts on Forested lands. SCHR is currently working with the Forest Service to develop projects at two different barrier sites in the Ventura River Watershed and Sisquoc Watershed.

CEC's Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival



COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS LEARNING ABOUT WATERSHEDS AND STEELHEAD TROUT WHILE MAKING STEELHEAD FISH PRINTS WITH SCHR AT THE 2014 EARTH DAY FESTIVAL.

Join SCHR Saturday, April 18th and Sunday, April 19th, 2015 at Alameda Park to celebrate Earth Day. We will have an exhibit as part of the festival which will include information about SCHR and our efforts. Come stop by and see what we have been up to and make a steelhead fish print with us. We will have different kid friendly activities and information to share. 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

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Final Ventura River Watershed Management Plan Released



In March the Ventura River Watershed Council approved the Ventura River Watershed Management Plan - the watershed's first

comprehensive, stakeholder developed management plan. The collaborative efforts of numerous people and organizations under the direction of the watershed council took two and a half years to complete. For more information about the Ventura River Watershed Council and for a copy of the Watershed plan check out <http://venturawatershed.org/>

CCWC Community Presentation Series on Drought and Steelhead



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will host its next evening community presentation on Tuesday April 28th, from 7:00pm-8:00pm at the Carpinteria Veterans Memorial Building, located at 941 Walnut Avenue. Kate McLaughlin, an Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will give an overview of the conditions in our local streams following the last three years of drought and the effect the drought has had on local steelhead populations. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information check out carpinteriacreek.org

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

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