

South Coast Habitat Restoration Winter 2011 Newsletter



Post Office Box 335,
Carpinteria, Ca, 93014
www.schabitatrestoration.org

Place
Stamp
Here



South Coast Habitat Restoration Newsletter

Winter 2011

In This Issue

TAJIGUAS PROJECT Page 1

Steelhead trout restoration project complete on the Gaviota Coast

PATAGONIA MUSIC UPDATE Page 2

Toad the Wet Sprocket and Patagonia come together to support of SCHR!

CARPINTERIA CREEK MOUTH Page 4

Habitat Restoration project at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek.

GOBERNADOR CREEK Page 5

Steelhead trout restoration project on the Gobernador Coast

PINKHAM PROJECT Page 6

SCHR moves forward with Carpinteria Creek Restoration

CCWC 10 YEAR CELEBRATION Page 6

10 year anniversary re-cap

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR Page 7

End of the year summary from SCHR Director Mauricio Gomez.

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](#)

Rancho Tajiguas Watershed Restoration

South Coast Habitat Restoration finishes construction on a steelhead passage project on the Gaviota Coast.

SCHR is excited to announce that five low flow Arizona crossings along Tajiguas Creek on the Gaviota Coast have been successfully removed as part of the Rancho Tajiguas Barrier Removal Project. This large project broke ground in August. The project involved the removal of the five low flow Arizona crossings and the instillation of one free span bridge. The crossings that were removed were constructed decades ago as part of the Tajiguas Ranch agricultural operation and over time had created barriers to the upstream migration of steelhead trout. Removal of the barriers has increased upstream access to steelhead trout habitat by over a mile and a half, significantly improving conditions for steelhead in the Tajiguas Watershed. The project is funded through the California Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and the Property Owner.

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. Both of these structures were installed with help from Michael Love and Associates, Inc. (the project engineers), the California Conservation Corps, and the

Continued on page 3



A BEFORE CONSTRUCTION PHOTO OF THE FARTHEST DOWNSTREAM CROSSINGS WHICH WAS REMOVED THIS SUMMER FROM THE TAJIGUAS CREEK

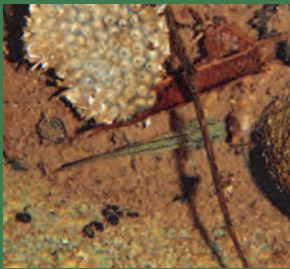


AFTER CONSTRUCTION PHOTO OF THE SAME LOCATION SHOWS THE NEWLY GRADED STREAM CHANNEL WHICH ALLOWS FOR STEELHEAD PASSAGE.

CREATURE FEATURE: COAST RANGE NEWT



The Coast Range newt is a subspecies of the California newt (*Taricha torosa*), a California endemic species. Its range extends from Mendocino County, to Sand Diego County. They can grow to be 8 inches in length. Terrestrial adults are yellowish-brown to dark brown above, pale yellow to orange below (pictured left). Aquatic larvae are light yellow above with two dark regular narrow bands on the back (pictured right). The breeding season lasts 6 - 12 weeks. Adults migrate from terrestrial locations to ponds, reservoirs, and sluggish pools in streams to breed, typically beginning anywhere from late December to February. Populations that breed in stream pools migrate later, typically in March and April, after the stream flooding has subsided. Migration to breeding habitats may take several weeks and cover large distances, documented up to 2 miles.



Upcoming Events

Tri County FISH Team meeting

The next Tri-County FISH Team meeting will take place on Tuesday December 13th, at Ventura's City Hall. The Tri-County Fish team is a partnership between local government agencies, sponsoring 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 info fishteam.org.

8th Street Bridge

SCHR has been working with the City of Carpinteria to remove non native vegetation from the 8th Street bridge in Carpinteria, and come up with a plan to plant additional native plants at the site. With the help of the Watershed Stewards two volunteer events will be held in January and February to remove non natives and plant over 100 native plants at the site. Stay tuned for more information.

SRF

The Salmonid Restoration Federation will be holding its 30th annual conference April 4th—7th, 2012. This years conference is entitled "Focusing on a New Generation of Watershed Recovery" and will be held in Davis California.

CCWC

The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will be holding it's next meeting on Thursday, December 15th, from 10am to noon at Carpinteria's City Hall. The Coalition meets monthly on the third Thursday of the Month.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The Carpinteria Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 18th. If you are interested in participating please get in touch with Rob Denholtz, 805-684-4060, robdenholt@gmail.com.

Patagonia Music!

Buy a song, and benefit SCHR through Patagonia Music



SCHR has received their first two checks from the Patagonia Music Collective! So far a total of 1,419 copies of Toad the Wet Sprocket's Acoustic version of "Walk on the Ocean" have been purchased through the Collective.

Patagonia has come together with some of music's most talented artists to form the Patagonia Music Collective in an effort to fund environmental activism. The collective brings together musicians, fans and grassroots environmental groups. Artists, such as Toad the Wet Sprocket, have donated unreleased tracks that will be sold for \$.99 with net proceeds going directly to the artist's favorite environmental group. Toad the Wet Sprocket

and Patagonia have joined together to benefit SCHR. When a fan, activist or customer purchases "Walk on the Ocean (Acoustic)" for \$.99 via the Patagonia Music Collective, net proceeds will directly go to South Coast Habitat Restoration in the artist's name.

Additional tracks and benefiting organizations are added all the time. If you are interested in purchasing tracks please check out www.patagonia.com/music.

SCHR would like to thank Toad the Wet Sprocket and Patagonia for their support of our efforts! And thank you to everyone who has purchased "Walk on the Ocean" in support of our efforts!



Tajiguas Watershed Restoration continued...

Americorps Watershed Stewards. The willow used in these structures was salvaged on site prior to the onset of construction. The willow poles in both structures are beginning to sprout. The roots on the willow poles will help to further stabilize and protect these banks.

Native plants for the project were grown by Santa Barbara Natives, from seed sources on the Gaviota Coast. Plants will be installed out at the site over the next few weeks. Species to

be installed include Giant Rye Grass, Blackberry, Hummingbird Sage, Coffeeberry, Toyon, California Bay, Western Sycamores, and White Alders just to name a few.

As part of the project SCHR will be involved in monitoring the project sites for both steelhead trout and California red-legged frogs over the next few years. As part of the project a large number of red-legged frogs were relocated outside of construction areas. SCHR is

interested in seeing when and how many California red-legged frogs return to the project sites now that construction is complete. SCHR is looking forward to working with the property owner on future voluntary habitat restoration projects that further improve conditions for steelhead trout on the ranch.



THE TOP LEFT PHOTO SHOWS CROSSING T-6 BEFORE CONSTRUCTION FACING DOWNSTREAM. ALL THE CONCRETE AND THE ROCK AND METAL REVETMENT WAS REMOVED AS PART OF THE PROJECT. THE MIDDLE PHOTO SHOW THE REGRADED STREAM CHANNEL AFTER CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF EROSION CONTROL MATERIAL. THE RIGHT PHOTO SHOWS THE WILLOW WATTLE FENCE THAT WAS INSTALLED AT THE SITE AS A BIOTECHNICAL BANK STABILIZATION ALTERNATIVE TO REVETMENT.



THE TOP LEFT PHOTO SHOWS CROSSING T-7 JUST AS DEMOLITION OF THE CONCRETE BEGAN. THE MIDDLE PHOTO SHOW THE NEW BRIDGE THAT WAS INSTALLED NEAR THE LOCATION OF THE FORMER CROSSING, LOOKING UPSTREAM. THE RIGHT PHOTO SHOWS THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS WORKING TO INSTALL A WILLOW MATTRESS UPSTREAM OF THE NEW BRIDGE, AN ADDITIONAL BIOTECHNICAL BANK STABILIZATION METHOD THAT WAS EMPLOYED BY THE PROJECT.



THE TOP LEFT PHOTO SHOWS CROSSING T-8 BEFORE CONSTRUCTION FACING UPSTREAM. THE MIDDLE PHOTO SHOW THE REGRADED STREAM CHANNEL AFTER CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETE. THE RIGHT PHOTO SHOWS THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS INSTALLING WILLOW STAKES AT THE SITE. THESE POLES BEGAN SPROUTING AFTER JUST A FEW WEEKS.





Carpinteria Creek Mouth Restoration Project

The Carpinteria Creek Mouth restoration project is located at the mouth of the creek within the Carpinteria State Beach, on State Parks property. The goal of the project was to increase the habitat and ecological value of the mouth of Carpinteria Creek by removing non native ice plant and myoporum and the planting of native flora along the banks.

South Coast Habitat Restoration has been working with Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) and numerous volunteers over the last year on a habitat restoration project at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek. We are excited to announce that the project is now complete. The project has been in collaboration with the California State Parks and Coastal Restoration Consultants.

This project involved the removal of non native ice plant and myoporum from the creek banks and restoring the native biodiversity of the area through the planting of native species. We used a technique known as solarization to remove the ice plant. This involves laying out large sheets of black plastic over the non-native ice plant, securing the plastic with sandbags and stakes to hold it in place until the ice plant is starved of enough light and dried out from the heat that it will not resprout when the plastic is removed.

The black plastic was removed in December of last year and over the next several month SCHR and CIR worked with hundreds of volunteers to re-vegetate

the site with native species, in total over 3,000 plants were planted at the site. The final volunteer work day took place on December 4th to plant an additional 100 plants to fill in gaps in native cover at the site. These included both upland and dune species as well as 15 arroyo willows.

The project has been generously funded by a grant to SCHR via the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) through funding from the Earth Island Institute. The project will greatly increase the habitat value of the Carpinteria Creek estuary. The plants that were planted last year have grown a lot and are on their way to filling in the site. They will eventually provide nesting and foraging habitat for native birds as well as shade for the creek which will improve water temperatures and instream habitat for fish. SCHR would like to extend our thanks to all the volunteers that have come out to help along the way.

For more info on the creek mouth project check out our blog at carpinteriacreekmouth.blogspot.com



THE CREEK MOUTH PRIOR TO THE PROJECT WAS MOSTLY ICEPLANT



BLACK PLASTIC INSTALLATION



DEAD ICE PLANT UNDER THE BLACK PLASTIC



VOLUNTEERS PLANTING NATIVES

Upper Gobernador Creek Restoration

Last major barrier along Gobernador Creek successfully removed!

SCHR is working towards finishing a barrier removal project along Gobernador Creek in the Carpinteria Creek watershed. The project broke ground in October. Major construction in the stream channel, including the removal of the barrier has been completed. The contractor for the project, Peter Lapidus Construction, worked very closely with the Engineer for the project Brian Smith, from Waterways Consulting, in order to install a series of 3 pools with large keyed in rocks and woody debris structures.

The bridge was installed the first week in December and re-vegetation of the site with native species will occur over the next few weeks. Native plants to be installed include Greenbark Ceanothus, Blackberry, Giant Rye Grass, California Fuchsia, Mexican Elderberry, Black Cotton Wood, Western Sycamore, and White Alder. The previous crossing had been determined to be impassable to steelhead

during migration flows. The project has increased upstream passage for steelhead trout to over a mile and a half of habitat. This was accomplished through the removal a low flow concrete crossing, creation of step pools and installation of a clear span bridge. Gobernador creek stream flows have been returned to the project site. This winter will be the first time in over xx years that returning steelhead trout will be able to access the headwaters.

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. SCHR looks forward to the opportunity for the migration of steelhead to return to the headwaters of Gobernador Creek this winter.



THE LOW FLOW CROSSING, WHICH WAS A BARRIER, TO STEELHEAD AND REMOVED AS PART OF THIS PROJECT



SAME LOCATION AS ABOVE, ONCE CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETE SHOWS THE FIRST POOL.



POURING OF THE CONCRETE ABUTMENTS FOR THE BRIDGE



LARGE WOODY DEBRIS STRUCTURE IN THE SECOND POOL



SAME LOCATION AS ABOVE, AFTER THE BRIDGE WAS INSTALLED.

30th Annual Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference

The 30th 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 4th – 7th, 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.

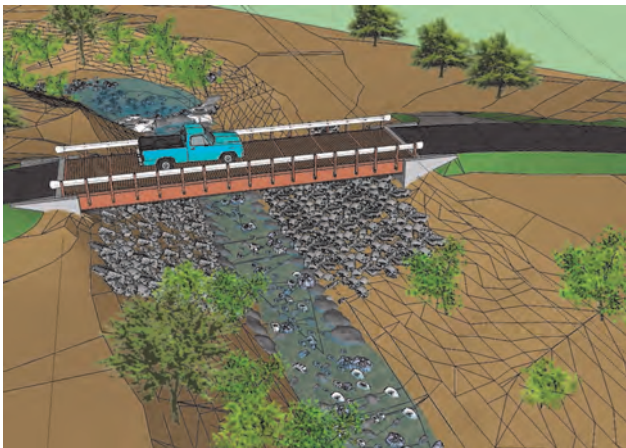
The Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) was formed in 1986 to help stream restoration practitioners' advance the art and science of restoration. SRF promotes restoration, stewardship, and recovery of California native salmon, steelhead, and trout populations through education, collaboration, and advocacy.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



Pinkham Property Project

SCHR continues to work on the Pinkham project along Carpinteria Creek. As part of the designs Questa Engineering has created a 3-dimensional rendition of what the project will look like. Below are a few images that give an idea of what the project site will look like when the designs are implemented. The software can be used to create a video swim through of the project site, to give viewers a fish eye view of the new stream channel.

The designs for the project were submitted as part of a grant application to the Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program last year. SCHR should be notified over the next couple months if this project was selected for funding. If selected, construction at the Pinkham site would begin in the summer of 2012.



CCWC 10 Year Anniversary Re-cap

The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) celebrated its 10 year anniversary in 2011. A large public event was held at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek on May 14th, 2011, to celebrate this important milestone with the community and look back on all of the work that the coalition has accomplished over the last 10 years. Long time resident and CCWC supporter Bob Hansen was awarded the Watershed Hero award for his years of dedication to the watershed.

The Coalition has been an integral part of the efforts to remove barriers and improve conditions for steelhead trout in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. To date eight barriers have been modified or removed from the watershed to allow for fish passage. With the completion of the Upper Gobernador Creek project this summer. Gobernador Creek, the main tributary to Carpinteria Creek is now free of barriers between

the Pacific Ocean and its natural limit of anadromy. Additionally non native removal efforts and bank stabilization projects have also occurred with help from the CCWC.

The Coalition looks forward to celebrating more anniversaries in the future, and seeing the removal of all unnatural barriers from the watershed. As part of this year's celebration the City of Carpinteria mounted CCWC plaques on the Welcome to Carpinteria kiosks. Additionally all Organic CCWC t-shirts are still available for \$10, if you would like to purchase a t-shirt please contact us at mail@carpinteriacreek.org. If you are interested in getting involved, the Coalition meets on the third Thursday of every month, at the Carpinteria City Hall, from 10am-12pm.

For more information please check out, carpinteriacreek.org



THE CCWC 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY SIGN NOW DISPLAYED ON THE WELCOME TO CARPINTERIA KIOSK (ABOVE), AND A CLOSE UP OF THE SIGN (RIGHT)



PRESENTATION OF THE WATERSHED HERO AWARD TO BOB HANSEN AT THE 10 YEAR CELEBRATION



Letter From The Director

Mauricio Gomez

Collaboration! If I could sum up the efforts of South Coast Habitat Restoration for 2011 in one word, collaboration is the word I would choose. This year culminates with some very successful major milestones for us and we could not have done any of them without the collaborative efforts of our various partners and supporters. From our partnership with landowners who allow us to restore their land, to government agencies that provide us grant funding and oversight, to non-profits who support our efforts, to business partnerships that support our efforts, to volunteers who assist us in so many ways. All of these have allowed SCHR and our collaborators success in our combined efforts. We strive to strengthen our current partnerships and forge new ones that will allow us to expand our efforts to restore habitats in the Santa Barbara and Ventura region.

Below is a summary of our accomplishments in 2011 along with next steps for 2012.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| • Miles of stream restored for steelhead trout | 3.18 |
| • Bridges installed to improve steelhead passage | 2 |
| • Barriers to steelhead migration removed | 6 |
| • Feet of stream bank restored | 1,017 |
| • Grant funds awarded in 2011 | \$544,892 |
| • Community members reached through outreach events | 340 |
| • New subscribers to our newsletters | 85 |
| • Number of volunteers recruited | 92 |
| • Number of volunteer hours utilized | 782 |
| • Miles of stream habitat monitored | 6 |
| • Number of native plants planted | 5,754 |

As we look towards 2012 we continue to focus on steelhead restoration projects in our region. We are currently working with landowners throughout the region with specific project being developed along the Gaviota Coast, Goleta creeks, Mission Creek and Carpinteria Creek. These projects will continue to restore habitat to the federally endangered steelhead trout. Next year we also look forward to beginning a comprehensive steelhead monitoring effort to validate the work we have been involved with to date.

In keeping with the collaboration theme, I would also like to highlight the efforts of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition, which SCHR chairs. This year marks the 10 year anniversary of the Coalition and it is because of the Coalition that there have been so many accomplishments in the Carpinteria Watershed by its various members. We are extremely proud of being a part of the coalition and look forward to continuing this effort into the future. Meeting for the past 10 years by any group is not very common and the Carpinteria Community has supported the Coalition and allowed it to be so successful.

Thank you for your interest and ongoing support of our efforts to restore our degraded habitats in the Santa Barbara and Ventura region. Please continue your support of our efforts by making a tax deductible donation to South Coast Habitat Restoration. Your support will enable us to continue our restoration efforts in the future. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you would like additional information on the work we are proud to be part of. Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season and a Fishy New Year,

[Signature]

Mauricio Gomez

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

SCHR receives Enviro grant from Patagonia

SCHR receives a \$5000 grant from Patagonia's Environmental Grants Program. SCHR submitted an application to Patagonia's Ventura store last June for matching funds to use towards our Fish and Game grant application. Patagonia choose to fund our application in the amount of \$5000. Below is a photo of us receiving our check at the Ventura Patagonia store.



Carpinteria's Audubon Christmas Bird Count

As the Holidays approach a annual tradition over a hundred years old is also approaching. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteers to help with this nation wide effort. The Carpinteria Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, December 18th. If you are interested in participating please get in touch with Rob Denholtz, 805-684-4060, robdenholt@gmail.com.



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 mgomez@schabitatrestoration.org 805-729-8787
SCHR Project Manager: Erin Brown erinbrown@schabitatrestoration.org 925-548-2659

Production of this newsletter is funded by the Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program.