

Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation Follow Up Meeting

November 2, 2015 – 6:00 – 9:00 pm
State Water Resources Control Board
and
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Information Meeting

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Logistics

- While Board members may be in attendance, no decisions will be made today
- Sign-in sheets and handouts are at back of room
- Please hold questions and comments until after the presentation
- If you would like to speak during the discussion period please raise your hand and staff will give you a speaker number
- Comment cards are available in the back for those who do not wish to speak tonight, but would like to provide comments

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Meeting Ground Rules

- Respect all speakers, all points of view are valid
 - You may not agree with a statement, but please allow the speaker the opportunity to be heard
- All who wish to speak must use a microphone
- Speakers may ask one question or make one comment at a time so that everyone has the opportunity to speak
 - First portion of meeting is focused on providing information
 - Second portion of meeting is focused on answering questions, discussion and comments
- Please silence electronic devices

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General Agenda for Tonight

- State Water Board Presentation to Provide Update on Emergency Regulation
 - Enhanced Water Conservation Measures
 - Informational Order
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Presentation on Stream and Fisheries Conditions
- Next Steps for Instream Flows
- Break (if desired)
- Questions and Discussion

Update on Implementation of Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation

November 2, 2015
State Water Resources Control Board Staff
Erin Ragazzi & Daniel Schultz

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Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation

- Effective Date: **July 6, 2015 – April 1, 2016 (270 days)**
- Applies to four Russian River tributary watersheds:
 - Dutch Bill Creek
 - Green Valley Creek
 - Mark West Creek (portions of)
 - Mill Creek
- Two components (similar to other drought emergency regulations adopted by the State Water Board):
 - Enhanced Water Conservation Measures (currently applies only to critical areas of four watersheds)
 - Informational Order (applies to entire area of four watersheds)

Enhanced Water Conservation Measures Update
THANK YOU
to all those that conserved and continue to do so!

Enhanced Russian River Tributaries Water Conservation Measures*

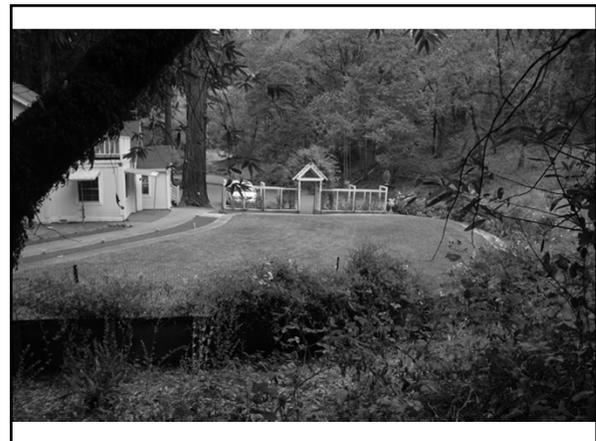
- Builds on statewide water conservation regulation
- Prohibits application of potable and non-potable water to:
 - ornamental turf
 - **landscapes in a manner that causes runoff**
 - landscapes more than two days per week
 - landscapes between 8:00am to 8:00pm
 - **landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall**

**Not all enhanced conservation measures are provided.*



Enhanced Russian River Tributaries Water Conservation Measures

- Currently only applies to water sourced from critical areas (upper portion) of the four watersheds
- Prohibitions on water use do not apply to recycled water, gray water, imported water, or untreated rainwater (stormwater)



Enhanced Water Conservation Compliance Inspections

- 23 field inspections conducted by State Water Board staff
 - Although many landowners are complying with the enhanced water conservation measures, many others are not.
- 14 warnings issued based on observed violations
 - 10 warnings specific to ornamental turf
 - 4 warnings issued for other observed violations
- 5 Notices of Complaint issued to landowners
- Aerial photography flights

Informational Order Update

THANK YOU
to all those that submitted
the requested information!

Informational Order

- Emergency Regulation authorizes State Water Board to issue Informational Orders
- Orders require landowners in and suppliers of water from the watersheds to provide information on diversion and use of surface water and groundwater
 - Any party receiving an order is required to provide the requested information within 30 days
 - Failure to comply with the Informational Order could result in enforcement with penalties of up to \$500 for each day the information is not submitted after it is due

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Informational Order Background

- Informational Order issued (signed) on August 24, 2015
 - Beta testing performed by landowners prior to release
- Information must be submitted via Online Informational Order Form
- Examples of type of information requested:
 - Number of water sources
 - Information on water sources (groundwater wells, surface water diversions, water from suppliers, etc.)
 - Estimated water use, by month
 - Beneficial uses of water (e.g., domestic, irrigation, etc.)

Informational Order Timeline

- **August and September:** Informational Order issued to all landowners in and suppliers of water from the four priority tributary watersheds (~10,100 letters mailed)
- Due dates to respond to the Order have passed:
 - **October 9*:** Dutch Bill Creek
 - **October 14*:** Green Valley Creek
 - **October 20:** Mark West Creek
 - **October 23:** Mill Creek
- October 28 & October 30: Reminder letters mailed to landowners and water suppliers who have not submitted responses (based on information submitted by October 25)

* Due date includes a nine day extension because the online form was down for repairs.

Informational Order Assistance

- To date, State Water Board staff have responded to:
 - More than 2,055 calls
 - More than 500 e-mails
 - 275 parcels with groundwater well information submitted
- More than 90 appointments to provide one-on-one in person assistance in completing the Online Informational Order Form

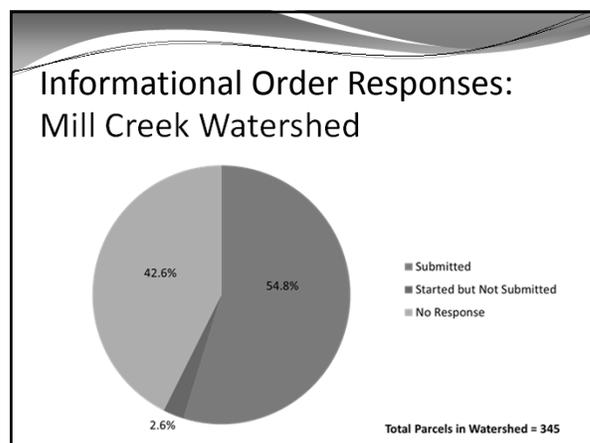
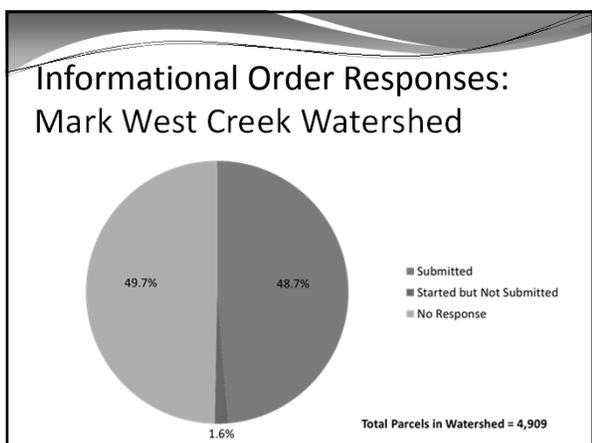
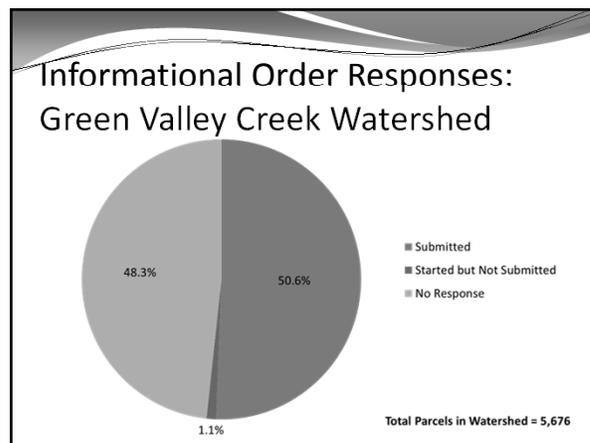
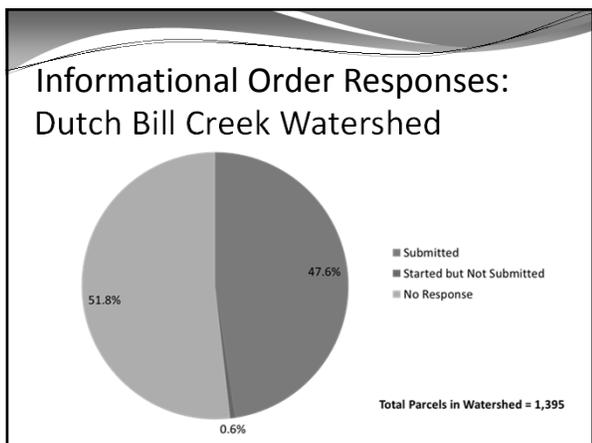
Informational Order: Feedback

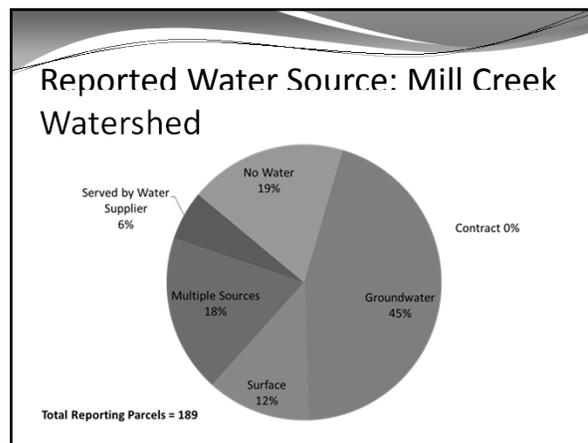
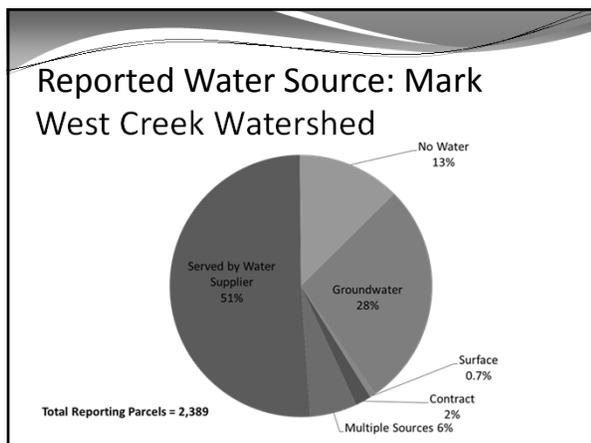
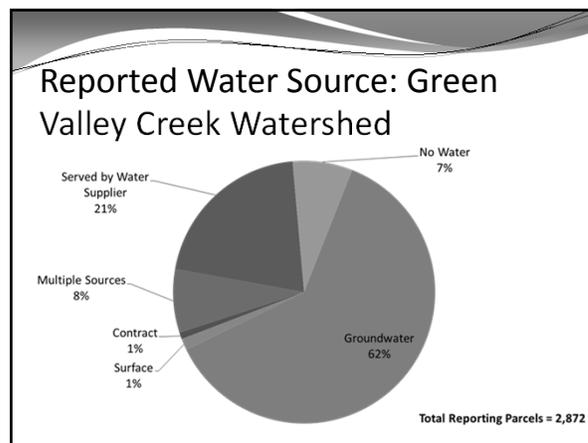
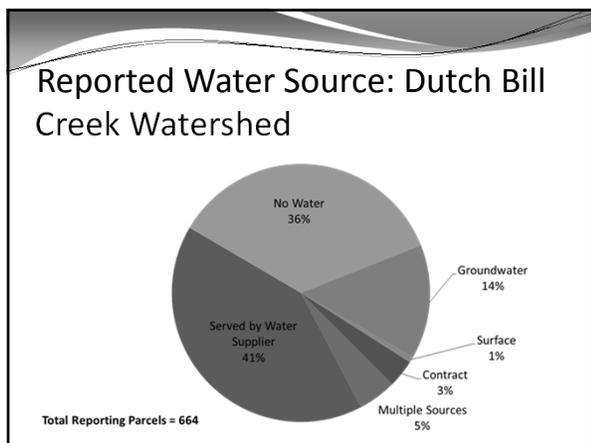
- Online Informational Order Form is complicated
- Overall usability/understandability of Online Informational Order Form
 - Technical problems/questions with Online Informational Order Form
 - Confirmation page problems (information entered may not be shown until the page is refreshed)
- Threatening tone of letter

State Water Board staff appreciates the constructive feedback we've received and will take this feedback and our experiences into consideration should similar efforts be pursued in the future

Informational Order Form: Preliminary Findings

- Findings are based on information submitted through October 25, 2015
- Overall response rate is approximately 50%
 - Reminder letters have been mailed to those that have not yet submitted responses
- Most common sources of water: served by water supplier, groundwater well, or no water available
- Fewer parcels supplied by a surface water diversion, contract water, or multiple sources of water





Status of Coho Salmon in the Priority Russian River Tributaries 2015 Drought Update

California Streams

Keep Them Running

Corinne Gray, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Gail Seymour, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisor)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bay Delta Region

Voluntary Drought Agreements in the 4 Tributaries

We have received:

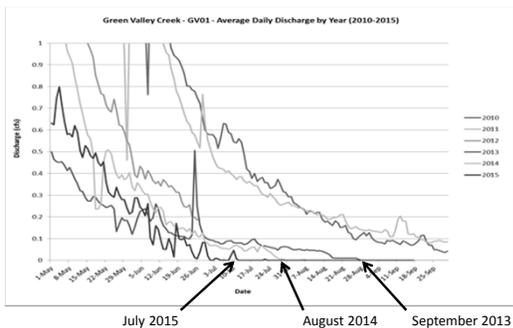
- 35 Residential Conservation VDI's
- 7 Winery/ Vineyard Conservation VDI's

We have also signed:

- 3 Flow Enhancement VDI's for Green Valley Creek
- 2 Flow Enhancement VDI's for Dutch Bill

In addition, 71 winegrape growers representing 1,900 acres of vineyard pledged to reduce water demand by 25 percent.

Green Valley Creek Flow (2010-2015)



Green Valley Creek Flow Enhancement Projects

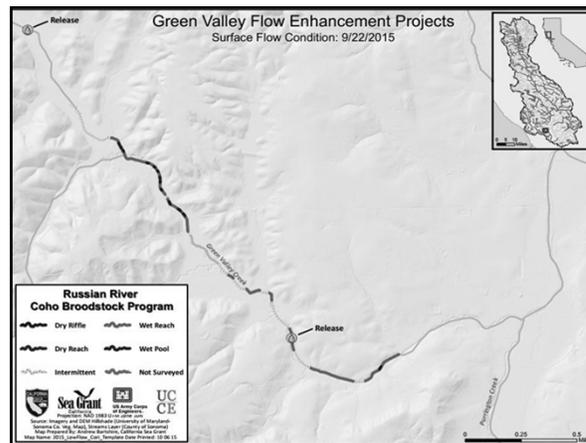
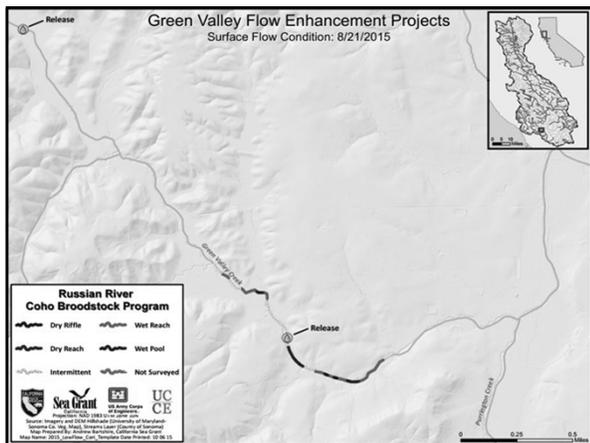
- 3 Flow Enhancement VDI's were signed in Green Valley Creek
 - Jackson Family Wines
 - Chris Panyim/ Michael Paine
 - Bob and Dianne Gianni



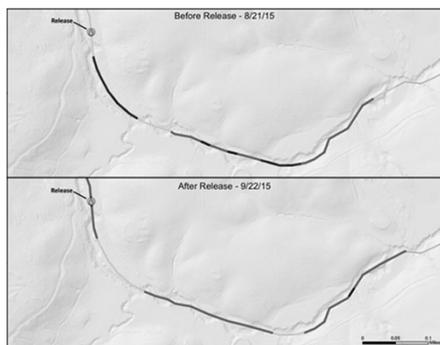
Bones Lane release Site

- All three committed to releasing water into Green Valley Creek **through November** or until flows are restored from rainfall events

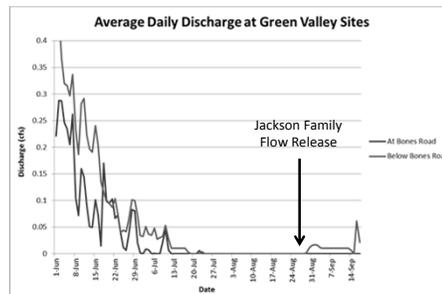
- **Partners** included: Jackson Family Wines, Chris Panyim, Michael Paine, Bob and Dianne Gianni, ARCG, the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program, the State Water Resources Control Board, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, CDFW and NMFS



Bones Lane Release Before and After



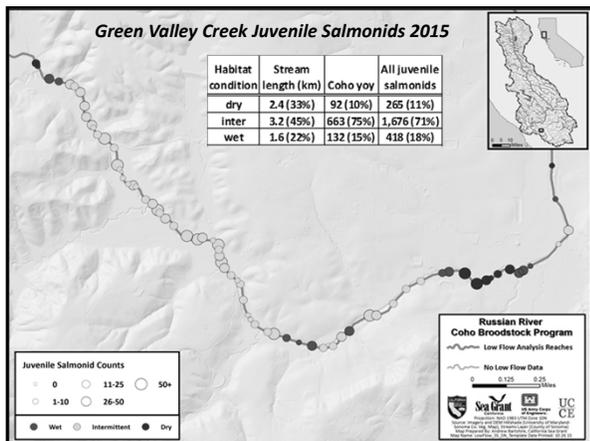
Bones Lane Hydrograph above and below Jackson release point



Bones Lane – Downstream Reach



Bones Lane – Upstream Reach



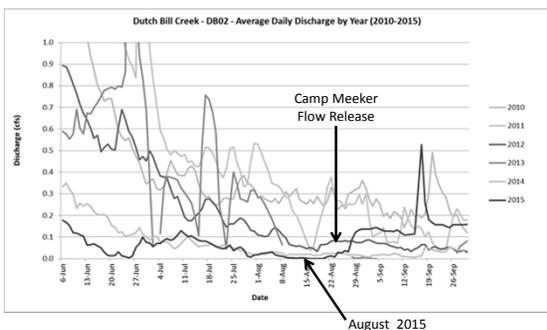
Dutch Bill Creek Flow Enhancement Projects

- Camp Meeker Recreation and Parks District (CMRPD) volunteered to enhance critically low summer flows in Dutch Bill Creek to protect coho salmon by releasing raw water from its water supply pipeline **continuously through November** or until flows are restored from rainfall events.
 - Approximately 3,400 juvenile coho salmon and steelhead were likely to perish
 - Flow augmentation was initiated on August 25 at a rate of 45 gallons per minute (gpm)
- St Dorothy’s Rest also signed a VDI to release water from an existing reservoir in Upper Dutch Bill Creek

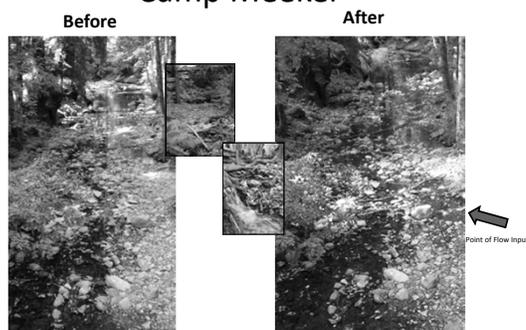


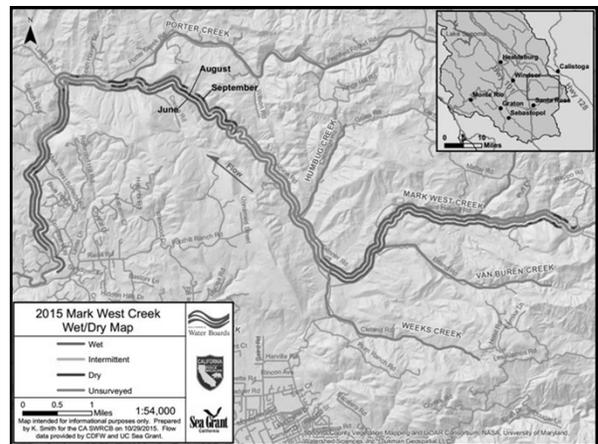
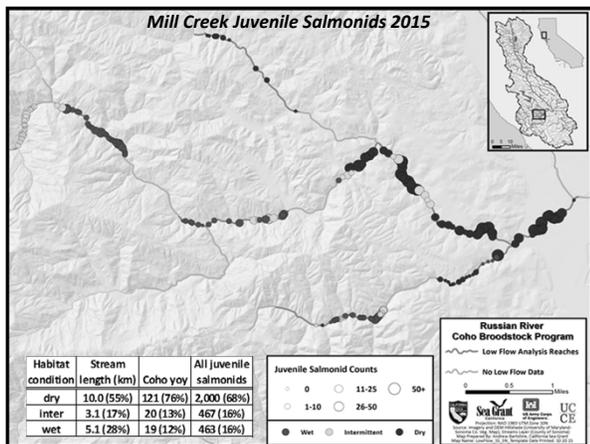
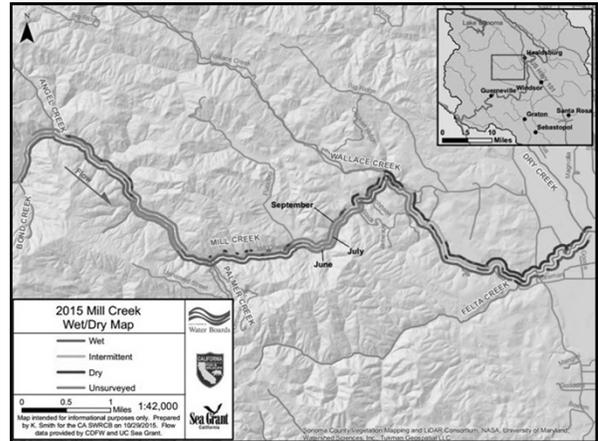
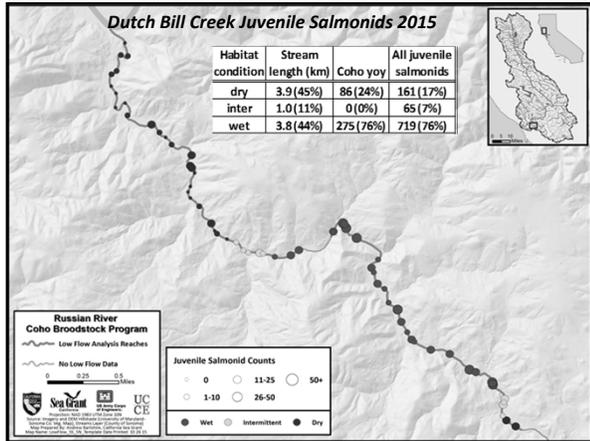
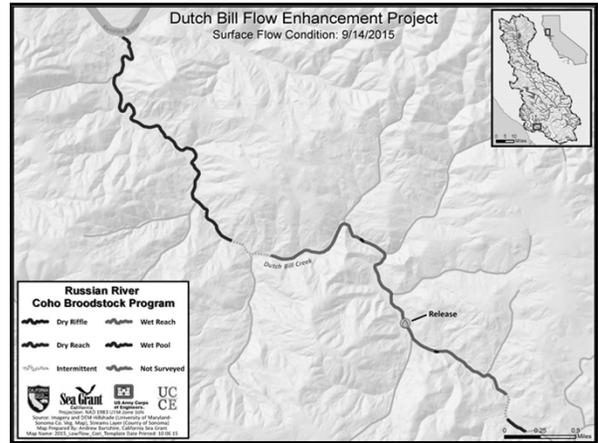
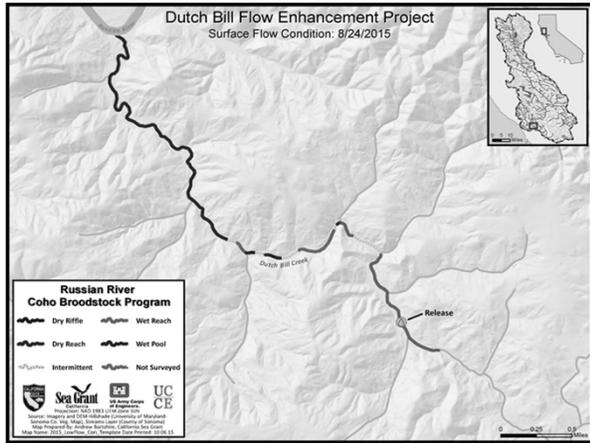
- **Partners include:** CMRPD, St. Dorothy’s Rest, ARCG, the Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, the Russian River Coho Salmon Captive Broodstock Program, the State Water Resources Control Board, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, CDFW and NMFS

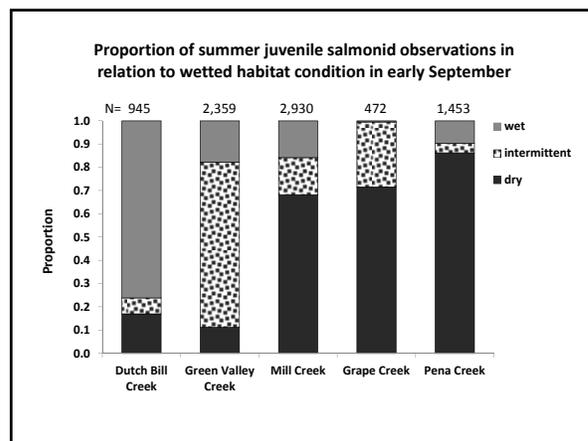
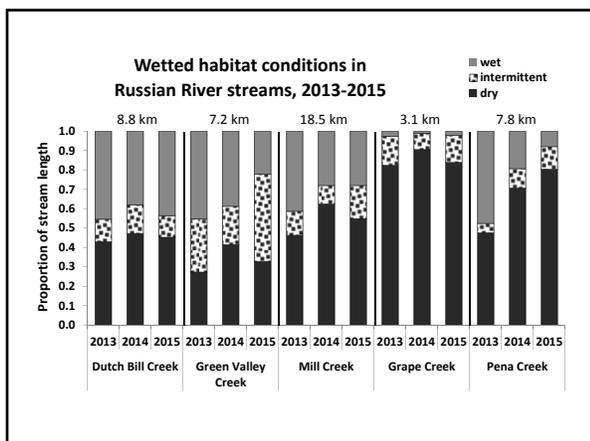
Dutch Bill Creek Flow (2010-2015)



Camp Meeker







Conclusions

- Conservation Measures can make a difference and the addition of flow enhancement projects from a few exceptional volunteers can make a **big** difference
 - Only a small amount of water can be the difference between life and death for coho salmon
 - 45 gpm = 0.1 cfs, 3 month total = 18 acre-feet
- But, the restoration and **conservation of functional ecosystems** is a more effective and reliable long term solution
 - Springs and seeps are the natural source of summer flows
 - Summer flows are a critical lifeline for the salmonid life-cycle
- VDI's have been a tremendous complement to the Emergency Regulations
 - But they are not likely to replace the need for **comprehensive regulation** of water uses

STILL Seeking Flow Enhancement Projects! (for next year)

3 acre feet is enough to keep a Creek wetted for almost one whole month.

Please come talk to me if you are interested in releasing your stored water for flow enhancement!

“Flow for Fish” Rebate Program

Without the “Fish for Flow” program, none of the Flow Enhancement Projects could have been implemented this summer.

Thank you Jackson Family Winery for your original \$20,000 donation and for an additional \$20,000 for 2015!!!

It's not over yet!!

- Please contact Mary Ann King if you'd like to donate equipment or time, and/or provide financial support
mking@tu.org or (510) 649-9987

Corinne Gray, Senior Environmental Scientist
 CDFW Bay Delta Region
 707-944-5526 corinne.gray@wildlife.ca.gov

Short-term Actions to Address Instream Flows

- Potential extension or expansion of emergency regulation should the drought continue into fall and winter, or beyond.

Long-term Actions to Address Instream Flows

- California Water Action Plan
 - Plan to enhance water supply reliability, restore damaged and destroyed ecosystems, and improve the resilience of California's infrastructure
 - Mark West Creek identified as one of five tributaries for enhanced stream flows statewide
 - Russian River Water & Fish Workshops:
 - Opportunity to learn more about funding opportunities, water rights, fishery resources
 - December 17 & January 26, 2016 in Santa Rosa
 - Flyers with more information available

Long-term Actions to Address Instream Flows

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
 - Requires formation of groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs), and development of groundwater sustainability plans for 127 high and medium priority groundwater basins – Mark West Creek

Webpages and Contact Information

- Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation Contact Information:
 - 916-322-8422
 - RR_Tribs_Emergency_Reg@waterboards.ca.gov
- Russian River Tributaries Emergency Regulation Webpage: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/drought/water_action_russianriver.shtml
- Informational Order Webpage: www.waterboards.ca.gov/rtribs.shtml

