

BUTTE CREEK SALMON RECOVERY

The Butte Creek Fish Improvement projects are located along Butte Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River in California's Central Valley. The various projects together comprise one of the nation's most significant fisheries restoration efforts, with 90 miles of Butte Creek restored for the benefit of spring-run salmon. These projects also divert water for the benefit of farms, birds and other species along the Pacific Flyway.

BUTTE CREEK FISH IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

Water management in the upper reach of Butte Creek provides well-timed functional flows for spawning and holding habitat.**

Lahar Formation*

Rancho Esquon Diversion and Fish Ladder

Gorrill Ranch Diversion and Fish Ladder

Western Canal Gary N. Brown Butte Creek Siphon

Remove four dams from Butte Creek, restoring about 25 miles of unimpeded flow

Parrot-Phelan Diversion and Fish Ladder

Durham Mutual Water Company Diversion and Fish Ladder

Critical Riffles*

Lake Oroville

Feather River

Sutter Bypass

The passage improvements, combined with fish food production and safe rearing habitat for juvenile fish in the lower reach of the creek flowing through the wetlands created by the Sutter Bypass, have provided functional flows and an excellent environment for spring-run salmon and other species to thrive.

Sutter Buttes

East-West Diversion Weir

Sutter Bypass

Invasive Aquatic Weeds*

Weir 1 Replacement

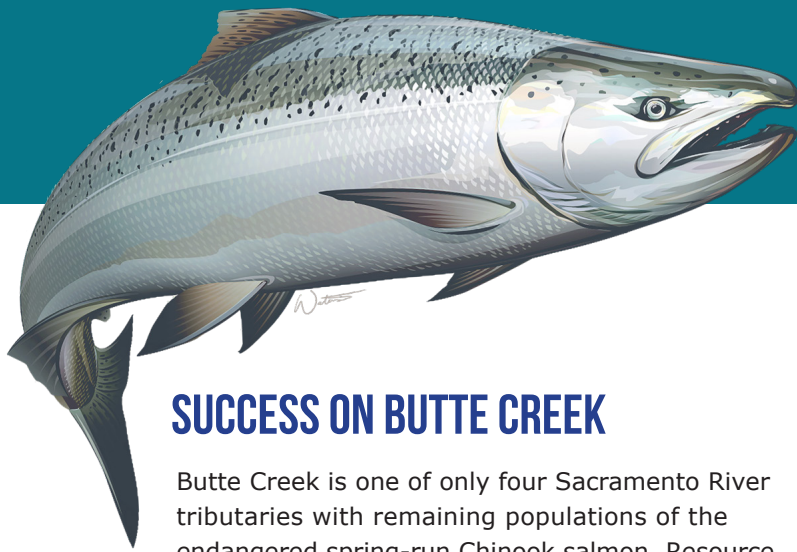
Partnerships

Cooperation among the agricultural, urban and environmental communities—with funding partnerships—were essential to the success of the projects. The key stakeholders and participants included:

- Local water suppliers and farmers (see map)
- Conservation Organizations
- California Urban Water Agencies
- U.S. Department of Interior (USFWS and USBR)
- California Department of Fish and Game
- PG&E

* Projects included in a new Butte Creek Adult Spring-Run Chinook Passage Program to further improve fish passage on Butte Creek

** Butte Creek Operations Group



SUCCESS ON BUTTE CREEK

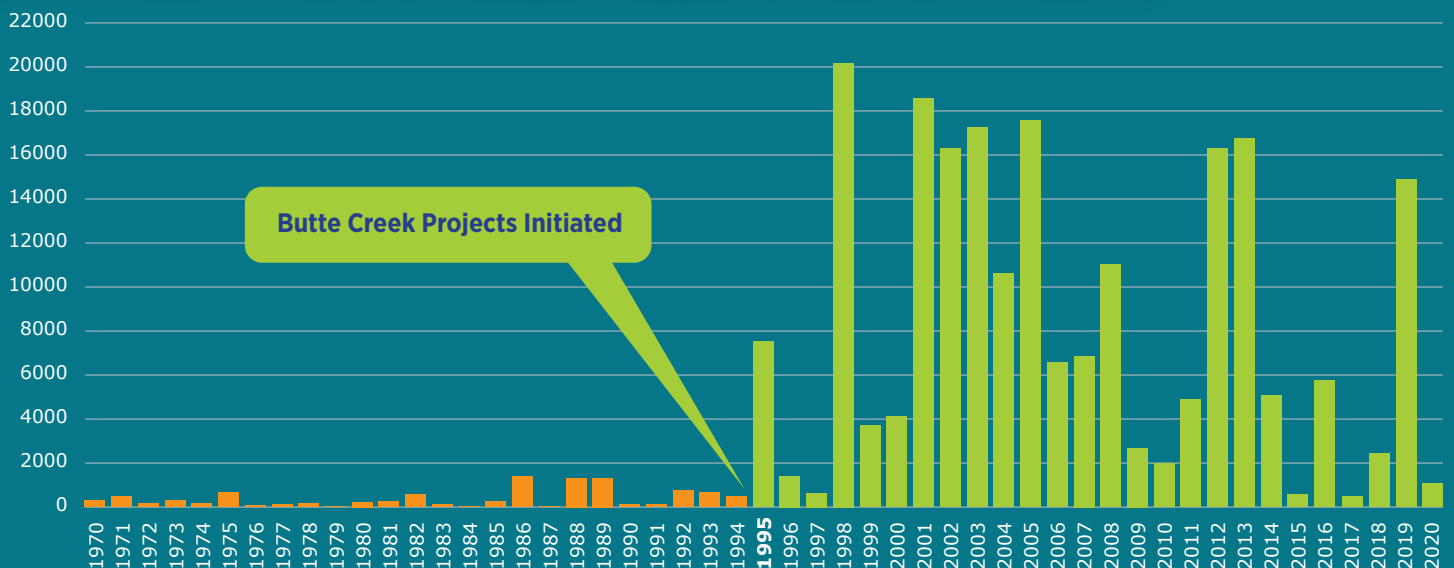
Butte Creek is one of only four Sacramento River tributaries with remaining populations of the endangered spring-run Chinook salmon. Resource agencies and conservation groups value Butte Creek as a keystone in preserving and recovering spring-run salmon, which in some years had dwindled to less than a 100 returning adults from 1970 to the early 1990s. Today, as a result of the Butte Creek Fish Passage Improvement projects, in tandem with a valuable food supply and safe rearing habitat in the Sutter Bypass wetlands, more than 10,000 spring-run salmon return on average to Butte Creek. These projects all provide multiple beneficial uses, serving water for fish, farms, birds and various other species.

Pictured above: Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon
 Illustration by Paul Waters, courtesy of Cal Trout
 (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)



Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt tearing down McPherrin Dam in 1998.

BUTTE CREEK SPRING-RUN CHINOOK SALMON POPULATION ESTIMATES



Source: CDFW