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Carmel River Steelhead Association

Advocating for Steelhead Since 1974

Fish Tales
Monthly Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Steve Park

Recently I heard from a friend of CRSA that a wealthy client of his made this statement: "The water in the Carmel River is too valuable for water users to worry about healthy fish populations."

There are many things wrong with this statement. One would want to ask the fish if they have a say about this kind of statement.

Long before humans began to use the Carmel River as a water source, the fish populations were thriving. What gave human kind the right to ruin the Carmel River by over drafting its water supply?

I am reading "Cadillac Desert" by Marc Reisner (thank you for the book loan Miranda). So far the book is dealing with the history of developing water in the western United States. The building of dams in the first half of the twentieth century is unbelievable! It took a strong conservation movement which started showing up in the sixties to stop the dam building. Unfortunately it was too late. When Crocker needed water for his hotel in Monterey he had his engineer look to the Carmel River for that water. The result - a dam on the Carmel River. A big tall dam with very little concern for fish passage.

The current feeling by conservationists seems to be: "It's not too late - but forget about bringing back what has been lost and concentrate on maintaining what is left." A dire statement to say the least. Can we bring back the steelhead populations in the Carmel River? Probably - but to what levels? Last year was a banner year for steelhead in the Carmel River. That is, compared to previous years. The San

Clemente dam is gone which one would think should help spawning steelhead. However, the weather to date is not cooperating. Welcome to the drought riddled western United States.

Is the Carmel River water too valuable for healthy steelhead populations? NO! How do these incredible fish stand a chance? We advocate for them anyway we can, whether through rescues or public awareness or standing up against those who are too short sighted to realize that the fish have a say in these matters.

Everything is connected. If the steelhead are gone then other entities suffer... and so it goes...

[Donate](#)

2020 DUES

Dues for membership in CRSA for 2020 are now payable and will be **considered delinquent at the end of March.**

With CRSA being an all-volunteer organization, we do not have the ability to track and pro-rate dues based on when they are paid, so for those new members who paid their first dues in November or December of 2109 (Donna, Margaret, Meighan, and Daphne) CRSA gives you credit for 2020 dues.

All other members please pay your dues and those receiving this newsletter and who are not members please consider joining. The larger the organization the more influence we have and the further dues go to save steelhead.

[CRSA Membership](#)

Board of Directors Meeting

March 19, 2020

Meeting time: 6pm

Location of meeting: CAWD conference room

AGENDA

Approval of December 2019 meeting minutes and approval of the January 2020 meeting minutes

Treasure's report

Old business:

Water testing at Los Padres

Potential pit tagging on the Cachagua, does CRSA want to proceed

CRSA merchandising, does Jaime want to handle

Cachagua water storage do we want to continue this discussion and continue to move forward

Coastal commission hearing on desal plant where is it

Review of funding efforts

Steve-Hallie-Miranda-Robert

New business:

Electro fishing classes for CRSA

Review and discussions on recent CRSA purchases

Seine net-pit tag reader

Review and discussions on email motions and voting procedures

Update on various conferences and gatherings CRSA will be attending in 2020

Discuss upcoming rescues and stream impass work

Conversations about the river and steelhead presence

CONSERVATION REPORT By Brian LeNeve

Restoration Conference

In my opinion the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) info@calsalmon.org is the premier facilitator of river restoration in California, if not the whole west coast. For full disclosure I am a board member of SRF and the reason I joined the board is because of these opinions.

Every year SRF holds a restoration conference and this year the 38th Annual Conference will be held in Santa Cruz CA on March 31 through April 3. I encourage anyone who wants to learn what is happening with salmon and steelhead or wants

to meet the people who are making changes in rivers and policies to attend the conference. The first two days are workshops and field tours (I am leading a tour of Los Padres Dam with help from NMFS, MPWMD and Cal Am and I am glad to say the tour is overbooked) and the last two days are the actual conference.

These conferences have been described as the best fisheries conference on the West Coast and a must for anyone interested in steelhead. You can find more information at: <https://www.calsalmon.org/conferences/38th-annual-salmonid-restoration-conference>

California Wildlife Day

Last year Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks and the Carmel River Watershed Conservancy hosted California Wildlife Day at the old Rancho Canada Golf Course (which we are to start calling Palo Corona Regional Park).

The two organizations are again hosting the event on March 21, 2020 from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Palo Corona Regional Park located at 2860 Carmel Valley Road. This is a fun event where quite a number of organizations working to support wildlife in California are hosting tables and talking about their concerns and projects. CRSA will be there to talk about the condition of steelhead on the Carmel River.

The following is taken from the Regional Park website. "California Wildlife Day! The California State Legislature proclaims the spring equinox of every year as California Wildlife Day. California Wildlife Day! will, from now on, be recognized on the spring equinox of each year. Join us for the second annual celebration of California's wildlife! There will be fun for all ages. Entry, food, and drinks will be FREE to the public."

I want to encourage everyone to attend this event and stop by the CRSA table to say hello.

CRSA Membership

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