

8th Spring-run Chinook Symposium

July 26-28, 2016 in Chico, CA

+ Overview

- Sponsors:
 - PG&E
 - Northern California Water Association
 - Friends of Butte Creek
 - California Conservation Corps

The year's Symposium will highlight regional status reports on Spring-run Chinook populations, instream flow studies and fish passage assessments, water conservation and transactions, and how to translate research and genetics into implementation and recovery actions.

Field tours will include visits to the legendary spawning grounds in Upper Butte Creek and PG&E's hydroelectric retrofit projects; salmon and steelhead fish passage in Lower, Deer, Mill and Antelope Creek that have been prioritized for instream flow enhancement and fish passage projects; a Clear Creek Spring Chinook Restoration tour; and a tour of Lower Butte Creek Water Diversions.

+ Presentations

Enhancing Instream Flows for Spring-run Chinook

(Slide 4) Evaluating Passage Conditions and Instream Flows for Salmonids in Lower Deer and Mill Creeks

Diane Haas, Instream Flow Program, California Department of Fish & Wildlife

*(Slide 39) Management of Storage and Instream Flow for Holding Spring-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in Butte Creek, Butte County, CA*

Catalina Reyes, Pacific Gas & Electric

(Slide 57) Managing Water for Instream Flow Enhancement

Matt Clifford, California Water Project, Trout Unlimited

(Slide 85) Mill Creek Instream Flow Tools

Gregg Werner, The Nature Conservancy

Evaluating Passage Conditions and Instream Flows for Salmonids in Lower Deer and Mill Creeks



Diane Haas
Instream Flow Program
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

SRF Spring-run Chinook Symposium
Chico, CA
July 26, 2016



Overview

- CDFW Instream Flow Program
- Study design considerations for evaluating instream flows
- Deer Creek study
- Mill Creek study
- Next steps



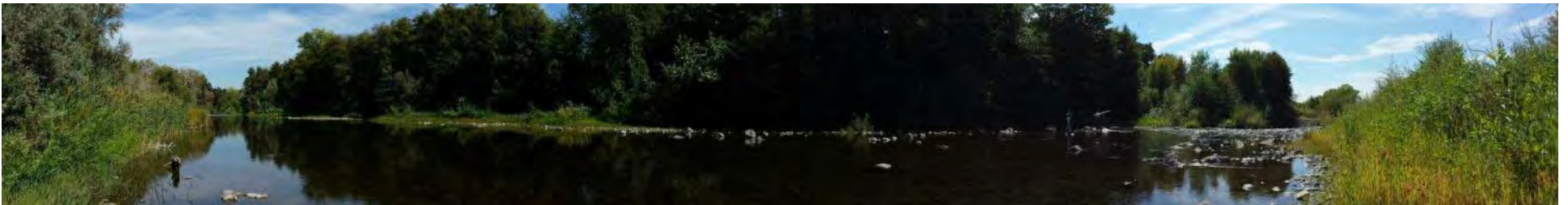
CDFW Instream Flow Program (IFP)

- Provides instream flow criteria and recommendations
- Oversees study design and implementation
- Collects field data
- Technical oversight and review
- Coordinates with CDFW Regions, SWRCB, USFWS, and others
- Develops guidelines and SOPs for quality assurance



Policies and Mandates

- Public Resources Code §10000-10005 [Stream Flow Protection Standards]
- Fish and Game Code §5937
- CA Senate Bill X7-1/Delta Reform Act (2009)
- CA Proposition 1 Water Bond/Water Action Plan (2014)



Methods to Support Flow Regimes

- Many proven and acceptable methods available to quantify flow criteria
- Credible, consistent, and defensible
- No single best method or flow (*think flow regimes*)



Study Design

- What are the questions?
 - Salmonid passage, spawning, or rearing flows
 - Ecological riffle productivity flows
 - Low-flow threshold flows
 - Subsistence flows (water quality)
 - Channel maintenance flows



Study Design

- What is the intended use of the data?
 - Permit compliance (water right, LSA)
 - Develop flow criteria/flow objectives (PRC, WAP)
 - Identify bypass flows
 - Monitoring and assessment
 - Research and development



Study Design

- Select representative sample sites
 - What spatial scale is needed?
 - Is a habitat inventory needed?
 - What is the temporal scale of sampling appropriate flows?
 - Targeted sites (salmonid passage) vs. stratified random sites (salmonid rearing)
 - Intended data use – i.e., desktop methods may not need site-specific physical habitat data



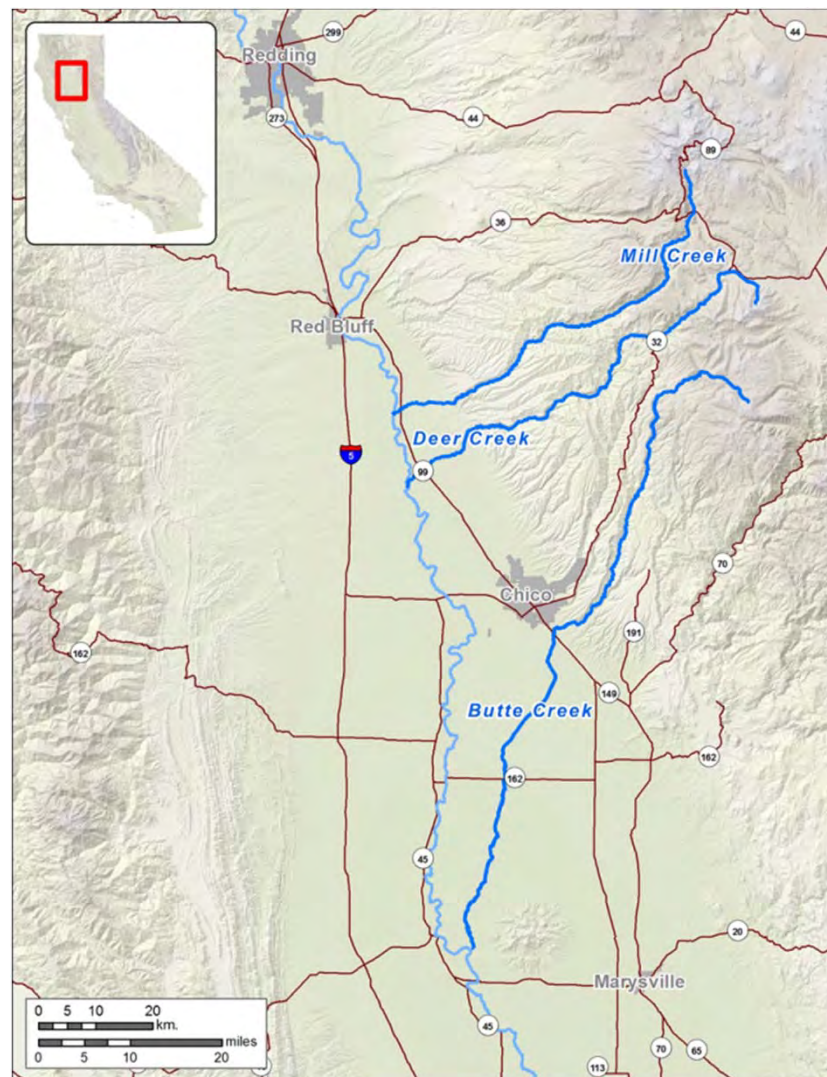
Study Design

- Match appropriate methods to questions

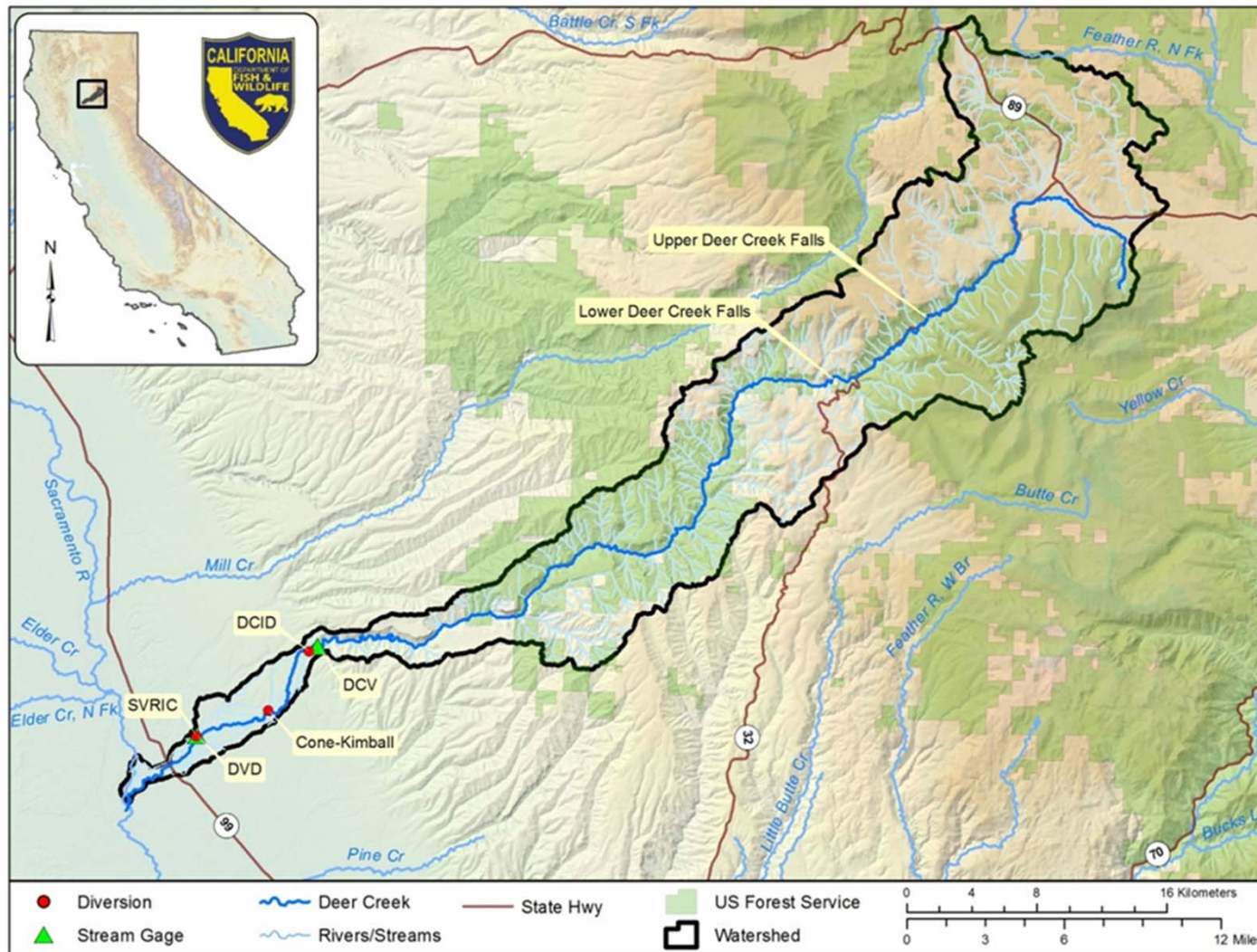
Methods	Salmonid Rearing	Salmonid Passage	Salmonid Spawning	Ecological Riffle Productivity	Low-Flow Threshold	Survival Flows	Subsistence Flows	Channel Maintenance	Drought Flows
Habitat Retention Method		X		X	X	X			
Wetted Perimeter Method				X	X				
Q_{fp}		X							
Hatfield-Bruce Equations	X		X						
Critical Riffle Analysis		X							
Flow Duration Analysis									X
Percentile-based Flow Criteria					X			X	X
Channel Maintenance Flows								X	
7Q10									
Hydraulic Habitat Modeling	X	X	X						

Deer and Mill Creeks (Tehama County)

- Self-sustaining, genetically distinct populations of CV Spring-run Chinook salmon
- CV steelhead
- Fall-run and late-fall run Chinook salmon



Deer Creek Watershed



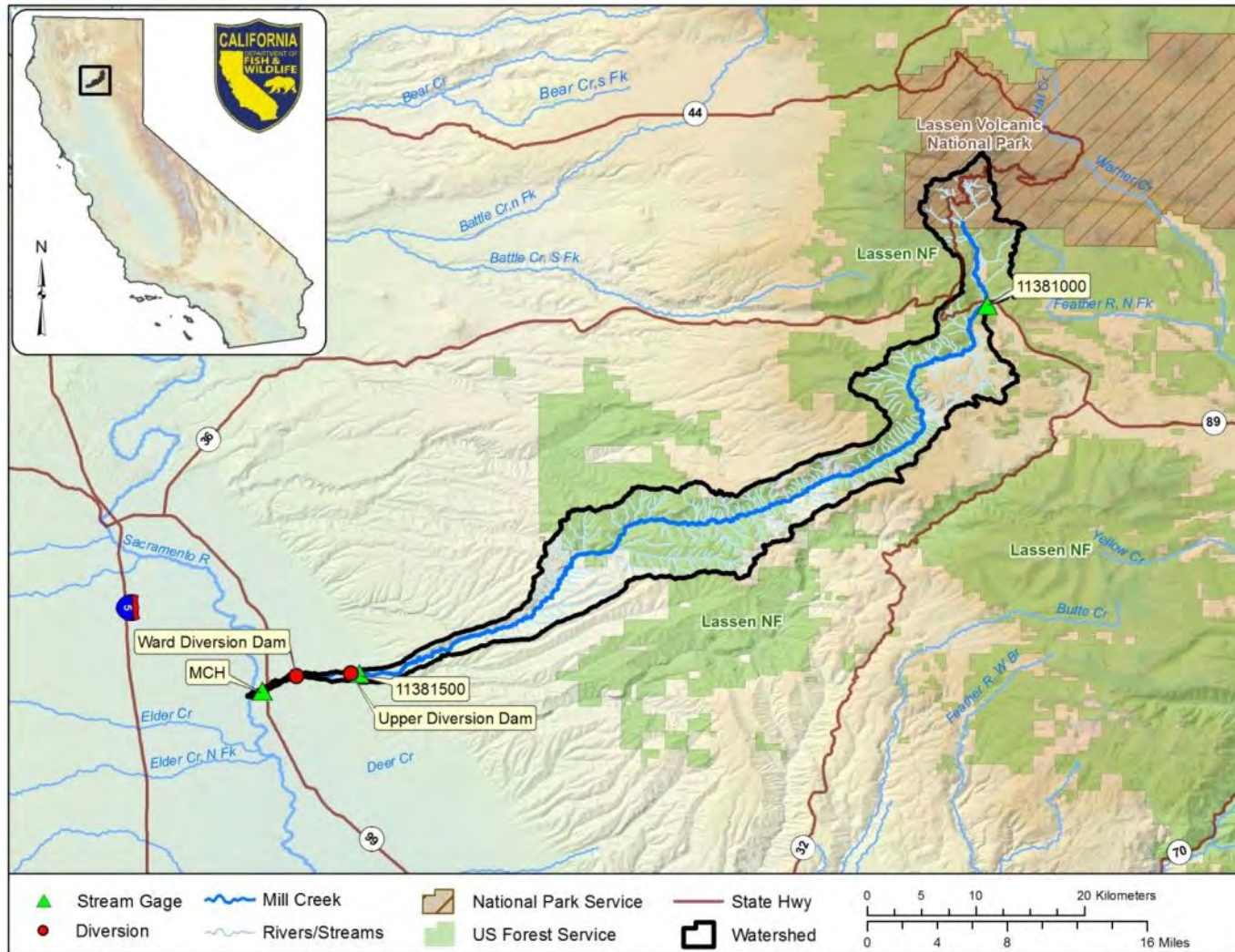


Upper Deer Creek, August 2012



Lower Deer Creek, September 2014

Mill Creek Watershed





Upper Mill Creek, June 2012



Lower Mill Creek, June 2012



Lower Mill Creek, June 2015

Mill Creek Migration Timing

Species and Life Stage	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring-run Chinook Salmon												
Adult			█	█	█	█	█	█				
Juvenile	█	█	█	█	█	█				█	█	█
Fall-run Chinook Salmon												
Adult										█	█	█
Juvenile	█	█	█	█	█	█						█
Steelhead												
Adult	█	█	█	█	█	█				█	█	█
Juvenile	█	█	█	█	█	█				█	█	█

Source: USFWS 2000; M. Johnson pers. comm. 2015

Migration  Peak 



Deer and Mill Creeks

- What is the question?
 - Identify salmonid passage flows
- What is the intended use of the data?
 - Develop flow criteria
- Selecting representative sample sites
 - Targeted sites for salmonid passage
- What methods were chosen?
 - Critical riffle analysis
 - 2-D hydraulic model



Critical Riffle Analysis (CRA)

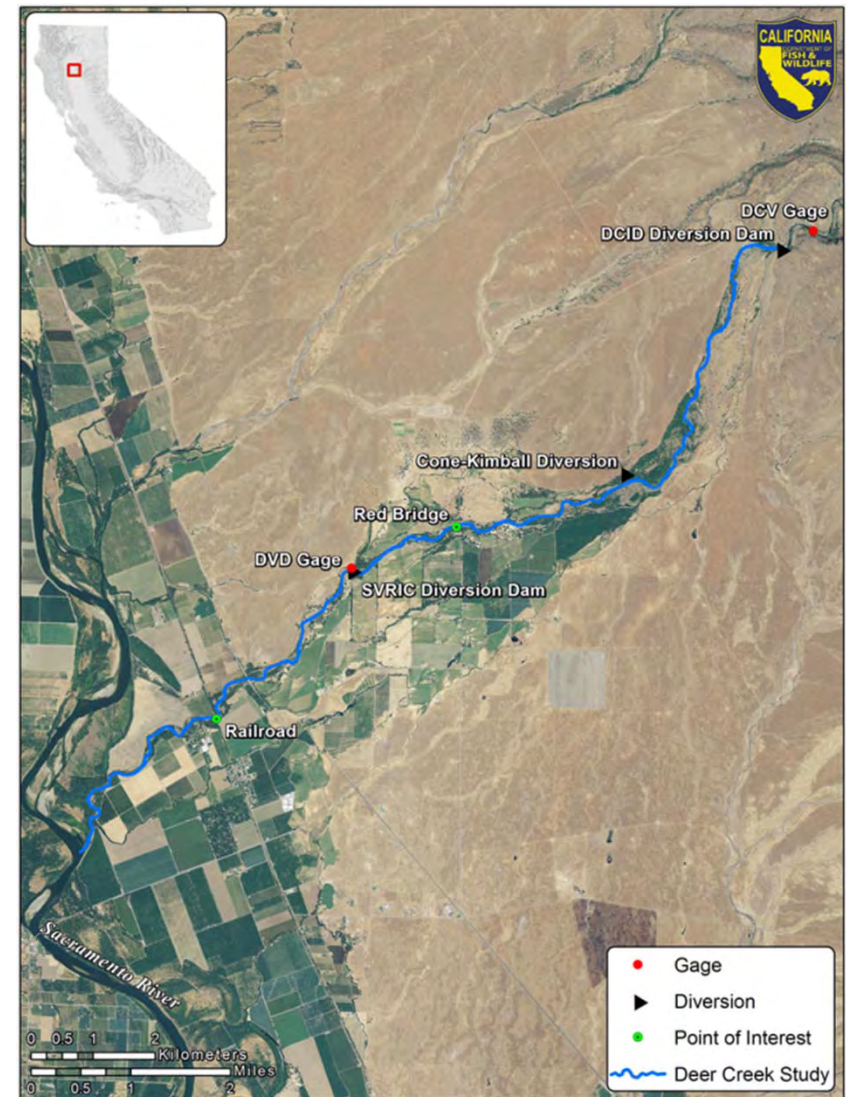
- Depth and velocity criteria

Species (life stage)	Minimum depth (ft)	Maximum Velocity (ft/s)
Chinook Salmon (adult)	0.9	8.0
Steelhead (adult)	0.7	8.0
Salmonid (young-of-year/juvenile)	0.3	-

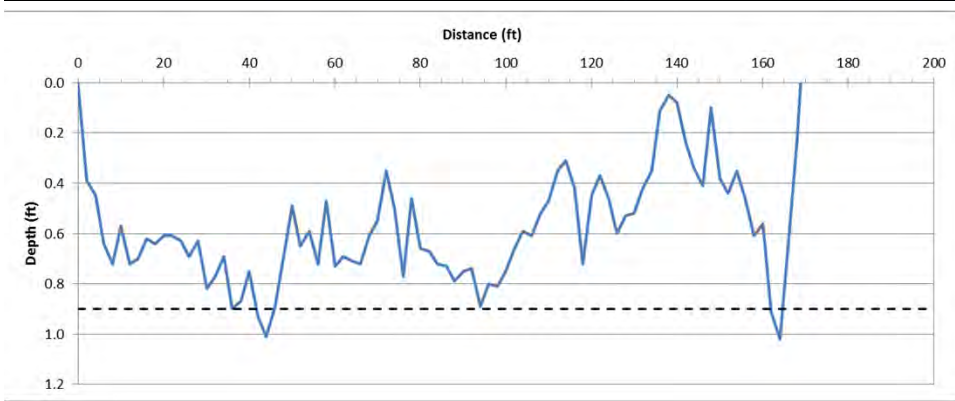


Deer Creek Study Reach

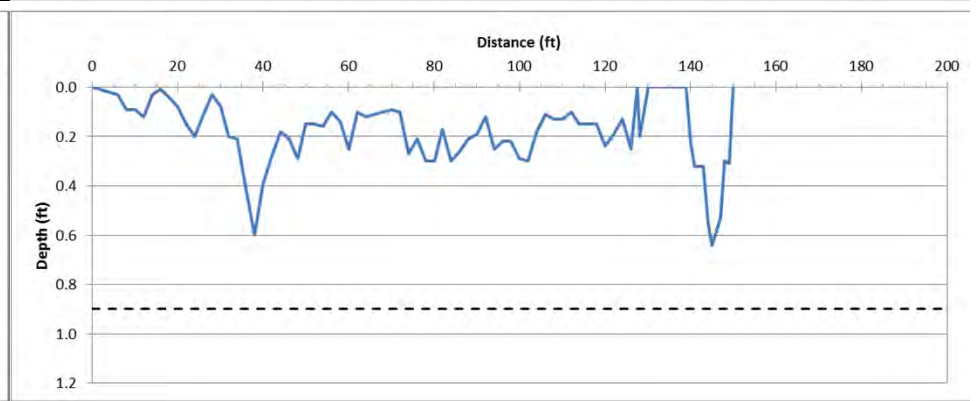
- Surveyed lower 12 miles, from DCID to confluence (2014)
- 21 critical riffles identified
- Two most depth limited riffles selected



CR31



193 cfs

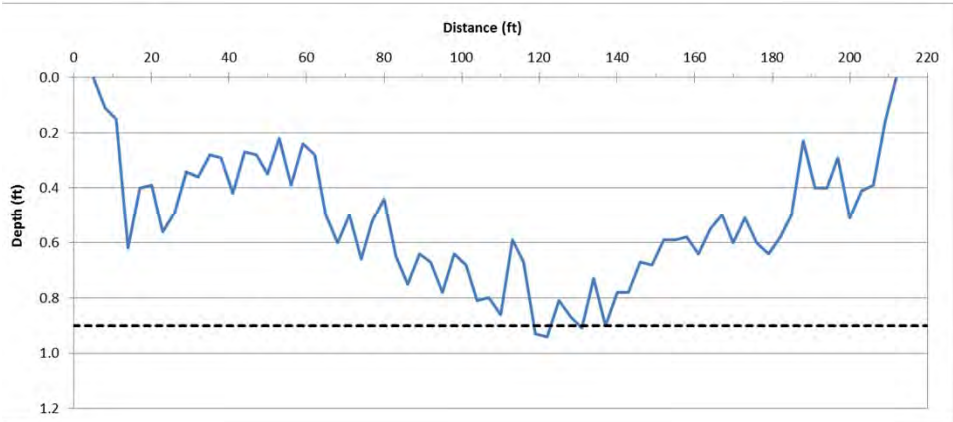


12 cfs

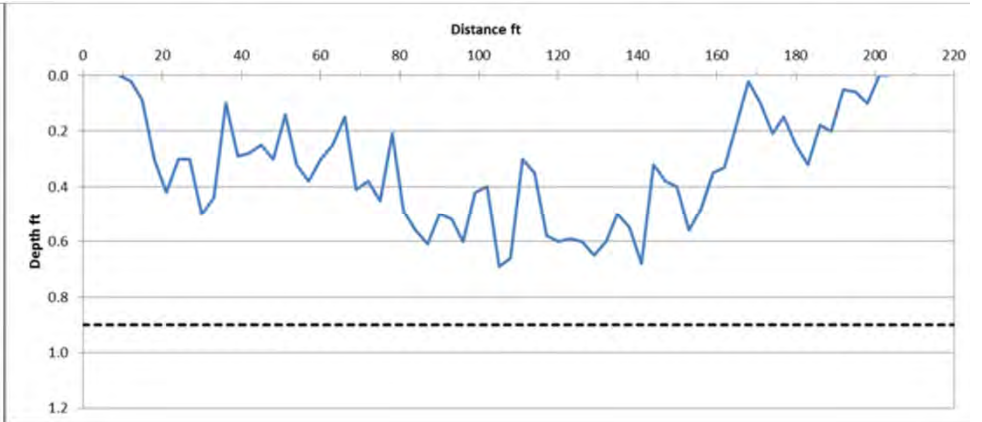
Mill Creek Study Reach



CR7



153 cfs



67 cfs

Mill Creek 2-D Site (CR2)

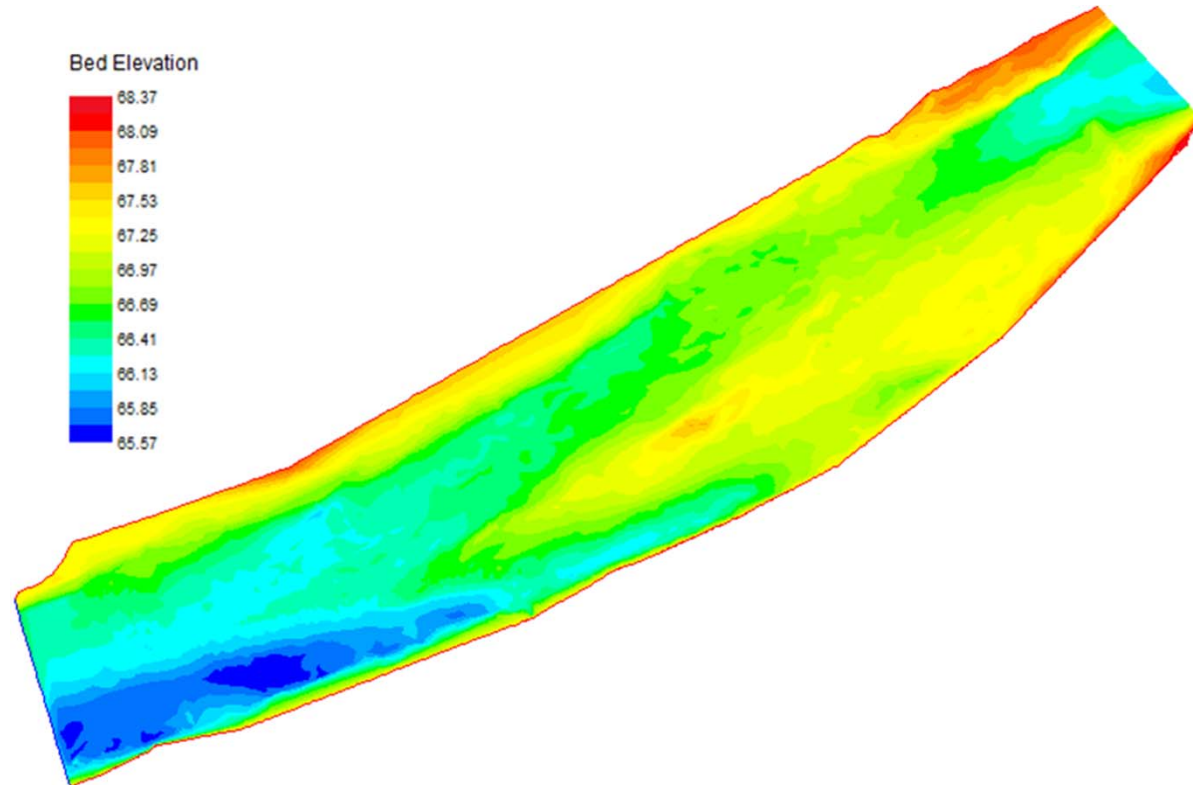


Mill Creek 2-D Model

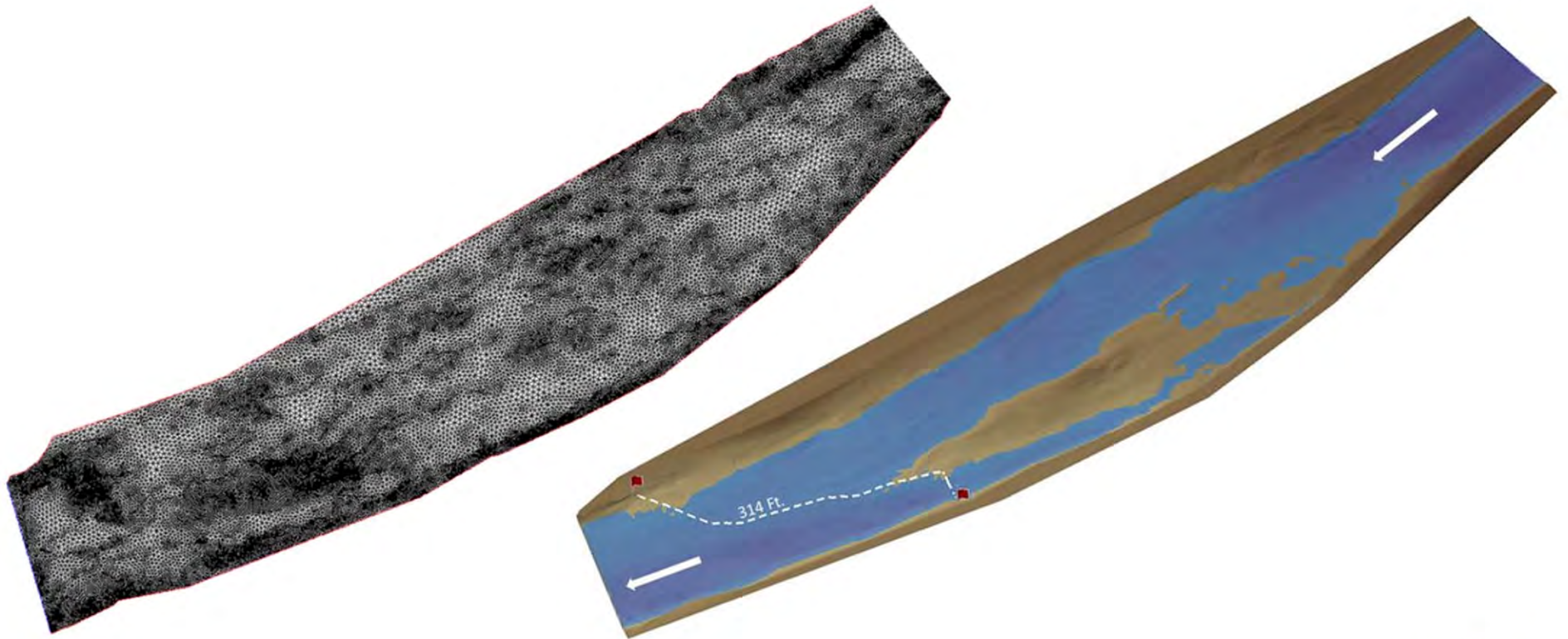
- Bed topography
- Water surface elevations
- Water depths
- Water velocities
- Substrate and cover composition



Mill Creek 2-D Model



Mill Creek 2-D Model

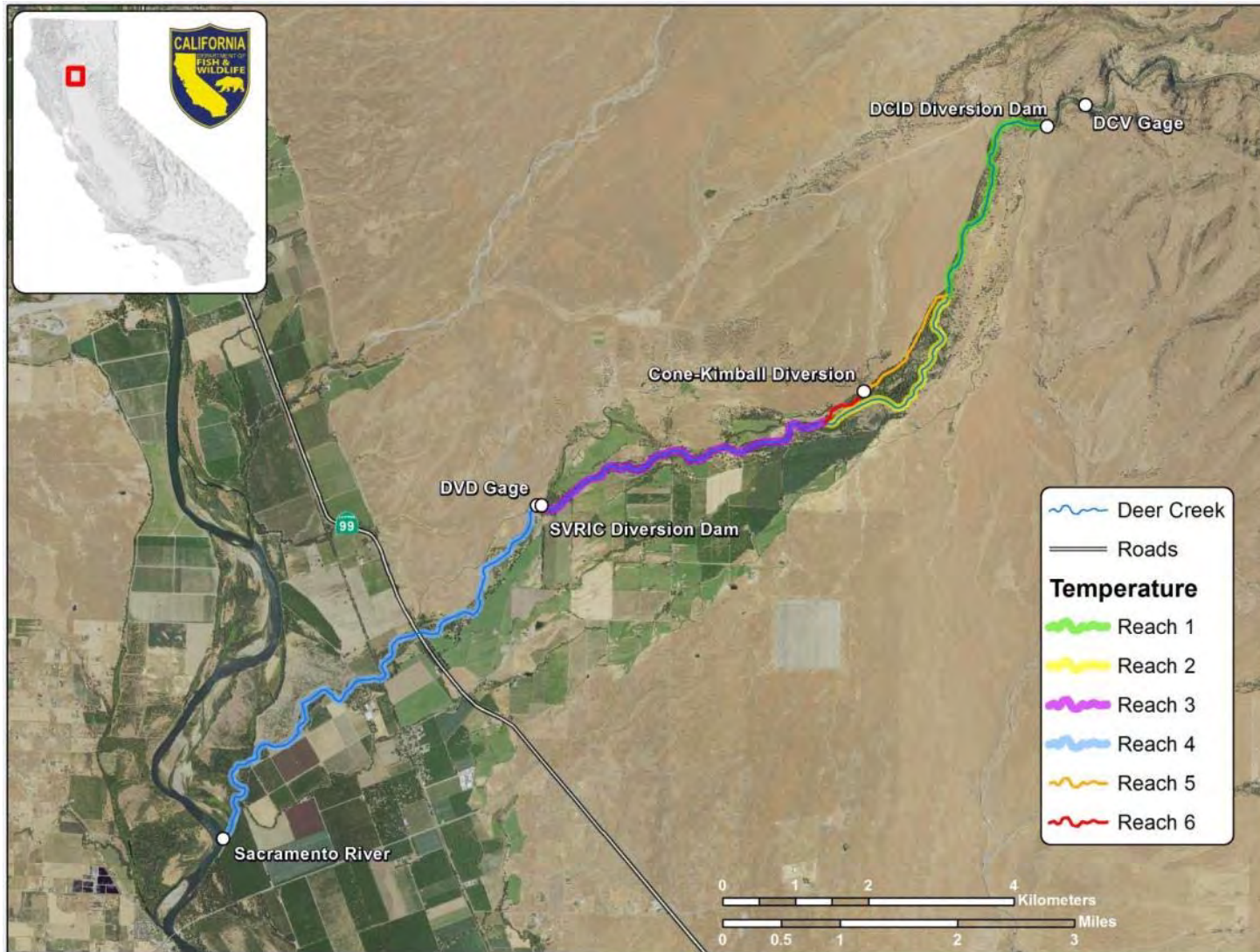


Water Temperature Models

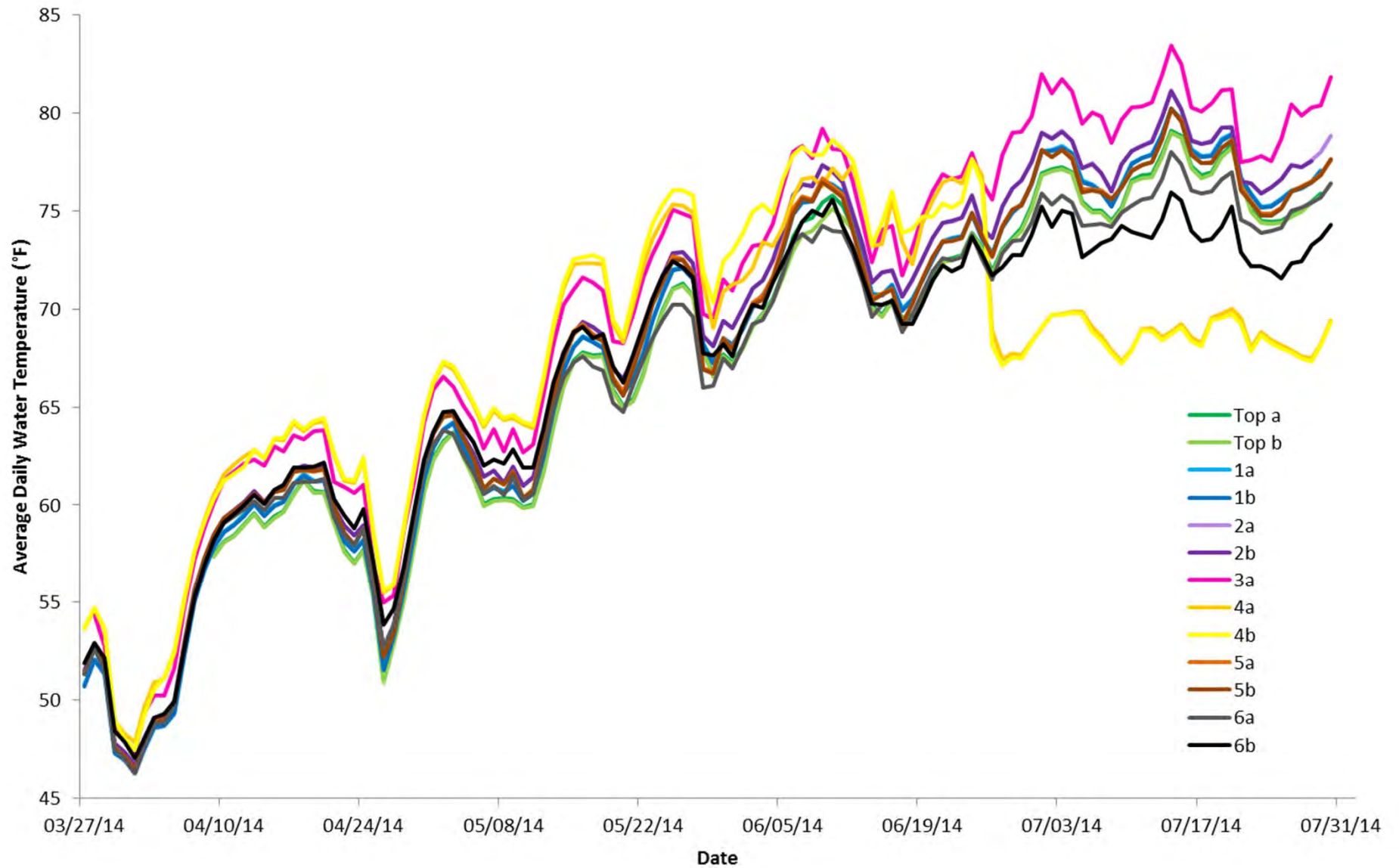
- SNTEMP and W3T models
- Model calibration data collected in 2014
- Validation data collected in 2015
- Streams divided in reaches based on diversions and returns



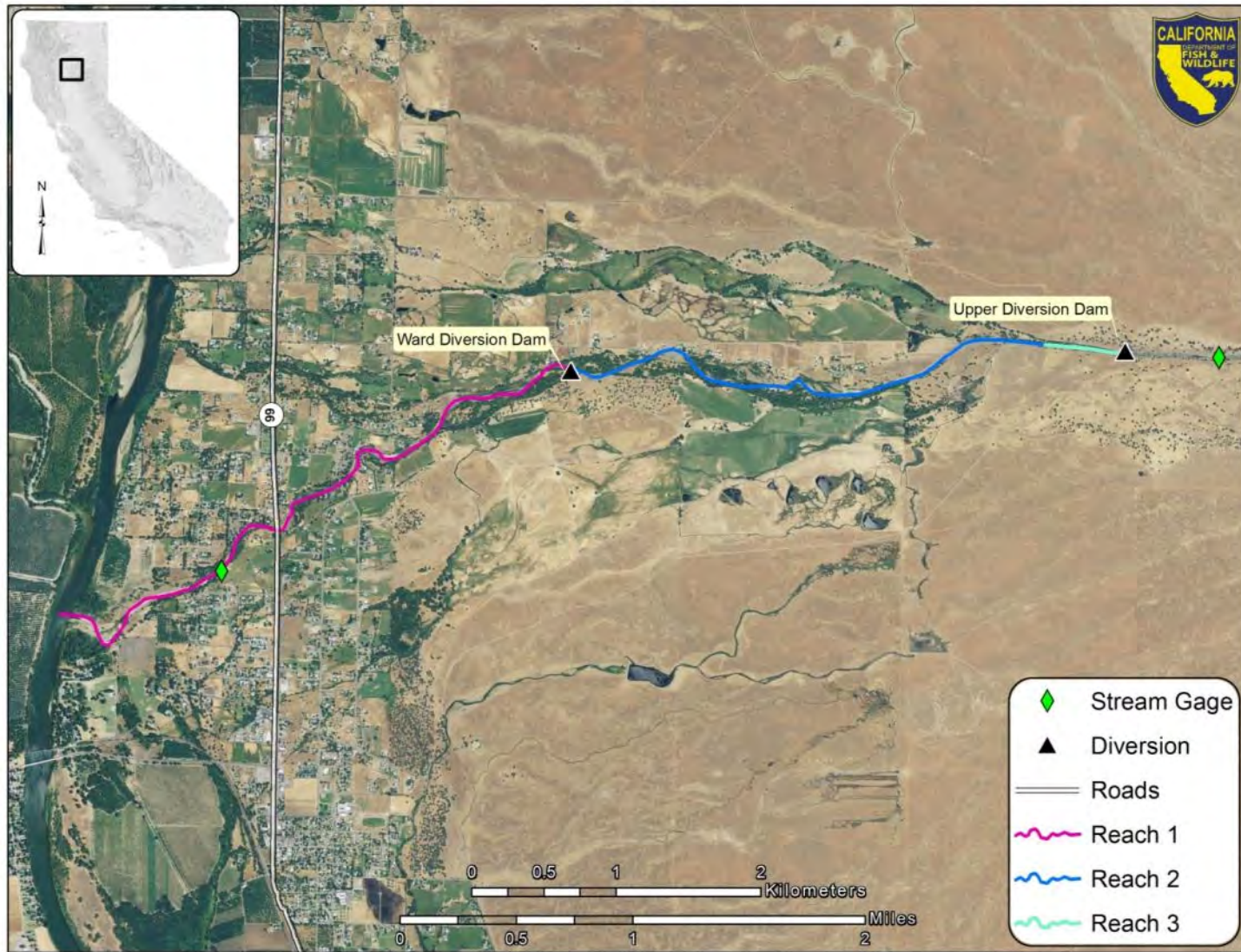
Deer Creek Temperature Study Reaches



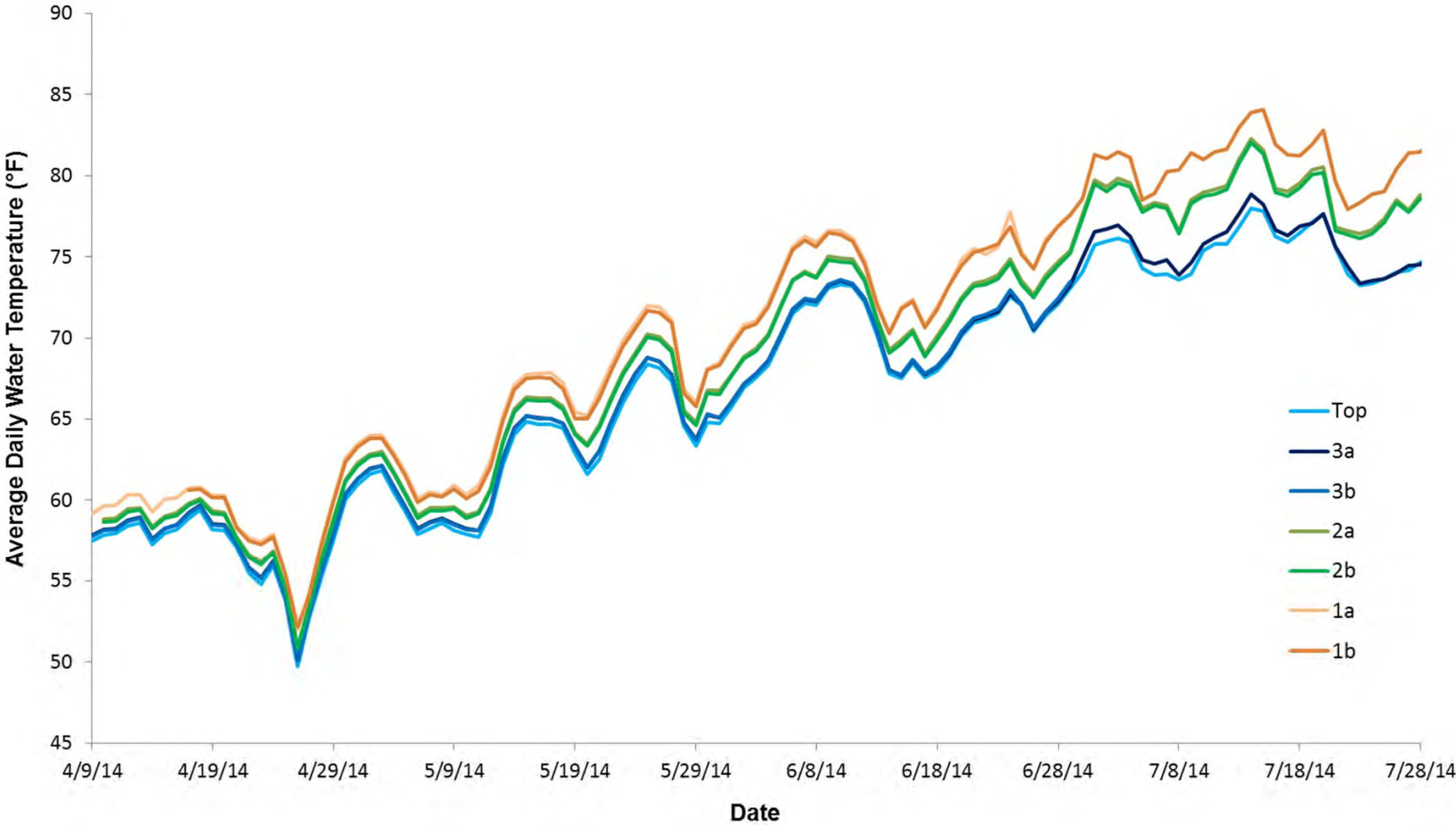
Deer Creek Water Temperatures



Mill Creek Temperature Study Reaches



Mill Creek Water Temperatures



Next Steps

- Compete internal review
- Flow criteria report
- Stakeholder meetings and input
- Flow recommendations submitted to State Water Board



Available resources

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Instream-Flow>

The screenshot shows the website's header with the CA.GOV logo, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife logo, and a search bar. The navigation menu includes Home, Fishing, Hunting, Licenses & Permits, Conservation, Learning, and Explore. The breadcrumb trail is Home > Conservation > Watersheds > Instream Flow. The main heading is "Instream Flow Program" with a sub-heading "Instream Flow Program" below it. A large image shows a person wading in a river. The text below the image explains the program's purpose and the scientific basis for its decisions. A sidebar on the right lists various resources under the heading "Instream Flow Program".

CA.GOV California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Home Fishing Hunting Licenses & Permits Conservation Learning Explore

Home | Conservation | Watersheds | Instream Flow

Instream Flow Program

Sound science is vital to the management of natural resources, especially when managing water. The CDFW Instream Flow Program (IFP) develops instream flows required to maintain healthy conditions for aquatic and riparian species. Instream flows are determined by investigating the relationships between flow and available stream habitat for waterways throughout California as required by the [California Water Action Plan](#), [Public Resources Code \(§10000-10005\)](#) and [FGC §5937](#) mandates. Instream flow criteria, which must be scientifically defensible and comparable among studies, are transmitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for consideration in water allocation and appropriation actions.

To ensure high quality science that is robust, credible, transparent, and relevant, IFP conducts flow studies, collects field data,

- ◊ [Instream Flow Studies](#)
 - ◊ [Big Sur River](#)
 - ◊ [Butte Creek](#)
 - ◊ [Deer Creek](#)
 - ◊ [Mill Creek](#)
 - ◊ [Scott River and Shasta Rivers](#)
 - ◊ [South Fork Eel River](#)
- ◊ [Instream Flow Program Documents](#)
- ◊ [SOPs and QA/QC Documents](#)
- ◊ [Instream Flow Recommendations Map](#)
- ◊ [Outreach](#)
- ◊ [Links and Resources](#)

Management of Reservoir Storage and Instream Flow for Holding Spring-run Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) in Butte Creek , Butte County, CA.

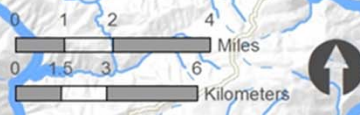
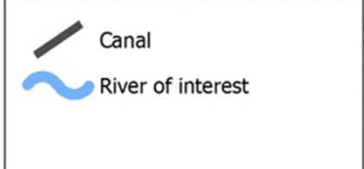
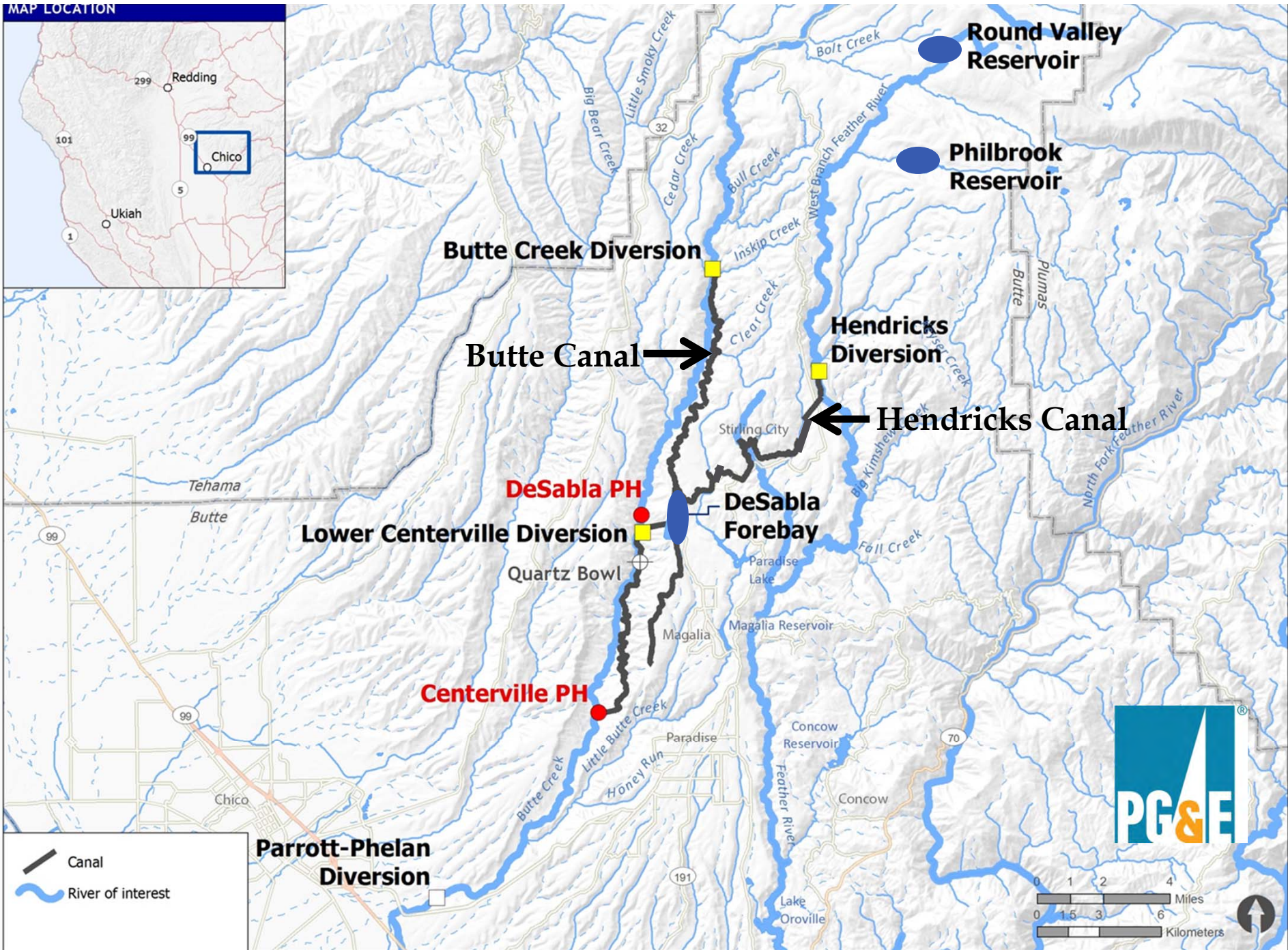
Catalina E. Reyes, PG&E
Clint Garman, CDFW
Ed Cheslak, PG&E



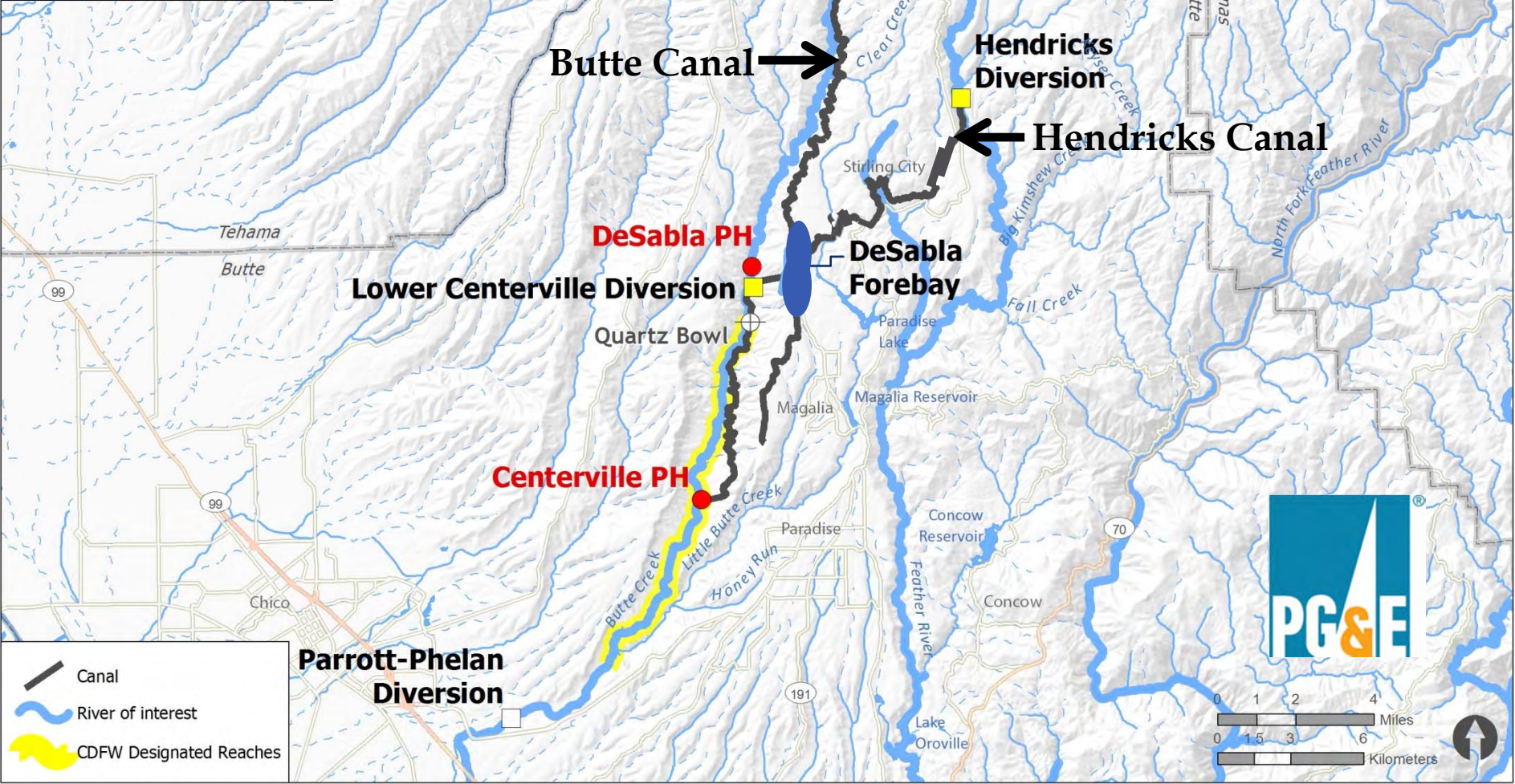




MAP LOCATION



MAP LOCATION



Legend for the map:

- Canal (represented by a black line)
- River of interest (represented by a blue line)
- CDFW Designated Reaches (represented by a yellow highlight)

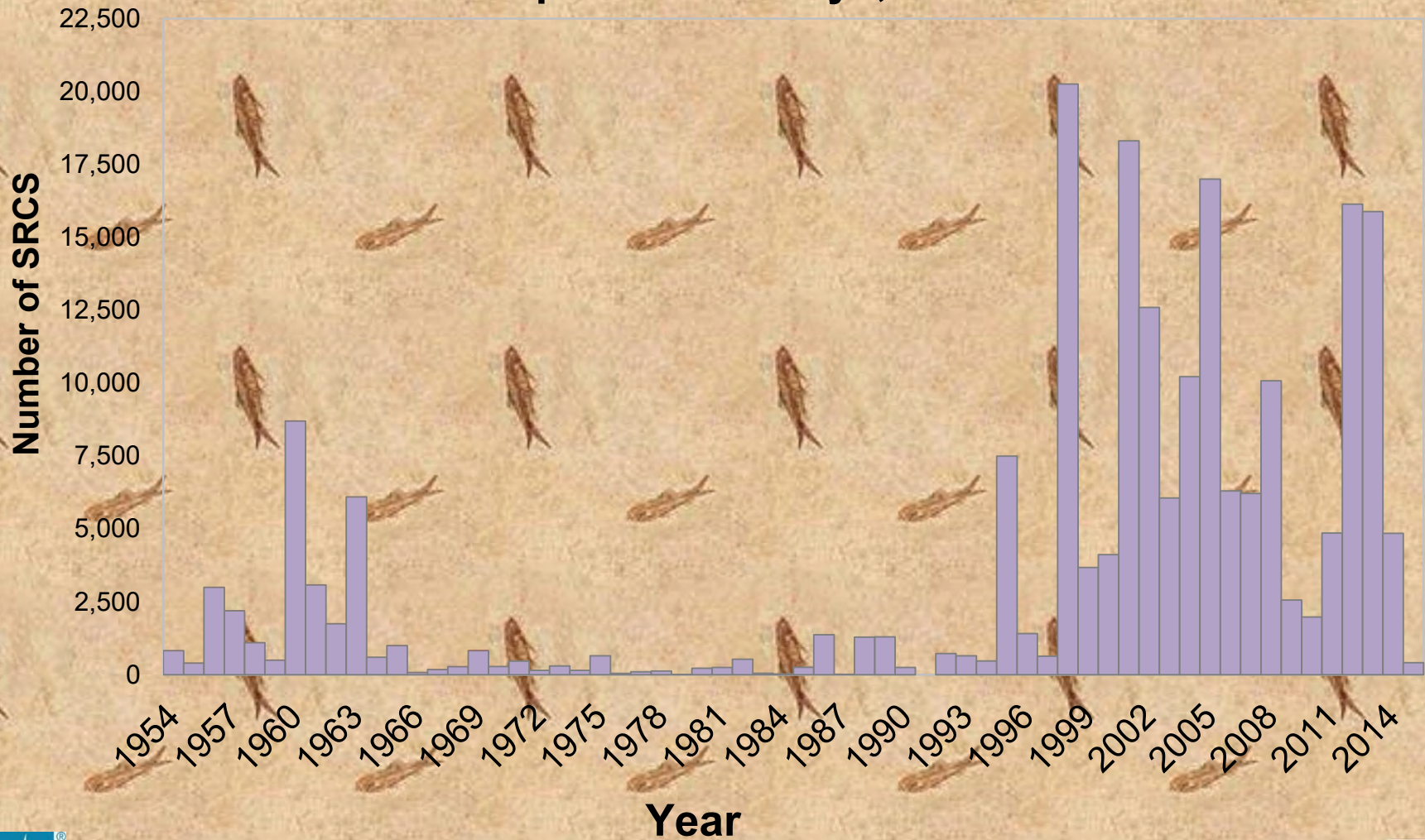


Releases from Philbrook Reservoir



- Provides approximately 4,000 acre feet of water to supplement Butte Creek Flows for holding period.
- Minimum release of 2.0 cfs for protection of aquatic resources.
- Typically, maximum release of 35 cfs during the holding period.
- LIMITED supply of water

CDFW Butte Creek Adult CV Spring-run Chinook Salmon Escapement Surveys, 1954-2015



Pre-spawning Mortality

- In 2002 – Run size 16,328; partially documented mortality of 3,431; 21% pre-spawn mortality of the run
- In 2003 – Run size 17,297; pre-spawn mortality of 11,231; 65% pre-spawn mortality of the run



Changes to Operations and Management Post 2003

- PG&E began providing meteorological forecast 2 X's per week to adapt operations to weather conditions .
- Operations Group to proactively manage releases from Philbrook Reservoir.
- PG&E operations now actively engaged in discussions and decision making.
- No scheduled outages from mid-June to September.



Beginning in 2003, CDFW and PG&E Jointly Collect the Following Data:

- **Water temperature data throughout PG&E's project and within holding reaches**
- **Pre-Spawning Mortality Surveys (every week from early June to spawning approx. Mid-Sept.)**
- **Escapement Snorkel Survey (one week in July)**
- **Carcass Surveys (Mid-September to November)**

JUL/10/2013



Extreme Temperature/Downslope Wind Probability Forecast : Cohasset/Chester

Forecast Period: June 24, 2013 - July 3, 2013

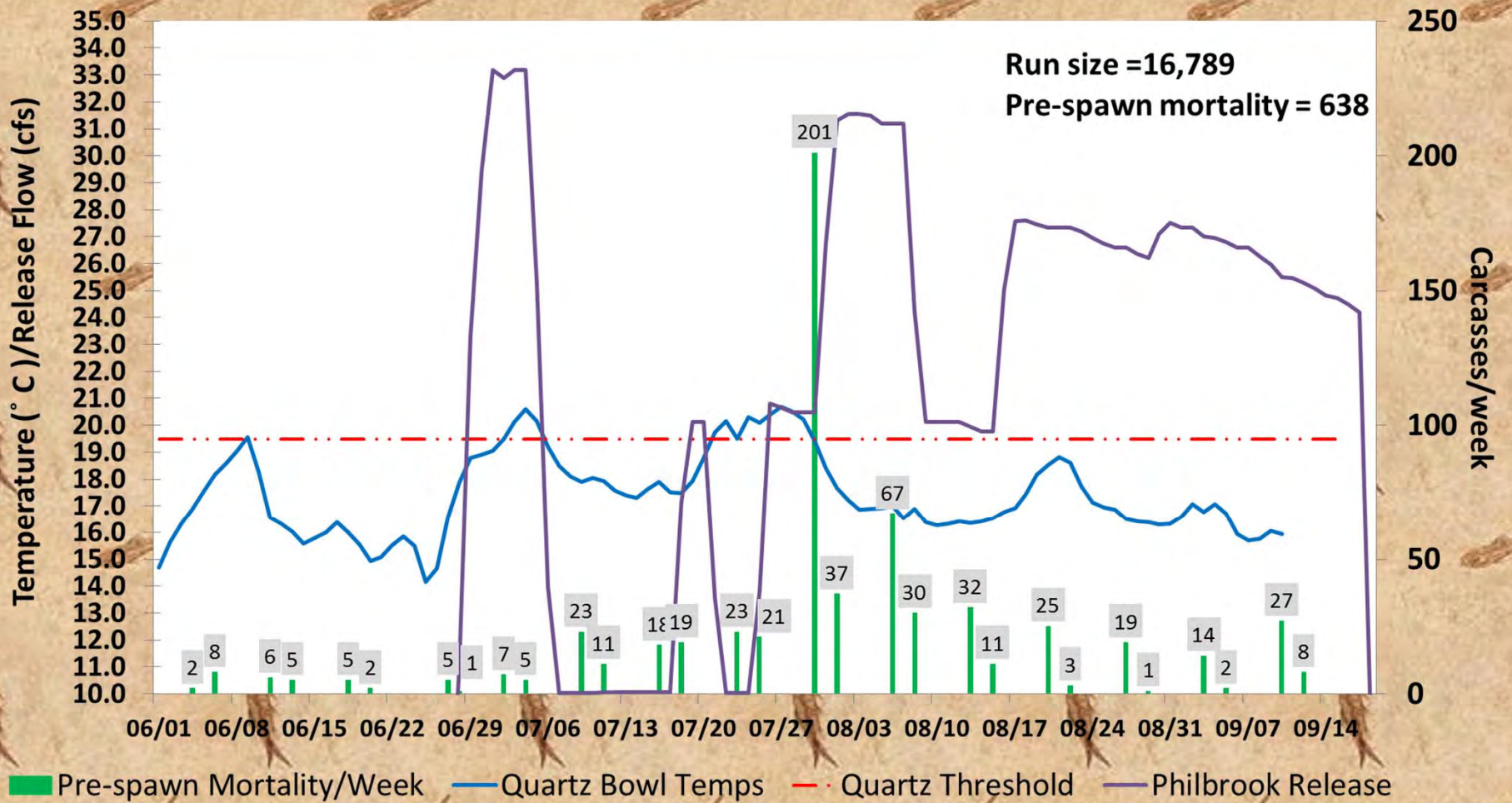
Issued: June 24, 2013

Site	Maximum Temperature	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		6/24	6/25	6/26	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/1	7/2	7/3
Cohasset Elev @ 1750 ft.	Tmax>=100					Yellow	Red	Red	Black	Black	Red
	Tmax>=105						Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow
Chester Elev 4500 ft.	Tmax>=95					Yellow	Red	Red	Black	Black	Red
	Tmax>=100						Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Foothill Winds	N/NE > 20 mph										

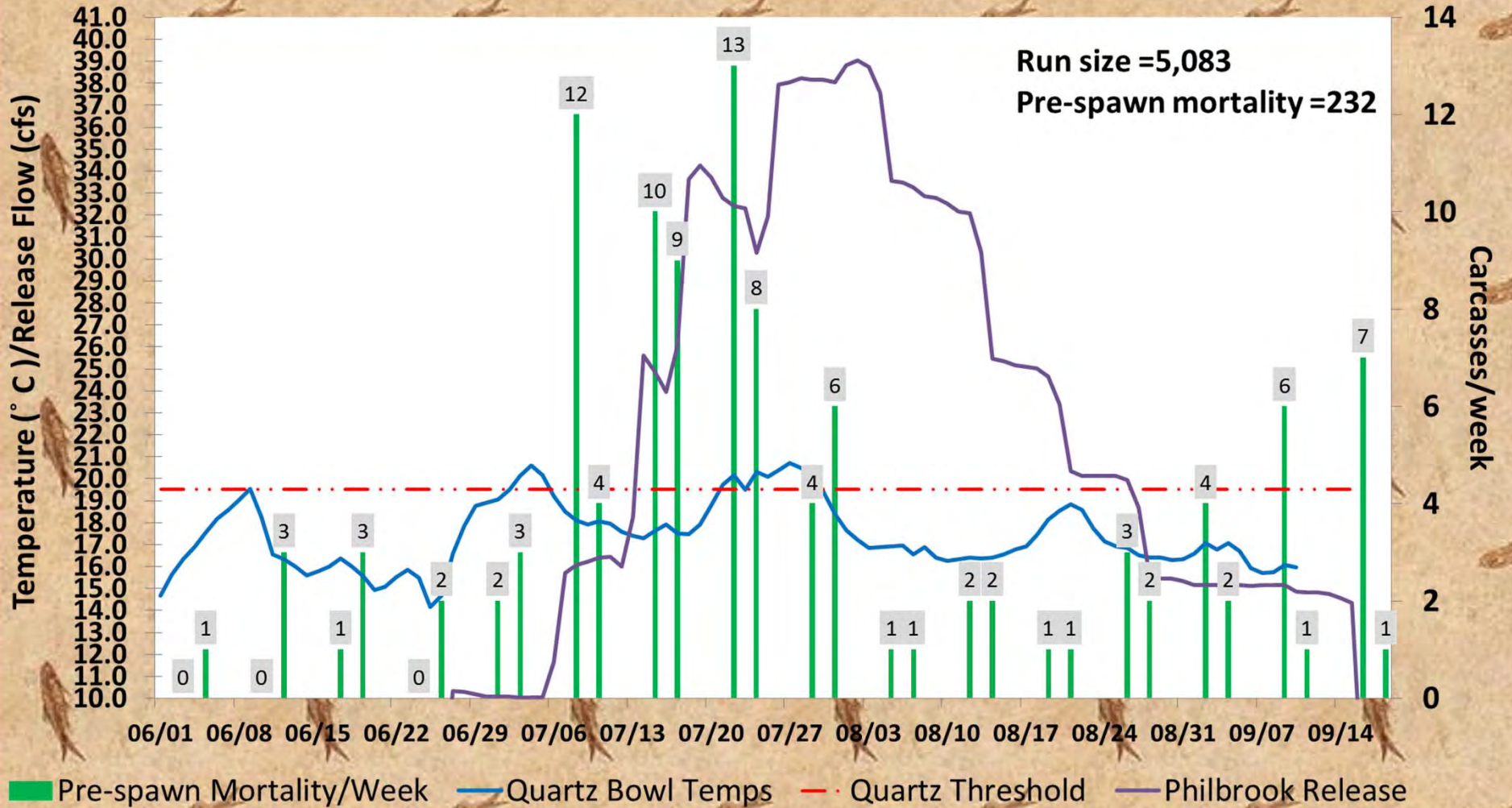
Black	Probable
Red	Possible
Yellow	Slight Chance
White	Not Expected

Forecast Summary: Cool today and Tuesday for the end of June with rain showers today followed by moderate to heavy rain at times on Tuesday. Dry and warmer weather return on Wednesday after some lingering morning showers followed by fair and warmer weather for the rest of the week, through the weekend, and into the middle part of next week. Temperatures will approach the criteria on Saturday and Sunday with temperatures likely exceeding the temperatures thresholds early next week when the high pressure ridge peaks in strength. Cooler weather may develop by the middle/end of next week with long range models hinting that hot weather could return again over the following week or second week of July.

2013 Butte Creek Results



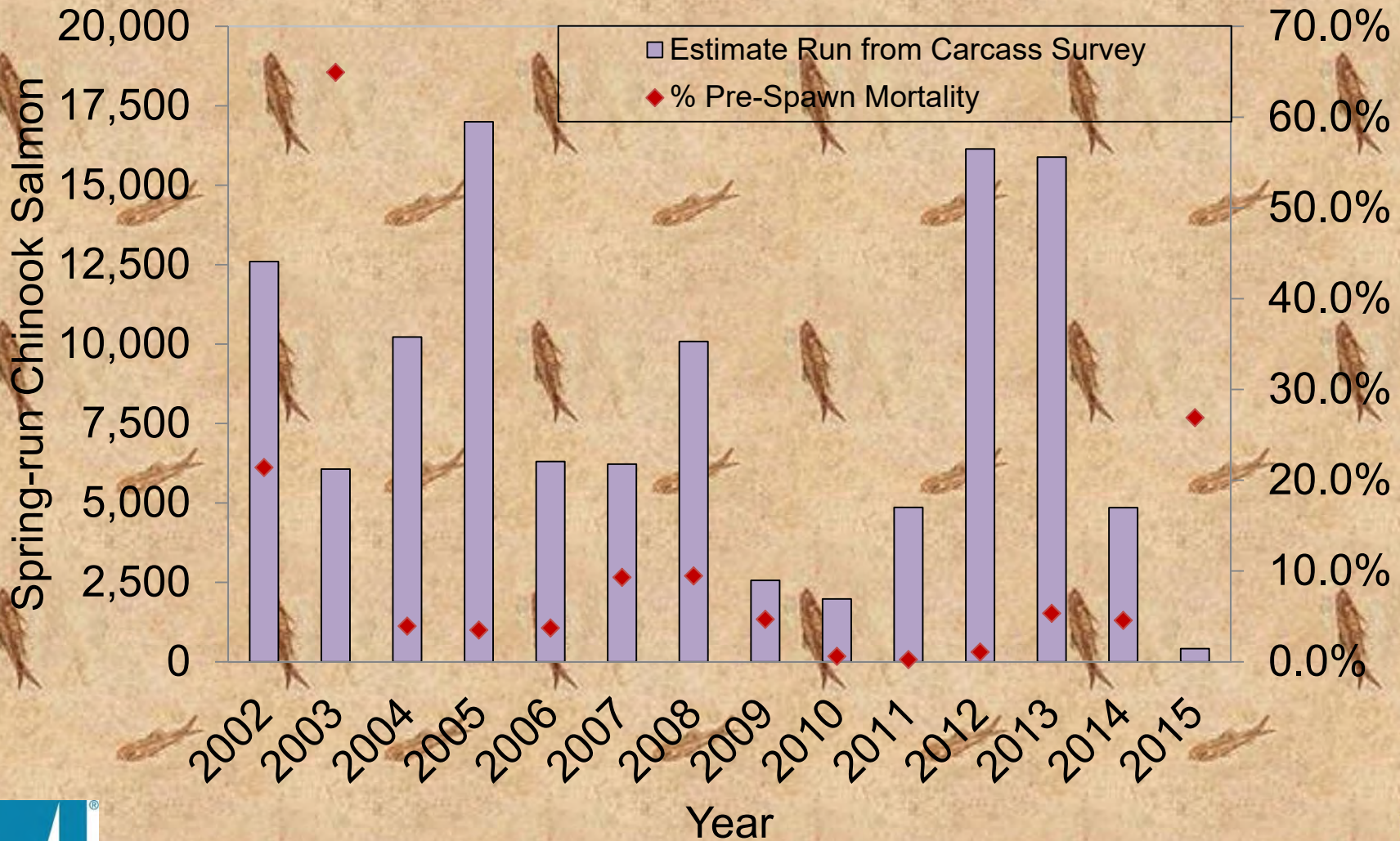
2014 Butte Creek Results



2015 Butte Creek Results



CDFW Butte Creek Adult Spring-run Chinook Salmon Escapement Surveys, 2002-2015



Conclusion

- PG&E and Agencies work collaboratively to manage limited storage in Philbrook Reservoir to get salmon through the heat storms.
- Meteorological forecasting, temperature monitoring, pre-spawning mortality surveys.
- Currently the management and operation process is very fluid and adaptive.



Acknowledgements

- Chico CDFW office for field work, data analysis, and reports.
- Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act for funding CDFW.
- Tim Segraves of Segraves Environmental for his historical and technical knowledge of the project.
- PG&E's Generation Supervisor, Kyle Ingvoldsen, and Water Crew Staff.

Questions?



JUL/10/2013

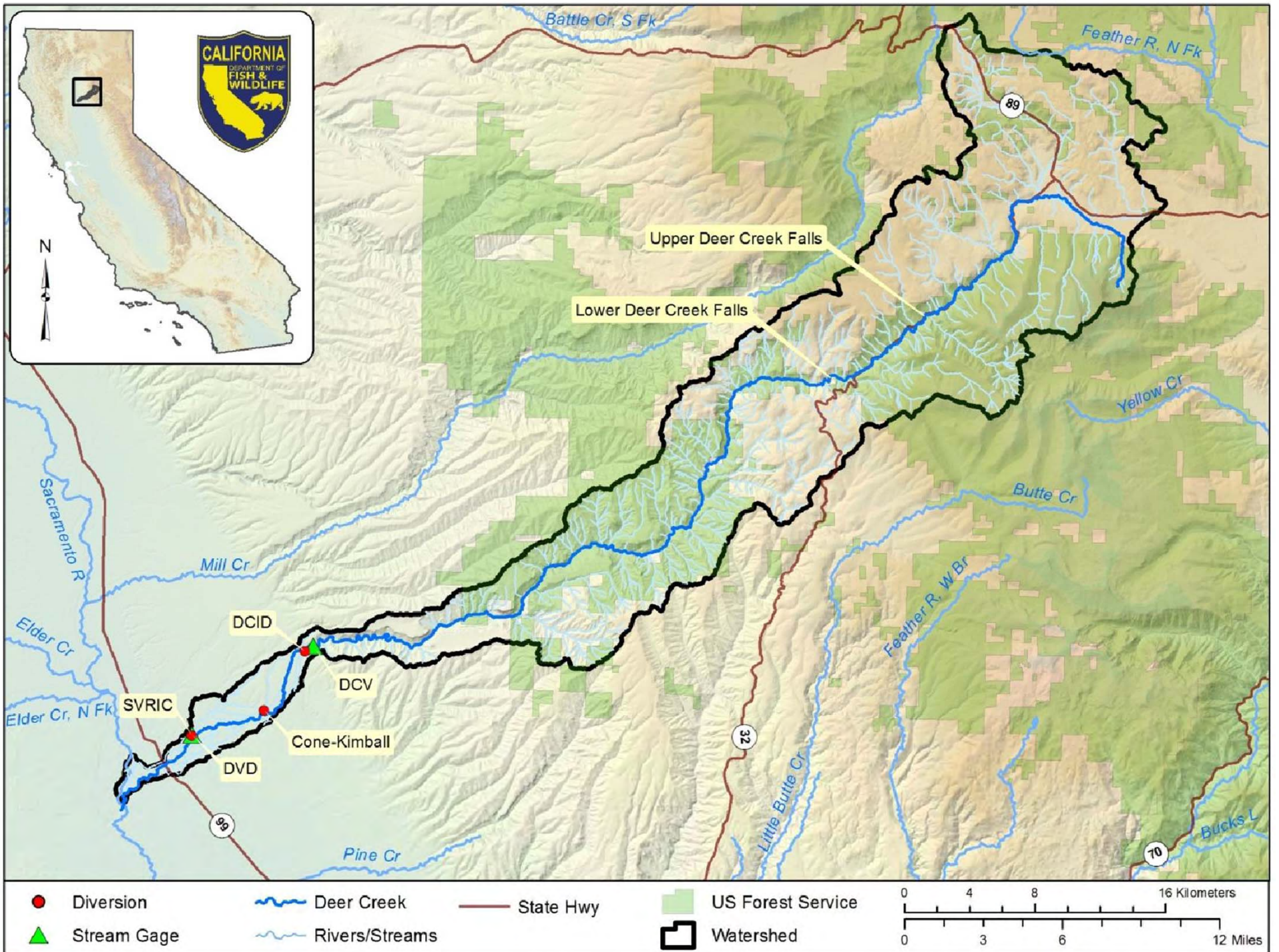


Background on Deer Creek

How much water we need

Possible ways to get it

- Voluntary
- Regulatory











Water Allocation in Lower Deer Creek

Water Allocation in Lower Deer Creek

Deer Creek Irrigation District 33%

Stanford-Vina Ranch Irrigation Co. 66%

How much flow?

For migration, two concerns:

- (1) Depth @ critical riffles (.9' / .7')
- (2) Temperature (< ~67°)

CriticalThresholds

(Curtailment levels)

50 cfs (adult)

25 cfs (juvenile)

Plus pulse flows based on presence of fish

Species and Lifestage	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
SRCS												
Adult												
Juvenile												
FRCS												
Adult												
Juvenile												
Steelhead												
Adult												
Juvenile												

Source: Johnson and Merrick 2012; USFWS 1999.

Ways to reduce diversions

(i.e., increase instream flows)

(1) Voluntary

(2) Regulatory

Voluntary Approach: Deer Creek Flow Enhancement Program

Use groundwater to replace diversions bypassed during pulse flow events

DCID wells developed/ permitted 2003 – 2011

Funding from 4 Pumps Fish Protection Agreement

Agreement currently under negotiation w/ DCID

Regulatory Approaches

- Curtailment
- Criteria/ Objectives (Phase 4)

Both have roots in the **public trust doctrine**

Curtailment

Invoked by Water Board in times of shortage, upon determination
Of insufficient water to meet needs of all uses

Public trust is “senior”

But, **minimum flow thresholds** (i.e., 50/ 25 cfs plus pulse flows)

Invoked in 2014 & 2015 drought years by Water Board rules

Allowance for voluntary agreements **if** they cover all diverters

Phase 4 Process (under Bay-Delta Plan)


Water Board sets enforceable flow thresholds for public trust uses

Two-step process:

- Determine “criteria” (“what the fish need”) (DFW)
- Balance criteria against other rights to develop “objective” (SWRCWB)

Objectives are enforceable – (incorporated into water rights)

DFW Water Branch is in midst of study to propose criteria for Deer Creek




Voluntary Approach – DCID System Improvements

Concept:

- Partner with DCID to improve efficiency
- Dedicate conserved water to instream flow under WC §1707







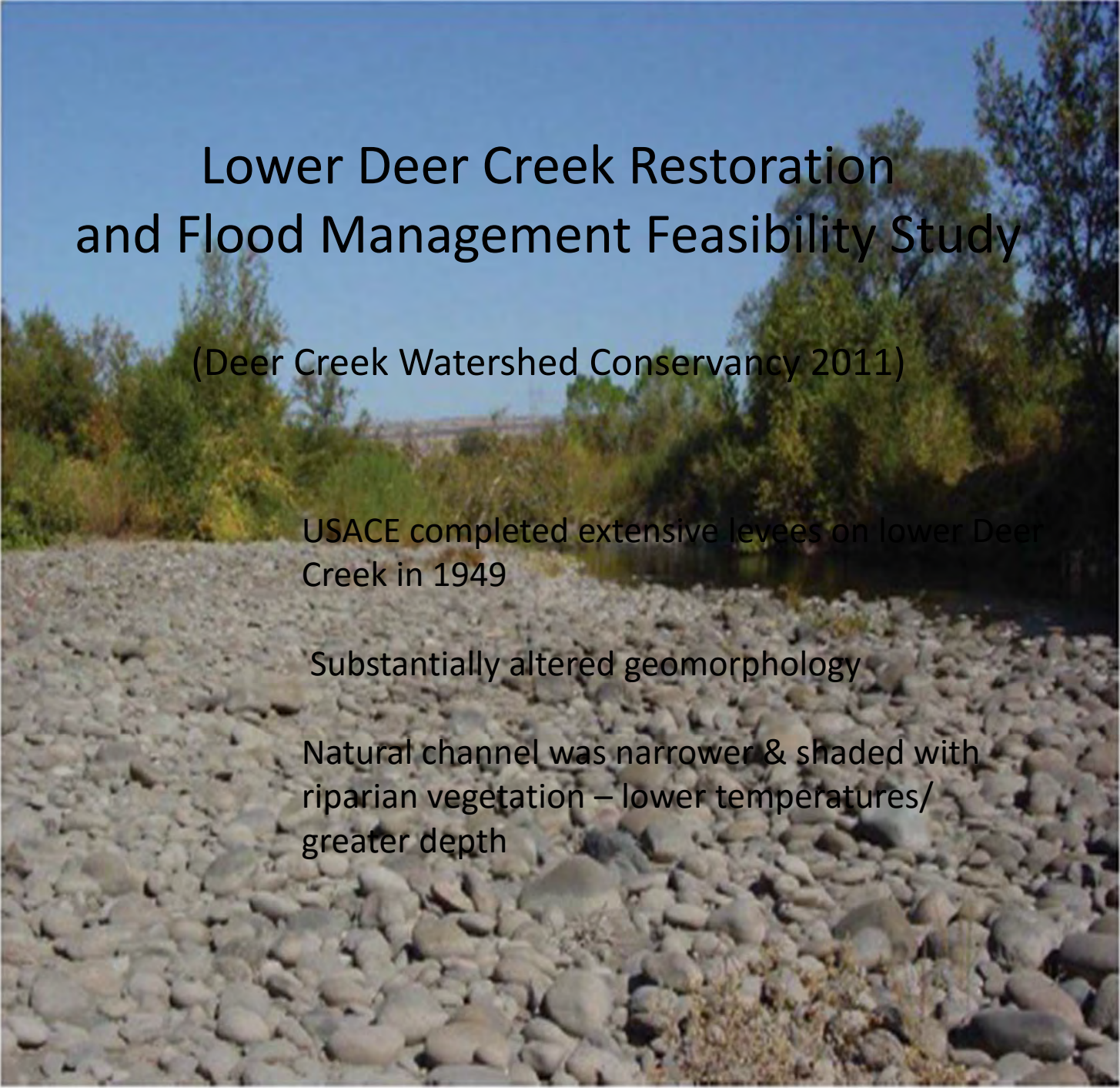
Voluntary Approach – DCID System Improvements

Benefits:

- DCID gets help meeting minimum flow requirements
- Public trust flows increased at non-critical times







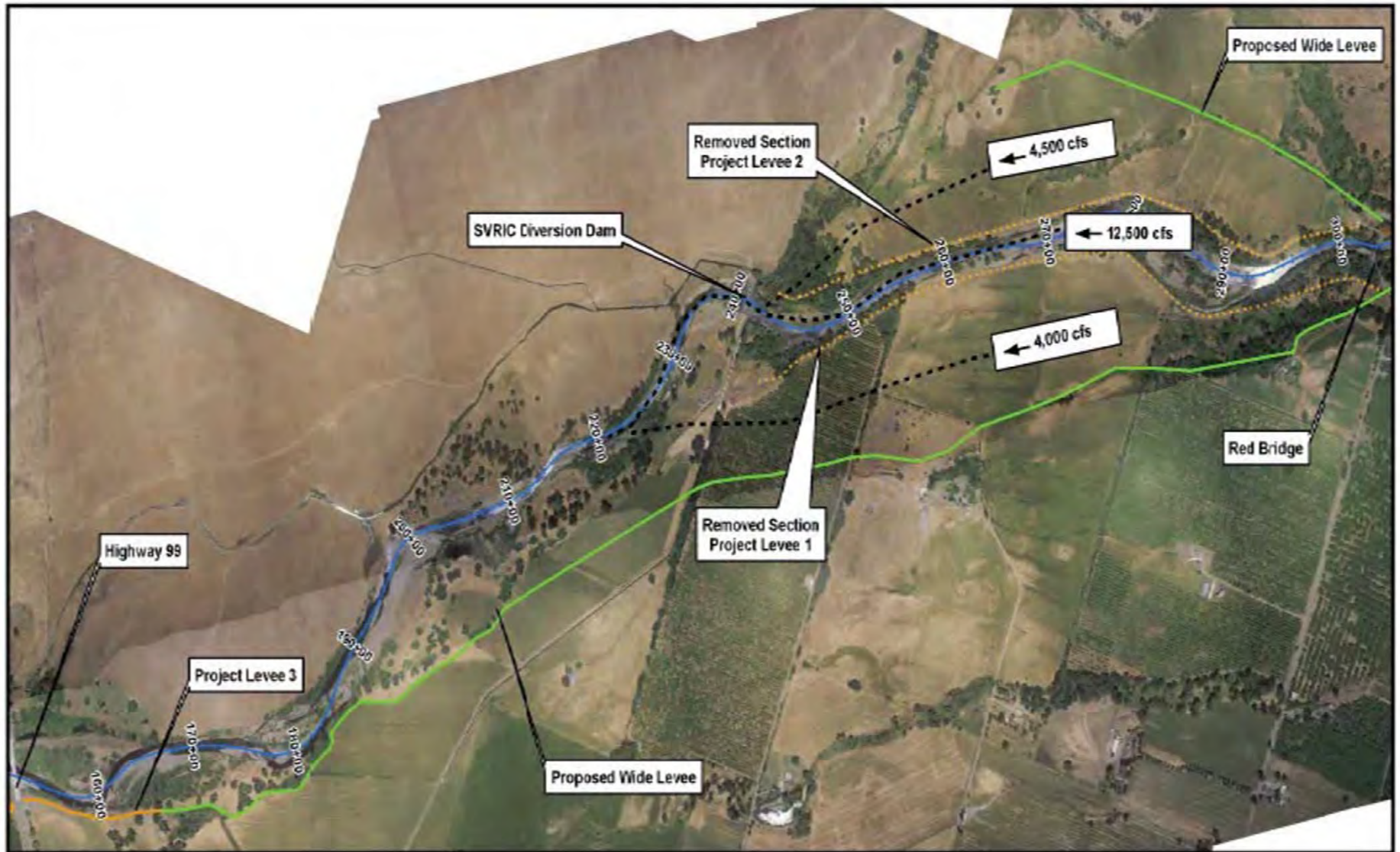
Lower Deer Creek Restoration and Flood Management Feasibility Study

(Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy 2011)

USACE completed extensive levees on lower Deer
Creek in 1949

Substantially altered geomorphology

Natural channel was narrower & shaded with
riparian vegetation – lower temperatures/
greater depth



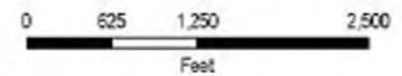
Mussetter
Engineering
Inc.

1730 South College Ave. Suite 100
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

Wide Levees



06/20/2006 - Base Photography





Salmonid	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adult Migration ¹ :												
Spring-Run Chinook			—————			■	—————					
Fall-Run Chinook									—————	■	—————	
Late-Fall-Run Chinook ²	—————	—————	—————	—————								—————
Steelhead	—————	■	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	■	—————
Juvenile Migration:												
Spring-Run Chinook ^{3,4}	—————	—————	■		—————	—————				—————	■	
Fall-Run Chinook ⁴	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————						—————
Late-Fall-Run Chinook				—————	—————	—————						
Steelhead ⁵	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————	—————			—————	—————	—————	—————

¹ Adult migration timing data from Mill Creek Counting station, in operation 1953-1963.

² No data available for late-fall in Deer Creek, but this generalized migration table is correct.

³ This includes both fry and yearling outmigration.

⁴ Spring-Run and Fall-Run outmigrants cannot be identified separately during the spring outmigration time period. Therefore, the fry migration periods are considered the same.

⁵ Rainbow/Steelhead trout have been captured in outmigrant traps from October to June. Peak period not documented.

Figure 5-1. Deer Creek Anadromous Salmonid Migration Calendar.¹⁴

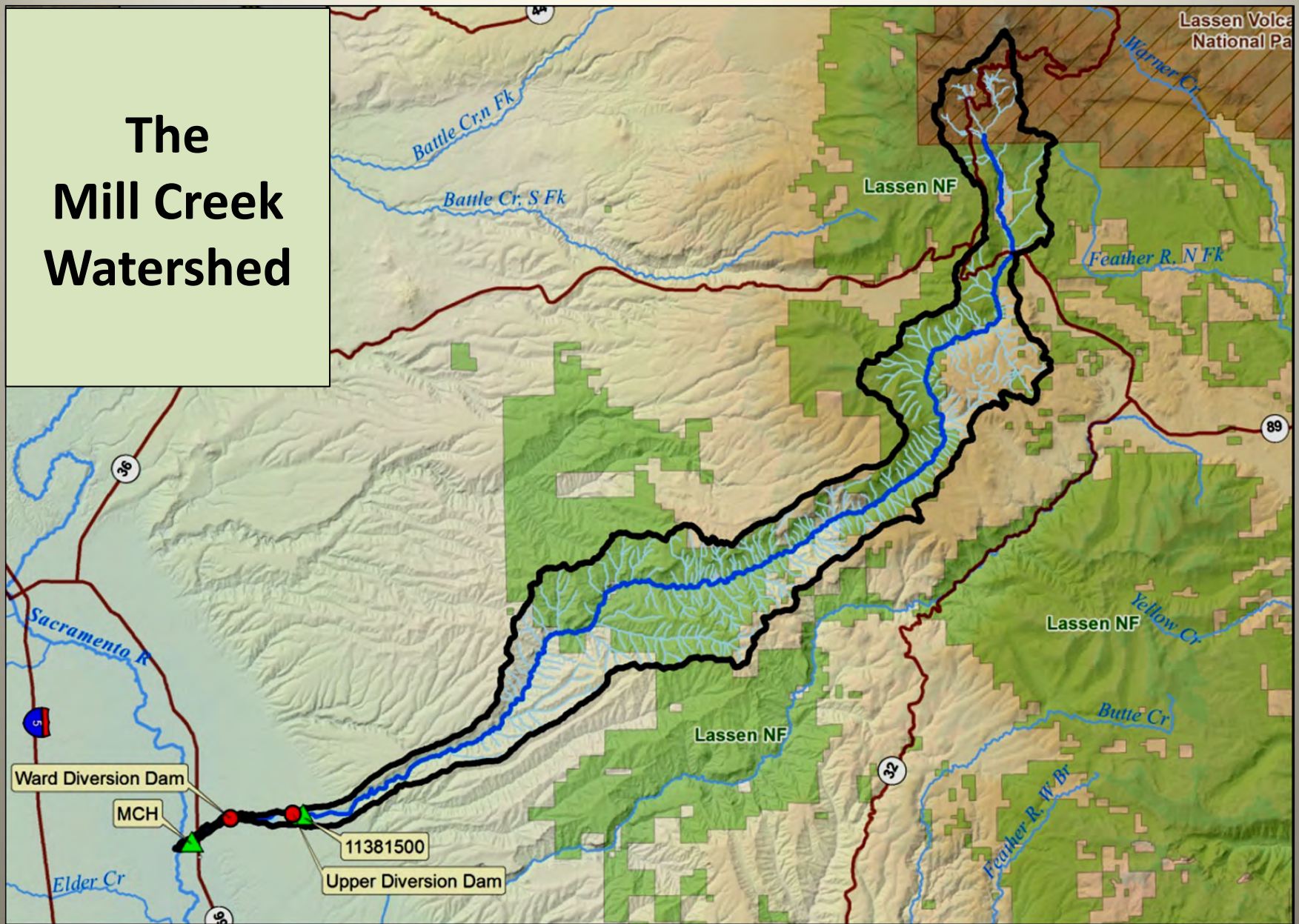


The Mill Creek Instream Flows Toolbox

Gregg Werner
The Nature Conservancy



The Mill Creek Watershed



Salmonids in Mill Creek

- ❖ Spring-run Chinook
- ❖ Fall-run Chinook
- ❖ Late Fall-run Chinook
- ❖ Steelhead Trout



The Mountains *(10 miles)*



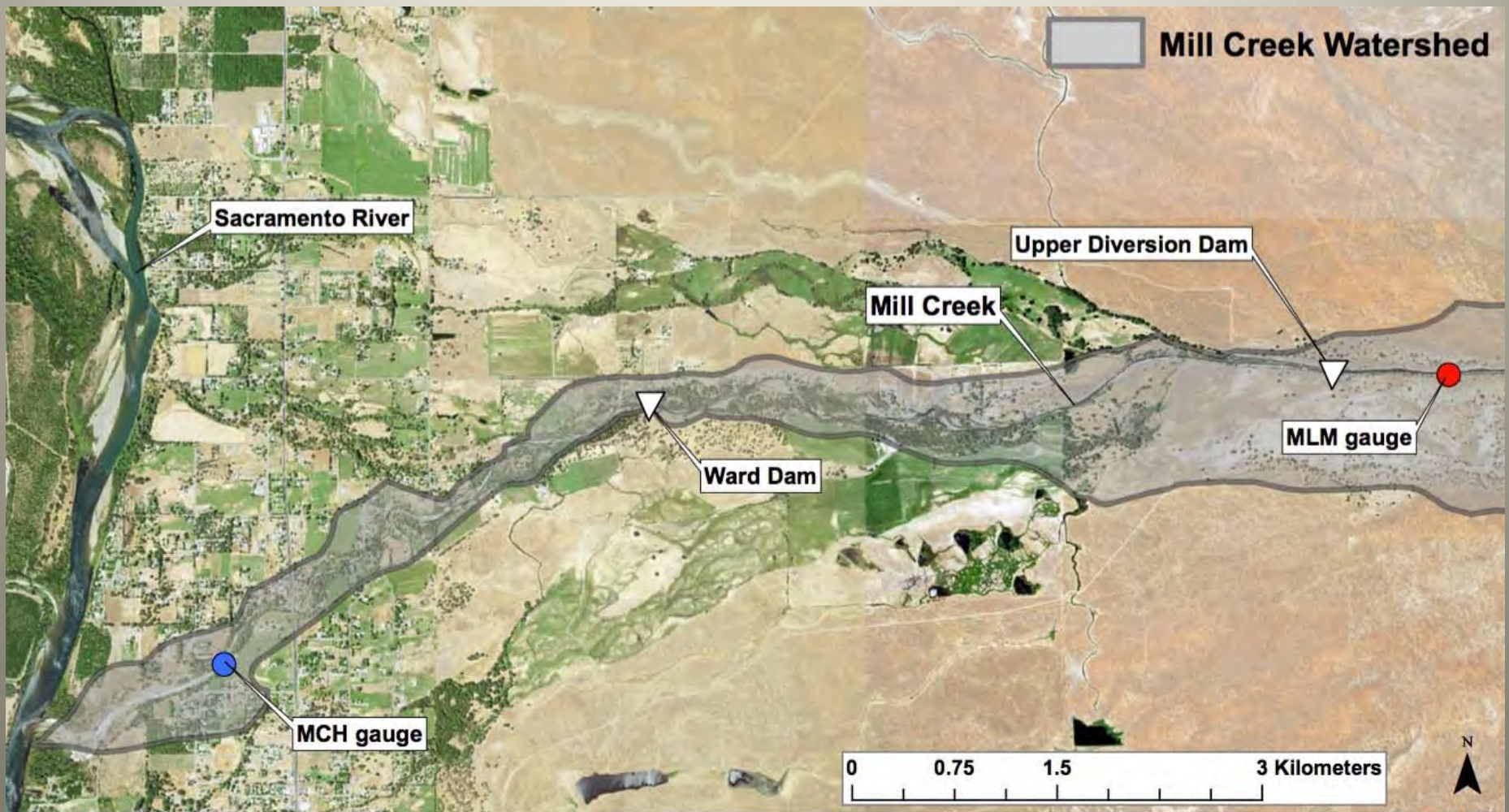
The Canyon (40 miles)



The Valley (6 miles)



The Valley Segment



Mill Creek Water Rights

- ❖ Pre-1914 water rights
- ❖ Governed by a 1920 Decree, interpreted to allow instream use (*no 1707 required!*)
- ❖ 203 cfs allocated
- ❖ Every year the flow falls below 203 cfs in the summer and historically the entire flow was diverted in most years

Salmonid Passage Needs

January - April

May

June

July

August

September October

November - December

Traditional
Water Use

No irrigation until April
Substantial flow from
rain and snow melt

Irrigation use requires most or all of the flow

Lowest flow of the year

No Irrigation
Substantial flow
from fall rains

Salmonid
Needs

Salmon and steelhead smolts out
Spring-run adults in

No salmonid needs
Water is too warm

Fall-run and
steelhead in

Instream Flow
Needs

Adequate flow

No Problem

Need increased flow
in dry years
PROBLEM

Water is too warm for salmonids
in the valley segment

No Problem

Need
flow
**PROB
LEM**

Adequate flow

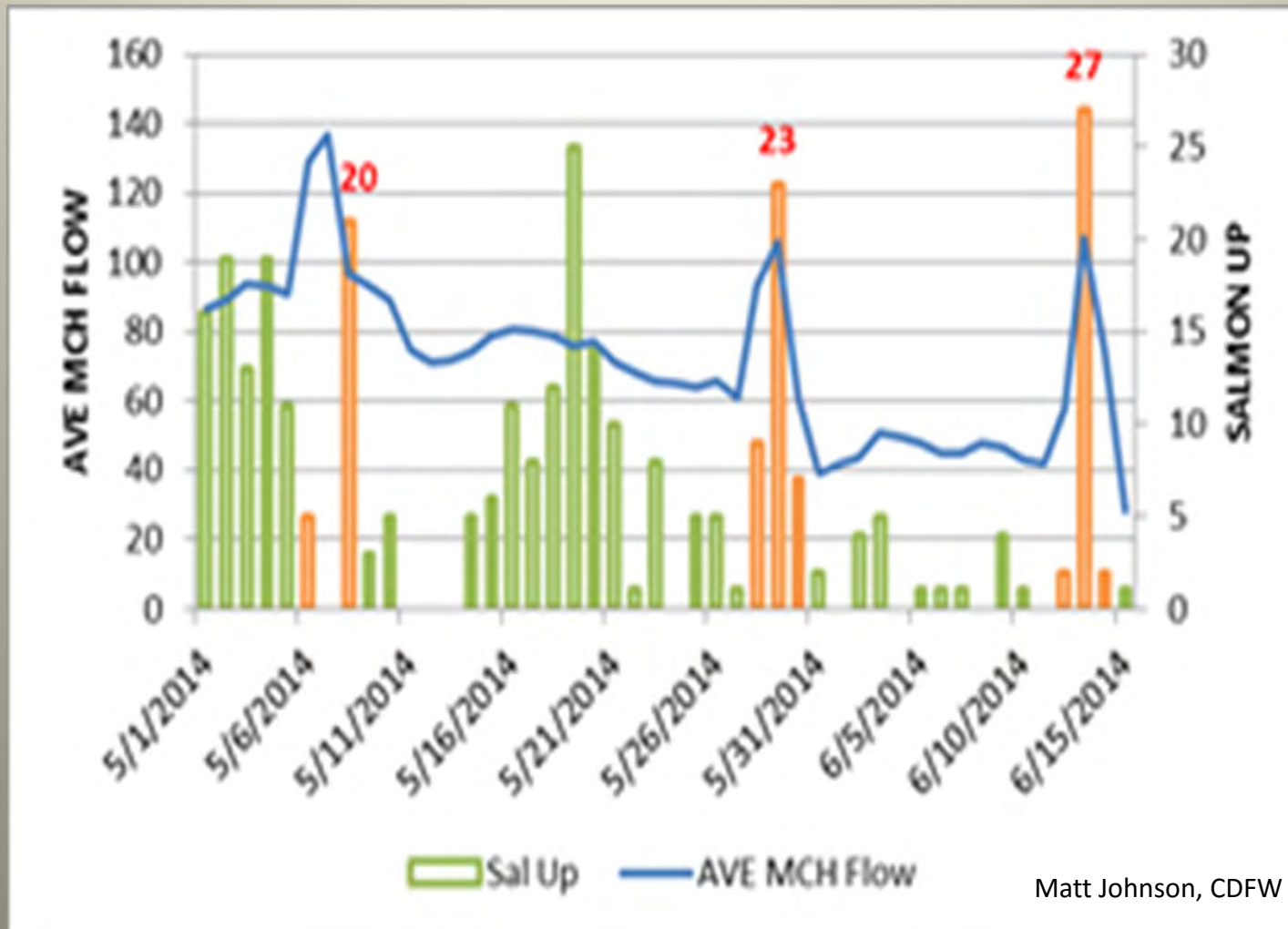
No Problem

Flow Solutions

- ❖ **Pulse Flows in the spring** - Replicate natural pulses of flow resulting from spring rainfall or snowmelt events and attract spring-run Chinook.
 - As needed to supplement undiverted flow in dryer years
 - Triggered by DFW “Flow Call”

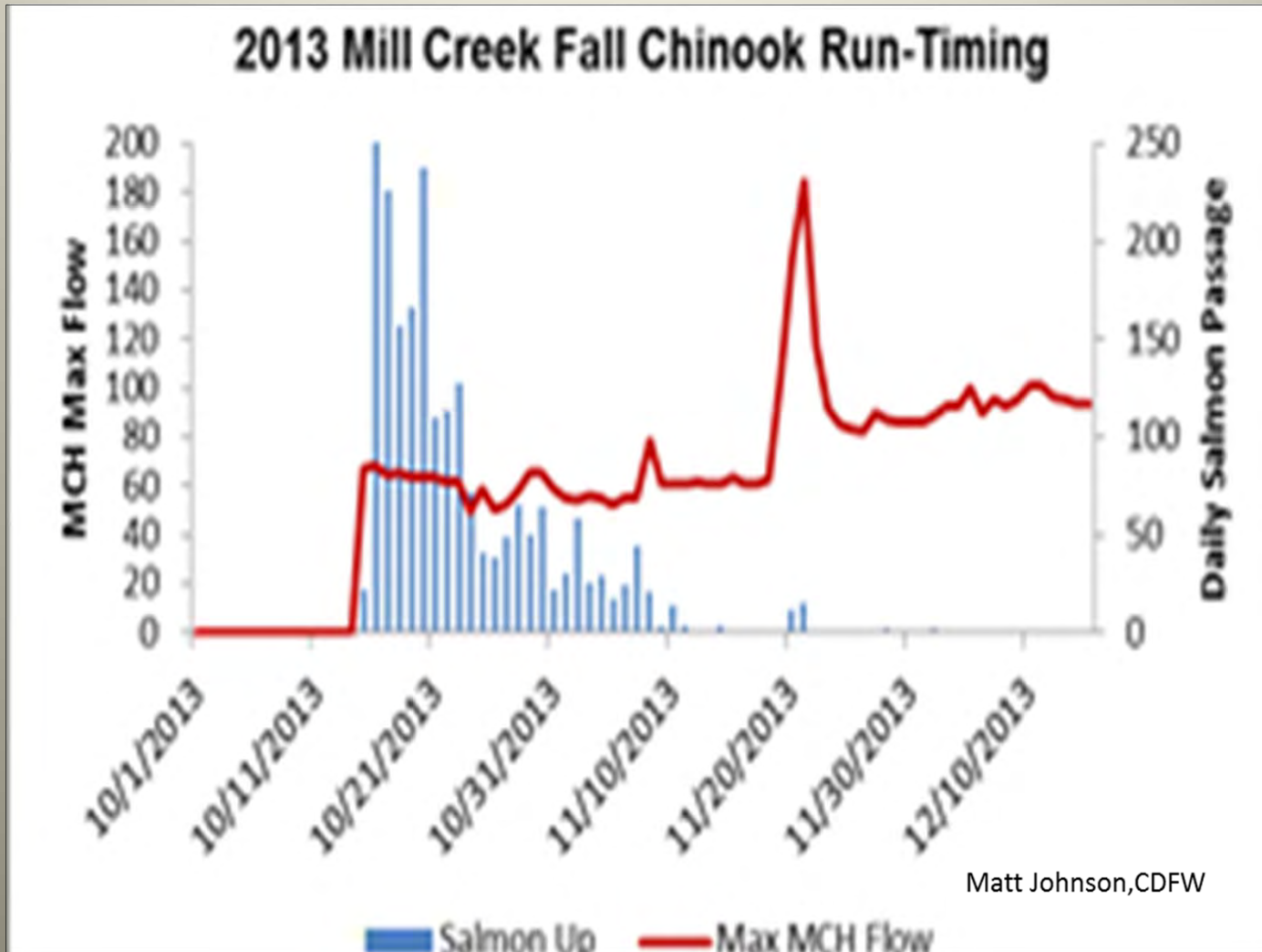
- ❖ **Continuous Flows in the fall** – Replicate unimpaired fall flows when the stream cools to acceptable passage temperature to attract fall-run Chinook and steelhead.
 - Needed every year
 - Triggered by DFW “Flow Call”

Spring Pulse Flow Response



Matt Johnson, CDFW

Fall Continuous Flow Response



History of Instream Flow Management

- ❖ 1980's - Flow Releases for salmonid passage
- ❖ 1990 - Conjunctive Use Wells Agreement
- ❖ 1994 - Jones Water Right Lease Agreement
- ❖ 2007 - Long-term Cooperative Management
- ❖ 2015 - Mill Creek Water Exchange Agreement

Mill Creek Flows Group

❖ **Formed:** August of 2013

❖ **Representation:**

CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Los Molinos Mutual Water Co.
The Nature Conservancy

CA Dept. of Water Resources
CA Water Resources Control Board
NOAA Fisheries
Mill Creek Conservancy

❖ **Mission:**

To develop and Implement a program to improve Mill Creek flows for salmonids that will have a positive impact on their viability in the Mill Creek watershed and will be compatible with continued irrigated agricultural operations.

Mill Creek Instream Flows Strategy: The “TOOL BOX”



The Mill Creek Flows Group adopted in 2015 a four-part strategy to increase instream flows that are targeted to salmonid needs.

- 1. Conjunctive Use Wells**
- 2. Water Rights Acquisition**
- 3. Water Use Efficiency Improvements**
- 4. Offstream Storage**

Conjunctive Use Wells



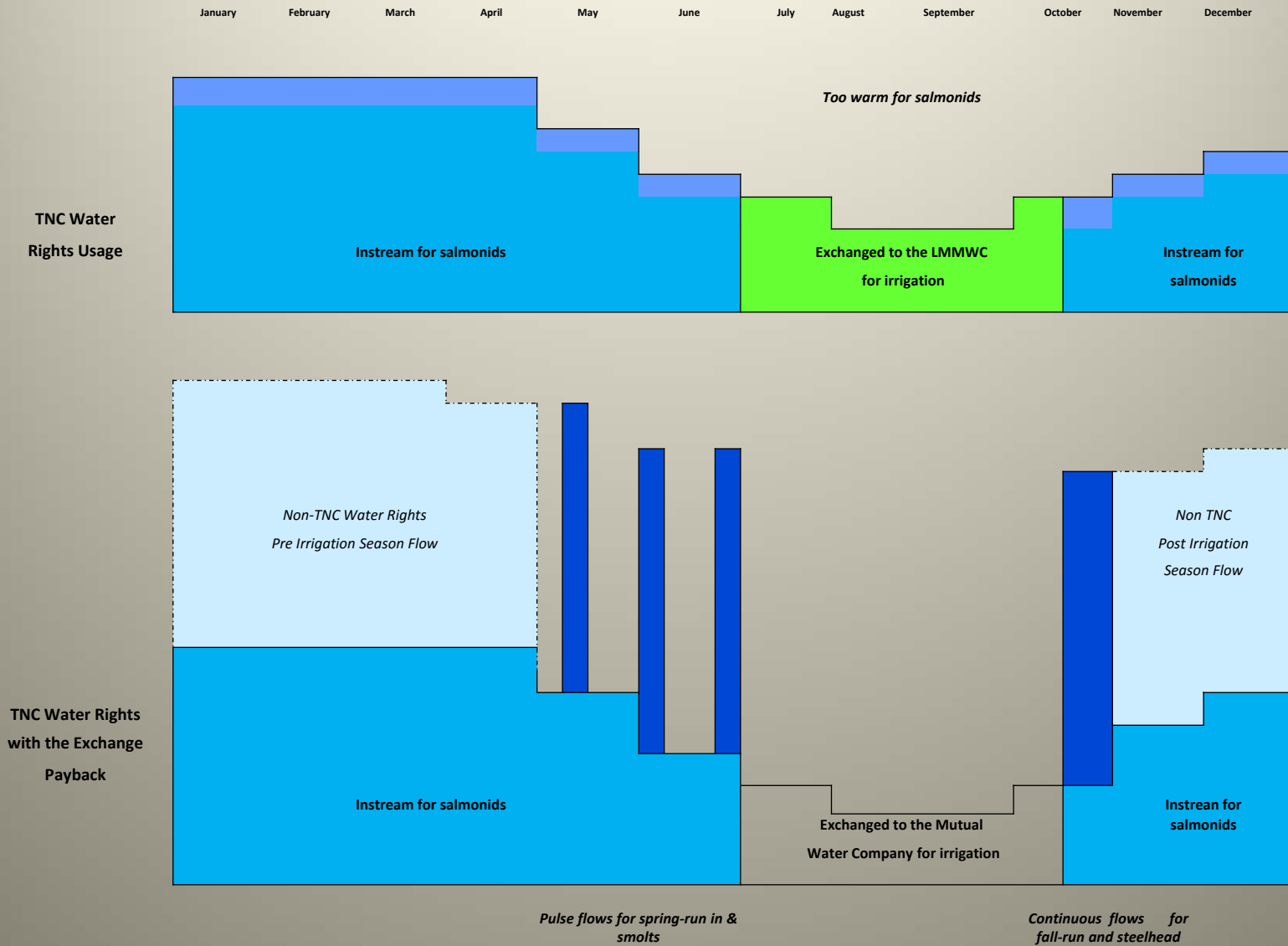
- Two wells (10 cfs capacity) used exclusively to replace diversions for increase instream flow
- Development and operations funding from Delta “Four Pumps”
- 10 cfs of required instream flow with credit incentive to provide more instream flow
- LMMWC may use replacement water then or bank well credits for use later in the year
- Wells only operate a limited time
- Additional wells proposed

Water Rights Acquisition



- TNC purchased two water rights, 17.9 cfs at full flow
- Leveraged through a Water Exchange Agreement with LMMWC
- LMMWC uses TNC water for irrigation from 7/1 to 10/15 with payback for passage flows
- Additional water rights are being pursued

Mill Creek Water Exchange Agreement



Water Use Efficiency Improvements



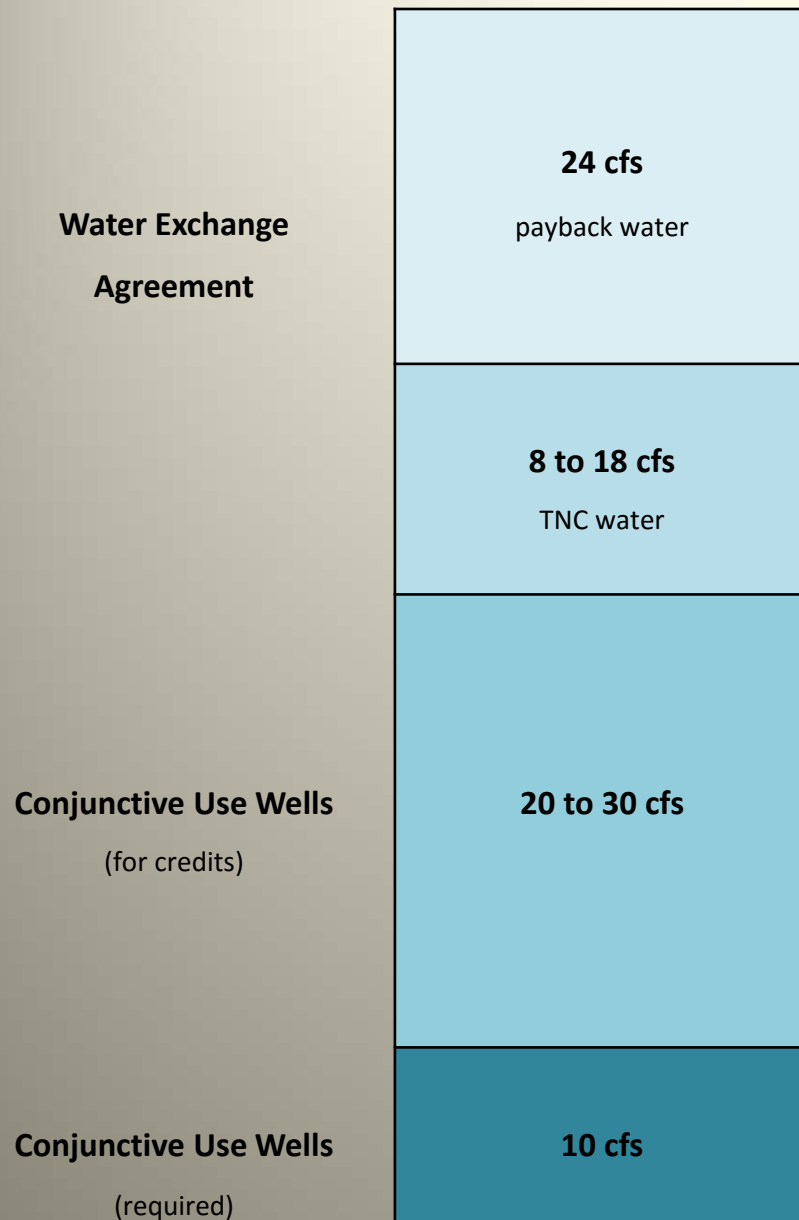
- Mill Creek water is commonly used for relatively low value crops and it has been very inexpensive
- Little economic incentive to improve efficiency and reduce water demand
- LMMWC has initiated improvements with an SCADA system and improved measuring and distribution devices
- FRGP and NFWF are funding the Water Efficiency Masterplan
- Identify specific projects and develop cost and water savings estimates to support funding applications

Offstream Storage

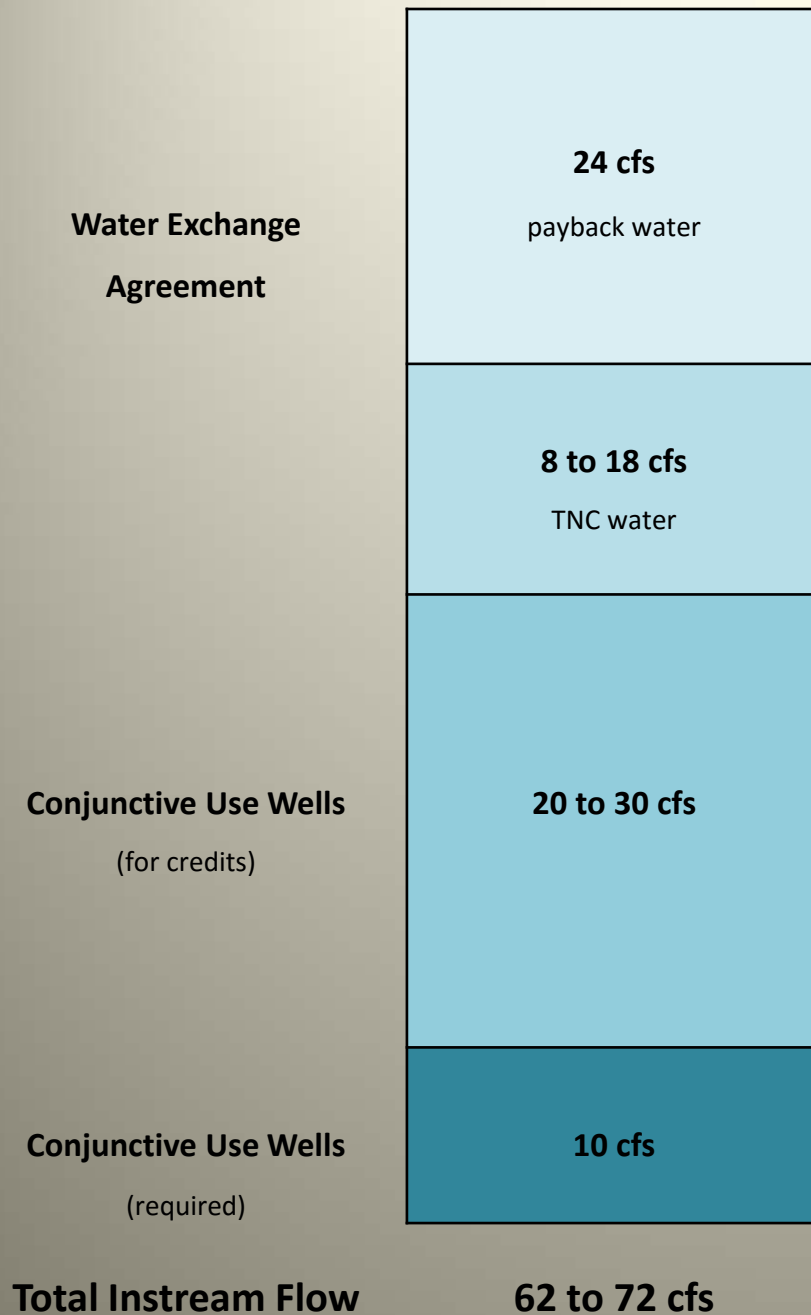


- 3 day pulse flows disrupt irrigation cycles and make life difficult for LMMWC customers
- Pond(s) proposed to store higher spring flows for use to even out rotations during pulse flows
- Reducing the negative impact will increase LMMWC ability to provide pulse flows
- Initial engineering analysis commissioned to evaluate the potential benefits and cost

Typical Instream Flows Achieved



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The Bottom Line

**Good science, innovation, funding,
cooperation and a little sacrifice =**

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