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DIVERSE PARTNERSHIP CELEBRATES REMARKABLE YEAR OF SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION ON THE SACRAMENTO RIVER

January 3, 2019 Chico, CA -- On January 10, 2020, representatives from a collaboration of four resource agencies, two nonprofits, a university, a tribe, a special district, a city, private landowners, and multiple water districts, will mark a year of remarkable salmon habitat restoration accomplishments with two site tours at recently completed habitat restoration projects on the Sacramento River.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. January 10, 2020 at Anderson River Park, Anderson, CA, then moves to the Rio Vista site in Red Bluff at 2:30. Members of the media are invited to attend. Interview and photo opportunities are available. Video is available of construction and of juvenile salmon in one of the channels.

CSU Chico President Gayle Hutchinson and other leaders from the partnering organizations will be attending the site visits to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of this effort. From April to December of 2019, the partnership created three acres of spawning habitat for critically endangered winter run Chinook salmon and placed 20,000 tons of gravel to support additional spawning habitat. Three projects created over one and a half miles of new year-round side channel habitat and enhanced two miles of stagnant backwater channels to flowing habitat. These completed projects demonstrate the incredible success that can be achieved when diverse organizations work together on a focused objective.

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Working with funding through Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and technical assistance from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Sacramento River Forum and CSU Chico coordinate the efforts of this diverse partnership. The California Department of Water Resources brings its engineering and biological expertise, leading project design. River Partners, a nonprofit focused on river restoration throughout California, led implementation of three of the projects, including placing the 20,000 tons of gravel and working with the Yurok Tribe to restore side channels at Reading Island and Anderson River Park in Shasta County. The Tribe brought its decade of experience and skills restoring the Trinity River to expand the capacity of the collaboration. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City of Anderson facilitated access to Anderson River Park for one of the projects. The Resource Conservation District of Tehama County implemented the Rio Vista side channel project in Red Bluff, in collaboration with a private landowner and seven water districts from the Sacramento Valley. Reclamation District 108 led a coalition of water districts that created the three acres of spawning habitat in Redding. CSU Chico and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission monitor the projects after construction.

Juvenile Chinook salmon are already using the restored side channel habitats (see video and stills [here](#)). Adult Chinook salmon spawned this year on the newly created three acres of spawning habitat. Video footage is available of the Yurok Tribe constructing the Anderson River side channel.

To learn more about the event, or for directions to either the Anderson River Park or Rio Vista Site, contact Project Manager Susan Strachan at 530-520-0403.

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