



Friends of Auburn Ravine
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2017 Mid-Year Report

Salmon use bridges if people build the right kind! Working to balance needs of humans and wildlife.

With a focus on western Placer and Sutter Counties, Friends of Auburn Ravine seeks to improve the health of our local watersheds using the concepts of reconciliation ecology to maintain and improve the diversity of wildlife in such a way that human uses of the landscape can continue and sustainable solutions can be developed for the benefit of all.

Here in western Placer and Sutter counties, our landscape has been modified extensively to support the needs of people. Those modifications provide many benefits including delivery of water for food production, easier transportation and communication, reduced flood risk, better water quality, improved property values, more recreational opportunities, and reduced fire danger. And we are blessed with a wonderful diversity of plants and animals living around us in the wetlands of the valley, the woodlands of the foothills, and the streams that flow through them. We should not take the wildlife around us for granted, nor our engineered modifications of the landscape. The canals that deliver water to our farms, and the levees that hold back floods are not cheap to build or maintain. And wildlife, including deer, turkeys, otters, wood ducks, salmon, and bobcats will not survive if ill-planned human activity blocks their migration paths, or damages their feeding and nesting areas.

The Board of Directors of Friends of Auburn Ravine believes that there are opportunities for win-win solutions that can help both people and wildlife. The Directors are Brad Cavallo, Gary Flanagan, James Haufler, Steve Hubbard, and Heath Wakelee. For more info on Friends of Auburn Ravine, their Board members, and projects, please visit our web site (www.auburnravine.org), and follow Friends of Auburn Ravine on Facebook.

Friends of Auburn Ravine is presently engaged in multiple projects with the public, property owners, and government agencies. Among these are:

- Analyzing water diversions for practical, cost-effective modifications to increase the efficiency of water delivery to agriculture, and improve salmon migration.
- Identifying floodplain reconnection opportunities to reduce flood risk and increase rainy-season habitat for juvenile salmon and other wildlife.
- Operation of a video system to count salmon and steelhead each season as they migrate up Auburn Ravine to provide a scientific basis for habitat improvement proposals.
- Launching a DNA study to establish the genetic heritage of Auburn Ravine salmon.
- Supporting a project to replace Hemphill Dam with a new system that will allow continued water deliveries, and ensure unimpeded passage for salmon and steelhead.
- Investigating options for reconfiguration of the Cross Canal to reduce flood risk, and improve habitat for juvenile salmon and other wildlife.

- Surveying the extent of salmon and steelhead migration so habitat improvement resources can be focused on cost-effective projects.
- Planning a PIT tag study of trout and steelhead to understand their local distribution and lifecycle.
- Investigating options for late winter rearing of salmon and steelhead in rice fields in the lower reaches of Auburn Ravine and Raccoon Creek.
- Advocating the establishment of a branch of the Placer Nature Center along the banks of Auburn Ravine near Lincoln.



Underwater camera captures Chinook salmon swimming up Auburn Ravine through Lincoln in November 2016.

As you can imagine, all these projects require input, agreement, and coordination with many people from different walks of life. Permits are often needed. Funding is usually scarce. And bruises from previous efforts may not have yet healed. So role we try to play is building bridges – bridges between people. Bridges of understanding. Bridges of consensus. We are confident that by building those bridges, both people and wildlife will benefit.

We would like to thank the many organizations that are helping to build those bridges:

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Auburn Ravine Preservation Committee.

Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Calif. Dept. of Water Resources

California Fly Fishers Unlimited

California Native Plant Society

City of Lincoln

Cramer Fish Sciences

Dry Creek Conservancy

Eagle Scout Troop 745

Hewlett Packard Enterprise

National Marine Fisheries Service

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Placer County Fish and Game Commission

Raley's

Reclamation District 1001

Rose Foundation

South Sutter Water District

Tech Soup

Valley Foothill Watersheds Collaborative

Wildland's Inc.

Gold Country Images

Lincoln Hills Fishing Group

Nevada Irrigation District

Placer County Board of Supervisors

Placer County Water Agency

Reclamation District 1000

Richland Communities

Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

Stantec

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Wildlife Heritage Foundation

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