

Russian River Volunteer Drought Initiative Public Information Meeting

May 14th, 2015 Salmon Creek School, Occidental



Agenda

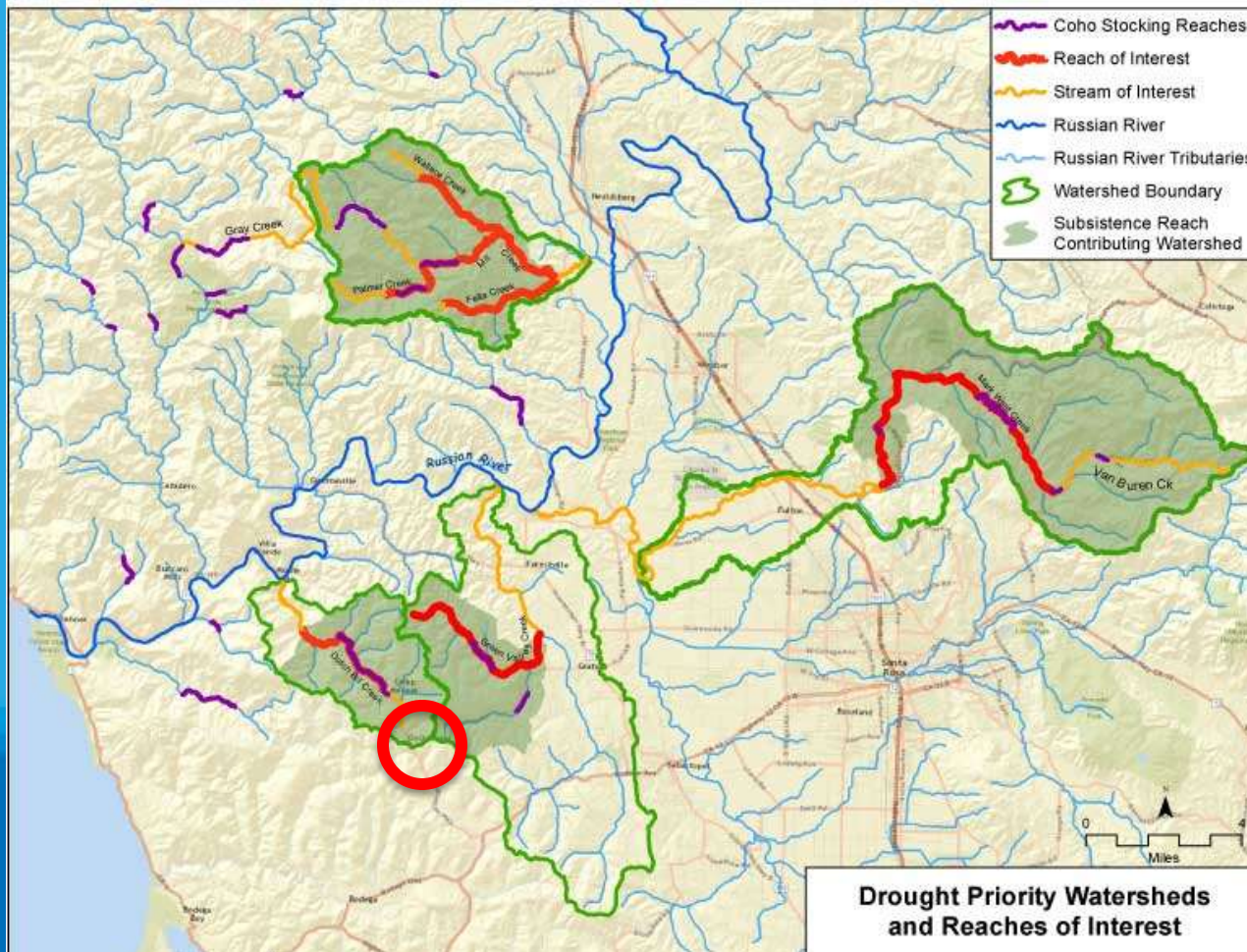
- Why We're Here
- CDFW's Concern and Role
- Why These Watersheds
- Impacts on Streamflow
- Know Your Water Rights and Responsibilities
- Resources and Technical Assistance
- Voluntary Drought Agreements



Why Are We All Here?



Sonoma County



Sonoma County

Curtailment



SWRCB Potential Actions

- Informational Order
 - Who, what, how much
 - Must respond
- Water Conservation Regulation
 - Specific actions to conserve water
- Curtailment Order
 - Specific minimum flow targets
 - Minimum health and safety exemption



Sonoma County

- State of emergency
- Everyone has to help
- Riparian rights
- Larger issue





Brown is the new green



Pop Quiz



Gallons per day?

- 285
- 326
- 546
- 724



Pop Quiz



Gallons per day?

- 285
- 326
- 546
- 724



By The Numbers

Average Lawn	550
Weekly (3x)	1,650
Monthly	6,600
Yearly	80,000
650 Landowners	52,200,000



Successes

- 10 Agreements



CDFW's Concerns and Roles



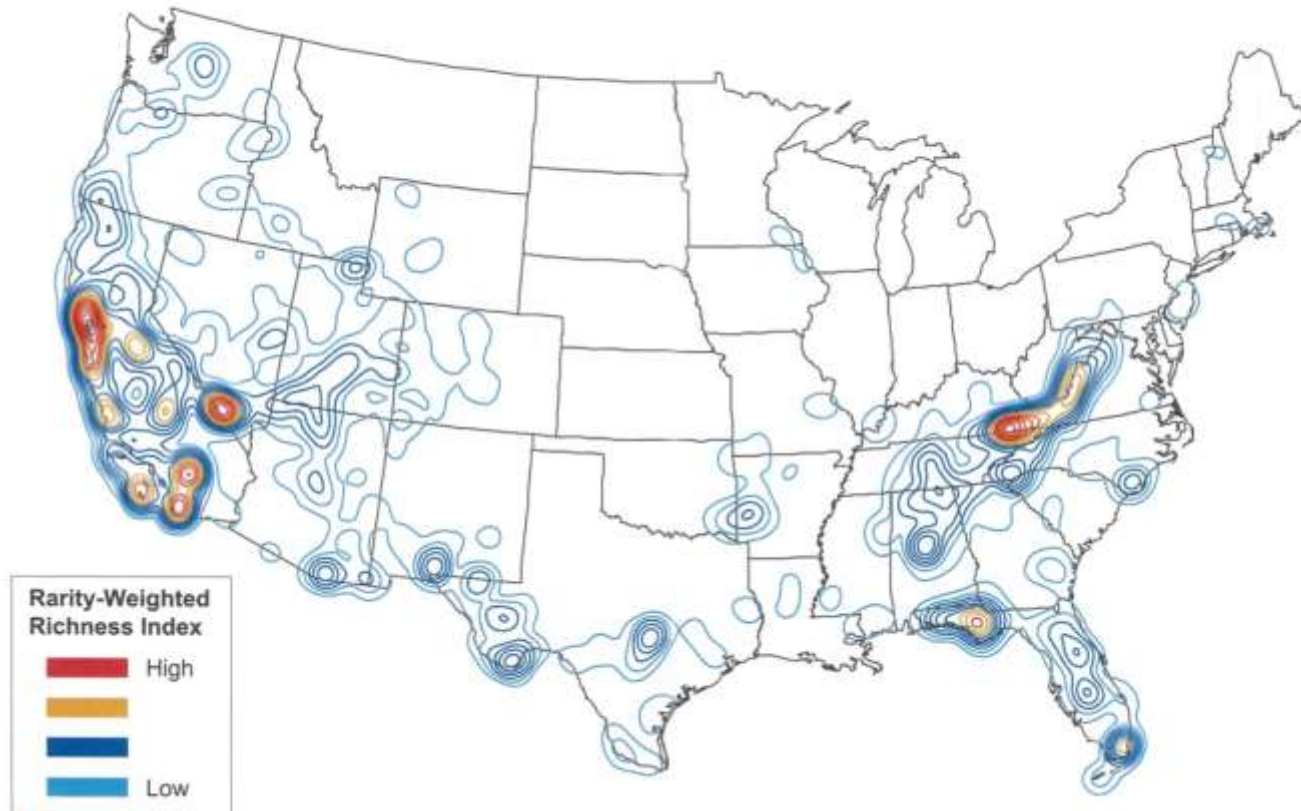
The Russian River – our common thread



Common thread as well



Rich heritage of biodiversity



Brings quality to our lives



Shared Resources

Low flow no place to go...



Steelhead need adequate flow for winter migration and summer rearing

AND

Clean gravel and cobble for spawning

Deep pools with large wood for shelter

Healthy riparian vegetation for shade and nutrients

Drought can interrupt the life cycle of all salmonids, including steelhead

Winter low flows prevent adult steelhead from reaching their native streams to spawn

Summer low flows decrease deep pool habitat and disconnect miles of in-stream habitat



Lake Sonoma...



...we love to remember



Lake Sonoma today



Why These Watersheds

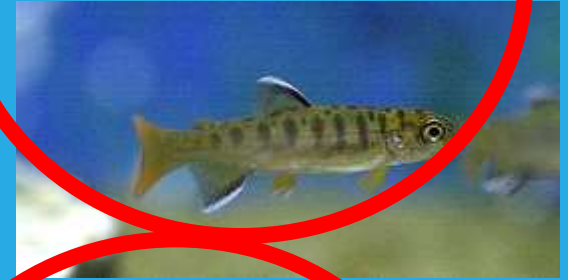


Alevin

Egg



Fry

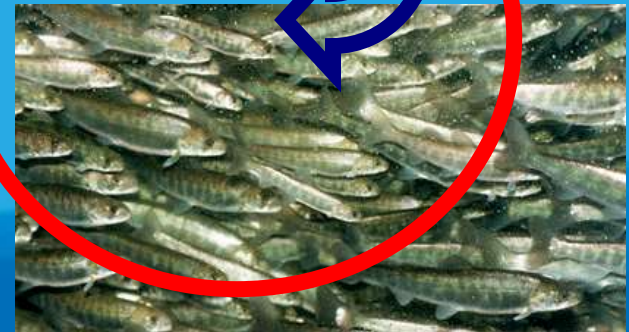


Salmonid Life Cycle

Spawner



Smolt

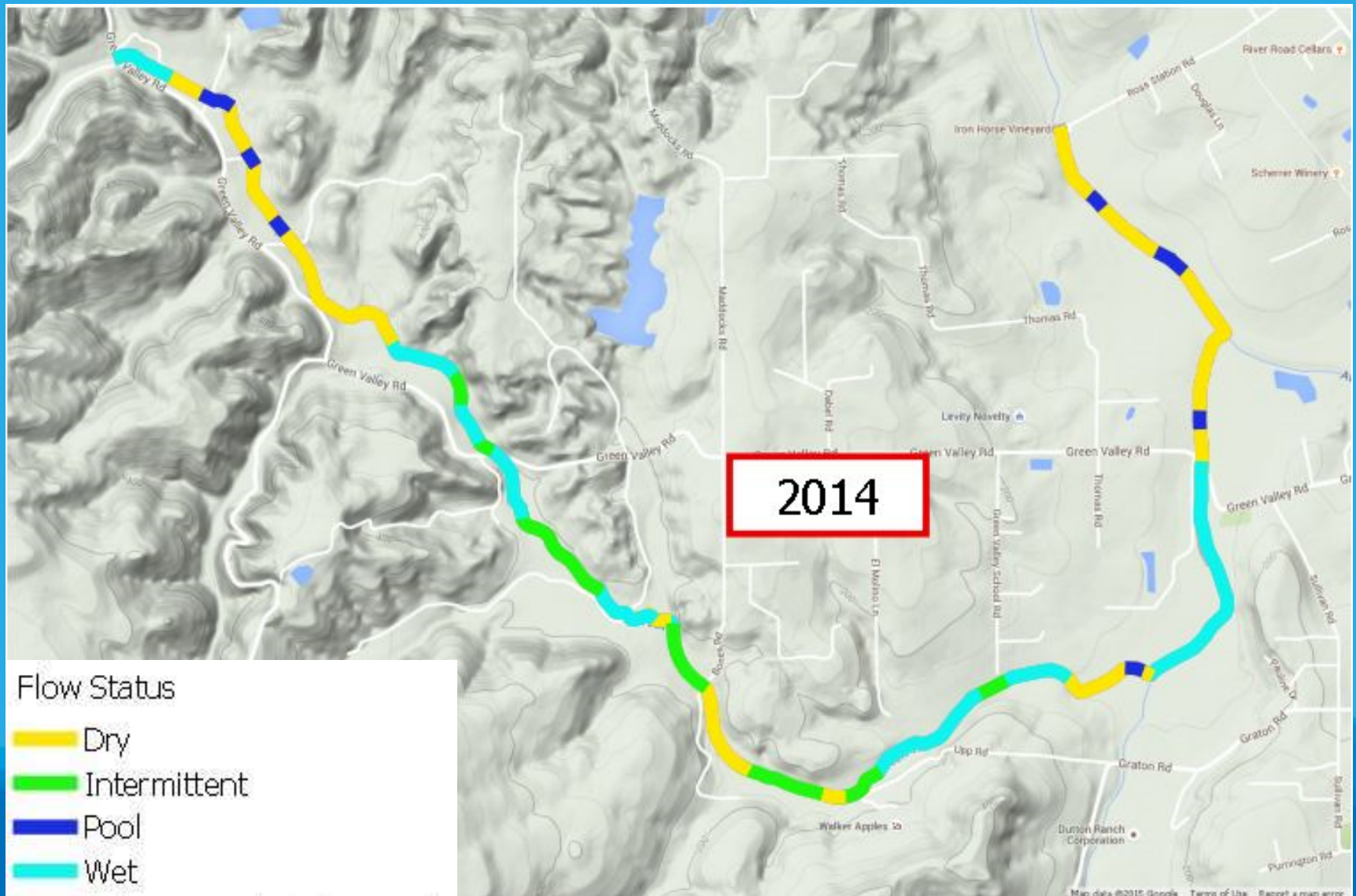


Adult



Drying Pool in Felta Creek Spring 2015





Flow on Green Valley Creek





Flow on Dutch Bill Creek



Why These Watersheds?

- Critical coho salmon habitat; last sources of wild coho salmon
- High number of surface water diversions
- High restoration potential
- Significant grant funds invested



Critical Habitat and Last Sources of Wild Coho Salmon



High Number of Diversions



High Restoration Potential



Significant Grant Funds Invested



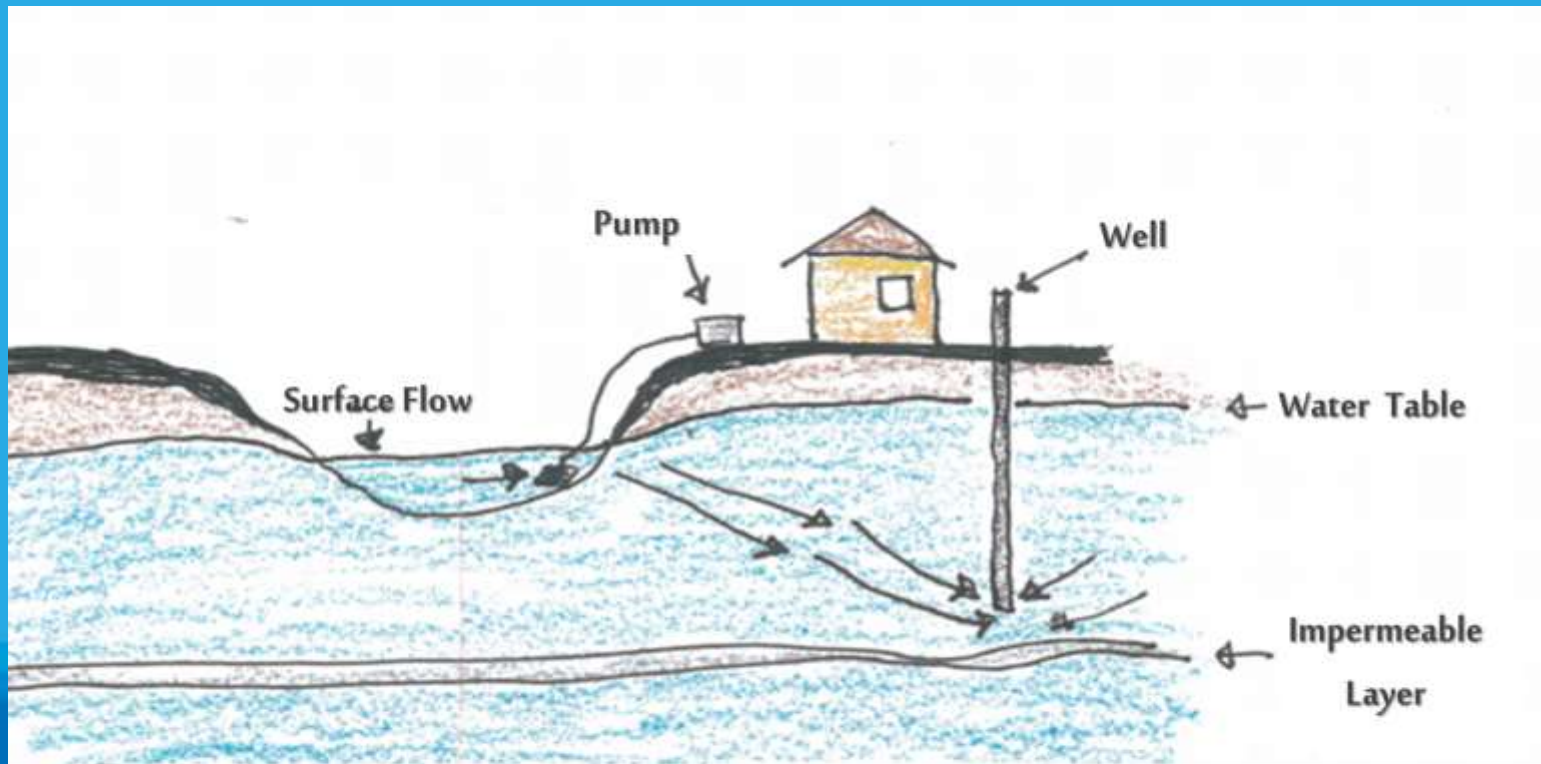
Water Conservation Projects are Needed



Know your water rights and responsibilities



Are you affecting Streamflow?



Did you Know?

- Landowner statement of use is required by the State Water Board for:
 - Surface diversion
 - Underflow diversion
- June 30 deadline

All landowners diverting surface or subsurface water from springs, streams, and rivers, including “subterranean streams” are required to file a “Statement of Use” with the State Water Resources Control Board



What is the Goal?

- Keep our creeks wet for fish!
- Maintain the minimum *hydrologic connection* between pools to protect water quality
- Once pools become isolated, temperatures increase and dissolved oxygen levels drop



Solutions?

- Divert Less and more efficiently
- Drip irrigation
- Alternative water sources
- Coordinate diversions
- Install low-flow appliances

If you have a storage reservoir and are willing to release water for fish please come talk to us!



Tank Talk



Flow For Fish Rebate Program

- Eligible projects are tanks (covers tank + permit fee) and reservoir releases (infrastructure costs only)
- Tanks must be permitted; this would combine infrastructure rebate w/ESDU expedited permitting
- Priority for projects that happen quickly
- Contact Mary Ann King at mking@tu.org or 510-649-9987



Resources and Technical Assistance



What is a Voluntary Drought Initiative Agreement (VDI)?

- An agreement between a landowner and CDFW that lists water conservation actions that will be taken during the drought
- A VDI also includes access for monitoring and fish rescue operations by CDFW personnel



Why Should I Participate in a VDI Agreement?

- It will NOT be used by CDFW for any potential enforcement actions



Why Should I Participate in a VDI Agreement?

- A VDI can provide CESA 'take' authorization for State-listed coho salmon



Why Should I Participate in a VDI Agreement?

- CDFW will recommend individual landowners with water conservation VDIs will not be subject to future curtailment actions for fishery protection by the State Water Board



Questions?



Thank You for Attending and Sharing Your Input

For more information please contact the
Department of Fish and Wildlife

(707) 944-5555

bdrdrought@wildlife.ca.gov

