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**State of California**  
**Department of Fish and Wildlife**

## **M e m o r a n d u m**

Date: July 9, 2018

To: Sarah Mussulman  
Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

From: Ben Ewing  
District Fisheries Biologist  
Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, and Lake Counties  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Cc: Region 2 Fish Files

Re: Clear Lake hitch fish rescue from Thompson Creek, Lake County

On May 2, 2019, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) personnel, along with members from the Robinson Rancheria at Clear Lake, conducted a fish rescue on Thompson Creek (Lake County). The purpose of the rescue was to capture and relocate Clear Lake hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*) (HCH-C), a threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). All HCH-C that were rescued were released at Rodman Slough as it enters Clear Lake.

Prior to May 2, 2019, a section of Thompson Creek occupied by 16 adult HCH-C were identified by a member of the Robinson Rancheria at Clear Lake. The Robinson Rancheria member continued to closely monitor the area. By early May, the creek level was dropping daily, and it appeared that the area containing the HCH-C was likely to dry completely (Figure 1). Additionally, Thompson Creek no longer had continuous flow, but was broken up into isolated pools. On May 2, 2019, a member of the Department and two members of the Robinson Rancheria, assessed and conducted a fish rescue on a small pool that was drying up in Thompson Creek, upstream of the Highland Springs Road Crossing (Figure 2). Thirteen of the 16 trapped HCH-C were collected using various sized dip nets and placed into a cooler with an operating aerator (Figure 3). The fish were then transported to better habitat near the Rodman Slough confluence with Clear Lake (Figure 2).

The HCH-C were scanned for Passive Integrated Transponder (P.I.T) tags, but no HCH-C had a prior tag. There were no reported mortalities for the HCH-C rescued.



Figure 1. Location of HCH-C rescue site on Thompson Creek, Lake Co. on May 2, 2019.

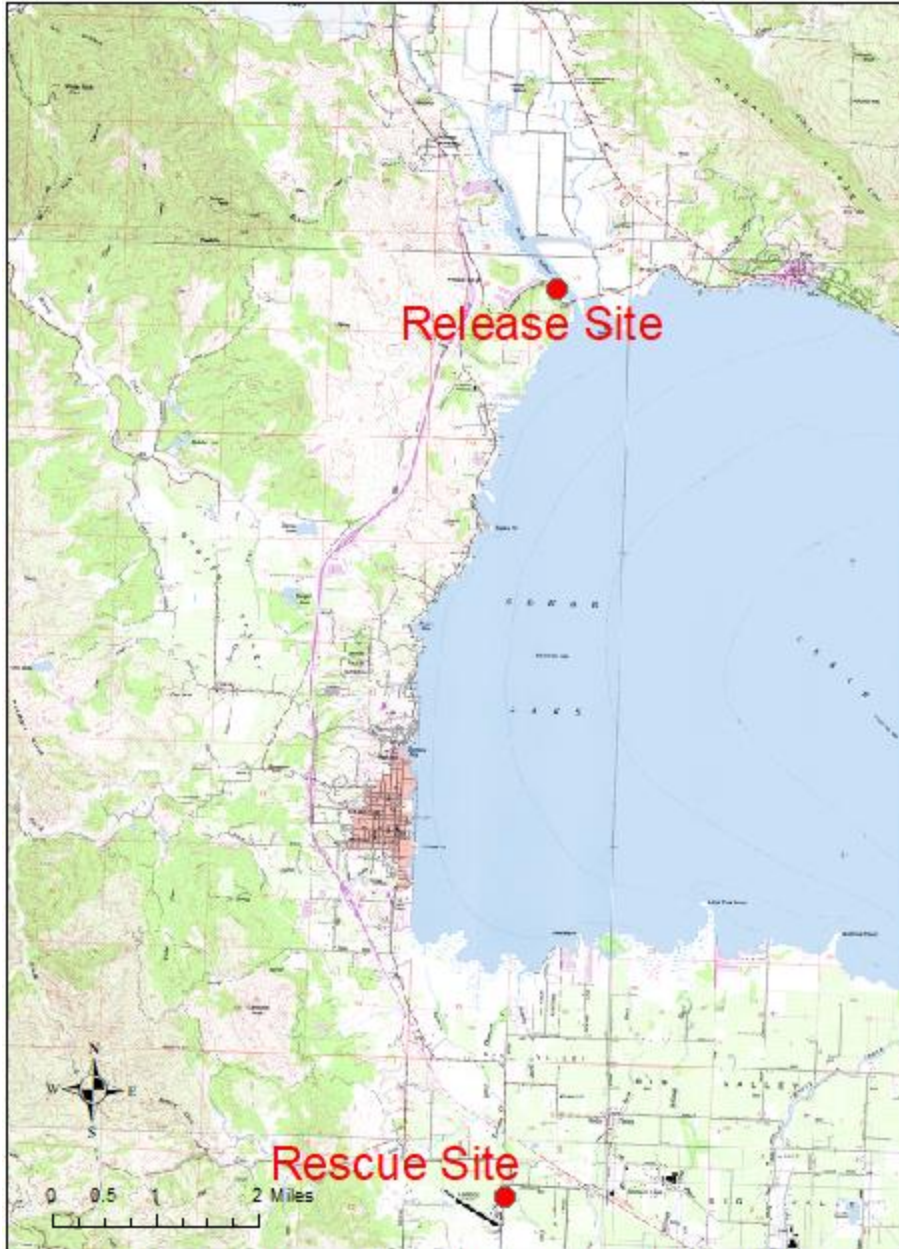


Figure 2. Clear Lake hitch rescue (Thompson Creek) and release (Rodman Slough) sites (5/2/2019).



Figure 3. Fish rescue site on Thompson Creek, Lakeport, Lake County (5/2/2019).