

## Draft Individual Review Form

Proposal number: 2001-K218-1 Short Proposal Title: Butte Ck. ect. Chinook and Steelhead

**1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?**

Yes, the objectives are extremely clearly stated, namely the continued population monitoring of spring run chinook salmon in Butte and Big Chico Creeks, and an examination of the role the Sutter Bypass plays in the life history of spring run chinook. These are very important and extremely useful objectives given the declines in spring run chinook in the Central Valley. Spring Run Chinook only continue to have sustaining populations in four rivers in California and each should be monitored closely.

**1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?**

The conceptual model is clearly stated. The reasoning behind this work is based on an evaluation of all previous information gathered about the streams in question. This evaluation targeted these two areas (continued population monitoring and understanding the importance of the Sutter Bypass) as top priorities.

**1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?**

The first set of approaches taken in the proposal, namely monitoring adult fall migration and abundance, adult escapement, alevin emergence and size of juveniles at emigration are quite adequate for meeting the first objective of the project, the continued population monitoring of spring run chinook. The second set of approaches toward understanding the role of the Sutter Bypass in the life history of these fish are also quite appropriate, namely the use of coded wire tags and planned releases into the Sutter Bypass. Both sets of approaches will easily meet the objectives of the study.

**1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?**

This project clearly falls into the category of targeted research/monitoring. It is specific to a few streams (although it may clearly have implications beyond this particular watershed), and is very directed in its scope. The project will be an extremely useful tool to direct management goals and decision making in these streams in the future.

**1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?**

As stated above in 1c1, a project of this nature will give managers and decision makers in these streams a better set of information upon which to base management decisions in the future. An understanding of the role of large seasonally flooded wetlands in the growth and survival of Spring Run Chinook may be extremely important for their continued survival.

**2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?**

Monitoring is essentially the main part of this proposal and as such is extremely detailed and well put together. The information assessment and analysis is scientifically valid and appears directly useful for the goals of the project.

**2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?**

All phases of data collection, management and analysis are extremely well described and referenced. All areas of this proposal appear scientifically sound and adequate to meet the objectives.

**3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?**

Although the approach taken is labor and time intensive, the actual mechanics of this type of work (long term monitoring using standard fisheries techniques and mark/re-capture studies) are relatively straight forward. It is very likely that the objectives will be met, barring any unforeseen difficulties with weather.

**4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?**

The project team appears well qualified to carry out this work. Katherine Hill has done significant work in this area with CDFG in the past and appears strongly capable to execute this type of project.

**Miscellaneous comments**

The declines in California over the last century of Spring Run Chinook Salmon have been profound. The few remaining non-dammed rivers where this taxa persists should be closely monitored and protected. A more complete understanding of the life history of this taxa will go a long way towards our preservation of this unique part of California's anadromous fish fauna. It is also important that steelhead will also be monitored as a portion of this proposal. This proposal is well described, researched and documented. It is obvious that time and effort went into the preparation of this report.

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**Overall Evaluation  
Summary Rating**

**Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating**

The CALFED proposal K218: Butte Creek, Big Chico Creek and Sutter Bypass Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Evaluation" is a very straight forward and well thought out proposal. It is very well researched and clearly stated. Its goals are reasonable and attainable and the results will have very useful applications to the management and restoration of Spring Run Chinook Salmon and Steelhead in the creeks of interest.

- Excellent
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