

Butte Creek Salmon Featured in San Francisco Chronicle

Visit our website

Butte Creek Salmon Run

The best in the State!

The Spring Run Chinook Salmon of Butte Creek continue to be the only run of salmon in California that is doing well in 2008. The return this year is estimated at more than 5000 salmon, according to the snorkel survey conducted by the Department of Fish and Game. Typically the snorkel count underestimates the total run size and will be verified with carcass counts after the salmon spawn in October. Butte Creek salmon are unique in that 100% of the fish are naturally spawned and spend every minute of their lives wild and free. Salmon recovery in California may be futile if we can't provide more natural habitat.

DeSabra Centerville Hydro Project:

Making hydroelectric production
more fish friendly.

Temperature and habitat studies have revealed a number of project modifications that will improve the aquatic habitat for salmon, steelhead and frogs. Increased creek flows above Centerville Powerhouse will greatly improve salmon holding, rearing, and spawning habitat. Reducing the heating created by Round Valley and DeSabra reservoirs will make the project more fish friendly and help to avoid massive fish die-offs as caused by warm water in 2003. Ladders and screens on the diversions will help keep fish in "good condition". Visit our website (www.buttecreek.org) for more information on the relicensing.

Report all fishing activity to Cal Fish
and Game: 916-445-0380

Volunteer now for ongoing
projects! Call or email.

- * Water Quality Monitoring
- * Salmon Tour Docents
- * Creekwatcher

The wild and naturally spawned Butte Creek Spring Run Salmon have been making huge front page news lately, mainly due to the fact that they somehow survived the conditions that have caused the biggest drop in California salmon populations in history!

Local News*****

Big Chico Creek will soon get the fish ladder through the natural barriers in Iron Canyon repaired and Spring Run Salmon will have a much easier time returning to the upper holding areas.

Battle Creek Restoration funding is finally approved. Construction will start soon to reopen 42 miles of habitat blocked by PGE hydroelectric projects!

Feather River Salmon Festival is scheduled for September 27. Look for the new FBC display at the event! Volunteers needed.

Coleman National Hatchery's Return of the Salmon Festival will be October 18. Volunteers for FBC are needed.

Salmon Tours are being scheduled. Tours begin September 27 and run through October 12, fish willing. Reserve your visit to view spawning Spring Run Salmon on Butte Creek. Docents are provided by the Friends of Butte Creek. A two hour visit with the salmon is being offered for a donation of \$10. Refreshment options are available. Individuals or groups can make reservations by contacting: friends@buttecreek.org or contact Allen or Pamela for details: 893-0360.

Fin, the giant salmon, paid a visit to Butte Creek in April. Perched above the Honey Run Covered Bridge, Fin welcomed back the 2008 Spring Run Salmon. Fin also visit Durham Elementary School where 2nd grade classes have been studying salmon for more than a decade. After leaving Chico, Fin continued on to Washington D. C. to raise awareness of the need to restore the Snake River Salmon.



California's last best run of wild salmon

By Peter H. Ravn
Executive Editor, Science

Butte Creek, like almost all the other hatchery-stocked streams in California, is a dead end for the spawning runs of wild salmon. In fact, with a splash, a big girl being left behind out of the water, then another and another. The spawning stream was clogged this past week in the winter, forcing eggs to rot.

"This is the last best run of wild salmon in California," said Steve Hildner, the executive director of Friends of Butte Creek, who has been fighting for more than a decade to save the hatchery's wild-run salmon. Spring run of chinook in this stream.



Salmon of the Sacramento River. The last flowing creek now holds the largest population of wild spring-run chinook, or king salmon, in the Sacramento River system.

"It's the only place that gets no help," Hildner said from an observation deck he built in a rip-rap box years ago.

It was clear from Hildner's talk at the meeting that he had seen the salmon fish connecting Stone Creek Canyon Dam, despite the all-out complete collapse of the salmon culture in California, there are still healthy salmon when there is healthy habitat.

The number of spawning fish returning from the stream to Butte Creek, however, is around 5000.

—SUNSHINE, Page 40





Leaping Spring Run Salmon celebrate their successful return to Butte Creek, the last, best habitat in California.

A special debt of gratitude goes to Kit Kerby for serving on the FBC board for many years. We greatly appreciate all her energy and efforts in making the organization a growing success. Visit Kit at Metagraphics at 925 Cedar for FBC merchandise.

Butte Creek begins at over 7,000 feet above Butte Meadows. It is joined by more than a dozen tributaries as it makes its way to the Sacramento River. FBC has a mapping feature on its website that identifies most of the tributaries and many more interesting sites. Thanks to the generous support of IMRivers, we have been able to provide this mapping feature without cost to the organization. Check it out at: www.buttecreek.org

Special Thanks to our many Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival sponsors and partners: Pacific Gas and Electric, U.S. Forest Service - Shasta-Trinity Forest, Colin Stokes, Resource Renewal Institute, Zeke Lunder, Sagebrush Gallery, Kelly Meagher, and the many wonderful volunteers and other Friends of Butte Creek supporters!

Friends of Butte Creek is a 501c(3) nonprofit educational organization. Please join us in protecting this magnificent watershed. Send your tax deductible donations to: PO Box 3305, Chico, CA 95927 or donate online. For more information about options to support FBC drop us a line at: friends@buttecreek.org

Butte Creek supports the largest run of wild, naturally spawned Spring Run Chinook in California

Friends of Butte Creek
Box 3305
Chico CA 95927
buttecreek.org



Butte creek was once again ravaged by fire this year. The Humboldt fire, apparently arson caused, raced across the lower canyon, jumped the creek, and roared into lower Paradise. Valiant firefighting efforts protected all Canyon residences and little damage was done. Residences on Neal Road and Clark Road were not so lucky. The howling north wind fanned the flames that destroyed more than 70 homes. Please be fire safe and provide 100 feet of clearance so firefighters can protect your home. The fire season is far from over.

The Butte County and Chico General Plans for 2030 are moving through the public arena. Several development areas may affect the Butte Creek watershed. Citizens are encouraged to get involved and let our public officials know that any development must limit the amount of impermeable surfaces and runoff that may affect the creeks and wetlands that support our salmon and water quality. Leap-frog development will only reduce the quality of life in Butte County. Contact the Butte Creek Canyon Coalition (BCCC) for more information. BCCC is a growing group of canyon neighbors brought together to share information and call attention to issues important to preserve the unique qualities of the canyon community, ecosystem and history. BCCC uses an email venue. If you do not have email access they try to mail or fax information to you.

Contact Caroline Burkett for more info: cburk@digitalpath.net

News Flash*** Salmon spawning tours are available this fall. Book a tour for your family, friends, and organizations to visit the incredible final dance of the 2008 Butte Creek Spring Run Salmon. Remember, Butte Creek is closed to fishing until November 15.



Friends of Butte Creek Board of Directors



Address label