



California Department of Fish & Wildlife | NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service | Yuba County Water Agency
American Rivers | California Sportfishing Protection Alliance | Trout Unlimited

YUBA SALMON PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

Coalition Quotes—May 2015

"This initiative is an ambitious undertaking to restore spring-run Chinook and steelhead to miles of historic pristine habitat in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This long-term experiment has been successful in several Pacific Northwest states and we hope for a similar outcome in California. A project of this importance wouldn't be possible without a robust partnership, and considering the state's unprecedented drought, it couldn't be happening at a more crucial time for these fish."

-- Charlton H. Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

"Reintroducing spring-run Chinook to their historic habitat above dams on the Yuba River has been discussed for decades. Now this diverse coalition has reached agreement on the key terms to launch a successful program. We have a lot of work still ahead of us, and we will need to stay focused, given the urgency of getting these imperiled salmon back into their native habitat. The YSPI represents a major step forward, and we're excited to help make it happen."

-- Will Stelle, West Coast Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries

"The value of the YSPI is to bring together partners who don't always agree to focus on what we can get done. It is absolutely essential to reintroduce salmon upstream of a major Central Valley rim dam. The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance is committed to putting fish in the water as soon as possible."

-- Chris Shutes, FERC Projects Director, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

"After 15 years working to help salmon get home to the Sierra, we are excited to take a major step in that direction today. We have challenges to overcome yet, but we have reached an important milestone. The North Yuba River has some of the best habitat of any river in the Sierra, and we will be deeply gratified to see salmon spawn in their ancestral waters for the first time in nearly a century."

-- Steve Rothert, California Director, American Rivers

"For YCWA, the Yuba Salmon Partnership Initiative, which builds upon our work several years ago with the Lower Yuba River Accord, will contribute to the recovery of salmon and steelhead, consistent with the NMFS 2014 Recovery Plan. The reintroduction would be part of a Settlement Agreement that would include provisions to protect YCWA and other interests throughout the Yuba River watershed from liability under federal and state endangered species acts with respect to the reintroduction, and provide certainty to YCWA for its future operations of its systems of dams and reservoirs. Continuing to enhance fisheries habitat in the Yuba River will be expensive. YCWA's commitment of up to \$100 million for this initiative is a terrific jumpstart to the program, but long-term success will require the leadership and support of all of the initiative's partners. We're counting on all of our partners to help fund the program through its 50 year life."

-- Curt Aikens, General Manager, Yuba County Water Agency

"The Yuba River has long been a favorite destination for California anglers. It's exciting to think that we may once again see salmon and steelhead in the upper river."

-- Brian J. Johnson, California Director, Trout Unlimited