

The Eel River Delta Restoration

August 2014

AGENDA

The Eel River was once one of the largest salmon producing rivers in California.

Recovery of Eel River salmonid stocks can have a significant influence on the regional fishing economy of California's north coast.

Approximately 60% of the estuary has been lost due to the construction of levees and dikes, and only 10% of the salt marsh habitats remain.

Thursday, September 18th

9:00am - 9:30am: Coffee and networking at Riverwalk Lodge in Fortuna

9:30am - 11:00am: Riverwalk Lodge presentations

- Welcoming remarks – Vincent DiMarzo (Wiyot Tribe)
- Welcome and overview of event, agenda, housekeeping details – Lisa DeBruyckere (Coordinator, California Fish Passage Forum/Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership)
- Welcome by Michael Bowen (Chair, the California Fish Passage Forum) and Korie Schaeffer (Chair, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership)
- Keynote – Jimmy Smith (Retired Humboldt County Supervisor)
- Estelle Fennell (Humboldt County Supervisor)
- Barry Thom (Deputy Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region)
- Katherine Ziemer (Humboldt County Farm Bureau)
- USFWS Restoration Goals and Efforts in the Eel Delta with agricultural landowners – Paula Golightly (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Jay Russ (landowner) and Jon Shultz (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- Eel River Forum to introduce conservation initiatives in the Eel River Delta, then project representative will discuss the following projects:
 - Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project – Doreen Hansen (Humboldt County Resource Conservation District)
 - Ocean Ranch – Mark Wheatley (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
 - Eel River Estuary Preserve – Dave Erickson (The Wildlands Conservancy)

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11:00am - 11:45am: Lunch provided and networking at Riverwalk Lodge

11:45am - 2:30pm: Field trips to Riverside Ranch and Eel River

Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project

- Doreen Hansen (Humboldt County Resource Conservation District) – HCRCD
- Jeremy Svehla (GHD, Inc.) – Lessons Learned
- Allan Renger (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

Eel River Estuary Preserve

- Melissa Brooks-Kraemer (California Coastal Commission) – Balancing Competing Uses in Large Estuary Restoration Projects
- David Erickson (The Wildlands Conservancy) – Plans and Opportunities for the Eel River Estuary Preserve
- Steve Carroll (Ducks Unlimited) – Plans and Opportunities for Ocean Ranch

2:30pm - 3:00pm: Networking and refreshments at Riverwalk Lodge

3:00pm - 5:00pm: Additional networking opportunities

- Coho recovery plan priorities in the Eel River Delta – Julie Weeder (NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region)
- Local fish passage issues, lower Eel proposed projects – Mary Burke (CalTrout)
- Open mic announcements for other small restoration projects (All)

