

Protecting Salmon Populations in Local Creeks

My name is James Haufler. I am the President of Friends of Auburn Ravine, a local non-profit organization which was formed in 2016. The people in this group are volunteer "citizen scientists". Our mission is to improve fish and wildlife habitat in Auburn Ravine, Raccoon Creek, and their tributaries through a collaborative process based on information obtained from scientific studies and reliable documented observations.

Check us out at

www.auburnravine.org.



I have a bachelor's degree in Education from Norfolk State University and a Master's Certificate in Project Management from Stevens Institute. I retired from AT&T a few years ago after 34 years of service in Sales and Project Management. (In this photo, I am not fishing for salmon....)

The Salmon Need Our Help



This salmon was photographed by our salmon "cam" located in the creek. The silvery color of this Chinook Salmon indicates that it came upstream from the ocean only a week or so before the photo was taken.

In the fall of 2016, a local non-profit organization known as the Friends of Auburn Ravine, started a project to get video of salmon as they migrate upstream to spawn in a creek that flows through Lincoln. That creek (Auburn Ravine) is a fairly small creek that runs from the hills around the town of Auburn down through Lincoln, and into the Sacramento River. When it begins to rain in October or November, the creek level rises, and dozens (or sometimes hundreds) of large Chinook Salmon come upstream to lay their eggs in the gravel streambeds east of Lincoln. They also move through Dry Creek tributaries (Miner's Ravine, Secret Ravine, Linda Creek, Antelope Creek) in Roseville to spawn and lay their eggs. This has been happening for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years. Unfortunately, salmon populations have declined dramatically in the last 100 years due to the construction of dams on the Sacramento River and most of its major tributaries. Those dams prevent salmon from swimming upstream to their historic spawning areas. Our volunteers survey the streams and count the salmon each year to gather data that will help us protect them. We also try to remove barriers in the streams like garbage that are preventing the migration of the salmon to their spawning grounds.