



2018 Mid-Year Report

Working to balance the needs of humans and wildlife.

Friends of Auburn Ravine seeks to improve the health of our local watersheds in western Placer and southern Sutter Counties. Our coordinated/collaborative process is based on information obtained from scientific studies and reliable documented observations. We apply the concept of reconciliation ecology to maintain and improve the diversity of wildlife in such a way that human uses of the landscape can continue and sustainable solutions can be developed for the benefit of all.

As we can all see, our landscape has been modified extensively to support the needs of people. Those modifications improve agriculture, transportation, and communication. They reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and increase property values. They increase recreational opportunities, and reduce fire danger.

We are blessed with a wonderful diversity of plants and animals living around us in the wetlands of the valley, the woodlands of the foothills, and the streams that flow through them. We should not take the wildlife around us for granted, nor our engineered modifications of the landscape. The canals that deliver water to our farms, and the levees that hold back floods are not cheap to build or maintain. And wildlife, including deer, turkeys, otters, wood ducks, salmon, and bobcats will not survive if ill-planned human activity blocks their migration paths, or damages their feeding and nesting areas.

The Board of Directors of Friends of Auburn Ravine believes that there are opportunities for win-win solutions that can help both people and wildlife. The Directors are Brad Cavallo, James Haufler, Steve Hubbard, and Heath Wakelee. To learn more about Friends of Auburn Ravine visit our web site (www.auburnravine.org), and follow us at "Friends of Auburn Ravine" on Facebook.

Our present projects include:

- Analyzing water diversions for practical, cost-effective modifications to maintain efficient water delivery to agriculture, and improve salmon migration.
- Identifying floodplain reconnection opportunities to reduce flood risk, and increase rainy-season habitat for juvenile salmon and other wildlife.
- Operation of a video system to provide a scientific basis for habitat improvement proposals by counting salmon and steelhead each season as they migrate up Auburn Ravine to spawn.
- A DNA study to establish the genetic heritage of Auburn Ravine salmon.
- Supporting a project to replace Hemphill Dam with a new system that will allow continued water deliveries, and ensure unimpeded passage for salmon and steelhead.
- Investigating options for reconfiguration of the Cross Canal to reduce flood risk, and improve habitat for juvenile salmon and other wildlife.
- Surveying the extent of salmon and steelhead migration so habitat improvement resources can be focused on cost-effective projects.
- Planning a PIT tag study of trout and steelhead to understand their local distribution and lifecycle.
- Investigating options for late-winter rearing of salmon and steelhead in seasonally-fallowed fields in the lower reaches of Auburn Ravine and Raccoon Creek.
- Advocating the establishment of a wildlife study area along the banks of Auburn Ravine near Lincoln.



Underwater camera captures a Chinook salmon swimming up Auburn Ravine through Lincoln in November 2016.

As you can imagine, all these projects require input, agreement, and coordination with many people from different walks of life. Permits are often needed. Funding is usually scarce.

Therefore, we seek to increase understanding and build consensus for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

We would like to thank the many organizations that are helping with this process:

(Listed in alphabetical order)

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| Auburn Ravine Preservation Committee. | Calif. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) |
| Calif. Dept. of Water Resources | California Fly Fishers Unlimited |
| California Native Plant Society | City of Lincoln |
| Cramer Fish Sciences | Dry Creek Conservancy |
| Eagle Scout Troop 745 | Gold Country Images |
| Hewlett Packard Enterprise | Lincoln Hills Fishing Group |
| National Marine Fisheries Service | Nevada Irrigation District |
| Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission | Placer County Board of Supervisors |
| Placer County Fish and Game Commission | Placer County Water Agency |
| Raley's | Reclamation District 1000 |
| Reclamation District 1001 | Richland Communities |
| Rose Foundation | Sierra Foothills Audubon Society |
| South Sutter Water District | Stantec |
| Tech Soup | US Fish and Wildlife Service |
| Valley Foothill Watersheds Collaborative | Wildlife Heritage Foundation |
| Wildland's Inc. | |