



A CREEK RUNS THROUGH US

Newsletter of the Salmon Protection And Watershed Network of Turtle Island Restoration Network

SpawnUSA.org



Restoring Ecosystems of Railway Towns

ARAILROAD ONCE rumbled through Marin County stopping along the scenic Lagunitas Creek at the towns of Jewell and Tocaloma. Here, travelers would witness huge numbers of migrating coho salmon. Now a trail and remnants of the dilapidated towns remain, but the coho salmon are struggling. These salmon, once numbering in the tens of thousands, are listed as ‘Endangered’ under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

In order to ensure salmon remain a part of our ecosystem, SPAWN and the National Park Service are undertaking one of our most ambitious restoration projects yet. The project involves restoring a mile stretch of creek by removing the derelict towns and restoring the floodplain. The project occurs within the Golden Gate

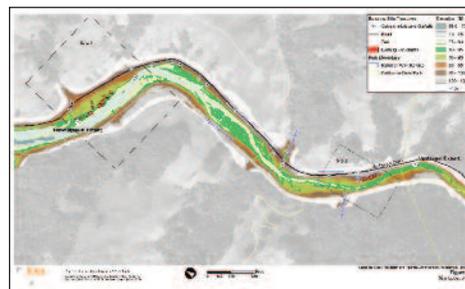
Top map: Abandoned structures and altered topography of the creek channels and floodplains.

Bottom map: A mosaic of different vegetation and habitat communities throughout the area.

National Recreation Area which is home to a diverse array of other endangered species. SPAWN has worked with state and federal wildlife officials to develop plans for restoration. The National Park Service is removing all structures from the area, and SPAWN will do the earthwork and revegetation to re-create the historic floodplain habitat the coho desperately need.

“This is one of the largest projects undertaken in the watershed,” said Biologist Preston Brown. “We have the goal of restoring the natural functions of the creek not only to benefit salmon, but the entire ecosystem that relies on these processes.”

SPAWN is currently collecting seeds and growing plants for the project. Email Preston Brown at preston@SpawnUSA.org to join our restoration team!



10,000 Redwoods Project

A new initiative is taking root at SPAWN to grow at least 10,000 redwood trees to reforest the Lagunitas Creek Watershed, one of California’s most important waterways for the endangered, wild coho salmon. This initiative is key to helping the wild coho salmon recover.

Trees provide numerous benefits for salmon. They cool streams, hold banks in place and create deep, slow moving pools that are vital to protect fish during heavy storms. Creekside forests also provide water quality improvements equal to those provided by water treatment plants that cost millions of dollars!

Forests are key to human survival as well. They create the oxygen we need to live, and are an important “sink” for carbon dioxide, removing this greenhouse gas from the atmosphere to help stabilize our changing climate.

Over the next three years, SPAWN will need the help of volunteers to collect native tree seeds and cuttings, grow them in our native plant nursery, and plant them alongside creeks. We invite you to join us! Visit SpawnUSA.org to find out about volunteer days, and make a tax-deductible donation today.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

SPAWN is Growing!

SPAWN is growing exponentially! Whether it's the number of redwood trees growing— or the number of volunteers who show up— or the number of landowners we work with— or the number of grants we have been awarded— or the number of students and teachers we educate— or the number of restoration sites— SPAWN's growth has been phenomenal.

And none of it could have happened without our (yes, growing number) of supporters, like you! But we are not resting on our laurels. Here are some of our exciting upcoming activities!

10,000 Redwoods: Saving Salmon and Fighting Climate Change

We have just launched the 10,000 Redwoods project with the goal of planting thousands of redwoods and other conifers along Marin streams to protect salmon and humans alike! In a few hundred years, these trees will also provide tranquility to future generations who will enjoy their shade. Read more about this project on page 1.

Educating Future Generations

This fall we will have all three of our signature environmental programs up and running.

First, our *Salmon Institute: Headwaters to Sea* program will train Bay Area teachers in experiential learning lessons and on the importance of protecting local watersheds. You can read more about this in the column to the right.

Second, our *California Naturalist Training* program, conducted with the University of California and co-taught with experts from around the State is designed to introduce students to the wonders of our unique ecology and engage the public in study and stewardship of California's natural communities. Using a science curriculum and hands-on learning, our aim is to instill an appreciation for our natural communities and to inspire individuals to become stewards. Participants completing the program become UC Certified Naturalists and can earn college or continuing education credits. Learn more at SeaTurtles.org/calnat.

Third, our popular weekend *Creek Walks* led by seasoned SPAWN naturalists to look for spawning salmon will also begin this fall. These walks are a fantastic way to spend a morning or afternoon and to learn about Marin's endangered salmon, and what you can do to help recover their dwindling population.

Advocating for Science-Based Creekside Protections

Our decade-long fight to get Marin County to enact common sense, science-based regulations to protect creeks continues! Two recent editorials by the *Marin Independent Journal* have called out the County for its failure to act, and that, combined with growing legal expenses for the County, may just spur the County to sit down and negotiate with SPAWN.

So please double your support for SPAWN and help us continue our growing track record. I hope to see you on the creek this spawning season!



TODD STEINER, Executive Director
Salmon Protection And Watershed Network (SPAWN)
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Salmon Institute: Headwaters to Sea Professional Development Program for Teachers

SALMON ARE the common tie between watershed and ocean ecosystems. The best way for students and teachers to learn about this unique connection and species is to get outside, and get dirty!

Teachers from across the Bay Area will join our workshop series created by SPAWN and primarily funded by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop cohesive standards-based units that expose students to field-based sciences. Through a mix of resource sharing, collaborative planning time, and outdoor group management each teacher will be supported by SPAWN staff to plan a six- to eight-week unit dissecting the complexities behind the disappearance of salmon from our ecosystems.

The goal of the workshop is to provide teachers' students with meaningful hands-on experiences in their local watersheds, to foster an understanding of their connection to these complex ecosystems, and to support student-driven action to protect our endangered coho salmon. After completing the workshop, teachers earn a \$250 stipend to support their efforts to bring kids outside to learn.

If you are a teacher and are interested in learning more or would like to register for the workshop please visit SeaTurtles.org/headwaterstosea or email catie@SpawnUSA.org to learn more about our educational offerings. Please share this opportunity with Bay Area teachers you know.



Volunteers in Action



Volunteer Frederic Leist serves as a guide on our beloved Naturalist Creek Walks, counts smolts (young salmonids) and lends a hand at our restoration events.

SPAWN IS MADE UP of a diverse community of dedicated activists and volunteers that work together to protect and restore salmon habitat. Volunteers help with everything from harvesting seeds to cutting back invasive blackberry bushes to caring for young redwood saplings. Our volunteers have contributed roughly 3,800 hours between June and August, and worked on 15 different private and public properties this summer.

Volunteer Frederic Leist serves as a guide on our beloved Naturalist Creek Walks, counts smolts (young salmonids) and lends a hand at our restoration events. Leist is a graduate of our University of California Naturalist Course, and of the Rocky Shore Naturalist Program, is engaged in the Marin Tracking Club, and is always on the lookout to learn more about his home ground in Marin.

Leist, who taught at the University of Isfahan in Iran and has a background in linguistics and medieval studies, enjoys the chance to be outside and share all

he has learned about the natural world with creek-walkers. He says, “The joy of watching the expressions on peoples’ faces when they actually see spawning salmon the very first time” is priceless.

The other reason why he volunteers with SPAWN is that we are “working to preserve and restore what really is the southernmost active salmonid spawning run.” He adds, “These fish have been here for thousands of years. In some areas we have extirpated them completely. But it is still possible to restore salmon populations in the [San Geronimo] Valley. And with SPAWN, I can be involved in that effort, and make a contribution that will live on beyond us.”

For volunteer Aaron Heller, the reason he volunteers is simply because it is fun. Heller is a senior at Drake High School who hopes to someday go on to work in environmental sciences, in part, he says, because of his experience volunteering with SPAWN.

“My first project with SPAWN was working on the willow wall near SPAWN's headquarters. I went out with Preston and it was fun. I learned a lot by working with him, and it set a really good tone. I wanted to come back again,” he said.

Heller stresses that no experience is necessary, and that there are many different roles for volunteers at restoration days. Heller encourages everyone to come out and try volunteering with SPAWN. “Do something good for your community and the environment. Go out and try it, you’d be surprised by how much work you can do!” Leist agrees, “If you are thinking about it, give it a try!”

Take action today by emailing Preston Brown at preston@SpawnUSA.org to join our volunteer monthly newsletter, and find volunteer events to join online at SeaTurtles.org/take-action/event-calendar/.

Shop at the Turtle Island Store



**SPAWN
T-shirt
\$28**

Black with white coho salmon design \$25 (please add \$3 for shipping): These 100% organic cotton t-shirts are made in the U.S. Available in Men's and Women's S, M, L and XL (*note: women's sizes run small*).



**SPAWN Hat
\$21**

100% organic cotton—
navy blue



**Pewter Salmon
Lapel Pin
\$11**

Order online on our secure server at SeaTurtles.org/Shop or send a check to SPAWN, P.O. Box 370 Forest Knolls, CA 94933.

Leave a Legacy for Wild Salmon

THROUGH A BEQUEST to the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network in your will and other estate plans, you can leave a legacy for wild coho salmon. Visit SeaTurtles.org/bequest for details and recommended language, or call us at 415-663-8590 x105 for information on including a bequest to SPAWN in your will, adding a simple codicil to your existing will, and other ways to give through your estate. All information discussed is confidential. Thank you for considering this important way to give.

Turtle Island Restoration Network
Salmon Protection and Watershed Network
P.O. Box 370
Forest Knolls, CA 94933

ABOUT SPAWN TURTLE ISLAND RESTORATION NETWORK'S SALMON PROTECTION AND WATERSHED NETWORK (SPAWN) program works to protect endangered coho salmon and steelhead trout, and the environment on which we all depend. The protection of these keystone species leads to the protection of all the wildlife of our community, and indeed the protection of our land and us.

SPAWN uses a multi-faceted approach, including grassroots action, habitat restoration, policy development, environment education, and collaboration with other organizations, media campaigns, and strategic legal action.

Visit SeaTurtles.org/Salmon to learn more.

Speak Up for Coho!

OVER 1,000 MARIN RESIDENTS have spoken up to help save Marin's endangered coho salmon by taking two simple actions:

1. **Join our social media campaign to #savemarinscoho!** Download and print out the sentence starter kit here: SeaTurtles.org/cohophoto. Then, take a photo with the sign and upload it to Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #savemarinscoho to be part of the coho conservation movement.
2. **Make a call for coho.** Call your Marin County Board of Supervisor and ask them to put in place a commonsense, science-based streamside ordinance to protect salmon. Call (415) 473-7331 and ask to speak with the Supervisor representing your district.

District 1 Damon Connolly (San Rafael and its unincorporated neighborhoods)

District 2 Katie Rice (Ross, Kentfield, Larkspur, San Anselmo, Fairfax, Greenbrae)

District 3 Kathrin Sears (Mill Valley, Sausalito, Strawberry, Tiburon, Belvedere, Marin City)

District 4 Steve Kinsey (Novato, San Geronimo Valley, Point Reyes Station, Olema, Muir Beach, Stinson Beach, Larkspur, Corte Madera)

District 5 Judy Arnold (City of Novato and the unincorporated areas of Bel Marin Keys, Loma Verde, Black Point, Green Point and Indian Valley)

Join Today!

Become a member of SPAWN with a donation of any size and help us protect and restore the wild, endangered coho salmon in West Marin. SPAWN's successful conservation efforts are all made possible with the generous support of our members and more than 700 volunteers each year. Your membership includes a FREE naturalist-led Creekwalk for four people. Please visit SeaTurtles.org/salmon, use the enclosed envelope, or call us toll-free at 800-859-SAVE x101 and join today!

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A project of Turtle Island Restoration Network



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Design: Hummingbird Design Studio

