



A CREEK RUNS THROUGH US

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

SpawnUSA.org

Virtual Banner Projection Highlights Marin's Endangered Coho Salmon on Marin Civic Center & Calls on Supervisors to Act



SPAWN teamed up with the SF Projection Department to shine a spotlight on endangered coho salmon. Images and videos of endangered coho salmon were projected on the Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael, California.

The Marin County Civic Center, designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, served as a stunning backdrop for the display with its unique oval shaped windows and singular triangle spire. SPAWN chose to use this building for a direct action to raise awareness about coho salmon, and call on the Marin County Board of Supervisors to follow voters and environmentalists' requests to put in place a stronger streamside ordinance to protect endangered coho salmon.

To kick off the action, SPAWN projected a virtual banner on the building that said: "Marin Supervisors: Act Now Before It Is Too Late." Next, beautiful underwater footage of coho salmon swimming, spawning and leaping waterfalls illuminated the building. The projected fish caught visitors' attention. Charlie Mize of San Rafael stopped by to watch and spoke with the *Marin Independent Journal*, telling them, "I like the fish swimming along the building. Visually it's interesting. I haven't seen this done before."

Now, we are hoping that the Marin County Board of Supervisors will take up this important issue, and finally do what is necessary to save these federally endangered fish. If they don't, all we may be left with is their images. SaveMarinsCoho.org



Adopt a Redwood, Fight Climate Change

CLIMATE CHANGE is one of the greatest threats to life on earth. In addition to opposing projects that contribute to climate change, Turtle Island is fighting against climate change through the simple act of planting trees.

In late 2015, building off our successful watershed restoration projects, we launched the 10,000 Redwoods Project. The goal of the project is to plant 10,000 redwood trees in Northern California to sequester carbon.

Redwoods store more carbon per hectare than any other tree on Earth. The fact that they are fast growing, massive, long-lived, rot resistant, easy to cultivate, and awe-inspiring, makes them the ideal icon for action on climate change.

Due to overharvesting, only five percent of the original old-

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10,000 Redwoods Project:

Addressing Climate Change & Protecting Wildlife

CAN PLANTING redwood trees save our endangered coho salmon, protect Dungeness crabs and help combat the effects of climate change? While not a panacea, planting redwoods can certainly help, and you can be part of the change! We are excited to invite you to join our 10,000 Redwoods Project at 10000redwoods.org.

Redwood trees are an iconic species that are best described in superlatives. Redwoods include the tallest living tree (379 feet) on Earth. Redwoods are also among the oldest living things on Earth, living 1,200–2,200 years or more.

Redwood forests have the greatest biomass ever recorded on Earth. They are amazingly fast growing, and contain millions of needle-like leaves that act as water magnets. In the rainy season, their leaves catch and hold rain, helping to reduce flooding. In summer, the leaves collect fog—catching and dropping fog-water, thus providing critical water needs to understory plants in the non-rainy summer months.

Our 10,000 Redwoods Project helps to meet several of Turtle Island's goals.

The most obvious ones include growing and planting redwoods at our restoration sites that help protect and restore endangered salmon habitat in many ways. For instance, evergreen redwood trees provide year-round shade to keep creek waters cold. Their roots protect creek banks and reduce erosion. Fallen redwoods provide “woody debris” that creates sanctuary for small salmon trying to survive large storm events.

But how does the 10,000 Redwoods Project help Turtle Island in its quest to make the oceans safe for a myriad of marine species, such as Dungeness crabs, native oysters and coral reefs?

Redwoods sequester carbon, and reduce ocean acidification (the ongoing decrease in the pH of the Earth's oceans caused by the uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels). An estimated 30–40 percent of the carbon dioxide from human activity released into the atmosphere dissolves into oceans, rivers, and lakes. Ocean acidification is already impacting marine species with shells, like Dungeness crabs, native oysters, and coral reefs (which experience reduced calcification as ocean acidification increases).

Lastly, redwoods help us humans by reducing climate change caused by burning fossil fuels to power our cars, heat our homes, and produce our food. Because redwoods are fast growing, long-lived, giant, and extremely rot resistant, they sequester massive amounts of carbon quickly and hold onto it for hundreds or thousands of years—even after they are dead and fallen, or have been harvested to build our houses and decks.

As we all work hard to reduce our “carbon footprint,” one fun way to do this is to join our 10,000 Redwoods Project! Come volunteer with us at our native plant nursery, participate in our restoration efforts, and contribute to the 10,000 Redwoods Project online at 10000redwoods.org. The Earth, the Oceans, and future generations will thank you!



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



DAVE STRUTHERS

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growth coast redwood trees remain, and they are listed as “endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. (IUCN) The loss of coastal redwoods in California also impacts critically endangered coho salmon and other species.

As of March 2016, we have planted 57 redwoods, have another 91 ready for out-planting, and have 470 seedlings growing in our native plant nursery. We can't plant all these redwoods by ourselves so we are seeking volunteers to pitch in by joining us at restoration day events or by adopting a redwood online.

An adopted redwood makes a meaningful and lasting gift in honor of a special life event like a birthday or graduation or in memory of a loved one.

You can Adopt a Redwood today by visiting our secure donation page at 10000redwoods.org/adopt-a-redwood.

SPAWN Provides Redwood Education to Oakland Students from Brothers on the Rise

THIS SPRING SPAWN hosted a three-day redwood and outdoor education experience for underserved students from Oakland, Calif. The all male students were part of Brothers on the Rise, a non-profit working to address the need for broad-based programs for boys and young men of color. The experience, held in Samuel P. Taylor State Park, was part of their Trail Brothers program, which is an environmental education initiative that connects male youth of color to nature through hiking, camping and other forms of outdoor exploration.



with hands-on outdoor educational activities in the redwood ecosystem.

For many of these underserved students, this was among their first experiences in the outdoors and their first time seeing a redwood tree.

SPAWN was honored to be able to tailor curriculum and outdoor educational activities specifically for a group of 25 male students from second grade and up. Thanks to a generous grant from the Save the Redwoods League, SPAWN was able to provide the students

To encourage students to continue to pursue and learn outdoors, SPAWN arranged for environmental experts from different fields to speak with them about how to best prepare themselves for careers in the outdoors (i.e. as park rangers, biologists, and activists).

SPAWN Begins Restoration of Rich Readimix Concrete Plant at Black Mountain Ranch



SPAWN is hard at work restoring the site of an abandoned Readimix concrete plant located on Black Mountain Ranch into natural riparian floodplain.

The site currently creates a lot of storm water runoff during rain showers due to the large amount of concrete surface areas and the proximity to the highway. During storms, strong concentrated flows of water rush into the creek, bringing particles from the road and

pushing fish downstream. Our restoration project will re-route the water so that is slows down and flows gently and gradually into Lagunitas Creek.

The first step of the project involves removing a half-acre of the gravel/concrete parking lot and re-grading it. Once the area is cleared, SPAWN and volunteers will re-plant the zone with native trees like box elder and remove non-native weeds like blackberry bushes.

Our long-term vision for this re-wilded space is to plant 1,000 trees downstream from the concrete plant. These native trees will further expand the floodplain, slow the flow of water, and provide greater riparian habitat to endangered coho salmon and steelhead trout.

Shop at the Turtle Island Store



**SPAWN
T-shirt
\$28**



**SPAWN
Hat
\$21**

100% organic cotton; in black



**Calif. Wildlife
Habitat Garden
Book \$30**

A 250-page guide on how to transform your garden to attract bees, butterflies & birds.

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

All prices include shipping & handling

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.

Social Media Activism to #SaveMarinsCoho Gains Momentum



SPAWN's social media campaign to draw attention to the plight of Marin's endangered coho salmon, and call on the Marin County Board of Supervisors to take action, has gone viral. The campaign to #SaveMarinsCoho has nearly 2,000 participants and counting. The campaign invites social media members to share their photo voicing their concerns for coho salmon.

#SaveMarinsCoho initially began as a youth-led movement at Marin's high schools, and grew from there. Now, celebrities like National Geographic Society's 'Explorer for the Millennium' Wade Davis, and Patagonia Founder Yvon Chouinard have joined the campaign, and are helping SPAWN bring attention to the need to protect these endangered fish and their habitat before it is too late.

You can help us reach our goal of 5,000 social media participants by taking the following simple actions:

1 Download and print the sentence starter kit here: SeaTurtles.org/cohophoto. Then, take a photo with the sign and upload it to Facebook or Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #SaveMarinsCoho to be a face of change for the coho conservation movement!

2 If you'd like to do even more, please take a moment to call (415) 473-7331. Ask your supervisor to put in place a common sense, science-based streamside ordinance to protect coho salmon.



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 Creek walk 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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