



Accelerated

BATTLE CREEK RESTORATION

2019 Biological Opinions for Central Valley Project and California's State Water Project

Federal fish agencies have been reviewing the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed new operations for the Central Valley Project and California's State Water Project. Reclamation is committed to extensive and accelerated recovery work in the Battle Creek watershed. This \$14 million commitment over 10 years will accelerate efforts to reintroduce winter and spring-run Chinook salmon and steelhead to historical habitat areas.

Key Takeaways

- **Acceleration:** Addresses recovery by increasing funds to leverage latest technology, bolster monitoring activities and expand habitat recovery actions.
- **Resiliency:** Creates a more resilient stock of winter-run Chinook salmon by establishing a second population in another tributary especially during drought years.
- **Efficiency:** Leverages drought-informed data and knowledge to prioritize projects and more efficiently target funds and resources to actions that will yield greatest success.
- **Population Spatial Structure:** Addresses the need to improve the spatial structure of winter-run Chinook salmon by supporting actions that re-establishes access to historical Battle Creek rearing and spawning habitat.
- **Abundance:** Supports improved abundance of threatened and endangered Chinook salmon and steelhead populations.
- **Momentum:** Builds upon the ongoing progress of the winter-run jump reintroduction jump-start project which has seen two successful years. 95 adults returned in 2019 and more are expected to return in 2020.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** Multiple partners have invested more than \$100 million since 1999 to restore 48 miles of salmonid habitat in Battle Creek.



Jake Sisco/USFWS

New Actions

- Support ongoing progress by investing additional funds to accelerate Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project improvements for salmon runs.
- Provide additional funding support to accelerate fish passage improvements, facility needs and monitoring support needed to reintroduce winter-run Chinook salmon to 16 miles of historic habitat in the North Fork of Battle Creek.
- Supports and accelerates the transition from the winter-run jump-start project to the implementation of the Battle Creek Winter-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Plan.



Jacie Knight/USFWS