U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Northern California Fish & Wildlife Office, Fish & Aquatic Conservation Program

Trinity River Mainstem Redd Survey Update
November 20, 2026

The Northern California Fish and Wildlife Office along with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, and Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Department survey the mainstem Trinity River to recover salmonid carcasses and count and map Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) redds. The distribution of Chinook Salmon spawning is expected to change in response to rehabilitation efforts of the Trinity River Restoration Program and to the relative run sizes of natural- and Trinity River Hatchery-origin fish. Spawning surveys are attempted weekly between Lewiston Dam and the North Fork Trinity River (Reaches 1–7) and every other week on the survey reaches downstream of the North Fork Trinity River (Figure 1, Table 1).

This update provides preliminary data on this season's redd observations (Table 1). Figure 2 compares preliminary 2026 cumulative redd counts in Reaches 1–10 with the previous 24 years (2002–2025). Redds constructed by Chinook and Coho salmon are not differentiated until the end of the season when they are apportioned by species (Chinook or Coho salmon) and origin (hatchery or natural) using carcass data.

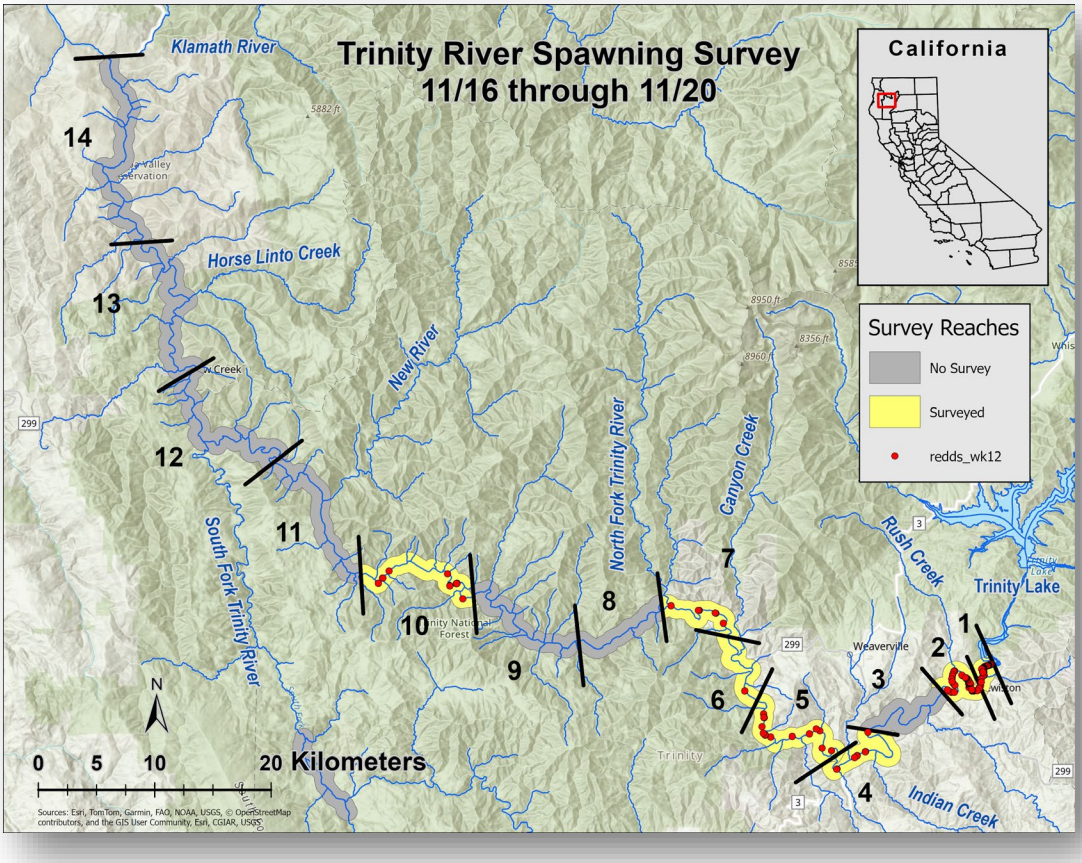


Figure 1. Mainstem Trinity River salmon redds mapped during survey week 12, November 16-20, 2026.

Table 1. Preliminary count of redds to date by reach from the fall 2026 mainstem Trinity River redd survey. Reach 8 (Pigeon Point Run) and Reach 11 (Burnt Ranch Gorge) are not surveyed due to abundant whitewater.

Week start	Reach														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Total
Aug 31	0	0	0	NS	NS	NS	NS		-	-		-	-	-	**0**
Sep 7	3	0	NS	0	NS	0	0		-	-		-	-	-	**3**
Sep 14	4	2	1	0	0	0	0		0	0		-	-	-	**7**
Sep 21	9	2	22	21	NS	3	1		-	-		0	0	NS	**58**
Sep 28	48	66	45	21	NS	5	4		6	5		-	-	-	**200**
Oct 5	68	60	51	NS	41	17	12		-	-		2	1	0	**252**
Oct 12	59	47	43	50	NS	99	43		135	NS		-	-	-	**476**
Oct 19	36	31	NS	36	115	90	74		-	122		84	NS	NS	**688**
Oct 26	26	19	129	52	NS	125	98		241	146		-	-	-	**836**
Nov 2	68	53	34	NS	86	79	90		-	-		NS	98	48	**556**
Nov 9	38	28	10	NS	NS	57	42		232	NS		-	-	-	**407**
Nov 16	100	94	-	10	23	3	8		-	24		NS	NS	NS	**262**
Nov 23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	-	**-**
Nov 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	-	**-**
Dec 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	-	**-**
Dec 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-		-	-	-	**-**
Total	**459**	**402**	**335**	**190**	**265**	**478**	**472**		**614**	**297**		**86**	**99**	**48**	**3,745**

'NS' = no survey conducted; shaded = no survey scheduled **These data are preliminary and subject to revision.**

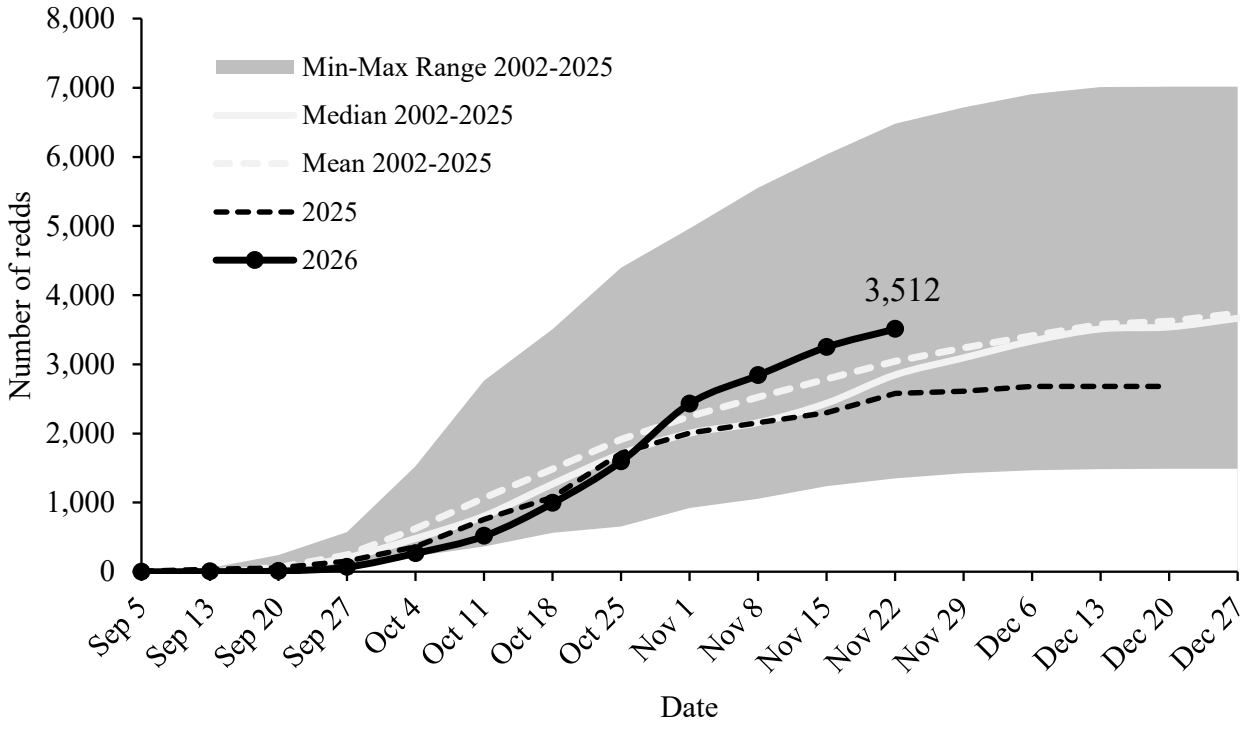


Figure 2. Cumulative redd count to date in Reaches 1–10 of the mainstem Trinity River in 2026 compared to the range of counts from 2002 to 2025.

To access the latest version of this report on-line, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/arcata-fac-salmon-spawning-survey-data-klamath-and-trinity-rivers and click on 'Trinity River Redd Survey Update - <date>'

The spawning success (i.e., pre-spawn mortality versus partially and fully spawned) of female salmon in the Trinity River are tracked during the spawn surveys. Only 'fresh' carcasses, those that exhibit minimal decay, are used for assessing pre-spawn mortality because carcasses with extensive decay may not retain unspawned eggs. As of November 20, 906 fresh female carcasses have been observed, 9 (1.0%) of which had not spawned.

For more information regarding mainstem Trinity River redd surveys, please contact Steve Gough (steve_gough@fws.gov).



Photo by E. Peterson, USBR