Wildlife Survey & Photo Service
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REPORT 5288
(Juvenile Salmon)

May 21, 2016

To: Rich Marovich
Chris Lee

Update: ***Juvenile Chinook Salmon and High Density New Zealand Mudsnails***

As documented every year since 2013, there is a reasonable number of juvenile Chinook salmon that appear to be flourishing in the area near the Pickerel Weir. I am also seeing juveniles in all areas where scarification was completed near the 2015 salmon redds. The juvenile Chinook (image below) was caught accidently in the Morales section on 5/19/2016 during my routine scarification surveys. The fish was photographed and quickly released. There is also a significant invertebrate hatch in the entire reach during the early evening hours. I will be identifying the adult invertebrates in the near future. The young salmon appear to be feeding heavily on the adult insects.

Juvenile salmon caught May 19, 2016 near the Morales Property.

New Zealand Mudsnails on filamentous algae removed from Lower Putah Creek. Image May 19, 2016.

Wragg Fire Nutrient Load:
Unfortunately the entire reach from the Putah Diversion Dam through Winters appears to have been negatively affected by nutrient input from the Wragg Fire. Since 2003, I have never witnessed the almost complete coverage of the benthic gravel by a filamentous algae. While the thick algae mats might harbor some smaller aquatic invertebrates they also are supporting a definite increase in the density of New Zealand Mudsnails. Because NZMS prefer fresh periphyton, it is not a surprise that the mudsnail density will increase among the algal mats.

New Zealand Mudsnails on filamentous algae in situ near the Morales property. Image May 19, 2016.

Filamentous algae on cobble in Lower Putah Creek. Area inside circle was cleaned when establishing level of sedimentation.

Transmitted via e-mail on May 22, 2016:

Sincerely,

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