

THE RUSSIAN RIVER



The Russian River is home to three fish on the endangered species list: coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. More than 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties rely on the Russian River for drinking water.

The Russian River Biological Opinion is a federally mandated 15-year blueprint to save endangered fish and ensure our water supply. The Biological Opinion focuses on three areas:

High summertime river flows - The summertime flows in Dry Creek and the Russian River are too high for young salmon. The Biological Opinion requires the Water Agency to release less water from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to help the young salmon in the summer months.

Dry Creek - Dry Creek is a critical piece of the water delivery system that carries water from Lake Sonoma to the Water Agency's water supply system. In the summer, Dry Creek is also home to young coho and steelhead. In order to continue using Dry Creek for water delivery, the Water Agency must enhance six miles of habitat in the 14-mile long creek.

Estuary - The estuary, where the Russian River meets the Pacific Ocean at Jenner, is a nursery for young steelhead. The Biological Opinion requires that the Water Agency manage the sand bar at the mouth of the estuary to create a freshwater lagoon, which is believed to be a healthier environment for these young fish.

Learn more at www.sonomacountywater.org



PACIFIC OCEAN

