



A Public Education Effort of South San Joaquin and Oakdale Irrigation Districts

The Biological Opinion: What's Wrong With It?

The Biological Opinion

The OCAP-BO, or "Biological Opinion" (BO) is a document by the federal government's National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Fisheries Service, (National Marine Fisheries Service or NMFS). The document was released on June 4, 2009 to protect the Central Valley steelhead.

What's Wrong With the BO?

Hydrology - The effects of the BO reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) on the river have been studied by hydrology expert Dan Steiner. When analyzing 80 years of river data and applying the RPAs from the BO, Steiner showed that it would have had unintended negative consequences on the New Melones Reservoir, including the reservoir going empty 13 times during those years.

Water Temperature - NMFS did not use the Stanislaus River Basin Temperature Model, a Model which they were an active participant in developing, to analyze flow and temperature objectives. The water cost to meet the temperature objectives of the BO is enormous and will deplete the reservoir, it has no biological benefit to *O. mykiss*.

River Biology - *O. mykiss* are in good condition on the Stanislaus River under current operations. Fall-run chinook salmon are in better condition on the river than almost every tributary to the Sacramento/ San Joaquin River. The proposed RPAs will have a devastating impact on the native fish including lethal water temperatures if the New Melones Reservoir goes below 300,000 AF.

We Need Solutions Now

By educating our community about these issues, the Districts hope to gain public support to have NMFS reexamine the BO. The Districts will support legislation that directs the California Department of Fish and Game to eliminate the predatory fish in the Stanislaus River.

O. mykiss (On-cor-hyn-chus my-kiss) -noun

- The scientific species name for the entire population of rainbow trout and Central Valley steelhead.
- Steelhead are the ocean going form and rainbow trout are the resident form living in the rivers and deltas.



CONTACT US

Visit SavetheStan.com

OR CALL

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How You Can Support the Stan

You can support this effort many ways. You can log on to www.SaveTheStan.com, email or write your local congressional representatives and senators letting them know your concern about the river and the effect the BO will have on it and our region. Attend community events, write a letter to the editor of your local paper and voice support for modifying the BO and most importantly become informed about the BO and its impacts on our region.