

CDFW DROUGHT UPDATES



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Water Commission Mtg.



OUTLINE

- What CDFW is doing to protect fish and wildlife from impacts of drought?
- How is CDFW working with others on this panel?
- How is CDFW leveraging the capacity of partner organizations representing fish and wildlife?
- What more needs to be done?

FY 21-22 AND FY 22-23 WATER RESILIENCE AND DROUGHT PACKAGES

- Received over \$300 million with focus in these key areas:
 1. Terrestrial and Aquatic Rescues and Monitoring
 2. Hatchery Improvements and Fish Production
 3. Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage
 4. Water Operations and Permitting
 5. Drought resiliency on State-owned and Partnership Lands
 6. Human-Wildlife Conflict Response
 7. Law Enforcement



CDFW DROUGHT RESPONSE – FISHERIES, WATER OPERATIONS AND PERMITTING



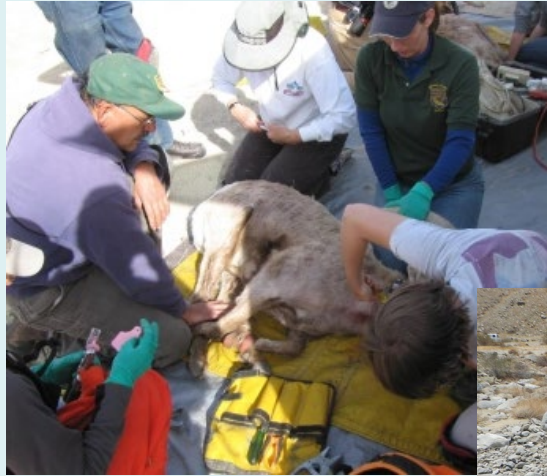
- Recreational fishing
 - Extended low-flow closure season
 - “Hoot Owl” water watchlist
- Fish Rescues
 - 89 rescues, 51 waters, 28,090 fish, 22 species
(As of 1/9/23. Source: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/drought>)
 - Relocation of winter-run Chinook
- Water Operations
 - Voluntary Drought Agreements
 - SWRCB action review and coordination
 - e.g. Instream Flow Requirements variance requests, Curtailments, Temporary Urgency Change Petitions, etc.

CDFW DROUGHT RESPONSE – HATCHERIES

- Infrastructure Upgrades
 - New tanks, water recirculation systems, chillers, backup generators
- Trucked juvenile CV Chinook salmon to bays
 - 2021 – 16.8 million
 - 2022 – 19.7 million
- Increased CV Chinook salmon production
 - 2021 – 2.25 million
 - 2022 – 3.5 million
- Relocation of Iron Gate (Klamath R) and Warm Springs (Russian R) hatchery fish due to warm temps



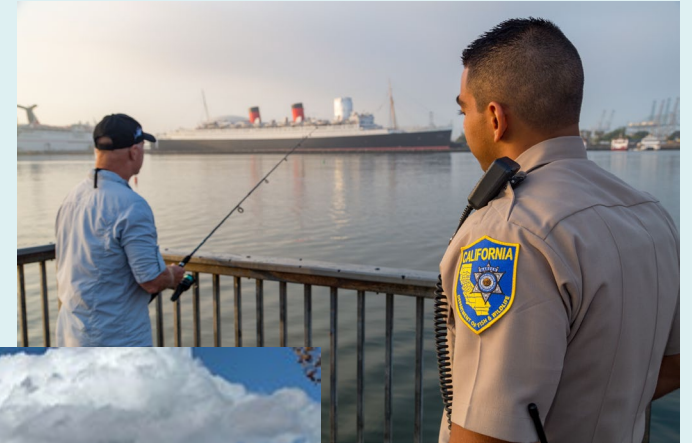
CDFW DROUGHT RESPONSE – WILDLIFE AND LANDS



- Infrastructure improvements at our Wildlife Areas
 - Increase wetland carrying capacity & efficiency in water conveyance
 - New Equipment
- Translocations and captive rearing of amphibians, reptiles, etc.
- Guzzler refill for Bighorn Sheep and other wildlife
- Increased injured wildlife care and human/wildlife conflict

DROUGHT RESPONSE – LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Overtime work related to drought
 - Poaching
 - Streambed alteration violations
 - Forensic analysis
 - Data collection
- Updated Forensic equipment
- Drones for monitoring



WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES

- Resources Agency
 - Drought Budget Change Proposal Development
- DWR
 - Winter-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction
 - Increased fish production at Feather River Fish Hatchery
 - Bid 4 Birds migratory waterfowl habitat program
 - CVP/SWP Temporary Urgency Change Petition
- SWRCB
 - Provided technical guidance on:
 - Variance Requests
 - Curtailments



WORKING WITH PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



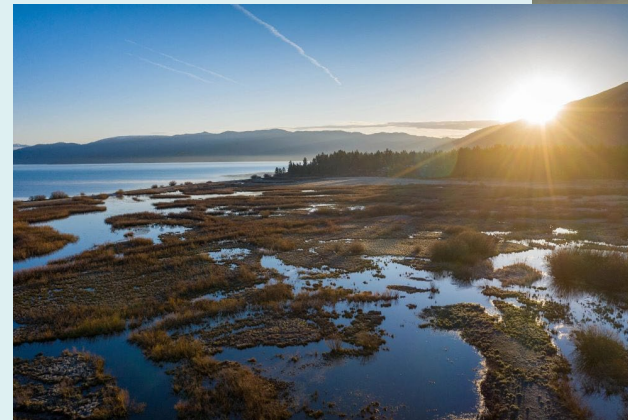
- Funded over 50 projects so far on:
 - Fish passage improvements
 - Flow enhancements
 - Habitat restoration
 - Increased waterfowl habitat
 - Monitoring
 - Scientific Studies
 - Genetics, pathogen, food ecology, etc.
- Many more in the works
 - CDFW Drought Web Grants Portal

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/Concept-Application>



WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- Continued collaboration
- Sustained funding
- Secured water for the environment
- Additional habitat restoration and connectivity





THANKS FOR LISTENING
ANY QUESTIONS?

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