Changing the Upside Down River

The Salinas River

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Changing the Upside Down River

WATERSHEDS & THEIR FUNCTION

- Groundwater infiltration & storage
- Groundwater release to springs and streams
- Nutrient cycling in productive soils
- Food, fiber, fuel
- Flood control
- Recreation
- Wildlife habitat
- Aesthetics of open space
STATE OF OUR WATERSHEDS ASSESSMENT

Watershed Assessment Framework

- Natural Disturbance
- Ecological Processes
- Hydrology/Geomorphology
- Biotic Condition
- Physical/Chemical Condition
- Landscape Condition
- Social Condition
- Economic Condition
FACTORS AFFECTING WATER SUPPLY

Climate
- Scarcity – prolonged drought
- Atmospheric Rivers – severe flooding

Land Use
- Conversion to impervious vs. pervious surfaces
- Habitat simplification – straightening of streams, loss of wetlands

Waste and Misuse
- Leakage, evaporation, urban landscaping, etc.
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Drought

Flooding

Groundwater Management
WATER SUPPLY

- Paso Robles Groundwater Basin At Level Of Severity III
- Seawater Intrusion In North Monterey County
- Low-level In Reservoirs
WATERSHED RESTORATION

- Habitat Restoration
  - Habitat complexity
  - Storm water management
  - Erosion/Sediment Control Practices
- Open Space protection
- Groundwater/Surface water interactions
  - Recharge
  - Percolation Area protection
WATERSHED MONITORING

- Long-term monitoring to evaluate trend analysis
- Indicators of watershed health
- Water Quality
- Community Action/Stewardship
## Social Resiliency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communities rely on natural resources</td>
<td>Greater watershed awareness and knowledge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socioeconomics</td>
<td>Increased recreational/aesthetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>Economic vitality</td>
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<td>Productive lands</td>
<td>Reduced loss/waste of resources</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate/Natural Disturbance Resiliency</td>
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PLANS IN PLACE

- S-CCC Recovery Plan finalized in December, 2013
  - Identifies threats and stresses to species viability
  - Recommends recovery actions to curtail the extirpation of populations

Strategy Planning

- SLO County Watersheds Management Plan: Phase 1
  - www.slowatershedsproject.org
- SLO Master Water Report
- General Plan, Conservation & Open Space Element
- Long Range Land Use Planning
- Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan
- NMFS Strategy Plan for Salinas River (draft)
- Percolation Zone Study of Pilot-Study Groundwater Basins in San Luis Obispo County, California
HOW DOES THIS TRANSLATE INTO CONSERVATION?

- Plans identify what needs to be done on a large scale.
- Designs focus on goals and objectives to achieve on watershed, reach, or individual landowner scale.
- Monitor outputs (number and type of actions) and outcomes (e.g. improved stormwater management, increased recharge, reduced sedimentation, etc.).
QUESTIONS?

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