

San Joaquin River Chinook Salmon Reintroduction Public Workshop

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Workshop Goals

- Present overview of draft strategy for San Joaquin River Salmon Reintroduction
- Receive public input:
 - on concerns regarding reintroduction of a threatened species in areas of the river with other current uses
 - suggestions/ideas for introduction strategies

Workshop Agenda

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **Presentation:** San Joaquin River Salmon Reintroduction Overview
- **Break-out sessions**
- **Reports back**
- **Additional public comment**
- **Adjourn**

San Joaquin River Restoration Program

- **Legal settlement 2006**
- **Goals:**
 - Restore flows and salmon to the river below Friant Dam
 - Avoid or minimize impact on water supply
- **Federal legislation 2009**
- www.restoresjr.net

SJRRP Salmon Reintroduction

- **Settlement:**

- Spring-run Chinook reintroduced by 12/31/12
- FWS Permit application by 9/30/10
- NMFS decision on Permit by 4/30/12
- Use all ESA “tools”

SJRRP Salmon Reintroduction

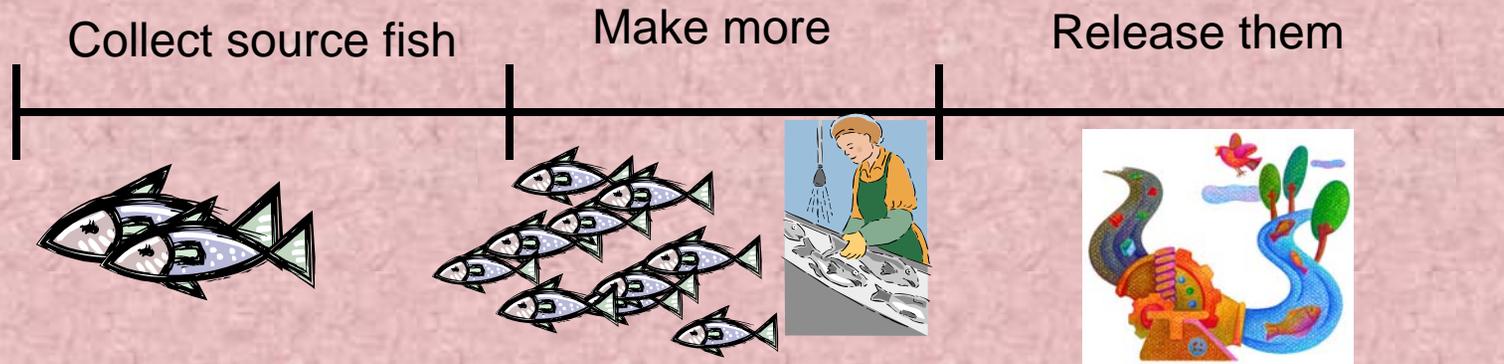
- **Enabling Law:**
 - Reintroduced spring-run must be “experimental population” per ESA sec 10(j)
 - No timelines for reintroduction

Purpose of Outreach Process

- Explain “Experimental Population” designation purpose and process
- Understand real and perceived ESA liabilities for development of 4(d) rule
- Seek input on technical aspects of reintroduction process

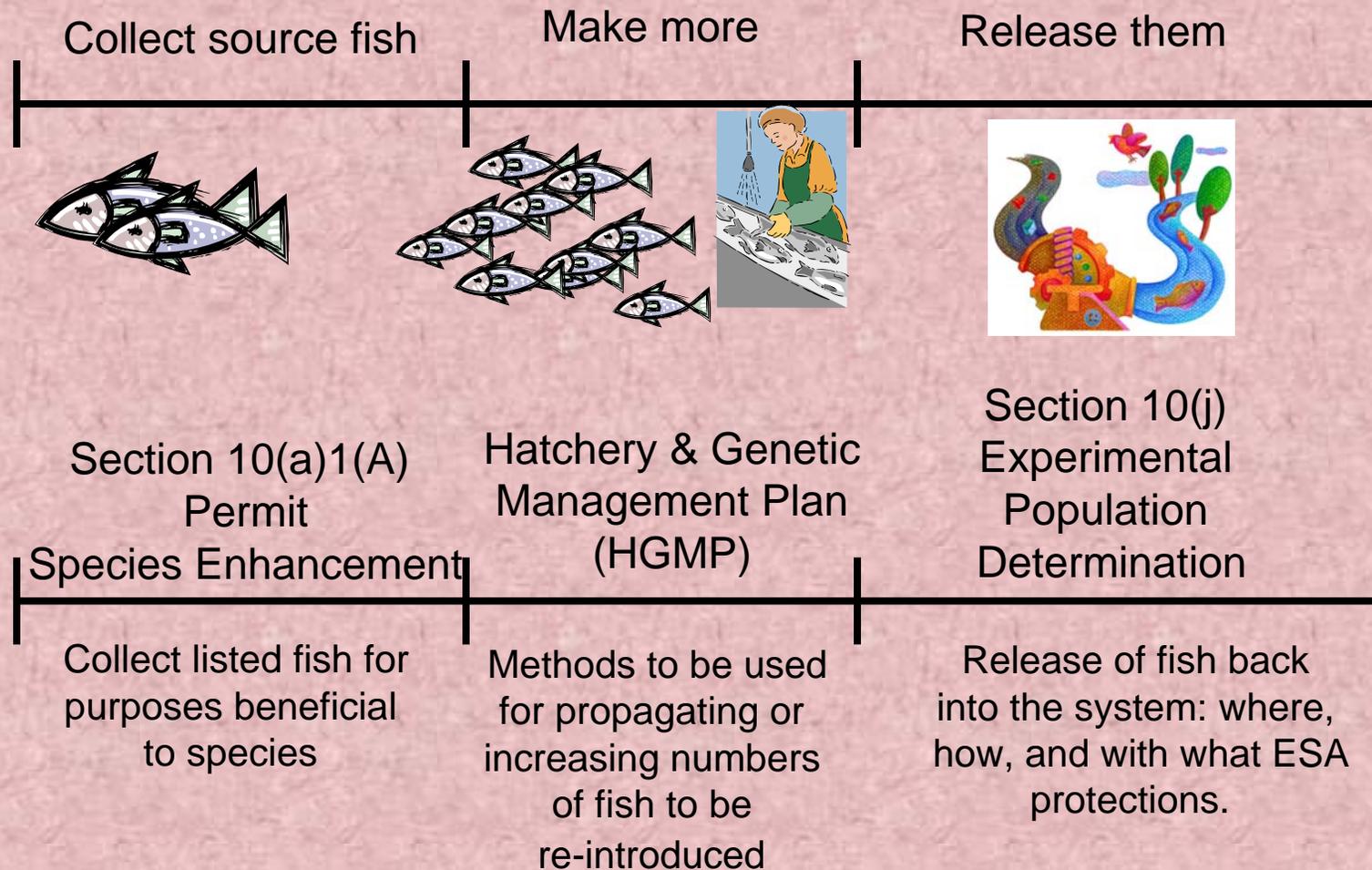


Component Elements for Chinook Salmon Reintroduction





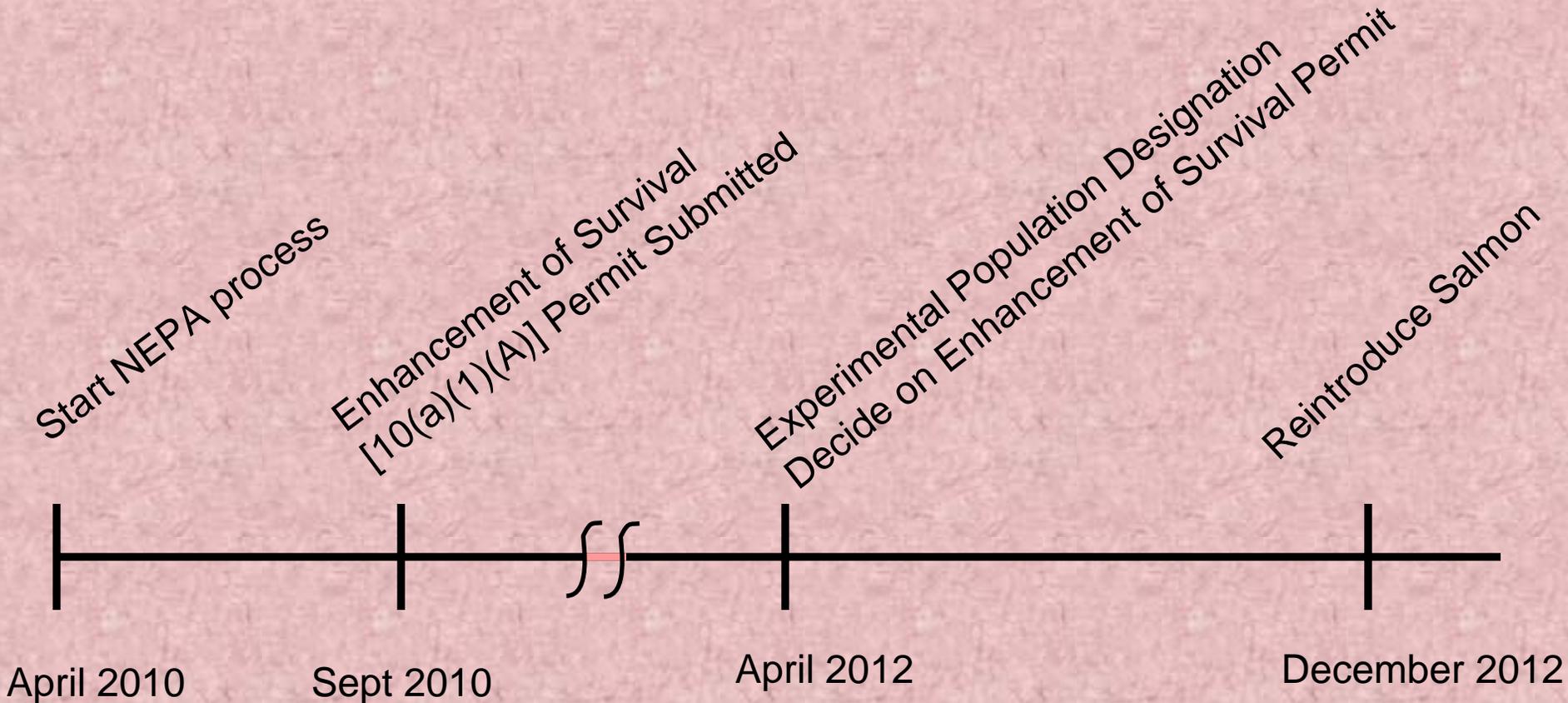
Component **ESA** Elements for Spring-run Chinook Salmon Reintroduction



3 steps in 1 Regulatory Process = Reintroduction Strategy

- NEPA
- One overarching action description
- No segmentation or piece-mealing
- Sec 7 (Endangered Species Act)
- Common timeline

Schedule



Section 10 (a)(1)(A) – “Species Enhancement” Permit

- Due to NMFS September 30, 2010
- Will benefit from technical outreach
- Coupled to Experimental Population {10(j)} decision
- Include language that requires a final approved HGMP to operate the conservation hatchery – which may be prepared later.

Experimental Population



Experimental Population

Per Endangered Species Act:

- The term 'experimental populations' means any population authorized by the Secretary for release,..
- but only when, and at such times as, the population is wholly separate geographically from non-experimental populations of the same species.

Experimental Population (continued)

USFWS 10 (j) regulations:

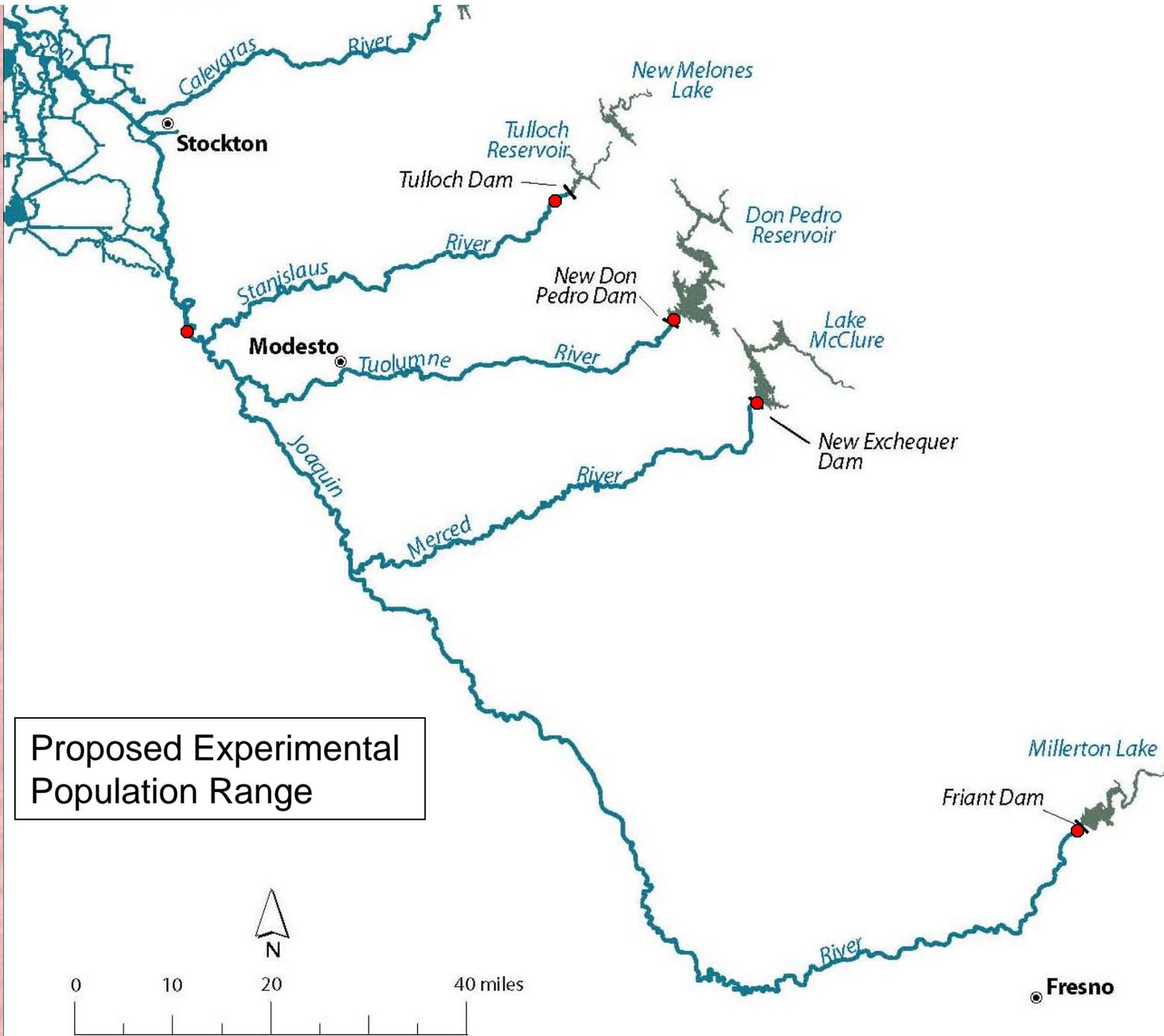
“Where part of an experimental population overlaps with natural populations of the same species on a particular occasion, but is wholly separate at other times, specimens of the experimental populations will not be recognized as such while in the area of overlap. That is, experimental status will only be recognized outside the areas of overlap.”

Experimental Population

- Essential
- Non-essential
- 4(d) rule is done – Umbrella “take” allowances

SJRRP Proposal

- Initial introduction will be as non essential population
 - A re-assessment will occur with the 5 year Status Review of Spring-Run Chinook salmon approx. 2015.
- Consistent with Draft Salmonid Recovery Plan and uncertainty of reintroduction success
- Suggest cover from Friant Dam to the confluence with the Stanislaus River or Vernalis



Documents in Preparation

- Stock Selection Strategy
- Reintroduction Strategy
- 4(d) rule (Umbrella “take”) considerations

Clarifying questions?

Break Out Sessions

- Regulatory Setting
 - » What concerns do you have with having a threatened population reintroduced in areas of the river that you currently use?

- Ecological Setting
 - » In your view, what key biological/ecological elements should be part of the reintroduction strategy?

Reports Back

Additional Public Comment

Next Steps

More Information

- www.restoresjr.net
- Outreach and information gathering will continue into summer 2010
- Draft rules widely announced for comment before final rules issued