



Greetings!

As the summer season continues, our staff is busy on many fronts - both in the field and on the front lines of advocacy.

Updates below describe important work we are currently doing to help protect our region's water and forest resources.

Thanks!

John and the CSERC staff



CSERC staff member Sara doing water quality monitoring in the Stanislaus Forest

Decision soon for South Fork Stanislaus River and Lyons Reservoir



After years of planning discussions and often intense debates, PG&E is finalizing planning for a 40-year-long hydroelectric license that will greatly affect the South Fork Stanislaus River.

CSERC is the only NGO group that has engaged in this years-long process. We have pressed hard to get beneficial flows required to be left in the river, especially during the hot summer period. We also have pressed for river management that mimics what would occur in an unimpaired, natural condition.

PG&E will soon file a final license application that will determine how it will manage the South Fork Stanislaus and Lyons Reservoir in coming decades. CSERC will continue to push for positive river flows in the final outcome.

Suction dredge plan threatens local streams and rivers



Rivers in our region are vulnerable to suction dredging

Over recent years the State of California halted suction dredge mining of streams and rivers. Now the State Water Board has a plan to permit suction dredging – including in highly vulnerable streams and rivers of our local region.

CSERC has long opposed suction dredging because the high-volume pumps suction huge amounts of sediment, gravel, and anything else on the bottom of a stream or river. After some time of operation, a pool or downstream segment of a river can end up choked with mud. Minnows or tadpoles can be killed. Nearby recreation is often ruined, not just from water quality impacts, but also from the noise of the intensely loud pumps.

As now proposed, a new permit process would allow suction dredging based on well intended regulations, yet there is literally almost no one who would actually enforce the regulations or monitor violations. Based on its negative impacts, CSERC opposes suction dredging in any local stream or river.



Can the Forest Service avoid controversy with its giant project?

CSERC and other members of the YSS forest stakeholder group spent months developing a proposed plan for a huge project in the Stanislaus Forest.

The goal of the project is to make forest conditions healthier and to reduce the risk of a large, high-severity wildfire like the 2013 Rim Fire. The challenge has been to increase the use of prescribed fire, biomass removal, and other forest health treatments along with the use of science-based thinning logging that opens up the forest to get conditions back to



Top photo - Heavily stocked forest stand

a more park-like, open forest setting.

Bottom photo - Forest stand with lots of ladder fuels

The YSS plan was taken by the Forest Service – named the SERAL project – and refined to reflect current USFS goals. As a result, a vast area of 92,000 acres of national forest land is now being considered for various forest treatments. CSERC has openly endorsed the use of the full range of forest treatments if the USFS will commit to a balanced, non-controversial final plan. The SERAL project will go through up to two years of planning before it will be ready for a final decision.



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