

## COSUMNES RIVER TASK FORCE

Oversight Committee  
October 8, 2002  
USDA Service Center  
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Minutes: Tina Lunt, Cosumnes River Task Force

**1. Welcome and Introduction:** Tina Lunt opened the meeting at 7:10. Self introductions were made by Ellsworth Rose (Guest Speaker), Surjit S. Toor (Natural Resources Conservation Service), Walt Hoppe (Elk Grove Resource Conservation District), Craig Crouch (Sacramento County DWR), Carl Werder (Bureau of Reclamation), Larry Rodriguez (Robertson-Bryan, Inc.), and Leland Schneider (Omochochumne-Hartnell Water District).

**2. Water in the River/Streams Year Round (Dry Creeks Water Program), Ellsworth Rose**  
Former State Engineer in Sacramento, Ellsworth Rose, believes that we can take creeks that are dry and turn them into year round flowing creeks. As Mr. Rose realized, this is not a new concept. In the early 1940s Fred Light completed 18 rock mortar dams in Emigrant Wilderness of the Stanislaus National Forest. These dams are slow flow dams that help maintain adequate flows for fish. Mr. Rose and his wife hiked up to some of these sites in the 80's during a drought year in August and although the water was low it was still flowing.

Plumas County has been working on similar projects on their creeks. In Wolf Creek they have been stacking rocks and making small pools. These are currently working but in high flow years they may fail. They have also tried digging large holes to hold water. The problem with the large holes is that the water gets stagnate and dries up trapping fish and killing them.

A dam was built on Red Clover Creek in 1985. Red Clover Creek was running a lot of silt, sand and rocks downstream. Building the dam helped slow this process and they discovered another benefit, more water was available in the summer months. See article for more information.

In Mr. Rose's mind there is no reason to have dry creeks. Nor is there a reason to have creeks with too high of temperatures for fish to live such as on the Klamath River.

Mr. Rose has walked many of the tributaries of the Cosumnes and thinks that it is possible to create slow flow dams on the tributaries. Maintenance should be in place before the dams are installed.

Werder mentioned that the Army Corps tends to hammer putting dams on tributaries.

Question - Hoppe: Have they ran into any trouble when they want high winter flows to flush the streams? Answer – Rose: These projects did not get started in Plumas County until 1995 and he is not sure where they are with flushing the streams.

Question – Schneider: What is the average size of the reservoirs in the Emigrant Wilderness?

Answer – Rose: Some were as big as the farm bureau and others were much smaller. Each watershed would have to determine what size is appropriate but whatever size they used in the Emigrant Wilderness was the right size because they work.

### **3. Cosumnes River Resources Inventory, Phase II**

The Resources Inventory is coming along. Some of the information has been harder to gather than originally thought. Due to some of these delays the project completion date is estimated to be September. The contract with CALFED/DWR will be amended to account for this time. Next month we will spend more time going over gathered information and schedule for workshops and other milestones.

### **4. Project Progress Update**

- **Stream Gages – Craig Crouch**

DWR has lined up a contractor to give a cost estimate for gages on the middle fork of the Cosumnes River just as soon as they do a little more surveying. Craig is still working with DWR to make sure they are going to supply the transporting equipment. We are still moving forward just not as fast as we would like.

- **Army Corps Project**

At a stand still with no CEQA lead. If the Resources Agency doesn't step up, one possibility is to split the project up by county. The other option is to cut the Corps, do a project formulation and then divide the projects up and bring the Corps in for individual projects.

- **South Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA)**

Focus on groundwater recharge projects. Groundwater recharge and flood control projects go hand in hand. SSCAWA is applying for an AB303 grant.

- **Schneider Project**

Don Nottoli has requested a meeting with Ron Suter - County Parks, Surjit Toor and Mark Cocke - NRCS, Tina Lunt - CRTF Project Coordinator, Keith Whitener - Cosumnes River Preserve and Leland Schneider - Landowner on October 11, 2002. Results of the meeting will be presented at the next meeting.

- **Omochumne-Hartnell Water District – Larry Rodriguez, Robertson-Byron Inc.**

Omochumne-Hartnell Water District operates 4 flashboard dams on the Cosumnes River. The dams operate seasonally between April 15 and October 15. The dams can not be physically put in until the river flow reaches about 20cfs. This means the dams are usually put in later than April 15 and because the river dries up by mid summer the dams are usually removed long before the October 15 deadline.

Three repairs have been completed and the fourth, Blodgett Dam, is underway. Blodgett will have a boulder weir fish ladder. The dam itself is sitting on compacted ground but to get to compacted ground for the fish ladder a hole has to be dug about 40-50 feet vertically below the dam. The hole will be filled back in with boulders, smaller rocks and sand. Mr. Rodriguez is looking for the project completion date to be the end of October.

### **5. Newsletter**

Will be completed by the end of this month and ready for distribution.

**Adjourn - Next Meeting: November 12, 2002**