# RST METHODS INTRODUCTION

Please find the full methods report: https://cvpia-data-stewardship.s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/data-to-upload/stanislaus\_rst/methods+-+CAS+RST+Protocol+(2016).pdf

Monitoring data can provide the foundation for successful management programs if data are collected in a systematic, consistent, and comprehensive manner. The monitoring of the abundance/production of juvenile salmonids on the Stanislaus River is important because large sums of funding are spent restoring aquatic habitat in an effort to increase the number of juvenile Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) in that watershed. Rotary screw traps (RSTs) are one of the most important tools for monitoring juvenile salmonids. When data acquired with these tools is collected in conjunction with other monitoring data, there is a substantially improved ability to track the status of those salmonids and assess their response to past management activities. That data in turn can be used to adaptively manage future restoration projects so that they are more successful.

The objective of this document is to ensure that RST data from the Stanislaus River in California’s San Joaquin Valley is collected in a safe, systematic, consistent, and comprehensive manner. To address this objective, this protocol provides detailed descriptions for operating and maintaining RSTs, collecting and processing fish, collecting environmental data, conducting trap efficiency tests, and entering data into a RST “platform” developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Comprehensive Assessment and Monitoring Program (CAMP).

The Stanislaus River RSTs are located at Caswell State Park, approximately 5 miles southeast of the town of Ripon in San Joaquin County, California. A total of two 8 foot RSTs will be operated each year. Fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead/rainbow trout are the most likely salmonids to be captured in the Stanislaus River RSTs.

The CAMP has developed a general protocol for conducting RST activities. That document can be found at https://www.fws.gov/cno/fisheries/CAMP/Documents-Reports/Documents/2008\_draft\_CAMP\_Rotary\_Screw\_Trap\_Protocol.pdf. The general guidance in that document should serve as a companion to the more detailed guidance in this document.

Employees who are engaged in servicing the RSTs on the Stanislaus River are responsible for