

Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program



Trinity County Department of Transportation
Siskiyou County Public Works Department
Humboldt County Public Works Department
Mendocino County Department of Transportation
Del Norte County Community Development Department

News Release

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California's Northern Counties Complete First "Fish Friendly" Guide for Road Maintenance

The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C) received approval from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) for its water quality and stream habitat protection manual under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The approval means that routine road maintenance carried out in accordance with the manual – the first such manual produced in California - will include adequate precautions to protect threatened salmon and steelhead species within Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties.

"The approval of these guidelines provides us with the regulatory certainty that our construction or repairs of county roadways will not negatively impact threatened coho salmon or steelhead," said Mark Lancaster, Director of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program. "The manual is also a stepping stone to work with other federal and state agencies as a means to continue the long term recovery of these listed species."

Actions taken by the 5C from the guidelines listed in the manual have already resulted in the removal of 50 culverts blocking fish passage and restoring access to 119 miles of fish habitat.

"The 5C can take great pride in these guidelines and in their vision, commitment, and leadership that made the guidelines possible," said Rod McInnis, NOAA Fisheries Service Southwest Regional Administrator. "I know that they will be successful in applying these practices and I hope that they will share them with other agencies and organizations."

The 5C program began in 1997, when the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Siskiyou, and Trinity decided to work together in a positive way to address the listing of coho salmon as threatened under the ESA.

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On the web:

5C Homepage: <http://www.5counties.org>

Water Quality and Stream Habitat Protection Manual:

<http://www.5counties.org/Projects/FinalGeneralProjectPages/RoadsManual800.htm>

NOAA Approval Letter:

[http://www.5counties.org/PDF_Files/Roads%20Manual/4d%20Inclusion/Signed%204\(d\)%20for%205C%20Manual.pdf](http://www.5counties.org/PDF_Files/Roads%20Manual/4d%20Inclusion/Signed%204(d)%20for%205C%20Manual.pdf)

NOAA Fisheries Southwest Region Homepage: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov>