

**Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch**  
**Minutes of April 28, 2010 meeting at the Lake County Ag Center**

Submitted by Victoria Brandon, Chi Council secretary

Present: Jeff Lynch, Victoria Brandon, David Wooten, Tom Smythe, Greg Dills

Brandon called the meeting to order in the absence of Chair Peter Windrem

The minutes of the March 24 meeting were accepted as submitted.

**2010 observations.** After several weeks with no hitch sightings, a secondary spawning migration began in mid-April, with substantial schools seen in Adobe and Kelsey creeks and smaller groups in other locations.

Summary:

Cole: a few

Kelsey: about as last year, with the most recent sighting on April 27

McGaugh Slough/Hill Creek: not enough flow for fish

Adobe: similar to last year even though this winter was much wetter. Lynch saw a school of 500 on Tuesday at Soda Bay Road. High flows have been washing the scanner out, impeding counts of tagged fish. Biologist Erik Ringelberg says it's designed to break away, and is working on a new (cheaper) design for next year that will be embedded in the bed of the creek. Smythe: doing the advance work (including permitting) needed to install one of Erik's new counters in Middle creek at Rancheria Rd.

Manning: Keith Petterson is said to have observed some hitch above Hwy 29 meaning that they're making it past the low water crossing

Forbes: zero

Robinson: Chuck March saw a school of about 50 on April 18: he says Robinson tends to drain quickly making it marginal spawning habitat.

Scotts: zero, although a small school was seen in Hendricks (tributary to Scotts) in March

Middle: a school of several hundred was observed on March 20. Smythe doesn't think they can get past weir #3, plans remediation work in the summer.

Clover: small schools were seen in mid March

Morrison : zero

Schindler: zero

Burns Valley: no reports

Seigler : zero. except for one dead fish of undetermined species and unknown origin (for example, it might have been dropped by an osprey or other predatory.

Copsey: Dills saw a half dozen fish corpses at the confluence with Cache Creek a few days ago.

Smythe: according to Dietrick McGinnis, the data from this year's tribal monitoring work hasn't been compiled yet. Lynch: the work is in progress; one problem is that the fence washes out allowing fish go around the monitoring device, so the count is spotty.

Brandon: it would be great to get the tribal monitoring records for inclusion in the database. Mike & Phyllis Stevenson have been looking for fish spawning in the lake, with

no observations so far. It's important to continue monitoring into May: in 2006 (the only previous wet year for which we have records) the largest runs in creeks other than Adobe came in April, last year there was a small run in Adobe in May, and historic literature reports runs as late as June.

**Summary Report for 2010.** Windrem will prepare a draft for consideration by the Council at our next meeting. Lynch: is the data in a form that can be analyzed? Brandon: the information posted to the website is just a read-only HTML file, but raw data in the DB can be manipulated any way that's useful. The quality of the information provided by volunteers varies enormously. Smythe: has hobo temperature readings for the past two years. Wooten: Robinson has submitted the draft adaptive management plan which he is organizing in preparation for submitting it to various entities (the county, tribes, federal and state agencies) in an effort to get everybody on the same page supporting voluntary measures for hitch recovery. Collaboration will greatly improve funding chances. If all goes well the plan will be ready to go out for review by the beginning of July with a finished product by the end of July, which would allow it to be used in this year's grant cycle.

**MOU:** we still need signatures. Dills will supply the current list at the next meeting.

**Cache Creek Discovery Day:** This event (fourth annual) will be held at the BLM Cowboy Camp recreation area from 9AM-3PM on Saturday May 1. The Chi Council will be tabling: it's free, fun, and educational, and everyone is encouraged to come out.

**Public input:** Lynch: tribal elders say that hitch and chi are different, one is bulkier, and the taste is different. Smythe: planning to add additional rock to the uppermost weir at Middle creek and also just below the cement weir at Rancheria bridge. Applying for the 2 year permit next week, with permanent monitoring equipment folded into the permit. The rocks needed to mitigate the low water crossing on Manning creek may be included in that funding, as are additional modifications to the fish ladder at the detention structure, with more notches. Last year's work has given him a better sense of what's needed. The options for Main Street are under discussion but the work can't happen this year since major grant funding is needed. Seven or eight weirs will be required, and it would be better to build them in stages rather than all at once as was done on Middle creek.

Next meeting: May 26 at the Ag Center.