



ENLEBRIGHT AND DAGUERRE POINT DAMS JEOPARDY BIOLOGICAL OPINION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

History of Englebright and Daguerre Point Dams

The California Debris Commission built Daguerre Point and Englebright dams on the Yuba River in 1906 and 1941 to prevent debris from hydraulic mining from clogging waterways downstream and impeding river navigation. Both dams are now owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District, with ongoing operation and maintenance authorized by U.S. Congress for the specific purpose of debris control.

Feb. 29, 2012

Impacts of dam operation on fish habitat

In 2000, and again in 2007, the Sacramento District initiated Endangered Species Act consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for a Biological Opinion on the impacts of routine operation of the dams to threatened salmon, steelhead trout and green sturgeon.

The 2007 Biological Opinion recommended several measures the district could take to improve habitat for these species, including adding gravel to the river for spawning habitat, which the district has implemented. A Sacramento federal court ordered NMFS to redraft the Biological Opinion in 2010, and in July 2011, required additional fish passage improvement measures at Daguerre Point Dam, which the district has also implemented.



2012 Jeopardy Biological Opinion

In October 2011, the district again initiated consultation with NMFS for a Biological Opinion on routine dam operation, submitting a draft Biological Assessment of the dam operation impacts developed under contract by leading Yuba River expert Paul Bratovich. On Feb. 29, 2012, NMFS issued a jeopardy Biological Opinion, meaning it had concluded that the dams threaten the existence of the species, recommending fish passage at Englebright and eventual removal of both dams. Under federal law, measures required by jeopardy opinions must be 'reasonable and prudent,' meaning they 'can be implemented consistent with the scope of the action agency's legal authority and jurisdiction (50 CFR §402.02).' Neither dam removal nor fish passage at Englebright is currently authorized by Congress.

Actions to improve Yuba River habitat

To date, the Sacramento District has taken many positive steps to improve habitat in the Yuba River. A program to add gravel to the river to provide spawning habitat, designed by Dr. Greg Pasternack of the University of California-Davis, is underway. Use of that gravel by Chinook salmon [has been documented](#) by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Additional gravel placement is scheduled for summer 2012, as is placement of woody debris to further improve river habitat. Also, a fish passage study at Englebright Dam has been included in President Obama's fiscal years 2012 and 2013 budget proposals, a sign of the President's commitment to this issue. If authorized and funded, the study would allow the Sacramento District to investigate what further measures are feasible to improve habitat. The Sacramento District will continue to implement all measures within its authority to avoid jeopardizing these threatened species.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – SACRAMENTO DISTRICT

1325 J ST. – SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

www.spk.usace.army.mil

www.facebook.com/sacramentodistrict

www.youtube.com/sacramentodistrict

www.twitter.com/USACESacramento

www.flickr.com/photos/sacramentodistrict