



Restoring the Eel River

SAVING WEST COAST SALMON, SUPPORTING NORTH COAST ECONOMIES AND CULTURES



A POTENTIAL SALMON STRONGHOLD IN A TIME OF CLIMATE CRISIS

The Eel River has the potential to become a stronghold for North Coast Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead populations in this time of accelerating climate change. Removing the Eel River dams would reconnect salmon and steelhead with almost 300 miles of high-quality cold-water spawning and juvenile nursery habitat.

PG&E'S EEL RIVER DAMS

PG&E's Potter Valley Project is a hydroelectric project that historically generated energy while diverting water from the Eel River into the Russian River. PG&E opted to let its license for the project expire rather than going through the renewal process with federal regulators.

Scott Dam (138 ft. high) forms Lake Pillsbury and Cape Horn Dam (63 ft. high) impounds the small Van Arsdale Reservoir, which acts as a forebay to the tunnel to the hydroelectric facility located in Potter Valley (along the Russian River).

PG&E plans to remove both Eel River dams starting in 2028, pending approval from federal regulators.



IMPACT OF EEL RIVER NATIVE FISH

Indigenous Tribes in the region have suffered drastically reduced access to their treaty-protected fishery, impacting both their physical and spiritual wellbeing. The Round Valley Indian Tribes, Wiyot Tribe, and other local Tribes have traditionally depended on the Eel River's abundance for survival. Dam removal would be an important act of environmental justice for local Indigenous peoples.

Commercial and recreational salmon and steelhead fisheries were also once strong local economic drivers. Recovering these fish populations would improve local economies along the North Coast.

EEL RIVER NATIVE FISH

- California Coast Chinook salmon
- Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast coho salmon
- Northern California steelhead
- Summer steelhead
- Pacific Lamprey

For More Info Visit FreeTheEel.org

PROBLEMS WITH EEL RIVER DAMS

- Power generation facilities are broken and will not be repaired
- Blocks fish passage to hundreds of miles of high-quality habitat for salmon and steelhead
- Seismically unsafe
- Prevents sediment movement throughout the river system
- Creates ideal environment for predatory invasive species

