

Robinson Rancheria
Clear Lake Hitch Study and Recovery Project
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Tribal Wildlife Grant Program
FY2004

Program Summary:

Robinson Rancheria proposes a three part study and recovery program for the benefit of the Clear Lake Hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda chi*) a culturally significant species that is endemic to Clear Lake in Lake County Ca., and exists no where else in the world. In partnership with the Lake County Public Works Department, the Tribe will increase its capacity to protect the Hitch through the implementation of this program. The program is made up of the following components:

1. A study of migration barriers in major tributary creeks of Clear Lake that will prioritize those barriers by threat level, and enable the Tribe and the County to develop a barrier removal segment of a conservation plan for the Hitch
2. Increase Tribal capacity by the creation of a Habitat Conservationist position within the Robinson Rancheria Water Resources Department who will represent the Tribe on the newly forming Chi Stewardship Council. The conservationist will also collect numbers data during the spring spawning run. She/he will also develop and oversee a Tribal native plant greenhouse/nursery to grow culturally significant riparian plants and to sell those plants to local groups and the other Lake County Tribes, for creek and/or lake restoration projects
3. In partnership with the Lake County Flood Control District, reshape the Clover Creek Diversion Structure to allow Hitch passage during spawning season

The Tribe is willing to cover approximately \$20,000 in indirect costs as its matching contribution. The County of Lake has also offered \$14,461 in matching funds for the design phase of the barrier removal part of the project.