



**Dry Creek (Placer and Sacramento Counties)
Salmon Survey Report
Fall 2025 thru Winter 2026**

Objective

- To assess the extent of salmon spawning throughout the Dry Creek watershed, including its tributaries (Secret Ravine, Miner's Ravine, Antelope Creek, Linda Creek).
- Compare population of salmon to past and future years to determine population viability.
- Increase public awareness and support for salmon.



Methods

- Small groups wade upstream for 1-2 mile stretches and visually count salmon/steelhead (living or carcasses) and redds.
- Record carcass length, sex, and adipose fin presence.
- Avoid disturbance to salmon spawning and redds (walking on banks preferred, stick to margins of creek, leader in each group identifies redds for avoidance)











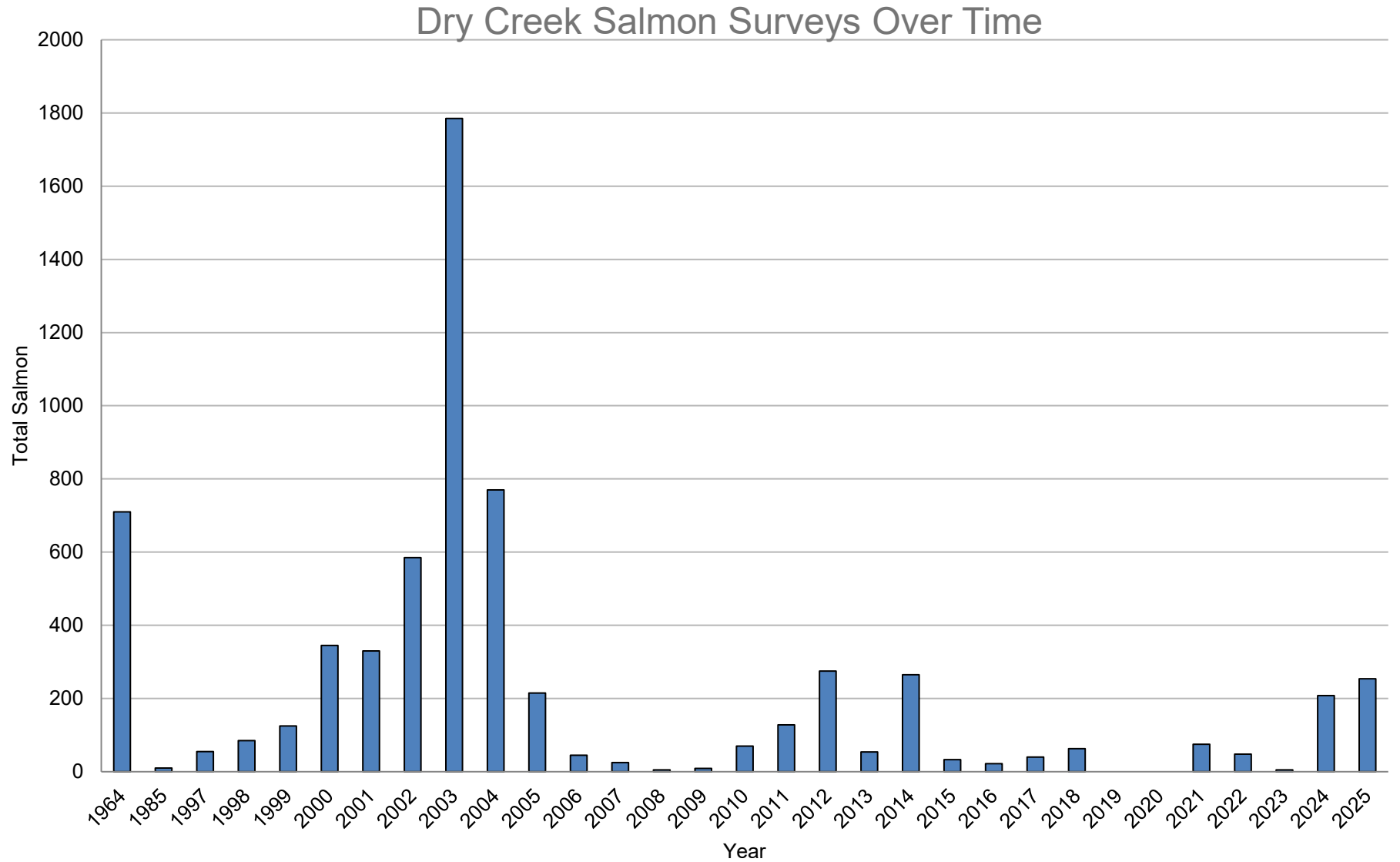
2025-11-29



Results

- # of Salmon Observed: 254 salmon (167 live and 87 carcasses)
 - Dry Creek = 23 (Cook Riolo Road to Secret Ravine/Miner's Ravine Confluence)
 - Secret Ravine = 167 (Confluence with Miner's Ravine to Loomis Basin Park)
 - Miner's Ravine = 41 (Confluence with Secret Ravine to Carolinda Drive)
 - Antelope Creek = 9 (Confluence with Dry Creek to Midas Avenue)
 - Linda Creek = 14 (Confluence with Dry Creek to Rocky Ridge Drive)
- Dates Salmon Observed: 10/17/25 to 1/19/26
- 72 individual volunteers
- Surveyed over 16 miles of creek on one official survey day (Nov 29) plus anecdotal observations from community

Year	Total Salmon
1964	710
1985	10
1997	55
1998	85
1999	125
2000	345
2001	330
2002	585
2003	1785
2004	770
2005	215
2006	45
2007	25
2008	5
2009	9
2010	70
2011	128
2012	275
2013	54
2014	265
2015	33
2016	22
2017	40
2018	63
2019	0
2020	0
2021	75
2022	48
2023	5
2024	208
2025	254



Discussion

- Highest total number of salmon counted in 11 years (since 2014)
 - Heavy rains canceled several surveys, likely more salmon that weren't counted
- Great volunteer turnout (72 volunteers participated)
- Observed salmon on Miners Ravine far upstream (Carolinda Drive)
- Observed 12 salmon in Linda Creek, most since 2004
- Beaver Dam on Secret Ravine at Loomis Basin Park was partial to almost full barrier
- Early and late observations: 10/17/25 to 1/19/26



Discussion (continued)

- Possible reasons for this year's high salmon count
 - Well timed (end of November/early December) large rainfall events (2-3+ inches)
 - Downstream barrier removal in Steelhead Creek (River City Waterway Alliance)
 - Large surveyor volunteer base
 - Wider-scale factors such as moratorium on fishing Chinook salmon in Sacramento Valley rivers, changing food base
- Despite salmon populations increase this year (2025/2026) in Dry Creek, their numbers are still overall declining throughout the Sacramento Valley due to a combination of factors including habitat loss, invasive species, and water diversions.

