

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## American River Fish Monitoring

The Central California Area Office (CCAO) has been monitoring the water elevation at numerous important spawning locations and all gravel augmentation sites along the American River. The water elevation is being recorded by two surveyors (Chelsea Stewart and Katrina Martens) each day using GPS units. The data they collect show how much area is dewatered by each flow reduction. Additional monitoring has included channel connectivity and isolated pools.



Cramer Fish Sciences Biological Field Technician Katrina Martens prepares inflatable kayak to travel across the river.



Katrina Martens collects data on the water-level conditions on the river.



Salmon that died after spawning are exposed after the river water levels were lowered to conserve water in Folsom Reservoir.



A Chinook salmon swimming near the rocks along the river is one of many fish dying after having spawned in the river. Salmon spawn once and then die, although individuals may survive for days to weeks after spawning.



Natural Resources Specialist Chelsea Stewart is monitoring the water levels on the river in study areas each day using a GPS unit.



Chelsea Stewart moves further downstream to document the position of the water line. The data collected shows how much the water has dropped along the shore.



A view of the river with record low water levels caused by drought conditions.