



Tidewater Goby



Mission Blue Butterfly



Western Snowy Plover



Presidio Clarkia



Steelhead Trout



Southern Sea Otter



San Francisco Garter Snake



San Bruno Elfin Butterfly



Coho Salmon



Franciscan Manzanita



California Red-legged Frog



Northern Spotted Owl

These photos show some of the species featured inside this coloring book. Learn more about these rare plants and animals at www.sfnp.org

This coloring book was made possible by students from Ex'pression College & the Design Volunteers In Parks Program. Illustrations by Ryan Leazer. Species of the Year logo by Thomas Chun.



SPECIES OF THE YEAR

2012

Year of the Coho Salmon



Coloring Book

2012: The year of the coho salmon!

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area's (GGNRA) far-reaching boundaries are home to more species that are listed by the federal government as threatened or endangered than any other national park site in the continental United States. Some of these special plants and animals are featured on the pages of this coloring book.

Each year the park is celebrating one of these species through educational programs, events, restoration activities, and a variety of materials for park visitors of all ages. Learn more about these events and download materials at www.sfnps.org/species.

2012 is the year of the coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). This species lives in several watersheds in both the GGNRA and Point Reyes National Seashore—including Olema, Redwood, and Pine Gulch Creeks. These fish part of a unique subpopulation of coho salmon that only live in streams along the central California coast. Because coho need high quality freshwater and ocean habitats over the course of their 3-year lifespans they are excellent indicators of the health of these ecosystems.

In 1996 the federal government listed coho salmon in this region as threatened. Unfortunately, their status was further downgraded from threatened to endangered in 2005. Habitat loss from urbanization, dam construction, logging, water withdrawals, and stream channel alterations have contributed to their decline, as have over-harvest, climactic changes, and periods of poor ocean productivity.

Because coho are an endangered species, the National Park Service is responsible for monitoring and protecting them. The parks and their partners have undertaken a huge effort to learn more about the size, distribution, and behavior of these coho populations; understand their habitat requirements; and engage federal, state, and local stakeholders in their protection.

Learn more about coho salmon at
www.sfnps.org/coho

Check out some of these family-friendly events! See www.sfnps.org/species for a full listing.

Salmon Spawning at Muir Woods

Winter 2011–2012

Winter is salmon spawning season at Muir Woods. Check the hotline at (415) 388-2595 or the park website www.nps.gov/muwo to learn if the fish have arrived.

Winter Solstice

December 21, 2011 3 pm–8 pm

Celebrate the longest night of the year and a full moon with the tallest trees on earth and coho salmon! This outdoor program is suitable for all ages. Activities and events include the making of solstice crowns, a stage performance of songs, stories, and puppetry, and walking the trails of Muir Woods lit by luminaria.

Muir Woods Earth Day

January 29, 2012, 8 am–12 pm

Every day is Earth Day in Muir Woods and we celebrate in the winter by planting and weeding in the Redwood Creek watershed. Volunteer to help our native plant nursery in restoration work that will benefit coho.

Up the Creek without a Paddle: Following the Salmon up Redwood Creek

April 14, 2012 9:30 am–1:30 pm

Trace the annual migration of coho salmon up Redwood Creek from Muir Beach to their spawning areas over one mile upstream. This round trip hike will begin and end at Muir Beach, with a lunch stop at Santos Meadow.

Redwood Creek before the Storms

November 9, 2012 9:30 am–2:00pm

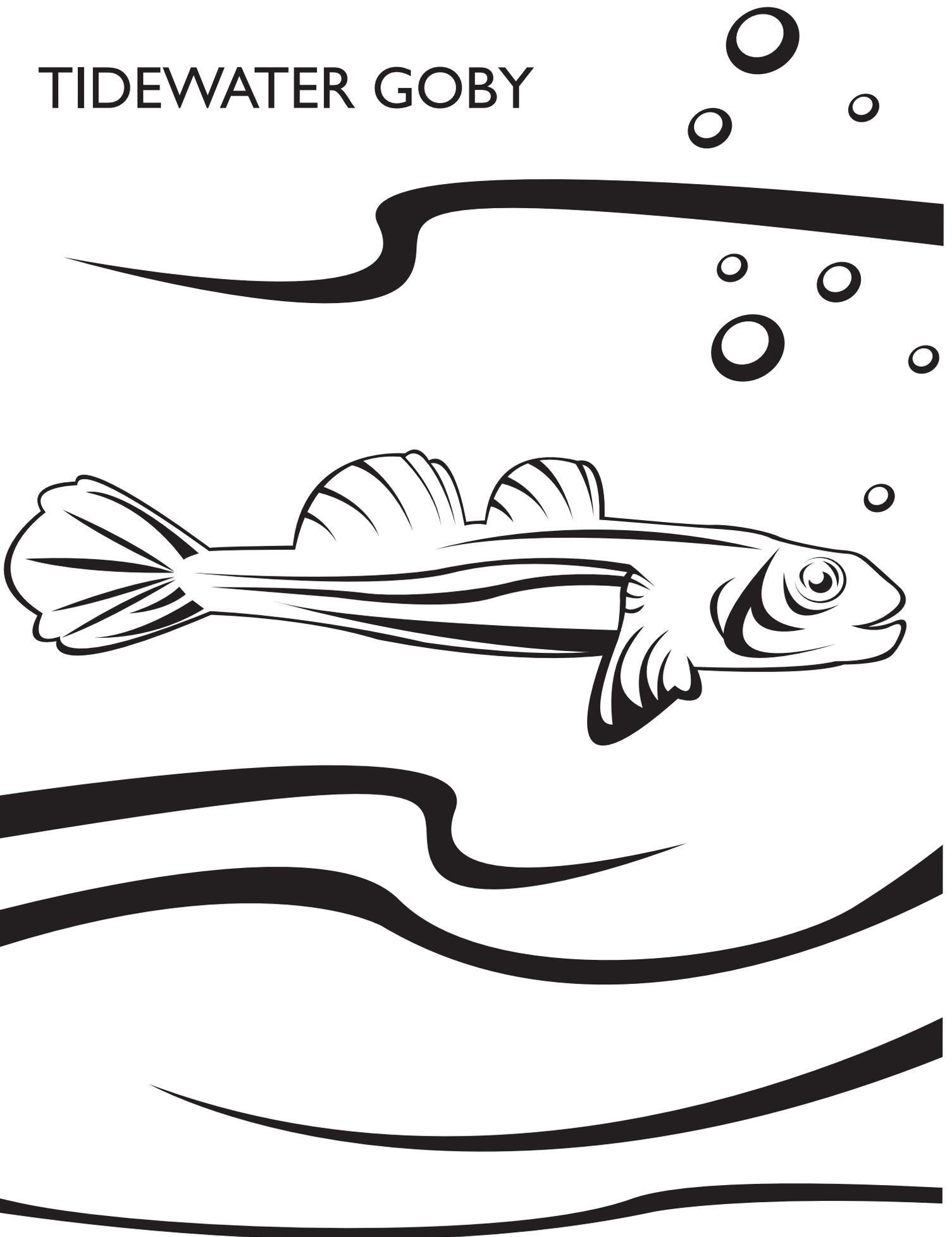
Like the intricate life cycle of coho salmon, Redwood Creek has a life cycle of its own. Learn about the intimate connections among climate, creek, and fish on a 6-mile (round-trip) walk from Muir Woods to Muir Beach and back via the Redwood Creek Trail.

Welcome Back Salmon!

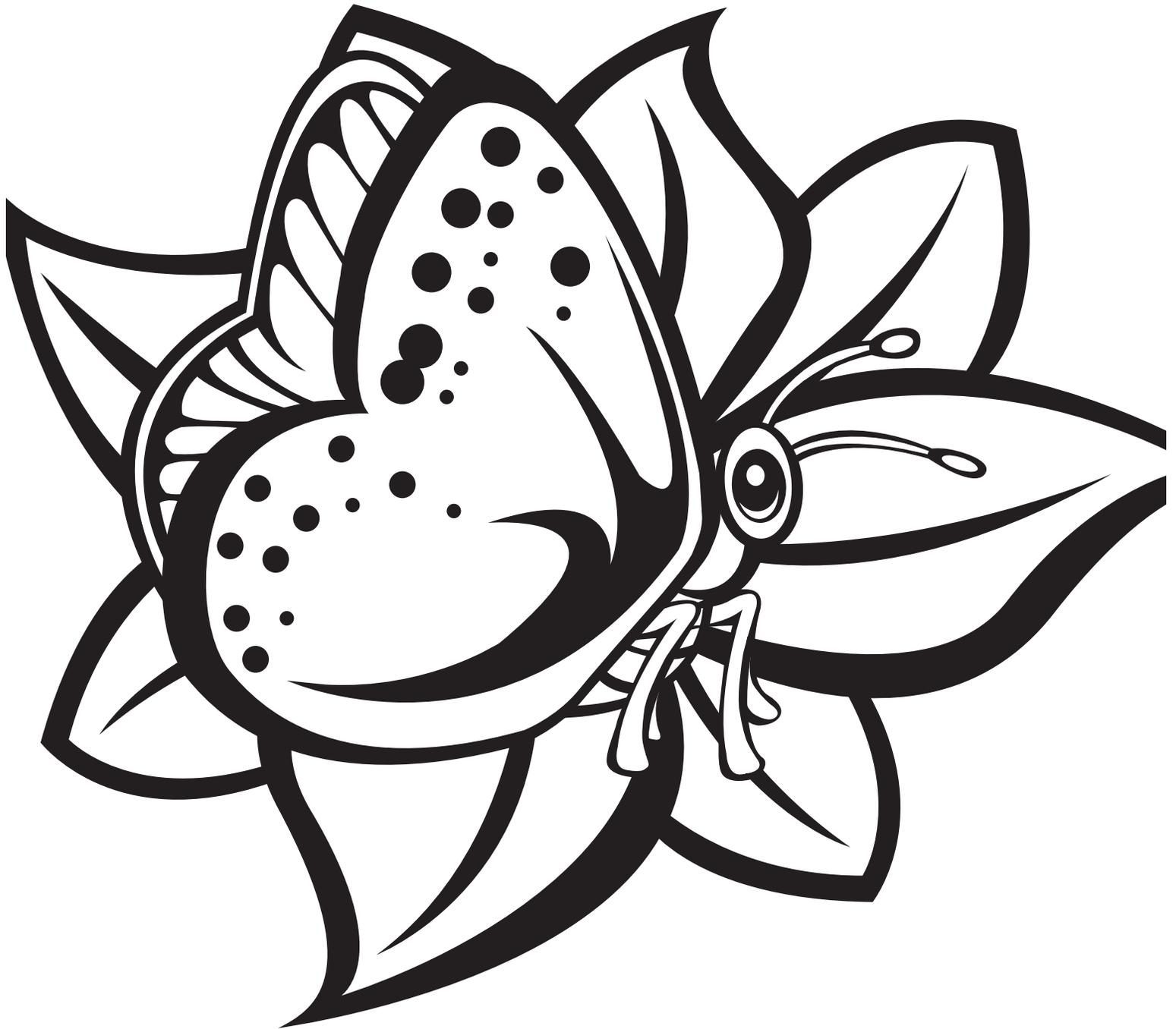
November 11, 2012 1 pm–3 pm

Join us around a campfire with members of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria who will say their traditional salmon blessing. Also storytelling, native craft-making, traditional fire-starting, and nature readings to wish salmon a strong and healthy return to their home in Redwood Creek.

TIDEWATER GOBY



Curious what color this goby really is? Check out its photo on the back cover!



MISSION BLUE BUTTERFLY



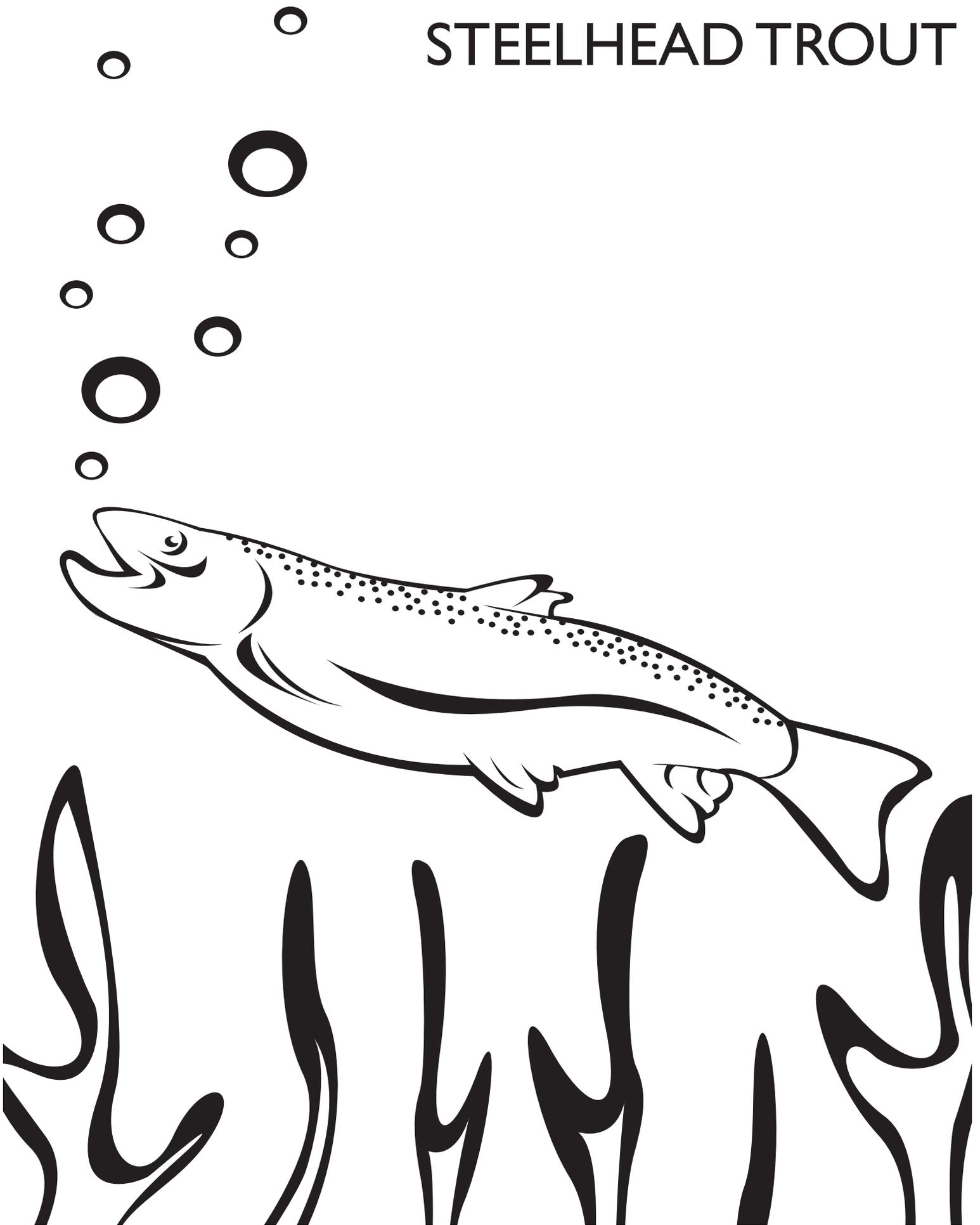
WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER



PRESIDIO CLARKIA

Is a Presidio clarkia blue? Red? Find out by looking for it in the pictures on the back of this coloring book!

STEELHEAD TROUT



See how similar a steelhead trout and a coho salmon look in their photos on the back page.



SOUTHERN SEA OTTER



Some say this is one of the prettiest snakes in the world. Do you agree? See its portrait on the back of this booklet and count all the different colors this serpentine beauty possesses.



SAN FRANCISCO GARTER SNAKE

SAN BRUNO ELFIN BUTTERFLY



COHO SALMON



Our Species of the Year "Moe Coho" was named by contest winner Michelle Woo Bowman. Look at Moe go!



FRANCISCAN MANZANITA

CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG



Where is the red on the California red-legged frog? Maybe not where you would expect! See its picture on the back cover to find out.



NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL