

2021

HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT AT ANCIL HOFFMAN

Big Trucks for Baby Fish



Overview

A new project to restore a crucial habitat for hundreds of native salmon and steelhead trout is scheduled to begin in August at Ancil Hoffman Park, near Effie Yeaw Nature Center, in Carmichael.

Fall-run Chinook salmon migrate to the Lower American River as adults to spawn from October through December. In the egg-laying process, females create a "nest" (called a redd) in loose gravel in flowing water, depositing their eggs and then covering them up with more gravel. Once hatched, young salmon move to the river's shallow, slower moving side channels to find protection from predators and grow before swimming back out to the Pacific Ocean.



The Ancil Hoffman area of the river has been a prime area for salmon and steelhead to spawn, but spawning beds and side channels degrade with time and high flows. Because of Nimbus and Folsom dams, sediment and debris that would otherwise replace old gravel are blocked. The dams also block salmon species from reaching some of their historic spawning grounds.

About the Project

The Ancil Hoffman Habitat Restoration Project will recreate spawning and rearing areas by laying approximately 15,800 cubic yards of sorted and washed rock into the flowing river and carving a new alcove running through the existing gravel bar, parallel to the river. Project teams will add large woody material and plant riparian trees and bushes in the alcove, creating places for young fish to hide from predators and for insects and vegetation to grow for feeding.

The project is expected to begin in mid-August and finish by early October, before anadromous Chinook salmon return in high numbers from the Pacific Ocean to the Lower American River. Crews may be on site Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. with in-river work occurring only on weekdays (and not on Labor Day).



For More Information

For more information, including a list of
Frequently Asked Questions, please visit waterforum.org.





Background

This will be the Water Forum's 10th project restoring fish spawning gravel beds and improving juvenile fish rearing habitat on the Lower American River. Previous projects were built along Sacramento Bar, Sailor Bar, River Bend Park and Nimbus Basin.

The Water Forum's most recent habitat restoration project at Sailor Bar created a surge in native fish nests within several months following the project. The Ancil Hoffman Habitat Restoration Project is expected to be even more crucial to fish survival given the very dry and warm conditions expected in the river by fall 2021.

Ancil Hoffman Site

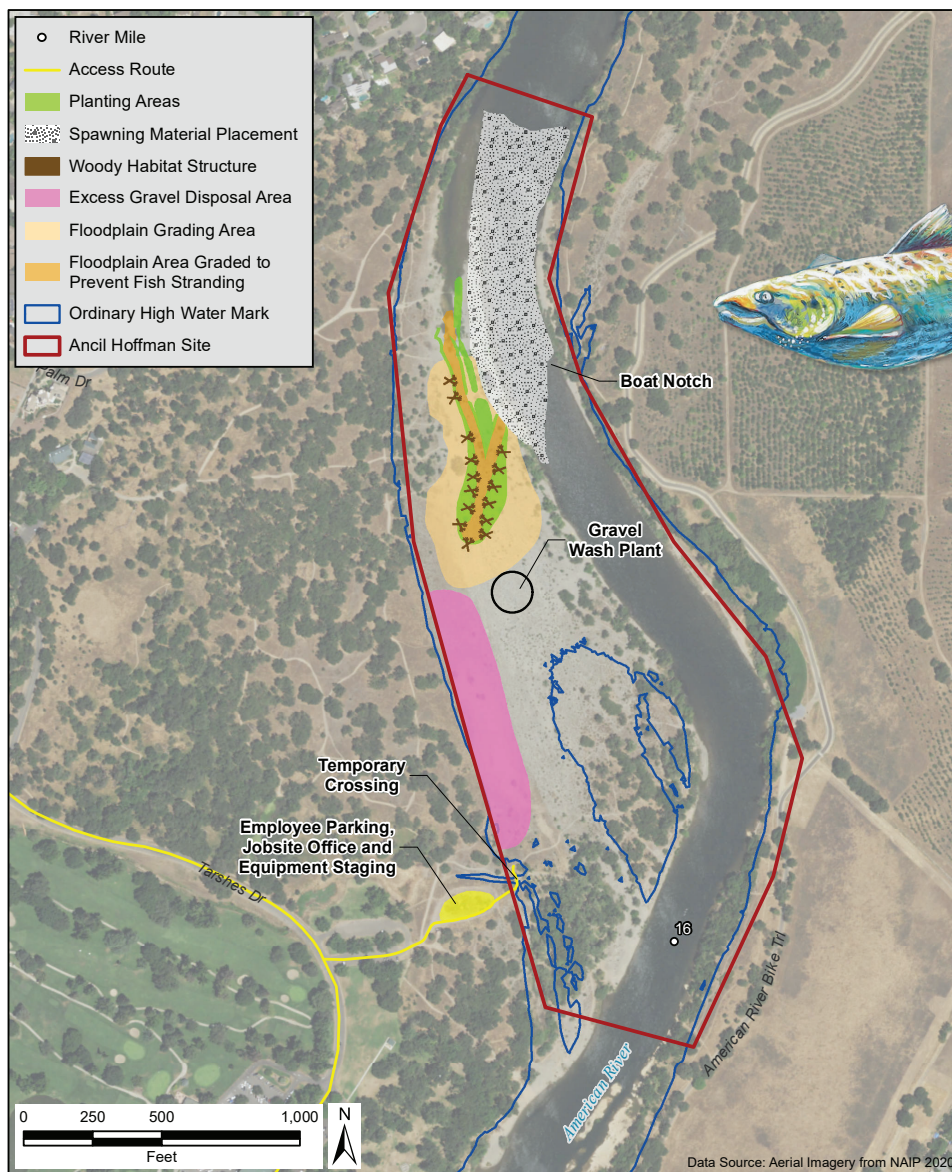


Figure Source: GEI Consultants, Inc. 2021.

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Thank You Partners!

The project is made possible through a partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, Sacramento County Parks and the Sacramento Water Forum.

