



2021

HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT AT ANCIL HOFFMAN

Big Trucks for Baby Fish



Overview

A new project to restore crucial habitat for native salmon and steelhead trout is scheduled to begin in late 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 spot for spawning salmon and steelhead, but spawning beds and side channels degrade through natural processes with time and high flows. Because of Nimbus and Folsom dams, upstream sediment sources 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 clean gravel into the flowing river and carving a new alcove in 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 late-August and finish by late-October 2021, 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. (noise starting at 7 a.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/AH.

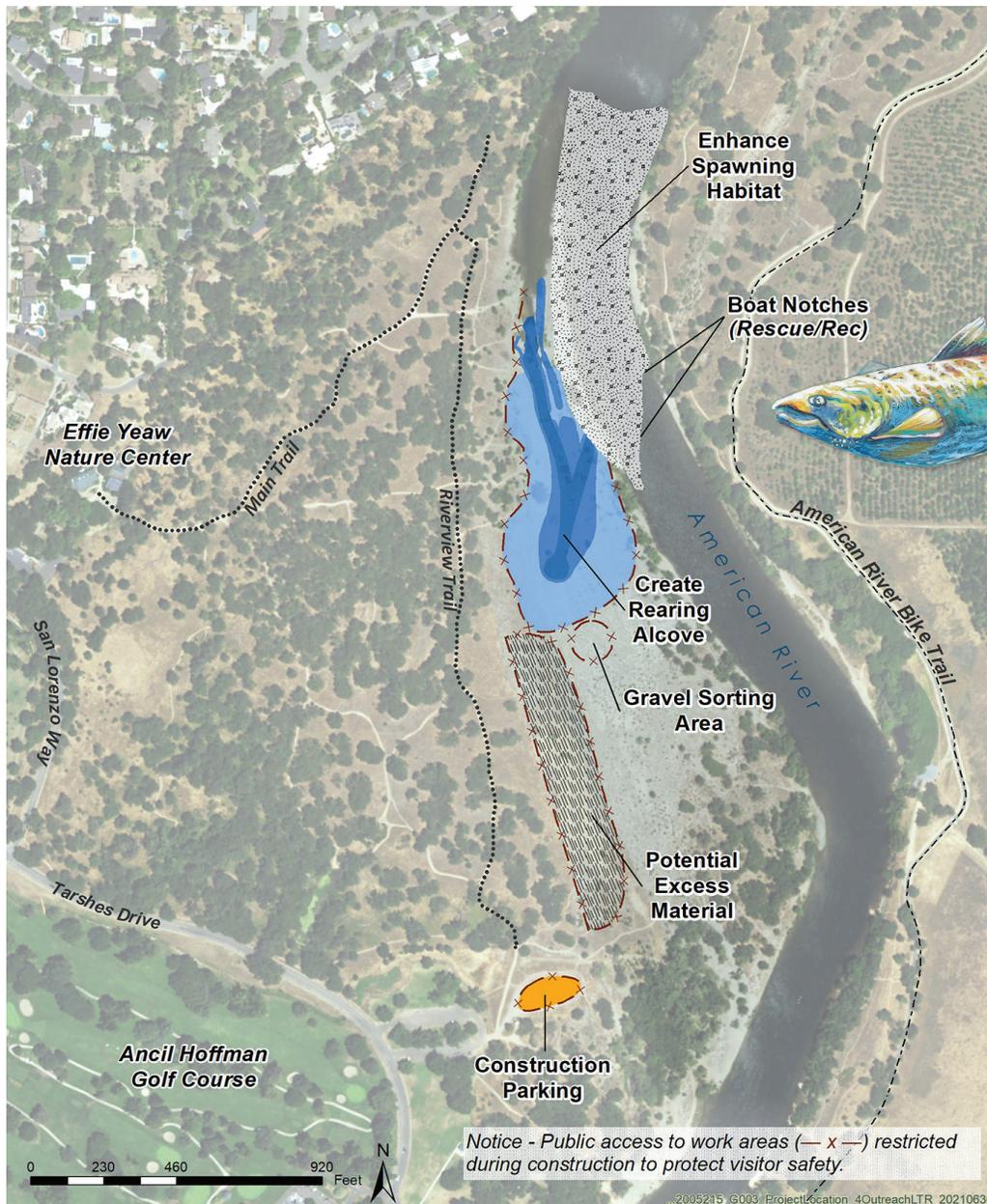




Background

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.



Thank You Partners!

The project is funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project Improvement Act Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, and made possible through partnerships between the Water Forum, City of Sacramento Department of Utilities, Sacramento County Regional Parks, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

