2023 HABITAT PROJECT
Upper River Bend Phase 1 at Ancil Hoffman Park

Overview

Each year, the Water Forum works to create and enhance habitat for native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Both species migrate to the Lower American River as adults to spawn. Fall-run Chinook salmon generally spawn from October through December and steelhead trout spawning generally occurs January through March. In the egg-laying process, female salmonids create a "nest" (called a redd) in loose gravel in flowing water, deposit their eggs, and then cover them with more gravel. Once hatched, young fish move to the river's slower moving floodplain and side channel areas to find protection from predators and grow before swimming out to the Pacific Ocean.

About the Project

The Water Forum's 2023 Habitat Project will enhance crucial habitat for native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout at Upper River Bend (in the river at Ancil Hoffman Park past the public golf course parking lot on Tarshes Drive). *See map on back.*

The Project Will Provide:

Nearly 5 acres of spawning habitat for adult salmon and steelhead to create redds (underwater depressions or "nests"), constructed by placing 30,000 cubic yards of clean gravel into the flowing river.

Nearly 6 acres of rearing habitat for young fish to hide from predators, find food and grow, created by carving a 2,000-foot side channel into the existing gravel bar and shaping 3.7 acres of seasonal floodplain.

Hiding and resting places for young fish by placing about 60 large woody tree structures into the side channel.

Over 3 acres of enhanced riparian landscape by planting or seeding the project area with willows or native flowers and grasses after construction.

Construction is scheduled to take place in the August-to-October 2023 timeframe. The project could take up to eight weeks to complete and in-river work will finish no later than October 31, 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).

Learn More

Including additional project details and
Frequently Asked Questions at waterforum.org/habitat2023.

Why Upper River Bend?

Habitat is limited: Each year, thousands of native salmon and steelhead adults use the Delta and Sacramento River like a highway to move to their native spawning areas in the Lower American River. Historically, they utilized over 100 miles of mainstem and upper watershed habitat before Folsom and Nimbus dams blocked their passage. Dams also trap vital sediment needed to replenish spawning areas that naturally erode over time in our dynamic river. The Water Forum identifies areas like Upper River Bend at Ancil Hoffman Park to replenish gravel to help stay ahead of these processes and support the fishery. In spring, newly hatched young fish use the same corridor to outmigrate.

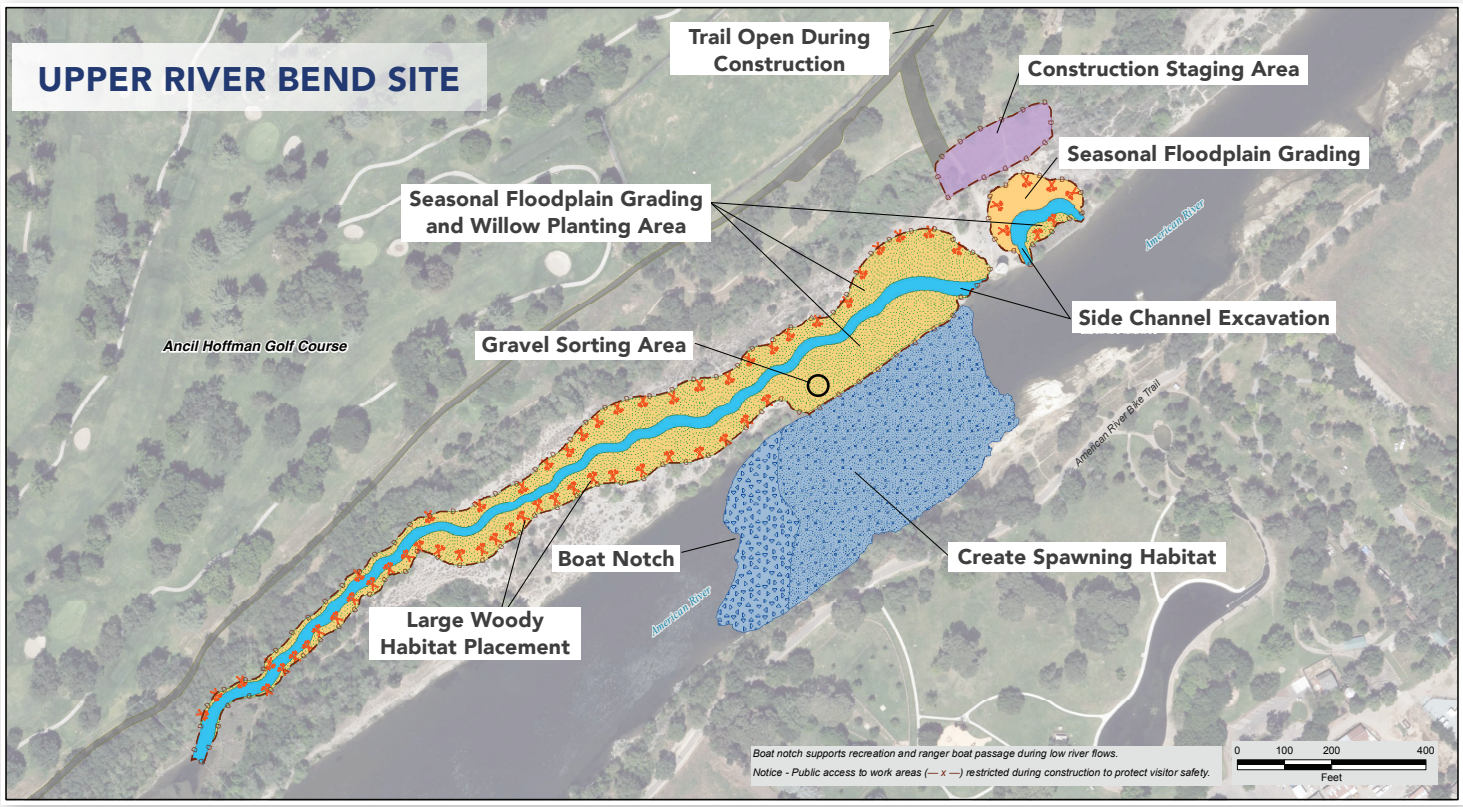
Habitat enhancement works: The 2021 habitat project at Ancil Hoffman Park across from the Effie Yeaw Nature Centerproduced a noticeable surge in salmon redds—from just 64 Chinook redds at the site in fall 2020 to more than double just a few months after project construction. In addition, the site supported almost 30 percent of steelhead redds recorded on the Lower American River and supported many Pacific lamprey redds in the season after project construction.

WATER FORUM

About The Water Forum

The Water Forum includes a diverse group of water providers, environmentalists, business groups and local governments working to balance water supply needs with protection of the Lower American River.

This is the Water Forum's 13th project enhancing fish spawning and rearing habitat on the Lower American River since 2008.



Thank You Partners!

The 2023 Habitat Project is made possible by grant funding from the California Natural Resources Agency (Proposition 68) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Central Valley Project Improvement Act).

SACRAMENTO Department of Utilities

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

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PROP 68 State of California Parks & Water Bond 2018