

Clear Creek Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Program



A truck-load of gravel is placed along Clear Creek to improve fish spawning habitat.

On August 29, the Bureau of Reclamation’s Northern California Area Office began placing gravel in four locations in Clear Creek to help improve spawning habitat for Chinook salmon and steelhead. The work is taking place Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and is expected to be completed by Saturday, September 15.

The Clear Creek Salmonid Spawning Gravel Augmentation Program, an integral part of the Clear Creek Restoration Program, is placing some 10,000 tons of gravel into the creek to restore and replenish spawning gravel and rearing habitat for salmonid species. Placing the gravel at multiple sites along Clear Creek helps to ensure that the gravel will move continuously throughout the creek.

The program, which is conducted annually, is funded by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to help meet requirements of CVPIA Section 3406 (b)(12) which requires Reclamation to “*Develop and implement a comprehensive program to provide flows to allow sufficient spawning, incubation, rearing, and outmigration for salmon and steelhead from Whiskeytown Dam as determined by instream flow studies conducted by the California Dept. of Fish and Game...*”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that they are seeing 10 times as many fall run salmon spawning in Clear Creek and that spring run are now returning to the creek, so clearly the project is a success. For more information, please contact Project Manager Tom Kisanuki, NCAO, at 530-276-2046 or tkisanuki@usbr.gov.



Gravel placement along Clear Creek as seen from the Placer Bridge.