2025

FLOODPLAIN FORWARD

Feeding Fish on Floodplain Farm Fields

Record-setting year with 25,000 acres producing 147,500 lbs of food for endangered fish.

25,000 Acres

25,000 acres of Sacramento Valley ricelands are producing much-needed food for endangered fish such as the Chinook salmon. This is a boost to juvenile salmon migrating down the Sacramento River, which is void of the nutrient-rich water the floodplains provide.

The total number of bugs produced is expected to help **3.5 million fish double in weight.** Bigger fish are beneficial to the species' survival as they have a greater chance of completing the arduous journey to the Pacific Ocean.

3.5 Million Fish

Producing 147,500 lbs of Food on the Floodplain

That is Equivalent to the Weight of a Southwest Commercial Airplane!

Boeing 737-800

After a 100-acre field has been flooded for at least a month, California Trout scientists have found 250 pounds of bugs are delivered to the river each flush. With several fields flooding up and draining out two to three times in the season, 59,000 total acres will produce food, resulting in a total of 147,500 pounds of food infusing the Sacramento River.

6x

Total 10,057 m^3

x

Total 1,687m^3

149x

Total 251,143m^3

The Goal? 300,000 acres producing fish food each winter in the Sacramento Valley

Juvenile salmon historically fed on the floodplains throughout the Sacramento Valley during their outward migration to the Pacific Ocean. Since the levees disconnected the floodplains from the rivers, the rivers no longer have the food required for a healthy salmon population. Ricelands now serve the salmon in the same way historical wetlands had by producing tiny bugs known as zooplankton.

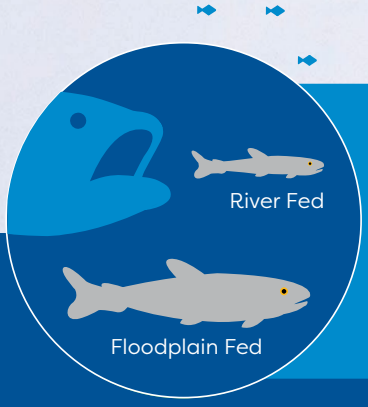
Flelds are flooded in the late fall and winter to break down the remaining rice straw leftover after harvest. That organic matter then gives birth to billions of bugs that salmon rely on for nourishment. The hope is to one day **flood 300,000 acres** of ricelands per year to benefit fish, birds and wildlife that depend on the habitat located within the natural floodplain footprint.

Why Bigger is Better

The Sacramento River and Delta are filled with several predator species (native and introduced) seeking to consume juvenile salmon. With the abundant food source provided by wetlands, salmon grew bigger and stronger - two critical factors in their overall health and survival.

Reconnecting the floodplains, both on the dry- and wet side of the levees, offers an opportunity for the salmon to grow and return to sizes that will help them survive and complete their journey to the sea.

When juvenile salmon have access to their historical food sources, they can grow five times faster than fish not exposed to floodplain-born nutrients.

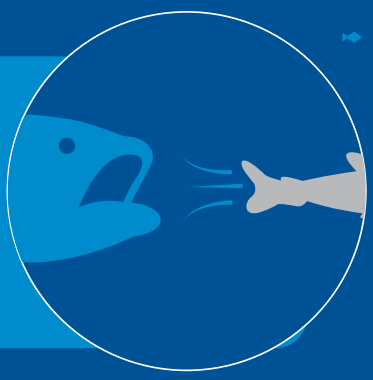


Avoiding Predators

Unlike many mammals and underwater species, predator fish can only rely on the size of their mouth to capture juvenile salmon. The larger a juvenile salmon becomes; fewer predators can swallow them whole.

Faster Swimmers

Larger, healthier salmon are faster swimmers and have an increased stamina which gives them a better chance of avoiding predators versus their smaller counterparts.



Feeding Fish on the Floodplain

FLOODPLAIN FORWARD

Floodplain Forward Coalition Partners

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Lundberg Family Farms
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