

Proof is in the Projects

Through collaborative projects, waterfowl and endangered fish are returning to areas they once reared in more than 100 years ago. These key projects demonstrate some of the work being done on the Wet-Side of the levee.



Nigiri Project: Fish on Rice Fields

Aids in rearing and food production for salmon and waterfowl

The Nigiri Project puts endangered fish on rice fields within the bypass for enhanced food access. By mimicking the kind of shallow, long-duration flood patterns that once existed in the Yolo Basin, high densities of zooplankton and invertebrates are produced in vast numbers.

Connecting endangered fish with this habitat is vital for the species long term survival. Scientists and farmers are working together to use private lands to ensure the most cost-effective and viable means of vegetation control on the Yolo Bypass. This is part of a larger effort known as the Floodprint Project – which ties in the Tides End and Nigiri projects.

[Read More on this Project](#)

Dos Rios Agricultural Salmon Easement

Aids in rearing habitat and food production for salmon and waterfowl

The Dos Rios Project provides nearly 1500 acres of reactivated floodplain habitat that will serve as a multi-benefit model for future innovative water management, continued farming, and salmon recovery efforts. Located at confluence of the Sacramento River, Butte Creek and Feather River, the area can be frequently accessed by all runs that spawn in the upper Sacramento River, Butte Creek spring run, and Feather River spring and fall runs. Winter run juveniles out-migrating through the Sacramento river will be able to access the managed agricultural floodplain at Dos Rios multiple times per year as the Sutter Bypass inundates from backwatering.

[Read More on this Project](#)





California Rice Commission Pilot Salmon Project

Aids in salmon outward migration survival rates

Early results reveal fish that were raised on winter-flooded rice fields in Yolo County were 4.5 times more likely to survive the outward migration to the Pacific Ocean versus fish the control group fish that were not. These early project results suggest this strategy could potentially help offset drought years when the numbers of fish that successfully reach the ocean are significantly lower and this project can be scaled-up in the valley.

[Read More on this Project](#)

Lower Sutter Bypass Anadromous Fish Habitat Plan

Aids in habitat for juvenile salmon and waterfowl

This CDFW-funded planning project advances and supports over 20 years of habitat restoration planning in the Lower Sutter Bypass and Feather River to reach consensus amongst landowners and agencies to restore rearing habitat for Feather River and Butte Creek salmon runs. Through a facilitated structured decision-making process, the state and landowners will develop an implementable habitat management plan spanning CDFW's Nelson Slough Wildlife Area, Goose Club and Dos Rios project (above) that relies on the best available science and informs future bypass floodplain management for fish population benefits.

[Read More on this Project](#)

Conaway Ranch Floodplain Restoration Project

Aids in rearing and food production for fish and waterfowl

Conway Ranch is working on an effort to use nearly 4,000 acres of historical floodplain lands to generate food and rearing habitat for endangered fish. The project is designed to maximize value of future flows provided through the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage project, and the selected alternative for modification of the Freemont Weir allowing for increased inundation in the Yolo Bypass. The project will also integrate current wildlife habitat enhancements already on the Conaway Ranch site.

