



Big Trucks for Baby Fish



This year, folks may be surprised to see construction equipment on the gravel bar and in the river at Sacramento Bar. However, despite the bulldozers, the noise and disruption, this project is restoring the river for salmon and steelhead.

This stretch of river was once well used by salmon and steelhead building redds (“nests”), but now this area goes almost unused. *“Back in the 1980’s I used to watch the salmon building redds all over this area”* says fisheries biologist Joe Merz. *“But most of the suitable spawning gravels have been washed out in the big floods. We want to see this part of the river healthy again.”* The project will be excavating a new side channel through the bar and lowering the floodplain, sorting and washing these excavated gravels, and adding the clean gravels to the river. Once finished, it will be an ideal area for salmon and steelhead to spawn, as well as providing protected nursery areas for the new young fish to grow bigger.

This will be our eighth project for restoring fish spawning gravel beds and improving juvenile fish rearing habitat on the lower American River. Previous years’ projects have been built along Sailor Bar, River Bend Park, and Nimbus Shoals. **Construction will begin as early as August 1st and will be completed by mid October. Work will be scheduled Monday through Friday from 7am to 6pm.** This river restoration is being completed through a partnership of the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and the Water Forum.

If you have any questions, please contact Lilly Allen at lallen@waterforum, (916) 808-1997.

