

**Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Floodplain and Riparian Habitat Feasibility Study**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

**Scope of the Project**

Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) will be conducting a feasibility project to investigate floodplain and riparian habitat restoration along the west bank of the Sacramento River (RM 239.5 to RM 238) at the La Barranca Unit in Tehama County, California (project site). The feasibility investigation will determine procedures to reclaim a former gravel mining operation at the project site. The abandoned gravel pits have the potential to cause fish entrapment and subsequent mortality. This investigation will also identify procedures to remove a failed levee system at the site. The levee, owned by the Refuge, was constructed by a private landowner prior to acquisition; therefore, it is not a part of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers= flood control project. The levee system hinders natural riparian process at the site and has the potential to cause flood related problems on the opposite bank.

**Justification and Benefits of the Project**

The objective of this project is to determine the feasibility of eliminating a source of fish mortality resulting from past gravel mining operations at the site and to restore riparian processes lost to the existing levee system. The restoration of the project site meets the goals and objectives of the Refuge, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (AFRP), and the Upper Sacramento River Fisheries and Riparian Habitat Management Plan (SB 1086) as it relates to the protection of fish and riparian habitat on the Sacramento River and its tributaries. Benefits include increased fish passage, recruitment of riparian vegetation, increase riparian habitat base including creating and exposing shaded riverine aquatic habitat, and improved distribution of flood flows potentially reducing flood damage within this reach of the Sacramento River.

**Monitoring and Data Evaluation**

The feasibility investigation will identify the scope of work for the reclamation, restoration, and monitoring of the project site. Included will be the hydrological modeling of flow dynamics for this reach of the floodplain, project restoration and engineering plans and specifications, an environmental assessment to fulfill NEPA requirements, and monitoring methods, materials and data collection necessary to monitor and evaluate project success.

**Cost: \$51,100**

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