

Basso/La Grange Reach Floodplain Restoration Project Phase 1 – Implementation

Organization: Tuolumne River Preservation Trust

Project Period: June 2024 – December 2025

Amount: \$549,482.23

Location: La Grange, CA

Project Description: This project will create new habitat for Fall-run Chinook Salmon and O.mykiss in the Tuolumne River in an area with extensive armored floodplains disconnected from the river channel. Floodplain surfaces would be lowered, improving juvenile salmonid rearing habitat. Coarse sediment from excavated floodplain will be used to create spawning habitat and stockpiled for future work. Two ponds harboring invasive predatory fish will be filled, and remnants of an old haul road bridge will be removed from the river. The project will also enhance aquatic microhabitats and stabilize the channel through a native re-vegetation plan. \$549,482.23 will be applied to construction implementation of Phase 1 (estimated at \$2,702,677) including pre-construction surveys and resource monitoring.

Progress: Basso/La Grange Phase 1 Implementation is mostly complete, with a small amount of work remaining to be done this season and next. Both dredger pits have been filled and graded. Coarse sediment fill for those areas was extracted from the area above the first dredger pit, which was brought down to grade to now serve as new high floodplain. Grading and filling was done according to the design (with some modifications that will be described in the As-Built Report); additionally the two spawning riffles have been built in the channel (using gravel that was extracted and washed from the high floodplain), the river gravel bar has been installed (material also sourced from high floodplain area), and revegetation work is underway and will be complete in two weeks (over 70,000 plants). All bridge remnants on the south bank of the river have been removed. Next season (summer 2025), remaining Phase 1 work will entail completing the old haul road/bridge removal, monitoring requirements, and revegetation maintenance to ensure plant survival.



Filling in Floodplain 1 with pit run material. The yellow turbidity curtain is in place to keep as much sediment as possible inside the floodplain area as opposed to letting it flow down the main channel. Large pulses of sediment can be harmful to fish populations, so a multitude of mitigation measures were installed wherever machines and/or sediment were entering the river.