

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

KINGS RIVER FISHERIES PROJECTS

PRIORITY NEEDS: Funding for planning, design, and construction is needed for projects that support the mission of the Kings River Fisheries Management Program to improve and enhance the Kings River watershed and fishery habitat while maintaining beneficial uses, recognizing that a healthy river is essential to the region's well-being and future quality of life.

PROJECT #1: GRAVEL AUGMENTATION OR INJECTION BELOW US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BRIDGE

PROJECT FUNDING NEED: \$500,000-\$800,000 to complete design and construction, then \$60,000 - \$120,000 annually* to maintain the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will entail the injection/placement of 5,300 cubic yards of gravel to enhance streambed habitat in the reach of the Kings River just below Pine Flat Dam.

KEY BENEFITS: Create approximately 2.5 acres of spawning habitat that could potentially support up to 2,200 rainbow trout redds (nests). Expand spawning opportunities for native fish and provide colonization areas for benthic macroinvertebrates, a fish food source.

PROJECT STATUS: Project design is 30% complete.

*Disclaimer: Project is scalable and may not require gravel injection every year.



PROJECT #2: THORBURN CHANNEL ENHANCEMENTS

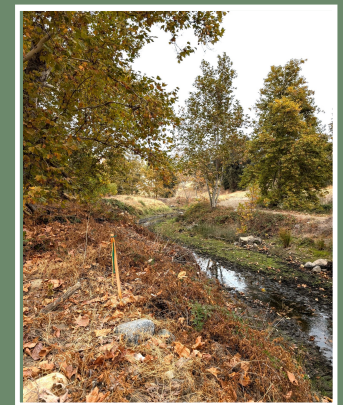
PROJECT FUNDING NEED: \$623,000 - \$825,000 one-time

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project will involve enhancing the 2,200-foot Thorburn Channel to improve habitat and ecosystem for rearing fish and other aquatic species by considering alterations to the flow intake structure, grading within the side channel, and removing k-rail near the mouth of the channel.

KEY BENEFITS:

- Create spawning habitat for rainbow trout and other fish species
- Climate change response to intense flood release events; widening channels to prevent sediment and gravel from pushing through quickly, slowing flows during flood releases. This protects the fishery, downstream agriculture, and communities

PROJECT STATUS: Project design is 30% complete. Work is underway to secure a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake and Streambed Alteration Permit. Baseline monitoring efforts began in 2023 to document water flow and fish assemblage in the Thorburn Channel.



The Kings River Fisheries Management Program is a voluntary cooperative effort between the Kings River Conservation District, Kings River Water Association, and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife. This program, described as a model partnership, exists to promote collaboration, transparency, and understanding among diverse interests.