

## SALT RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

### Information and Updates

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### Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project 2015

The Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project Middle Phase 2A contract for restoration to the Salt River channel was awarded to Hanford Applied Restoration & Conservation. Construction and restoration activities took place along Port Kenyon Road from July through the first week of October. Activities included building construction entrances off Port Kenyon Road, excavation of channel sediment, and off hauling of channel materials for agricultural reuse.

[Fish Sampling on the Salt River 2014/2015](#)

August 5, 2014

### Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project 2014

Work to restore the Salt River has resumed for the 2014 construction season. Hanford Applied Restoration and Conservation (Hanford ARC) is the successful bidder for this season's work. Last year 2.5 miles of Salt River channel downstream of Reas Creek were restored and hundreds of acres of tidal marsh created. This year's effort builds on last year's restoration success.

Crews from Hanford ARC are working to restore 1.2 miles of the Salt River; from Reas Creek to just upstream of Dillon Road Bridge.



Construction road under Dillon Road Bridge



Channel excavation August 2014

During July and August Hanford ARC removed stumps, large wood, and vegetation from the channel footprint and started to excavate the channel and floodplain. Construction activities for this year will continue into mid-October. During the winter, plants will be installed.

Over the past few years, the project team worked closely with interested agricultural producers and with regulatory agencies to develop a way to effectively utilize the excavated sediment within the Ferndale valley. Sediments are being hauled to several locations throughout the valley, depending on a variety of factors. All sites that are receiving sediments required specialized re-use plans that were reviewed and approved by regulatory agencies in advance. Some of the re-use sites include agricultural fields. Interested producers worked closely with the project team to coordinate their management activities with delivery of the organically approved sediment so they can work the soils into their fields. This mimics the natural process of sediment deposition that has occurred for years on the delta during flood events.



Landowner coordinating with project team to incorporate delivered sediment

March 31, 2014

[Click Here: Fish Surveys in the Restored Salt River Estuary Phase 1 \(Riverside Ranch\)](#)

October 16, 2013

*Information and Updates Provided by the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District*

The Humboldt County Resource Conservation District is excited to announce that in the following days, Phase 1 of the Salt River Project is coming to a close.

During the second week of October, the three coffer dams on the Salt River were removed; allowing fresh and tidal waters to flow into the restored lower section of Salt River and the newly-created 300-acre tidal marsh area. The new tidal area will help maintain the width and depth of the Salt River channel and enhance rearing habitat and migration conditions for Coho salmon, Chinook Salmon, steelhead trout, and coastal cutthroat trout.

Work on the first phase of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project started in May, 2013. Now, just a little over five months later, slightly over two miles of setback berm has been built, two miles of the lower Salt River channel have been restored, and a 300-acre tidal marsh area constructed. As work on the first phase started to wrap up, work began on the next phase of the project; removing the vegetation that is choking the Salt River channel upstream of phase 1.

Congratulations and thanks to the many, many project partners and proponents. A special thanks goes to Anderson Dragline for completing the work on time and on budget; to Ducks Unlimited for construction management and oversight services; to SHN Engineering for construction inspection services; to GHD for environmental and permit compliance services; to all of the subcontractors; and to the landowners and residents along Port Kenyon Road and Riverside Road for their patience and tolerance during construction.

Let's continue to work together to restore the Salt!

Upstream Phase 1 grade control structure. The Smith Creek coffer dam was removed on 10/10/2013. Tide water influence can now be seen up to this point, just below Reas Creek.



Coffer Dam at removal and waters flowing into the newly excavated Salt River Channel 10/09/2013.

[Coffer Dam Removal Video Link](#)



Looking upstream Salt River from Dillon Road bridge. Vegetation clearing began on 10/2/2013.



### September 18, 2013

During the past two weeks project contractor Anderson Dragline, Inc has been working hard, putting the finishing touches on the restored tidal marsh and slough channel that comprises the first phase of the larger Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project. The dragline is making steady progress and widening the last few hundred feet to finish the restored tidal slough channel. We've included another aerial view of the project area taken September 15th, courtesy of Dave Kenworthy.

Last week three tidegates were installed by Nehalem Marine and this week trucks have been delivering the rock for the road that will top the setback berm.

Miller Farms of McKinleyville started applying erosion control seed and mulch over the disturbed soils and will continue to work over the next several weeks.

This week Steve Morris Logging has been grinding and chipping the woody debris that resulted from the initial clearing and grubbing that took place several months ago. Some of the chips will be used as mulch in areas that will be planted with riparian vegetation.

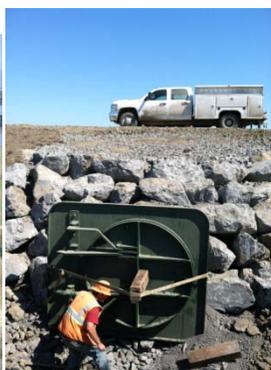
We had our first bit of rain this week with more in the forecast and this may cause a few adjustments to our schedule over the next few weeks. Buttoning up all the final details will take a bit of time and everything will need to be in place before the coffer dams can start to be pulled.

There are three coffer dams in the project and removing them must be coordinated with the tides. This means that the actual date to start removing the coffer dams is a bit of a moving target, but we're anticipating that it will happen sometime the first two weeks of October.

Meanwhile, McCullough Construction is slated to begin building construction entrances for Phase 2 off Port Kenyon road and removing vegetation from the interior of the corridor. This work is taking place in preparation for restoration work on the Salt River channel next year. The design plans for this next phase of restoration are being finalized and the work is expected to go out to bid sometime in the winter.



Courtesy of Dave Kenworthy



Tide Gate Installation



Top of Set Back Berm

### September 6, 2013

There's a hint of fall in the air and the construction season is starting to wind down for Phase 1 of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project.

As of this first week of September, Anderson Dragline, Inc has the setback berm built to grade and is in the process of finishing up the Salt River channel and internal grading.

Nehalem Marine has arrived on site and started installing the 3 tidegates for the project. The schedule is to have all three tidegates installed this week; clearing the way for the access road to be built along the top of the setback berm the week of the 16th. Miller Farms is coordinating with the team and getting ready to apply seed and mulch for erosion control.



GHD, Inc is finalizing the lower phase 2 design plans and the project team has been meeting with folks along the lower phase 2 footprint as we get ready to remove vegetation from a portion of the phase 2 channel footprint this month and next.

August 28, 2013

Thanks again to Dave Kenworthy and his trusty ultralight, we have some aerial photos to share with you showing progress on the tidal marsh restoration portion of the Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project. These were taken August 14th.



We're entering the home stretch of this first phase. All the interior pilot slough channels have been dug, except for the places where they will be connected to the Salt River channel. Work on this portion of the mainstem Salt River is about 80-85% complete. The dragline has about another 11 days of work in the channel and the excavators are cleaning up side slopes and catching those sections of the channel that had to be skipped to avoid nesting birds.

The setback berm is almost completely at grade and continues to be compacted in advance of being topped with a gravel road.

We're looking ahead to having the tidegates installed, finish grading the interior marsh area, and seeding and mulching the site over the next few weeks.

July 2013



Fish Crew-Smith Creek



Excavation of New Salt River Channel



Salt River Cofferd Dam



Spartina Mowing

May 2013



Fall 2012

Vegetation Removal-Preparation work for Phase I Construction 2013.



September 22, 2012

[Salt River Community Celebration](#)