

# LOWER DEER CREEK FLOOD AND ECOSYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE 1

Proposition 1 funded project for floodplain restoration along lower Deer Creek

## Deer Creek Watershed

Deer Creek is one of California's last remaining native Spring Run Chinook Salmon streams. From its headwaters in the high mountains near Lassen National Park, it flows through the rugged foothills of the Ishi Wilderness, onto the plains dotted with multi-generational family farms and ranches, and finally joins the Sacramento River on its way to the Pacific.

Deer Creek is the lifeblood of a dynamic and valuable fisheries, a healthy and diverse wildlife community, and traditions of sustainable timber harvest and family agriculture that dates back hundreds of years.



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project description is divided geographically for ease of explanation.

1. **Downstream of SVRIC Diversion Dam:** This section of the project has floodway and migration easements in three separate location along Deer Creek. These easements are necessary to alleviate flooding and improve fish migration in the lower reach of the Creek.
2. **SVRIC Diversion Dam:** Possible improvements are under consideration at Stanford-Vina Ranch Irrigation Company (SVRIC) Diversion Dam. These could include reinforcements to correct ongoing erosion, improved fish passage facilities, or installation of a movable dam to improve seasonal performance. Improved fish passage at the dam has been a focus of spring-run recovery efforts.
3. **Dam to Red Bridge:** This section of the project will focus on levee setbacks on both the north and south banks to allow for more flood conveyance. The area between the two levees will serve as a floodway easement to reduce local flooding. The levee setbacks will also encourage natural geomorphic function in this reach of the creek and will improve rearing habitat for spring-run juvenile salmon.
4. **Red Bridge:** The Red Bridge will be rebuilt with a width of about 450 feet and a height capable of passing design flood flows. The road leading to the bridge will also be raised to accommodate the higher bridge.
5. **Upstream of Bridge:** This section of the project will include the development of a riparian development zone which will be accomplished by removing or improving levees, bank protection, and channel grading. This would protect the current ecological function and reduce future risk of flooding to downstream landowners.

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*“Deer Creek Watershed. Our watershed: A special Creek.”*

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## URL TO MAP

<https://flowwest.shinyapps.io/deer-creek/>

