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NOAA AWARDS \$193,000 TO THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

The U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced a grant for \$193,000 to the California Conservation Corps as a multi-project partnership to restore habitat vital to the conservation of California's coastal fisheries. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The funding will support the first year of a three-year partnership between the CCC and the NOAA Restoration Center for restoration projects that benefit California's estuarine and riverine habitats. Such projects help recover marine and anadromous fisheries by providing salmon, steelhead and other aquatic species with cover from predators and swift water; reducing water temperatures; improving access to historic spawning and rearing areas; and preventing excess sediment from entering the system. The partnership objective is to implement on-the-ground habitat restoration projects that restore estuarine and riparian habitats, with the goal of recovering populations of salmon and steelhead in Coastal California. Types of projects may include fish passage barrier removal, large woody debris placement, riparian planting, invasive species removal, bank stabilization and cattle exclusionary fencing.

"This partnership between NOAA and the California Conservation Corps is a great example of the valuable projects and initiatives that NOAA grants help support. NOAA's goal of healthy coastal habitats and vibrant coastal communities can only be accomplished when there is strong local stewardship of the habitats that support our fisheries resources," said retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., under secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator.

"I am pleased that the Coastal Fisheries Restoration Program of the California Conservation Corps is able to form this valuable partnership with NOAA. We can now expand worthwhile developmental project opportunities for our young Californians," said Scott Wolsey, District Director for the Northern Service District of the CCC.

Through this award, the California Conservation Corps will work with federal, state, local and private organizations and landowners and involve over 300 corps members to implement habitat restoration projects benefiting estuarine and riparian habitats along 12 miles of streams and estuaries. This includes stabilizing 7,500 feet of stream bank, planting 15,000 trees, constructing 18,000 feet of exclusionary fencing, installing 300 log and/or boulder structures, modifying 9 barriers to fish passage and stabilizing 15,000 cubic yards of sediment in upslope areas.

The California Conservation Corps engages young men and women in meaningful work, public service and educational activities that assist them in becoming more responsible citizens, while protecting and enhancing California's environment, human resources and communities.

The NOAA Community-based Restoration Program has been working with community organizations and local governments to support locally driven habitat restoration projects in marine, estuarine and riparian areas since 1996. NOAA CRP funds on-the-ground habitat restoration projects that offer educational and social benefits for people and their communities in addition to long-term ecological benefits for fishery resources. To date, over 800 projects in 26 states have been implemented using NOAA funding and leveraged funding from national and regional habitat restoration partners. For more information on the CRP, please visit our website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration>.

Each year, NOAA awards approximately \$900 million in grants to members of the academic, scientific and business communities to assist the agency in fulfilling its mission to study the Earth's natural systems in order to predict environmental change, manage ocean resources, protect life and property, and provide decision makers with reliable scientific information. NOAA goals and programs reflect a commitment to these basic responsibilities of science and service to the nation for the past 33 years.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. To learn more about NOAA, please visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

As a non-regulatory agency, the CCC works in partnership with California Department of Fish and Game habitat staff, land managers, and land owners to scientifically identify and restore coastal watersheds that could benefit most from restoration and enhancement activities. During the 2003 fiscal year, the CCC partnered with over 40 watershed groups, land conservancies, federal agencies, counties, and nonprofit organizations to develop habitat enhancement projects. To date the CCC has restored close to 1,800 miles of coastal anadromous streams.