



California Rice

HELPING SALMON IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY

Collaborative Pilot Project

As part of an environmental initiative to help recover struggling salmon populations, California Rice has assembled a strong coalition of scientists, rice growers and project funding organizations. Our \$1.4 million pilot project will test and refine rice farming practices to provide habitat and food for fish.

California Rice has successfully worked with partners to specifically manage its floodplain farm fields to benefit millions of birds. We now look forward to adding to this legacy of conservation by using our “surrogate wetlands” to help fish in the Sacramento Valley.

Our first-year goals for this initiative on salmon include the following:

- Refine previous trials to grow salmon in winter-flooded rice fields into standardized management practices for use on farms near Sacramento River tributaries.
- Insert micro transmitters into 900 young Chinook salmon to track their journey from the Sacramento Valley all the way out to the Pacific Ocean.
- Determine the survivability of young salmon grown on highly productive winter-flooded rice fields in terms of the percentage of these fish successfully reaching adulthood.



Expertise

The science elements of this project will be led by the renowned **Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis** in collaboration with **California Trout**. Essential to the program’s success is coordination with the **California Department of Fish and Wildlife** providing valuable scientific expertise and supplying the hatchery fish for the project.



Project Funders

This new journey is made possible by a diverse coalition of funders:



Generous funding agreement from **USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** covering nearly half of the total project cost.



Major contribution from **Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC** of about one-third of the project costs.

Other valued contributing sponsors include:

