

# The Land Conservancy OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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VISIT US ONLINE AT: [WWW.LCSLO.ORG](http://WWW.LCSLO.ORG)

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## Land Conservancy Awarded Funding for Steelhead Habitat Improvement

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA - The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County was recently awarded \$42,895 grant funding for the restoration of **1.5 miles** of Lower San Luis Obispo Creek, aimed at protecting the local fish habitat, especially for threatened steelhead.

Last year, FishAmerica Foundation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center identified and funded eighteen community-based habitat restoration projects throughout the country including 3 projects located in California. The Land Conservancy is one of a select few award winners for 2010.

The Land Conservancy's *Lower San Luis Obispo Creek Floodplain Preserve Habitat Enhancement Project* involves extensive community outreach and volunteer participation. In one year, **500 volunteers** are expected to contribute **3,000 hours** of work removing invasive cape ivy and replanting new native vegetation.

*"This grant provides critical support for our volunteer program and serves as the catalyst for sustainable habitat restoration and stewardship of our Lower San Luis Obispo Creek Floodplain Preserve. We are very thankful for the opportunity to do this valuable work and can't wait to get started"* says **Kaila Dettman**, Deputy Director of The Land Conservancy.

Removing the invasive species, cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), and re-vegetating the stream banks with native plant species improves habitat for the Southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) population in San Luis Obispo Creek, an important waterway for the species survival. NOAA recommends these restoration activities as priority for the recovery of fish habitat.



With extensive experience removing invasive species from the upper portion of San Luis Obispo Creek, The Land Conservancy is uniquely suited to undertake the project and involve local volunteers in the restoration of the site. The Land Conservancy aims to leverage partnerships with sport fishermen, students, university organizations, and community members, to complete the project. The work that volunteers complete will provide for future nature education activities on site, as well as affect the community users of the proposed Bob Jones Bike Trail that will pass by this property.

Those interested in working on the stream enhancement, both removal and re-vegetating of plant species, at the Lower San Luis Obispo Creek site, can sign up as a volunteer at [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org). Contact (805) 544-9096 or email [VOLUNTEER@LCSLO.org](mailto:VOLUNTEER@LCSLO.org) to get more information.

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**Photos of cape ivy (above) credited to Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.**

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**The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County** is a local nonprofit working to protect and restore land for the benefit of people and wildlife. Since its formation in 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 11,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org) or call (805) 544-9096.

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