

# One Small Step for Man: One Giant Leap for Steelhead

*by Sandy Goldman*

2013

From late June until mid-October 2012, the first major project in our watershed to remove a barrier to fish passage, the Lansdale Fish Passage Improvement Project, was implemented, after ten years of planning. The project was funded by the California Department of Fish and Game's Fishery Restoration Grant Program. The Town of San Anselmo was the lead agency, with construction management by Stetson Engineers and project management by Friends of Corte Madera Creek.

The project includes a number of features to help fish at all life-stages move up and down the stream, winter and summer. The first job was to install fish screens to keep fish out of the work area. The contractor, Glissman Excavating, filled sandbags and built two temporary dams between the fish screens to limit the amount of water in the work area. Between the two dams, water flowed through a diversion pipe around the work area. In July, Glissman installed baffles to form pools in one side of the culverts. August was occupied by drilling pilings and tie-backs to support structures. The pool-and-drop fishway, immediately downstream of Center Boulevard, was constructed in September. The sandbag dams were removed October 9 and water began filling the finished project.

Post-construction work includes planting in areas disturbed during construction and monitoring creek flow. Friends planned and will maintain the planting, which was installed by a Conservation Corps North Bay crew. More than 400 plants will receive drip irrigation during dry seasons for three years.

One part of monitoring is to take photos using two time-lapse cameras. One camera is fastened to a tree downstream of the fishway; a second is on the bank above the fishway. These photos will be used by the design team to evaluate flows in the fishway. On the cameras we hope to capture spawning steelhead this winter, jumping up the new fishway on their way to now more accessible upper reaches of San Anselmo Creek.



*Clockwise from top left: a Glissman Excavating crew installs forms for the fishway walls, as engineers check the work; giant reed was removed from a relatively steep slope, subsequently covered with erosion-control matting, into which a CCNB crew installs native plants; Sandy Goldman demonstrates that darned skills still have a place; the completed fishway, visible from Center Boulevard. Photos by Sandy Goldman and Charles Kennard*

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