NID

Hemphill Fish Passage

The Project

Auburn Ravine is identified as a salmon and steelhead habitat northeast of the City of Lincoln in Placer County.

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) purchased the Hemphill Diversion Dam in 1933. The early eight-foot-tall concrete structure diverted water from Auburn Ravine into the Hemphill Canal, located south of the ravine, for delivery to district raw water customers.

The Hemphill Diversion was identified as an impediment to fish migration and listed on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2019 Fish Passage Priorities.

The dam, which was a barrier to fish, is being replaced with a system that opens up approximately six miles of habitat to migrating and resident fish on the upstream side of the diversion. The new system also allows water delivery to customers via the Hemphill Canal. First flows occurred in November 2022.

Benefits to Fish

* Construction of a roughen-rock ramp fish passage is designed for low and high flow conditions.
* A new headgate and fish screen in the Hemphill Canal prevents fish entrapment while maintaining raw water deliveries to NID customers.
* Approximately six miles of habitat is opened.

The species targeted in the design include both juvenile and adults for the Central Valley Fall Run Chinook Salmon (Federal and California Endangered Species Act) and California Central Valley DPS Steelhead (Federal Endangered Species Act), as well as the juvenile and adult Pacific Lamprey (California species of concern).

Cost

Total project cost is $4.5 million. NID secured a California Wildlife Conservation Board grant of $1.5 million in 2022 for construction and installation activities.

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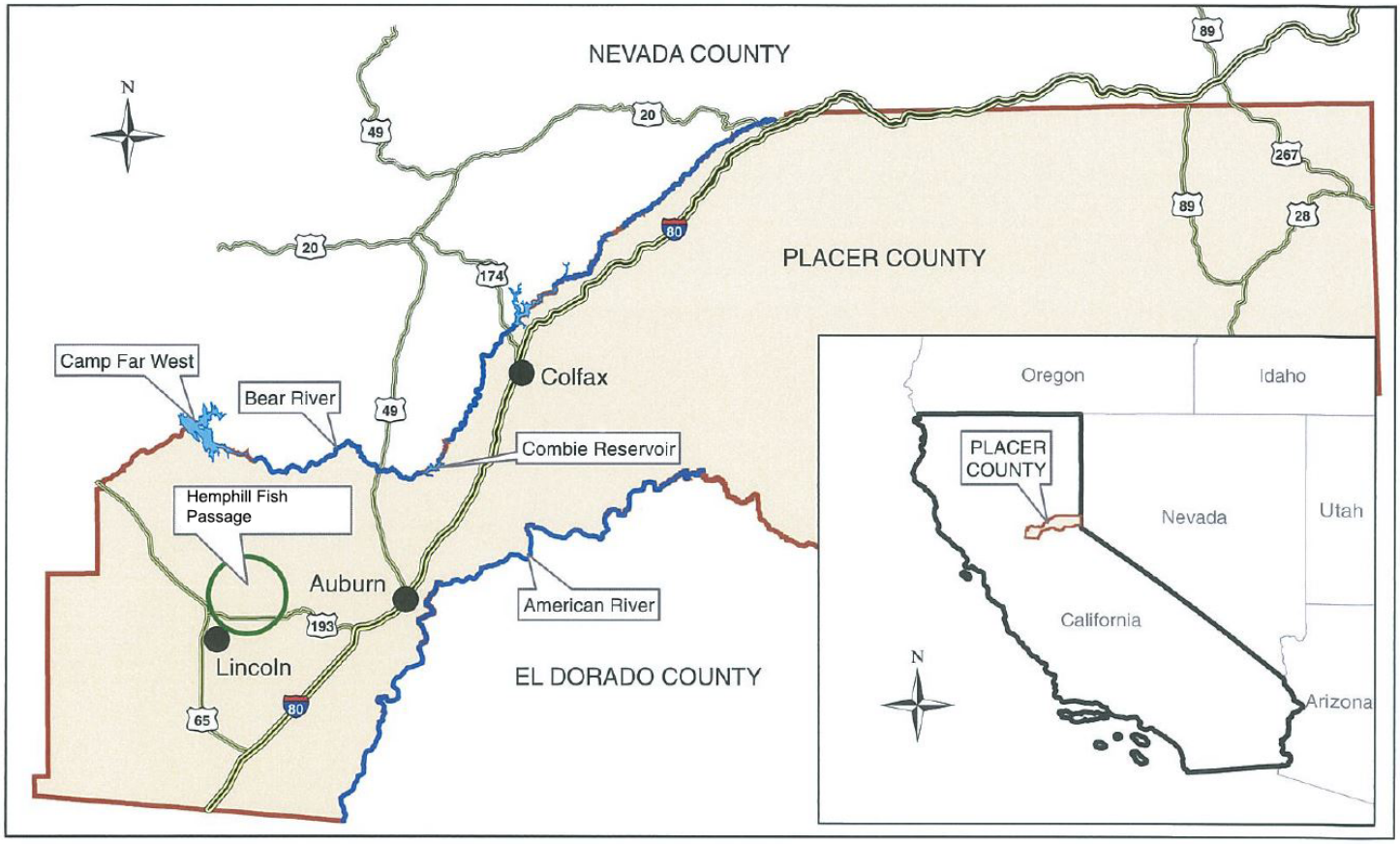

About NID

For more than 100 years, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) has been delivering high-quality water to its customers. What began as an old reservoir and canal system built during the California Gold Rush has been transformed into a modern public water system.

NID water originates as snowmelt found in 70,000 acres of high-elevation watershed near the headwaters of the Yuba River, Bear River and Deer Creek. Our dedicated employees manage water around the clock, moving supplies to one of 29 reservoirs, and later releasing water destined for drinking to one of six water treatment plants for filtration and purification.

The water passes through hundreds of miles of canals and pipes to become irrigation for farms and fields and drinking water for local neighborhoods. The annual result is three billion gallons of high-quality drinking water and enough irrigation water for 32,000 acres of agricultural land.

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