

# The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

**May 4, 2005**

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) - Boosting efforts to bring salmon and steelhead trout back to the Bay Area, a wildlife foundation has donated nearly \$2.2 million to help restore fish habitats.

Eleven grants, to be matched by state and local agencies, will go toward improving salmon habitat in San Francisco Bay tributaries, particularly for the central coast steelhead trout. The steelhead is listed as a threatened species.

Among the donation, two \$500,000 awards will be used to remove obstacles in the lower end of the 700-square-mile Alameda Creek watershed, into which healthy steelhead trout have repeatedly been seen trying to migrate.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a nonprofit created by Congress in 1984, awarded the grants in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, the state Department of Fish and Game and Caltrans.

"It's a first step in a whole series of fish passage projects in the lower creek that are really the key to steelhead restoration on Alameda Creek," said Jeff Miller, director of the Alameda Creek Alliance.