

# Study says moving McGrath campground could help native wildlife

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OXNARD, Calif. - Moving the McGrath State Beach campground in Oxnard to higher ground could help steelhead and other native fish and birds, and benefit potential campers, a study says.

On Wednesday, the Wishtoyo Foundation, a nonprofit group in Ventura County, announced the release of a feasibility and design study for the Santa Clara River Estuary area. It was conducted in partnership with California State Parks and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The study's preferred restoration concept includes two areas:

The McGrath campground, which regularly has flooded and closed in recent years, would be relocated to higher ground. The new 43-acre spot, farther down the beach, would include campground facilities as well as dune, wetland and riparian habitats.

A restoration area would span roughly 42 acres, including the site of the current campground.

The goal isn't to restore the area back to some fixed, historical condition, the study says. Instead, the idea is to "jump-start the estuary back to a more natural and dynamic site" that would evolve naturally with changing conditions while providing habitat for steelhead and other native species.

The study was principally funded through the state's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Additional funds were provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the McGrath Trustee Council.

To see the study, go to <http://www.wishtoyo.org/santa-clara-river-estuary-restoration> (<http://www.wishtoyo.org/santa-clara-river-estuary-restoration>).

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