

California Fish Passage Forum

March 28, 2018 meeting

Location: Arcata, CA

Attendees: Bob Pagliuco, Tom Schroyer, Anne Elston, Stan Allen, Jon Mann, Melinda Molnar, Javier Linares, Damon Goodman, Allan Renger, Scott Monday, Clarence Hostler, Rick Macala, Sharon Powers, Kristine Pepper

Remotely: Steve Brumbaugh, Michael Bowen, Holly Eddinger, Michelle Gilroy, Susan Leroy, John Wooster, Mike Mertens, Cari Williams, Jeff Abrams, Christina Wang, Stacie Adams, Paul Petros

I. Welcome and Introductions

Forum members reviewed action items from previous meeting (all completed), and walked through the new Forum website.

II. Forum Committees/Budget

- a. Update from Bob Pagliuco—Jonathan Birdsong (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) has funding to support fish passage projects in the following areas: \$15 million with Los Padres National Forest, \$20 million with Angeles National Forest, \$3.5 million with El Dorado National Forest, \$3.5 million for Lassen National Forest, and \$3 million for preventative work. He is exploring partnerships with Forest Service engineers – looking at Shasta, Trinity, Klamath, to prioritize passage. Projects will be conducted in the footprint of the fires.
- b. Forum members
 1. Steve Rothert of American Rivers will be leaving the Forum soon – their organization does not have the capacity or the time to contribute to Forum outcomes. Other potential Forum members– Bob reached out to Brian Johnson (CA representative for Trout Unlimited). Trout Unlimited implements fish passage projects throughout the state of CA. Their organization has received funding from the Forum, and Anna Halligan has participated in some Forum meetings.
 2. The Coastal Commission is responsible for permitting and authorizing development work – Melinda has reached out to Lauren Garske-Garcia; she is considering joining the Forum.
 3. Candice Meneghin is leaving Caltrout in a few weeks; she will be involved in fish passage in Southern California (Friends of Santa Clara River, stakeholder committee, Matilja dam removal, etc.). They are working on a new lead – potentially Sandi Jacobsen. **Action item:** Lisa will send out request for nominations, and the Forum will then vote on a new Vice Chair.
- c. Forum Committee Work Plans
 1. The Governance Committee presented its work plan.
 - i. Caltrans' project delivery and implementation is a strength of the Caltrans organization – perhaps the Forum has an opportunity to engage practitioners in a more robust discussion of project delivery – how to successfully execute fish passage projects. Outline the process for grant funding to support a project through to implementation. **Action item:** Lisa to add to

agenda for the next Governance Committee meeting.

2. The Science and Data Committee presented its work plan.

- i. **Action item:** We need to have regular status updates on the science and data informing FISHPass – science and data, cost data, PAD data, fish passability for each type of barrier, etc. Steve Brumbaugh will add this to the Science and Data Committee work plan.
- ii. **Action item:** The new NFHP database will have cost information that may be useful informing FISHPass. We need to develop a timeline and approach to filling the gaps – add to the Science and Data Committee work plan.
- iii. Jump test project—**Action item:** Bob will check in with Dave White and Rick Wantuck on the status of the project and a future presentation to the Forum. In addition, the summer Forum meeting will include a visit to the hatchery where the testing is taking place.

Action item: As fish passage projects are implemented – figure out how to update the PAD to incorporate assessment work – add to Science and Data Committee work plan.

3. The Outreach and Education Committee presented its work plan.

Action item: Finalize all committee work plans and send to Lisa for compilation by April 7, 2018.

d. Budget—Stan Allen presented an updated budget for the Forum.

USFWS Funding - new 5-year agreement (8/8/16 - 9/30/20)	Budgeted	Spent	Obligated	Remaining
Personnel and benefits - PSMFC	\$23,607	\$3,711	\$19,896	\$0
Rents	\$1,000	\$133	\$867	\$0
Supplies/software	\$2,516	\$760	\$0	\$1,756
Subcontracts	\$312,954	\$0		\$20,328
Pennington			\$40,000	
Pacific lamprey			\$20,000	
Coordination Agreement			\$36,000	
Upper Green Valley			\$30,089	
Benbow Dam			\$58,499	
Davey Brown			\$44,538	
EcoTrust			\$63,500	
Travel	6,270	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,270
Indirect rate - PSMFC	\$14,941	\$7,860	\$7,081	
	\$361,288	\$12,464	\$323,470	\$25,354

Multi-state conservation grant program - Funds must be expended by 12/31/18

New 2018 Funding - Small Dams Removal Monitoring in S California	\$16,000			

Harvey Diversion	\$44,836
Mid-Klamath	\$36,680
Neefus	\$39,513
Cooper	\$87,230

Action item: Harvey Diversion project – Bob to check in with Mary Larson/Sandi Jacobsen on the status of this project.

- e. The Forum discussed the annual small grant funding cycle. **DECISION:** The motion was made, and seconded, to initiate the call for proposals from November 1 to September 1 so that the Forum can conclude the process before the holidays each year. All Forum members present at the meeting unanimously voted to move the date to September 1 – no opposed. **Action item:** Lisa will revise the schedule, and we will start our solicitation process September 1 annually beginning in the Fall of 2018. In addition, the Governance Committee will craft a one-page document that describes the Forum’s funding processes to ensure there is a transparent, shared understanding.
- f. Bylaw amendments—**DECISION:** A motion was made, and seconded, to make two modifications to the bylaws to better reflect the minimum number of times the Forum convenes annually and to ensure non-Forum members are welcome to attend Forum meetings. All Forum members present at the meeting unanimously voted to adopt the bylaw changes. **Action item:** Lisa will amend the bylaws and post to the website.
- g. Waters to Watch—**Action item:** Scott Monday suggested nominating Manly Gulch for a 2018 10 Waters to Watch project. Lisa will draft the nomination—Scott will provide any additional information about the watershed to provide context for the nomination.

III. Lamprey PAD project

Damon Goodman presented on the work the Forum funded relative to the state’s Passage Assessment Database (PAD) and Pacific lamprey. Damon and Stewart created data layers of historical and current distribution of Pacific lamprey. This layer is now available on BIOS. They published *Recommendations for modifications of the California Passage Assessment Database for Pacific lamprey*. Some fields in the PAD may need some additional options associated with them. The next step is to determine what pieces to implement and insert into the user interface and PAD – share the proposal with CDFW and the Forum, and then develop a plan to change the structure of the PAD, and ensure it can be implemented in BIOS. It is important to ensure this process dovetails with existing efforts. Stewart and Damon have some recommendations for modifying the Fish Passage Incidental Report (First Pass Data Sheet).

Action item: The Science and Data Committee will be reviewing the form and deciding what changes to make to the form. The last step will be testing the form and apply it to the Sacramento drainage. If the Forum thinks it is worthwhile to test it in the Sacramento drainage, then Damon and Stewart could develop a proposal. It was suggested that Damon consider testing it in the Klamath. It was also suggested that Damon progress in a step-wise fashion, completing the activity with Anne first, and then submitting an official proposal to the Forum through the annual NFHP funding process.

IV. Christina Wang – USFWS – Spokesperson for the Pacific lamprey FHP.

Christina Wang presented on behalf of the Pacific Lamprey Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP), discussing the origin of the partnership, its many partners, their goals, and activities to date. The Forum discussed the nexus between the lamprey partnership and the Forum and potential ways the two could work together. It was noted that the Pacific Lamprey FHP is

one of the FHP partnerships that “fits” close to the Forum. The Forum does have some funding, and has worked with WNTI and PMP – there is a great deal of potential opportunity to work with PLFHP. Both partnerships have few financial resources, but can guide other people’s funding with science and data. A good example of this is the Bonneville fund, which is directing its resources to the highest priorities for Pacific lamprey in that region.

Action item: Damon to present information on Pacific lamprey to the FishPACs.

Action item: Lisa to talk with Christina about potential funding for a joint Forum/Pacific lamprey FHP project.

National Fish Passage Forum – **Action item:** Lisa will set up a conference call with Javier, Anne, Lisa, Ryan to develop a concept/proposal to conduct fish passage assessments on non-state highways, then Lisa can develop grant proposals to fund these assessments.

V. NorWeST and FISHPass

Brett and Damon discussed ways to consider incorporating NorWeST into FISHPass, noting the Southwest Fisheries Science Center staff is working to develop species preferences for habitat and temperature, and seem to be attempting to model what the Forum seeks to model. Brett has been in contact with them, and will continue to do so moving forward so that the Science and Data Committee can assess the utility and relevance of their work to FISHPass.

Action item: Science and Data Committee will discuss developing a plan to incorporate how NorWeST and FISHPass can be used. Stream temperature is one of many parameters that can be used to get at habitat quality.

VI. Forum/NFHP annual report

Lisa walked the Forum through the report we submitted to NFHP to develop a shared understanding of what is submitted annually that informs Forum annual funding.

VII. Ecotrust and the FISHPass user-friendly interface

Mike Mertens from Ecotrust presented on the FishPASS user-friendly interface, including background on Ecotrust and the team, their process, their timeline, and an example of a comparable decision support tool they are working on, Snow2Flow. It was suggested that Ecotrust present one or more examples similar to Snow2Flow at the upcoming SRF FISHPass workshop.

As part of their development process, Ecotrust is conducting a user needs assessment. To gain further insight, they like to interview each Forum member about how users might want to interact with the tool. This will inform the design and functionality of the tool to meet user needs. **Action item:** All Forum members need to schedule a time slot here: <https://slotted.co/fishpassusers>, and please feel free to share with others that you believe could be interviewed to help inform the process and outcomes.

VIII. California Conservation Partnership

Javier presented on the MOU for the Landscape Conservation of Natural Resources in California through the California Conservation Partnership. Numerous other federal and states agencies as well as nonprofit and local groups have signed the MOU. **Action item:** Respective agencies will talk with their organizations about the Forum signing the MOU, and we will discuss at the next Forum meeting.

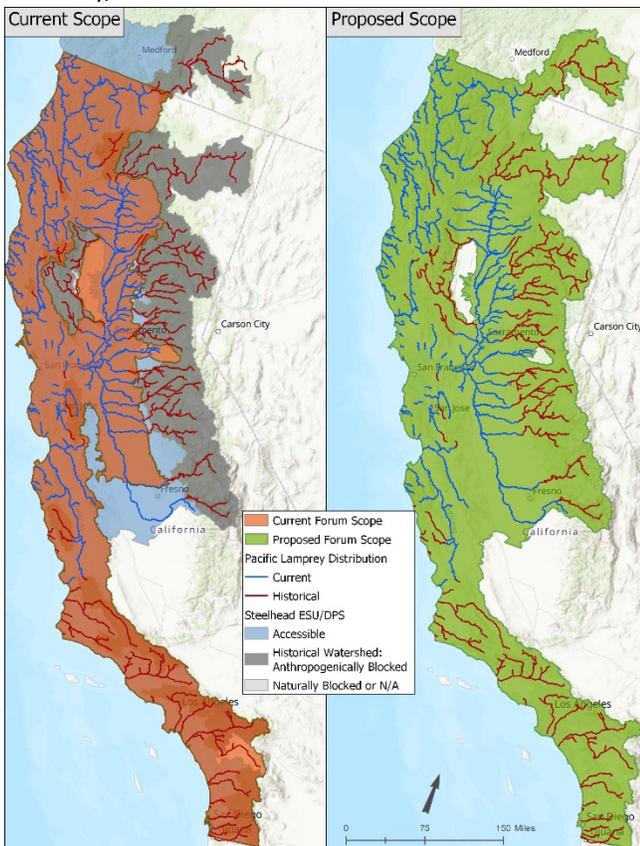
IX. April SRF Workshop

Lisa, Brett, and Anne summarized the agenda for the upcoming SRF workshop. On the limitations and strengths portion of the agenda, we were encouraged to not focus on the limitations – focus on the positives.

X. Update: Allen Renger shared information about the FERC relicensing associated with PGE Eel River dams (Cape Horn and Scott dams) – fisheries resource agencies supported analysis of passage alternatives for both dams – there will be studies during the next 2 years for the FERC relicensing process. There is a parallel process to inform PGE that is outside the FERC process to review water balance and fish passage issues (concurrently). Allen Renger, Jon Mann, and Damon Goodman are involved in the process. The dams are licensed as hydropower projects.

XI. Forum Geographic Scope

Brett completed his GIS analysis (assignment from last Forum meeting) and presented for consideration a new geographic scope for the Forum. The current scope does not include areas of historical anadromy as well as some areas of current anadromy, it was developed using CalWater watershed boundaries, and it divides key watersheds, such as the Klamath and Smith on the Oregon/California border. The goal of the GIS exercise was to expand the scope to include areas of historical anadromy (based on current ESU/DPS boundaries and newly developed historical Pacific lamprey distribution, align with the national watershed boundary data standard (Watershed Boundary Dataset), and include areas of cross-border watersheds in Northern California and Southern Oregon.



DECISION: The motion was made, and seconded to adopt the proposed scope, filling in/closing the two open areas. Forum members present unanimously approved the motion.

Action item: Brett will send Lisa the revised and updated map to include in the Forum’s strategic framework.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will be in Santa Rosa the last week of July or first two weeks of August.

Action item: Lisa will send a Doodle to check on availability of Forum members, and will search for an appropriate meeting location for a 1.5-2-day meeting that includes field activities, such as visiting the jumping ability test hatchery. Suggestions for a summer 2018 meeting location include Sonoma County, NMFS, or the Ocean Salmon Office. It was also suggested that the Forum consider March 2019 in Redding.