



# California Fish Passage Forum

## Virtual Winter Meetings

### November 2 & December 2, 2020

### Overview of Action Items from Both Meetings

- All Forum Signatory Agencies planning to remain part of the Forum will send Alicia their signatures for the updated MOU ASAP.
- Alicia will work with new Forum representatives and alternates from DWR and NOAA to orient them to the Forum's committees, intranet and other resources.
- Alicia will move forward with recommended projects from the FY21 and submit them as part of the FY21 USFWS/NFHP Annual Accomplishments Report and Work Plan.
- Forum members will send Alicia and/or Stan any recommendations for nominations to the new NFHP Board.
- New members sought for Governance and Education & Outreach Committees. Contact Bob and/or Alicia.
- New chair sought for Governance Committee. Contact Bob if interested.
- Contact Anna and/or Alicia with any ideas for tasks/focus areas for new Policy & Permitting Committee.

### Part 1: November 2, 2020

1:00pm – 4:00pm

**Attendees:** Bob Pagliuco (NMFS), Stan Allen (PSMFC), Damon Goodman (USFWS), Alex Jones (USFWS), Sandi Jacobson (CalTrout), Brett Holycross (PSMFC), Anna Halligan (Trout Unlimited), Holly Eddinger (USFS), Jon Mann (CDFW), Mark Gard (CDFW), Ryon Kurth (CDFW), Anne Elston (PSMFC/CDFW), Krissy Atkinson (CDWR), Terri Gaines (State Parks), Gena Lasko (State Parks), Sam Jenniches (Coastal Conservancy), Melinda Molnar (Caltrans), Chelsea Palisoc (CDWR), Owen Bissell (Independent Cinematographer/Filmmaker), Doreen Hansen (Humboldt RCD), Leah Tolley (NMFS), Scott Greacen (Friends of the Eel River), and Alicia Marrs (CFPF)

## November 2 Meeting Minutes

### Eel River Photography Project

In 2020 the Forum used expiring funds to support a media acquisition project with [Owen Bissell](#) to collect images of several fish passage projects in the Eel River, including sites where the Forum has supported fish passage barrier removals or remediations. Damon Goodman and Owen Bissell introduced the project, and the following speakers provided on-the-ground and local perspectives on each of the individual projects and their significance.

- Salt River - Doreen Hansen (Humboldt RCD)
- Benbow Dam - Leah Tolley (NOAA Restoration Center)
- Potter Valley Project - Scott Grecean (Friends of the Eel River)

The photos and videos produced through this project will be used by the Forum (and Forum signatories) to enhance the Forum's outreach efforts.

### Election of New Forum Chair

The Forum Chair (and Vice Chair) cannot serve more than two consecutive two-year terms. Bob's second term as Forum Chair will end at the end November 2020. Bob asked the Forum Steering Committee members present during the July meeting to approve extending his current term through the end of 2020. This motion was unanimously approved by representatives from all Forum Signatory Agencies present (Caltrans and Coastal Conservancy were not present at this point in the meeting, so they did not vote). Nominations were solicited, and Forum members were asked to contact Bob if they were interested in being nominated or nominating a colleague.

During this meeting Bob reviewed the reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Forum Chair which are as follows:

- Represent the Forum as its point person and spokesperson.
- Seek opportunities to solicit new Forum representatives to expand the capacity of the Forum to address fish passage issues in California.
- Serve as a member of the Governance Committee
- Facilitate periodic communication among Forum members to ensure progress on Forum action items.
- Communicate with the Vice Chair to ensure effective coordination, issue identification, and strategic implementation of action items.
- Work with the Forum Coordinator to develop and finalize the agenda for Forum meetings.

Sandi Jacobson (CalTrout) expressed interest in being nominated as Forum chair following the July meeting and Bob officially nominated Sandi Jacobson, highlighting her initiative, enthusiasm and substantial contributions to the Forum at this meeting. Sandi hit the ground running shortly after joining the Forum. She stepped up to co-chair the Science & Data Committee with Alex Jones, and has a unique, practitioners' perspective being based in SoCal

There were no objections and no other nominations voiced. Bob moved to nominate Sandi to be the next chair of the Forum. Damon seconded the nomination. The Forum held a vote and Sandi was unanimously elected to be the next Forum Chair through November 2022.

## MOU Signature Update

Following the July 2020 Forum meeting all current Forum signatories supplied updated language for their individual commitments. Alicia sent out the fully updated MOU (including text changes made following the July meeting (see the [July 2020 meeting minutes](#) for details), and Forum signatories worked within their respective organizations to collect the necessary signatures.

By the time of this meeting (Nov 2) all but two current signatories had submitted their signatures, and State Parks was also working to finalize their signature. Alicia will work with them to collect the signatures and assemble the MOU. Caltrans expressed doubt that they would sign the MOU, as they no longer able to commit to the original language.

## NFHP Legislation Update

On October 30, 2020 the President signed the America's Conservation Enhancement Act (SB 3051) into law, which includes language that contained NFHP reauthorization language (for the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act). While much will likely remain the same, the composition of the NFHP Board will be changing (increasing to 26 members and will include representatives from new sectors and industries in addition to the current fed/state/wildlife & fisheries agencies/conservation organizations representation of the current board). Stan's seat representing PSMFC is not guaranteed to be renewed, but could be. The same is true for Trout Unlimited.

Reconstituting the new Board will be the first task, and FHPs will have the opportunity to put forth names of representatives for consideration.

While USFWS stated during the recent FHP Coordinators Workshop and NFHP Board Meeting (Oct 19-22) that they expect to operate under status quo through FY21 due to expected continuing resolutions, there will also be changes at USFWS due to funding previously used to provide operational support to NFHP will be reduced. However, under the ACE Act five Federal agencies (NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFS, and USFWS) will receive \$400K to provide technical assistance and other support for NFHP.

The current Board Staff is also working on a new charter and work plan for the Board which Stan and Brian Moore (TU) have been assisting with. A new NFHP Action Plan is also expected to be released fairly quickly after the new Board is seated.

Alicia and Stan will continue to update the Governance Committee and Steering Committee with any news.

## Forum Administration

### Member Updates

- **NOAA Restoration Center**
  - NOAA is initiating a project in the Klamath to identify habitat conditions from the Iron Gate Dam to Link River Dam. In addition to identifying habitat restoration projects, work will also include a barrier assessment. NOAA will be working with PSMFC to hire a fisheries restoration technician to support this project.
  - Bob is working on finding an alternate from NOAA to the Forum.
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

- The National Fish Passage Program’s (NFPP) annual call for projects is currently open. Forum members were asked to reach out to Damon or Alex if they have or know of projects that could be good fits for this funding.
  - USFWS has been providing technical assistance and assisting in the implementation of multiple projects receiving Forum funding:
    - Applying FISHPass in the Smith River (2020) - initial work underway
    - Lamprey Passage at Rowdy Creek (2019) - installed a video monitoring system and is now completed.
    - Lamprey Passage Design for Priority Obstacles in the Sacramento Basin Phases 1 & 2 (2019 & 2020) – Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 underway and testing the First Pass Incidental Reporting mobile app developed by the Forum.
  - Additionally, in 2020 USFWS removed nine barriers despite delays and other challenges due to COVID.
- **California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)**
  - Tom Schroyer retired fall 2020, and CDFW is working to back fill his position. Hoping to have someone selected and on board in early 2021.
  - Mark has been working on helping to update information in the PAD, specifically, but not limited to barriers listed under the unknown sitetype.
- **California Department of Water Resources (DWR)**
  - Krissy Atkinson provided an update on the San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program.
    - DWR is working on grant agreements for the Prop 13 funding, several are fish passage projects.
  - Chelsea Palisoc recently joined DWR and will be getting involved in Forum activities and possibly one of the committees in 2021.
- **Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)**
  - PSMFC continues to support the Forum in a variety of ways through Brett & Anne’s work, and representation on most committees.
  - Many of the projects already discussed by other Forum members are also being supported in some way by PSMFC.
    - Central Valley the B13 program doing major restoration on the Sacramento system. Pre, during and post-project monitoring.
- **Trout Unlimited (TU)**
  - Most of North Coast Coho Program’s current work is occurring in Mendocino county (11 projects, three specifically on fish passage, and two of which were supported by the Forum). All barriers are removed and construction is complete. Good progress this year.
- **U.S. Forest Service (USFS)**
  - 2020 was a tough field season due to COVID restrictions, and then fires also slowed progress in field work.
  - USFS now has a new national fish program leader, Kimberly Conley, who will be supporting USFS’s representation to the NFHP board and participating in national NFHP activities etc.
- **CalTrout**
  - CalTrout has several fish passage projects underway in Southern California.
    - Santa Margarita bridge project (which received Forum funding in FY20) is in final design, and raising additional funding to start construction in 2021.
    - I-5 Metro Link project will benefit core 1 populations for SC steelhead. This project is also in final design stage and undergoing large physical modeling. Working on MOUs and getting the final design finalized to position it for

construction in two years. Project completion would result in first free flowing river in Southern California.

- Harvey Diversion now in 30% alternatives analysis. Friends of Santa Clara river completed 100% design. NMFS completed a biological opinion for dam below the Harvey diversion.
- In May and June continued demolition of dams in San Juan Creek, and are working on the remaining in Holy Jim and Upper Trabuco this summer/fall. Project is still engaging U.S. Marines from Camp Pendleton and nearing completion.

○ **Caltrans**

- Fish passage annual report was due on Oct 31, and should be finalized and sent to legislature soon. List of 30 fish passage projects Caltrans is working to remediate. One was in the lower Klamath.
- Caltrans has identified 65 priorities, and working to find opportunities to fund.
- Some of the SB1 tax funding for transportation will go towards Caltrans priority projects.
- Melinda recently briefed Caltrans director requesting \$360M for priority projects over the next five years. Largest funding request to date, would allow them to construct 29 additional bridges, and five hydraulic solutions where bridges are not feasible throughout the state, as well as multi-species cameras.

○ **Coastal Conservancy**

- Supporting various projects in Southern California – some mentioned earlier and associated with CalTrout. Planning for removal of four fish passage barriers in that region.
- In 2021, expect to see additional work coming up on the Ventura River, and McKinney Creek Fish Passage on the north coast. Variety of fish passage projects underway.
- Coastal Conservancy recently had a Prop 1 grant round close and received a few fish passage projects for consideration.

○ **Department of Parks & Recreation (State Parks)**

- Excited to be formally joining the Forum, and have been working to share the news with other State Parks district staff. In the process of elevating the MOU up internal review chains for signature, and hope to have that soon.
- Making progress on a dam removal on Malibu creek. The Corps is finishing up the feasibility report and other environmental documentation, and State Parks is finishing CEQA.
- Gena Lasko and Marisa Parsish have been working to identify where passage barriers exist within State Parks boundaries using the PAD etc. Especially curious to see if any of these barriers may have been impacted by recent fires, and if there are any priority barriers that could be tagged for future remediation using post-fire restoration funding.
- Plan to identify representatives from State Parks to sit on Forum committees in 2021.

**Forum Budget Update**

Stan Allen provided the following overview of the Forum’s current budget status.

**CFPF NFHP Budget Status (USFWS)**

1072.20; .21	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$ 32,496	\$ 0	\$ 32,496

<b>Rents</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>
<b>Supplies/Software</b>	<b>\$5,392</b>	<b>\$204</b>	<b>\$ 5,188</b>
<b>Printing</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>
<b>Sub-Contracts (*)</b>	<b>\$444,788</b>	<b>\$52,238</b>	<b>\$392,550</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$ 8,261</b>	<b>\$ 326</b>	<b>\$ 7,935</b>
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	<b>\$495,337</b>	<b>\$55,768</b>	<b>\$439,569</b>
<b>Indirect</b>	<b>\$ 15,578</b>	<b>\$925</b>	<b>\$14,653</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$510,915</b>	<b>\$56,693</b>	<b>\$454,222</b>

### **Sub Contracts to Date**

New 5-Year Agreement with USFWS (F20AC00007)

#### **2019**

Forum Coordination (Alicia Marrs; 20-85)	\$60,000 (in progress)
Trout Unlimited (M-1) Road Crossing; 20-86)	\$81,857 (in progress)
Gold Ridge RCD (Iron Horse; 20-97)	\$20,039 (in progress)
Mid-Klamath Watershed Council (Seiad; 20-88)	\$28,856 (in progress)
Trout Unlimited (Upper Novo-Skunk; 20-87)	\$15,000 (in progress)
Tolowa Tribe (Pacific Lamprey - Rowdy)	\$19,500 (USFWS Direct)
Western Fishes (Pacific Lamprey – Sacramento)	\$34,853 (USFWS Direct)

#### **2020**

Forum Coordination (Alicia Marrs: 20—85-1)	\$60,000 (in progress)
Ross Taylor (Smith River FISHPass; 21-19)	\$28,000 (in progress)
California Trout (Santa Margarita; 21-18)	\$47,410 (in progress)
Trout Unlimited (Strawberry Creek; 21-20)	\$31,055 (in progress)
Shasta Valley RCD (M-G Weir; 21-16)	\$49,269 (in progress)
Watershed Center (W Tule Creek; 21-17)	\$15,301 (in progress)

#### **2021 RFP Recap**

The Forum’s 2021 annual funding opportunity was open from September 16 – October 16, 2020. The Forum received 10 proposals totaling \$530,440 in requested funding for fish passage projects in California. The proposals received ranged from barrier removals, assessments, to a media acquisition project.

Bob, Mark, Alex, Brett and Holly have volunteered to participate on the 2021 Review Panel and will be meeting on November 12 to discuss the proposals received. Their recommendations will be presented to the Governance Committee during their November 18 call, and the final recommendations will be presented to the Steering Committee during the upcoming December 2 meeting (Part 2 of this virtual Winter Meeting.

## Other Forum Business

- **Barriers to Tidal Connectivity Project Update (MSCG 2019)**

Alicia gave an update on the Barriers to Tidal Connectivity project the Forum received Multi State Conservation Grant (MSCG) funding for in FY19. This project is a collaboration with the Pacific Marine & Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) and the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI) with the goal of characterizing and synthesizing information available regarding the location of intertidal water crossing structures and their impacts on estuarine fish and their habitats.

On October 28, the Forum, PMEP and PLCI hosted a full day virtual symposium that was attended by more than 300 people from across the country. Speakers from the Forum included Damon Goodman and Anne Elston. The next day, there was an inter-FHP workshop

Next steps will be to synthesize outcomes from the workshop, present to each FHP's Science & Data Committees and identify mutual paths forward. A report will be developed summarizing the work done during the development of the ArcGIS data catalog in support of this effort as well as the outcomes from the workshop. Because the original SOW planned to support travel and other expenses associated with holding the symposium and workshop in person, a no-cost extension through December 2021 has been requested in order to have time to use the remaining funds. Once approved by AFWA and USFWS, the coordinators will reconvene the Inter-FHP Working Group assembled as part of this effort to identify a small project to build off of the needs/recommendations of the three FHPs.

*~End of Part 1 of the Winter Meeting~*

## December 2 Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Sandi Jacobson (CalTrout), Anna Halligan (Trout Unlimited), Bob Pagliuco (NOAA), Damon Goodman (USFWS), Alex Jones (USFWS), Holly Eddinger (USFS), Brett Holycross (PSMFC), Marisa Parish (State Parks), Melinda Molnar (Caltrans), Ruth Goodfield (NOAA), Ryon Kurth (CDFW), Stan Allen (PSMFC), March Gard (CDFW), Gena Lasko (State Parks), Anne Elston (PSMFC), Terri Gaines (State Parks), Krissy Atkinson (CDWR), and Alicia Marrs (CFPF).

## Forum Committee Updates

Each of the chairs/co-chairs of the Forum's four committees (Governance, Science & Data, and Education & Outreach) gave brief updates on the recent activities of their committees since the Forum's last (virtual) meeting on July 22, 2020.

The updated and compiled 2020 work plans are available on the [Committee Resources](#) page on the Forum's intranet. Additional highlights from each Committee's discussion include:

- **Governance Committee (Bob Pagliuco, chair):**
  - State Parks became a signatory of the Forum.

- Developed a new version of the Governance Committee work plan that rolls committee goals/tasks up into the Forum’s goals and objectives. Providing this as an example/template for the other Forum committees.
  - Oversaw the review of ranked proposals recommended received during the FY21 RFP and recommended by the review panel.
  - Sandi has joined the Governance Committee (per the Forum bylaws the chair of the Forum sits on the Governance Committee).
    - Bob again reminded the Forum that he has served as the chair of the Governance Committee for many years. He is not required to step down from this role now that he is no longer chair of the Forum, but if others are interested in participating in the Governance Committee, or becoming the chair please contact Bob.
- **Science & Data (Alex Jones, chair):**
    - Thanked Sandi for her time as co-chair of the Science & Data Committee. Now that she has taken on a new role as chair of the Forum she will be stepping back as co-chair and Alex Jones will continue as the sole chair.
    - Developing new monitoring case studies (continuing work of the committee from a few years back). Sandi is leading the effort and has developed a new spreadsheet to review potential barriers starting with Forum funded projects and barriers that have been nominated as Waters to Watch projects over the years by the Forum and other FHPs that cover California.
    - Assisted in development of the PAD Plan which will be used to help guide an effort to review and update PAD records over a two-year timeframe. Implementation will be supported by the FISHPass Working Group, members of the Science & Data Committee, and other yet to be identified partners and stakeholders.
    - Alex led an update of the NOAA Tier 1 Monitoring Worksheet that the Forum had been using to collect monitoring information from Forum-funded projects and reaching out to collect updated information.
    - Conducted annual review of First Pass Incidental Reporting Form and continued refinement of the mobile app by Brett, and field testing by Mark Gard, as well as Damon Goodman and Stewart Reid as part of the Lamprey Passage Design for Priority Obstacles in the Sacramento Basin project.
  - **Education & Outreach (Alicia Marrs, chair):**
    - Klamath Basin StoryMap developed by the Forum (PSMFC, NOAA and KRRC) released on World Fish Migration Day 2020 (rescheduled to Oct 24). Promoted by NOAA, CalTrout, NFHP, and other partners. More than 2300 views by Nov 2.
    - Developed and promoted the Forum’s 2020 Waters to Watch nomination (San Juan & Santiago Watershed) and launched a twitter handle (@CAFishPassForum) to help amplify this announcement and other outreach efforts.
    - Worked with USFWS Pacific Southwest Region to develop an [article on FISHPass](#), which resulted in the Forum being featured in an 30 minute interview on Jefferson Public Radio scheduled for July 28.
    - The Education & Outreach Committee is always looking for new members. These individuals do not have to be the Forum designee or alternate, if you have someone within your organization that specializes or has a specific interest in communication and outreach they may also be a great addition to the E&O Committee.
  - **Policy & Permitting Committee (Anna Halligan, chair):**
    - Reconstituted in 2021.

- Committee includes Forum members and individuals from organizations that are not Forum signatories. Per discussions at the September 2019 Forum meeting in San Diego, the Forum Bylaws were updated so that Committees could invite non-Forum members to participate.
- Committee is focusing on finding the best ways they can be effective to achieve Forum’s mission, and asked Forum members to send Anna/Alicia with any ideas for efforts the committee could focus on.
- Developing goals and objectives, focus areas and subsequent work plan in 2021. Examples include a potential focus on the North Coast Coho Project, and possibly commenting on or helping educate the public/stakeholders on existing efforts.

## **Interactive Fish Passage Map Proposal**

Sandi provided an overview of her proposal to develop a real-time visualization (interactive map, possibly a StoryMap) to showcase the range of fish passage projects that are underway (design and implementation) in California by Forum signatory agencies. Some of the information that is being proposed to capture would be funding sources, types of barriers, species impacted, partners involved etc. Sandi is in the process of presenting this concept to each of the Forum’s committees to gauge interest and support (both of which have been strong). This is seen as an opportunity to create visibility for the Forum and its signatories, elevate the importance of fish passage in California, facilitate and increase communication between agencies, and help update the PAD. This would also be a great opportunity for outreach, and profiling the important work of the Forum and its signatories.

The Science & Data and Education & Outreach committees would likely work jointly on this project, and will need to discuss how to gather the information and maintain it. PSMFC would likely be able to help support developing the map, and there would definitely be links to the PAD.

## **FY21 Proposal Recommendations & Discussion of Criteria and Priorities for FY22**

The Forum’s FY21 Review Panel (Bob, Brett, Alex, Mark and Holly) met on November 12 to discuss the 10 proposals the Forum received in response to its FY21 RFP. The Panel used new evaluation criteria this year that provided more flexibility when reviewing projects that were not traditional barrier removals or design projects. There were many strong proposals, and the Panel recommended seven to the Governance Committee for NFHP funding. These seven proposals were also recommended to the Steering Committee for their consideration at this meeting and no objectives were raised. Alicia will include all seven of the projects that scored highest in the recommended project list included in the USFWS/NFHP Annual Accomplishments Report and Work Plan due to USFWS in January 2021.

The projects not being included in this recommendation for the FY21 NFHP funding will be kept for potential consideration for FY22. In addition to the potential of more funding being available, the criteria for eligible projects could also change due to the signing of the ACE Act.

## **Currently Funded Forum Projects Update**

Bob and other Forum representatives with knowledge of Forum-funded projects currently underway (or in the process of wrapping up) reviewed these projects using Forum’s [StoryMap](#) to illustrate current status.

All FY19 projects have executed contracts with either PSMFC (Iron Horse Vineyards Dam Removal Project (Gold Ridge RCD), M-1 Road Fish Passage Improvement Project (TU), Seiad Creek Off-Channel Connection Project (Mid Klamath Watershed Council), and Upper Noyo River-Skunk Train(TU)) or directly through USFWS (Lamprey Passage at Rowdy Creek (Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation) and Lamprey Passage Design for Priority Obstacles in the Sacramento Basin Phase 1 (Western Fishes)) and are expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year (2020). Many of these projects overcame substantial delays associated with the receiving

funding due to the federal government shutdown in 2018-2019, and COVID-19 in 2020. While most did not finalize work by the USFWS/NFHP deadline of September 30, they are however expected to complete work by December 31, 2020.

Contracts were executed with each of the projects selected to receive FY20 funding (per the review conducted fall 2019) this fall. Projects include: Applying FISHPass in the Smith River (Ross Taylor and Associates), Santa Margarita River Fish Passage & Bridge Replacement Project (CalTrout), Strawberry Creek at Clam Beach Fish Passage Remediation Project (TU), Montague-Grenada Weir Retrofit & Barrier Removal (Shasta Valley RCD), West Tule Creek Diversion Fish Passage Project (Watershed Center), and Lamprey Passage Design for Priority Obstacles in the Sacramento Basin Phase 2 (Western Fishes)). There were again substantial delays in this process due to changes made in the USFWS contracting system, but work can now commence on these projects.

All other projects receiving Forum funding have been completed other than the Kelly Gulch Fish Passage Project (USFS), which received Forum funding in FY14, and is expected to be completed in Spring 2021.

The most recent progress reports can be found on the Forum intranet [here](#). Progress reports are due April 1, August 1, and Dec 1 to correlate with the various reporting needs of the Forum, USFWS, NFHP and PSMFC.

## NFHP Legislation Update & Discussion

The first priority of the NFHP transition continues to be reconstituting the new NFHP Board. There is still an opportunity for the Forum to provide recommendations/nominations to the new positions. Forum members were asked to contact Alicia, Stan or Sandi with suggestions.

Representatives from the three federal agencies that will now be receiving funding to support NFHP were asked to report on any updates they had for how their respective agencies planned to proceed. Updates include:

- **NOAA:** Has been holding meetings with staff that are already involved in some way with NFHP and/or FHPs to discuss possible options on how the \$400K could be used. These are being presented to leadership in NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation.
- **USFS:** Kimberly Conley is the new National Fisheries Program lead for USFS (replacing Dan Shively). Kimberly was previously stationed in Oregon, and served on various committees for the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative and Desert Fish Habitat Partnership so she is well versed in NFHP and the needs of FHPs.
- **USFWS:** There will be substantial changes for how USFWS administers and supports NFHP due to the reduction in funding USFWS will receive based on the ACE Act. FY21 is expected to be status quo, but FY22 and beyond may mean significant changes in how projects and associated contracts are administered, and how USFWS staff can support and participate in FHPs etc. Still awaiting details from HQ etc.

## Other Forum Business

### MOU Update and Signature Collection

Alicia reminded any signatory agencies that had not yet collected the necessary signatures for their agency to please send them to her as soon as possible.

### California Fish Passage Summit Proposal Update (MSCG 2021)

The Forum received notification from NFHP and AFWA that the umbrella proposal submitted by NFHP on behalf of some of the fish habitat partnerships for the FY21 Multi-State Conservation Grant opportunity had been selected for funding.

The Forum's proposal was to support hosting a California Fish Passage Summit. The Education & Outreach Committee will begin discussing whether or not this concept can still be executed in person or would need to be held virtually, or possibly delayed to 2022 if an extension could be obtained.

These funds could support:

- Development of outreach materials related to the Summit
- Compensation and travel for instructors and speakers
- On-site housing, hosting and food/beverage
- Select travel scholarships for participants

If the concept of an in-person event is selected, the Forum may begin looking for opportunities to collaborate or seek/leverage funding to expand the reach and scope of this event.

### **Next Forum Meeting**

Alicia will send a doodle to schedule the next Forum meeting in late winter/early spring 2021, which will most likely need to be held virtually.