



California Fish Passage Forum

Virtual Summer 2020 Meeting

July 22, 2020

9:00am – 3:00pm

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), Tom Shroyer (CDFW), Anne Elston (PSMFC/CDFW), Mark Elfgen (CDFW), Ryan Fogerty (USFWS-NFPP), Jim Long (CDWR), Krissy Atkinson (CDWR), Terri Gaines (State Parks), Gena Lasko (State Parks), Marisa Parish (State Parks), Heather Reith (State Parks -Central Valley District), Sam Jenniches (Coastal Conservancy), Jimmy Walth (Caltrans), Melinda Molnar (Caltrans), Stacie Fejtek Smith (NMFS), Jonathon Ambrose (NMFS), Steven Edmondson (NMFS), William (Bill) Foster (NOAA), Jean Castillo (NOAA), Steven Thomas (NMFS), Amanda Ransom (HDR), James Scott (CDWR), Chelsea Palisoc (CDWR), Richard Rappaport (State Parks), Ted Frink (CDWR), Mark Bowen Kristin Begun (NOAA), Mark Bowen (ESA), and Alicia Marrs (CFPF)

Overview of Action Items

- CDFW will let Alicia/Bob know when they have designated a replacement for Tom Shroyer as the CDFW designee to the Forum. Mark Gard will be replacing Jon Mann as CDFW's alternate.
- Alicia will update MOU language based on discussions at this meeting and redistribute to Forum signatory agencies for them to use when collecting signatures within their organizations.
- MOU Signatures due to Alicia ASAP (ideally by October 1). Forum members are asked to please contact her if you have questions or anticipate delay.
- Contact Bob/Alicia ASAP if you are interested in being nominated to be the new Forum Chair, or would like to nominate someone.
- Alicia will be sending out the annual RFP materials (application, web content, evaluation criteria etc.) in August for the Steering Committee to review.
- Volunteers to participate in this year's Review Panel for FY21 proposals should contact Alicia.
- Alicia will send a doodle to schedule the next Forum meeting in late 2020, which will most likely need to be held virtually.
- Melinda will complete the project information template form for Fort Goff and O'Neil Creek to be included in the World Fish Migration Day Klamath Basin StoryMap and send to Bob, Brett, and Alicia.

- The Forum’s Committees will discuss ways that they could engage with the NMFS Reintroduction Network.
- Forum members and their organizations are encouraged to follow the Forum’s new twitter handle (@CAFishPassForum).

Meeting Minutes

Forum Administration

Member Updates

- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)/NOAA Restoration Center**
 - Bob provided an update on the recent FERC decision regarding the Klamath River Dam removal process. The Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) has filed several orders to transfer the current license from PacifiCorp to KRRC. FERC accepted the transfer at the most recent hearing in July, but under the condition that PacifiCorp would be a co-applicant with KRRC, which does not absolve PacifiCorp of responsibility/liability. The KRRC signatories plan to continue to move forward, and will meet to determine how best to do so. While PacifiCorp has renewed their commitment to the dam removal process, it is unclear exactly what that will look like moving forward.
 - The NOAA Restoration Center secured funding to support a biologist to conduct a habitat and restoration project assessment and prioritization plan for the Klamath River from Iron Gate Dam to Upper Klamath Lake. Bob is working with PSMFC and Trout Unlimited to get this position filled and executed.
- **US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)**
 - Ryan Fogerty, the California lead for USFWS’ National Fish Passage Program, attended the Forum meeting for the first time. He hopes to be involved more in the future and is working with Damon Goodman and Alex Jones to find ways for NFPP and the Forum to coordinate efforts.
 - USFWS has a new financial vehicle for contracting. The transition to this new system has caused contracting delays, but the glitches appear to be getting worked out. Damon is working with Stan Allen (PSMFC) on the cooperative agreement for the FY20 projects and NFHP operational funding. Damon is also working with Stan to spend down what was left of the last 5-year cooperative agreement between USFWS and PSMFC in support of the Forum.
 - Damon updated the Forum on the Potter Valley Project on the Eel River. PG&E has withdrawn their license with FERC, and a coalition has formed (that includes Humboldt County, Mendocino County, Sonoma Water, Round Valley Tribe) to develop creative solutions for the project. The coalition recently submitted a project proposal to take over the facility which would include the removal of Scott Dam, and a revision of passage at Van Arsdale. Agencies involved have had the opportunity to review the proposal and provide feedback.
 - This summer Alex Jones and Damon brought on a USFWS Directorate Fellow, Cassandra Doll, to examine passage assessment databases (including, but not limited to the PAD). Cassie will be presenting her findings during a webinar the week of August 3. Forum members will receive invites, and are encouraged to attend. Cassandra will also be developing a report at the end of her 12-week fellowship, under the guidance of Damon and Alex.
- **California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)**
 - Mark Gard will be taking over for Jon Mann as the alternate to the Forum.

- Tom Schroyer will be retiring soon, likely by September 30, 2020. CDFW has not designated his replacement, but they will update the Forum things progress.
- **California Department of Water Resources (DWR)**
 - Jim Long provided an update on the Riverine Stewardship Program. In early July the director approved the final awards list for the San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program, which includes a few fish passage projects.
 - DWR is also working with NMFS, and other agencies, on a Shasta Downstream juvenile collection project. DWR is excited for the presentation at this meeting by the NMFS Sacramento Office about fish passage above the Central Valley rim dams. DWR sees this as a very important response to climate change.
- **Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)**
 - Stan Allen sits on the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Board. The annual fall meeting which is typically held in October and in-person, will still happen, but discussions were still underway at the time of this meeting as to whether or not it would be held virtually. This meeting is also typically held in conjunction with the biennial FHP coordinator workshop. Alicia and Stan will keep the rest of the Forum informed as to the agenda and plans for these meetings. Steering Committee members are invited to listen in if they would like. **Shortly after the July 22 Forum meeting, the NFHP Board decided to hold these meetings virtually.**
- **Trout Unlimited**
 - North Coast Coho Project has three fish passage projects they are working on this summer. Two are currently in the construction phase, and another is scheduled to begin towards the end of the season. Two other projects have recently received awards and should go to construction next summer.
- **U.S. Forest Service**
 - USFS partnered with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) on the [California Forests and Watersheds Infrastructure Resilience program](#). The funding program removes targeted aquatic organism (AOP) passage barriers, and this year gave priority to Klamath, Shasta-Trinity, Six Rivers, Lassen, Mendocino, and Los Padres National Forests. The RFP recently closed, and expects the announcement of selected projects soon. Next year this opportunity may be expanded to the full state of California.
 - Holly had identified an alternate for USFS to the Forum, but unfortunately they have moved on to another position that does not correlate with the mission of the Forum. She will continue working with USFS to identify a new USFS alternate to support Holly with the Forum.
- **CalTrout**
 - Sandi Jacobsen and CalTrout are involved with seven large scale fish passage projects underway in Southern California.

Forum Budget Update

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

CFPF NFHP Budget Status (USFWS)

1072.17;.18; .19	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$ 13,770	\$ 13,770	\$ 9,837
Rents	\$453	\$487	\$(34)

Supplies/Software	\$240	\$240	\$ 0
Sub-Contracts (*)	\$496,009	\$471,418	\$24,523
Travel	\$ 2,140	\$ 2,140	\$ 0
Sub-Totals	\$512,612	\$488,055	\$24,557
Indirect	\$ 16,712	\$13,096	\$ 3,615
Totals	\$529,323	\$501,151	\$28,172

Sub-Contracts to Date

End Date: 9/30/20 (new 5-year agreement that started 8/8/16)

Western Fishes (Pacific Lamprey; 17-44)	\$20,000 (completed)
Trout Unlimited (Pennington Creek; 18-08)	\$40,000 (completed)
Forum Coordination (Creative Resource Strategies; 18-07)	\$36,000 (completed)
CA State Parks (Benbow Dam; 18-25)	\$58,499 (completed)
Gold Ridge RCD (Upper Green Valley; 18-26)	\$30,089 (completed)
Ecotrust (FISHPass User Interface; 18-90)	\$63,500 (completed)
Earth Island Institute (Davy Brown;18-96)	\$44,538 (completed)
Forum Coordination (Alicia Marrs; 19-30)	\$50,000 (completed)
Harvey Diversion	CANCELED
Neefus (Trout Unlimited; 19-25)	\$39,513 (completed)
Cooper Mill (Trout Unlimited; 19-61)	\$65,782 (completed)
Western Fishes (C Valley Lamprey; 20-124)	\$21,000 (in progress)
Owen Bissell (Photography; PO 15243)	\$3,600 (in progress)
Mid-Klamath	\$38,680 (directly funded by USFWS)

CFPF NFHP Budget Status (USFWS)

New 5-Year Agreement (starting FY20)	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$16,038	\$ 0	\$16,038
Rents	\$700	\$ 0	\$700
Supplies/Software	\$4,196	\$204	\$3,992
Sub-Contracts (*)	\$205,752	\$41,083	\$164,669
Travel	\$4,000	\$326	\$3,674

Sub-Totals	\$230,685	\$41,613	\$189,072
Indirect	\$6,826	\$ 921	\$5,905
Totals	\$237,511	\$42,534	\$194,977

1072.21 funding (2020 projects) not received as of July 22, 2020 from USFWS

Sub Contracts to Date

New 5-Year Agreement with USFWS (F20AC00007)

2019

Forum Coordination (Alicia Marrs; new)	\$60,000 (in progress)
Trout Unlimited (M-1) Road Crossing; new)	\$81,857 (in progress)
Gold Ridge RCD (Iron Horse; new)	\$20,039 (in progress)
Mid-Klamath Watershed Council (Seiad; new)	\$28,856 (in progress)
Trout Unlimited (Upper Novo-Skunk; new)	\$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	\$
Smith River FISHPass	\$28,000
Santa Margarita	\$47,410
Strawberry Creek	\$31,055
Montague-Granada Weir	\$49,269
W Tule Creek	\$15,301

Forum-Funded Project Status Updates

Bob reviewed the current status of Forum-funded projects. Outside of the Kelly Gulch Fish Passage Project (USFS), which received Forum funding in FY14, all projects funded through FY18 have been completed.

All FY19 projects have executed contracts with either PSMFC (Iron Horse Vineyards Dam Removal Project, M-1 Road Fish Passage Improvement Project, Seiad Creek Off-Channel Connection Project), and Upper Noyo River-Skunk Train) or directly through USFWS (Lamprey Passage at Rowdy Creek and Lamprey Passage Design for Priority Obstacles in the Sacramento Basin) and are underway. 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.

For the second year in a row (and only the second time), the Forum once again scored a level 3 (the highest level) on the FY 20 USFWS NFHP Annual Accomplishments Report and Work Plan. This score dictates the Forum’s funding level, and a level 3 score meant that the Forum received \$188,405 in project funds. This is in addition to the \$85,000 the Forum receives to support stable operations.

The projects selected to receive FY20 funding (per the review conducted fall 2019) are listed above in Stan’s budget update and were still awaiting contracts due to the delays in the USFWS contracting system at the

time of this meeting. PSMFC has executed as much of the paperwork as possible, and is ready to work with USFWS to get them out as quickly as possible once the USFWS funding is available.

FY2021 Funding Announcement Update

Alicia reviewed the results of the FY20 funding solicitation, during which the Forum received 13 proposals, up from seven in FY19. She also reviewed the planned updates to the Request for Proposals (RFP) based on discussions the Forum had with Eric MacMillan about eligible projects during the Forum’s September 2019 meeting. These changes would broaden the range of projects eligible to be funded beyond barrier removals to include things like assessments, monitoring, and outreach related to the Forum’s goals and objectives.

Options of activities that fall under NFHP’s umbrella of eligible activities to fund include assessments and monitoring, implementation, and building support with stakeholders (outreach/workshops). Activities that are NOT eligible to be funded with NFHP dollars include land acquisitions and research. Forum signatory members are also eligible to submit proposals, and National Fish Passage Program funding can also be leveraged by projects receiving CFPF/NFHP funding.

There were no objections by any of the Forum members present on the call to broadening the FY21 RFP criteria as described above. Alicia will update the RFP and other supporting materials and distribute it to the Forum Governance Committee and then the Steering Committee for the review and approval.

The following is the proposed timeline for the Forum’s RFP for FY21.

Proposed Timeline for 2021 RFP	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator updates application, criteria and other supporting documents. • Sends to Governance Committee for Review/Approval
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum Steering Committee opportunity to review
Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 RFP released for at least 30 days • Identify members of Forum Review Panel
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for submissions (early/mid Oct) • Coordinator conducts preliminary eligibility screen and distributes to Review Panel for 2-3 week review
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Panel meets to discuss scores/rankings and make recommendation • Governance Committee reviews Review Panel recommendation, decides on final recommendation to Forum Steering Committee
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Recommendations to Steering Committee for approval
Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Recommendations included in USFWS/NFHP Annual Accomplishments Report

Nomination Process for New Chair of the Forum

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. Given the short time frame, and in the event that a

new chair is not elected before the end of the year, Bob asked the Forum Steering Committee members present during this call to approve extending his current term through the end of 2020. This motion was unanimously approved by representatives from all Forum Signatory Agencies present on this call (Caltrans and Coastal Conservancy were not present at this point in the meeting, so they did not vote).

The Forum Steering Committee 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.

Nominations were solicited during the meeting, but none were proposed at that time. Please reach out to Bob and/or Alicia if you are interested in being nominated or nominating a colleague.

The Forum Steering Committee agreed to vote on the next Forum Chair at the next Forum meeting later this year.

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.

Tasks identified in the SOW include:

- **Identify existing efforts underway** to document restrictions to tidal connectivity
- **Data mining** effort to build data management relationships across the region and compile a list of data sources that ID locations of passage/connectivity sites.
- **Conduct a gap analysis** by identifying locations on the landscape where data and information is lacking
- Explore **spatial analysis** methods that could prove useful in identifying the **inland areas behind identified tidal structures/restrictions**
- **Host a workshop** to identify gaps and technical information needed to address ways to reduce restrictions as well as share tools and products developed.

Status updates on project deliverables:

- **ArcGIS data catalog** of linkages to dynamic, spatially explicit GIS data layers describing locations of tidal connectivity structures.
- COMPLETE (Nov 2019-April 2020)
- **In-person Workshop** convening partners across all three collaborating fish habitat partnerships (PMEP, CFPF, & PLCI).

- This workshop has been POSTPONED & MODIFIED and **will be held virtually Oct 28 & 29.**
- **Report** summarizing the spatial data sources that were catalogued and the key data gaps identified throughout the effort (including the workshop).
- **NEW:** Complete a data collection, synthesis, or compilation based on science and data gaps and/or action items identified in the workshop.
 - This would utilize funding originally set aside to support travel/meeting, but no longer needed due to the workshop being moved to a virtual setting.
- A No Cost Extension through Dec 2021 has been requested in order to spend funds previously set aside to support travel etc. for an in-person Summit.

California Fish Passage Summit Proposal Update (MSCG 2021)

This spring, NFHP asked that the FHPs once again submit proposals for the annual MSCG solicitation under the umbrella theme of Communication & Outreach. There was a very short turn around on this request, and FHPs were encouraged to submit the same proposal they had the year before under the same theme. The Governance Committee approved this approach, and Alicia resubmitted the proposal agreed upon by the Forum last year for \$20,000 to put on a California Fish Passage Summit and develop related outreach materials.

The goal is to convene entities interested in fish passage solutions in California, and develop strategies for collaboration, data sharing, and tracking of progress. The Summit would consist of a variety of presentations, workshops/trainings, and possibly field trips exploring fish passage case studies and recent advancements to improve fish passage engineering and permitting in the state.

If funded, this Summit would be an opportunity to:

- Showcase FISHPass and conduct trainings and solicit feedback from participants on the tool
- Use the Summit to spot light unique passage issues related to Pacific Lamprey, and examine how specific lamprey passage needs can be better incorporated into data collection, design, and decision-making related to fish passage.

The Forum plans to leverage partnerships with organizations in California that have hosted similar workshops in the past, and possibly also the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative. 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 funded, activities would likely need to occur in 2021 unless an extension is received. If in-person meetings are still unable to be held due to COVID-19, there is enough flexibility in the proposal to pivot many of these activities to happen virtually. The Forum could also refocus efforts towards developing outreach materials and tools that can be used virtually.

New Forum Signatory Agency Proposal – California Dept. of Parks & Recreation (State Parks)

In the Governance Committee workplan, and under the duties of the Forum Chair, there is a task/goal to solicit new signatory agencies to the Forum. California Department of Parks & Recreation (State Parks) has

been mentioned several times over the years, due to their reach across the state, collaborations with Forum signatory agencies, and the Forum has also provided funding to several projects on state parks land.

In light of all this, Bob reached out to colleagues at State Parks, and in March 2020 members of the Forum Governance Committee (Bob, Damon, Anna and Alicia) had a call with representatives from State Parks (Terri Gaines, Gena Lasko, and Marissa Parish) to discuss the possibility of State Parks joining the Forum. All involved agreed it would be advantageous to both groups to pursue this relationship.

On behalf of State Parks, Terri Gaines (Environmental Program Manager in the Natural Resources Division), expressed the organization's enthusiasm to join the Forum. The mission of the Forum aligns well with their guiding principals and philosophy, and there are many opportunities to share expertise and information they already look forward to building on. She thanked Bob, and the Forum, for the invitation. State Parks is already working in collaboration or support of the Forum and its objectives in a variety of ways, but they are also looking forward to participating and collaborating in a more official capacity as a Forum signatory agency.

Terri reviewed the following commitments State Parks is proposing for their section of the MOU:

1. *Participate as a member of standing committees and working groups as needed and resources permit.*
2. *State Parks will periodically update Forum members of passage issues, activities and resource priorities within State Park Units, and provide updates to the Passage Assessment Database.*
3. *Pursue funds to remediate blockage and impediments to fish passage at priority road/stream/trail crossings within units of the State Park System that are consistent with State Parks Mission and policies, and as resources permit.*
4. *State Parks will inspect and inventory road/stream crossings within the State Parks' anadromous watersheds consistent with Department priorities, and as funding is available.*
5. *State parks will assess, and implement fish passage projects, consistent with State Parks Mission and policies, and other stewardship priorities, as funding and other resources become available. State Parks will use an ecosystem/landscape scale approach that focuses on natural processes and benefits multiple species, allows for natural hydrologic stream processes, protects cultural resources, and considers climate change impacts and resilience opportunities.*
6. *State Parks will work collaboratively with State Parks' partners, neighboring landowners and road right of ways (County and Caltrans partnerships) on approved fish passage projects, as appropriate.*
7. *State Parks will use best practices in training its staff in the proper identification, assessment, and design criteria for fish passage.*

Two of the aspects that they are particularly excited to work on include identifying data gaps (#2), and implementing fish passage projects. Marisa Parish (State Parks) also pointed out that across their 21 districts, 13 are coastal. Currently there is not a uniform approach to dealing with fish passage and anadromous species, so this is a great opportunity to tap into the Forum's expertise. Terri expects that their next steps would include reaching out to their district staff to gauge their interest in participation, familiarity with the Forum, data gaps, and seeing how to share that information.

Bob invited Forum members to ask questions, and discuss State Parks joining as a Forum signatory agency. Damon thanked them for their interest, and was excited to welcome them to the Forum. Jon Mann also echoed support for State Parks entering the Forum.

Melinda noted that Caltrans does not collaborate on prioritization within the Forum, that is done through the FishPACs. She noted the capitalization error in reference to Caltrans within the commitments (corrected above). Alicia will make that edit in the language when she adds it to the final version of the MOU.

Bob made a motion to vote to accept California Department of Parks & Recreation (State Parks) as a member of the Forum, and Tom Shroyer (CDFW) seconded the motion. A voice vote was held, and the motion was unanimously approved by all Forum signatory agency representatives. Results are included below:

- USFWS – YES
- NOAA/NMFS – YES
- USFS – YES
- CDFW – YES
- CDWR – YES
- Caltrans – YES
- Coastal Conservancy – YES
- CalTrout – YES
- Trout Unlimited – YES
- PSMFC - YES

MOU Update

Bob thanked Forum members for their efforts to review their organizations' commitment language and the MOU as a whole. At the date of this meeting, all signatory agencies had supplied language outlining their respective organization's commitments, which were compiled and distributed to the Steering Committee for review. A summary of the changes made to the body of the MOU (which pertains to all signatory agencies) as of this meeting on July 22 were as follows:

- Date document updated (throughout)
- American Rivers has been removed as a signatory as they are no longer a Forum signatory agency.
- There are now 20 total Fish Habitat Partnerships (vs. 19 when this document was last updated)
- The Forum's Objectives have been updated to reflect what is in the current version of the strategic framework (previously there were nine, now there are seven)
- The Army Corps of Engineers was also removed from section VI. (Support of Principal Signatory Agencies) as they are no longer a Forum signatory agency.
- This MOU will expire December 31, 2030 (previous MOUs lasted for five years, however, the Forum agreed to change to change this update to occur every 10 years).

During his review on behalf of the Coastal Conservancy, Sam Jeniches also reviewed the current language of the body of the MOU, in particular the language of "seeking additional funding" found in Goal 5 which stated "As permitted by law, seek additional funding sources for fish passage projects within the geographic scope of the Forum and administer a strategic funding program to further the Forum's mission once funding is secured." Sam noted that this may better fit as an objective (vs a goal), since there were no objectives serving it as a goal. He also noted that making Goal 5 an objective, would use existing and already approved language from within the MOU, which wouldn't substantively change the intent of the MOU. Sam proposed making the following language changes:

1. Consider eliminating Goal 5, or make it an Objective, as none of the currently identified Objectives support it as a "Goal".
 - Current Language of Goal 5: "As permitted by law, seek additional funding sources for fish passage projects within the geographic scope of the Forum and administer a strategic funding program to further the Forum's mission once funding is secured."
2. If Goal 5 were made an Objective, it could support Goal 2 with the proposed modification (in red text).
 - Goal 2: "Facilitate collaboration, coordination, and communication among state, federal and local agencies, researchers, restoration contractors, landowners, and other interested stakeholders on fish passage improvement programs, *funding programs*, and projects."

PSMFC, USFS, CalTrout, Trout Unlimited, NMFS, Coastal Conservancy, and DWR did not have objections to making these changes, and it was noted that these edits fit well into some of the suggestions made during the review of the Strategic Framework the year before. Caltrans expressed concerns, and stated that it does not coordinate funding. If this language was changed, it would likely need to be reviewed again by Caltrans management.

The Forum Steering Committee held a vote on whether or not to include the suggested changes into the body of the MOU. The results are as follows:

- USFWS – YES
- NMFS – YES
- USFS – YES
- CDFW – YES
- CDWR – YES
- Caltrans – Abstained
- Coastal Conservancy – YES
- State Parks – Abstained (due to not yet being a Forum signatory agency)
- CalTrout – YES
- Trout Unlimited – YES
- PSMFC – YES

Alicia walked through the timeline (see at the bottom of this section) asked for questions. Jon Mann will be coordinating with Tom to update the CDFW language and move it through the appropriate internal channels for review, approval, and signature. Jon also pointed out that the Bylaws are included in the MOU, and asked if they could also be sent out when the MOU goes out for signature. Alicia will include the Bylaws and a summary of changes to the language of the MOU and signatory agencies, when she sends it back out to Forum members to collect signatures. DWR would also like to make some additional changes to their commitments. Jim will work with Alicia to get those done as soon as possible.

Timeline to Update Forum MOU

- **March 6:** Alicia sent each Forum signatory the updated MOU, their respective organization's language, and a request to confirm their Forum Designee and Alternate.
- **May 15, 2020:** Original due date to send Alicia updated language, Forum Designee/Alternate.
- **July 7, 2020:** Alicia sent the updated MOU, including any updates to signatory agency sections, back out to the entire Forum for review.
- **July 22, 2020:** At the Forum's summer meeting signatory agency will have the opportunity to discuss any additional questions they have regarding the updated document and plans and/or challenges they may have for getting the MOU signed by their agency.
- **Post Summer 2020 Forum Meeting:** Alicia will send the final version of the MOU out to all signatory agencies for each to gather the appropriate signature from their organization.
- **October 1, 2020:** Signatures due to Alicia
- **December 31, 2020:** Current MOU expires
- **January 1, 2021:** New MOU goes into effect

Alicia will work with DWR and CDFW to collect the final edits they asked to make to their commitments. She will then update the MOU accordingly, and redistribute the documents to Forum members as soon as possible.

**Please note, after this meeting during further review and comparison of the language of the goals and objectives in the MOU and Strategic Framework, it was found that the language of Goal 5 was already captured in Objective 3 in the Strategic Framework. Thus, Goal 5 was deleted, and the phrase*

*“funding programs” was added to Objective 2 per the Coastal Conservancy’s suggestion, but Goal 5 was **not** made into a new objective. Forum members should reference an email from Alicia on August 3, 2020 for further details.*

Central Valley Fish Passage Over Rim Dams

Stacie Fejtek Smith and Jonathon Ambrose (NMFS) gave a presentation to update the Forum on fish passage efforts above Central Valley rim dams, and new efforts to share information and improve communications for Central Valley rim dam efforts. Reintroduction has been identified by NMFS in the Central Valley Recovery Plan as the only option for reestablishing salmonid populations in historically, but currently blocked habitat. In addition to updates on the reintroduction work being done at Shasta Dam on the McCloud River, Yuba River, Feather, and Tuolumne, the group also discussed the potential role and/or involvement of the Forum in the NMFS’ Reintroduction Network.

The Reintroduction Network was developed by NMFS to provide opportunities for networking and information exchange by scientists, engineers and other stakeholders interested in salmon and steelhead fish passage above infrastructure that is not expected to be removed. The Reintroduction Network is made up of scientists, engineers, tribes, managers and other stakeholders engaged in fish passage in California, with a specific focus on stakeholders and decision makers already working in fish passage, but not exclusively in the Central Valley. Possible ways to engage with the Forum in the future could include regular updates to the Forum on the Reintroduction Network, and the possible development of an ad hoc working or subgroup.

Forum members expressed interest in learning more and finding ways to collaborate. They will discuss this further in its various committees.

Forum Committee Updates

Each of the chairs/co-chairs of the Forum’s three Committees (Governance, Science & Data, and Education & Outreach) gave brief updates on the recent activities of their Committees’ since the Forum’s last meeting in February 2020 in Santa Cruz. The updated and compiled 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 (Governance Committee chair) provided an update on the Governance Committee’s recent activities. In addition to working with State Parks to explore their interest in joining the Forum, in April and May, the Governance Committee supported the selection and development of this year’s Waters to Watch nomination for San Juan and Santiago Watersheds. Members of the Governance Committee also met with representatives from Fly Fishers International who were interested in learning more about the Forum, and possibly working together on future efforts.

Damon Goodman (and Alex Jones) has also been working Ryan Fogerty within USFWS to find ways that the Forum can better coordinate with the National Fish Passage Program, and are excited that Ryan was able to attend this meeting. The hope is that there will be opportunities for in-person meetings, and possibly a discussion at a Forum meeting in the future to help build and strengthen the partnerships between these two programs.

Bob also once again reminded the group that he has served as the chair of the Governance Committee for many years. He is not required to step down from this role when his term as Forum Chair ends, but the new chair will become a member of the Governance Committee. If others are interested in participating in the Governance Committee, or becoming its chair please contact Bob.

- **Science & Data:** Sandi Jacobsen and Alex Jones serve as co-chairs of the Science & Data Committee (S&D Committee) and reviewed the S&D Committee's recent accomplishments which have largely centered around the supporting Anne and providing feedback on the development (and future implementation) 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.

Additionally, Alex has been spearheading an update to the NOAA Tier 1 Monitoring Worksheet that the Forum had been using to collect monitoring information from Forum-funded projects. NOAA was no longer actively collecting this information. The Science & Data Committee reviewed and approved updates and rebranding of this form, which will now be used in outreach to Forum-funded projects (and possibly others in the future) to gather information on monitoring post-implementation/completion. It will also be included in the package of supporting materials with the Forum's FY21 RFP this fall.

Sandi has also been working with the S&D Committee to develop a list of potential projects to profile in future monitoring case studies. This will also be done in collaboration with the Education & Outreach Committee.

- **Education & Outreach:** Alicia Marrs (Chair of the Education & Outreach Committee) gave a quick update on the Education & Outreach Committee's recent activities and plans for the remainder of 2020. In addition to developing and promoting the Forum's 2020 Waters to Watch nomination (mentioned above in the Governance Committee section), the Forum launched a twitter handle (@CAFishPassForum) to help amplify this announcement and other outreach efforts. Forum members and their agencies were encouraged to follow this account. Forum members are also encouraged to send Alicia any announcements, articles, photos etc. they may want to see profiled through this or through the Forum's other outreach vehicles (website, listserv, etc.).

The E&O Committee continues to seek outreach opportunities to promote FISHPass. Alex Jones 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.

A key outreach focus for the Forum right now is the StoryMap being developed for World Fish Migration Day 2020 (postponed to Oct 24) in collaboration with the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, to spotlight collaborative efforts to enhance fish passage by partners across the Klamath Basin in preparation for the eventual removal of the lower four Klamath River Dams.

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:** On May 21, the newly reinstated Policy & Permitting Committee had its first meeting. Anna Halligan is new chair, and members include Sandi Jacobsen, Holly Eddinger, Matt Clifford (TU), Erika Lovejoy (Sustainable Conservation), Monty Schmitt (Nature Conservancy), and Alicia Marrs. This group does include individuals from organizations that are not Forum signatories, but per the discussion at the September 2019 Forum meeting in San Diego, and

subsequent update to the Forum Bylaws, it was decided that Committees could invite non-Forum members to participate.

Recognizing the challenges faced by the previous iteration of the Forum's Policy & Permitting Committee, this version is focusing on finding the best ways they can be effective. The first meeting was an opportunity for the group to discuss the goals and objectives of the Forum, successes and challenges of the past Committee, and brainstorming possible focus areas. Like the other Forum Committees, this group will also be developing a workplan, and will be looking for feedback from the Forum to help identify areas that have a high likelihood of success, would be helpful to the Forum, and ways this Committee can contribute to enhancing fish passage in California. Examples include a potential focus on the North Coast Coho Project, and possibly commenting on or helping educate the public/stakeholders on existing efforts.

Klamath River Basin StoryMap for World Fish Migration Day

In response to inquiries from NOAA HQ and NFHP seeking possible events that might be held in honor of World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) 2020 on the West Coast, Bob reached out to Alicia and the Education & Outreach Committee with the idea of creating a StoryMap to highlight the important restoration and fish passage work that has been done and/or is underway in preparation for restoring fish populations when the four lower Klamath Dams are ultimately removed. The Forum also reached out to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) and they were interested in collaborating. During pre-COVID discussions there were thoughts of holding an in-person event as well on May 16, 2020, but those were scratched when WFMD was eventually postponed to October 24, 2020 due to COVID-19.

Alicia and the Education & Outreach Committee developed a project information request template that was sent to Forum Steering Committee, KRRC, and other partners to help identify projects to be included in the StoryMap. Projects being profiled need not have received Forum-funding, and Forum partners were encouraged to submit projects they may have been involved with if they fit the criteria and could help tell this important story.

Brett has been working to develop the StoryMap, with support from Alicia, Bob and KRRC to collect, organize, and refine content. Brett gave the Forum Steering Committee a preview of the current version of StoryMap and the opportunity to provide feedback. Many Forum members praised the current version of the StoryMap and were excited for its completion. Melinda will work with Caltrans and the FishPACs to complete the project information template forms for Fort Goff and O'Neill Creek so that they can also be included. If other partners would like to contribute content or be further involved please contact Alicia, Brett, or Bob.

The StoryMap will be released in conjunction with World Fish Migration Day on October 24, 2020.

Next Forum Meeting

Alicia will send a doodle to schedule the next Forum meeting in late 2020, which will most likely need to be held virtually.