



**Accomplishment Report, Work Plan and Proposed Projects Guidance and Template
FY24 NFHP Project Funding Cycle**

Fish Habitat Partnership: **California Fish Passage Forum**

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1. Cover Letter

The California Fish Passage Forum is a collaborative entity formed among state, local, and federal agencies, fisheries conservation groups, researchers, restoration contractors, and other interested parties to explore and develop an effective methodology, and plan to restore and recover anadromous fish populations by improving fish passage at man-made barriers. The Forum's mission is to protect and revitalize anadromous fish populations in California by restoring connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout their historic range, with the ultimate goal of restoring the connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout the historic range of anadromous fish. The structure of the Forum is designed to support fish passage efforts statewide, and disseminate information to policy makers, other Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs), restoration and fish passage practitioners, and the general public. The geographic scope of the Forum includes anadromous waters of California (Figure 1). The Forum currently has 7 strategic objectives:

1. Remediate barriers to effective fish migration.
2. Facilitate coordination, collaboration and communication among agencies, agency staff, and other entities that may propose, review, or promulgate fish passage projects within California.
3. Coordinate funding mechanisms to remove fish passage barriers.
4. Support state and federal permit coordination and efficiencies.
5. Facilitate plans to monitor and evaluate fish passage restoration effectiveness to ensure accountability.
6. Encourage existing state/national policy and actions that support fish passage improvement in California.
7. Implement education and outreach activities, targeting both the public & fish passage practitioners.

The Forum is currently in between coordinators, and is in the process of identifying a new one. Sandi Jacobson, chair of the Forum's governance committee has provided leadership through the transition. The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), which is fiscal agent for the Forum, has also supported the Forum during the absence of a coordinator. The Forum expects a new coordinator to be on board in May 2023.

The Forum is currently requested 669,600 in NFHP funds for fiscal year 2024, including 85K for operation funds. These projects are leveraging a total of \$7.6 million dollars including \$7.5 million in non-federal match and \$220,200 in federal match. This exceed the 1:1 match requirement of the ACE Act for a non-federal to NFHP



Figure 1: The geographic scope of the Forum.

funds match ratio of 11:1. These 9 projects address four of NFHP's National Conservation Priorities including NCP 2: Conserve hydrologic conditions for fish, NCP 3: Conserve physical and living habitats and features, NCP 4: Reconnect fragmented fish habitats, and NCP 6: Support structure and function of FHPs.

2. Accomplishments by Fiscal Year

Communications and Outreach efforts of the Partnership.

- **Nominated Wildcat Creek to 10 Waters to Watch list for 2022**

2022: Conducted outreach in conjunction with NFHP's national announcement.

- **Klamath Fish Passage for World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) 2022**

2022: Building off of the popular Klamath River Basin StoryMap developed by the Forum and other partners for WFMD 2020, the Forum utilized Multi-State Conservation Grant (MSCG) funding via NFHP/AFWA/USFWS to contract with the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) to host an event celebrating the pending removal of the four Klamath River Dams and work done over the last two decades to improve fish passage in the Klamath Basin. This event brought together more than 80 participants and featured a moving half-day plenary featuring tribal speakers, updates from the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC), and technical presentations from partners on the restoration activities completed and underway. Following the plenary on the first day participants from across the region representing tribal, non-profit, local, state, and federal organizations then embarked on half day partner-led field tours. The first day also featured a showing of the documentary The Lost Salmon, and a special salmon dinner of Klamath River Chinook traditional caught and prepared by members of the Karuk Tribe. The second day featured a second set of full day field tours for participants.

- **Facilitated Outreach for PAD Plan Implementation**

2022: Alicia guided and supported implementation of outreach related to the implementation of the PAD Plan (an effort to review and update all records for fish passage barriers in the California Passage Assessment Database (PAD)). This included developing and reviewing emails to local fish passage experts being asked to participate in reviews of barrier sets, development of a fish passage expertise google-form, as well as the development, facilitation, and implementation of a regional webinar series beginning with the review of CDFW Region 4. Webinars were held for local fish passage experts and other interested stakeholders in CDFW Region 4 (August 2022) and CDFW Region 3 (November 2022). These webinars included an opportunity to introduce participations to the Forum and provided a forum for discussion of local fish passage issues, projects (desired, pending, underway, and completed.) Approximately 50 individuals joined each webinar in 2022.

- **Maintained the Forum website and intranet**

2022: Initiated planning of migrating the Forum's website to a new platform.

2023-2024: Migrate the Forum's website to Wordpress.

- **Initiated Quarterly e-Newsletter:**

2022: The Forum coordinator continued periodic e-newsletter to stakeholders and partners to amplify the Forum's visibility and highlight activities led/sponsored by the Forum and its signatories related to the Forum's mission (e.g., funding announcements etc.)

2023-2024: Write and share 4 newsletters (quarterly) highlighting activities led/sponsored by the Forum and its signatories related to the Forum's mission.

- **Enhanced internal communications**

2022: In lieu of a virtual Steering Committee meeting in April 2022 the Forum coordinator developed and distributed an internal newsletter to the Steering Committee providing programmatic updates, explanations of funding processes and timelines, queries for input on Waters to Watch nominations and future e-newsletter content.

Describe Scientific efforts of the Partnership

- **Support the State of California's Passage Assessment Database (PAD)**

2022: The Forum's Science and Data Committee, continued to support updating inputs and barrier information to the PAD. In 2022, this work was primarily focused on working with the PAD Manager and staff to implement the "PAD Plan" a QA/QC plan to review and update records of fish passage barriers in California – with focused reviews by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regions. The implementation of the PAD Plan was initiated in the fall of 2021 beginning with CDFW's Region 5 (Southern California), and then continued through 2022 in Regions 4 and 3. Outreach associated with this effort is referenced below.

2023-2024: continue to support updating inputs and barrier information to the PAD.

- **Baseline Habitat Layer Refinement:**

2022: Brett Holycross (staff at PSMFC) continued to refine the Baseline Fish Habitat (BFH) layer, an effort to model potential habitat for California's salmon and trout populations for the Forum and partners. The goal of the BFH is to provide reasonable estimates of potential habitat, including for areas that are relatively data-poor to help better focus limited resources available for habitat restoration. In 2022, the BFH was used in a project spearheaded by NOAA in collaboration with PSMFC, Trout Unlimited and other partners in the Klamath Basin.

- **First Pass Incidental Report Form & Mobile Application:**

2022: The Forum coordinator initiated the initial annual review of the First Pass Incidental Report Form which feeds into an accompanying mobile application developed by PSFMC staff and distributed the form to the Science & Data Committee and other related partners for their review (finalization pending in 2023). The Mobile App version of the form continued to be field tested by Forum members, partners/stakeholders, and leads of projects supported by the Forum (including the Applying FISHPass in the Smith River and Lamprey Passage Designs & Priority Passage Obstacles in the Sacramento Basin projects).

- **FISHPASS — Evaluation of effectiveness and utility of barrier optimization tool:**

2022: Due to the cost maintaining and updating the tool (both the backend data (heavily dependent on the PAD and BFH), as well as the public-facing user interface website) and expansion of similar tools, the Forum's Governance and Science & Data Committee spent much of 2022 discussing and evaluating whether it was in the Forum's best interest to continue supporting FISHPass. These discussions are still underway as new sources of funding and technical support are sought.

2023-2024: Continue strategic discussions about maintaining FISHPASS and search for new sources of funding and technical support.

Describe Conservation efforts of the Partnership

In 2022, four projects supported by the Forum were completed, addressing connectivity needs and habitat restoration for Spawning and rearing habitat and benefiting species including Coho salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead/rainbow trout, Pacific Lamprey, Coastal cutthroat trout, Green sturgeon, Threespine stickleback.

- 1 barrier optimization plan for the Smith River watershed, which includes barrier assessments of 385 potential sites to determine current fish passage status;
- 1 project design completed to improve a low flow fish passage barrier;
- 7.6 stream miles enhanced
- 1.1 acres of off channel habitat restored

Describe Operational efforts of the Partnership that were not described in above sections.

2022:

- Produced the 2022 work plans for the Forum in collaboration with the Forum's three committees (Governance, Science & Data, and Education & Outreach).
- Coordinated and facilitated a two-day in-person Forum Steering Committee meeting in Eureka, CA in July 26-27, 2022. This was the first time the Forum had met in person
- The Forum Coordinator provided administrative support to the Forum committees.
- Represented the Forum on NFHP FHP Coordinators calls and NFHP Board Meetings (virtually). The Forum Coordinator (Alicia Marrs) is a member, and Stan Allen (PSFMC) is a co-chair of the NFHP Partnership Committee. As a subset of the Partnerships Committee, both Alicia and Stan led the analysis and development of new processes, protocols and application for FHP Congressional Recognition (required by the ACE Act).
- Alicia attended and represented the Forum at the USFWS National Fish Passage IJA Partner Workshop at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV July 18-20, 2022. Alicia also participated in NFHP/AFWA strategy meetings and the Inclusion Workgroup established as a result of the meeting at NCTC.

2023-2024

- Produce annual workplans each year
- Coordinate and facilitate bi-annual Forum Steering Committee meetings
- Provide administrative support for committees
- Represent the Forum on NFHP FHP Coordinators calls and NFHP Board meetings.
- Coordinator annual RFP for NFHP funding
- Update Forum projects in the NFHP database

Describe the biggest challenge that your FHP is facing or will face in the coming fiscal year.

The California Fish Passage Forum coordinator, Alicia Marrs, left the Forum for another opportunity in January 2023, and the Forum coordinator role is vacant. The Forum plans to have another coordinator on board in May of 2023. Project status' for restoration projects are not up-to-date since we did not call project sponsors while in-between coordinators coordinators.

3. NFHP Funded Project Status (** please note: CFPF does not have a coordinator, and therefore, did not have project status updates at the time of the report.

NFHP ProjectID	Project Name	FY Funded	Project Status	Notes about status	NFHAP Goal / NCP
2589	(FY 2019): California Fish Passage Forum strategic Project Prioritization	2019	Complete		1,2,3,4
2590	(FY 2019): Iron Horse Vineyards Dam Removal	2019	Complete		2,3
2591	(FY 2019): Lamprey Passage at Rowdy Creek	2019	Complete		2,3
2592	(FY 2019): M-1 Road Fish Passage Improvement	2019	Complete		1,2,3,4
2593	(FY 2019): Seiad Creek Off-Channel Connection Improvement Design	2019	Complete		1,2,3
2594	(FY 2019): Upper Noyo River - Skunk Train	2019	Complete		
2595	(FY 2019): Lamprey Passage Design for Priority Obstacles in Sacramento Basin - Phase 1	2019	Complete		2, 3
2933	(FY 2019): CFPF Coordination and Assistance	2019	Complete (9/19)		
2702	(FY 2020) Applying FISHPass in the Smith River Watershed	2020	Complete (7/22)		1,2,3,4
2738	(FY 2020) Montague-Grenada Weir Retrofit and Barrier Removal	2020	Active	Extended	3, 4
2739	(FY 2020) Santa Margarita River Fish Passage & Bridge Replacement Project	2020	Complete (2021)		1, 2, 3, 4
2740	(FY 2020) Strawberry Creek at Clam Beach Fish Passage Remediation Project	2020	Complete (1/23)		1,2,3
2741	(FY 2020) West Tule Creek Diversion Fish Passage Project	2020	Complete (8/22)		1,2,3
2932	(FY 2020): CFPF Coordination and Assistance	2020	Complete (9/20)		5
	(FY 2021): CFPF Coordination and Assistance	2021	Complete (9/21)		5

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2807	(FY 2021) Lawrence Creek Off-Channel Habitat Connectivity Project, Phase III	2021	Complete (12/22)		1,2,3
2949	(FY 2021) Fish Passage Media Acquisition Effort	2021	Active		1,2,3
2951	(FY 2021) Mid Klamath Creek Mouth Enhancement Project	2021	Complete (9/22)		1,2,3,4

NFHP ProjectID	Project Name	FY Funded	Project Status	Notes about status	NFHAP Goal / NCP
2952	(FY 2021) Ross Valley Sanitary District Shady Lane Abandoned Sewer and Barrier Removal Project	2021	Complete (10/21)		3
2953	(FY 2021) Wildcat Creek Fish Passage and Community Engagement Project (Phase 1)	2021	Active		2.3
nfhp_2022_7	CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	2022	Complete		5
nfhp_2022_11	CFPF Data Stewardship & GIS Support	2022	Complete		5
nfhp_2022_10	Hosie Low Water Crossing	2022	Active		1,3,4
nfhp_2022_8	Lower Stotenburg Creek Fish Passage Project	2022	Active		2, 3
nfhp_2022_9	Wildcat Creek Fish Passae & Community Engagement Project-Phase 2	2022	Active		2, 3
Not available	CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	2023	Just approved		5
Not available	Little Case Fish Passage Project	2023	Just approved		2,3
Not available	Mid-Klamath Tributary Fish Passage Improvement Project	2023	Just approved		2,3
Not available	Native Fish Passage in San Joaquin River at Eastside Bypass Control Structure	2023	Just approved		2,3
Not available	North Fork Ryan Creek Fish Passage Design	2023	Just approved		2,3
Not available	Designing for Sturgeon Passage in San Joaquin Eastside Bypass	2023	Just approved		2,3