



**CALIFORNIA FISH
PASSAGE FORUM**

**Partnership Accomplishment Report, Work Plan and Proposed Projects Guidance and Template
FY25 NFHP Project Funding Cycle**

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

Contact Person Name: **Holly Steindorf**

Phone Number: **(435) 881-8657**

Email Address: **hsteindorf@nrccorp.com**

General Instructions

1. All FHP's must provide a cover letter summarizing the purpose of the Partnership and stating your request for NFHP funds for FY2025.
2. If requesting **NFHP FHP operational support**, complete Section 2 and Section 3, and enter "operations" project into the NFHP Project Tracking Database (enter projects through FHP specific dashboard).
3. If requesting **NFHP funding for projects**, review Section 4 and enter proposed projects (including a project for operations) into the NFHP Project Tracking Database. Projects must be entered and submitted no later than **11:59 pm local time, March 31, 2024**.
4. Email one electronic PDF copy of this completed report by 11:59 pm local time, **March 31, 2024** to Alex (Atkinson) McOwen at alex.mcowen@NOAA.gov, Ryan Roberts at RRoberts@fishwildlife.org, and Kate Sherman at ksherman@psmfc.org.
5. Incomplete reports (including FHP's requesting NFHP funds for projects who do not enter them into the NFHP Project Tracking Database) will not be considered for funding. Information received after the submission deadline will not be considered.

Scoring

1. Sections 2 and 3: 10 points (justification for proposed operational support)
2. Section 4: 70 points
3. A final 20 points will be assigned based on overall application (including cover letter), performance, partnership accomplishments, project status updates, and work plan.
4. A maximum total score of 100 points for those requesting operational support and NFHP funding for projects. A maximum total score of 70 points will be given to Partnerships requesting only NFHP funding for projects.

1. Cover Letter

Submit a cover letter explaining what you are requesting and why, not to exceed one page. Provide the following information:

- (1) Overview of the focus or purpose of the partnership, geographic boundaries (map), and a description of who will provide coordination and any other operational support for the partnership;
- (2) Summary statistics of proposed projects for FY25, including total number of projects, total NFHP funding requested (including operational support), total non-federal match, as well as leveraged funds (both federal and non-fed). Identify which National Conservation Priorities will be met with this project portfolio (does not need to be broken down by project).
- (3) A **brief description** of how the projects that are being proposed fit into the larger context of the partnership's work, including but not limited to the FHPs strategic plan or annual work plan.

The California Fish Passage Forum is a collaborative entity formed among state and federal agencies, an interstate fisheries commission, and fisheries conservation groups, whose mission is to protect and revitalize anadromous fish populations in California by restoring connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout their historic range. The Forum advances that mission through seven 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 fish passage restoration effectiveness. 6) Encourage existing state/national policy and actions that support fish passage improvement in California. and 7) Implement education and outreach activities, targeting the public and fish passage practitioners.

The California Fish Passage Forum selected a new Forum coordinator in 2023, an employee of Natural Resources Consultants (NRC). NRC also provides coordinators for two other Pacific Coast Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) under the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP), creating efficiencies through collaboration between FHPs with overlaps in objectives and geographic scope. The Forum coordinator, with the support and oversight of the Forum fiscal agent, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and the Forum Governance Committee, aims to increase the impact of the Forum as guided by the Forum Strategic Plan and National Conservation Priorities.

In 2023, the NFHP board voted to allow an increase of up to \$125,000 for coordination and operational support for fish habitat partnerships. The California Fish Passage Forum intends to request the full amount in FY25, to further the development of capacity through several channels, which may include but is not limited to: data management, outreach, additional coordination hours, or development and support of special projects. In recognition that the increased operational funding does decrease the funding available to support restoration and assessment, the Forum will assess the impact of increased operational funding in advancing Forum objectives and adjust the request for operational funds in FY26 and beyond to balance the investment in operations and projects.

The Forum requests \$660,828.96 in NFHP funds for FY2025, including \$125,000 for coordination and operational funds. The proposed projects comprise operational support, five barrier removal projects and one passage assessment project. They are recommended based on their benefits to target species and habitats, technical merit, sponsor expertise, and alignment with the Forum's Objectives and National Conservation Priorities. These projects are leveraging a total of \$7.1 million including \$6.8 million in non-federal match and \$173,000 in federal match. With an overall match ratio of 6.4:1, our proposal exceeds the 1:1 match requirement of the ACE Act for a non-federal match. The seven proposed 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 that support viable and sustainable species and/or populations in impacted or at-risk systems, NCP 4) Reconnect fragmented fish habitats, and NCP 6) Support structure and function of FHPs.



2. Accomplishments by Fiscal Year

Section a. Communications and Outreach efforts of the Partnership.

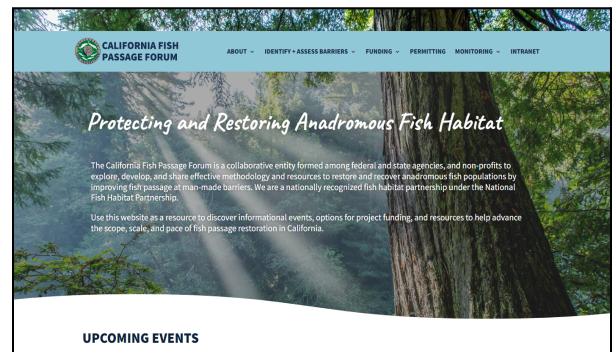
Klamath Fish Passage Summit for World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) In 2022, building off of the Klamath River Basin [StoryMap](#) developed by the Forum WFMD 2020, the Forum utilized Multi-State Conservation Grant (MSCG) funding via NFHP/AFWA/USFWS to contract with the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) 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 (KRRRC), and technical presentations from partners. 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, and concluded with a showing of the documentary The Lost Salmon, and a special salmon dinner of Klamath River Chinook traditionally caught and prepared by members of the Karuk Tribe. The second day featured a second set of full-day field tours for participants.

Nominated Two Forum Projects to 10 Waters to Watch list for 2023

The Forum coordinator nominated FY2023 Forum Projects “Mid-Klamath Tributary Fish Passage Improvement Project” and “Native Fish Passage in San Joaquin River at Eastside Bypass Control Structure” projects to the NFHP 2023 “10 Waters to Watch”, a nationally publicized summation of restoration projects. The Forum conducted outreach in conjunction with NFHP’s national announcement. The forum has a strong history of projects selected for Waters to Watch, the forum will continue nominating worthy projects in FY24 and FY25.

Transition to New Forum Website

In 2023, the Forum coordinator oversaw the transfer of the Forum Website to WordPress as part of a strategic effort to increase efficiency in software management, as PSMFC maintains a WordPress account for several FHP websites. The coordinator transferred information into the new website and developed some information-sharing schema, including a searchable portfolio of all forum-funded projects, and a shared Forum intranet. www.cafishpassageforum.org



Forum Re-Branding

The development of the new website also was a catalyst for a Forum re-branding, which included a logo restructure, development of new branding guidelines and printed materials to provide at events and conferences. These materials include a full-page fact sheet for the Forum, a 4x9 rack card describing resources available for restoration projects from planning to completion, and a poster to be presented at conferences, including the Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) Conference March 26-29, 2024. In 2024, the coordinator developed a shared outreach calendar to connect members with materials to bring to events which will enhance and document our outreach efforts in 2024-25.

November Steering Committee Meeting and 5-year Yellowjacket Creek Site Tour

As part of the 2023 Forum Meeting in Santa Rosa, California, which provided a networking opportunity between key agencies and organizations working on fish passage in CA, the Forum organized a field tour of the Yellowjacket Creek Fish Passage Project, revisiting the project 5 years after its 2018 construction. The field tour included many for the original 2018 project development, design, and engineering personnel. Tour attendees got an in-depth overview of the project's background, construction, and perspectives on factors for the success of similar projects. Multiple juvenile Coho were spotted at the project site. In 2024 and 2025, the Forum will host at least one in-person meeting and one associated in-person outreach event. Planning for the 2024 in-person meeting and outreach event is underway through the Forum Education and Outreach Committee.

Virtual Events, including the Funding & Resources for Fish Passage Projects Webinar

The Forum has hosted several virtual events over its history including expert review webinars for the Passage Assessment Database (PAD) Plan (described more below), the Barriers to Tidal Connectivity Symposium and workshop, and virtual Forum Steering Committee meetings. In 2023, the Forum had fewer events due to a gap in coordination, however, in 2024, the Forum is hosting several virtual webinars, which combined at the time of this report (3/21/24) have over 150 registrants, and include a collaborative multi-agency webinar April 5th, 2024, which will showcase funding sources, and resources to assist with permitting, and successful examples of effectiveness monitoring of fish passage projects.

Outreach for Passage Assessment Database (PAD) Plan Implementation

The forum has held several webinars to outreach and further the PAD Plan (an effort to review and update all records of fish passage barriers in the PAD). The Coordinator has overseen 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). Region 2 occurred in March 2024, and Region 1 is planned for May 2024. These webinars included an opportunity to introduce participants to the Forum and provided a forum for discussion of local fish passage issues, and projects (desired, pending, underway, and completed.) Approximately 50 individuals joined each webinar in 2022 and 2023.

Section b. Describe Scientific efforts of the Partnership

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

The forum has been instrumental in the creation and maintenance of the Passage Assessment Database (PAD), a statewide repository of barriers to fish passage. Over the last several years, the Forum coordinator and Science and Data Committee have worked with the Pad Management team to support and outreach a focused QA/QC plan "PAD Plan" to review and update records of fish passage barriers in California – with focused reviews by the 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 CDFW Regions 4 and 3, with associated outreach events described above.

First Pass Incidental Report Form & Mobile Application:

In 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. 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. In 2023, this project was paused due to the gap in coordination, however, in 2024, the review and edit of the First Pass Incidental Report Form & Mobile Application is an item on the Forum Annual Work Plan.

Developing a Statewide Effectiveness Assessment

Based on a known data gap in fish passage engineering design justification, the Forum chair presented a proposal outlining the need for a robust effectiveness assessment of as-built fish passage structures within California to a multi-agency group of fish passage engineers at the Forum Steering Committee Meeting in November 2023. Based on feedback from the meeting, the Forum Chair and Forum Coordinator, with the perspective of the Science and Data Committee, and the Policy and Permitting Committee are moving forward with the development of a proposal, work plan, and budget for the effectiveness assessment. Refining the assessment with additional expert review, and seeking funding to hire consultants to complete the assessment are tasks on the Forum Work Plan for 2024 and 2025. Funding for this project is not requested from NFHP at this time.

Section c. Describe the Conservation efforts of the Partnership

In 2023, six projects supported by the Forum were completed, which included removing/remediating barriers to passage, opening access to cold-water refugia, monitoring passage at restored structures, enhancing understanding of sturgeon passage, producing high-quality images and videos of funded projects, and engaging hundreds of community members in advance of a large structure remediation. These projects advanced the Forums mission, and National Conservation priorities, and provided direct benefit to species including Coho salmon, Chinook Salmon, Steelhead/rainbow trout, Pacific Lamprey, Coastal cutthroat trout, Green sturgeon, and Threespine stickleback. Projects completed in 2023 comprise:

- One constructed weir modification to allow passage of juvenile salmon to cold water refugia.
- One project to elevate a road and install box culverts to allow vehicle and aquatic organism passage during low-flow conditions.
- One year of post-implementation monitoring of a culvert remediation project completed in 2022.
- One project to continue assessing sturgeon passage through a large flood control structure by maintaining 27 active receivers and tagging 11 additional White Sturgeon.
- One continuation of a multi-phase project, this phase including an ecological engineering assessment and community outreach including the creation of a children's book, classroom presentations, and site tours for a total of nine community events.
- One project yielding professional images and videos of Forum-supported projects.

Section d. Describe the Operational efforts of the Partnership not described in the above sections.

2023

- Interviewed, selected, onboarded, oriented, and guided the new Forum Coordinator
- Synthesized new overall focused annual work plan based on previous individual committee work plans.
- The Forum Governance Committee drafted updates to the 5-year strategic plan (2023-2028). Updates were reviewed and finalized at the in-person November 2023 Steering Committee Meeting.
- The Forum coordinator represented the Forum at the USFWS National Fish Passage Partner Workshop in Charleston, South Carolina, December 4-6, 2023.
- Submitted Congressional Designation Application to NFHP Board in December 2023.
- Represented the Forum on NFHP FHP Coordinators calls and NFHP Board Meetings (virtually).

2024-2025

- Perform the administrative functions necessary to maintain engagement and meet tasks in the work plan, including maintaining regular meetings, and including diverse signatory perspectives in shared tasks.
- Invite at least one federal and non-federal signatory to join the Forum.
- Use the Forum shared Outreach Calendar to maximize engagement with Forum materials at events.
- Plan and facilitate bi-annual Forum Steering Committee meetings, with associated outreach events.
- Draft, publish, outreach, the forum's annual RFP. Assembly review committee and rank projects for funding, and update Forum projects in the NFHP database
- Attend NFHP FHP Coordinators calls and NFHP Board meetings.

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

In 2024 and 2025 the Forum will need to engage in careful strategic planning to prioritize investment of internal resources, both fiscal and time. Options for investment include the Effectiveness Assessment, increased outreach, and determining the next steps for the Forum's barrier optimization tool, *FISHPass*, which was taken offline in 2023 after failure to update and maintain the online user interface, resulting in security concerns. Forum partners will engage in joint strategic planning to avoid spreading resources too thin and focus on key investments to advance the overall vision of the Forum and NFHP.

3. NFHP Funded Project Status

The purpose of this section is to validate that NFHP funded projects are being completed in a timely manner, and information is updated and communicated with NFHP. *Please note: there is no longer a 2-year deadline associated with project completion, though timely project completion is encouraged.* This includes all proposed, active or ongoing projects, and completed projects from **FY2021-FY2023**. Please use the NFHP project tracking system to export the project list and provide any additional notes as needed.

NFHP ProjectID	Project Name	FY Funded	Project Status	NCP	Project Products (e.g. links, press releases, websites, etc)
	CFPF Coordination and Assistance	2021	Complete (9/21)	6	Forum Website and Outreach Materials
2807	Lawrence Creek Off-Channel Habitat Connectivity Project, Phase III	2021	Complete (12/22)	1,2,3	Youtube Video-Saving Coho Salmon
2949	Fish Passage Media Acquisition Effort	2021	Complete 2023	1,2,3,6	Forum Website and Outreach Materials
2951	Mid Klamath Creek Mouth Enhancement Project	2021	Complete (9/22)	1,2,3,4	Mid-Klamath Watershed Council website
2952	Ross Valley Sanitary District Shady Lane Abandoned Sewer and Barrier Removal Project	2021	Complete (10/21)	3	Sanitary District Completed Projects Page
2953	Wildcat Creek Fish Passage and Community Engagement Project (Phase 1)	2021	Complete (/)	2,3	Project Website
2738	Montague-Grenada Weir Retrofit and Barrier Removal	2021	Complete (10/23)	2,3	Project website
86	CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	2022	Complete (9/22)	6	Forum website and Outreach Materials
	CFPF Data Stewardship & GIS Support	2022	Complete (/)	6	Forum website and Data Materials
	Hosie Low Water Crossing	2022	Complete (10/23)	1,3,4	Project page on Forum website
2350	Lower Stotenburg Creek Fish Passage Project	2022	Active	2, 3	Smith River Alliance website Project page on Forum website

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nfhp_2022_9	Wildcat Creek Fish Passage & Community Engagement Project- Phase 2	2022	Complete (10/23)	2, 3	Project Website
nfhp_2022_11	CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	2023	Complete (9//23)	6	Forum website and Outreach Materials
NFHP_2023_8	Little Case Fish Passage Project	2023	Active	2,3	Project page on Forum website
NFHP_2023_9	Mid-Klamath Tributary Fish Passage Improvement Project	2023	Active	2,3	Mid-Klamath Watershed Council website
NFHP_2023_10	Native Fish Passage in San Joaquin River at Eastside Bypass Control Structure	2023	Active	2,3	USFWS Lodi field office website
NFHP_2023_10	North Fork Ryan Creek Fish Passage Design	2023	Active	2,3	Project page on Forum website
NFHP_2023_12	Designing for Sturgeon Passage in San Joaquin Eastside Bypass	2023	Active	2,3	USFWS Lodi field office website
nfhp_2024_111	Blodgett Dam Restoration Feasibility	2024	Proposed in 2023	2,3	
nfhp_2024_95	CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	2024	Active	6	Forum website and Outreach Materials
nfhp_2024_108	Channel Design at River Road Bridge Crossing, Gill Creek, Sonoma County, CA	2024	Proposed in 2023	2,3	
nfhp_2024_97	Designing for Sturgeon Passage in the San Joaquin River at Eastside Bypass Control Structure	2024	Proposed in 2023	2,3	USFWS Lodi field office website
nfhp_2024_99	Jenny Creek Man-made Barrier Removal	2024	Proposed in 2023	2,3	
nfhp_2024_110	Mid-Klamath Rearing Habitat Assessment and Enhancement Project	2024	Proposed in 2023	1,2,3	Mid-Klamath Watershed Council website
nfhp_2024_109	North Fork Schooner Gulch Culvert Replacement	2024	Proposed in 2023	2,3	
nfhp_2024_102	Weaver Basin Fish Passage Assessments	2024	Proposed in 2023	2,3	
nfhp_2024_104	Wildcat Creek Fish Passage and Community Engagement Project (Phase 3)	2024	Proposed in 2023	1,2,3	Project Website

- Status notes may include expected completion date, or notes about progress of the project.

4. Proposed Projects (FY 2025) (70 points)

The goal of this section is to ensure that projects proposed for NFHP funds meet the requirements of Title II of the America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE Act), and address the NCPs approved by the NFHP Board.

You will be evaluated on the extent to which each project meets the following elements as described in the ACE Act:

“Hard” Project Criteria

All proposed projects must meet these criteria. These criteria will be more strongly weighted in the score for this section.

1. Non-federal financial match (1:1) - matching funds may be in the form of in-kind support from non-federal sources and must be spent during the project period. [Database form: use the section, “Organization Roles and Financial Contributions” to add all organizations contributing financially to the project, and the type of funding (organization type, funding contribution type, cash or in-kind)].

Please note in FY25, the Board must continue to show progress towards meeting the 1:1 non-federal match required by the ACE Act. In order to do this, the Board will set a goal for non-Federal funding that is closer to the 1:1 than last year. In the future the NFHP Board may not be able to nominate projects for NFHP funding to Congress that do not meet the 1:1 non-federal financial match of NFHP funds requested.

2. Identifies biological, ecological, or other benefits of the project (*database form: Biological or ecological benefits, habitats, and species*)
3. Provides measurable project goals and objectives (*database form: metrics*)
4. Summary of FHP evaluation of the project (*database form: FHP Evaluation Summary*).
Considerations for this summary include:
 - a. Why the project was selected for NFHP funding by the Partnership? More specifically, how will the requested funding serve to further the FHPs purpose and fit into ongoing workplans.
 - b. The capabilities and experience of project sponsor to successfully implement the project (*database form: “Expertise of project sponsor”*)

“Soft” Project Criteria

All proposed projects may meet some of these criteria, and identify the extent to which they meet these criteria. These criteria will be less strongly weighted in the score for this section. Projects are required to meet at least 6 of the soft project criteria.

5. Fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership (*database form: FHP Priorities*)
6. Addresses (at least one of) the national conservation priorities (NCP’s) established by the Board. (*database form: NFHP Priorities*)
7. Identifies monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria (*database form: Monitoring Plan*)
8. Provides sound methods and approaches to the character and design of the project (*database form: Project methods and design*)
9. Provides well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes (*database form: budget narrative and/or attach budget in “project report and documents” section*)
10. Leverages other funds to implement the project (*database form: organizations and financial contributions*)
11. Address the causes and processes behind the decline of fish populations or fish habitats (*database form: threats*)

12. Includes a local or regional outreach or educational component (*database form: outreach, education, and results dissemination*)
13. Will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public. (*database form: recreational fishing opportunities*)
14. Increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife dependent recreation (*database form: public access*)
15. Advances conservation under management or conservation plans, or state or federal law, such as (*database form: Conservation Plans*):
 - a. Advances the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as designated by State agencies
 - b. Advances the conservation of fish and fish habitat under Magnuson Act
 - c. Advances the conservation of fish and fish habitat under other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans
16. Will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian Tribes, and/or private entities (*database form: organizations*)
17. Project implemented (i.e. project sponsor/lead) by a Tribe or implemented with tribal funds (*database form: organizations*)