



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

Science & Data Committee Meetings

Present: Holly Steindorf, Gena Lasko, Van Hare, Marissa Parish, Tim Loux, Ross Taylor

Absent: Mark Guard, Bob Pagliuco, Alex Jones, Sandi Jacobson, Holly Eddinger, Andrew Hampton

Meeting attendance:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1NApL93PWEhVy2thUfWbRoe0ILJVullm5_YTjQfazKil/edit?usp=drive_link

9/4 Agenda

- Discussion with Ross Taylor on Fish Passage Barrier Assessment Workshop at 2025 SRF (Ross in the field calling in)
- Next steps discussion on utilizing FISHPass on Cannabis watershed for State Parks.

9/4 Meeting Minutes:

Discussion with Ross Taylor on Fish Passage Barrier Assessment Workshop at 2025 SRF

The group discussed a barrier assessment workshop to be held at 2025 SRF conference occurring late April early May in 2025. The group reviewed the existing workshop proposal, made some edits, and discussed the logistics of the workshop.

Ross described the workshops that he presented to Parks staff in April and May, 2022. While that workshops were in depth 2-day workshops which included hands on work with inputting barrier measurements into fish Xing hydraulic modeling software and sharing results, the currently discussed workshop will be less in depth, and will provide a general overview of assessment protocols, with a hands-on focus utilizing rapid assessment protocols for supporting professional judgment of barriers in a half-day classroom, half-day fieldwork format.

The group discussed and made some decisions for the workshop, which are as follows: Upping the participant cap (including instructors) to 30 (3 vans), rotating 3 groups with one instructor each through 3 field sites (if instructor capacity allows) and regrouping after the field component either back at the hotel, or at a centralized location or park to have a final regroup. Holly will incorporate these changes in a revised proposal and send it to Dana Stoltzman by EOD today 9/4/24. It is also attached at the end of these meeting minutes.

Ross recommended we reach out to Kristen Schroeder, who works with Santa Cruz County, and was helpful in providing insight for good field locations for a 2022 engineering and design workshop hosted by Ross and Mike Love. Kristen will likely have insight into good candidate barriers that have ample parking, and are a reasonable proximity from each other, and from the hotel. Ross is sending Holly Kristen's contact information, and Holly will get in touch.

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Ross will start working on a scope of work and budget for his involvement in the workshop.

The group tentatively decided that the November science and data committee meeting on November 4th at 11:00 AM would be a good time to revisit and do a next push on workshop planning.

Next steps discussion on utilizing FISHPass on Cannabis watershed for State Parks

Gena and Van have shared their notes from this discussion with Holly, who has included it in these meeting notes to fully capture everyone's perspectives.

Background

In a response to the Committee about using the Service Center Approach for FISHPass, Gena has reached out to the State Parks Cannabis remediation team, which has a relatively large budget that can be used for fish passage remediation projects within Parks that are also within cannabis watersheds (or watersheds that have been affected by cannabis grows).

This idea is still in its infancy in that we at Parks want to determine how this tool can help us identify potential projects, and then where best this tool might be applied. If we consider moving forward using Parks as a test case, the Cannabis team would like to understand the tool better and see if it could be helpful to us.

Question from Van: How is Parks currently determining priority for investing in barrier remediation projects?

Answer: Parks is just starting on this endeavor, they are not using a particular method, investment has been sporadic and haphazard. Parks is currently undergoing a GIS exercise to look at watersheds within Parks and where there are PAD barriers and other possible barriers that may be intersecting roads and trails. This exercise will help determine if we have appropriate watersheds to use FISHPass. We are discussing ground-truthing as part of the exercise.

Parks is in the process of signing an agreement with TU to develop a priority scheme over the next 2 ½ years for Parks in general (not just cannabis watersheds). Deliverables include development of a process to identify, prioritize, and advance the design, permitting and implementation of new project concepts surfaced through the application of a strategic scientific framework and preliminary designs to advance at least 3 projects toward implementation. This FISHPass effort could complement the prioritization effort from TU, we would need to coordinate with TU as part of the process.

Van recommended Gena connect Parks with some reference material, those being 1) The California subset of the National Barrier Prioritization Tool. <https://aquaticbarriers.org/fhp/CFPF/>. This could help identify candidate sites by taking PAD and USGS data and assessing priority through several means. <https://aquaticbarriers.org/priority/>. The idea of a service center approach envisions applying FISHPass at a regional or watershed scale after using a high-level tool (like aquaticbarriers.org) to identify the specific area of interest. Note that the Forum's 'California Baseline Fish Habitat Layer' is incorporated into the national prioritization tool 2) Parks staff may benefit from reading the final report on the Forum funded project [Applying FISHPass in the Smith River Watershed](#), by Ross Taylor and Damon Goodman.

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This should help educate them on the usage of the tool and provide a summary of its limitations and data requirements.

Gena will talk to the cannabis team to see where they are with this prioritization process and gauge their interest in exploring the FISHPass tool and if it would provide value, with the caveat that we must choose watersheds with quality input data to get a valuable output*.

- * For example: choosing an area where the PAD has been recently QA/QC'd, running candidate areas through the National Tool to check their outputs, estimating whether the hydrography and baseline fish habitat layer for the area is consistent with reality. Examples of updates to the above would include any new data on species range, any newly identified barriers or removals that have occurred, and ensuring hydrography is appropriately accurate.

If Parks Cannabis team is interested in pursuing utilizing fish pass to help them prioritize their barrier removals, we will set up a meeting between the cannabis team and Van (and Anne if the meeting happens after she is back for maternity leave).

8/7 Action Items:

- Ross to send Holly Kristin Schroder contact information
- Holly to contact Kristin Schroeder about candidate barrier sites for Rapid Barrier Assessment Workshop at 2025 SRF.
- If interested, Gena to share with the Cannabis team the California subset of the National Barrier Prioritization Tool <https://aquaticbarriers.org/fhp/CFPF/> and Applying FISHPass in the Smith River Watershed Final Report <https://www.cafishpassageforum.org/project/applying-fishpass-in-the-smith-river-watershed/>
- Gena to talk with the Cannabis team to determine where they are at with their watershed inventory or barrier prioritization methods, or with their GIS work, and reconnect with Van (and Anne if after October 25th) to schedule a next meeting.



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

August 8th, 2024

Proposal for Workshop hosted at 2025 SRF Conference

Title: Using Rapid Assessment Protocols to Gauge the Passability of Barriers to Anadromous Fish Passage, Including Hands-On Experience at Barriers Around Santa Cruz

Participant Cap: 30 participants

Time: 9am-5pm (classroom 9am-12pm, field portion 12:30pm-4:30pm)

Focus: Restoration strategies

Audience: Restoration Practitioners, Resource Managers, Field Scientists, Engineers, etc.

Purpose: This workshop aims to increase participants' familiarity with rapid barrier assessment techniques used to assess natural features or manmade structures for their ability to provide fish passage for anadromous fishes. The workshop will provide an overview of field assessment protocols outlined in Part 9 of the California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, and focus specifically on rapid assessment protocols, such as FirstPass, to enable restoration practitioners and resource managers to professionally judge barriers for passage in their working watersheds.

Classroom

- Explore the use of standard techniques for barrier assessment and consider how passage assessment efforts inform both local restoration priorities and the wider body of knowledge on the state of aquatic connectivity across California.
- Learn about how to utilize or contribute to records of passage barriers utilizing the Passage Assessment Database.
- Learn about general limitations of native California anadromous fishes, including salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and other aquatic species to common barrier types.

Field

- Travel by van to a few barriers surrounding Santa Cruz, where participants will use the techniques introduced in the classroom portion to assess example barriers for passability.

Participants should bring their own sanitized field gear, including waders or hip boots, PFD, sunscreen, and rain gear.

Key Objectives:

- Familiarize participants with benefits and limitations of field assessment techniques.
- Practice assessing barriers via hand-on demonstration.
- Connect participants to existing and emerging data on in their working watersheds.