



CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

June Virtual Steering Committee Meeting Agenda and Minutes

Thursday, June 5, 12:00 – 2:00pm

Contents:

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- 2025 Work Plan (updated June 2025)

Present: Grace Adams, Sandi Jacobson, Stephanie Falzone, Garrett Altmann, Ruth Goodfield, Emily Seigel, Tim Loux, Van Hare, Adrienne Chenette, Kate Sherman, Erika Lovejoy, Claire Buchanan, Gena Lasko, Anne Elston, Gena Lasko, Stan Allen, Anna Halligan, Marisa Parish, Theo Claire

Absent: Megan Quinn, Joshua Black, Jim Long, Ted Masters, John Sayers, Darren Mierau, Sam Janniches, Natalie Stauffer-Olsen, Chris Kane, Alex Jones, Don Crocker, Kurt Malchow

Agenda:

Start Time	Duration	Agenda Item
12:00	15 minutes	Welcome and Introductions Welcome remarks and introductions, welcome new signatories
12:15	60 minutes	Signatory Updates (see attached) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CA DFW – Andrew Hampton• CA State Parks – Gena Lasko• CalTrout – Sandi Jacobson• NOAA – Marisa Parish-Hanson• PSMFC – Stan Allen, Anne Elston• Trout Unlimited – Anna Halligan• USFWS – Tim Loux• Sustainable Conservation – Erika Lovejoy• American Conservation Rivers – Adrienne Chenette
1:15	5 minutes	Klamath Basin – Sandi Jacobson Photo tour of recent float through old Iron Gate dam section
1:20	15 minutes	Forum Updates – Grace Adams, Stan Allen, Sandi Jacobson <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACE Act Reauthorization• RFP Updates• Budget Update• 2025 Work Plan Review (see attached)
1:35	15 minutes	Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance Committee – Marisa Parish-Hanson

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science & Data Committee – Gena Lasko or Emily Siegel• Policy & Planning Committee – Anna Halligan• Education & Outreach Committee – Grace Adams
1:50	5 minutes	Vote: Change in Bylaws to support succession planning – Sandi Jacobson
1:55	5 minutes	Upcoming Elections – Sandi Jacobson
2:00		Adjourn

Signatory Updates

The committee heard updates from CDFW, CA State Parks, CalTrout, NOAA, PSMFC, Trout Unlimited, USFWS, Sustainable Conservation, and American Rivers.

Signatory updates can be viewed here: [6-5-25 Steering Committee Meeting Slide Deck](#), slides 4-19.

American Rivers Active 150 Presentation

Grace noted that this was a recent addition to the agenda today to prime the Steering Committee for a review of the report describing the model and results later this summer.

Adrienne Chenette presented on American River's California Active 150 – a list of 150 'active' dam removal projects in the state. The list does not solely focus on large dams, but rather smaller structures that have a high feasibility for removal and ecological priority. American Rivers has an initial prioritized list, but this process is iterative. They just received a second grant to further this process, so American Rivers is reaching out to additional entities and organizations to make sure that priorities are captured in the Active 150 criteria.

Adrienne noted that they are working on a report that details the criteria, and the goal is to share the finalized report with the Forum this summer. The tool is not quite ready, but that American Rivers would like to do beta test of the tool with a small group of folks involved in dam removal/prioritization work. The plan at the moment is to do the beta testing live, during a meeting, but Adrienne is still working on the best course of action.

Next Step: Finalizing the report and then getting feedback from the Forum this summer. The report will be shared with the entire Steering Committee, with an invitation for anyone to review, however, Science & Data Committee members are the primary reviewers. The plan is to review the report during the August Science & Data Committee meeting (date and time TBD).

Q: Does the tool include all dams?

American Rivers definition of a dam is a bank-to-bank obstruction, so all barriers that fit that definition are included (e.g., no culverts).

Q: Similar to SARP definition?

Yes

Klamath Basin Photo Tour

Sandi Jacobson provided an overview and shared photos (see [Meeting Slide Deck](#), slides 21-27) of her recent trip to the Klamath basin. She had the opportunity to float down a 6-mile section of the Klamath

that was part of Iron Gate dam removal processes. They put in right below where Fall Creek enters the Klamath (put in is now open to the public) and floated 6 miles downstream is the takeout point.

Sandi asked the committee if anyone has any thoughts or next steps for Klamath.

Anna Halligan noted that Jenny Creek was not attractive fish habitat pre-dam removal, so it was remarkable to see Chinook spawning in the tributary when she visited last November. She also noted that the sediment layers along the banks are striking.

Remarkable how fast salmonids came back

Erika Lovejoy noted that it is great to see these transformations. Sustainable Conservation comes from a more peripheral position to the dam removal process, so it would be great to share as widely as possible the outcomes and transformations. She noted that sometimes the focus is on the negative (e.g., sedimentation) and that maybe Sustainable Conservation should work on a webinar sharing the lead up/preparation/demo videos and then the peace and calm afterwards.

Stan Allen provided a photo of the dam prior to removal:



It was noted how incredibly fast fish came back (within 48 hours) and that there are a few additional conditions that might have led to the quick return. (1) It was a calm winter and (2) there has been a commercial and recreational fishing moratorium in the area.

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It was noted that this might be a good topic of discussion for the Science & Data Committee – potentially facilitating a conversation with Trout Unlimited and NOAA/USFWS on how the moratorium impacted salmon returns.

Post Meeting Update: Damon Goodman shared with Sandi that over 8,400 fish greater than 20 inches have been seen in the Klamath past the former Iron Gate dam after removal.

Forum Updates

ACE Act Reauthorization:

- Signed by President Biden in December 2024; reauthorized through 2030
- Provides \$7.2 million for NFHP annually
- Added 2 new NFHP Board seats, one for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and another seat for the Regional Fishery Management councils or the Marine Fisheries Commissions
- Adds BLM to agencies allowed to provide scientific and technical assistance to FHPs and participate in fish habitat conservation projects
- 50% federal match requirement changed to the partnership level rather than the project level
- Allows for a quicker timeline between the RFP to sponsors receiving funds*

Forum/National Fish Habitat Partnership RFP Updates:

FY25 –

- NFHP FY25 project allocations have been completed
- CA Fish Passage Forum received \$305,000 for FY25 projects
- All project sponsors have been notified whether they are or are not receiving funding.

FY25 Funded Projects	Sponsor	Funds Received
CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$125,000
Adobe Creek Barrier Assessment, Design and Permitting	Sonoma County Public Infrastructure	\$132,000
Dutch Bill Creek Market Street Weir Repair Fish Passage Improvement Project	Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District	\$48,717

FY26 –

- FY26 project proposals submitted to NFHP in March 2025
- NFHP Board currently reviewing FY26 project lists, to be voted on in upcoming Board meeting June 10

FY26 Project Proposals	Sponsor	Funds Requested
CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$125,000

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CA Fish Passage Structure Assessment: Evaluation of Effectiveness and Durability	California Trout	\$88,920.00
Last Dam: Restoring Steelhead Rearing Habitat through Barrier Removal on Stuart Creek	Audubon Canyon Ranch	\$45,000.00
Coastal Del Norte Habitat Restoration Response Monitoring	Smith River Alliance	\$44,839.44
NF Ryan Fish Passage Project	Eel River Watershed Improvement Group	\$36,340.00
Little Grass Valley Creek Fish Passage Improvement	Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council	\$99,325.00
Total		\$439,424.44

Budget Status Update:

Stan Allen introduced Kate Sherman to provide an overview of the Forum's remaining budget for 2024 and 2025. Each line item applies to PSMFC costs or indirect, except for the sub-contract line item. The sub-contract line item applies to the contracts with Natural Resources Consultants for the coordinator position and project sponsors for Forum/NFHP-funded projects. There is \$75,008 remaining in the 2024 budget (\$58,564 in sub-contracts) and \$204,589 remaining in the 2025 budget (\$186,434 in sub-contracts).

2025 Work Plan Review:

Sandi and Grace led the committee through a review of the 2025 workplan (see attached meeting presentation and/or the updated 2025 workplan). Amongst the 7 objectives, 4 tasks have been completed, 12 are on schedule/have started, and 11 have not been started. The coordinator, leadership, and/or each committee are noted as support on at least one task, except Task 1.6. *Facilitate lightning proposals from applicants to funders*, which does not have a designated lead.

Over the next couple of months, committees will revisit the 2025 workplan and begin brainstorming for the 2026 workplan.

Committee Updates

Governance:

- New Governance Chair (Marisa Parish-Hanson, NOAA)
- Reviewed and updated Bylaws language
- Finalized SOW for CA Effectiveness Assessment of roughed channels - actively pursuing funding
- Discussed Prioritization dam removal model with American Rivers (2025 new signatory)
- Reviewed USFWS/NFHP Annual Accomplishments Report and Work Plan submittal
- Reviewed and advanced FY26 funding applications - 5 projects recommended

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- Approved NFHP proposal submission timeline - FY27 solicitation but faster review - fund turnaround - next solicitation would be September 2026

Science & Data:

- Rapid Assessment Form updated
- SRF workshop on using the form
 - Update form based on feedback
 - Update the Survey 123 version of the form
- Committee collaborating with American Rivers on Active 150
- Future presentations on funded projects
- To begin 2026 Work Plan at July meeting

Policy & Permitting:

- The first permitting pathways case study is drafted and undergoing final review.
- Policy updates –
 - The federal budget reconciliation bill (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) is bad news.
 - CDFW's new Restoration Management Permit pathway already has 60 applications and combines all possible CDFW permitting processes into one.
 - First project to use the RMP was a fish passage project by San Mateo RCD, which might be a good case study.
 - More information provided is provided by Sustainable Conservation (see [Meeting Slide Deck](#), slides 46-47)
 - [Link to CDFW website.](#)

Vote – Change in Bylaws

We skipped ahead to the vote to change bylaws due to time constraints. Sandi introduced the change in the bylaws to support succession planning.

Original text: The Forum Steering Committee shall always have a Chair and a Vice-Chair. Both serve 2-year staggered-term positions, and each cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. Any Forum MOU signatory is eligible to be elected to Chair or Vice-Chair positions; nominations from the Forum Steering Committee will occur three months prior to the end of each position term. If the Vice-Chair is voted to serve as Chair during his/her Vice-Chair mid-term, or if the Chair or Vice-Chair resigns, the Forum will hold a special election to fill the newly vacated positions.

Proposed text (changes in red): The Forum Steering Committee shall always have a Chair and a Vice-Chair. **The Chair and Vice-Chair will serve concurrent two-year terms; with the Vice-Chair moving into the Chair position at the end of the two-year term.** Any Forum MOU signatory is eligible to be elected to Chair or Vice-Chair positions; **nominations from the Forum Steering Committee for Vice Chair candidates will occur three months prior to the end of the two-year terms. Vice-Chair candidates will be identified**

for the upcoming and following term – such that each signatory has the opportunity and anticipated duration to serve in this Forum management succession. If the Vice-Chair is voted to serve as Chair during his/her Vice-Chair mid-term, or if the Chair or Vice-Chair resigns, the Forum will hold a special election to fill the newly vacated positions through the end of the two-year term.

Steering Committee members were asked to put ‘yea’ or ‘nay’ into the chat. A two-thirds majority was needed to pass the change in bylaws (i.e., 11 of the 14 signatories). **The change in bylaws was approved by 11 signatories – American Rivers, PSMFC, CDFW, CalTrout, Trout Unlimited, Sustainable Conservation, CA State Parks, EPIC, NOAA, CA DWR, and USFWS.**

Three signatories were not present at today’s meeting and did not vote on the change in bylaws – State Coastal Conservancy, US Forest Service, and the Wildlife Conservation Board; however, all Steering Committee members/signatories were previously notified of the proposed change, as required by the bylaws.

Upcoming Elections

Sandi introduced Andrew Hampton, CDFW, as the nominee for the Chair position. Elections will be held in the fall. Sandi noted that we are still looking for nominees for the Vice Chair role. **Please reach out to Grace (gadams@nrccorp.com) or Sandi (sjacobson@caltrout.org) if you are interested or have any questions.**

Committee Updates (Continued)

Education & Outreach:

- Forum Outreach Calendar ([link](#)): tracks Forum presence at upcoming events
- 42 Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference (SRF)
 - Poster Session
 - Workshop - Using Rapid Assessment Protocols to Gauge the Passability of Barriers to Anadromous Fish Passage, Including Hands-On Experience at Barriers Around Santa Cruz
 - Photos (see [Meeting Slide Deck](#), slides 51-53)

Grace shared some photos from the SRF workshop, including a photo of Ross presenting during the classroom portion and several photos from their afternoon site visits. She noted that the workshop was a success and thanked Anne Elston, Gena Lasko, Holly Steindorf, Ross Taylor (Ross Taylor and Associates), and Kristen Kittleson (retired from Santa Cruz County) for their help in making sure the workshop went off without a hitch.



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2025 FINAL Forum Work Plan - Updated March 12, 2025 (Holly); June 10, 2025 (Grace)

Mission: To protect and revitalize anadromous fish populations in California by restoring the connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout their historic range.

Objective 1: Remediate barriers to effective fish migration.					
TASK	TIMELINE (completed by)	FUNDING	COMMITTEE LEAD & SUPPORT	STATUS	METRICS
1. 1. Perform the functions of an effective FHP and complete the tasks outlined in this Work Plan	Dec 2025	Operations	Coordinator, all Forum Members	On schedule	
1. 2. Release RFP, review applications, and recommend projects for FY2025 funding	March 1 st , 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Review Committee, Governance Committee, Steering Committee.	Complete	
1. 3. Submit project proposals and annual report to NFHP	March 31 st , 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Forum Chair, Governance Committee Review	Complete	5 projects submitted for 340k

1.4	Workshop or speaker series (topics include prioritization, permitting, PAD, incorporating nature-based solutions and traditional understanding, monitoring and assessment protocols). Use these to engage with RCDs. (2025 workshop is rapid assessment with RTA at SRF)	Spring 2025 and Fall 2025	Operations (extra 45 k starting 2025)	Science and Data Committee, Education and Outreach Committee	On schedule 2025 SRF on Rapid Assessment with Ross Taylor. Next- AFS CalNeva?	30 participants 5 partners (Forum, RTA, City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, SRF)
1.5	Create a plan to compile monitoring data from Forum funded projects and other projects and into a usable dataset**, perhaps attached to the PAD.	Dec 2025	Operations (extra 45 k starting 2025)	Science and Data Committee, PSMFC, Data Staff Support	Not Started	
1.6	Facilitate lighting proposals from applicants to funders	Added to work plan at 2024 meeting in Sacramento. Plan not yet developed.			Not Started	
Objective 2: Facilitate coordination, collaboration and communication among agencies, agency staff, and other entities that may propose, review, or promulgate fish passage projects within California.						
TASK		TIMELINE (completed by)	FUNDING	COMMITTEE LEAD & SUPPORT	STATUS	
2.1.	Host 1 virtual steering Committee meeting July 2025, and one in-person meeting in Yreka December 12/5-6	Dec 2025	Operations, Signatory travel funds.	Coordinator	June 2025 Virtual Fall 2025 Yreka CA Fall 2026 SoCal	

2.2. Develop a plan for use of up to 40k increase in operations budget, available with FY25 appropriation	March 2025	Coordinator Time	Governance Committee	Not Started	
2.3. Collaborate with other FHPs such as PLCI or PMEP or WNTI	Dec 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, NFHP Contacts	On schedule	Grace coordinating CFPF & PLCI
2.4 Invite practitioners to showcase their projects into the Forum on a periodic basis.	Monthly	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Steering Committee	Every 3-4 S&D committee meetings, notify the rest of the steering committee when occurring.	
2.5 Look at where data gaps are and look at where assessments have NOT been done. Collaborate and facilitate with stakeholders in those areas to support assessments either directly (funding) or indirectly.	Start Spring 2025	Operations, PSMFC Data Support	Coordinator, Governance Committee, Science and Data Committee	Not Started	
2.6 Recruit additional signatories to the Forum	Dec 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Governance Committee	On Schedule	4 new signatories (EPIC, Sustainable Conservation, WCB, and American Rivers)
2.7 Develop succession planning documents to aid in Forum governance transitions, including summary of roles and responsibilities, terms, file sharing, and contact information.	March 2025	Coordinator and signatory time	Coordinator, Forum Chair and Vice-Chair	Complete. On intranet and Google Drive	

Objective 3: Coordinate funding mechanisms to remove fish passage barriers.					
TASK	TIMELINE (completed by)	FUNDING	COMMITTEE LEAD & SUPPORT	STATUS	METRICS
3.1. Host 1 webinar focused on funding and resources for practitioners	Spring or Summer 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Education and Outreach Committee, signatories with funding ops or resources	Not started	
3.2. Collaborative meetings between prioritization agencies and project practitioners organized generally by area or CDFW Region to elevate projects on multiple priority lists.	Dec 2025	Coordinator time, signatory time	Coordinator, Science and Data Committee, Education and Outreach Committee	Not started	
3.3. Add non-forum funding opportunities list to website.	April 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator	Likely don't have capacity for living documents, may need to be a static list or table.	
Objective 4. Support state and federal permit coordination and efficiencies.					
TASK	TIMELINE (completed by)	FUNDING	COMMITTEE LEAD & SUPPORT	STATUS	
4.1 Produce 2 Permitting-Focused Case Studies	Dec 2025	Coordinator Time, signatory time	Policy and Permitting Committee	On schedule	1 case study draft complete

4.2	Direct practitioners to permitting information from Sustainable Conservation on the Forum website	Dec 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Forum Chair	On schedule	Chair communicated to Steering Committee to fill out Sustainable Conservation survey regarding the Order for Small Habitat Restoration projects update
Objective 5: Facilitate plans to monitor and evaluate fish passage restoration effectiveness to ensure accountability.						
TASK	TIMELINE (completed by)	FUNDING	COMMITTEE LEAD & SUPPORT	STATUS		
5. 1. Finalize proposal for “CA Fish Passage Structure Assessment: Evaluation of Ramp, Fishway, Weir, Channel Modification Effectiveness and Durability of Built Structures”	Spring 2025	N/A	Forum Chair, Governance Committee, Science and Data Committee.	Complete		
5. 2. Facilitate Forum signatory applying for funding for above.	Summer 2025	Coordinator and signatory time	Forum Chair, Governance Committee, Science and Data Committee.	Partially Complete	88k Forum funding applied State and federal funding proposals submitted	
5. 3. Hire consultant for above.	Fall 2025	Cooraintor and signatory time	Forum Chair, Governance Committee, Science and Data Committee.	Not started	Mike Love and Ed Wallace, technical leads for structure assessment	

5. 4. Manage progress on above.	Dec 2025	Cooraintor and signatory time	Forum Chair, Governance Committee, Science and Data Committee.	On schedule	TAC formed
Objective 6: Encourage existing state/national policy and actions that support fish passage improvement in California.					
TASK	TIMELINE (completed by)	FUNDING	COMMITTEE LEAD & SUPPORT	STATUS	METRICS
6.1 Periodically solicit updates on relevant legislation, bonds, and other policy news from each forum signatory to report at Steering committee meetings and on the Forum newsletter and website.	Dec 2025	Coordinator Time	Policy and Permitting Committee	On schedule	Chair sent policy update to Steering Committee (March 2025)
6.2 Prepare a policy news correspondence for P&P committee to give at Steering Committee meeting 2025.	Dec 2025		Policy and Permitting Committee	On schedule	Update provided at June 2025 meeting
Objective 7. Implement education and outreach activities, targeting both the public & fish passage practitioners.					
TASK	TIMELINE (completed by)	FUNDING	COMMITTEE LEAD & SUPPORT	STATUS	
7.1. Produce a communications plan outlining the Forums Communications Objectives, Target Audiences, Messages, and Strategies	Dec 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Governance Committee, all committees review and approve.	Not started	

7.2.	Host 2 in-person outreach events.	Summer, Fall 2025	Operations	Coordinator, Education and Outreach Committee.	Not started Yreka Fall 2025?	
7.3	Produce 2 Barrier Removal Effectiveness Assessment Case Studies	December 2025	Coordinator Time	Coordinator, Science and Data Committee	Not started	