



VIRTUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 5TH, 2025

Meeting Agenda

12:00	Welcome & Introductions
12:15	Forum Signatory Updates (5min/signatory)
1:15	Klamath Basin Photo Tour
1:20	Forum Updates
	ACE Act Reauthorization, RFP Updates, Budget Review, Work Plan Review
1:35	Committee Updates
1:50	Vote: Change in Bylaws to support succession planning
1:55	Upcoming Elections
2:00	Adjourn



SIGNATORY UPDATES

CDFW

CA State Parks

CalTrout

NOAA

PSMFC

Trout Unlimited

USFWS

Sustainable Conservation

American Rivers



California Department of Fish and Wildlife News and Announcements



Andrew Hampton
Statewide Aquatic Connectivity Coordinator
Anadromous Program, Fisheries Branch

Annual Passage and Diversion Priorities -Pending completion

International Fish Passage Conference 2026 Davis coordination

Ongoing fish rescue/stranding coordination and support across the state

Forum Signatory Updates CA State Parks

Gena Lasko and Emily Siegel, California State Parks

Parks Updates

- Regular internal Fish Passage Working Group meetings
- Work ongoing with TU Parks California Grant.
 - Questions developed to understand how districts prioritize aquatic restoration projects
 - Starting to engage with first group of Districts
- Rindge Dam removal (Malibu Creek restoration):
 - Continuing to work with consultants on alternatives analysis for removal of dam and sediment disposal (receiving several reports from consultant this month)
 - Expecting a 65% design package for upstream barriers Fall 2025
- Remote Site Incubator (RSI) Project funded by our Cannabis Watershed Protection Program Team (CWPP)
 - Fertilized Coho eggs transferred to RSI in February, fry released a month later

CALIFORNIA TROUT Fish Passage Projects



- Sandra JacobsonPrimary Representative
- Darren MierauAlternate Rep

Sunol Valley Fish Passage Project, Alameda Creek, PAD ID #700009

Top priority barrier removal; complements the decades of barrier removal work in the Alameda Creek watershed and will open up 20+ miles of habitat Project includes: completely removing a concrete erosion control mat protecting a major PGE gas pipeline that creates a barrier at most flows, burying the pipeline 17+ feet, regrading, and revegetating the creek.

Status:

NOAA Fish Passage Grant funding secured 100% design for civil and reveg All permits in hand Implementation begins in June 2025





Santa Margarita River Fish Passage and Bridge Replacement, Fallbrook, CA (San Diego County)

PAD#: 718615

Removal of last barrier in mainstem in perennial So Cal river prioritized for endangered steelhead recovery, restores access to 12 mi historical spawning and rearing habitat.

Status: Funding of \$21M+ secured for implementation; construction started January 2023, in redesign to pivot alignment due to cultural findings. Construction re-initiation Sep 2025, completion Mar 2027.

Harvey Diversion Barrier Removal, Santa Paula Creek – tributary to Santa Clara River, PAD#: 705338

Removal of total fish passage barrier in high priority steelhead recovery river; restore and stabilize channel with grade control structures, with infiltration gallery

Status: Completion of 65% design. Moving to final design; CDFW funding contracted for 100% to construction ready.

15 and Metrolink Barrier Removal in Trabuco Creek, Orange County PAD#: 706807 (I-5), 706810 (Metrolink)

Remediation of two adjacent total barriers in the high priority steelhead recovery river in San Juan Creek watershed via design of technical hydraulic fishways that provide flood conveyance, grade stabilization and fish passage.

Status: In final design and permitting; funding from NOAA and CDFW for Metrolink fish passage construction, start Q1 2026.

Scott-Bar Mill Creek Fish Passage Project PAD#: 764929

This project will re-open 3 miles of anadromous habitat in Mill Creek, a perennial tributary of the Scott River in the Klamath watershed near the town of Scott Bar. Mill Creek was historically anadromous habitat for coho salmon, steelhead and other fishes. This project will replace a cement weir and low ford crossing with a full span bridge and regraded channel. The downstream channel will also be re-aligned to further improve access for fish to Mill Creek.

Status: Completed

Big Mill Creek East Fork Sediment Reduction and Habitat Restoration Project PAD#: 707148

Planning and designs to remediate a 10' CMP perched by 8+ feet which currently blocks over 2 miles of cold-water anadromous salmonid habitat on Big Mill Creek, tributary to the East Fork of the Scott River. This is a CalTrans crossing on Highway 3. Project work also involves channel rehabilitation and sediment reduction designs.

Status: In progress. Bridge designs completed.

Big Chico Creek – Iron Canyon Fish Passage – tributary to the Sacramento River, Butte County, PAD# 735085

Alleviation of barrier by removing defunct fish ladder and reconfiguring rock fall using stream simulation design approach. Will restore 8.5 miles of cold-water habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon, steelhead, and other native fish Status: Funding secured through NOAA Restoration Center's Community-Based Restoration Program. Majority of permits in place, and construction contract and landowner access complete. Site preparatory work beginning July 2026.

Big Chico Creek – One Mile Dam and Five Mile Dam – tributary to the Sacramento River, Butte

County, PAD# 704194 and 704198

These barriers are in the form of a bladder dam raised to form an instream recreational swimming pool for the residents of Chico; the other is for flood control where box culverts are lowered during high flows.

Status: Funding secured through California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Existing Fish Passage Conditions report complete. Next is a design charrette this summer, and then conceptual designs for selected alternatives next spring.

Farmer's Ditch - Shasta Region Project

Construction expected to start this summer.

Potter Valley Project, Eel River, Cape Horn Dam PAD ID #719934, Scott Dam PAD ID #718757

FERC-licensed hydropower project. PG&E has let its license to operate the Project lapse and is seeking to surrender its license and decommission the project. Cape Horn Dam fish ladder does not meet current fish passage standards. Scott Dam blocks access to 89 miles of Chinook habitat; and 288 miles of steelhead habitat.

Status:

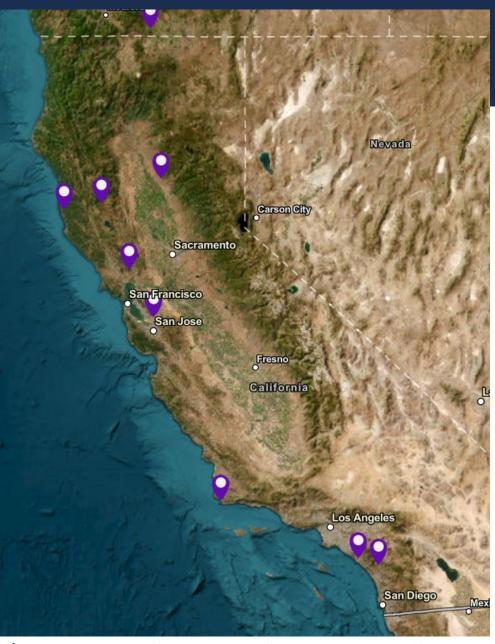
- PG&E will file its License Surrender Application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in late July 2025.
- PG&E's decommissioning plan includes the removal of both Scott and Cape Horn Dams along with restoration of the remaining reservoir footprints.
- FERC must approve the Surrender Application with a Surrender Order before construction can begin.
 After filing the LSA will develop several management plans related to construction and resource protection during and after construction
- A Surrender Order could be issued by FERC as soon as 2028

NOAA Restoration Center News and Announcements



Marisa Parish, Forum Governance Committee Chair Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, Arcata Office Ruth Goodfield, Outreach and Education team Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, Central Valley Office

- 8 projects awarded across the state under Round 1 & 2 Fish Passage NOFOs
- Actively reviewing Round 3 proposals



NOAA Restoration Center News and Announcements

- Big Chico Creek, Sacramento River Watershed
 - design 8 miles available habitat upstream
- Tribal Capacity Building on the Eel River
- 9 barriers across Eel, Noyo, Navarro, and Big Rivers
 - Seven constructed and two designed
- 7 sites in Napa River + assessment of additional crossings
 - 15 miles of habitat opened
- Alameda Creek last remaining barrier remediated
 - 22 miles of habitat opened
- 2 sites on Jalama Creek
 - 12 miles of habitat opened
- Trabuco Creek 2 nature like fishways
 - 15 miles of habitat opened
- Santa Margarita River Bridge
 - 12 miles of habitat opened

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/02abb819e8364620a58d656a89a557ff/

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission News and Announcements



Anne Elston Manager of PAD, West Sacramento

KEY UPDATES:

- Created the PAD Brochure in collaboration with the Forum's Education & Outreach Committee, PSMFC, CDFW and Caltrans
- Updated the Fish Passage Rapid Assessment Form in collaboration with the Forum and CDFW
- Presented the updated Rapid Assessment Form at the Salmonid
 Restoration Federation conference in Santa Cruz in collaboration with
 the Forum, Ross Taylor and County of Santa Cruz, and presented the
 Forum's poster with other Forum members at the conference
- Made over 1,000 updates to PAD and created a new PAD update for BIOS.

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission News and Announcements



Stan Allen Senior Program Manager, Portland

KEY UPDATES:

- Currently setting up FY25 budgets and agreements for Forum operations and 2 funded projects
 - Adobe Creek Barrier Assessment
 - Dutch Bill Creek Market Street Weir Repair
- All 20 FHP's (including the Forum) received "official" Congressional designation in June 2025

Trout Unlimited News and Announcements



Anna Halligan Director, North Coast Coho Project Vice Chair, Governance Committee

2025 Implementation

- Duffy Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project (Noyo River),
 Mendocino County
- Cooper Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement & Habitat Enhancement Project (Van Duzen River/Eel), Humboldt County
- AOP Project (South Fork Kern River Watershed) Tulare County

Trout Unlimited News and Announcements



Duffy Gulch, Mendocino Railway

2025 Fish Passage Designs

- Baechtel Creek City of Willits Wastewater
 Treatment Barrier (Outlet Creek/Eel)
- Strawberry Creek at Central Avenue (Humboldt Bay)
- Rail Dump Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project (Big River)
- Boardman Gulch Fish Passage Improvement Project (Big River)
- Sycamore Flats Concrete Ford (Arroyo Seco River)
 Monterey County
- Flavens Crossing Design, (Carmel River) Monterey County
- Dam on the Little Sur River at Camp Pico Blanco, Monterey County
- Soda Creek Restoration and Fisheries Improvement Planning Project, Feather River Watershed, Plumas County

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service News and Announcements



Tim Loux, USFWS Region 8 NFHAP Coordinator Fish Biologist, Pacific Southwest Regional Office

- FY24 Funds Available
- 1:1 match is at FHP level instead of by project
- No match requirements for operations
- Additional levels of review up to DOI for projects over \$50K

Sustainable Conservation News and Announcements



Erika Lovejoy [Policy and Permitting Committee] **Senior Director, Accelerating Restoration**

Stephanie Falzone [Policy and Permitting Committee] **Senior Project Manager, Accelerating Restoration**



- Completed a survey about the Water Board Order for Small Habitat Restoration Projects aka the SHRP
- 64% of respondents identified the 500 cumulative linear foot limit as the most limiting condition of the Order.
- Encourage State Water Board/Regional Board to update the SHRP this year to increase the ability to do larger projects under the Order



Sign up for our email newsletter here

American Rivers News and Announcements



Meghan Quinn, Director, CA Dam Removal & Hydropower **Adrienne Chenette**, Associate Director, CA Data Science & River Restoration

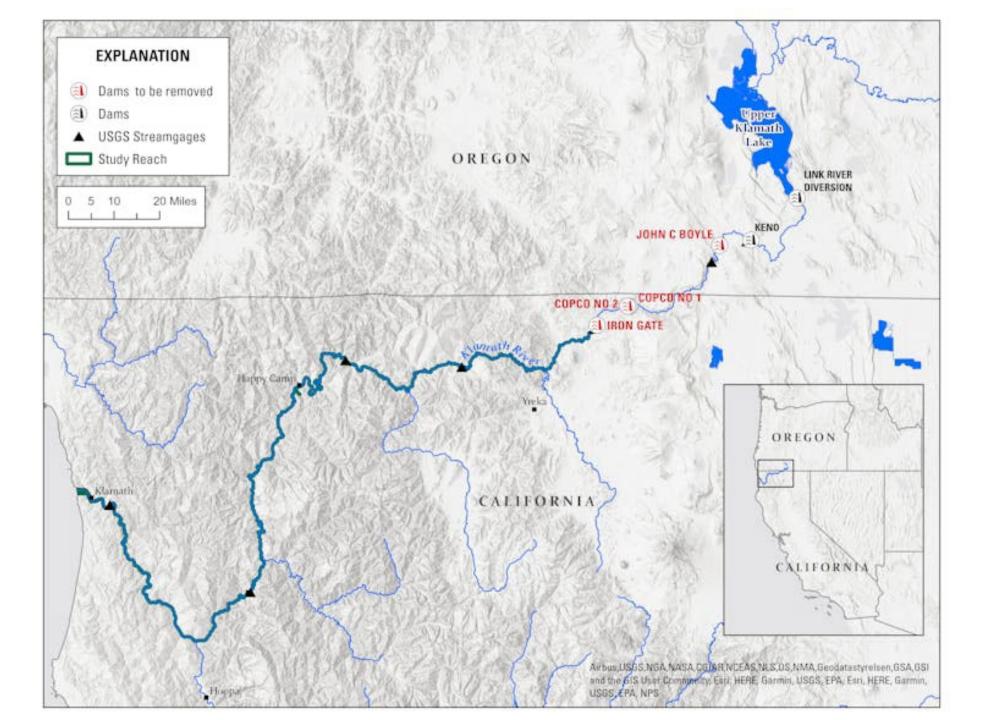
KEY UPDATES

- 1. Debris control dam removal effort in partnership with Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians, SYRCL, and Tahoe NF
- 2. Water rights dedication effort in Siskiyou County in partnership with Hart Ranch & Yurok Tribe
- 3. Beta-testing Active 150 tool with you all!
- 4. Identifying opportunities for dam removals on USFS Region 5
- 5. Modeling flows in Battle Creek to support removal of Coleman Dam



KLAMATH BASIN PHOTO TOUR





Klamath Dam Float – CalTrout April 2025 through previous Iron Gate Dam 6-miles section



Jenny Creek tributary







Remnant of previous Iron Gate Dam structure







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*

RFP Updates

- 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.

Project	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

RFP Updates

- 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

1000	Project	Sponsor	Funds Requested
	CFPF Coordination & Operational Support	Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	\$125,000
	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
があた		Total	\$439,424.44

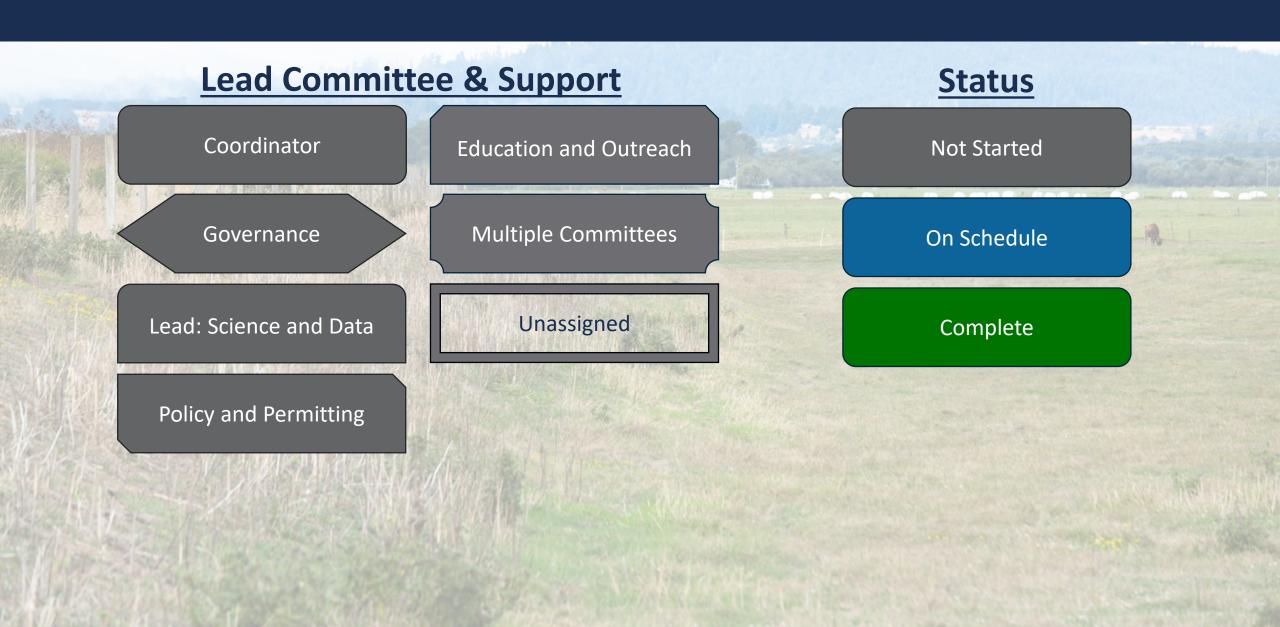
Forum Administration Forum Budget Status (USFWS) 2024

1274.24	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$11,154	\$2,698	\$8,456
Rents	\$528	\$0	\$528
Supplies/Software	\$4,240	\$2,341	\$1,899
Printing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-Contracts (*)	\$191,688	\$133,124	\$58,564
Travel	\$4,280	\$0	\$4,280
Sub-Totals	\$211,890	\$138,163	\$73,727
Indirect **	\$4,762	\$3,481	\$1,281
Totals	\$216,652	\$141,644	\$75,008

Forum Administration Forum Budget Status (USFWS) 2025

1072.25	Budgeted	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	\$4,927	\$2,406	\$2,521
Rents	\$265	\$61	\$204
Supplies/Software	\$3,635	\$190	\$3,445
Printing	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-Contracts (*)	\$254,460	\$68,026	\$186,434
Travel	\$4,400	\$0	\$4,400
Sub-Totals	\$267,687	\$70,683	\$197,004
Indirect	\$9,002	\$1,417	\$7,585
Totals	\$276,689	\$72,100	\$204,589

2025 Work Plan Review



2025 Work Plan Review

1.1. Perform functions of an effective FHP and complete workplan tasks

1.2. Release RFP, review applications, recommend projects for FY25 funding

1.4. Workshop or speaker series

2025 SRF Workshop, 30 participants

Objective 1: Remediate barriers to effective fish migration

1.3. Submit project proposals and annual report to NFHP

5 projects for \$315k (FY26)

1.5. Create plan to compile monitoring data from Forum funded projects into a useable dataset (possibly attached to PAD)

1.6. Facilitate lightning proposals from applicants to funders

2.1. Host 1 virtual SteeringCommittee meeting summer2025 and one in person meetingin Yreka December 12/5-6

2.2. Develop a plan for use of up to \$40k increase in operations budget, available with FY25 appropriation

2.3. Collaborate with other FHPs such as PLCI, PMEP, or WNTI

Grace coordinating CFPF & PLCI

2.4. Invite practitioners to showcase projects to the Forum on a periodic basis

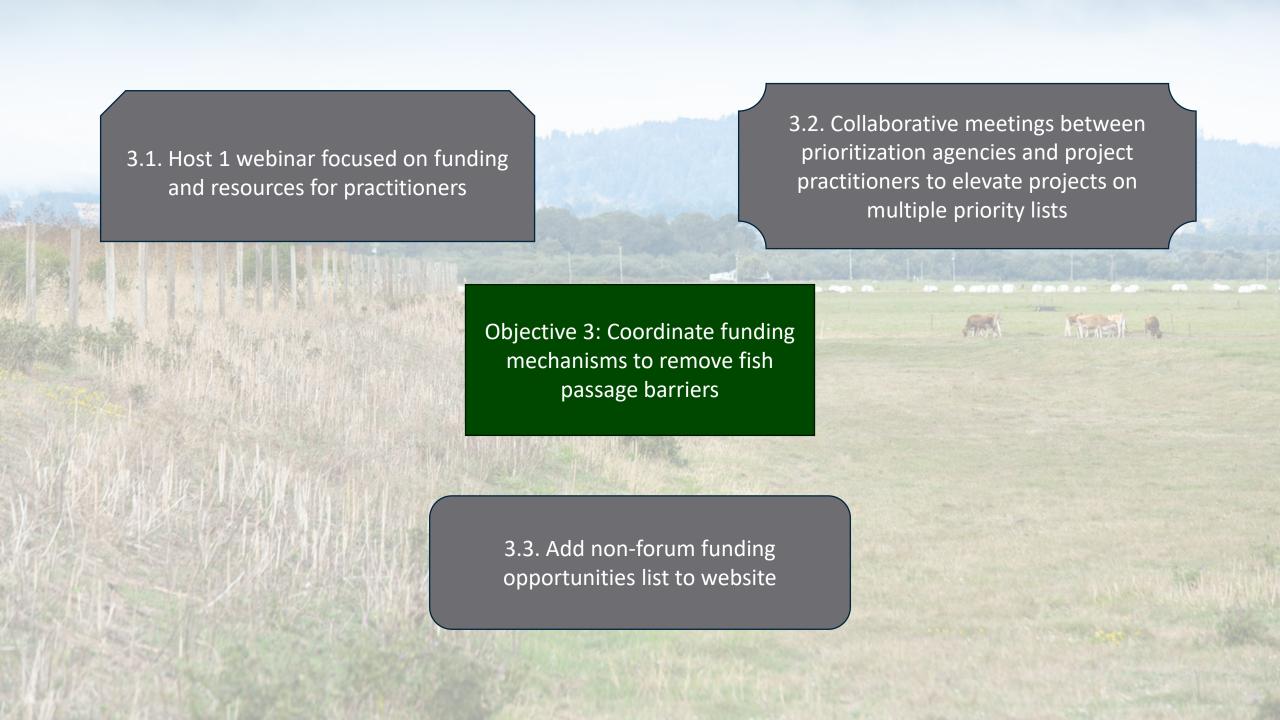
Objective 2: Facilitate coordination, collaboration and communication among agencies, agency staff, and other entities that may proposed, review, or promulgate fish habitat projects in California

2.7. Develop succession planning documents

2.5. Look at where data gaps are and where assessments have NOT been done; collaborate and facilitate with stakeholders to support assessments directly (funding) or indirectly

2.6. Recruit additional signatories to the Forum

4 new signatories (EPIC, Sustainable Conservation, WCB, and American Rivers)





5.1. Finalize proposal for "CA Fish Passage Structure Assessment: Evaluation of Ramp, Fishway, Weir, Channel Modification Effectiveness and Durability of Built Structures"

5.2. Facilitate Forum signatory applying for funding for 5.1.

\$88k Forum funding applied
State and Federal funding proposals submitted

Objective 5: Facilitate plans to monitor and evaluate fish passage restoration effectiveness to ensure accountability

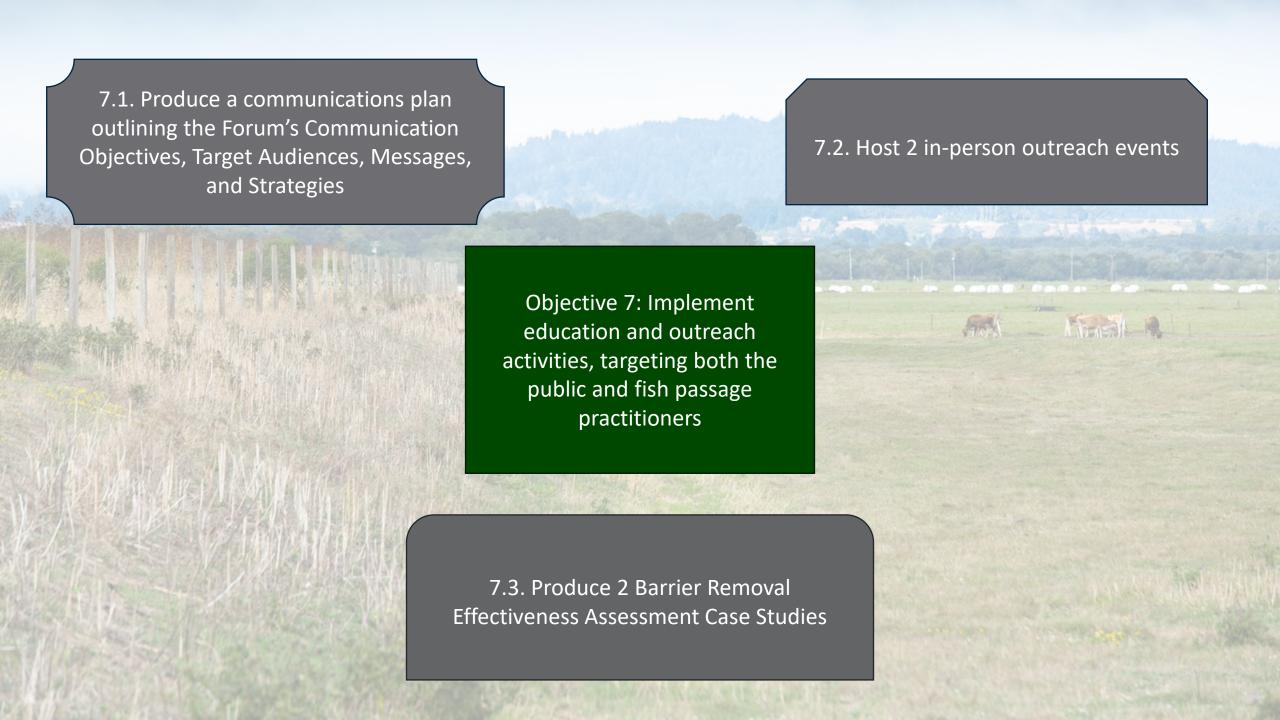
5.3. Hire a consultant for 5.1.

Mike Love and Ed Wallace, technical leads for structure assessment

5.4. Manage progress on 5.1.

Technical Advisory Committee formed







COMMITTEE UPDATES



Forum Committee Updates Governance Committee

Marisa Parish-Hanson, Governance Committee Chair

Committee Accomplishments

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

Forum Committee Updates Science and Data Committee

Gena Lasko and Emily Siegel, Science and Data Committee Co-Chairs

Committee Accomplishments

- 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

Forum Committee Updates Policy and Permitting Committee

Anna Halligan, Policy and Permitting Committee Chair

Committee Updates

- FPF Case Study Update
- Policy and Funding Update
- California Restoration Permitting Updates







Simplified Permitting Pathway Usage

Quiota Creek

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Title: Finding a Working Strategy and Sticking with It: Utilizing HREA and FRGP to Streamline Permitting for Multiple Projects on Quiota Creek

Applicant: Tim Robinson, Cachuma Operations Maintenance Board

Partners: HDR Fisheries Design Center

Project Funding Provided By:

Groups Conducting Monitoring:

Project Location:

Case Study document developed by the California Fish Passage Forum- updated May 31st 2024



New Restoration Management Permit (RMP)

Benefits:

- Up to 5 authorizations into one approval
- For larger-scale projects over 5 acres and 500 linear feet
- Currently no application fee
- No EPIMS
- Avoidance & minimization rather than compensatory mitigation
- Conditions coordinated with other restoration permits



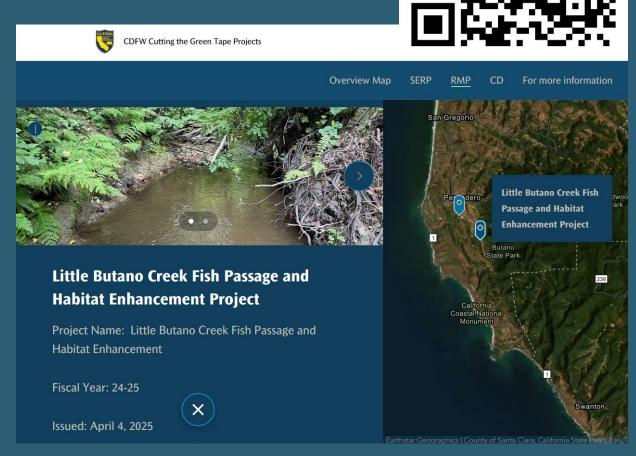


New Restoration Management Permit (RMP)

For More Information:

- See Section 1673 (b) of FGC for requirements
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on CDFW's website
- Pre-consultation is strongly encouraged! Contact your regional CGT staff person or restorationpermitting@wildlife.ca. gov

Thank you to the State Coastal Conservancy, foundations, and individuals for funding our outreach work.



First project approved under the new RMP!

Forum Committee Updates **Education and Outreach Committee**

Grace Adams, CA Fish Passage Forum Interim Coordinator

Committee Accomplishments

- Forum Outreach Calendar (link): tracks Forum presence at upcoming events
- 42 Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference
 - 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



Our goal is to protect and revitalize anadromous fish populations in California by promoting collaboration among public and private sectors for fish passage improvement projects and programs.

ABOUT US

The California Fish Passage Forum is a collaborative partnership formed among agencies, and non-profits to explore, develop, and share effective methodology and resources to restore and recover anadromous fish populations by improving fish passage at man-made barriers. We are a nationally recognized fish habitat partnership under the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

OUR MEMBERS

















FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Each year the Forum provides funding towards projects that help assess, priortize and restore connectivity of freshwater habitats throughout the historical range of anadromous species.

The Forum is positioned to leverage partnerships to expedite conservation of California's anadromous fish populations. Forum agencies work cooperatively to coordinate fish passage funding, elevate resources for practitioners, identify priorities for strategic investment, and contribute to science and data advancements associated with fish passage.

RESOURCES AND TOOLS

RAPID ASSESSMENT **FEILD FORM**

The Fish Passage Rapid Assessment Field Form, developed by the Forum in collaboration with CDFW, gives in-water work practitioners a means to rapidly record data about potential passage barriers, which can be used to inform prioritization of assessments and removals, as well as add data to the Passage Assessment Database (PAD).

PASSAGE ASSESSMENT DATABASE (PAD)

The California PAD is a state-wide map-based inventory of barriers to anadromous fish passage, developed and implemented with support from the Forum, PSMFC, CDFW and Caltrans. Recent advancements include the development of a PAD harrier assessment for Pacific Lamprey to complement existing assessments for salmonids, and an ongoing comprehensive QC/QC effort leveraging expertise from the Forum's Science & Data Committee and local and regional fish passage experts



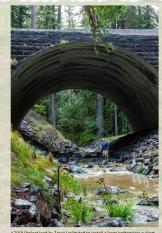
EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING PROTOCOLS

The Forum contracted with Ross Taylor & Associates to compile barrier removal monitoring methods and protocols, leading to a two-tiered monitoring method recommendation to be used by all Forum-

BASELINE FISH HABITAT LAYER

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has led an effort to model potential habitat for California's salmon and trout. The Baseline Fish Habitat Layer (BHF) strives to provide reasonable estimates of potential habitat, including for relatively data-poor areas, to help direct resources available for habitat restoration. The BFH helps inform various Forum supported initiatives and partner efforts such as an assessment of refuge from wildfire for Southern California







The Forum is one of 20 nationally recognized fish habitat partnerships in the United States in the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). Learn more about the Forum at:

WWW.CAFISHPASSAGEFORUM.ORG





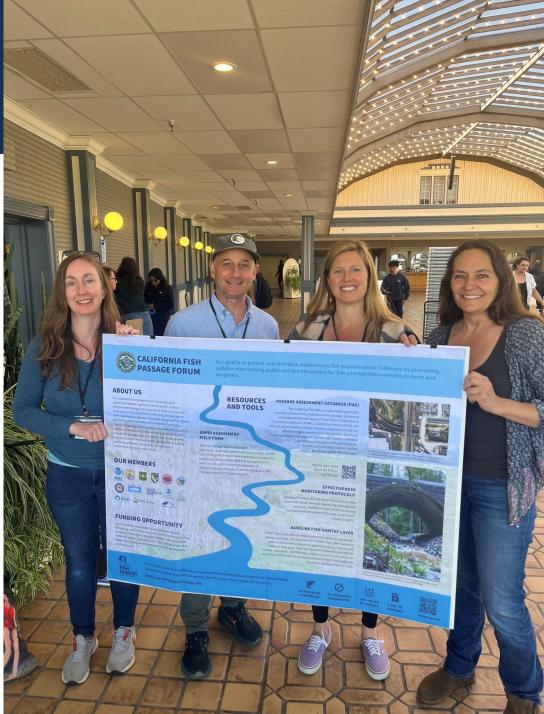






Forum Committee Updates Education and Outreach Committee

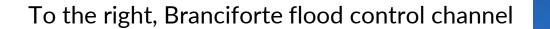














Above, a logjam at DeLavega park



VOTE TO CHANGE BYLAWS



Proposed Change in Bylaws

Current Bylaws:

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 midterm, or if the Chair or Vice-Chair resigns, the Forum will hold a special election to fill the newly vacated positions.

Proposed Changes:

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.

The bylaws can be found in the Forum Intranet. See CFPF Strategic Framework 2023-2028, Appendix 2, Article 2.



UPCOMING ELECTIONS

