

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

CALIFORNIA FISH PASSAGE FORUM

The mission of the Fish Passage Forum is to protect and restore listed anadromous salmonid species, and other aquatic organisms, in California by promoting collaboration among public and private sectors for fish passage improvement projects and programs.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	1
ON-THE-GROUND RESTORATION	2
SCIENCE AND DATA.....	3
FINANCES	5
OUTREACH AND EDUCATION	6
PARTNERSHIPS.....	8
PLANNING AND DOCUMENTS.....	9
FORUM ADMINISTRATION	10

Cover photo: Conner Creek Bridge, after barrier removal. Photo credit. 5 Counties.

On-the-Ground Restoration

DEVELOP CRITERIA AND POTENTIAL PROJECT LIST FOR FY 13 NFHP FUNDING

The Forum solicited project proposals to fund projects in 2013, and funded two projects—Branciforte Creek in Santa Cruz and Wilson Creek in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest (\$27,500). In addition, in late 2013, the Forum released a project solicitation for 2014 NFHP funds.



Top photo: *The Cahill Dam being removed on Branciforte Creek, a 5.8-mile stream in Santa Cruz, CA. Constructed in 1931, the Branciforte dam inhibits access to upstream spawning and rearing habitat during low to medium flows, and acts as a partial barrier to migration during high flows.*

Photo to the left: *Wilson Creek, tributary to both Hayfork Creek and the South Fork Trinity River, has a 7-foot diameter metal pipe culvert under a National Forest Service road. A steep-pass fish ladder was installed years ago, but there is no evidence the ladder was successful in passing fish. An open-bottom arch comprised on natural streambed will replace the existing culvert.*

Science and Data

FISH PASSAGE DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS

The Forum Engineering Working Group worked on a design review flowchart, a checklist of items needed to review fish passage design plans and a narrative that will help practitioners use these tools to efficiently move a project through the design review process.

SUMMARIZING RATIONAL FOR EXCEPTIONS TO STATE AND FEDERAL FISH PASSAGE DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Engineering Working Group began a process to summarize the rationale used for exceptions that have been granted to date by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service. This effort will be continued in 2014.

DATA NEEDS AND GAPS

The Forum Science and Data Committee (S&D) worked with partners in local, state, and federal government, non-profits, Tribes, and universities to find existing datasets that could be used as a surrogate for habitat quality in APASS, the Forum's Anadromous Fish Passage Optimization Tool (a decision support tool for optimizing barrier mitigation).

- The S&D Committee developed a plan for a pilot project to evaluate three habitat quality data alternatives in the Mad River Watershed—bioassessment, stream temperature, and intrinsic potential. The USFWS identified funds for use in conducting the pilot project, and work will begin early in 2014.

Forum S&D Committee members identified data gaps in the Passage Assessment Database (PAD) and worked with partners in local, state, and federal government, non-profits, Tribes, and universities to obtain new barrier data to incorporate into PAD. They also worked with PAD staff to develop and implement QA/QC processes to improve existing PAD data.

DATA REPORTING

Coordinate and oversee reporting of relevant datasets to NFHP, including habitat assessment, completed habitat improvement projects, and other datasets as requested.

- All 2013 California Fish Passage Forum FHP funded projects and significant activities were entered into the Accomplishments Module of the USFWS Fisheries Information System. Additionally, specific performance measures (e.g., number and location of barriers removed, number of stream miles opened to fish passage) have been tracked and reported for each project.
- The S&D Committee assisted with the development of a single form to track and report individual project accomplishments that will meet the needs of both NFHP and USFWS.
- The S&D Committee coordinated the compilation and submission of the NFHP Assessment Inventory, which is a listing of all of the habitat assessments planned, underway, or completed within the Forum's boundaries. Each Forum partner was asked to provide a list of their assessments to this committee; the lists were compiled and provided to NFHP.

- The S&D Committee coordinated a response to questions from NFHP regarding the Forum's needs regarding fish passage data.

Assist with the development of an annual Forum accomplishments report by providing data and analysis.

- The S&D Committee coordinated the creation of a variety of maps summarizing information in the PAD for use in the Forum Strategic Plan as well as other Forum documents and posters.
- No additional data or analyses were needed this year.

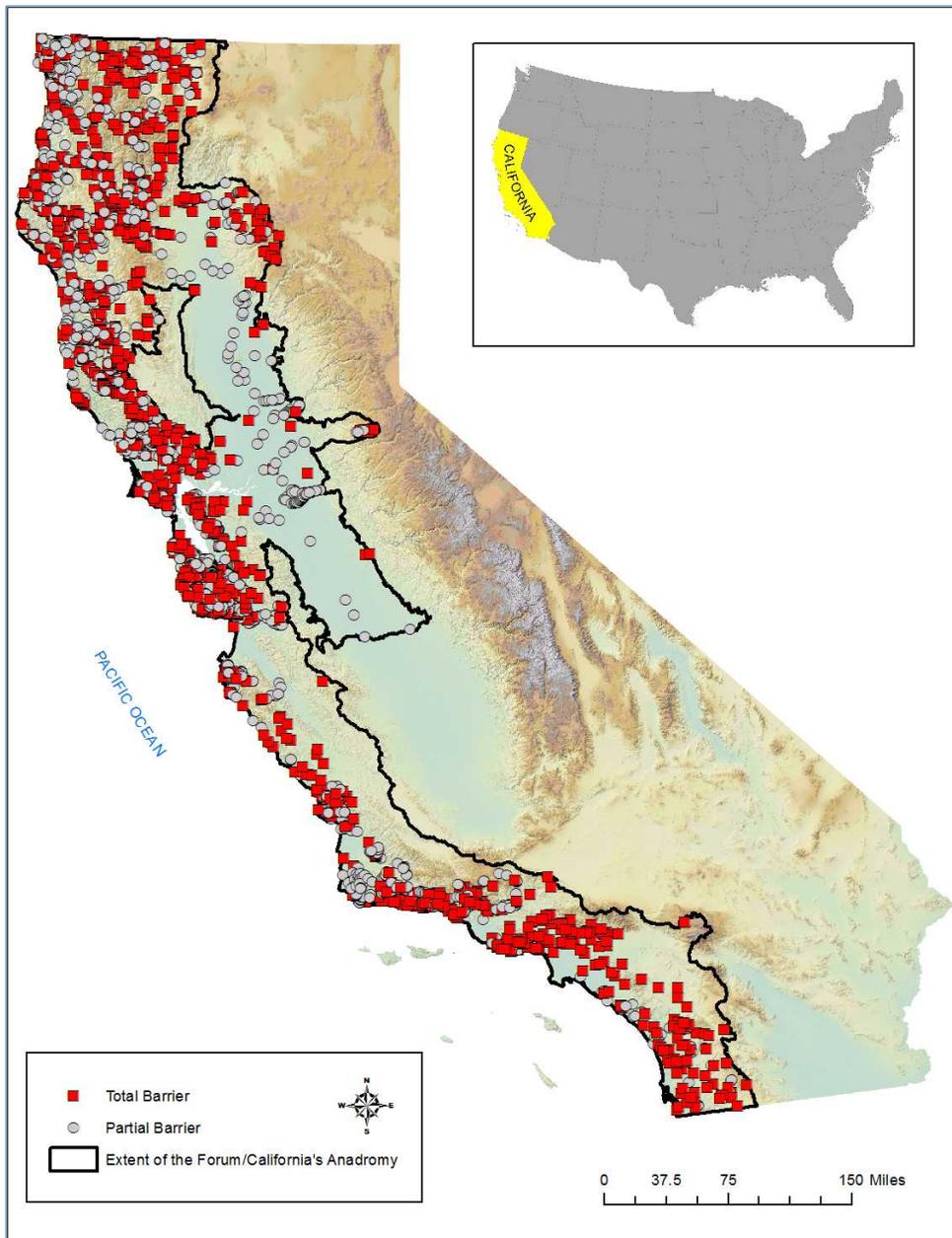


Figure 1. Man-made fish passage barriers within the Forum's geographic scope and documented in the Fish Passage Assessment Database (PAD) as of Sept, 30, 2013.

Finances

SUMMARIZE FORUM COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL REQUESTS/NEEDS FOR 2013 AND 2014 AND DEVELOP A BUDGET

The Forum spent 2013 NFHP funds to support the Forum Coordinator and fund two projects that meet the Forum's goals and objectives—Branciforte Creek and Wilson Creek.

SEEK \$250,000 TO FUND HIGH PRIORITY FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS IDENTIFIED BY THE APASS TOOL

The Forum decided not to form a nonprofit organization to seek future funds due to funding and time constraints of Forum signatory members and the decision by NFHP to create one umbrella nonprofit on behalf of all the fish habitat partnerships. The Forum applied for Multi-state Conservation funds in 2013 with PMEP and was successful.

STATUS OF FORUM FUNDING IN 2013

Funds available for Coordinator support: \$46,979

Funds expended to support Coordinator: \$28,463

Funds expended to support restoration of Branciforte Creek and Wilson Creek:

Branciforte Creek: \$12,497

Wilson Creek: \$27,500

Outreach and Education

10 WATERS TO WATCH

The Forum was selected by NFHP to highlight the Water and Wine project in the “10 Waters to Watch” campaign. Members developed a press release and coordinated a site visit for the Water and Wine project on June 18th with Ryan Roberts from NFHP and numerous project partners.

FORUM FACT SHEET

Members developed a Forum Fact Sheet to share with partners, legislators and leadership.

NFHP-FUNDED PROJECT REPORTING

Members created a project reporting form for projects funded by the Forum/NFHP.

FORUM WEBSITE

Members created and launched the Forum’s website at <http://www.cafishpassageforum.org>.

FORUM LOGO

A new Forum logo was developed.

COASTAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS

The Forum wrote an article for inclusion in the Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership quarterly newsletter. The Forum also participated in the development of a briefing document on the coastal FHPs as well as a poster.

FISH PASSAGE PROJECT CASE STUDIES

The Engineering Working Group (EWG) explored a number of optional host sites for California case studies, and made a recommendation to the Forum that new case studies be hosted on the Forum’s new website. They recommended that a new template be designed with input from the Forum, in particular the Education and Outreach Committee and the Engineering Working Group of the Science and Data Committee. The Forum website will link to existing case studies on the FishXing website.

FISH PASSAGE TRAINING

Existing Forum members currently do not have the capacity to develop and deliver in-house training, therefore, Forum members will work with current vendors to ensure that training is optimally designed for Forum practitioners. Efforts should be made where possible to make training offered by Forum signatories available to other Forum signatories.

ESTABLISH WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORUM S&D COMMITTEE AND PACIFIC MARINE AND ESTUARINE FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP (PMEP) S&D COMMITTEE

Forum S&D Committee members met with members of the PMEP S&D Committee during the joint Forum/PMEP meeting in September, and began exploring ways that PMEP might investigate the feasibility of using APASS to evaluate habitat projects within their geographic and topical scope.

ESTABLISH WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORUM S&D COMMITTEE AND NFHP S&D COMMITTEE.

The chairs of the Forum S&D Committee communicated with the co-chair of the NFHP S&D Committee. There are currently no national meetings for general coordination of the S&D Committees of each FHP, but we will continue to stay in touch with the leadership of the NFHP S&D Committee. The Forum responded to two specific reporting requests from the NFHP S&D Committee: the NFHP Assessment Inventory, and the questionnaire regarding fish passage data needs.

Example barrier network

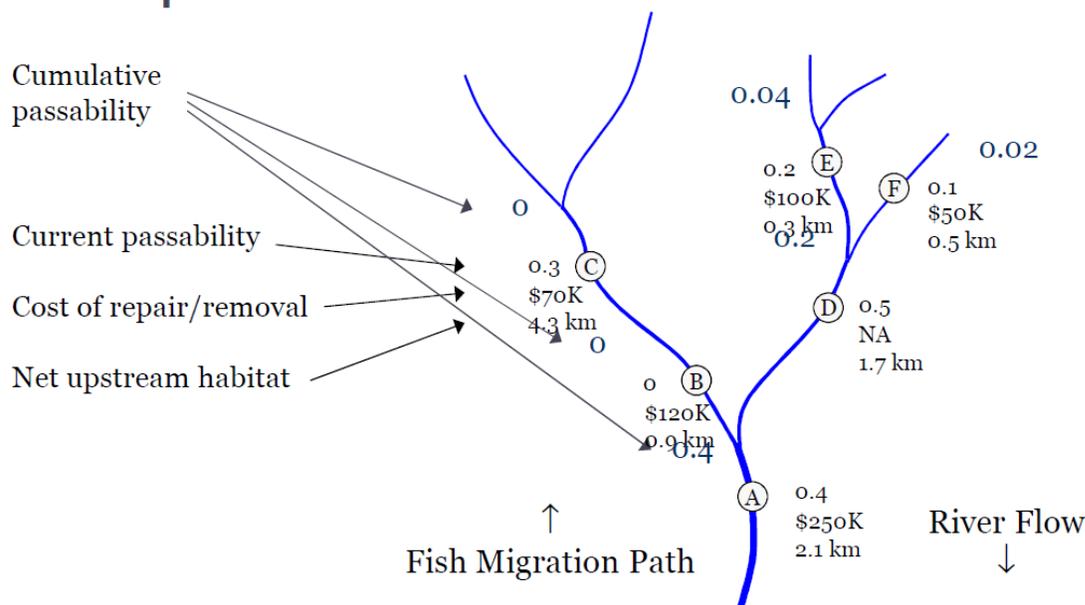


Figure 2. The figure demonstrates how APASS prioritizes barriers that should be repaired or removed to maximize net habitat gain (amount of accessible upstream habitat for one or more species) subject to a budget by integrating information on barrier passability, potential habitat and mitigation costs.

Partnerships

WORK TO INTEGRATE THE FORUM INTO THE 3 CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES AND EXPLORE WAYS TO COORDINATE WITH PMEP AND OTHER FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS

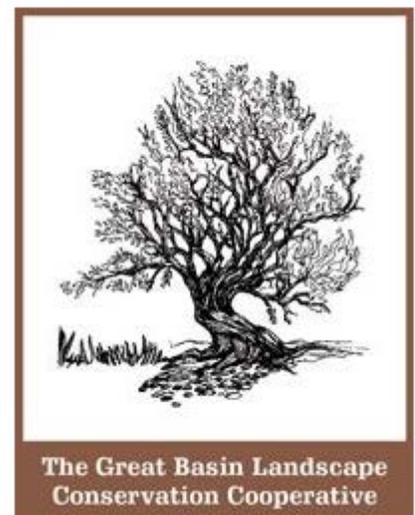
California LCC admitted Kevin Schaffer and Javier Linares-Casenave to the CaLCC steering committee and the CA LCC Science-Manager Team, respectively.

The Governance Committee also spearheaded a joint Forum/PMEP meeting in September to discuss each partnership and discuss ways for both partnerships to collaborate in the future.

PMEP and the Forum submitted a joint multistate Conservation grant and were successful in obtaining funds to continue efforts with APASS.

The Governance Committee is currently working on coordinating with the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) and PMEP to seek future funding as a group of partnerships and fund restoration projects in locations where we have overlapping goals.

The CaLCC strategic plan identified the need to develop a CaLCC Science-Management Framework. A draft Framework was completed by the Science-Manager Team in Nov 2013 and will be sent to the CaLCC Steering committee early December for review. Upon review by the Steering Committee, the framework will be discussed and approved (as is or with suggested changes) at the next Steering Committee meeting on December 12th-13th.



Planning and Documents

UPDATE THE FORUM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Governance Committee facilitated the finalization of the Strategic Framework, and it is now posted on the website, <http://www.cafishpassageforum.org>. The framework was edited, incorporating 2013 Passage Assessment Database numbers to ensure information was updated.

DEVELOP AND UPDATE FORUM DOCUMENTS

The Forum completed the Forum's Project Endorsement form, posted it on the website and endorsed two projects.

REPORTING FORM

The Forum produced a new reporting form for Forum-funded project leaders to provide accomplishment reports to the Forum electronically.

Forum Administration

IDENTIFY NFHP REPORTING SCHEDULE MEET DEADLINES FOR INFORMATION REQUESTS.

The Governance Committee worked with the Forum Coordinator to develop a timeline for NFHP related deadlines such as NFHP funding deadlines, 10 Waters to Watch submissions, and Multi-state Conservation Grants.

FORMALIZE THE FORUM'S PROCESS FOR MEETINGS AND MINUTES AND IDENTIFY ELEMENTS FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION.

The Forum now has meeting minutes with associated action items posted on the website after every Committee/Work Group meeting and quarterly Forum meetings. In addition, the Governance Committee and CDFW helped clarify that the Forum was not subject to the Bagley-Keene Act, but would actively try to engage the public in meetings and outreach efforts.

UPDATE FORUM BYLAWS AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

Forum members developed the Governance Committee bylaws section of the Strategic Framework. Forum members launched a process to renew the Forum's MOU, with a completion date of 2014.

OVERSEE PRIORITIZATION WG AND ENGINEERING WG. CONVENE ADDITIONAL WGS AS NEEDED

The chairs of the Optimization/Prioritization WG and Engineering WG attended S&D Committee conference calls and provided updates on their progress. Opportunities for collaboration between the committee and working groups were discussed, especially regarding APASS data needs.

