

# 2023 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Proposal Solicitation Notice



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South Fork Cottaneva Creek  
Photo Credit: Chris Ramsey (CDFW)

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Pre-Application deadline February 9, 2023

Application deadline: April 20, 2023

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ecosystem Conservation Division

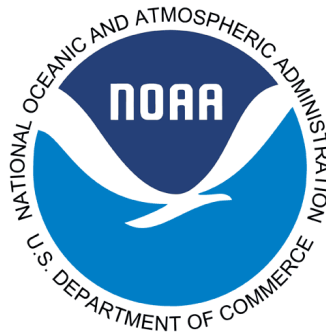
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch



In partnership with

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund



# Overview

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pleased to announce funding opportunities under the 2023 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation) for projects to enhance or protect salmon and steelhead habitat. Projects will use natural processes and materials in their implementation and should also contribute to objectives of the [California Water Resilience Portfolio](#), [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (SWAP), and fulfillment of CDFW's mission. All qualified, eligible entities are encouraged to submit proposal<sup>1</sup>.

The Fisheries Restoration Grant Program [Grant Guidelines](#) (FRGP Guidelines) provide detailed information on the processes, procedures, criteria, and basic requirements for administering FRGP. However, the information in this Solicitation supersedes any discrepancies among the two documents.

The FRGP incorporates several ongoing efforts to implement efficiencies to support restoration through granting and permitting. Following a pilot initiative, CDFW has made permanent its [Cutting the Green Tape program](#), with staff to support granting and permitting improvement efforts. The Cutting the Green Tape program is also administering the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) process authorized under Senate Bill 155. The SERP process provides additional opportunity for restoration projects seeking approval, including those funded through grant programs like FRGP.

## Funding for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Total funding available under this solicitation is anticipated to be approximately \$17 million, contingent upon allocation from the

<sup>1</sup> Eligible applicants include state and local government agencies, public entities, California Native American Tribes, and nonprofit organizations.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

## Proposal Solicitation Schedule

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Dates</b> (Dates subject to change)
Release Proposal Solicitation Notice	January 5, 2023
Pre-Application Workshop	January 18, 2023
Pre-Applications Due	February 9, 2023
Full Application	March 14, 2023
Application Workshops	See <a href="#">FRGP's Website</a> (Various)
Proposals due by <b>3:00 p.m.</b> , Pacific Time	April 20, 2023
Proposal Evaluation including field reviews	April 20 to June 30, 2023
Director Approval/Announce Award	December 2023
Execute Grant Agreements	Spring 2024
Complete all project work and submit deliverables/final invoice	April 1, 2028

## Solicitation Workshops

Workshops highlighting updates to the Solicitation and application submission requirements will be held throughout the state. Workshop attendance is not a requirement for submitting an application. Workshops may be recorded and made available online. Locations and dates will be posted on CDFW's [Public Meetings and Notices website](#). [Sign up](#) to get notifications about upcoming workshops.

## Proposal Application Package

Proposal applications must be submitted online at [CDFW WebGrants](#). The grant opportunity is listed in WebGrants under the Funding Opportunity as "FRGP 2023 Funding Opportunity". Applicants must have an active WebGrants user account to apply. Instructions for using the online process are on the [FRGP PSN Website](#). Proposal applications are required to have all materials requested in this Solicitation and comply with all requirements listed in the [FRGP Guidelines](#) for the project type.

Applicants must submit a pre-proposal at [CDFW WebGrants](#) to be eligible to apply to the full proposal. More details are available in the [FRGP Guidelines](#) in Part II Application Proposal Package.

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## **1.0 Eligibility criteria**

### **1.1 Applicants**

Eligible applicants include state and local government agencies, public entities, California Native American Tribes, and nonprofit organizations. Other entities that are not eligible for funding under this Solicitation may work as subcontractors for an eligible applicant.

### **1.2 Projects**

Eligible projects for this solicitation are those for implementation or design projects that restore, enhance, or protect salmon and steelhead habitat in rivers and streams. Projects that support implementation projects through planning, effectiveness monitoring, outreach, and/or education are also eligible.

## **2.0 Project Types**

Eligible project types are listed below within the NOAA PCSRF Funding Priorities. CDFW has developed a two-letter coding system for project types (see [FRGP Guidelines](#), Part IV for detailed descriptions).

Projects can include multiple project types. Some examples of eligible multiple project types include, but are not limited to in-river and floodplain habitat restoration, bridge and culvert replacements, urban stream revitalization as part of community development, community outreach and project development, organizational capacity building, and technical trainings.



## 2.1 Priority 1 Project Types

Projects that restore, enhance, or protect salmonid habitat in anadromous watersheds through implementation or design projects that lead to implementation. Approximately 65% of the PCSRF grant award will fund Priority 1 Projects.

FP**	Fish Passage at Stream Crossings	HU**	Watershed Restoration (Upslope)
HB**	Instream Barrier Modification for Fish Passage	PD*	Project Design (100% design)
HI**	Instream Habitat Restoration	RE+	Cooperative Rearing
HR**	Riparian Restoration	SC**	Fish Screening of Diversions
HS**	Instream Bank Stabilization	WC**	Water Conservation Measures

## 2.2 Priority 2 Project Types

Projects that consist of watershed-scale or larger effectiveness monitoring (e.g., intensively monitored watershed project). Such projects provide monitoring of habitat restoration actions at the watershed or larger scales and the physical, biological and chemical response, and projects conducting watershed-scale or larger restoration planning (e.g., strategic action plans). CDFW's Fisheries Branch leads efforts that monitor status and trends and directly contribute to population viability assessments for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids. Approximately 25% of the PCSRF grant award will fund Priority 2 activities.

MO	Monitoring Watershed Restoration (Large-scale)	PL*	Watershed Evaluation (Large-scale)
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## 2.3 Priority 3 Project Types

Projects that support implementation projects through planning, outreach, and/or education. Approximately 10% of the PCSRF grant award will fund Priority Three Projects. Proposals for required FRGP programmatic permit effectiveness monitoring are ineligible.

MO	Monitoring Watershed Restoration (Project-scale)	PL*	Watershed Evaluation, Assessment, and Planning (Project-Scale)
OR	Watershed and Regional Organization	TE*	Private Sector Technical Training and Education
PD*	Project Design (Feasibility study)	WD* +	Water Measuring Devices (Instream and Water Diversion)
PI	Public Involvement and Capacity Building (Includes AmeriCorps projects)		

\*Projects may require the services of a licensed professional engineer or licensed professional geologist to comply with the requirements of the Business and Professions Code section 6700 et seq. (Professional Engineers Act) and section 7800 et seq. (Geologists and Geophysicists Act). **If a proposed project requires the services of licensed professionals, these individuals and their affiliations must be identified in the proposal application. If this information cannot be provided with the application, an explanation must be provided.**

+ Implementation project types must have all designs and plans 100% completed prior to grant execution if the proposal is funded.

Projects required for mitigation or used for mitigation (such as under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Endangered Species Act (CESA), Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), California Forest Practices Act (FPA) or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)) will not be considered for funding. Projects under enforcement action by a regulatory agency are ineligible to apply to this solicitation.

## 3.0 FRGP Overview and Background

The goal of the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) is to recover and conserve California's salmon and steelhead trout populations through process-based restoration activities that restore self-sustaining ecosystems. The Program objective is to fund projects that restore, enhance, or protect salmonid habitat in anadromous watersheds of California or projects that lead to restoration, enhancement, or protection of anadromous salmonid habitat.

Projects are determined to be accomplishing this objective by completing, in whole or in part, a task from a State or Federal recovery plan. A general overview of the geographic area covered by FRGP is shown on Map 1 in the [FRGP Guidelines](#) while *Table 1: FRGP Focus Watersheds* has the specific watersheds eligible under this Solicitation.

## 4.0 Program Requirements

Specific program requirements and detailed specifications for each project type are available in the [FRGP Guidelines](#). In addition to the information required under Part II and III in the Guidelines, other materials requested under each project type must be submitted with the proposal application. Forms and examples of supplemental documents are available at the [FRGP Guidance Tools website](#). See [FRGP Guidelines](#), Part V for more information and definitions of supplemental documents. The applicant will identify the primary project type that best describes the proposed project.

All information requested in this solicitation (PSN and Guidelines) is mandatory unless otherwise indicated.

Implementation type projects must have all designs and plans 100% completed prior to grant execution, if the proposal is funded. Projects that have not been designed to meet all requirements of the [California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, 4th Edition \(CA Restoration Manual\)](#) or [other approved guidelines and manuals](#)

[for salmon and steelhead habitat restoration](#) will have the responsibility of developing the appropriate documentation for CEQA, ESA, and CESA compliance, including financial assurances under CESA (See [FRGP Guidelines](#), Part V: Environmental Compliance and Permitting).

#### **4.1 Applicant Tribal Informal Consultation and Collaboration**

CDFW recognizes the importance of applicant informal consultation and collaboration with California Native American tribes and that such consultation and collaboration will support the development and/or implementation of the best possible projects. Applicants should budget sufficient time and/or funds in their proposals to support tribal involvement throughout the project, as they would for subcontractors. Applicant informal consultation with a California Native American Tribe does not satisfy or replace CDFW's AB 52 tribal consultation obligations for projects covered by FRGP's CEQA MND (See [FRGP Guidelines](#), Applicant Tribal Information Consultation and Collaboration in Part II).

## 5.0 Proposal Evaluation and Scoring Protocols

All proposals will be reviewed using the scoresheets in Appendix B of the [FRGP Guidelines](#). Proposals that pass Administrative Review will be reviewed by 3-4 technical reviewers. The [FRGP Guidelines](#) outline the review criteria details for each project type. The technical review consists of a Program Review Scoresheet, a Biological Review Scoresheet and if applicable, an Engineering and Geotechnical Review Scoresheet. The Program Review is uniform for all proposals and reviews program requirements like qualifications, cost share, and budgets. The Biological Review is specific to each project type and reviews project details to evaluate the need and potential success of a project. The technical review typically includes a site visit with the applicant and reviewers. The Engineering and Geotechnical Review evaluates concerns to the safety of the public and the success of the project.

Proposal reviewers develop a single review scoresheet called the Consensus Scoresheet. Proposals will be ranked for funding by their Consensus Scoresheet score.

## 6.0 References and Resources

### **Program**

CDFW's [Public Meetings and Notices](#)

FRGP [Solicitation Documents](#)

FRGP [Guidance Tools](#)

PCSRF [Data Dictionary](#) (select "Definitions" at top right)

CDFW [WebGrants](#)

### **Plans and Guides**

California Department of Fish & Game. [Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon](#). State of California, Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, 2004. (PDF)

[Coho Salmon Recovery Tasks](#)

Flosi, Gary, Scott Downie, James Hopelain, Michael Bird, Robert Coey, and Barry Collins. *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, 4<sup>th</sup> edition*. State of California, Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, 2010.

[Volume 1](#) (PDF); [Volume 2](#) (PDF)

National Marine Fisheries Service. [Final Coastal Multispecies Recovery Plan: California Coastal Chinook Salmon, Northern California Steelhead, Central California Coast Steelhead](#). NMFS West Coast Region, Santa Rosa, 2016.

National Marine Fisheries Service. [Final Recovery Plan for the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit](#)

[of Coho Salmon](#) (“SONCC plan”). NMFS West Coast Region, Arcata, 2014. Note: The recovery action steps that must be referenced for this PSN can be found [here](#), and supersede any recovery action steps described in the 2014 recovery plan.

National Marine Fisheries Service. [Fish Screening Criteria for Anadromous Salmonids](#). NMFS Southwest Region, 1997. (PDF)

National Marine Fisheries Service. [Guidelines for Electrofishing Waters Containing Salmonids Listed Under the Endangered Species Act](#). 2000. (PDF)

National Marine Fisheries Service. NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region, [Anadromous Salmonid Passage Design Manual](#), NMFS, WCR, Portland, Oregon. 2022.

National Marine Fisheries Service, 2022. [NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region Guidance to Improve the Resilience of Fish Passage Facilities to Climate Change - 2022](#). NOAA Fisheries West Coast Regional Office, 1201 Northeast Lloyd, Portland, Oregon 97232.

National Marine Fisheries Service. [Recovery Plan for Evolutionarily Significant Unit of Central California Coast Coho Salmon](#) (“CCC plan”). NMFS Southwest Region, Santa Rosa, 2012.

National Marine Fisheries Service. [Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Units of Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon and the Distinct Population Segment of California Central Valley Steelhead](#). NMFS West Coast Region, Sacramento, 2014. (PDF)

National Marine Fisheries Service. [South-Central California Steelhead Recovery Plan](#). NMFS Southwest Region, Long Beach, 2013. (PDF)

National Marine Fisheries Service. [Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan](#). NMFS Southwest Region, Long Beach, 2012.

[California Water Action Plan](#)

California [Water Resilience Portfolio](#)

State [Wildlife Action Plan](#)

California Natural Resources Agency, [Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy](#) June 2017(PDF)

## **Codes and Regulations**

California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.4: [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts](#)

California Employment Development Department [wage data](#)

California [Endangered Species Act](#) (CESA)

California [Environmental Quality Act](#) (CEQA)

California [Forest Practices Act](#) (FPA), AKA, Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act or California Forest Practice Rules (PDF)

Code of Federal Regulations

Federal Uniform Grant Guidance [2 CFR section 200](#)

Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC) [2 CFR section 200.68](#)

Federal [Endangered Species Act](#) (ESA)

National [Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA)

## **Permitting**

CDFW [Document Library](#) – previous years' permit documents



CDFW [Scientific Collecting Permit](#) (SCP)

[California Rapid Assessment Method](#)

[Coastal Development Permit\(s\)](#) from the California Coastal Commission

[Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act](#)

[Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement](#) (1600 permit)

FRGP [Mitigated Negative Declaration](#)

NMFS [Biological Opinions](#)

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) [Amended General 401 Water Quality Certification Order](#) for Small Habitat Restoration Projects

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) [CWA Section 404 permitting](#)

USACE Regional General Permits (RGP) (PDFs)

- [RGP 12 \(North Coast counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo \(northeast, non-coastal\), San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, and Trinity\).](#)
- [RGP 16 \(portions of the following Central Valley counties: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, Shasta, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba Counties\).](#)

- [RGP 78 \(South Coast counties of Los Angeles District: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura\).](#)