

## Partnerships for the Future of Fish and Wildlife

Department of Fish and Wildlife

July 2017

Partnerships are an essential part of planning and delivering wildlife and fisheries conservation programs by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). CDFW has a long history of successful partnerships and they are considered to be a guiding principle in program development and conservation delivery.

Partnerships between CDFW and other parties take many forms but successful partnerships – those that are enduring and productive – share a common set of characteristics. The importance of focusing CDFW time and resources on partnerships, coupled with an outpouring of offers to partner on a broad array of program fronts, prompted CDFW to develop Partnership Principles that describe a set of characteristics common to all successful partnerships and criteria that can be used by CDFW staff and management to evaluate new partnership requests and existing partnerships.

The following is a brief overview of how and where partnerships operate within CDFW with some examples that illustrate the breadth and depth of interactions between CDFW and partners.

### **Wildlife Management**

CDFW has broad trustee responsibility over California's wildlife resources that include management of wildlife for recreational uses, recovery of declining and species, management of threats to vulnerable species, basic species occurrence, population parameters, disease detection and management and a variety of other areas.

Partnership Highlights:

*California State University and University of California:* The scientific and research arm of the California state government system is a critical partner in providing applied research to wildlife management, cooperating in the management of wildlife, fisheries and natural resource data, and providing analytical support to CDFW's management programs. CDFW interacts with the California State University and University of California system on topics ranging from forest species management to human-wildlife conflict management.

*California Waterfowl Association and Ducks Unlimited:* These non-profit organizations are integral to the successful delivery of on-the-ground habitat restoration and creation projects focusing on waterfowl but benefitting a wide spectrum of wetland-associated wildlife species. CDFW interacts with both California Waterfowl Association and Ducks Unlimited on dozens of projects each year.

*Conservation Implementation Teams, Working Groups, and Technical Committees* – Department participation in these working groups, technical committees, and implementation teams have proven to be effective collaborations especially for local conservation and recreation efforts. We are involved in over 50 of these programs statewide with some of the more notable programs including the Central Valley Joint Venture, Predator Policy Working Group, Northern Spotted Owl Interagency Working Group, and Southern Sierra Nevada Fisher Working Group.

Other Key Partnerships...

Mule Deer Foundation	Wild Turkey Federation	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Wild Sheep Foundation	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Mountain Lion Foundation
Yolo Basin Foundation	Elkhorn Slough Foundation	Safari Club International
California Deer Association	Society for Conservation of Bighorn Sheep	Defenders of Wildlife
Pheasants and Quail Forever	Desert Wildlife, Inc.	National Audubon Society
	Point Blue Conservation Science (PRBO)	

### **Fisheries Management**

CDFW's inland fisheries program has responsibility for monitoring and managing fisheries in more than 1,000 miles of streams, hundreds of reservoirs and the near-coastal zone. The co-equal goals of managing for a sustainable recreational fishery while conserving the impressive array of native fish and their in-stream habitats presents both opportunities and challenges for the inland fisheries program. Conserving the diversity of native fish in high mountain streams, warm water reservoir fisheries and anadromous fisheries are best accomplished by leveraging science, management and monitoring among numerous partners. Anadromous hatcheries have mitigation responsibilities and contractual partnerships to raise more than 36 million salmon and steelhead statewide. Partnerships include federal (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), state (Department of Water Resources) and private entities (Pacific Corps, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Commercial Salmon Stamp Committee). Trout hatcheries produce in excess of 10 million fish annually.

#### Partnership Highlights:

*Trout Unlimited:* This highly respected and effective non-profit organization works closely with CDFW on a variety of restoration and conservation programs including salmonid restoration on the north coast, Sierra Nevada native trout programs and program development support across the state.

*Local Restoration Councils:* Through the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, CDFW has developed highly interactive working relationships with local and regional councils to deliver in-stream restoration for declining salmonid species.

*Conservation Implementation Teams and Committees* – Department participation in these working groups, technical committees, and implementation teams have proven to be effective collaborations especially for local conservation and recreation efforts. We are involved in over 50 of these programs statewide with some of the more notable programs including the Wild Trout Committee, Heritage and Threatened Trout Committee, and the larger Fisheries Management Committee.

#### Other Key Partnerships...

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	California Inland Fisheries Foundation	Redwood Community Action Agency
--------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	---------------------------------

Salmonid Restoration Federation	Yurok Tribe	Smith River Alliance
Commercial Salmon Stamp Council	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	Inland Fisheries Foundation and Kokanee Power

**Law Enforcement**

CDFW’s Law Enforcement Division is one of the premier forces protecting natural resource and wildlife in the U.S. Covering the entire state and marine environment, Wildlife Officers are the first-line protection for California fish and wildlife. CDFW’s Wildlife Officer force is stretched thin over such a large state and as part of more effective enforcement, the Law Enforcement Division has engaged and cultivated valuable partners in enforcement and conservation.

Partnership Highlights:

*Natural Resource Volunteer Program:* Conceived and operated by the Law Enforcement Division, the NRVP attracts, trains and manages a force of 169 volunteers to assist with a wide variety of enforcement-related tasks including assisting with law enforcement support and distribution of educational materials. All functions of CDFW have been provided assistance from NRVP and benefit from the program.

*Hunter Education Instructors:* A team of 880 certified instructors taught 3,542 classes reaching out to 31,053 students. This added up to 28,899 hours of volunteer service, and at \$39.06 an hour (Warden salary range B) that equals \$1,128,794 in salary savings to the state.

Other Key Partnerships...

Pacific Fisheries Management Council	Resources Law Group (RLFF)	Oceana
Natural Resources Defense Council	U.S. Coast Guard	MPA Watch groups and the County Collaborative
The Nature Conservancy	The Humane Society of the United States	California Wildlife Officers Foundation

**Lands Management**

CDFW’s Land Management Program is responsible for managing and operating more than one million acres of CDFW-owned and administered lands for recreational, conservation and intrinsic wildlife and fishery habitat values, and providing technical assistance and incentives to private landowners to develop and enhance wildlife habitat. Partnerships are an integral part of land management and land-based conservation through the delivery of public hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and education programs to implementing land-based conservation activities.

Partnership Highlights:

*Joint Ventures:* Migratory bird and other joint ventures are collaborative partnerships of government agencies, NGOs, commissions, businesses, tribes and individuals with a regional focus on conserving

habitat for priority wildlife species and people. CDFW coordinates with several joint ventures throughout California and bordering our state, including the Central Valley Joint Venture, Intermountain West Joint Venture, San Francisco Bay Joint Venture, Pacific Coast Joint Venture, Sonoran Joint Venture and Riparian Habitat Joint Venture.

*Land Trust Community:* California is home to more than one hundred land trusts that share a common mission and interest in land-based conservation with CDFW. They contribute to identification of land acquisition and opportunities and priorities, function as land managers on behalf of CDFW, and are partners in developing lands policy and practice.

*Resource Conservation Districts:* These quasi-governmental organizations bring local expertise and knowledge of land management practices to CDFW through partnerships emphasizing land stewardship, grazing and other management techniques important to targeted management efforts, and serve to extend CDFW’s labor force for achieving Wildlife Area and Ecological Reserve goals.

Other Key Partnerships...

Ducks Unlimited	California Waterfowl Association	The Nature Conservancy
California Deer Association	California Wildlife Foundation	Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Partnership
Yolo Basin Foundation	Cosumnes River Preserve Partners	Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation
Elkhorn Slough Foundation	Pheasants and Quail Unlimited	Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners
California Wetland Monitoring Working Group	Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project	The California Invasive Plant Council
California Rangeland Conservation Coalition	California Rice Commission	Grassland Water District
Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office	Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council	The Sierra Nevada Conservancy
California Conservation Corps (CCC)	California Department of Boating and Waterways	California Department of Food and Agriculture
San Diego State University Soil Ecology and Research Group	Bureau of Land Management	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
National Park Service: Exotic Plant Management Team, California	City of Newport Beach	County of Orange
California State Parks	Private Landowners	Department of Water Resources
National Audubon Society and California Audubon		Sacramento County

**Communications and Outreach**

CDFW’s Office of Communications, Education and Outreach serves as the public face for the department. The scope of our outreach programs varies widely: Some mainly disseminate information

to targeted audiences and serve to raise awareness (Keep Me Wild, invasive species outreach); some help raise necessary funds for conservation and equipment (Sea Otter Tax Check-off, Warden Stamp) and some provide hands-on instruction (Fishing in the City, National Archery in the Schools Program). Many of these programs would not be possible without solid partnerships. Partnerships are also necessary for developing and conducting a variety of interpretive and recreational services (programmatic, facilities, materials and media) for the general public, schools and civic organizations (youth, recreational interest, tourism, etc.).

Partnership highlights:

*Partners of the Bay Area Classroom Aquarium Education Program (CAEP):* CDFW partners with 23 local organizations in order to present the Bay Area CAEP program, which allows teachers to hatch fish in their classrooms and release under permit into local bodies of water. Each teacher is trained by CDFW staff and the partner agencies. Each teacher is assigned a sponsor (community partner) that provides financial and volunteer support in the classroom. Due to the effectiveness of the program and generosity of the partners, we are able to serve approximately 400 classrooms in the Bay Area (43 percent of the total number of classrooms served by this program statewide). Partners have been instrumental in creating new materials which include a multimedia program on trout, a series of posters and a new teacher resource guide. This program has received national recognition due to the breadth of our services and our alliances with partners. (American Fisheries Society 2011 and Aquatic Resource Educators Association 2012).

*Partners of the California Fishing Passport Program:* CDFW partners with more than 30 different California and national fishing industry retailers and sport fishing businesses, 22 educational institutions, non-profit organizations, fishing clubs, youth organizations, etc. throughout the state. Of the more than 50 partners, 38 are also official Fishing Passport Stamping Agents. All of these partners have signed on to help promote sport fishing throughout the state via our California Fishing Passport Program. They have all agreed to help educate and promote ethical fishing, handling and catch-and-release methods (when appropriate). Partners provide program fishing passports and fish identification books to their customers, members and to people attending their special events, and they stamp anglers' passports to help recognize their achievements. In addition, the stamping agents also buy all of their own stamps from our program vendor so that they can officially certify all fish caught by sport anglers – they provide them with official stamps in their passport books. This program has received recognition through a Director's Achievement Award, and recognition from the Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation, as well as from Pure Fishing's Berkley Conservation Institute.

*Partners of the California Sea Otter Fund – Tax Check-off:* CDFW partners with five groups (the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), Friends of the Sea Otter, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Defenders of Wildlife and Earth Echo International) to provide assistance to CDFW's efforts to publicize and promote the California Sea Otter Fund each tax season. Every year CDFW must raise more than \$273,000 through voluntary contributions on individual income tax returns. Marketing this program is essential to make the public aware of it, raise the money and remain on tax form 540 in future years. If we fail to raise the target amount set (and increased each year) by the Franchise Tax Board, the California Sea Otter Fund will be dropped from future tax forms, will cease to exist, and the sea otter programs at CDFW and SCC will lose that entire source of money. The Coastal Conservancy puts \$5,000 toward marketing the tax check-off opportunity. The non-profit groups contribute space on their websites, distribute posters and offer suggestions for other means to publicize the program. Earth Echo International provided the audio and video PSAs featuring Philippe Cousteau.

### Other Key Partnerships...

Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Watchable Wildlife	Tri-Valley Fly Fishers
Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation	California Department of Education	Cosumnes River Preserve
Save Our Sandhill Cranes	Yolo Basin Foundation	National Archery in the Schools Program

### **Conservation Planning**

Conservation planning in CDFW encompasses several programs that seek to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of habitat in the state. The Natural Community Conservation Planning Program is responsible for statewide oversight of various approaches used to balance the needs of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and habitats with the needs of land users. This program is a collaborative effort between state, federal and local governments and private interest groups designed to protect species and their habitats through a large-scale multi-species planning ecosystem approach. The Environmental Review and Permitting Program is responsible for regulatory compliance of environmental laws, including the conservation, protection and management of fish, wildlife, native plants and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. The Timberland Conservation Program is a collaborative effort by multiple state agencies to ensure timber harvesting impacts on the environment are addressed. The Conservation and Mitigation Banking Program coordinates with other state and federal agencies and develops statewide policy and guidance for the establishment and operation of conservation and mitigation banks that provide habitat to support state sensitive species. The Invasive Species Program participates collaboratively with state, federal and local governments and the public on efforts to prevent the introduction of non-native invasive species in California detect and respond to introductions when they occur, and prevent the spread of non-native invasive species that have become established. The Native Plant Program is responsible for coordinating conservation activities for the state's listed plants, including listing and plant collecting and research. CDFW works in collaboration with the California Native Plant Society and a network of botanical experts throughout the state to maintain the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants and the similar Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes and Lichens List.

#### Partnership Highlights:

*Natural Community Conservation Planning:* Every Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) in preparation or being implemented in California (there are about 25) is a proactive long-term partnership among diverse stakeholders. A growing number of jurisdictions around the state are preparing these plans at a county, sub county or two-county scale. NCCPs provide for the conservation of wildlife habitat, agricultural lands and open space, and promote the design of sustainable local human communities that can mediate urban sprawl. Each plan involves local jurisdictions, stakeholders such as housing developers, agricultural and environmental communities, as well as state and federal regulatory agencies. The Placer County Conservation Plan is an example of an NCCP/Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in preparation that has a highly diverse partnership, especially because the plan seeks to integrate NCCP planning (and permitting) with federal, state and local permitting for wetlands.

*California Habitat Conservation Planning Coalition (CHCPC):* CHCPC is a statewide coalition formed in 2008 that represents the entire community of habitat conservation planning practitioners in California

to advocate for conservation plans (NCCPs and HCPs). Participants include local governments, NGOs and businesses who are collaboratively preparing and implementing large-scale HCPs throughout California.

*Conservation and Mitigation Banking Community:* Conservation and mitigation banks are private enterprises that offer landowners economic incentives to protect sensitive resources, and save developers time and money by offering them the certainty of pre-approved compensation lands to meet their mitigation needs. The banking community formed a coalition in 2012 that successfully assisted CDFW in crafting legislation authorizing a new banking program funded by user fees.

*Candidate Conservation and Safe Harbor Agreements:* Most of California is private land and working with private landowners on voluntary conservation is central to achieving the department’s mission. Developing these agreements often stems from long-term collaboration and an understanding and respect for mutual goals. These private lands conservation programs are in many ways the future of how the state can achieve trustee fish and wildlife goals in lock step with the largest land sector in the state. We currently have four Safe Harbor and three Candidate Conservation Agreements under development.

*Timberland Management Program:* The management and conservation of California’s timberlands has moved away from a more typical regulatory model into one of increased collaboration. Besides reviewing and approving Timber Harvest Plans, the program has committed to extensive outreach with many of California’s private timberland owners. The collaboration ranges from joint applied research activities (Green Diamond, Collins Pine) to joint management programs and extends further into proactive conservation like Safe Harbor Agreements.

Other Key Partnerships...

California HCP Coalition	The Nature Conservancy	California Farm Bureau
Audubon Society	Defenders of Wildlife	California Rangeland Coalition
Endangered Habitats League	Building Industry Association	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	National Marine Fisheries Service	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
California State Water Resources Control Board	Regional Water Quality Control Boards	Placer County Water Authority
Sierra College	Tahoe Cattlemen’s Association	Building Industry Association
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society	Sierra Club	Placer Land Trust
Placer County Farm Bureau	California Forestry Association	California Native Plant Society
Rancho Santa Anna Botanic Garden	U.C. Berkeley Botanic Garden	
Mendocino Redwood Company	Sierra Pacific Industries	Green Diamond

**Marine Resources Management**

CDFW’s Marine Region is responsible for protecting and managing California’s marine resources in ocean waters from Oregon to Mexico, and three miles out to sea, including offshore islands. Partnerships are an integral component of CDFW’s data collection and management programs that aim to balance diverse commercial and recreational uses and resource protection programs.

Partnership Highlights:

*Collaborative Fisheries Research West (CFR-West):* This nonprofit organization is dedicated to developing research partnerships between fishermen, managers and scientists. Maintaining a seat on the organization’s Executive Board ensures a close fit is achieved between projects sponsored by CFR-West and CDFW’s fishery research priorities. CDFW scientific staff are often co-investigators on the research projects funded by CFR-West, with CDFW participation providing in-kind contributions.

*California Wetfish Producers Association (CWPA):* CWPA is an industry group formed to promote sustainable fisheries and foster cooperative research. Working collaboratively, CDFW and CWPA have established a highly effective squid catch tracking program and are engaged in collaborative aerial survey research on coastal pelagics.

*Marine Fisheries Management Efficiency Collaboration:* Efficient and robust data collection are central to monitoring the health of our marine fisheries. The essential data provided by fisherman and others working in the marine environment provide for management of our fisheries in a sustainable way that supports local and regional economies. In 2017, the department introduced a pilot program that allows for electronic (and wireless) submission of logbook data saving tens of thousands of dollars in staff time and improving the scope of data collection. We will introduce a commercial fishing landings database system shortly that will also improve efficiency and accountability.

Other Key Partnerships...

California Sea Grant	California State University	California Coastal Conservancy
California Ocean Protection Council (OPC)	California Ocean Science Trust (OST)	Environmental Defense Fund
Herring Research Foundation	Hubbs Sea World Research Institute (HSWRI)	Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation
National Marine Sanctuaries	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	National Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
Ocean Communicator’s Alliance	Ocean Conservancy	Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSFMC)	Pfleger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER)	Resources Legacy Fund
Resource Media	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation	University of California

**Information Technology and Data Management**



Various programs within the Data and Technology Division are responsible for developing, analyzing and managing CDFW’s natural resource on business information. Collaborations and partnerships are vital for assembling the scientific expertise and fiscal resources needed to complete GIS mapping projects of habitats, species distributions and occurrences.

Partnership Highlights:

*California Native Plant Society:* CDFW continues to having an extensive partnership with this native plant conservation NGO under a 30 year old MOU. Highlights of the rich collaboration include mapping of the occurrences of rare plants and maintaining threat/rarity ranks for each species.

*NatureServe:* CDFW maintains the California Natural Diversity Data Base as the California node of the international natural heritage data network. NatureServe is the coordinating body of the 78 members in the network. NatureServe and CDFW work collaboratively to map the locations and condition of rare species, aggregate the data into a centralized continental database, and make the data available to researchers, planners and land use regulators.

Other Key Partnerships...

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	U.S. Forest Service	U.S. Geological Survey
Strategic Growth Council	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Bureau of Land Management
California Energy Commission	Department of Water Resources	CalFire

**Renewable Energy and Climate Science**

CDFW created the Climate Science and Renewable Energy Branch to address climate change adaptation and mitigation and renewable energy development in a meaningful way that protects not only species and habitats, but the services they provide to the economy and citizens of California. Broadly, the Renewable Energy Program is aimed at supporting the use of renewable energy as a means for reducing carbon emissions, maintaining clean air and water, and supporting future economic growth while maintaining California’s diverse natural resources. The Climate Science Program is focused on integrating climate change into CDFW policies and programs as necessary to effectively address the threats that climatic changes pose to biodiversity in the state. Partnerships are necessary to successfully address broad-scale issues such as these that often transcend jurisdictional boundaries.

Partnership Highlights:

*Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs):* The LCCs are collaborative public-private partnerships that were developed to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape-scale issues. Through these partnerships, LCCs are working to ensure the sustainability of our economy, land, water, wildlife and cultural resources. The LCCs in California (four total) have developed projects to support development of decision-support tools and data, monitoring and modeling methods, population and habitat assessments, vulnerability assessments, conservation planning and design, and more, in the face of landscape-scale stressors.

*Point Blue Conservation Science:* Point Blue Conservation Science is aimed at advancing the conservation of birds and other wildlife and ecosystems through science, partnerships and outreach. Point Blue works to reduce the impacts of climate change by promoting climate-smart conservation actions, and has supported CDFW in its scientific and educational endeavors related to climate change.

Other Key Partnerships...

The Nature Conservancy	U.S. Geological Survey	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
The Wildlife Society	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	State Lands Commission
Point Blue Conservation Science	Defenders of Wildlife	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Conservation Biology Institute	Desert Managers Working Group	California Wind Energy Association
Large Scale Solar Association	California and Desert Renewable Energy Working group	Natural Resource Defense Council

**Oil Spill Prevention and Response**

As both a prevention and response organization, the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) has the CDFW’s public trustee and custodial responsibilities for protecting, managing and restoring the state’s fish, wildlife and plants. It is one of the few state agencies in the nation that has both major pollution response authority and public trustee authority for wildlife and habitat. This mandate ensures that prevention, preparedness, restoration and response will provide the best protection for California’s natural resources.

Partnership Highlights:

*Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN):* The OWCN is the world's only oiled wildlife response organization boasting more than 30 different member organizations comprising world-class aquaria, universities, scientific organizations and rehabilitation groups. Established in 1994 by OSPR in response to the *Exxon Valdez* in Alaska and the *American Trader* in Huntington Beach, the OWCN is administered by the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine. OWCN conducts training and drilling of facilities and personnel, and incremental improvements to wildlife contingency plans are critical for rapid deployment during oil spill disasters, and provides immediate access to permanent wildlife rehabilitation facilities, trained personnel, and key supplies is necessary for giving care to oil-affected wildlife.

*U.S. Coast Guard:* OSPR stands together with USCG in preparing for and responding to oil spills in California’s tidally influenced waters. During oil spills, the agencies work in a Unified Command to operate a response that protects the public safety and California’s natural environment. In preparation for spill response, OSPR and USCG agreed to joint preparation of contingency plans through co-chairing the three Port Area Committees for Contingency Planning: USCG Port Areas for San Francisco, Los Angeles / Long Beach and San Diego and together co-chair the committees for these plans.

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:* OSPR works with the U.S. EPA for spills into waters not tidally influenced. As with marine spills, the two agencies come together to form a Unified Command to manage response for the protection of the public and California’s natural resources.

*Sea Otter Research Collaboration:* OSPR collaborates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the Monterey Bay Aquarium to conduct research into sea otters, their habitats, stressors and survival. Activities include annual population surveys, sea otter captures and tracking, necropsies and mortality surveys. The information gathered is used by federal and state wildlife agencies to monitor trends in population dynamics and in making decisions about the management of this threatened species.

*Local Governments* – OSPR provides grants to local government, tribes, cities, counties, fire departments and port districts, adjacent to marine waters, to pre-position (pre-stage) response equipment to protect local resources. Through the grants, the recipient receives equipment and training, to deploy during a spill.

Other Key Partnerships...

Port Authorities	Marine Exchange	Public Information Officers for the San Francisco Bay Area
California Office of Emergency Services	CalRecycle	Natural Resource Trustee Councils
	FEMA	