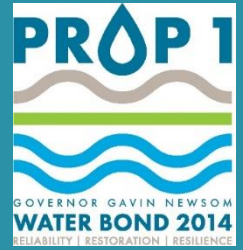




PROPOSITION 1 RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAMS



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

North Coast Coho Recovery Summer 2021 Solicitation

*Supported by:
The North Coast Salmon Project/
Cutting the Green Tape Initiative*

CALL FOR CONCEPTS

Currently accepting concept proposals and
scheduling consultations, until July 31, 2021

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Cutting-Green-Tape/Concept>



OVERVIEW

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is now accepting concept proposals in preparation of the release of the Summer 2021 North Coast Coho Recovery Proposal Solicitation Notice (Solicitation). Supported by both CDFW's North Coast Salmon Project and the CDFW Cutting the Green Tape Initiative, the Solicitation will include two additional phases (pre-application and full application) throughout Summer 2021. This document describes the scope of the upcoming Solicitation, as well as the process for submitting concept proposals prior to the Solicitation's release.

Under the Solicitation, approximately \$15 million will be available for multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects under Proposition 1 (Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014).

Prior to release of the Solicitation, interested parties are encouraged to engage with CDFW staff through short narrative descriptions of proposed restoration and protection activities. The concept proposal process will allow prospective applicants to ask questions and obtain advice from grant and permitting staff prior to the opening of the Solicitation period.

SUMMER 2021 SOLICITATION OVERVIEW

Eligibility and Priorities

Projects must protect, restore, or enhance anadromous native fish habitat in eligible North Coast watersheds (see Focus Watersheds) to aid in the recovery and conservation of these species. In addition, CDFW is seeking projects that contribute to implementation of the California Water Action Plan, State Wildlife Action Plan, Safeguarding California Plan, the California Biodiversity Initiative, CDFW's Recovery Strategy for Coho Salmon (2004), Priority Action Coho Team Report (2020), South Fork Eel River SHaRP report (2021), or other actions identified in a publicly available, authoritative Coho Salmon recovery document for the watershed.

Projects that promote Coho recovery and/or protection, enhance salmonid habitat, and further drought and climate change resilience of freshwater ecosystems will be most competitive under this Solicitation.

Eligible project categories for this Solicitation are Planning, Implementation, and Acquisition.

State and local public agencies within California, federally recognized Indian tribes and State Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List, non-profit organizations, public utilities, and mutual water

companies are eligible to apply for this grant. The Program does not provide funding for mitigation projects.

Focus Watersheds

Projects must be located within the following watersheds:

Eel River

- Lower Eel River
 - Larabee Creek HUC10: 1801010506
 - Yager Creek HUC10: 1801010508
 - Lower Van Duzen River HUC10: 1801010509
 - Price Creek-Eel River HUC10: 1801010510
 - Salt River-Eel River HUC10: 1801010511
- South Fork Eel River HUC8: 18010106

Mendocino Coast

- Ten Mile River HUC10: 1801010801
- Noyo River HUC10: 1801010802
- Navarro River HUC10: 1801010804
- Garcia River HUC10: 1801010805
- Pudding Creek watershed: mainstem and all tributaries

Russian River

- Mill Creek HUC12: 180101100506
- Green Valley Creek HUC12: 180101100901
- Dutch Bill Creek watershed: mainstem and all tributaries
- Willow Creek watershed: mainstem and all tributaries

Lagunitas Creek

- Lagunitas Creek HUC10: 1805000501

Project locations should be within existing or recoverable Coho Salmon habitat. Additional clarity on appropriate geographic locations will be provided in the Solicitation and during consultations with CDFW.

North Coast Salmon Project

The North Coast Salmon Project (NCSP) is a CDFW initiative to expedite and enhance efforts to recover endangered Coho Salmon in California:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Fishes/Coho-Salmon/North-Coast-Salmon-Project>.

Projects under this Solicitation should address strategies that promote Coho recovery, consistent with objectives and recovery strategies identified by the NCSP.

Cutting the Green Tape

This concept proposal process is part of CDFW's Cutting the Green Tape Initiative to increase the pace and scale of restoration through permitting and granting efficiencies. With support from CDFW Director Bonham, California Natural Resources Agency Secretary Crowfoot, Governor Newsom, and representatives of the restoration community, CDFW is implementing multiple process improvements to its grant and permitting programs.

The concept proposal is being introduced as a mechanism to allow applicants to communicate basic information to CDFW about projects they are considering, and to receive detailed feedback on those projects, prior to submitting a formal application. After receiving concept proposals, CDFW will contact applicants to set up project consultations.

CDFW is also excited to announce that as part of the Cutting the Green Tape Initiative, programmatic federal permitting may also be available in coordination with the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program; details on eligibility will be provided during the consultations.

CONCEPT PROPOSAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

Potential applicants may use the [Project Consultation Request form](#) to submit concept proposals. Once submitted, CDFW staff will be in contact to discuss the project idea and ask questions.

Concept proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis through July 31, 2021. As concept proposals are received, CDFW will contact potential applicants to set up one-on-one consultation calls to discuss project details. Prospective applicants are encouraged to read this document and submit concept proposals early, as appointments will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once the Solicitation has opened, to protect the competitive nature of the application process, no further consultations can be done. Projects that seek early feedback will also have an advantage in that they will have more time to consider CDFW feedback and work on their proposals prior to opening of the Solicitation.

Next Steps



CDFW will split its formal application into two phases: a pre-application and a full application. The pre-application will be a short application form composed primarily of checklists and short narrative fields (less than 100 characters). It will be used to assess project eligibility and readiness, and feedback will be provided to applicants before they move to the full application. This will allow applicants the opportunity to correct minor deficiencies prior to scoring and to make informed decisions about whether their project is ready to proceed to the full application. The full application will include longer narrative fields, such as an explanation of how the proposal addresses the Solicitation and will include items necessary to prepare a grant agreement, such as a detailed budget and scope. After submittal of the full application, the application will be reviewed and scored.

Workshop

CDFW will host a public webinar Tuesday, June 29, 2021, from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm to provide an overview of the concept consultation process. Additional information can be found on the [workshop flyer](#).

Contact WatershedGrants@wildlife.ca.gov with any questions.