

2026 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Proposal Solicitation Notice



Photo: Project partners seining for juvenile salmonids to monitor fish presence in restored Martin Slough, Humboldt County

Photo Credit: LT Vernallis

Concept Proposal Phase Open: January 13 to March 2, 2026

Full Application Phase Open: March 3 to April 16, 2026

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ecosystem Conservation Division

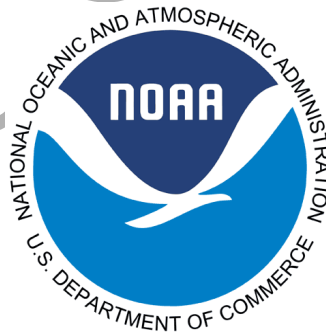
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch



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 2026 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP) Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) for projects to enhance or protect salmon and steelhead habitat. Projects will use natural processes and materials in their implementation and should contribute to the objectives of the [California Water Resilience Portfolio](#), [State Wildlife Action Plan](#), [California's Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#), and fulfillment of CDFW's mission. All qualified, eligible applicants are encouraged to submit a proposal¹.

The 2026 Fisheries Restoration Grant Program Guidelines (Guidelines) are located on [FRGP's website](#) and provide detailed information on the processes, procedures, criteria, and basic requirements for administering FRGP. However, the information in this PSN supersedes any discrepancies among the two documents.

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 administers the [Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects](#) (SERP) process authorized under [Senate Bill 155](#) and the [Restoration Management Permit](#) (RMP) authorized under [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1581](#). The SERP and RMP processes provide additional opportunities for restoration projects seeking approval, including those funded through grant programs like FRGP.

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

Translation Services

English: Translation and interpretation services, including sign language, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of these services, please make your request as soon as possible and no later than five working days prior to the event by contacting Timothy Chorey at Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov and (916) 838-0760.

Spanish: Se pueden ofrecer servicios de traducción e interpretación, incluido el lenguaje de señas, cuando se soliciten. Para garantizar la disponibilidad de estos servicios, solicítelos lo antes posible —a más tardar cinco días antes del evento— comunicándose con Timothy Chorey en Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov y (916) 838-0760.

Vietnamese: Dịch vụ dịch thuật và thông dịch, bao gồm ngôn ngữ ký hiệu, có thể được cung cấp theo yêu cầu. Để bảo đảm việc cung cấp các dịch vụ này, vui lòng đưa ra yêu cầu của quý vị càng sớm càng tốt và không quá năm ngày làm việc trước khi diễn ra sự kiện bằng cách liên hệ với Timothy Chorey tại Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov và (916) 838-0760.

Simplified Chinese: 如有要求，可提供笔译和口译服务，包括手语服务。为了确保获取上述服务，请尽早提出需求，最晚不迟于活动之前五个工作日。联系人 Timothy Chorey，[邮箱地址 Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov)，电话(916) 838-0760

Tagalog: Maaaring magkaloob ng mga serbisyo sa pagsasalin at interpretasyon, kabilang ang sign language, kapag hiniling. Upang matiyak ang pagiging available ng mga serbisyonang ito, gawin ang paghiling sa lalong madaling panahon at hindi bababa sa limang araw ng trabaho bagong kaganapan sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan kay Timothy Chorey sa Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov at sa (916) 838-0760.

Hmong: Cov kev pab cuam txhais lus thiab txhais ntawv, muaj suav nrog cov hom lus uas tau muab sau cim cia, tuaj yeem muab raws li kev thov. Los paub tseeb txog tsab peev xwm ua tau ntawm cov kev pab cuam no, thov ua koj qhov kev thov yeem ntxov twb haj yam zoo thiab tsis txhob ua lig tshaj li tsib hnub ua hauj lwmu ntej ntawm qhov xwm txheej uas los ntawm kev hu tiv tauj Timothy Chorey ntawm Timothy.Chorey@wildlife.ca.gov thiab (916) 838-0760.

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Funding for Fiscal Year 2026/2027

Total funding available under this PSN is anticipated to be approximately \$16 million, contingent upon allocation from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) (Assistance Listing Number and Name: 11.438 Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery - Pacific Salmon Treaty Program) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Proposal Solicitation Schedule

Activity	Dates (subject to change)
Release PSN; Concept Proposal Phase Opens	January 13, 2026
Concept Proposal Application Workshop	February 5, 2026
Concept Proposal Phase Closes	March 2, 2026
Full Application Phase Opens	March 3, 2026
Application Workshop(s)	See FRGP's Solicitation page
Full Application Phase Closes; Proposals due by 3:00 p.m. , Pacific Standard Time	April 16, 2026
Proposal Evaluation (including field reviews)	April 17 to June 26, 2026
Director Approval; Award Announcement	December 2026
Execute Grant Agreements	Spring 2027
Complete Project Work; Submit Deliverables (including Final Report and Final Invoice)	March 1, 2031

Solicitation Workshops

Workshops highlighting updates to the PSN, proposal requirements, and submission processes will be held virtually. Further information will be posted on CDFW's [Public Notices and Meetings page](#) ([subscribe](#) to get notifications about upcoming workshops). Workshops may be recorded and made available online for those unable to attend. Workshop attendance is not required to submit a proposal.

Proposal Application Package

Applicants may submit an FRGP concept proposal if they would like a consultation about their project with FRGP staff. Proposals requesting more than \$2,000,000 are required to submit a concept proposal to be eligible for funding under the full application. A concept proposal is not required for projects under \$2,000,000 to submit a full proposal. FRGP encourages new/newer applicants and project design (PD) projects to participate in the concept proposal and consultation phase. FRGP staff will be able to provide full guidance during this phase.

Full proposals must be submitted online under the Funding Opportunity "FRGP 2026 Funding Opportunity". Full proposals are required to have all materials requested in this PSN and comply with all requirements listed in the Guidelines for the project type (see [FRGP's Solicitation page](#) for a copy of the Guidelines).

Concept proposals and full proposals must be submitted online at [CDFW WebGrants](#). Applicants must have an active WebGrants user account to apply. For question on how to register for a WebGrants account, contact: CDFWebGrants@wildlife.ca.gov.

More details are available in the Guidelines (see the Application Proposal Package section in Part II).

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 PSN may work as subcontractors for an eligible applicant.

1.2 Projects

Eligible projects for this PSN are 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 the Guidelines on [FRGP's Solicitation page](#), Part IV for detailed descriptions).

Individual projects may 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. Project Type requirements must be included for each Project Type.

2.1 Priority 1 Project Types

Implementation projects that restore, enhance, or protect salmonid habitat in anadromous watersheds 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	HS**	Instream Bank Stabilization
HB**	Instream Barrier Modification for Fish Passage	HU**	Watershed Restoration (Upslope)
HI**	Instream Habitat Restoration	PD*	Project Design (100% Designs)
HR**	Riparian Restoration	RE+	Cooperative Rearing
		SC**	Fish Screening of Diversions

2.2 Priority 2 Project Types

Projects that consist of conducting effectiveness monitoring or restoration planning at the watershed (or larger) scale. Such projects provide monitoring of habitat restoration actions and the physical, biological, and chemical response at the watershed or larger scale (e.g., intensively monitored watershed project, strategic action plans). CDFW's Fisheries Branch leads efforts that monitor status/trends and directly contributes to population viability assessments for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed anadromous salmonids through [California Monitoring Plan](#) (CMP). Approximately 25% of the PCSRF grant award will fund Priority 2 projects. The majority of PCSRF funds are used to support CMP. Approximately \$500,000 is available for granting.

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 3 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 §6700 et seq.](#) (Professional Engineers Act) and [§7800 et seq.](#) (Geologists and Geophysicists Act). **If a project requires the services of licensed professionals, these individuals and their affiliations must be identified in the proposal. If this information cannot be provided, an explanation and selection criteria must be provided in the proposal.**

*Implementation project types must have all designs and plans 100% completed prior to grant execution, if 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 §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 PSN.

3.0 FRGP Overview and Background

The goal of FRGP is to recover and conserve California's salmon and steelhead trout populations through process-based restoration activities that restore self-sustaining ecosystems. FRGP's 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 accomplish 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 in the [FRGP Regional Focus Watershed Interactive Map](#) and on Map 1 in the Guidelines, while the Region Focus Watersheds Table has the specific watersheds prioritized under this PSN.

4.0 Program Requirements

Specific program requirements and detailed specifications for each project type are available in the Guidelines on [FRGP's Solicitation page](#). The applicant must provide required project information for all project types that pertain to the project. Applicants who are unsure of what project types to include should contact FRGP. Contacts are available on [FRGP's Contacts page](#). In addition to the information required under Parts II and III in the Guidelines, materials requested under each project type must be submitted with the proposal (see the Guidelines Part V for definitions and details of Supplementary Documents). Forms and examples of Supplementary Documents are available on [FRGP's Guidance Tools page](#).

Implementation type projects must have all designs and plans 100% completed prior to grant execution, if funded. Projects that have not been designed to meet all requirements of the [California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, 4th Edition](#) or [other approved restoration manuals](#) will have the responsibility of developing the appropriate documentation for CEQA, ESA, and CESA compliance, including financial

assurances under CESA (see the Guidelines, Environmental Compliance and Permitting section in Part V).

All information requested in this PSN and Guidelines is mandatory unless otherwise indicated.
4.1 Applicant Tribal Informal Consultation and Collaboration

CDFW recognizes the importance of an applicant's 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. An applicant's informal consultation and collaboration 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 the Guidelines, Applicant Tribal Information Consultation and Collaboration section in Part II). CEQA surveys are required as deliverable for PD Project Types, including but not limited to cultural resources and biological surveys.

5.0 Proposal Evaluation and Scoring Protocols

All proposals will be reviewed using the scoresheets in Appendix B of the Guidelines. The Guidelines outline the review criteria. Proposals that pass Administrative Review will be reviewed by three to four technical reviewers. The technical review consists of a 100-point scoresheet and if applicable, an Engineering and Geotechnical Review Scoresheet. The Engineering and Geotechnical Review evaluates concerns to the safety of the public and the success of the project. The technical review typically includes a site visit with the applicant and reviewers.

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

Below are links to pages referenced in this PSN. For additional references and resources, see the Guidelines, Appendix A.

CDFW and FRGP

FRGP's Website

- [FRGP's Guidance Tools page](#)
- [FRGP Regional Focus Watershed Interactive Map](#)
- [FRGP's Solicitation page](#)

CDFW's [Cutting the Green Tape program](#)

- [Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects](#)
- [Restoration Management Permit](#)

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

[CDFW WebGrants](#)

Plans and Guides

Recovery/Restoration Plans and Manuals

California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual, 4th Edition

- [Volume 1](#)
- [Volume 2](#)

FRGP's [other approved restoration manuals](#)

Further Guidance

California's Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future

California Water Resilience Portfolio

State Wildlife Action Plan

Bills, Codes, and Regulations

Bills

[Assembly Bill 52](#)

[Assembly Bill 1581](#)

[Senate Bill 155](#)

Codes

Business and Professions Code

- [§6700 et seq.](#) (Professional Engineers Act)
- [§7800 et seq.](#) (Geologists and Geophysicists Act)