

PROPOSITION 1 FIVE YEAR REPORT: 2015-2019

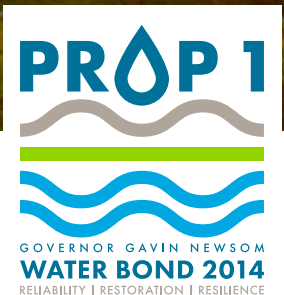


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**State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Watershed Restoration Grants Branch**

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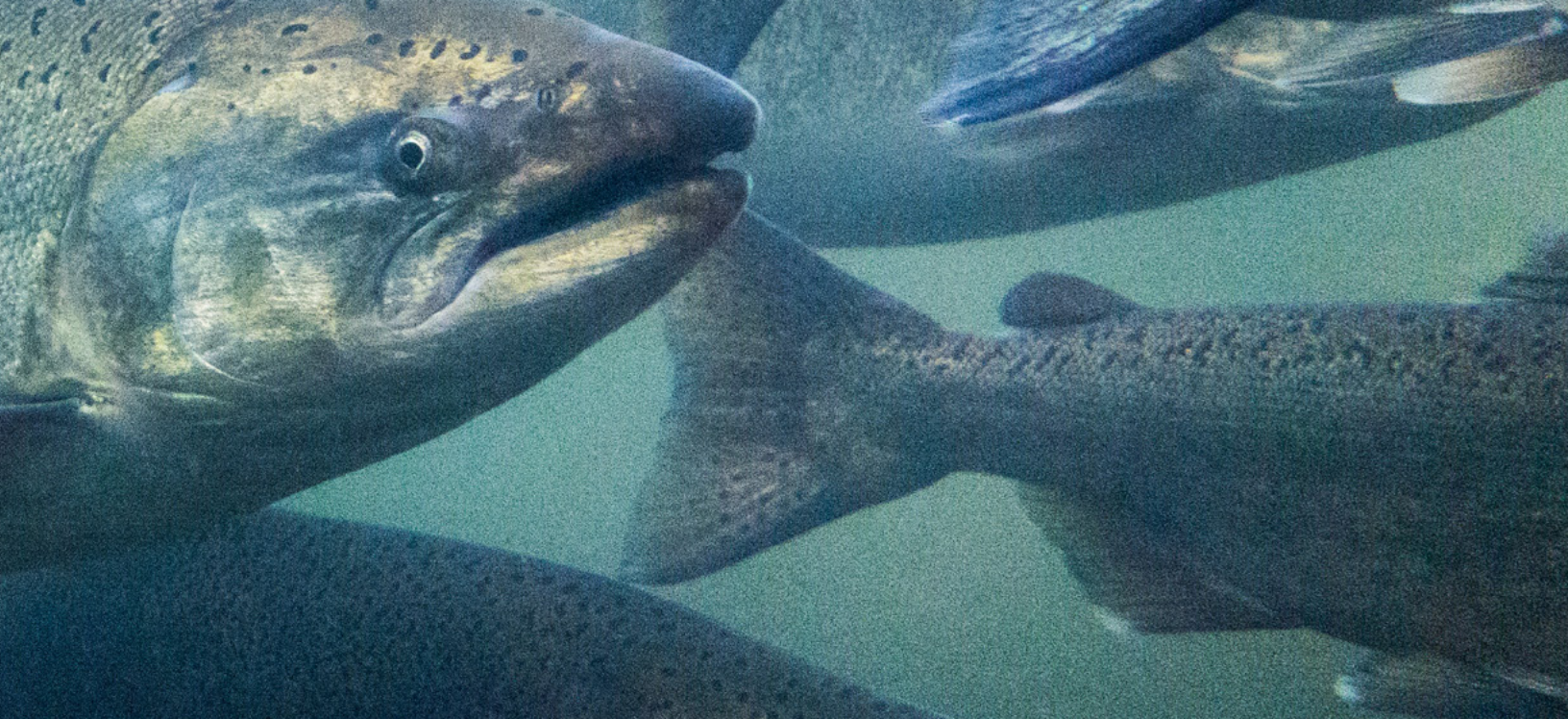


SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

In November 2014, California voters passed The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 ([Proposition 1](#)). Among its provisions, the Act amended the California Water Code and authorized CDFW to appropriate a combined \$372.5 million for watershed restoration projects that implemented three broad objectives of the California Water Action Plan: more resilient water supplies; the restoration of important species and habitat; and a more resilient, sustainably managed water resources system (water supply, water quality, flood protection and environment) that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades.





To carry out these objectives while continuing to fulfill its mission, CDFW established two competitive grant programs administered by the Watershed Restoration Grants Branch (WRGB): (1) The Watershed Restoration Grant Program and (2) The Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program. These grant programs were to support projects that provide multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration in accordance with statewide priorities that contribute to the implementation of the Water Resiliency Portfolio, State Wildlife Action Plan, the Sacramento Valley Salmon Resiliency Strategy, the Delta Plan, California EcoRestore, Delta Conservation Framework, the Safeguarding California Plan and the California Biodiversity Initiative.

In administering the Proposition 1 Grant Programs, CDFW planned a 10-year grant rollout and finalized the Project

Solicitation and Evaluation Guidelines for Proposition 1 Grant Programs (Guidelines) in June 2015. This was followed by the first proposal applications in September 2015 and grant awards in January 2016. By May 2019, which is midway through the 10-year rollout plan, CDFW has completed five grant solicitation rounds and awarded more than \$161 million to 150 grant projects throughout the state. This 5-Year report describes how CDFW has administered the Proposition 1 grant programs in the first half of rolling out the programs, between Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/2016 and FY 2019/2020, as well as how CDFW is fulfilling its mission and the overall objectives of Proposition 1. The Report provides an overview of:

- The overall intent of Proposition 1
- Current status and outcomes of CDFW's Proposition 1 Grant programs
- Project highlights
- Coordination and collaborative partnerships formed

SECTION 2: PROPOSITION 1 FRAMEWORK

Following the passage of Proposition 1, CDFW developed program Guidelines to implement the two Proposition 1 grant programs for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects.

Some relevant sections of the Bond as it relates to CDFW's Grant Programs are outlined below. For a more in-depth account, please read the text of [Proposition 1](#).

Proposition 1 added Sections 5096.968 and 75089 to the Public Resources Code and inserted Section 79700 into Division 26.7 of the Water Code relating to a water quality, supply and infrastructure improvement program. The Act also provided the funds necessary to implement the improvements through the issuance and sale of bonds of the State of California and for the handling and disposition of those funds.

Chapter 2 of the Bond states that the overall water resource and environmental goals to include that the "measure provides funding to implement the three objectives of the California Water Action Plan which are more reliable water supplies, the restoration of important species and habitat, and a more resilient and sustainably managed water infrastructure."

In Chapter 4, the proposition establishes the general provisions of the funding that will support the goals outlined in Chapter 2. This section mentions that each state agency that is appropriated grant funds to administer a competitive grant program must develop and adopt

"project solicitation and evaluation guidelines." Other stipulations include that:

- Public funds will address the most critical statewide needs and priorities
- Priority will be given to projects that leverage private, federal, or local funding or provide the greatest public benefit
- Eligible grant applicants are public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized Indian tribes, state Indian tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List and mutual water companies
- Projects may use the services of the California Conservation Corps

Chapter 6 authorizes \$1.495 billion to various state agencies "for competitive grants for multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects in accordance with statewide priorities." Of this amount, the Bond makes available a total of \$372.5 million to CDFW for two grant programs.

The Bond authorized \$285 million to CDFW to fund statewide projects that provide "watershed restoration benefits" and are located outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). Watershed restoration is defined as activities that include funding for:

- Coastal wetland habitats
- Improving forest health
- Restoring mountain meadows
- Modernizing stream crossings, culverts and/or bridges

- Reconnecting historical flood plains
- Installing or improving fish screens
- Providing fish passage
- Restoring river channels
- Restoring or enhancing riparian, aquatic and terrestrial habitats
- Improving ecological functions
- Acquiring conservation easements from willing sellers for riparian buffer strips
- Improving local watershed management
- Removing sediment or trash

CDFW established the Watershed Restoration Grant Program to distribute these funds.

The Bond additionally authorized \$87.5 million to CDFW to fund projects that provide “water quality, ecosystem restoration, and fish protection facilities that benefit the Delta, including, but not limited to,” projects that:

- (1) improve, or contribute to, water quality in the Delta;
- (2) provide habitat restoration, conservation and enhancement; and
- (3) scientific studies that support the Delta Science Program, improvement of water quality, and habitat restoration, conservation and enhancement.

CDFW established the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program to distribute these funds.



CDFW Administration of Proposition 1 Grants

CDFW established the Watershed Restoration Grant Program (hereafter Watershed Grant Program) and Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program (hereafter Delta Grant Program) in response to Proposition 1. In June 2015, Guidelines were finalized and released to the public.

The purpose of the Guidelines was to establish the process, procedures and criteria through which CDFW will administer competitive grants for a diverse set of projects to implement Proposition 1. Furthermore, the Guidelines include information regarding eligibility requirements, general program requirements, solicitation notices, submission and evaluation of grant proposal applications, and award of grant funding. In addition to the Guidelines, Proposal Solicitation Notices (PSNs) are released annually for each solicitation. The goal of CDFW was to release a solicitation on an annual basis over a 10-year time frame.

Consistent with Proposition 1 Bond language, the following entity types are eligible for Proposition 1 grant funds: 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, nonprofit organizations, public utilities and mutual water companies.

Each PSN provides a list of Funding Priorities by grant program. Funding Priorities for the Watershed Restoration Grant Program are based on the watershed restoration benefits listed

in the Proposition 1 Bond. Over the years, additional funding priorities have periodically been added in the solicitation based on evolving needs or legislative amendments to the Act. In the first five years of implementing Proposition 1, the priorities for the Watershed Grant Program included:

- **Address large-scale wildfire recovery response and prevention.** The objective of this priority, developed in response to the increase in frequency and intensity of wildfires and the devastating effects they have on watersheds, is to fund projects in fire-damaged watersheds that will contribute to restoration and recovery of stream and riparian habitats, prevent erosion, protect and improve water quality, and prevent potential future, negative ecosystem effects.
- **Manage headwaters for multiple benefits.** Projects that restore, protect or enhance watersheds in the Cascades, Sierra Nevada and other forested areas, where two-thirds of the state's water supply originates.
- **Protect and restore mountain meadow ecosystems.** Projects that restore, protect, or enhance mountain meadows in the Sierra Nevada or Cascade ranges where degradation is a threat to the ecosystem and hydrologic functionality.
- **Protect and restore anadromous and native fish habitat.** The objective of this priority is to support projects that protect, restore or enhance anadromous and native fish habitats in California watersheds to aid in the recovery and conservation of these species.

- **Protect and restore coastal wetland ecosystems.** Projects that protect, restore or enhance the functionality or ecological condition of a wide range of coastal wetland types.
- **Protect and restore cross-border urban creeks and watersheds.** The objective of this priority is to support projects that protect, restore or enhance the ecological health of California-Mexico cross-border urban creeks or watersheds that are threatened due to environmental degradation.
- **Habitat Restoration, Conservation and Enhancement.** Projects that protect, restore, or enhance water-dependent habitats (e.g., streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands), and other important ecosystems identified in the California Water Action Plan, for the benefit of fish and wildlife.
- **Improve habitats in the Delta.** The priority supports projects that protect, restore or enhance aquatic, terrestrial or transitional habits that improve the health and resiliency of the Delta's native fish and wildlife species.
- **Plan for multi-benefit Delta restoration through regional partnerships.** The priority supports the advancement of regional planning partnerships that facilitate collaborative development of the Delta's regional conservation strategies or plans.
- **Conduct scientific studies to support the implementation of the Delta Science Plan and the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda.** The objective of this priority is to support scientific studies that advance water and natural resource policy and management decisions and contribute to achieving the coequal goals for the Delta.

The Delta Grant Program Funding Priorities in the first five years of Proposition 1 implementation have included:

- **Improve water quality in the Delta.** The objective of this priority is to support projects that improve the Delta's water quality to enhance ecosystem condition, function and resiliency.

The Guidelines and PSN provide that Proposition 1 funds support four types of projects for the Delta Program: (1) planning, (2) acquisition, (3) implementation and (4) scientific studies that are only supported under the Delta Grant Program.



SECTION 3: CURRENT STATUS AND OUTCOMES OF PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

In the first five years of administering Proposition 1 Grant Programs, CDFW has released annual PSNs for the availability of approximately \$120 million (\$24 million each year) under the Watershed Grant Program and approximately \$35 million (\$7 million per year) under the Delta Grant Program. Funding priorities and application requirements were targeted annually based on input from CDFW management, agency partners and restoration stakeholders.

In response to the increase in frequency and intensity of wildfires and its devastating effects on watersheds across California, CDFW focused the 2018 PSN for the Watershed Grant Program on: Wildfire Recovery Response, Central Valley Salmon Resilience and Recovery and Restoration Project Implementation.

In 2019, CDFW leveraged on its partnership with the Delta Stewardship Council and the United States Bureau of Reclamation to issue a separate multi-agency PSN focused on Delta scientific studies; the total available funding included \$7 million under the CDFW Delta Grant Program.

Proposals Received

A total of 652 proposals requesting approximately \$807 million in funding were received and evaluated in response to CDFW Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notices in the first five years, from FY 2015/2016 to 2019/2020 (hereafter "2015-2019"). Table 1 shows the number of proposals received and the total amount



requested for funding for each year under the Watershed and Delta Grant Programs.



Table 1. The number of proposals received and amount requested (\$ million) in response to the first five years of Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notices (2015–2019).

Fiscal Year	Watershed proposals	Watershed amount	Delta proposals	Delta amount	Total proposals	Total amount
2015/2016	153	\$185.4	37	\$33.3	190	\$218.7
2016/2017	90	\$141.2	30	\$31.3	120	\$172.5
2017/2018	98	\$137.6	18	\$22.6	116	\$160.2
2018/2019 ¹	36	\$37.7	10	\$7.9	46	\$45.7
2019/2020 ²	135	\$175.5	45	\$34.3	180	\$209.8
TOTAL	512	\$677.4	140	\$129.4	652	\$806.9

¹The 2018 solicitation for the Watershed Grant Program focused on Wildfire Recovery Response.

²The 2019 solicitation included funding for the Proposition 68 grant programs: Rivers and Streams, Southern Steelhead and Habitat Enhancement Grant Programs. Proposals submitted may have been eligible for only Proposition 1, or both Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 grant programs.

Grant Summary

Between 2015 and 2019, CDFW awarded 150 grants totaling more than \$161.3 million, representing about 20% of proposal applications received in response to the five solicitation notices. The awards include 113 grants for \$129.4 million under the Watershed Grant Program and 37 grants totaling \$31.9 million for the Delta Grant Program (Table 2). These grants leveraged an additional \$213.6 million in cost share in private, partner, local and federal funding. The grant projects span the state of California (Figure 1).

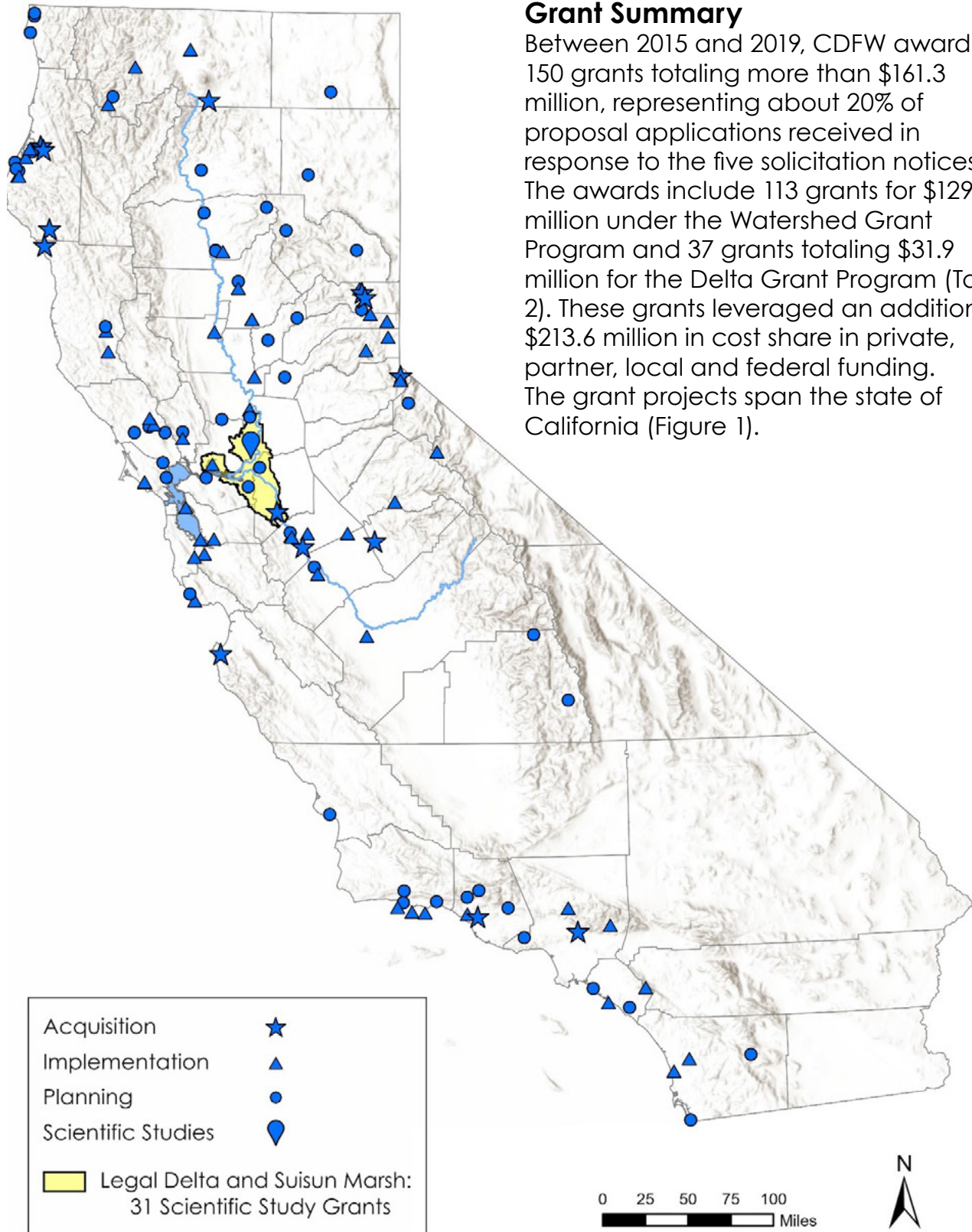


Figure 1. CDFW Proposition 1 Grants (2015-2019) throughout the state of California.

Table 2. Grants issued in response to the first five years of Proposition 1 Proposal Solicitation Notices (2015-2019).

Fiscal Year	Watershed grants	Watershed amount (\$ M)	Delta grants	Delta amount (\$ M)	Total grants	Total amount (\$ M)
2015/2016	19	\$34.0	10	\$6.8	29	\$40.8
2016/2017	33	\$30.0	6	\$7.0	39	\$37.0
2017/2018	27	\$24.1	6	\$6.6	33	\$30.7
2018/2019	15	\$21.1	4	\$4.2	19	\$25.3
2019/2020	19	\$20.2	11	\$7.3	30	\$27.5
TOTAL	113	\$129.4	37	\$31.9	150	\$161.3

Grant Project Categories

Project categories for the Watershed Grant Program include:

1. Acquisition grants for the purchase of interests in land or water (fee title or conservation easements);
2. Planning grants for activities leading to specific on-the-ground implementation projects; and
3. Implementation grants for construction and monitoring of restoration or enhancement projects and new or enhanced facilities.



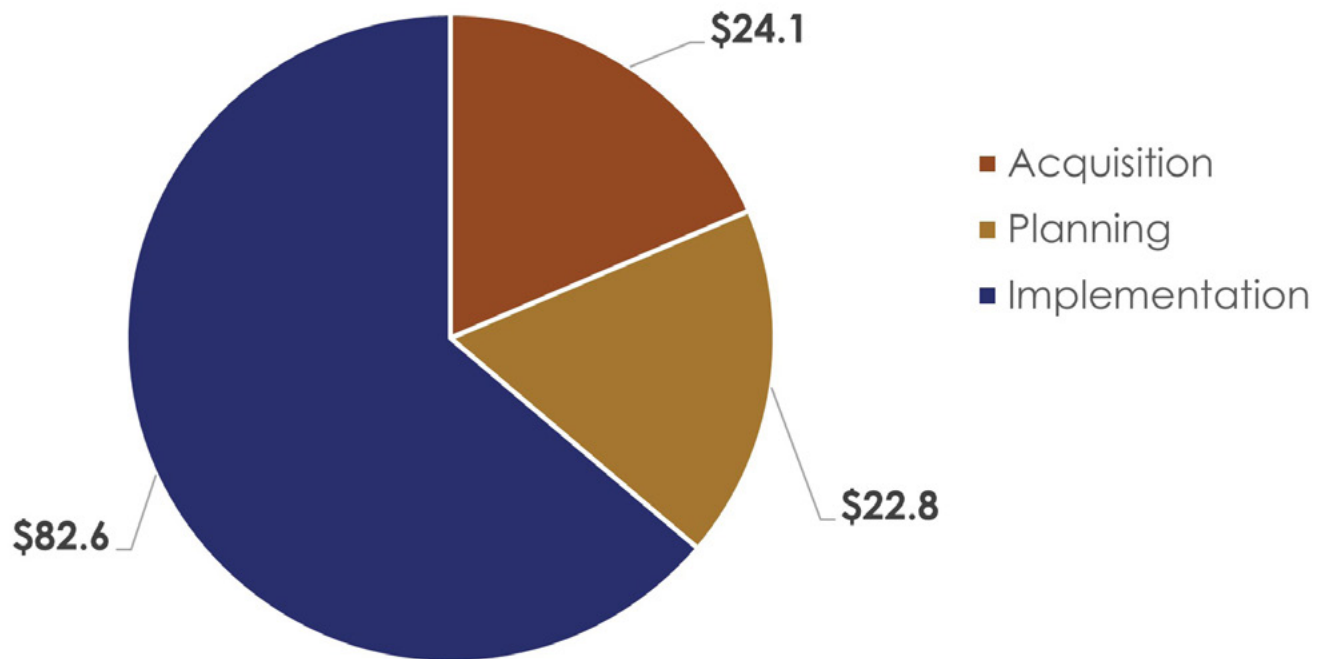


Figure 2. Watershed Grant Program: Proposition 1 grant distribution by project categories (\$ M) between 2015-2019.

In the first five years, the Watershed Grant Program funded the following grants under each category (Figure 2).

- **Acquisition.** Thirteen grants were funded for a total of \$24.1 million from 69 proposals submitted, requesting approximately \$154.4 million. The average grant funding per acquisition project was \$1.9 million. The projects comprised of seven grants for fee title purchase totaling \$13.1 million and six grants for the purchase of conservation easements totaling \$11.0 million.
- **Planning.** Forty-eight grants were funded for a total of \$22.8 million, averaging about \$0.5 million per grant. A total of 217 proposals were submitted for planning projects requesting about \$117.7 million.
- **Implementation.** Fifty-two grants totaling \$82.6 million were funded out of 226 applications requesting \$405.4 million. The average funding for implementation grants was \$1.6 million per grant.

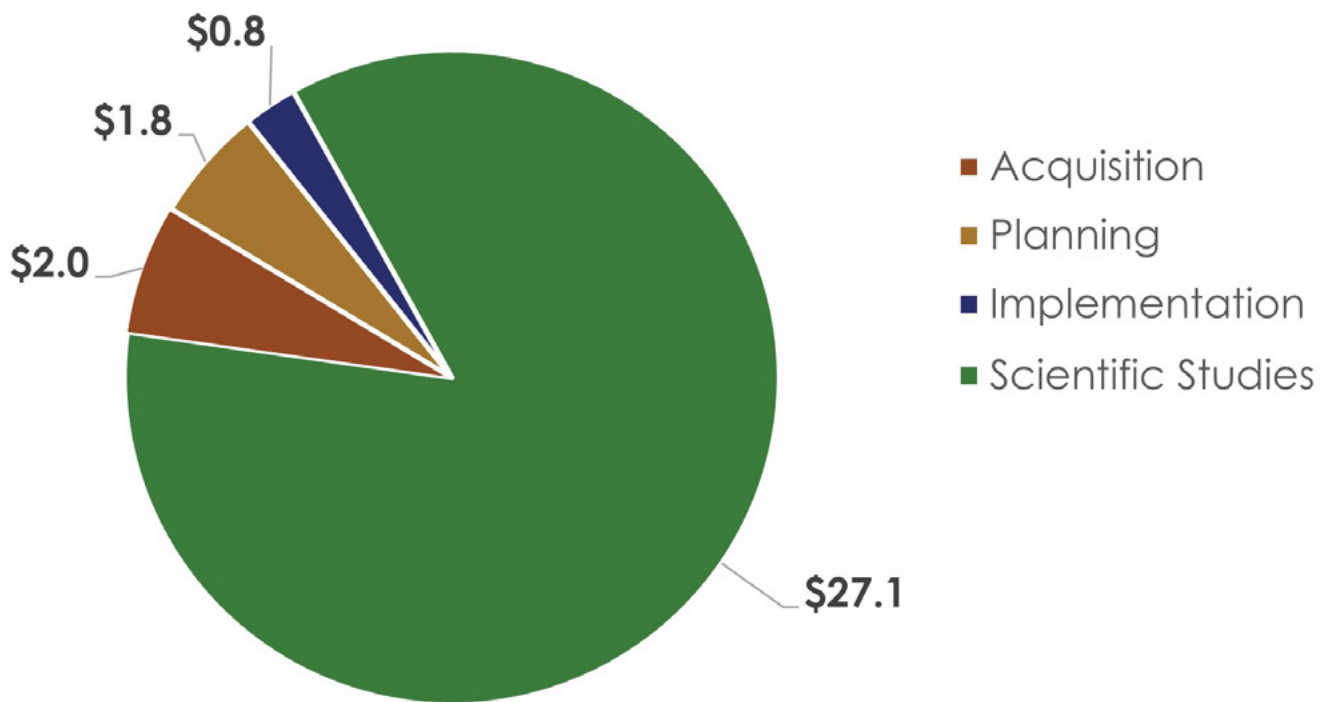


Figure 3. Delta Grant Program: Proposition 1 grant distribution by project categories (\$M) from 2015-2019.

Project categories for the Delta Grant Program include Acquisition, Planning, Implementation and Scientific Studies to support the implementation of the Delta Science Program's [Science Action Agenda](#) and resource management in the Delta.

In the first five years of Proposition 1 administration, the Delta Grant Program funded the following grants in each category (Figure 3).

- **Acquisition.** One conservation easement acquisition grant for \$2 million. This was the only proposal submitted for the acquisition category.
- **Planning.** Four planning grants totaling \$1.8 million were awarded, averaging about \$0.5 million per grant. There were seven proposals submitted for planning projects requesting about \$4 million.
- **Implementation.** One implementation grant was awarded for \$0.8 million out of eight proposals requesting approximately \$14.6 million.
- **Scientific Studies.** Thirty-one scientific study grants totaling \$27.1 million (average grant, \$0.9 million) were awarded from 124 proposals seeking \$108.8 million for science projects.

Funding by Program Priorities

In the first five years of administering Proposition 1, the Watershed Grant Program provided funding under seven priorities (Table 3).

Table 3. Watershed Grant Program project priorities: proposal and grant distribution (\$ M) from 2015-2019.

Primary Priority	Proposals	Amount	Grants	Amount
Wildfire Recovery	20	\$13.6	9	\$8.9
Headwaters	65	\$96.6	7	\$6.2
Mountain Meadows	85	\$79.8	18	\$14.9
Anadromous Fish Habitat	195	\$313.6	60	\$80.0
Coastal Wetlands	68	\$99.9	16	\$17.3
Cross-Border	14	\$15.6	1	\$1.3
Miscellaneous Habitats	65	\$58.3	2	\$0.8
Totals	512	\$677.4	113	\$129.4

- Large-scale wildlife recovery response ("Wildfire Recovery"). Nine grants were funded for a total of \$8.9 million (average grant, \$1 million) from 20 proposals seeking approximately \$13.6 million under this priority.
- Manage headwaters for multiple benefits ("Headwaters"). Seven grants totaling \$6.2 million (average grant, \$0.9 million) were awarded from 65 proposals requesting \$96.6 million.
- Protect and restore mountain meadows ("Mountain Meadows"). Eighteen grants totaling \$14.9 million (average grant, \$0.8 million) were awarded from 85 proposals requesting more than \$79.8 million.
- Protect and restore anadromous fish habitat ("Anadromous Fish Habitat"), which includes fish passage improvement projects (i.e., barrier removal and fish screens) and fish habitat projects. Sixty grants totaling \$80.0 million (average grant, \$1.3 million) were funded from 195 proposals requesting approximately \$313.6 million. The grants were comprised of 32 fish passage improvement projects totaling \$39.6 million and 28 fish habitat projects totaling \$40.4 million.
- Protect and restore coastal wetlands ("Coastal Wetlands"). Sixteen grants totaling \$17.3 million (average grant, \$1.1 million) were funded from 68 proposals requesting approximately \$99.9 million.
- Improve cross-border urban creeks and watersheds ("Cross-Border"). One grant was awarded for \$1.3 million from 14 proposals requesting about \$15.6 million.
- Habitat restoration, conservation and enhancement ("Miscellaneous Habitat Restoration"). Two grants totaling \$0.8 million (average grant, \$0.4 million) were awarded under this priority.

The Delta Grant Program provided funding under four priorities in the first five years of implementing Proposition 1 (Table 4).

Table 4. Delta Grant Program project priorities: proposal and grant distribution (\$ M) from 2015-2019³.

Primary Priority	Proposals	Amount	Grants	Amount
Water Quality	4	\$1.8	1	\$0.1
Delta Habitat	11	\$16.8	5	\$4.5
Scientific Studies	125	\$110.8	31	\$27.1
Total	140	\$129.4	37	\$31.8

- Improve Water Quality in the Delta ("Water Quality"). One grant for \$0.1 million was funded from 4 proposals requesting \$1.8 million
- Improve Habitats in the Delta ("Delta Habitat"). Five grants totaling \$4.5 million (average grant, \$0.9 million) were awarded from 11 applications seeking more than \$16.8 million.
- Conduct scientific studies to support the implementation of the Delta Science Plan and the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda ("Scientific Studies"). Thirty-one grants totaling \$27.1 million (average grant, \$0.9 million) were funded from 125 proposals requesting approximately \$110.8 million.



Mill-Shackleford Creek Fish Passage Restoration (Source: CalTrout)

³No proposal application was received nor funded for the priority "Plan for multi-benefit Delta restoration through regional partnerships."

Project Outcomes

Acquired, Restored and Enhanced Areas

The majority of the grant projects awarded in the first five years of administering Proposition 1 were associated with on-the-ground area activities. Some projects, such as fish screens or barrier removal projects, e.g., Little Shasta Fish Passage Project, have a footprint under an acre. At the other extreme, some projects have footprints of thousands of acres, e.g., the San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Removal and Tidal Marsh Restoration Project, Phase II, which monitored and controlled invasive wetland plant species across up to 70,000 acres annually and the Mapping, Assessment and Planning for Recovery and Resiliency in Fire-Damaged Watersheds in the Thomas Fire and Whittier Fire Recovery Zones, which assessed a 172,000-acre watershed for future fire recovery actions.

After the first five years of implementing Proposition 1, the Watershed Grant Program funded projects for the protection, restoration or enhancement and planning of more than 443,000 acres of multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection. The projects include the conservation and protection of more than 18,800 acres through acquisition grants, restoration or enhancement of more than 80,000 acres through implementation grant projects, and planning for ecosystem conservation on more than 344,000 acres through planning grant projects. These Watershed Grant Program projects were accomplished through the following Watershed priorities (Figure 4):

- Coastal Wetlands: 236,000 acres;
- Wildfire Response: 176,000 acres;
- Anadromous Fish Habitat: 19,000 acres;
- Mountain Meadows: 6,800 acres;
- Headwaters: 5,400 acres; and
- Cross Border: 4 acres.

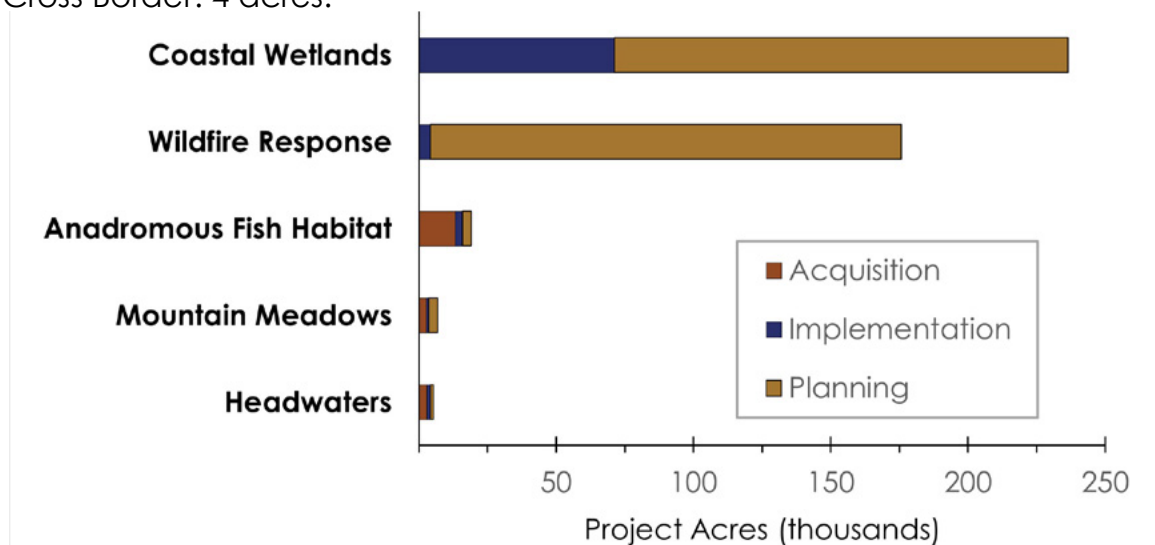


Figure 4. Watershed Grant Program project acres by funding priority and project category from 2015-2019⁴.

⁴Cross-border project data was not included in figure due to its small numbers.

In the first five years of Proposition 1 implementation, the Delta Grant Program has funded the protection, restoration or enhancement, and planning of more than 2,430 acres. The multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection projects include the protection and conservation of 110 acres through acquisition, restoration or enhancement on 20 acres by implementation projects and planning for ecosystem conservation on more than 2,300 acres.

The Delta projects were funded under the following priorities: more than 2,100 acres under the Habitats priority and more than 270 acres for Water Quality (Figure 5).

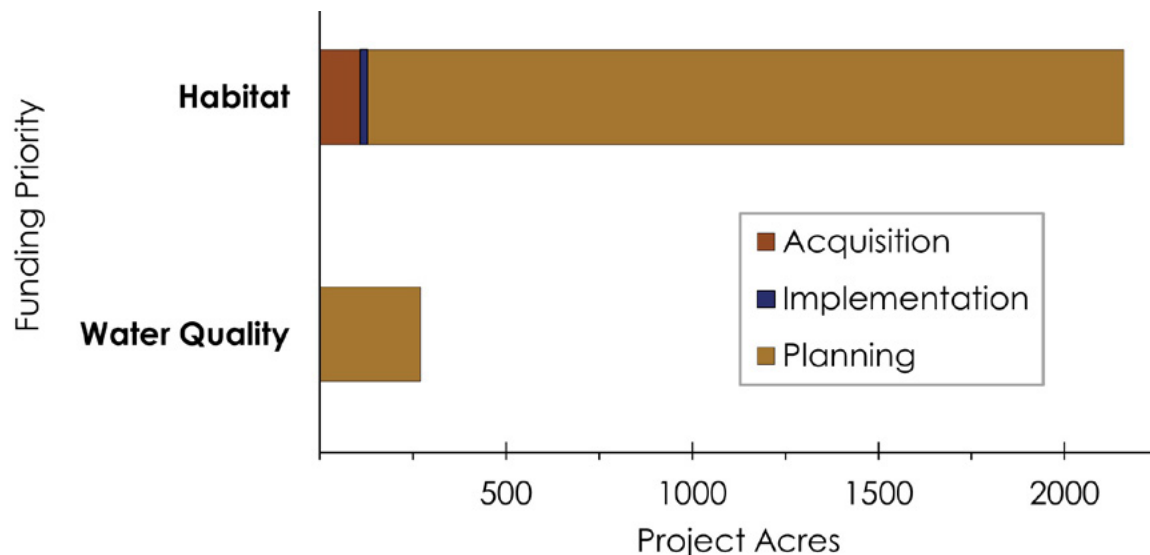


Figure 5. Delta Grant Program project acres by funding priority and category from 2015-2019

Project Size: River and Stream Length

Projects associated with rivers and streams were also quantified by the stream length acquired, enhanced or restored⁵. The Watershed Grant Program funded protection, restoration or enhancement and planning projects for the restoration of more than 297 miles of rivers and streams. Of this total, the grant projects include the acquisition and protection of at least 62 miles of rivers and streams, restoration or enhancement of at least 161 miles, and planning for restoration or enhancement of at least 74 miles. In addition, the projects will reopen 186 miles of anadromous spawning habitat previously blocked from fish passage.

The river and stream projects were funded under the following Watershed priorities: Anadromous Fish Habitat: 215 miles; Mountain Meadows: 26 miles; Wildfire Recovery: 24 miles; Headwaters: 21 miles; Coastal Wetlands: 11 miles; and Cross Border: 0.1 miles (Figure 6).

⁵Linear measurements are not available for all river and stream projects, so total numbers reported should be considered minimums. Mountain meadow projects, for example, are under reported because they often include highly braided streams that flow underground or become sheetflow, and stream length for these projects is not always calculated.

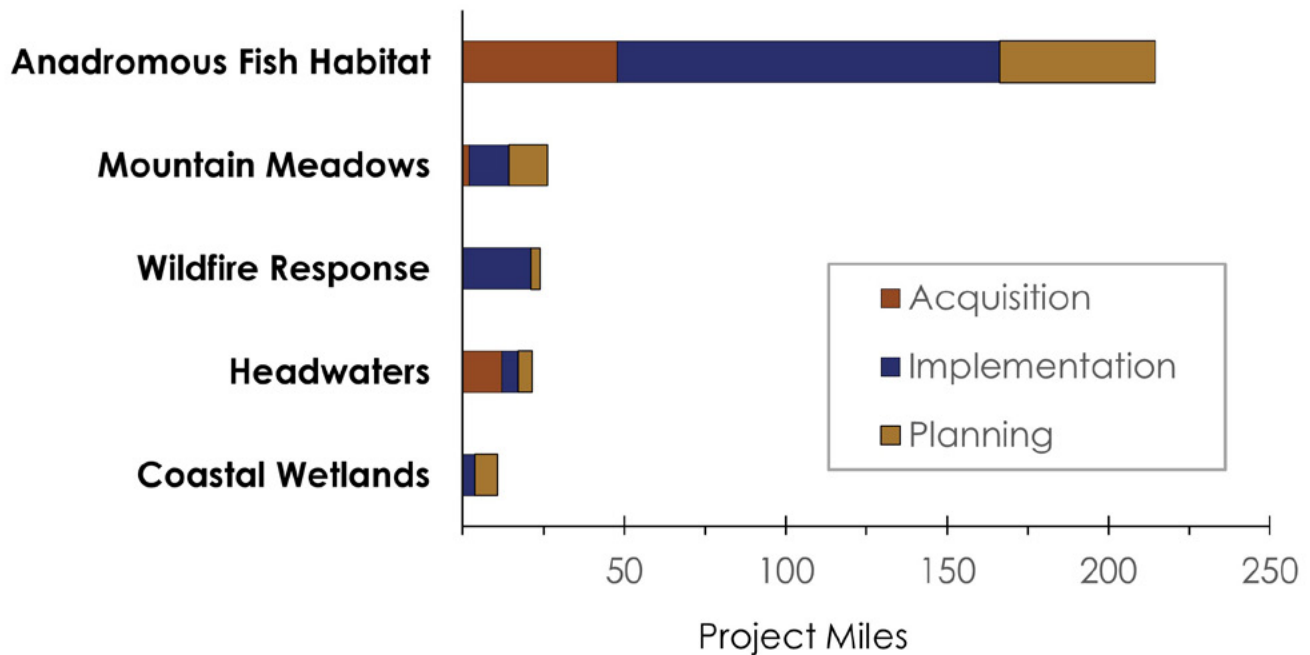


Figure 6. Watershed Grant Program project miles by funding priority and category from 2015-2019.

The Delta Grant Program also funded protection, restoration or enhancement, and planning projects for restoration or enhancement of at least two miles of rivers and streams. The projects are associated with the Delta Habitat priority.



SECTION 4: PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

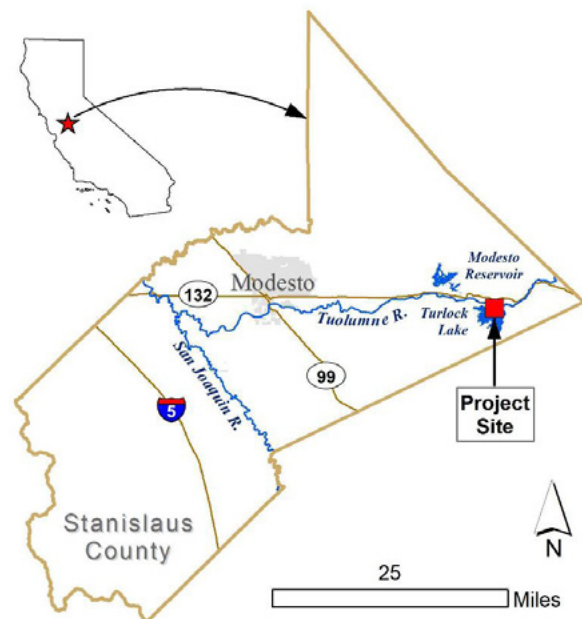
Tuolumne River Bobcat Flat Salmonid Habitat Restoration

With Proposition 1 support in 2016, the Tuolumne River Bobcat Flat Salmonid Habitat Restoration – Duck Slough Side Channel Restoration for Off-Channel Rearing Habitat project was the final design element for Phase II of the lower Tuolumne River. Spawning gravels were placed in select areas in the new side channel to create pool-riffle habitat, which is ideal for young Chinook salmon and steelhead to spawn and grow before swimming out to the ocean.

- **Project Category:** Implementation
- **Location:** Tuolumne River, Stanislaus County
- **Priority:** Protect and Restore Anadromous Fish Habitat
- **Focus Habitat/Species:** Chinook salmon and steelhead trout off-channel habitat
- **Scale:** 2.8 acres of habitat/0.4 miles of channel.
- **SWAP 2015 Target:** Addressed "Chinook salmon and steelhead" priority conservation target
- **Timing:** Constructed September 2016
- **CDFW Proposition 1 Support:** \$453,618
- **Funds from other sources:** \$175,000
- **Grant Number:** P1596021



Pre & Post Duck Slough Restoration (Source: Tuolumne River Conservancy)



Project Vicinity

Matilija Dam Removal 65% Design Planning Project

The Ventura County Watershed Protection District was funded in 2017 for the 65% Design Plans for the removal of Matilija Dam. The designs aim to protect and restore fish habitat and coastal wetland ecosystems along the Ventura River watershed. The dam and sediment removal plans aim to restore fish passage within one year after the Matilija Dam is removed as part of the overall Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (MDERP).

- **Project Category:** Planning
- **Location:** Matilija Creek, Ventura County
- **Priority:** Protect and Restore Anadromous Fish Habitat
- **Focus Habitat/Species:** Southern California steelhead.
- **Scale:** MDERP will restore steelhead access to 17.3 miles of perennial headwaters habitat and enhance 33.6 miles and 2,268 acres of instream and riparian habitat in the watershed
- **SWAP 2015 Priorities:** Addresses the “migration barriers” and “American southwest riparian forest and woodland” priority conservation targets.
- **CDFW Proposition 1 Support:** \$3,300,504
- **Funds from other sources:** \$118,286
- **Grant Number:** P1696021



Matilija Dam

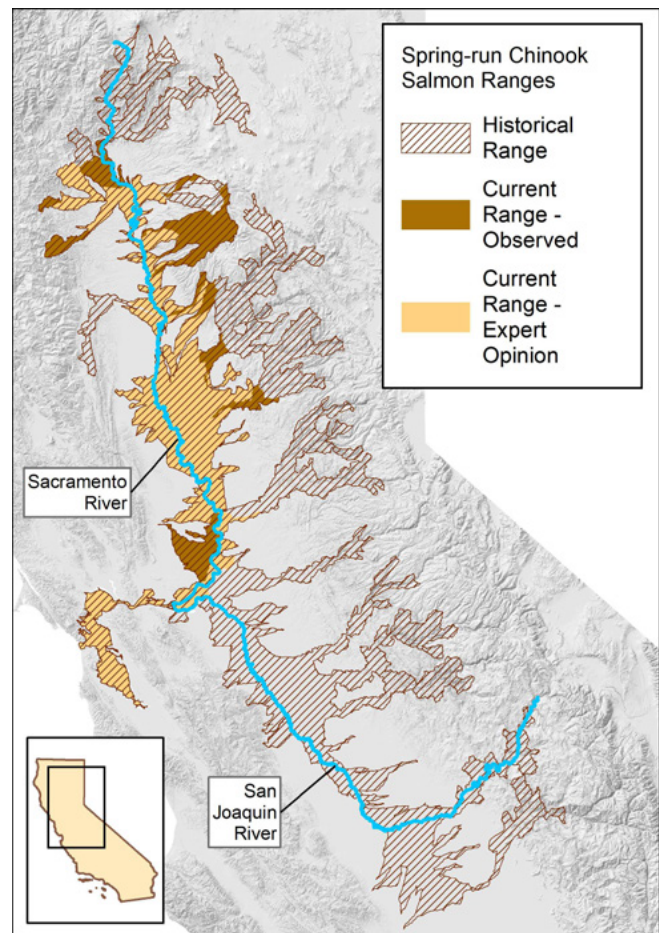


Project Vicinity

Delta Water Flows and the Migration of Chinook Salmon Smolts

In 2017, the University of California Davis received Proposition 1 funding for the Impacts to Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Water Flows on Migratory Behavior of Chinook Salmon Smolts in the South Delta Project. The project aims to describe the swimming movement of spring-run Chinook salmon smolts in the south Delta. The diverse project team has experts from wildlife ecology with hydraulic modelers to examine the response of out-migrating salmonids to varying flow dynamics. The study is providing data regarding fish response to flow and water export pumping and juvenile fish survival. In partnership with the Delta Science Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Salmon Conservation and Research Facility, the project will serve to explore alternative management scenarios that could improve the survival of out-migrating fish in the Delta and aid recovery of ESA listed spring-run Chinook.

- **Project Category:** Scientific Study
- **Location:** Yolo County
- **Priority:** Scientific Studies
- **Focus Habitat/Species:** Spring-Run Chinook salmon
- **Scale:** San Joaquin River/Delta
- **SWAP 2015 Priority:** "Chinook salmon" priority conservation target
- **Proposition 1 Support:** \$1,510,723
- **Funds from other sources:** \$1,370,422
- **Grant Number:** P1796017



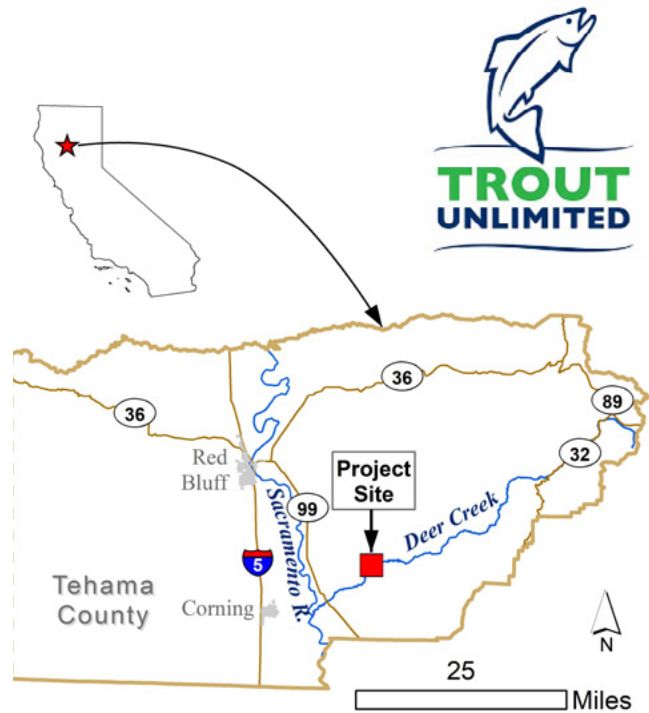
Spring-run Chinook ranges (Source: UC, Davis)



Chinook salmon smolt (Source: UC Davis)

Deer Creek Irrigation District Dam Fish Passage Improvement

The goal of the Deer Creek Irrigation District Dam (DCID) Project implemented by Trout Unlimited between 2019 and 2020 was to restore full upstream and downstream passage for all life stages of Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and other aquatic species while meeting DCID's irrigation needs. In partnership with DCID and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project redesigned the water diversion and eliminated the need for flashboards. A roughened ramp was installed to smooth the transition over the concrete sill, which remained in place. The diversion canal and associated fish screen were upgraded to save water and better protect aquatic organisms. The project improved salmonid passage to 49 miles of streams in the upper Deer Creek watershed.



Project Vicinity

- **Project Category:** Implementation
- **Location:** Deer Creek, Tehama County
- **Priority:** Protect and Restore Anadromous Fish Habitat
- **Focus Species:** All life stages of Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead trout.
- **Scale:** 0.94 acres of aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat and 180 feet of stream channel
- **SWAP Target:** Addressed "In-river Spawning and Rearing Habitat" priority conservation target
- **CDFW Proposition 1 Support:** \$2,198,447
- **Funds from other sources:** \$1,017,281
- **Grant Number:** P1896010



Deer Creek Irrigation District dam, before and after construction.

Johnson Meadows Acquisition – Upper Truckee River

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) purchased the 206-acre Johnson Meadow parcel in 2018 for \$8.315 million to preserve and manage the site. This purchase was made possible by a \$4 million support from CDFW Proposition 1 Watershed Grant Program award and partnership between Tahoe RCD, the California Tahoe Conservancy, the Tahoe Fund and the former property owners. Plans to restore Johnson Meadow are part of a regional effort along the lower nine miles of the Upper Truckee River aimed at protecting wildlife habitat, particularly river, riparian and montane meadow areas.

- **Project Category:** Acquisition
- **Location:** Tahoe, El Dorado County
- **Funding Priority:** Protect and Restore Mountain Meadow Ecosystems
- **Focus Habitat:** Mountain meadow, riparian, aquatic, and upland habitat
- **Scale:** 206 acres, including 146 acres of wet montane habitat and 22+ acres of willow riparian habitat along 1.8 miles the Upper Truckee River
- **SWAP Target:** Addressed "Continue Restoration Efforts in the Lake Tahoe Basin" priority conservation target
- **CDFW Grant Support:** \$4,000,000
- **Funds from other sources:** \$4,315,000
- **Grant Number:** P1696016



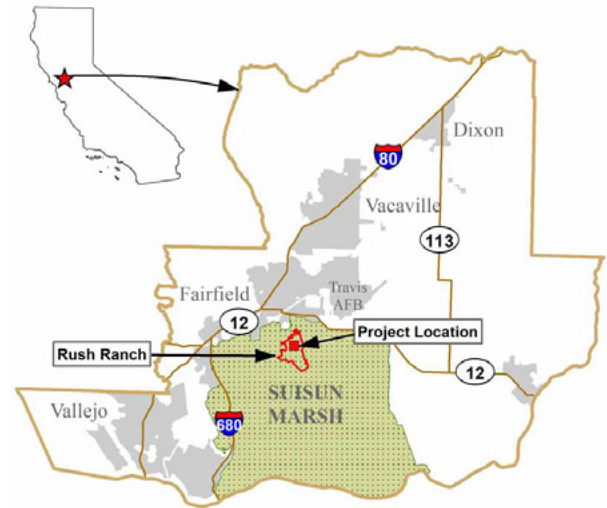
Together Creating a Legacy



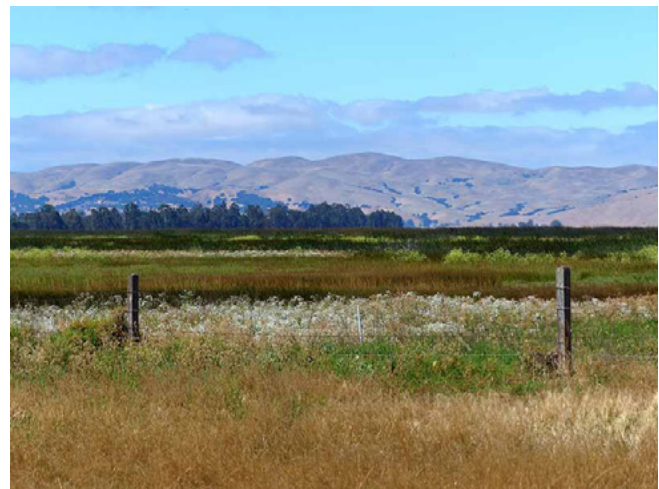
Johnson Meadows, El Dorado County, California.

Rush Ranch Tidal Connection Project

The Rush Ranch Lower Spring Branch Creek and Suisun Hill Hollow Tidal Connections Project restored tidal flow into drainage channels that connect uplands, transitional wetlands and tidal brackish marsh in Suisun Marsh, Solano County. With support from CDFW Proposition 1, Solano Land Trust completed restoration of the tidal flows in 2019 in partnership with San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The restoration allows wetland habitats to move upslope with rising sea levels. The project also reconnected creeks to adjacent floodplains to restore natural flooding processes. The restored tidal and creek processes will improve habitat for threatened and endangered plants, fish and wildlife species.

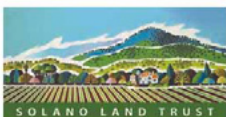


Project Vicinity



Overhead view of the Suisun Marsh (above), and the Rush Ranch open space within the Suisun Marsh (below).

- **Project Category:** Implementation
- **Project Location:** Suisun Marsh, Solano County
- **Funding Priority:** Improve Habitats in the Delta
- **Focus Habitat:** Brackish tidal marsh, transition zone/sea level rise accommodation space
- **Scale:** 5 acres seasonal wetland at Suisun Hill Hollow, 15 acres tidal wetland at Lower Spring Branch Creek
- **SWAP Target:** Restore Delta Aquatic and Intertidal Habitat, marine ecosystems
- **CDFW Proposition 1 Support:** \$839,449
- **Funds from other Sources:** \$156,237
- **Grant Number:** P1596027



Restoring Ecosystem Function in the Upper Salt River Watershed

This multi-benefit project by the Humboldt Resource Conservation District is restoring, rehabilitating and enhancing nearly a mile of river corridor as part of the larger Salt River Ecosystem Restoration Project (SRERP). When complete, the project will benefit special status fish and wildlife species while at the same time providing flood protection and drainage that will contribute to the resiliency of the local community. The project being implemented in partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, Ocean Protection Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service and Humboldt State University will remove 60,000 cubic yards of deposited sediment from 5,200 ft of the degraded Salt River channel, floodplains and wetlands; reconnect 2 tributaries; restore 6.5 acres in the associated riparian corridor; re-establish fish passage for threatened or endangered fish species to 6.9 miles of habitat in an upper sub-watershed; and restore channel capacity to contain flows during typical rain and flood events.

- **Project Category:** Implementation
- **Location:** Eel River estuary, Humboldt County
- **Funding Priority:** Protect and Restore Anadromous Fish Habitat
- **Focus Habitat:** Riverine, wetlands, floodplain reconnection
- **SWAP Target:** Native fish and freshwater aquatic species assemblages
- **CDFW Grant Support:** \$1,131,334
- **Funds Other Sources:** \$1,871,587
- **Grant Number:** P1896047



Salt River during a high-flow event.



Post-implementation looking downstream of Fulmor Road Bridge. Photo courtesy of the Humboldt Resource conservation District.

SECTION 5. COORDINATION & PARTNERSHIP

CDFW implementation of Proposition 1 Grant Programs had involved coordination with various entities, including bond control agencies such as the California Natural Resources Agencies, Department of Finance, other Proposition 1 implementing agencies, restoration partners/stakeholders and the public. The partnerships support the Proposition 1 Grant Programs to provide efficient, transparent and well-balanced effort to restoration practices. Program staff have aimed to provide funding and expertise to stakeholders for habitat restoration efforts throughout the state. Since 2015, the Proposition 1 program has collaborated on numerous partnership paths. The following list includes examples of those partnerships.

- The Programs provide outreach workshops to stakeholders and prospective applicants, including the release of each draft solicitation notice for public comment and a workshop to highlight its key elements and receive feedback.
- Mutual support between Proposition 1 administering agencies within the Natural Resources Agency such as Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Water Resources, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Conservation, State Conservancies, etc., to address common issues, reduce redundancies and improve efficiencies.



- Collaboration with restoration partners such as the Restoration Leaders Committee to develop recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the grant programs especially in the areas of grant program priority setting; administration, process, and policy; and environmental compliance and engineering review.
- Coordination with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, State Coastal Conservancy, State Water Board, California Water Quality Monitoring Council, and Delta Stewardship Council to establish recommendations for monitoring, adaptive management and performance measures.
- Coordination with the California-Mexico Border Relations Council to prioritize cross-border watershed projects.
- Coordination and collaboration with other agencies that administer similar programs to have targeted and joint outreach, such as the 2019-2020 joint proposal solicitation for Delta Science with the Delta Science Program and the United States Bureau of Reclamation.



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