

STAFF SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 14-15, 2022

24B. DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES DIVISION, AND DEPARTMENT ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION DIVISION**Today's Item**Information ☒Action ☐

DFW will highlight items of note since the last FGC meeting.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

A verbal report is expected for DFW's Wildlife and Fisheries Division, and Ecosystem Conservation Division report. News releases of interest are provided as exhibits 1 through 4.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [DFW news release: CDFW Celebrates 50 Years of Wild Trout Waters, Oct 24, 2022](#)
2. [DFW news release: Klamath River Upstream of Interstate 5 Reopened to Adult Chinook Salmon Harvest, Nov 8, 2022](#)
3. [DFW news release: CDFW Offers Veteran-Specific Hunting and Fishing Resources and Reduced-Fee Hunting and Fishing Licenses to Disabled Veterans, dated Nov 11, 2022](#)
4. [DFW news release: CDFW Announces the Availability of \\$200 Million in New Grant Funding Under Drought, Climate and Nature-Based Solutions Initiatives, dated Nov 30, 2022](#)

Motion (N/A)

CDFW Celebrates 50 Years Of Wild Trout Waters

October 24, 2022



State Designation Protects and Enhances California's Wild Trout Fisheries While Providing Unique Angling Opportunities for the Public

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first designated “Wild Trout Waters” in the state, a pioneering wild trout conservation and management practice at the forefront of the nation’s modern environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s and a designation still benefitting California anglers today.

The California Fish and Game Commission created CDFW’s Wild Trout Program in 1971 at the urging of California Trout, the nonprofit, San Francisco-based wild trout conservation organization formed the same year. CDFW’s Wild Trout Program – today called the Heritage and Wild Trout Program – was created in recognition of the need to protect and enhance the state’s wild trout fisheries while also maintaining wild trout fishing opportunities for the public. The program was born at a time when the national consciousness was becoming attuned to negative impacts on natural resources, including population declines among fish, wildlife and plant species.

In 1972, the Commission designated 17 streams as Wild Trout Waters and has added to those waters every year since. Under the California Fish and Game Code, the Commission is required to add at least 25 miles of stream and at least one lake to the program annually. Among those first 17 Wild Trout Waters were portions of the North Fork American River, Hat Creek, Fall River, the Eel River, the Owens River and Hot Creek. Many of the first designated wild trout fisheries are still recognized today by trout anglers throughout the country.

“The founders of the Heritage and Wild Trout Program were truly visionary a half century ago, and we certainly owe them a huge thanks for the conservation of these very special places

and these very special fish,” said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. “What I most appreciate about the program is its dynamism. It continues to grow and adapt, adding more waters and more special fishing opportunities every year while managing through our contemporary environmental challenges the founders of this program never could have imagined – a changing climate, epic drought, devastating wildfires and a human population approaching 40 million California residents.”

“This anniversary is a huge milestone,” said Curtis Knight, executive director of California Trout. “CalTrout has been proud to promote and partner with CDFW on the Heritage and Wild Trout Program since its inception. We believe this program was progressive and cutting-edge when it was established in the 1970s. Today it has evolved and continues to be one of the most effective fish water policies in the country.”



Hat Creek in Shasta County is forever linked with CDFW's Heritage and Wild Trout Program as one of the first streams in the state designated as a "Wild Trout Water." CDFW photo.

Earlier this month, the Commission added two new waters to the program: The North Fork Mokelumne River, which flows through portions of Alpine, Amador and Calaveras counties, and Silver Lake in Tulare County have both been designated as Wild Trout Waters.

Since its founding, the main charge of the program has been to manage and enhance California's wild, self-sustaining trout populations. The program was expanded in 1988 to

include conservation of native trout species within their historic ranges and renamed the Heritage and Wild Trout Program. In 2003, the [Heritage Trout Challenge](#) was launched to encourage anglers to explore waters that support native trout species. Anglers that catch any six of the state's qualifying 10 native trout species from their historic drainages are recognized by CDFW with a personalized award for their accomplishments.

Over the years, CDFW's Heritage and Wild Trout Program has had far-reaching impacts on fisheries management and angling culture by:

- Raising awareness and education of California's native trout species
- Driving monitoring and formal management plans for trout
- Fostering a catch-and-release fishing ethic that today is commonplace as the standard practice to protect self-sustaining wild trout and other fisheries
- Managing for genetic integrity by avoiding stocking hatchery trout into designated waters and working to prevent hybridization
- Serving as an example for other states to promote fishing and conservation of their own native trout species and catch-and-release fishing. The 12-state, [Western Native Trout Challenge](#), for example, was modeled after CDFW's Heritage Trout Challenge.

More information is available by visiting the [Heritage and Wild Trout Program web page](#).

Klamath River Upstream Of Interstate 5 Reopened To Adult Chinook Salmon Harvest

November 8, 2022



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has announced that recreational fishing for adult, fall-run Chinook salmon on the Klamath River has reopened between Interstate 5 near Hornbrook and 3,500-feet below the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in Siskiyou County.

The Iron Gate Fish Hatchery has received more than 8,000 returning, fall-run Chinook salmon this month, which triggers the reopening of recreational fishing for adult Chinook salmon within the stretch of river per CDFW's [2022-2023 California Supplemental Sport Fishing Regulations](#).

Recreational anglers will be able to harvest two Chinook salmon, but no more than one adult greater than 23 inches per day in this reach. The possession limit is six Chinook salmon with no more than three adults. Reopening this stretch of the Klamath River is designed to allow

anglers to catch surplus hatchery Chinook salmon now that the number of adults needed for spawning has been achieved at the hatchery.

The only other sector of the Klamath-Trinity rivers that remain open for adult Chinook salmon harvest is the lower Trinity River from the Denny Road bridge at Hawkins Bar downstream to the confluence with the Klamath River. The take of jack Chinook salmon less than or equal to 23 inches is allowed in all areas of the Klamath Basin with the exception of the mouth of the Klamath River, which is closed for the remainder of the year. The daily bag limit for jack Chinook salmon in these areas is two fish per day and no more than six in possession.

Anglers can monitor the quota status of open and closed sections of the Klamath and Trinity rivers by calling CDFW's information hotline at (800) 564-6479.

For more information regarding Klamath River fishing regulations, please consult CDFW's 2022-2023 California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations and the 2022-2023 California Supplemental Sport Fishing Regulations available at wildlife.ca.gov/regulations.

CDFW Offers Veteran-Specific Hunting And Fishing Resources And Reduced-Fee Hunting And Fishing Licenses To Disabled Veterans

November 11, 2022



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) thanks California veterans for their service to and sacrifice for our country.

Since the 1990s, CDFW has offered reduced-fee hunting and fishing licenses to both resident and nonresident disabled veterans, as per Fish and Game Code, section 7150. Any honorable discharged, disabled veteran with a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability who wants to hunt birds or mammals or go fishing in California is eligible. The 2023 Disabled Veteran or Recovering Service Member Sport Fishing License and 2023 Disabled Veteran or Recovering Service Member Hunting License cost will be \$9.46 when purchased at a CDFW license agent. To prequalify for a Disabled Veterans hunting or fishing license, customers must submit a letter from the Veteran's Administration to a CDFW license sales office. Subsequent licenses may be purchased online or from a license sales agent.

Throughout the year, many California based nonprofit organizations and groups offer special hunting and fishing opportunities for veterans. A list of organizations and groups offering programs can be found on the Recruit, Retain, Reactivate webpage (wildlife.ca.gov/R3) under both the Hunting and Fishing tabs. Please note, these are not complete lists and specific opportunities are not endorsed by CDFW.

For veterans located in the Stockton area, CDFW will be participating in the Assembly District 13 Veterans Stand Down event on November 22, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Martin Luther King Plaza in Stockton, California. CDFW staff will be on site to answer questions regarding the above mentioned reduced-fee licenses, job opportunities and additional questions related to hunting and angling. This event is open to the public and more information can be found here: <https://a13.asmdc.org/event/20221122-2022-veterans-stand-down-event>

Additional information on reduced-fee fishing licenses can be found here: wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing#44521417-free--reduced-fee

Additional information on reduced-fee hunting licenses can be found here: wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Hunting#994193-reduced-fee

Fishing and hunting regulations and more information about licenses are available on the CDFW website: wildlife.ca.gov/Regulations

To learn more about becoming a hunter or angler, or additional resources regarding hunting and angling, visit our Recruit, Retain, Reactivate webpage at: wildlife.ca.gov/R3

CDFW Announces The Availability Of \$200 Million In New Grant Funding Under Drought, Climate And Nature-Based Solutions Initiatives

November 30, 2022



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has announced the availability of over \$200 million in new funding for multi-benefit ecosystem restoration and protection projects under Drought, Climate and Nature-Based Solutions Initiatives. This new funding for restoration and protection of critical habitat and watersheds statewide also supports key initiatives including conserving 30 percent of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 under California's 30x30 initiative, Nature-Based Solutions, and increasing the pace and scale of restoration through Cutting the Green Tape.

CDFW has also launched a [new online application portal](#) to receive applications for grant funding under these new initiatives. As part of its Cutting the Green Tape efforts, this streamlined application and review process will remain available on an ongoing basis, allowing applicants to submit one application for consideration under multiple funding streams. CDFW is accelerating the review and approval process under this funding with the goal to review and approve the award for grants for selected projects within 30 days of receipt. Following awards, CDFW will work to develop agreements for awarded projects.

“The time to act is right now because California’s ecosystems face dire conditions for our species,” said CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham. “This funding is absolutely the push we all need to put some largescale projects across the finish line.”

An overview of the new funding available for restoration, including grants, is as follows:

Drought Emergency: Protecting Salmon - \$100 million

In response to current drought conditions, the California Legislature authorized \$100 million to allow CDFW to protect and restore salmon in 2022 and 2023. This funding will support restoration and protection projects that enhance salmon resiliency to drought and climate change.

CDFW also plans to dedicate \$20 million of this funding within the Klamath River Watershed to projects demonstrating support from and collaboration with Tribes and landowner interests. This \$20 million will be available as follows:

- Up to \$10 million available for projects within the Scott River and its tributaries; and
- Up to \$10 million available for projects within the Shasta River and its tributaries

Nature-Based Solutions

Governor Gavin Newsom’s [2020 Executive Order N-82-20](#) outlines a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to expand nature-based solutions across California, advancing an approach to restoration that works with and enhances nature to help address societal challenges. Two new programs within CDFW will work toward this goal.

Wetlands and Mountain Meadows Restoration

As part of the [Nature-Based Solutions Initiative](#), up to \$54 million is available for projects that restore or enhance wetlands and mountain meadow ecosystems with quantifiable greenhouse gas reduction benefits, consistent with the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy (PDF)(opens in new tab) and Pathways to 30x30(opens in new tab). The program will also support pilot projects for CDFW's forthcoming Beaver Restoration Program.

Wildlife Corridors

Up to \$42 million under Nature-Based Solutions will be available for CDFW for connectivity planning and implementation projects consistent with the [State Wildlife Action Plan](#), the state’s efforts on connectivity, and the [Fish Passage Annual Legislative Report](#) or efforts to allow fish and wildlife the freedom to roam in California by accelerating fish and wildlife corridor projects.

Addressing Climate Impacts

Up to \$35 million is available to support projects addressing urgent degrading water and habitat conditions due to climate change impacts, including for grants. Eligible uses of these funds include purchasing water from willing sellers to benefit wildlife, protecting instream

flows, building water conservation projects, implementing emergency restoration activities and conservation strategies identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan with a priority on actions that protect the Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in the plan.

CDFW has developed a single set of General Grant Program Guidelines with an overview of eligible project types, priorities and information on the application process, available at wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/Concept-Application. Applications submitted under these new initiatives may also be considered for further evaluation under CDFW's Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 Grant Programs, and a separate call for projects will also be released for these programs in early 2023.

More information about these funding opportunities, including guidelines and how to apply, general information about CDFW's grant programs, as well as a schedule for upcoming grant solicitations, once available, can be found at wildlife.ca.gov/Grants.