

# Increasing Recreational Fisheries Engagement through the Fish Habitat Partnerships FY20 Funding Opportunity

**Project Title:** Partnering with recreational anglers to assess barriers to fish passage using a new barrier assessment smartphone app.

**Requesting Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP):** California Fish Passage Forum

**Project Location:** Throughout California with two events planned in Sacramento, CA

**Total Funding Requested:** \$41,000

Addressing habitat connectivity for anadromous fish habitats is as a high priority, cost-effective approach to protecting and restoring anadromous fish populations. Restoring unimpeded passage for anadromous species is vital to the success of all other habitat restoration efforts. Improving connectivity of aquatic habitats and restoring fish passage requires a coordinated effort to identify potential barriers to fish migration, assessment of those sites, and remediation of barriers that are determined to be problems. The California Fish Passage Forum (Forum) is working towards this goal of enhancing habitat connectivity for anadromous species in California.

Recreational anglers have knowledge of fish habitat and fish populations that too often goes untapped by habitat restoration groups and resource managers. This project aims to address that disconnect by developing a smart phone app for quick, informal barrier assessments and providing that app to recreational fishing user groups and volunteers involved in creek clean-up efforts in the Central Valley, CA.

Phase 1 of this project will develop a free application, *Open Streams*, which will house a modified version of the Forum's [Fish Passage Incidental Report](#), which can also be found on the Forum's website [here](#). Any data submitted through this new app will immediately be available to the [California Passage Assessment Database](#) (PAD) administrator for potential inclusion in the statewide barrier inventory. The PAD is utilized by various decision makers, organizations, and a key input to the Forum's decision support optimization tool *FISHPass*. Users of the app will be able to provide detailed information and can also submit a quick picture of a potential barrier or existing barrier. The app will provide the user's location for each record as the coordinates of the potential barrier.

Phase 2 of this project will focus on outreach and implementation. In addition to direct outreach within Forum member organizations, especially utilizing those with direct interaction with anglers (i.e. Trout Unlimited, California Trout, and California Department of Fish & Wildlife), the Forum will exhibit and participate in the [International Sportsmen's Expo in Sacramento, CA January 21-24, 2021](#) to conduct direct outreach to anglers (and associated organizations) to promote use of the app. This event is widely attended by recreational anglers throughout California, and Forum representatives will provide demonstrations and direct outreach for the *Open Streams* app, encouraging anglers to download it for use during their stream recreational fishing trips in California.

The Forum will also participate and sponsor [Sacramento Creek Week 2021](#), a weeklong event that includes tours of area creeks for the public, a volunteer cleanup, and a celebration. Sacramento Creeks Week takes place in April and focuses on improving habitat in the tributaries of the Sacramento and American Rivers by removing trash and refuse from these watersheds. Forum representatives will participate in the cleanup and train volunteers on the usage of the *Open Streams* app. During the cleanup,

Forum participants and volunteers will assess three unassessed, potential barrier road crossings on Arcade Creek using the *Open Streams* app (College Oak Dr., Winding Way, and Garfield Ave.). Forum and volunteers will also improve habitat by removing trash from a stream that commonly supports Steelhead and Chinook Salmon.

## Project Timeline

### Phase 1:

- **App Development and Testing:** April 2020 - October 2020
- **Development of Outreach Materials and Resources:** April 2020 - Dec. 2020

### Phase 2:

- **Launch App:** January 2021
- **Participate in Outreach/Restoration Events (International Sportsman's Expo, Sacramento Creek Week Cleanup etc.):** January 2021 – September 2021

## Project Budget

### Phase 1

Task	Cost
Development of "Open Streams" barrier assessment app	\$30,000
Development of Outreach materials/resources	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>

### Phase 2

Task	Cost
Exhibitor fee and participation in Cal Sports Expo	\$3,000
Sponsorship and participation in Sacramento Creeks Week	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>

**Total project cost: \$41,000**