



**Delta
Science
Program**

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



NCEAS

National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

2025 Delta Synthesis Working Group

Convened through a partnership between the Delta Science Program and
National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

Overview

The Delta Science Program is once again partnering with the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) to convene a collaborative synthesis working group in the fall of 2025. Synthesis working groups provide advanced data science and statistics training with immediate opportunities to use those newly acquired skills to analyze available data and produce relevant research. The 2025 working group will be the third opportunity held through this partnership.

New this year, the Delta Science Program is [seeking input on priority topics](#) for which existing, publicly available data can be leveraged to inform Bay-Delta management needs. Research ideas can be submitted by anyone regardless of their ability to participate in the training. An [open call](#) has also been released for individuals to express interest in participating in Synthesis Working Group activities.

What do Delta Synthesis Working Groups do?

Working group participants from a variety of agencies and institutions will convene for three weeks of training and collaboration facilitated by experts from NCEAS. Following those workshops, participants will continue to work with their sub-teams for up to a year after the workshops to complete synthesis projects, with additional data science support during this process provided by NCEAS. The effort is expected to advance our scientific understanding of the Bay-Delta system and support future research and management by generating outputs such as peer-reviewed publications, reproducible workflows and R scripts, presentations, published integrated datasets, and new decision-support models or tools (e.g., Shiny apps).

Information about past working groups, including previous training curricula, is available on the Delta Science Program's website (<https://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-science-program/science-synthesis-working-group>).

Promoting open science through collaboration and training

Synthesis is a critical component of ecosystem-based management and informed decision-making. The need for increased capacity, dedicated time, and coordinated synthesis in the San



Francisco Estuary is widely recognized and included as an action in the [2019 Delta Science Plan](#) and [2022-2026 Science Action Agenda](#). This working group offers participants the time, resources, and collaborative structure needed to tackle ecological challenges in the Bay-Delta.

Supporting synthesis working groups that promote collaboration and build open science skills is one way the Delta Science Program carries out its mission to provide the best possible science to support water and environmental decision-making. Similarly, for 30 years NCEAS has partnered with agencies and organizations putting “science to action” in support of its mission to accelerate scientific discoveries that will enhance our understanding of the world, benefit people and nature, and transform the scientific culture into a more open, efficient, and collaborative space.

2025 Call for ideas: Share ideas for management-relevant data synthesis!

To enhance community engagement and strengthen the relevance of working group activities, the Delta Science Program is inviting submissions of synthesis ideas that focus on emerging challenges or management-relevant questions in the Bay-Delta. Submissions should clearly describe how an idea aligns with the [2022–2026 Science Action Agenda](#) or other priority management area. Selected ideas will help shape both the working group curriculum and the focus areas for working group projects during and after the workshops. Examples of previous training curricula, research questions, and outputs are posted on the Delta Science Program’s [DSP-NCEAS website](#).

Please note that this is not an opportunity to collect new or additional data. Group activities will rely on existing, publicly available data for all activities. Submissions are strongly encouraged to identify published or other known data sources relevant to their research questions.

Submissions are also encouraged to identify how various products or outputs, such as peer-reviewed publications, presentations, reproducible workflows, R functions, published

integrated datasets, new models and/or tools (e.g., Shiny apps), would be useful or have management-relevant applications.

If you have a research question or management need that could be addressed through synthesis using existing data, we encourage you to submit your idea using the form linked below. **Submissions will be reviewed starting June 23, 2025. Priority will be given to those received by that date.**

Call for Synthesis Ideas: 2025 Delta Synthesis Working Group

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6FDeRzhOepSn3XIWLTyv_tU2uRQAzz0YGr9epAbMqsC6WNYg/viewform



Call for participants: Share your interest in participating!

Synthesis working groups involve approximately 18 individuals from a wide variety of institutions and areas of expertise. Subteams typically self-organize during the training workshops to focus on specific research questions and continue to develop products and outputs over the course of the following 6–12 months. Delta Science Program staff typically participate and serve as facilitators of working groups and their subteams.

What are the expectations of participants?

Participants must commit to three week-long, in-person training workshops held near Sacramento, CA between August and November 2025 as well as follow-up work in their subteams. Specific workshop dates will be determined based on participant availability. Some familiarity with data tools like R or statistical software is preferred, but not strictly required. Note that this is a volunteer-based opportunity and does not include funding for participation or travel. There is no fee to participate in the training workshops.

How can you get involved?

Individuals currently working in Delta science and interested in collaboration, augmenting their data science skillset, and engaging in meaningful synthesis work are encouraged to respond to the open call for participants. Prospective participants do not need to have a specific research topic in mind. All submissions will be considered as part of our effort to build diverse, well-rounded teams aligned with the selected synthesis topics.

If you are interested in participating in the 2025 Synthesis Working Group, we invite you to complete the Call for Participants form linked below. **Submissions will be reviewed starting June 23, 2025. Priority will be given to those received by that date.**

Call for Participants: 2025 Delta Synthesis Working Group

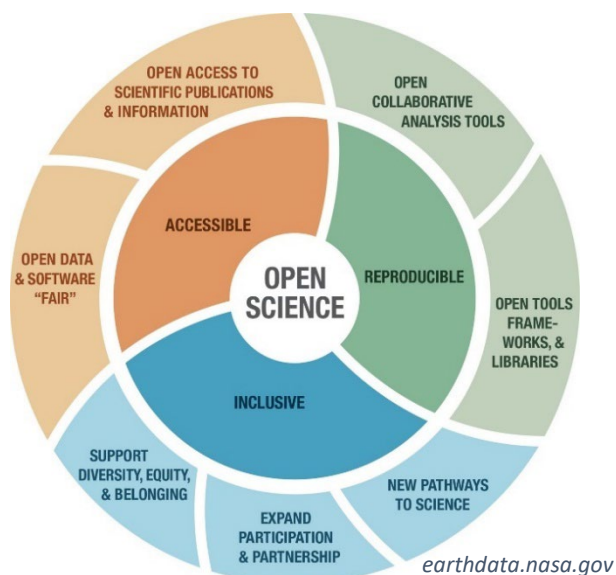
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdltT642YhFAGeFpQCKSfhycYDG09Sy4vDH7xjXOpScZXDu3g/viewform>



How will submissions be used or considered?

Submissions are intended to inform Delta Science Program and NCEAS staff of priority research ideas that are well-suited for collaborative synthesis work. When evaluating topic submissions, factors considered will include the strength of the connection to management needs identified in the [2022–2026 Science Action Agenda](#), the feasibility of addressing the question using available data and synthesis methods, and the potential for the project to produce impactful, accessible deliverables such as models, data tools, publications, or other decision-support tools. It is anticipated that working group participants will need to further refine selected research questions during the training workshops.

Following selection of priority research ideas, participants will be identified through a matching process that aligns interest, expertise, and synthesis priorities. Rather than a competitive application process, this is a collaborative matching effort; individuals are not scored or ranked. Instead, the list of individuals interested in participating in the working group will be used to build a diverse team with a range of initial skills, perspectives, and experience levels. We will prioritize early-career participants where possible, while also ensuring that each team includes a mix of backgrounds and areas of expertise.



Anticipated timeline

May – late June 2025: Open call for synthesis ideas and participant expressions of interest

Late June – July 2025: DSP and NCEAS will review submissions, select topics, and form the subteams

August – December 2025: Three one-week, in-person training workshops held near Sacramento, CA (scheduled based on participant availability)

Fall 2025 – Fall 2026: Ongoing collaboration within subteams to complete synthesis projects, with support from NCEAS

Fall 2026: Presentation of project outcomes at the 2026 Bay-Delta Science Conference

Engage with us!

We hope you will consider participating in this engaging and impactful opportunity. Whether you bring technical skills or a unique perspective on Bay-Delta issues, we believe that collaborative science is stronger when it is interdisciplinary and community-rooted. If you are ready to learn, contribute, and help shape the future of Delta science, we encourage you to join us in the 2025 Delta Synthesis Working Group!

Questions about synthesis topics or ideas, working group teams, working group leads? Please email us at synthesis@deltacouncil.ca.gov.