

# Reorienting to Recovery: Developing an Inclusive, Landscape-Scale Process for CV Salmonids to Achieve Recovery and Minimize Community and Economic Impact

Study Period  
2021 - 2025

Funded By:



Delta  
Science  
Program

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL



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RECLAMATION

## About this Project

Populations of Central Valley salmonids, including native salmon and trout, are at all-time lows. These fish migrate between the ocean, San Francisco Bay, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta), and upstream watersheds, and they have significant social, cultural, and economic value to a broad range of communities.

This project used sociological and ecological methods to create a shared vision and common set of scientifically based priorities for the recovery of salmonids in the Central Valley. The project team developed an integrated, collective, and strategic approach to salmonid population recovery that includes biological, ecological, economic, historical, cultural, and social values. The multi-disciplinary team in this project included members listed below and from Compass Resource Management, FlowWest, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, NOAA Fisheries, and Santa Clara Valley Water District. The team also engaged with Collaborative Science and Adaptive Management Program (CSAMP) members, other existing forums, interested parties, and Tribes across the salmonid landscape.

## Lead Investigators

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## Project Objectives

- Define broad-based salmonid recovery: use a collaborative approach to develop a definition that is scientifically sound, clear, and measurable.

- Engage interested parties and gather information: actively engage existing groups, document stakeholder values and priorities, and assemble existing salmonid information.
- Develop decision support tools: integrate a range of interest parties' perspectives to evaluate potential actions based on their potential to restore salmonid populations and economic, human health, recreational, and cultural considerations.

## Why this Research Matters

This project addressed the urgent need to integrate activities and interested parties across the different components of the salmonid life cycle in order to improve the recovery of Central Valley salmonids. For example, measurable objectives and metrics for gauging progress toward recovery goals are often not comparable across different geographies and sponsors, and there is no single, cohesive catalog of recovery actions underway or planned across the full landscape. Furthermore, by taking a system-wide approach, the team highlighted impacts and tradeoffs across values identified by interested parties. At the heart of the project were panels designed to guide resource allocation for the protection, conservation, and recovery of Central Valley salmonids; storytelling for people to get to know each other and understand each other's values; and structured decision-making, which provides a fair, just, and transparent process.

## Management Application

This project used sociological and ecological methods to address salmonid recovery in the Central Valley in an inclusive and collaborative way. The research team identified a suite of implementable and impactful actions that will advance the recovery of Central Valley salmon and steelhead. The approach promoted broad buy-in for these preferred actions by making trade-offs transparent and balancing participants' diverse values, perspectives, and priorities.

## Learn More

Stay up to date with the project by visiting the team's site:

<https://csamp.baydeltalive.com/recovery/reorienting-to-recovery>.

## Connections to the 2017-2021 Science Action Agenda

- 1: Invest in Assessing the Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management
- 2: Capitalize on Existing Data through Increasing Science Synthesis
- 3: Develop Tools and Methods to Support and Evaluate Habitat Restoration
- 4: Improve Understandings of Interactions Between Stressors, Managed Species, and Communities
- 5: Modernize Monitoring, Data Management, and Modeling