



A ROADMAP FOR RESTORATION

The *Floodplain Forward Coalition* and *Floodplains Reimagined* are collaborative efforts to reactivate the Sacramento Valley floodplain to benefit fish, wildlife, and people. The best available science is used to engage with landowners and promote a portfolio of projects, including in-river salmon restoration actions and floodplain reactivation, which support different stages of the salmon lifecycle with the ultimate goal of population recovery. These multi-benefit projects provide nature-based solutions that not only improve ecosystem conditions for salmon and other wildlife, but also replenish groundwater supplies and enhance floodplain resilience for the benefit of local communities.

Restoration Permitting Roadmap

Fueled by new federal and state initiatives supporting habitat restoration, practitioners want to scale up restoration to create a mosaic of landscape-changing projects that restore our river systems from the ridgetops to the river mouth. Yet, navigating environmental rules and regulations can often be as time-consuming and expensive for environmentally beneficial projects as it is for development projects because the regulatory process was not originally designed with restoration in mind...

The State's Cutting Green Tape Initiative and other collective endeavors have created significant momentum to enhance permitting for restoration by implementing several new, efficient permitting processes. To effectively speed up the implementation of projects that support fisheries and floodplain reactivation across California, continued collaboration is needed between agencies and project proponents to fully implement the efficient permitting pathways and to identify any remaining actions necessary to comprehensively scale up restoration.

As the Floodplain Forward Coalition leads the effort to accelerate restoration projects in the Sacramento Valley, it will leverage and advance the progress already made with the new tools designed to put restoration on its own efficient regulatory pathway. The Floodplain Forward Coalition is working in partnership with the Accelerating Restoration team at Sustainable Conservation to develop a permitting roadmap to help landowners, NGOs, and agencies implement Sacramento Valley fisheries and floodplain restoration actions by applying new restoration specific regulatory tools and seeking ways to further improve the process.



The Outcomes of the Project are to:

Document

the current permitting process and develop a roadmap to guide Sacramento Valley project proponents in choosing the most efficient pathways for their project types, taking advantage of the progress to date with programmatic and other efficient restoration permitting.

Analyze

the current permitting processes to highlight what is working well and identify remaining permitting bottlenecks and challenges, informed by interviews with Floodplain Forward and Floodplains Reimagined project sponsors, regulatory agencies, and environmental organizations.

Engage

agency leadership for feedback on the analysis of current permitting processes and seek input on recommendations to maintain and ramp up effective programs.

Produce

a white paper with recommendations for any changes to further improve the restoration permitting process, without compromising environmental protection.

Sustainable Conservation will take the learnings and outcomes from this project and work to apply them statewide to support restoration actions throughout California. For more information contact restoration@suscon.org

