

WHY FISH PASSAGE?

Fish need connections within the waterways during different stages of their life cycle to feed, grow, reproduce, and sustain their populations. When fish cannot access habitat upstream due to barriers and/or water diversion, they cannot reproduce; populations decrease and there is greater potential for the fish species to be listed as threatened or endangered. When a fish species is listed, it can have a big impact on the people who live, work, and depend on the water systems in the area.

Landowners who depend on Lake County's water systems can be proactive now. Actions taken to incorporate fish passage and screens can help restore and sustain fish populations, while preventing any future implication that could make water access more difficult.

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Fish Passage and Screening



Deep Creek Town Diversion and Fish Passage Project 2019

Maintaining water resources for our agriculture community and native fish populations is important to the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC). Working together can lead to a win-win scenario where efficient irrigation and watering systems can be implemented while providing fish passage and quality habitat.



SCREENING

A fish screen is a structure that is designed to keep fish from swimming or being drawn out of the stream channel, preventing fish access into an irrigation network and becoming entrapped. Screening can be a highly effective method in sustaining fish populations while maintaining water use. Screens can be implemented in combination with a fish passage.



CONSIDERING AN EFFECTIVE DESIGN

Lake County is home to a number of native fish species that have adapted to the high desert closed-basin environment. Because the pluvial shallow alkaline lakes can experience periods of drought, movement of fish to an upstream habitat is important for species survival.

Each fish is unique with different swimming capabilities and life history. When designing a fish passage or screen, specialists and engineers are consulted to ensure the new passage will accommodate the movement of these diverse species, but also be able to attune with the extreme high and low stream flows we have in Lake County.

LCUWC and our partners work in collaboration with landowners, fish biologists, professional engineers, and contractors to plan and implement the best design for each site.

PASSAGE EXAMPLES



Cement cast technical fishway-ladder designed specifically for Warner sucker and Redband trout



Bypass Channel allow fish to re-enter the stream below diversion during irrigation season when barriers are in place



Rock Ramp constructed to increase steam elevation so fish can pass over concrete apron



Pipe Arch Culvert with stream simulated design within the interior. Provides free upstream and downstream movement