

San Francisquito Creek Steelhead Technical Task Force

Mission Statement:

The mission of the San Francisquito Creek Steelhead Technical Task Force is to improve watershed conditions and maintain a viable population of native steelhead and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Goal:

The goal of the San Francisquito Creek Steelhead Technical Task Force is to pursue projects that improve the habitat and population of steelhead and to prepare a draft Steelhead Improvement Plan for review and concurrence by the San Francisquito CRMP Steering Committee and help to implement the Plan's recommended actions. This goal will be accomplished by carrying out the following actions:

(Note: Steelhead are anadromous rainbow trout and the wording 'steelhead' in this document is inclusive of both forms of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* found within the watershed)

Actions:

1. Identify needed data, and research, to achieve the Task Force's mission.
2. Identify existing sources of information, and active projects, that may be relevant to an accurate watershed, and steelhead, assessment.
3. Enlist resources necessary to gather data for an accurate assessment of the watershed's steelhead population and associated habitat.
4. Conduct an assessment of the steelhead population and habitat, including identifying adverse factors and future threats to native steelhead.
5. Work with technical professionals and San Francisquito Creek CRMP to formulate a prioritized list of recommended improvement actions, recognizing existing opportunities and constraints, and prepare a Draft Steelhead Improvement Plan.
6. Help acquire necessary funding to implement the Plan's recommended actions.
7. Monitor Plan implementation and resulting steelhead population and habitat conditions.

Membership:

The Task Force's mission will be accomplished with the participation of San Francisquito CRMP members and invited participants.

The Task Force acknowledges that:

1. The steelhead is an excellent indicator of watershed health and efforts to improve conditions for steelhead will benefit other native species found in the watershed.
2. The steelhead inhabiting San Francisquito Creek are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.
3. Recommended actions should protect the genetic integrity of the steelhead that are native to the San Francisquito Creek watershed.
4. Recommended actions should promote native, self-sustainable steelhead and coastal rainbow trout populations within the watershed.
5. An assessment of the San Francisquito Creek steelhead population should be inclusive of the native rainbow trout population found in the watershed.
6. The Task Force's recommended actions will be based on the best available science.

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