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in a landscape that supports agriculture, urban areas, and wild spaces

# Napa River Fish Barrier Plan

## Quick Facts:

- **Significance:** Over the past century, many man-made structures have been constructed in the Napa River watershed that have either reduced or completely eliminated access to many ideal spawning locations for local salmonid species. Crafting a plan to improve conditions is an important next step to restoration efforts.
- **Where:** 21 Sites located throughout the Napa Valley
- **Results:** This project took 21 previously identified fish barriers and created detailed assessments for each individual fish barrier. 11 projects were identified as high-priority, which allowed for a clear strategy for future improvement projects.
- **Funds:** Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission
- **Partners:** National Resource Conservation Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Caltrans



*The Dry Creek road culvert: a high priority fish barrier*

## Barrier Plan Provides Direction for Future Projects

Man-made structures in aquatic habitats can often deleteriously affect local fish populations by restricting access to ideal upstream spawning locations. The fish barriers in the Napa River watershed have contributed to the significant declines observed in the populations of the two native salmonid species: steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). In 2008, the RCD conducted the Watershed Barrier Inventory, which catalogued and classified the various artificial fish migration barriers found in the Napa River watershed. This information was then used to direct the creation of the Napa River Fish Barrier plan, which took the 21 highest priority sites and completed detailed assessment and prioritization profiles for each barrier. **The plan identified 11 of these sites to be of high priority, which, if repaired, could restore access to over 33 miles of high-quality salmonid spawning and rearing habitat.** This information allowed for the pursuit of funding opportunities that would in turn lead to the completion of restoration projects capable of significantly improving the quality of local aquatic habitats.