



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Northern Region  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

**GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor**  
**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director**



March 6, 2024

Darcie Antle  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mendocino County  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROPAGATION  
FUND APPROVAL PROCESS FOR COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

Dear Darcie Antle:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) seeks to clarify the process for approving use of Propagation Funds (PF) by County governments. Per Fish and Game Code (FGC) §§ 12009 (b)(2) and 13003, one-half of all fines and forfeitures imposed or collected in any court for violations of the FGC, CDFW regulations, or any other law providing the protection or preservation of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, or amphibian, shall be deposited with the county treasurer of the county in which the court is situated.

FGC § 13100 requires PF revenue to be expended for the protection, conservation, propagation, and preservation of fish and wildlife, under the direction of the county board of supervisors. Proposed expenditures from a county fish and wildlife PF shall be reviewed first at a regular meeting of the county board of supervisors, or its designated county fish and game commission, to ensure compliance with FGC § 13103.

FGC § 13103 defines fourteen allowable uses of the PF, five of which require CDFW approval or certification (FGC Section 13103 (d)(h)(i)(l) and (n)). The fourteen PF allowable expenditure categories follow, with the five PF expenditure categories requiring CDFW approval or certification noted in italics:

- (a) *Public education relating to the scientific principles of fish and wildlife conservation, consisting of supervised formal instruction carried out pursuant to a planned curriculum and aids to education such as literature, audio and video recordings, training models, and nature study facilities.*

MAR 8 '24 PM 3:12  
REC'D EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Darcie Antle, Chief Executive Officer  
Mendocino County  
March 6, 2024  
Page 2

- (b) Temporary emergency treatment and care of injured or orphaned wildlife.
- (c) Temporary treatment and care of wildlife confiscated by CDFW as evidence.
- (d) Breeding, raising, purchasing, or releasing fish or wildlife that are to be released *upon approval of CDFW* pursuant to Sections 6400 and 6401 onto land or into waters of local, state, or federal agencies or onto land or into waters open to the public.
- (e) Improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, including, but not limited to, construction of fish screens, weirs, and ladders; drainage or other watershed improvements; gravel and rock removal or placement; construction of irrigation and water distribution systems; earthwork and grading; fencing; planting trees and other vegetation management; and removal of barriers to the migration of fish and wildlife.
- (f) Construction, maintenance, and operation of public hatchery facilities.
- (g) Purchase and maintain materials, supplies, or equipment for either the CDFW's ownership and use or CDFW's use in the normal performance of CDFW's responsibilities.
- (h) Predator control actions for the benefit of fish or wildlife *following certification in writing by CDFW* that the proposed actions will significantly benefit a particular wildlife species.
- (i) Scientific fish and wildlife research conducted by institutions of higher learning, qualified researchers, or governmental agencies, *if approved by CDFW*.
- (j) Reasonable administrative costs, excluding the costs of audits required by Section 13104, for secretarial service, travel, and postage by the county fish and wildlife commission when authorized by the county board of supervisors. For purposes of this subdivision, "reasonable cost" means an amount that does not exceed 15 percent of the average amount received by the fund during the previous three-year period, or ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) annually, whichever is greater, excluding any funds carried over from a previous fiscal year.
- (k) Contributions to a secret witness program for the purpose of facilitating enforcement of this code and regulations adopted pursuant to this code.
- (l) Costs incurred by the district attorney or city attorney in investigating and prosecuting civil and criminal actions for violations of this code, *as approved by CDFW*.



Darcie Antle, Chief Executive Officer  
Mendocino County  
March 6, 2024  
Page 3


- (m) Costs incurred by a county counsel in investigating and prosecuting an action for civil penalties, injunctive relief, or civil penalties and injunctive relief pursuant to Section 5650.1 resulting from unlicensed cannabis cultivation.
- (n) Other expenditures, *approved by CDFW*, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

The PF approval process for counties is outlined below:

1. The County should send an email request to the Region at ASKRegion1@wildlife.ca.gov for PF approval.
2. The email request should contain the following information.
  - a. The appropriate PF expense category.
  - b. The amount of PF monies to be used.
  - c. A short description of the proposed use of the PF monies.
  - d. A timeline of implementation for the proposed project for approval.
  - e. Any other pertinent information the County deems necessary for approval.
3. CDFW will review the request and provide a written response within 30 days from the date the request was received.

CDFW appreciates the County's use of the PF to support our shared mission to preserve and protect fish and wildlife resources for their intrinsic value and for recreational use by the public. If you should have any further questions regarding the PF approval process or about the PF in general, please contact 530-225-2300.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
1D82ADE7303A474...

Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager  
Northern Region

Attachment: Northern Region Map

Ec: Erica Manes  
Northern Enforcement District







