

**Carson Cox**

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**EDUCATION**

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**Master of Public Policy. 2001**

University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy

A two-year interdisciplinary program emphasizing economic, quantitative, and political analysis of public policy issues. Coursework focus on water resource policy and the economics of river restoration.

**Master of Science Degree in Conservation Biology. 1998**

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Research focus on stream ecology and watershed management. Conducted a GIS based study of land use impacts on fish and invertebrate communities in a regionally important trout stream.

**Bachelor Degree in Biological Aspects of Conservation. 1992**

University of Wisconsin – Madison

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE**

SENIOR WATER RESOURCES SCIENTIST

2008 – Present

Manage and consult on ecological restoration projects involving watershed planning and fisheries resource conservation. Provide technical and policy direction to a range of ongoing efforts to restore coho, steelhead, and Chinook habitat in California, and lead a community based restoration of San Pablo Bay shoreline and tidal areas. Also consult on hydropower relicensing proceedings in the areas of fishery flows and habitat.

**SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION**

PROJECT MANAGER - Streamflow & Fisheries Restoration

2004 – 2007

Managed an instream flow restoration program aimed at improving habitat conditions for Central Coast coho and steelhead populations by reducing impacts from existing agricultural water diversions.

- Led a broad partnership of local agricultural, environmental, and landowner interest groups in developing approaches for restoring summer streamflows and improving habitat conditions for Central Coast coho and steelhead populations.
- Worked with federal, state and county resource agencies to develop comprehensive regulatory compliance and permitting strategies for voluntary streamflow restoration activities.
- Partnered with the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance to promote implementation of environmentally sensitive agricultural land use practices, encourage responsible riparian habitat management, and advance stream habitat restoration efforts.

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME – CENTRAL SIERRA REGION**

FERC HYDROPOWER LICENSING COORDINATOR - Environmental Scientist

2003 - 2004

Developed and negotiated binding, 30-50 year license conditions to address highly sensitive resource allocation issues in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydropower relicensing processes.

- Formulated strategic watershed restoration goals by evaluating ecological data and associated management scenarios in the context of relevant legal, policy, and political constraints.
- Negotiated multi-party settlements with representatives from a range of resource agency, hydroelectric industry, environmental, landowner, and recreation groups.

- Designed and oversaw scientific studies, and represented the Department as a technical expert in stream ecology at public meetings, hearings, and through letters of official comment.

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**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**

FERC HYDROPOWER RELICENSING TEAM - Environmental Scientist 2001 to 2003

Represented the State of California in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydropower relicensing processes under authority of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, California Water Code, and CEQA.

- Responsible for negotiating and drafting mandatory minimum instream flow conditions, project operating rules, and other impact mitigation measures necessary to protect aquatic resources.
- Participated in both traditional and collaborative re-licensing processes involving multiple state and federal resource agencies and NGOs. Worked in potentially contentious group settings to resolve complex environmental issues and negotiate coordinated approaches to achieving environmental goals.

**ADVISORY GROUPS**

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Technical Advisor and Management Team Member, California Energy Commission's Instream Flow Assessment Program (2008 to Present)

Technical Advisor and Management Team Member, California Energy Commission's Pulsed Flow Program (2003 to 2007)

**RESEARCH**

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Cox, C.B. 2007. Research Needs Assessment for Hydropower Relicensing Processes in California: Developing Tools for More Efficient and Effective Resource Management. California Energy Commission, PIER Energy-Related Environmental Research.

Vondracek, B., K.L. Blann., C.B. Cox, J.F. Nerbonne, K.G. Mumford, B.A. Nerbonne, L.a. Sovell, and J.K.H Zimmerman. 2005. Land Use, Spatial Scale, and Stream Systems: Lessons from an Agricultural Region. *Journal of Environmental Management* 36: 775-791.

Cox, C.B. 1998. Fish and Invertebrate Communities in the Whitewater River Watershed: A GIS Based Examination of Land Use Effects. Submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

**SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING**

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- NOAA Fisheries/USFWS Guidance on Endangered Species Consultation
- Theory and Concepts of the Instream Flow Incremental Methodology
- Hydrologic and Geomorphic Processes in Stream Restoration
- Water Quality Regulation and Permitting