



Farmers Screen Site Selection Process

Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) has developed a method for evaluating potential Farmers Screen sites through a two step process. This process was developed over a four year period as FCA performed over a hundred site visits all around the Pacific Northwest to evaluate potential sites for Farmers Screen installations. The process was developed with an eye to efficiency for both FCA and the landowner. It is expensive and time consuming to evaluate potential sites and therefore is imperative that a system allows FCA to determine as quickly as possible whether or not a site is appropriate for a Farmers Screen installation.

Step 1: Information Gathering

Typically, either a landowner or a third party interested in screening a diversion contacts FCA to learn more about the Farmers Screen. At this point, FCA attempts to gather as much information as possible about the site and the project in general. The Farmers Screen Initial Questionnaire contains a complete set of questions that FCA attempts to answer either through a phone call, email, or standard mail. This form is designed to provide enough information to determine if a site visit is warranted. The questions ask for specific information that will help determine whether or not the site meets The Farmers Screen Siting Criteria Checklist as outlined in the document bearing the same name.

Once The Farmers Screen Initial Questionnaire has been completed, FCA staff reviews the information (and follows up for more information if necessary) and makes a determination based on The Farmers Screen Siting Criteria Checklist as to whether or not a site visit is warranted to gather more detailed information. If a site does not meet The Farmers Screen Siting Criteria Checklist at this point, it is deemed to be an inappropriate site for the Farmers Screen. The land owner or project coordinator is then notified and given as much information on alternative screen technologies as FCA can provide.

Step 2: Site Visit

If the information from The Farmers Screen Initial Questionnaire conforms to The Farmers Screen Siting Criteria Checklist, then a site visit is scheduled. The purpose of a site visit is to confirm the information provided in The Farmers Screen Initial Questionnaire and to gather additional information. To ensure comprehensive data collection on site, FCA uses the Farmers Screen Site Evaluation Form. The Farmers Screen Site Evaluation form is

designed to gather the maximum amount of information in a single visit.

The actual site visit provides an opportunity to gather more detailed data, information, and observations as to the specific conditions at the site. The site visit provides preliminary survey data that will determine the elevation differentials which in turn allows FCA to have certainty as to the applicability of a specific site. Also, evaluation of existing infrastructure, river or stream conditions, geomorphologic information, and general observations of the site provide a much better understanding of the challenges associated with a particular site and therefore an understanding of the applicability of the Farmers Screen on that particular site. The site visit is a time when FCA staff can directly question the landowner, any agency representatives, and any other project participants about stream flows, sediment, debris, and diverted water quantities. For small streams, this information is typically anecdotal, but that is often the only information available.

After the site visit, all gathered information from both The Farmers Screen Initial Questionnaire and The Farmers Screen Site Evaluation form is combined into one document that summarizes the project information. FCA staff then reviews the information to evaluate the applicability of the Farmers Screen for that particular site. If the site does not meet The Farmers Screen Siting Criteria Checklist, or for any other reason does not appear to be a good fit for FCA or the Farmers Screen, then the landowner or project coordinator is notified and informed that the Farmers Screen is not appropriate for that site. Recommendations are made for other technologies that might be appropriate and who to contact for more information.

If the site does appear to be appropriate for the Farmers Screen, then the landowner or project coordinator is asked to sign the project information document, declaring that the information is true to his/her knowledge and that they understand that the project will be developed based on that information. At this point, actual project development begins in conjunction with any and all project partners including all applicable state and federal agencies.

Step 3: Project Development

Project development involves developing a site plan, determining any necessary infrastructure to support the Farmers Screen, screen location, screen structure elevations, and the appropriate return route and elevations. Project development is done in conjunction with all applicable resource agencies.

Again, if at any point in this process it is determined that the Farmers Screen is not an appropriate technology for the site, then the project coordinator or landowner is notified and provided with alternative screen information.