



Farmers Conservation Alliance

ABOUT THE FARMERS SCREEN

The Farmers Screen is a horizontal, flat-plate fish and debris screen. Designed to be installed in an off-stream channel, water, fish, and debris pass quickly over the Farmers Screen and return to the river. Inside the screen, the screening material lies parallel to the water's surface. Diverted water travels slowly through the screen material while the water carrying fish and debris moves quickly across the screen surface, cleaning it as it returns to the river. This combination of minimal downward velocity and high sweeping velocity is what manages debris and protects fish. Finally, the taper and weir walls ensure uniform water depths and velocities.

The Farmers Screen is different from traditional screening technologies in several ways. First, the screen material itself is horizontal as opposed to vertical, allowing debris and fish to be carried above and over the surface of the screen material. Second, the Farmers Screen has no moving parts, eliminating the need for a power supply and greatly reducing the maintenance associated with the screen. Third, the Farmers Screen is substantially self-cleaning, reducing maintenance requirements and providing consistent fish protection. Finally, to operate correctly, the Farmers Screen requires bypass flow, which provides protection from both injury and delay for fish as well as effective debris management.



ABOUT FCA

Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) is a nonprofit organization focused on realizing agricultural and environmental benefits through the modernization of irrigation systems. The Farmers Screen was licensed to FCA under the condition that FCA take the screen to market, address institutional barriers, and invest profits into other solutions that benefit both the environment and agriculture. More than a decade later, FCA has received National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approval, installed screens throughout the West and is pending installations internationally.

In addition, FCA realized the need for an entity to support the modernization of irrigation systems, and therefore, launched the Irrigation Modernization Program. FCA is currently partnering with a dozen irrigation districts to help develop customized strategies for broad-scale modernization that will ensure a resilient agricultural community, while delivering significant environmental and community benefits.

