

Revised Terrestrial Resources Subgroup Work Plan and Schedule

Note: this version of the work plan and schedule incorporates comments received at the June 12, 2009 TRS meeting to the previous version.

Conservation Strategy Approach For Terrestrial and Wetland Species And Natural Communities

Upon receiving guidance from the Department, the BDCP Terrestrial Resources Subgroup (TRS) proposes to develop a conservation strategy for each of the terrestrial and wetland species and natural communities that could be affected by BDCP actions. Specifically, the TRS would propose the following process for developing these measures:

- Define BDCP terrestrial and wetland natural communities (review Yolo Natural Heritage Program agricultural habitat valuation strategy as a potential model for identifying agricultural lands that serve as habitat for covered species). Use appropriate level resolution mapping to define BDCP natural communities/land cover types to assist in the analysis of BDCP impacts and identification of opportunities and approaches to advance neighboring plan goals through the BDCP conservation strategy.
- Assess the approximate range of potential impacts on terrestrial and wetland communities associated with BDCP actions as currently described;
- Propose goals and objectives for terrestrial communities and species conservation;
- Using work prepared for adjacent HCP and/or NCCPs, identify the terrestrial and wetland communities and ecological functions that support the BDCP covered terrestrial species and evaluate the conservation strategies proposed or adopted by the plans;
- Review draft and final documents prepared by pending and approved HCPs and/or NCCPs that overlap the BDCP Planning Area to identify opportunities for directly or indirectly complementing those plans;
- Develop BDCP terrestrial natural community and covered species conservation strategy that is consistent with and complements the conservation strategies of adjacent regional conservation plans.

Other tasks associated with addressing BDCP terrestrial and wetland conservation actions:

- The Wildlife Agencies, in coordination with Resources Agency and BDCP Management Team, will continue to coordinate with five neighboring conservation plans and BDCP to discuss shared goals and objectives, conservation strategies, extant conserved lands, and integrated implementation using information developed by TRS

- The BDCP Steering Committees, after considering recommendations from the TRS, will reach agreement on which natural communities and other land cover types should be included in the BDCP.

Overview of Major Tasks

- 1. Prepare draft biological goals and objectives for terrestrial and non-tidal wetland natural communities and covered wildlife and plant species.**
 - A. Review biological goals and objectives from adjacent and overlapping conservation plans to:
 - inform development of BDCP natural community and covered species goals and objectives that are consistent and do not conflict with those plans;
 - identify opportunities to create synergies with and complement achieving the goals and objectives of those plans; and
 - identify any gaps in those plans that may need to be addressed within BDCP goals and objectives.
 - B. Refine SAIC draft biological goals and objectives based on review of adjacent and overlapping plans.
- 2. Conduct preliminary impact assessment.** SAIC conducts an assessment of likely magnitude of habitat impacts on species associated with facility footprints and conservation measures. This information will provide the Subgroup with data that will help inform development of conservation strategies for the natural communities and covered species.
- 3. Refine draft biological goals and objectives.** Subgroup refines draft biological goals and objectives based on results of the preliminary impact assessment as appropriate.
- 4. Review and refine descriptions of natural communities.** SAIC describes existing natural community classification and overviews Yolo NHP natural community designations for agricultural lands. Subgroup reviews and refines.
- 5. Review and revise species habitat models and species accounts.** Assign primary responsibility for communities and species to team members. Review and refine species accounts and habitat models—SAIC modifies based on recommendations. Review should focus on accuracy of species habitat models, including assumed species range within the BDCP focus area (i.e., Planning Area [i.e., Statutory Delta], Suisun Marsh, and portion of the Yolo Bypass north of the Planning Area) and definition of each species' habitat based on available GIS layers.

Final habitat models will provide the basis for conducting the impact assessment on covered wildlife and plants.

6. Develop preserve design criteria. Subgroup describes preserve design criteria for implementation of terrestrial community and covered wildlife and plant species elements of BDCP. The criteria will address elements such as spatial distribution of preserved habitats, connectivity among habitat areas, synergies with adjacent plans, and habitat corridors.

7. Prepare draft conservation strategies and conservation measures for natural communities and covered wildlife and plant species. Review preserve design concepts and landscape, habitat, and species-specific conservation measures from adjacent and overlapping conservation plans to inform development of BDCP conservation strategies and measures for natural communities and covered wildlife and plant species.

Schedule through July 31, 2009

1. **May 29 TRS meeting:** Review of guidance for NCCP approach; assign primary responsibility for natural communities and species to team members; overview work plan and schedule; review and revise May 29 version of goals, objectives, and measures; review species habitat models.
2. **June 12 TRS meeting:** review work plan and schedule; review biological objectives from adjacent and overlapping conservation plans; initiate refinement of BDCP goals and objectives; review existing natural community descriptions and refine the description of the agricultural natural community.
3. *Week of June 15:* SAIC distributes preliminary assessment of potential covered species habitat and natural community impacts.
4. *June 16:* Subgroup members submit final comments to species habitat models and species accounts to SAIC; SAIC distributes drafts to Subgroup. Proposed model revisions will be used to further refine draft goals and objectives prepared to date if affected by model revisions.
5. *June 18:* Subgroup members submit final draft goals and objectives for their assigned natural communities and species to SAIC; SAIC distributes drafts to Subgroup.
6. **June 19 TRS meeting:** Subgroup reviews and revises draft biological goals and objectives. It is anticipated that this version of goals and objectives will be included in draft Chapter 3, *Conservation Strategy*, of the BDCP document.
7. **June 19 SC meeting:** Co-chairs provide and update of TRS progress.

8. *June 25:* SAIC distributes revised species habitat models to Subgroup.
9. **June 26 SC meeting: Co-chairs provide and update of TRS progress.**
10. **June 26 TRS meeting:** Review and adoption of draft biological goals and objectives; review of preliminary assessment of magnitude of likely habitat impacts on natural communities and covered wildlife and plant species; review of preserve design criteria, conservation strategy approaches, and conservation measures for natural communities and covered species in adjacent and overlapping plans.
11. *July 8:* Subgroup members submit draft species and natural community conservation strategies and measures to SAIC; SAIC distributes drafts to Subgroup.
12. **July 10 TRS meeting:** Review and refine draft conservation strategies and measures.
13. **July 17 SC meeting: Co-chairs provide and update of TRS progress.**
14. *July 22:* Subgroup members submit revised draft species and natural community conservation strategies and measures to SAIC; SAIC distributes drafts to Subgroup.
15. **July 24 TRS meeting:** Review and adopt draft conservation strategies and measures; identify next steps.
16. **July 31 SC meeting: Co-chairs present complete draft package of biological goals and objectives and conservation strategies for natural communities and covered wildlife and plant species to SC.**