

## Revised Terrestrial Resources Subgroup Work Plan and Schedule

### 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.

### Summary of Approach

To ensure completion of the conservation strategy for terrestrial resources within BDCP's compressed schedule, SAIC and DFG will coordinate preparation of each element and related pieces of the strategy for each of the natural communities and covered species with assigned TRS

members. Assignments are based on member expertise with each of the natural communities and covered species (see Table 1). Under this process, the Subgroup would only meet to present and review completed draft elements of the strategy prepared by the assigned TRS members, SAIC, and DFG.

## 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. Prepare 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 data necessary to inform development of conservation strategies for the natural communities and covered species.
- 3. Review and refine descriptions of natural communities.** SAIC/DFG develops natural community classification based on input received at previous TRS meetings to guide subsequent development of conservation strategy elements.
- 4. Review and revise species habitat models and species accounts.** SAIC/DFG/USFWS finalize species habitat models based on input received at previous TRS meetings and DFG/USFWS agency review comments.
- 5. Develop preserve design criteria.** SAIC/DFG prepares draft preserve design criteria for Subgroup review. Subgroup reviews and refines criteria. The criteria will address elements such as spatial distribution of preserved habitats, connectivity among habitat areas, and synergies with adjacent plans, and habitat corridors.
- 6. Prepare draft conservation strategies and conservation measures for natural communities and covered wildlife and plant species.** SAIC/DFG and assigned TRS members prepare landscape-level, natural community, and species conservation measures, and avoidance and minimization measures based on species conservation needs within the planning area and Suisun Marsh and review of preserve design concepts and landscape,

habitat, and species-specific conservation measures from adjacent and overlapping conservation plans.

## Schedule through September 10, 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. **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.
4. **July 10 TRS meeting:** Review revised work plan, review SAIC/DFG conservation strategy framework for terrestrial resources, habitat conservation objectives criteria, and gross-level impact assessment results.
5. **August 13 TRS meeting:** Review revised work plan, revised strategy framework, proposed natural community classification, TRS member assignments, and proposed preserve design criteria. SAIC to provide updates on impact assessment to inform ongoing work.
6. **August 14-September 9:** SAIC/DFG and assigned TRS members develop goals and objectives and conservation strategies for each of the natural communities and covered species.
7. **September 10 TRS meeting:** Review and adopt with revisions draft natural community and covered species conservation strategies.
8. **Subsequent Meetings:** Subsequent meetings are anticipated to address need for iterative revisions based on outcomes of the impact and conservation analysis.