

Ecosystem Restoration Program Conservation Strategy

for the
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Sacramento and San
Joaquin Valley Regions
(July 2011 DRAFT)

Presentation to the
Bay Delta Conservation Plan - Public Meeting
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Caveats for the Conservation Strategy

- For planning purposes only
- Non-regulatory
- Restoration opportunities that depend on willing sellers
- Under review by ERP Implementing Agencies

Focus of the Conservation Strategy

- Delta
- Sacramento
- San Joaquin
- Suisun Marsh*



Purpose

- Describes the ERP Implementing Agencies views on ecosystem restoration goals, objectives, and priorities for Stage 2 of ERP implementation
- Identifies biologically promising ecosystem restoration opportunities in the Regions
- Provides the conceptual framework and process that will guide the refinement, evaluation, prioritization, implementation, monitoring and review of ERP actions
- Follows the principle of a single-blueprint and is intended to serve as guidance to related planning efforts (BDCP, Delta Conservancy, Delta Plan, FloodSAFE)

Development of the Conservation Strategy

- ERP foundation documents
- Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS)
- Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
- DRERIP conceptual models
- POD studies and plans
- PPIC report
- USFWS and NMFS Recovery Plans
- Suisun Marsh Planning
- Other planning, literature

Stage 2 Restoration Priorities and Actions

(Summarized in Appendix C)

- Restoration Priorities
 - based on Region's habitat types
- Actions
 - based on Region's restoration priorities
 - target specific species and habitat types



Ecosystem Restoration Activities

- Improvements to critical ecological processes
 - Hydrology, Aquatic food web dynamics, Floodplain-channel connectivity
- Restoration of habitat
 - Intertidal, floodplain, upland, grassland/vernal pool, subsided lands
- Stressor reductions
 - Fish screens, Non-native and/or invasive species, water quality (pesticides, toxicity, DO, Hg, Ammonium)

Target Species

- Native aquatic and terrestrial species including fish, birds, mammals, plants, and other organisms
- Includes all BDCP proposed covered species

Conservation Strategy Implementation

(Section 4)

- Coordination with the DSC
- Integration with the DSC and the Delta Conservancy
- Sustained funding of actions and ecosystem restoration activities
- Incorporation of uncertainty and adaptive management into planning, doing, evaluating, and responding to actions
 - includes development and use of conceptual models to evaluate restoration actions and the monitoring of restoration actions to assess progress toward ecosystem objectives and overall program performance

ERP GOALS	ERP STAGE 2	BDCP	FLOW CRITERIA (DFG)	CVSSRP	DELTA PLAN
Goal 1. Achieve recovery of at-risk native species dependent on the Delta, Suisun Bay, San Francisco Bay, and watersheds above the estuary.	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 2. Rehabilitate natural processes in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed to fully support, with minimal ongoing human intervention, natural aquatic and associated terrestrial biotic communities and habitats.	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 3. Maintain and/or enhance populations of selected species for sustainable commercial and recreational harvest, consistent with the other ERP strategic goals.	X	-	X	X	X
Goal 4. Protect and/or restore functional habitat types in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed for ecological and public values such as species and biotic communities, ecological processes, recreation, scientific research, and aesthetics.	X	X	X	X	X
Goal 5. Prevent the establishment of additional non-native invasive species and reduce the negative ecological and economic impacts of established non-native species in the Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed.	X	X	-	X	X
Goal 6. Improve and/or maintain water and sediment quality conditions that fully support healthy and diverse aquatic ecosystems in the Bay-Delta estuary and watershed; and eliminate to the extent possible, toxic impacts to aquatic organisms, wildlife, and people.	X	X	-	X	X

"X" = similar goal or objective; "-" = no goal or objective.

Coordination with Bay Delta Conservation Plan

- DFG is the permitting agency for the BDCP under the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCCPA)
- DFG is actively involved in providing policy, technical guidance, and support to that planning effort
- BDCP purpose consistent with ERP goals

Schedule Moving Forward

- Draft Conservation Strategy Released July 21
- Sept. 6, 2011 – public review closes
- Sept. 23, 2011 – ERP Implementing Agencies review closes
- Sept.-Nov. 2011 – consider comments and revise
- Dec. 2011 – finalize strategy
- Updates to Conservation Strategy every 5 years or in coordination with Delta Plan