

Proposed Approach to BDCP Site-Specific Near-Term Habitat Restoration Projects

The environmental review of the BDCP will assess the effects on the environment of the adoption and permitting of a Plan that provides for the conservation of certain biological resources and establishes mitigation requirements for specified covered activities that may affect those resources. As part of this Plan, commitments will be made to restore a certain amount of aquatic habitat, including tidal marsh, within identified Restoration Opportunity Areas. The environmental analysis conducted for the BDCP will take the entirety of this habitat restoration into account in the context of the overall project description for the BDCP.

Specific projects have been identified that are a priority for early implementation during the BDCP near term implementation period. These individual projects will not be evaluated on a site-specific basis in the BDCP EIR/EIS. Rather, these projects will be analyzed on a parallel, but separate, track from the BDCP EIS/EIR. Certain restoration projects are already on such a track, such as Dutch Slough and McCormick/Williamson Tract, which have been subject to nearly-completed environmental review. This approach allows for accelerated implementation of these individual restoration projects without putting at risk the schedule for the public draft of the BDCP EIR/EIS.

Priority Projects for implementation during the BDCP near term implementation period include:

1. Calhoun Cut/Lindsey Slough tidal habitat restoration (Owner = DFG; Parcel = 927 acres; \leq 165 acres tidal marsh restored)
2. Yolo Ranch tidal habitat restoration (Owner = Westlands; Parcel = 3,408 acres; 600-1,500 acres tidal marsh restored)
3. Dutch Slough tidal habitat restoration (Parcel = 1,166 acres; 390-830 acres tidal marsh restored)
4. Decker Island (NE tip; Owner = DFG; \leq 10 acres tidal marsh restored)
5. McCormack-Williamson Tract/Grizzly Slough (Owner = TNC and SWC; Parcel = 1,800 acres; 1,200-1,300 acres tidal marsh restored)
6. Fremont Weir fish passage improvements
7. Fremont Weir modifications for seasonally inundated floodplain enhancement
8. Lisbon Weir fish passage enhancement
9. Putah Creek fish passage enhancement (Owner = DFG; 10 acres of tidal habitat and 50-500 acres of seasonally inundated floodplain restored)
10. Meins Landing tidal habitat restoration (Parcel = 660 acres; \leq 630 acres tidal marsh restored)
11. Hill Slough tidal habitat restoration (Owner = DFG; Parcel = 1,750 acres; \leq 850 acres tidal marsh restored)
12. Rush Ranch tidal habitat restoration (Owner = Solano Land Trust; Parcel = 2,070 acres; 70 acres tidal marsh restored)
13. Prospect Island tidal habitat restoration (Owner = DWR; Parcel = 1,300 acres; 460-1,300 acres tidal marsh restored)

While these projects are a priority for early BDCP implementation, the delay or non-construction of any of these projects does not mean that BDCP could not meet the goals and objectives of the Plan.