

Habitat Restoration Program Technical Team Work Plan

Technical Team Membership:

Co-Chair: Dave Harlow (PRE)

Co-Chair: John Cain (NHI)

Campbell Ingram (TNC)

Pete Rhoads (PRE)

Bill Harrell/Stephani Sparr (DWR)

Bill Bennett (PRE)

Patti Idlof (USBR)

Leo Winternitz (CBDA)

Carl Wilcox (DFG)

Rosalie del Rosario/Ted Myers (NMFS)

Victoria Poage (FWS)

Purpose

To develop and recommend habitat-related conservation measures (protection, enhancement, restoration) for implementation within the BDCP planning area and Suisun Bay/Marsh that are designed to achieve BDCP covered species biological goals and objectives for adoption by the BDCP Steering Committee. The technical team will address three broad topics related to development of habitat-related conservation measures:

- A. Locations within the Delta and Suisun Bay/Marsh that present opportunities for protecting, enhancing, and restoring covered fish species habitats.
- B. Priorities for implementing habitat-related measures.
- C. Methods for enhancing and restoring habitats and defining the ecological attributes to be provided by enhanced and restored habitats.
- D. Provide information that will assist the Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group in developing quantitative objectives, including open water and wetlands.

Scope:

1. Identify and prioritize important species stressors that should be addressed through habitat-related conservation measures, including uncertainties.
2. Develop and describe habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration concepts that will address key stressors, including uncertainties.
3. Based on the needs identified under Item 1, identify potential Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) within the Delta and Suisun Bay/Marsh where habitat-related conservation measures can be implemented.
4. Identify the range of habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration opportunities within COAs.

5. Based on Items 1-4, develop draft conservation measures that implement habitat-related conservation measures designed to achieve biological objectives including identification of the uncertainty related to these measures.
6. Coordinate with the Analytical Tools Technical Team to identify analytical tools appropriate for evaluating:
 - the efficacy of habitat enhancement and restoration concepts and
 - the suitability of COAs for enhancing and restoring habitats.
7. Coordinate with the Conveyance Working Group to identify the best approaches for addressing hydrodynamic modifications to benefit covered species.
8. Coordinate with the Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group to identify revisions to draft biological goals and objectives that may be warranted through findings of the team.
9. Following completion of draft conservation measures, the technical team may be reconvened on an ad hoc basis to revise conservation measures as needed based on new information and to ensure consistency with other components of the Conservation Strategy as they are developed.
10. The Team should coordinate closely with other existing Delta habitat initiatives to maximize the efficiency of the planning effort.

Timeframe

The team will meet periodically until early May 2008 to address Scope Items 1-8 above. The team will meet as needed to address Scope Item 9.

Anticipated Work Products

The following are work products anticipated to be produced by the technical team. Work products may be revised based on outcomes of team investigations. Information provided by these work products would be used to draft relevant portions of the Conservation Strategy chapter of the BDCP document.

1. Table matrix of the importance and certainty of effects of stressors on each of the covered species.
2. Matrix of potential habitat-related conservation actions that could address each of the stressors, including an evaluation of the certainty and magnitude of potential benefits associated with the actions.

3. Paper describing the locations and extent of potential habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration opportunities for each of the covered species in the Delta and Suisun Marsh/Bay (draft and final).
4. Paper describing and applying COA prioritization criteria (draft and final).
5. Paper describing habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration concepts (draft and final).
6. Paper describing and justifying recommended habitat-related conservation measures for each species that includes a description of opportunities for implementing the measures by location and uncertainties related to the conservation measures (draft and final).

Steering Committee Deliverables

The following schedule anticipates presentations to be made before the Steering Committee for the purpose of reporting the team's progress and receiving guidance for proceeding with development of the habitat component of the Conservation Strategy. Deliverables are to be completed one week prior to Steering Committee for internal review.

January 11, 2008—	Progress update
January 25, 2008—	Progress update
February 8, 2008—	Progress update
February 25, 2008—	Review of recommended priorities for habitat restoration needs by species and life stage
March 7, 2008—	Progress update
March 21, 2008—	Review of draft habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration concepts
April 4, 2008—	Progress report
April 18, 2008—	Review of draft conservation measures
May 2, 2008—	Review of second draft conservation measures

Meeting Schedule:

Recurring meetings are scheduled for every Wednesday through early May from 9am-12pm.

Near term meeting locations:

- Weds, January 23, 2008—9am-12pm; Resources Bldg Rm 1131
- Weds, January 30, 2008—9am-12pm; Resources Bldg Rm 1131