

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (TAC) Notes – August 7, 2007

Acting Chair – Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Beverley Anderson-Abbs opened the meeting with self introductions. The following were in attendance: Kelly Williams, Basia Trout, Bruce Ross, Aric Lester, Stefan Lorenzato, John Donnelly, Scott Clemons, Woody Elliott, Diana Jacobs, Rebecca Fines, Susan Strachan, Denise Reichenberg, Scott Rice, Terry Hanson, Terra Perkins, Adam Henderson, Brin Hanna, Steve Wilkins, Ashley Emery, Dan Eفسةaff, Beverley Anderson-Abbs and Ellen Gentry.

Announcements

“The Vegetation Challenge” 2007 Levee Vegetation Symposium is scheduled for August 28-29, in Sacramento. The Floodplain Management Association (FMA) 2007 Annual Conference is scheduled in Tahoe, September 4-7. “Integrating Riparian Habitat Conservation & Flood Management in California” - A Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Conference is planned for December 4-6, in Sacramento.

Activity Reports

Aric Lester, DWR, reported on the Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough feasibility study for a project to remove rock upstream of Woodson Bridge, reconnecting the Sacramento River with an old channel through Kopta Slough, and place rock at the base of the bridge to protect from erosion. This multiple purpose project would provide increased flood protection, erosion protection for infrastructure, and habitat restoration. DWR is seeking funding partners for 50% of the project cost (\$100,000). Hydrology analyses were partially completed by Ayers Associates in 2003. TNC manages the Kopta Slough property.

Kelly Williams, BLM, discussed the management plan, acquisitions, and activities at the Sacramento River Bend Area ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern). Two bills, HR1241 and SB811, are currently in congress for a proposed National Recreation Area. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$2.5 million for land acquisitions in the area. Acquisitions were derived from a variety of sources; willing sellers, bankruptcies, private negotiations, etc.

Cooperators are working with 100+ acres of small lots in the Bald Hill vicinity north of Surrey Village. BLM is also working with Tehama County and WCB to include the Bend Boat Ramp in BLM holdings. Tehama County Public Works will be assisting BLM with repair and gravel cover on Spring Branch Road at the North End of the ACEC from the parking area to the target shooting area. BLM is cooperating with Tehama County in the replacement and realignment of Jelly’s Ferry Bridge. They are also working with the Department of Boating and Waterways for the possible upgrade of the Jelly’s Ferry boat ramp following completion of the bridge.

BLM, CDFG, Tehama County Landfill Agency, and SRCAF assisted State Lands Commission in the cleanup at Barge Hole. Boulders were placed to stop trash dumping, 4X4 misuse, and illegal camping. A parking lot was recently completed at the Iron Canyon Trail Head on Hwy. 36. Signs and trail markers will be installed in the fall to assist in access to vista points on the river. Cutting and burning has been initiated on CA junipers invading Blue oak forests. Three thousand three hundred (3,300) feet of obsolete fences have been removed to facilitate hiking and horseback riding throughout the ACEC.

One hundred acres of wetlands, popular for waterfowl hunting, will have rest days imposed in 2008. During nesting season, dog training activities in the area will be limited. Boundaries are being reconfigured for grazing leases. Star thistle, arundo and tamarisk will be sprayed. Rotational grazing has also been used in conjunction with prescribed burning for weed control. Star thistle has shown to be more prevalent on grazed land.

BLM is also looking at a possible partnership with State Parks as they continue to develop their “Central Valley Vision”. There are a number of good camping areas throughout the area, which is currently allowed for up to 14 days. A first priority for staffing would be a law enforcement ranger.

Stefan Lorenzato, DWR Watershed Program Manager, reported on the Levee and Floodplain Vegetation Research being done in cooperation with UC Davis Amorocho Hydraulics Lab and River Partners. The project was started as a result of increasing demand on floodways and the current DWR emergency levee repairs. The flume at UC Davis was set up for field testing for the modeling efforts underway to determine design criteria for hydraulic engineers along the Sacramento River and floodways

Stefan’s PowerPoint included the following topics: Water Circulation System of the Large Flume Facility review, Streambed Bare Soil Sample Preparation to measure attributes of flows, Hydraulics Experiment

Measurements to look at flow dynamics, Velocity Measurement Locations in a cross-section flow looking at plant influence, and Sandbar Willow Test configuration.

Results from these initial studies showed as the velocity of the water increased the roughness of bare soil increased, conversely, the roughness of the willow decrease. The study showed that the plants slow the water velocity at the bottom of the flume but velocity increases at the top with no measurable increase in water level. In studying the bending characteristics and recovery of the willow in a flood event, plants can help stabilize the flood plain or allow, depending on design characteristics. In tests with salmonids, the fish did not have to work as hard to maintain position with the plants and no fish were pushed downstream. The trees will be allowed to grow and restudied next year.

Hydraulic work will be completed next year, but there is potential to continue beyond that time. Several other common floodplain plants will be tested in the future to help determine the best configurations for possible levee plantings as well as floodplain restoration

Questions arose regarding funding for additional work and the difference between characteristics and behavior of vegetation on the bottom of the flume, representing floodplains, as opposed to vegetation on the sides, representing levees. It was determined that bare soil during high flows could create flood problems. A concern regarding cavitation behind trees on a floodplain was discussed with information indicating that in the case of a single tree, this can occur, but with multiple plants, this effect is eliminated.

Stefan noted the work will be published at some point; however the data are available on request. Contact Stefan at stefanl@water.ca.gov.

Current Projects/Updates

Turtle Bay Bird Sanctuary Restoration (RM297.5) - Terry Hanson, City of Redding, gave an update on the Prop 50 funded improvements planned for 2007-2022: Environmental restoration at Turtle Bay (Project Tracker #126), recreation amenities (Raft/canoe launch and restroom, paved trails, and Hwy 44 bikeway) and the Sacramento River trail extension. The goals of this project are to restore and enhance riparian habitat, and to implement control measures for invasive non-native plant species. Enhancement and restoration of wildlife habitat will influence approximately 76 acres east of the Turtle Bay Exploration Park museum.

Dan Efseaff detailed supporting trail work and enhancing existing areas. One thousand goats spent six weeks at Turtle Bay removing 40 acres of non-native vegetation, as an experimental tool. The goats also helped get the thick vegetation mass out from underneath concrete and steel left from the gravel extraction site for Shasta Dam. The goats proved to be economical in the target area(s). Kelly Williams added that it has been cost effective to use goats in fuel breaks as well.

Del Rio West and Middle Fields (RM175-176) – Dan Efseaff, River Partners, reviewed the Glenn County preserve (Project Tracker # 125) south of Llano Seco, purchased in 2001. The project includes 232 restoration acres and 27 acres of enhancement (remnant riparian forest). The Reclamation (Rec.) Board permit application submitted July 2006, included hydrology, take of Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB), long term maintenance, and money for Levee District 3.

River Partners entered into a Safe Harbor Agreement for all of Del Rio, including the levee. Assurances allowed for take of VELB during management activities and any other lawful activity that may cause take on property, and take associated with flood control management activities conducted or authorized by DWR or the Rec. Board.

Money for Levee District 3 includes an annual tax contribution of \$1.81. Special condition #39, a Rec. Board imposed “tax” on River Partners for present value of tax revenue in perpetuity was pulled.

In February 2007, Rec. Board staff recommended approval of the draft permit with conditions. The Rec. Board was not able to reject or approve. No resolution was made at the March meeting in the field. More information to address technical issues is being developed.

Dan also reviewed the USFWS levee brush removal at the Drumheller Slough unit in response to local concerns about levee maintenance.

Programmatic Safe Harbor discussion

Beverly Anderson-Abbs reported SRCAF is still waiting to hear from DFG for state comments for the Voluntary Local Program language on incidental take.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next TAC meeting was set for September 4, at the DWR Conference Rm., 2440 Main St., Red Bluff.