

The Chair opened the meeting with self-introductions and announcements. On April 3rd, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, the Northern Sacramento Valley Water Forum will host a discussion on “Water Policy Through Legislation and Regulation, Past and Future” at the Sierra Nevada Brewery in Chico. Senator Michael Machado will be the keynote speaker. John Thomson, Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS), announced a workshop in Sacramento on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss “Opportunities for Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Restoration in California’s Central Valley”.

Activities Updates –

Scott Clemons from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) discussed several projects that will be coming before their Board on May 14<sup>th</sup>:

Battle Creek Wildlife Area- The project area is located in Shasta County at RM 274 and involves approximately 33 acres along the north bank of Battle Creek. The primary goal is the enhancement of existing wetland habitat area and the restoration of riparian habitat with an additional goal of improving the public’s wildlife viewing. Ducks Unlimited will manage the project; California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) will be the lead agency. Contact Person: Scott Clemons  
Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, mentioned Bloody Island, located in the same area, and the work that has been done to date on that property. A riparian easement runs along the Sacramento River and Battle Creek frontage with an agricultural easement in the center of the property. The second phase has been completed and the planning phase is due to begin.

Del Rio Wildland Preserve – The property (96 acres) is located in Glenn County at RM 175 on the east bank. The property was acquired in February, 2002, with funding from WCB. John Carlon, Sacramento River Partners (SRP), reported they have removed the 96-acre almond orchard that was subject to high flows and are preparing the site for riparian habitat restoration. The primary goal is to establish a riparian wildlife habitat preserve that includes wildlife oriented education and compatible public access activities. Eventually the property will be transferred to a public agency such as CDFG or F&WS. Contact Person: Carol Wright, SRP

Gaines Ranch Project – The property (36.1) acres, is located in Glenn County between RM 168 and RM 169 in the vicinity of the Hwy 162 Bridge at Butte City. Dave Means, WCB, and John Carlon discussed the project that proposes the acquisition of 36.1 acres with an approximately 29-acre walnut orchard and the remainder in riparian habitat. Because bank erosion at the bridge is a concern to CalTrans, SRP will coordinate with CalTrans activities and incorporate bank protection work with restoration. A CalTrans representative reported they are looking at placing four “rock groins” north of the bridge and one south to redirect the river and possibly placing large woody debris (LWD) between the rock groins. John reported they are also looking at a possible boat ramp and eventually transferring the property to Glenn County, or other public agency. Contact Person: John Carlon, SRP.

The importance of accessible boat ramps in terms of law enforcement and river rescue was noted; however, also noted are the problems associated with ramps such as the permitting and maintenance issues.

Cathy Morris, TNC, discussed a project that involves the acquisition of 60 acres of flood-prone land located inside the levee at RM 160 in Colusa County. The property is currently planted with 50 acres of prunes planted in 1975. The plan is to keep the land in agricultural production until the Colusa sub-reach planning is done. The property will eventually be turned over to the state and will be managed by the CDFG. Contact person: Cathy Morris, TNC

Burt noted the Colusa sub-reach planning is a collaborative effort between TNC and the SRCAF that will look at impacts from activities, including restoration; funding should be in place shortly.

Mike Roberts, TNC, reported that the Chico Landing Sub-reach Plan is complete and available on the website: [www.sacramentoriverportal.org](http://www.sacramentoriverportal.org). The report is a consolidation of all of the studies, i.e., hydraulic modeling, socio-economic, that have been done. Mike offered to bring the report to the TAC and Board.

Paul Ward, CDFG, discussed a game warden training session held recently in Chico. Burt Bundy gave a presentation to the group to inform them of activities taking place along the river and to discuss the issue of coordination with law enforcement. Paul encouraged the group to follow up on this important issue. Les Heringer, M&T, discussed some of the problems they encounter with trespassing such as having to hire private security to patrol during hunting season. It was noted that the game wardens aren't responsible for trespassing and it is not considered a high priority for local law enforcement. Trying to determine where the property lines are is extremely difficult. Paul also noted there would be a meeting with CALFED to go over the list of experts who will be working on the long-term solution at the M&T/Llano Seco pumping plant.

California Department of Fish & Game Management Plan – Greg Werner, TNC, was introduced to discuss the status of the management plan that is being developed for the Sacramento River Wildlife Area. The project area includes over 3,600 acres and extends along the Sacramento River from RM 145 near Colusa to RM 215 just south of Woodson Bridge. CDFG has entered into a partnership with TNC to help develop the comprehensive plan. CDFG will make all decisions regarding the content of the Plan; TNC will draw from the scientific data it has developed as part of its Sacramento River Project to assist in developing the plan. The project will include public input meetings, April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Chico Family Masonic Center and April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Colusa Industrial Park. It will also include interviews with interest group and property ownership representatives, presentations to local government, and coordination with other public and private entities that manage property along the river. The completion date for the project is scheduled for February, 2004. Activities on CDFG lands will probably not change a great deal as a result but they do hope to more clearly identify lands through signage. This will also assist Department of Water Resources (DWR) GIS that depends on agencies to track their own lands.

Large Woody Debris (LWD) Tracking in the Sacramento River – Adam Henderson, DWR, gave a presentation on a project that tracked large woody debris in the Sacramento River, RM 225 to RM 80. Previous studies had not looked at methods of tracking in a large river system. The project looked at (1) does LWD move? (2) how fast? (3) what types are in the river, where does it come from? (4) when does it move? and (5) once mobilized, where does it deposit? Using existing radio telemetry, 24 units were tagged in December, 2001. Relocation began in March, 2002 and ended in November of 2002. 22 of the 24 units were found, 15 moved significant distances (one had moved 15 miles), 4 had shifted slightly, and 3 did not move at all. Sources of the LWD consisted of riparian and orchard trees. Adam offered to bring additional information to the TAC as it becomes available.

Manager's Report –

Woodson Bridge - Burt reported the Corps of Engineers is developing a Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration Project for the Woodson Bridge/Kopta Slough area. The project team met on March 28<sup>th</sup> to tour the site. The SRCAF will be coordinating a workgroup with stakeholders in the next 2-3 weeks.

Rio Vista Unit - The Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge is working with Tehama County Public Works and TNC to investigate ways to reduce flooding on South Avenue and also enhance ecosystem function.

Project Fact Sheet – The fact sheet has been revised to reflect the latest suggested changes from the Project Review Committee and the TAC. An electronic version is in the process of being developed for use on the new website. Anjanette noted the form needs to be user friendly but also needs to provide as much information as possible. Anjanette also suggested that a possible timeline for proposal consideration by the TAC be instituted to allow for a meaningful discussion. While some felt that would be helpful, there was a concern raised that funding deadlines might impede their efforts to comply with a time requirement.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Willows City Hall.