

Floodplains Reimagined: Advisory Committee Meeting

April 18, 2023 | Floodplains Reimagined: Advisory Committee

Agenda / Presentation Overview

• Project Schedule / Timeline

- Where we are now and where we are going
- Scenario Development Process
- Baseline Model Results
 - Colusa and Butte Basins
- Scenario Development
 - Suite of potential actions
 - Preliminary inundation results
 - Preliminary habitat suitability results





Feasibility: Is there potential for species benefit but more information is needed?

Scenario Development Process

Develop Potential Actions

- Stakeholder/Landowner input (...4th action type added)
- Technical team input

Pre-Screen Potential Actions (we are here)

- Test the hydrologic feasibility of key actions (...where is the water and for how long)
 Develop Potential Grouping of Actions
- Combine actions (...and share out at upcoming AC meetings)
- Test scenarios globally (...and identify hydrologic opportunities and constraints)
- Refine scenarios

Evaluate Scenarios

- Evaluate relative changes (scenario vs baseline)
- Perform multi-benefit analysis
- Assess landowner willingness



Baseline Model Results – Butte Basin 2019









Baseline Model Results – Butte Upper Region







6

0

Inundation Depth (ft)

Baseline Model Results – Butte Middle Region





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Baseline Model Results – Butte Lower Region





Inundation Depth (ft)

6

0



Baseline Model Results – Colusa Basin 2019









Baseline Model Results - Colusa Upper Region





Inundation Depth (ft)

6

0



Baseline Model Results – Colusa Middle Region





Inundation Depth (ft)

6

- 0



Baseline Model Results – Colusa Lower Region





Types

- River Connections
 - Notch overflow and flood weirs
 - Modify outfall gates
 - Modify existing or add new diversions
 - With or without fish screens
- Floodplain Infrastructure
- Land Management
- Habitat Restoration





Types

- River Connections
- Floodplain Infrastructure
 - Modify water management
 - Improve fish passage
- Land Management
- Habitat Restoration





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Types

- River Connections
- Floodplain Infrastructure
- Land Management
 - Manage water on the field unit
 - Juvenile salmon rearing & fish food
 - Bird habitat
 - Groundwater recharge
 - Fish friendly passage
 - Fish screens
- Habitat Restoration





Types

- River Connections
- Floodplain Infrastructure
- Land Management
- Habitat Restoration
 - Juvenile rearing
 - Reduce stranding
 - Riparian restoration





Actions are Preliminary!!!

- Actions require willingness
- Actions require evaluation
 - Are they feasible?
 - Are they beneficial?
 - Do they impact existing uses?
 - Do they impact other projects?

Actions to be Discussed Today

- River Connections
 - Moulton & Colusa Weir Notch
- Floodplain Infrastructure
 - Wallace Weir & KLOG





Butte Basin – Moulton Weir Notch Action

Description

- Existing weir:
 - Overtops at 60,000 cfs and 76 ft
- Operable notch:
 - Operational window: 11/1 to 3/1
 - River stage range: 61 ft to 76 ft
 - River flow range: 18000 cfs to 60000 cfs
 - Notch flows: max rates of 1000, 2000, 3000, and 6000 cfs
- Operable notch features:
 - Inlet: grade 3800 ft channel
 - Outlet: regrade overflow channels

Question/Discussion

• Have we demonstrated feasibility of the notch action?





Butte Basin – Moulton Weir Notch Action









Butte Basin – Moulton Weir Notch 1000 cfs Action





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Butte Basin – Moulton Weir Notch 3000 cfs Action





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Butte Basin – Moulton Weir Notch Action





Butte Basin – Colusa Weir Notch Action

Description

- Existing weir:
 - Overtops at 30,000 cfs and 61 ft
- Operable notch:
 - Operational window: 11/1 to 3/1
 - River stage range: 50 ft to 61 ft
 - River flow range: 16000 cfs to 30000 cfs
 - Notch flows: max rates of 1000, 2000, 3000, and 6000 cfs
- Operable notch features:
 - Inlet: regrade 1300 ft oxbows
 - Outlet: grade 15000 ft channel

Question/Discussion

• Have we demonstrated feasibility of the notch action?





Butte Basin – Colusa Weir Notch Action









Butte Basin – Colusa Weir Notch 1000 cfs Action





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Butte Basin – Colusa Weir Notch 3000 cfs Action





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Butte Basin – Colusa Weir Notch Action





Juvenile Salmon Criteria

Timing November 1 – June 30 (1) Duration ≥14 days (1) <14 days (0.66)

•Depth

•> 0.9 ft (1) •0.6 - 0.9 ft (0.66)

•Velocity

•≤1.5 ft/s (1)

Connectivity

- •Natural areas hydraulically connected (1)
- •Managed fields connected through berm overtopping (1)
- •Managed fields connected through outlet structure (0.66)

•Landcover

Riparian/wetland/open water (1)Rice/ Agriculture (0.66)



Bird Habitat Suitability Criteria

Waterfowl Criteria

Timing

August 15 – March 31

Depth

< 12 in

Landcover

Managed Wetlands and Rice

Shorebird Criteria

Timing

July 1 – May 15

Depth

< 4 in

Landcover

Managed Wetlands, Rice, Field and Row Crops

Sandhill Crane Roosting Timing October 1 – March 15 Depth < 8 in Landcover Managed Wetlands, Rice, and Corn

Sandhill Crane Foraging

Timing

October 1 – March 15

Depth

< 2 in

Landcover

Wetlands or annual crops within 5km of known roost



Salmon Habitat Suitability – Baseline



Final Salmon HSI: 2018-11-01



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Waterfowl Habitat Suitability – Baseline

Weighted Usable Area 2018-11-01



Final Salmon HSI: 2018-11-01





Salmon Habitat Suitability – Difference in Total WUA

2019





Salmon Habitat Suitability – Difference in Total WUA

2019





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Waterfowl Habitat Suitability – Difference in Total WUA

2019





Waterfowl Habitat Suitability – Difference in Total WUA

2019





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WUA Summary – 2019

Feb 1 – Mar 31	Baseline WUA (acres)	Moulton 1k cfs Notch	Moulton 2k cfs Notch	Moulton 3k cfs Notch	Moulton 6k cfs Notch
Salmon Floodplain	873,808	0.2%	1.0%	1.6%	2.5%
Waterfowl	759,848	1.4%	0.9%	0.7%	-0.4%

Nov 1 – Mar 31	Baseline WUA (acres)	Colusa 1k cfs Notch	Colusa 2k cfs Notch	Colusa 3k cfs Notch	Colusa 6k cfs Notch
Salmon Floodplain	1,416,327	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	1.6%
Waterfowl	2,977,001	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.3%	-0.3%



Colusa Basin – Wallace Weir Water Level Management Action



Description

- Reoperate Wallace Weir and KLOG to maintain a higher management level in the Colusa Drain
- Potential to increase in flow in Colusa Drain through multiple potential locations for water additions or Sacramento River connections

Questions

- Is it physically possible to accommodate volitional ingress/egress on the adjoining floodplain if juvenile salmon were introduced to the basin?
- Should juvenile salmon access into Colusa Basin be considered?



Colusa Basin – Wallace Weir Water Level Management Action



Description

- Wallace Weir Baseline:
 - Operate Wallace Weir to maintain a current management level of 22.4 ft at KLOG
- Wallace Weir Action:
 - Operate Wallace Weir to maintain a higher management level of 27.75 ft upstream of Wallace Weir

• Analysis:

- Compare the depths in the inundation area along the drain between the two management levels
 - Four constant flows: 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 cfs
- Identify when managed wetlands would experience berm overtopping events to allow for juvenile salmon access
- Note: there is subsidence in the lower half of the basin with subsidence of 1-1.5 ft in the last 15 years

Colusa Basin Action Evaluation – 1000 cfs



Managed Wetland Berm Overtopping





Colusa Basin Action Evaluation – 2000 cfs



Managed Wetland Berm Overtopping





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Colusa Basin Action Evaluation – 3000 cfs

Action – Baseline



Managed Wetland Berm Overtopping



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Colusa Basin Action Evaluation – 4000 cfs

Action – Baseline



Managed Wetland Berm Overtopping



Questions?



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