




Lewis Bair, General Manager, RD 108

# FLOODPLAINS REIMAGINED

Advisory Committee Meeting | June 23, 2023  
**Modified with additions from AC participants**



# Meeting Objectives

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1. Shared understanding of Floodplains Reimagined Program status, Floodplains Forward, and Technical Assistance
2. Recommendations on evaluation criteria



# Timeline & Status Update

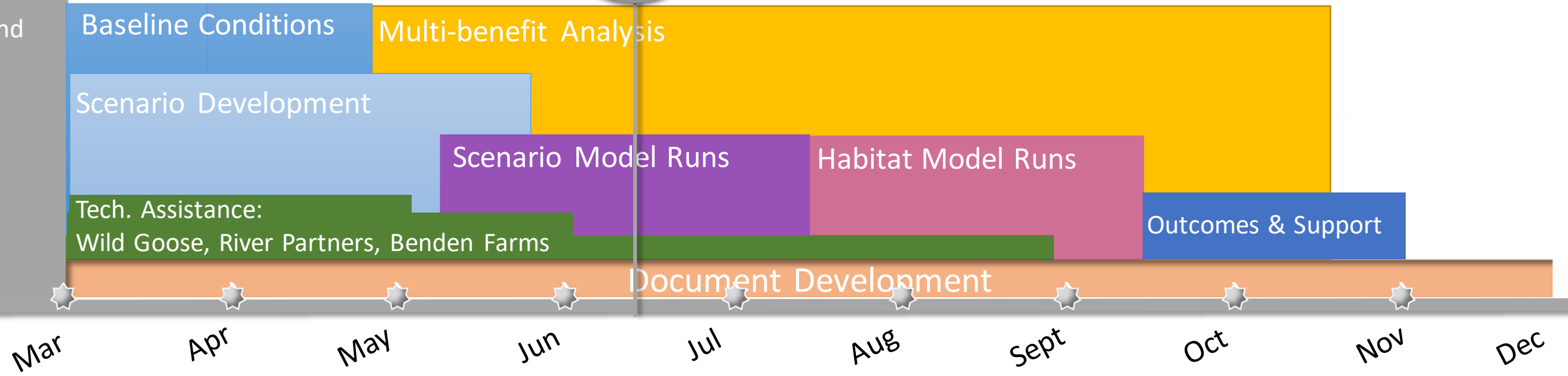
Holly Dawley, KSN

Steering Committee								
3/22	4/26	5/24	6/28	7/26	8/23	9/27	10/25	11/22
• Opp & Constraints Break Out Groups	• Scenario Dev Update	• Scenario Dev Update	• Evaluation Criteria					
• Salmon Suitability	• Habitat Suitability Outcomes	• Hunting & Managed Lands Metrics						
• DU Scope of Work	• DU Scope of Work							

Advisory Committee					
3/22	4/18	5/12	6/23	8/11	10/13
	• Scenario Dev Update	• Scenario Dev Update	• Evaluation Criteria		
	• Habitat Suitability Outcomes	• Hunting & Managed Lands Metrics			

**Discussed To-Date**

- Priorities & Objectives
- Preliminary Scenario Development (4 types of actions)
- Implementation Strategies: Risks and Solutions
- Habitat Suitability Criteria Development (Birds/Salmon)
- Baseline Conditions
- Opportunities & Constraints / Considerations



Next Phase of Development



# Key Questions for the Advisory Committee

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Recommendations to the Steering Committee on:

- Updated objectives and evaluation criteria

Related to the following Floodplains Reimagined priorities:

- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Floodplain Wildlife – Salmon

Key Question:

- Solicit input on updated objectives and evaluation criteria
- Recommend for incorporation into Floodplains Reimagined?



# Objectives & Evaluation Criteria

Kearns & West



# Priorities

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- Floodplain Connectivity
- Ecosystem Health
- Floodplain Wildlife
- Water Supply
- Flood Control
- Indigenous Cultural Values
- Agriculture
- Recreation
- Economic Prosperity



# Priorities

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- Priorities
- **Objectives** – new and updated
- **Evaluation Criteria** - To be added to Priorities & Objectives Matrix
- Metrics

**Bold writing is new and updated including presented bullets and input from the AC meeting.**

Floodplains Reimagined.org/ Reports & Data

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LawcMUCTpbhnkYuHpVHM9Div75f7yJMI/edit#gid=415699530>





# Floodplain Wildlife - Birds

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- Objectives
  - **Improve habitat conditions for waterbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl using the floodplain**
- Evaluation Criteria
  - Birds
    - Habitat suitability criteria for waterfowl, shorebird, sandhill crane

# Recreation

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- Objective:
  - Maintain or improve recreational hunting opportunities and conditions
- Evaluation Criteria
  - **Maintain # hunting opportunity days and timing**
    - **Maintain shoot level depths**
    - **Maintain access**
  - **Maintain or improve waterfowl density and species type diversity by managing habitat conditions**
  - **Minimize need for maintenance on infrastructure and field management**
    - **Managed Wetlands – levees and water control**
    - **Irrigation – water delivery systems**
    - **Recreational Hunting – docks, cabins on stilts, duck blinds, safety**
  - **Maintain or improve predictability of hunting opportunities**
  - **Maintain or improve ability to conduct off-season and on-season vegetation management**
  - **Maintain or improve safety related to depth, velocity, timing, predictability**

Do these objectives  
and criteria define  
success for  
recreation?

# Agriculture

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- Objectives
  - Do no harm to existing property and water rights
  - Limit actions to voluntary measures
  - **Maintain planting, growing and harvest seasons**
  - **Maintain or improve agricultural water supply**
- Evaluation Criteria
  - **Maintain seasonal start and end points**
  - **Maintain cropping flexibility**
  - **Maintain or improve access**
  - **Minimize needs for maintenance on infrastructure and field management**
    - **Managed Wetlands – levees and water control**
    - **Irrigation – water delivery systems**
  - **Maintain crop insurance coverage eligibility**
  - **Improve financial incentive programs**
  - **Maintain or improve water quality for crops**
  - **Maintain or improve water supply for agriculture**

Do these objectives  
and criteria define  
success for  
agriculture?

Input on  
these considerations  
and their application  
to other subregions?

# Considerations & Options – Butte

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## Agriculture

- **Maintain existing depth, magnitude, and frequency of inundation on agricultural fields**
  - *[Stakeholders refer to this concept as "maintaining baseline" as a shorthand. Clarify and define.]*
- **Maintain or improve water systems so that in AN and Wet conditions, inflow = outflow over the season of precipitation.**
  - *[Context: Butte Creek flows can be relatively high and still allow functional benefits to Butte Sink managed wetlands.]*

## Recreation and Floodplain Wildlife and Floodplain Connectivity

- **Maintain existing depth, magnitude, and frequency of inundation on hunting clubs and managed wetlands during hunting season and explore changes to inundation on the shoulder season of the hunting season.**

## All Priorities

- **Consider need for options that enjoy support from all hydrologically connected Butte landowners.**
  - *[Consider hydrologic connectivity of flow across lands, collection of water in Lower Butte Sink, and drainage into Butte Creek.]*

Do these objectives and criteria define success for salmon floodplain wildlife?

# Floodplain Wildlife - Salmon

## Objectives

- Increase the frequency, duration and spatial extent of the inundation within the FR geographic areas to stimulate production of invertebrates to provide high quality habitats for rearing when juvenile salmon are migrating through the area.
- Improve juvenile access to functional habitat, survival and growth outcomes for juvenile Chinook salmon
- Reduce fish passage impediments to adult fish passage

## Evaluation Criteria

- **Food web and export criteria**

Includes food availability and distribution but not juvenile access to food. [Note scientific uncertainty: juvenile access to food.]

- Habitat suitability criteria for juvenile salmonid on floodplain.

Including depth, velocity, presence. [*Note current scientific uncertainty around juvenile access. Current proxy measurement: water flow and fish density = estimate of # juvenile access.*]

- **Decrease passage impediments**



# Requirements for All Projects to Address

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All regulatory requirements will be listed and will include:

- ADA compliance for wheelchair access to trails and boat docks; distinguish between public and private properties and requirements for different types of projects
- Irrigated lands requirements



# Opportunities

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- Improve drainage on Sac Outing and El Anzar and generally southern Butte Sink/Lwr. Butte Creek
- Deliver salmon in some other way than through the Moulton or Colusa Weir or new operable gates



# Update on Technical Assistance

Holly Dawley, KSN





**FLOODPLAINS  
REIMAGINED**

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