



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update #4, December 2003

Celebrating a Century of Conservation

March 14, 2003 marked a milestone in the history of wildlife conservation in America – the Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Refuge System is the only network of federal lands dedicated specifically to wildlife conservation, representing our steadfast commitment to protecting our wild heritage.

Refuge Planner Hired

Jackie Ferrier was hired in August 2003 as the refuge planner and will be working on the Refuge's Comprehensive Conservation Planning (CCP). Jackie received her bachelor and master's degrees at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University in New York. She has worked on National Wildlife Refuges for ten years, most recently in Arizona. Jackie can be contacted at 530-934-2801.

Progress on the CCP

This is the fourth planning update since Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge began its CCP process in June 2001.

An administrative Draft CCP and Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed by the Refuge staff and planning team. This administrative draft is currently under internal review and we expect that the

Draft CCP and EA will be released for public review and comment early in 2004.

The table on page 2 was developed to address the major issues identified during the public comment period. This table shows how each of the planning alternatives addresses these major issues. Comments about these alternatives will be accepted during the official comment period when the Draft CCP is released within the next few months.

Need More Information?

We are available to provide additional information regarding the refuge and this planning process. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us:

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Please visit the following sites on the Web for more Refuge information and other planning documents:
<http://sacramentovalleyrefuges.fws.gov> and
<http://pacific.fws.gov/planning/>

Key Elements of Alternatives Considered:

Issues Raised During Public Scoping	How Issues Were Addressed		
	Alt A No Action (Continue Current Management)	Alt B Optimize Habitat Restoration and Public Use (preferred alt)	Alt C Accelerate Habitat Restoration and Maximize Public Use
Public Use 1. Hunting 2. Fishing 3. Recreation, Wildlife Viewing and Photography 4. Access and trails 5. Camping	1. No hunting on the refuge 2. Boat and bank fishing at Packer Lake only 3. No recreation, wildlife viewing and photography on the refuge 4. Limited access and no trails 5. No camping allowed	1. Open hunting on 54% of the refuge 2. Open 23 river miles and seasonally submerged areas to fishing 3. 86% of refuge opened for these activities 4. Improved access and trails 5. Allow camping below the ordinary high water mark on gravel bars	1. Open hunting on 70% of the refuge 2. Same as Alt B 3. 87% of refuge open for these activities 4. Same as Alt B 5. Same as Alt B
Habitat Management 1. Riparian restoration 2. Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species habitat restoration 3. Restore Anadromous Fish and Native Fish habitat	1. Restore 4,636 acres by 2014 2. 2,036 additional acres restored for T&E species 3. Restore and enhance 2,017 acres of floodplain connectivity	1. Restore 5,855 acres by 2014 2. 3,255 additional acres restored for T&E species 3. Restore and enhance 3,084 acres of floodplain connectivity	1. Farming ceases immediately, restore 5,855 acres by 2014 2. Same as Alt B 3. Same as Alt B
Other 1. Law enforcement 2. Flood control/erosion 3. Farming	1. One law enforcement officer on staff 2. Restoration sites have been analyzed for hydrologic impacts 3. Farming on 9 refuge units ¹ is phased out over time as restoration funding becomes available	1. Two law enforcement officers on staff 2. Same as Alt A, with additional sites considered 3. Same as Alt A on all Refuge units	1. Three law enforcement officers on staff 2. Same as Alt B 3. All farming is ceased immediately

¹These 9 units are covered under the 2001 Restoration EA.