

Delta Coyote-Thistle: Recommended Prescription and Conservation Measure Changes

1. Proposed changes in prescription and conservation measures sent to Diana Hickson and Laurie Archambault for review.

Conservation Measures that Add Detail to CALFED Program Actions	Conservation Measures to Avoid, Minimize, or Compensate for Potential Adverse Affects
<p>Delta coyote-thistle (<i>Eryngium racemosum</i>): Protect and maintain the 2 known existing populations and establish 2 additional self-sustaining occurrences. <u>Protect and maintain at least self-sustaining populations.</u></p>	
<p>1. Restore and protect suitable open floodplain habitat along the San Joaquin River.</p> <p>2. Monitor the status and distribution of populations at two-year intervals <u>for the life of the Program</u> and evaluate the need for active reintroduction, and reintroduce the species to restored protected habitat when no natural colonization occurs.</p> <p>3. Protect and manage essential populations of Delta coyote thistle within restored stream meander corridors and riparian habitats.</p>	<p>1. Prior to implementation of CALFED floodplain actions, suitable habitat within the historic range of the species should be surveyed for unknown populations.</p> <p>2. To the extent practicable, avoid implementing Program actions that could result in <u>Avoid mortality or the loss or degradation of habitat occupied by the species until at least self-sustaining populations are established.</u></p>

2. Diana's and Laurie's comments to Item 1.

We recommend changing the wording of item #2 in the right hand column. It would allow loss of the existing populations as soon as x pop's are established, but who knows how long the created habitat will persist? In fact, because it does not require protection of any of the populations, it might result in the loss of all natural and created populations.

We prefer: "Actions causing take, loss of habitat, or degradation of habitat are prohibited until a) at least two natural populations are protected AND b) at least two additional populations that are at least the same size and spatial extent as the currently known populations are discovered and protected or created, protected, and are self-sustaining as demonstrated through monitoring over at least a seven year period."

Also, the goal (the statement above the two columns) should read: "Protect and maintain at least 4 self-sustaining populations, at least two of which must be naturally occurring populations."

Of course, this assumes that at least one additional natural population must be discovered (if they will be impacting either of the two existing natural pop's). I don't think this is unlikely, given our discussion.

3. Paul Cylinder's suggestion.

Recommended prescription:

"Protect and maintain at least 8 self-sustaining populations."

Recommended conservation measure:

"Actions resulting in direct mortality or loss or degradation of habitat within the two known existing populations will not be authorized until at least 4 additional self-sustaining populations (averaging more individuals per year and with an equal or greater geographic extent than the original two known populations) are in protected properties and have persisted for at least 7 years. These 4 populations may be the result of restoration activities or be previously unknown occurrences."