

**Excerpted from the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Strategic Plan for the Ecosystem Restoration Program, dated September 30, 1998**

Adaptive management begins with a careful definition of the program to be addressed and clear, measurable goals and objectives. Six goals were identified for ecosystem restoration that address the entire spectrum of problems:

1. Achieve recovery of at-risk native species dependent on the Delta and Suisun Bay as the first step toward establishing large, self-sustaining populations of these species; support similar recovery of at-risk native species in San Francisco Bay and the watershed above the estuary; and minimize the need for future endangered species listings by reversing downward population trends of native species that are not listed.

The strategic plan emphasizes native species in preference to non-native or introduced species and places greatest emphasis on species most heavily dependent on the Bay-Delta system.

2. Rehabilitate the capacity of the Bay-Delta system to support, with minimal ongoing human intervention, natural aquatic and associated terrestrial biotic communities, in ways that favor native members of those communities.

The strategic plan favors the use of natural processes over continuing intervention to maintain ecological processes and species.

3. Maintain and enhance populations of selected species for sustainable commercial and recreational harvest, consistent with goals 1 and 2.

The strategic plan recognizes that harvest is a desirable ecosystem service that should be supported provided it does not result in elevated risk or extinction of native species.

4. Protect or restore functional habitat types throughout the watershed for public values, such as recreation, scientific research, and aesthetics.

The strategic plan recognizes that habitat restoration serves many functions in addition to species recovery.

5. Prevent establishment of additional non-native species and reduce the negative biological and economic impacts of established non-native species.

The strategic plan identifies non-native species introductions as one of the greatest impediments to ecological restoration and one of the greatest threats to the success of the ERP; further introductions must be stopped.

6. Improve and maintain water and sediment quality to eliminate, to the extent possible, toxic impacts on organisms in the system, including humans.

The strategic plan highlights the poorly understood effects of toxic contaminants introduced from both point and non-point sources throughout the Bay-Delta system, and their potential to jeopardize ecological recovery.