

Individual Proposal Report

Title: Cosumnes River Floodplain Acquisition and Restoration (H307)

Geographic Area: East Side Tributaries/Cosumnes River

Primary Stressor Addressed: Floodplain/Marshplain Changes

Project Type: Implementation

Applicant Type and Name: Public/Non-profit Joint Venture. Mike Eaton, The Nature Conservancy (415-777-0487) and John Schmidt, California Wildlife Conservation Board (916-445-8448).

Funding: The applicant has requested a block grant of \$20.6 million. CALFED approved funding of \$5,374,000 in 1997 for Phase I acquisitions. It is recommended that the applicant receive an additional \$5,000,000 from the 1998 funds for additional land acquisition in the lower reaches of the river and at the confluence with the Delta.

Cost Share: It is anticipated that the applicant will receive substantial funding from other sources.

Project Description: The applicants will work with willing sellers in the lower Cosumnes floodplain and delta region to expand the Preserve and restore tidal wetland habitat which will benefit delta native fish species and other fish and wildlife. Conservation action on the Preserve has provided significant benefits for fish, wildlife, flood control, groundwater recharge, scientific research, and public education.

ERPP Linkage: The proposal meets the goals of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (CALFED, Volume II, 28 July 1997) as it should help (1) restore a minimum of 1,240 acres of self-sustaining or managed diverse, natural riparian habitat along the Cosumnes River, and protect existing riparian habitat (page 333), (2) restore and improve opportunities for rivers to seasonally inundate their floodplain (pg 330), and (3) restore 1,000 acres of shallow water habitat in the East Delta Ecological Unit (pg 43).

AFRP Linkage: This proposal contributes toward making all reasonable efforts to at least double natural production of anadromous fish as it supports the following actions listed in the Revised Draft Restoration Plan for the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program (USFWS, 30 May 1997): (1) Establish a riparian corridor protection zone. (Cosumnes River Action 5, page 105); and (2) Rehabilitate damaged areas and remedy incompatible land practices to reduce sedimentation and instream water temperatures (Cosumnes River Action 6, page 83).

Applicant's Proposed Monitoring: The Cosumnes River Preserve has extensive, well-established programs for monitoring species population trends, vegetation changes, and indices of ecosystem health. Many of the programs will be immediately extended to the newly acquired lands. CALFED staff will review the proposed monitoring plan and revise as necessary.