

Designated Action

Title: Water Acquisition

Geographic Area: Landscape

Primary Stressor Addressed: Hydrograph alterations

Project Type: Implementation

Applicant Type and Name: Unknown at this time

Funding: The Integration Panel recommends that \$20 million be allocated to this project.

Cost Share: None discussed.

Project Description: Alterations of the hydrograph can have wide ranging effects on biological resources. Flows may affect aquatic habitat through changes in water depth and velocity, water quality, sediment transport, and other factors. Flow related stressors on fish, wildlife, and riparian resources include inadequate flow, flow variability, seasonal flow changes, stranding due to flow fluctuations, lack of flushing flows, lack of attraction flows, lack of channel forming flows, saltwater intrusion, and other factors. Alteration of flows ranked high by the Integration Panel as a stressor on all primary and secondary species listed in the 1997 RFP. No restoration actions targeted at alterations of the hydrograph were approved in the 1997 round of funding because these types of actions were not consistent with the intent of Category III funding.

The Integration Panel recommends that \$20 million be targeted towards water acquisition with 1998 funding. Additional staff work is needed to turn this potential action into a fundable program. The Integration Panel agreed that acquisitions should be long term in nature, should be made in support of the AFRP, and should be coordinated with the CVPIA water acquisition program. They recognized that a technical process needs to be developed to evaluate potential acquisitions, but did not reach consensus on what that process should look like. Several integration panel members are working on this issue and it will be discussed at the next Integration Panel meeting. Based on input from the Ecosystem Roundtable, the Integration Panel will further refine the scope of work for this designated action and resubmit to the Roundtable for comments before presenting the proposal to CALFED for final approval.

ERPP Linkage: The proposal meets the implementation objectives of the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (CALFED, Volume II, 28 July 1997) as it should help to restore basic hydraulic conditions to reactivate and maintain ecological processes that create and sustain habitat required for health fish, wildlife, and plant populations (page 37).