



**CALFED  
BAY-DELTA  
PROGRAM**

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February 10, 1999

Mr. Charles P. Bucaria, Sr.  
Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers  
7441 Center Parkway,  
Sacramento, CA 95823

Dear Mr. Bucaria:

Thank you for your comment letter of January 9, 1999, regarding Central Valley steelhead. We have revised our presentation of steelhead in the Ecosystem Restoration Program based on your earlier comments and numerous other comments received during the last public comment period for the CALFED Program documents, March through June 30, 1998.

You and the organizations you represent will have the opportunity to review the revised information regarding steelhead in the next release of our CALFED Program documents, scheduled for February 1999. We have put your name on our mailing list for these documents. The steelhead species account is presented in the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, Volume I: Ecological Attributes of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed, and programmatic actions are presented in Volume II: Visions for Ecological Management Zones. In the revised version, we have corrected and expanded our discussion of steelhead and inserted additional information. We have also included our Strategic Objective, long-term objective, and short-term objective for Central Valley steelhead populations. The Strategic Objective is to restore self-sustaining Central Valley steelhead to Central Valley streams and the Bay-Delta estuary. The long-term objective is to restore self-sustaining populations of steelhead to all streams that historically supported steelhead naturally spawning populations and contain suitable habitat, or could contain suitable habitat with the implementation of reasonable restoration and protection measures. Numbers of fish of natural origin should equal or exceed the average number of fish of both hatchery and natural origin from 1980-1998, which we believe will result in resilient populations. The short-term objective is to determine the abundance, distribution, and structure of existing steelhead populations, and develop and implement restoration measures and protections that have a relatively high degree of certainty of increasing number and size of naturally spawning populations.

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**CALFED Agencies**

<p><b>California</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Resources Agency</li> <li>Department of Fish and Game</li> <li>Department of Water Resources</li> <li>California Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>State Water Resources Control Board</li> </ul>	<p><b>Federal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>Department of the Interior</li> <li>Fish and Wildlife Service</li> <li>Bureau of Reclamation</li> <li>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Agriculture</li> <li>Natural Resources Conservation Service</li> <li>Department of Commerce</li> <li>National Marine Fisheries Service</li> </ul>
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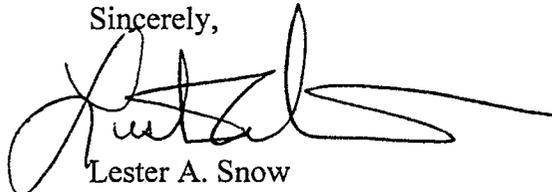
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In addition to information provided in the two-volume Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, we discuss steelhead and the overall approach to implementing a science-based restoration program in the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration. We are also developing a CALFED Conservation Strategy which is a comprehensive species and habitats conservation program that addresses the multiple species and habitat needs, including steelhead, and the maintenance of ecological functions in the CALFED Program area. The Conservation Strategy addresses species and habitats at the ecosystem level and provides for the integration of species specific conservation strategies at both the site-specific and landscape level.

Finally, as an example of a regional effort, we have begun discussion with stakeholders in the Yuba River watershed to scope issues related to the potential of reintroducing steelhead and spring-run chinook salmon above Englebright Dam. We have conducted two public meetings thus far and have identified a series of critical issues for further technical analysis. The technical analyses needs to be conducted in an impartial manner to provide the necessary information regarding potential ecological benefits to steelhead and spring-run chinook salmon and potential adverse economic, flood control, water supply, and recreational impacts. We cannot predict the outcome of this process, but the results will provide an important step in shaping future actions to protect and restore Central Valley steelhead and other anadromous fish which depend on headwater stream habitats for spawning, egg incubation, rearing and migration.

Again, thank you for your comment letters and I look forward to your assistance in refining the next version of our vision for Central Valley steelhead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lester A. Snow", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director