



Project Summary

Date May 1, 2006

Project **Riparian Restoration and Enhancement at the Wilson Landing Unit.**

Proponents River Partners and the California Department of Fish and Game

Project Overview

River Partners is seeking funding to restore and enhance 338 acres on the Wilson Landing Unit to high quality riparian wildlife habitat over a three-year period. The Unit is located in Glenn County, within the Sacramento River floodplain, between river miles 203 and 205 L (Figures 1 and 2). The Unit is part of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) managed Sacramento River Wildlife Area. River Partners will work closely with DFG staff during the implementation of the project. Currently, the yellow star-thistle dominated, abandoned fallow field that occupies the middle of the site provides limited wildlife habitat. Despite the available native seed sources, frequent flooding, and good growing conditions, widespread native plant recruitment has not occurred. Since agricultural operations ceased over 25 years ago, native plant recruitment is limited to a few scattered clumps of elderberry or creeping wild rye. Restored, this unit has the potential to provide vital habitat for high priority, riparian dependent wildlife species. Approximately 195 acres of the site will be restored using state-of-the-art techniques. The remaining 143 acres of existing riparian habitat will be enhanced through weed control. Our approach enables us to rapidly and efficiently develop productive wildlife habitat, engage local farmers and businesses in ecological restoration, and incorporate design features to specifically benefit targeted wildlife species.

Project Description

Start date: Fall 2006

Completion date: Fall 2009

- Key Milestones**
- Project coordination with neighbors and SRCAF Technical Advisory Committee.
 - Develop a design that does not impact flood management goals, and secure a Reclamation Board Encroachment Permit
 - Complete Restoration Plan (2007)
 - Initiate planting and maintenance (2007)
 - Evaluate wildlife response to design and final report (2009).

Type of Activity Restoration

Primary goal Restore and enhance riparian habitat on 338 acres for riparian dependent wildlife species.

- Additional goals**
- Implement project using an adaptive management approach.
 - Provide specific habitat features for targeted wildlife species.
 - Establish self-sustaining native plant communities within a three-year period.
 - Use hydraulic and river meander analyses to develop a restoration design consistent with floodway management goals.
 - Collaborate with DFG to develop a restoration design to meet management objectives
 - Develop a demonstration plot of "riparian meadow" plants.
 - Monitor project performance.
 - Maintain good relationships with adjacent landowner.
 - Design project to help discourage illegal access.
 - Consider corridors from the river to allow legal access from the river to the Unit interior.
 - Consider frequent flooding and herbivore browsing.

CALFED n/a

category

Funding

Source(s) Potentially Wildlife Conservation Board and other sources
Amount Approximately \$1,350,000

Location

Map Figures 1 and 2.
County Glenn County
River Mile Between 203 and 205, on the east bank of the Sacramento River
Size 338 acres

Contacts

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Technical Information

- Biological** We anticipate that the restoration will aid a number of wildlife species including: Bald Eagle, Chinook Salmon, Least Bell's Vireo, Steelhead, Swainson's Hawk, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Willow Flycatcher. We have been encouraged by recent developments in agreements regarding the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) and intend to pursue planting elderberry on this site. This would be the first planting of elderberry on DFG land on the Sacramento River.
- Flood analysis** An analysis of the project's restoration design will be completed. The goal is to have a planting that does not impact the flood management system. A geomorphologic analysis will also be completed.
- Economic** This project does not result in the alteration of ownership or land-use. The restoration will provide some temporary economic opportunities and long term habitat and recreational improvements.
- Public Use** Public uses are available from river based users. Trespass has been an issue at the end of the county maintained road. We will work with the adjacent landowner to look at measures (i.e. abandon the access road) to reduce these impacts.

Related Efforts

Many organizations (DFG, DPR, DWR, WCB, USACE, the USFWS, TNC, and River Partners) are involved with riparian restoration and conservation efforts in the area.

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