

Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2002

Updated: 4/26/2002

1. Program Title.

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program - CVPIA § 3406(b)(1) “other”

2. Responsible Entities.

Agency	Staff Name	Role
USBR	Chuck Solomon	
USBR	Valerie Curley	Interim Program Manager
USFWS	John Thomson	

3. Program Objectives for FY 2002.

- a. **Program Management and Technical Support:** Increase the availability of data, reports, maps, etc. developed under this program by facilitating the update of the program’s website; continue to provide technical review, guidance, support and contractual administration as appropriate for the settlement discussions in *NRDC v. Rodgers*; and provide technical support, funding, and/or liaison coordination for other San Joaquin River related activities and programs that support restoration,
- b. **Environmental Compliance:** Facilitate all Federal environmental compliance actions required for Interior’s commitments to support the restoration plan development process for the *NRDC v. Rodgers* settlement discussions, and
- c. **Resource Management:** Participate with other river management entities to establish a coordinated invasive plant removal and native plant planting strategy along the San Joaquin River.

4. Status of the Program.

The San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program (SJRRHRP) is a consensus-based group of federal, local, and non-governmental organizations that have an interest in restoring riparian habitat on the San Joaquin River. It is funded as a Central Valley Project Improvement Act Section 3406 (b)(1) “other” program. The SJRRHRP was formed in 1997 at the request of the non-federal litigants engaged in consensus-driven discussions about mutually acceptable restoration activities on the San Joaquin River in conjunction with *NRDC v. Rodgers*. Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) coalition, and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations (PCFFA) were the original parties.

Currently, representatives from the NRDC, PCFFA, FWUA, the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (SJRECWA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), and Reclamation work collaboratively together on a SJRRHRP Management Team (Team) to provide technical review, guidance, and/or funding for proposed or on-going efforts in support of San Joaquin River restoration and the Team facilitates the implementation of experimental programs and activities that support the data gathering necessary for the *NRDC v. Rodgers* settlement discussions.

5. FY 2001 Accomplishments.

The San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program (SJRRHRP) was in a state of transition this year because of a number of changes in program management personnel. However, several major contracted projects were completed. These include:

- (1) New vegetation was planted and education signs placed in the Firebaugh Riverside Park.
- (2) The Department of Water Resources studied and mapped the riparian corridor vegetation of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, almost 150-river miles. A report will be released in Spring 2002.
- (3) Water diversions and other key features of the river were geo-referenced for GIS mapping.
- (4) A hydrologic and hydraulic model was developed and extensive surveying of cross-sections and stations to make adjustments for subsidence were completed. A public workshop was conducted in Sacramento that explained the model.

Continuing Efforts:

The SJRRHRP provided additional equipment for real time hydrologic data monitoring on the San Joaquin River.

Some initial contacts were made regarding SJRRHRP participation in a pest invasive weed control partnership program.

New efforts during FY 2001 included:

- (1) National Environmental Policy Act procedures were begun for studies, pilot projects, demonstration projects, and other efforts leading to the establishment of a healthy riparian corridor on the San Joaquin River.
- (2) Interagency coordination per the Cooperative Agreement related to *NRDC v. Rodgers*, was begun with a meeting of natural resource management agencies.
- (3) Development of a sensitivity analysis was contracted to reflect the correlation between vegetation

growth and channel roughness over time. This analysis was used in the model, under various scenarios, to assess the impact of vegetation in Reach 2 and on the river channel capacity.

(4) Reclamations Regional Surveyor tied in experimental transects and other reference points (e.g., pilot project measurement points, restoration projects) to permanently record the data and make it compatible with other systems (e.g., Corps of Engineers datum, State Plane coordinate system).

(5) Specialized technical assistance was provided to the Lower San Joaquin River Levee District to facilitate discussions about flood hazard modeling and reduction through a variety of methods.

(6.) In partnership with National Park Service (NPS), funding was provided to filmmakers for an oral history film about the City of Firebaugh and the San Joaquin River. The film will compliment a CALFED film series about the basin.

(7) Financial support was provided for professional staff to start a public stakeholder group, the San Joaquin River Resource Management Coalition.

(8) A consultant was hired to work with local stakeholders and prepare a feasibility document for the AGravelly Ford to the Chowchilla Bypass Bifurcation Structure Levee Modification Initial Project@ for the Corps of Engineers= Comprehensive Study.

A 2001 pilot project was conducted between June and September. This study provided important information about groundwater and vegetation response to various surface flows. Quantifying the different responses of groundwater and vegetation to various surface flow regimes provided information regarding water levels necessary to Agrow@riparian vegetation at a third of the volume of water predicted by early models.

Quarterly terrestrial species surveys were initiated by the Endangered Species Recovery Program in Reach 2 of the San Joaquin River to supplement the pilot study baseline information. These surveys included searches for the riparian brush rabbit and valley elderberry beetle.

6. Tasks, Costs, Schedules and Deliverables.

Narrative Explanation of Tasks.

1. **Program Management and Technical Support - \$540,000**

1.1 Continue development of, or review and comment on, technical information developed in support of the *NRDC v Rodgers* settlement discussions

1.2 Fund and/or provide technical support and guidance on San Joaquin River restoration-related programs and activities (e.g. Vegetation mapping project, GIS database development, Jensen River Ranch Project, Milburn-Hansen Farm Unit of the San Joaquin River Ecological Preserve, “Working at the Watershed Level”

conference, etc.)

2. Environmental Compliance - \$900,000

2.1 Initiate the preparation of a programmatic environmental analysis to evaluate the anticipated experimental projects to occur in future years in support of a long-term integrated restoration plan.

2.2 Develop and begin implementation of the Federal environmental compliance actions required in support of the *NRDC v Rodgers* restoration plan development process

2.3 Initiate the development of a long term monitoring program for migratory birds and pollinators

3. Resource Management - \$60,000

3.1 Contract for the development of an invasive plant control and revegetation prioritization plan

3.2 Contract for the development of a coordination plan, incorporating recommendations from other interested parties for the placement (and identification of possible funding sources) of an Invasive Plant Control Coordinator

Schedule and Deliverables.

#	Task	Dates		Deliverable
		Start	Complete	
1	Program Management and Technical Support	10/01/01	09/30/02	Settlement discussion data gathering support and contract administration; implementation of San Joaquin River related restoration projects and programs
2	Environmental Compliance	10/01/01	09/30/02	Contract award of programmatic environmental analysis for future experimental projects; mobilization of environmental compliance actions (e.g. data gathering, surveys, participating agency coordination, etc.)
3	Resource Management	10/01/01	12/31/02	An initial plan to identify and manage invasive plant species and revegetation efforts, and recommendations for a mutually acceptable permanent coordination program for a multi-agency to support.

Explanatory Notes:

Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources.

Funding Sources								
#	Task	Total Cost	RF	W&RR	Prop 204			
1	Program Management and Technical Support	\$540,000	\$540,000	\$	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
2	Environmental Compliance	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
3	Resource Management	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
		\$ 0	\$	\$	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Program Budget		\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0

Explanatory Notes:

CVPI A Program Budget.

#	Task	FTE	Direct Salary and Benefits Costs	Contracts Costs	Miscellaneous Costs	Administrative Costs	Total Costs
1	Program Management and Technical Support	1.6	\$202,234	\$155,756	\$0	\$182,010	\$540,000
2	Environmental Compliance	0.0	\$0	\$900,000	\$0	\$0	\$900,000
3	Resource Management	0.0	\$0	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$60,000
	Total by Category	0.0	\$202,234	\$1,100,756	\$15,000	\$182,010	\$1,500,000

Explanatory Notes:

Estimated Quarterly Obligation/Expenditures.

#	Task	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
1	Program Management and Technical Support	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$40,000
2	Environmental Compliance	\$160,000	\$440,000	\$300,000	\$0
3	Resource Management	\$0	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$0
Total CVPIA Budget by Quarter		\$260,000.00	\$685,000.00	\$515,000.00	\$40,000.00

Future Years Commitments/Actions.

Future year commitments and actions under this program will be based upon the resulting integrated restoration plan needs and the environmental compliance actions required of Interior in meeting all applicable Federal laws, statues, Executive Orders, and policies in support of the settlement discussions of *NRDC v Rodgers*.