

## Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2003

I. Program Title. Habitat Restoration Program CVPIA Section 3406(b)(1) other

II. Responsible Entities

	Agency	Staff Name	Role
Co-Lead	USFWS	John Thomson	Program Manager
Co-Lead	USBR	Chuck Solomon	Program Manager

III. Program Objectives for FY 2003

The objectives for the Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) were originally listed in the CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program Draft Project Plan (September 2000, revised in August 2002). These objectives are listed below.

A. Protect and restore native habitats impacted by Central Valley Project (CVP) that are not specifically addressed in the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Activities section of the CVPIA. Initial focus will be on habitats known to have experienced the greatest percentage decline in habitat quantity and quality since construction of the CVP, where such decline could be attributed to the CVP (based on direct and indirect loss of habitat from CVP facilities and use of CVP water). These habitats include riparian, aquatic (riverine, estuarine, and lacustrine), alkali desert scrub, wetlands (including vernal pools), foothill chaparral, valley-foothill hardwood, and grassland.

B. Stabilize and improve populations of native species impacted by CVP that are not specifically addressed in the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Activities section of the CVPIA. Focus will be given to federally listed, proposed, or candidate species, other non-listed State and Federal species of special concern including resident fish and migratory birds, and other native wildlife species associated with the habitat types listed in A. Examples of the latter include native herptofauna associated with riparian and/or valley-foothill hardwood habitat throughout the Central Valley, native raptor species dependent upon valley-foothill hardwood and grassland for nesting and foraging, and neotropical species that use riparian corridors for migration, nesting, and foraging.

The HRP is one of five CVPIA programs integrated with the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's (ERP) proposal solicitation and review process. To facilitate this integration, the above objectives have been included in the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan. These objectives are also complementary to other goals and objectives listed in the Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan and would help address the objectives of the CALFED Multi-Species Conservation Strategy and the CVPIA Biological Opinion.

Because the HRP is integrated with the ERP's 2003 proposal solicitation and review process, the HRP can not identify all of the projects that the program will support in the coming year. The HRP expects to identify projects through the proposal solicitation and review process. Once the projects have been identified, the HRP objectives that each of the projects address will be identified in Section VI below.

#### IV. Status of the Program.

The HRP is a continuing program which commenced in FY1996. As stated in the Final CVPIA Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, the estimated annual costs of the program are \$1.5 million. As of August 2002, the Program has funded 53 projects located throughout the Central Valley with a total budget of approximately \$16,500,000. In accordance with the CVPIA Biological Opinion, the USFWS and USBR have committed to requesting that adequate funding be allocated to the HRP to protect and enhance ecosystems of listed species and support recovery of listed species. Projects funded through the HRP have contributed to implementing actions recommended in the California Red-legged Frog, Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, Valley Elderberry Beetle and Riparian Brush Rabbit recovery plans, as well the Draft Vernal Pool and Gabbro Soil Plants Recovery plans.

Approximately 89,000 acres of habitat for listed, proposed, and candidate species, and species of special concern have been protected through acquisition of fee title or conservation easement. Habitats protected include vernal pool, aquatic, alkali scrub, foothill chaparral, valley-foothill hardwood, and grassland. In addition to acquisitions, the HRP has funded surveys for listed species, genetic research, and construction of a captive reproduction facility for the listed riparian brush rabbit. Other projects include funding habitat restoration at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Sacramento River NWR. Although these projects are only a few years old, the habitat has responded favorably to restoration efforts. Preliminary monitoring results have indicated additional permanent wetland habitat restored at Colusa NWR has been actively used by giant garter snakes since spring 2000. Riparian species planted on 200 acres at Sacramento River NWR have had a good survival rate over the first year with a target of 80 percent survival for the first three years.

Surveys for giant garter snakes, California red-legged frog, yellow-billed cuckoo, riparian brush rabbit, Buena Vista lake shrew, and riparian woodrat, have provided valuable data on the distribution of these species and their habitat requirements. This information will be used to contribute towards the recovery of these species. A comprehensive GIS historic trend analysis is providing valuable information in developing annual priorities and in establishing long-term qualitative goals for the program.

Because the Central Valley Project affected upland, riparian, and aquatic habitats throughout the Valley, it is appropriate for the HRP to focus on these habitats. Although riparian and aquatic habitats and the species that depend on these habitats also benefit from

projects implemented through other CVPIA programs (including the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program, San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program, and Gravel Replenishment and Riparian Habitat Restoration Program), the HRP and Land Retirement Programs are the only CVPIA programs that address upland terrestrial habitats and associated listed species.

#### V. FY 2002 Accomplishments

Eight conservation actions were funded in FY02 at a cost of \$1,283,815. Four of these actions provided additional funding to continue projects that were initiated in previous years. These included continuing the comprehensive GIS historical habitat trend analysis by adding error and content rankings and hydrological data, continued monitoring of giant garter snakes at Colusa NWR, continuation of riparian brush rabbit captive propagation and recovery program activities, including trapping, monitoring and genetic and physical assessments, and providing funds for the third and final year for the Llano Seco riparian restoration project.

The four actions that were new to the HRP in Fiscal Year 2002 are as follows:

- (1) Funds (\$400,000) were provided to The American River Conservancy (ARC) to contribute toward the fee title acquisition of the Salmon Falls Holdings, LTD property located in the Kanaka Valley area in El Dorado County. This property consists of 157 acres of gabbroic northern mixed chaparral, an extremely rare plant community. The purchase would protect habitat for five Federally listed plants (Stebbins' morning glory, Pine Hill ceanothus, El Dorado bedstraw, Layne's butterweed, and Pine Hill flannelbush). This will contribute to the establishment of the Salmon Falls Unit of the Pine Hill Ecological Reserve. The total cost of the property is \$1,044,000. The California Wildlife Conservation Board will provide the balance of the funds required to complete the acquisition. ARC will transfer title to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), who will manage the land in perpetuity. The property will be protected from residential development, and will be managed to benefit the five federally-listed plant species associated with the property.
- (2) Funds (\$200,000) were provided to the Sacramento Valley Open Space Conservancy (SVOSC) to contribute to acquiring 2,054 acres of blue oak woodland and savannah, grasslands, vernal pools, and riparian habitats in Sacramento County. The acreage is part of the Cosumnes River/Deer Creek Watershed, between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River. Without this fee-title acquisition and associated conservation easements on adjacent lands, the area would be targeted for commercial and/or residential development. The acquisition will help contribute to the protection of listed species associated with woodlands, vernal pools and riparian habitat in Sacramento County. Cost share partners for the acquisition include the Soderquist Fund of the Sacramento Regional Foundation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Trust for Public Land. Future potential partners to an expanded acquisition/easement program include Sacramento County, an adjacent private landowner, Forest Legacy Program, Department of Fish and Game, and the David & Lucile Packard Foundation. Currently it is anticipated that, following management plan

preparation and approval, either SVOSC or Sacramento County will be responsible for land management.

- (3) Funds (\$161,000) were provided to the Northern California Regional Land Trust (NCRLT) to contribute partial funding toward fee title and conservation easement acquisition by the Butte College Foundation (BCF) through the NCRLT, of the George Schmidbauer property in Butte County. The NCRLT will hold a conservation easement on the property once acquired by the BCF. The long term goal of this acquisition is to protect sensitive vernal pool habitats in Butte County and to use the acquired parcel for outdoor education, specifically related to vernal pool species and ecosystems. The Schmidbauer property, located in the southeast portion of the City of Chico in Butte County, California, contains volcanic mudflow vernal pools, one of the rarer types of vernal pools in the Central Valley. The conservation of northern volcanic mudflow vernal pool habitat is essential in the recovery of species impacted by the CVP. The Schmidbauer property contains special status vernal pool species, including the endangered vernal pool tadpole shrimp, the threatened vernal pool fairy shrimp, and the Butte County meadowfoam (BCM), one of the most critically endangered plant species in the Central Valley of California. An existing 15-acre preserve owned by the City of Chico was created to protect the BCM and is contiguous with the Schmidbauer site.
- (4) Funds (\$171,760) were provided to both the Grassland Water District (\$157,760) and San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (\$14,000) to conduct first year surveys of giant garter snake (GGS) populations in the Grassland Ecological Area (GEA), primarily focused on two sites: Volta Wildlife Area and the China Island Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Area. This first year of survey work is part of a three-year survey/study strategy for obtaining needed information relevant to the status of GGS in the Grassland Area. Trapping of snakes would concentrate on areas that hold permanent water, such as Volta Wasteway and the Tri-Valley Drain. Survey data will incorporate and correlate water quality and biological toxicology data into GGS trapping results. Water quality and toxicology data has been collected for at least ten years in the Grassland Area by Grassland Water District, in addition to more recent monitoring work being done by Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories. This GGS survey will be coordinated and done in cooperation with trapping/survey efforts being carried out by Service biologists from the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Efforts of Service biologists will focus on the Kesterson Unit of the San Luis NWR Complex.

## VI. Tasks, Costs, Schedules and Deliverables.

### A. Narrative Explanation of Tasks.

1. Program Management. The USFWS and USBR Program Managers are responsible for co-managing this program. The tasks and sub-tasks associated with managing the program are divided among the agencies based on efficiencies as shown below.
  - 1.1 Program Management (USFWS) - The USFWS Program Manager is responsible for developing all grants and cooperative agreements for those projects the USFWS is lead on. The Program Manager, in coordination with the USBR, will be responsible for developing and implementing the overall program including

outreach, coordinating with stakeholders, and identifying partnering funds. Project development and prioritization will be closely coordinated with the USFWS's Endangered Species Program and the USBR's Central Valley Project Conservation Program.

- 1.1.1 GGS monitoring, Colusa NWR - Staff at Colusa NWR will coordinate on a daily basis with USGS BRD biologist during field surveys.
- 1.1.2 GGS surveys, San Luis NWR - San Luis NWR biologists and technicians will survey for ggs on refuge lands.
- 1.2 Program Management (USBR) - The USBR Program Manager has similar responsibilities to the USFWS Program Manager. The Program Manager is also responsible for the full development and implementation of the USBR's Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP), which is complementary to but independent of the HRP and CVPIA. A significant portion of the USBR's Program Manager salary is paid through CVPCP funding.
- 1.3 Technical Support (USBR) - The USBR's Area Office staff will provide technical support in the development of individual projects the USBR is lead.
- 1.4 Contracting Support (USBR) - USBR contracting staff will process all contracts for projects the USBR is lead.
2. Environmental Documentation and Appraisal Review. Program Managers will coordinate with appropriate offices and divisions within their respective agencies to ensure that all necessary environmental documentation and appraisal reviews are completed for the projects they manage as described below.
  - 2.1 Environmental Documentation (USFWS) - USFWS Program Manager will coordinate with Habitat Conservation Division and Endangered Species Program staffs to complete all required NEPA, ESA, and cultural resource environmental documentation for the projects they are lead.
  - 2.2 Environmental Documentation (USBR) - USBR staff will complete all necessary NEPA and ESA environmental documentation for the projects the USBR is lead on.
  - 2.3 Appraisal Review (USFWS) - For projects the USFWS is lead on, appraisal reviews for any proposed fee title or conservation easement acquisitions will be completed in coordination with the USFWS's Realty Office.
  - 2.4 Appraisal Review (USBR) - Appraisal review and archaeological review to be completed by the USBR on all projects the USBR is lead.
3. Continue recovery actions for the Riparian Brush Rabbit in accordance with the Recovery Plan of Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, the Draft Controlled Propagation and Reintroduction Plan, the CVPIA and CALFED Biological Opinions, and the USFWS Policy Regarding Controlled Propagation of Species Listed Under the Endangered Species Act. The tasks below are proposed to be implemented through the Habitat Restoration Program as they are a continuation of priority activities previously funded by USBR and the USFWS. Integration of these activities through the CALFED (PSP) 2003 process may hinder the completion of these activities in a timely manner due to funding delays. As part of the ongoing captive breeding program, individual

rabbits are expected to be translocated to breeding enclosures November 2002. Security funding at the beginning of the fiscal year is a priority to continue these recovery activities. Specific tasks proposed for FY03 include:

#### Controlled Propagation

- (1) trap, evaluate population status and individuals' potential fitness for captive propagation, and move selected brush rabbits from the Paradise Cut population into confinement at the captive propagation site;
- (2) monitor confined and individuals determined not to be suitable for breeding purposes through radio-telemetry and periodic livetrapping; and
- (3) physically and genetically assess progeny in confined populations for translocation;

#### 3.2 Recovery

- (1) locate, design, oversee, and participate in construction of pens for temporary confinement of rabbits at the Christman Island release site;
- (2) translocate and release rabbits to the Christman Island release site; and
- (3) monitor translocated rabbits and evaluate success of releases

#### 4. Giant Garter Snake Monitoring/ Colusa NWR. Initiate the fourth year of monitoring giant garter snake use of restored habitat on the Zumwalt Tract, Colusa National Wildlife Refuge and describe habitat use of this area restored in 1999. This project has been funded since 1997 through this program.

#### 5. Project Funding and Implementation. As part of efforts to better integrate implementation of CVPIA and CALFED programs consistent with the CALFED Implementation Memorandum of Understanding, the HRP expects to identify projects through the CALFED ERP's proposal solicitation and review process. Therefore, the HRP can not identify all of the projects that the program will support in 2003 until the ERP's process is complete. Projects will be identified for funding based on their contribution to the program objectives, and consistency with the priorities listed below, and in consideration of the review comments and recommendations resulting from the CALFED ERP proposal review process. Some of the specific projects may be a continuation of previously funded projects, others will be new to the program. Project prioritization will also be closely coordinated with the USBR's Central Valley Project Conservation Program. To facilitate integration with the ERP's 2003 proposal solicitation and review process, the priorities listed below were included in the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft Stage 1 Implementation Plan and will be included in any upcoming ERP Proposal Solicitation Package.

The HRP's priorities for 2003 follow:

- a) Grassland, alkali sink, and alkali scrub habitat located in the Central Valley, with emphasis on the Tulare Basin, to protect and restore habitat and habitat linkages for San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, Buena Vista lake shrew and others dependent upon this habitat complex.

b) Habitat protection and management of gabbro soils chaparral habitat in El Dorado County to benefit federally-listed plant species and other plant species of concern.

c) Riparian upland habitat mosaic throughout the Central Valley. Targeted species to benefit from these activities include, but are not limited to, giant garter snake, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, riparian brush rabbit, riparian woodrat, California red-legged frog, and neotropical migratory birds.

d) Vernal pool habitat throughout the Central Valley to protect and contribute towards the recovery of federal and state listed vernal pool invertebrates and plants and other species of concern.

e) Serpentine and other unique topo-edaphic habitats supporting endemic species and ecosystems, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly.

f) Oak woodland habitat throughout the Central Valley found in association with other habitat types listed above.

#### Additional Funding Needs.

Implementation of additional projects which meet the above priorities will be initiated as funding allows. Priority will be given to activities to protect and restore existing habitat which will benefit priority habitat types and federally listed species. Property that is under high threat of conversion and need for protection will receive the highest priority.

The proposal for controlled propagation of the riparian brush rabbit is currently ongoing peer review and actual estimated expenses may be modified for the Habitat Restoration Program or be covered under other non-CVPIA programs.

B. Schedule and Deliverables

#	Task	Dates		Deliverable
		Start	Complete	
1	Program Management	10/01/02	09/30/03	A revised FY2003 Annual Work Plan, a draft FY2004 AWP; and final grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for projects supported by the HRP.
1.1	Program Management (USFWS)	10/01/02	09/30/03	Final grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for USFWS-led projects (see 1 above).
1.1.1	GGs Monitoring/CNWR	02/02	09/03	CNWR staff support of GGS monitoring
1.1.2	GGs Summary/SLNWR	02/02	09/03	Field surveys by FWS biologists and technicians
1.2	Program Management (USBR)	10/01/02	09/30/03	Final grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for USBR-led projects (see 1 above).
1.3	Technical Support (USBR)	10/01/02	09/30/03	Technical comments on proposals and ongoing projects for USBR-led projects (see 1.2 above).
1.4	Contracting Support (USBR)	10/01/02	09/30/03	Final grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts for USBR-led projects (see 1 and 1.2 above).
2	Environmental Documentation and Appraisal Review	10/01/02	06/01/03	Final NEPA and ESA documents required for obligation of program funds and appraisal reviews as required for each of the projects supported by the program.
2.1	Environmental Documentation (USFWS)	10/01/02	06/01/03	Final NEPA and ESA documents for USFWS-led projects (see 2 above).
2.2	Environmental Documentation (USBR)	10/01/02	07/01/03	Final NEPA and ESA documents for USBR-led projects (see 2 above).
2.3	Appraisal Review (USFWS)	11/01/02	06/01/03	Completed reviews for all appraisals to ensure they meet Federal guidelines for USFWS-led projects (see 2 above).
2.4	Appraisal Review (USBR)	11/01/02	08/01/03	Completed reviews for all appraisals to ensure they meet Federal guidelines for USBR-led projects (see 2 above).
3	Riparian Brush Rabbit Recovery Actions			



#	Task	Dates		Deliverable
		Start	Complete	
3.1	Controlled Propagation	1/03	9/03	Bimonthly progress reports on the controlled propagation efforts starting January 2003 through September 2003. Draft annual report on controlled propagation will be delivered by November 30, 2003. Final report by January 15, 2004.
3.2	Recovery Actions	5/03	9/03	Constructed pens for temporary confinement of rabbits at the Christman Island release site. Monitoring report on released rabbits.
4	Monitoring Giant Garter Snakes at Colusa NWR	2/03	9/03	Draft and final reports on results of monitoring by December 2003 and January 2004, respectively
5	Project Funding and Implementation	01/15/03	09/30/03	Deliverables will be listed in the scopes of work for each of the projects supported by the HRP, including quarterly reports, draft and final planning documents, monitoring reports, and any environmental documents and appraisals necessary for project implementation.

#### Schedule and Deliverables - Additional Funding Needs.

To be determined based upon the number of high priority projects which are recommended for implementation through the CALFED proposal solicitation and review process and any directed actions proposed after the completion of the CALFED process.

C. Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources.

#	Task	Total Cost	Funding Sources
			RF
<b>1</b>	<b>Program Management (Total)</b>	\$ 247,660	\$ 247,660
1.1	Program Management (USFWS)	\$ 141,960	\$141,960
1.1.1	GGs Monitoring/CNWR	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500
1.1.2	GGs Survey/SLNW	\$ 39,200	\$ 39,200
1.2	Program Management (USBR)	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000
1.3	Technical Support (USBR)	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
1.4	Contracting Support (USBR)	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
<b>2</b>	<b>Environmental Documentation and Appraisal Review (Total)</b>	\$ 70,088	\$ 70,088
2.1	Environmental Documentation (USFWS)	\$ 28,392	\$ 28,392
2.2	Environmental Documentation (USBR)	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500
2.3	Appraisal Review (USFWS)	\$ 14,196	\$ 14,196
2.4	Appraisal Review (USBR)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
<b>3</b>	<b>Riparian Brush Rabbit</b>	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000
3.1	Controlled Propagation	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
3.2	Recovery	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
<b>4</b>	<b>Giant Garter Snake Monitoring</b>	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
<b>5</b>	<b>Project Funding and Implementation</b>	\$ 827,252	\$ 827,252
<b>Total Program Budget</b>		\$ 1,500,000	\$1,500,000

Explanatory Notes: Total costs for each of the primary tasks shown in bold (for example, Task 1, Program Management) show the total for each of the sub-tasks shown in normal type directly below the primary task (for Task 1, Sub-tasks are 1.1 through 1.4).

D. CVPI A Program Budget

#	Task	FTE	Direct Salary and Benefits Costs	Contract Costs	Misc. Costs	Admin Costs	Total Costs
1	Program Management (Total)	1.8	\$214,860	\$0	\$0	\$32,800	\$247,660
1.1	Program Management (USFWS)	1.0	\$118,300	\$0	\$0	\$23,660	\$141,960
1.1.1	GGs Monitoring/CNWR	.04	\$5,200	\$0	\$0	\$1,300	\$6,500
1.1.2	GGs Summary/SLNWR	.265	\$31,360	\$0	\$0	\$7,840	\$39,200
1.2	Program Management (USBR)	0.3	\$46,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$46,000
1.3	Technical Support (USBR)	0.1	\$7,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,500
1.4	Contracting Support (USBR)	0.1	\$6,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,500
2	Environmental Documentation and Appraisal Review (Total)	0.6	\$62,990	\$0	\$0	\$7,098	\$70,088
2.1	Environmental Documentation (USFWS)	0.2	\$23,660	\$0	\$0	\$4,732	\$28,392
2.2	Environmental Documentation (USBR)	0.2	\$17,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$17,500
2.3	Appraisal Review (USFWS)	0.1	\$11,830	\$0	\$0	\$2,366	\$14,196
2.4	Appraisal Review (USBR)	0.1	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
3.0	Riparian Brush Rabbit		\$0	\$300,000	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
3.1	Controlled Propagation		\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
3.2	Recovery		\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000
4	Giant Garter Snake Monitoring/CNWR		\$0	\$52,200	\$0	\$2,800	\$55,000
5	Project Funding and Implementation	0.0	\$0	\$790,026	\$0	\$37,226	\$827,252
Total by Category		2.4	\$277,850	\$1,142,226		\$79,924	\$1,500,000

Explanatory Notes: Costs for each of the primary tasks shown in bold show the total for each of the sub-tasks shown in normal type directly below the primary task. Contracts and Administrative costs are estimates, actual costs to be based on projects identified in coordination with the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program proposal solicitation and review process and on the entity managing those projects needs are dependent upon the number, value and urgency of project proposals submitted after October 1, 2001, which exceed the current budget.

#### VII. Future Years Commitments/Actions.

Some actions planned for FY03 may require maintenance and/or monitoring activities in future years. This is particularly relevant for any proposed restoration projects or any multi-year survey requests. Property acquisitions (fee title or conservation easements) may require future funding for the development and/or implementation of management activities. Continuing activities should contribute towards the recovery of federal and state listed species and their habitat.