

Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2005

I. **Program Title** .San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program (SJRRHRP) –
CVPIA § 3406(b)(1) “Other”

II Responsible Entities.

| | Agency | Staff Name | Role |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Lead | USBR | Valerie Curley | Project Manager |
| Co-Lead | USFWS | Caroline Prose | Project Manager |

III. Program Objectives for FY 2005.

Program Management and Technical Support: Continue program administration and efforts to centralize and provide availability of studies, data, reports, maps, etc. developed under this program. Provide technical support, funding, and/or liaison coordination for any applicable Reclamation and State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR) San Joaquin River restoration planning activities.

Resource Management: Plan and implement activities, studies, programs, and all associated environmental compliance activities that will be beneficial to long-term San Joaquin River restoration.

IV. 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. The SJRRHRP was formed in 1997 at the request of the non-Federal litigants engaged in discussions about mutually acceptable restoration activities on the San Joaquin River in conjunction with *Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) v. Rodgers* lawsuit. Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA), NRDC, and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Association were the original parties. In subsequent years, the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority also became involved. The SJRRHRP provides funding for proposed or on-going efforts to gather data and/or disseminate information that will support the restoration of riparian habitat and functions along the San Joaquin River.

When the FWUA and NRDC were actively conducting their San Joaquin River restoration and water supply investigations, the SJRRHRP provided assistance on the experimental programs and activities that supported the data gathering necessary for their *NRDC v. Rodgers* settlement discussions. Although the SJRRHRP was authorized under 3406(b)(1) other, the work products funded were pertinent to the development of the San

Joaquin River Comprehensive Plan authorized under Section 3406(c)(1). With the FWUA and NRDC settlement discussions now terminated, the FY05 activities Interior decides to fund under the SJRRHRP will be in support of the Reclamation and DWR San Joaquin River related planning activities that will continue to meet the requirements of Section 3406(c)(1).

V. FY 2004 Accomplishments.

The information developed from the following FY04 accomplishments will be used, along with prior year work products, to benefit the proposed FY05 activities: California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) initiated a 4-year Milburn-Hansen Restoration Planning Project. DFG, in coordination with California Department of Water Resources (DWR), will be conducting the planning, pre-design, biological surveys, engineering, re-vegetation planning, environmental analysis, and public outreach activities necessary to outline a restoration plan for the abandoned aggregate mining pit areas in the Milburn Unit and the state-owned lands adjacent to Hansen Farm property. The SJRRHRP wanted to support this effort to explore better methods for isolating the identified abandoned gravel pits from the mainstem San Joaquin and creating a habitat for the species in the area. In 1997, floods breached a berm these had isolated the abandoned gravel pits and the involved agencies also wanted to pursue plans to restore the area for habitat and community purposes. This initial phase will serve, on a demonstration level, the potential restoration options available to put the abandoned gravel pit areas to beneficial use and isolate them from the mainstem San Joaquin River so the river hydraulics are not unduly affected.

DFG initiated a 20-month Fishery and Aquatic Resources Inventory. DFG will inventory and document the present-day status, distribution, and condition of aquatic fauna and flora between Friant Dam and the confluence of the Merced River for the defined period of time. The documentation will include water condition information pertinent to interpretation of the inventory results. This effort was initiated to obtain information that currently does not exist in the SJRRHRP study area. This missing information will be used in determining the needs of the identified aquatic species when seeking to define restoration actions.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) continued their 3-year monitoring program that is a collection of baseline data. Annually from 2003 through 2006, PRBO will provide baseline information on riparian bird communities including presence-absence, habitat associations, density (birds per acre), and some demographic indices (fidelity, productivity, and survivorship) to measure population health along the main stem of the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River. This effort builds upon the bird monitoring activities PRBO conducted for the SJRRHRP in 2002.

U.S. Department of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories (LBNL) designed and installed additional water quality monitoring systems at various points along the San

Joaquin River in areas that had never been consistently monitored. LBNL will also make recommendations to Reclamation on a water quality monitoring and decision support system for the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the confluence of the Merced River. Based on recommendations received and the availability of Reclamation funding, a decision support system will be designed and made operational. The water quality monitoring equipment installation is to be completed by December 2004.

California State University B Stanislaus Foundation, Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP) continued gathering the terrestrial biological surveys and related studies that were initiated in 2000. ESRP is conducting surveys for valley elderberry longhorn beetles (and their habitat), small mammals (especially kangaroo rats), canids (especially San Joaquin kit foxes), and other species upon request. The information obtained is baseline data. This data will be used to better understand the habitat in the study area so the identified species' needs can be considered when proposing restoration actions.

Funds were provided to obtain a variety of clean up materials and to cover the trash and tire disposal fees for a San Joaquin River cleanup efforts led by the City of Firebaugh in recognition of the April 2004 "Keep California Beautiful" campaign and a clean up led by RiverTree Volunteers in recognition of the May 2004 "National River Clean Up Week" and the September 2004 "California Coastal Commission's Clean Up Day" and federal "National Public Lands Day".

National Park Service, in cooperation with the National Film Arts Foundation, completed an oral history film documentary "Jewel of the San Joaquin – Andrew Firebaugh Historical Park, Firebaugh, California". It portrays the City of Firebaugh's role and significance to the San Joaquin River.

In FY04, the review and completion of the Biological Assessment and Section 7 consultation of the Endangered Species Act with the Fish and Wildlife Service on the Jensen River Ranch restoration planning effort was completed. The Service concurred that the proposed action (hand removal of abandoned structures and renovation of the area for community and habitat purposes) is not likely to adversely affect the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle and it will not adversely modify or destroy critical habitat.

In FY04, the U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service was asked to provide information that identified what would be required, on a demonstration level, to reduce the amount of aquatic invasive weeds (e.g. Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)) in the San Joaquin River downstream of Friant Dam Parrot's Feather may compete with native aquatic plants, eliminating them or reducing their numbers in infested sites. It forms dense mats that can entirely cover the surface of the water in shallow lakes and other waterways. These mats clog waterways, making them unusable for navigation or recreation and causing flooding out of the channel. It can block irrigation pumps and water intakes, and it provides optimal habitat for mosquitoes (Orr and Resh 1989, Systma and Anderson

1990; Parsons 1992). In California this species is becoming an increasing problem in irrigation and drainage canals. A 1985 survey of irrigation, mosquito abatement, flood control, and reclamation agencies in California indicated that Parrot's Feather infested nearly 600 miles of waterways and over 500 surface acres (Washington Water Quality Program 1998). Due to the nature in which it spreads, the SJRRHRP was interested in using innovative techniques on a demonstration basis to determine which methods could potentially be used on a broader scale.

In FY04, an initial inventory and compilation of all SJRRHRP-funded documents prepared by contractors and Reclamation staff between 1997 and 2004 was completed. This inventory will be used by Reclamation to retrieve information developed more easily upon request. Additional efforts to computerize the inventory will be initiated in FY05.

IV. Tasks, Costs, Schedules and Deliverables.

A. Narrative Explanation of Tasks.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT - \$203,780

Project Management:

Provide technical support and/or project administration for San Joaquin River restoration-related programs and activities conducted by Reclamation and DWR that will meet the requirements of Section 3406(c)(1).

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - \$296,220

San Joaquin River Restoration Planning:

Obtain technical services and expertise needed to provide support to the Reclamation and DWR San Joaquin River planning efforts.

NOTE: Based upon the San Joaquin River Comprehensive Plan study plan Reclamation and DWR develop that will meet the Interior's requirements under Section 3406(c)(1), the projects and activities listed in this Work Plan may change to compliment that study plan's efforts.

B. Schedule and Deliverables.

| # | Task | Dates | | Deliverable |
|---|--|----------|----------|---|
| | | Start | Complete | |
| 1 | Program Management and Technical Support | 10/01/04 | 09/30/05 | Data gathering support, contract administration, and restoration program management |
| 2 | Resource Management | 10/01/04 | 09/30/05 | Studies, programs, and required environmental compliance actions in support of the Reclamation and DWR restoration planning efforts; partnerships with others in the identified San Joaquin River study area to assist in restoration efforts that will assist in meeting Section 3406(c)(1) requirements |

C. Summary of Program Costs and Funding Sources.

| # | Task | Total Cost | RF |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Program Management and Technical Support | \$203,780 | \$203,780 |
| 2 | Resource Management | \$296,220 | \$296,220 |
| Total Program Budget | | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |

D. CVPIA Program Budget.

| # | Task | FTE | Direct Salary and Benefits Costs | ContractsCost | Miscella-neous Costs | Administrative Costs | Total Costs |
|---|--|----------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Program Management and Technical Support | .5 | \$203,780 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$203,780 |
| 2 | Resource Management | .5 | \$0 | \$285,520 | \$0 | \$10,700 | \$296,220 |
| | Total by Category | 1 | \$203,780 | \$285,520 | \$0 | \$10,700 | \$500,000 |

VII. Future Years Commitments/Actions.

Future year commitments and actions under this program will be based upon the restoration planning tools developed, study and scientific investigation efforts identified, and environmental compliance actions required of Interior in meeting all applicable Federal laws, statues, Executive Orders, and policies.