

San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program (SJRRHRP)



San Joaquin River Riparian Habitat Restoration Program Goals

Since 1997, SJRRHRP has focused on:

- bringing together diverse interest groups to promote the development of consensus based riparian restoration and
- obtaining or developing restoration information to fill data gaps and fulfill the goals of the riparian program.

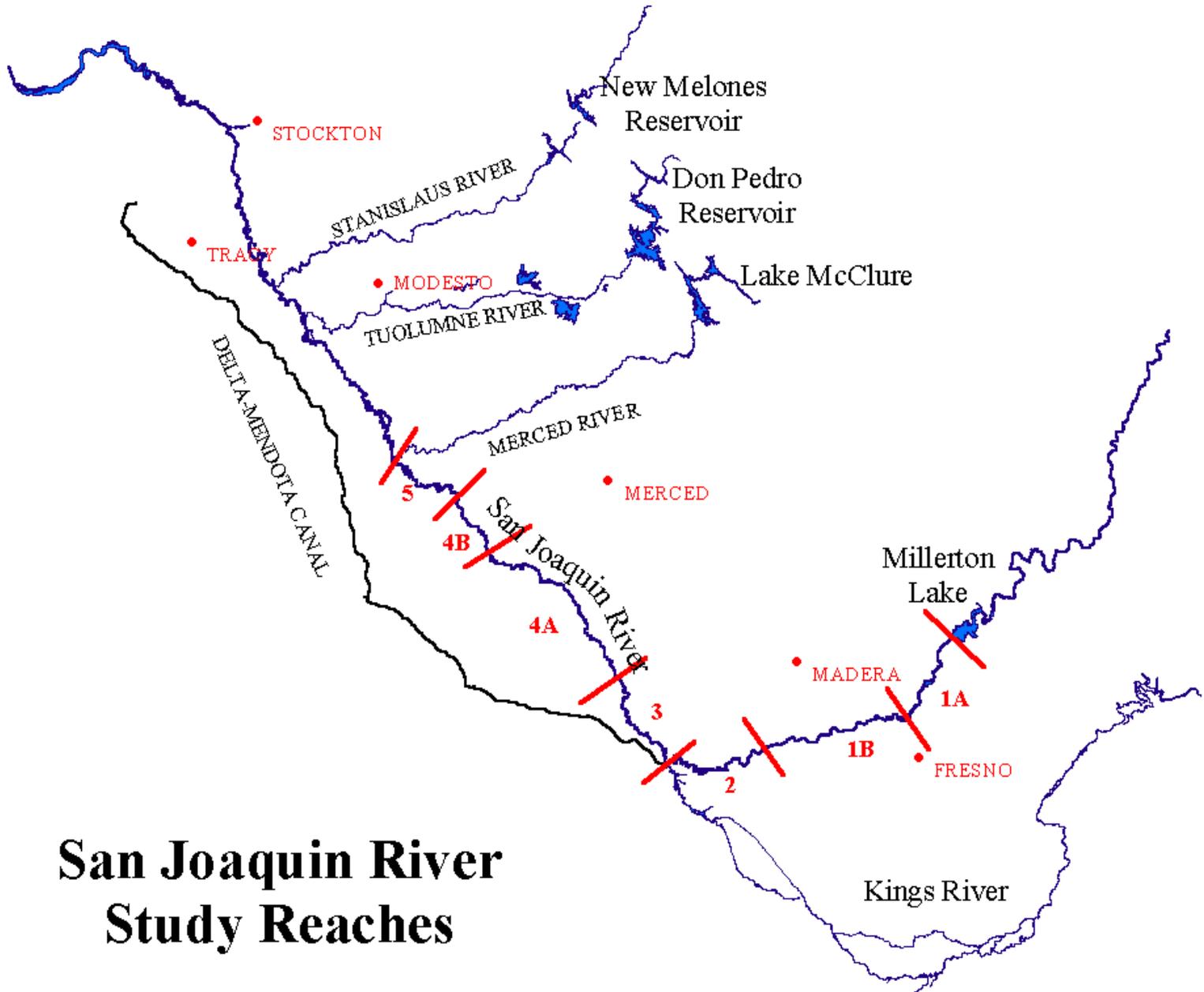


SJRRHRP Management Team

Agencies:

- Friant Water Users Authority
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association
- San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation





San Joaquin River Study Reaches

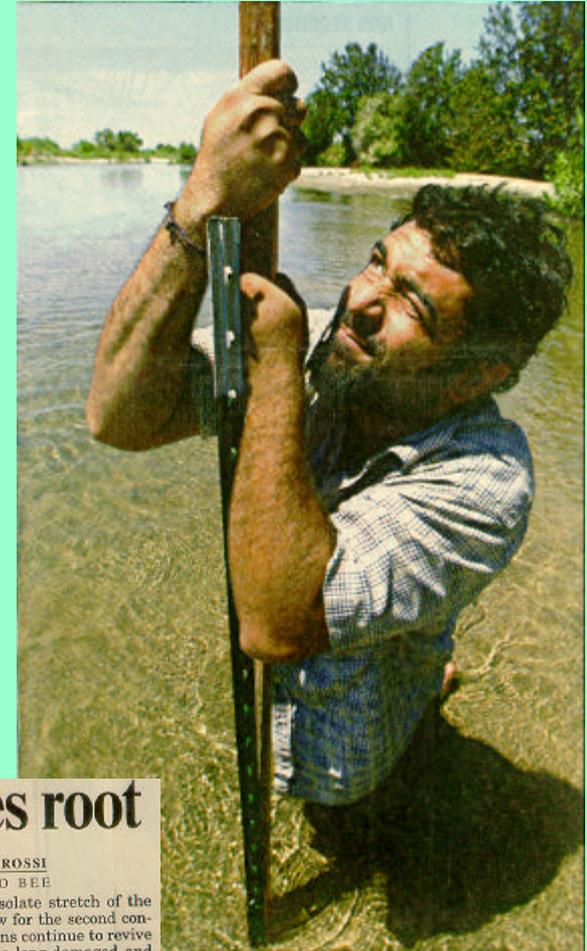
Pilot Projects: 1999-2001

Secured/generated water supply for riparian projects

Restored flows to historically dry reach 2 for experimental purposes

Established and maintained riparian vegetation

Conducted monitoring and data collection



San Joaquin flow project takes root

BY MARK GROSSI
THE FRESNO BEE

5/7/00

Water in the San Joaquin
Farmers and environmentalists want to send water down a dry part of the San Joaquin River between Gravelly Ford and Mendota Pool.

Usually dry in July

Mendota Pool

Gravelly Ford

Madera

Friant Dam

San Joaquin River

Fresno

145

41

99

180

N

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

THE FRESNO BEE

A seasonally dry and desolate stretch of the San Joaquin River may flow for the second consecutive year as historic plans continue to revive more than 200 miles of this long-damaged and fractured stream.

Last year's summer-flow experiment, a rare collaboration between farmers and environmentalists, helped willow-tree seeds lodge in the banks and grow in a barren, 24-mile stretch between Gravelly Ford and Mendota Pool, west of Fresno.

Although the flow is not a part of larger revival plans, it is a symbol of a cease-fire developing between farmers and environmentalists.

Please see RIVER, Page A24

FY02 Accomplishments

- Continued to participate in the restoration planning efforts for the 167-acre Jensen River Ranch
- Continued to participate in the restoration planning efforts for the 286-acre Milburn Unit and the 33.6-acre Hansen Farm, both located in the San Joaquin River Ecological Reserve

**Milburn-Hansen Unit
Gravel Pit Restoration Project**



FY02 Accomplishments

Contractors completed reports on a variety of multi-year studies and analyses:

“Baseline Vegetation and Physical Variable Data Collection Summary – San Joaquin River Pilot Project 2000”

“Riparian Vegetation of the San Joaquin River” – from Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River

Draft of the 2001 SJRRHRP Pilot Project findings



FY02 Accomplishments

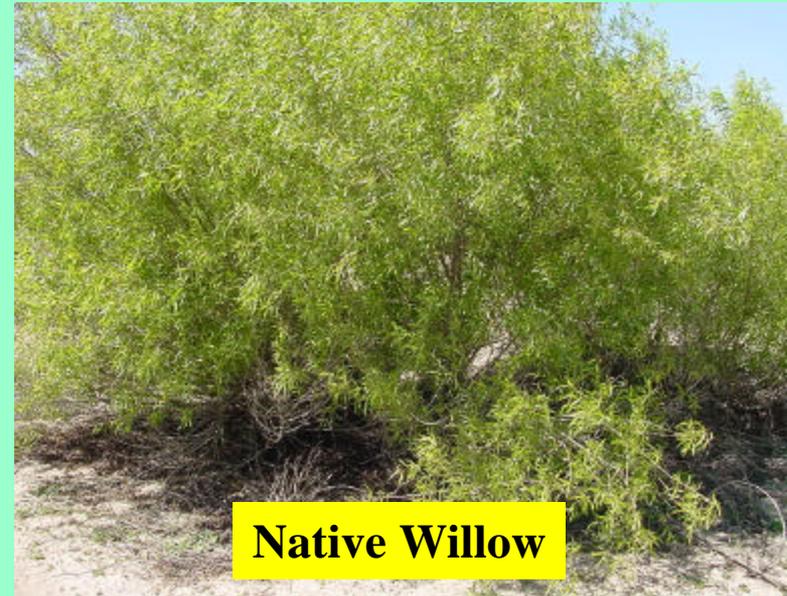
Point Reyes Bird Observatory services obtained to begin baseline data collection for a long-term bird monitoring program



Great Blue Heron Rookery

FY02 Accomplishments

Obtained San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust services to develop an invasive plant removal program and revegetation management strategy



Native Willow



Arundo (Giant Cane)



FY02 Accomplishments

- Supported river education and outreach efforts (i.e. “Working at the Watershed Level” workshop, local partnership to plant oak seedlings and cottonwood cuttings, etc.)
- Identified 9 hypotheses about selected analytical tools and the overall behavior of the river that could be tested in Reach 1 and portions of Reach 2



In FY03, \$1.5 million proposed for:

- Program Management & Technical Support
- Environmental Compliance
- Resource Management



Gravel Pit Operation in Reach 1 below Friant Dam

In FY03 for Program Management and Technical Support:

- Continue to develop data, reports, maps, etc. and update the program's website for accessibility of the information by others
- Continue to support FWUA and NRDC restoration planning activities
- Administer SJRRHRP contracts, programs, budget, environmental, and ESA activities



In FY03 for Environmental Compliance:

- Prepare appropriate environmental analyses to evaluate experimental projects
- Complete environmental compliance actions required for restoration-related projects and programs.



Valley Elderberry Beetle Habitat

In FY03 for Resource Management:

- Implement an invasive plant removal program
- Continue efforts to implement a real-time monitoring program
- Continue the avian monitoring program
- Continue river education and public outreach efforts
- Continue mitigation funding for San Joaquin River levee maintenance



FY03 Resource Management (continued):

- Design a program to evaluate the effects of saline soil on riparian tree and shrub establishment
- Conduct river cleanups in specific areas
- Design and implement restoration or experimental projects along the river



FY03 SJRRHRP
Program and Budget Summary

Program Management and Technical Support **\$245,000**

Environmental Compliance **\$255,000**

Resources Management **\$1,000,000**

Total Request: **\$1,500,000**