

DRAFT
DRERIP Coarse-Level Evaluation Summary:
Tidal marsh on McCormick-Williamson Tract.

Highlighted Text = Evaluator comments

Evaluation Date: July 31, 2008

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Action Description

Restore floodplain and intertidal marsh McCormack-Williamson Tract (MWT)

Approach: The approach includes:

The North Delta Improvements Ecosystem Restoration Alternative 1A includes the following:

1. Breach east and southwest levees to allow flow to enter the island
2. Raise surface elevations of shallow subsided lands to intertidal elevations in the south bypass with soil from higher elevations within the island (and concomitant reduction of high elevation areas), stockpiled and future dredge spoils from the DWSC, or establishment of tules.
3. Under Scenario 2, assume levees along the north side of MWT (adjacent to Lost Slough) are breached to provide connectivity with Stone Lakes bypass

Outcomes: Expected outcomes of this action include:

1. Increased primary and secondary production in the marsh available to larval and juvenile splittail, delta and longfin smelt, green and white sturgeon, steelhead, and all runs of Chinook salmon.

Note: This action is submitted for coarse-level evaluation of its likely biological performance in achieving BDCP conservation objectives. This action has not yet been evaluated for its financial or institutional feasibility. 1

2. Increased export of primary and secondary production to the Delta ecosystem available to all stages of delta and longfin smelt, green and white sturgeon, splittail, and salmonids.
3. Increased frequency and success of spawning by delta smelt and, in drier years, splittail.
4. Improved rearing success of larval and juvenile delta smelt, splittail, green and white sturgeon, and juvenile steelhead and Chinook salmon.
5. Reduced summer/fall water temperature through nocturnal thermal exchange and reintroduction of cooled water to Delta waterways.

Evaluation Team Recommendation: *Team agreed that, based on assessments of this action in the draft North Delta Improvements Project EIR, this would be a viable action that could provide net positive outcomes for covered fishes—however, this action could only go forward if the larger flood control issues associated with changing the Tract's function within the North Delta flood control system are addressed.*

Negatives associated with this action would be similar as identified for other marsh actions (e.g., need to address egeria and other non-natives). Action description not well enough defined to evaluate. Data gaps include insufficient topographic data and an assessment of the actual availability of dredge material for raising island elevations (e.g., DWSC is infrequently dredged, so availability of spoils may be limited).