

**San Joaquin River Restoration Program
Fisheries Management Work Group
Technical Feedback Work Group Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2008
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

**Nargahi Hall Room 124
CSU Stanislaus
Turlock, CA**

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

Chris Acree	Revive the San Joaquin	Carl Mesick	FWS
Dan Castleberry	FWS	Dale Mitchell	DFG
Steve Chedester	SJRECWA	David Mooney	USBR
Jill Chomycia	MWH	Van Nieuwenhuysse	USBR
Matt Cover	UC Berkeley	Meredith Parkin	MWH
Ane Deister	SJRRP-RA	Jeffrey Payne	MWH
Doug Demko	FISHBIO	Jason Phillips	USBR
Margaret Gidding	USBR	Monty Schmitt	NRDC
Jason Guignard	FISHBIO	Bill Swanson	MWH
Gerald Hatler	DFG	Stephanie Theis	MWH
Bruce Herbold	EPA	Dave Vogel	Natural Resource Scientists
Tim Heyne	DFG	Peter Vorster	TBI
Richard Hunn	EDAW	Kim Webb	FWS
Shane Hunt	USBR	Carolyn Yale	EPA
Patrick Kelly	CSU Stanislaus		
Jana Leiran	DFG	Facilitation:	
Mark Littlefield	FWS	Ajay Singh	Kearns & West
Bill Luce	FWUA	(Facilitator)	
Zoltan Matica	DWR	Briana Moseley	Kearns & West
Jeff McLain	FWS	(Recorder)	

Meeting Overview

Part I: Agency Planning Approach

Presented by Jeff McLain U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Jeff encouraged meeting participants to visit the Program's website: www.restoresj.net to review the Program Management Plan and the Settlement Agreement. He explained that the Program Team is made up of multiple agencies, consultants, government and non-governmental organizations.

- It was clarified that the work groups and feedback groups communicate through Ajay Singh, the facilitator.

Part II: Development of Conceptual Model for Fisheries Management Plan

Presented by Kim Webb, Fish and Wildlife Service

- Much effort was put in to reviewing quantitative models. All information presented on environmental requirements is from the available literature. The Fisheries Management Group will be communicating with stakeholders and other interested parties via Technical Memoranda (TM) that are available on the website.
- It was clarified that the development of the conceptual model was a team effort. Informal comments that could be incorporated into the program and Technical Memoranda are desired.

Part III – Approach to Implementation of the Settlement

Presented by Carl Mesick, Fish and Wildlife Service

- Carl described the process that will guide the implementation of the paragraphs 11-14 of the Settlement. He explained that it will be an adaptive management process that will allow for adjustments as needed. Adjustments could possibly be written up as an appendix.

Question & Answer Period

Ajay asked that participants sign-in to be informed of future opportunities for input.

Summary of Discussion Topics:

- All biological and environmental factors are being considered to determine which ones are within the management's control.
- Water quality will be evaluated both qualitatively and quantitatively.
- Further studies may need to be conducted in-situ to determine the impact of water quality on salmon populations. There are no examples of how this type of study could be implemented. Acoustic telemetry could possibly be an option for measuring salmonid survival.
- Salmonid survivorship in the river is unknown, however the technical report online show target and discussion graphics that explain population trends.
- The Fisheries Management Work Group (FMWG) is working within the constraints of the pending legislation. Landowner and technical constriction considerations are outside the scope of the FMWG.
- Interim flow periods allow for experiments to be performed in the San Joaquin watershed.
- Non-salmonid California native fish that can survive in interim streams could possibly be restored in addition to Salmonids.
- There is potential to conduct studies on salmonid survivorship in interim/isolated pools for the fall run. Information and comments are needed to address how this type of research could be approached.

- There is a strong desire to see the quantitative model developed because it is the richest information from the FMWG to facilitate communications within the program. The quantitative model is in the first stages of development.
- Work groups are in communication regarding permits. No decisions have been made. The first permit relates to the Endangered Species Act in new locations. A variety of permits will be needed. The permitting process is as large of an undertaking as the implementation of the restoration.
- Permitting for monitoring stations and NEPA/CEQA documents will be posted on the program website for viewing. **Ajay will notify everyone when these documents are released.** There is also a liaison for the Environmental Compliance and Permitting Work Group that is relied on to ensure communication.
- Concerns were raised about how land-use and community issues will be addressed in the implementation process. Assurance was given that the program will not be implemented without addressing land-use and community issues. The program is currently looking at site specific analysis. Developers, farmers, and other stakeholders should inform agencies on how their practices will impact the implementation of the settlement through the stakeholder communication process.
- Concerns were raised about how spring and fall run populations will be kept separate. This issue has not yet been addressed in detail by the FMWG. There are many artificial barriers and natural segregation options to consider. The Technical Advisory Committee has looked at the issue extensively. The goal is to restore the natural system so that salmon runs will restore and segregate themselves.
- The next meeting for the FMWG will be held when a quantitative model and a draft of the Fisheries Management Plan is ready. The final draft is due September 2008. There will probably be two or three meetings between now and then.
- The regional board is in contact with regulatory agencies.
- The message to the community is that the SJRRP is determined to implement a plan to restore salmon to the San Joaquin watershed.
- Other technical meetings will be held. Groups most interested in providing technical details are targeted to attend. Engineering and design meetings have already been held and there will be future meetings specific to each Reach. There will be other meetings and strategies for stakeholders to get involved.
- The conceptual (qualitative) model is ready for comment. This is the first of several models. These models do not make decisions, but they inform decisions. In the implementation of the Settlement, adjustments will be made as necessary.