



Spring and Early Fall Biological Resources Surveys Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is the Restoration Program conducting this biological resources survey?

A: In compliance with the Settlement (see www.restoresjr.net for more information), the Program is planning to begin releasing flows from Friant Dam into the San Joaquin River. Some of these flows, called Interim Flows in the Settlement, could be routed through the bypass system beginning at the Sand Slough Control Structure. The biological resources survey seeks to identify whether sensitive species or potential habitat for sensitive species are present in the bypass system downstream of the Sand Slough Control Structure that could be affected by the Restoration Program's Interim Flows.

Q: When will the survey take place?

A: Surveys will be conducted between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm through September 15, 2009. The starting and ending times may vary due to temperature and weather conditions. Unfavorable weather conditions may require rescheduling.

Q: What are Interim Flows?

A: Interim Flows are research-oriented water releases from Friant Dam as outlined in the Settlement. Interim Flows during the first year are scheduled to be released from Oct. 1 to Nov. 20, 2009, and from Feb. 1 to Sept. 30, 2010. Maximum releases during these periods are 675 cubic feet per second and 1,660 cubic feet per second, respectively, from Friant Dam. The amount entering the bypass system will be less due to losses to groundwater and water supply deliveries between Friant Dam and Sack Dam. Flows are designed to be less than existing channel capacity.

Q: Why are flows being routed through the bypass system?

A: Channel capacity in the San Joaquin River below the Sand Slough is unknown. Until field investigations are conducted and possible improvements are made, the Settlement directs the Program to utilize the bypass system for flows.

Q: How will survey results be used?

A: The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources will use this survey information to obtain the necessary permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game to move forward with releasing flows into the bypass system as part of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program. Survey results will provide information on the scope of actions that can be conducted under the Restoration Program, including the timing, volume and routing of Interim Flows in the bypass system.

Q: What happens if sensitive species are found?

A: The purpose of the biological resources surveys is to determine the potential impacts of the Program's Interim Flow releases on sensitive species or their habitats. This information will also be used to formulate ways to avoid or mitigate any potential impacts of the Program on these resources.

Q: When will I be notified of survey results?

A: Within 10 days of the completed survey period. Because two survey periods are planned, survey results for the first survey will be provided no later than July 25, 2009. Survey results for the second survey will be provided no later than September 25, 2009.

For additional information, see the Restoration Program website at www.restoresjr.net or contact the Program's Landowner Coordinator, Craig Moyle at (916) 418-8248.