



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex
752 County Road 99 W
Willows, CA 95988

April 15, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

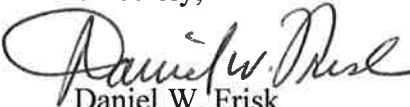
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has developed the *Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Habitat Restoration of the Bogg's Bend Unit on Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge*. The Draft EA describes and evaluates three alternatives and their potential impact on the environment for habitat restoration on the Bogg's Bend Unit in Colusa County, California.

The Service proposes to implement Alternative B, as described in this EA. The Service proposes to restore riparian habitat including mixed riparian forest, cottonwood riparian forest, rose-baccharis scrub/ valley wildrye grassland on 81.4 acres of the Bogg's Bend Unit that was formerly used for walnut production. Since the 1800's, riparian vegetation along the Sacramento River has been reduced by approximately 90 percent over that time. The purpose of the proposed action is to restore riparian and associated habitats within the Bogg's Bend Unit in a flood neutral manner to help fulfill the Service's congressional mandate to preserve, restore, and enhance riparian habitat for threatened and endangered species, songbirds, waterfowl, other migratory birds, anadromous fish, resident riparian wildlife, and plants while maintaining public safety associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control system and resource protection. The proposed alternative is consistent with the flood neutral results of the Colusa Subreach hydraulic modeling report (Ayers Associates 2008, Appendix B; RiverSmith Engineering Memorandum 2015). The communities planned for habitat restoration are based on site assessments of the soil profile, topography, flood frequency and hydraulic modeling, depth to groundwater at base flows, weed community, and existing riparian community. In addition, the Service will continue to work cooperatively with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to insure compatible public use opportunities on the Bogg's Bend Unit as described in the CCP for the SRNWR (USFWS, 2005).

A public review and comment period for the Draft EA will begin on April 17, 2015. Please submit written comments on or before May 17, 2015 to Kelly Moroney, Wildlife Refuge Manager, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, 752 County Road 99W, Willows, CA 95988. Copies of the Draft EA will be available for review at the Refuge Complex Headquarters and at the Colusa local library. Copies of the Draft EA can also be obtained electronically at www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/news2.html.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please feel free to call me or Wildlife Refuge Manager Kelly Moroney at (530) 934-2801.

Sincerely,


Daniel W. Frisk
Project Leader