



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



July 27, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has signed and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed action described in the *Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Habitat Restoration of the Bogg's Bend Unit on Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge*. The Draft EA explained and evaluated three alternatives and their potential impact on the environment for habitat restoration at the Bogg's Bend Unit in Colusa County, California.

The Service proposes to implement Alternative B, the Proposed Action, as described in this EA. The Service will 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, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), which was formerly used for walnut production. Since the mid-1800's, riparian vegetation along the Sacramento River has been reduced by about 90 percent. The purpose of the proposed action is to restore riparian floodplain habitats at the Bogg's Bend Unit to 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, and resident wildlife and plants. We plan to do so while maintaining public safety associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control system. This is achieved using vegetation planting designs, which are flood neutral. 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 vegetation planned for habitat restoration is planted in distinct plant communities based on site assessments of the soil profile, topography, flood frequency and hydraulic modeling, depth to groundwater at base flows, existing weeds, and existing native riparian vegetation. In addition, the Service will continue to work cooperatively with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to insure compatible public use opportunities at the Bogg's Bend Unit as described in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Sacramento River NWR (<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/CCP/SacramentoRiverNWR.html>).

We sent notices of the availability of the Draft EA being made available for public review and comment from April 17, 2015 to May 17, 2015. Copies of the FONSI and Final EA are now available electronically at www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/news2.html.

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

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Frisk
Project Leader