

Butte Sink, Willow Creek-Lurline, and North Central Valley Wildlife Management Areas

Planning Update #4 – June 2015

Draft Conservation Plan Now Available

The Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment (CCP/EA) for Butte Sink, Willow Creek-Lurline, and North Central Valley Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) is available online at:

www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/CCP/WildlifeManagementAreas.html or e-mail us at: fw8plancomments@fws.gov to request a compact disc. Printed copies are available for viewing at the following libraries.

Butte County Libraries:

Chico and Gridley Branches

Colusa County Libraries:

Colusa and Princeton Branches

Glenn County Libraries:

Orland Free Library and Willows Public Library

Placer County Library: Auburn Branch

Sacramento Public Library: Central Branch

Sutter County Library: Main Branch, Yuba City

Yolo County Library:

Mary L. Stephens - Davis Branch

Public Open House

Please join us at one of the public open houses to provide comments on the Draft CCP/EA.

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

3:00 - 7:00 PM

Sacramento NWR Complex
Headquarters & Visitor Center
752 County Road 99W
Willows, CA 95988

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

3:00 - 7:00 PM

CDFW Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Headquarters
45211 County Road 32B
Davis, CA 95616

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

3:00 - 7:00 PM

Gridley High School - Library
300 E. Spruce Street
Gridley, CA 95948

Greetings from the Project Leader

Greetings - Since our last planning update, the team has been working hard to complete the Draft CCP/EA for your review. Based on the scoping comments received for the CCP/EA, the CCP team developed three draft alternatives for managing the WMAs over the next 15 years. The management alternatives for the WMAs are summarized in this update and described in detail in the Draft CCP/EA now available for public review and comment on our website, and by other means detailed in this update.

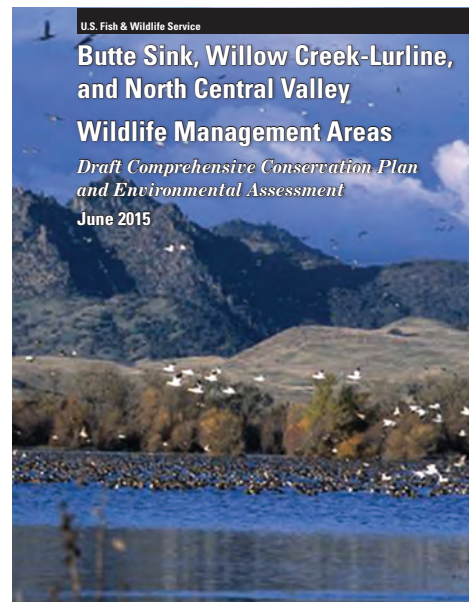
for your continued interest in this process. I look forward to meeting you at one of the upcoming public open houses for the Draft CCP/EA.

Daniel W. Frisk
Project Leader
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (530) 934-2801. Thank you

CCP Progress

- Pre-planning
- Public Scoping and Identify Issues
- Develop Draft Vision Statement and Goals
- Develop Draft Alternatives, Objectives and Strategies
- Prepare Draft CCP/EA
- Public Review of Draft CCP/EA
- Prepare Final CCP/EA
- Public Notice of Decision



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff will be available at several stations located in the meeting rooms to answer questions and gather your comments on the Draft CCP/EA. For more information, visit our website listed on this page. Directions to the meeting locations are available at: www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/CCP.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to providing access to meetings for all participants. Please contact Cynthia Sandoval with your request for sign language interpreting services or other accommodation at Cynthia_D_Sandoval@fws.gov or 916-978-6159 by close of business July 1, 2015.

Highlights of the Management Alternatives

Butte Sink, Willow Creek-Lurline, and North Central Valley WMAs

The draft environmental assessment (EA) for the CCP analyzes three alternatives for managing the three WMAs.

Alternative A

Under **Alternative A** (the no action alternative), we would continue to manage the WMAs as we have in the recent past. No additional acquisition would take place in the Butte Sink WMA. Up to 2,141 acres of wetland easements could be acquired from willing landowners to protect wetlands in Willow Creek-Lurline WMA. Up to 34,043 acres of wetland easements could be acquired from willing landowners in North Central Valley WMA excluding Sacramento County. The Service could acquire up to 3,321 additional acres of Service-owned lands from willing landowners in the North Central Valley WMA. The Service would consult with affected counties prior to the acquisition of any new Service-owned lands.

Alternative B

Under Alternative B, wetland easement acquisition goals would remain the same as Alternative A. The only proposed change in wetland easement acquisition would take place in the North Central Valley WMA, where objectives would be modified to include Sacramento County. Under Alternative B, a voluntary agricultural easement program would also be added to the North Central Valley WMA to protect farmland that provides important migratory bird habitat and/or open space buffers to existing protected wetlands. Up to 30,700 acres of agricultural easements could be acquired from willing landowners in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yolo Counties. As with Alternative A, the Service could acquire up to 3,321 additional acres of Service-owned lands from willing landowners in the North Central Valley WMA.

Alternative C

Under Alternative C (preferred alternative), the wetland easement acquisition goals for the Butte Sink WMA and the Willow Creek-Lurline WMA would remain the same as Alternatives A

and B. In Alternative C, the Service is proposing to reduce its existing North Central Valley WMA wetland easement acquisition objective from 34,043 acres to 15,000 acres. The Service is also proposing to limit wetland easement acquisition to Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties. The Draft CCP/EA includes the easement acreage objectives proposed for each county. In addition, the Service proposes to add an agricultural easement program to the North Central Valley WMA. Under this scenario, up to 19,043 acres (the difference between the existing North Central Valley WMA wetland easement acreage objective and the Alternative C North Central Valley WMA wetland easement acreage objective) of agricultural easements could be acquired from willing landowners to protect farmland in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yolo Counties. The Draft CCP/EA includes the easement acreage objectives proposed for each county. As with Alternatives A and B, the Service could acquire up to 3,321 additional acres of Service-owned lands from willing landowners in the North Central Valley WMA.

We Would Like to Hear From You!

The Draft CCP/EA for Butte Sink, Willow Creek-Lurline, and North Central Valley WMAs is available for public review and comment until **September 9, 2015**.

Comments may be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, Refuge Planning
Sacramento, CA 95825
E-mail: fw8plancomments@fws.gov
FAX: (916) 414-6497

Please indicate "WMAs CCP" in the subject line.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
2800 Cottage Way, Refuge Planning
Sacramento, California 95825

Address correction requested

If you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list or are receiving multiple copies of these updates, please let us know via the e-mail or FAX contact information shown above.