

Overview of BDCP Effects Analysis – February 29, 2012

- BDCP is poised to dramatically increase habitat in the Delta for impacted
- Reconnecting the uplands to estuary is key to making the Delta more resilient to climate change
- New conveyance facilities in the North Delta pose less risk to fish
- Even at early stage, analysis shows BDCP on path to contributing to recovery of nearly all key Delta species
- Provide foundation for alternatives analysis, but does not include evaluation of alternatives
- Provide necessary information for permitting
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Natural Community Conservation Planning Act

Proposed Project

- Proposed Project is NOT the final proposed project.
- Looks at dual conveyance, pipeline/tunnel with 15,000 CFS capacity
- 110,000 acres of various types of new habitat (includes roughly 30,000 acres of working agriculture land.)

Impacts of Climate Change

- State requires planning documents to include 55 inch increase in sea level
- Contribution to recovery must consider changing baseline for some conditions:
 - Change in reservoir inflow, increased Delta temperature, increased sea water intrusion
- Seasonally inundated floodplains more resilient to invasive species (Yolo Bypass, South Delta)
- Provides variation in habitats to support species diversity

Impact on Species through Habitat Restoration

- Provides substantial long-term conservation for many species through
- Strategic land protection
- Habitat restoration and population creation (plants)
- Long-term monitoring and targeted research
- Major increases in rearing and spawning habitat for delta smelt, longfin smelt, and splittail
- Increases in rearing habitat for salmonids and sturgeon

Challenges of Effects Analysis

- Mix of quantitative and qualitative models
- Much debate about appropriate methods & interpretations
- No life cycle models available that integrate all effects
- Cannot quantitatively examine interaction effects, synergies, population responses
- Cannot perform “sensitivity analysis”
- Climate change
- Wide range of uncertainty in results