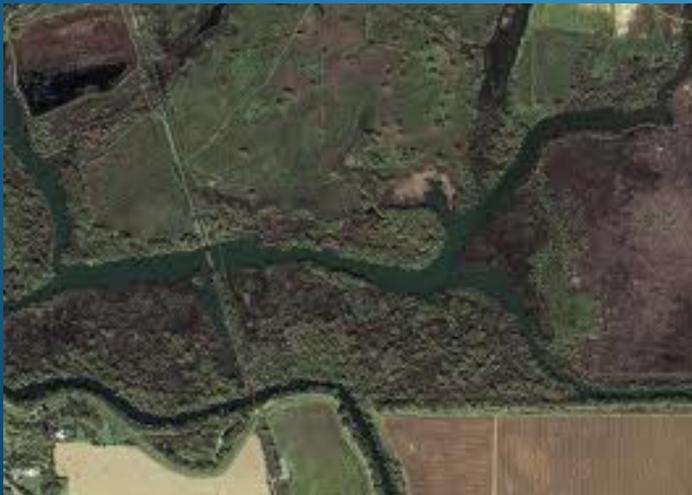


Wetland Restoration by Water Boards

A Recap of Coordination Efforts, 2014-15
Water Quality Coordinating Committee
Steven Moore, State Water Board



Wetlands Restoration Action Plan: Meetings and Participants

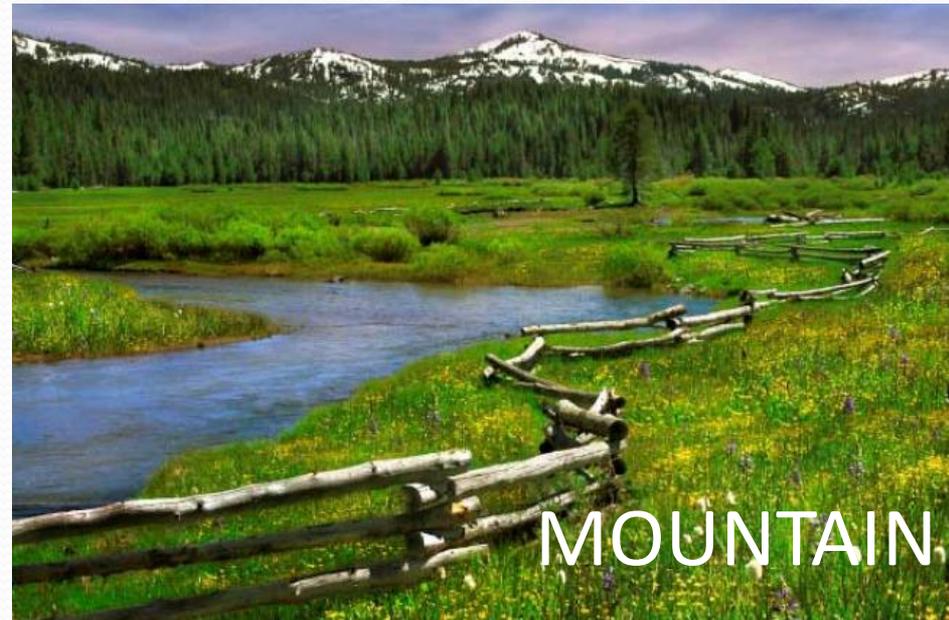
- Participation by Each Water Board
 - One Board member, One Staff person
- Six Meetings
 - Dec., Mar., June phone meetings
 - Aug. (in Sacramento)
 - So. Cal. Regions Additional meetings Jan., Apr.
- Minutes and presentations in shared Dropbox folder

How to foster and track a net gain in wetlands acreage and functions over time?

Wetlands Restoration Action Plan

- *Water Boards have selected 2-4 wetlands restoration projects or programs to track and support through regulatory and funding programs*
- 27 Specific Projects or Watershed-based Programs
- 6 Region-wide programs covering every region
 - Regions 4, 7, 8, 9, 3: So. Cal. Wetlands Recovery Project
 - Regions 2, 5: San Francisco Bay, Central Valley Joint Ventures
 - Region 6: Sierra Meadow Restoration Research Partnership
 - Region 1: Klamath River Basin (TMDL, Basin Agreements)
 - Region 3: NPDES stormwater regulatory program
 - Region 3: Irrigated Lands regulatory program

Most wetland types represented



Recommendations from Wetlands Restoration Meetings (p. 1 of 3)

1. Statewide Monitoring and Tracking Program
 - Restoration as well as Mitigation
 - California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)
 - NRCS Nutrient Tracking Tool – another way to track function
 - EcoAtlas (Wetland Tracker)
 - Link it to CIWQS 401 Program update - functions (March 2015)
 - Performance measures that can be tracked for “net gain”
2. Incentivize wetland creation through watershed management plans and green infrastructure plans in MS4 Stormwater Permits; nutrient control in Ag permits; etc.
 - Integrated Water Management context

Recommendations from Wetlands Meetings (p. 2 of 3)

3. Use Historical Ecology to Identify Best Restoration Sites
4. Lists of Projects maintained by Joint Ventures, Wetlands Recovery Project, Sierra Meadows
 - Priority for funding for State Conservancies
 - Water Board role: make sure priority projects are on the list, or support projects from the list

Recommendations from Wetlands Meetings (p. 3 of 3)

5. Use Restoration General Orders (Region 1, State Board examples)
 - Need to consider linear feet of streams, not just acres
 - Lower fees & reporting burden for restoration projects
 - How to fund monitoring? 401 surcharge to support statewide tracking of restoration of wetlands functions? Other ideas?
6. Carbon monitoring too expensive, apply results from targeted research
 - Sierra meadows, Sherman Island delta wetlands, etc.

Next Steps?

- Options for Tracking
 - Accomplishments Report
 - Annual Performance Reports (Report Cards)
- Formalize recommendations of group?
 - Resolution language for water boards?
 - Forward to Water Board staff working on 2016 Wetlands Policy?
 - E.g., Monitoring and Tracking recommendations
- Continue group? Similar composition? Schedule meetings?





Whiskey Slough, Stockton, CA