

Goals for Protecting and Restoring Habitat throughout the Sacramento River Watershed

Note: *The priority order below is based on voting results at March 8, 2003 Plenary Meeting. The participants in the October 11, 2002 Plenary meeting voted to change the "Stabilize Population and Consumption of Resources" goal to "Reduce Resource Consumption".*

Habitat Restoration. The riparian-wetland-aquatic habitats along watercourses and upland habitat throughout the watersheds are of sufficient size and their interactions function naturally so that associated food supplies and other conditions for healthy aquatic and terrestrial species are created and maintained.

Habitat Protection. Healthy, remaining wild populations of the species and their habitats are protected.

Stewardship and Advocacy In every subwatershed of the Sacramento River, young people and adults learn the biology and science of streams, groundwater, species and habitat and become committed stewards of and advocates for habitat and watershed restoration.

Water Quality Improvement. Pollution (e.g. pesticides, sediment, and water temperature) levels improve so harm is not caused to aquatic or riparian species in any of their life stages.

Instream Flows. Stream flows in their seasonal and daily variations support all life stages of the species.

Urban Growth. Cities and towns throughout the region use "smart growth" principles, mitigation fees and other tools to minimize expansion onto prime agricultural and habitat lands, reduce overall air and water pollution, and protect open space and habitat.

Knowledge. The public and decision makers have the monitoring, research, conceptual models, computer models, historic information, peer review, economic analysis and public input necessary to make decisions that benefit long term habitat health.

Geomorphic Processes. Geomorphic processes of floods and erosion function so that streams and floodplains renew themselves in a natural way.

Reduce Resource Consumption. Per capita consumption of water-related resources is reduced to a level that sustains populations without wasting resources nor harming the environment.

Forest Practices. Forestry practices by private, state, federal and other land owners does not harm terrestrial or downstream aquatic habitat.

Invasive Species and Diseases. Invasive and non-native species and diseases do not compete with nor harm any life stage of native aquatic or terrestrial plant or animal species.

Barriers to Fish Passage. Barriers such as dams and weirs do not harm the migration of native species.

Watershed Stakeholder Processes. The agriculture, urban and environmental communities successfully work together to advance all the environmental and economic goals in subwatersheds throughout the basin.

Grazing Reform. Livestock grazing does not harm terrestrial or aquatic habitat.

Hatcheries. Hatcheries and their products do not harm aquatic species including wild populations of the fishery that they are producing, native amphibians or other species.