

WORKSHOP #7 SUMMARY | IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

CENTRAL VALLEY LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROJECT

February 26th & 27th, 2018

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General information about the project can be found on the Project website:

<http://climate.calcommons.org/cvlcp>

All workshop materials are available at the workshop webpage:

<http://climate.calcommons.org/cvlcp/implementation-planning-workshop>

For questions please contact:

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1. Meeting Synopsis

The primary goals of this two-day-long Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project (CVLCP) workshop were to: establish working groups that will ultimately focus on implementing adaption strategies/actions that achieve overall CVLCP objectives; finalize the purpose and tasks for working groups that address each objective; identify working group members and develop initial work plans for each working group; and, develop user needs for spatial prioritization.

Prior to the workshop, the CVLCP Project Team developed a draft implementation approach, which includes several working groups to carry the effort forward. The team also developed draft scopes of work and initial tasks for two of the working groups, and a table of priority actions (from past workshops) organized by overall project objective and corresponding work group. Experts in Central Valley species and habitats from over twenty Central Valley resource management, scientific organizations, and agencies participated in the workshop. Participants spent the majority of time in concurrent work group breakout sessions. Following work group breakouts, discussions were held with all the participants to clarify and further explore ideas proposed across the groups, and provide general feedback. Participants also initiated partnership discussions regarding implementation and incorporation of adaptation strategies and actions into regional planning and management activities.

2. Action Items

1. **All Participants:** If someone is missing from these workshops that should be participating, inform the Project Team by emailing Deb Schlafmann at Debra_Schlafmann@fws.gov.
2. **Project Team:** Post workshop slideshow presentations to workshop website.
3. **CA LCC (in support of WG B):** Organize a series of webinars to increase common understanding of current central valley planning efforts and data sets.

3. Overview of Implementation Planning Approach and Work Group Scopes

Claudia Mengelt, CA LCC, presented on the draft implementation approach for the CVLCP ([see presentation for full details](#)), which includes three work groups:

- Work Group A: Managing for Change
- Work Group B: Connected Lands and Water
- Work Group C: Monitoring Progress

In addition, staff shared the draft scopes of work for Work Group A and Work Group B, explaining that Work Group C will be addressed at a later date.

Participants were asked to provide input and comments on the draft approach and scopes of work. One participant raised a question about the future of the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) under the current Federal administration. Ms. Schlafmann commented that funding is still in a state of flux, and until the budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 is released, CA LCC staff are looking at how existing resources can be used to maintain current partnerships and projects. She reminded participants that the CVLCP is a collaborative effort that includes different types of partners, and not just one individual entity. Several participants emphasized the importance of engaging and bringing in additional stakeholders in the implementation phase.

Other comments from participants focused on the need to clarify what is meant by “near-term” project implementation, and to document the rationale on the timing of implementation of projects. Ms. Mengelt commented that the draft approach assumes that “near-term” means a project that can be started (not necessarily completed) within six months to a year. One participant commented on the challenge of segregating the scopes of Work Group A and B, as they are, at the same time, interrelated and interdependent.

4. Breakout Sessions: Work Groups A & B

Participants worked in concurrent groups to provide input on the draft scopes and to address the following objectives:

- Work Group A:
 - Identify opportunities for, and interest in, designing a small number of experimental, on-the-ground, climate-smart projects
 - Develop project design(s)
 - Identify other opportunities to advance and implement priority actions
- Work Group B:
 - Identify specific decisions made by land and resource managers that this spatial prioritization effort needs to support
 - Identify existing spatial information and spatial prioritization tools that can help inform the specific decisions identified by the group

A. Work Group A: Managing for Change

To begin the discussion, WG A “Managing for Change” received a briefing on the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and how the CVLCP Priority Natural Resources and Actions are well aligned and similar to SWAP’s priorities.

The group used that as a starting point to hear from folks around the room on how they see their activities benefit from implementation of actions outlined as part of SWAP, or as part of the CVLCP. Around the room, there was a great diversity of partners that are interested in on-the-ground projects, and a number of partners that are working at the programmatic level at a larger scale on activities that could benefit from this effort.

The statement of purpose and individual tasks outlined in the SOW were discussed, but the group concluded that there was no need to make any modifications. Instead of discussing the timeline, the group moved to a “dot-voting” exercise to identify actions to examine for implementation on day 2. The following three actions were prioritized via dot-voting:

- #4: Enhance wildlife habitat quality in riparian areas [25]. In particular, enhance habitat to increase shade and genetic and phenotypic diversity.
- #5: Manage riparian corridors to protect water and habitat resources [62].
- #8: Coordinate and improve water management across and within management units to increase water use efficiency in support of wildlife and wetland ecosystems [14, 3, 42].

These priority actions targeting riparian areas and wetlands were shared with the Work Group B breakout participants for them to focus spatial prioritization efforts on.

B. Work Group B: Connected Lands and Waters

The guiding objective for this group is: Objective 2 - Promote landscape-scale connectivity and ecological and physical processes that function within current and future ranges of variability to support a diverse and thriving Central Valley. This object was developed by CVLCP participants in a previous workshop.

To begin the discussion, WG B “Connected Lands and Waters” received a briefing on the overarching themes of Landscape Conservation Design and various approaches take by previous projects. The statement of purpose, timeline, and individual tasks on the SOW were discussed but the group concluded that there was no need to make any modifications at this time at this time.

Discussion around the question of what type of spatial prioritization or analysis would support and improve conservation outcomes in the central valley

The main themes that arose from this discussion where:

1. Increasing understanding and data that describes the ‘opportunity’ and ‘feasibility’ landscapes in the central valley. This approach would be focused on making information about what local partners are doing, and pertinent ecological data (e.g water right allocation data for parcels) more accessible.
2. The importance of working lands.
3. This effort should align and support the [existing planning efforts in the central valley](#), there was a lot of support for aligning closely with the [California State Wildlife Action Plan](#).
4. Existing data that could support this effort (**Appendix B**).

Checked in with group, are we moving towards identifying our main priorities for spatial analysis? Are the main need captured in the [priority actions list](#) from previous workshop?

The group decided to combine the list of priority actions grouped under objective 2 & 3 and start tomorrow with a discussion of which are the most critical for this initial mapping effort.

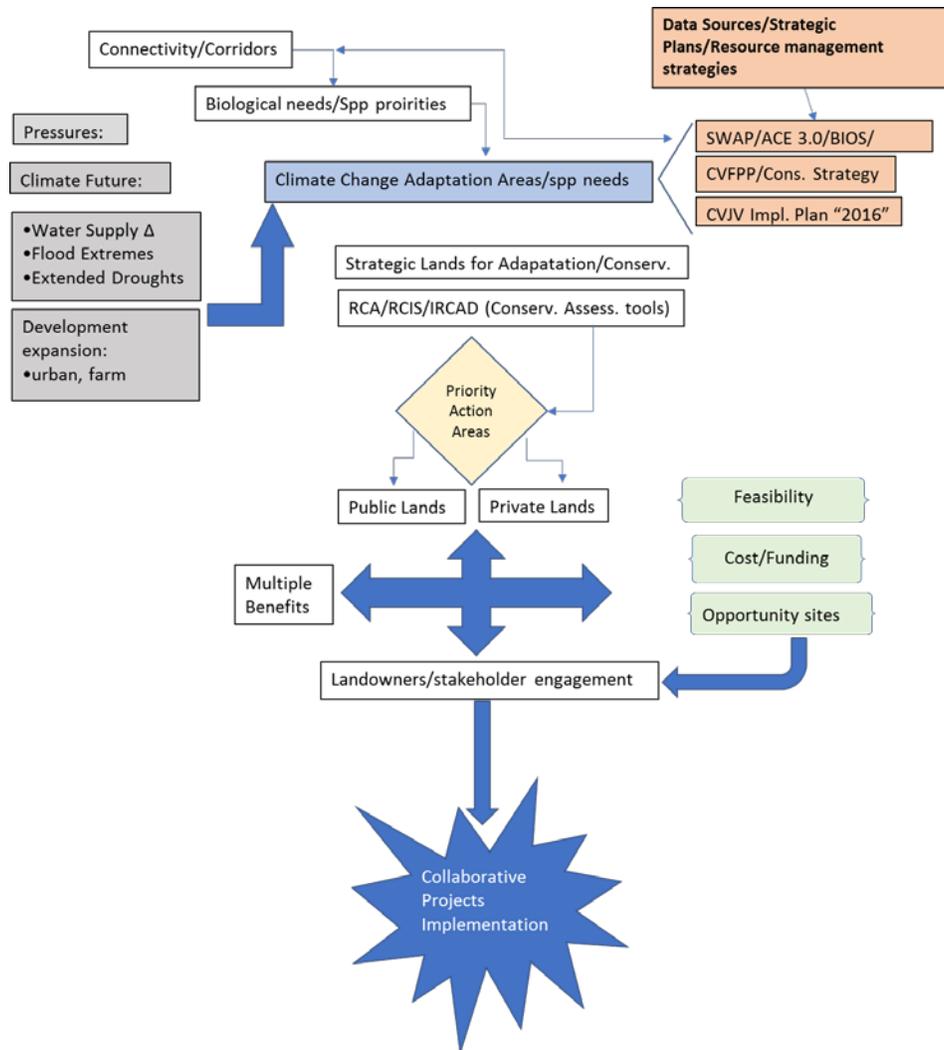
In order to further define the scope of Work Group B's initial efforts, on the second day, all participants ranked the list of priority actions organized by CVLCP objectives (**Appendix C**) Ms. Cole-Weiss facilitated a discussion of who else needed to be included in the discussion as this effort moves forward. She encouraged participants to be as specific as possible. Ms. Cole-Weiss stressed the need to identify specific people or programs within larger agencies.

Participant noted that as the scope of this effort becomes clear the list of potential participants would need to be revised and updated.

Riparian Habitat Restorations / Land Acquisitions

Based on the feedback from Working Group A and the morning session voting, the group focused on what type of spatial information or analysis would improve their ability to do their jobs and improve conservation outcomes in riparian areas. The main themes that arose from this discussion were:

- The need to support strategic and opportunistic land acquisitions and restoration. It is critical to know where it "easy" to work and have success in addition to where is the most strategic place to work.
- Each partners has different missions, financial resources, and priorities so we need to develop something that can be responsive to that.
- The group began describe a potential spatial tool/ analysis that would provide information on the conservation opportunities that land parcels could provide. For example, for a land parcel it would be nice to easily access information about what existing plans incorporate that parcel, existing riparian water rights, and a menu of potential management strategies (e.g. flood plain restoration, plantings adjacent to irrigation ditches) that could be used to meet regional goals.
- Ted Frink provide this graphical representation of how this effort could progress:



C. Demonstration Projects Work Group

Several participants in Work Group A formed a subgroup they titled the “Demonstration Projects” group, to work on developing a “shovel ready” project or short list of actionable project ideas. The group wrote a draft purpose statement, brainstormed project ideas, next steps, and set the next meeting. Objectives for the group included:

- Develop a common definition of a climate-smart project;
- Identify 1-3 projects for implementation in the near-term; and
- Develop and implement communication and outreach activities.

The group selected a restoration project in the Doty riparian floodplain as the first project to implement. The ultimate goal is to have more areas/acreage to implement climate-smart projects. The group also began to develop criteria for a “good” climate-smart project (e.g. is the project accessible?). Potential projects discussed will address riparian areas, wetlands, and mountain meadows.

5. Plenary Discussion

Key points from plenary discussion of Work Group activities included:

- The details are the most important part to work out for implementation.
- There are many areas of alignment between the CVLCP other plans—such as SWAP, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan and Conservation Strategy, CDFW’s Delta Conservation Framework (to be released in spring 2018), SWAP, and other planning documents for birds.
- Many parallel and complementary planning documents for the Central Valley were brought into the early stages of the CVLCP to help inform the outputs.
- Work groups A and B are interdependent and the question of where to implement projects needs to be addressed by the deliverables from Work Group B.
- The Department of Conservation recently released a spatial tool called Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) 3.0—this is potentially a great tool to build upon; there is no need to duplicate tools if they already exist.
- There are many different ways to parse out landscape connectivity and alternatives.

Participants also reflected on the CVLCP project overall and the implementation approach.

Several questions and perspectives were raised on the geographic boundary of the Central Valley boundary, including a suggestion to use jurisdictional boundaries and to consider the boundary in relation to an implemented action. Participants commented that the scale and scope of the valley includes two mountain ranges, but as the climate changes, the existing ecological zones will likely shift.

Participants also recommended providing workshop attendees, particularly ones new to the project, more focused information on the specific items to be discussed at the workshop as those items relate to past accomplishments. For example, to bring in the past workshop outputs related to riparian habitats such as related priority natural resources (PNRs), and vulnerability assessments (VAs). All materials from past workshops can be found on the project website.

6. Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Ms. Schlafmann reviewed potential next steps and workshop outputs, some of which are still to be determined and will depend on the level of engagement from project stakeholders and participants to move forward. The CA LCC Project Team will follow up with participants shortly after the meeting and provide links to workshop materials and a high level summary of discussions. For those items which have support and interest amongst project partners, for example the Doty demonstration project and project tracker, the Project Team will provide follow up information and help schedule the next conference call to carry on the conversation.

Outputs from this workshop will include:

- **For Work Group A:** high level notes (see below) with a link to sign up to receive more information and join future implementation planning calls.
- **Work Group B:** once the award is in place, looking forward to next steps from Audubon team (consultant under contract) to see the work products and next phase.
- **Demonstration Projects Work Group:** moving the demonstration project forward
- Conference calls for all work groups; potential quarterly webinars for all partners.
- Send out links to sources referenced during discussion (e.g. ACE, SWAP)

She closed the workshop by thanking the participants and the Project Team for their tremendous efforts that went into to preparing for and moving forward with implementation.

7. Attendance

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation
Eva Bush	Delta Science Program
Kristin Byrd	USGS
Erin Conlisk	Point Blue Conservation Science
Lisa Cuellar	CA Water Efficiency Partnership
Deanne DiPietro	Conservation Biology Institute
Ted Frink	DWR
Tom Gardali	Point Blue Conservation Science
Armand Gonzales	CA Fish and Wildlife
Matt Hamman	USFWS
Jelena Hartman	Water Board
Junko Hoshi	CA Fish and Wildlife
Patrick Huber	UC Davis
Craig Isola	USFWS-Sacramento NWRC
Cathy Johnson	USFWS
Javier Linares	USFWS
Kurt Malchow	CA Fish and Wildlife
Curt McCasland	USFWS Sacramento NWRC
Jared McKee	USFWS
John Meriwether	USFWS Kern NWRC
Jake Messerli	California Waterfowl Association
Kara Moore-O'Leary	USFWS

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Misty Nelson	CA Fish and Wildlife
Dan Orr	Audubon
Ruth Ostroff	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mark Pelz	USFWS
Larry Rabin	USFWS
Chad Roberts	Riparian Habitat Joint Venture
Nat Seavy	Point Blue Conservation Science
Joe Silveira	USFWS
Christina Sloop	CA Fish and Wildlife
Khara Strum	Audubon CA
Beatrix Treiterer	Stone Lakes NWR/USFWS
Karleen Vollherbst	USFWS
Gina Weil	SJRRP, Bureau of Reclamation
Chad Wilsey	Audubon
Tamara Wilson	USGS

Project Team Staff

Alex	Cole-Weiss	Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS
Claudia	Mengelt	CA Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Kat	Powelson	CA Landscape Conservation Cooperative
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Zhahai	Stewart	CA Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Meagan	Wylie	Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS

8. Appendix A: Work Group A – Notes on Implementation

IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING FOR PRIORITY ADAPTATION ACTIONS

CENTRAL VALLEY LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PROJECT | WORK PLAN

February 26-27, 2018 Workshop

Draft Version 03-07-2018

WORK PLAN FOR: Further advancing Actions #4, 5, 8, 10 and 16

Priority Actions Discussed:

- **#4:** Enhance wildlife habitat quality in riparian areas. In particular, enhance habitat to increase shade and genetic and phenotypic diversity
- **#5:** manage riparian corridors to protect water and habitat resources (e.g. install fences as one possible tool)
- **#8:** Coordinate and improve water management across management units to increase water use efficiency in support of wildlife and wetland ecosystems
- **#10:** Experiment with fallowed lands for drought and fire resilient native plant community restoration
- **#16:** Plant vegetation buffers to increase soil water retention and groundwater recharge, and improve water quality (conjunctive use, slow-it-spread-it-sink-it)

PROJECT CONCEPTUALIZATION:

Project ideas for further development:

- A. Develop recognition program or certification program for land owners who fallow land and make efforts to restore and/or manage riparian habitat (Actions 4, 5, and 10)
 - Share stories of early adopters – include metrics and translation into dollars saved/ return on investment (ROI)
 - UC Davis Case Studies
 - Grape growers using flood irrigation to recharge groundwater aquifer
 - Lisa Cueller knows farmer in Tulare that has fallowed land for Riparian restoration. Can share what voided cost is over time, ROI

- Support champions (early adopters) and help them share their lessons learned in the community (i.e. they are the better messengers in their communities than agency representatives)

- B. Develop Central Valley riparian area restoration group/alliance/partnership with scientists, resource managers, NGOs, etc. to coordinate with CV SGMA GSAs
 - Group can meet and attend GSA meetings or SGMA community meetings and offer expertise on riparian area land management
 - Coordinate with GSAs to see where land will be fallowed near potential riparian restoration areas and/or restoration of private lands is appropriate
 - Review by major streams/tributaries?
 - Review geography in terms of stream functions: off channel wetlands, stratified habitats, etc.?
 - Solicit geographies that are preferable for land restoration and identify local people to help implement restoration efforts?
 - Coordination with DWR/ GSAs on monitoring and adaptive management
 - Provide input on local planning
 - Help develop individual watershed plans
 - Help with coordination of funding, if appropriate
 - Help with building climate resilience in to project planning

- C. Develop framework/ adaptive management plan/ BMP guide or pamphlet for riparian area land management in lands that will be fallowed as part of the SGMA process.
 - Address gaps in knowledge
 - Support fallowing through restoration
 - Identify ways to do smart fallowing, in particular, for properties with riparian property rights
 - Develop ways to utilize citizen science for monitoring and adaptive management
 - Make deals with landowners now to transition crops away from almonds in 10+ years for riparian restoration
 - Note: As groundwater basins will take 20-40 years to achieve sustainability, the process of fallowing lands will be progressive and happen over the course of decades in some places.

- D. Host workshops or webinars on riparian area land use planning in the Central Valley for GSAs, private landowners, agencies, etc.
 - How to manage invasive species
 - How to manage water flows
 - How to build climate resilience in to project planning
 - How to enhance wildlife quality in riparian areas
 - Keep cows out of creek
 - Expand the corridor width
 - Increase connectivity
 - Opening up flood plains at lower end of rivers

- Etc.
- E. Explore ways to streamline permitting for riparian restoration project
 - Identify examples of programmatic coverage for permitting across regions or certain habitat types
 - Leverage biologists at Universities in support of permitting
 - Consider NGO(s) for monitoring, section 7 consultations, or other permitting related work

Benefits to Coordination of CV Efforts with SGMA and Community Networks:

- Land use mapping completed as part of SGMA
- Hydrogeology completed as part of SGMA
- Lands will be fallowed as part of SGMA
- Opportunities to connect with private land owners
- Already coordination with RCDs, parks, tribes, implementing agencies, DWR, etc. and comprehensive list of stakeholders and community members
- Coordination of monitoring and reporting with local GSAs
- Likely financial coordination through SGMA efforts (creative solutions – e.g. Prop 1 funds)
- Utilizing citizen science helps build data base and creates ownership over the landscape.
- Consulting firms already engaged. Can help mitigate costs for construction projects, EIRs, etc. because could be done through SGMA work
- Reduce consulting fees, pitch projects as PR opportunities
- SB5 (bond measure) will be prop 68 on ballot in April. Funding targeted in CV for building recreational areas and enhancing open space and park areas in CV. Lots of grants available for this funding mechanism.

Barriers Identified:

- Difficult to scale up
- Insufficient resources (funding, capacity)
- Permitting
- Lacking access to land:
 - Landowners/competing interests
 - Land prices/real estate market
- Feasibility
- Subsidence
- Infrastructure changes

9. Appendix B: Existing Spatial Datasets

Spatial Data Sets

- BIOS
- CNDDDB
- Species lists by eco region and habitat type
- CDHR database - Wildlife habitat relationships
- Vegcamp – CNPS framework
- FW species
- Point blue – current and future species ranges for birds
- Infrastructure dataset (e.g. irrigation and fish barrier (no specific data mentioned))
- National Hydrography data set
- LANDSFIRE
- Population growth in the Central Valley
- LiDar data sent in CV Flood protection plan
- CPAD/ CCED
- DWART model – for allocation
- Kristen Bryd’s future distribution of water
- Data needed: Riparian info that meets the requirement to have parcel that meets
- Subsidence datasets regional (no specific data set)
- Incompatible land uses avoiding point source pollutions or avoid fresh food crops bc it causes conflict (no specific data set)
- Jim Thorne’s vegetation vulnerability assessment
- CAL FIRE

10. Appendix C: WG B Potential Mapping Priorities Based on Participant Voting

1. Identify and prioritize locations for climate refugia and suitable habitat, prioritize, and protect linkages to increase size of suitable habitat, protect varied topography, maintain meta-populations, and increase resilience. (167, 180) For example: **23 votes**
 - a. Protect and restore natural stream systems to ensure a mix of open and shaded areas (combine with riparian restoration and salmonid strategies where co-benefits). (5, 55)
 - b. Buy property that comes with riparian water rights to acquire sufficient water to sustain riparian resources. (3)
2. Identify and prioritize Easements and acquisitions to maintain/protect/restore existing habitat to reduce fragmentation and create new space for species migration. In particular: **19 votes**
 - c. Oak woodland habitat (especially, old growth oaks). (9, 143, 159)

- d. Riparian habitat. (13, 51 ,142)
 - e. Floodplain habitat (for early life stages of fish and other wildlife). (11, 164)
 - f. Active riverbeds. (59)
 - g. Promote and acquire easements or fee title, at market rates, to protect existing and future wetland habitat. (161)
 - h. To maintain wildlife-friendly ag and ranching. (144)
3. Identify and prioritize locations of wetlands and riverine habitats with hydrologic connectivity. (184) **17 votes**
 - a. Protect, restore and expand (as appropriate) floodplain function/ hydro-geomorphic activity; reconnect rivers with their floodplains; reactivate floodplains and restore habitat that store water to feed riparian systems. (2, 40, 50, 68, 174).
 - b. Provide shaded riparian habitat corridors for fish. (14, 26, 154)
 4. Identify and prioritize unprotected wetlands in areas important for future resilience. (160) **13 votes**
 - a. Implement acquisition with priority to enhance wetland connectivity. (186)
 5. Continue to promote and support ongoing habitat restoration and enhancement programs to improve existing protected wetland habitat. (225) **11 votes**
 6. Identify and prioritize movement corridors for PNR's. (187) **10 votes**
 - a. Focus on preserving north-south and east-west gradients of habitat types and associated connectivity.(22, 188)
 - b. Identify and protect current & future habitat of large wide-ranging mammals.(12, 148)
 7. Identify and prioritize opportunities to improve adult fish passage into existing, and future habitats; **10 votes**
 - a. Create fish access to current/ future suitable habitat by providing passage above dams, and past other impediments.(21, 173, 176)
 - b. Remove dams where appropriate (for all reasons including sediment). (8, 60, 104)