

7 FUTURE REVISIONS TO PLAN

All planning documents eventually become dated and require revision so that they can continue to provide practical direction for operational and maintenance activities. A common and unfortunate situation is that the revision of planning documents is often neglected for budgetary or staff constraints, or other reasons. To address this problem, this section incorporates a suggested hierarchy of revision procedures in which the level of process and required involvement is proportionate to the level of change that is proposed. This Land Management Plan (LMP) reflects the best information available during the planning process, but it is understood that new information will become available over time and adjustments will be required to keep this LMP current. Such new information may include:

- ▶ feedback generated by adaptive management of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area);
- ▶ other scientific research that directs improved techniques of habitat management;
- ▶ research that directs improved management of agricultural resources;
- ▶ documented threats to fish and wildlife species and their habitats;
- ▶ future modeling results;
- ▶ management of related facilities in the Yolo Bypass (e.g., flood management); or
- ▶ new legislative or policy direction.

When the new information dictates a change to this LMP, it is important that there is an appropriate process established. Public outreach and public input will be necessary in proportion to the proposed policy change established by this LMP. Unless a reasonable and clear revision process exists, this LMP could become outdated and irrelevant. If the appropriate procedure for a particular, proposed revision is not apparent, the determination of which of the following procedures to use shall be made by the regional manager in consultation with the Lands and Facilities Branch.

7.1 MINOR REVISIONS

A process is required to accommodate minor revisions to this LMP. Minor revisions may include the addition of new property to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area or the adoption of limited changes to the goals and tasks through adaptive management, based on other scientific information or legislative direction. This procedure will be applicable to revisions that meet the following criteria:

- ▶ No change is proposed to the overall purposes of this LMP;
- ▶ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (if required) is prepared and approved;
- ▶ Appropriate consultation occurs within the region and with the Lands and Facilities Branch;
- ▶ Appropriate consultation with other agencies occurs;
- ▶ Adjoining neighbors are consulted regarding the revision, if the revision is related to a specific location or the acquisition of additional area; and
- ▶ An information presentation regarding the proposed revision is made to the Working Group.

The minor revision may be prepared by the staff members assigned to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area or with other California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) resources, and requires approval by the regional manager.

7.2 MAJOR REVISIONS

A major revision or a new LMP requires a procedure comparable to the initial LMP planning process, but also proportionate to the level of policy change that is proposed. This procedure will be applicable to revisions that meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Substantial revision and/or a new policy direction is proposed to this LMP or the adoption of a completely new plan is proposed;
- ▶ Appropriate CEQA documentation is prepared and approved;
- ▶ Appropriate consultation occurs throughout DFG;
- ▶ Appropriate coordination and consultation with other agencies occurs;
- ▶ A public outreach program is conducted that is proportional to the level of the proposed revision; and
- ▶ An information presentation regarding the proposed revision or plan is made to the Working Group.

The major revision or new plan may be prepared using available DFG resources. The major revision or new plan requires recommendation by the regional manager and approval by the director of DFG.

If the appropriate procedure for a particular, proposed revision is not apparent, the determination of which of these procedures to use shall be made by the regional manager in consultation with the Lands and Facilities Branch.

7.3 FIVE-YEAR PLAN STATUS REPORTS

Periodic evaluation is important to help ensure that the purposes and goals of the LMP are being met. Chapter 5, “Management Goals,” contains many specific tasks that involve monitoring of the Wildlife Area and evaluation of the adequacy of management of the area. Cumulatively, these efforts will provide feedback regarding the success of the overall management effort. Periodic and detailed analysis of these feedback data will be necessary to assess the status of this LMP, however.

An exhaustive review of the achievement of the goals of the LMP should be prepared every 5 years following the date of adoption of the LMP or subsequent revisions. A status report documenting this review should, at minimum, include:

- ▶ evaluation of the achievement of the purposes and goals of the LMP;
- ▶ evaluation of the completion or annual completion, as appropriate, of each task contained in this LMP;
- ▶ fiscal evaluation of the program;
- ▶ evaluation of the effectiveness of DFG’s coordination efforts with CALFED, local governments, and other property management and regulatory agencies involved in the Yolo Bypass;
- ▶ notation of important new scientific information that has bearing on the management of the Wildlife Area; and
- ▶ recommendation for revisions to this LMP to incorporate new information and improve its effectiveness.

The status report should be prepared or coordinated by the Area Manager. It should be submitted to the DFG Bay-Delta Region for review and comment, then should be approved by the Regional Manager and submitted to the Director of DFG. This report should serve as a basis for revision of this LMP and appropriate adjustment to ongoing management practices.