Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Water Management Plan

Section A - Background

1.	Identify the staff member responsible for developing and implementing the Plan. Provide their contact
	information

Name	Mike Peters	Title	Wildlife Refu	ige Manager	
Addres	s 752 County Road 9	99W, Willo	ows, CA 9598	8	
Teleph	one <u>530-934-2801</u>		Fax	530-934-7814	
E-mail	mike_peters@fws.go	<u>ov</u>			

2. Year refuge established 1945

Define year-type used consistently throughout plan USBR water year - March 1 through February 28

3. Water supplies

List each annual entitlement of surface water under each water right and/or contract

Supplier	Water source	Contract #	Contract restrictions	Acre-feet/year
Federal level 2	GCID Canal	1525-98-FC-20-17620	None	25,000
Federal level 4	GCID Canal	1525-98-FC-20-17620	None	0
State	NA	NA	NA	0
Appropriative				
Other, riparian	2047 main drain	SWRCB	Apr 15 – Nov 1	8 cfs

4. Provide a narrative on pre-CVPIA refuge water supplies and water management The history of water rights, contracts, and use on the Sacramento NWR Complex (Complex) is a complicated one. To summarize, until October of 1992, the Complex had no firm water supply and often suffered from lack of water availability from late November through early April.

In the mid 1980's, USBR began construction of a cross tie from Stony Creek to the Tehama Colusa Canal to divert 80 cfs to meet water contract demands from irrigation districts. The Refuge was promised utilization of any or all of this 80 cfs pending other current requests. The crosstie was scheduled for completion in late December of 1987. Unfortunately, the plight of the winter run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River necessitated the raising of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam gates. This shut down any water deliveries via the Tehama Colusa Canal and eliminated any possibilities for winter water for the Complex. Each year the Diversion Dam is maintained in an open position during winter, until the end of February, to allow passage of the salmon.

The Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) serves Sacramento NWR, Delevan NWR and Colusa NWR. GCID takes its water from the Sacramento River via lift pumps near Hamilton City. A problem with the taking of salmon via these pumps has been identified since 1920. This problem remained unresolved; and on

August 19, 1991, an injunction filed against GCID by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the taking of threatened winter run Chinook salmon took effect. GCID's pumping at the Hamilton City plant was immediately reduced from approximately 2,300 cfs to 1,100 cfs. This amount has since been increased due to work done by GCID to improve the efficiency of their fish screens at the Hamilton City pumping plant.

Prior to the CVPIA contract agreement between the USBR and GCID along with associated upgrades GCID made to their water delivery system as a result of the agreement, water deliveries to Sacramento NWR, Delevan NWR and Colusa NWR were limited primarily to the months of April through November. Generally, GCID shut down the main water delivery system for maintenance beginning in late November of each year. Usually, GCID water deliveries would resume beginning in mid- to late March of the following year. As a result, typical management strategy for the refuge's wetlands at that time was to ensure the wetlands were flooded to near maximum capacity prior to Thanksgiving to ensure units would continue to retain water throughout the GCID shut-down period during years with lower winter rainfall amounts. Although this management strategy generally ensured wetlands were available throughout the winter, the wetlands were often not maintained at an optimum (shallower) water level for use by wintering waterfowl. .; Because Colusa NWR is at the tail end of the GCID system it would receive water deliveries for about one additional week after the November shutdown. Colusa NWR also has two lift pumps on the Colusa Basin Drain, and this allows for water to be supplied to the West Lateral and Highway 20 canals which allowed for about 75% of the wetlands to get resupplied.

5. Land use history--Identify habitat types specific to this refuge.

Attach a refuge map showing habitat location and size

List refuge habitat-types with 5% or more of total acreage

Habitat type	Original size	1992 acres	1997 acres	2010 acres
Seasonal wetland – timothy (not irrig)	Not Avail	2851	2851	2851
Seasonal wetland – timothy (irrigated)	Not Avail	0	0	0
Seasonal wetland – smartweed	Not Avail	0	0	0
Seasonal wetland - watergrass	Not Avail	247	247	247
Permanent wetland	Not Avail	150	150	150
Semi-permanent wetland/brood pond	Not Avail	101	101	101
Reverse cycle wetlands	Not Avail	0	0	0
Riparian	Not Avail	4	4	4
Irrigated pasture	Not Avail	0	0	0
Upland	Not Avail	613	613	613
Upland (not irrigated)	Not Avail	613	613	613
Upland (managed)	Not Avail	?	?	613
Upland (grains)	Not Avail	0	0	0
<i>Other (>5%)</i>	Not Avail	424	424	424
Misc. habitat (<5%)	Not Avail	93	93	481
Sub-total – habitat acres	Not Avail	4483	4483	4871
Roads, buildings, etc.	Not Avail	143	143	143
Total (size of refuge)	4,040	4,626	4,626	5,014

Describe refuge habitat-type water use characteristics

Habitat type	AF/ac	# of irrigations	Floodup date	Draw down date
Seasonal wetland	5.0	0	8/1 - 12/1	4/1 - 6/1
Seasonal wetland - timothy	5.0	0	8/1 - 11/1	4/1 - 6/1
Seasonal wetland - watergrass	7.5	1	8/1 - 10/1	4/1 - 5/1
Permanent wetland	13.25	0	Continuous	Continuous
Semi-permanent wetland/brood pond	9.0	0	10/1 - 11//1	7/15 - 8/15
Riparian	0	0	NA	NA
Irrigated pasture	0	0	NA	NA
Upland (not irrigated)	0	0	NA	NA
Upland (managed)	0	0	NA	NA
Upland (grains)	0	0	NA	NA
<i>Other (>5%)</i>	0	0	NA	NA
<i>Misc. habitat (<5%)</i>	0	0	NA	NA

Section B - Water Management Related Goals and Objectives

1. Describe the refuge mission relative to water management. (i.e. crop depredation, legislative mandates, service to landowners)

The purposes for Colusa NWR involve habitat for wetland dependent species. In this artificially created and maintained system, efficient water management is critical to accomplishing these purposes.

Purposes for this Unit:

- "... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds. 16 U.S.C. 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929).
- "...for the management and control of migratory birds and other wildlife ..." 16 U.S.C. 695 (Lea Act of 1948).
- "...to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered or threatened species or (B) plants ..."
 16 U.S.C. 1534 (Endangered Species Act for 1973).
- 2. Describe specific habitat management objectives. Include pertinent information from refuge management plans

The following habitat types are managed on the Refuge:

<u>Seasonal wetland – swamp timothy</u>: By far the most numerous and diverse of the wetland habitat types, these units comprise about 70 percent of the wetland habitat base and are typically flooded from early September through mid-April. Their diversity is the product of a variety of water depths that result in diverse patterns of plant species (vegetation) that, in combination, provide habitat for the greatest number of wildlife species throughout the course of a year. Through the fall and winter, seasonally flooded marshes are used by spectacular concentrations of waterfowl and smaller numbers of egrets, herons, ibis, and grebes. In addition, a full complement of raptors descends upon the water-bird prey base for their winter food supply. As water is removed in the spring, large concentrations of shorebirds utilize the shallow depths and exposed mudflats on their northern migration. Seed producing plants germinate and grow to maturity on the moist pond bottoms

during the spring and early summer. Flood up in the fall makes this food available to early migrant waterfowl and other water-birds.

<u>Seasonal wetland - watergrass/smartweed</u>: Comprising approximately 12 to 15 percent of the wetland habitat base, these units are typically flooded from late August through early May. An irrigation is usually accomplished in mid-June to bring large quantities of watergrass, sprangletop, and smartweed plants to maturity. During these irrigation periods, these units are often utilized by locally nesting colonial water-birds (herons and egrets). Because this habitat type often results in thick monocultures, openings are disked or mowed prior to flood-up. Though not as diverse, once flooded these units provide an abundant food source for waterfowl at a very important (potential crop depredation) time of the year. In addition, a number of wading bird species frequent them throughout the year.

Semi-permanent wetland/brood pond: Combined with permanent ponds, these habitats make up 5 to 15 percent of the wetland base. During the summer growing season, water is often used to encourage growth in certain sparsely vegetated units. Two water management strategies are employed: in most units, water removal will not take place until late July; in others, normal drawdown (April) is done, scheduled work is completed, and then the unit is flooded for the remainder of the year. Both practices serve to promote plant growth while providing wetland habitat for "resident" wildlife during the hot summer months.

<u>Permanent wetland</u>: Combined with semi-permanent wetland/brood pond, these habitats make up 5 to 15 percent of the wetland base and remain flooded throughout the year. Characterized by both emergent and submergent aquatic plants, these units provide brood and molting areas for waterfowl, secure roosting and nesting sites for wading birds and other over water nesters, and feeding areas for species like cormorants and pelicans. These units are drawn down every four to five years in order to recycle nutrients to increase their productivity and discourage carp populations.

<u>Riparian</u>: Comprised primarily of black willow, but with patches of sandbar willow, valley oak, buttonbush, and Fremont's cottonwood, riparian habitat occurs along the Colusa Basin Drain (2047) and Powell Slough. Willows and cottonwoods also occur sparsely in and around some managed marsh units. The largest "riparian tract" is located adjacent the Colusa basin Drain at Tract 14, and has a large heron, egrey and cormorant rookery within it. Willows and cottonwoods provide nesting, roosting, and feeding habitat for passerine species and raptors, and shelter and screening for waterfowl. Deer, small mammals, duck broods, and giant garter snakes utilize creeks and water delivery systems during the summer, when most marsh units are dry.

<u>Vernal pools and alkali meadows</u>: Most plant species in these communities are natives and occur in a variety of patterns, which yield the most diverse vegetation on the Refuge. Nine Federal, State, and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) special status plant species occur in these habitats; as well as three special status invertebrates. During the wet season, cackling geese, wigeon, and coots graze on the depauperate grasses in the alkali meadows, and dabbling ducks and shorebirds feed in the vernal pools. Killdeer, stilts, and avocets nest in these habitats. Alkali meadows and vernal pools are the native, indigenous habitats of the Colusa Plains (Basin), once known as the "hard alkali gooseland." Now, areas on Sacramento NWR, Delevan NWR, and Colusa NWR are virtually all that remain of this habitat type in the region.

3. Describe the strategies used to attain objectives listed above
On an annual basis a review of the previous habitat management plan is conducted, which involves a
planning team visiting each habitat unit on each refuge to document the previous year's accomplishments,

establish needs and develop plans for the upcoming year. These findings are compiled to produce the current year's habitat management plan for each refuge.

- 4. Describe constraints that prevent attainment of objectives and explain the effect on operations. The habitat planning process identifies a far greater workload than can be accomplished in a single year, given present funding, staffing and existing priorities.
- 5. Describe the strategies used to remedy the constraints listed above
 Continue to refine management techniques, to improve efficiency, and develop alternate/additional funding sources to help address present budget and staffing limitations.

Section C - Policies and Procedures

- 1. Describe the refuge policies/procedures on accepting agricultural drainage water as supply Colusa Refuge has 2 lift pumps on the Colusa Basin Drain and lifts water from it to supply a portion of the Refuges needs. The water in the Colusa Basin Drain is comprised primarily of agricultural drain water particularly during the dry seasons. GCID has meters on the lift pump stations and claims the rights to all the water in the Colusa basin Drain and thus charges the BOR for the water that the Refuges pumps from the Drain. There is no formal policy or procedure concerning the quality of water that the refuge will accept. No standards have been established and no water quality testing is conducted.
- 2. Describe the refuge policies/procedures on water pooling, transfers, reallocations or exchanges The refuge has no Sacramento NWR Complex or US Fish & Wildlife Service policies or procedures on pooling, transfers, reallocations or exchange but follows those established by the CVPIA and in the water supply contracts.

POOLING OF WATER SUPPLIES

- 6. (a) Whenever the maximum quantities of Level 2 Water Supplies and/or the Incremental Level 4 Water Supplies depicted in Exhibit AB@ are reduced pursuant to Article 9 of this Contract, the remaining Level 2 Water Supplies and/or the Incremental Level 4 Water Supplies may be pooled for use on other Refuge(s); Provided, that no individual Refuge shall receive more Level 2 Water Supplies than would have been made available to it absent a reduction pursuant to Article 9 of this Contract; or be reduced by more than twenty-five (25) percent; Provided further, that the Contracting Officer makes a written determination that pooling of water for use on other Refuge(s) would not have an adverse impact, that cannot be reasonably mitigated, on Project operations, other Project Contractors, or other Project purposes; Provided further, that the Contracting Officer determines that such reallocation is permitted under the terms and conditions of the applicable underlying water right permit and/or license; and Provided still further, that water made available under this contract may not be scheduled for delivery outside the Contractor=s Boundary without prior written approval of the Contracting Officer.
- (b) An Interagency Refuge Water Management Team, to be chaired by the Contracting Officer and to be established upon execution of this Contract, shall be entitled to collaboratively allocate the pooled water supplies and provide a schedule for delivery of the pooled supplies to meet the highest priority needs of the Refuge(s) as depicted in Exhibit AB@; Provided, however, nothing in this Article is intended to require the Contractor to pool the water supply provided for in this Contract. The Interagency Refuge Water Management Team shall be composed of designees of the Bureau of

Reclamation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Grassland Water District.

TRANSFERS, REALLOCATIONS OR EXCHANGES OF WATER

- 7. Subject to the prior written approval of the Contracting Officer, the Project Water made available under this Contract may be transferred, reallocated or exchanged in that Year to other Refuge(s) or Project contractors if such transfer, reallocation or exchange is requested by the Contractor and is authorized by applicable Federal and California State laws, and then-current applicable guidelines or regulations.
- 3. Describe the refuge water accounting policies/procedures for inflow, internal flow and outflow Irrigators estimate quantity delivered by month for individual units. Deliveries are measured by the local irrigation district at the point of delivery. A computer spreadsheet of monthly deliveries is updated by the 7th of each month and provided to USBR. The irrigator for each refuge maintains records of the flood-up and draw-down dates for each wetland unit which is recorded in the annual habitat management plan for the refuge. Outflow points have no measurement devices.
- 4. Attach a copy of the refuge's shortage policies, drought plan, or any similar document. See attachment B Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Drought Contingency Plan.

Based on established refuge purposes (see Section B1) and the projected water supply, we determine critical habitat needs and analyze existing water use records by both refuge unit and habitat type, to determine the amount, distribution and timing of each habitat unit to be flooded.

Section D - Inventory of Existing Facilities

1. Mapping

Attach existing facilities map(s) that show points of delivery, turnouts (internal flow), and outflow (spill) points, measurement locations, conveyance system, storage facilities, operational loss recovery system, wells, and water quality monitoring locations. Describe in the body of the plan the information contained in each attached map.

The attached maps (Attachment C – Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Water Delivery and Drainage Map, Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Water Drainage Areas Map, and Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Water System Map) show points of delivery, turnouts (internal flow), and outflow (spill) points, measurement locations, and the conveyance system. Colusa NWR does not have storage facilities, an operational loss recovery system, active wells, or water quality monitoring locations, therefore, these are not shown on the attached facilities maps.

2.	Water measurement a. Inflow/deliveries				
	Total # of inflow locations/points of delivery	3	_		
	Total # of measured points of delivery	3	_		
	Percentage of total inflow (volume) measured	during re	port year _	100	

h	Internal	flow	at	turnouts
ν .	memai	ILOW	ui	iuinouis

Total # of refuge water management units (units)	60		
Total # of refuge water management unit turnouts	28		
Total # of measured turnouts0			
Estimated % of total internal flow (volume) during report	rt year that was n	neasured at a turnout	0 .
Number of turnouts supplying more than one unit or not	directly off deliv	ery system <u>13</u>	

Measurement type	Number of devices	Acres served	Accuracy (avg or range)	Reading frequency	Calibration frequency (months)	Maintenance frequency (months/days)
Orifices						
Propeller						
Weirs						
Flumes						
Venturi						
Alfalfa valves						
Metered gates						
Other, stop-log and screwgates	28	3,209	Unknown	1-3 times/week	Never	weekly

Most water control structures are pre-cast twin-track risers with wooden stop-logs and polyethylene pipe, although a few structures have screwgates attached. During active flood-up of a unit, structures are visually

checked and readjusted if needed every 1-2 days to ensure a proper rate of flood-up is maintained to provide optimum habitat. Once a unit is flooded, readjustments are made to the structure to provide a reduced "maintenance" flow (approximately 1-3 cfs depending on the size of the wetland unit) to maintain optimal depth, at which time the structure is visually checked 1-2 times per week.

c. Outflow

Outflow (AF/yr) unknown quantity		
Total # of outflow locations/points of spill7		
Total # of measured outflow points0		
Percentage of total outflow (volume) measured during report year	0	

Outflow point	Measuring point	Type of measurement	Percent of total outflow (estimated)	Measuring agency	Acres drained
2047 drain	T1, cell 4	None	9	Colusa NWR	300
2047 drain	Pool 6	None	45	Colusa NWR	1,472

	outlet				
Powell Slough	T9, south	None	1	Colusa NWR	20
	outlet				
2047 drain	T14, cell2	None	2	Colusa NWR	52
2047 drain	T19, cell 4	None	3	Colusa NWR	91
East-West J-	T12A outlet	None	25	Colusa NWR	826
Drain					
2047 drain	Able Road	None	16	Colusa NWR	538
	T17				

3. Identify the type and length of the refuge internal distribution system

Miles unlined canal			Miles lined canal	Miles piped	Miles –	- other
Delivery	Drain	Delivery/Drain		Delivery	Delivery	Drain
9.5	8.5	.75	0			.5

Describe the location and types of identified leaks and areas of higher than average canal seepage, and any relation to soil type.

Refuge staff has not identified any significant leaks or areas of higher than average canal seepage. No areas of high seepage due to soil type (gravel lens, etc.) have been identified.

Refuge operated lift pumps

Pump	Location	Horse Power
Highway 20 Pump	2047/Colusa basin Drain	40
Main Pump	2047/Colusa Basin Drain	50
Tract 5 lift Pump	West Lateral Canal	25

4.	Describe the re	fuge operational	loss	recovery	system
	None				

5. Groundwater

Describe groundwater availability, quality and potential for use

USBR drilled four test wells on nearby Sacramento NWR in the early 1990s. Chemical analysis of these groundwater wells at Sacramento NWR and at Colusa NWR detected mercury levels above the EPA chronic criteria (both Sacramento NWR and Colusa NWR) and levels of the hexavalent form of chromium above the EPA chronic and acute criteria (Sacramento NWR). Due to these test results it is believed that the use of this water could have a detrimental effect on the aquatic and wildlife resources that utilize the area. In addition, limited quantity (hundreds of gallons instead of thousands) was found for the test wells at Sacramento NWR. The groundwater basin under the refuge is considered to be of very limited usefulness.

Groundwater plan	No _	X	Yes	
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_			

Groundwater basin(s) that underlie the refuge

Name of basin	Size	Usable	Safe yield	Management	D 1	
underlying refuge	(sq. mi.)	capacity (AF)	(AF/Y)	agency	Relevant reports	
Colusa Subbasin	1,434	900,000	NA	Colusa County	DWR Bulletin 118	

Identify refuge-operated ground water wells

	#	Location	Status	HP	2003 (AFY)	Future plans
Γ	None					

Section E Environmental Characteristics

1. Topography - describe and discuss impact on water management

Topography of Colusa NWR is relatively flat with a slope from NW to SE on the northern portions of the Refuge and from the SW to ENE on the southern portions of the refuge. Water for units of the refuge that are located east of the Colusa Basin Drain (CBD) is lifted from the CBD and is discharged either into the CBD or east into Powell Slough. Refuge units west of the CBD primarily receive water from the West Lateral Canal. This canal water flows north from the SW corner of the Refuge and then falls through the units and other canals to the east and south.

2. Soils - describe and discuss impact on water management (see attached map)

The soils of Colusa NWR (Attachment D - Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Soils Map) are fairly tight soils that minimize seepage and are thus beneficial for wetland type habitats. There are no areas of problem soils so water management is very efficient.

3. Climate

National Weather Service – Willows 6 W, California (049699), data period – 10/15/1906 to 7/31/2010

							1	//					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
avg precip	3.72	3.18	2.28	1.13	0.65	0.32	0.04	0.09	0.31	0.98	2.13	3.16	17.99
avg. temp	45.2	49.7	53.5	58.8	66.3	73.5	78.0	76.1	72.5	64.3	53.3	45.9	61.40
avg. max temp	54.5	60.3	65.7	72.9	81.3	89.3	95.2	93.6	89.0	79.2	65.5	55.5	75.2
avg. min temp	35.9	39.0	41.3	44.8	51.3	57.6	60.9	58.7	56.0	49.3	41.1	36.3	47.7
ETo *	1.22	1.71	2.93	4.72	6.10	7.20	8.54	7.32	5.31	3.60	1.65	1.04	51.34

^{*} ETo data from Appendix B - Reference Crop Evapotranspiration for Willows, Glenn County, California at http://esce.ucr.edu/soilwater/etodata.html.

Discuss the impact of climate, and any microclimates, on water management

Climate can be characterized as mild damp winters and long hot summers. Refuge objectives result in the majority of wetlands being flooded during the fall and winter (to mimic historic hydrologic patterns). Those acres that remain flooded during spring and summer have the greatest amount of water used per habitat acre. The hot summers, and the resulting evaporative losses, require that permanent-water habitat be kept to a minimum. No microclimates exist within the refuge borders.

4. Water quality monitoring (attach water quality test result forms)

If the refuge has a water quality monitoring program complete this table

3 3 0	1 ,	1 0 1	
Analyses performed	Frequency range	Concentration range	Average

рН	Once	7.8 - 8.0	7.8
Dissolved solids	Once	193 - 399	302
Dissolved oxygen	Once	5.8 - 8.2	6.7
Alkalinity as CaCO3	Once	125 - 238	191
Calcium	Once	19 - 31	26
Chloride	Once	10 - 33	21
Magnesium	Once	13 - 26	20
Nitrogen	Once	<0.1 - 0.23	< 0.14
Potassium	Once	1.3 - 2.1	1.7
Sodium	Once	28 - 77	55
Sulfate	Once	19 - 60	41
Arsenic	Once	1 - 3	1.8
Boron	Once	110 - 260	188
Cadmium	Once	All <1	<1
Chromium	Once	All <1	<1
Copper	Once	1 - 2	1.3
Lead	Once	<5 - 17	<7
Mercury	Once	All <0.1	< 0.1
Molybdenum	Once	<1 - 1	<1
Selenium	Once	<1 - 5	<1.6
Uranium	Once	<0.4 - 1.5	< 0.6
Vanadium	Once	3 - 6	4.2
Zinc	Once	<3 - 39	<17.8

Discuss the impact of water quality on water management

The refuge has no water quality monitoring program other than a baseline study (Reconnaissance Investigation of Water Quality, Bottom Sediment, and Biota Associated with Irrigation Drainage in the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex) conducted in 1988 which found no water quality problems that would affect water management decisions. Data entered in the table above are based on that baseline study. Water management decisions are based on this baseline study since it is the only source of water quality data specific for the refuge.

Section F Transfers, Exchanges and Trades

Provide information on any transfers, exchanges and/or trades into or out of the refuge

From whom	To whom	Report year (AF)	Use
None		(= /	
	TOTAL		

Section G Water Inventory

1. Refuge Water Supplies Quantified Surface water supplies, imported and originating within the District, by month. Table 1 Ground water extracted by the Refuge, by month. Table 1 Precipitation by Habitat Type Table 3 Upslope Drain Water, by month. Table 1 Other supplies, by month Table 1 Refuge water inventory. Table 4 Ten-year history of Refuge water supplies Table 5

- 2. Water Used Quantified
- 3. Conveyance losses, including seepage, evaporation, and operational losses. Table 2
- 4. Applied Habitat water, evapotranspiration, water used for cultural practices (e.g., disease control, etc.). Table 3
- 5. Estimated deep percolation (seepage) within Habitat areas. Table 3
- 6. Habitat spill or drain water leaving the Refuge. Table 4

See Attachment E – Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Water Inventory Tables

Section H Critical Best Management Practices

Describe the 5-year implementation plan and the proposed 3-year funding budget.

1. Management programs

a. Education

Program	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s)			
	2011	2012	2013	
Irrigator training – 4 staff	\$2	\$2	\$2	
Interpretive displays	\$1	\$1	\$1	
Environmental Education – 2 staff	\$58	\$59	\$60	

Describe the specifics of each program (number of participants, topics, purpose, etc.) and attach program materials, if available.

These programs apply to all the refuges in the Sacramento NWR Complex. The four refuge irrigators are sent to training in distribution system management, flow control, turnout calibration and other aspects of water and wetland management. All refuge staff attend monthly staff/safety meetings during which the status and timing of wetland flood-up and drawdown schedules are discussed, in addition to other applicable water related topics (e.g. status of efforts to secure CVPIA water for Sutter NWR, irrigation district maintenance efforts and the effect on refuge water deliveries, etc.). The Environmental Education program hosts more than 5,000 students visiting each year. Topics covered during the Environmental Education programs include water and wetland habitat management. Interpretive displays on the refuges of the

Complex include information on wetland management. New interpretive displays are purchased periodically and there is an on-going expense to maintain them. The Complex hosts an annual Wetland Management Workshop for landowners attended by 50-60 local landowners and duck club managers. Information concerning water management on the refuges of the Sacramento NWR Complex is being developed for inclusion on the Complex's website.

b. Water quality monitoring

Type of water	Existing Estimated cost (in \$1,000s)				
Type of water	2011	2012	2013		
Surface – USBR and riparian	\$5.0	\$5.1	\$5.2		
Upslope drain	NA	NA	NA		
Groundwater	NA	NA	NA		
Outflow	NA	NA	NA		

Short description of existing or planned program -i.e., required by which agency, coordinated with whom, constituents monitored and frequency

The Refuge Complex is a member of the Colusa Sub-basin watershed of the Sacramento Valley Coalition for monitoring water quality. No water quality problems were identified during 2009-2010. Past studies (Reconnaissance Investigation of Water Quality, Bottom Sediment, and Biota Associated with Irrigation Drainage in the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex. 1988; etc.) have indicated no surface water (inflow and outflow) quality issues.

c. Cooperative efforts

The Complex is working with GCID to improve water delivery and measurement (partially through the use of SCADA) capabilities to Sacramento, Delevan and Colusa refuges. The Complex is continuing to work with USBR to secure delivery for Sutter NWR.

d. Pump evaluations (mobile labs) NA		
Total number of groundwater pumps on refuge0		
Total number of surface water (low-lift) pumps on refuge	0	

Crown dougton mumma	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s)				
Groundwater pumps		2012	2013		
# of groundwater pumps tested	NA	NA	NA		
# of pumps to be fixed or replaced	NA	NA	NA		
# of low-lift pumps to be tested	NA	NA	NA		
# of pumps to be fixed or replaced	NA	NA	NA		

e. Policy evaluation

- 1. The right to move unused allocated water between refuges within our complex, to other CVP refuges, to CDFG, and to other CVP contractors.
- 2. FWS joins Seven Party Agreement so that outflow (into a canal/drain) from upstream refuges (e.g. Sacramento NWR and Delevan NWR) is available for diversion to downstream refuges at no charge. This would keep the US government (USBR) from having to buy the same water multiple times.
- f. (GRCD only) Provide Customer Services Facilitate physical/structural improvements for member

units; provide management services and technical advice to raise funds for BMP Implementation and provide customers with water efficiency education programs.

2.	(GRCD only) Pricing structure

3. (GRCD only) Plan to measure deliveries

4. Water management coordinator

Name: Mike Peters Title: Wildlife Refuge Manager

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Section I Exemptible Best Management Practices

Describe the 5-year implementation plan and the proposed 3-year funding budget.

1. Improve management unit configuration

Unit name	Current	Paggon for change	Proposed	Estimat	ed cost (in \$	\$1,000s)
acres	acres	Reason for change	acres	2011	2012	2013
See comment below						

Changes to unit configuration are determined if needed during the annual habitat management planning cycle.

(GRCD only) Assist customers to improve management unit configurations.

2. Improve internal distribution system

a. New control structures within distribution system

Proposed	Type of structure	Reason for new structure	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s		\$1,000s)
location			2011	2012	2013
4 yearly –	concrete	Replace old CMP control	\$4	\$4.5	\$5
locations TBD		structures			
See comment below					

Changes to distribution system are determined if needed during the annual habitat management planning cycle. Usually 6-8 existing corrugated metal pipe (CMP) water control structures are replaced annually with the locations determined during the annual habitat management planning cycle or as problems arise with a structure beginning to fail during the course of the year.

b. Line/pipe sections of distribution system

D	Degran for now structure	Estimated of		
Proposed reach/sect.	Reason for new structure	2011	2012	2013
See comment below				

Changes to distribution system are determined if needed during the annual habitat management planning cycle. There is limited opportunity for lining or piping sections of the distribution system on the refuge because the existing open distribution system provides some of the most consistently used habitat by giant garter snakes, a federally listed threatened species. This habitat would be lost if the system was lined or piped. However, this BMP is occasionally implemented on limited portions of the distribution system, with the locations identified during the annual habitat management planning cycle.

c. Independent water control for each unit

Proposed control point	Paggar for your control point	Estimate	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s)			
Froposea comroi poini	Reason for new control point	2011 2012 2		2013		
Tract 13.3 inlet	Provide opportunity to manage T13.3 and	3				
	T13A as semi-permanent wetland					
See comment below						

Changes to unit configuration and distribution system are determined if needed during the annual habitat management planning cycle.

d. New internal distribution sections (pipe, canal) to provide water to existing and new habitat units

Proposed new	Units	Paggar for you goetion	Estimat	ed cost (in	\$1,000s)
section	served	Reason for new section	2011	2012	2013
Pool 6 outlet to T27	T27	Reuse of Pool 6 drainage and		5	
flume over ditch		supply for T27			
Inlet to T27 @NW	T27	Reuse of T5/6, T10-13, T15	3		
corner		drainage and supply for Tract			
		27			
See comment below					

Changes to distribution system are determined if needed during the annual habitat management planning cycle.

(GRCD only) Provide assistance to member units to improve internal distribution

3. Develop a Water Use Schedule

Plan element	Completion date	Estimated development/update cost (in \$1,000s 2011 2012 2013			
Fian etement	Completion date				
Floodup dates by unit	Completed annually	\$1	\$1	\$1	
Drawdown dates by unit	Completed annually	\$1	\$1	\$1	
Irrigation dates by unit	Completed annually	\$1	\$1	\$1	

Floodup dates, drawdown dates and irrigation dates (where appropriate) are developed for each unit during the annual habitat management planning cycle.

4. Plan to measure outflow

Identify locations, prioritize, determine best measurement method/cost, submit funding proposal

-	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s		
	2011	2012	2013
Identify locations			
Estimate outflow quantity/rank			
Develop plan			

Estimate construction start date		
Estimate construction completion date		

There are a number of ongoing water monitoring planning efforts off the Refuge that may affect our water measurement plan and implementation. Potential outflow measuring sites include Tract 1.3 outlet, Tract 10A outlet, Tract 12A outlet, Tract 17 outlet, and Pool 6 outlet.

5. (GRCD only) Incentive pricing

6. Construct and operate operational loss recovery systems

Proposed location	Roggon fon immunousmant	Estimai	\$1,000s)	
Proposed location	Reason for improvement	2011 2012 201		2013
Pool 6 outlet to T27	Reuse Pool 6 outflow as supply for		5	
flume over ditch	Tract 27			
Inlet to T27 @NW	Reuse outflow from multiple upstream	3		
corner	units as supply for Tract 27			
See comment below				

FWS is exploring the possibility of joining the Seven Party Agreement so that outflow/spill from upstream refuges can be credited to downstream diversions. Outflow credits could be used to fund outflow/spill measurement programs.

7. *Optimize conjunctive use of surface and groundwater*

Proposed production/injection well	Anticipated wield	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s)			
	Anticipated yield	2011	2012	2013	
NA – no useable groundwater					
See comment below					

Chemical analysis of groundwater wells at Sacramento NWR and Colusa NWR conducted in the early 1990s detected mercury levels above the EPA chronic criteria (both Sacramento NWR and Colusa NWR) and levels of the hexavalent form of chromium above the EPA chronic and acute criteria (Sacramento NWR). Due to these test results it is believed that the use of this water could have a detrimental effect on the aquatic and wildlife resources that utilize the area. In addition, limited quantity (hundreds of gallons instead of thousands) was found for the test wells at Sacramento NWR. The groundwater basin under the refuges is considered to be of very limited usefulness.

8. Facilitate use of available recycled urban wastewater that otherwise would not be used beneficially, meets all health and safety criteria, and does not cause harm to wildlife management goals.

NA - no recycled urban wastewater is available

9. *Mapping* – COMPLETE

See Attachment C – Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Water Delivery and Drainage Map, and Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Water Drainage Areas Map.

CIS man layous	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s)				
GIS map layers	2011	2012	2013		
Map 1 – Water Delivery and Drainage Map	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Map 2 – Water Drainage Areas Map	\$0	\$0	\$0		

10. CALFED Quantifiable Objectives

Describe any past, present, or future plans that address the goals identified for this refuge

If reducing nonproductive ET involves removing invasive plants, complete the following:

Invasive unwanted species name	Es	stimated a	cres	Estimated cost (in \$1,000s)			
Invasive unwanted species name	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	
Arundo	1	1	1	\$.5	\$.5	\$.5	
	2	2	2	\$1	\$1	\$1	
Water primrose	10	10	10	\$3.5	\$3.5	\$3.5	

Colusa National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs)

- 1. Describe actions that reduce the salinity of surface return water. (Targeted Benefit (TB) 24) None no salinity or conductivity problems have been documented on any of the refuge's wetlands.
- 2. Describe actions that reduce nonproductive ET. (TB 25) The refuge has a continuous program to minimize or eradicate invasive aquatic plants (primrose, and Arundo).

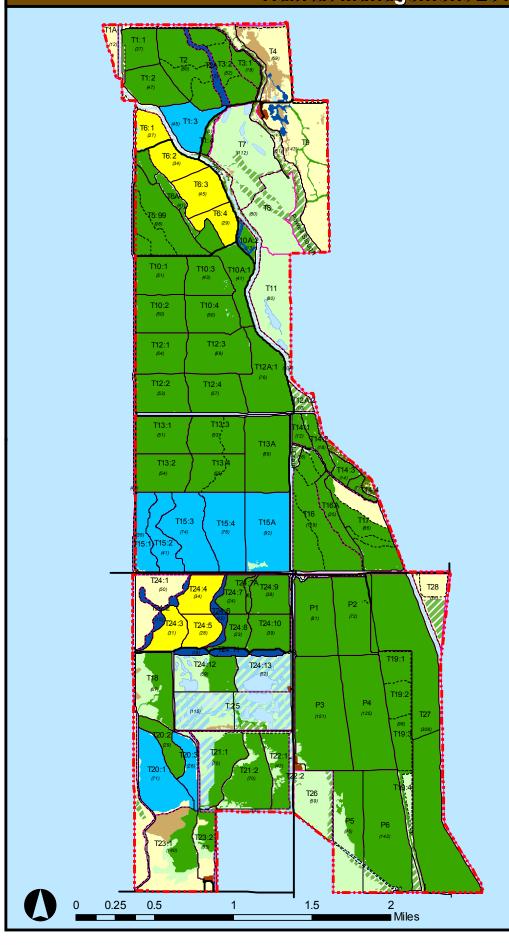
Attachment A

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Habitat Map

Colusa NWR Habitat Management 2010-11







Attachment B

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Drought Contingency Plan

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Colusa NWR Drought Contingency Plan February 2011

In the event of reduced water allocations, the refuges of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex wetland management practices will be adjusted according to the severity of the water reduction as well as the timing within the water year when the cutback is finalized. Dry year and critically dry year water allocations are based upon the Shasta Lake Index and approximate allocations can be found in Tables 1-4.

Adjustments to wetland management practices and their potential impacts to the wetlands of the refuges are identified below for four anticipated water availability scenarios (See Tables 1-4 and Figures 1-4).

- A. 100% Level 2 at Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa NWR's & Level 4 (Delevan NWR)
- 1. Normal spring draw-downs would provide habitat suitable for shorebird habitat/use and plant germination objectives being met.
- 2. Standard acres of permanent ponds and summer water (approximately 5-15% of total managed wetlands on each refuge) would be managed for use by giant garter snakes, tricolored blackbirds, western pond turtles, and duck broods.
- 3. Standard number of irrigated acres for annual food plant production (approximately 12-15% of total managed wetlands on each refuge) and control of invasive species (e.g. cocklebur).
- 4. Flood-ups start in late July and total wetland acres would be flooded by early November.
 - 5. Standard wetland habitat maintenance water supply would be available.
- 6. Visitor Services programs (i.e. hunting, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, interpretation, and environmental education) that support 100,000 to 125,000 visitors would be fully operational.
- B. 75% Level 2 at Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa NWR's & Level 4 (Delevan NWR)
- 1. Earlier spring draw-downs than normal due to less maintenance water available, resulting in less shorebird habitat and poorer plant germinations.
- 2. Permanent pond acres decreased by 50% and summer water acres by 25% potentially negatively impacting garter snakes, tricolored blackbirds, and western pond turtles.
- 3. 10% decrease in acres irrigated for annual food plants and to control invasive species such as cocklebur. There would be an increase in acres mowed, resulting in more diesel consumption, to mitigate for the decreased control of invasive species by irrigating.
- 4. Flood-ups would be delayed on a number of wetlands resulting in less habitat available for early migrants, and increased potential for crop depredation (Lea Act consideration at Colusa NWR). Water would be shifted from Sacramento and Colusa refuges to Delevan NWR. Wetland flood-ups would not be completed until late November.

- 5. Total wetland acres would be reduced by at least 10% with potential longer term impacts to future wetland quality.
- 6. Concentration of waterfowl on reduced habitat acres would increase disease risk, particularly with other public/private wetland acres anticipated to be reduced as well.
- 7. Standard habitat maintenance water supplies planned for use on the reduced wetland acres.
- 8. Reduced visitor use due to lower hunter quotas early in the hunting season before wetland units are flooded, a few auto tour units being dry, etc.

C. 50 % Level 2 at Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa NWR's & Level 4 (Delevan NWR)

- 1. Early spring draw-downs resulting in much less shorebird habitat available and poor plant germinations due to reduced maintenance supplies,
- 2. Permanent pond acres decreased by 75% and summer water decreased by 50% with associated significant impacts to giant garter snakes, tricolored blackbirds, western pond turtles, and duck broods.
- 3. 50% decrease in acres irrigated for annual food plants and control of invasive species such as cocklebur, with increased mowing/diesel use to mitigate.
- 4. Flood-ups delayed on an increased number of wetlands with significantly increased potential for crop depredation, problems likely near refuges (Lea Act consideration at Colusa NWR). Wetland flood-ups would not be completed until early December.
- 5. Total wetland acres reduced 30-50% with longer-term impacts to future wetland quality on more acres.
- 6. Significantly increased waterfowl crowding and associated disease risk due to the reduced habitat available. Other public/private wetland acres would be reduced significantly.
- 7. Standard habitat maintenance water supplies planned for use on vastly reduced number of wetland acres.
- 8. The hunting program on all three refuges would be eliminated, the auto tour at Colusa NWR would be closed, and visitor use on the Sacramento NWR auto tour would be reduced by 50% due to poorer viewing opportunities. Overall visitor use would drastically decrease.

D. 25% Level 2 at Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa NWR's & Level 4 (Delevan NWR)

- 1. Very early spring draw-downs would result in severely limited shorebird habitat and poor plant germinations due to reduced maintenance water supplies,
- 2. Permanent pond acreage decreased by 80% and summer water decreased by 80% with even more dramatic impact of giant garter snakes, tricolored blackbirds, western pond turtles, and duck broods.
- 3. Complete elimination of irrigations for annual food plants and control of invasive species resulting in vastly increased mowing/diesel fuel consumption to mitigate.
- 4. Flood-ups delayed even later on what few acres that could be flooded. Significant widespread crop depredation would be almost a certainty (Lea Act considerations at Colusa NWR). Water would be shifted from Colusa NWR to Sacramento NWR. Wetland flood-ups would be completed by mid-December.

- 5. Total wetland acres reduced 60-70% with longer-term impacts to future wetland quality on a vast majority of refuge wetlands.
- 6. Extreme waterfowl crowding and disease risk, particularly since there would be minimal other public/private wetlands available.
- 7. Uncertain habitat maintenance water supply on what few acres we are able to flood-up.
- 8. Public use on all refuge habitats would be eliminated, other than having the Sacramento NWR visitor center open. Visitor use would decrease to a fraction of normal.

Colusa NWR T1:1 T7 100% Water Available T8 83 T10:1 T10:3 Refuge Boundary T11 T10:2 T10:4 Managed wetlands flooded T12:3 T12:1 T12:4 T12:2 T13:1 T13A T13:2 T16 T15:4 T15:3 P2 P3 152 T25 P6 143 2 Miles 1.5 0.25 0.5

Colusa NWR T1:1 T7 75% Water Available T8 83 T10:1 T10:3 Refuge Boundary T11 T10:2 T10:4 Managed wetlands flooded T12:3 T12:1 T12:4 T12:2 T13:1 T13A T13:2 T16 T15:4 T15:3 T24:9 P2 T19:2 P3 152 T25 T19:3 T21:2 T20:1 P6 143 T23:2 T23:1 2 Miles 1.5 0.25 0.5

Colusa NWR T1:1 T7 T9 144 T6:2 50% Water Available T8 83 T10:1 T10:3 Refuge Boundary T11 T10:2 T10:4 Managed wetlands flooded T12:3 T12:1 T12:4 T12:2 T13:1 T13A T13:2 T16 T15:4 T15:3 T24:7 T24:9 P2 P3 152 T25 T21:1 T21:2 T20:1 P6 143 T23:2 T23:1 2 ■ Miles 1.5 0.25 0.5

Colusa NWR T1:1 T6:1 T7 T9 144 T6:2 25% Water Available T6:4 28 41 T8 83 T10:1 T10:3 Refuge Boundary T11 T10:2 T10:4 Managed wetlands flooded T12:3 T12:1 T12:4 T12:2 T13:1 T13A T13:2 T16 T15:4 T15:3 T24:9 T24:10 T24:5 T24:12 T18 T19:2 P3 152 T25 T19:3 T22:1 T21:1 T21:2 T20:1 P5 97 P6 143 T23:2 T23:1 2 Miles 1.5 0.25 0.5

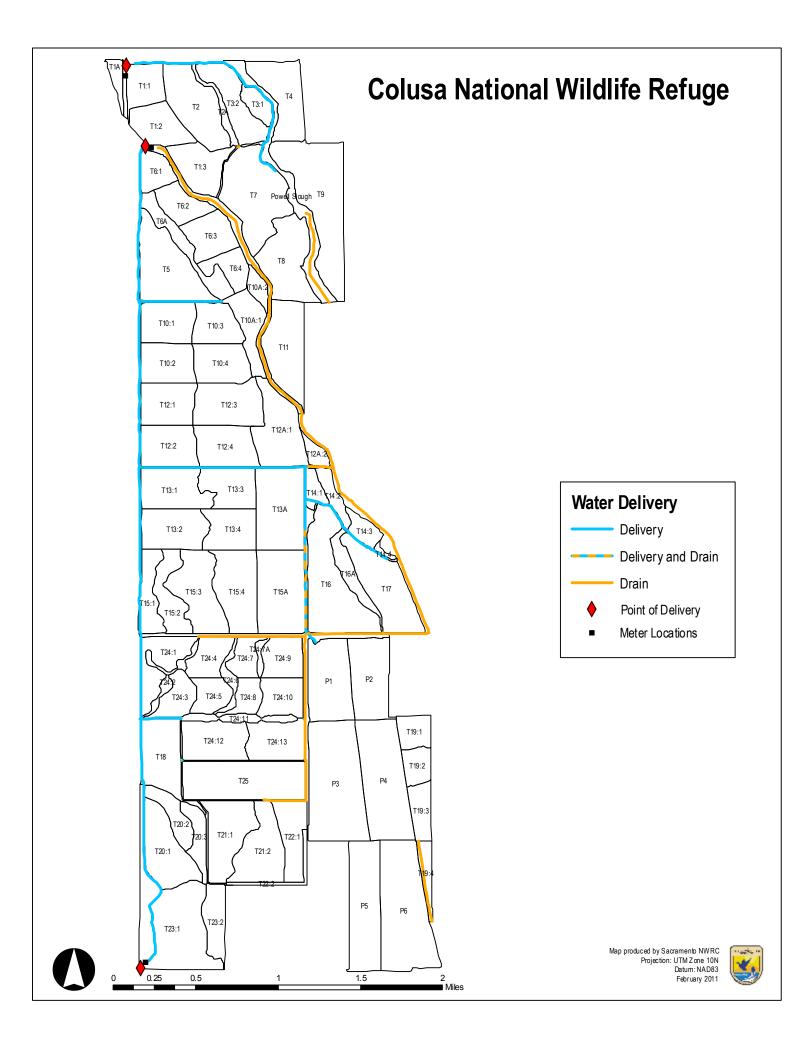
Attachment C

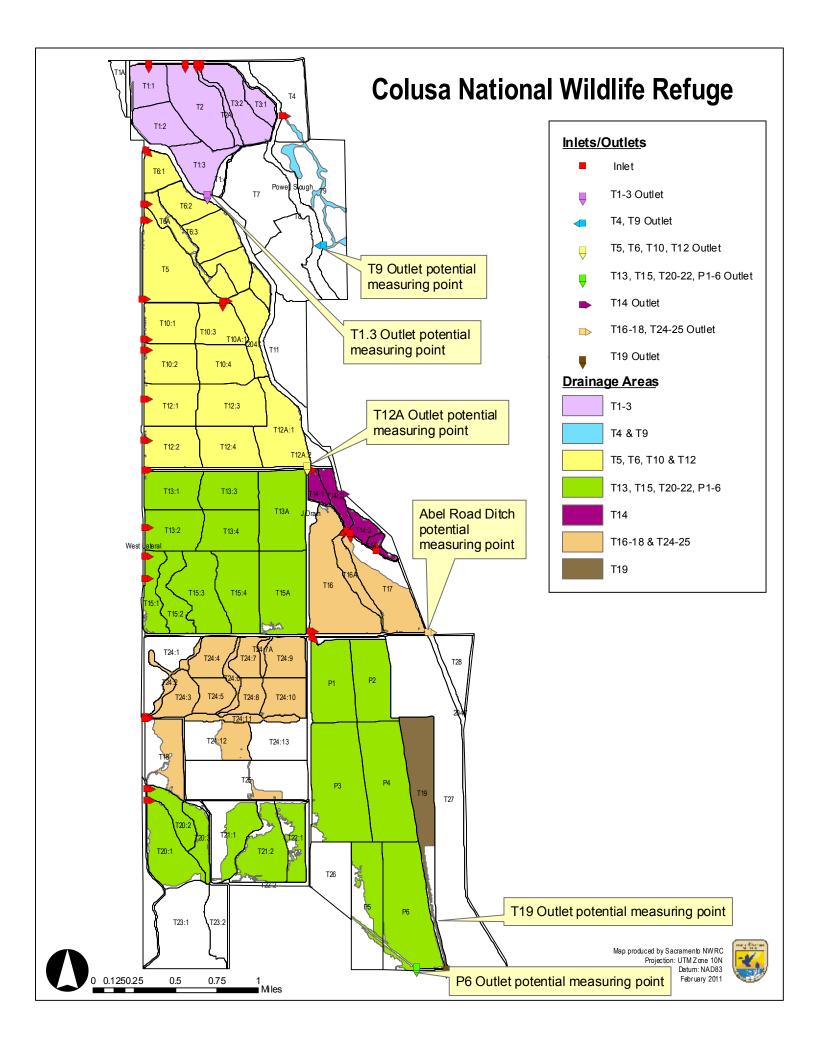
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Water Delivery and Drainage Map

Water Drainage Areas Map

Water System Map

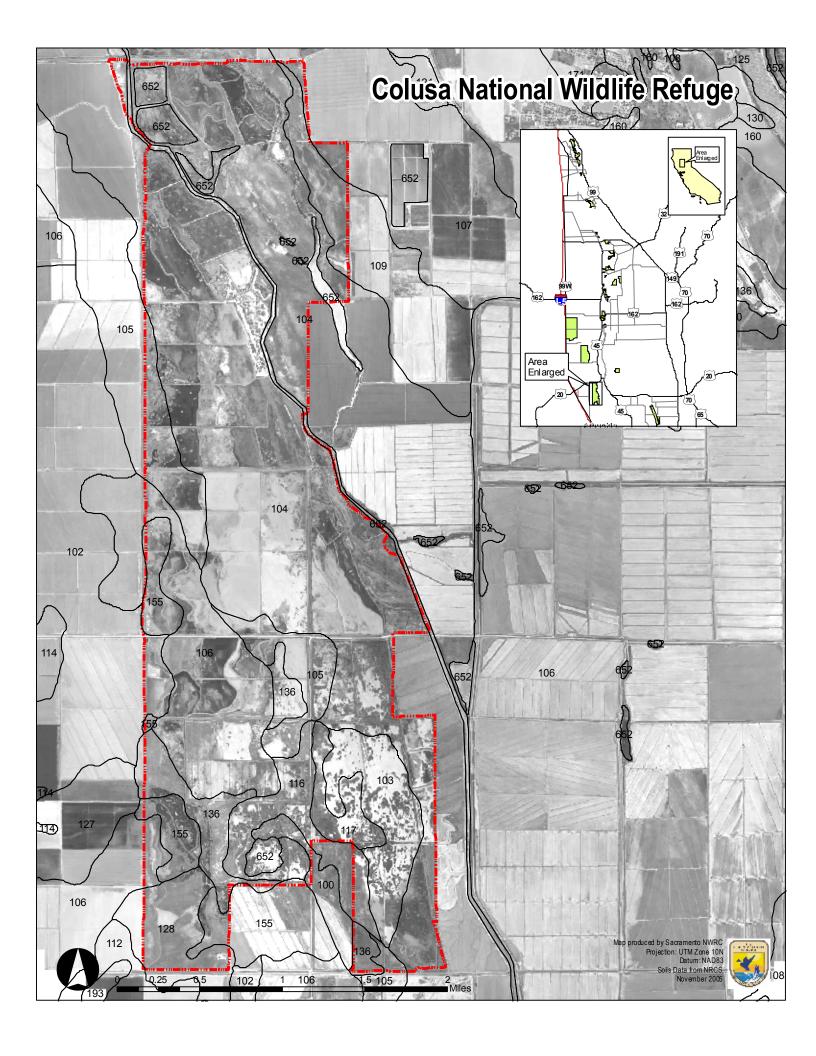




Attachment D

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Soils Map



Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Soil Series/Types*

Colusa County

#	Description
100	Capay clayloam, 0-1% slopes, occasionally flooded
103	Capay clayloam, 0-1% slopes, frequently flooded
105	Willows silty clay, 0-1% slopes, occasionally flooded
106	Willows silty clay, 0-1% slopes
107	Scribner silt loam, 0-1% slopes, occasionally flooded
109	Scribner silt loam, 0-1% slopes, frequently flooded
116	Clear Lake clay, calcareous, 0-2% slopes, occasionally flooded
117	Clear Lake clay, calcareous, 0-1% slopes, frequently flooded
128	Mallard loam, 0-1% slopes
136	Colusa loam, 0-2% slopes
155	Alcapay clay, 0-1% slopes
652	Water

^{*} from USDA Map Unit Legend Summary for Colusa County, California on NRCS Web Soil Survey.

Attachment E

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Water Inventory Tables

Table 1

Water Supply

		Federal		Refuge			
	Federal Wtr	Wtr Level	Local Water	Groundwt	Up Slope	other	
2010	Level 2	4	Supply	r	Drain Wtr	(define)	Total
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)
Method							
Jan-2010	1,147	0	0	0	0	0	1,147
February	944	0	0	0	0	0	944
Mar-2009	54	0	0	0	0	0	54
April	145	0	0	0	0	0	145
May	397	0	0	0	0	0	397
June	798	0	0	0	0	0	798
July	676	0	0	0	0	0	676
August	520	0	0	0	0	0	520
September	2,651	0	0	0	0	0	2,651
October	4,833	0	0	0	0	0	4,833
November	3,134	0	0	0	0	0	3,134
December	2,197	0	0	0	0	0	2,197
TOTAL	17,496	0	0	0	0	0	17,496

^{*}March 1, 2009 - February 28, 2010

Colusa NWR

Tables - Page 1

Measurement Method Definition

Measured sum

Measured sum

Measured sum

Calculated (mo

Calculated usir

Calculated usir

Estimated usin

Estimated usin

Estimated usin

Other (attach a

M1

M2

M3

C1

C2

C3

E1

E2

E3

O1

Table 2

Internal Distribution System

Year	2010			,					
	Length	Width	Surface Area	Precip.	Evaporation	Seepage	Operational losses	Measure method	Total
Canal, lateral	(feet)	(feet)	(square feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	see Cell K5	(acre-feet)
West Canal	26,400	20	528,000	20.69	51.86	500	0	M1	(531)
HWY 20 Canal	6,864	15	102,960	4.03	10.11	150		M1	(156)
Tract 5 Canal	2,640	10	26,400	1.03	2.59	50			(52)
Tract 13 Canal	5,280	15	79,200	3.10	7.78	100			(105)
Tract 14 Canal	2,640	15	39,600	1.55	3.89	50			(52)
N/S J-Drain	5,280	30	158,400	6.21	15.56	100			(109)
Tract 18 Canal	1,320	15	19,800	0.78	1.94	50			(51)
			0	0.00	0.00				0
			0	0.00	0.00				0
			0	0.00	0.00				0
			0	0.00	0.00				0
			0	0.00	0.00				0
			0	0.00	0.00				0
TOTAL	50,424		954,360	37	94	1,000	0		(1,056)

22 acres

Colusa NWR

Table 3

Managed Lands Water Needs

Year 2010	1	Habitat	AF/ac	Delivered	Shallow Cultural				
	Area	Water	water	Water	Precip	Groundwtr	Evap	Practices	Seepage
Habitat Type	habitat acres	(AF/ac)	(AF/ac)	(Total AF)	(AF/Ac)	(AF/Ac)	(AF/Ac)	(AF/Ac)	(AF/Ac)
Seasonal wetlands: timothy	2,700	5.00	3.60	9,720	1.60	0.00	1.46	0.00	0.00
Seasonal wetlands: smartweed	173	5.00	3.50	606	1.60	0.00	1.46	0.00	0.00
Seasonal wetlands: watergrass	224	8.00	7.00	1,568	1.60	0.00	1.46	0.00	0.00
Permanent wetlands	71	12.00	10.00	710	1.71	0.00	4.28	0.00	0.00
Semi-perm wetlands/brood pond	449	10.00	8.50	3,817	1.71	0.00	1.46	0.00	0.00
Riparian	62	12.00	0.00	0	1.71	0.00	4.28	0.00	0.00
Irrigated pasture				0	0.42	0.00	3.57	0.00	0.00
Upland	1,155		0.00	0	0.42	0.00	3.57	0.00	0.00
(define)				0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
(define)				0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Habitat Acres	4,834	4.60	3.40	16,420					

Colusa NWR

Table 4

Refuge Water Inventory

Year	2010	Reference		
Total Water Sup	pply	Table 1		17,496
Precipitation		Table 2	plus	37
Evaporation		Table 2	minus	94
Seepage		Table 2	minus	1,000
Operational Los	ses	Table 2	minus	0
		Deliveri	es to Managed Lands	16,440
Managed Land	needs	Table 3	minus	22,243
Difference		(calculated)		(5,803)
		Balanc	e (outflow?) (Table 3)	13,003
		Wat	er Inventory Balance	7,200

Colusa NWR

Table 5

Annual Water Quantities Delivered Under Each Right or Contract

Year	Federal Wtr Level 2 (acre-feet)	Federal Wtr Level 4 (acre-feet)	Local Water Supply (acre-feet)	Refuge Groundwt r (acre-feet)	Up Slope Drain Wtr (acre-feet)	other (define) (acre-feet)	Total (acre-feet)
2001	14,652	0	0	0	0	0	14,652
2002	14,952	0	0	0	0	0	14,952
2003	18,604	0	0	0	0	0	18,604
2004	20,171	0	0	0	0	0	20,171
2005	21,418	0	0	0	0	0	21,418
2006	19,562	0	0	0	0	0	19,562
2007	20,140	0	0	0	0	0	20,140
2008	20,500	0	0	0	0	0	20,500
2009	16,551	0	0	0	0	0	16,551
2010	17,496	0	0	0	0	0	17,496
Total	184,046	0	0	0	0	0	184,046
Average	18,405	0	0	0	0	0	18,405

Colusa NWR

Tables - Page 5