

CALFED Science Program 2009 Proposal Solicitation Package

Public Comments received by December 3, 2008, in response to the posting of the 2009 PSP *Revised Draft* – Priority Research Topics. Comments were provided to Cliff Dahm CALFED Lead Scientist for his consideration.

Comment:

Thank you for the much improved list of topics for the latest CALFED solicitation. I am enthusiastic about the increased level of ecological and socioeconomic integration. However, it is crucial to include the allowance of work on the basic biology of the invasive species impacting the delta (genetics, reproduction, demographics), as it is rudimentary for many of our worst examples. This basic information will be critical to understanding their ecological relationships.

Kristina Schierenbeck, Ph.D.
USDA/ARS/Exotic and Invasive Weeds Unit

Comment:

CalFed has invested considerable effort into conceptual models through the DRERIP process. Those models highlight connections in terms of their importance and degree of understanding. It seems obvious to me that reference to those models would allow proposals to focus on those things that are important and inadequately understood. Many of the relevant ones have finished peer review or will very soon. I would urge you to make them available as part of this PSP.

I continue to believe that those models provide a roadmap to the Science Program's priorities and that it is only fair to share them with interested researchers.

Bruce Herbold
US EPA

Comment:

In past solicitations, CALFED's purview has included other watersheds near the San Francisco Bay, and I suggest that this be the case in the upcoming solicitation. Specifically, several of us see an opportunity to work on steelhead ecology in tributaries of the Russian River, and are considering submitting a proposal on this theme. Please advise.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

Bob

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Robert L. Bugg, Ph.D.
Senior Analyst, Entomology and Agricultural Ecology
U.C. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
University of California, Davis

Comment:

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing concerning the revised priority research topics, as requested in the call for a 2nd round of public comments (http://www.science.calwater.ca.gov/psp/psp_package_2009.html).

In particular, I am writing because I would like clarification on whether or not projects taking place in the San Francisco Bay which might impact the Delta will be considered. I have heard conflicting information on the current geographic scope of CALFED's research interests. As we battle sea level rise and invasive species, I would hope that the research scope of CALFED will include those issues in the Bay which, if left unchecked, will impact the Delta.

I would love to hear back from you on this. Thank you so much for your time.

Ingrid

Ingrid Hogle
Monitoring Program Manager
San Francisco Estuary
Invasive Spartina Project

Comment:

I would like to comment that the topics (below) in the first category, Native Fish Biology and Ecology are excellent topics that should be thoroughly investigated to implement recovery of salmonid fisheries in California. Butte Creek is a prime example of a native fishery that is functioning relatively well and needs further study to protect the best of what is left in the Sacramento-San Joaquin system. Migratory behavior, habitat conditions, rearing and spawning behaviors, population dynamics, and climate change are all easily studied and will build on the studies currently underway by UCD, and those done by DFG and PGE in the relicensing of the DeSabra-Centerville Hydroelectric Project. The lessons learned from studying Butte Creek and the salmon and steelhead populations will provide tremendous opportunities to emulate conditions that continue to support self sustaining populations of native fish assemblages in other watersheds of the

system. Please make Butte Creek a central focus of this topic!

Thank you,
Allen Harthorn
Friends of Butte Creek

Comment:

To whom it may concern,

I was pleased to see that the revised version of the 2009 PSP topics contains a section specifically related to the biology and ecology of native fishes. However, I was surprised that none of the 4 focal topic areas directly addresses the recent Central Valley Chinook salmon collapse. The collapse represents a biological, ecological, economic, and management disaster, and is clearly of interest to Californians (since January, the cover article of the San Francisco Chronicle has been related to the Central Valley Chinook on 5 occasions – see links below). Research exploring (1) the factors that precipitated the collapse and (2) future management options designed to ensure the sustainability of this important ecological and economic resource are sorely needed. The current state of salmon in California (Moyle et al. 2008) requires urgent research to illuminate management strategies that will ensure fishery sustainability while simultaneously minimizing impacts of hatchery-reared salmonids (which support the fishery) on our imperiled wild salmon populations.

Page A1: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/01/30/MNRIUOE8C.DTL&type=printable>

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/03/08/MNPMVE857.DTL&type=printable>

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/03/12/MNSLVHTM5.DTL&type=printable>

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<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/04/11/MNO6103NBB.DTL&type=printable>

Thank you for considering these comments,
Stephanie Carlson
Assistant Professor
University of California
Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management