

Delta Science Program Brown Bag Series Presents

Habitat Characteristics that Made Delta Landscapes Unique: Perspectives for Ecosystem Restoration

Robin Grossinger and Alison Whipple
Historical Ecology Program
Aquatic Science Center

Wednesday April 20, 2011, 12 noon – 1 p.m.
Cal EPA building 1st Floor: Training Room 1, East and West
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento CA 95814



Improving our understanding of historical habitat characteristics can help address uncertainties about ecosystem process and function. In highly modified systems like the Delta, where native conditions have been absent for generations, historical ecology offers insight into how we might reestablish ecosystem functions necessary for successful large-scale restoration efforts. While restoring the Delta as it was in 1850 is not possible or desirable, the historical perspective can be one of the tools used to guide the development of large-scale restoration principles, metrics for evaluating success, and a unified vision for restoring ecosystem health.

Robin Grossinger and Alison Whipple of the Aquatic Science Center will discuss their ongoing collaborative work with the California Department of Fish and Game to map and document habitats of the Delta circa 1850. Habitat mosaics and characteristics will be discussed within their landscape context in order to compare and contrast three large-scale Delta landscape types: flood basins (north Delta), tidal islands (central Delta), and distributary rivers (south Delta).