



***Delta Science Program, Ecosystem Restoration Program and  
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Jointly Present***

## **Integrated Water Operations and Ecosystem Decision Support Modeling: The Ecological Flows Tool (EFT)**

**Ryan Luster  
The Nature Conservancy**

**Monday, June 17, 2013, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Location: Cal/EPA Building, Coastal Hearing Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor,  
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento CA 95814**



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**EFT**  
Ecological Flows Tool

Integrating multiple species and multiple habitat needs in the evaluation of water operations is challenging. The Ecological Flows Tool (EFT) is a decision support system that shows how changes in flow management and other actions result in changes to the physical habitats of species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in the Sacramento River and Delta.

The tool integrates a representative range of life-history performance measures with key physical variables found in other widely used hydrologic models. Using these data and adding ecological calculations such as performance indicators for different species and habitats, EFT is able to evaluate the effects of changing the water delivery system on focal species and their habitats. The tool uses a transparent process which contributes to an effective understanding of how flow and non-flow restoration actions affect focal species and their habitats. The hallmark of the EFT approach is integration and a clear communication of multiple ecological trade-offs associated with different water operation alternatives.

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