

Draft Questions to be used by DISB for Program Reviews

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24 July 2012

Background Information to be requested from programs/agencies (general and specific to habitat restoration efforts)

1. Basic data about program (mission, #employees, skill sets, budget, clients, products, etc.)
2. Program comparisons (size, resources, mission, etc)
 - Similar programs in Bay-Delta region
 - Similar programs outside Bay-Delta region
3. Examples of products/presentations recently developed by the program

II. Habitat Restoration Draft Questions

Note Bene: The DISB wants the review process to be as helpful for Delta science, scientists and science programs as possible. Participants should feel free to take advantage of every opportunity, embedded or implicit in the following questions, to communicate to the DISB what their needs are to further the generation and use of Delta science.

1. What research and/or monitoring efforts are currently being conducted by your program in the area of habitat restoration?
 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of these efforts?
 - Are there effective outcome or performance measurements?
 - How are these efforts supported? How secure is funding? Over what time period?
2. What efforts in habitat restoration are planned over the next 3-5 years?
 - Are funding and staffing levels sufficient? What additional resources will be required?
 - Will these efforts be conducted in collaboration with other programs or agencies? If so, how will activities be allocated and coordinated?
3. How are the potential effects of climate change being incorporated into current and planned habitat restoration efforts?
 - Is your program meeting its intended objectives with respect to incorporating climate change into its habitat restoration activities?
4. What barriers and challenges has your program encountered in addressing climate change scenarios in ongoing and/or planned habitat restoration projects?
 - What actions are underway or planned to address them?
 - What additional actions are needed?

5. How effective is your program's management and leadership in the areas of habitat restoration and climate change?

- Does this area need to be strengthened within your program's focus area(s)?
- Is research/monitoring integrated with education and innovation?
- Does your agency leadership employ an appropriate evaluation system for measuring project outputs and outcomes?
- Are financial resources allocated as needed?

6. With what science agencies in and beyond the Delta does your program work directly or indirectly in the areas of habitat restoration and climate change?

- What kinds of collaboration take place within your program and with other programs?
- How effective are these collaborations?
- What agencies are most similar to yours in terms of mission?
- Are there areas of overlap or redundancy?
- How can coordination with other agencies be improved?
- Are further collaborations (internal or external) needed? If so, what collaborations would you like to see?

7. Roles in implementing the Delta Plan (of the Delta Stewardship Council) and the current version of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) in the context of habitat restoration and climate change (address separately for each of the two Plans)

- Does the Plan incorporate the best available science into the proposed habitat restoration efforts?
- Does the Plan address climate change sufficiently in its consideration of habitat restoration?
- What are the major challenges for your program's role in implementation of the Plan?
- Will implementation of the Plan require additional resources for your program? If so, what will be needed?
- Will implementation of the Plan require restructuring or reprioritization of your program's goals and outcomes?

8. In what ways does your agency or program communicate its value and the importance of its findings to constituents? What improvements are needed for your findings and products to reach:

- Scientists or other staff within your program or agency?
- Scientists or others at other agencies or programs?
- Policy makers?
- Broad public audiences?

9. How is adaptive management being incorporated into current and planned efforts in the areas of habitat restoration and climate change?

- Are monitoring activities appropriately targeted, staffed, and funded? Who is conducting the monitoring?

- What procedures are in place or planned to ensure that the appropriate information is synthesized, interpreted, and communicated to decision-makers?

10. Is the necessary science being done that will guide the actions that need to be conducted by your agency over the next 3-5 years?

- Are there gaps that need to be addressed?
- What are the top three areas for improvement over the next 3-5 years.

11. What changes (in staffing, budget, structure...) would help ensure meeting your program's goals and objectives in incorporating climate change scenarios into habitat restoration? Include access to scientific journals and travel to scientific meetings, both in-state and outside CA.