The Delta Science Plan

One Delta, One Science

Problem

Delta science lacks the organization, support, and many of the approaches and tools needed to produce and communicate highly credible, relevant, and legitimate science to guide durable and comprehensive policy solutions and support effective and robust management actions for achieving the coequal goals.

Goals

- Strengthen and unify the Delta science community
- Assure the credibility, relevance, and legitimacy of Delta science
- Build collaborative approaches for developing and communicating shared knowledge that informs policy, management, and the public and results in effective action

Objectives

- Enable and promote science synthesis
- Manage scientific conflict
- Prioritize, coordinate, integrate, and communicate Delta science in a transparent manner
- Build effective policy-science interactions
- Provide strategic and topical support for effective adaptive management
- Identify, maintain and advance understanding about the Delta (e.g., support efforts to build shared data and community models)

Vision

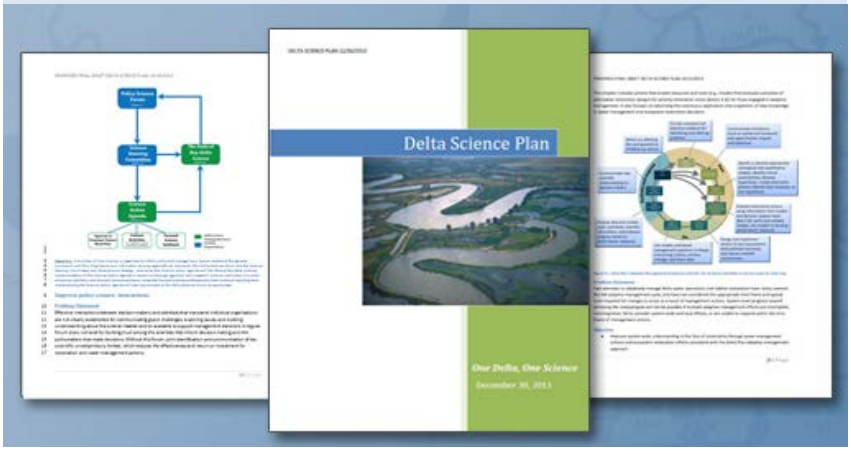
The Delta Science Plan establishes the vision, "*One Delta, One Science*" – which means an open Delta science community that works together to build a shared state of knowledge with the capacity to adapt and inform current and future water and environmental decisions in the Delta.

What is the Delta Science Plan?

- A broad and adaptable framework to accelerate the discovery of new understanding
- A list of 31 actions intended to strengthen the organization and communication of science
- One element of a three-part planning, implementation, and reporting science strategy (see back page)

Implementing the Delta Science Plan

Multiple agencies and institutions are implementing the Delta Science Plan through initial actions such as collaboratively organizing science summits on environmental data management and community modeling. The Delta Science Plan was accepted by the Delta Stewardship Council and recognized in the Governor's California Water Action Plan as having an important role in enhancing water and natural resources policy and management decisions that achieve the coequal goals for the Delta. The Delta Science Plan was completed in December 2013. It will be assessed after one year of implementation and adjustments will be made to improve achievements of outcomes and objectives.



More Information

To learn more about the Delta Science Plan and download a copy visit: http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/science-program/delta-science-plan.gov



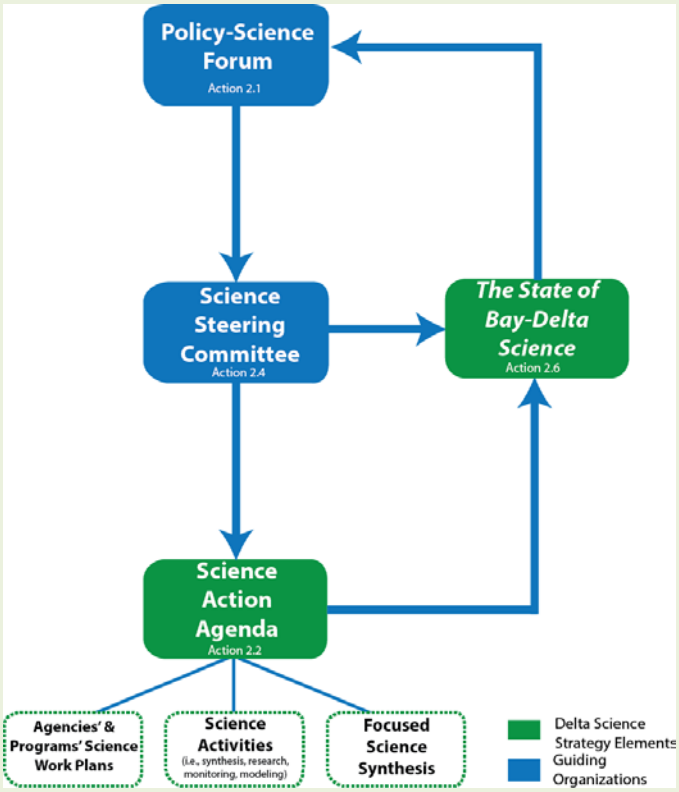
Transforming the way we do science in the Delta through a three-part Delta Science Strategy

The Delta Science Plan is one element of a three-part planning, implementation, and reporting science strategy. The overall Delta Science Strategy includes:

1. ***The Delta Science Plan*** – A shared vision for Delta science and a living guide for organizing, conducting, and integrating science in the Delta. It establishes the major elements, organizational structures, and key actions for improving the efficiency, utility, and application of Delta science across many agencies and institutions and for assuring its credibility, relevance, and legitimacy. The Delta Science Plan was completed in Dec. 2013.

2. ***The Science Action Agenda*** – This prioritizes and aligns near-term science actions to inform management decisions and achieve the objectives of the Delta Science Plan. The Science Action Agenda identifies priorities for research, monitoring, data management, modeling, synthesis, communication, and building science capacity. Under the leadership of the Delta Science Program, the Science Action Agenda will be developed collaboratively with federal, State, and local agencies; science programs, academic institutions, stakeholders, and a Science Steering Committee. *An expedited and scaled-back version of the Science Action Agenda, the Interim Science Action Agenda, will be completed in 2014.*

3. ***The State of Bay-Delta Science (SBDS)*** – A synthesis of the current scientific knowledge for the Delta. Specifically, *SBDS* communicates the state of knowledge to address the grand challenges, including progress made on key research questions and remaining knowledge gaps, which are used to guide updates to the Science Action Agenda. It is updated by relevant science experts with guidance from the Science Steering Committee. An updated *SBDS* is expected in early 2015.



A schematic of the key elements described in the Delta Science Plan and their relationship to one another (Delta Science Plan 2013).

What they're saying about the Delta Science Plan

"The Delta Science Plan provides a meaningful framework to aid CDFW and others to more effectively address the complex challenges we face in the Delta."
Charlton Bonham, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

"It is clear that we are on a path toward collaboration and mutual benefit."
CA Water Quality Monitoring Council

"By adopting bold steps to implement a 'One Delta, One Science' approach for a new Delta Science Plan, California can become a leading example of how to tackle the global problem of rapid ecological change and biodiversity loss."
James E. Cloern, United States Geological Survey
Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California

"The work you've done has changed the conversation. I've never been as optimistic as I am now about our collective science effort."
Jason Peltier, Westlands Water District

Delta Stewardship Council
Delta Science Program