

# Restoring the Delta's Ecosystems: Progress and Next Steps

INFORMATION SHEET



Delta Plan Interagency  
Implementation  
Committee

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

## Why are ecosystem restoration targets important for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh?

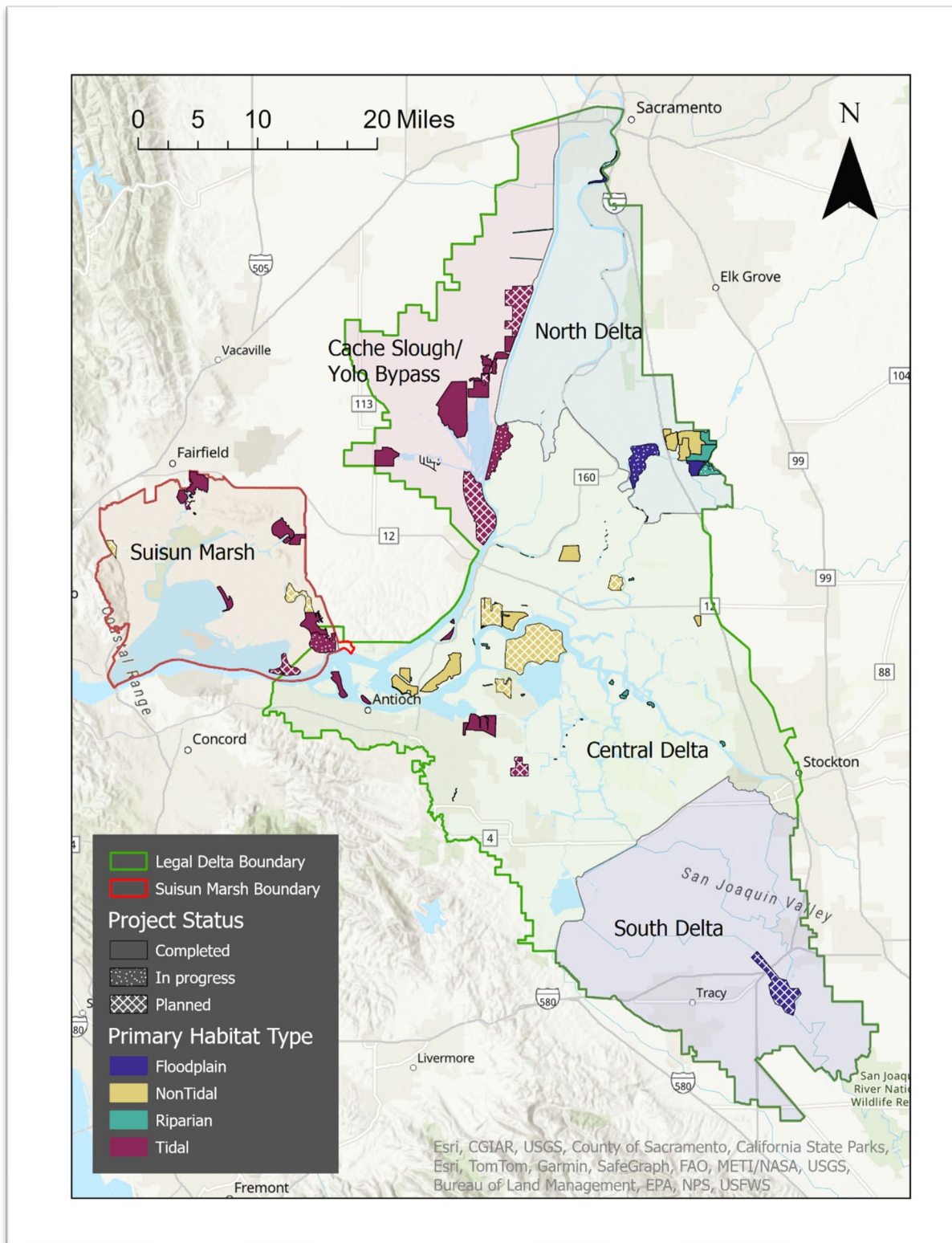
- The Delta Plan promotes **restoring 60,000 to 80,000 acres of habitat by 2050**. Restoration projects should provide social benefits to Delta communities, minimize conflicts with existing land uses, and proactively incorporate consultation and coordination with Native American tribes.
- **Ecosystem restoration** returns an area to a state that supports more natural processes (e.g., water flow and connection) and improves habitat for native plants and animals.
- The Delta Plan guides how federal, state, and local agencies **manage the Delta's water and environmental resources**. The Delta Plan aims to enhance the Delta as a place by promoting and protecting human communities, including its cultural, recreational, and agricultural values, along with natural resources.

## What has been achieved so far?

- As of 2024, **12,164 acres (or 20% of the goal)** have been restored, including:
  - 8,704 acres of tidal wetlands
  - 2,698 acres of nontidal wetlands
  - 183 acres of riparian habitat
  - 579 acres of floodplain habitat
- The Delta Plan also sets restoration targets for oak woodland, grassland, vernal pool, interior dune vegetation, and alkali seasonal wetlands.

## Where is restoration happening?

This map shows restoration projects in the Delta and Suisun Marsh, including completed, in-progress, and planned projects.



## What habitats are being restored?

**Tidal wetlands** receive water influenced by tidal cycles. They often include marshes with channels. The Delta once had expansive tidal wetlands. Now, they are in small, isolated patches. Tidal marshes provide food for fish that feed in channels.

*Lookout Slough; Photo by DWR.*



**Riparian and floodplain habitats** are forests, woodland, and other areas along rivers and streams that sometimes flood. Riparian forests allow wildlife to move to new areas, but the remaining patches in the Delta are often too small and isolated to allow this. *Cosumnes River Preserve; Photo by DWR.*

**Seasonal and non-tidal wetlands** occupy upstream floodplains above tidal influence. They are temporarily to permanently flooded. Types of seasonal wetlands include wet meadows, vernal pools, and alkali wetlands. *Sherman Island; Photo by DWR.*



## What will restoration achieve?

The Delta Plan identifies **five core strategies** to guide restoration:

**Create** more natural, functional flows.

**Restore** ecosystem function.

**Protect** land for restoration and safeguard against land loss.

**Protect** native species and reduce the impact of non-native invasive species.

**Improve** institutional coordination to support the implementation of ecosystem protection, restoration, and enhancement.

## How are DPIIC and its Restoration Subcommittee helping?

- The Delta Plan created the Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC), consisting of 17 state and federal agencies facilitating Delta Plan implementation through collaboration.
- DPIIC formed the **Restoration Subcommittee** in 2022 to identify and implement strategies to reduce barriers to landscape-scale restoration and increase estuary-wide restoration coordination.
- The Delta Restoration Forum series has created a space for **communication and relationship building** to support restoration in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.
- Watch a recording of the February 2023 Forum: [rebrand.ly/p84oi82](https://rebrand.ly/p84oi82).
- Read about the projects featured at the Forum: [rebrand.ly/fv88jyq](https://rebrand.ly/fv88jyq).

## What are the Restoration Subcommittee's goals?

- Provide forums for **meaningful community participation** in Delta restoration efforts.
- Increase interagency collaboration to **streamline restoration implementation**.
- **Identify opportunities** in restoration planning and long-term management efforts.
- Increase transparency and coordination around existing, new, and needed **restoration funding**.

## Where can you learn more?

For more information, please visit [www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/dpiic/initiatives](http://www.deltacouncil.ca.gov/dpiic/initiatives) or contact [dpiicrestorationsubcommittee@deltacouncil.ca.gov](mailto:dpiicrestorationsubcommittee@deltacouncil.ca.gov).



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