

Cache Slough Area

Cache Slough Area Restoration

Project Goals:

1. Re-establish natural ecological processes and habitats to benefit native species
2. Contribute to scientific understanding of restoration ecology
3. Maintain or improve flood safety

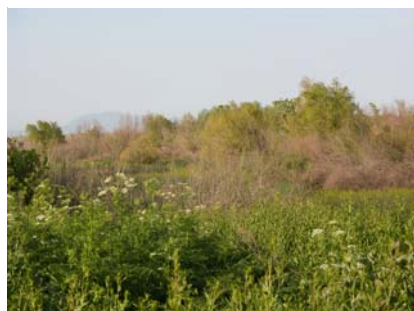
Project Description:

The Cache Slough Area has potential for restoration success due to its relatively high tidal range, historic dendritic channel network, minimal subsidence, and remnant riparian and vernal pool habitat. Restoration efforts will support native species, including delta smelt, longfin smelt, Sacramento splittail, and Chinook salmon, by offering a suite of natural habitats and improving the food web fish require. In 2007, Cache Slough had the highest concentration of pre-spawning adult delta smelt in the Delta.

Restoration in the Cache Slough Area was identified as an Interim Delta Action by Governor Schwarzenegger in July 2007 and is being evaluated through the Bay Delta Conservation Plan process. Other planning processes such as the Delta Vision, and the Delta Risk Management Strategy have also identified the Cache Slough Area as a potential priority restoration site.

The Cache Slough Area is located in the northern Delta where Cache Slough and the southern Yolo Bypass meet. At a minimum, it includes Liberty Island, Little Holland Tract, Prospect Island, Little Egbert Tract and the surrounding waterways. Levee height on these tracts is restricted and designed to allow overtopping in large flow events so that the tracts can carry water from the upper Yolo Bypass. Since 1983 and 1998 respectively, Little Holland Tract and Liberty Island have remained breached. Restoration is occurring naturally on the islands.

Surrounding lands that are at elevations that would function as floodplain or marsh if not separated by levees could also be included in the Cache Slough Area. In its broadest definition, the Cache Slough Area could include roughly 45,000 acres of existing and potential open water, marsh, floodplain and riparian habitat.



Riparian Habitat on Northern Prospect Island



View Southeast from Liberty Island Bridge

For more information contact:

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Schedule and Milestones:

July 2008 – Pelagic Organism Decline study team begins baseline study

Sept 2008 – Delta Fish Agreement to be signed; initial planning fund source

October 2008 – Begin vetting BDCP Restoration Conservation Measure Concepts through DRERIP models

December 2008 – Draft BDCP Conservation Strategy

December 2009 – Public Draft BDCP Conservation Strategy

June 2010 – Final BDCP Conservation Strategy