

Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project

Component of the Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA)



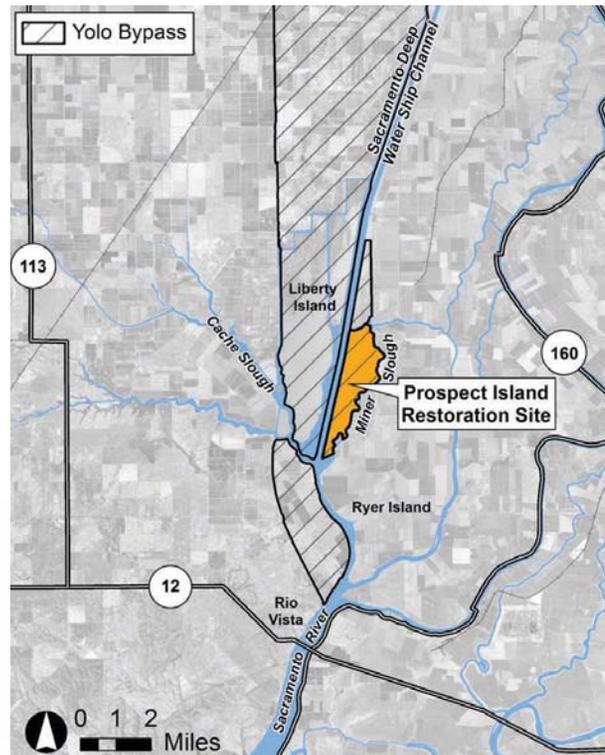
Project

The Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is a joint effort by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). Together they are developing the plan to restore the property to freshwater tidal wetland and open water (subtidal) habitats to benefit native fish and improve aquatic ecosystem functions. Restoration will entail interior grading, vegetation management, possible clean fill import for subsidence reversal, possible weir installation, breaching of exterior levees, and addressing various property considerations. Monitoring will take place as part of a science-based adaptive management plan. The design of future restoration projects will incorporate knowledge gained through the implementation and monitoring of this project.

The project is a component of DWR's and CDFW's Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA). FRPA implements the fish habitat restoration actions for the following requirements: US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions on the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project coordinated long-term operations and CDFW Incidental Take Permit for SWP Delta operations. The project is in concordance with DWR's Environmental Stewardship Policy, which states that DWR has a responsibility to protect and restore the environment and should implement projects that contribute to the recovery of listed species.

Location

Prospect Island is a 1,600-acre property located in Solano County, in the northwestern part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Prospect Island lies between the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel on the west and Miner Slough on the east. It is located just east of the naturally restored 4,500-acre Liberty Island. DWR owns the northern 1,300 acres and the Port of West Sacramento owns the southern 300 acres.



Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project

Component of the Fish Restoration Program Agreement (FRPA)

Benefits

The Prospect Island restoration goal is to support recovery of delta smelt, Chinook salmon, and many other Delta-dependent fish and wildlife species. Restoration objectives are to enhance aquatic foodweb productivity within and around Prospect Island while enhancing and creating juvenile salmonid rearing habitat and enhancing habitat for many other species, provide long-term resiliency to climate change, improve water quality, and avoid conditions that detract from meeting the project goal.

History

DWR acquired the northern portion of Prospect Island in 2010 from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), which acquired the property in 1996 for restoration purposes. BOR discontinued agricultural use and the property remains fallow. Since 1996 the levee on the northern portion of the island has breached twice naturally and was repaired. The southern Port property has been used for dredged material placement and also has had natural levee breaches that are partially repaired. Because Prospect Island is part of the Yolo Bypass, its levees were designed at lower heights to allow overtopping for flood relief.

Public Involvement Opportunities

The project will be implemented in accordance with the environmental review requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In addition, DWR will periodically coordinate with adjacent landowners and potentially affected parties during project planning.

The following public involvement activities will be carried out to support project implementation:

Public Involvement Opportunity	Approximate Timing
Public comment period and meeting for scoping the environmental assessment	Spring 2013
Public comment period and public hearing for the public draft environmental assessment	Spring 2014
Public comment period for the final environmental assessment	Summer/Fall 2014
Public comment period on Clean Water Act permits and Delta Reform Act consistency determination	Fall 2014/Winter 2015

Planning and design is expected to be completed by late 2015, with construction commencing by early 2016.

DWR maintains a website with project information and points of contact:

<http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/frpa.cfm>

