



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

SEP 9 2004

To Interested Parties:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Bureau of Reclamation are encouraging prospective applicants to submit proposals for the fiscal year 2005 Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) (also known as the CVPIA (b)(1) "other" Program). Prospective applicants are Federal and State government agencies, private non-profit or profit organizations, and individuals. Additionally, the primary focus of funding is given to the following types of projects: (1) acquiring areas of existing habitat through purchase of fee title or conservation easements for native species impacted by the CVP; (2) maintaining, restoring, or enhancing priority habitats and habitat for priority species; and (3) performing studies or surveys necessary to determine appropriate species and habitat-specific actions (USFWS and USBR 2003).

Two enclosed documents, the Operation Framework Document for the CVPCP and the Project Plan for the HRP, provide basic information about the programs for prospective applicants. These documents can be used as a general guide for submitting proposals.

The priorities listed below, related to species and habitat types, have been developed specifically for fiscal year 2005. These priorities reflect the most current evaluation of species needs and habitat trends and are generally complementary to other ongoing actions within the Central Valley. They also take into account historical levels of investment as well as future threats to specific ecosystems.

Well conceived proposals that address the following priorities will be given preference during proposal review. It should also be emphasized that all proposals must relate to habitat types and species historically or currently impacted by the CVP. Program priorities for fiscal year 2005 are the following:

- a) Serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly, in Santa Clara County. Proposals should emphasize



implementation of priority one tasks for serpentine species found in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998a)¹.

- b) Grassland, alkali sink, and alkali scrub habitat located in the Central Valley, with emphasis on the Tulare Basin, and on habitat linkages for San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, Buena Vista lake shrew and others dependent upon this habitat complex. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one tasks for upland species of the San Joaquin Valley found in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)¹.
- c) Vernal pool habitats throughout the Central Valley supporting federal vernal pool invertebrates, California tiger salamander, and listed plant species including slender Orcutt grass, Greene's tuctoria, Colusa grass, Hoover's spurge, and fleshy-owl's clover. Proposals should emphasize implementation of high priority tasks for vernal pool habitat species found in the Draft High Priority Actions for the Interim Water Contract Renewals and Friant Water Contract Renewals to include, but not limited to:
- protection, through fee title or easement acquisition, of existing vernal pool complexes supporting listed species.
 - research on vernal pool habitats, including response of listed species to various land uses, as well as contaminants.
 - development of vernal pool management plans based on peer reviewed research findings.
- d) Riparian upland habitat mosaic throughout the southern Central Valley (particularly in Tulare, Kern, Madera, Merced, Fresno, and Kings counties), supporting species such as giant garter snake, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, riparian brush rabbit, riparian woodrat, California red-legged frog, and neotropical migratory birds. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one tasks for riparian upland mosaic species found in the following recovery plans: *Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 1999)¹; *Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan* (USFWS 1984)²; *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)¹; *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii)* (USFWS 2002a)¹; *Final Recovery Plan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus)* (USFWS 2002b)¹; and *Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus)* (USFWS 1998c)².
- e) Gabbro soils chaparral habitat in El Dorado County, supporting federally listed plant species, with special emphasis in the southern region of the Pine Hills Preserve. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one tasks for Gabbro soils chaparral habitat species found in the *Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills* (USFWS 2002c)¹.

¹ Indicates a Recovery Plan that is available on-line at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>

² Indicates a Recovery Plan that is not available on-line but can be obtained by hard copy by contacting Caroline Prose of the Service at (916) 414-6575.

- f) Oak woodland habitats found in association with other habitat types listed above and in the Central Valley. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one tasks for oak woodland habitat species found in the following recovery plans: *Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 1999)¹; *Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan* (USFWS 1984)²; *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)¹; *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii)* (USFWS 2002a)¹; *Final Recovery Plan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus)* (USFWS 2002b)¹; and *Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus)* (USFWS 1998c)².

Submitted proposals should emphasize the proposed activity's contribution to improving existing conditions for CVP impacted listed species, such as those identified above. Proposals that implement priority one tasks indicated in the above recovery plans, will be given preference during the proposal ranking process. Accordingly, applicants should define and document existing baseline conditions related to listed species and cite all documented references to species occurrence. The proposal should also outline monitoring strategies for determining how the project would help raise or stabilize listed species baseline. The enclosed CVPCP Operational Framework Document and HRP Project Plan specify criteria used to evaluate and prioritize proposals. Applicants are encouraged to clearly spell-out how their project would fulfill these criteria.

Proposals for both the CVPCP and HRP can be submitted beginning October 1st, 2004, and should be written in accordance with the examples indicated in the CVPCP Operational Framework Document and the HRP Project Plan.

The deadline for proposal submission is March 1st, 2005.

The announcement for receipt of proposals will also be posted on the Service's and Bureau of Reclamation's websites. The Service's website address is: <http://sacramento.fws.gov/>
The Bureau of Reclamation's website address is: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/>
Additionally, more information about the CVPCP can be found at the following website address: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/mp150/cvpcp/>

Send proposals to John Thomson, Project Manager, Central Valley Project Conservation Program, MP-150, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825. Those who plan on submitting a written proposal are also invited to make an oral presentation to program managers and the CVPCP Technical Team members. Presentations are currently scheduled for October 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; October 27th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and October 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Federal Building on Cottage Way in Sacramento.

If you would like to schedule a presentation, or if you have questions regarding the Habitat Restoration or Conservation Programs, please contact John Thomson with the Bureau of Reclamation at (916) 978-5052, or Caroline Prose with the Service at (916) 414-6575.

Sincerely,


David L. Harlow
Acting Field Supervisor

Enclosures

cc:

John Thomson, BOR, Sacramento, CA

Myrnie Mayville, BOR, Sacramento, CA

Dan Castleberry, Bay-Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Project, Sacramento, CA

LITERATURE CITED

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1984. Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan. Portland, Oregon. 62 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998a. Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area. Portland, Oregon. 330+ pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998b. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Portland, Oregon. 319 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998c. Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. Portland, Oregon. ix+ 192 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002a. Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). Portland, Oregon. viii + 173 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002b. Final Recovery Plan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Albuquerque, New Mexico. i-ix + 210pp. + Appendices A-O.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002c. Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills. Portland, Oregon. xiii + 220 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 2003. Central Valley Project Improvement Act, section 3406 (b)(1) "other," Habitat Restoration Program. Project Plan. Sacramento, California. 11 pp + Appendices A & B.