

CALFED Brown Bag Seminar Series Presents:

Historical Ecology of the Delta: Do we know it? Does it matter?

**Robin Grossinger,
San Francisco Estuary Institute
12 p.m., April 8, 2008
CALFED Delta Room
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA**

Historical ecology is increasingly recognized as a critical tool for regional habitat conservation and restoration. Understanding conditions before extensive disturbance helps scientists and managers set restoration targets, develop landscape-level conservation strategies and evaluate the success of these endeavors. Detailed information about historical landscapes can improve our understanding of how physical processes created habitat for target species, which is often limited to relatively recent observations of highly disturbed systems.

This brown bag presentation will provide examples of how historical ecology has helped identify restoration opportunities in wetland and riverine systems throughout the state, and explore how similar efforts might be useful in the Delta. Substantial historical data resources are likely available for the Delta and Central Valley watersheds, but have not been analyzed. Despite extensive study of the Delta in recent decades, relatively little information about pre-settlement landscape characteristics exists to guide coordinated regional and site-specific restoration strategies. Initial exploration and discussions with scientists and managers have identified lines of historical ecology investigation that could benefit the current planning efforts for the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

An educational series dedicated to ideas for California's Delta

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