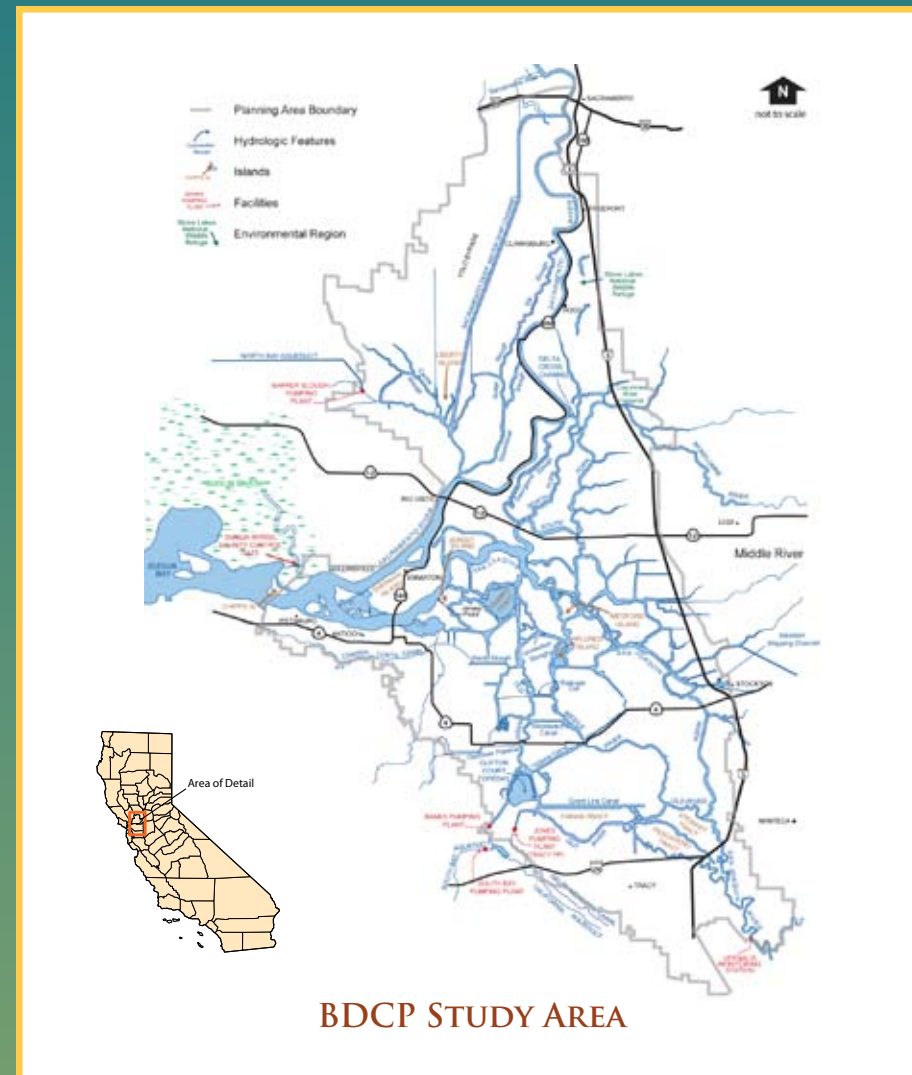


PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS A HIGH PRIORITY IN DEVELOPING THE BDCP

The BDCP process is open and transparent. The Steering Committee has emphasized the need to obtain input from diverse public and private interests. The BDCP will meet the public participation requirements of the NCCPA, NEPA, CEQA, and ESA as well as the expectations of Environmental Justice policies. Through NEPA and CEQA, an extensive environmental analysis will be conducted, including opportunities for public review and comment. Interested parties have access to the BDCP process through a variety of venues, including the project Web site, public meetings, informational materials, and community presentations. All Steering Committee and technical workgroup meetings are open to the public.

For more information, please visit:

www.resources.ca.gov/bdcp/



WHO IS PREPARING THE BDCP?

The BDCP is being prepared through a voluntary collaboration of state, federal, and local water agencies, state and federal fish agencies, environmental organizations, and other interested parties. They have formed the BDCP Steering Committee, which consists of the following participants:

FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES

California Bay-Delta Authority
California Department of Water Resources
California Resources Agency (chair)
State Water Resources Control Board
US Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

WATER AGENCIES

Contra Costa Water District
Kern County Water Agency
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Westlands Water District
Zone 7 Water Agency

FISH AGENCIES

CA Department of Fish and Game
US Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Rivers
Defenders of Wildlife
Environmental Defense
Natural Heritage Institute
The Bay Institute
The Nature Conservancy

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

California Farm Bureau
Mirant Delta

BDCP

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO RESTORE THE DELTA ECOSYSTEM AND PROTECT WATER SUPPLIES

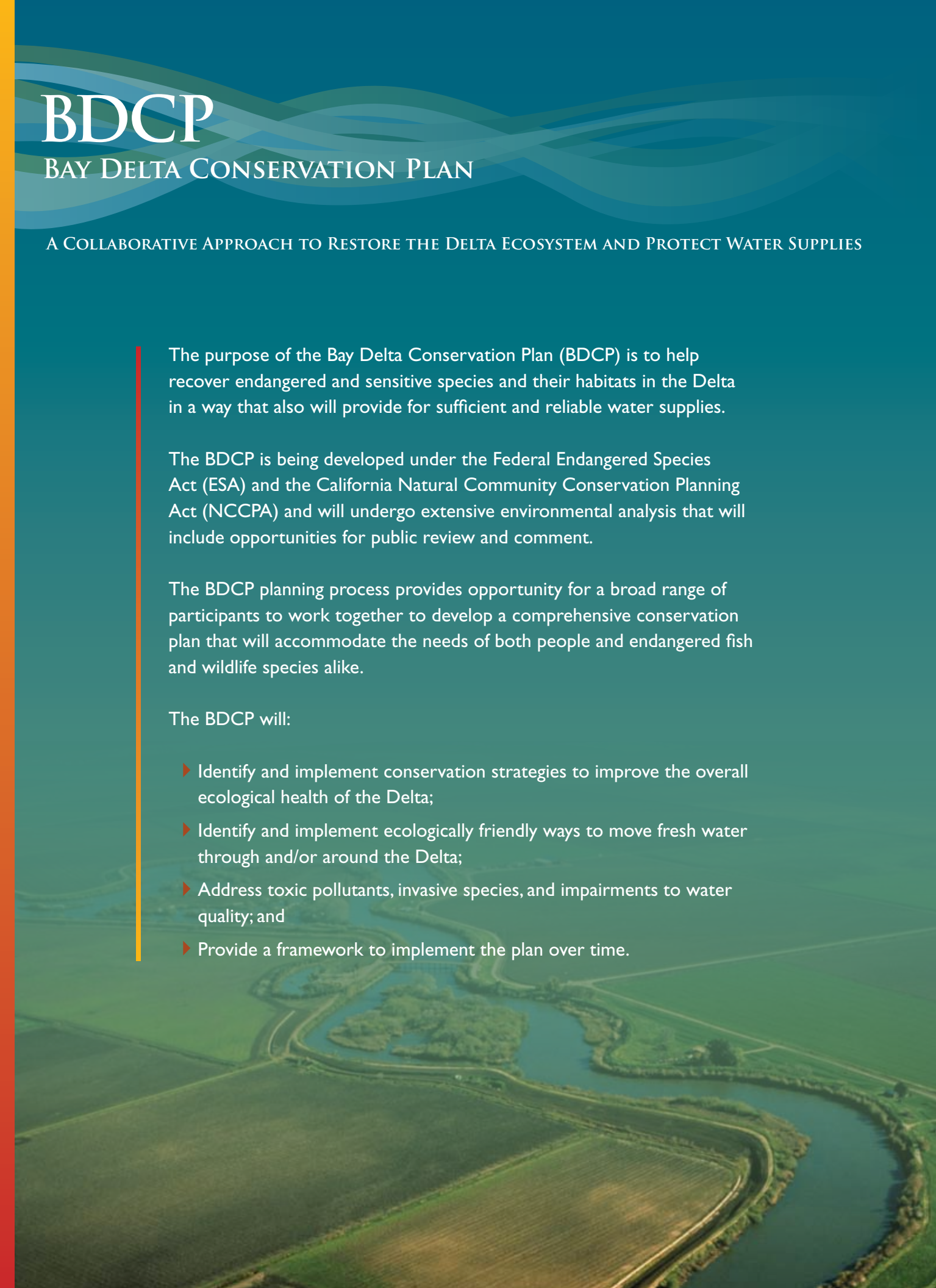
The purpose of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is to help recover endangered and sensitive species and their habitats in the Delta in a way that also will provide for sufficient and reliable water supplies.

The BDCP is being developed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA) and will undergo extensive environmental analysis that will include opportunities for public review and comment.

The BDCP planning process provides opportunity for a broad range of participants to work together to develop a comprehensive conservation plan that will accommodate the needs of both people and endangered fish and wildlife species alike.

The BDCP will:

- ▶ Identify and implement conservation strategies to improve the overall ecological health of the Delta;
- ▶ Identify and implement ecologically friendly ways to move fresh water through and/or around the Delta;
- ▶ Address toxic pollutants, invasive species, and impairments to water quality; and
- ▶ Provide a framework to implement the plan over time.



WHAT THE BDCP WILL DO:

- Provide the basis for permits under federal and state endangered species laws for the activities covered by the plan;
- Streamline permitting for projects covered by the plan;
- Provide for a comprehensive habitat conservation and restoration program for the Delta;
- Provide new sources of funding and new methods of decision-making for ecosystem improvements; and
- Provide for an adaptive management and monitoring program that will guide decision-making during implementation, be grounded in the best available science, and enable the plan to adapt as conditions change.

WHAT THE BDCP WILL NOT DO:

- Address all endangered or threatened species needs in the Delta;
- Address the needs of all Covered Species outside of the Delta planning area;
- Eliminate other permitting requirements; or
- Solve all environmental challenges in the Delta.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DELTA CANNOT BE OVERSTATED

The Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta is a vitally important ecosystem that is home to hundreds of aquatic and terrestrial species, many of which are unique to the area and several of which are threatened or endangered. Fresh water reaching the Delta is the core of California’s water system, which conveys high quality water to 25 million people throughout the Bay Area, the Central Valley, and Southern California. Delta-conveyed water supports farms and ranches from the north Delta to the Mexican border that are a source of financial stability for the state and that produce roughly half of the nation’s domestically grown fresh produce. In addition, the Delta is a key recreational destination and supports extensive infrastructure of statewide importance.

WHY IS A CONSERVATION PLAN NEEDED IN THE DELTA?

The Delta remains a center of controversy in a long-standing conflict over how best to use and conserve its resources. Several fish species have experienced the lowest population numbers in their recorded history; levees, and the Delta infrastructure they protect, are at greater risk as lands subside and sea level rises; water supplies are increasingly unreliable; a federal court last year ordered a massive reduction in water supplies—up to nearly one-third—from the state’s two largest water delivery systems; and mandatory water rationing is under discussion in much of the state. The BDCP will address these issues by providing for an ecosystem-based approach that will help to restore fish and wildlife species in the Delta while providing for sufficient and reliable water supplies.

BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION PLANNING

- ▶ Conservation plans are prepared on a voluntary basis, meaning participants are motivated and dedicated
- ▶ Conservation plans provide an opportunity for interested parties and organizations to come together and try to solve problems collaboratively
- ▶ Conservation plans developed on a regional scale replace piecemeal project-by-project, species-by-species permitting with a comprehensive ecosystem-focused approach to conservation of multiple species and their habitats
- ▶ Conservation plans provide a great deal of flexibility
- ▶ Conservation plans are based on the best available science
- ▶ Conservation plans are developed through an open and public process

WHAT ACTIVITIES WILL BE COVERED BY THE BDCP?

An objective of the BDCP is to obtain long-term (50-year) permits to operate water and energy projects, both existing and new. BDCP “Covered Activities” will include activities that support water supply and power generation, such as water conveyance (pipes, canals, and pumps) and facility maintenance and improvements.

WHAT SPECIES WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE BDCP?

“Covered Species” identified in the BDCP are those that are sensitive and whose conservation and management will be provided by the plan. Initially, the BDCP will focus on the following aquatic species but also will consider terrestrial (land-based) species in the future.

- ▶ Delta smelt
- ▶ Longfin smelt
- ▶ Winter-run Chinook salmon
- ▶ Spring-run Chinook salmon
- ▶ Fall-run and late fall–run Chinook salmon
- ▶ Central Valley steelhead
- ▶ Green sturgeon
- ▶ White sturgeon
- ▶ Sacramento splittail

MILESTONES REACHED TO DATE

The BDCP Steering Committee was formed in late 2006. Members of the Steering Committee signed a Planning Agreement shortly thereafter. Throughout 2007, the Steering Committee evaluated different conceptual approaches to the development of the BDCP, focusing primarily on water conveyance and ecosystem restoration opportunities. Ten conservation strategies were analyzed based on biological, planning, and other criteria, then narrowed to four conservation options.

In late 2007, the Steering Committee published “Points of Agreement for Continuing into the Planning Process,” which outlined basic approaches for developing the elements of the BDCP. The Steering Committee agreed that the most promising approach for achieving both BDCP conservation and water supply goals would be to develop and analyze more environmentally friendly ways to move water through and/or around the Delta, and then to develop corresponding conservation strategies.

During 2008, the Steering Committee will focus on:

- ▶ Developing biological goals and objectives;
- ▶ Identifying existing ecological conditions;
- ▶ Identifying habitat restoration and conservation actions;
- ▶ Analyzing different water conveyance approaches;
- ▶ Selecting appropriate methods for scientific analysis;
- ▶ Addressing in-Delta water quality;
- ▶ Creating an organizational structure for plan implementation; and
- ▶ Developing an adaptive management and monitoring program.

The basic overall conservation strategy for the BDCP is scheduled to be available by the end of 2008, with a draft of the full plan available by the middle of 2009. A draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) on the BDCP will be available for public review by the end of 2009. The BDCP Steering Committee anticipates that the BDCP will be approved, and a permit decision will be made, by the end of 2010.