California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project

Natural Resources Stewardship Working Group Framework for Organizing Issues and Themes

September 20, 2011

Primary Theme	Sub-Theme	Issues	Opportunities / Potential Solutions
1) Natural Resource Management (species and habitat)			
	a) Water Management	Ensure there is adequate water of sufficient amount and quality for State trust resources.	
		There needs to be balanced water management between consumptive use / game species and non-consumptive / non-game species (e.g., giant garter snake (summer water) and waterfowl (spring/fall water))	
		Continued stocking of hatchery trout outside of their historic range poses a threat to many native aquatic species of fish and amphibians.	
		Fully fund the unfunded instream flow study requirements of Public Resources Code 10,000.	
	b) Land Management	Challenges to maintain conservation of species under requirements of SB X 1-2 (CA Renewable Energy Resources Act).	
		Lack of sufficient funding for long-term basic management and maintenance.	
		Need for assessment of values for ecological services and climate change.	
		DFG is challenged at meeting its land management responsibility, including lack of resources for management of the land it owns, yet continues to try to acquire more land without identifying funding sources to manage new land.	Land management should be in partnership with the local communities (e.g., grazing leases) or other partners.
	c) Marine Management	The CDFG strategic plan does not specifically address	

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		management of marine resources.	
		Integration of policies and agency jurisdiction (state and federal) is needed to achieve better science-based approach and management efficiency (e.g., integration between MLMA and MLPA).	Develop a matrix re: who has responsibility for what resources – and who is doing what research and management activities – to foster increased communication and collaboration.
			Work with the federal government to include the Southern CA Bight in the California Current Ecosystem Plan.
		Recreational and commercial harvest program management and delivery.	
		Marine life reserves, and ocean conservation	
	d) Assessment of values for ecological services and climate change	Management of the whole ecosystem rather than by individual species, issue types.	
		Ensure resource sustainability	
	e) Matrix for (a), (b) and (c) above; state laws and regulations	Unfunded mandates.	With lead from stakeholders, department employees and other state agencies, evaluate which programs the department should be the lead agency and which it should be a consultant on.
		Differences in the responsibilities between the department and commission that have developed over time has created coordination and efficiency problems.	First determine the department's responsibilities and then coordinate with the commission's responsibilities.

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		Lack of clear qualifications and standards for appointments.	
		Create a plan that the legislature can act on and accommodate (scalpel vs hammer)	
		We need to focus on integration of roles among agencies.	
		DFG has multiple missions, too many within one agency, without clear vision or prioritization.	Separate out some of the missions (e.g., separate management from biological research, as USFWS and USGS have done).
			Eliminate duplication between programs, projects, mandates.
			Simplify and clarify missions.
		Clarify what authorities can be delegated to whom Clarify role of Commission vs Department.	
		QA/QC process.	
		Third party validation.	
	f) Recognize interconnectedness between(a), (b) and (c)	Collaborative prioritization of restoration needs/actions so that limited resources are most efficiently used.	
		Need to maintain and increase implementation of IRM. Continue to implement IRM in conjunction with Dept of Conservation Watershed Program and Dept of Water Resources IRWMPs.	Continue to implement IRM in conjunction with Dept of Conservation Watershed Program and Dept of Water Resources IRWMPs (e.g., meadow restoration in the Sierra)
		Use integrated approach for planning, management and policy across the Department.	

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		Address regional implementation and input (flexibility and autonomy) and roll of HQ to develop proposed outcome	
		Ensure an efficient, proactive and forward thinking agency.	
		Clarify and prioritize Department visions, goals and functions (e.g., land management).	
		Clarify and prioritize State natural resource management issues.	
		Identify ecosystem services functions.	
		Staff is overworked and underavailable.	Identify additional funding resources.
		There is a need to include local DFG staff input when making decisions.	
		Think about new name for the Department and the Commission – current names do not accurately reflect the mission.	
		There is a need to identify a structure and process for building and managing a biodiversity conservation strategy for California.	Work in partnership with other State, County, and Federal agencies and the California Biodiversity Council to build a "California Biodiversity Plan") (e.g, like the California Water Plan).
		There is a need for CDFG to jointly identify California Species of Conservation Concern with partner agencies (e.g., USFS).	

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	g) Shared visions (e.g., tribal governments & State Parks)	There is an opportunity to coordinate restoration needs/efforts across various land and resources managers in the State.	Build collaboration at the statewide level on setting watershed restoration priorities for various species.
			Partner with the USFS and others to restore forests & grasslands in California, particularly to address threats from climate change, unnatural large scale disturbances, non-native invasive species, and expanding human populations.
2) Partnerships – Leverage partnerships to maximize program development and delivery			
	a) Private Landowners	There currently are obstacles to implementing conservation projects on private land (lack of clear species/area priorities, cumbersome & expensive permits, insufficient Staff, insufficient community outreach).	Collaborative processes that combine the regulatory agencies with landowners and conservation organizations (e.g., Lower Butte Creek Project).
		Staff needs to be part of the project formulation project and serve as partners in restoration projects rather than the red line that sends projects back.	
		Perception of DFG in the community needs to be improved.	Biologists and permitting staff should have training in communication skills and should be trained to work with the local public.
		No staff to build community partnerships.	Identify staff to participate in regional planning efforts like

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			IRWMs
		Partners in Restoration program (sustainable conservation) needs to be implemented on a larger level.	
		Working landscapes concept.	
	b) Other federal, state and local agencies	Need increased collaboration with other state and federal land managers.	Assess and build upon CALFED and the Little Hoover Commission.
		Continue to implement IRM in conjunction with Dept of Conservation Watershed Program and Dept of Water Resources IRWMPs.	
		Set regional priorities in concert with local resource professionals.	
	c) Tribal governments	Subsistence needs within MLPA.	
		Increased use of natural resources agreements (e.g., Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement)	
		Collaboration amongst Co-Managers and partners to conserve, restore, and manage natural resources.	
		Use TEK in management decisions (e.g., Karuk Tribe's Ecological Resource Management Plan).	
		As for having tangible documentation of TEK, many Tribes such as Karuk, have written Integrated Resource Management Plans or similar documents describing TEK. The Karuk's IRMP, which we refer to as a Ecological Resource Management Plan	
	d) NGOs		
	e) General public	Continue working with consumptive users in their support via purchasing licenses and stamps, as well as	

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		fundraising.	
	f) Businesses: public-private partnerships	Partnerships with resource users, including industry, can and should include collaboration in both field research and management.	
		Transparency and accountability	
		Legislative oversight for funding (manage perceptions).	
	g) Academic institutions		
	h) Fishing Groups (Fish and Game Code Sections 7060 and 7062)		
3) Tools to Promote Natural Resource Stewardship			
	a) Enforcement	Improve and standardize enforcement methods.	
		There is a need to better address resource concerns and damage (e.g., chemical poisoning to wildlife, safety issues for hunters) related to the proliferation of marijuana on public lands, in partnership with other land managers.	Change the way management is funded, from focus on number of plants eradicated to eradication and restoration.
	b) Licenses	Improve accounting system to enable it to track funding income and outgo (e.g., by species complex) so that resource users can see how much is required and how the funding is expended.	
	c) Fees	Lake and Streambed Alteration Program fees are an issue.	Programmatic Permits for stream rehabilitation (e.g., Marin RCD)
		Fiscal accountability	
		Dedicated funding vs General Fund	

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		Appropriate fee setting process	
	d) Education/Outreach	Insufficient outreach to the community related to conservation on private lands.	
		Networking at local, regional, state level	
		Leverage existing Networks/Relationships	
	e) Regulations	Staff not able to enforce regulations	
		Inter-agency Coordination is needed regarding regulations, including contradictory requirements (e.g., Water Rights Laws).	Need to pull open DFG code and coordinate it with other entities
	f) Permits	Permits are cumbersome, expensive and time consuming.	
		Need for Smart Permitting system (e.g., the system should know the difference between a highway project and a restoration project).	
		Fully protected species status makes it nearly impossible to do conservation projects for the fully protected or other protected species.	
		Streamlining for natural resource programs.	
		Address staffing and costs.	
	g) Incentives	Build trust	
		There are barriers to Conservation Easements presented by DFG policies (contracting and wage & labor requirements and overall expense of compliance requirements).	Ecosystem services markets promise to provide restoration projects up and down the State-fulfilling DFG's mission.
		Prompt payment issues; sometimes, reimbursements take over a year.	

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		Need for a functioning Safe Harbor Program, which is currently not well used.	
		Improvements are needed to the FRGP (Fisheries Restoration Grant Program) grant program: Awards under take too long to for effective implementation, there is a lack of clear project prioritization, and a lack of funding for monitoring.	Large projects need to be factored in to receive some funding to move the planning process forward and start gathering needed monetary support to actually move projects into implementation. Dedicated funding needs to be established for monitoring.
4) Science-based management			
		Fix institutional impediments between good science and outcomes	
		Establish clearer connections between science and agency decisions	
		Political implications	
		Transparency and accessibility	
		Improve scientific support of harvest programs, ocean conservation, and measuring climate change effects.	
		Science advisers to the DFG, the Commission, and the Ocean Protection Council, must include independent experts in Economics and the Social Sciences.	
		DFG authority and expertise to conduct science-based management of marine resources needs to be restored.	Partner with resource users, universities, Tribes, other agencies, etc. (i.e. Memoranda of Understanding).
		The membership of the Ocean Science Trust (OCT),	One of the Ocean Interest Group

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		needs to be changed to better represent the public interest.	positions should go to an established state-wide fishing and ocean dependent group. One of the UC/State University members should be a social scientist familiar with marine issues. One of the OST should go to fishing interests.
5) Technology improvements			
		Spatial tools	
		Access by the general public	
		Build on existing tools	