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Fish & Wildlife Strategic Vision
California Natural Resources Agency

Science Work Group

[Meeting 09-08, Kirk Vyverberg - Public Comment]

Items #5 & #7

Develop DFG policy with a balanced influence of science and politics

- (a) Document current policies regarding program, permitting and enforcement with clear statements of rationale, including scientific, legal, social considerations. Include alternative positions, benefits & risk analysis
- (b) Establish a Science Panel comprised of Senior DFG scientists representing multiple disciplines that advise the Director and the Commission on priority issues or projects
- (c) Eliminate the Career Executive Appointment status of Branch Managers to shield this level from undue political interference. In the recent past, these were Civil Service positions.
- (d) Develop a dual track path to career advancement leading to Management and Senior Scientists with equal organizational and decision-making status.
- (e) Flatten the organization, increasing both accountability and knowledgeable representation of issues
- (f) "keep science at the table".

Item #9 Enhance Enforcement

- (c) Support AG's Environmental Taskforce with available DFG expertise

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Karuk Tribe Comments from Sept 8 Science Working Group

Under section 7 (integrate sciences from all sources), add a subheading for traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)

Under section 8 (partnerships), add a subheading for Tribes

Note that in some areas, the Klamath Basin for example, the local tribes have a significant capacity for research and data collection by ah classically trained staff scientists. Additionally, the tribes are able to integrate western science and traditional ecological knowledge, often finding that the two use different methods to reach similar conclusions

Increasingly, policy makers at the federal level are appreciating the validity and practicality of using TEK in management decisions (see <http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/TEK.html>)

After what I would consider a debacle with MLPA development which failed to adequately consult with tribes or integrate TEK into the process, CA should consider changing course.

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, is here: http://www.karuk.us/karuk2/images/docs/dnr/ECRMP_6-15-10_doc.pdf

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