

California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project

Natural Resources and Stewardship Working Group Issues Framework

Revised October 4, 2011

ISSUE	PROBLEM(S)	GOAL	EXAMPLE(S) OF WAYS TO ACHIEVE GOAL	TIE(S) TO DFG STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
<p>Theme: Integrated Resource Management (IRM) (species and habitat)</p>	<p>The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has difficulty maintaining basic resource conservation and management functions related to mission, due to a combination of factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased, non-prioritized responsibilities – Unfunded mandates – Overworked and under-available staff – Lack of sufficient funding for long-term basic management and maintenance – Multiple programs, too many within one agency, without clear vision or prioritization <p>Difficulty in maintaining conservation of species under requirements of various laws (e.g., SB X 1-2 , the CA Renewable Energy Resources Act)</p>	<p>Overarching: Provide adequate resources to DFG to achieve its mandated goals.</p> <p>Give DFG the resources (funding and statutory mandate) to fully participate in existing local, regional, and statewide land planning efforts [e.g., California Biodiversity Council, Strategic Growth Council, Ocean Protection Council, landscape conservation cooperatives (LCCs), integrated resource watershed management plans (IRWMPs), Regional Blueprint Process from Caltrans and BTH, Western Regional Partnership, Joint Ventures], marine spatial planning and federal fishery/ecosystem management processes (including out-of-state travel).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – DFG should develop a matrix of internal departments and external agencies w/ jurisdictions and responsibilities; identify who is doing what, identify duplications and overlaps, and streamline / integrate management policies. Then, with input from stakeholders, DFG employees and other state agencies, identify programs for which DFG should be the lead agency and programs for which it should be a consultant. 	

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IRM		DFG needs to focus its mission to conserve California’s resources in the interest of the public trust or receive sufficient funding to accomplish the expanded responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify additional funding resources. – Consider broad-based funding from public at large to help conserve California’s natural resources 	
IRM		Partnerships with resource users, including industry, can and should include collaboration in both field research and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tribal resources could be leveraged for land, water, and marine management purposes – Need for assessment of values for ecological services and climate change – Collaborative prioritization of restoration needs/actions so that limited resources are most efficiently used – OPC should help coordinate other state agencies with marine resource management responsibilities to facilitate streamlining policies and regulations – Employ traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) in management decisions (e.g., Karuk Tribe’s Ecological Resource Management Plan, fishermen’s ecological knowledge) 	

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IRM	The need to ensure there is adequate water of sufficient amount and quality for the full variety of state and federal trust resources requires working with multiple water-management related agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Give DFG the resources (funding and statutory mandate) to fully participate in the existing water plan process. – Facilitate, prioritize, and empower DFG to enforce existing Fish and Game Code provisions that address water (e.g., Section 5937). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fully fund the unfunded instream flow study requirements of Public Resources Code 10000 	
IRM	Integration of policies and agency jurisdiction (state and federal) is needed to achieve better science-based approach and management efficiency (e.g., integration between Marine Life Management Act and Marine Life Protection Act), and between state and federal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFG strategic plan should specifically address management of marine resources, and integrate fishery management w/ ecosystem management • DFG should collaborate with NMFS on state/federal fishery/ecosystem management science & policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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 – Clarify what authorities can be delegated to whom – Clarify role of F&GC versus DFG – Work with federal scientists in the CA Current Ecosystem Plan Development process to include the Southern CA Bight in the California Current Ecosystem Plan 	

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IRM	DFG is challenged with meeting its land management responsibility, including lack of resources for managing 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 local communities (e.g., grazing leases) or other partners		
IRM	There is a need to identify a structure and process for building and managing a biodiversity conservation strategy for California.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Management focus: the whole ecosystem rather than by individual species, issue type, – Identify ecosystem services functions, – Ensure resource sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clarify and prioritize state natural resource management issues – 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) – Consider subsistence needs within the Marine Life Protection Act 	
IRM	Differences in the responsibilities between DFG and F&GC that have developed over time have created coordination and efficiency problems		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First determine DFG’s responsibilities and then coordinate with F&GC’s responsibilities 	

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IRM	Need to maintain and increase implementation of IRM	Continue to implement IRM in conjunction with Department of Conservation Watershed Program and Dept of Water Resources IRWMPs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Example: meadow restoration in the Sierra Nevada – DFG should jointly identify California Species of Conservation Concern with partner agencies (e.g., U.S. Forest Service) 	
IRM	<p>Need to prioritize DFG goals and responsibilities. DFG has multiple programs, too many within one agency, without clear vision or prioritization. Some programs duplicate those of other agencies.</p> <p>DFG should focus on integrating roles among agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clarify and prioritize DFG vision, goals and functions (e.g., land management, water management, marine management) – Separate out some of the missions (e.g., separate management from biological research, as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey have done) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clarify and prioritize state natural resource management issues 	

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IRM	There is a lack of clear qualifications and standards for appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Eliminate duplication between programs, projects, mandates – Use integrated approach for planning, management and policy across DFG – Address regional implementation and input (flexibility and autonomy) and role of headquarters to develop proposed outcome – Ensure an efficient, proactive and forward thinking agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create clear standards for appointments – There is a need to include local DFG staff input when making decisions 	
IRM	DFG needs to improve fiscal accountability	Legislative oversight for private funding used for public resource management (manage perceptions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Develop detailed accounting for revenues, expenditures by category 	
IRM	Current names for DFG and F&GC do not accurately reflect expanded missions and responsibilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consider a new name for DFG and F&GC (e.g. California Fish and Wildlife Department and Commission) 	

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<p>Theme: Partnerships. Leverage partnerships to maximize program development and delivery</p>	<p>There is a need for more coordination of restoration needs/efforts across various land and resources managers in the state.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Build collaboration at the statewide level on setting watershed restoration priorities for various species – Increase collaboration with other state and federal land (and marine resource) managers – Set regional priorities in concert with local resource professionals – Utilize, support and partner with written integrated resource management plans or similar documents from tribal governments – Partnerships with resource users, including industry, can and should include collaboration in both field research and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For increasing collaboration: Assess and build upon CALFED and the Little Hoover Commission. – For partnerships: Expedite processes to develop MOUs and receive research permits 	
<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>No staff to build community partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Facilitate collaboration amongst co-managers and partners to conserve, restore, and manage natural resources. – Continue working with consumptive users in their support via purchasing licenses and stamps, as well as fundraising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify staff to participate in regional planning efforts like IRWMs – Increase use of natural resources agreements (e.g., Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement) 	

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Partnerships	There currently are obstacles to implementing conservation projects on private land (lack of clear species/area priorities, cumbersome and expensive permits, insufficient staff, insufficient community outreach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborative processes that combine the regulatory agencies with landowners and conservation organizations (e.g., Lower Butte Creek Project) - Partners in Restoration Program (Sustainable Conservation and Resource Conservation Districts) needs to be implemented on a larger level - Working landscapes concept 		
Partnerships	<p>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</p> <p>Perception of DFG in the community needs to be improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biologists and permitting staff should have training in communication skills and should be trained to work with the local public - Increase transparency and accountability - Legislative oversight for private funding used for public resource management processes (manage perceptions) 		
Theme: Tools to Promote Natural Resource Stewardship A) Enforcement	Staff not able to enforce regulations; improvement and standardization of enforcement methods is needed	Provide sufficient funding to attract, maintain adequate enforcement branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek additional funding 	

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	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	
Tools B) Licenses	Fiscal accountability: DFG needs more efficient fiscal accountability related to revenue received from resource users (e.g. licenses, landing taxes, permits etc.).	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.		
Tools C) Fees	Lake and Streambed Alteration Program fees are an issue Fiscal accountability is needed related to fees, including dedicated funding vs general fund. Appropriate fee setting process is needed.	– Programmatic permits for stream rehabilitation (e.g., Marin Resource Conservation District) – 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.		

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Tools D) Communication & Outreach	Insufficient outreach to the community related to conservation on private lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Leverage existing networks/relationships – Network at local, regional, state level. 		
Tools E) Regulations	Inter-agency Coordination is needed regarding regulations, including contradictory requirements (e.g., Water Rights Laws).	Review the CDFG code and coordinate it with other entities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Revise the Fish & Game Code and Title 14 Regulations – Adopt DFG Strategic Plan Initiative 5 priorities 	
Tools F) Permits	Permits are cumbersome, expensive and time consuming and need to be streamlined for natural resource programs.	Develop smart permitting system (e.g., the system should know the difference between a highway project and a restoration project).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Streamline scientific collection permitting process 	
Tools F) Permits	<p>Fully protected species status makes it nearly impossible to do conservation projects for fully protected or other protected species</p> <p>Insufficient staffing to process permits</p>	Coordinate permitting regulations with other agencies		

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<p>Tools FG) Incentives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Need to build trust – Barriers to conservation easements presented by DFG policies (contracting and wage and labor requirements and overall expense of compliance requirements) – Prompt payment issues; sometimes reimbursements take over a year – Need for a functioning Safe Harbor Program, which is currently not well used – Improvements are needed to the FRGP (Fisheries Restoration 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. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – For barriers: Ecosystem services markets promise to provide restoration projects up and down the state, fulfilling DFG’s mission. – For FRGP: Large FRGP 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. 	

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Tools H) Funding	Lack of sufficient funding for long-term basic management and maintenance.	Develop broad-based funding streams that include general public as well as resource users.		
Tools H) Funding	Unfunded mandates.	Require new mandates to be fully funded as a condition for approval.		
THEME: Science and Technology	Need to integrate multi-disciplinary approach to science-based resource management	Develop a science & biostatistical committee, including population biology, ecology, oceanography economics and social sciences to review and advise DFG and Commission on 'best available science'	– Science advisers to DFG, F&GC, and the California Ocean Protection Council, must include independent experts in economics and the social sciences as well as ecology and population biology, etc.	
Science and Technology	Political implications – Ensure that science conclusions are not “dictated” by policy-makers	Establish mechanism to separate science findings from policy decisions	– Fix institutional impediments between good science and outcomes (e.g. establish an independent science & biostatistical committee to peer review and advise on 'best available science')	
Science and Technology	Transparency and accessibility	Establish separate 'research unit' within DFG	– Establish clearer connections between science and agency decisions (e.g. establish an independent science & biostatistical committee to review and advise on 'best available science') – Improve scientific support of harvest programs, ocean conservation, and measuring climate change effects	

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Science and Technology	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).		
Science and Technology	Membership of California Ocean Science Trust (OST) needs to be changed to better represent public interest.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One of ocean interest group positions should go to established state-wide fishing and ocean dependent group. One of UC/CSU members should be a social scientist familiar with marine issues. One of OST should go to fishing expertise. 	
Science and Technology	There is a need for increased use of spatial tools.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support and expand use of GIS tools such as Marine Map. 	
Science and Technology	There is a need for data and technology to be accessible to the general public.	Establish methods, guidelines and policies for collecting, analyzing and archiving data and other information generated by research, monitoring and modeling efforts by DFG personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Integrate methods, guidelines and policies with other scientific data archives, to the extent possible. 	
Science and Technology	There is a need to build on existing tools			