

**CALFED - 97N02 GRANT
PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM**

Site: Capay

Location: River Mile: 193-194

County: Glenn

- **Unit Area:** Assessor's Area: 663 acres

Estimated Actual Area: 661.5 acres

Basis: GIS layer provided by CSUC study

- **APN(s):** 032-330-006, 032-330-001

- **Generalized Legal Description:** Section 3 Township 21 N. Range 1 W.

- **Acquisition History:**

Acquired on February 26, 1999 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from Andrew Frederick Kaiser.
Zoning: AE-80, Ag-exclusive – 80 acre minimum parcel size.

- **Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Reach:** At the border of Reaches 2 and 3

- **The Nature Conservancy Subreach:** Chico Landing

- **Site Access** - **River Access:** The property is accessible from the Sacramento River on its right bank.
- **Public Road Access:** The property is accessible from County Road 23 along the north boundary.
- **Private Road Access:** Not applicable – the property has public road access.

Physical Description:

The property is roughly triangular in shape with County Road 23 on the north and the Sacramento River on the east. It includes three terraces with increasing elevation, moving from the river to the southwest. Two shallow swales, remnant of pre-1900 river channels, exist in crescent patterns running generally north to southeast with the westerly swale, extending to the river and forming the southern boundary of the property.

- **Soils:** Refer to Figure 2B in Appendix 2.

- **Inundation Frequency:** Refer to Figure 2C in Appendix 2.

- **Vegetation:** Refer to Figure 2D in Appendix 2.

Habitat Types as of : June 1999

Blackberry Scrub - 5.5 ac

Cottonwood Forest - 25.6 ac

Gravel - 4.4 ac

Herbaceous Layer - .9 ac

Marsh - .7 ac

Mixed Forest - 28.2 ac

Open Water - 5.9 ac

Riparian Scrub - 13.4 ac

Valley Oak - 5.4 ac

Fallow land - 571.5 ac

- **River Channel Meander History / 25 & 50-Year Projections:** Refer to Figure 2E in Appendix 2.

- **Existing and Historical Agriculture:**

Historical agriculture use includes mostly field crops and minimal orchard plantings. The property is currently being farmed with wheat (350 acres), sunflower (45 acres), wheat (20 acres), and corn (50 acres). The Capay Farm Management Plan guides the agriculture practices to be implemented until restoration is initiated in 2004.

Analysis of Restoration Potential:

The 662-acre Capay Unit is planned to be restored beginning in 2004, funding dependent on approval of a grant proposal currently being considered by CALFED. The USFWS has determined that the restoration priority for this property is "high." Based on the 1999 site assessment and hydrology study conducted for the Chico Landing Subreach, three riparian communities are planned for a total of 550 acres of restored habitat: forest (155 acres), savanna (355 acres), and grassland (40 acres). If restoration is initiated in 2004, it will be completed in 2007.

Threatened, Rare or Endangered and Special Concern Species:

The east side of this property contains a biologically rich slough bordered by mature riparian forests. Slough areas such as this are important rearing and refuge habitats for juvenile chinook salmon and steelhead. Western pond turtles, a federal- and state-listed species of special concern may be found in the oxbow that forms the south-west border of this site. In studies conducted by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, the Capay property was found to have the most diverse songbird community along the main stem of the Sacramento River. High bird diversity at this site was likely attributed to there being a variety of different habitat types (including a mature riparian forest, a slough area, and a fallow field with tall grasses and forbs) in close proximity to one another. Elderberry shrubs which are habitat for the valley elderberry long-horn beetle, a federally-listed threatened species, are found on this site.

Research and Monitoring Activities:

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory conducts detailed studies of songbirds at the remnant forest habitats at this site during the songbird breeding season (April-August). Data are collected according to the following methodologies to provide a variety of information useful in Conservation Science. Specifically PRBO conducts 1) Point count surveys to inventory bird communities and measure and compare species abundance, richness and diversity across time and space; 2) Spot map censuses to measure density of breeding pairs on nest plots; and 3) Nest searching and monitoring to measure bird productivity under different management regimes on replicated restoration and forest plots.

Management Considerations:

Because the property has convenient public road access, the potential for a range of people-related impacts exists. Management concerns include dumping, littering, habitat destruction and other illicit activities. Although public access determinations will be made for this parcel within the USFWS CCP, the public use study identified the potential for a parking facility and interpretive nature trail at this parcel.

The Capay unit is also included as part of the Hamilton City J levee project. The southern end of any future setback levee will likely follow some portion of the western border of this parcel. This will maximize restoration of ecosystem function by including as much public land as possible on the wet side of any setback levee.

Potential for Coordinated Management with Adjacent Properties:

The property is part of the large complex of conservation properties in the Pine Creek / Hamilton City area. The management of the restored habitat and the public recreation use of the property should be closely coordinated with the adjoining ownerships of the California Department of Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy.