CALFED - 97N02 GRANT
PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM

Site: Deadman's Reach

Location: **River Mile:** 185-186 **County:** Butte

- **Unit Area:** **Assessor's Area:** 592 acres **Estimated Actual Area:** 636.3 acres
  Basis: Perimeter traced from 1999 aerial photos

- **APN(s):** 039-040-016

- **Generalized Legal Description:** **Section** 28 **Township** 21 N. **Range** 1 W.

- **Acquisition History:**
  Acquired on August 12, 1999 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from C.F. Koehnen & Sons.
  Zoning: A-40, Agriculture - 40 acre minimum parcel size.

- **Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Reach:** Reach 3

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

- **Site Access** **- River Access:** The property is accessible from the river on the left bank.
  - Public Road Access: The property has no public road access.
  - Private Road Access: The property has private access to the east connecting to River Road.

Physical Description:
The property forms an irregular shaped triangle, bounded by the Sacramento River on the north and the west. The property is principally composed of a high terrace, which was leveled in conjunction with the planting of orchards. The northwest portion of the property features a low terrace and an expanding point bar. The Sacramento River abuts the site on the north and the west.

- **Soils:** Refer to Figure 3B in Appendix 2.

- **Inundation Frequency:** Refer to Figure 3C in Appendix 2.

- **Vegetation:** Refer to Figure 3D in Appendix 2.
  Habitat Types as of : June 1999
  Agricultural orchards - 550 ac
  Cottonwood Forest - 1.8 ac
  Gravel - 45 ac
  Herbaceous Layer - 1.9 ac
  Mixed Forest - 6.7 ac
  Riparian Scrub - 10.7 ac
  Open Water - 2.6 ac
  Other (fallow, riprap, etc.) - 17.5 ac

River Channel Meander History / 25 & 50-Year Projections: Refer to Figure 3E in Appendix 2.

- **Existing and Historical Agriculture:**

Historical agriculture use includes field crops and orchards. The property currently contains approximately 294 acres of walnut orchard planted in 1979 to 1983 and 238 acres of almonds planted in 1978.

The property is under a farming contract for the 2003 crop year.

- **Analysis of Restoration Potential:**

The 636-acre Deadman's Reach Unit is planned to be restored beginning in 2004, funding dependent on the awarding of a grant request currently being considered by CALFED. The USFWS has determined that the restoration priority for this property is "medium." Further baseline information will be completed in March 2003 for the Unit for designation of a

more detailed plant design than the community level. Based on the hydrology study conducted for the Chico Landing Subreach, three riparian communities are planned for a total of 238 acres of restored habitat: forest (55 acres), savanna (100 acres), and grassland (83 acres). Restoration planning will be further refined once the additional assessment information is completed and funding is made available for detailed planning. If restoration is initiated in 2004, it will be completed in 2007.

Threatened, Rare or Endangered and Special Concern Species:
The Deadman's Reach property has significant river frontage on its north and west sides. To the north is a biologically-rich backwater habitat that often contains water birds (cormorants, egrets, herons) and likely provides refuge and rearing habitat for native anadramous fish species. The northwest corner of the property is a large gravel bar the presents nesting habitat for lesser nighthawks. The west bank of the property is eroding, causing significant inputs of gravel and large woody debris (walnut trees) to the river. Both of these resources are highly beneficial to aquatic species, including native fishes and their prey.

Research and Monitoring Activities:
None known

Specific Management Considerations:
Although this document does not specify management recommendations regarding removal of private riprap at RM 186, geomorphic modeling (Appendix 5) found little channel change when this riprap was removed in the model. A number of different forums are discussing removal of bank protection on the Sacramento River as a management strategy for both flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration benefit. This geomorphic modeling study is intended to inform those efforts.

Similarly, hydraulic modeling in the Road 29 area showed little change in flood conditions resulting from restoration of this parcel. This same restoration strategy is also included in the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for Proposed Restoration Activities on the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. Refer to the farm plan section of this document for specific information regarding the farming and restoration schedule.

Potential for Coordinated Management with Adjacent Properties:
The property does not directly adjoin other conservation lands although it is located in general proximity to other properties in conservation ownership. Coordinated management should be undertaken to ensure maximization of habitat and public recreation benefits.