

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

Site: Gunnhill

Location: **River Mile:** 197-198

County: Glenn

- **Unit Area:** **Assessor's Area:** 71.51 acres

Estimated Actual Area: 57.5 acres

Basis: Use of GPS around property perimeter

- **APN(s):** 032-270-008

- **Generalized Legal Description:** Section 28 Township 22 N. Range 1 W.

- **Acquisition History:**

Acquired on April 5, 2000 by The Nature Conservancy from Gunnar Sevelius and Hilli Sevelius.

Zoning: AE-40, Ag-exclusive – 40 acre minimum parcel size.

A Land Conservation Act Contract (Williamson Act) does not encumber the property.

- **Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Reach:** Reach 2

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

- **Site Access** - **River Access:** The property has river access at a high, cut bank.

- **Public Road Access:** The property has no public road access.

- **Private Road Access:** The property has private access connecting to County Road 23.

Physical Description:

The property forms a rough triangle bounded by the Sacramento River flowing from the northwest corner to the southwest corner of the triangle. It entirely consists of a high terrace, inside of the adjacent levee that meets the river at a high, ripprapped bank. The property is bordered on the west and south by land currently in agriculture and owned by The Nature Conservancy.

- **Soils:** Refer to Figure 1B in Appendix 2.

- **Inundation Frequency:** Refer to Figure 1C in Appendix 2.

- **Vegetation:** Refer to Figure 1D in Appendix 2.

Habitat Types as of : June 1999

Agriculture - 57 ac

Mixed Forest - .25 ac

Riparian Scrub - .2 ac

- **River Channel Meander History / 25 & 50-Year Projections:** Refer to Figure 1E in Appendix 2.

- **Existing and Historical Agriculture:**

Historical agriculture use includes field crops and orchards. The property currently contains 57 acres of walnut trees, with one-half planted in 1965 through 1968 and the other half planted in 1987 through 1997.

The property is under a farming contract for the 2003 crop year and is guided by the Gunnhill Farm Management Plan.

- **Analysis of Restoration Potential:**

There are currently no funds available for restoring this property. Based on the Chico Landing Subreach hydrology study, the site is suitable for a savanna restoration planting.

Threatened, Rare or Endangered and Special Concern Species:

The Gunnhill tract is located across the river from one of the largest patches of remnant riparian forest in the Project area. Two occurrences of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a state-listed endangered species have been recorded nearby. Also a colony of bank swallows, a state-listed threatened species, occurs on the west bank of the Sacramento River south of the Gunnhill

property and north of RX Ranch. Although currently an orchard flanked with riprap, this site has great potential ecological significance as a gateway for flows inundating the floodplain during high water events.

Research and Monitoring Activities:

None currently

Management Considerations:

Although this document does not specify management recommendations regarding removal of private riprap at RM 197, geomorphic modeling (Appendix 5) found little channel change when this riprap was removed in the model. The Gunnhill parcel represents the best potential for removal of bank protection with the least likelihood of third party impacts. 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.

The public use study also identified the potential for an interpretive nature trail along the border of this parcel.

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 habitat, once restored, and the public recreation use of the property should be closely coordinated with the adjoining ownerships. Eventual transfer to DFG or USFWS, both of which have substantial holdings in the immediate area, would be desirable.