

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

Site: Ward

Location: River Mile: 145-146

County: Colusa

- **Unit Area:** Assessor's Area: 248 acres

Estimated Actual Area: 265 acres

Basis: Perimeter found using 1999 aerial photos

- **APN(s):** 015-070-121

- **Generalized Legal Description:** Section 19 Township 16 N. Range 1 W.

- **Acquisition History:**

Acquired on April 19, 2001 by The Nature Conservancy from Nancy Ward.

Zoning: FW, Floodway.

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

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

- **The Nature Conservancy Subreach:** Colusa Subreach

- **Site Access - River Access:** The property is accessible from the river on the right bank.

- **Public Road Access:** There is no public road access to the property.

- **Private Road Access:** There is private road access via the levee service road.

Physical Description:

The property has an irregular outline, lying between the Sacramento River to the east and the levee to the west. The property is principally composed of a high terrace area with a depression on the west central portion of the site and a swale crossing the southern part of the property. A substantial point bar is expanding along the east end of the property.

- **Soils:** Refer to Figure 4B in Appendix 2.

- **Inundation Frequency:** Refer to Figure 4C in Appendix 2.

- **Vegetation:** Refer to Figure 4D in Appendix 2.

Habitat Types as of : June 1999

Cottonwood Forest - 29.4 ac

Gravel - 11.6 ac

Herbaceous Layer - 7.4 ac

Marsh -.1 ac

Mixed Forest - 21.7

Open Water - 6.7 ac

Riparian Scrub - 23.3 ac

Fallow Land - 165 ac

- **River Channel Meander History / 25 & 50-Year Projections:** Refer to Figure 4E in Appendix 2.

- **Existing and Historical Agriculture:**

Historical agriculture use includes orchards. The majority of the property is currently fallow while 138 acres are cultivated with wheat. The Ward Farm Management Plan guides the agricultural practices on the property until restoration is initiated.

- **Analysis of Restoration Potential:**

There are no plans to restore the Ward property until the Colusa Subreach planning effort (to be funded by the CALFED 2001 ERP) is completed, estimated for 2007.

Threatened, Rare or Endangered and Special Concern Species:

Because the Ward property adjoins the Colusa-Sacramento River State Park, an area that contains significant wildlife habitat, its acquisition and subsequent restoration will garner benefits associated with large patch size (e.g. bird diversity has been shown to be positively related to patch size on the Sacramento River). A pair of Swainson's Hawks has nested across the river from this property. Restoration of riparian forest and scrub adjacent to this park will provide critical habitat for the avian community and increase the likelihood that special-status neotropical migrants, such as the Willow Flycatcher (which still migrates through this area), will return here to breed in future years. In the past two years there have been colonies of Bank Swallows between RM 145 and RM 146, along the south edge of the Ward property. A 200 burrow colony was observed at RM 145.6 on the west bank of the river in 2000, and a small 10 burrow colony was found at RM 145.7 in 1999.

Research and Monitoring Activities:

None known

Specific Management Considerations:

Of the various studies conducted under this grant, only the public access and recreation study has specific recommendations for this parcel. The Ward parcel offers a number of public use and access opportunities. These include nature trails, primitive camping, and additional river access. We suggest further study of these alternatives, to the extent of available funding, within the proposed Colusa subreach planning project currently recommended for funding by CALFED.

Potential for Coordinated Management with Adjacent Properties:

The property is adjacent to the Colusa-Sacramento River State Park and habitat management of the two properties should be coordinated. Transfer of the site to the Department of Parks and Recreation would be desirable for long term management of the site.