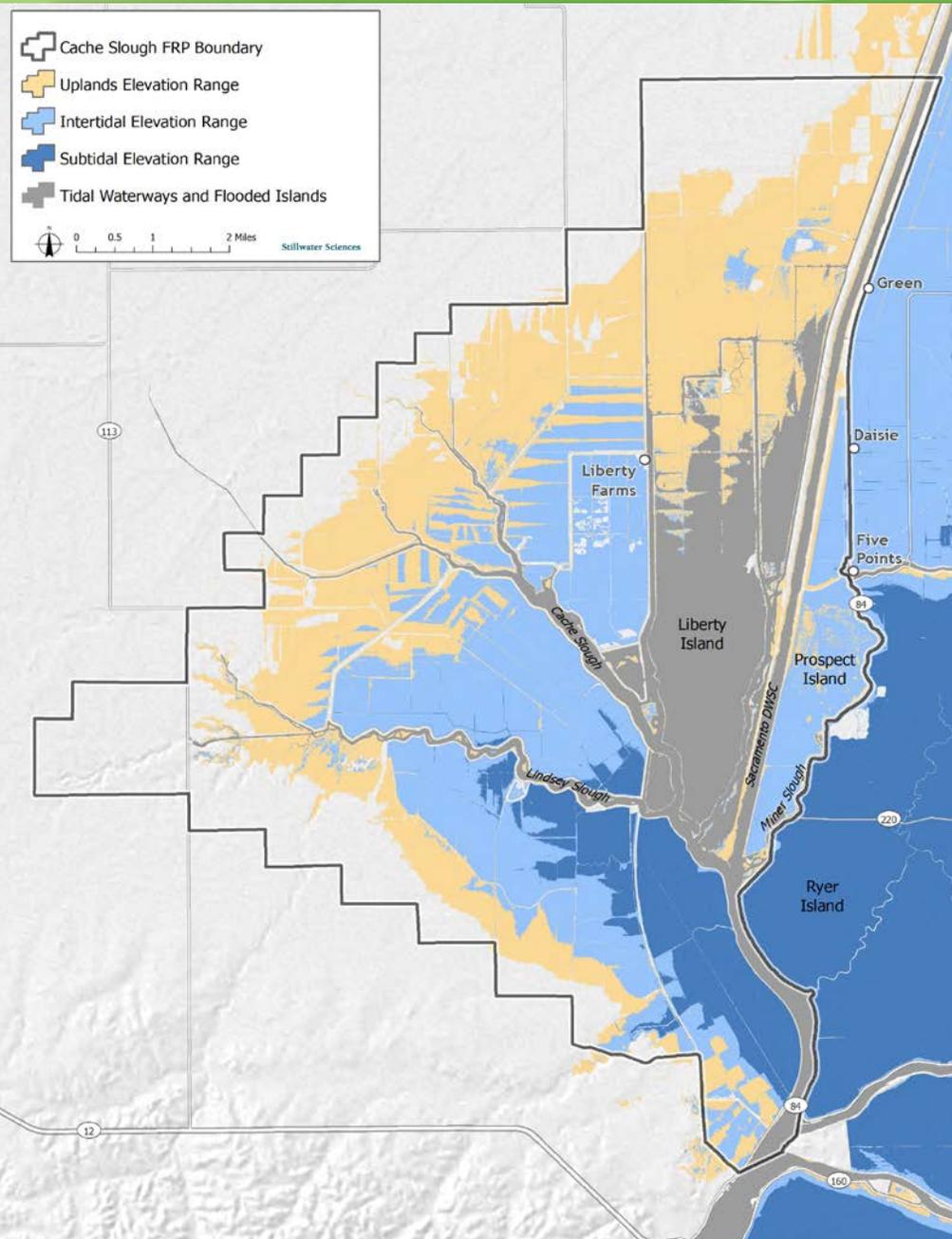


# Cache Slough Complex Conservation Assessment Factsheet



## Purpose of the Conservation Assessment

A two-volume Cache Slough Complex Conservation Assessment is being developed to evaluate the potential for restoring areas within the Cache Slough Complex as part of the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Fish Restoration Program (FRP).

The purpose of the Conservation Assessment is to identify current conditions in the Cache Slough Complex, create strategies for ecologically coherent restoration, and assess feasibility and appropriateness of restoration in specific areas. The Conservation Assessment will provide guidance to DWR and other entities that informs regional implementation of tidal wetland restoration, taking into account FRP's habitat restoration goals, the cost of restoration, stakeholder concerns, and socioeconomic factors that should be considered as part of restoration planning.

## Overview of the Region

The Cache Slough Complex has been identified as an area in the Delta with high potential to meet some of FRP's tidal restoration requirements, thanks to its connectivity with the Yolo Bypass floodplain, suitable elevations, high turbidity, high primary and secondary productivity, and use by Delta Smelt, Chinook salmon, and other native fishes.

The 53,000-acre Cache Slough Complex is located in the northwest corner of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta at the downstream end of the Yolo Bypass. It is separated from the northeast corner of Suisun Marsh by low-lying grasslands and seasonal wetland/vernal pool complexes, and linked directly to the Sacramento River via Miner and Steamboat Sloughs.



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## Overview of FRP

FRP directs DWR and CDFW to work jointly to implement tidal habitat restoration required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions and CDFW Incidental Take Permit for the operations of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project.

Specifically, the biological opinions and Incidental Take Permit require DWR to restore 8,000 acres of tidal wetlands in the Delta and Suisun Marsh to improve habitat and food web resources for Delta Smelt, with additional habitat restoration for Longfin Smelt, salmonids, and Green Sturgeon.

Restoration of the Cache Slough Complex will take place within the context of other restoration planning in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. FRP habitat restoration activities, including this Conservation Assessment, are part of the California Natural Resources Agency's California EcoRestore initiative.

## Conservation Assessment Volume 1

Volume 1 is a characterization report that consolidates what information is known of the current and historic conditions of the Cache Slough Complex from scientific literature, reports, collected data, and personal communications. Volume 1 includes extensive information on the Cache Slough Complex, including:

- Landscape setting,
- Levees,
- Hydrology,
- Geology,
- Water quality,
- Land use,
- Vegetation,
- Fish,
- Wildlife, and
- Cultural resources.



## Conservation Assessment Volume 2

Volume 2 of the Assessment, the Strategic Plan (under development), will provide the scientific foundation for the conservation efforts in the Cache Slough Complex. Volume 2 will:

- Present an overall regional restoration approach,
- Develop restoration strategies using regional conceptual models,
- Define the key drivers for restoration outcomes,
- Provide a procedure for assessing the restoration potential of available properties,
- Define principles for approaching landscape-scale restoration, and
- Discuss compatibility with other regional plans.



### Learn More:

DWR maintains a website with project information and points of contact for FRP, as well as a project-specific page for the Cache Slough Complex Conservation Assessment with a downloadable version of Volume 1 of the assessment.

**For more information,** visit <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/frpa.cfm> or contact [FRPA@water.ca.gov](mailto:FRPA@water.ca.gov).