

# ISP 2003 – Year-In-Review

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## Talking Points

When last we met in this room, it was February 28, nine months ago. At that time, we heard from over a dozen marsh owners and operators regarding non-native *Spartina* issues on their property, and their plans, hopes, and needs for control on their sites. We received input from many more managers regarding how the ISP should select pilot and demonstration sites for the year, and how some potential partnerships could be formed to be able to facilitate control work.

Nine months ago, we had not yet released a draft Environmental Impact Report for public review, we had not selected the sites we were going to work on (let alone develop site specific control plans) and we had not written any contracts for control work. We had just hired our third Program staff person – Erik Grijalva, our Field Operations Manager, and he was diligently working to figure out what he was supposed to do.

We set our goals very high – we figured we would finish the EIR/S and get it adopted by the Conservancy and the Fish and Wildlife Service, choose our sites, write our plans, obtain all the permits, comply with CEQA & NEPA and Section 7, get contract written and money exchanged ... And all of this in six months, so that we could go out and get to work on a dozen or so sites.

Well, we almost made it! ... We did just about everything except get the work done. In the next few minutes I am briefly going to go through the things that the ISP was able to accomplish in this last year. This will be a very brief overview, and others will expand on some of the topics later.

### 1. EIS/R

- a. Draft
- b. Public Review and Comment
- c. Final

### 2. Section 7 Consultation

- a. Programmatic Biological Opinion
  - i. Agreement to not use R-11 surfactant (pending further review)
  - ii. Required site-specific Section 7 review
- b. Site Specific Consultation
  - i. Developing Section 7 review process
  - ii. Will require clapper rail surveys at some sites in Feb-March

### 3. Site specific plans

- a. Developed site-specific plans for 12 sites covering 5,000 acres of Baylands and treating 200 acres of non-native *Spartina*. [Erik to cover in detail later.]

- b. Site-specific CEQA compliance
  - i. Evaluation of impacts, id of mitigations with sign-off
- 4. Monitoring**
  - a. Continued monitoring a number of sites (Katy will present later)
- 5. Researched treatment methods** (Willapa trip – presentation later)
- 6. Contracts**
  - a. Conservancy prepared several contracts to get ISP money to our partners to do work [Maxene]
- 7. Permits**
  - a. NPDES
- 8. Implemented projects** (“none for us, some for others, E&K will present later”)
- 9. Research**
  - a. (list briefly and refer to handout)
- 10. Funding** (“used up the rest of calfed except implementation, and got commitment of new money from CC to continue operation”)
- 11. Plans for next year:**
  - a. Select more sites (work on it later today)
  - b. Write more SS plans (we have examples here, and CDs so you can get started)
  - c. Finish getting the needed permits
  - d. Start work on non-clapper rail sites on \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Start work on clapper rail sites on September 1