

The logo for DUDEK, featuring the word "DUDEK" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a blue and green abstract background.

DUDEK

A wide-angle photograph of a wetland landscape. In the foreground, there is a body of water with tall grasses growing in it. The water reflects the sky and the surrounding green fields. In the background, there is a flat expanse of green fields under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. A few trees and a small white building are visible on the horizon.

South Sacramento HCP/ARP

An Integrated Permitting Success Story

PRESENTED BY MIKE HENRY

PRESENTED NOVEMBER 2019

Overview

01 Plan Overview

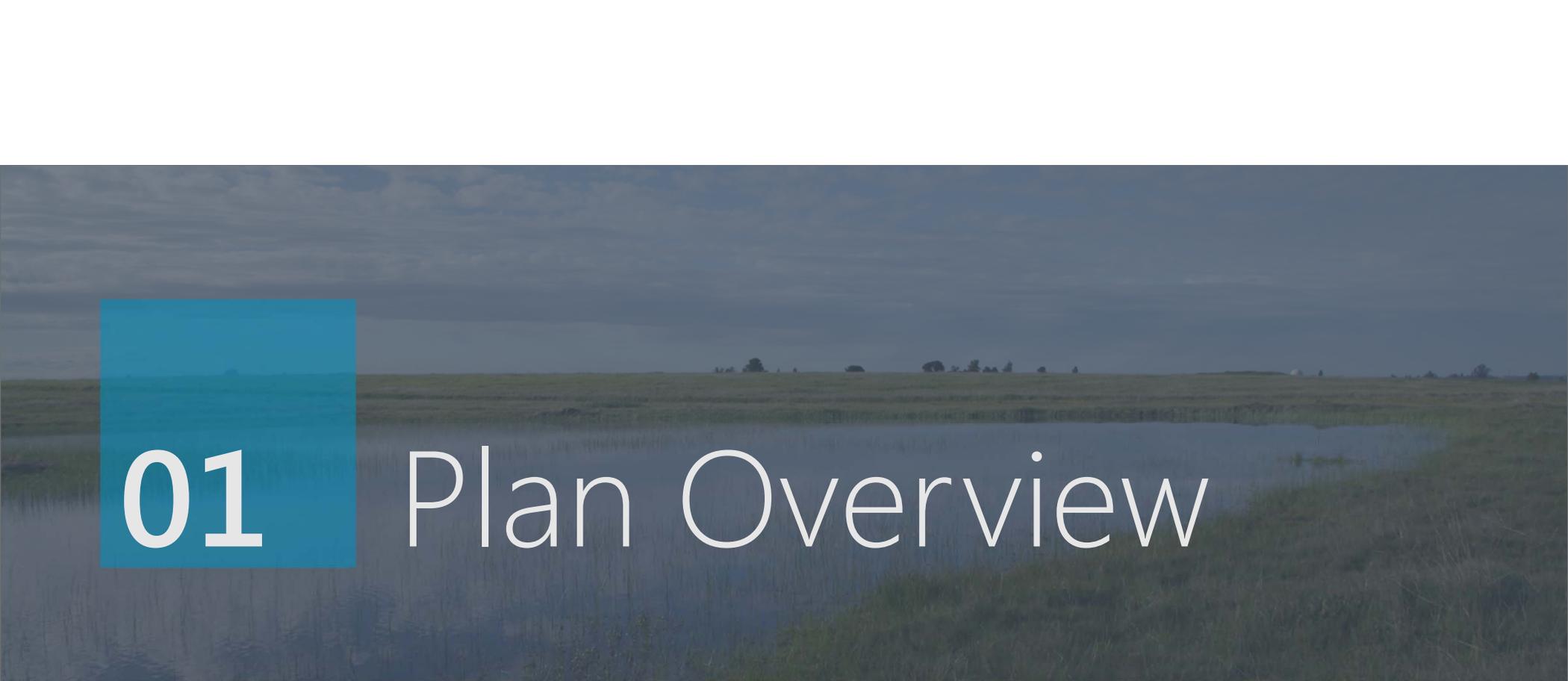
04 Benefits

02 Plan History

05 Key Figures

03 Coordinated Permitting

06 Lessons Learned



01

Plan Overview

Overview of the South Sacramento HCP/ARP

- ✓ Plan Area – 317,655 acres in the middle and southern portions of the County
- ✓ Includes City of Rancho Cordova, City of Galt, but mostly unincorporated County



Overview of the South Sacramento HCP/ARP

- ✓ Planned 36,282-acre Preserve System focused on Vernal Pool Ecosystem plus Cropland
- ✓ 28 Covered Species
- Driven by development to
- ✓ General Plan limits plus a major regional roadway project





02

Plan History

An Abridged History of the SSHCP

1992

Watershed Study



EPA funds a USACE watershed study to assess the water resource needs of river basins and watersheds in south Sacramento County, including needs relating to ecosystem protection and restoration, flood risk management, watershed protection, water supply, and drought preparedness.

1993

HCP Instead?



USFWS and CDFW propose shifting from a watershed study to a more comprehensive regional resource protection plan, such as an HCP. NCCP isn't considered feasible because so much of the Plan Area is already developed or planned for development.

1995

Committees!
Science!

SSHCP Steering Committee is formed to provide public stakeholder input into the HCP, science advisors develop background materials.

1998

99 Problems

Permittees temporarily lose interest, management problems, insufficient funding, work stops

2002

Game On

Work begins again on SSHCP and continues for several years – Admin Draft completed in 2008 but then economy craters and development pressure eases

2011

Conflicts and
Resolutions

Disagreements between stakeholders and regulatory agencies threaten to derail the plan. Under pressure, parties meet and pore over maps in 2012 to come to agreements.

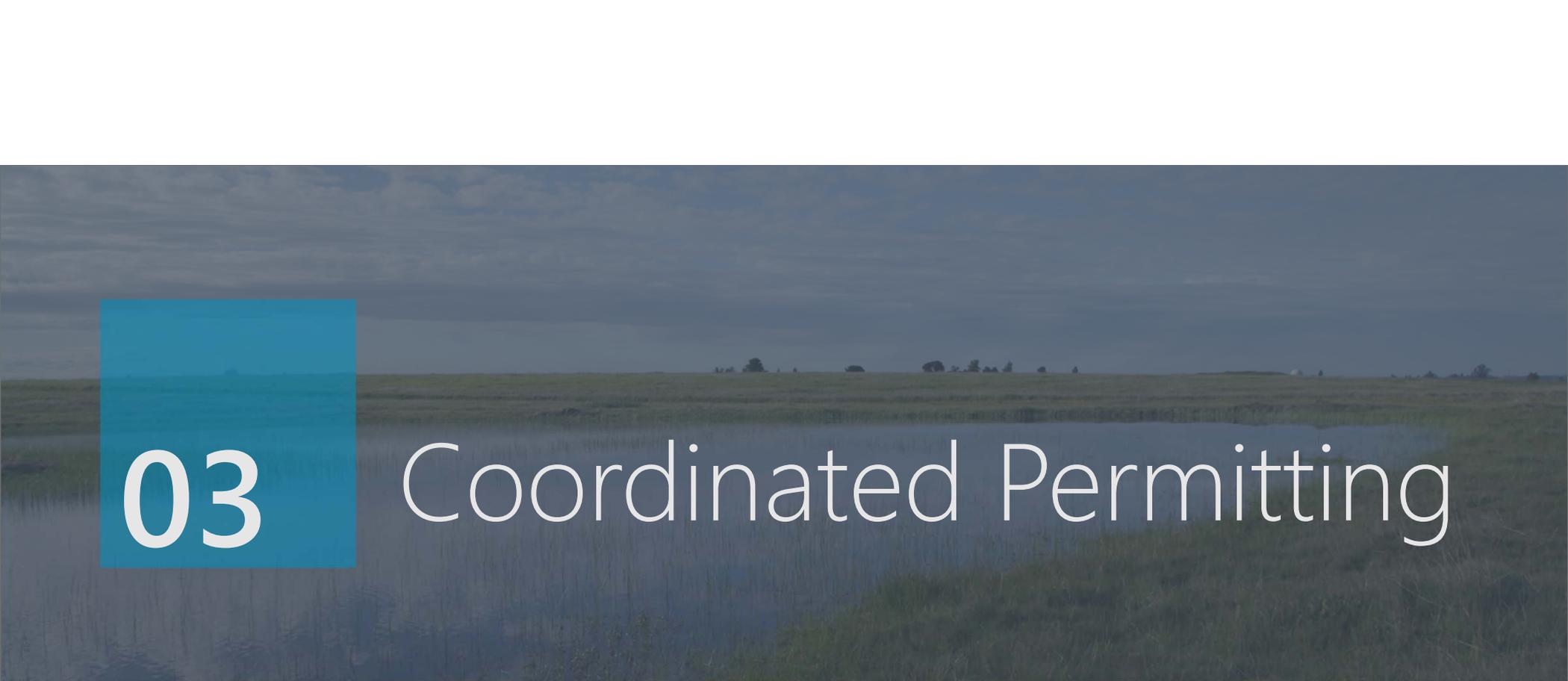
2018

That Was Quick!

A couple shorter stops and starts later. Final effort starts in 2012 until 2018 when HCP/ARP approved by Permittees

NOW

SSHCP Executive Director hired, all USFWS, CDFW, USACE, RWQCB permits received, plan implementation begins



03

Coordinated Permitting

What Makes C

- USACE and the HCP development
- Permittees can mitigate for b
- Mitigation for w benefit to speci
- Biological Opin

Biological and Conference Opinion

on

**The Fish and Wildlife Service Proposed
Issuance of an Endangered Species Act
Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit for the
South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan**

and

**The Army Corps of Engineers Proposed
Authorization and Implementation of a
Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Strategy Aligned With the
South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan**

April 30, 2019

File Number 81420-2008-F-1526-10

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846

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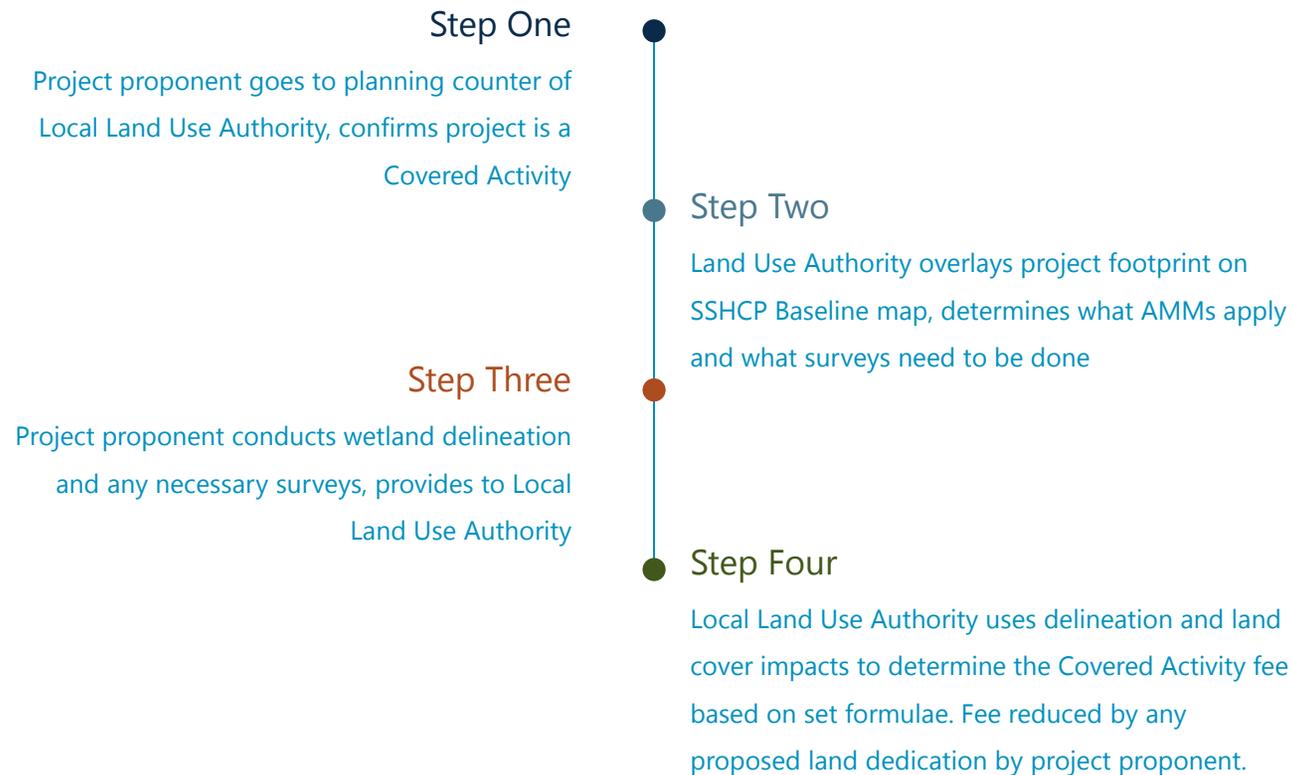
some parts of

over types that

the most

nds permits

Step to Step: The SSHCP Process for Project Proponents





04 Benefits

Key Benefits to Project Proponents



"One-stop shop"
for all resource
permits



Regulatory
certainty



No need to track
down mitigation
properties

Key Benefits to Conservation



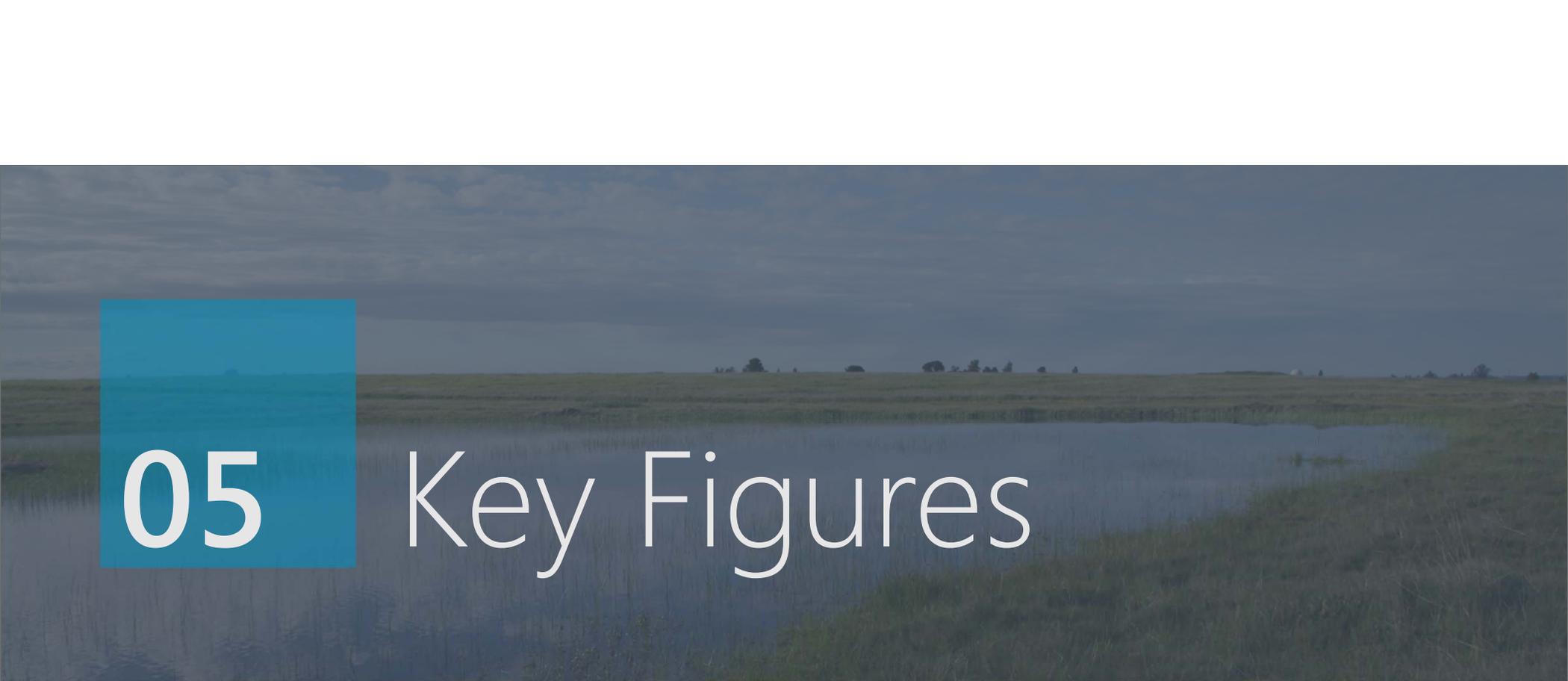
Wetlands
Ordinance – all
activities that
impact wetlands
will mitigate



Coordinated and
linked preserves –
no “postage
stamps”



Monitoring and
management
coordinated across
30,000+ acres



05

Key Figures

Key Figures in the SSHCP/HCP Integrated Permitting



Paul Jones

USEPA

Started the process, advocate for decades.



Mike Jewell

USACE

His arrival at USACE changed the fortunes of the HCP and programmatic permit.



Mary Pakenham-Walsh

USACE

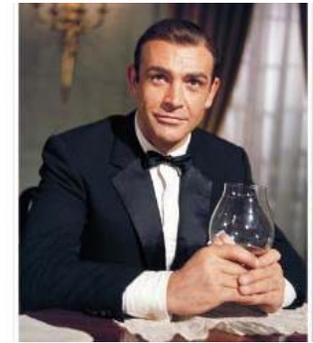
Helped to develop the CWA 404 Permitting Strategy for the HCP



Jan Knight

USFWS

Great advocate for the HCP with senior management.



John Hopkins

IEH

Involved since the beginning, critical partner through completion.



06

Lessons Learned

Some of the Lessons Learned

Vision should be for a watershed plan from the beginning – separating the permitting is not an option

Must move “fast” to avoid staff turnover, economic downturn, loss of enthusiasm

Must clearly and simply communicate benefits to stakeholder groups – don’t get lost in the noise

ESA baseline is different from 404 baseline conditions, and need to “crosswalk” terms

Success criteria for 404 mitigation are not replacements for success criteria of ESA mitigation

When negotiations stall, be creative with ways to enhance the conservation strategy without driving away permittees

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