1.3 Proposed Federal Action

1.3.1 Interrelated or Interdependent Actions

"Interrelated actions" are those that are part of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification. "Interdependent actions" are those that have no independent utility apart from the action under consideration (50 CFR 402.02).

1.3.1.1 Central Valley Fish Hatcheries

In the Central Valley, five hatcheries currently produce Chinook salmon, and four of these also produce steelhead. These hatcheries have been established to partially offset the loss of salmon and steelhead due to construction of dams. Additionally, Trinity River Fish Hatchery mitigates for salmon and steelhead losses from the construction of Trinity Dam. The Mokelumne River Hatchery, although not directly related to CVP or SWP dams, does influence fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead populations. Modern hatcheries are required to develop a Hatchery Genetic Management Plan under Section 4 of ESA to addresses long-range planning and management of the hatchery fish. Added together, Central Valley hatcheries annually produce approximately 200,000 winter-run, 5 million spring-run, 29.76 million fall-run, and 1.5 million steelhead. Currently, most Central Valley hatcheries truck their salmon production to the Bay-Delta region for release. The exception to this being Coleman National Fish Hatchery (CNFH), which avoids trucking whenever conditions allow. In some cases, such as the 2012-2016 drought when in-river conditions would have been detrimental to emigrating fish, The USFWS, with support from NMFS, CDFW, and the Golden Gate Salmon Association, agreed to transport a portion, or all, of CNFH's fall-run Chinook salmon production to the Delta and San Pablo Bay.

The Nimbus Fish Hatchery was constructed to mitigate for the loss of riverine habitat caused by the construction of CVP Nimbus and Folsom dams. Nimbus Fish Hatchery is located below Nimbus Dam and is operated by CDFW to meet annual production goals of 4 million fall-run smolts and 430,000 steelhead yearlings.

The Trinity River Fish Hatchery was constructed to provide CVP mitigation for the loss of upstream riverine habitat caused by the construction of the Trinity and Lewiston dams. The hatchery, operated by CDFW, produces 1.4 million spring-run, 2.9 million fall-run, 500,000 coho salmon, and 800,000 steelhead annually. Reclamation is currently working on a Hatchery Genetics Management Plan for Trinity River Hatchery coho salmon.