

Wallace Weir Fish Rescue Facility – The proposed project includes replacing the seasonal earthen dam at Wallace Weir with a permanent, operable structure that would provide year-round operational control. The project would also include a fish rescue facility that would return fish back to the Sacramento River. Wallace Weir has been treated as a common element to the larger habitat restoration and fish passage projects included in the 2009 NMFS biological opinion. This project will serve primarily as a fish passage improvement action that will prevent upstream migration of straying adult salmonids and sturgeon into the Colusa Basin Drain. Operational control of water levels would also provide greater flexibility for managing water releases for agriculture and wetlands habitat. Background: In water year 2014, the CDFW and NMFS documented several hundred adult salmon in dead end agricultural ditches in the Colusa Basin Drain system, and while many of these fish were rescued from the drain, the stress from the poor water quality conditions prevented these salmon from successfully contributing to the reproductive population. In the remainder of water year 2014 and in water year 2015, CDFW operated a fyke trap with wing walls at Wallace Weir to prevent straying adult salmonids and sturgeon from entering the Colusa Basin Drain; rescued fish were returned to the Sacramento River. These fish rescue operations have proven resource intensive and are not efficient at higher flows in the Knights Landing Ridge Cut (KLRC). Wallace Weir is a key water control structure in the bypass for flood conveyance and irrigation, but it is an obsolete structure, which must be installed and removed annually using inflexible, labor-intensive methods. Purpose: Return special status migratory fish species to the Sacramento River that are unable to pass volitionally over Wallace Weir.

Commented [NA1]: Can we just use the calendar year date instead to avoid question/confusion?

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