

State of California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of April 23, 1981

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

MINUTES, MEETING OF APRIL 23, 1981

Pursuant to the call of the Acting Chairman, the Wildlife Conservation Board met in Room 6031 of the State Capitol, Sacramento, California, on April 23, 1981. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Mr. Abel Galletti.

1. Roll Call and Election of Chairman

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Abel C. Galletti	Acting Chairman
	Susanne Morgan	Member
	E. C. Fullerton	Member
<u>ABSENT:</u>	Senator Barry Keene	Joint Legislative Interim Comm.

STAFF PRESENT:

Chester M. Hart	Executive Officer
Alvin G. Rutsch	Assistant Executive Officer
John Wentzel	Field Agent
W. John Schmidt	Senior Land Agent
Jim Sarro	Land Agent
Howard Dick	Land Agent
Marylyn Gzyms	Accountant
Alma Koyasako	Secretary
Denise O'Neill	Office Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bud Fine	Property owner, Lewiston
Jess Freeman	" " "
Russ Denney	" " "
Virginia B. Rice	" " "
Ronald W. Rice	" " "
Dick Austin	Supervisor, Trinity Co.
Neal Meyer	Property owner, Lewiston
Ursula N. Diemer	" " "
W. C. Diemer	" " "
Dawn Stone	Sacramento

Mr. Chester Hart, the Executive Officer, pointed out that by custom the President of the Fish and Game Commission has served as Chairman of the Board, but that the election of the Board Chairman was up to the Board members.

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IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE MR. ABEL C. GALLETI BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hart advised that the minutes of the WCB meeting of December 12, 1980, have been published and circulated and that staff knows of no need for corrections or additions to the minutes and recommended approval.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 1980, MEETING OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD BE APPROVED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Status of Wildlife Restoration Fund

Unallocated balance at end of 12/12/80 meeting	\$1,316,110.00
Plus transfer of federal monies from various funds	565,062.42
Plus interest on surplus money, July-Dec. 1980	<u>395,585.59</u>
Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/23/81 meeting	\$2,276,758.01

4. Status of Federal Grant Funds

The following report of Federal grant funds was provided by Mr. Hart.

a. Land and Water Conservation Fund

An important funding source for the WCB program in recent years has been the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has provided federal grant monies for eligible projects under this program. Revenues to this federal fund come from federal recreation fees, sale of surplus federal lands, federal motorboat fuel taxes, and from the Outer Continental Shelf mineral receipts.

The amount available to the State varies annually according to Congressional appropriations, but has ranged from approximately \$2.1M to \$3.5M for the WCB program over the last five years.

As part of the current federal administration's efforts to reduce federal expenditures, no funding is proposed for grants to the states under the LWCF program for the 1981-1982 fiscal year. Rescission of \$145M of the 1980-81 appropriation, which would be most of the remaining, unobligated funds for the current fiscal year, also has been recommended.

The fiscal impact from loss of these federal monies will become significant for the WCB probably in about a year, with this time lag due to the process

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under which the federal funds are paid. This normally is through a reimbursement procedure, with final payment not made until after the project is completed and audited.

This means that over the next 2-3 years, approximately, the WCB will be receiving reimbursement for previously approved LWCF projects, but generally on a progressively declining level. At the end of this period, unless the LWCF program is renewed or alternate funding of some type becomes available, the WCB's financial resources for project funding will be reduced about \$2 - 3½ million per year.

b. Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Sanctuary

The federal grant funds obtained for acquisition, development and first year management of this estuarine sanctuary project are secure, being encumbered by state-federal contracts.

Funding reportedly is included in the federal budget for continuation of this program in the 1981-82 fiscal year.

c. Saltonstall-Kennedy Financial Assistance for Fisheries Development Funds

These are federal funds available from this source for marine projects during this fiscal year. A total of \$10 million is available to the various eligible states, to be based on the merits of individual projects submitted.

Applications have been made for such federal funds, utilizing approved WCB projects for artificial reefs as the basis, including the WCB funding for the required state cost-sharing. Federal approval could provide up to \$486,640 in federal funds to augment these projects.

Decisions on which projects will receive these federal funds are not expected until sometime next June.

There was discussion of the general funding picture of the local agencies, state and federal governments as it relates to the WCB program. Concern was expressed by Mr. Fullerton that the cooperative projects with local agencies which require O&M by cities and counties may no longer be possible, due to cuts in local funding available to provide for O&M costs. On this point, Mr. Galletti noted that the main funding for the Board program has remained at \$750,000 established almost 30 years ago, and asked if anything can be done to bring this funding up to a more realistic figure, in view of the escalation of land costs and inflation. Mr. Fullerton advised that an effort was made two years ago, but that there was not support for increasing this funding at that time. He promised that an effort will again be made next year to try to secure increased funding from the pari-mutuel tax monies.

5. Mt. Whitney Hatchery, Inyo County \$5,300.00

In order to meet requirements of the Lahonton Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Department of Fish and Game intends to construct a settling pond to collect sediment effluent which is currently discharged from the hatchery's

water filtering system. The plan is to construct a new pipeline from the existing trap and filters, which are off of the hatchery property, to transport the water to the settling pond. In order to do this, it will be necessary to cross the land of an adjacent property owner, install the pipeline underground and then take steps to render the surface of the property passable and useable by the landowner.

This proposal by the Department covers only the acquisition of such rights in the adjacent land as are required to accomplish the installation and future use of the pipeline. This would involve the grant of a temporary working area of about one acre for a maximum of one year for use during construction and about 1/20 acre for a permanent pipeline easement. The value of these easements, based on staff's application of value set forth in the approved appraisal of the parcel, is \$1,000. The concurrence of the Department of General Services in this valuation has been received.

The costs of the initial appraisal of the property, escrow and title insurance will be about \$4,300. Funding is available for this project from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and the acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements pursuant to Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions.

Mr. Jim Sarro, land agent, pointed out on exhibits the area under an existing easement, the one-acre working easement, and the permanent pipeline easement needed for this project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF EASEMENTS FOR THE MT. WHITNEY HATCHERY PIPELINE; ALLOCATE \$5,300 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE EASEMENTS AND PAYMENT OF COSTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Silverado Field Base Expansion, Napa County \$104,750.00

This proposal is to acquire approximately 21 acres of land now owned by Napa County, located approximately three miles northeast of the City of Yountville and nine miles north of the City of Napa. The Department of Fish and Game's Silverado Field Operation Base adjoins the subject property to the east. The property fronts on Olive Lane to the north, Rector Creek to the south, and a private ownership to the west.

Acquisition of this property has received a high priority recommendation from the Department of Fish and Game for several reasons. The acquisition will insure the preservation of some good wildlife habitat typical of that found on the floor of the Napa Valley. The area is becoming increasingly important as a resting and nesting area for important raptors, such as the white-tailed kite, red-shouldered hawk, Cooper's hawk, and red-tailed hawk. Gray fox which are known to have dens on the subject property, as well as coyotes, feed on this parcel, as well as adjoining lands.

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State purchase of this parcel will also provide a permanent area for storage and percolation of discharge waters from the fish planting facilities located at the adjoining Silverado Field Operation Base.

No development is presently proposed for this parcel. Management by the Department of Fish and Game, in conjunction with its adjoining facility, is planned with the land being kept in essentially its existing state.

The proposed acquisitions fall within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of acquisitions of land for fish and wildlife habitat, establishment of ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preservation of access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

The subject property has been appraised for \$100,000. It is estimated that an additional \$4,750 will be required to cover appraisal, escrow costs, and Real Estate Services review costs.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the purchase of this parcel, allocate \$104,750 for its purchase and related costs from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. John Schmidt, Senior Land Agent, gave further testimony as to the subject property's value and relationship to the presently owned Fish and Game Silverado Fish Planting Base.

Mr. Fullerton acknowledged that the area would be desirable for fish and wildlife habitat purposes, but expressed concern about a possible mosquito problem that might be created in the discharge of waters from the operations base. Although there was no way to guarantee that such a problem would not develop in the future, Mr. Fullerton agreed that it was a good investment because of the rapidly increasing land values in the Napa Valley, and called for approval of the acquisition.

Ms. Morgan did not agree with the idea of the State being in the land business, and that we should put it back on the tax rolls in an effort to support the local economy in that way. With the understanding that Mr. Fullerton would again review the proposal and that rescission of the action taken would be made if Mr. Fullerton determines that acquisition should not be undertaken, the following action was taken.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SILVERADO FIELD BASE EXPANSION, NAPA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$104,750 FOR ITS PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Trinity River - Old Lewiston Mill Fish & Wildlife Habitat Area, \$120,000.00
Trinity County

This proposal is to acquire approximately 11 acres of private land along the Trinity River in the unincorporated community of Lewiston, Trinity County. Access to the property is via an easement off Cemetery Lane which intersects Rush Creek Road east of the property. Improvements on the property include a small residence of 936 square feet with 2 bedrooms and 1½ baths, and a 576 square foot, two-car garage. The improvements are currently vacant.

The Department of Fish and Game has recommended purchasing the property for several reasons. With regard to fisheries, the Trinity River in this area provides habitat for salmon and some resident trout. The property includes one spawning area and has the physical characteristics to enable constructing a rearing channel or ponds. Riparian vegetation provides habitat for many wildlife species. Recreational values include approximately 660' of river frontage which provides angling access to the river. Access to the river is diminishing as undeveloped lands are converted to residential uses. The existing residence on the parcel will provide office space for the wildlife and fisheries unit biologists and the habitat assistant assigned to the Trinity River drainage. The garage will be utilized for storage purposes.

The property owner has agreed to sell this property to the State for the appraised fair market value of \$114,500. It is planned that the Department of Fish and Game would manage the property.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including preservation of fish and wildlife habitat, establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580, and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board authorize the purchase of this property, allocate from the Wildlife Restoration Fund a total of \$120,000 for payment of the purchase price and related processing costs, and authorize the staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Hart advised that this proposal has become controversial and that the staff has received as of yesterday afternoon petitions both in support and opposition of the project. The tally indicated 281 signatures in favor and 185 in opposition. Another seven letters in support of the project have been received. He also noted that a letter from the Secretary-Clerk of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors indicated that on April 6, 1981, the Trinity County Board of Supervisors voted to take no action regarding this proposed acquisition by the WCB.

Mr. Dick Austin, Supervisor of District 1 of Trinity County in whose district this property is located, spoke in opposition to the proposal. It was his contention that there was adequate public access, pointing out there were six public access sites in approximately 3 miles of river, plus other public lands. He also pointed out there was not adequate policing of the other public areas and no sanitary facilities on the river to keep the area clean.

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Mr. Neil Meyer and Mr. Bill Diemer, Lewiston residents, also spoke in opposition to State acquisition of this property, citing lack of personnel to adequately police the area and maintain the areas properly. It was also Mr. Diemer's contention that funds could be better utilized for hatchery personnel.

Mr. Russ Denney and Jess Freeman, also from the area, stated they were not opposed to the acquisition, but wanted assurances that proper maintenance and patrol would be provided upon State acquisition.

Mr. Ron Rice spoke in favor of the acquisition and presented a petition with 150 signatures, all in favor of the project.

Mr. Fullerton assured each of the speakers that the Department of Fish and Game will be a "good neighbor" in keeping the area clean and will ask the Fish and Game Commission to adopt regulations that would enable the Department to properly manage the area. He pointed out that funds for this project are from pari-mutuel taxes earmarked for capital outlay projects and cannot be used for management of hatcheries. He also stated that he will look into the complaint that warden personnel would not follow through on calls from the public regarding violations of fish and game regulations.

In regard to Ms. Morgan's question as to the ultimate plan for this area, Mr. Fullerton advised that there would be a parking area provided and that it would house biologists working the river. He mentioned that there is funding in the budget for work on the river to try to rehabilitate the fishery, and the housing would provide a base for those personnel. It would not be kept vacant because of vandalism problems.

In regard to Mr. Galletti's question as to what recourse the people might have should the Department fail to maintain the area properly, Mr. Fullerton stated that they should come back to the Fish and Game Commission, or whoever might be responsible for the operation and maintenance, such as the County of Trinity or BLM.

There was discussion about the law enforcement problem which would be encountered, whether or not the acquisition was made of this property. This problem stems from the fact that, as Ms. Morgan put it, you cannot make good fishermen from bad people and the lack of sufficient wardens. It was Ms. Morgan's desire to see the development of a management plan for the area, which Mr. Fullerton promised to send her when it was completed and before it goes before the Fish and Game Commission. As far as the patrol problem was concerned, Mr. Galletti assured the audience that Mr. Fullerton will follow up on it.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AT TRINITY RIVER - OLD LEWISTON MILL FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA, TRINITY COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$120,000 FOR ACQUISITION AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Clarksburg Public Access - Improvements, Yolo County \$77,000.00

The Clarksburg Access, a 4-acre parcel approximately 18 miles south of Sacramento, was acquired and developed in 1958 by the Board to provide a public fishing and boating access to the Sacramento River. The project is on a narrow flat berm between the levee road and the river, the only such site for miles which is large enough for a launching ramp and parking.

Some of the best fishing spots on the Sacramento River are found in this vicinity and the access facilities are very heavily used in season. There has long been a need to upgrade the parking area so that more cars and trailers can be accommodated and access and traffic will be better controlled.

Plans developed by the department engineering section call for minor grading of the site for drainage purposes, asphalt surfacing and striping the parking area, reconstructing the access and exit ramps adjacent to the county road and adding traffic barriers and curbs to keep vehicles off the unsurfaced areas.

Care has been taken to preserve as many of the existing trees as possible, but five cottonwoods are to be removed because they are diseased and are becoming a hazard to the public. The safety of those entering or leaving the area has also been a concern and this will be improved by flattening the access ramps and adding pavement markings.

The cost estimate for these improvements as prepared by the department engineers is as follows:

Site preparation	\$2,000
Earthwork	10,000
Aggregate base	25,000
Asphalt concrete	29,000
Striping, signs, curbs & barriers	<u>4,000</u>
Subtotal	\$70,000
Contingencies, 10%	<u>7,000</u>
Total Estimated Cost	\$77,000

The Department, as lead agency for this project, has determined that the activity is Categorical Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, under Class 2, Section 15102, of the State Guidelines.

The County of Yolo has by a Cooperative Agreement operated and maintained this project and the agreement has been extended to 2003.

It was staff recommendation the Board approve the Clarksburg Public Access Improvement project, allocate \$77,000 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the department to proceed with the project substantially as planned.

Ms. Morgan asked if there were any objections to this proposal and was advised that there were none.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE CLARKSBURG PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; ALLOCATE \$77,000 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Slinkard/Little Antelope Valley Wildlife Area, Mono County \$32,300.00

This proposal is to acquire the remaining 2/5 interest in a 640 acre parcel which is part of the 10,800+ acre Slinkard/Little Antelope Wildlife Area, Mono County.

This wildlife area, purchased after authorization by the Board on April 24, 1978, lies on the lower eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountains about 20 miles northerly of Bridgeport. The parcel in question is at the north end of the wildlife area, including about 520 acres north of Monitor Pass Highway No. 89.

Staff was successful in acquiring the interests of the major landowner, which included clear title to 10,160 acres and an undivided 3/5 interest in the 640 acres in question. Efforts to acquire the remaining 2/5 interest were unfruitful.

Recent contact has indicated that one owner would be willing to sell his 1/5 interest for the current fair market value, but more recently sold his interest to the other 1/5 interest owner, although a current title report does not confirm this.

It is therefore recommended that the Board authorize staff to make formal offers to each of the 1/5 interest owners at the fair market value of \$15,400 each, and to acquire these interests as available.

An additional allocation of \$1,500 is recommended to cover incidental costs including escrow fees and Real Estate Service review costs.

Management of this area by the Department for wildlife and recreational purposes would be considerably facilitated by acquisition of these remaining interests, particularly in controlling livestock grazing.

The proposed acquisition is within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements. Class 13 consists of the acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, including fish and wildlife habitat, establishing ecological reserves under Fish and Game Code Section 1580 and preserving access to public lands and waters where the purpose of the acquisition is to preserve the land in its natural condition.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the purchase of the two 1/5 interests as proposed, as available, or acquiring the 2/5 interest from the one owner, allocate \$32,300 for their purchase and related costs from the Wildlife

Restoration Fund and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Galletti asked if this property has been appraised, and Mr. Hart responded that staff has used an older appraisal and updated it, with the final appraisal figure approved by the Real Estate Services Division of the Department of General Services.

It was brought out that the owner or owners would have the right to 40% of the grazing rights and could not develop it; however, they could go to court and demand a division of their undivided interest in the property, in which case the 2/5 interest owner could develop its holding, which would not be in the best interest of the deer herd.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE PURCHASE OF THE 2/5 INTEREST AT SLINKARD/LITTLE ANTELOPE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA, MONO COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$32,300 FOR THE PURCHASE AND RELATED COSTS FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. South Fork Kern River (Schaeffer) Fish Barrier, Tulare County

The upper stretches and tributaries of the South Fork of the Kern River make up much of the original habitat of the golden trout. This trout is the official state fish, native only to a limited area in the southern Sierra Nevada mountains.

The golden trout has been transplanted to other waters, as well as outside the state, but hybridizes rather readily and does not maintain a pure strain where it can intermix with rainbow trout.

The Department of Fish and Game in recent years has increasingly focused efforts on protecting and restoring the pure strain of this unique trout in its native habitat to ensure its perpetuation. This is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Forest Service, which manages the public lands generally encompassing the area involved. Special status and added protection to most of this area were provided fairly recently through the establishment of the Golden Trout Wilderness Area.

A serious problem to the perpetuation of golden trout here has been intrusion of brown trout that have worked their way up the South Fork Kern. Such brown trout come from populations that became established from inadvertent stocking in the lower stretches of this fork many years ago. The brown trout grow larger, are highly piscivorous, and soon dominate invaded areas to the virtual exclusion of the golden trout.

Sufficient efforts have been made to control this problem by constructing barriers to upstream passage of fish, and then removing the brown trout upstream from the barrier, to demonstrate that this system will work. However, the barriers tried were essentially low-cost, makeshift affairs that were not substantial enough to last through heavy runoff periods. One exception is a remaining rock barrier in a favorable site in a gorge just above Ramshaw Meadows.

In the summer of 1980, the U.S. Forest Service constructed a substantial, gabion-type barrier farther downstream on the South Fork Kern, at the lower end of Templeton Meadows. This structure is felt to be adequately engineered and constructed to last for a long period of time. It was constructed with labor from YACC crews, with materials from onsite, or packed in or flown in by helicopter.

However, the protection plan calls for two main barriers, in addition to the Ramshaw barrier, to provide the margin of safety needed in case one barrier fails.

If reliance is placed on protection by a single main barrier, all gains would be lost if the barrier should somehow fail. It is a slow, laborious and expensive project to remove all brown trout in the stream system above the barrier sites.

In view of the cooperative nature of the overall project, each agency agreed to attempt to fund one of the main barriers so that the second main barrier is proposed for State funding as a WCB project. It would be located at the next suitable site about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles downstream, outside the wilderness area. A road from the Monache Meadows area leads to within approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the site, which should appreciably facilitate supply and construction.

The structure itself would be a rock gabion dam 70' - 80' long, 12' wide, and with a spillway 6' high, similar to the barrier constructed last year. The rock material necessary can be taken from the immediate vicinity of the construction site.

The original plan was to construct this barrier with YACC crews also, with USFS engineering and supervision to benefit for experience gained in the barrier construction last year. The Inyo National Forest had provided an estimate of \$78,000 in total costs for construction in this manner.

However, YACC crews now will not be available this year due to reductions in the federal budget, so that current plans are to shift to State CCC crews. Indications are that they would be willing to do this. A new camp starting up in the Uplands area in San Bernardino County can handle it and staff is in the midst of conducting negotiations with CCC people as to what they can do, what the costs will be, what the Department can handle, and what will need to be contracted out to the Forest Service. It is desirable to minimize the contract with the Forest Service because we will have to pay a 35% overhead cost. In order to get the project underway, it is desirable to have it approved in principle, short of final approval. This will give us time to finalize cost estimates to bring it before the Board in a June meeting for

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funding, and get the work started in July or early August with project completion by about mid-October because of weather. A separate CEQA clearance is necessary, although NEPA clearance process has been completed.

Mr. Hart further reported that the project constructed last summer was with helicopter and pack service to the site. This location is about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ hour walk from a road so it should be easier and perhaps cheaper to construct.

It was Mr. Hart's recommendation that the Board approve the project in principle, and authorize staff to proceed with obtaining a special use permit, short of final approval at this time.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE SOUTH FORK KERN RIVER (SCHAEFFER) FISH BARRIER, TULARE COUNTY, IN PRINCIPLE ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED WITH OBTAINING NECESSARY PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS FOR THE PROJECT, ON THE BASIS THAT FINALIZED PLANS, AGREEMENTS, AND COST ESTIMATES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Hill Slough Wildlife Area - Internal Development, Phase II, \$147,400.00
Solano County

This project is proposed by the Department of Fish and Game, as part of the continuing process of developing this wildlife area previously acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board.

The Hill Slough Wildlife Area generally consists of approximately 1,112 acres along Hill Slough and Suisun Channel on the edge of Suisun Marsh southeast of Fairfield-Suisun. Under the development and management plan prepared by the Department, the area is being restored to marsh, in a manner that will enable management of ponds and water levels.

The Board has previously approved projects totalling \$276,800 for improvement of the external levees and for water control structures therein. Also, on January 10, 1980, \$90,000 was allocated for the first phase of the internal development, consisting essentially of earthwork and water controls for ponds in the area east of Grizzly Island road.

This proposed project consists essentially of the following:

1. Constructing approximately 9,000 lineal feet of levee on each side of Grizzly Island Road to prevent ponded water from flooding the roadway;
2. Constructing approximately 1,000' of levee for ponds west of Grizzly Island Road;

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3. Purchasing and installing required water control structures;
4. Constructing 6 islands;
5. Constructing safety ramps at water control structures.

Cost estimates for the proposed work are as follows:

Earthwork

Levee construction, 10,000± feet	\$49,000
Island construction	8,400
Structure installation, including road resurfacing	12,200
Safety ramp construction	<u>5,625</u>
Subtotal	\$75,225

Materials

Pipe; 24" and 36" dia., with couplings	\$29,070
Gates; 24" and 36" dia., with frames	17,250
Riser extensions; 36" and 48" dia.	1,230
Ramp guard rails & support beams	<u>10,200</u>
Subtotal	\$57,750

Labor

Safety ramp installation	1,000
Subtotal	<u>\$133,975</u>
Contingency	<u>13,425</u>
TOTAL	\$147,400

The proposal qualifies for a categorical exemption from CEQA under Class 4(d) as habitat improvement on an officially designated wildlife area, and the Department has filed a Notice of Exemption.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the development project for Hill Slough Wildlife Area as proposed, allocate \$147,400 therefor from the Wildlife Restoration Fund, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

A more complete explanation of how the islands were constructed and their value in providing additional habitat was provided by Mr. Hart.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE HILL SLOUGH WILDLIFE AREA - INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT, PHASE II, SOLANO COUNTY, AS PROPOSED; ALLOCATE \$147,400 THEREFOR FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Interior Wetlands and Riparian Habitat
Coon Hollow Expansion, Butte County \$33,750.00

On May 2, 1980, the Board authorized the purchase of 449 acres of meadowlands and riparian habitat in Butte County. The acquisition was completed and the former owner has listed for sale an adjacent parcel, consisting of about 40 acres, lying between the existing wildlife area and the west branch of the Feather River.

The property is located at an elevation of about 5,500 feet, approximately 40 miles north of Oroville and is reached by U.S. Forest Service roads, including Humbug Road and Coon Hollow Road.

The Department has indicated that placing the property in state ownership will provide a number of benefits. Long-term protection would be afforded to habitat for wildlife species utilizing the land, including deer, bear, and furbearers such as pine marten and perhaps beaver and the Sierra red fox. Bird species include the pileated woodpecker, goshawks, and possibly the great grey owl, as well as other migrant and resident species such as mountain quail and possibly blue grouse. It would provide 40 additional acres with about 1/4 mile of river frontage for potential public use, and would also provide a buffer between the existing Coon Hollow Wildlife Area and the Colman Camp subdivision which lies immediately to the west of this 40-acre parcel.

The parcel has been appraised at \$750 per acre and has been offered to the State for this price. As noted above, the estimated size is 40 acres. No survey has been conducted, but for appraisal and negotiation purposes, the parties are assuming the 40-acre figure, and this estimate has been confirmed by a private engineering consultant in Oroville.

In view of the probably high value of timber rights on the parcel, the Department recommends that timber rights not be purchased, so these rights would be reserved to their current owner. Any timber harvest, however, would have to be in accordance with a timber harvest plan approved by the State. This is the same situation as existed for the first parcel, which the Department recommended for purchase, in part on the basis that proper logging in the future should not significantly reduce overall values for wildlife.

Funds are available for this purchase from the 1976 Bond Act under the WCB's acquisition program for Interior Wetlands and Riparian Habitat. The total purchase price would be \$30,000. Costs, including appraisals, escrow and closing, will be about \$3,750.

The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13, Categorical Exemptions from CEQA. It is planned that the property will be managed essentially in its existing state by the Department of Fish and Game.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve the Coon Hollow Wildlife Area Expansion project as proposed, allocate \$33,750 from 1976 Bond Act funds available for the acquisition and related costs, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Ms. Morgan asked if it would require bonds to be sold in order to purchase this property, and Mr. Hart responded that it would not since this requirement of bond monies was included in the projection of needs for the last bond sale.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE COON HOLLOW WILDLIFE AREA EXPANSION, BUTTE COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$33,750 THEREFOR FROM 1976 BOND ACT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR INTERIOR WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN HABITAT ACQUISITION PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13. Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition
Ney Springs Public Access (Sacramento River), Siskiyou County \$111,000.00

This proposal is for the purchase of 46.8+ acres along the Sacramento River near the City of Mt. Shasta for habitat preservation and fishing access purposes. Last year the Board approved the purchase of a conservation easement over 136+ acres immediately upstream from this parcel at Lower Box Canyon, together with parking, foot trails and fishing access rights over 3,200+ feet of frontage along the left bank of the Sacramento River. The acquisition under consideration here would provide an additional 1,700+ feet of river frontage on the left bank and 700+ feet on the right bank. It would also include 1,500+ feet of frontage on Ney Springs Creek, which empties into the Sacramento River at this location.

The western half of the property has good access via a county road paralleling Box Canyon. This is the only access point on the west side of the Sacramento River between Box Canyon Dam and North Dunsmuir, a distance of six miles, and probably accounts for the area being a favorite among local fishermen. The eastern portion of the property has deeded (but undeveloped) access off Cantara Road.

The property contains a high diversity of habitat types, including riverine aquatic, riparian and mixed forest. The area is classified deer winter range and is known as a forage zone for a pair of osprey that nest each year just upstream. Vegetation in the area includes fir, cedar, pines, oaks, alders, willows, manzanita, and grasses, as an indication of the wide variety of land types present.

The Sacramento River, in this area, possesses extremely high fishery values. Fishing is excellent, predominantly for wild rainbow trout. River productivity is high and water temperatures are ideal. Recent fish population sampling by the Department of Fish and Game showed exceptionally high concentrations of trophy-sized trout in this stretch of river. This section of stream also contains areas of valuable trout spawning and nursery habitat.

The Department recommends acquisition of this parcel to insure protection of wildlife and fisheries habitat, scenic values, and water quality, and to ensure public access to this section of the Sacramento River.

This purchase would also afford the State the choice of developing parking for fishermen at either this site or the upstream, previously-acquired parcel, whichever proves to be more practical and desirable.

The property has been appraised, and the landowner has offered it to the State for its appraised fair market value of \$108,000. With the addition of sales costs, escrow and appraisal fees estimated to be about \$3,000, the total necessary allocation would be \$111,000.

Funding for this project is available from the 1976 Bond Act under the Board's program of Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition.

It is planned that the Department will manage the parcel. The acquisition is exempt from CEQA requirements under Class 13, Categorical Exemption for acquisition of lands for wildlife.

Mr. Hart recommended that the Board approve this acquisition, allocate \$111,000 from 1976 Bond Act funds for this purpose, and authorize staff to proceed substantially as outlined.

Mr. Hart noted that a letter of support has been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association and there is no controversy on this project.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION FOR THE NEY SPRINGS PUBLIC ACCESS (SACRAMENTO RIVER), SISKIYOU COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$111,000 THEREFOR FROM 1976 BOND FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WILD TROUT, STEELHEAD, AND SALMON HABITAT ACQUISITION PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

14. Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition
Sacramento River - Prospect Ave. Public Access, Siskiyou Co. \$17,500.00

This item is a proposal for the acquisition of a parcel containing about 1.6 acres for the purpose of maintaining public fishing access along the Sacramento River. The property is situated at the terminus of Prospect Avenue (George West Road), located on the southeast bank of the upper Sacramento River, immediately north of the Dunsmuir city line.

The current and former owners of the parcel have traditionally allowed public access, providing the only reliable entry to the river over a six-mile stretch from Dunsmuir upstream to almost Mt. Shasta. Recently, the owner has offered the property for sale, which could lead to private development of this parcel and possibly eventual exclusion of the angling public.

The property includes an access road easement, a small unimproved automobile parking area, and an approximately 180-foot river frontage. A footbridge formerly allowed access to the other side of the river. However, the bridge collapsed in spring 1980.

The Sacramento River in this area provides excellent fishing for wild rainbow and brown trout, earning it a national reputation as a "blue-ribbon" trout water. This quality fishing has generated a number of proposals for special management in this section of river, prompting the Department of Fish and Game to evaluate this stretch of river for possible inclusion into the State Wild Trout Program. Loss of the Prospect Avenue public access site would severely limit the number of anglers able to fish this area and might preclude special management designation.

Because of its strategic location, the Department of Fish and Game recommends purchase of this parcel.

The Department indicates that the City of Dunsmuir has expressed willingness to undertake the eventual management and operation of the access site and that this proposal has the overwhelming support of local sportsmen, the City of Dunsmuir, and Siskiyou County.

The parcel has been appraised, and the owner has offered it to the State for its fair market value of \$14,500.

Funds are available for this purchase from the 1976 Bond Act under the Board's Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition program. With costs of appraisal, escrow and closing of the sale being estimated at \$3,000, the total necessary allocation would be \$17,500. The proposed acquisition falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA.

Mr. Hart recommended the Board approve this project, authorize staff to proceed substantially as planned, and allocate \$17,500 from the 1976 Bond Act funds for this purpose.

IT WAS MOVED BY MS. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. FULLERTON, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER - PROSPECT AVENUE PUBLIC ACCESS, SISKIYOU COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$17,500 THEREFOR FROM 1976 BOND FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WILD TROUT, STEELHEAD & SALMON HABITAT ACQUISITION PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

15. Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition Project \$129,000.00
Upper Battle Creek Public Access, Shasta County

This proposal is for the acquisition of approximately 25 acres of land along Battle Creek approximately 11 miles southeast of Anderson in Shasta County. The subject fronts on Coleman Fish Hatchery Road and is one-half mile west of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. Battle Creek, and especially the area from the fish hatchery westerly about one mile, is known for its excellent steelhead fishing.

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The Department of Fish and Game has recommended the purchase of this property under the Board's Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition Project. The excellent access to the river and the good fishing in this vicinity combine to make the area a favorite for fishermen. With growth trends in the general vicinity of the project, it can be expected that the fishery and its supporting habitat will see even greater pressure in the future and the demand for public access will greatly increase.

No development of this parcel is planned, with the intention that these lands be managed in essentially their existing state by the Department of Fish and Game. If future use develops to where providing public use facilities becomes desirable, the property has potential for typical WCB cooperative public access projects with local government or other agencies.

The parcel consists of approximately 25 acres of land and was appraised for \$123,000. Approximately \$6,000 is needed for appraisal, survey, title insurance and processing costs.

The proposed acquisition by WCB falls within Class 13 of Categorical Exemptions from CEQA requirements which include acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes.

As indicated, funding is available from the 1976 Bond Act under the Board's previously approved Wild Trout, Steelhead and Salmon Habitat Acquisition Project.

It was staff recommendation that the Board authorize the purchase of this property, allocate \$129,000 from 1976 Bond funds for the payment of the purchase price and costs of the acquisition, and authorize staff and the Department to proceed substantially as planned.

Mr. Hart noted that a letter of support has been received from the Shasta-Cascade Wonderland Association and that there is general support of the project in the area.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR UPPER BATTLE CREEK PUBLIC ACCESS, SHASTA COUNTY; ALLOCATE \$129,000 THEREFOR FROM 1976 BOND FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR WILD TROUT, STEELHEAD AND SALMON HABITAT ACQUISITION PROJECTS; AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND THE DEPARTMENT TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIALLY AS PLANNED.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Other Business

Vallejo Fishing Pier Rehabilitation

\$5,355.00

This is an old highway bridge that was acquired and developed for public fishing purposes a number of years ago. Due to cracks in the pavement allowing moisture to get down into the caps, rot set in, accelerated, and the pier developed a swayback situation, and it was necessary to rehabilitate the

pier to make it safe to use. The Board allocated funds for this on January 10, 1980. While the reconstruction was underway, the contractor ran into some unanticipated problems in one of the bents. It was hidden by previous repair provisions, and they came up with an estimate of \$4,000 to repair this one bent. It was an emergency situation, and Board members were phoned and authorization was secured to use an additional \$4,000 to go ahead with the necessary repair. However, we have had a change from this. The engineers have looked at this and have figured out a cheaper way to repair that one bent. In going back and making a more detailed examination of the other bents, they found additional rot in those bents which they thought were all right and more work was needed. However, overall, through the economies figured out in repairing that one, the additional funding that is needed over the \$4,000 is now another \$1,355. They estimate that it would be \$765 per bent for six bents average to finally put the project in good shape.

Mr. Hart stated that when Mr. Fullerton asked if this was going to do the job, he thought it would based on information received at that time. He hoped he could assure the Board this time that this will do the job. He explained that when you get into restoring old wooden structures you can have surveys made, but until it is cut into to see how deep the rot goes, you really don't know what you have.

This requires either a confirmation of the \$4,000 and an additional allocation of \$1,355, or a total allocation of \$5,355 for the necessary additional unanticipated construction costs for the Vallejo Fishing Pier Rehabilitation.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION OF \$5,355 FROM THE WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND TO COVER ADDITIONAL UNANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE VALLEJO FISHING PIER REHABILITATION PROJECT, SOLANO COUNTY.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

17. Resolutions

Mr. Hart recommended that appropriate resolutions recognizing and honoring Dr. Elizabeth L. Venrick, Senator Daniel Boatwright, and Senator John A. Nejedly, former members of the Board and Legislative Committee, be adopted as is the customary WCB practice.

IT WAS MOVED BY MR. FULLERTON, SECONDED BY MS. MORGAN, THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS HONORING DR. VENRICK, SENATOR BOATWRIGHT, AND SENATOR NEJEDLY BE READ INTO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING, AND A COPY BE PROVIDED EACH INDIVIDUAL.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution Honoring Daniel Boatwright

WHEREAS, Senator Dan Boatwright vacated his Assembly seat upon his election to the Senate and concurrently his membership on the Wildlife Conservation Board in December, 1980; and

WHEREAS, The services and guidance provided by the Senator as a member of the Joint Legislative Committee of the Board will be sorely missed by the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, The excellent direction and counsel provided by Senator Boatwright are reflected in the many accomplishments of the Board; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Legislative Committee, and the Board staff, express our sincere appreciation to Senator Boatwright for his contributions to the program of the Board, particularly for his invaluable assistance in simplifying procedures for the Wildlife Conservation Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we extend our sincere congratulations and good wishes in his new role as State Senator; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of the Board and that a copy be furnished Senator Boatwright.

Resolution Honoring Senator John A. Nejedly

WHEREAS, The Honorable John A. Nejedly retired in 1980 after more than six years of dedicated service as a legislative member of the Wildlife Conservation Board; and

WHEREAS, Senator Nejedly has earned the respect of all Californians for his far-sighted efforts to preserve, protect, and restore coastal resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, During Senator Nejedly's tenure as legislative committee member of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the program has benefited from his guidance; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, Joint Interim Committee, and the Board staff convey to Senator Nejedly our appreciation for his contributions in behalf of wildlife conservation and the program of the Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we extend our best wishes for his happiness and good health in his retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy be furnished Senator Nejedly.

Resolution Honoring Elizabeth L. Venrick

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Venrick's term as President of the Fish and Game Commission and Chairperson of the Wildlife Conservation Board expired on January 15, 1981; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Venrick, as a recognized scientist in the marine resources field, filled a unique need and position on the Board; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Board to gratefully acknowledge her contributions to the work of the Board; Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Joint Interim Committee, and the Board staff express our appreciation to Dr. Venrick for her leadership, guidance, and keen interest in the work of the Board during her term as Chairperson; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we convey to her our desires to see her continue in her leadership role in the field of wildlife and natural resources conservation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the official minutes of this Board and that a copy be furnished Dr. Venrick.

Ms. Morgan asked if it would be possible for the Board to schedule a meeting at one of the locations of proposed projects. It would be helpful for her to see a project, she believed, if it could be arranged without too much trouble and if it were appropriate.

Mr. Hart explained that the Board previously held meetings around the State, but because of the difficulties in getting the Board members together and for reasons of economy, particularly when the legislature was in session, it got into a standard pattern to have the meetings in Sacramento. However, he stated that if it was the desire of the Board to schedule meetings elsewhere, the staff can attempt to schedule meetings out of town again or arrange field trips.

Mr. Fullerton preferred an inspection trip the day before and continue to hold meetings here in the State Capitol. Such an inspection trip could be held the day prior to the meeting.

Suggestions for inspection trips to Meiss Lake or the South Fork Kern River barrier locations were made, but considered too great a distance.

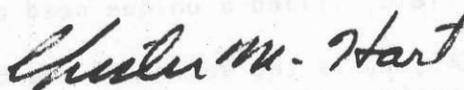
Ms. Morgan felt that it would be very helpful for her to view proposed projects and asked that a field trip be arranged if it could be easily worked out.

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The Board members were reminded of the necessity for a June meeting and were advised that their office would be contacted to confirm a date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chester M. Hart
Executive Officer

PROGRAM STATEMENT

At the close of the meeting on April 23, 1981, the amount allocated to projects since the Wildlife Conservation Board's inception in 1947, totaled \$48,282,359.38. This total includes \$6,448,313.02 reimbursed by the Federal Government under the Accelerated Public Works Program completed in 1966, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Anadromous Fish Act Program, and the Pittman-Robertson Program.

The statement includes projects completed under the 1964 State Beach, Park, Recreational and Historical Facilities Bond Act. Projects funded under the 1970 Recreation and Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Bond Fund, the Bagley Conservation Fund, and the 1974 and 1976 Bond Acts will be included in this statement after completion of these programs.

a.	Fish Hatchery and Stocking Projects	\$10,598,006.73
b.	Fish Habitat Development	4,899,031.95
	1. Reservoir Construction or Improvement	\$2,781,719.19
	2. Stream Clearance and Improvement	337,992.19
	3. Stream Flow Maintenance Dams	439,503.32
	4. Marine Habitat	502,135.36
	5. Fish Screens, Ladders & Weir Projects	837,681.89
c.	Fishing Access Projects	15,019,237.61
	1. Coastal and Bay Access	1,529,680.04
	2. River and Aqueduct Access	3,659,896.51
	3. Lake and Reservoir Access	3,303,255.14
	4. Piers	6,526,405.92
d.	Game Farm Projects	146,894.49
e.	Wildlife Habitat Development and Improvement Projects	16,355,429.88
	1. Wildlife Areas	15,635,021.47
	2. Miscellaneous Wildlife Habitat Dev.	720,408.41
f.	Hunting Access	549,036.81
g.	Miscellaneous Projects	631,221.91
s.	Special Project Allocations	83,500.00
	Total Allocated to Projects	\$48,282,359.38

STATUS OF FUNDS
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND

Unallocated balance at beginning of 4/23/81 meeting	\$2,276,758.01
Plus reimbursements not previously reported	+ 685,615.59
Less allocations	<u>- 486,805.00</u>
Unallocated balance at end of 4/23/81 meeting	\$2,475,568.60

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