

Delta Science Tracker

Information Sheet



**Delta
Science
Program**

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

- The Delta Science Tracker is a web-based tool housing an inventory of science research and monitoring activities in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.
- The website allows users to find, organize, visualize, and share science activities and access reports and other products from those activities.
- It is intended to promote communication and transparency for science activities and their outcomes, funding opportunities and decisions, and create opportunities for collaboration.

Background

The Delta Science Plan recognizes that there are many scientific and environmental projects being conducted in the Delta ([Delta Stewardship Council 2019](#)). Individual approaches by different organizations lack the capacity or mandate to address grand challenges that require a shared approach for organizing and integrating ongoing scientific research and related activities. The inability to easily identify and track diverse information about science projects and activities in the Delta limits accountability and opportunities to collaborate and coordinate. Collaboration and transparency are critical to building and maintaining the public's trust and goodwill, which is needed to secure long-term funding to adequately ensure water supply reliability and a healthy Delta ecosystem.

In response to these needs, the Delta Science Plan proposed creation of a science activity tracking tool (a 'Delta Science Tracker') that allows users to interactively explore information about science research and monitoring activities in the Delta. The tool does not host environmental data produced by activities, but rather provides project-related information to answer such questions as:

- Who is working on a science activity?
- What science activities are in process or complete?
- When and where have science activities been conducted?
- Why are the activities being conducted (e.g., what management questions are being investigated)?
- What funding sources support activities?
- How is funding being allocated to different activities or topics?

What is the Delta Science Tracker?

The Delta Science Tracker (Science Tracker) is a web-based tool where researchers, managers, decision-makers, and the public can connect to science activities across the Delta science landscape. It houses an inventory of scientific research and monitoring activities so that users can explore who is working on science activities by type and theme, when and where current and past science activities have occurred, and how funds are distributed from various sources.

The screenshot shows the Delta Science Tracker website. At the top, there is a blue header with the CA.GOV logo, social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email, and a 'Login' link. Below the header is a white navigation bar with the 'DELTA SCIENCE TRACKER' logo on the left and a menu of links: 'Science activities', 'Organizations', 'People', 'Visualizations', and 'Search' with a magnifying glass icon. The main content area features a large aerial photograph of a delta region with a blue overlay. Text on the page reads: 'A comprehensive tool to track and summarize science activities.' and 'Search for science activities that matter to you in the Delta Science Tracker.' Below this is a search filter section with the title 'Science activities' and a link 'See complete list →'. The filter section contains four dropdown menus: 'Delta region', 'Management theme', 'Lead implementing organization', and 'Function'. Each dropdown menu currently shows 'Nothing selected' with a green checkmark icon. A blue 'Submit' button is located to the right of the 'Function' dropdown.

The goal underlying the effort is that shared development and use of the Science Tracker will facilitate progress on the Delta Science Plan’s vision of ‘One Delta, One Science’ – an open Delta science community that works collaboratively to build a shared body of scientific knowledge with the capacity to adapt and inform future water and environmental decisions. The Science Tracker will also provide a platform to track progress made with the implementation of the Science Action Agenda (Delta Stewardship Council 2022).

Expected outcomes include enhanced accountability and transparency in science funding, increased opportunity for collaboration and communication among scientists and researchers, and enhanced access to information being generated or produced through these activities.

SCIENCE ACTIVITY All science activities

Views | 14 f t in

Science activity #49785, updated 31 October 2022
Delta Historical Ecology

Description / purpose
 The San Francisco Estuary Institute-Aquatic Science Center, in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Game, completed a historical ecology study of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The project improves understanding of what the Delta looked like and how it functioned prior to the significant modification that has occurred over the last 160 years.

Linked science activities

#49786	Delta Landscapes Project ->
#49787	Delta Landscapes Primary Production Project ->
#49788	Delta Landscape Scenario Planning Tool ->

Collaborators
 Alison Whipple, Primary contact - San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI)

Activity status

1 Awarded / Initiating (2007) 2 In progress / Ongoing (2007 - 2012) 3 Complete

Funding summary
 Total allocated funding: \$350,000
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): \$350,000

Location

SUBBASINS DELTA REGIONS

Find Delta science

The search and filtering options within the Science Tracker provide access to view a large amount of information about specific science activities. Each science activity page includes a project summary, links to related projects (if applicable), a list of collaborators involved in the project, the activity's status, detailed funding information, and

Text search
 Type word or phrase here

Management theme: Nothing selected Science theme: Nothing selected Type: Nothing selected Delta region: Nothing selected Status: Nothing selected

Advanced

Science function: Nothing selected Management actions: Nothing selected Science topics: Nothing selected

Science action area: Nothing selected

Start year: End year:

Organizations and funding programs

Lead implementing organization: Nothing selected Partner implementing organizations: Nothing selected

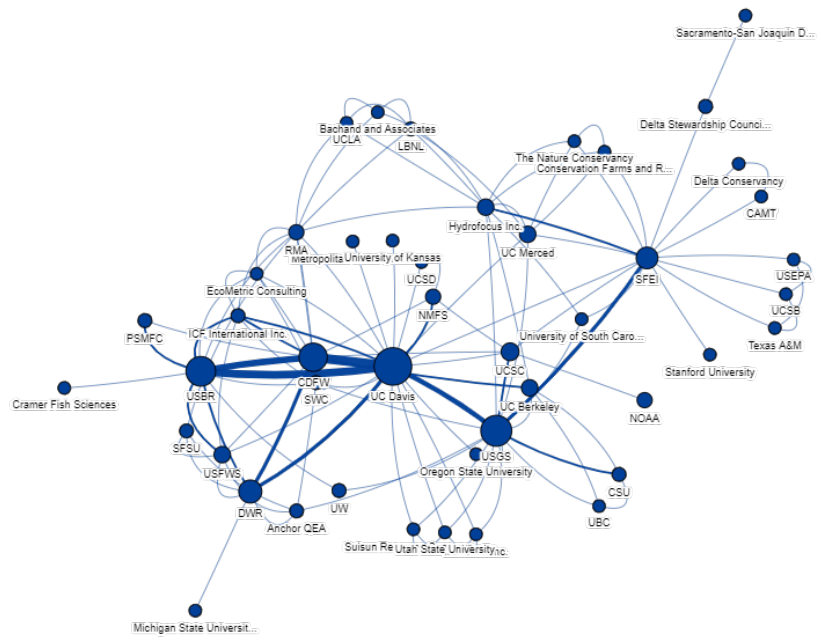
Primary funding organizations: Nothing selected Funding programs: Nothing selected Funding Sources: Nothing selected

Submit

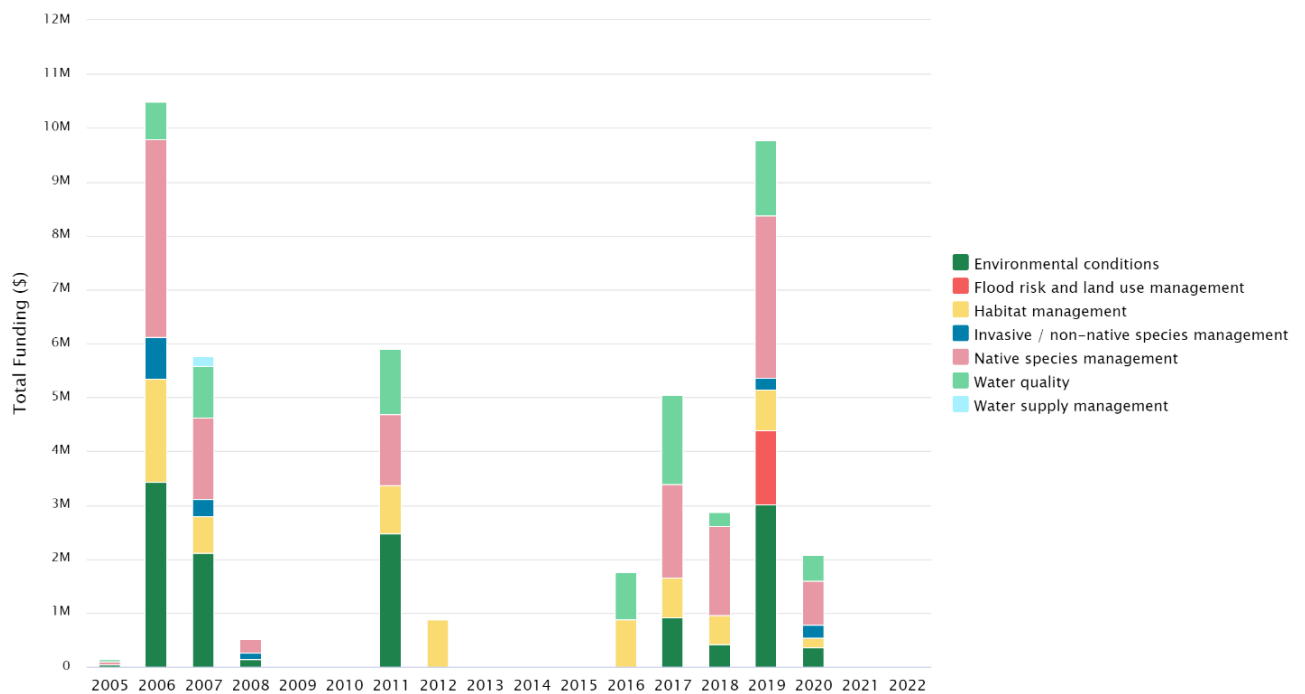
maps indicating where the project occurred. In addition, links to reports, publications, news articles, presentations, and other relevant materials can be added to each activity when available.

Visualize the science landscape

The Science Tracker also includes options to generate graphics that summarize funding and network connections by management theme, science topic, activity type, geographic region, organization, investigator(s), and more.



Funding awards by management theme



Featured projects



Synthesis, Targeted foundational research

Delta Wetland Resilience and Blue Carbon

This project estimates carbon storage for the past, present and future Delta, as well as GHG fluxes and elevation change based on chosen restoration and rice farming scenarios in the future Delta usin...

[More about this project >](#)

Who is the Science Tracker for?

The design and development of this tool were guided by the goal of providing a single location in which to gather, organize, and summarize critical information about science activities being conducted throughout the Delta in a manner that is valuable to scientists, decision-makers, and the public. Examples of users of this tool include:

- Scientists wishing to connect themselves and their work to other researchers, managers, and decision-makers in the Delta.
- Resource managers who want to track funding and find research projects that can inform their work.
- Decision-makers who want to find the science and human expertise that can inform their policies.
- Funding and implementation agencies who need to track their projects and report out on their programs.
- Anyone who would like to explore, discover, and learn about the science and scientists working in the Delta system.

The Science Tracker needs you!

In order to build the most complete picture of regional science activities, the Science Tracker needs Delta scientists, managers, policymakers and agency representatives to participate. Adding yourselves, your projects, and your collaborative connections will raise the visibility of your work and help build a better tool for the entire Delta science community.

Project partners

The Science Tracker was designed and developed in partnership with ESSA Technologies and in collaboration with several State, federal, and local partners. Throughout its development, guidance and feedback on the major features and functions of the Science Tracker were provided by leaders of several programs involved in funding or implementing science activities in the Delta.



URL and point of contact

The Science Tracker can be accessed at sciencetracker.deltacouncil.ca.gov. We welcome your comments or questions at sciencetracker@deltacouncil.ca.gov.

References

Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Science Program. 2019. Delta Science Plan.

Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Science Program. 2022. 2022–2026 Science Action Agenda.