

The Draft Recovery Plan:

Executive Summary: Due to the rangewide, large-scale hydrological modifications, the most pressing threat to the species is the lack of suitable habitat necessary to increase population resiliency (ensure a large enough population to withstand stochastic events) and redundancy (a sufficient number of populations to ensure the species can withstand catastrophic events).

Number one action: Improve habitat.

These actions include initiating studies that will lead to a thorough understanding of the implications of past and current hydrological modifications throughout the range of the species; controlling nonnative species; minimizing recreation pressures; improving water quality; employing adaptive management techniques to address the uncertainties of global climate change; and involving stakeholders and partners in all applicable conservation and management actions.

Comprehensive surveys and population estimates for the historically or currently occupied geographic area of Santa Ana sucker are lacking.

Yearly monitoring has occurred since 2001 in the Santa Ana River (near the junction of the Santa Ana River with California Highway 60 and upstream to Riverside Avenue) (SMEA 2009, p. 1). Over this 10-year survey period, results indicate a decline in the annual average estimate of Santa Ana suckers (SMEA 2009, p. 2; SMEA 2010, pp. 2–3).

Questions for FWS?

Are you studying the ranges that suckers might be expanded into?

Per the RIX shutdown event, do you think there are barriers to fish passage while RIX and Rialto are in operation?

Potential projects:

Manage recreation in the Santa Ana River (Priority 2)

Manage predators in the Santa Ana River (Priority 2)

Manage nonnative vegetation (Priority 1)

Address specific fish passage barriers (Priority 2)

Do we want to issue an RFP for the illegal OHV use?

Can managing predators in the Santa Ana River be outsourced to the public?

Question for Task Force:

Do you have a good idea where the access points are? Riverside Ave

Have you seen OHV use take place in the watered parts of the River?

Have you reached out to landowners of the River? Walker Evans?