



Image: Lane Lefort Photography

BTNEP ACTION PLANS

Introduction to BTNEP Action Plans

The BTNEP Action Plans are arguably the most important element in the CCMP. The Action Plans identify work to address the seven identified priority problems within the estuary: hydrologic modification, sediment reduction, habitat loss, changes in living resources, eutrophication, pathogens, and toxic substances.

The Action Plans are a product of an ongoing attempt to establish consensus among stakeholders of the estuary to effectively meet the estuary's most critical management needs. With more than a quarter of a century of experience with implementing Action Plans, BTNEP is uniquely positioned to maintain its leadership role in the measures that improve the wetlands and the people who live here.

The Action Plans have been divided into four main categories in keeping with the APT directives. The categories include: Coordinated Planning and Implementation, Ecological Management, Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement, and Economic Growth. Each of these categories contains varying numbers of Action Plans; however, they adequately meet the needs of the BTNEP MC guidelines.

Each of the Action Plans contains several elements including:

- objectives
- background/major issues related to the topics
- descriptions of the actions
- lead agencies responsible for implementing the actions
- timelines and milestones
- possible range of costs and sources of funding
- performance measures

These Action Plans serve as an advisory set of plans to provide guidance for the preservation and restoration efforts throughout the BTES over the next 20 years with regular reviews and updates every five years. The Action Plans recognize that our communities have pledged to the ongoing stewardship of our estuary and work to grow on the efforts of the past while looking to the future. Using the combination of science-based wisdom coupled with consensus-driven decision making, these Action Plans make a bold attempt to continue to make improvements to properly manage the abundant resources of the area that provide assets to the local, state, national, and international communities.

Action Plans guide the work of BTNEP. Serious consideration was made to make the new and updated Action Plans implementable.

BTNEP began its revision to its 1996 CCMP in early 2015. BTNEP Staff members were briefed about the need to revise the CCMP and EPA provide a guidance document on July 24, 2015. This EPA guidance document was used to prepare the BTNEP CCMP.

The first external meeting to discuss the updated to the CCMP was held at the August 2015 BTNEP Management Conference (MC) meeting – not one full month after the guidance was received. The BTNEP MC's primary goal of the revised CCMP was to update the Action Plans to make them useful for BTNEP and its partners. One month after the EPA provided the guidance the BTNEP MC began its update. At this time, a full review of the function of the CCMP was discussed at the BTNEP MC meeting as well as the history of the CCMP. BTNEP MC Members were informed that teams would be created to evaluate and update the existing CCMP. CCMP Committee structure was discussed at the February 2016 BTNEP MC meeting. On April 21, 2016, the first CCMP Revision committees began meeting using the aforementioned guidance document.

During the review process, 9 active committees were created to review the 1996 CCMP and make suggestions for the revised 2018 CCMP. A minimum of 47 different agencies or organizations participated in the process with 117 active committee members attending meetings over the course of the two years it took to rewrite the document. Over 1070 volunteer hours were donated by members of these teams to update the CCMP with the primary goal being the Action Plans. The CCMP has been modified from its original 51 Action Plans to 36 Action Plans. The majority of the changes are in consolidating Action

Plans in Coordinated Planning and Implementation and Sustained Recognition and Citizen Involvement. Table NEW BTNEP CCCMP Action Plans 2018 found in Appendix 1 on pages 319 - 320 summarizes these consolidations. New Action plans include: CP-2 Emergency Response, Recovery, and Resilience; EM-7 Flood Risk Reduction and Coastal Resiliency; EM-13 Urban Green Spaces; EM-17 Improvements of Water Quality through the Reduction of Marine Debris; and EM-18 Protection of Drinking Water Sources have been added as these are emerging issues for the estuary.

BTNEP provided the public an opportunity to review and comment on the CCMP. The comment may be seen on the web at CCMP.BTNEP.org. The comments are titled *BTNEP CCMP Combined Comments Appendix*.



Sugar Cane Field. Image: Lane Lefort Photography