

Comparison of CHAT and ACE-II

	Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT)	Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE-II)
What Is It?	A multi-state, high-level, coarse-scale overview of crucial habitat for pre-planning, "macro-siting" energy corridors or transmission routes, or comparing fish and wildlife habitat across the West.	A slightly more detailed summary of spatial information on California's biological resources summarized for use in conservation planning.
Appropriate Use	To help guide and inform initial conservation planning across the western US or when crossing state boundaries.	To help guide and inform initial conservation planning in California at the state or ecoregional level.
Source Data	Biological richness data, including species diversity, rarity, sensitive habitats, game and recreational species management.	Biological richness data, including species diversity, rarity, and sensitive habitats.
Availability	Data available in the Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) Map Viewer . GIS data available upon request .	Data available in the ACE-II online interactive map viewer . GIS data available upon request .
Restrictions	Data is non-regulatory and cannot be used for project-level reviews.	Data is non-regulatory and cannot be used for project-level reviews.

The CHAT data is part of an analysis of all of the western states addressing specific biological and recreational values, stressors, and landscape considerations analyzed at a consistent scale of 3 square mile hexagons.

ACE-II is a similar compilation of statewide, spatial data addressing specific biological values, stressors, and landscape considerations analyzed at a consistent scale of 2.5 square mile hexagons that can be used in a flexible manner to identify areas of biological or conservation interest.

Both CHAT and ACE-II provide a coarse-scale overview of crucial habitat developed using the best available data with improvements expected. They are biological index models developed at a broad-scale of analysis and do not incorporate all biological considerations that should be addressed during comprehensive conservation planning. Therefore, they should not be interpreted as maps of the Department's conservation priorities.

Areas showing a low score may actually contain high biological richness but may not have been extensively surveyed.

If more detailed information is required, please use our [BIOS](#) map viewer to access the many biological datasets available there.

Contact the [Biogeographic Data Branch](#) at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for assistance.