

Appendix A Required Report Elements and Compliance

The California State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2015 update process has been guided by several documents provided by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) coalition. TWW consists of more than 6,300 state fish and wildlife agencies, wildlife biologists, hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, hikers, nature-based businesses, and other conservationists. The TWW coalition is the leading advocate for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program and the implementation of SWAPs. The guidance documents provide the content necessary to fulfill the eight required elements of a SWAP (NAAT 2004), plan revisions strategies (AFWA 2012), and guidance on integrating climate change into management plans, including the SWAP (AFWA 2009).

Table A-1 lists the eight required elements with a description of where in the SWAP the elements are addressed. Table A-2 provides climate change-related guidance specific to each of the eight required elements.

Eight Required Elements of a State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Table A-1 Location of the Eight Required Elements in California's State Wildlife Action Plan 2015	
Required Element	Location in SWAP 2015
1. Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low and declining populations, that is indicative of the diversity and health of the state's wildlife as the state fish and wildlife agency deems appropriate.	Section 2.3 Species Diversity Section 2.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need Section 5.1.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (North Coast and Klamath) Section 5.2.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Cascades and Modoc Plateau) Section 5.3.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Bay Delta and Central Coast) Section 5.4.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Central Valley and Sierra Nevada) Section 5.5.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (South Coast) Section 5.6.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Deserts) Section 5.7.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (Marine) Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes Appendix C Species of Greatest Conservation Need
2. Descriptions of locations and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to conservation of species at risk.	Section 2.5 Challenges in California Ecosystems Section 5.1.2 Conservation Units and Targets (North Coast and Klamath) Section 5.2.2 Conservation Units and Targets (Cascades and Modoc Plateau) Section 5.3.2 Conservation Units and Targets (Bay Delta and Central Coast) Section 5.4.2 Conservation Units and Targets (Central Valley and Sierra Nevada) Section 5.5.2 Conservation Units and Targets (South Coast) Section 5.6.2 Conservation Units and Targets (Deserts) Section 5.7.2 Conservation Units and Targets (Marine) Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes

Table A-1 Location of the Eight Required Elements in California’s State Wildlife Action Plan 2015	
Required Element	Location in SWAP 2015
3. Descriptions of problems and threats that may adversely affect species at risk or their habitats, and priority research and survey work needed for restoration and conservation of these species and habitats.	Section 2.5 Challenges in California Ecosystems Chapter 3 Existing Conservation Approaches Section 5.1.5 Pressures on Conservation Targets (North Coast and Klamath) Section 5.2.5 Pressures on Conservation Targets (Cascades and Modoc Plateau) Section 5.3.5 Pressures on Conservation Targets (Bay Delta and Central Coast) Section 5.4.5 Pressures on Conservation Targets (Central Valley and Sierra Nevada) Section 5.5.5 Pressures on Conservation Targets (South Coast) Section 5.6.5 Pressures on Conservation Targets (Deserts) Section 5.7.5 Pressures on Conservation Targets (Marine) Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes
4. Descriptions of conservation actions determined to be necessary to conserve the identified species and habitats, and priorities for implementing such actions.	Chapter 4 Statewide Conservation Strategies Section 5.1.6 Conservation Strategies (North Coast and Klamath) Section 5.2.6 Conservation Strategies (Cascades and Modoc Plateau) Section 5.3.6 Conservation Strategies (Bay Delta and Central Coast) Section 5.4.6 Conservation Strategies (Central Valley and Sierra Nevada) Section 5.5.6 Conservation Strategies (South Coast) Section 5.6.6 Conservation Strategies (Deserts) Section 5.7.6 Conservation Strategies (Marine) Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes
5. Descriptions of the proposed plans for monitoring species at risk and their habitats for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in Element 4 and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions.	Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes Chapter 7 Implementation and Integration Chapter 8 Monitoring California’s Conservation Strategies
6. Descriptions of procedures to review the strategy at intervals not to exceed 10 years.	Section 7.7 Review and Revision
7. Description of the plans for coordinating, to the extent feasible, the development, implementation, review, and revision of the strategy with federal, state, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water areas within the state or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats.	Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes Section 7.4 Coordination with Partners Section 7.7 Review and Revision
8. Description of the necessary public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of the strategy.	Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes Section 7.5 Public Outreach Strategies Appendix H Public Scoping

Voluntary Guidance for States to Incorporate Climate Change into State Wildlife Action Plans and Other Management Plans

Table A-2 Guidance to Incorporate Climate Change into SWAPs	
Climate Change-Related Guidance (specific to the eight required elements in Table A-1)	Location in SWAP 2015
1. Species Distribution: states may want to use vulnerability assessments to support the addition/removal of species from their list of species in greatest need of conservation and examine how climate change could impact distribution and abundance of species and their status as native or exotic.	Section 2.4 Species of Greatest Conservation Need Appendix C Species of Greatest Conservation Need
2. Location and Condition of Key Habitats: states may want to assess how habitats and species ranges may change as a result of current and future climate change through scenario-building; both temporally and spatially and plan for novel communities/ecosystems that appear due to these shifts.	Section 2.5.3 Vulnerability to Climate Change
3. Descriptions of Problems and Priority Research Survey Efforts: states may want to consider both direct and indirect impacts of climate change; identify and execute research in partnership with other states/regions to gain economy of scale and consider climate change as an additional "layer" of threats to existing threats.	Section 1.4.2 Summary of Key Changes from SWAP 2005 (list of climate change related studies) Section 2.5.3 Vulnerability to Climate Change Chapter 5 Province-Specific Conservation Strategies
4. Descriptions of Conservation Actions: states should consider actions for a range of likely future climate conditions; identify/describe how conservation actions will be prioritized when considering multiple threats; identify actions that minimize, not necessarily eliminate climate change impacts; provide for wildlife adaptation; and provide for resilience and/or facilitate movement to suitable habitats and conditions.	Chapter 5 Province-Specific Conservation Strategies Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes
5. Monitoring Plans: states should strive to implement streamlined and affordable monitoring programs that inform management decisions under a changing climate and should consider working with other states and partners to monitor species and habitats across their entire range.	Chapter 5 Province-Specific Conservation Strategies Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes Section 7.4 Coordination with Partners Chapter 8 Monitoring California's Conservation Strategies
6. Plans for Revision: states should contact the US Fish and Wildlife Service regional office early in the revision process and refer to the 2007 USFWS/AFWA Revision Guidance letter to determine if a "major" or "minor" revision will be required.	Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes Section 7.7 Review and Revision
7. Coordinating with Partners: states should consider coordinating and collaborating with partners since the scope, scale and uncertainty of climate change impacts will require a high level of expertise support and collaboration; agencies in coastal states should consider addressing marine environments and/or collaborating with sister agencies with jurisdiction over marine species.	Chapter 5 Province-Specific Conservation Strategies Chapter 6 Anadromous Fishes Section 7.4 Coordination with Partners Section 7.7 Review and Revision
8. Public Participation: states should consider public participation planning since the potential for controversy associated with climate change could be high; strive to improve understanding of the impacts to wildlife and gain public support or acceptance for revising your Wildlife Action Plan; use terms that are tested with the public like "safeguarding wildlife" as opposed to "wildlife adaption" and involve conservation partners early during the public participation planning process, but recognize there may not be agreement on messages or approaches.	Section 7.5 Public Outreach Strategies Appendix H Public Scoping

References

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. 2009 (November). *Voluntary Guidance for States to Incorporate Climate Change into State Wildlife Action Plans & Other Management Plans*.

_____. 2012 (November). *Best Practices for State Wildlife Action Plans*. Voluntary Guidance to States for Revision and Implementation.

NAAT. See National Advisory Acceptance Team.

National Advisory Acceptance Team. 2004 (July 15). National Advisory Acceptance Team Review Reference Guide for the Members.