5   Province-Specific Conservation Strategies

SWAP 2015 uses three geographic scales to differentiate and organize conservation strategies: conservation unit, province, and statewide. The conservation units are grouped into seven provinces that comprise the entirety of the state (Figure 5-1). This chapter describes regional conservation strategies organized by these seven provinces. The statewide conservation strategies are addressed in Chapter 4. Regional strategies provided in this chapter went through a statewide analysis to evaluate the overall status of the state's ecosystems as summarized in Chapter 4.

The seven provinces are:

- North Coast and Klamath
- Cascades and Modoc Plateau
- Central Valley and Sierra Nevada
- Bay Delta and Central Coast
- South Coast
- Deserts
- Marine

The conservation strategies for anadromous fish, however, have been developed at a statewide scale, because the geographic ranges of anadromous fish span many of the provinces developed for SWAP 2015. The organization of conservation strategies by conservation unit (i.e., ecoregion or hydrologic unit) or province does not adequately address their conservation needs. To capture their full lifecycle and geography, the conservation strategies for anadromous fish are discussed separately in Chapter 6.

In the following sections, information on provinces and conservation units are considered along with targets in those conservation units, as well as the strategies developed for the selected targets. The following is a more detailed overview of this chapter.

First the physical landscape, major natural features, and important terrestrial or aquatic resources of each province are described. A map at the beginning of each section shows land ownership in the province. The conservation units (i.e., ecoregions, hydrologic units, and marine conservation units) within each province are identified and are shown on province level maps. A map of the plant communities (i.e., macrogroups) occurring within each province is also provided.

Legend

Province Boundaries

Marine Province

Map Created For:
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
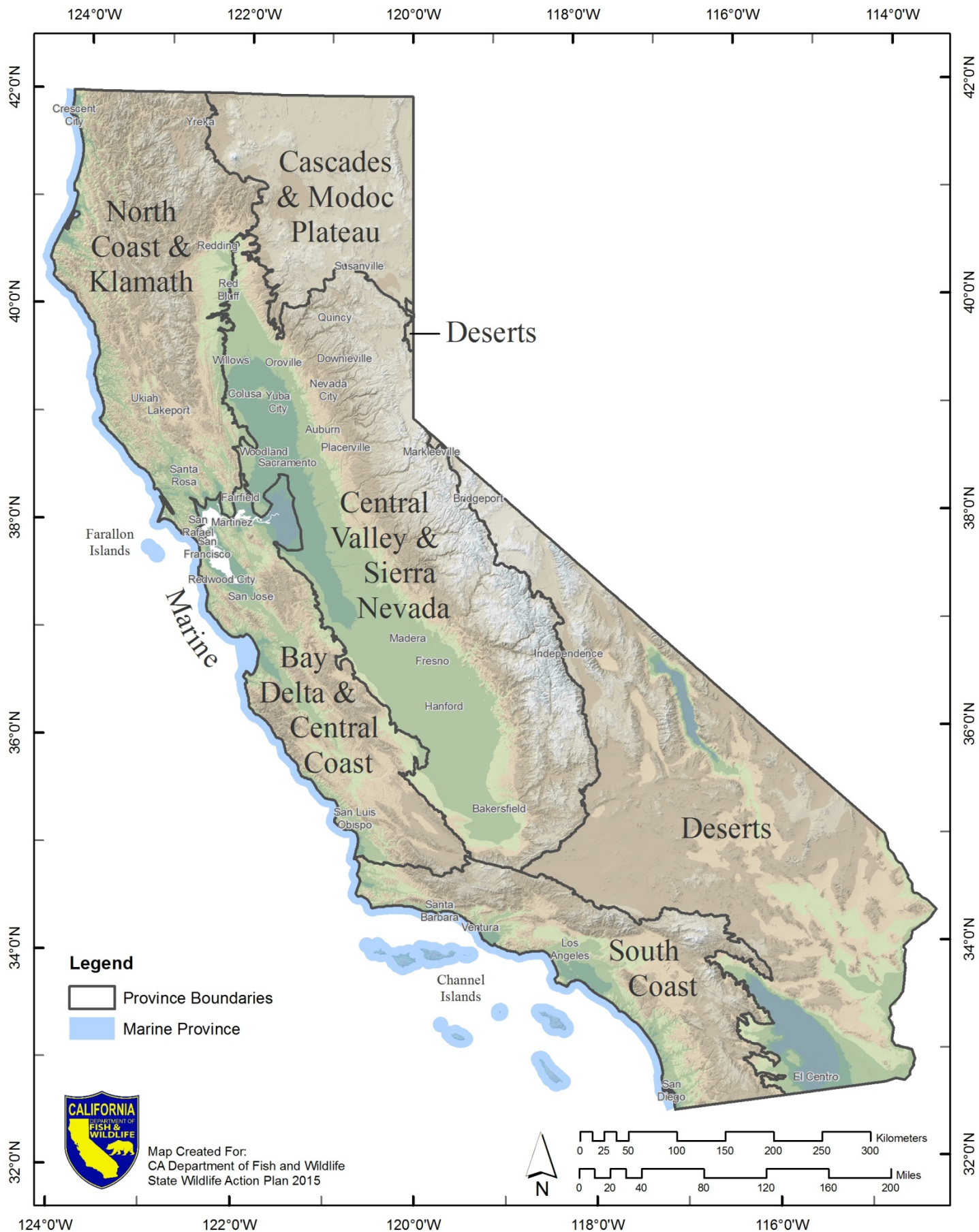State Wildlife Action Plan 2015

Figure 5-1   SWAP 2015 Provinces

A high-level description of the selected conservation targets (i.e., plant community, native aquatic species assemblage, or marine ecosystem) within each conservation unit is provided. CDFW regional teams conducted comprehensive analyses of the selected targets through a series of meetings during spring and summer of 2013. The major results from the undertaking comprise the remainder of the content in the subsections for each province.

The essential conservation factors for each target, referred to as key ecological attributes (KEAs), are identified along with the key species associated with the conservation target (i.e., focal species), including Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN).

The status of the KEAs for each target was then investigated by analyzing the level of the degradation of the KEAs and other correlated ecological factors that are degraded (stresses). The sources of the degradation, called pressures, were analyzed further along with the level of negative impacts to the individual targets. Based on the information developed by CDFW regional teams, the most commonly identified stresses and pressures for the targets within each province were evaluated and are described.

A set of conservation strategies, including goals and objectives, were developed for each target and are described for each province. Goals articulate the desired future outcomes of the ecological condition of the target by implementing the strategies created. The objectives describe the desired future outcomes for some of the identified strategies that would become stepping stones to achieve the goals.

The individual conservation strategies are classified by the statewide categories described in Chapter 4, but include details specific to the target for each conservation unit. The measurable quantification of the goals is set initially at 5 percent (e.g., increase by 5 percent), but will be refined over time using the adaptive management process described in Chapter 8.

In addition, the regional analyses for each province are summarized at the end of each section.

This chapter presents Elements 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the SWAP required elements. At a province scale, the distribution and abundance of wildlife, conservation targets, stresses and pressures to priority conservation targets, and conservation strategies are described.