11 Glossary

Most terms in this section originate from the glossary in the Conservation Measures Partnership's (CMP) *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation* (Version 2.0). These definitions are based on current usage by many CMP members, other conservation organizations, and planners in other disciplines. Some terms have been added or refined to clarify how CDFW uses them. Underlined entries are defined elsewhere in the glossary.

action: synonymous with task.

activity: a task needed to implement a strategy, and to achieve the objectives and the desirable outcomes of the strategy.

adaptive management: the incorporation of a formal learning process into conservation action. Specifically, it is the integration of project design, management, and monitoring, to provide a framework to systematically test assumptions, promote learning, and supply timely information for management decisions.

alluvium: clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar detrital material deposited by flowing water

anadromous: refers to fish species that spend most of their lives in the ocean but migrate to freshwater rivers and streams to spawn.

anthropogenically created aquatic features: various human-made features that incidentally support native fish and/or amphibians including agricultural drainage ditches, irrigation canals, roadside ditches, flood control basins, borrow pits, railroad berms, golf course ponds, cattle stock ponds, and duck club ponds. These features were not created with the intent of providing fish or amphibian habitat.

animal unit month (AUM): the amount of forage needed by an "animal unit" (AU) grazing for one month. The animal unit in turn is defined as one mature 1,000-pound cow and calf, one horse, five sheep, or one steer.

anthropogenic: resulting from the influence of humans on nature.

aquatic: growing, living in, or frequenting fresh water, usually open water; compare with wetland.

aquatic refuge: a natural, human-modified, or constructed watercourse/waterbody that is specifically managed or created for the recovery/restoration/conservation of at-risk native aquatic species.

aquifer: an underground reservoir of water.

assumption: A project's core assumptions are the logical sequences linking project strategies to one or more targets as reflected in a results chain diagram. Other assumptions are related to factors that can positively or negatively affect project performance – see also risk factor.

audit: an assessment of a project or program in relation to an external set of criteria such as generally accepted accounting principles, sustainable harvest principles, or the standards outlined in this document. Compare to evaluation.

bay: a body of water connected to an ocean or lake, formed by an indentation of the shoreline.

benthic: living on or near the bottom of a body of water.

bioaccumulation: the uptake and concentration of chemicals by living systems.

biodiversity: the full array of living things.

biodiversity target: a synonym for conservation target.

biological diversity: the variety of life over some spatial unit, used to describe all aspects of the broadly diverse forms into which organisms have evolved, especially including species richness, ecosystem complexity, and genetic variation.

biomes: areas on the earth with similar climate, plants, and animals, classified according to the predominant vegetation and characterized by adaptations of organisms to that particular environment.

bioregion: an area that includes a rational ecological community with characteristic physical (climate, geology), biological (vegetation, animal), and environmental conditions.

browse: 1. tender shoots, twigs, and leaves of trees and shrubs and grass that are available and acceptable to grazing animals (see also forage); 2. to feed on browse, graze.

California Legacy Project: an initiative that involves a broad range of government agencies and citizen organizations working together to develop a suite of tools and maps to help Californians make important decisions about conserving and protecting the state's working lands and natural resources.

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (CWHR): an information system and predictive model for California's wildlife containing range maps and habitat relationship information on all of the state's regularly occurring amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

canopy: the cover provided by a layer of vegetation, such as overstory trees in a forest.

cavity nesting: a type of bird species that nests in holes (cavities) in trees. They are divided into two groups. Primary cavity nesters excavate their own holes in trees and snags, while secondary cavity nesters are dependent upon natural cavities or abandoned sites excavated by primary cavity nesters.

cienega: water-saturated and poorly drained wetland areas associated with perennial spring and seep systems in isolated arid basins of the southwest. Cienega habitats are unique to the desert west and are rapidly disappearing.

clearcutting: a silvicultural method in which all trees in a designated area are removed in one operation.

climate change adaptive capacity: a measure of the ability of a system or species to respond to climate change with minimal disruption. Adaptive capacity is an intrinsic characteristic of a system, but even for systems with relatively high adaptive capacity, landscape context (e.g. location within the broader landscape, habitat patch size, proximity to range limit) may affect the ability of a system to realize this adaptive capacity.

climate change vulnerability: refers to the degree to which an ecological system, habitat, or individual species is likely to be negatively affected as a result of changes in climate and often dependent on factors such as exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

climate exposure: a measure of the direction, magnitude, and variability of a change in climate and the associated effects of a system, habitat, or species is likely to experience. Examples of climate change exposure include the following:

- changes in CO_2 concentrations;
- changes in temperature and precipitation (averages, extremes, or timing);
- sea level rise;
- change in the frequency/intensity of disturbance events (e.g., fire, flooding events, droughts); and
- changes in hydrology (e.g., groundwater tables, runoff and river flow)

climate sensitivity: a measure of whether and how a system or species is intrinsically tolerant to changes in climate or dependent on a particular climate regime such that changes in climate would adversely affect the condition of the target. In other words, for a sensitive target, a

change in exposure generates a stress on a key ecological attribute of the target. Examples of sensitivities at the habitat-level (here defined by dominant vegetation) include the following:

- dependence on particular temperature or moisture conditions;
- dependence on a particular disturbance regime (e.g., fire, flooding events, drought) or on a lack of disturbance;
- sensitivity to changes in CO2 concentration; and
- dependence on timing of abiotic phenological events (e.g., snow melt, peak spring flows, etc.).

commensal: having benefit for one member of a two-species association but neither positive nor negative effect on the other.

Community of Practice: a group of practitioners who share a concern, a set of problems, or a passion about a topic, and who deepen their knowledge and expertise in this area by interacting on an ongoing basis.

competition: occurs when two or more organisms have the potential for using the same resource. Competition may be between individuals of the same species or between two or more different species.

conceptual model: a diagram that represents relationships between key factors that are believed to impact or lead to one or more conservation targets. A good model should link the conservation targets to pressures, opportunities, stakeholders, and intervention points (factors – pressures, opportunities, or targets – in a conceptual model where a team can develop strategies that will influence those factors). It should also indicate which factors are most important to monitor.

conifer: trees belonging to the order Gymnospermae, comprising a wide range of trees that are mostly evergreens. Conifers bear cones and have needle-shaped or scalelike leaves. In the wood products industry, the term "softwoods" refers to conifers.

conservation: the use of natural resources in ways such that they may remain viable for future generations. Compare with preservation.

conservation bank: privately or publicly owned land that is permanently protected and managed for its natural resource values. A conservation bank operator may sell habitat credits to developers who need to satisfy legal requirements for mitigating environmental impacts of development projects. Conservation banks must be approved by such wildlife agencies as CDFW and USFWS.

conservation target: an element of biodiversity at a project site, which can be a species, habitat/ecological system, or ecological process on which a project has chosen to focus. Synonymous with biodiversity target.

conservation unit: a spatial unit in which the conservation objects called targets were selected, their conditions analyzed and the conservation strategies developed. There are three types of conservation units; terrestrial, aquatic, and marine. Terrestrial units consist of ecoregional areas called "section" defined by USDA (http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/ecoregions/). Aquatic units are watersheds defined by USGS as HUC4 (http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html). Marine units are adopted from the Marine protection Area defined under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/mpa_summary.asp).

contributing factor: a behind the scene socio-economic factor that contributes to produce pressures.

critical pressure: pressure that have been prioritized as being the most important to address.

distribution: the pattern of occurrences for a species or habitat throughout the state; generally more precise than range.

disturbance regime: the characteristic pattern of natural- or human-caused events that disrupts the current physical and biological conditions of an area, such as floods, fires, storms, and human activity.

down logs: trees, limbs, or trunks that have fallen and are at least 10 feet long and at least 10 inches in diameter as measured on the large end.

driver: a synonym for factor.

ecological integrity: the degree to which the components (types of species, soil, etc.), structures (arrangement of components), and processes (flows of energy and nutrients) of an ecosystem or natural community are present and functioning intact. Lands with high ecological integrity generally have not been subjected to significant human influences or disruption of natural processes, such as fire, floods, or nutrient and hydrological cycling.

Ecological Reserve: designation given to certain lands owned or managed by CDFW as a way of regulating appropriate use. This designation is usually reserved for land with special status plants, animals, or vegetation types. Compare with Wildlife Area.

ecosystem: a natural unit defined by both its living and non-living components; a balanced system for the exchange of nutrients and energy. Compare with habitat.

ecosystem function: the operational role of ecosystem components, structure, and processes.

ecosystem health: the degree to which a biological community and its nonliving environmental surroundings function within a normal range of variability; the capacity to maintain ecosystems structures, functions, and capabilities to provide for human need.

ecosystem processes: the flow or cycling of energy, materials, and nutrients through space and time.

ecosystem services: the beneficial outcomes for the natural environment or for people that result from ecosystem functions. Some examples of ecosystem services are support of the food chain, harvesting of animals or plants, clean water, or scenic views. For an ecosystem to provide services to humans, some interaction with, or at least some appreciation by humans, is required.

ecosystem structure: spatial distribution or pattern of ecosystem components.

enabling condition: a broad or high-level opportunity within a situation analysis. For example, the legal or policy framework within a country.

endangered species: any species, including subspecies or qualifying distinct population segment, which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

endemic: found only in a specified geographic region.

endemism: a measure of distribution for those taxa that are found only in one specific area, such as one region or the state itself. A region of high endemism has many taxa restricted to it.

estuary: an area in which salt water from the ocean mixes with flowing fresh water, usually at the wide mouth of a river.

evaluation: an assessment of a project or program in relation to its own previously stated goals and objectives. See monitoring and compare to audit.

evolutionarily significant unit (ESU): refers to a genetically distinct population segment of a species. An ESU is protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, which defines species to include "any subspecies of fish or wildlife or plants, and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate fish or wildlife, which interbreeds when mature."

excessive livestock grazing: livestock grazing at a frequency or intensity that causes degradation of native plant communities, reduces habitat values for native wildlife species, degrades aquatic or other ecosystems, or impairs ecosystem functions. (The term "overgrazing" has a different meaning; it is usually used in referring to the productivity of the forage crop and range condition).

exotic species: a species of plant or animal introduced from another country or geographic region outside its natural range; non-native.

extinct: refers to a plant or animal or vegetation type that no longer exists anywhere.

extirpated: refers to a plant or animal or vegetation type that has been locally eliminated but is not extinct.

factor: a generic term for an element of a conceptual model including pressures, opportunities, and associated stakeholders. It is often advantageous to use this generic term since many factors – for example tourism – could be both a threat and an opportunity.

fauna: refers to all of the animal taxa in a given area.

fen: low land covered wholly or partly with water.

fire frequency: a broad measure of the rate of fire occurrence in a particular area.

fire regime: a measure of the general pattern of fire frequency and severity typical to a particular area or type of landscape.

flagship species: popular species that appeal to the general public and have interesting or notable features that make them suitable for communicating conservation concerns.

flora: refers to all of the plant taxa in a given area.

fluvial: pertaining to rivers.

focal species: species determined to be important by SWAP regional teams and expected to benefit from implementation of conservation strategies, but may not meet a criterion to be considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

forage: browse and herbage that is available and acceptable to grazing animals(see also browse).

forb: a broad-leaved herb, such as clover, as distinguished from a grass or a woody plant.

forest health: capacity of a forest for renewal, for recovery from a wide range of disturbances, and for retention of ecological function, while meeting the current and future needs of people for desired levels of values, uses, products, and services.

forest structure: the horizontal and vertical distribution of components of a forest stand, including height, diameter, crown layers, and stems of trees, shrubs, herbaceous understory, and down woods' debris.

fragmentation: the process by which a contiguous land cover, vegetative community, or habitat is broken into smaller patches within a mosaic of other forms of land use/land cover; e.g., islands of an older forest age class immersed within areas of younger-aged forest, or patches of oak woodlands surrounded by housing development.

fyke: a long bag fishing net kept open by hoops.

Gap Analysis Program (GAP): It identifies gaps between land areas that are rich in biodiversity and areas that are managed for conservation.

genus: the level of biological classification above species. Closely related species belong to the same genus.

geographic information system (GIS): an organized assembly of people, data, techniques, computers, and programs for acquiring, analyzing, storing, retrieving, and displaying spatial information about the real world.

goal: a formal statement detailing a desired outcome of a conservation project, such as a desired future status of a target. The scope of a goal is to improve or maintain key ecological attributes. A good goal meets the criteria of being linked to targets, impact oriented, measurable, time limited, and specific.

grazing permit: land lease offering written permission to graze a specific number, kind, and class of livestock for a specified defined allotment.

habitat: where a given plant or animal species meets its requirements for food, cover, and water in both space and time. May or may not coincide with a single macrogroup, i.e., vegetated condition or aquatic condition. Compare with ecosystem.

habitat quality: the capacity of a habitat to support a species.

herbaceous: having characteristics of an herb; i.e., a nonwoody stem such as forbs, grasses, and ferns, or the nonwoody tissues of a branch or stem.

hybridization: refers here to the crossbreeding of two animals or plants of different species or subspecies.

impact: the desired future state of a conservation target. A goal is a formal statement of the desired impact.

impaired: condition of the quality of an ecosystem or habitat that has been adversely affected for a specific use by contamination or pollution.

indicator: a measurable entity related to a specific information need such as the status of a target/factor, change in a threat, or progress toward an objective. A good indicator meets the criteria of being: measurable, precise, consistent, and sensitive.

information need: something that a project team and/or other people must know about a project. The basis for designing a monitoring plan.

Inland Empire: Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in Southern California.

intermediate result: a specific benchmark or milestone that a project is working to achieve en route to accomplishing a final goal or objective (in this case, "intermediate" typically refers to a temporal dimension).

introduced: refers to any species intentionally or accidentally transported and released into an environment outside its native range.

invasive: an introduced species which spreads rapidly once established and has the potential to cause environmental or economic harm. Not all introduced species are invasive.

invertebrate: an animal without an internal skeleton. Examples are insects, spiders, clams, shrimp, and snails.

key ecological attribute (KEA): aspects of a target's biology or ecology that, if present, define a healthy target and, if missing or altered, would lead to the outright loss or extreme degradation of the target over time.

key intervention point: a factor in a conceptual model where you could develop a strategy to ultimately improve the conservation status of one or more targets.

keystone species: a species whose loss from an ecosystem would cause a greater than average change in other species populations or ecosystem processes and whose continued well-being is vital for the functioning of a whole community.

lagoon: a shallow body of water separated from a larger body of water by barrier islands or reefs.

land cover: predominant vegetation life forms, natural features, or land uses of an area.

landscape: the traits, patterns, and structure of a specific geographic area, including its biological composition, its physical environment, and its anthropogenic or social patterns. An area where interacting ecosystems are grouped and repeated in similar form.

late succession forest: stands of dominant and predominant trees with open, moderate, or dense canopy, often with multiple canopies, and at least 20 acres in size. Characteristics include large decadent trees, snags, and large down logs.

late successional: the latter developmental stages of a plant community where vegetation structures are in a stable state and slow to change, reflective of increased age.

learning questions: questions that define what you want to learn based on the implementation of your project. Learning questions drive the identification of information needs, and thus, your monitoring plan.

listed: general term used for a taxon protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, or the California Native Plant Protection Act.

logical framework: often abbreviated as logframe. A matrix that results from a logical framework analysis that is used to display a project's goals, objectives, and indicators in tabular form, showing the logic of the project.

macrogroup: the fifth level in the National Vegetation Classification natural vegetation hierarchy, in which each vegetation unit is defined by a group of plant communities with a common set of growth forms and many diagnostic plant taxa, including many character taxa of the dominant growth forms, preferentially sharing a broadly similar geographic region and regional climate, and disturbance.

mesic: neither wet (hydric) nor dry (xeric); intermediate in moisture, without extremes.

metapopulation: a group of populations, usually of the same species, that exist at the same time but in different places.

method: a specific technique used to collect data to measure an indicator. A good method should meet the criteria of accurate, reliable, cost-effective, feasible, and appropriate.

migrate; migratory: referring to animals that travel seasonally. Migrations may be local or over long distances.

monitoring: the periodic collection and evaluation of data relative to stated project goals and objectives. Many people often also refer to this process as monitoring and evaluation (abbreviated M&E).

monitoring plan: the plan for monitoring a project. It includes information needs, indicators, and methods, spatial scale and locations, timeframe, and roles and responsibilities for collecting data.

morphology: the form and structure of organisms.

native: naturally occurring in a specified geographic region.

natural community: general term often used synonymously with habitat or vegetation type.

NatureServe: a non-profit conservation organization that hosts a network of natural heritage programs providing information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems.

non-native species: see exotic species.

nonpoint: pollution whose source cannot be ascertained, including runoff from storm water and agricultural, range, and forestry operations, as well as dust and air pollution that contaminate waterbodies.

objective: A formal statement detailing a desired outcome of a conservation project, such as reducing the negative impacts of a critical pressure. The scope of an objective is broader than that of a goal because it may address positive impacts not related to ecological entities (such as getting better ecological data or developing conservation plans) that would be important for the project. The set of objectives developed for a conservation project are intended, as a whole, to lead to the achievement of a goal or goals, that is, improvements of key ecological attributes. A good objective meets the criteria of being: results oriented, measurable, time limited, specific, and practical. If the project is well conceptualized and designed, realization of a project's objectives should lead to the fulfillment of the project's goals and ultimately its vision. Compare to vision and goal.

old growth forest: a stand or stands of forest trees that exhibit large tree sizes, relatively old age, and decay characteristics common with over-mature trees.

operational plan: a plan that includes analyses of: funding required; human capacity and skills and other non-financial resources required; risk assessment and mitigation; and estimate of project lifespan and exit strategy.

opportunity: a factor identified in an analysis of the project situation that potentially has a positive effect on one or more targets, either directly or indirectly. Often an entry point for conservation actions. For example, "demand for sustainably harvested timber." In some senses, the opposite of a threat.

outcome: the desired future state of a threat or opportunity factor. An objective is a formal statement of the desired outcome.

overdraft: the pumping of water from a groundwater basin or aquifer in excess of the supply flowing into the basin; results in a depletion or "mining" of the groundwater in the basin.

overstory: the uppermost canopy (treetops) in a stand of trees.

Pacific Flyway: the westernmost migratory bird flyway in North America, which begins in Alaska and runs south through California. It consists of several parallel routes linked together by several branches and follows the coast of North America and the valleys of the major mountain ranges.

pelagic: living on the open ocean rather than coastal or inland bodies of water.

piscivore: an animal whose primary food source is fish.

plant alliance: a level of classification for vegetation types generally based upon the dominant plant species in the uppermost or dominant layer of vegetation.

plant association: a level of classification for vegetation types below plant alliance and defined by the most characteristic species associated with a plant alliance. Many plant associations may be nested within a single plant alliance, just like many species may be nested within a single genus.

population: the number of individuals of a particular taxon in a defined area.

practitioners: all people involved in designing, managing, and monitoring conservation projects and programs.

predation: the act of killing and eating other animals.

prescribed fire: a deliberate burn of wildland fuels in either their natural or modified setting and under specific environmental conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and intensity to attain a planned resource management objective.

preservation: generally, the nonuse of natural resources. Compare with conservation.

pressure: an anthropogenic (human-induced) or natural driver that could result in changing the ecological conditions of the target. Pressures can be positive or negative depending on intensity, timing, and duration. Negative or positive, the influence of a pressure to the target is likely to be significant.

private land: lands not publicly owned, including private conservancy lands.

program: a group of projects which together aim to achieve a common broad vision. In the interest of simplicity, this document uses the term "project" to represent both projects and programs since these standards of practice are designed to apply equally well to both.

project: a set of actions undertaken by a defined group of practitioners – including managers, researchers, community members, or other stakeholders – to achieve defined goals and objectives. The basic unit of conservation work. Compare with program.

project area: the place where the biodiversity of interest to the project is located. It can include one or more "conservation areas" or "areas of biodiversity significance" as identified through ecoregional assessments. Note that in some cases, project actions may take place outside of the defined project area.

project scope: individual ecoregion or watershed will serve as the basis for developing strategies and actions within the project area.

project team: a specific core group of practitioners who are responsible for designing, implementing, and monitoring a project. This group can include managers, stakeholders, researchers, operations staff, and other key implementers.

province: a regional unit defined under SWAP 2015 that is made out of several nearby conservation units.

public: lands owned by local, state, or federal government or special districts.

Ramsar Convention: an international treaty providing the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

range: the maximum geographic extent of a taxon or habitat; does not imply that suitable conditions exist throughout the defined limits. Compare with distribution.

rangelands: any expanse of land not fertilized, cultivated, or irrigated that is suitable and predominately used for grazing domestic livestock and wildlife.

rare: one of several special status listing designations in state law; it applies only to plants. Under California law, a plant is rare when, although it is not in immediate danger of extinction, it occurs in such low numbers that it may become endangered if its environment worsens. The word rare is also commonly applied to non-listed plants and animals whose populations are low in number and therefore at risk.

rarity: a measure of sensitivity for those taxa that have special status due to very limited distribution, low population levels, or immediate threat. An area high in rarity has many taxa that meet this definition.

recruitment: the influx of new members into a population by reproduction or immigration.

redd: nesting site for salmonids and other fish.

refugia: areas where species can take refuge during times of climatic upheaval or biological stress. Places of past refugium are sometimes areas that still harbor high biological diversity.

regime: a regular pattern of occurrence or action.

resident: refers to animal taxa that remain in a given location throughout the year.

result: the desired future state of a target or factor. Results include impacts which are linked to targets and outcomes which are linked to threats and opportunities.

results chain: a graphical depiction of a project's core assumption, the logical sequence linking project strategies to one or more targets. In scientific terms, it lays out hypothesized relationships.

richness: a measure of diversity; the total number of plant taxa, animal species, or vegetation types in a given area.

riparian: relating to rivers or streams.

riprap: gabions, stones, blocks of concrete, or other protective covering material of like nature deposited upon river and stream beds and banks, lake, tidal, or other shores to prevent erosion and scour by water flow, wave, or other movement.

risk factor: a condition under which the project is expected to function, but which can cause problems for the project. Often, a condition over which the project has no direct control. Killer risks are those that when not overcome, will completely stop the project from achieving its goals and objectives.

salmonids: collective term for a family of fish that includes salmon and trout.

scope: the broad geographic or thematic focus of a program or project. The State of California will serve as the broad geographic or thematic scope for the program which consists of a group of projects, which together aim to achieve a common broad vision.

sensitive species: plant and animal species for which population viability is a concern.

seral: a series of stages in community transformation during ecological succession

silviculture: generally, the science and art of cultivating forest crops.

snags: standing dead trees with a minimum diameter of 10 inches and a height of 10 feet.

spawn: the eggs and sperm released or deposited, usually into water, by aquatic animals. As a verb, spawn refers to the process of releasing the eggs and sperm, also called spawning. Most aquatic animals, apart from aquatic mammals, reproduce through a process of spawning.

Special Animals List: a list compiled by CDFW containing threatened, endangered, and unlisted, but sensitive or declining, vertebrate and invertebrate taxa; taxa on this list are included in the California Natural Diversity Database.

species at risk: candidate, threatened, or endangered species pursuant to state and federal Endangered Species Acts, and species of special concern.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): all state and federally listed and candidate species, species for which there is a conservation concern, i.e., Species of Special Concern, or species identified as being highly vulnerable to climate change.

Species of Special Concern (SSC): an administrative designation given to animals that were not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act at the time of designation but are declining at a rate that could, and sometimes does, result in listing.

stakeholder: any individual, group, or institution that has a vested interest in the natural resources of the project area and/or that potentially will be affected by project activities and have something to gain or lose if conditions change or stay the same. Stakeholders are all those who need to be considered in achieving project goals and whose participation and support are crucial to its success.

strategic plan: the overall plan for a project. A complete strategic plan includes descriptions of a project's scope, vision, and targets; an analysis of project situation, an action plan, a monitoring plan, and an operational plan.

strategy: a group of actions with a common focus that work together to reduce the negative impacts of pressures, capitalize on opportunities, or restore natural systems. A set of strategies identified under a project is intended, as a whole, to achieve goals, objectives, and other key results addressed under the project.

stress: a degraded ecological condition of a target that resulted directly or indirectly from negative impacts of pressures defined above (e.g., habitat fragmentation).

substrate: the base or material on which an organism lives; subsoil.

succession: the gradual transformation of one ecological community to another, either in response to an environmental change or induced by the organisms themselves.

successional stage: a particular state of ecological development.

tailwater: irrigation runoff water from agriculture.

take: to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

target: see conservation target.

task: a specific action in a work plan required to implement activities, a monitoring plan, or other components of a strategic plan.

taxa: plural of taxon.

taxon: the name that is applied to a group in biological classification, for example, species, subspecies, variety, or evolutionarily significant unit (ESU). The plural is taxa.

threat: see pressure.

threatened species: any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

threatened: one of several special status listing designations of plant and animal taxa. Under the California and federal Endangered Species Acts, threatened refers to a taxon that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. The word threatened is also commonly applied to non-listed taxa in danger of extinction.

total maximum daily load (TMDL): a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, as well as an estimation of the percentage originating from each pollution source. A TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing point and nonpoint sources. The calculation must include a margin of safety to ensure that the waterbody can be used for state-designated purposes. The calculation must also account for seasonal variation in water quality.

turbidity: reduced water clarity resulting from the presence of suspended matter.

umbrella species: a species whose conservation protects a wide range of co-existing species in the same habitat, which may be lesser-known and difficult to protect otherwise.

understory: the trees and other woody species growing under a relatively continuous cover of branches and foliage formed by the overstory trees.

uneven-aged: a silvicultural system in which individual trees originate at different times and result in a forest with trees of many ages and sizes.

upland: referring to species, habitats, or vegetation types in non-flooded or non-saturated areas.

vegetation type: a named category of plant community or vegetation defined on the basis of shared floristic and/or physiognomic characteristics that distinguish it from other kinds of plant communities or vegetation. This term can refer to units in any level of the National Vegetation Classification hierarchy.

vernal pools: seasonal wetlands that form in depressions on the soil surface above a water-restricting layer of soil or rock. Plant and animal taxa endemic to vernal pools are those which can adapt to a unique cycle of flooding, temporary ponding, and drying.

vertebrate: an animal with an internal skeleton. Examples are birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

viable: able to persist over time; self-sustaining.

vision: a description of the desired state or ultimate condition that a project is working to achieve. A complete vision can include a description of the biodiversity of the site and/or a map of the project area as well as a summary vision statement.

vision statement: a brief summary of the project's vision. A good vision statement meets the criteria of being relatively general, visionary, and brief.

watershed: defined here as the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake, or groundwater.

wetland: a general term referring to the transitional zone between aquatic and upland areas. Some wetlands are flooded or saturated only during certain seasons of the year. Vernal pools are one example of a seasonal wetland.

wildfire: any fire occurring on undeveloped land; the term specifies a fire occurring on a wildland area that does not meet management objectives and thus requires a suppression response. Wildland fire protection agencies use this term generally to indicate a vegetation fire. Wildfire often replaces such terms as forest fire, brush fire, range fire, and grass fire.

wildlands: collective term for public or private lands largely undeveloped and in their natural state.

wildlife: all species of free-ranging animals, including but not limited to mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates.

Wildlife Area: designation given to certain lands owned or managed CDFW as a way of regulating appropriate use. This designation is usually given to land with potential for multiple wildlife-dependent public uses such as waterfowl hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing. Compare with Ecological Reserve.

woody debris: fallen dead wood or large branches. Woody debris is an important source of nutrients and habitat as well as a source of fuel for fire.

work plan: a short-term schedule for implementing an action, monitoring, or operational plan. Work plans typically list tasks required, who will be responsible for each task, when each task will need to be undertaken, and how much money and other resources will be required.

xeric: dry or desert-like.

zooplankton: minute, often microscopic, animal life that drift or swim in water bodies such as the ocean.