

Title: Sensitive Natural Communities Webinar, December 7th, 2021.

Stream link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/4ab1ba54-5676-4f66-a09f-323064b2d7e6>

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/ASYPewYYSBc>

Description: This online webinar is intended to help people understand how natural communities are identified and defined, what process is used to identify sensitive natural communities, how to access and use information about sensitive natural communities, considerations in addressing natural communities in environmental review, roles some agencies play in protecting sensitive natural communities, and success stories in conserving sensitive natural communities.

Section 1 - Rachelle Boul, CDFW VegCAMP: Welcome, introductions, and vegetation and sensitive natural communities overview

00:01 – Welcome and introductions

03:23 – Webinar agenda

06:23 – Introduction to natural communities

12:27 – History of natural communities in conservation in California

25:00 – Current state of vegetation classification and mapping in California

28:20 – Overview of the state-wide vegetation classification

34:04 – Vegetation mapping

44:05 – Importance of standardization

44:45 – Contacts

45:00 – End

Section 2 – Julie Evens, CNPS Vegetation Program: Sensitive Communities Definition and Ranking

45:12 – Start and introduction

47:22 – Identifying the vegetation units for ranking

50:56 - Ranking criteria

56:02 – State and Global rankings

59:10 – Utilizing the NatureServe ranking calculator

01:08:56 - Examples of the ranking process

01:13:19 – Where we are in the ranking process

Section 3 – Betsy Harbert, CDFW VegCAMP: Sources of Data & Tools & Online Information: Where to find them, how to use them

01:15:00 – Online tools introduction

01:20:59 – Which natural communities are SNCs in my area of interest?

01:45:21 – What is the community composition of an SNC?

01:54:48 – Tool Kit

01:56:02 – Map data uses and limitations

02:00:47 – Operating in a data Gap

02:11:13 – Surveying for SNCs and natural communities

Section 4 – Greg O’Connell, CDFW Region 1: Addressing Vegetation in Environmental Review

02:39:31 – Addressing Vegetation in Environmental Review Introduction

02:30:33 – Environmental Review

02:33:02 – Environmental Review CEQA

02:41:01 – Local ordinances and laws

02:43:08 – CEQA cumulative impacts

02:43:58 – CEQA mitigation

02:44:43 – Avoiding pitfalls in environmental review process

02:49:02 – Good practices

Section 5 - Laurie Koteen, California Coastal Commission: Treatment of Sensitive Natural Communities by the California Coastal Commission

02:52:47 – Treatment of Sensitive Communities By the California Coastal Commission Introduction

02:53:56 – Definition of what constitutes an ESHA

02:58:51 – Types of development allowable

03:03:17 – Case Study – Avoidance of Mussel Bed at the Dr. Fine Bridge

03:09:02 – Mitigation of Project Impacts

03:14:25 – Artificial Reef Mitigation: Wheeler North

Section 6 - Allison Schichtel, Sonoma Ag + Open Space: Vital Lands Initiative & Protecting Sensitive Natural Communities in Sonoma County

03:15:31 – Vital Lands Initiative & Protecting Sensitive Natural Communities in Sonoma County Introduction

03:15:51 – Sonoma Ag & Open Space

03:17:26 – Fine-scale Vegetation Map

03:20:40– Vital Lands Initiative
03:21:57 – Protecting Sensitive Natural Communities
03:25:14 – Vital Lands Initiative Priority Vegetation Communities
03:32:28 – With Gratitude

Section 7 - Shelly Benson, CNPS, Vegetation Program: Mapping Sensitive Natural Communities in Grassland Habitat

03:34:02 – Hidden Treasure in California’s Golden Hills; Mapping Sensitive Natural Communities in Grassland Habitats Introduction
03:35:40 – Threats grasslands
03:37:57 – Why Map Grasslands?
03:38:52 – Mapping Techniques
03:40:43 – Fine-scale Grassland Mapping Projects 2015-2021
03:42:11 – Rarity & Diversity of Grassland Communities
03:43:48 – Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park Grassland Map
03:45:55 – Take-ways

Section 8 - Teresa Sholars, CNPS, Mendocino College: Mendocino cypress in Mendocino and Sonoma counties

03:47:07 – Mapping and Vegetation Classification of Mendocino Cypress Woodlands as the Path Toward Effective Conservation
03:48:59 – Defining the Pygmy Forest
03:51:15 – Mapping the Pygmy Mendocino Cypress Woodland
03:54:49 – Six New Rare Associations
04:00:11 – Collaborative Science
04:01:47 – Conservation Success
04:03:27 – Challenges for Conservation
04:05:07 – Webinar Wrap-up

Useful links:

- **Manual of California Vegetation Online:** <https://vegetation.cnps.org/>
Provides the updated, standardized classification for the state in a searchable database, along with photos of each alliance and explanatory chapters from the Manual. Alliance descriptions, classification hierarchy, classification crosswalks.
- **BIOS:** <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS>
Vegetation maps and surveys (Releves, Rapid Assessments, Accuracy

Assessments), CNDDDB records, CDFW generated geospatial information. BIOS is a system designed to enable the management, visualization, and analysis of biogeographic data collected by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and its Partner Organizations.

- **VegCAMP Website:** <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP>
Contact info, mapping, and classification reports (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Reports-and-Maps>), sensitive natural communities list for download (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities>), protocols and standards for vegetation data collection, analysis, classification, and mapping (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Publications-and-Protocols>)
- **CNPS Vegetation Program Website:** <https://www.cnps.org/vegetation>
Information about CNPS vegetation program and vegetation classification and mapping projects.
- **BIOS and CNDDDB Training:** <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/Training>
Pre-recorded training videos with transcripts on vegetation classification and mapping, BIOS, and CNDDDB as well as a schedule of live on-line and in-person trainings offered. Due to Covid, in-person trainings have been suspended but be sure to check website for updates. In addition to training videos there are also BIOS and CNDDDB user guides downloadable as PDFs.
- **CDFW Document Library:** <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/documents/Default.aspx>
Searchable list of Vegetation mapping reports and classifications for download. You can browse by Category and select "VegCAMP" for a quick way to vegetation specific documents related to our program.

Thumbnail:

Use the opening tile slide

Tags:

VegCAMP, the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program, CDFW, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, SCV, Survey of California Vegetation, NatureServe, National Vegetation Classification System, USNVC, BIOS, The Biogeographic Information and Observation System, Releve and Rapid assessment protocol, Vegetation, habitat communities, Natural heritage, sensitive natural communities, vegetation mapping, community mapping, CNPS, California Native Plant Society.