

# Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation Guidelines Frequently Asked Questions

The purpose of this document is to address frequently asked questions (FAQ) pertaining to the [Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation Guidelines](#) (Guidelines) which were created based on Senate Bill 790 (Statutes of 2021). The Guidelines are supplemental to the [Conservation and Mitigation Banking \(Banking\) Program](#) and [Mitigation Credit Agreement \(MCAs\)](#), a subprogram of the [Regional Conservation Investment Strategies \(RCIS\) Program](#). This FAQ may change as the Guidelines evolve. See the [Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation web page](#) for more information and details.

If there are any inconsistencies between these FAQs and the Guidelines, the most current version of the Guidelines takes precedence.

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## Program Overview

### 1. What is the purpose of the Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation Guidelines?

Fish and Game Code sections 1955-1958 allow California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) the ability to create wildlife connectivity advance mitigation credits, under CDFW's Conservation and Mitigation Banking (Banking) and the Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA) subprogram under the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Programs. Examples of wildlife connectivity projects include, but are not limited to, the construction of underpasses and overpasses that help wildlife safely cross built infrastructure. The Guidelines incentivize habitat connectivity improvements to protect and enhance movement and migration for California's most threatened species (see [Guidelines](#) section 1.2).

Compensatory mitigation credits created from wildlife connectivity actions can be used by sponsors and/or sold to other permittees needing compensatory mitigation to offset their project's environmental impacts. Sponsors can, therefore, earn a return on their ecological investment by selling credits created as part of the wildlife connectivity action. The credits created can fulfill compensatory mitigation requirements established under state or federal environmental laws (as determined by the applicable regulatory agency), including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements (LSA).

### 2. What is a wildlife connectivity action?

A wildlife connectivity action is an action that measurably improves aquatic or terrestrial habitat connectivity, or wildlife migration, recolonization, and breeding opportunities inhibited by built infrastructure or habitat fragmentation. A wildlife connectivity action may include, but is not limited to, a road overpass or underpass solely for use by wildlife (Fish and G. Code, § 1956(d)) (see [Guidelines](#) section 1.4 and 1.6).

For the purpose of these Guidelines, a wildlife connectivity action is any structure (e.g., road overpass, underpass), designed to improve aquatic or terrestrial habitat

connectivity, wildlife migration, movement, recolonization, or breeding opportunities inhibited by built infrastructure.

3. Who can create credits through a wildlife connectivity action?

A sponsor can be any entity or person. A sponsor can be a Conservation or Mitigation bank sponsor, which is the person or entity responsible for establishing and operating a bank, or an MCA sponsor, which is the person(s) or entity(ies) responsible for preparing, establishing, and operating an MCA (see [Guidelines](#) section 1.5).

4. If one entity is unable to fulfill all the roles needed for a bank or MCA with a wildlife connectivity action, how can multiple entities work together?

Many entities must work together for a successful wildlife connectivity action bank or MCA as there are many roles. Typical roles include the landowner, the sponsor, the land manager, the conservation easement grantee, and the endowment holder. These roles are not unique to these Guidelines. Please see the Bank Enabling Instrument ([BEI](#)) or Chapter 5 of the RCIS Program guidelines (MCA guidelines) (see [MCA guidelines](#) section 5.3.4.3) for further information. For example, both the landowner and the sponsor sign the agreements for final approval of the bank or MCA.

CDFW works with the sponsor through the development of the bank or MCA to determine appropriate roles. The sponsor may have Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), cooperative agreements, or partnerships with other entities about specifics that CDFW is not a party to, such as distribution of earnings from credit sales. The land manager and CE Grantee will also need to be approved through the Entity Due Diligence process.

5. If I want to propose an MCA with a wildlife connectivity action, is there a way I can get the wildlife connectivity action credit proposal reviewed earlier without having to submit the entire draft MCA package?

An MCA concept can be submitted to CDFW for review of a wildlife connectivity action credit proposal, and CDFW can do an initial review (see [MCA guidelines](#) section 5.5.1.3). Staff are also available to coordinate informally and assist while the concept is being developed. Sponsors can and are highly encouraged to submit an MCA concept prior to submitting the full draft MCA package, especially if the MCA includes a wildlife connectivity action. The current fees for an MCA concept can be found on the CDFW Regional Conservation Investment Strategies Program web page. That said, final review and approval will occur once the full draft MCA package is submitted.

6. Are there fees associated with banks or MCAs with wildlife connectivity actions?

Yes, these Guidelines are supplemental to CDFW's Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Program and the Conservation and Mitigation Banking Programs and do not

alter the existing fee structure for those programs. The fees are adjusted annually for inflation. For fee amounts, see the [Banking Review Fees web page](#) or the [RCIS Program Fees web page](#). These fees cover CDFW staff review of the proposed bank or MCA. The sponsor will also need funding to support other features of the bank or MCA such as an endowment and securities.

7. What additional information should be submitted for a bank or MCA with a wildlife connectivity action?

A sponsor proposing a bank or MCA will follow the applicable program's process. Sponsors should refer to the applicable Checklists which outline what additional information is required for the wildlife connectivity action aspect of the bank or MCA and when that information is needed in the process:

- [Wildlife Connectivity Action Bank Checklist](#)
- [Wildlife Connectivity Action MCA Checklist](#)

8. Will the Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation Guidelines be updated?

We intend to update the Guidelines after the stakeholder engagement pilot period to include additional details on the crediting factor. The Guidelines may be updated further as needed. Future updates may include addressing unique situations that arise as the program begins implementation, incorporating lessons learned, etc. Any substantial future updates will include a public comment period. Feedback on the Guidelines or recommendations for future changes can be sent to [MitConnect@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:MitConnect@wildlife.ca.gov).

9. Who else at CDFW is working on connectivity?

Many of CDFW's programs and initiatives intersect with connectivity. Some key groups include:

- The [CDFW Science Institute](#) works with internal and external collaborators to expand and enhance CDFW's scientific capacity to inform biodiversity management and conservation, which includes [wildlife and habitat connectivity](#).
- The CDFW Biogeographic Data Branch [Conservation Data Analysis Unit](#) maintains habitat connectivity datasets and publishes the CDFW barrier reports.
- Regional staff across the [six CDFW terrestrial Regions](#) are working on connectivity related to Streets and Highways Code 158- 158.5 which addresses barriers to wildlife movement.

## Project Eligibility

### 10. Can a sponsor propose a bank or MCA with a wildlife connectivity action that has been partially funded through grant funds?

Maybe. The wildlife connectivity actions are one tool for species and habitat conservation and connectivity but might not be the right match for all wildlife connectivity projects depending on the project specifics or the funding sources.

Sponsors will need to review the grant solicitation or consult the granting agency to ensure receiving bank or MCA credits will not conflict with the grant funding. Often, public funding has a limit to how it is used and the use of public funding may conflict with the creation of mitigation credits. As this can be nuanced, CDFW recommends that the sponsor reach out the CDFW and the grantor together for confirmation, especially if the funding is from the Wildlife Connectivity Board. Often funding for planning can still qualify for developing advance mitigation credits.

Note: An RCIS developed under grant funding does not impact the viability of developing an MCA with or without a wildlife connectivity action.

### 11. I have a wildlife connectivity project that doesn't involve road crossings. Am I eligible?

CDFW encourages sponsors to reach out to discuss potential projects. The Guidelines focus on crediting for wildlife connectivity actions related to linear built infrastructure barriers, such as, but not limited to, roads, canals, rail lines, and walls, as these are common connectivity barriers (see [Guidelines](#) section 1.2). In the future, the Guidelines may be updated as more information becomes available to address other wildlife connectivity actions that address additional types of built infrastructure or other types of connectivity barriers more explicitly.

### 12. Can the design be made to suit multiple species or different credit types?

Yes, CDFW encourages sponsors to design wildlife connectivity actions to suit the needs of multiple species and habitats as this supports a more diverse habitat. A project that suits multiple species also gives the sponsor a better chance of getting multiple credit types for the project (see [Guidelines](#) section 3).

Depending on the species, some actions might better suit the needs of some species and be worse for others. In that case, the species that are not as well suited would receive a lower score or potentially not receive any credits for the wildlife connectivity action.

### 13. What permits will a sponsor need?

MCA or bank must meet all permit requirements outside of its approval. The sponsor may need to obtain permits from CDFW (CEQA, CESA, LSA), other state, local, or

federal agencies for the project activities. Some projects could result in the potential take of a state and/or federal listed species or regulated habitat associated with development of the wildlife connectivity action. The sponsor may be required to develop avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to offset impacts, and where necessary commit to compensatory mitigation.

14. If a sponsor would like to propose several wildlife connectivity actions, how does that work for MCA processes?

This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The sponsor could potentially propose an MCA framework for a group of similar wildlife connectivity actions to allow for consistency and efficiency. When an MCA is comprised of multiple locations or sites that are widely separated, they must share a framework, credit types, or performance standards (see [MCA guidelines](#) section 5.4.1.4).

## Project Selection and Templates

### 15. What are the "pilot projects"?

Banks and MCAs with wildlife connectivity actions proposed during this stakeholder engagement pilot period will be considered pilot projects.

Because the approach to wildlife connectivity advance mitigation outlined in these Guidelines is new, some aspects of the crediting are still in development, and therefore, CDFW plans to work very closely with all potential sponsors. CDFW will gather information on the wide range of potential connectivity needs, constraints, potential solutions, and benefits to species and habitat(s) during a stakeholder engagement pilot period to inform the crediting factor. The stakeholder engagement pilot period will last until an initial set of six pilot projects have been approved or a period of 24 months has elapsed, based on CDFW discretion. The goal of this period is to gather as much information as we can so we can make an informed decision about updating the crediting factor and any related portions of the Guidelines. During the pilot period, the Sponsor should expect to engage with CDFW staff early and often during the development of any pilot projects involving wildlife connectivity actions (see [Guidelines](#) section 3.2.3.1).

Sponsors interested in submitting pilot projects should reach out to CDFW at [mitConnect@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:mitConnect@wildlife.ca.gov). Sponsors of pilot projects will need to work closely with CDFW as this is an innovative approach and not all aspects have been completely finalized.

### 16. Is there a publicly available template for the Long-term Durability Agreement for wildlife connectivity actions?

At this time, there is not a Long-term Durability Agreement template in association with the Guidelines. During the pilot period, CDFW hopes to gather more information on this topic and provide more guidance in the next version of the Guidelines.

### 17. Does CDFW have its own wildlife connectivity actions that local agencies can help fund in return for compensatory mitigation credits?

At this time, CDFW does not intend to be a sponsor for a bank or MCA. The Guidelines require sponsors to propose projects to CDFW for review and approval, and local agencies could sponsor projects or work with another entity to sponsor a project.

If you are looking for potential projects, Appendix A of the Guidelines contains resources that could be used to identify a potential wildlife connectivity action project. CDFW has done an analysis of the [Wildlife Movement Barriers](#) which may be a helpful starting point for potential sponsors. However, please note that this analysis is not specific to the Guidelines.



18. Has CDFW coordinated with other agencies?

During the development of the Guidelines, CDFW coordinated with and conducted outreach to other state and federal agencies. Sponsors should work with the corresponding transportation agency and regulatory agencies for their proposed wildlife connectivity action early in the process. This is especially important when the project includes a right of way of a transportation agency. CDFW will consult with Caltrans for the review of a wildlife connectivity advance mitigation project on the right of way of an existing state highway.

19. Is there an official source or guidance for optimal crossing designs?

For structural components, sponsors should consult the applicable transportation agency. Optimal designs for ecological benefits will depend on the species and project specifics. In Appendix A of the [Guidelines](#), the Wildlife Connectivity Action Design Resources section can be a helpful starting place for sponsors.

## Crediting

### 20. How can the credits from the wildlife connectivity action be used or transferred?

The species or habitat credits created from a wildlife connectivity action can be used/transferred and are of the same value as those created from the standard bank or MCA guidelines. For CDFW, the species or habitat credits from a wildlife connectivity action can be used to provide compensatory mitigation for requirements from CEQA, CESA, or LSA. In addition, these credits may fulfill the mitigation requirements for other local, state, or federal regulatory requirements as determined by the applicable regulating agency (see [Guidelines](#) section 3.1). This may require those agencies to review the documents on a case-by-case basis, or they may be signatory to a bank or an acknowledging agency for an MCA.

Similar to bank or MCA credits, the CDFW staff working on a permit or authorization would have discretion to determine if the proposed species or habitat credits fit the mitigation requirements based on the impacts for a specific project. The species or habitat impacts do not have to be related to connectivity for species or habitat credits created by a wildlife connectivity action to be used or transferred. Unless the credits created are specifically connectivity credits, the species or habitat credits created from the wildlife connectivity action could be applied to mitigation requirements unrelated to connectivity impacts.

### 21. Can a sponsor create credits that satisfy mitigation for other agencies beyond CDFW?

Credits from wildlife connectivity actions may be able to satisfy connectivity and non-connectivity related mitigation requirements under other state and federal regulatory authority with the approval of the applicable regulatory agency (see [Guidelines](#) Section 3.1). In addition to credits that satisfy mitigation obligations imposed by CDFW, sponsors can consider proposing credits (e.g., wetlands, federally listed species credits) for a wildlife connectivity action that may satisfy other state and federal agency regulations.

In these cases, sponsors must use the applicable bank or MCA process for coordinating with other agencies for credits. At this time, proposed MCA credits must overlap with a CDFW credit type to be created for other federal, state or local agencies, and those other agencies will be included as an acknowledging agency. CDFW is committed to work with these agencies and intends to develop procedures for coordination for wildlife connectivity action mitigation credits. Sponsors must help with early coordination and maintain open communication throughout the entire process to ensure that the credits created will be acceptable and meet any other intended regulatory agencies' requirements.

22. Can a sponsor propose the bank or MCA with a wildlife connectivity action on public lands?

Yes. In most cases, the wildlife connectivity action and the adjacent lands will be within a right-of-way, which is typically public property (e.g., county, city, or state roads) or other public lands. In such cases, the sponsor must coordinate with the property owner when proposing the bank or MCA.

23. Can the credit release schedule propose to release credits prior to completing construction of the wildlife connectivity action?

There are two potential ways a sponsor may propose a credit release schedule that releases credits prior to completion of the wildlife connectivity action construction:

- The sponsor may be able to release credits when the wildlife connectivity structure construction is completed, but the habitat construction on the structure is not. In this case, the sponsor would need to provide a construction security for the habitat construction and can then potentially receive credits for the wildlife connectivity action before the habitat construction is complete (see [Guidelines](#) section 7.1).
- If the bank or MCA with a wildlife connectivity action includes standard bank or MCA lands, then the sponsor may propose releasing those credits for those lands prior to the completion of the wildlife connectivity action construction. If those lands require restoration/construction to occur on them, a construction security for the release of the credits related to lands would be necessary (see the [BEI](#) and [MCA](#) guidelines). A word of caution, if the adjacent lands will need to be used for construction related activities for the wildlife connectivity action, the sponsor must ensure that the activities do not conflict with a conservation easement or long-term durability agreement needed for the credits to be released.

It is important to note that to release credits, the bank or MCA must be established, which also includes such things as an accepted and executed conservation easement or long-term durability agreement in place and long-term funding, such as an endowment (see the [Banking](#) and [MCA](#) guidelines for bank or MCA establishment).

24. Can the wildlife connectivity action create credits for non-listed species or "connectivity credits"?

When a sponsor is considering what credit types to create for a wildlife connectivity action, the sponsor should consider the benefit for the target species, the market demand for mitigation for that species in the area, and any other species or habitat that will benefit from the wildlife connectivity action that may also have a market demand for mitigation.

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A sponsor could propose wildlife connectivity action credits for state listed species, as well as other species and habitats that could be considered during a California Environmental Quality Act project impacts analysis (e.g. species of special concern, federally listed species, streams, sensitive natural communities, and connectivity). Typically, non-listed species do not have the same mitigation credit sales demand. Some species, such as deer or racoons would benefit from a crossing but there are limited regulatory requirements that require mitigation for those species. CDFW encourages projects that support entire ecosystems, including non-listed species, to be included as a consideration in the habitat credit scoring. CEQA requires wildlife movement analysis (Item D in the CEQA Biological Resources Checklist) and the lead agency may consider mitigation credits applicable to the impacts.

The wildlife connectivity action creates specific species or habitat type credits, and most often not generic connectivity credits. For credit tracking purposes, the credits created from the wildlife connectivity action will be labeled as "WCA", for wildlife connectivity action, but they will most often be species or habitat type (e.g. CA Tiger Salamander (WCA) or Riparian Forest (WCA)). These credits can be used or transferred for connectivity or non-connectivity impacts to the related species or habitat. The credits created can be used in the same way as those from standard bank or MCA lands and the use or transfer of these credits is up to the discretion of the regulatory staff working on the mitigation requirements for the applicable permit or authorization. If you are interested in general connectivity credits for CEQA impacts, please reach out to CDFW.

## Evaluation and Crediting Process

### 25. What is the Crediting Factor?

The crediting factor is a multiplier that is used in the crediting process (see [Guidelines](#) section 3.2.3). The crediting factor will be multiplied by the approved credit score (as a percentage) to determine the number of credits for a specific credit type created from the wildlife connectivity action. The crediting factors will be species and habitat specific, and they have not yet been determined. CDFW plans to use the stakeholder engagement pilot period to begin to develop species and habitat crediting factors.

The general principle of the crediting factor is that it will be a number that will vary depending on species, habitat and project specifics. The crediting factor depends on a combination of characteristics including habitat type, type of wildlife connectivity action, adjacent lands acreage, target species, and target habitat. For example, the greater acreage of the adjacent lands that the sponsor proposes as part of the bank or MCA, the higher the crediting factor.

### 26. If a project has more than one target species, is the scoring to be done separately? Will the scores be combined for Step 2?

The sponsor of a proposed bank or MCA with a wildlife connectivity action shall evaluate the ecological benefit crediting considerations for each proposed credit type individually. The sponsor shall complete and submit to CDFW a separate target habitat/species scoring sheet for each species or habitat being proposed for crediting, as different credit scores maybe be given to each credit type. The scores will continue to be kept separate for Step 2, when each of the scores are converted into credit amounts using the crediting factor. Therefore, the output of the crediting process will be a (likely) unique credit amount for each credit type (see [Guidelines](#) section 3.2).

### 27. How does bundling of credits work for a wildlife connectivity action?

Credits bundled in the Banking Program and MCAs are related to an area of land that has multiple species or habitat credit types. The difference for a wildlife connectivity action is that crediting is not solely calculated by area, but instead weighted by ecological benefits. Bundled credits in a wildlife connectivity action bank or MCA are therefore based upon the final total credit types and amounts that are determined during the credit factor phase. The proposed credits will be bundled together based on the smallest amount of the credit type in credit increments. This will repeat until only one credit type remains. The credit type with the largest amount of credits will be the only credit type that is not bundled for any remaining credits to avoid double dipping. For example, if a wildlife connectivity action is approved for 5 spring-run Chinook salmon credits, 10 riparian credits, and 12 longfin smelt credits, the credit bundling would be as follows:

- 5 spring-run Chinook salmon (CS-WCA)/riparian (R-WCA)/longfin smelt (LS-WCA) credits;
- 5 riparian (R-WCA)/longfin smelt (LS-WCA) credits; and
- 2 longfin smelt (LS-WCA) credits.

Credit Type	Credit Amount
<b>CS-R-LS (WCA)</b>	5
<b>R-LS (WCA)</b>	5
<b>LS (WCA)</b>	2
<b>Total Available Credits</b>	<b>12</b>

28. Why do the credits from a wildlife connectivity action have their own “WCA” designation? Aren't the credits equivalent to bank and MCA credits?

Yes, CDFW considers the credits from a wildlife connectivity action equivalent to those from a the standard [Banking](#) or [MCA](#) guidelines. Labeling the wildlife connectivity action credits provides clarity in certain situations:

- The credits for the wildlife connectivity action will have different performance based milestones and performance standards than those for the standard bank and MCA lands so they may be released at different rates and therefore need to be tracked separately. This may include different securities and different land protections.
- Other agencies may or may not accept credits from a wildlife connectivity action to offset project related impacts, so they need the ability to discern these credits from those using the standard Banking and MCA guidelines.

29. When submitting the justification for the crediting considerations, what do I do if there is insufficient information on a topic?

The more information a sponsor has about a topic, the better justification there will be to potentially receive higher scores for the crediting considerations which would lead to potentially higher credits. CDFW understands that in some cases, the information requested might not be publicly available. In these cases, the sponsor should do the best they can with what is available, describe what information they could not acquire, and clearly explain their proposal based on the information that is available (see [Guidelines](#) sections 4 and 5).

30. Will the credit amounts determined in the crediting process be based on the size of the wildlife connectivity action?

The size of the wildlife connectivity action is one of many considerations that will be used to determine its ecological benefit and associated credit amount. Wildlife connectivity action credits will be based on the applicable ecological benefit crediting considerations used in the credit scoring: Ecological Engineered Design; Value of the Habitat Connected; Value of the Particular Location; Critical Linkages; and Population

level Benefits to Target Species identified in the Guidelines (see [Guidelines](#) sections 4 and 5). CDFW does not expect that the proposed credits will be less than the total acreage of habitat and CDFW anticipates the proposed credit amounts will exceed the area footprint of the wildlife connectivity action. The extent of the credit increase will be based on the value provided to the target species or target habitat determined during the crediting factor step of the credit amount process. CDFW will further develop the crediting factors during the stakeholder engagement pilot period.

## Durability and Long-Term Management

### 31. What if I can't establish a Conservation Easement?

CDFW shall only determine a conservation easement is infeasible if one of the following conditions apply within the Wildlife Connectivity Action area or where it is sited:

- Federal, state, and local legal restrictions, particularly those limiting the use of real property, prevent, or significantly inhibit, placing a conservation easement on wildlife connectivity action property; or
- A portion of the wildlife connectivity action is in the right-of-way of an existing state highway or other existing public infrastructure Fish and Game Code (b)(2)(B).

In cases where a conservation easement is infeasible, then the wildlife connectivity action or where it is sited must have a long-term durability agreement. Sponsors who think a conservation easement is infeasible for a part of their wildlife connectivity action or where it is sited should contact CDFW (see [Guidelines](#) section 6.1).

### 32. Who is required to maintain an wildlife connectivity action if it fails?

The entity or person that is responsible for the maintenance of the wildlife connectivity action depends on the situation and the nature of the failure. For example, if the failure is a structural issue and the crossing is owned by a transportation agency, then they are required to maintain it as part of their asset management system. The structure is then required to be maintained under the Streets and Highways Code or other applicable transportation agency requirements.

If the failure is habitat related, then the maintenance and any adaptive management will be outlined in the appropriate management plan and is the responsibility of the sponsor or the land manager.

### 33. How will securities for wildlife connectivity actions be different from the [BEI](#) and Chapter 5 of the RCIS Program guidelines ([MCA](#) guidelines)?

The securities for the wildlife connectivity action have some differences compared to those using the standard Banking or MCA guidelines (see [Guidelines](#) section 7.1)

- **Construction securities** for standard bank and MCA lands are necessary if credits are released prior to construction completion. In most cases, wildlife connectivity actions will not require a construction security because the wildlife connectivity action must be constructed before credit release. The sponsor may be able to release credits when the wildlife connectivity structure construction is completed, but the habitat construction on the structure is not. In this case, the sponsor would need to provide a construction security for the habitat construction.



- The **performance and compliance securities** are not different for wildlife connectivity actions compared to standard bank and MCA lands. If the security is based on construction costs, for a wildlife connectivity action the construction costs will be based on only the habitat development on and under the wildlife connectivity action.
- The **interim management security** is not different for wildlife connectivity actions compared to standard bank and MCA lands.

#### 34. Will long-term durability agreements mimic deed restrictions?

Long-term durability agreements will mimic the ecological protections of a conservation easement but enable some flexibility for federal, state, or local legal restrictions. Section 6.1.1 of the [Guidelines](#) outline topics that must be covered in a long-term durability agreement for a wildlife connectivity action.

#### 35. How is the term “long-term durability” used differently in the MCA guidelines compared to the Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation Guidelines?

In the MCA guidelines, long-term durability refers to when non-permanent credits are proposed (see [MCA guidelines](#) section 5.2.7.4). Alternatively, in the Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation Guidelines, long-term durability refers to when a conservation easement is infeasible, such as in the right of way of a highway (see [Guidelines](#) section 6.1.1). Both uses refer to long term durability agreements but one will be for shorter-term conservation while the other is permanent but provides a different type of protection.

## Figures

Figure 1: Wildlife Connectivity Action

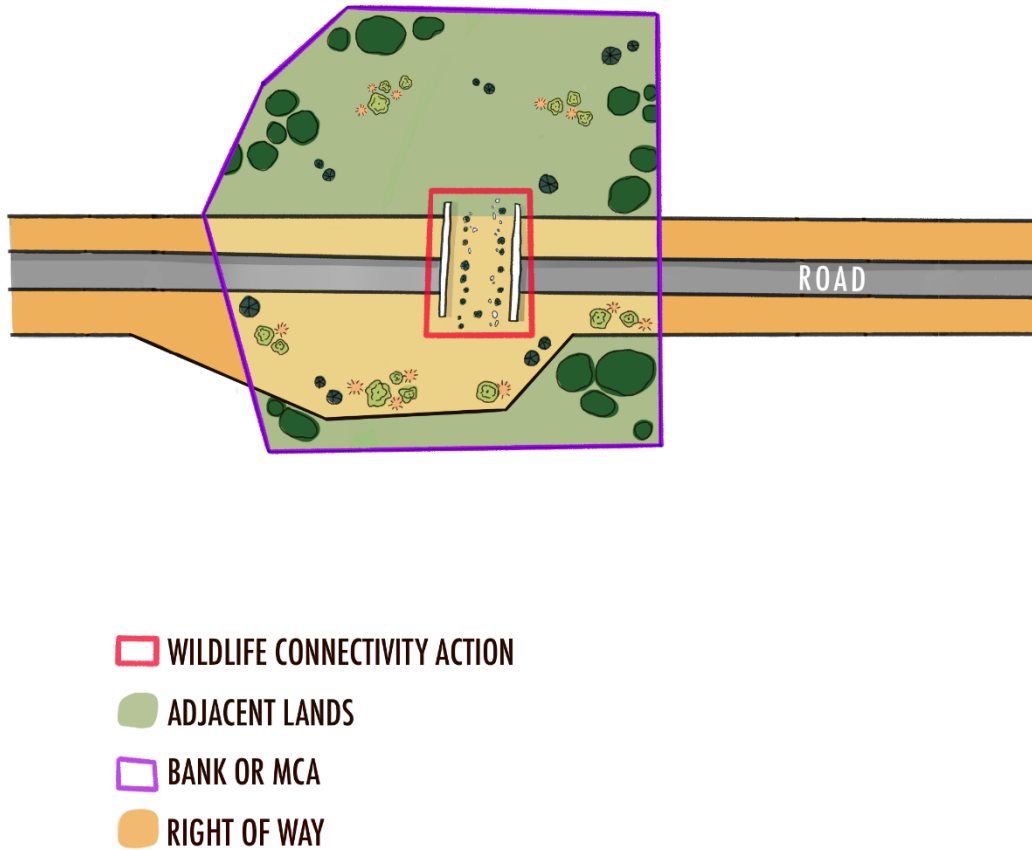


Figure 1 is an example of a bank or MCA with a wildlife connectivity action. Outlined in red is the wildlife connectivity action; it is the structure over the road. The adjacent lands are those that should be protected to ensure access to the wildlife connectivity action. In this example, the adjacent lands is the bank or MCA bounded by the purple polygon, which includes a section of the right of way in beige (see [Guidelines](#) section 1.4, 1.6, and 6).

Figure 2: Real Estate Instruments

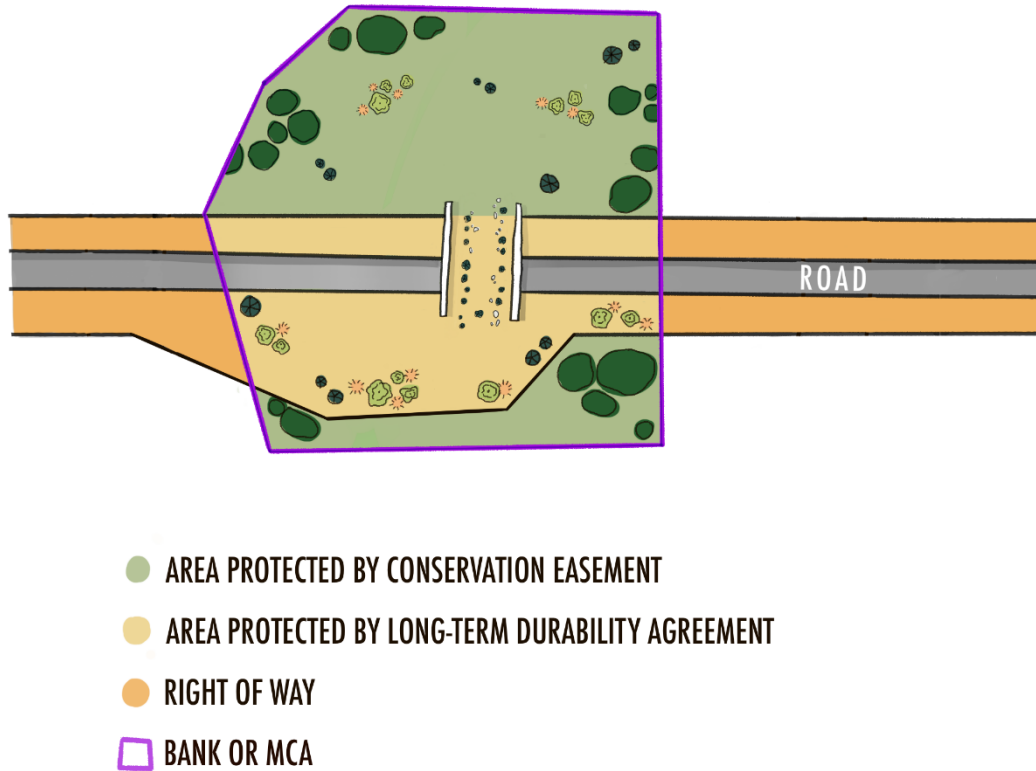


Figure 2 is an example of how different areas of a bank or MCA can be protected by different real estate instruments. Within the bank or MCA area, the beige area within the right of way is protected by a long-term durability agreement and the green area is protected with a conservation easement (see [Guidelines](#) section 6).

Figure 3: Wildlife Connectivity Action and Surrounding Lands

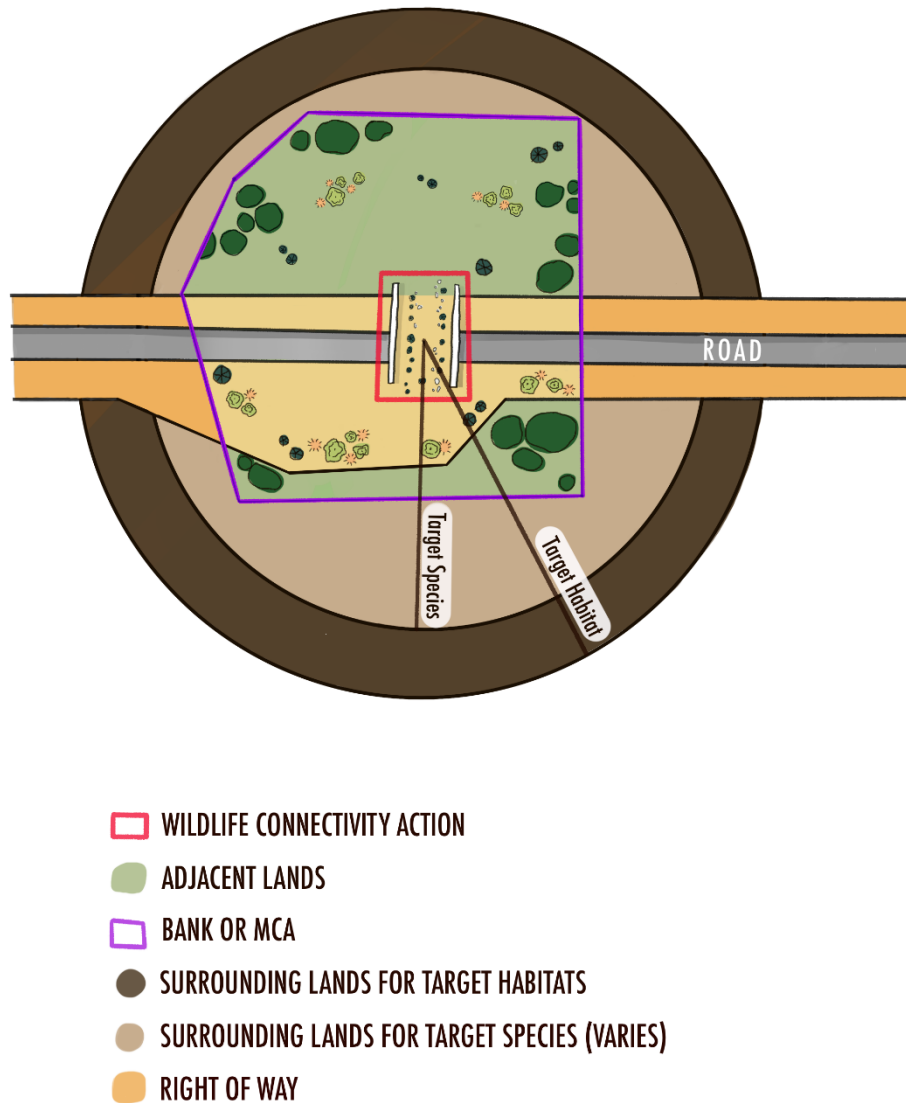


Figure 3 depicts a bank or MCA's surrounding lands that support a wildlife connectivity action. The surrounding land is a radius starting from the center point of the wildlife connectivity action. For each target species, the radius is dependent on the relevant dispersal distance and for target habitat, the radius is 5-miles. The surrounding lands are used in the Value of the Habitat Connected crediting consideration to determine how far out the sponsor should provide information in the justification for the wildlife connectivity action credit proposal (see [Guidelines](#) sections 1.4, 4.2, and 5.2).