



Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife

2024 Report

Cover Photo: Western Joshua tree woodland landscape at sunset. Photo by Dmitry (Adobe Stock #555251447)

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Executive Summary

This annual report, as required by Fish and Game Code section 1927.7 ([Appendix A](#)), includes a description of the role of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in the implementation of the [Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act](#) (WJTCA), and information on permits issued, fees collected, and conservation implemented between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, state fiscal year 2023-24 (FY 23-24).

The western Joshua tree (WJT) (*Yucca brevifolia*) is an iconic species in California that is both ecologically and culturally important. WJTs occur across a large portion of California's desert region. Yet, species distribution models suggest that by the end of the 21st century, much of the species' range may no longer be viable habitat (Barrows and Murphy-Mariscal 2012, Cole et al. 2011, Dole et al. 2003, Shafer et al. 2001, Sweet et al. 2019). The WJT is currently a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered under the [California Endangered Species Act](#) (CESA). As a candidate, the WJT is afforded all the protections of a listed species under CESA ([Fish & G. Code, § 2085](#)) while awaiting a final listing decision by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission).

In 2023, the WJTCA was enacted to conserve WJT and its habitat while providing pathways for development with appropriate permitting and mitigation, including payment of fees for take of WJTs. The WJTCA required CDFW to establish a permit to authorize take of WJT, establish a permit to authorize take of hazardous WJT, collect, manage, and appropriate fee money for WJT conservation, develop a plan for the conservation of WJT, submit an annual report to the Commission and the Legislature, and develop and submit to the Commission an updated status review of the WJT. CDFW has made great strides in implementing activities pursuant to the WJTCA during its first year as law.

Over FY 23-24, CDFW developed two permitting programs and issued 258 permits pursuant to the WJTCA. Projects authorized under these permits resulted in the development of 2,888.3 acres of WJT woodland. Permittees were required to comply with various mitigation measures as conditions of their permits, to protect WJT and their habitat to the greatest extent possible.

CDFW set up the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to accept in-lieu fees in support of conservation activities for WJT, including for acquisition and restoration projects. In-lieu fees in the amount of \$3,075,570 were remitted to CDFW during FY 23-24. Of this, \$576,130.31 was expended from the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund to pay for conservation activities with the remainder of the fund balance available

for future conservation activities for WJT. This included supporting the purchase of 283 acres of “ecologically core” WJT habitat located in Kern County.

Background

The WJTCA ([Fish & G. Code, § 1927 et seq.](#)) is a California law that became effective on July 10, 2023 as a part of a Budget Trailer Bill (SB 122). The WJTCA promotes the conservation of WJT by prohibiting the import, export, take ([Fish & G. Code, § 86](#)), possession, purchase, or sale of any WJT in California, provides for the creation of a range-wide conservation plan for the species, and establishes the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund to pay for actions to conserve WJT and its habitat. The WJTCA also creates streamlined permitting options for the authorization of incidental take of WJT.

The WJTCA authorizes CDFW to issue permits for incidental take as long as certain conditions are met. Permittees may pay specified fees in-lieu of conducting project-specific mitigation activities. Under the WJTCA, all in-lieu fees collected are deposited into the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund, which is continually appropriated to CDFW solely for the purposes of acquiring, conserving, and managing WJT conservation lands and completing other activities to conserve WJT, such as monitoring, restoration, and other reasonable expenditures to implement the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan (see below). The WJTCA also authorizes a streamlined process for CDFW to issue permits at no cost to the permittee for the removal or trimming of dead WJTs and the trimming of live WJTs under certain hazardous circumstances.

Pursuant to the WJTCA, CDFW may enter into an agreement with any county or city to delegate limited authority to permit the taking of WJT associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects. CDFW may similarly enter into an agreement with any county or city to delegate limited authority to permit the removal or trimming of dead WJTs and the trimming of live WJTs under certain hazardous circumstances. To date, no delegation agreements have been approved and CDFW continues to coordinate with interested local governments on this option.

Additionally, the WJTCA requires CDFW to develop and implement a WJT Conservation Plan in collaboration with the Commission, governmental agencies, California Native American tribes and the public. The conservation plan must incorporate a description of management actions necessary to conserve WJT, objective and measurable criteria to assess the effectiveness of those actions, guidance to avoid and minimize impacts to WJT, protocols for the successful relocation of WJT, and include tribal co-management principles, traditional ecological knowledge, and provide for the relocation of WJT to tribal

lands upon request from a tribe. The complete draft conservation plan must be presented no later than December 31, 2024, at a public meeting of the Commission for its subsequent review and approval. CDFW must also develop an annual report assessing the conservation status of the WJT and submit it to the Commission and the Legislature no later than January 31 of each year, starting in 2025. This is the first of the annual reports.

Finally, the WJTCA requires CDFW to prepare an updated status review report by January 1, 2033, unless the Commission directs CDFW to complete it sooner, and directs the Commission to consider the effectiveness of the conservation measures of the WJTCA, the updated status review report, and other factors before deciding whether the current petition to list the WJT under CESA is warranted.

Legislative Reporting Requirements

The WJTCA, section 1927.7(a) requires:

Beginning in 2025, by January 31 of each calendar year, the department shall submit an annual report to the commission and the Legislature assessing the conservation status of the western Joshua tree, including, but not limited to, by detailing the number of permits issued, the number and size class of western Joshua trees authorized to be taken, the number of western Joshua trees lethally removed, the number and location of western Joshua trees relocated, the number and location of acres of western Joshua tree woodlands developed, the type, scope, and scale of mitigation measures undertaken by permittees, the number and location of acres of western Joshua tree woodlands conserved, the quality of the acres conserved, the amount of fees paid, the amount of all expenditures from the fund, the projects and actions funded by expenditures from the fund, the adequacy of the fees to conserve the western Joshua tree, actions taken pursuant to the conservation plan, and other relevant information. The department's annual report shall summarize the information provided by counties and cities pursuant to agreements entered into pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1927.3 and subdivision (b) of Section 1927.4.

CDFW has organized the required information into three general categories for this annual report: permitting, fees, and conservation.

Permitting

Fish and Game Code section 1927.2, subdivision (a) states “No person or public

agency shall import into this state, export out of this state, or take, possess, purchase, or sell within this state, a western Joshua tree or any part or product of the tree, except as authorized.” Fish and Game Code sections 1927.3 et seq. and 1927.4 et sec. allow CDFW to authorize, by permit, the take of WJT under certain circumstances. Pursuant to these sections, CDFW developed the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act Incidental Take Permit (WJTCA ITP) and the Hazard Management Permit (HMP). Both permits can authorize incidental take of WJT for qualifying activities.

[WJTCA ITP \(Fish & G. Code, § 1927.3\)](#) – Provides authorization for take of WJT in association with renewable energy, housing, public works, and other types of projects. This permit authorizes take (i.e., removal, trimming, encroachment upon, and relocation) of living and dead WJT that are not considered hazardous (i.e., posing a risk to public health or safety). The WJTCA ITP streamlines the permitting process by allowing the payment of a statutorily prescribed mitigation fee rather than completing additional mitigation actions. During the period when WJT is a candidate for listing under CESA, entities seeking permits must pay the in-lieu fee to obtain a WJTCA ITP or complete traditional permittee-responsible mitigation and obtain an ITP pursuant to CESA ([Fish & G. Code, § 1927.2, subdivision \(b\)](#)).

[HMP \(Fish & G. Code, § 1927.4\)](#) – Provides authorization to remove dead WJT or trim live or dead WJT that pose a risk to structures or public health and safety. No permit fees or mitigation is required for these permits.

Number of Permits Issued

CDFW issued 258 permits for take of WJT during FY 23-24 (Table 1).

Table 1: Permits issued by type for western Joshua tree during the 2023-24 state fiscal year

Permit Type	Number of Permits
Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act Incidental Take Permit	9
Hazard Management Permit	249
Total	258

Number and Size Class of Western Joshua Trees Authorized to be Taken

CDFW authorized the take of 3,175 WJT during FY 23-24 (Table 2).

Table 2: Number of western Joshua trees authorized to be taken by permit type

during the 23-24 State fiscal year

Permit Type	Number of Trees
Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act Incidental Take Permit	2,792
Hazard Management Permit	383 ¹
Total	3,175

When applying for a WJTCA ITP, the applicant submits a census that includes the number of trees that will be taken by size class. The three size classes are defined in Fish and Game Code section 1927.3(a)(1) as: 1) less than one meter in height, 2) one meter or greater but less than five meters in height, and 3) five meters or greater in height. Tree size classes are not used for issuance of HMPs. Table 3 contains the number of WJT taken by WJTCA ITP size class for FY 23-24.

Table 3: Number of western Joshua trees in different size classes authorized to be taken via Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act Incidental Take Permits during the 23-24 state fiscal year

Size Class	Number of Trees
≥ 5 meters	71
1 to < 5 meters	1,764
< 1 meter	957
Total	2,792

Number of Western Joshua Trees Lethally Removed

CDFW authorized the lethal removal of 2,188 living WJT during FY 23-24. This number does not include dead removed WJT, relocated WJT, or encroached upon WJT that are not removed, which are considered toward total take, as shown in Table 2 and Table 3 above. All lethally removed trees were authorized to be taken under WJTCA ITPs, as HMPs cannot authorize the removal of living WJTs.

Number and Location of Western Joshua Trees Relocated

In July 2024, CDFW adopted guidelines and protocols for WJT relocation pursuant to the WJTCA. Because of the lack of existing developed guidance, no

1: WJTs taken under HMPs fall under three categories: number of dead trees, number of individual dead limbs removed, and the number of trees trimmed. The number of WJTs taken under HMPs (Table 2) are the sum of these categories.

required relocation was included in WJTCA ITPs issued during FY 23-24. However, five WJTs were voluntarily relocated on-site by a permittee during this reporting period. The relocation was incorporated into the Poplar 18 Project, a commercial construction project located in San Bernardino County (Table 4). WJT were relocated following procedures described in a WJT Relocation Plan, prepared by the permittee and approved by CDFW.

Table 4: Number and location western Joshua trees relocated during the 23-24 state fiscal year

Location	Number of Projects	Trees Relocated
San Bernardino County	1	5

Number and Location of Acres of Western Joshua Tree Woodlands Developed

The term “western Joshua tree woodlands” is not defined within the WJTCA. The Manual of California Vegetation defines a Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) woodland vegetation alliance as an area where WJT is evenly distributed at 1% absolute cover or greater, and juniper (*Juniperus spp.*) or pine (*Pinus spp.*) trees are less than 1% absolute cover (Thomas et al. 2004). However, WJTs exist in many other vegetation alliances where their cover is less than 1%. CDFW believes the intent of this reporting provision in the WJTCA was to account for all acres that were developed or conserved (page 14) that support WJT, i.e., occupied WJT habitat. For the purposes of this legislative report, CDFW will consider WJT woodlands broadly as any parcel of land that is occupied by naturally growing WJT regardless of the percentage of WJT cover or type vegetation alliance.

CDFW has issued WJTCA ITPs for three projects in Kern County, one project in Los Angeles County, and five projects in San Bernardino County. A total of 2,888.3 acres of WJT woodland development was permitted. Due to HMPs approving the removal of dead individual WJTs and WJT limbs, often in urban or developed areas, there is no WJT woodland acreage to report for these permits. Table 5 provides the number of acres per location for FY 23-24.

Table 5: Acres of western Joshua tree woodland developed during the 23-24 state fiscal year

Location	Number of projects	Area of WJT Woodland Developed ² (acres)
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2: Permits under the WJTCA do not distinguish between WJT and WJT woodlands. Numbers represent acres of land occupied by naturally growing WJT identified as project areas by permit applicants.

Kern County	3	2,807
Los Angeles County	1	18.7
San Bernardino County	5	62.6
	Total	2,888.3

Type, Scope, and Scale of Mitigation Measures Undertaken by Permittees

The WJTCA requires that incidental take permittees mitigate all impacts to and taking of WJT. The requirement does not apply to HMP permittees. For projects requiring incidental take authorization, permittees can choose between completing mitigation on their own and receiving an ITP pursuant to CESA or paying a fee to the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund and receiving a WJTCA ITP ([Fish & G. Code, § 1927.2, subdivision \(b\)](#)). The fee is based on the number of individual (dead or living) WJTs taken, and their size class. The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund is used solely for the purposes of acquiring, conserving, and managing WJT conservation lands and completing other activities to conserve WJT. The amount of mitigation fees paid to the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund is detailed in the next section.

In addition to paying mitigation fees, project proponents must avoid and minimize impacts to and take of WJT to the “maximum extent practicable,” and project-specific avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs) are included as conditions of approval in all WJTCA ITPs. Certain AMMs are included in the WJTCA ITPs depending on the project impacts and activities. Table 6 provides a summary of AMMs that have been included in permits and the number of permits the AMM appears in for FY 23-24.

Table 6: Avoidance and minimization measures included within Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act incidental take permits during the 23-24 state fiscal year

Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Overview
General Provisions	
Designated Representative	Responsible for communicating with CDFW and overseeing compliance with the permit.
Designated Biologist/ Botanist	Oversees avoidance of impacts to WJT (if not all WJT on site are being removed).

Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Overview
Compliance Monitoring	Designated Biologist prepares daily written observations of oversight activities and compliance inspections.
Education Program	Education for all persons working on the project site on WJT and how to minimize or avoid impacts during work.
Construction Monitoring Documentation	Prepared by Designated Representative.
Project Access	Restricts vehicles to pre-established roads, staging areas, and parking areas (if not all WJT on site are being removed).
Staging Areas	Related to Project Access AMM. Confines certain project activities to previously disturbed areas.
Topsoil Salvage	Conservation of topsoil if necessary for onsite or offsite conservation or restoration.
WJT Stockpiles	Requires that dead or removed WJT shall not be placed within 50 feet of avoided or conserved WJT.
CDFW Access	Permittee must allow reasonable access for CDFW to the project site.
Refuse Removal	Requires removal of all hazardous waste or refuse from the project site upon project completion.
Notification and Reporting Provisions	
Notification Before Commencement	Permittee must notify CDFW prior to starting project activities.
Notification of Non-compliance	Immediate notification of CDFW of permit noncompliance.
Monthly/Quarterly Reporting	Reports provided to CDFW on project activities, daily observations, etc.
Annual Status Report	Annual report provided to CDFW on project activities for the year.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure	Overview
Recurring Assessment Report	Reports to CDFW if any new WJT individuals have emerged. For permits with terms longer than five years. Must be completed after the first five years of the permit issuance and every three years thereafter.
Project Completion Report	Report to CDFW on completion of the project.
Notification of Take or Damage	Notification of CDFW if a non-permitted WJT is taken or damaged.
Take Minimization Measures	
Delineation of Project Site Boundaries	If off-site trees may be impacted, clear delineation of the project site boundary must be established.
Identification of WJT to be Taken	Clear flagging of all WJT that will be taken under the permit.
Relocation of WJT	Permittee must follow CDFW-approved relocation plan, to be attached to the permit.
No Work Buffers	If avoiding WJT on-site, clear 50-foot no-work buffers must be implemented around avoided trees.
Trenching	No trenching activities within 50 feet of retained WJT during storm events.
Fire Prevention	Actions to prevent impacts to WJT from fire.
Integrated Pest Management	Actions to minimize the potential for pests to enter the project site, and restrictions on the uses of rodenticides, herbicides, and insecticides.

Fees

Prior to the WJTCA, the Western Joshua Tree Mitigation Fund, was created pursuant to Section 749.10 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations for the purpose of holding mitigation fees related to any Fish and Game Code Section 2084 regulation adopted by the Commission to allow take of WJT during

its candidacy under CESA. Fish and Game Code section 1927.5 renamed the Western Joshua Tree Mitigation Fund to the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund. This Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

The Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund includes or may in the future include: 1) fees collected prior to the WJTCA under the 2084 regulation, 2) fees collected pursuant to the WJTCA, 3) interest and earnings on the principal in the fund, and 4) penalties and settlement funds received pursuant to Natural Resource Damage Assessment cases, enforcement actions, and administrative hearings.

In-lieu mitigation fees are paid into the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund in the State Treasury. WJTCA ITP applicants pay a statutorily prescribed mitigation fee per WJT that will be taken (living or dead) by their project. The mitigation fee for each tree size class is defined in [Fish and Game Code section 1927.3\(d\) and \(e\)](#) and annually adjusted per [Fish and Game Code section 1927.8\(b\)](#).

Quarterly, CDFW transfers the collected funds from the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund in the State Treasury to the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund at NFWF. Expenditures are paid only from the fund at NFWF.

Amount of Fees Paid

During FY 23-24, \$3,075,570 of in-lieu fees were paid by WJTCA ITP applicants.

Amount of all Expenditures from the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund

During FY 23-24, \$576,130.31 were expended from the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund.

Projects and Actions Funded by Expenditures from the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund

One land acquisition purchase of 283 acres was executed for a set of parcels that collectively make up WJT Conservation Fund Project #1. Actions to-date to execute this project include the property purchase, property protections, and real estate due diligence review. Additional funds will be committed to cover management costs for this property. Other Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund expenditures not associated with a conservation project include the NFWF Fund Management Fee, and the Request for Qualification fee to hire one or more consultants to assist in locating, acquiring, conserving, and managing conservation lands, and completing other mitigation actions as described in [Fish and Game Code section 1927.6, subdivision \(d\)\(1\)](#). Table 7 provides details of

the expenditures during FY 23-24.

Table 7: Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund expenditures during the 23-24 state fiscal year

Project/Action	Cost
WJT Conservation Fund Project #1	\$410,178.96
Land Acquisition Purchase	\$345,331.76
Property Protections	\$7,644.70
Real Estate Due Diligence Review	\$57,202.50
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	\$165,951.35
Fund Management Fee	\$145,699.35
Request for Qualification	\$20,252.00
Total Expenditures	\$576,130.31

Adequacy of the Fees to Conserve the Western Joshua Tree

CDFW cannot yet assess if the current fees will be sufficient to conserve WJT. In accordance with [Fish and Game Code section 1927.8, subdivision \(b\)](#), CDFW must annually adjust the fees for inflation, and by December 31, 2026, and every three years thereafter, CDFW shall adopt and subsequently amend regulations pursuant to Section 702 adjusting the fees as necessary to ensure the conservation of the species. As the first fee adjustment will not be conducted until 2026, there is no data to include in this report related to evaluating the adequacy of the current fee schedule.

Conservation

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1927.6, subdivision (c), CDFW must use any fees deposited into the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Fund for the purpose of addressing threats to WJT, including, but not limited to, acquiring, conserving, and managing WJT conservation lands. Any land purchases funded by CDFW will be managed in perpetuity for the benefit of WJT. With the forthcoming guidance of the conservation plan, CDFW looks forward to purchasing and protecting more lands for WJT woodland conservation in the coming years.

Number and Location of Acres of Western Joshua Tree Woodlands Conserved

As mentioned, CDFW funded the purchase of one land acquisition consisting of three parcels during FY 23-24. This first acquisition includes parcel A (161-acres) and parcel B (82-acres) that are adjacent to one another, and parcel C (40-acres) approximately 0.75 miles to the east. All parcels are located in Kern County. Table 8 contains the number and location of acres of conserved WJT woodlands for FY 23-24.

Table 8: Acres of western Joshua tree woodlands conserved during the 23-24 state fiscal year

Location	Number of projects	Woodland conserved (acres)
Kern County	1	283

Quality of the Acres Conserved

The land acquisition parcels contain approximately 1.3 miles of dirt road and no permanent structures. The adjoined parcel A and B are surrounded on three of four sides by U.S. Forest Service land. Parcel C is surrounded on three of four sides by Bureau of Land Management land designated as wilderness under the federal Wilderness Act. There are at least two spring sources on the parcel B and approximately 1.07 miles of an ephemerally flowing creek through all parcels. Although most of the area was previously burned in 2016, many WJT occupy the site and were resprouting from the bases of larger burned WJT. An official inventory of WJT and site conditions is scheduled for 2025. The land also holds cultural significance for at least two tribal groups, the Tübatulabals of Kern Valley and the Kern Valley Indian Community. The Native American Land Conservancy, which holds the title for the parcels, will manage it for the mutual benefit of the tribal groups and preservation of WJT.

There currently is no set of standards to determine WJT woodland quality. The Nature Conservancy of California conducted an ecoregional assessment that aimed to synthesize the distribution of biodiversity conservation values in the Mojave Desert region to help inform planning and management for land use and conservation investment across the region (Randall et. al 2010). The assessment assigned conservation value throughout the ecoregion according to the following classifications: ecologically core, ecologically intact, moderately degraded, and highly converted. The Conservation Plan will also use this classification system to prioritize different management actions throughout the WJT range. For the purposes of this legislative report, the conservation value classifications defined in the 2010 assessment will serve as a proxy for WJT woodland quality. Using the definitions from the 2010 assessment,

outlined in [Appendix B](#), CDFW classified the 283-acre parcels in Kern County as “ecologically core” due to the little fragmentation, proximity to federal lands, and intact ecological services (i.e., water sources).

Actions Taken Pursuant to the Conservation Plan

During FY 23-24, the Conservation Plan was being developed by CDFW, therefore no actions have yet to occur. The Commission will make a final decision on the completed Conservation Plan by June 30, 2025. Once finalized, actions taken as defined in the Conservation Plan will be included in future reports.

Summarized Information Provided by Counties and Cities Pursuant to Agreements Entered Into Pursuant to Subdivision (c) of Section 1927.3 and Subdivision (b) of Section 1927.4

Pursuant to the WJTCA, CDFW may enter into an agreement with any county, city, or town to delegate limited authority to permit the taking of a WJT associated with developing single-family residences, multifamily residences, accessory structures, and public works projects. CDFW may similarly enter into an agreement with any county or city to delegate limited authority to permit the removal of dead WJTs and the trimming of live or dead WJTs.

During FY 23-24, no local agreements were entered into between CDFW and a county, city, or town. CDFW participated in several discussions with interested municipalities and continues to coordinate with local agencies that may be interested in this option. CDFW hopes to execute agreements in the future.

Conclusion

The WJTCA has been an important step forward in addressing the conservation needs of WJT. As development progresses and encroaches WJT's habitat, the fees, resources, and monitoring outlined in the WJTCA will become increasingly necessary for conservation of the species. The WJTCA has created a path for permittees and project proponents to work and live within WJT habitat. The WJTCA has helped standardize WJT permitting and conservation procedures and allowed CDFW to monitor WJT protection.

During the first year of implementation, CDFW established new WJT permitting processes, developed templates and procedures, drafted plans and guidance documents, and trained staff to assist with these efforts. This has laid the groundwork to move forward with efficient permitting and fund management. With the guidance of the conservation plan coming in fiscal year 2024-25, CDFW looks forward to directing efforts toward conservation and utilizing fee funds for

additional conservation opportunities for WJTs.

As WJT conservation progresses, CDFW will continue to collaborate with various federal, state, and local agencies, researchers, the public, and California Native American tribes for successful and long-term management of WJT. The WJT is an iconic species with cultural and ecological value. It should continue to be managed for its longevity, and for the benefit and enjoyment of all Californians.

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APPENDIX A

Fish and Game Code – Reporting Requirements

Section 1927.7

- a) Beginning in 2025, by January 31 of each calendar year, the department shall submit an annual report to the commission and the Legislature assessing the conservation status of the western Joshua tree, including, but not limited to, by detailing the number of permits issued, the number and size class of western Joshua trees authorized to be taken, the number of western Joshua trees lethally removed, the number and location of western Joshua trees relocated, the number and location of acres of western Joshua tree woodlands developed, the type, scope, and scale of mitigation measures undertaken by permittees, the number and location of acres of western Joshua tree woodlands conserved, the quality of the acres conserved, the amount of fees paid, the amount of all expenditures from the fund, the projects and actions funded by expenditures from the fund, the adequacy of the fees to conserve the western Joshua tree, actions taken pursuant to the conservation plan, and other relevant information. The department's annual report shall summarize the information provided by counties and cities pursuant to agreements entered into pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1927.3 and subdivision (b) of Section 1927.4.
- b) The report to the Legislature pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be submitted in accordance with Section 9795 of the Government Code.

APPENDIX B

WJT Woodland Quality Categories

Conservation Value Category	Definition
Ecologically Core	These lands of highest conservation value are largely undisturbed and unfragmented and support the conservation targets (species, ecological systems, springs, and seeps). Their value is also dependent on the connectivity to other ecologically core areas and the amount of ecologically intact and even moderately degraded land that surround them. Their full protection is critical for long-term conservation of biodiversity in the Mojave Desert.
Ecologically Intact	These lands of high conservation value are largely undisturbed and unfragmented and support conservation targets. They buffer ecologically core lands and require levels of protection that will allow them to remain relatively undisturbed to preserve ecological processes and to provide viable habitat and connectivity for native animals, plants, and communities. Most ecologically intact lands are functionally equivalent to ecologically core lands and may contain many of the same conservation targets, including sensitive species. However, they may have been classified as ecologically intact because they support more widespread ecological systems, are at higher risk of degradation, or support conservation targets for which the conservation goals have already been met on ecologically core lands.
Moderately Degraded	These lands are fragmented by roads or off-road-vehicle trails or are in close proximity to urban, agricultural, or other developments. They often maintain ecological functionality (e.g., maintain groundwater infiltration and flow, serve as sand sources, provide connectivity) or provide habitat for native species, including the conservation targets selected for this analysis.
Highly Converted	These urban, suburban, and agricultural lands are heavily altered. Whereas some can support important conservation targets, their ecological context is highly compromised.

Source: Randall et al. 2010