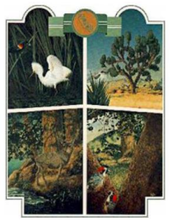
Conservation Analysis Unit

The Conservation Analysis Unit **maintains authoritative datasets** on California's wildlife, vegetation and habitats, **conducts research** to address conservation questions, and develops and maintains a **suite of tools** which leverage this information to assist a variety of stakeholders with **conservation decision-making**.

Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE)

Areas of Conservation Emphasis is a CDFW effort to gather spatial data on wildlife, vegetation, and habitats from across the state, and then synthesize this information into thematic maps to help inform discussions on the conservation of biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and climate change resiliency. The ACE maps provide a coarse level view of information for conservation planning purposes.

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR)

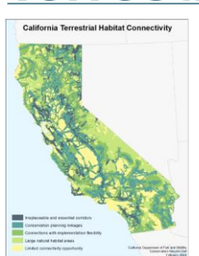


The California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System contains life history, geographic range, and management information for more than 700 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals that regularly occur within the state. CWHR also contains detailed information on 59 habitat types and their spatial distributions. The core of the CWHR system is a database which relates these species to each of the habitats which support them, and an intuitive user interface enabling users to query this information.

Range and Distribution Mapping and Analysis Project (RADMAP)

The Range and Distribution Mapping and Analysis Project develops and maintains a library of species habitat models (SHM) and range maps, with a focus on imperiled plants and animals. The SHM maps show the locations in the landscape where the habitat conditions are most likely to support the species. Each SHM in the RADMAP library has been reviewed by a species expert and has associated metadata describing modeling methods, validation statistics, and the list of environmental variables used.

Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity



The Conservation Analysis Unit (CAU) develops and maintains spatial data and models of wildlife movement, corridors, and habitat connectivity across California. These maps and models are used by scientists and decision-makers to inform how to best conserve habitat connectivity, or the ability of species and ecological processes to move through the landscape. For an overview and links to connectivity work conducted by other CDFW programs, visit the CDFW Science Institute Habitat Connectivity webpage.