California State Wildlife Action Plan Update 2015

Great Valley Ecoregion

DRAFT STRATEGY: Great Valley Riparian

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

SWAP California State Wildlife Action Plan

GOALS

1. By 2025, the area of protected riparian habitat increases by 2%

2. By 2025, establish a flow regime that is sufficient to support existing and future desirable habitat condition.

3. By 2025, establish buffers between agriculture activities and river corridors

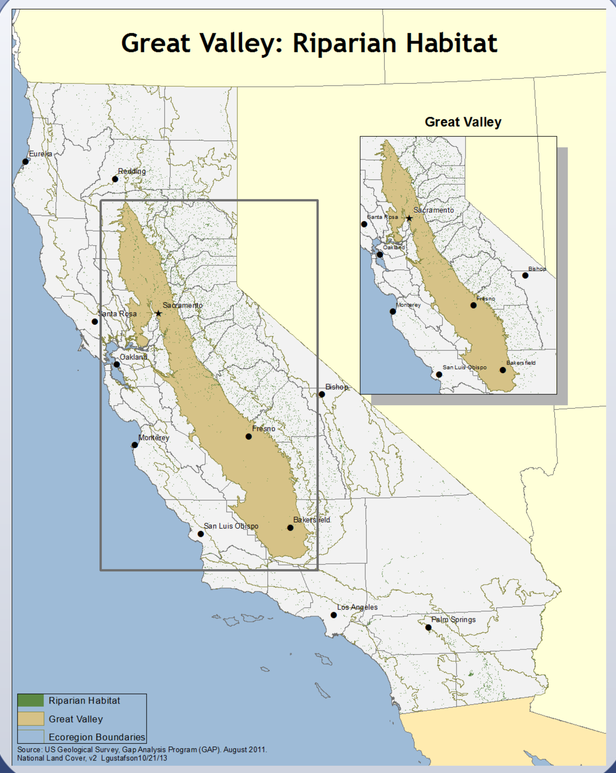
4. By 2025, identify and fill gaps in riparian vegetation along major rivers

5. By 2025, increase the amount of riparian habitat in the ecoregion by 20,000 acres over ten years.

6. By 2025, plan and implement direct management, eradication, or adaptive management of invasive species to optimize native habitats.

7. By 2025, begin moving away from sheet irrigation and tile drains in SJ valley

8. By 2025, treat invasive species on CDFW lands

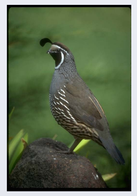


The State Wildlife Action Plan examines the health of wildlife and prescribes actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect. The plan also promotes wildlife conservation while furthering responsible development and addressing the needs of a growing human population.

SENSITIVE SPECIES

Giant garter snake
Yellow billed-cuckoo
Swainson's hawk
Bank swallow
Golden eagle
Ringtail
Bewick's wren
Black-crowned night heron
Broad-footed mole
California giant salamander
California quail
Common ensantina
Common yellowthroat
Deer mouse
Foothill yellow-legged frog
Fringe myotis
Gopher snake
Great blue heron
Great egret
Hutton's vireo
Long-eared myotis
Long-eared owl
Mountain lion
Northern river otter
Osprey
Ringneck snake
Song sparrow
Spotted towhee
Tricolored blackbird
Western mastiff bat
Western pond turtle
Western skink
Western small-footed myotis
Western spotted skunk
Yellow warbler
Yellow-breasted chat
Porcupine
Riparian woodrat
Greater white-front goose
Valley elderberry long-horned beetle
Bald eagle
Red-legged frog

Giant garter snake © 2004 Jeremiah Easter


California quail. H. Vannoy Davis © California Academy of Sciences


Foothill yellow-legged frog © 2004 Pierre Fidenci

California condor © 2008 Ram Vasudev


Western pond turtle © 2003 Pierre Fidenci


Spotted skunk Alden M. Johnson © California Academy of Sciences.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES

Change in annual average temperatures

Change in Annual average precipitation

Change in snow pack

Change in snow cover period

Changes in sediment erosion-deposition regime

Changes in natural fire regime

Changes in extreme events

Change in pollutants

Changes in soil chemistry

Change in runoff and river flow

Changes in water levels and hydroperiod

Change in flood occurrence, frequency, intensity, and area flooded (including hydroperiod)

Loss or change in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)

Changes in functional processes of ecosystem

Changes succession processes and ecosystem development

Habitat fragmentation

Change in water pollutants

Change is water temperature

Dusky-footed woodrat © 2010 Rob Schell

HUMAN RELATED IMPACTS

Roads and railroads

Utility & service lines

Recreational activities

Housing and urban areas

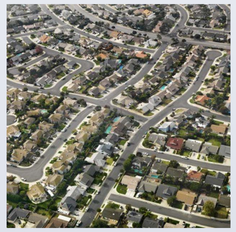
Dams & water management/use

Invasive plants/animals

Annual & perennial non-timber crops

Livestock farming & ranching


Bull thistle. Photo courtesy of Bob Case


Development


OHV use

Railroads

STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Develop and implement HCP/NCCP
   a. Objectives
      i. Ensure riparian habitats are included in the development of valley floor HCP
      ii. Ensure riparian habitat is covered in BDCP
      iii. Advocate for wildlife
      iv. FERC re-license process streamlined and includes conditions support ecosystem conservation
      v. Ensure projects identified in the HCPs/NCCPs are compatible to ecosystem conservation.
   b. Activities
      i. Coordinate with stakeholders
      ii. Obtain funding for implementation and staffing
      iii. Provide funding grants for coordination and feasibility study
2. Effective Law Enforcement
   a. Objectives
      i. Compliance with water rights and F&G Code 1600 agreements
      ii. Reduced illegal diversions
      iii. Increase LED staffing levels
   b. Activities
      i. Include BMPs as enforceable condition of SAA and water right permit/license
      ii. Advocate for opportunities to improve prosecutions of environmental laws and illegal diversions
      iii. Identify partners to improve enforcement capabilities
      iv. Evaluate and increase LED staffing levels
      v. Obtain funding for implementation and staffing
3. Provide Education & Outreach
   a. Objectives
      i. Educate private landowners on invasive species identification and management
      ii. Raise public awareness of the values of riparian habitats
      iii. Recruit public participation in monitoring invasive species and rapid response
      iv. Inform public of grazing BMP and wildlife friendly land use policy
   b. Activities
      i. Develop goals and objectives, core message
      ii. Identify target audience
      iii. Develop program for the general public, and partnering agencies/organizations
      iv. Conduct public training workshops
      v. Obtain funding for implementation and staffing
4. Conduct research
   a. Objectives
      i. Provide adequate data necessary for the development of invasive species and grazing BMPs
      ii. Provide adequate data necessary for the water flow best management.
   b. Activities
      i. Identify study questions, develop study design
      ii. Conduct literature review, coordinate with experts
      iii. Obtain funding for implementation and staffing
5. Manage water flows
   a. Objectives
      i. Restore critical flow dynamics to benefit riparian ecosystem function
   b. Activities
      i. Obtain funding for implementation and staffing
      ii. Coordinate with State, Federal, counties and local water districts
      iii. Coordinate with Floodsafe and local flood agencies
      iv. Identify and prioritize critical streams to restore flow dynamics
      v. Conduct assessment of needed flows
      vi. Assess opportunities for dam removal on smaller streams
      vii. Identify working groups focused on flow and ecological function
      viii. Identify and review existing local groundwater policies to inform future policy recommendations
      ix. Encourage setback levees to restore hydrological and geomorphic function.

TEAM

Name	Organization	Roles
Joshua Bush	CDFW-R2	Team Lead
Bob Parris	FWS	Team Member
Erin Tennant	CDFW-R4	Team Member
Krista Tomlinson	CDFW-R4	Team Member
Greg Yarris	Central Valley Joint Venture	Team Member