

**State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2015**  
**Southern California Coast Region**  
**Grassland Habitat**

**About Our Region** The Southern California Coast ecoregion includes the coastal plain and hill portions of the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego, as well as the Channel Islands. The area is characterized by a Mediterranean-like climate – mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers with brief periods of drought.

**What are the sensitive species found in the grassland habitat?** The following 24 grassland dependent species from this region are found to be sensitive:

**Amphibian**

ARROYO TOAD	CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER
SPADEFoot TOAD	

**Reptile**

SOUTHWESTERN POND TURTLE

**Bird**

BELL SAGE SPARROW	LONG-BILLED CURLEW
BURROWING OWL	LONG-EARED OWL
CALIFORNIA CONDOR	NORTHERN HARRIER
FERRUGINOUS HAWK (Wintering)	SHORT-EARED OWL
GOLDEN EAGLE	TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD
GREATER ROADRUNNER	WHITE-FACED IBIS
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	WHITE-TAILED KITE

**Mammal**

AMERICAN BADGER	SAN DIEGO BLACK-TAILE JACKRABBIT
PALLID BAT	SOUTHERN GRASSHOPPER MOUSE
PALLID SAN DIEGO POCKET MOUSE	WESTERN MASTIFF BAT

**What do we find important for recovering and sustaining healthy grassland habitat?** Ecological conditions that are found to be most critical to sustain healthy grassland habitat in this region are:

- Area and extent
- Biotic interactions

- Successional dynamics
- Connectivity
- Channel Morphology
- Hydrological regime
- Surface Water Flow Regime
- Water level fluctuations
- Community structure and composition

Degraded ecological conditions that are found to be impacting the grassland habitat in this region are:

- Changes in precipitation
- Changes in CO2 level
- Changes in air temperature
- Changes in soil moisture
- Changes in soil nutrients
- Increase in pollutant amount and concentration
- Habitat fragmentation
- Changes in spatial extent
- Changes in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)
- Changes in community structure or composition
- Changes in natural fire regime

Human related activities and issues that are found to be sources of potential impacts to the grassland habitats are:

- Invasive plant/animal species
- Housing and urban areas
- Annual & perennial non-timber crops
- Inappropriate livestock farming & ranching
- Greenhouse gas emission
- Incompatible recreational activities
- Fire & fire suppression

### **More questions?**

1. Come talk to us and ask questions at scoping meetings!
2. Check our Website: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/SWAP/>
3. Provide written comments

By email to: [SWAP@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:SWAP@wildlife.ca.gov)

By mail: Armand Gonzales  
 California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1341-B  
 Sacramento, CA 95814