

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

SPADEFoot TOAD

CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER

Reptile

SOUTHWESTERN POND TURTLE

Bird

BELL SAGE SPARROW

BURROWING OWL

CALIFORNIA CONDOR

FERRUGINOUS HAWK (Wintering)

GOLDEN EAGLE

GREATER ROADRUNNER

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

LONG-EARED OWL

NORTHERN HARRIER

SHORT-EARED OWL

TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD

WHITE-FACED IBIS

WHITE-TAILED KITE

Mammal

AMERICAN BADGER

PALLID BAT

PALLID SAN DIEGO POCKET MOUSE

SAN DIEGO BLACK-TAILED JACKRABBIT

SOUTHERN GRASSHOPPER 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

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