

California State Wildlife Action Plan Update 2015

Southern California Coast

DRAFT STRATEGY: California Annual and Perennial Grassland



GOALS

1. Connectivity among communities and ecosystems; Structural connectivity: By 2025 more linkages between remaining locations are conserved.
2. Community structure or composition; Vegetation structure: By 2025, acres of grassland (both native and not-native dominated) with thatch <10% of the total cover and standing biomass <15 cm high is increased.
3. Area and extent of community: By 2025, area occupied by the community throughout South Coast is maintained or increased.
4. Connectivity among communities and ecosystems: By 2025, gene flow between grassland patches is maintained within 90% of surrogate species range.
5. Community structure or composition: By 2025, increase number of grassland patches that support viable populations of fossorial mammals.
6. Community structure or composition; Native forb cover: By 2025, native forb relative cover is increased to 30% or more in sites with key attributes for supporting native forbs.
7. Community structure or composition; Native grass cover: By 2025, native grass relative cover is increased to 50% or more in sites with key attributes for supporting native grasslands.
8. Area and extent of community: By 2025, range of grassland SGCNs maintained or increased.
9. Community structure and composition: By 2025, there is an increase in number of ponded water locations proximal to grasslands.

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.

STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Acquisition of grassland areas
 - a. Objectives
 - i. Protect high quality grassland habitat
 - b. Activities
 - i. In lieu fee program
 - ii. Develop CAPP
 - iii. Identify and prioritize areas of conservation emphasis (ACE)
 - iv. Obtain funding for plan implementation
 - v. Identify existing conserved areas
 - vi. Direct project mitigation to priority areas needing conservation
 - vii. Direct and use conservation banking
 - viii. Create ACE database viewable by all CDFW staff
 - ix. Split parcels for conservation
2. Provide input on local planning
 - a. Objectives
 - i. Influence decision-makers to protect high value grasslands
 - b. Activities
 - i. Identify and prioritize areas of conservation emphasis (ACE)
 - ii. Identify existing conserved areas
 - iii. Direct project mitigation to priority areas needing conservation
 - iv. Direct and use conservation banking
 - v. Create ACE database viewable by all CDFW staff
 - vi. Split parcels for conservation
 - vii. Incorporate conservation goals and BMPs into CEQA comment letters
 - viii. Provide input at meetings
 - ix. Obtain funding for plan implementation
3. Data Gathering and analysis
 - a. Objectives
 - i. Establish baseline inventory of SGCN distribution
 - b. Activities
 - i. Gather existing information
 - ii. Identify partners
 - iii. Coordinate with landowners
 - iv. Obtain funding for plan implementation
 - v. Establish prioritization
 - vi. Identify inventory protocol
 - vii. Conduct surveys
 - viii. Analyze spatial distribution using GIS
4. Invasive species management
 - a. Objectives
 - i. Control invasive species
 - b. Activities
 - i. Identify areas with greatest restoration potential
 - ii. Develop management plans
 - iii. Identify funding sources to implement management plans
 - iv. Partner with Cal IPC on training, management, and advocacy
 - v. Partner with Cal IPC on training, management, and advocacy
 - vi. Identify restoration success criteria
 - vii. Develop and implement monitoring plan
 - viii. Implement priority invasive removal
 - ix. Develop invasive plant tax
 - x. Develop public outreach program
 - xi. Restore & enhance native plant species
 - xii. Obtain funding for plan implementation

SENSITIVE SPECIES

- Arroyo Toad
- California tiger salamander
- Spadefoot toad
- Southwestern pond turtle
- 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
- American badger
- Pallid bat
- Pallid San Diego pocket mouse
- San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit
- Southern grasshopper mouse
- Western mastiff bat
- Quino checkerspot butterfly



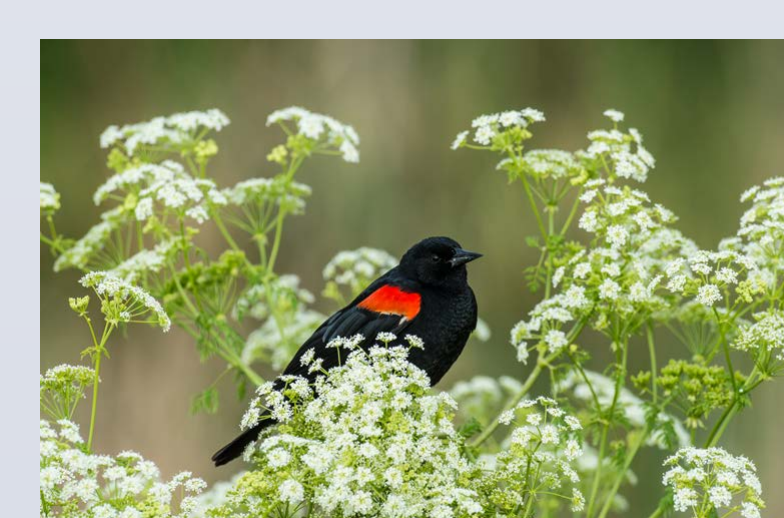
Arroyo Toad. John H. Tashjian © California Academy of Sciences



Roadrunner. © 2013 Ron Wolf



California Tiger Salamander. Gerald and Buff Corsi © California Academy of Sciences



Red-winged blackbird. Gerald and Buff Corsi © California Academy of Sciences



Jackrabbit © 2009 John W. Wall

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES

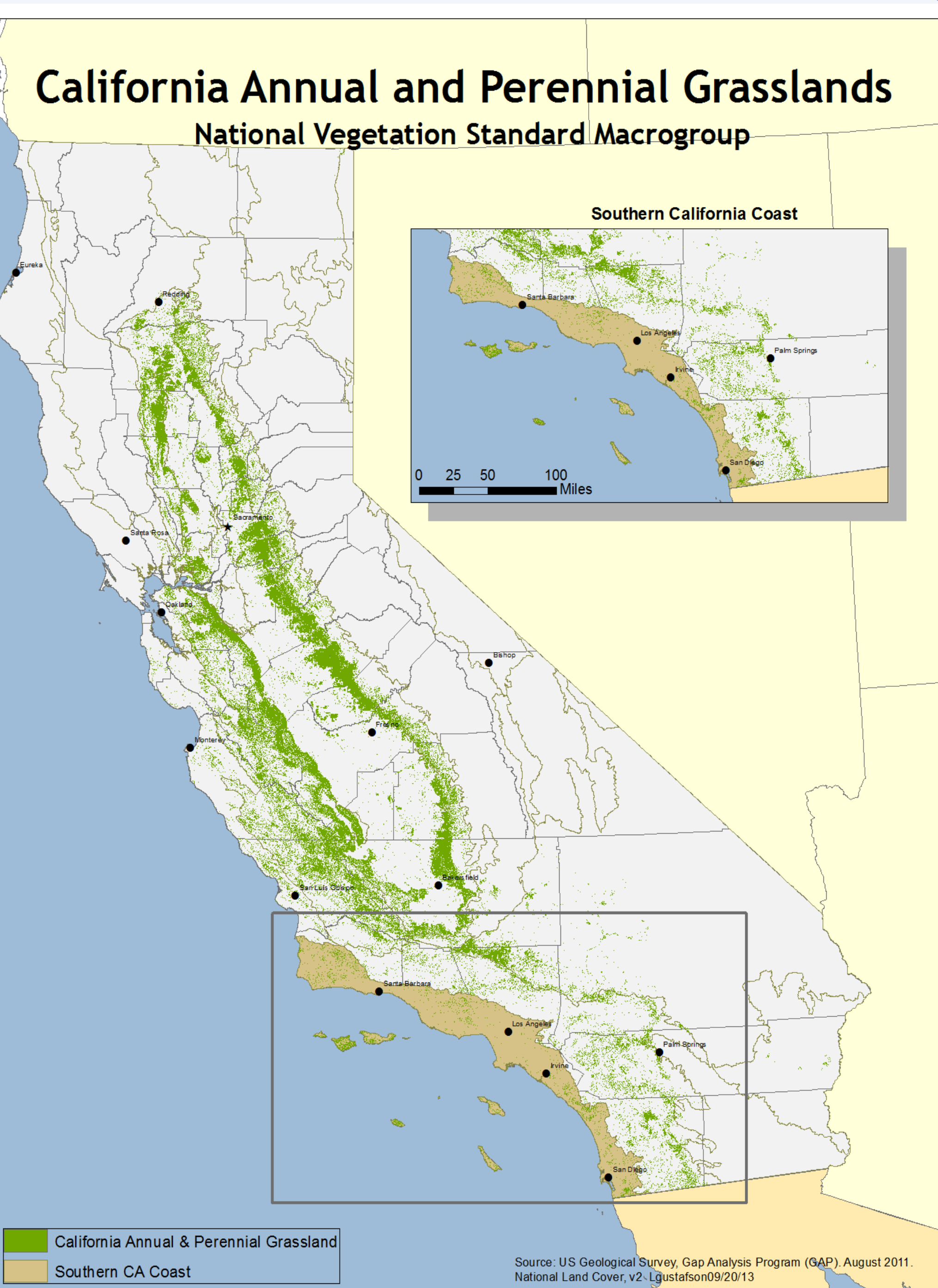
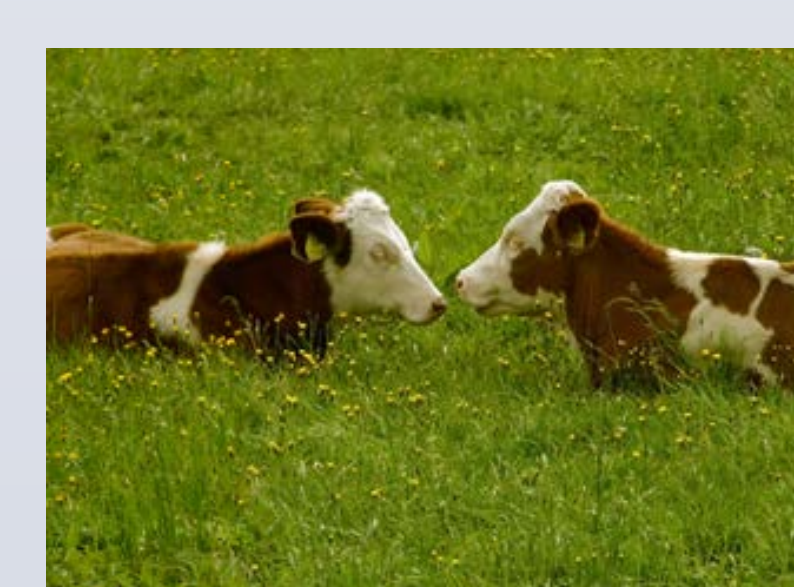
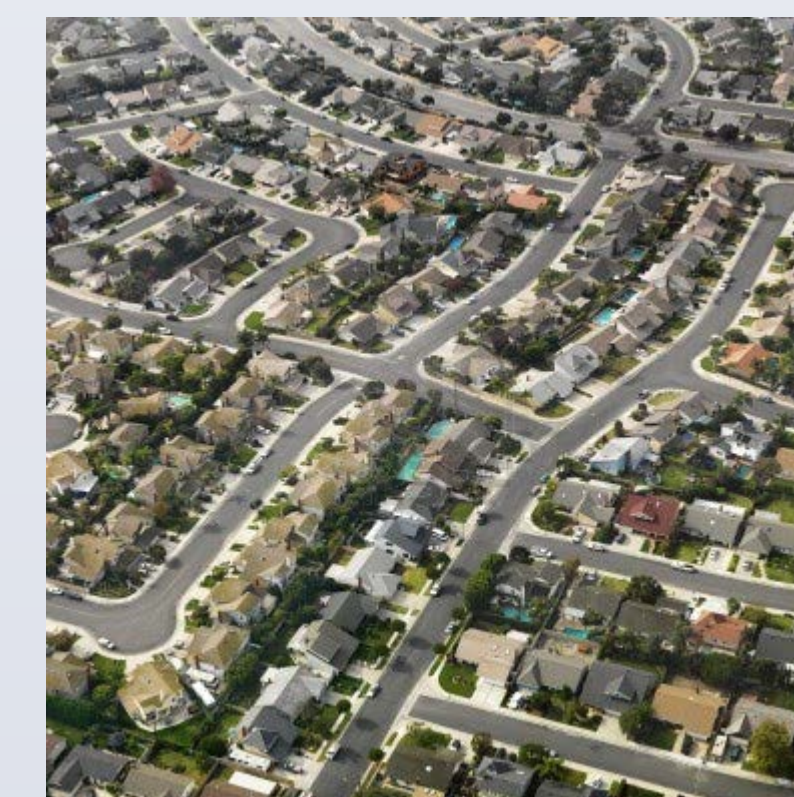
- Changes in community structure or composition
- Changes in natural fire regime
- Changes in soil moisture
- Changes in nutrients
- Changes in spatial extent of target
- Changes in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)
- Habitat fragmentation
- CC: Changes in CO2 levels
- CC: Changes in air temperature
- CC: Changes in Precipitation
- Changes in average winter precipitation
- Changes in pollutants

HUMAN RELATED IMPACTS

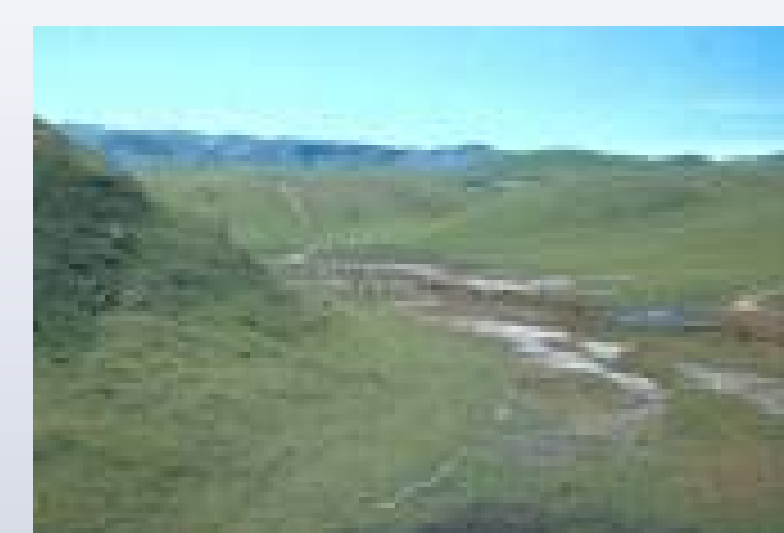
- Invasive plant/Animal species
- Housing and urban areas
- Inappropriate annual & perennial non-timber crops
- Inappropriate livestock farming & ranching
- Greenhouse gas emission
- Incompatible recreational activities
- Fire & fire suppression



Bull thistle. Photo courtesy of Bob Case



TEAM



| Name | Organization | Position | Roles |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bryand Duke | CDFW-R5 | Staff Environmental Scientist | Team Member; |
| Dan Blankenship | CDFW-R5 | Staff Environmental Scientist | Team Member; |
| Karen Miner | CDFW-R5 | Senior Environmental Scientist | Leader/Manager; Team Member; |
| Nancy Frost | CDFW-R5 | Environmental Scientist | Process Facilitator; Team Member |

