

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2015

**Southern California Mountain and Valley Region
 Riparian Habitat**

Riparian habitat is found along rivers and stream across the state forming green belts along the running watercourses. Riparian habitat is home for many species providing water, food, escape, and nesting areas. Some species spend their entire life within the habitat (riparian endemic species), while some are frequent visitors from the adjacent lands and some are yet from distance migrating from across the borders.

What are the sensitive species found in the riparian habitat? The following 36 riparian dependent species from this region are found to be sensitive:

Amphibian

ARROYO TOAD
 CALIFORNIA NEWT
 CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG

CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER
 MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED FROG
 WESTERN SPADEFOOT

Reptile

SOUTHWESTERN POND TURTLE

TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE

Bird

BALD EAGLE
 BELTED KINGFISHER
 LEAST BELL'S VIREO
 LONG-EARED OWL
 NORTHERN HARRIER
 OSPREY
 SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW
 FLYCATCHER
 SUMMER TANAGER

SWAINSON'S HAWK
 TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD
 VERMILLION FLYCATCHER
 WHITE-FACED IBIS
 WHITE-TAILED KITE
 YELLOW WARBLER
 YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT
 YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Mammal

BIG FREE-TAILED BAT
 CALIFORNIA LEAF-NOSED BAT
 HOARY BAT
 JACUMBA POCKET MOUSE
 LONG-EARED MYOTIS
 MAINLAND SPOTTED SKUNK

PALLID SAN DIEGO POCKET MOUSE
 POCKETED FREE-TAILED BATRINGTAIL
 SOUTHERN GRASSHOPPER MOUSE
 TOWNSEND BIG-EARED BAT
 WESTERN RED BAT
 YUMA MYOTIS

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

- Changes in precipitation
- Changes in runoff and river flow
- Changes in water levels and hydro-period
- Changes in flood occurrence, frequency, intensity, and area flooded
- Changes in groundwater tables
- Changes in spatial extent of the riparian habitat
- Changes in community structure or composition
- Changes in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)
- Changes in successional processes and ecosystem development
- Habitat fragmentation
- Changes in sediment erosion and deposition regime
- Increase in pollutant amount and concentration

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

- Livestock farming & ranching
- Invasive plant & animal species
- Mining & quarrying
- Roads & railroads
- Recreational activities
- Dams & water Management and uses
- Household sewage & urban waste water
- Avalanches & landslides
- Tourism & recreation areas
- Garbage and solid waste
- Fire & fire suppression
- Housing & urban areas

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

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