California State Wildlife Action Plan Update 2015

Southern California Mountains and Valleys

DRAFT STRATEGY: Southwestern North American Riparian, Flooded and Swamp Forest; Riparian Habitat

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

SWAP California State Wildlife Action Plan

GOALS

1. Area/extent of community: By 2025, area of the community is maintained or increased in every watershed throughout the ecoregion.

2. Biotic interactions: By 2025, at least 65% of riparian habitat (acres) is dominated by native species.

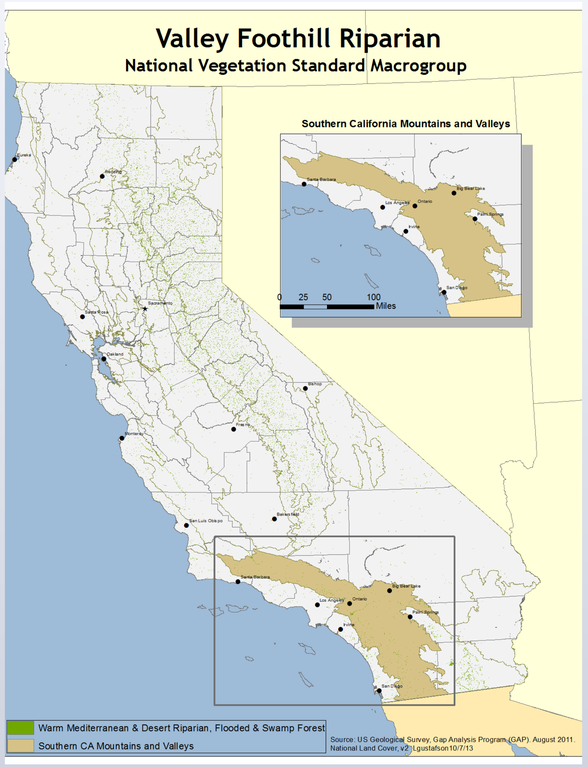
3. Connectivity among communities and ecosystems: By 2025, greater than 50% of the riparian areas display functional connectivity.

4. Connectivity among communities and ecosystems: By 2025, range of more than one riparian SGCN is maintained or increased.

5. Hydrological regime: By 2025, surface water flows, both ephemeral and permanent, are restored to mimic historic patterns (hydrographs) of flooding and low flow patterns (+/- 25%).

6. Connectivity among communities and ecosystems: By 2025, the amount of continuous riparian habitat is increased by 10 %.

7. Community structure and composition: By 2025, the number of stream miles that display the full range of age classes and vegetation layers (herb, shrub, subtree, trees) is increased.



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

- Arroyo Toad
- California Newt
- California Red-Legged Frog
- California Tiger Salamander
- Mountain Yellow-legged Frog
- Western Spadefoot
- Southwestern Pond Turtle
- Two-striped Garter Snake
- 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
- 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 Bat
- Ringtail
- Southern Grasshopper Mouse
- Townsend Big-Eared Bat
- Western Red Bat
- Yuma Myotis


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


Belter Kingfisher. Gerald and Buff Corsi © California Academy of Sciences


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


Townsend's big-eared bat.


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

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES

- Climate Change: change in precipitation
- Change in runoff and river flow
- Change in water levels and hydroperiod
- Change in flood occurrence, frequency, intensity, and area flooded
- Change in groundwater tables
- Change in spatial extent of target
- Change in community structure or composition
- Change in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)
- Change in succession processes and ecosystem development
- Habitat fragmentation
- Change in sediment erosion-deposition regime
- Change in pollutants


Acacia, golden wattle, green wattle or western coastal wattlePhoto by C. Martus

HUMAN RELATED IMPACTS

- Inappropriate livestock farming & ranching
- Invasive Plant/Animal species
- Mining & quarrying
- Roads & railroads
- Incompatible recreational activities
- Dams & water management/Use
- Household sewage & urban waste water
- Avalanches/Landslides
- Tourism & recreation Areas
- Garbage and solid waste
- Fire & fire suppression
- Housing and urban areas

TEAM

Name	Organization	Position	Roles
Heather Pert	CDFW-R5	Staff Environmental Scientist	Team Member;
Bryand Duke	CDFW-R5	Staff Environmental Scientist	Team Member;
Mike Giusti	CDFW-R6	Senior 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;

STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Provide Outreach
   a. Objectives
      i. Areal extent of invasive infestations reduced
      ii. Functioning riparian habitat on private property
      iii. Improved structural diversity
   b. Activities
      i. Identify target audience
      ii. Develop key message
      iii. Conduct economic impact analysis
      iv. Develop public awareness program
      v. Design public education plan
      vi. Partner with others to deliver message
2. Provide input on local planning
   a. Objectives
      i. Areal extent of invasive infestations reduced
      ii. Channel Pattern
      iii. Fewer significant riparian areas are impacted by waste and disturbance
      i. Improved structural diversity
      ii. SGCN diversity
      iii. Improved water volume
   a. Activities
      i. Encourage use of biofilters for urban runoff
      ii. Maintain treated effluent flows into riparian
      iii. Engage in development and implementation of IRWMPs
      iv. Direct increased resources/staffing towards engagement
      v. in local planning
      vi. Encourage appropriate site-specific native riparian plants for adjacent landscaping
      i. Communicate BMPs to local planners
1. Data Gathering and analysis
   a. Objectives
      i. Baseline inventory
   b. Activities
      i. Conduct surveys
      ii. Gather existing information
      iii. Establish prioritization
      iv. Identify inventory protocol
      v. Coordinate with landowners
      vi. Identify partners
      vii. Analyze spatial distribution using GIS
      viii. Baseline Inventory
2. Advocate for Effective Enforcement of Laws
   a. Objectives
      i. Fewer significant riparian areas are impacted by waste and disturbance
      i. Activities
      ii. Identify laws and regulations governing riparian areas and work with governing agencies to apply effectively
      i. Make recommendations to enhance enforcement of existing laws and regulations
      i. Provide law enforcement with maps of critical problem areas
      ii. Create ACE database viewable by all CDFW staff
      iii. Baseline Inventory
1. Acquisition of riparian areas
   a. Objectives
      i. Functioning riparian habitat on private property
      ii. High functioning riparian areas conserved
   b. Activities
      i. In lieu fee program
      ii. Develop CAPP's
      iii. Identify and prioritize areas of conservation emphasis (ACE)
      iv. Identify existing conserved areas
      v. Direct project mitigation to priority areas needing conservation
      vi. Direct and use conservation banking
      vii. Create ACE database viewable by all CDFW staff
      viii. Split parcels for conservation
      ix. Identify which parcels to be acquired in fee or as CE
      x. Baseline Inventory