California State Wildlife Action Plan Update 2015

Sonoran Desert Ecoregion

DRAFT STRATEGY: Desert Scrub

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

SWAP California State Wildlife Action Plan

GOALS

1. By 2025 see 10% of the disturbed conserved areas showing signs of successional dynamics or recovery.

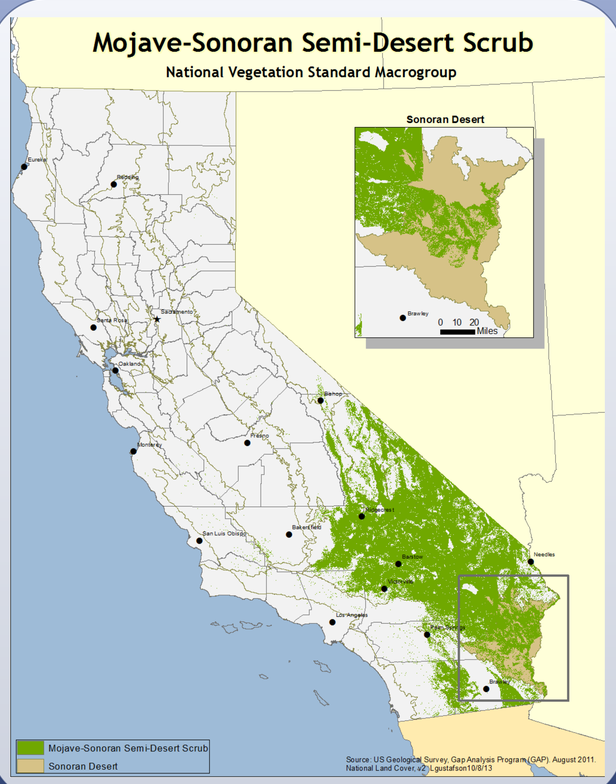
2. By 2025, 25 to 50 percent of the area of the macrogroup is composed of primarily native species.

3. By 2025, At least 25% area of the macrogroup found in the Sonoran desert ecoregion is conserved.

4. By 2025, diet changes due to climate change and seasonal variation is reduced by at least 10% throughout the ecoregion.

5. By 2025, preserve at least 3 major corridors within the Sonoran Ecoregion that will provide for species and genetic exchange.

6. By 2025, there is a 10% increase endemic plant/animal species diversity and conserved habitats provide diverse structural diversity

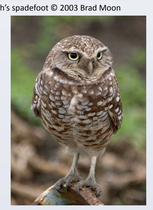


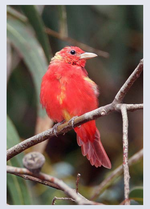
The State Wildlife Action Plan examines the health of wildlife and prescribes actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect. The plan also promotes wildlife conservation while furthering responsible development and addressing the needs of a growing human population.

SENSITIVE SPECIES

Large-billed savannah sparrow
Couch's spadefoot
Tricolored blackbird
Short-eared owl
Long-eared owl
Burrowing owl
Swainson's hawk
Snowy plover
Northern harrier
Yellow warbler
Willow flycatcher
California condor
Yellow-breasted chat
Loggerhead shrike
Summer tanager
Purple martin
Vermillion flycatcher
Bank swallow
Bendire's thrasher
Crissal thrasher
Lucy's warbler
Least Bell's vireo
Gray vireo
Yellow-headed blackbird
Pronghorn antelope
Pallid bat
Mojave ground squirrel
Western mastiff bat
Western yellow bat
California leaf-nosed bat
Mojave River vole
Southern grasshopper mouse
Bighorn sheep
American badger
Red diamond rattlesnake
Desert tortoise
Gila monster
Flat-tailed horned lizard
California legless lizard
Mojave fringe-toed lizard
Golden eagles

Couch's spadefoot © 2003 Brad Moon


Burrowing owl © 2005 Tom Greer tbphotos@comcast.net


Summer tanager © 2008 Ron Wolf

Pronghorn antelope © 2011 Don Getty

Bighorn sheep Dr. K.T. Rogers © California Academy of Sciences

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES

Changes in annual average temperatures increase

Changes in annual average precipitation

Changes in summer average precipitation

Altered spatial distribution of habitat types

Changes in community structure or composition

Loss or change in biotic interactions

Habitat fragmentation

Change in frequency or intensity of extreme events (e.g. droughts)

Bull thistle. Photo courtesy of Bob Case

Wind energy

Desert agriculture

Railroads

Transmission lines

HUMAN RELATED IMPACTS

Renewable Energy

Annual and Perennial Non-Timber Crops

Housing and Urban Areas

Invasive plants/animals

Roads & Railroads

Utility & Service Lines

TEAM

Name	Organization	Name
Gerald Mulcahy	CDFW-R6	Team member
Charlie Land	CDFW-R6	Team member
Cameron Barrows	UC Riverside	Team member
Junko Hoshi	CDFW-HCPB	Team member
Mike Giusti	CDFW-R6	Team Leader
Jack Crayon	CDFW-R6	Team member
Karen Rieze	CDFW-R6	Team member
Jane McKeever	CDFW-R6	Team member

STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Provide input on project planning and decision making process
   a. Objectives
      i. To conserve desert scrub habitat through participation in the planning and decision making processes
   b. Activities
      i. Conduct environmental (CEQA/NEPA) review
      ii. Participate in review of general plans/amendments
      iii. Develop master 1600 permit template consistent with strategy
      iv. Develop standard permit requirements/criteria
      v. Identify and prioritize areas for conservation/protection
      vi. Encourage establishment of mitigation banks
      vii. Develop mitigation alternatives consistent with strategy
      viii. Define success criteria for adaptive management
      ix. Obtain funding to maintain mitigation areas
      x. Conduct PAR analysis for mitigation sites
2. Partner for joint advocacy
   a. Objectives
      i. Increase political awareness for conservation of desert scrub in the Sonoran Desert ecoregion
      ii. Solicit additional funding through grants or legislation
      iii. Advocate for development consistent with strategy
   b. Activities
      i. Coordinate with WCB, OCEO, Leg Office
      ii. Conduct bill analysis related to housing and urban development
      iii. Identify partners (NGOs) to advocate position
      iv. Advocate science based decisions and process
      v. Develop development BMPs
      vi. Identify and prioritize conservation areas
      vii. Conduct economic impact analysis
      viii. Obtain funding to implement strategy
3. Develop HCP, NCCP and management plans
   a. Objectives
      i. Minimize the impact of housing and urban growth through the establishment of conservation plans
   b. Activities
      i. Identify areas and SCGN species to be conserved
      ii. Identify partners in plans
      iii. Obtain funding
      iv. Coordinate with stakeholder, conduct public review and respond to comments
      v. Conduct appropriate environmental review
      vi. Evaluate efficacy of establishing mitigation banks
      vii. Develop regional specific management plans
4. Establish co-management partnership
   a. Objectives
      i. Establish cooperative partnership with all interested groups to conserve habitat target.
      ii. Partnership effectively conserves habitat and species
      iii. Increased funding opportunity through combined resources
      iv. Share management responsibilities
      v. Develop and share baseline data for conservation of SCGN
   b. Activities
      i. Identify and contact NGO's interested in conserving habitat.
      ii. Create working alliance between all interested parties (BLM, CDFW, and NGO's). Others to consider include NPS and CLNWS.
      iii. Identify conservation needs of desert scrub habitat.
      iv. Identify funding sources to implement projects