CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

SWAP California State Wildlife Action Plan

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2015

Colorado Desert Region

Desert Wash Habitat

What are the sensitive species found in the desert wash habitat? The following 15 desert wash species from this region are found to be sensitive:

Amphibian

Couch's Spadefoot

Reptile

Desert Tortoise
Colorado Fringe-toed Lizard
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard
Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard
Red Diamond Rattlesnake

Bird

Loggerhead Shrike
Cooper's Hawk
Burrowing Owl
Crissal Thrasher
Le Conte's Thrasher

Mammal

Desert Bighorn Sheep
Burro Deer
American Badger
Kit Fox

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

- Area and extent
- Community structure and composition
- Connectivity
- Sediment erosion-deposition regime
- Surface Water Flow Regime
- Groundwater level

Degraded ecological conditions that are found to be impacting the desert wash habitat in this region are:

- Change in temperatures
- Change in temp extremes

- Change in precipitation
- Altered spatial distribution
- Habitat fragmentation
- Change in sediment erosion-deposition regime
- Change in fire regime
- Change in Runoff/River flow
- Change in water levels/Hydroperiod
- Change in Flooding
- Change in Functional Processes
- Loss or change in biotic interactions
- Change in community structure or composition
- Change in succession processes and ecosystem development

Human related activities and issues that are found to be sources of potential impacts to the desert wash habitat are:

- Commercial and Industrial Areas
- Mining and Quarrying
- Renewable Energy
- Utility and Service lines
- Incompatible recreational activities
- Military Exercises and Base Expansions
- Housing and Urban Areas
- Tourism & Recreation Areas
- Dams & Water Management/Use
- Roads and Railroads

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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