California State Wildlife Action Plan Update 2015

Colorado Desert

DRAFT STRATEGY: Madrean Warm Semi-Desert Wash Woodland/Scrub; Desert Wash

GOALS

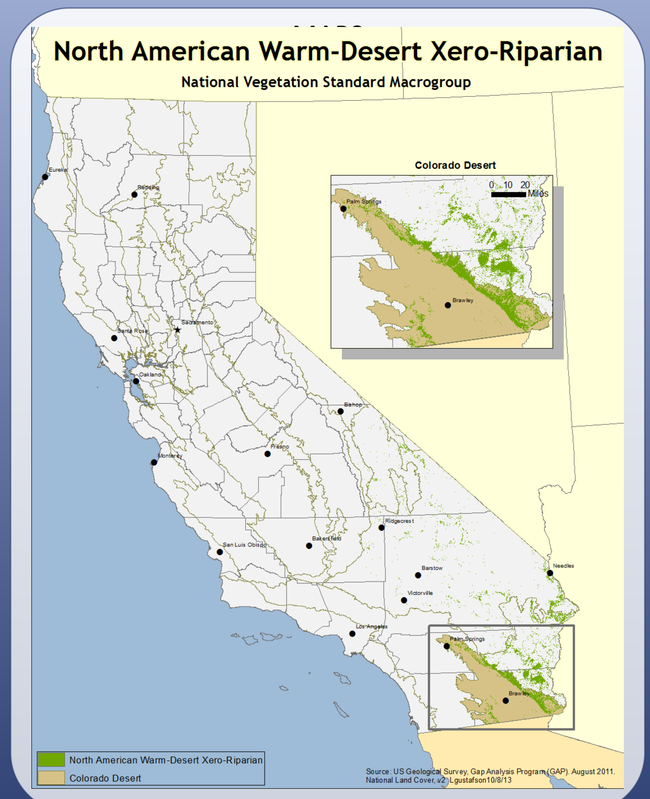
1. By 2025, see an increase in water availability by reconstructing natural flow regimes.

2. By 2025, area of the community distributed throughout the Colorado Desert is maintained.

3. By 2025, endemic plant/animal species diversity and structural diversity is improved.

4. By 2025, negative impacts to Couch's spadefoots, from roads and railroads Operation and Maintenance (O&E) projects, are reduced by 20%.

5. By 2025, see natural erosion-deposition regimes recognized and supported by responsible agencies.

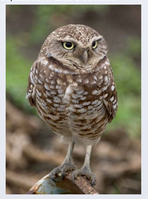


The State Wildlife Action Plan examines the health of wildlife and prescribes actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect. The plan also promotes wildlife conservation while furthering responsible development and addressing the needs of a growing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

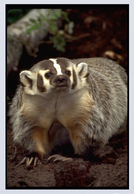
SENSITIVE SPECIES

Couch's Spadefoot
Desert Bighorn Sheep
Burro Deer
American Badger
Kit Fox
Desert Tortoise
Colorado Fringe-toed Lizard
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard
Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard
Red Diamond Rattlesnake
Loggerhead Shrike
Cooper's Hawk
Burrowing Owl
Crissal Thrasher
Le Conte's Thrasher

Couch's spadefoot © 2003 Brad Moon


Burrowing owl © 2005 Tom Greer tbphotos@comcast.net

Desert kit fox © 2010 Benjamin Smith


American badger. Gerald and Buff Corsi © California Academy of Sciences

Desert tortoise. Gerald and Buff Corsi © California Academy of Sciences

Flat-tailed Horned Lizard © 2011 Sam Murray

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

Crissal Thrasher © 2007 Stephen Dowlan

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES

Change in annual average temperatures increase

Change in annual average precipitation

Change in summer average precipitation

Altered spatial distribution of habitat types

Change in community structure or composition

Loss or change in biotic interactions

Change in succession processes and ecosystem development

Habitat fragmentation

Average winter precipitation

Change in temp extremes

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

HUMAN RELATED IMPACTS

Solar energy

Wind energy

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

TEAM

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Name	Organization	Role
Becky Jones	CDFW-R6	Team Member;
Junko Hoshi	CDFW-HCPB	Team Member;
Cameron Barrows	UC Riverside	Team Member;
Jack Crayon	CDFW-R6	Team Member;
Judy Hohman	USFWS	Team Member;
Gerald Mulcahy	CDFW-R6	Team Member;
Mike Giusti	CDFW-R6	Leader/Manager;Team Member;
Karen Riesz	CDFW-R6	Team Member;

STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

1. Develop BMPs for Roads and Railroads
   a. Objectives
      i. Protection of SGCNs via implementation of BMPs
      ii. Avoid and/or minimize adverse effects to KEA from Railroad ROW maintenance and repair
      iii. Avoid and/or minimize adverse effects to KEA from Caltrans construction and repair
   b. Activities
      i. Coordinate with state, federal, local agencies
      ii. Establish working groups to develop BMPs
      iii. Identify priority management actions
      iv. Identify and map sensitive areas
      v. Link to Education and outreach plan
      vi. Obtain funding for implementation
2. Provide education
   a. Objectives
      i. Create awareness within BLM and USFWS of state SGCNs in the RR ROW, and impacts from O and M.
   b. Activities
      i. Develop message
      ii. Identify target audience
      iii. Identify and coordinate with partner agencies and organizations
      iv. Obtain funding for implementation
3. Gather baseline data and conduct research
   a. Objectives
      i. Gather ecological/biological data on species and response of species to disturbance
   b. Activities
      i. Conduct literature review-develop study design
      ii. Define distribution of SGCNs
      iii. Define movement and habitat use patterns of SGCNs
      iv. Determine extent of disturbance from railroad use
      v. Determine SGCN-friendly structure designs
      vi. Develop budget
      vii. Identify funding sources and apply for funding
4. Partner for joint advocacy
   a. Objectives
      i. Educate and engage BLM re: CA listed species and threats from RR activities
      ii. BLM influences Railroads
   b. Activities
      i. Coordinate with state, federal, local agencies
      ii. Define advocacy message/plan
      iii. Establish priorities for sensitive areas
      iv. Identify partner agencies and organizations