

**California State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2015**

**Central California Coast Region  
Annual and Perennial Grassland Habitat**

**About Our Region and the Grassland Habitat**

Annual grassland habitats are open grasslands composed primarily of annual plant species such as introduced annual grasses and forbs. Annual grasslands also occur as understory plants in Valley Oak Woodland and other habitats. Perennial grassland habitats occur as coastal prairie and interspersed within annual grasslands. Vernal pools also are an important habitat component of many grassland systems. The structure of grasslands depends upon prevailing weather patterns and grazing. A number of wildlife species spend their entire life within grasslands while others use grasslands for foraging and breeding.

**What are the sensitive species found in the grassland habitat?** The following 32 grassland dependent species from this region are found to be sensitive:

**Amphibian [3]**

CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER  
RED-LEGGED FROG

WESTERN SPADEFOOT

**Reptile [1]**

BLUNT-NOSED LEOPARD LIZARD

**Bird [15]**

BURROWING OWL  
CALIFORNIA CONDOR  
GIANT KANGAROO RAT  
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW  
GOLDEN EAGLE  
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE  
LONG-BILLED CURLEW  
MOUNTAIN PLOVER

NORTHERN HARRIER  
OREGON VESPER SPARROW  
PURPLE MARTIN  
SAND-HILL CRANE  
SHORT-EARED OWL  
SWAINSON'S HAWK  
TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD

**Mammal [13]**

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  
SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX  
TOWNSEND BIG-EARED BAT  
WESTERN RED BAT

YUMA MYOTI

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

- Area and extent
- Successional dynamics
- Community structure and composition
- Surface water flow regime
- Water level fluctuations

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

- Habitat fragmentation
- Changes in spatial extent
- Changes in community structure or composition
- Changes in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)
- Changes in successional processes and ecosystem development
- Change in air temperature
- Change frequency or intensity of extreme events (e.g., droughts, hurricanes)
- Change currents, upwellings, and wave and spray patterns
- Changes in water levels and hydro-period
- Changes in flood occurrence, frequency, intensity, and area flooded
- Changes in groundwater tables
- Changes in sediment erosion and deposition regime
- Changes in soil moisture
- Changes in soil chemistry
- Changes in natural fire regime

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

- Renewable energy development and operation
- Housing & urban areas
- Commercial & Industrial Areas
- Roads & railroads
- Annual and Perennial Non-Timber Crops
- Invasive plant & animal species
- Fire & fire suppression

### **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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