CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH and WILDLIFE

SWAP California State Wildlife Action Plan

California State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) 2015

Central California Coast Ranges Region
Riparian Habitat

About Our Region and Riparian Habitat

Riparian habitat is found along rivers and streams across the state forming green belts along the running watercourses. Riparian habitat is home for many species providing water, food, escape, and nesting areas. Some species spend their entire life within the habitat (riparian endemic species), while some are frequent visitors from the adjacent lands and some are yet from distance migrating from across the borders.

What are the sensitive species found in the riparian habitat? The following 29 riparian dependent species from this region are found to be sensitive:

Amphibian [5]

ARROYO TOAD
COAST RANGE NEWT
CALIFORNIA GIANT SALAMANDER
CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG FOOTHILL
YELLOW-LEGGED FROG

Reptile [2]

TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE
WESTERN POND TURTLE

Bird [16]

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

Mammal [6]

AMERICAN BEAVER
LONG-LEGGED MYOTIS
SALINAS ORNATE SHREW
RINGTAIL CAT
WESTERN RED BAT
SF DUSKY-FOOTED WOODRA

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

- Area and extent
- Biotic interactions
- Successional dynamics
- Connectivity
- Surface Water Flow Regime
- Soil/Sediment erosion/deposition regime

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

- Changes in temperatures including temperature extremes
- Changes in precipitation
- Sea level rise
- Changes extreme events
- Changes in runoff and river flow
- Changes in water levels and hydro-period
- Changes in groundwater tables
- Changes in spatial extent of the riparian habitat
- Habitat fragmentation
- Changes in community structure or composition
- Changes in biotic interactions (altered community dynamics)
- Changes in sediment erosion and deposition regime
- Changes in natural fire regime
- Increase in pollutant amount and concentration

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

- Housing & urban areas
- Household sewage & urban waste water
- Commercial and industrial areas
- Roads & railroads
- Utilities and service lines
- Mining & quarrying
- Dams & water Management and uses
- Livestock farming & ranching
- Annual and perennial non-timber crops
- Logging and wood harvesting
- Invasive plant & animal species

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

   By email to: SWAP@wildlife.ca.gov

   By mail: Armand Gonzales
   California Department of Fish and Wildlife
   1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1341-B
   Sacramento, CA 95814