

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]

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

Reptile [2]

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE | WESTERN POND TURTLE |
|--------------------------|---------------------|

Bird [16]

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| BALD EAGLE | SWAINSON’S HAWK |
| BELTED KINGFISHER | TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD |
| LEAST BELL’S VIREO | VERMILLION FLYCATCHER |
| LONG-EARED OWL | WHITE-FACED IBIS |
| NORTHERN HARRIER | WHITE-TAILED KITE |
| OSPREY | YELLOW WARBLER |
| SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER | YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT |
| SUMMER TANAGER | YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD |

Mammal [6]

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| AMERICAN BEAVER | RINGTAIL CAT |
| LONG-LEGGED MYOTIS | WESTERN RED BAT |
| SALINAS ORNATE SHREW | 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

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