

# California State Wildlife Action Plan Update 2015

## Modoc Plateau Ecoregion

### DRAFT STRATEGY: Sagebrush Steppe



#### GOALS

- By 2025, in collaboration with fire control agencies, conduct restoration treatments that mimic the natural fire regime and fire return interval in sagebrush steppe habitats
- By 2025, design and implement plans that will result in an increased distribution of sage grouse habitat in the Modoc Plateau ecoregion
- By 2025, in collaboration with land management agencies and the Invasive Plant Council, increase native perennial grasses by decreasing cover by non-natives within the historic sage grouse range
- By 2025, in collaboration with local governments and Resource Conservation District's, minimize additional soil disturbance in intact habitat areas, and advocate for a no-net-loss policy for intact sagebrush steppe habitats
- By 2025, restore the historic level of disturbance in sagebrush steppe habitats through grazing, mechanical treatment, or chemical treatment

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.

#### STRATEGIES, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Advocate for wildlife friendly fire management
  - Objectives
    - Develop policies to reduce invasives species
    - Make the system fire resistant by restoring native vegetation
  - Activities
    - Coordinate with fire agencies to develop BMPs for active and post-fire treatment
    - Review and provide input on firefighting practices
    - Develop comprehensive sage habitat map identifying quality and recommended action during fire
- Manage invasive species
  - Objectives
    - Remove pockets of invasives grasses from otherwise intact sage steppe habitat by reducing the spread of invasive cheat-grass and medusa-head
  - Activities
    - Coordinate with land management agencies
    - Use existing tools i.e. BLM R-value map, to guide restoration and enhancement efforts
    - Set priorities for treatment of invasive species
    - Coordinate with stakeholder/expert groups
- Management partnership/coordination
  - Objectives
    - Restoration in highest priority areas
    - Pool funding and management across agencies
  - Activities
    - Coordinate with potential partners to agree on objective
    - Identify areas needing restoration
    - Coordinate on the development of restoration plans
- Conduct research (data management)
  - Objectives
    - Coordinate management efforts, mapping/prioritization
  - Activities
    - Inventory/Update strategies
    - Assemble existing data and reports to help inform prioritization
    - Coordinate with land management agencies
    - Consider pilot or conduct research
- Conduct controlled burns
  - Objectives
    - Treatment of cheat grass and medusa head at higher elevations for mountain big sage
  - Activities
    - Coordinate with land management agencies
- Develop BMPs
  - Objectives
    - Co-develop BMPs with land management agencies
  - Activities
    - Identify partners and stakeholders
    - Create a sagebrush steppe working group
    - Identify and review existing grazing management policies
    - Develop MOU/MOA between partners
    - Develop BMPs including enforcement policy
    - Provide input to land management agencies on grazing policies

#### SENSITIVE SPECIES

- Sage Sparrow
- Peregrine Falcon
- Golden Eagle
- American Badger
- Black-tailed Jackrabbit
- Burrowing Owl
- Little Pocket Mouse
- California Quail
- Deer Mouse
- Desert Woodrat
- Gopher Snake
- Great Basin Pocket Mouse
- Greater Sage-grouse
- Long-eared Owl
- Pygmy Rabbit
- Vesper Sparrow
- White-tailed Jackrabbit
- Grey Flycatcher
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Sage Thrasher
- Green-tailed Towhee
- Brewer's Sparrow
- W. Sparrow



Golden eagle © 2011 Ron Wolf



Gopher snake © 2009 William Flaxington



Greater sage grouse © 2011 Don Getty



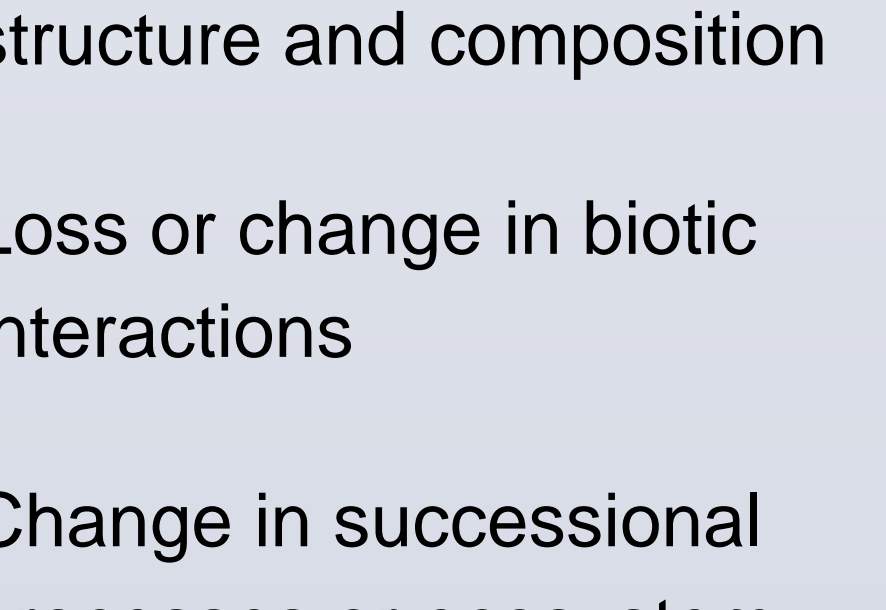
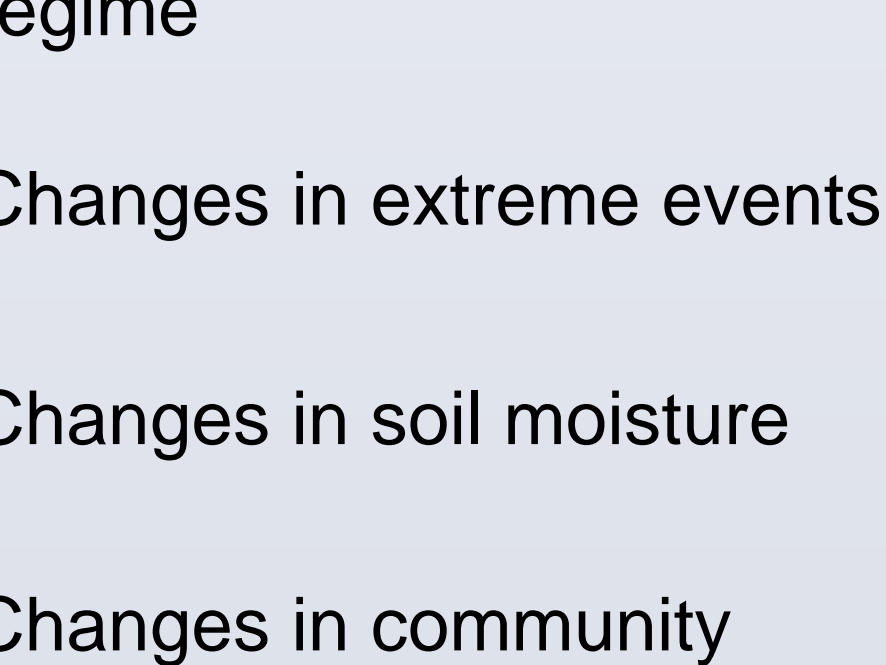
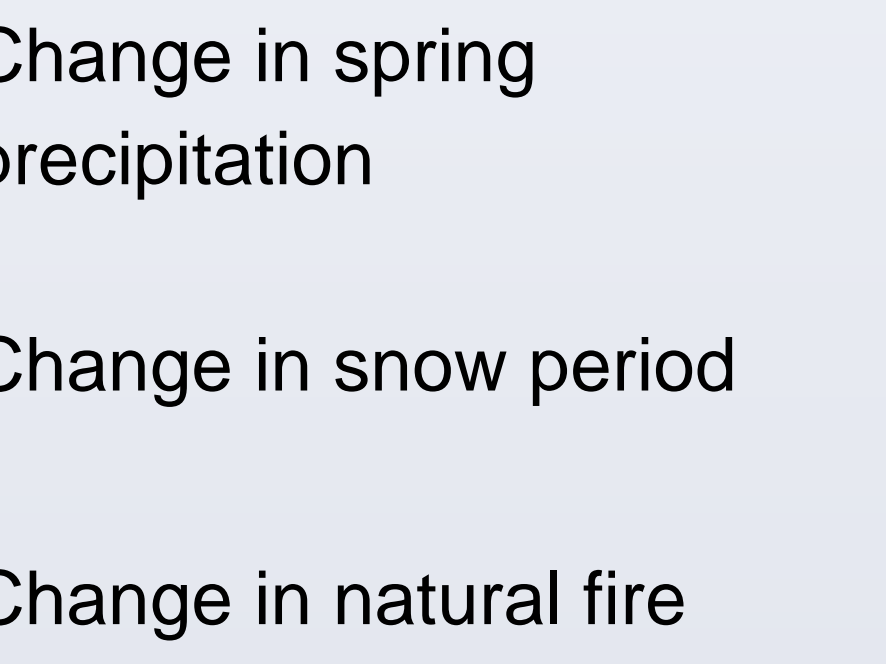
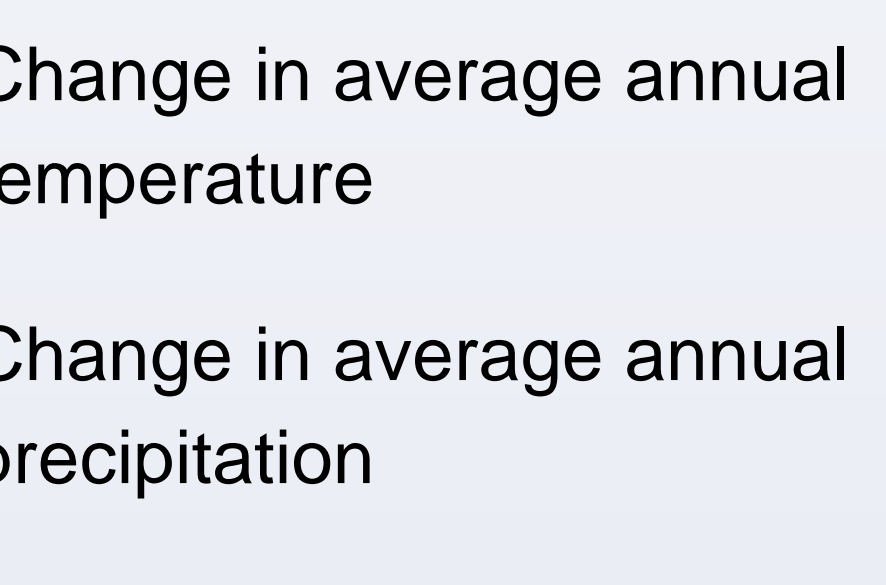
Black-tailed jackrabbit © 2005 Tom Greer tbphotos@comcast.net



Western meadowlark © 2009 R.L. Sivaprasad

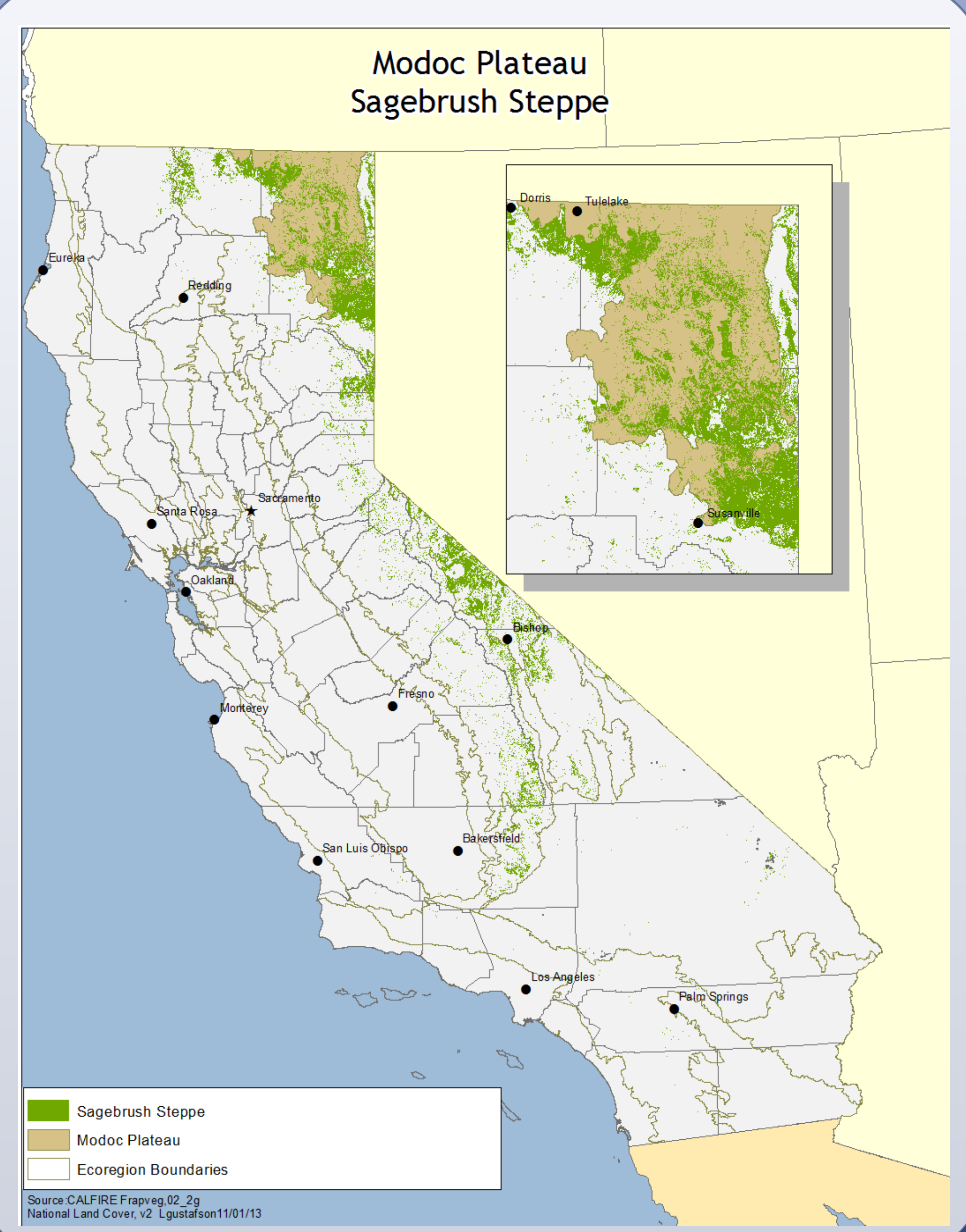
#### ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSES

- Change in average annual temperature
- Change in average annual precipitation
- Change in spring precipitation
- Change in snow period
- Change in natural fire regime
- Changes in extreme events
- Changes in soil moisture
- Changes in community structure and composition
- Loss or change in biotic interactions
- Change in successional processes or ecosystem
- Habitat fragmentation



#### HUMAN RELATED IMPACTS

- Problematic Native Species (Parasites/pathogens)
- Recreational activities
- Utility & Service Lines
- Dams & Water Management/Use
- Renewable Energy
- Annual and Perennial Non-Timber Crops
- Invasive plants/animals
- Inappropriate Livestock Farming and Ranching
- Housing and Urban Areas
- Fire and Fire Suppression



#### TEAM

Name	Organization	Role
Richard Shim	CDFW-R1	Team Member
Brad Henderson	CDFW-R1	Team Member

