



State Wildlife Action Plan 2015 Update

Eco-region: Great Valley (GV)

Target: Valley Foothill Riparian

Joshua Bush – Wildlife Biologist, California Department of Fish and
Wildlife

10/3/2013

About the Conservation Unit (GV)

- General geographic location
 - Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley
- General Habitat Types
 - Agriculture
 - Annual and perennial non-timber crops
 - Orchards, rice, row crops, etc.
 - Valley Oak Woodland
 - Savanna like forest with partially closed canopies
 - Brush and grass species present
 - Covered much of valley before conversion
 - Valley Foothill Riparian
 - Riverine habitat with thick canopy and heavy underbrush
 - Often inundated by flood waters during the rainy season
 - Annual Grasslands
 - Open grasslands interspersed with some trees
 - Associated with vernal pools and prairie (rangeland)
 - Fresh Emergent Wetland
 - North Delta and Yolo Bypass
 - Flooded frequently
 - Urban

About the Target

(Valley Foothill Riparian)

- Target Chosen because of high number of native species, SGCN species, vulnerability, and degradation on a landscape level.
- Other high priorities still to do
 - Annual Grasslands
- Distribution and Attributes of the target
 - Throughout waterways of the GV
 - Heavy public and wildlife use
 - Main wildlife corridors through the GV
 - Large loss of historic habitat range
 - Home to 164 native species and 20 SGCN

SGCNs Associated with Target

- Black-tailed deer
- Valley elderberry longhorn beetle
- California quail
- Yellow-billed cuckoo
- Giant garter snake
- Osprey
- Bald eagle
- Western pond turtle
- Bank swallow
- Swainson's hawk
- Ringtail
- Porcupine

Stresses and Threats

- Habitat Fragmentation
- Urbanization/Development
- Agriculture and grazing
- Lack of flood zone(channelization)/buffer zone
- Sediment erosion/pollutants
- Improper hydrologic regime
- Roads/Railroads /Service lines
- Climate Change
 - Increase water temp
 - Changes to surface water flow
 - Changes to natural fire regime

Strategies

- **Develop and Implement HCP/NCCP**
 - Objectives and Actions
 - Impacts to fish and wildlife are given high priority during planning process
 - Riparian habitats are conserved and protection via implementation of the HCP/NCCP
- **Education and Outreach**
 - Objectives and Actions
 - Increase public awareness of benefits of a healthy riparian habitat and wildlife that inhabit them
 - Inform landowners of benefits of a riparian buffer and wildlife friendly farming and ranching
 - Inform landowners of invasive species identification and management
- **Manage water flows in GV**
 - Objectives and Actions
 - Identify and prioritize streams critical to restoring flow dynamics
 - Assess opportunities for dam removal on smaller streams
 - Restore critical flow dynamics to benefit riparian communities
- **Involvement in the Flood Planning Process**
 - Objectives and Actions
 - Encourage setback levees to increase hydrologic and biologic function of waterways
 - Flood protection planning includes benefits to fish and wildlife