State Wildlife Action Plan
2015 Update

Eco-region: Great Valley (GV)
Target: Valley Foothill Riparian

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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