

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN 2015 UPDATE

Comment Form

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Comments/Issues: A "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" APPROACH TO HABITAT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE FEASIBLE (DIFFERENT USES OF PROPERTIES, ... DIFFERENT NEEDS BY INDIVIDUAL OWNERS, ... DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPERATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES, ETC...)

THERE IS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF DATA POINTING TO THE IMPORTANCE OF CATTLE RANCHING IN PROVIDING APPROPRIATE HABITAT FOR SPECIES. CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER AND CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG ACTUALLY HAVE A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH MANAGED GRAZING SUCH THAT GRAZING IMPROVES HABITAT FOR THOSE SPECIES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE AND RESPOND TO THE TEN BULLET POINTS ATTACHED FROM THE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Please use additional sheets if necessary.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO:

Mail: Armand Gonzales
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1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1341-B
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Email: SWAP@wildlife.ca.gov

Website: www.dfg.ca.gov/SWAP

Questions? Please call us at (916) 651-9476

Wildlife Action Plan Talking Points

- The SWAP and Department must recognize that the land they intend to manage is often times private land that is used to produce food and fiber. Not only are farmers and ranchers managers of these lands, but they base their living off its productivity. While landscape goals are admirable, the Department can't forget that they are suggesting changes that could potentially negatively impact people's livelihood and show no gains for the environment.
- Like any program or regulation, the SWAP should consider how the 2005 version was implemented and where it was and was not successful. If there are no metrics for success for the last SWAP, then the Department is missing the opportunity to learn from past mistakes.
- It is critical that the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) recognize the habitat values that ranching provides. Most of the state's lands are privately owned, and if the SWAP is to be successful, land owner participation will be critical. The acknowledgement of that collaboration is essential in garnering support for the any statewide plan.
- SWAP needs to recognize value of grazing. While the plan does point out some grazing values, it also repeatedly mentions grazing as a threat to wildlife. Privately managed rangelands are a huge resource for native species, particularly birds. This is recognized by signatories of the California Rangeland Resolution, of which the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is a signatory. The science related to rangelands and grazing clearly points to the benefits of grazing. The SWAP should rely only on the best available science.
- The SWAP must differentiate between good and bad practices for all land use types, instead of categorically attributing threats to an entire category of land management.
- SWAP needs to recognize that many of the "threats" result from historical practices which have been greatly changed over the past several decades. Land managers have made huge improvements over the years and those improvements should be recognized. Pointing out past threats doesn't help solve today's challenges.
- Remove focus on land acquisition, state doesn't have funds to manage properties it currently owns. Land acquisition is not the solution. The SWAP should seriously consider prioritizing the lands that the Department currently owns, as many of these properties go unmanaged, and have proven to result in catastrophic events like the Mt. Diablo fire.
- SWAP needs to discuss marijuana cultivation and environmental impacts (it isn't mentioned once in the document). It has been acknowledged that the rapidly increasing and unregulated marijuana industry is wreaking havoc on the environment. Ignoring this very real threat, and instead focusing on the "regulated" "threats" such as grazing, only serves to punish the good actors while letting the bad remain unaccountable.
- SWAP shouldn't focus on regulatory solutions. The land owner community, who already faces extraordinarily heavy restrictions, will be unresponsive to this approach.
- SWAP should ensure that the companion plans are created with the input and expertise of the community targeted to implement them.