

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2015 SWAP update. I attended the October 15, 2013 SWAP scoping meeting held in Long Beach as a representative of California Department of Parks and Recreation. As a partnering agency, State Parks will certainly adapt SWAP targets and planning strategies. It is the Department's opinion that the 2015 SWAP update planning process as presented is well on its way to producing an excellent end product.

Comments from Californian State Parks Inland Empire District are brief and as follows:

1. Feral pigs occupy all counties in the State of California and cause significant impacts to native habitat annually. They are not native to the state yet they are treated by CDFW as a game species making it very complicated for land managers to treat them as invasive species and target them for eradication. While State Parks has an MOU with CDFW to take pigs which cause damage to State Park lands the Department advocates streamlining the process by which other land owners or open space land managers can apply for and maintain a feral pig depredation permit.
2. Especially in Southern California human caused wildfires are occurring more frequently than they would under natural conditions and this is causing type conversion from native habitat types to nonnative annual types. Many of these human caused fires originate along roads, including major freeways such as the 91, Santa Ana Freeway. When CDFW is participating in planning efforts evaluating freeway expansion State Parks advocates that some element of fire hardening be carefully evaluated along road sides to help reduce the total number of fire starts occurring along these major arteries.
3. State Parks supports the proposal to promote naturally functioning riparian systems. Flood control projects are all too often in direct conflict with this armoring, channelizing and damming river systems. While providing for public safety, State Parks advocates working closing with flood control agencies to develop and manage naturally functioning riparian systems which support diverse species assemblies and seeking alternatives to projects that would otherwise constrict and reduce the natural function of the state's riparian systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ken Kietzer
Sr. Environmental Scientist
California State Parks
Inland Empire District
17801 Lake Perris Dr.
Perris, CA 92571
951-453-4250
ken.kietzer@parks.ca.gov