State Wildlife Action Plan 2015 Update

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California Wildlife Action Plan Update 2013

Ecoregional Teams

Ecoregions of California
261A  Central California Coast
261B  Southern California Coast
262A  Great Valley
263A  Northern California Coast
M261A  Klamath Mountains
M261B  Northern California Coast Range
M261C  Northern California Interior Coast Ranges
M261D  Southern Cascades
M261E  Sierra Nevada
M261F  Sierra Nevada Foothills
M261G  Modoc Plateau
M262A  Central California Coast Ranges
M262B  Southern California Mountains and Valleys
322A  Mojave Desert
322B  Sonoran Desert
322C  Colorado Desert
341D  Mono
341F  Southeastern Great Desert

Mojave Desert Ecoregion

- Bounded by Arizona and Nevada on the Eastern border
- Includes the Mojave desert
- Owens Valley and low elevations of Death Valley
- Stops at the base of the San Bernardino Mtns and San Gabriel Mtns on the western edge in southern San Bernardino and northern Riverside counties.
Sonoran Desert Ecoregion

- Located in the eastern portion of the Desert Province.
- Approximately 45 miles north, west and south of the town of Blythe.
- Eastern boundary is the Colorado River.
Colorado Desert Ecoregion

- Area surrounding the Salton Sea
- Extends to the Mexican border
- Includes the Coachella Valley and Palm Springs
Mojave, Sonoran and Colorado Ecoregions habitats

- Desert scrub
- Alkaline desert scrub
- Desert Riparian
- Desert wash
- Palm oasis
- Saline emergent wetland
- Fresh emergent wetland

Desert Scrub
Mojave, Sonoran and Colorado Ecoregions habitats

Alkali Desert Scrub

Riparian Desert Wash
About the Target Habitats

- Desert targets are mixed in their occurrence
- Can use one ecoregion target in another area
- Chosen based on indicator species
- Additional targets to be addressed:
  - Sand dunes
  - Wetlands
  - Grasslands
  - Pines
  - Riparian
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- Keystone/Indicator species
- Presence in multiple ecoregions
- Use a wide variety of habitat types.
- Indicator species
  - Desert Tortoise
  - Bighorn sheep
  - Mojave Ground Squirrel
  - Sage Grouse
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Nelson Bighorn Sheep

Greater Sage Grouse
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Armargosa Vole

Owens Lake Pocket Gopher
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Golden Eagle

American Badger
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Least Bell’s Vireo

Willow Flycatcher
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Fringe-toed Lizard

Flat-tailed Horned Lizard
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Couch’s Spadefoot Toad

Arroyo Toad
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Gila Monster

Legless Lizard
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Pallid Bat

Western Mastiff Bat
Environmental Stresses

- Habitat Fragmentation
- Altered natural Fire regime
- Groundwater table
- Flooding
- Spatial extent of target
- Community structure and composition
- Climate Change
Human-related Impacts

- Invasive species
- Renewable energy development and operation
- Development
- Recreational activities
- Effluents
- Military activities
- Agriculture
- Problematic native species
- Fire and Fire suppression
Strategies

• Cooperative Management partnerships
• Protect habitat through acquisition or conservation easement
• Resource assessment
• Provide Economic incentives
• Outreach and education
• Manage invasive species
• Provide training
• Reintroduce native species
• Partner for joint advocacy
Funding

• State Wildlife Grant requirement
• Section 6 Threatened and Endangered Species Funding
• Multi-species habitat conservation plans
• Co-operative partnerships
• Legislative funding
• Bond funding
Thank you for coming

We appreciate your input

Questions?
Mono Ecoregion

- The eastside of the Sierras
- Upper Owens Valley
- Nevada state line
- Walker River Basin
- Base of the Sierra west of Bishop, Mono Lake, Mammoth Lakes and Bridgeport
- Small portion east of Portola
Habitats of the Mono Ecoregion

- Sagebrush
- Pinyon-juniper
- Bitterbrush
- Aspen
- Riparian
- Wet and Alkali meadow
- Fresh-water Emergent
Sagebrush

- Less Protection than other habitats
- Threats from
  - Development
  - Grazing
  - Wildfire
- Many sagebrush dependent or associated species
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Nelson Bighorn Sheep

Greater Sage Grouse
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Pygmy rabbit

Short-eared owl
Stresses

- Ecosystem Changes
  - Area & Extent of Habitat
  - Community structure or composition
  - Successional Dynamics
  - Fire Regimes
  - Climate Change
Threats

- Problematic native plants
- Housing and urban areas
- Invasive plants/animals
- Fire and fire suppression
Strategies

- Protection of land
  - Identify high quality habitat for protection
  - Protect land through acquisition, conservation easement or lease

- Resource Management
  - Promote healthy sage brush ecosystems
    - Example: Managed Grazing

- Management Partnerships and Coordination
  - Coordinate with local agencies and counties
  - Identify funding sources
Strategies (cont.)

• Data Collection and Analysis
  o Prioritize/Coordinate research efforts
  o Continue monitoring of PJ and cheat grass encroachment

• Provide Economic Incentives
  o Example: Establish stewardship payments to landowners practicing sound resource management
Thank you for coming

We appreciate your input

Questions?
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Mike Morrison, Environmental Scientist

October 28, 2013
Southeastern Great Basin Ecoregion

- >50% is in Death Valley National Park
- Includes northern portion of China Lake Naval Weapons Station
- Inyo Mountains east to Nevada border
- Almost entirely within Inyo County north of the Mojave Desert.
Habitats of Southeastern Great Basin Ecoregion

- Pinyon-Juniper Woodland
- Joshua Tree Woodland
- Sagebrush
- Desert Scrub
- Alkali Desert Scrub
- Desert Wash
- Saltbrush Scrub

Desert Riparian
Desert Riparian

- Scarcity of surface water in inland deserts.
- Many species are dependent upon desert riparian.
- Habitat is distributed throughout the Southeast Great Basin.
- Highest densities located in the southern portion of the ecoregion.
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Inyo California Towhee

Inyo Mountains Slender Salamander
Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Nelson Bighorn Sheep

Panamint Alligator Lizard
Stresses and Threats

• STRESSES
  o Loss or change in biotic interactions
  o Changes to community structure or composition
  o Loss or change in biotic interactions
  o Changes in functional processes of ecosystem
  o Climate Change

• THREATS
  o Problematic native plants
  o Invasive plants and animals
Strategies

- Establish cooperative partnership with all interested groups
  - Share information and partner priorities
  - Engage in decision making process
    - Identify conservation needs of target habitat
    - Develop a collaborative conservation management plan
    - Identify funding sources to implement projects
Strategies (cont.)

- Manage invasive species
  - Control invasive and problematic native vegetation
    - Conduct invasive and problematic native plant removal projects
  - Control invasive mammals (feral equines)
    - Conduct roundups (moratorium)
      - Investigate other control methods
  - Prevent riparian (springs) habitat degradation
    - Construct exclusion fencing
  - Post project monitoring (present obstacle)
Thank you for coming

We appreciate your input

Questions?