State Wildlife Action Plan
2015 Update
Sierra Nevada Ecoregion
High Elevation Wet Meadows
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Sierra Nevada Ecoregion

- Bounded by Lake Almanor in the north, Tehachapi Pass in the south
- 12 million acres, >20K mi²
- 3500 species, 400 endemics, 55 SGCNs
- 8 National Forests, 3 National Parks
- Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks, Lake Tahoe, and Mount Whitney
Conservation Unit

- Mixed conifer
- Jeffrey pine
- White fir
- Lodgepole pine
- Ponderosa pine
- Giant sequoia
- Red fir
- Ponderosa pine
Conservation Unit (cont.)

Montane riparian

Wet meadow
Conservation Unit (cont.)

Meadow

Riparian

Grassland
Conservation Unit (cont.)

Wet meadow
About the Target Habitat

• Meadow systems contribute a high proportion of the forage and cover for wildlife populations and help to filter sediments from waters of surrounding slopes
• Examples: Sierra Valley, Perazzo Meadow Complex, Sagehen, Hope/Charity Valleys, and Markwood/ Poison Meadow,
• Other high priorities: Mixed conifer, mixed chaparral, montane riparian
Species of Concern

Great-gray owl
Willow flycatcher
Sandhill crane
SN mountain yellow-legged frog
Mountain beaver
Species of Concern (cont.)

- Numerous bats, owls, reptiles, frogs, birds, and a wolverine
Environmental Stresses

- Change in annual average precipitation
- Change in snow pack (amount and duration)
- Change in sediment erosion-deposition regime
- Change in natural fire regime
- Change in soil moisture
- Change in groundwater tables
Natural and Human-caused Threats

- Problematic native species
- Fire and fire suppression
- Inappropriate livestock farming and ranching
- Annual and perennial non-timber crops
- Roads & railroads
- Recreational activities
Strategies

- Protect land through acquisition or Conservation Easements.

- Objectives:
  - Restore and protect degraded wet meadow habitat,
  - Conserve high quality wet meadow habitat
Strategies (cont.)

• **Provide input on grazing management plans.**

• **Objectives:**
  • Reduce negative impacts from allotment grazing practices;
  • Improve enforcement of grazing lease conditions;
  • Permanently retire problematic grazing allotments
Strategies (cont.)

- Implement grazing practices that benefit meadow ecosystems.

- Objectives:
  - Reduce grazing impacts to wet meadow function and structure;
  - Implement practices to reduce cattle use of meadows