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# FORWARD

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Dear Californians:

With this report, the Department of Fish and Game presents our 2000 summary of the status of all of California's listed threatened and endangered species. This volume reports our findings and accomplishments from 1997-1999 as well as other efforts underway to conserve California's threatened and endangered species. Each year, Department biologists work to recover the State's 216 plant and 77 animal species listed under CESA. They carry out research, management, and monitoring programs, participate in recovery planning, and work cooperatively with the federal government, other State and local agencies, landowners, and the public in various ways to further conservation.

Despite the many positive achievements highlighted in this report, for many threatened and endangered species accomplishing recovery species-by-species has been difficult. Consequently, while continuing to pursue conservation of the State's listed plants and animals on a single-species basis as needed, the Department now focuses on conserving assemblages of species and habitats on a landscape level through locally based cooperative conservation planning. Fundamental to the success of these planning efforts are the use of sound science as the basis, and the participation of multiple partners. With our partners, the Department works cooperatively to solve the dual problems of the continuing loss of natural habitat and the quality of life needs of California citizens, with sound science providing the basis for conservation actions that last and are successful.

Individual species benefit from cooperative planning at the landscape level because the plans focus on conserving the ecosystems upon which the species depend for life-sustaining food, water, and shelter. Using sound science, landscape level planning helps to recover threatened and endangered species and, at the same time, preclude more common species from declining to the point of endangerment.

Many cooperative conservation plans are undertaken in coordination with the federal government through Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs). In addition, commencing in 1992 the Department began conservation efforts through the State's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program. Creative planning approaches, monitoring results, and adaptive management can ensure the success of these complex but crucial ventures in conservation. The evolution of conservation toward an even more cooperative approach that brings diverse interests together provides the opportunities necessary to protect all of California's species and habitats into the next millennium.

I would like to invite all Californians to support conservation of our magnificent wildlife resources. Doing your part to understand and help endangered species - through participating in restoration activities, cooperative planning efforts, or contributing to the Endangered Species Campaign (Line 50 on your State Tax Form) - will help protect California's natural wonders for future generations.

**ROBERT C. HIGHT**  
Director

# INTRODUCTION

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The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) of 1984 delineated the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) responsibility for California's threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants. The Legislature's concerns were expressed within the Act itself:

*The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:*

- (a) Certain species of fish, wildlife and plants have been rendered extinct as a consequence of man's activities, untempered by adequate concern and conservation.*
- (b) Other species of fish, wildlife and plants are in danger of, or threatened with extinction because their habitats are threatened with destruction; adverse modification or severe curtailment, or because of overexploitation, disease, predation or other factors.*
- (c) These species of fish, wildlife and plants are of ecological, educational, historical, recreational, aesthetic, economic and scientific value to the people of this State, and the conservation protection and enhancement of these species and their habitat is of Statewide concern.*

The CESA requires DFG to prepare an annual report summarizing the status of all State-listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species for the Commission, the Legislature and the Governor. This current report describes California's listed species including 77 animals and 216 plants, as well as two plant species currently considered candidates for listing. The State lists of rare plants, threatened and endangered plants and animals are updated during the year as changes are made by the Commission. The current lists are available from DFG, Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch, 1416 Ninth Street Sacramento, California 95814, or on the web at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.

Species listed in this report do not comprise all California species that are threatened or endangered in a biological sense. The federal list of threatened and endangered species contains additional species which occur in California, some of which are not State listed (see Appendix C). Reports on and lists of bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and amphibian "Species of Special Concern" have been compiled by DFG, and the DFG's Natural Diversity Data Base tracks information on these species and other "special animals" that could become candidates for state listing. DFG's Natural Diversity Data Base maintains records on "special plants" that may become State candidate species as well.

The California Endangered Species Act (Sections 2050-2116, Fish and Game Code) sets forth the procedure by which an interested person may petition the Commission to add or remove species from the list. Persons wishing to do so should contact the Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California 95814. The petition format and the criteria for listing are described in Section 670.1, Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations.

# LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

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The California Legislature was the first in the United States to prohibit the importation, take, possession and sale of endangered and rare species. The following is a summary of the legislative actions related to these species.

## 1970

California's commitment to protecting threatened and endangered species took legislative root with the enactment of several landmark laws in 1970:

**California Endangered Species Act** - expressed the Legislature's concern for California's wildlife species facing decline, set definitions of "rare" and "endangered" wildlife and gave authority to the Fish and Game Commission to designate animals as either rare or endangered.

**California Species Preservation Act** - directed the DFG to develop criteria for rare and endangered species, inventory all threatened fish and wildlife and report to the Governor and the Legislature every two years on the status of listed species.

(In 1971 the Commission declared the first group of 43 animals endangered or rare, and in 1972 submitted its first biennial report.)

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** - requires preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR) before agencies can approve projects that may have a significant impact on the environment, and required agencies to mitigate the harmful impacts their projects would have on the environment. It was modeled after the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). (Changes in 1983 added definitions for rare and endangered plants and animals along with language providing for their protection.)

As the trustee agency for State fish and wildlife resources, the DFG reviews and comments on thousands of CEQA documents annually and, when necessary, prepares mitigation recommendations.

## 1977

The California Legislature extended protections to native plants similar to the 1970 protections granted to animals.

**California Native Plant Protection Act** - directed the DFG to preserve, protect and enhance native plants. It gave the Fish and Game Commission the power to designate native plants as endangered or rare and to require permits for collecting, transporting or selling such plants.

(The first plants were listed by the Commission in 1978)

## 1984

California Assembly Bills 3309 and 3270 replaced the 1970 legislation and became known as the **California Endangered Species Act (CESA)**. The definitions and procedures in the Act closely parallel those of the Federal Endangered Species Act. Highlights include:

A policy for the State to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance any endangered or threatened species and its habitat.

A policy “that State agencies should not approve projects as proposed which would jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat essential to the continued existence of those species...”

A requirement that State lead agencies consult with the DFG whenever a project might impact a listed species. The Department and State lead agencies were then required to develop reasonable and prudent alternatives consistent with conserving the species.

A requirement that no person shall take listed species without express authorization from the DFG.

A requirement that the Commission adopt guidelines for individuals seeking to petition the Commission to add a species to the state list of threatened and endangered species. The Act outlines a petition process and describes the information that must be provided for consideration. The DFG then has 12 months to review the petition and report on whether action is warranted.

The requirement of an annual report summarizing the status of all State-listed endangered, threatened, and candidate species, and the time frames for five-year status reviews. This report fulfills that requirement.

## 1991

Assembly Bill 2172, known as the **Natural Community Conservation Planning Act**, recognized the significance of the conservation and management of entire natural communities. Natural community conservation planning is an effective tool in protecting California’s natural diversity while reducing conflicts between protection of the State’s biological diversity and reasonable use of natural resources for economic development.

## 1997

Three major bills were enacted in 1997 to amend **CESA**:

Senate Bill 879 authorizes the Department to issue permits for take of state-listed species that occurs during otherwise lawful activities, such as development projects. These permits are called incidental take permits, because the take is incidental to the activity. The Department adopted regulations effective December of 1998 addressing incidental take permits (CCR Title 14, Div 1, 783.0-783.8).

Senate Bill 231 allows the development of locally designed voluntary programs to avoid and minimize take of listed species during agricultural activities and to encourage wildlife habitat retention on farms and ranches. Take of listed species occurring under the voluntary programs would not require a permit from the Department. This bill also authorizes accidental take of listed species resulting from inadvertent or ordinary negligent acts that occur on a farm or ranch during routine and ongoing agricultural activities. The Department adopted regulations effective December 1998 addressing incidental and accidental take during agricultural activities (CCR Title 14, Div 1, 786.0-786.6).

Assembly Bill 21 waives the requirement for an incidental take permit from the Department for projects that have obtained federal incidental take authorization under sections 7 or 10(a) of the federal Endangered Species Act that is consistent with CESA. This exemption applies only to species that are listed under both the state and federal endangered species acts.

The sections of CESA that required state lead agencies to consult with the Depart-

ment regarding projects that could result in incidental take were automatically repealed on January 1, 1999. The repeal means that state agencies can no longer obtain authorization to take listed species through consultations with the Department distinct from the incidental take process.