

California Department of Fish and Wildlife Landscape Conservation Planning Program



Working Definition of “Greenprint”

A “Greenprint” is a map¹ at any scale that identifies conservation priorities² based on best available science³. It may be used to inform integrated planning⁴, a process for siting infrastructure⁵ away from priority conservation areas, while directing conservation and mitigation acquisitions and associated habitat restoration and enhancement to highest priority conservation locations.

¹ A “Greenprint” map can be thought of as the most basic of decision support tools, comprising multiple data layers combined into a base map. A “Greenprint “ map (whether at a local, regional, state, or multi-state level) is assumed to be a spatially-explicit representation of sensitive species and natural community occurrences and distributions, significant ecological functions, biological hotspots, essential habitat linkages, and other elements of conservation concern, including opportunities for implementation of climate change adaptation strategies.

² The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has public trust responsibility and jurisdiction by law over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and the habitats necessary for the biological sustainability of species. This includes the authority to designate and manage threatened and endangered native wildlife, and to establish wildlife areas, ecological reserves, and other natural areas. In its role as trustee agency over natural resources that are held in trust for the people of the State, CDFW is also responsible for determining natural resource conservation priorities. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is governed by the Constitution and laws of the State, and policies of the Fish and Game Commission per Section 20 of Article IV of the State Constitution. CEQA Statute cites authority as: Section 21083, Public Resources Code; Reference: Sections 21080.3 and 21080.4, Public Resources Code.

³ Best available science includes, but is not limited to, the most up-to-date data, robust analytical tools, defensible and transparent modeling approaches, as well as expert opinion.

⁴ Integrated planning is the collaborative and joint analysis of constraints and opportunities imposed by a “Greenprint” map on the unique goals and requirements of both the wildlife (“green”) agencies and the infrastructure (“gray” or “blueprint”) agencies.

⁵ Infrastructure includes all infrastructure sectors (transportation, water conveyance, energy facilities and transmission, etc.) at all levels (city, county, regional, statewide).