

FOREST AND RANGELANDS ASSESSMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

Plant, Fish, and Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Enhancement



FRAP

Fire and Resource Assessment Program
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Meeting and Webinar
October 4, 2012
NRCS – Davis, CA

Agenda

9:00 – 9:15 : Introduction and Overview

9:15 – 10:30 : Panel Speaker Presentations and Questions

- Armand Gonzales (California Department of Fish and Game)
- Dan Porter (The Nature Conservancy)
- Jim Weigand (Bureau of Land Management)

10:30 – 10:45 : Break

10:45 – 11:45 : Group Discussion

- Problems and Threats that adversely affect wildlife and their habitat.
- Conservation actions needed to conserve ecosystems and wildlife populations.
- Adaptive Management Strategies
- Conservation planning (capabilities and limits)

11:45 – 12:00 : Recap and Next Steps

Introductions



Fire and Resource
Assessment Program (CAL FIRE)



USFS Pacific Southwest Region
State and Private Forestry



Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Introductions



Who Are You?

Forest and Rangeland Assessment

Wildlife Habitat

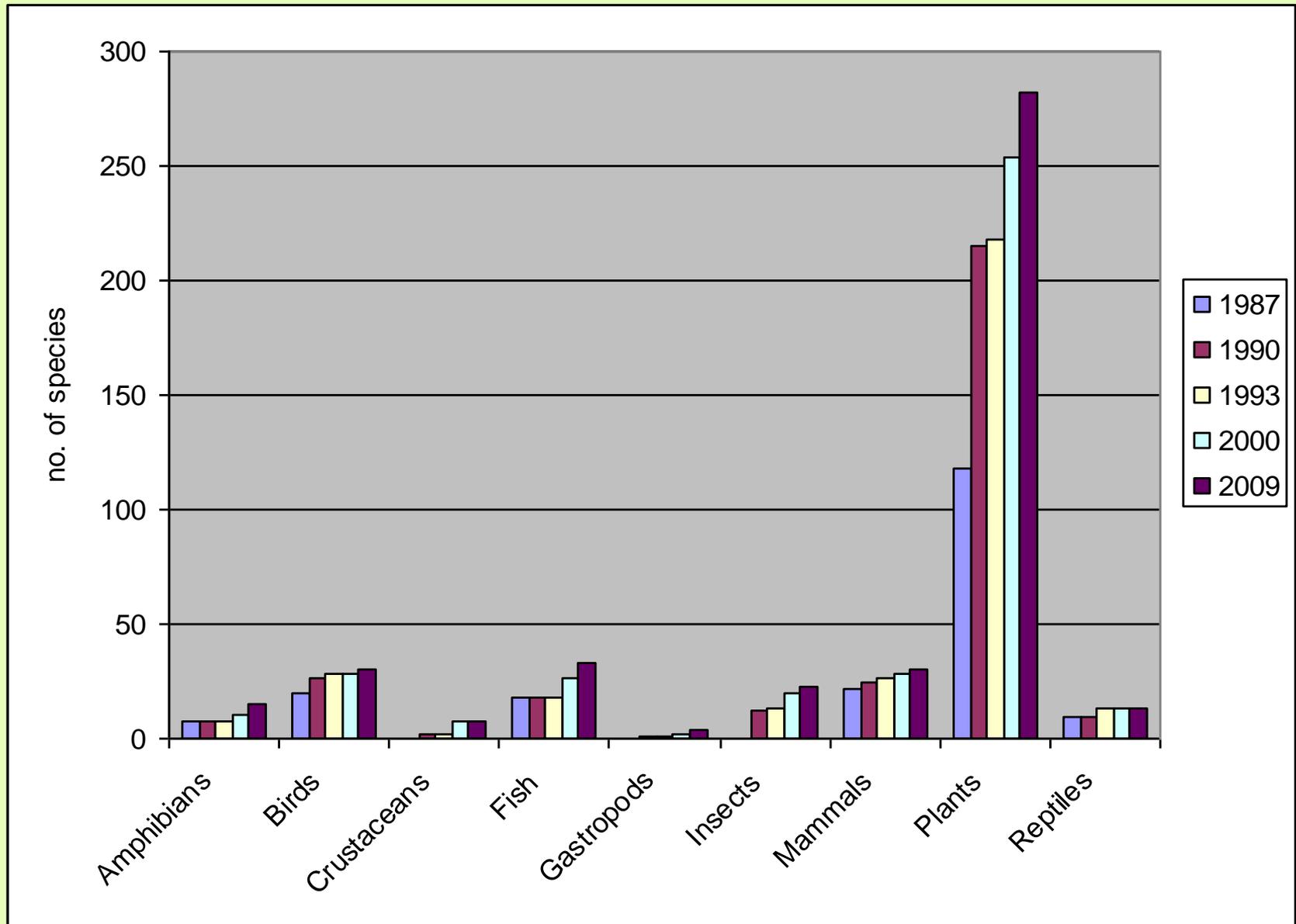


Brief Background

- 2008 Farm Bill “All Lands Approach” added federal lands to FRAP’s landscape
- California Wildlife Action Plan (CWAP) referenced as the main wildlife document for California
- Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) program of CDFG results not available for 2010 report

2010 Assessment Included:

Select Species Population Trends

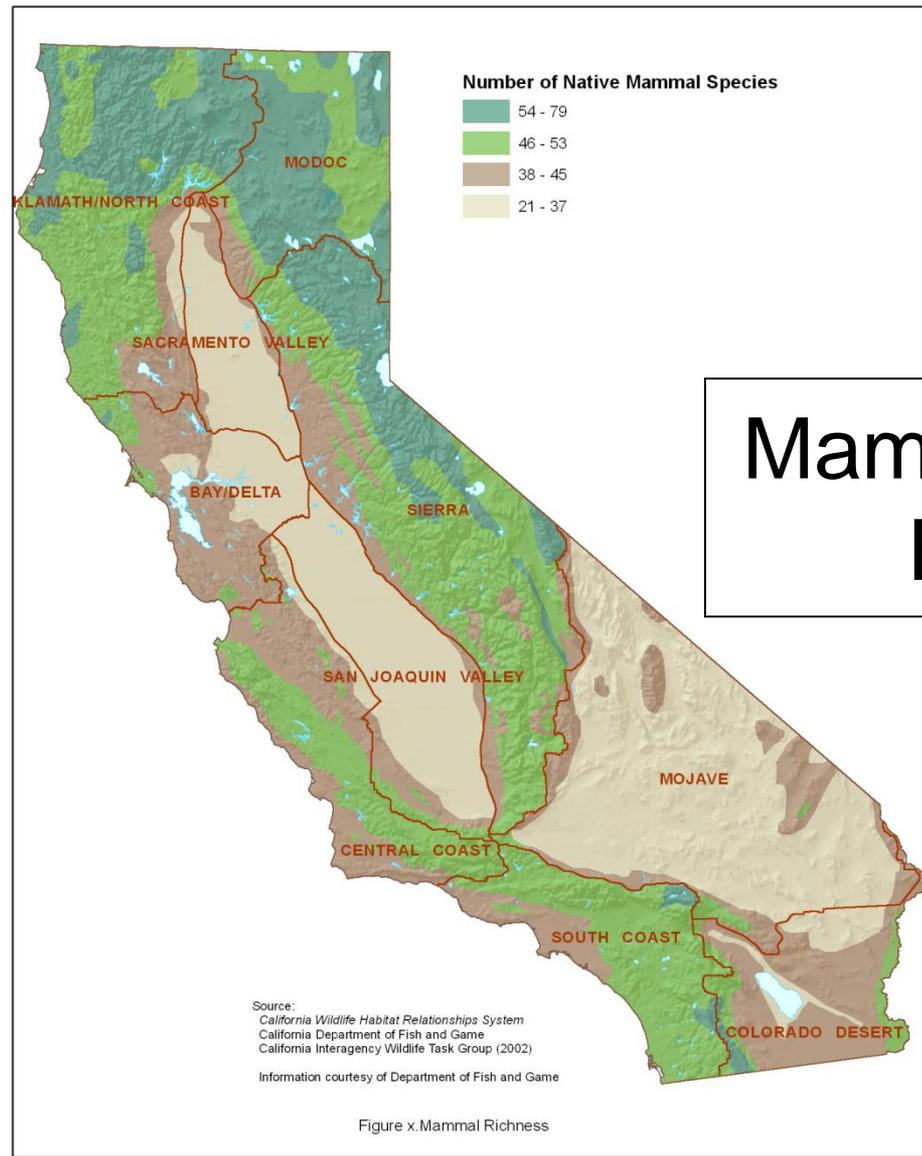


CWAP Threats to Habitat by Bioregion

Table 68. Threats to Wildlife and Habitat by Bioregion, Identified by DFG's CWAP (DFG 2007a)

Threat	North Coast / Klamath	Modoc Plateau	Sierra Nevada / Cascade	Mojave Desert	Colorado Desert	South Coast	Central Coast	Bay / Delta	Sacramento Valley	San Joaquin Valley
Growth and Development			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Off-Highway Vehicle Use			X	X	X					
Livestock Grazing	X	X	X	X			X			
Wild Burro and/or Horse Grazing		X		X						
Invasive Animals	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Invasive Plants	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Military Land Management Conflicts				X						
Mining				X						
Water Management Conflicts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Altered Fire Regime	X	X	X			X				
Recreational Pressure		X	X			X	X			
W. Juniper Expansion		X								
Forest Management Conflicts	X	X	X	X						
Climate Change	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Water Pollution								X	X	X
Degradation of Aquatic Ecosystem/Loss of Riparian Habitat	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Loss / Degradation of Dune Habitats					X					
Intensive Agriculture	X	X					X	X	X	X
Substantial In-Stream Gravel Mining	X									
Watershed Fragmentation			X							

Distribution Maps of Species Richness by Guild (birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians)



Mammal Species
Richness

Figure x.Mammal Richness

Select species population trends

Elk (Cervus elaphus nanodes, C. e. roosevelti, C. e. nelsoni)

Beginning in the mid-1800s, the population of elk decreased precipitously, and by 1971 the number of endemic Tule elk (*C. e. nonodes*) had declined to a total of 500 wild animals. As a result of an active elk management program, the population increased to 2,680 by 1989 (DFG, 2007b). The number of animals was estimated to be 3,580 in 2009 (Hobbs, 2009). Roosevelt elk (*C. e. roosevelti*) are estimated to have increased from 4,000 to 6,000 between 2000 and 2009. Rocky mountain elk (*C. e. nelsoni*) have held steady at an estimated 1,500 since 2000 (DFG, 2007b; Hobbs, 2009).

Pronghorn (Antilocapra americana)

The pronghorn was possibly once the most common land mammal in California (Pyshora, 1997), but their population was estimated to have dropped to a mere 1,100 in the 1920s, peaked near 8,000 in the mid-1990s and has subsequently fallen to an estimated 4,773 in 2009 (DFG, 2001b; Hobbs, 2009).

Spatial Analysis of Wildfire Threat to Habitat and Corridors

Assets

- Natural Landscape Blocks
- Essential Connectivity Habitat
- Protected Areas

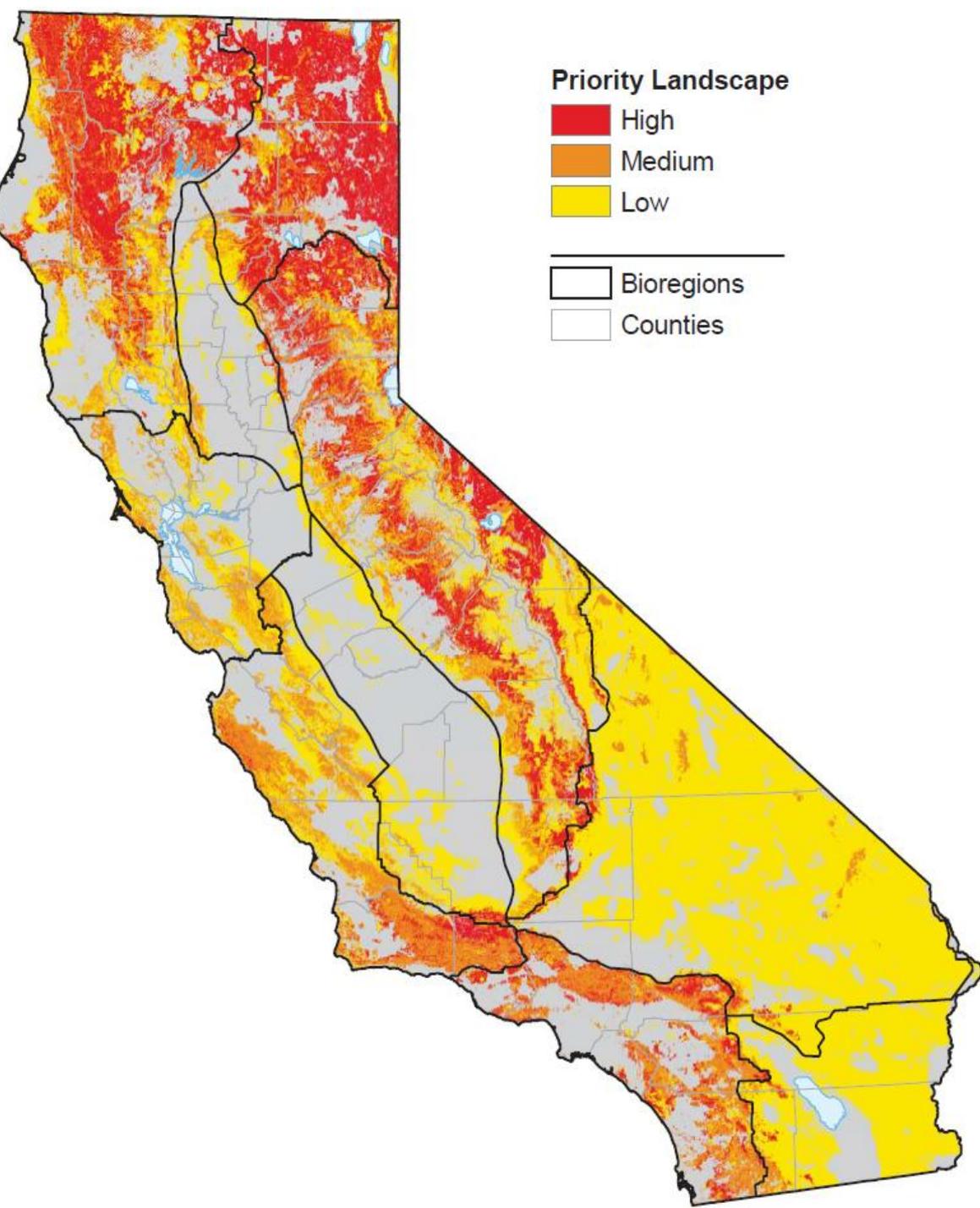
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Threats

- Stand-level Wildfire threat
- Landscape-level Wildfire Threat

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Priority Landscapes



Priority Landscape

- High
- Medium
- Low

- Bioregions
- Counties

Figure 3.5.10.
Priority landscape of wildfire threat to areas important for wildlife habitat.

Data Sources: California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, DFG (2010); Protected Areas from California Protected Areas Database (CPAD), GreenInfo Network (2009); Bureau of Indian Affairs lands from California Protected Areas Database (CPAD), GreenInfo Network (2010); Department of Defense lands from Public Conservation Trust Lands, Legacy Project, California Resources Agency (2005); California Fire Regime Condition Class, FRAP (2003); Fire Threat, FRAP (2005)

Looking Ahead to 2015

- Updated:
 - California Wildlife Action Plan
 - Vegetation Layer
 - Threat data
- Other CDFG Conservation Mapping Programs

Your Input Improves Our Next Assessment

We need your help to:

- Identify new data
- Evaluate Priorities
- Evaluate Methods
- Provide on the ground information



Panel Speakers

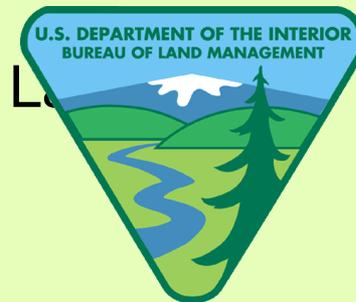
Armand Gonzales – Special Advisor, California
Department Of Fish and Wildlife



Dan Porter – North Coast Regional
Ecologist with the Nature Conservancy



Jim Weigand – State Ecologist, Bureau of Land
Management



Panel Questions



- ? What do you see as the most significant current problems and threats that adversely affect wildlife habitat conservation in the state (e.g. uncharacteristic wildfire? habitat fragmentation? planning budgets? climate change? other?)

- ? What monitoring and/or performance measures are you using to judge the effectiveness of your organization's efforts at wildlife habitat conservation?

- ? How can we best identify wildlife conservation priority areas? What efforts are underway in your organizations towards this end?

- ? Do you have any suggestions for how CALFIRE addresses wildlife habitat issues in the Forest Action Plan and how we can better coordinate efforts with partners?

BREAK

Back in 15 minutes!



Please send us your comments....

Group Discussion



Webinar Attendees...

For those of you on the webinar, we would like to get your response to these questions as well. Please take some time either now or in the near future to let us know what you think.

You can use this link to fill in answers to the questions and submit them to us.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LHBZJ6X>



This is the little bobcat kitten Chips. She almost got burned up by the Chips fire.

Read more about her here:
http://www.ltwc.org/?page_id=963



Thanks!

Recap and Next Steps

We need your help to:

- Identify new data
- Evaluate Priorities
- Evaluate Methods
- Provide on the ground information

Thank You

Our 2015 assessment will benefit greatly from your input. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this process!

If you have any further comments, questions, or suggestions, please let us know. You can visit our website here:

<http://www.frap.cdf.ca.gov/FRASC.html>

Our next meeting will be January 10th, 2013 and we will be discussing climate change. See you there!



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