

Development Status
of the
Terrestrial Natural Community
Biological Goals, Objectives, and
Conservation Measures

SAIC

Presentation to
BDCP Steering Committee
September 24, 2009

Terrestrial Resources Subgroup Charge

“To review and recommend conservation measures (protection, enhancement, restoration), including mitigation measures, for terrestrial covered species and natural communities that are designed to achieve BDCP biological goals and objectives for adoption by the BDCP Steering Committee.”

- 10 Subgroup meetings from April 10-September 10

Terrestrial Resources Subgroup Work Products

- Proposed biological goals and objectives for terrestrial natural communities
- Proposed biological goals and objectives for covered wildlife and plant species
- Proposed conservation measures for terrestrial natural communities
- Proposed additional conservation measures for covered wildlife and plants in instances where natural community conservation measures are not sufficient to mitigate and contribute to their conservation
- Proposed avoidance and minimization measures

Subgroup Members

Co Chair: Campbell Ingram
(TNC)

Co-Chair: Dave Harlow
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Neil Clipperton (DFG)

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Eric Hanson (SAIC Team)

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Pete Rawlings (SAIC)

Jim Estep (SAIC Team)

Technical Contributors

- Rod Kelsey (Audubon)
- Dave Feliz (DFG)
- Junko Hoshi (DFG)
- Jeff McCreary (Ducks Unlimited)
- Monica Parisi (DFG)

Handouts Today

- Draft Terrestrial and Non-Tidal Wetland Natural Community Goals and Objectives
- Draft Proposed Natural Community Conservation Measures

Terrestrial Natural Communities Addressed

- Non-tidal perennial aquatic
- Non-tidal freshwater emergent wetland
- Alkali seasonal wetland complex
- Vernal pool complex
- Managed seasonal wetlands
- Grassland
- Agricultural lands
 - *Alfalfa*
 - *Irrigated pasture*
 - *Rice*
 - *Other cultivated crops*
 - *Orchards*
 - *Vineyards*

Process for Development of Biological Goals, Objectives, and Conservation Measures

- Review adopted or draft biological goals and objectives for adjacent and overlapping HCPs and NCCPs to ensure BDCP goals and objectives are complementary
- Consider potential synergies with other regional and local conservation plan goals and objectives

Process (cont.)

- Identify BDCP impacts on natural communities and associated covered wildlife, plants, and other native species to ensure they are addressed by goals and objectives
- Solicit and consolidate recommended goals, objectives, and conservation measures from subgroup members and technical contributors

Scope of Natural Community Goals and Objectives

- Goals and objectives to **protect and enhance** habitat:
 - all natural communities affected by BDCP
- Goals and objectives to **restore**:
 - non-tidal perennial aquatic,
 - non-tidal freshwater emergent, and
 - possibly, managed seasonal wetland (if needed to replace wildlife habitat functions of affected managed seasonal wetlands)

Species “Driving” the Extent and Location of Preserved Communities

- Agricultural lands—Swainson’s hawk, greater sandhill crane
- Grassland—Swainson’s hawk, California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog
- Non-tidal perennial aquatic and freshwater emergent—giant garter snake

Species “Driving” the Extent and Location of Preserved Communities

(cont.)

- Functions of managed seasonal wetlands—waterfowl and shorebirds*
- Alkali seasonal wetland complex and vernal pool wetland complex — community functions (fairy shrimp & plants)

* Restored tidal marsh; protected and enhanced agricultural lands; and protected, enhanced, and restored non-tidal aquatic and freshwater emergent communities that support habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds

Natural Community Conservation Measures

- Designed to meet most habitat-related goals and objectives for covered wildlife and plants
- Conservation measures are crafted to provide the BDCP Implementing Entity with flexibility in determining and implementing specific habitat enhancement and management actions to address uncertainties associated with site-specific conservation needs of future preserved lands
- Designed to allow for direct BDCP implementation or through support of existing/planned HCPs and NCCPs or other regional conservation processes

Conservation Measures (cont.)

- Acquire BDCP preserve lands in-fee title or conservation easement
- Inventory of protected habitats to identify habitat enhancement needs and development and implementation of enhancement plans
- Control of undesirable non-native species
- Management of agricultural lands to maintain and improve habitat functions for associated covered wildlife and other native species

NEXT STEPS

- Add detail to draft natural community conservation measures
- Prepare draft species biological goals and objectives (to SC Oct 8)
- Prepare conservation measures for specific covered species where needed to augment species habitat objectives (to SC Oct 8)

NEXT STEPS (cont.)

- Develop avoidance and minimization measures for natural communities and covered species (to SC Oct 15)
- Determine the extent of habitat to be protected, enhanced, and restored

Questions & Comments