

Conservation Goals :

Overview

- Goal Types:
 - Ecosystems
 - Covered Species
- Scales for Goals
 - County-wide Ecosystems
 - Landscape Units
 - Planning Areas
 - Species Goals
 - County wide
 - Within Planning Units

Ecosystem Goals

- Difficult to establish where specific species ecological information and data are limited
- Use outcomes from Conservation Alternatives to set ecosystem goals
- Criteria-based approach: ecosystem priority ratings
- Outcomes not yet fully examined/refined, but presumed to be close

Covered Species Goals:

- 64 covered species
- Goals currently quantified as % existing habitat acreage or habitat value (Habitat Units)
- Goals set for different habitats used by species:
 - Breeding, wintering, resting, etc.
 - = 225 goals categories

Covered Species Goals

- Criteria used in Setting Goals:
 - Listing status under ESAs
 - Population/habitat trend
 - Importance of Yolo Co. to regional and statewide populations
 - Degree to which habitat is limiting
 - Rarity of habitat in Yolo Co

Species Goals

- Goals refined based on:
 - Level of habitat use = proportion of suitable habitat actually used by species
 - Evaluation of results of ecosystem-based Conservation Strategy Alternatives
- Goals Rationale
 - Individual rationales prepared to describe basis for goal setting

Goals Structure and Rationale

Example: Burrowing Owl

Habitat Component	Acres in Plan Area	% Goal	Ac goal	Rationale
Primary Habitat	50,930	60%	30,558	High conservation priority for active breeding sites. Moderate conservation priority for primary habitat, because much is not occupied. Wide-ranging, but significant declines in California. Species responds well to management (retention of ground squirrels, intensive grazing, installation of artificial burrows), and favorable and stable habitat conditions and can readily occupy suitable habitat areas. Retaining traditional colony sites is key to future expansion. Only a small percentage of available habitat is currently occupied due to farming practices, lack of ground squirrels, or other land management. Retaining 60% of suitable grassland and agricultural habitat in the planning area is sufficient to provide for existing populations and allow for population expansion if appropriately managed.
Primary Habitat (Habitat Units)	1,249	60%	749	
Other Potential Habitat	0		-	
Other Potential Habitat (Habitat Units)	16,491	60%	9,895	
Winter Roosting	9,429	30%	2,829	

Species Goals

- Species goals used for evaluating Conservation Strategy Approaches
- Goals achievement– discussed later for Conservation Strategies for Upland and Agricultural Landscape Units
- Detailed evaluation – proposed for review with Bio Working Group