

Essentials of Regional Conservation Planning

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The Nature of Regional Conservation Plans

- Plans that proactively address conservation of endangered and rare species and the biological communities of an area, while providing permitting for economic activities.
- Cover a whole county or a sub-county area
- Local government the lead agency



Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)

- **Section 10(a)(2)(B) of FESA**
 - Taking is incidental
 - Minimize and mitigate impacts
 - Ensure adequate funding for the plan
 - Not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the species in the wild
- **USFWS regulations, policy and guidance**
 - Assurances
 - Handbook, 5 Point Policy

California NCCP Act

SB107, 2002

- **Plans to provide for the conservation of species and natural communities**
- **Act spells out requirements, including**
 - Planning Agreement
 - Independent science advisors
 - Public involvement
 - Biological requirements



Some Plan Components

- Biological data and understanding
- Land use and other data
- Impacts of incidental take
- Conservation strategy
- Monitoring and adaptive management
- Assurances
- Economics
- Implementation
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Photo: B. "Moose" Peterson/WFP

Planning Process

- Participants
 - Local jurisdictions
 - State and federal agencies
 - Stakeholders (development, environmental, agriculture, landowner, other)
- Committees and Public Involvement

Planning Process

- Planning Agreement (if NCCP)
- Assembling information
- Independent science advisors report
- Developing conservation strategy
- Preparation of draft plan
- EIS / EIR
- Final plan, implementing agreement , permits



Plan Implementation

- Habitat conservation linked to development
- Additional habitat conservation
- Reserve system and its management
- Monitoring and adaptive management
- Funding
- Reporting



photo: Frank S. Ballus

Other Regulatory Processes

- Section 404, Clean Water Act
- Section 1600, Fish and Game Code
- Water Quality
- Future state Wetlands and Riparian Policy
- Economic and biological advantages of coordination & umbrella conservation plan

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