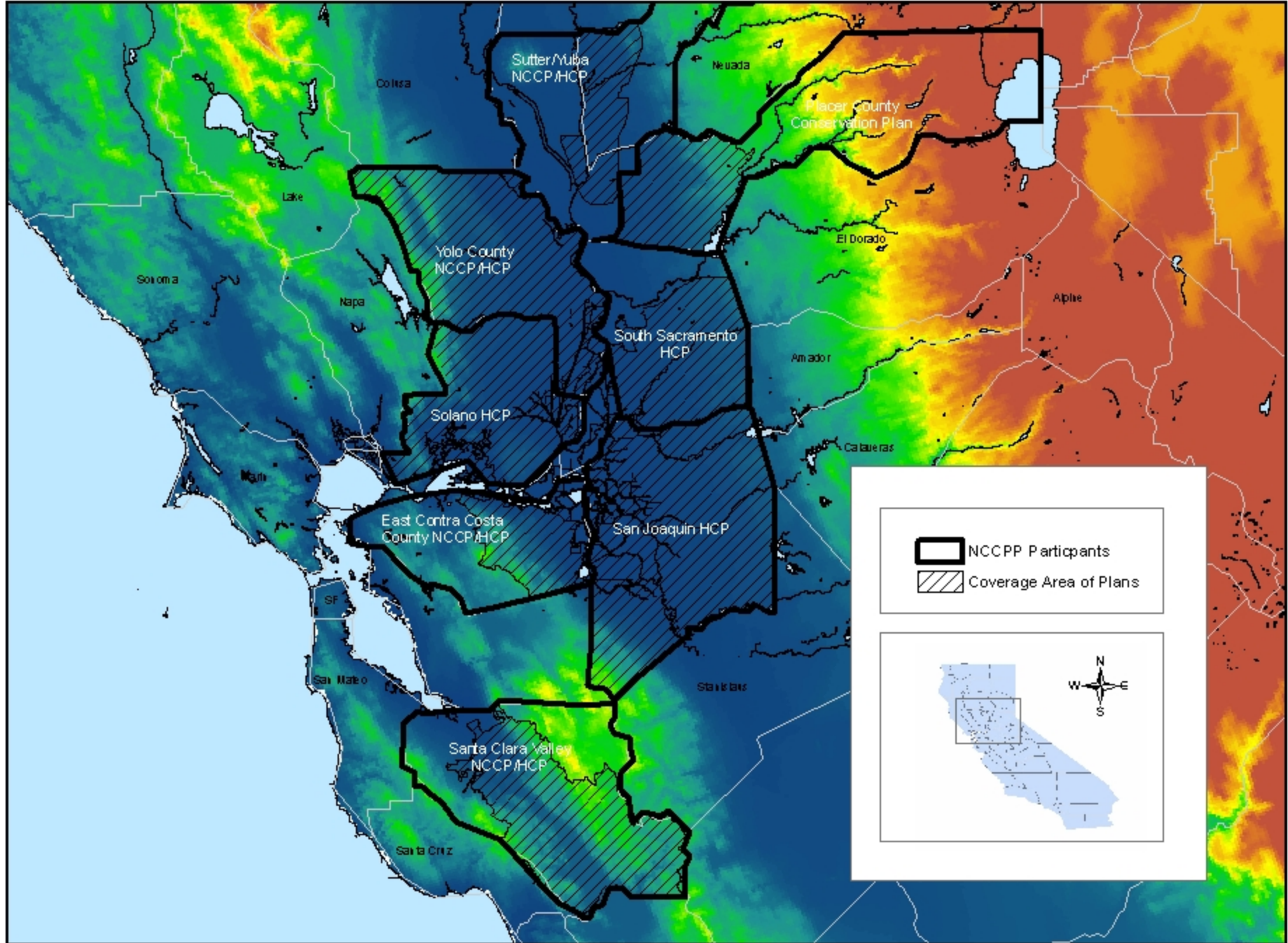


# Essentials of Regional Conservation Planning in Northern California

John Hopkins

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# Approved NCCPP Plans

- San Joaquin MSHCP 5/01
- East Contra Costa HCP/NCCP 8/07

# NCCPP Plans in Preparation

- Placer County Conservation Plan
- San Clara Valley HCP / NCCP
- South Sacramento HCP
- Solano HCP
- Yolo Natural Heritage Program
- Yuba / Sutter HCP/NCCP

# 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
- 



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 provisions
- Future state Wetlands and Riparian Protection Policy
- Economic and biological advantages of coordination & umbrella conservation plan

# Some Future Linkage Opportunities

- SB 375 – Regional growth plans
- Central Valley Flood Control Plan
- IRWMPs – Integrated Regional Water Management Plans
- California Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Potential Funding Sources (climate change, transportation, renewable energy)

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