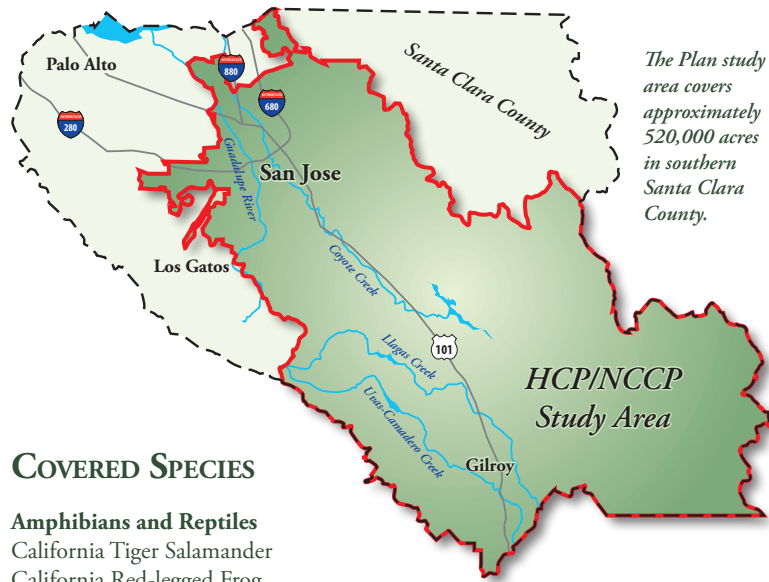


STUDY AREA



The Plan study area covers approximately 520,000 acres in southern Santa Clara County.

COVERED SPECIES

Amphibians and Reptiles

California Tiger Salamander
California Red-legged Frog
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog
Western Pond Turtle

Birds

Golden Eagle
Least Bell's Vireo
Tri-colored Blackbird
Western Burrowing Owl

Fish

Central California Coast Steelhead
Central Valley Fall Run Chinook
Salmon
Pacific Lamprey
South-Central California Coast Steelhead

Mammals

San Joaquin Kit Fox
Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Plants

Big-scale Balsamroot
Chaparral Harebell
Coyote Ceanothus
Fragrant Fritillary
Hall's Bush Mallow
Loma Prieta Hoita
Metcalf Canyon Jewelflower
Most Beautiful Jewelflower
Mt. Hamilton Thistle
Robust Monardella
Rock Sanicle
San Francisco Collinsia
Santa Clara Valley Dudleya
Smooth Lessingia
Tiburon Indian Paintbrush

Insects

Bay Checkerspot Butterfly

GLOSSARY

Biological Goals - Guiding principles for conservation within the study area, biological goals are based on the conservation needs of the covered species and natural communities. Descriptive, broad statements of desired future conditions, biological goals are typically qualitative rather than quantitative – they convey a purpose, but do not define measurable results.

Biological Objectives - Quantitative, measurable targets, derived from biological goals, biological objectives are concise statements of what and how much should be achieved, when and where it will be achieved, and who is responsible. Biological objectives are measured to evaluate the Plan's success.

Conservation Actions - Specific activities to achieve the biological goals and objectives, conservation actions make up the conservation strategy.

Conservation Strategy - A comprehensive set of conservation actions, a conservation strategy is designed to achieve all biological goals and objectives.

Endangered – Species at risk of becoming extinct.

Incidental Take Permit - Permits allowing the “take” of endangered species incidental to an otherwise lawful activity (such as building a road or constructing a development).

Reserve System – A compilation of discrete areas of conserved habitats managed collectively under the habitat plan.

Take – Defined in the Federal or State Endangered Species Acts as to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, or collect a species.

Threatened – Species at risk of becoming endangered in the foreseeable future.

www.scv-habitatplan.org

SANTA CLARA VALLEY

H A B I T A T P L A N

...A Conservation Legacy

*Planning for land use and habitat protection
in the Santa Clara Valley*

**Building a common vision – Balancing projected
development with the natural environment**



County of Santa Clara • City of San Jose • City of Gilroy • City of Morgan Hill
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority • Santa Clara Valley Water District
California Department of Fish and Game • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service

Winter 2008-2009

PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



To promote the recovery of endangered species while accommodating planned development, infrastructure, and maintenance activities, the County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the cities of Gilroy, Morgan Hill, and San Jose (Local Partners) are preparing a joint Habitat Conservation Plan/ Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP). The Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (Plan) is being developed in association with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the National Marine Fisheries Service and in consultation with stakeholder groups and the general public to protect and enhance ecological diversity and function within more than 500,000 acres of Santa Clara County. The final Plan will provide a framework for the Local Partners and landowners to complete projects while protecting at-risk species and their essential habitats, some of which only occur in Santa Clara County.

THE CASE FOR HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANNING

The current process of obtaining development permits and mitigating for habitat loss on a project-by-project basis is inefficient and often ineffective. Before a land-disturbing project may proceed, project applicants (such as a public agency or private landowner) pursue permits from many regulatory agencies – a lengthy and costly process frequently resulting in fragmented, piecemeal habitat areas. Long-term habitat-conservation planning provides a more efficient mechanism for protecting the environment while streamlining the permitting process.

Rather than separately permitting and mitigating each individual project, the Plan will look at natural-resource impacts and mitigation requirements comprehensively. Instead of applying for permits through several regulatory wildlife agencies, this coordinated approach will allow project applicants to receive their endangered-species permits through local agency Planning Departments.

Application and permit fees are among the funding sources that will help purchase and enhance habitat from willing sellers and provide long term monitoring and adaptive management of a reserve system. These permits will facilitate the projects and activities included in the Habitat Plan, such as planned public infrastructure, road and water projects, and approved developments currently included in existing general plans.

In addition to strengthening local control over land use and species protection, the Plan will provide a more efficient process for protecting natural resources by creating a number of new habitat reserves that will be larger in scale, more ecologically valuable, and easier to manage than the current project-by-project approach. By proactively addressing long-term conservation needs, the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan will promote the recovery of endangered species and habitats while accommodating planned development and infrastructure.

PREFERRED DRAFT CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Conservation Strategy is a series of conservation actions that collectively achieve the biological goals and objectives of the Plan.

Preferred Draft Conservation Strategy in a nutshell:

- Create a Reserve System that will preserve in the range of 45,000 acres of land for the benefit of covered species, natural communities, biological diversity, and ecosystem function.
- Incorporate about 15,000 acres of existing open space areas into the Reserve System to enhance their long-term management and monitoring.
- Provide protection and management of aquatic resources in the study area, particularly native fish-bearing streams, inside and outside the Reserve System.
- Restore over 1,000 acres of riparian woodland, wetlands, ponds, and approximately 40 miles of streams to offset losses of these land cover types and contribute to species recovery.
- Preserve and upgrade major local and regional connections between key habitat areas and between existing protected areas.
- Establish a framework for long-term management of the Reserve System and streams outside the Reserve System to enhance populations of covered species and maintain biological diversity.

For more information on the Administrative Draft Habitat Plan, Biological Goals and Objectives, and the Preferred Conservation Strategy, please visit www.scv-habitatplan.org.



Western Pond Turtle



Coyote Ceanothus



Diablo Helianthella



Central California Coast Steelhead

PROJECT MILESTONES AND SCHEDULE

Developed Baseline Data (covered species; covered activities; land cover and land use maps)	Draft Conservation Strategy. Released 1st Admin Draft Habitat Plan	Draft HCP/NCCP and Draft Environmental Review documents preparation and public review	Certification of the Environmental Review and Approval of Final HCP/NCCP
2006-2007	2008	2009	2010



San Joaquin Kit Fox



Mt. Hamilton Thistle



California Red-Legged Frog



Golden Eagle