

Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan

Biological Goals and Objectives Workshop: Process Overview

Feb. 27, 2007



SANTA CLARA VALLEY HCP/NCCP PARTNERSHIP



 Jones & Stokes

Presentation Outline

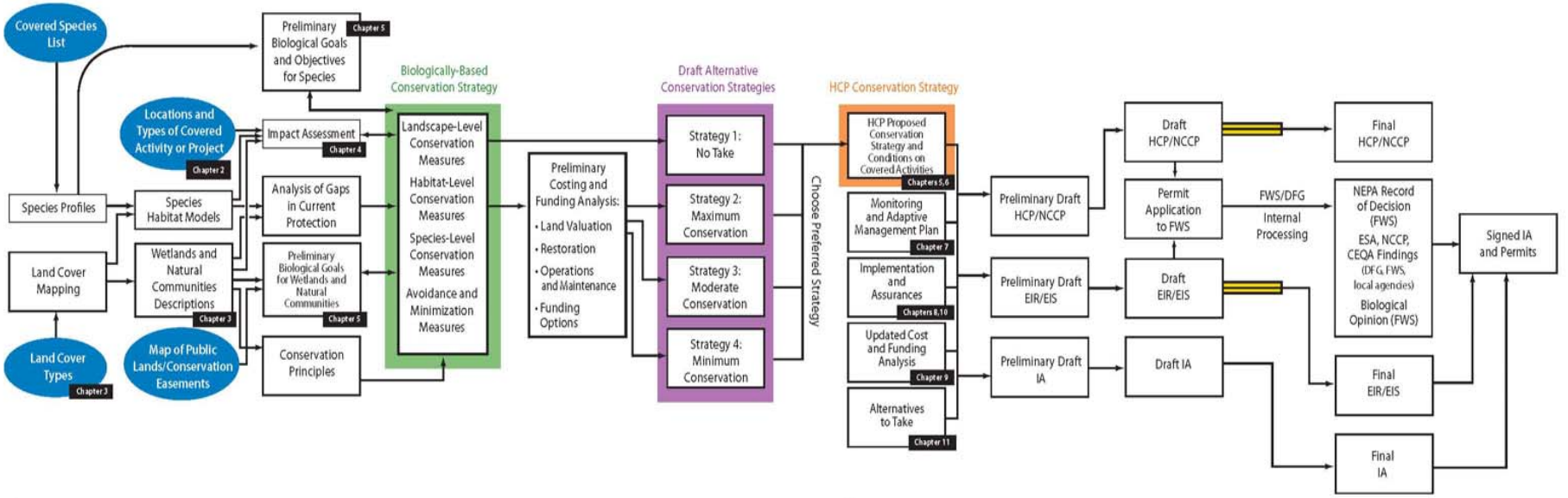
- Brief Process Overview
- Definition of Terms
- Process So Far
- Role of Stakeholders Group
- Next Steps

Process Overview

- Completed 18 months of a 44+ month schedule (40%)
- Almost halfway through Phase 2 of 4 (Impacts and Conservation Strategy)
- Early in development of Conservation Strategy
- Internal deadline for Draft Conservation Strategy Alternatives: April 30
- Consultant typically develops biological goals and objectives for review—trying new approach
- Many other opportunities for review and revisions of goals and objectives

Proposed Process, Schedule, and Key Decision Points for the Santa Clara County HCP/NCCP

KEY DECISIONS



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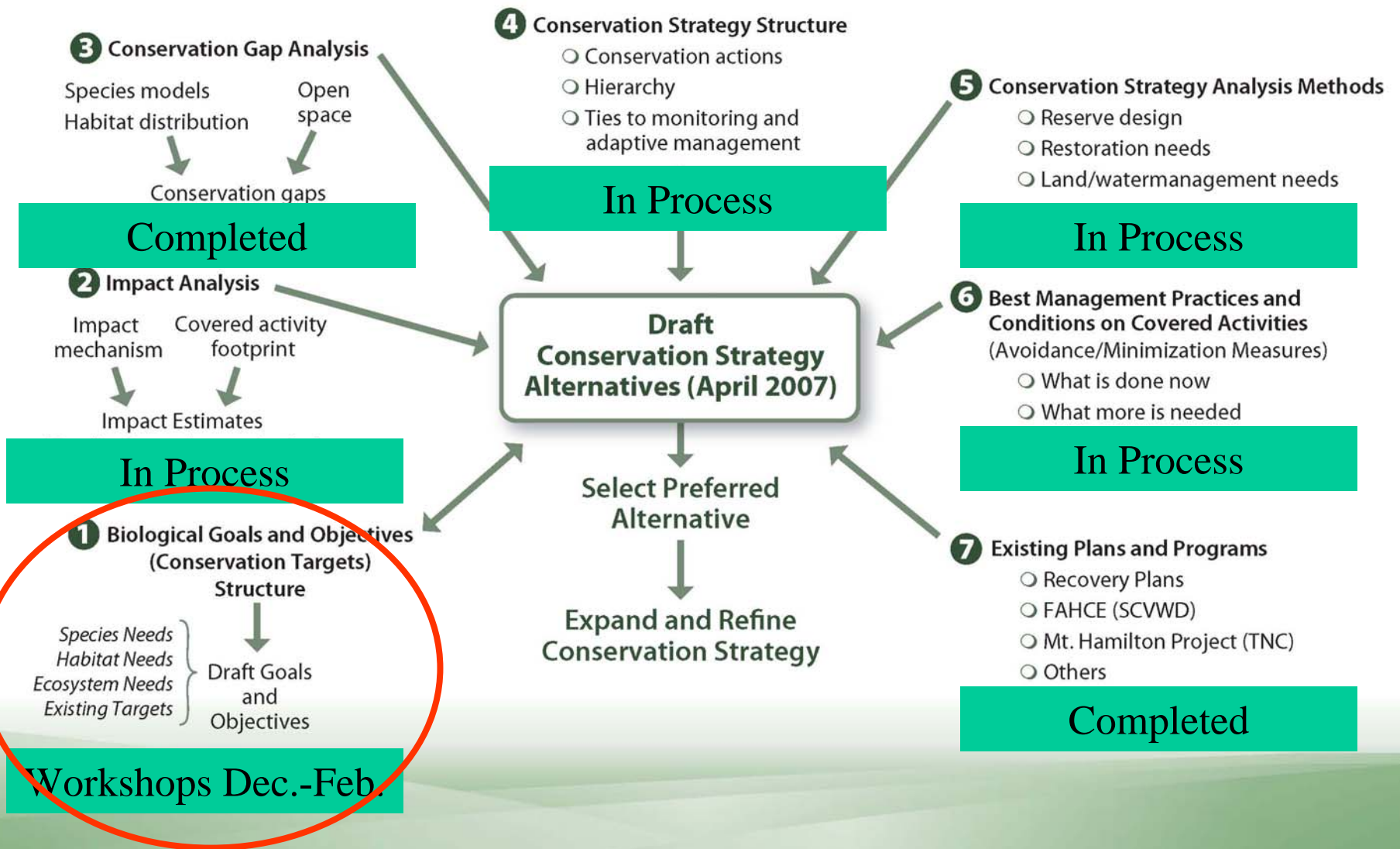
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| <p>1 Which species will be covered?</p> <p>2 What activities will be covered?</p> <p>3 How will covered activities impact covered species?</p> <p>4 What ecological principles should guide conservation?</p> <p>5 What area will be covered by the permit (perhaps different areas for different activities)?</p> <p>6 What conservation measures are necessary to receive permit(s)?</p> <p>7 Should conservation easements or fee simple purchases be used to protect habitat (or both)?</p> <p>8 Should the plan be "hard-lined" or "soft-lined"? (I.e., should the plan specifically map areas targeted for acquisition)?</p> | <p>9 How much site-specific survey work will be required of those seeking permits through the HCP? (e.g. wetland delineations, species surveys)</p> <p>10 How much will the plan cost to implement?</p> <p>11 What assurances can be provided to landowners near preserves created by HCP?</p> <p>12 How will implementation be funded?</p> <p>13 What agency(s) will hold the permit and implement the plan?</p> <p>14 What is the adaptive management plan? What implementation assurances shall be provided to involved parties? What are the protocols for amending the plan/permit?</p> <p>15 How long will the permit last?</p> |
|--|--|

ACRONYM KEY

- CEQA California Environmental Quality Act
- DFG California Department of Fish and Game
- EIR Environmental Impact Report
- EIS Environmental Impact Statement
- ESA Endangered Species Act (Federal)
- FWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- HCP Habitat Conservation Plan
- IA Implementing Agreement
- NCCP Natural Community Conservation Plan
- NEPA National Environmental Policy Act



Conservation Strategy Development Process



Biological Goals and Objectives

- Backbone of the Conservation Strategy
- **Goals:** Broad qualitative statements
- **Objectives:** Measurable targets that support the goals
- **Actions:** Activities on the ground
- **Conservation Strategy:** Collection of all Actions
- **Conservation Alternatives:** Different combinations of Actions

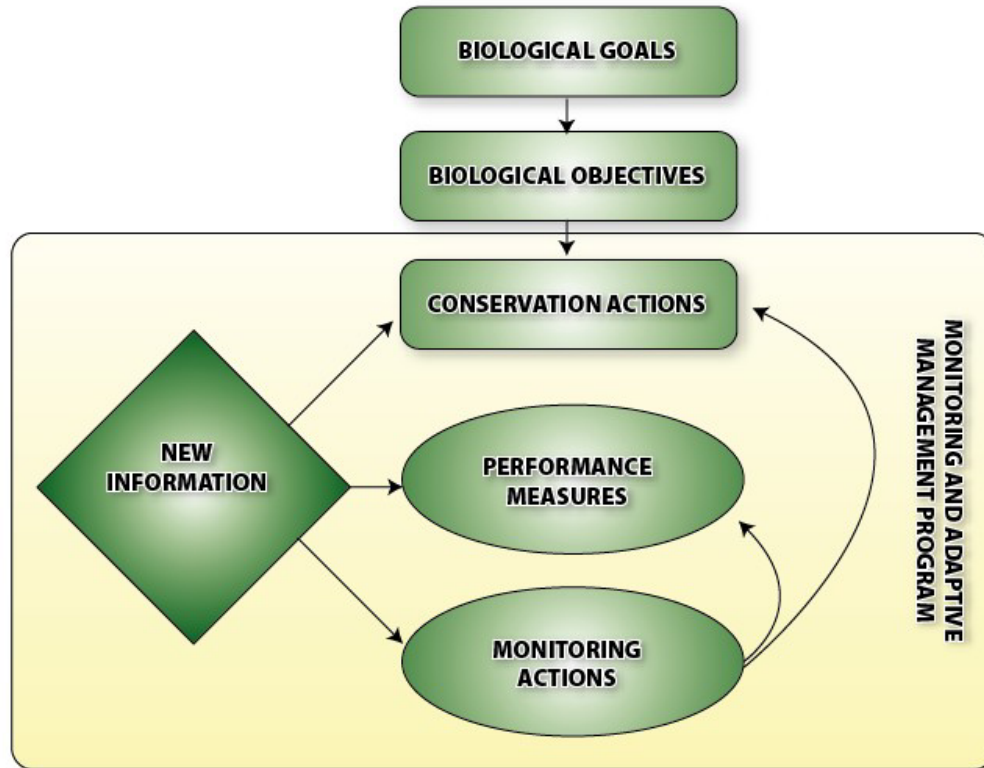
Conservation Strategy



Goals & Objectives Organization

- Using hierarchical organization
 - *Landscape*-level (e.g., ecosystem processes, wildlife movement, watershed function)
 - *Natural-community* level (e.g., stream/riparian, grassland, wetland/pond,)
 - *Species*-level (e.g., single covered species or groups)
- Objectives and actions will be linked to monitoring

Relationship of Monitoring and Adaptive Management to Biological Goals & Objectives



Groups of Natural Communities/Species

➤ Streams and Riparian (Table 1)

- Stream and riparian natural communities, along with both ESU's of steelhead, chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, foothill yellow-legged frog, least Bell's vireo

➤ Pond and Wetland (Table 2)

- Ponds, seasonal and other freshwater wetlands, along with California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, tricolored blackbird

➤ Grassland and Serpentine plants (Table 3)

- Grassland natural communities, along with Coyote ceanothus, Santa Clara Valley dudleya, Metcalf Canyon jewelflower, most beautiful jewelflower, smooth lessingia, fragrant fritillary, Mt. Hamilton thistle, Bay checkerspot butterfly

Groups of Natural Communities/Species

➤ Valley Floor species (Table 4)

- Western burrowing owl, golden eagle, San Joaquin kit fox

➤ Non-serpentine plants (Table 5)

- Oak woodland, Conifer woodland, and chaparral and northern coastal scrub natural communities, along with Big scale balsamroot, chaparral harebell, San Francisco collinsia, Loma Prieta hoita, robust monardella, rock sanicle, Hall's bush mallow

➤ Landscape level

- Natural community connectivity and function, fish and wildlife movement

Process So Far

- Six focused workshops (Dec.-Feb.)
- Workshops included: Local Partner staff and biologists, Wildlife Agency staff and species experts, outside species experts, consultants
- Follow up conference call to discuss revisions and new information
- Management Team – 1st review on Feb. 23rd

Development of BGOs

- Jones & Stokes developed draft BGOs
- All BGOs have been revised following input from workshop participants
- Some have been further discussed during follow up calls with workshop participants (Grassland/Serpentine, Pond/Wetland)
- Others are still very draft with lots of notes and follow up assignments for Jones & Stokes and Local Partner staff (Stream/Riparian, Valley Floor, Non-serpentine plants)
- Landscape level BGOs were developed at a workshop on Feb. 20th and are not being discussed today (we will discuss these at a future meeting)

Workshop Guidelines

- Consolidate and group when possible
- Some repetition is okay but strive to minimize number of goals and objectives
- Put details of actions into “parking lot”
- Identify issues and options; options could become alternatives
- Many numeric targets have to wait for further analysis
- Acknowledge possible conflicts among species
- Keep regulatory charge in mind: contribute to recovery

Goals for Today

- Provide overview of process to date
- Get familiar with the format and level of detail to be expected in the Goals, Objectives, and Actions so that comments are focused
- Discuss comments and questions on draft Goals and Objectives
- Ensure that the Goals and Objectives are on target conceptually
- Make a list of Conservation Actions that need to be addressed or better defined in the next draft
- Get through all of the 5 tables
- Plan next steps

Process: Next Steps

- **Workshop Groups:** follow up discussions – March/April
- **Management Team:** March 16, April 27, May 18, and beyond?
- **Mare Island:** March 14, April 11, and beyond?
- **Stakeholder Group:** February 27, other options
- **Liaison Group:** April 19, June 14, August 16
- **Community Meeting:** May 10
- **Elected Bodies:** September/October