

Table 4. Preliminary Working Draft Biological Goals, Objectives and Conservation Actions for the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan: "Valley-Floor Species"—Golden Eagle, Western Burrowing Owl, and San Joaquin Kit Fox.

Note: These goals and objectives were developed during a workshop in mid-February with Local Partner staff and biologists, Wildlife Agency staff and species experts, outside species experts, and consultants.

Biological Goals and Objectives	Conservation Actions	Monitoring Action
Ecosystem/Landscape		
TBD		
Natural Communities		
<p><i>Note: Most Natural Community level goals and objectives appear in the Grasslands section in the Serpentine BGOs table (see Table 3). Please refer to those for specifics about Grassland BGOs. The most relevant objective to these species is copied below.</i></p>		
<p>Objective 4.5. Increase the distribution and availability of California ground squirrels to increase the prey base San Joaquin kit fox and golden eagle and burrow availability within grassland for California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, western burrowing owl, golden eagle, San Joaquin kit fox, and other native species (from grassland section)</p>	<p>GRASS-6. Cease using rodenticides within the Reserve System and when possible outside of the Reserve System except when needed to protect the integrity of facilities or structures such as levees, stock pond dams, roads or to prevent nuisance (as defined in the Fish & Game Code Sections 4150 and 4152) populations from moving onto adjacent private lands.</p> <p>GRASS-7. Encourage expansion of existing colonies and colonization of new areas within the Reserve System where conflicts with covered activities will be minimized.</p>	
Species		
<p>Goal 16. Maintain or increase the breeding population of golden eagles.</p>		

Biological Goals and Objectives	Conservation Actions	Monitoring Action
<p>Objective 16.1. Protect all known nest sites, any new nests that are discovered during the permit term, and habitat features that have the potential to support nesting golden eagles.</p>	<p>GRASS-9. Acquire or obtain easements on sites with secluded rock outcrops or large trees overlooking open grassland in the Diablo Range and Santa Cruz Mountains.</p> <p>GRASS-10. Acquire in fee title or with easements recently occupied (within last 10 years) nest sites plus a buffer (0.5-mile buffer when feasible).</p> <p>GRASS-11. Acquire or obtain easements on grasslands with existing ground squirrel colonies in the Diablo Range and Santa Cruz Mountains.</p>	
<p>Objective 16.1. Protect ___ acres of grassland and ___ acres of oak woodland with existing ground squirrel colonies in the study area.</p>	<p>GRASS-11a. Acquire by fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of occupied ground squirrel colonies in grassland and oak woodland natural communities within ___ miles of known nest sites.</p>	
<p>Objective 16.2. Enhance golden eagle foraging habitat by promoting ground squirrel populations.</p>	<p>GRASS-6. Cease using rodenticides within the Reserve System and when possible outside of the Reserve System except when needed to protect the integrity of facilities or structures such as levees, stock pond dams, roads or to prevent nuisance (<i>as defined in the Fish & Game Code Sections 4150 and 4152</i>) populations from moving onto adjacent private lands.</p> <p>GRASS-7. Encourage colonization of ground squirrels in new areas within the Reserve System where conflicts with covered activities will be minimized.</p>	
<p>Goal 17. Maintain or increase the size and sustainability of the breeding population and increase the distribution of breeding and wintering burrowing owls.</p>		

Biological Goals and Objectives	Conservation Actions	Monitoring Action
<p>Objective 17.1. Protect __ acres of occupied and suitable burrowing owl sites within the study area.</p> <p>Work with Jack Barclay, Brenda Johnson and other species experts to create a figure that shows areas where owls currently are and where they were historically, and where there is still potential for expansion of range within the study area.</p>	<p>LAND-52. Acquire or obtain easements on __ acres of occupied burrowing owl breeding sites at X, Y, and Z.</p> <p>Possible prioritization for protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -sites on flat lands where owls have been recorded in the past or with existing ground squirrel burrows. -sites on moderate slopes that have relatively high density of ground squirrel burrows. <p>LAND-53. Acquire or obtain easements that protect suitable burrowing owl breeding habitat within __ miles of the San Jose International Airport or other important northern San Jose breeding sites.</p> <p>LAND-54. Acquire or obtain easements on __ acres of grassland valleys in the Diablo Range that support ground squirrel populations or could support them with improved management.</p>	

Biological Goals and Objectives	Conservation Actions	Monitoring Action
<p>Objective 17.2. Enhance __ acres of suitable burrowing owl breeding sites within __ miles of San Jose Airport or other northern San Jose sites that currently support breeding burrowing owls .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>GRASS-12. Implement vegetation management that reduces the height of all vegetation to less than 12 inches (i.e., graze/mow).</p> <p>GRASS-13. Create __ artificial burrows per acre to encourage colonization of sites where ground squirrel establishment is not feasible or during the interim before ground squirrel colonies can be established.</p> <p>See GRASS-6.</p> <p>See GRASS-7.</p> <p>GRASS-14. Coordinate management with burrowing owl population managers in Santa Clara County but outside the study area (e.g., NASA-Ames Research Center, Shoreline Park or other important breeding sites outside of the study area).</p> <p>GRASS-15. Incorporate western burrowing owl management and protection into MartialCottle County Park Master Plan (290-acre Master Plan in development now jointly by County Parks and State Parks; site will focus on historic agricultural demonstration farming).</p> <p>GRASS-16. Incorporate management measures into the Master Plan for the San Jose Water Pollution Control Plan Bufferland (approx. 500 acres) to encourage use by burrowing owls [<i>San Jose Environmental Planning Office is currently developing a Master Plan; Don Arnold will contact San Jose to determine Master Plan stage</i>].</p> <p>Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of working with Reid-Hillview Airport to stop controlling rodents to allow ground squirrels to come back and allow burrowing owls to naturally colonize and persist. • Consider an educational campaign for private landowners in the valley floor to manage their lands in a way more compatible with burrowing owl. 	

Biological Goals and Objectives	Conservation Actions	Monitoring Action
<p>Goal 18. Increase the ability of San Joaquin kit fox to move through and use the study area.</p>		
<p>Objective 18.1. Protect ___ acres of annual grassland and suitable oak woodland land cover types in a diversity of soils types and other environmental gradients to enhance movement, foraging, and resting habitat.</p>	<p>LAND-55. Acquire in fee title or obtain easements on ___ acres of annual grassland and suitable oak woodland types (e.g., oak savanna and oak woodland within 500 feet of annual grassland) north and south of Highway 152 in suitable modeled San Joaquin kit fox movement habitat.</p>	
<p>Objective 18.2. Enhance grassland within the Reserve System to provide a larger prey base for San Joaquin kit fox.</p>	<p>See GRASS-6. See GRASS-7.</p>	
<p>Objective 18.3. Improve land-use compatibility in areas suitable for kit fox movement.</p>	<p>GRASS-17. Conduct a public education campaign in the southeastern portion of the study area to provide landowners with information about management and land use techniques that are more compatible with movement and use by San Joaquin kit fox. {Possible condition on covered activities}</p>	
<p>Objective 18.4. Allow safer passage of San Joaquin kit fox across Highway 152 between the Highway 152/156 interchange and the Santa Clara/Merced County line.</p>	<p>GRASS-18. Reduce fencing and number of roads to the minimum amount necessary to carry out operations. GRASS-19. Replace small culverts or culverts that create a one-way barrier with large, straight culverts that allow direct movement from one side of the road to the other and ensure that the culvert is visible to the target species (i.e., do not obscure entrance with vegetation). GRASS-20. Where appropriate replace culverts with free span bridges to allow wildlife to move freely under roadways. GRASS-21. Install fencing or other features that will direct wildlife attempting to cross the roadway towards the culvert or other safe crossing. GRASS-22. Remove or perforate median barriers along roadways to improve successful wildlife crossings and, if appropriate, install fencing or other features to direct wildlife to those open sections.</p>	

