



November 06, 2014

Armand Gonzales
Project Lead
California State Wildlife Action Plan
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Final Draft State Wildlife Action Plan

Dear Armand:

On behalf of Sierra Club and its more than 380,000 members and supporters in California, I submit the following comments on the draft State Wildlife Action Plan.

California's State Wildlife Action plan should be just that - an action plan. Meaningful actions proposed must account for the impacts of climate change on wildlife habitat. All actions must have clearly measurable results; so pilot programs that study possible actions are essential.

Wildlife needs sufficient high quality habitat as well as corridors for travel. Restoring land to reduce fragmentation and increase connectivity should be a priority. In order to ensure strong protections for species remain in place, local efforts to develop testable pilot programs that support local biodiversity should be supported by the State Wildlife Action Plan.

All wildlife is dependent on healthy flora, which provides food and cover from predators as well as nesting opportunities. Mature trees, whether native or non-native should be preserved both for their carbon sequestration as well as for their habitat value. For example, mature non-native trees provided habitat for the first successful bald eagle fledgling in Santa Cruz County, this past spring. It was the first successful fledge in decades.

A potential action to support flora is planting and maintaining native trees and shrubs. Local pilot programs can be implemented to plant and maintain native trees and shrubs, particularly in degraded areas between existing habitat patches. This should be encouraged and supported by the State Wildlife Action Plan in order to encourage high quality studies.

Steelhead trout and coho salmon face water shortages due to drought, which needs to be addressed with a renewed commitment to maintain water supplies for our wildlife through conservation.

Redwood trees are both a symbol of longevity and a source of clean air. The state should ensure all logging plans prove their sustainability, taking into account the other species that depend on the trees for survival. Because trees absorb more carbon as they age, the oldest trees need to be protected the most as coolers of our climate.

In the face of climate change, forest fires are expected to increase in frequency and intensity. Older trees are more resistant to forest fire, which helps to inhibit the spread of fire and reduces the release of greenhouse gases, prevents habitat and temperature control losses in forests.

Thank you to all of those in the Department of Fish and Wildlife who seek to protect our ecosystems with the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Moreno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Eddie Moreno
Policy Advocate