Natural Community Conservation Planning Process

Scope - Identify initial geographic planning area and natural communities

Planning Agreement - Convene parties to develop a planning agreement which outlines:
- ♦ Geographic planning area
- ♦ Species and natural communities to be addressed
- ♦ Processes for scientific and public input
- ♦ Interim process for project review

Committees - Establish committees as necessary:
- ♦ Plan stakeholder committee
- ♦ Biological technical group (agency biologists, consultants)
- ♦ Specific issues (funding, mitigation strategies, data management, outreach, etc.)

Data Collection - Collect biological and other necessary planning data:
- ♦ Species field surveys
- ♦ Vegetation mapping and habitat modeling
- ♦ Soils, hydrology, land ownership, etc.

Conservation Principles - Convene independent science advisors to identify conservation principles for:
- ♦ Landscape conservation and reserve design, such as:
  - • Larger reserves are better than smaller reserves
  - • Reserve areas should be close to each other
  - • Habitat should remain contiguous
  - • Reserves should be linked with corridors
  - • Reserves should contain a diversity of physical and environmental conditions
  - • Reserves should be protected from encroachment
- ♦ Conservation of specific target species and habitats
- ♦ Data gaps (may include research recommendations)
- ♦ Adaptive management

Identify Preserves - Use conservation principles, data, and expert opinion to identify reserves.

Plan Development - Develop draft plan with input from committees and interested public:
- ♦ Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures
- ♦ Conservation obligations of partners
- ♦ Mechanisms for development approval
- ♦ Economic analysis and funding strategies
- ♦ Draft implementing agreement

Plan Review and Approval
- ♦ Conduct public review of draft plan and CEQA documents
- ♦ Develop final plan
- ♦ Obtain jurisdictional approval of final plan (local government)
- ♦ Issue necessary permits (DFG, USFWS)

Implementation
- ♦ Assemble the reserve system
- ♦ Biological monitoring
- ♦ Adaptive management program
- ♦ Compliance monitoring