

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

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<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>AB</b>	Assembly Bill
<b>BA</b>	Biological Assessment (under ESA Section 7)
<b>BO</b>	Biological Opinion (under ESA Section 7)
<b>BCAG</b>	Butte County Association of Governments
<b>BCFB</b>	Butte County Farm Bureau
<b>BCM</b>	Butte County Meadowfoam
<b>BIA</b>	Building Industry Association
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management
<b>BMP</b>	Best Management Practice
<b>CalIPC</b>	California Invasive Plant Council
<b>Caltrans</b>	California Department of Transportation
<b>Cat Ex</b>	Categorical Exemption
<b>CAZ</b>	Conservation acquisition zone
<b>CCR</b>	California Code of Regulations
<b>CDF</b>	California Dept of Forestry and Fire Protection (also “Cal-Fire”)
<b>CDFG</b>	California Department of Fish & Game (also DFG)
<b>CESA</b>	California Endangered Species Act
<b>CEQA</b>	California Environmental Quality Act
<b>CFBF</b>	California Farm Bureau Federation
<b>CFR</b>	Code of Federal Regulations
<b>CNDDDB</b>	California Natural Diversity Database
<b>CNPS</b>	California Native Plant Society
<b>CSUC</b>	California State University, Chico
<b>CWA</b>	California Waterfowl Association
<b>CWA</b>	Clean Water Act
<b>CWHR</b>	California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System
<b>DFG</b>	California Department of Fish and Game (also CDFG)
<b>DOC</b>	Department of Conservation (California)
<b>DU</b>	Ducks Unlimited
<b>DWR</b>	California Department of Water Resources
<b>EA</b>	Environmental Assessment (under NEPA)
<b>EIR</b>	Environmental Impact Report (under CEQA)
<b>EIS</b>	Environmental Impact Statement (under NEPA)
<b>EPA</b>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (also USEPA)
<b>ESA</b>	Endangered Species Act (also FESA)
<b>FAC</b>	California Food and Agricultural Code
<b>FESA</b>	Federal Endangered Species Act (also ESA)
<b>FMMP</b>	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
<b>FONSI</b>	Finding of No Significant Impact (under NEPA)
<b>FPP</b>	Farmland Protection Program
<b>FPPA</b>	Farmland Protection Policy Act
<b>FRAP</b>	Fire and Resource Assessment Program
<b>FSZ</b>	Farmland Security Zone
<b>FTP</b>	File Transfer Protocol (websites for transferring large files)

<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information Systems (computer-based mapping)
<b>HCP</b>	Habitat Conservation Plan (under ESA)
<b>ITP</b>	Incidental Take Permit
<b>IP</b>	Individual Permit
<b>IS</b>	Initial Study (under CEQA)
<b>IWMB</b>	Integrated Waste Management Board
<b>LESA</b>	Land Evaluation and Site Assessment
<b>MBTA</b>	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
<b>MMU</b>	minimum mapping unit
<b>MND</b>	Mitigated Negative Declaration (under CEQA)
<b>NCCP</b>	Natural Community Conservation Plan
<b>NCCPA</b>	Natural Community Conservation Plan Act
<b>ND</b>	Negative Declaration (under CEQA)
<b>NEPA</b>	National Environment Policy Act
<b>NF</b>	National Forest
<b>NHD</b>	National Hydrography Dataset
<b>NMFS</b>	National Marine Fisheries Service (also NOAA Fisheries)
<b>NOAA Fisheries</b>	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (also NMFS)
<b>NOI</b>	Notice of Intent (under NEPA)
<b>NOP</b>	Notice of Preparation (under CEQA)
<b>NPDES</b>	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
<b>NPS</b>	non-point source
<b>NRCS</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service
<b>NWP</b>	Nationwide permit (under CWA)
<b>NWR</b>	National Wildlife Refuge
<b>OHWM</b>	Ordinary high water mark
<b>OHV</b>	Off-Highway Vehicle
<b>ORV</b>	Off-Road Vehicle
<b>PRBO</b>	Point Reyes Bird Observatory
<b>PRC</b>	Public Resources Code (California)
<b>RCD</b>	Resource Conservation District
<b>Reclamation</b>	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
<b>RHJV</b>	Riparian Habitat Joint Venture
<b>RWQCB</b>	Regional Water Quality Control Board
<b>SAA</b>	Streambed Alteration Agreement
<b>SB</b>	Senate Bill (California)
<b>SOD</b>	sudden oak death
<b>SOI</b>	Sphere of Influence
<b>SPI</b>	Sierra Pacific Industries
<b>SRA</b>	shaded riverine aquatic
<b>SRPT</b>	Sacramento River Preservation Trust
<b>SWPPP</b>	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
<b>SWRCB</b>	State Water Resources Control Board
<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>UC</b>	University of California
<b>UPA</b>	Urban permit area
<b>USACE</b>	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
<b>USBR</b>	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
<b>USDA</b>	United States Department of Agriculture
<b>USGS</b>	United States Geologic Survey

<b>USFS</b>	United States Forest Service
<b>USFWS</b>	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>VELB</b>	Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle
<b>WAP</b>	Weed Abatement Plan
<b>WCB</b>	Wildlife Conservation Board
<b>WUI</b>	Wildland-urban interface

## Glossary

**Adaptive management.** A method for examining alternative strategies for meeting measurable biological goals and objectives, and then if necessary, adjusting future conservation management actions according to what is learned. (65 FR 106, June 1, 2000).

**Anthropogenic.** Caused or produced through human agency.

**Baseline.** The baseline is the existing environmental state, which includes past and present impacts as well as the anticipated impacts of all permitted projects in the inventory area.

**Biological opinion (BO).** The document stating the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service as to whether or not a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat (50 CFR 402.02). A BO is one of the decision documents of a consultation under Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Biodiversity.** Within a given area, the variety of organisms considered at all levels, from genetic variants of a single species through arrays of species to arrays of genera, families, and higher taxonomic levels; includes the variety of ecosystems.

**Buffer areas.** Buffer areas are designated zones of agricultural lands, grassland, or other habitat types adjacent to preserves that are intended to prevent or reduce the undesired intrusion of biota, harmful materials, or disturbances into the preserve, as well as the movement of covered wildlife species from preserve areas into adjoining areas.

**Conservation.** According to the federal Endangered Species Act (Section 3[3]), the terms *conserve*, *conserving*, and *conservation* are defined as the methods and procedures necessary to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided under the Act are no longer necessary. Such methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, activities associated with resource management such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition and maintenance, propagation, live trapping, and transportation. The Natural Community Conservation Planning Act defines *conserve*, *conserving*, and *conservation* as the use of methods and procedures within the plan area that are necessary to bring any covered species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to Chapter 1.5 ... are not necessary, and for covered species that are not listed pursuant to Chapter 1.5 ..., to maintain or enhance the condition of a species so that listing pursuant to Chapter 1.5 ... will not become necessary.

**Conservation measure.** An action that, when implemented, will partially or wholly achieve HCP/NCCP objectives for covered species, covered natural communities, biodiversity, or ecosystem function.

**Conserve.** Please see **Conservation**.

**Conserved habitat.** Species habitat that is protected, enhanced, and/or restored under the HCP/NCCP.

**Construction monitoring.** Monitoring by biologists of construction activities to ensure that conservation measures are implemented and impacts to biological resources are avoided or minimized in accordance with Plan requirements.

**Contribute to recovery.** Actions that measurably increase the baseline conditions necessary to support covered species and contribute to the eventual de-listing of a listed species or prevention of listing of an unlisted species. A contribution to recovery does not include actions necessary to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts of covered activities.

**Cover (e.g., canopy cover, areal cover).** The area of ground covered by vegetation of particular species or vegetation type, generally expressed as a percentage.

**Covered species.** Those species addressed in the Plan for which conservation measures will be implemented and for which the applicants seek authorization for take under Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act and Section 2835 of the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act.

**Critical habitat.** An area designated as critical habitat by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act. Critical habitat areas are specific geographic areas, whether occupied by listed species or not, that are determined to be essential for the conservation and management of listed species, and that have been formally described and designated in the Federal Register.

**Direct impacts.** The immediate effects of implementing a HCP/NCCP action on a natural community or covered species. Examples of direct impacts include direct removal of habitat resulting from construction of structures and infrastructure and construction-related noise and visual disturbances that affect the behavior of covered species.

**Dominance.** The extent to which a given species predominates in a community by virtue of its size, abundance, or relative cover.

**Ecosystem.** A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as an ecological unit.

**Ecosystem function.** Processes operating at the ecosystem level, such as the cycling of matter, energy, and nutrients.

**Ecosystem restoration.** The reestablishment of ecological functions within an area that historically supported those functions.

**Enhance.** The improvement in ecological or habitat functions within an area where such functions were degraded from the historical level of function.

**Environmental gradient.** A change in physical and ecological parameters in geographic space, as characterized by transition zones between land-cover types and natural communities or topographic gradients.

**Ephemeral stream.** Stream that flows only in response to rain events and receives no groundwater input.

**Extinct species.** A species no longer in existence.

**Extirpated species.** A species no longer surviving in regions that were once part of its range.

**Fossorial.** Adapted for digging or burrowing into the ground.

**Fully Protected species.** Species designated in California Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 for which take, as defined under the California Endangered Species Act (see definition of “take”), is prohibited and may not be authorized by the Department of Fish and Game except for scientific purposes. Fully protected species proposed for coverage under the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP are the greater sandhill crane, California black rail, American peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and white-tailed kite.

**Geographic Information System (GIS).** Computer-based mapping technology that manipulates geographic data in digital layers and enables one to conduct a wide array of environmental analyses.

**Goal.** A broad, guiding principle that identifies an expected outcome of the conservation plan. Biological goals describe the desired future condition for each covered species and natural community with full implementation of the plan.

**Habitat.** The environmental conditions that support occupancy of a given organism in a specified area (Hall et al. 1997). In scientific and lay publications, habitat is defined in many different ways and for many different purposes. For the purpose of this plan, habitat is defined as the specific places where the environmental conditions (i.e., physical and biological conditions) required to support occupancy by individuals or populations of a given species are present. Habitat may be occupied (individuals or population of the species are, or have recently been, present) or unoccupied (see *unoccupied habitat* below).

**Habitat creation.** The establishment of habitat conditions for a species in an area that did not previously support it. For example, stock ponds can be created in areas that previously did not support them by grading and installing a check dam.

**Habitat degradation.** Habitat of a species that has been adversely affected, typically by human activity, such that its overall function as habitat has been reduced (such as by reduction in quantity or quality of one or more habitat elements). Degradation may result from actions that increase the level of noise and visual disturbances (e.g., increased traffic noise and volume) or affect the physical attributes of habitat (e.g., vegetation structure and composition) such that the ability of individuals of a covered species to use the affected habitat area may be diminished. Degraded habitat is often readily enhanced to increase its function (see “enhance”).

**Habitat enhancement.** The improvement of an existing degraded habitat. Enhancement involves improving the function of specific constituent elements of a species habitat that have been degraded or lost, typically due to human actions.

**Habitat-limited.** A habitat-limited species is one whose abundance, distribution, or reproduction is limited by the availability or quality of suitable habitat. See definition of *suitable habitat* below.

**Habitat quality.** The ability of the environment to provide conditions that support the persistence of individuals and populations (Hall et al. 1997). The precise meaning of quality varies by species and depends on the subject species’ specific needs in the context of a particular area. High-quality habitat for some species comprises only foraging and resting elements; for others it comprises foraging, resting, and nesting elements; for still others it may encompass all elements needed for the species to complete its lifecycle. Low-quality habitat would include only the minimal elements that support occurrence of the species. High-quality habitat tends to support larger numbers of species than low-quality habitat.

**Habitat quantity.** The area of the environment that supports or could support occupancy of a given organism.

**Habitat replacement.** To replace habitat is to mitigate habitat loss by enhancing or restoring habitat equivalent to or greater than the habitat lost.

**Habitat restoration.** Restoration is the establishment of a species habitat in an area that historically supported it, but no longer supports it because of the loss of one or more required ecological factors.

**Harass.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service defines the term “harass” in the Endangered Species Act as “an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.” (50 CFR 17.3).

**Harm.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service defines use of the term “harm” in the Endangered Species Act as an act which actually kills or injures wildlife—such actions may include “significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.” (50 C.F.R. §17.3). The National Marine Fisheries Service defines harm as an act that actually kills or injures fish or wildlife, including “significant habitat modification or degradation which actually kills or injures fish wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding spawning, rearing migrating, feeding or sheltering.” (50 CFR 222.102).

**Hydrology.** The movement of surface and subsurface water flows in a given area. The hydrology of an area is intimately connected with its precipitation, soils, and topography.

**Incidental take.** Any taking otherwise prohibited, if such taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity (50 CFR 17.3).

**Indirect impacts.** Impacts caused by or resulting from implementation of HCP/NCCP actions that are manifested later in time or are reasonably certain to occur. Examples of indirect impacts include increased human activity in habitats adjacent to new residential developments that could reduce the ability of covered species to use the habitat and changes in topography that alter the hydrological conditions supporting vernal pool habitats.

**In-kind/like-value creation.** Establishing the same vegetative community that would provide the same ecological values over time as the vegetation community affected. For example, creating an artificial vernal pool that supports species similar to those found in an affected vernal pool would be in-kind/like-value creation.

**Intermittent stream.** Stream that is supplied by both rainfall runoff and groundwater; intermittent streams tend to be seasonal, flowing during the rainy season and into the late spring or early summer.

**Jurisdictional wetlands and waters.** State and federally regulated wetlands and other water bodies that cannot be filled or altered without permits from either USACE under Section 404 of the CWA, the SWRCB or the RWQCBs under either Section 401 of the CWA or the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, or CDFG under Fish and Game Code Section 1602, as of the date the Plan takes effect.

**Land-cover type.** The dominant feature of the land surface discernible from aerial photographs and defined by vegetation, water, or human uses.

**Land-use designation.** The designation, by parcel, in an adopted city or county General Plan of the allowable uses.

**Loss of habitat.** Loss of habitat is a reduction in habitat quality or quantity that results from an adverse change in an environmental condition. Environmental conditions may include cover, substrate, channel type, interacting species, river area, reservoir area, water quality, and groundwater depth.

**Manage.** Actions implemented on lands preserved under the conservation plan to maintain or improve ecological functions provided by preserved habitat over time.

**Metapopulation.** A group of partially isolated populations belonging to the same species that are connected by pathways of immigration and emigration. Exchange of individuals occurs between such populations, enabling recolonization of sites from which the species has recently become extirpated.

**No-take species.** The Butte Regional HCP/NCCP defines “no-take species” as HCP/NCCP covered plant species with a biological objective for avoiding take (see definition of take). These plant species will not be authorized for take under the Butte Regional HCP/NCCP. To comply with the terms of the Plan, applicants for coverage under the Plan must avoid all direct and indirect impacts on no-take species. Take of some of these species may be permissible under future plan amendments if additional occurrences of no-take species are located or established and protected as specified in Chapter 5, *Conservation Strategy*.

**Objective (see biological objective)**

**Out-of-kind/like-value.** Establishing a similar, but not identical, natural community with some of the same ecological functions and values as the affected natural community over time.

**Ordinary high water mark (OHWM).** A line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics, such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; or the presence of litter and debris.

**Perennial stream.** Year-round stream that is supplied by both rainfall runoff and groundwater, as well as by substantial dry-season inputs.

**Performance indicator.** The environmental variables that are quantitatively measured over time to determine if enhanced/created/restored natural communities have successfully met HCP/NCCP biological goals and objectives.

**Performance objective.** In monitoring, the optimal desired value for each performance indicator. Performance objectives establish a higher threshold for each indicator than that established for performance standards. Funding, design, and management objectives for enhanced/created/restored natural communities are established at levels that are designed to ensure that the performance objectives are achieved. Failure to meet a performance objective would not constitute a changed circumstance or require remedial measures.

**Performance period.** In monitoring, the time over which performance standards must be met.

**Performance standard.** In monitoring, a minimum requirement necessary to achieve biological goals and objectives. Failure to achieve a performance standard could constitute a changed circumstance and require that remedial measures be implemented.

**Permanent impact.** Impacts associated with implementation of a HCP/NCCP action that will not be reversed or terminated following completion of the action. Examples of permanent impacts include the construction of buildings and roads that permanently remove habitat and increased noise, visual, and human activity-related disturbances in habitat areas adjacent to new residential developments.

**Permittees.** Those entities requesting a Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit from USFWS and a section 2835 take permit under the NCCPA from CDFG for the species and activities covered in the HCP/NCCP.

**Planning surveys.** Surveys conducted by applicants for HCP/NCCP coverage and used in the project-planning process to identify constraints and determine which HCP/NCCP conservation measures are applicable. Planning surveys also include surveys conducted by the Implementing Entity on potential preserve lands to evaluate whether these lands will meet Plan requirements.

**Population.** A group of individuals of the same species inhabiting a given geographic area, among which mature individuals reproduce or are likely to reproduce. Ecological interactions and genetic exchange are more likely among individuals within a population than among individuals of separate populations of the same species.

**Practicable.** Under the Clean Water Act, practicable means available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purpose (45 FR 85344, December 24, 1980: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Part 40 CFR 230.3, Definitions).

**Preconstruction surveys.** Surveys conducted by permittees for HCP/NCCP coverage for certain biological resources immediately prior to construction to ensure that species and habitat avoidance and minimization measures can be effectively implemented during implementation of covered activities.

**Preserves.** Discrete areas of conserved natural communities and habitats managed as single units under the HCP/NCCP.

**Preserve System.** All HCP/NCCP preserves considered collectively.

**Protected/Preserved.** To maintain the existing or enhanced extent of species habitat or natural communities through acquisition, easements, or other practicable processes for bringing unprotected sites under protected status.

**Range.** The geographic area a species is known or believed to occupy.

**Recovery.** The process by which the decline of an endangered or threatened species is arrested or reversed or threats to its survival neutralized so that its long-term survival in nature can be ensured. Recovery entails actions to achieve the conservation and survival of a species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service 1998), including actions to prevent any further erosion of a population's viability and genetic integrity, as well as actions to restore or establish environmental conditions that enable a species to persist (i.e., the long-term occurrence of a species through the full range of environmental variation).

**Recovery Plan.** A document published by USFWS or NMFS that lists the status of a listed species and the actions necessary to remove the species from the endangered species list.

**Restore, Restoration.** Restoration is the establishment of a species habitat or a natural community in an area that historically supported it, but no longer supports it because of the loss of one or more required ecological factors.

**Riparian habitat.** Vegetation associated with river, stream, or lake banks and floodplains.

**Ruderal.** A species or plant community that typically occurs on highly disturbed sites.

**Signature.** Characteristic value, color, or texture on an aerial photograph that correlates to a particular land-cover type.

**Stream, perennial.** A stream that flows throughout the year.

**Stream, intermittent.** A stream that flows only at certain times of the year, generally in response to precipitation runoff or groundwater input.

**Stream, ephemeral.** A stream that flows only briefly in direct response to precipitation in the immediate vicinity, and that does not receive groundwater input.

**Succession.** The change in the composition and structure of a biological community over time. Successional patterns often shift dramatically following a major disturbance (e.g., fire, flood, anthropogenic clearing of land).

**Suitable habitat.** Habitat that exhibits the characteristics necessary to support a given species.

**Temporary impact.** Impacts associated with implementation of a HCP/NCCP action that are limited in their duration of effects. Examples of temporary impacts include noise and visual disturbances associated with the operation of construction-related equipment that would cease and construction equipment staging areas that will reestablish as habitat following completion of the construction activity.

**Take.** According to the federal Endangered Species Act (Section 3[18]), *take* means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. According to the California Endangered Species Act (Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code), *take* means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

**Umbrella species.** A species whose range and habitat requirements are large and broad enough to encompass the range and habitat requirements of other species.

**Unoccupied habitat.** Habitat that exhibits all the constituent elements necessary for a species, but where surveys have determined that the species is not currently present. The lack of individuals or populations in the habitat is assumed to be the result of reduced numbers or distribution of the species such that some habitat areas are unused. It is expected that these areas would be used if species numbers or distribution were greater. See also definition of *suitable habitat*.

**Wildland-urban interface (WUI).** The area where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with natural land cover.

**Williamson Act.** The California Land Conservation Act of 1965--commonly referred to as the Williamson Act--enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. Local governments receive an annual subvention of forgone property tax revenues from the state via the Open Space Subvention Act of 1971.