

## SENSITIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Sensitive biological resources include those that are afforded special protection through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Fish and Game Code (including but not limited to CESA), ESA, and CWA. Special-status species addressed in this section include plants and animals that are legally protected or that are otherwise considered sensitive by federal, state, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. These include species that are state and/or federally listed as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered; those considered as candidates or proposed for listing; species identified by CDFG and/or USFWS as species of concern; and plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be rare, threatened, or endangered.

Table 1 provides information on special-status species potentially occurring in the study area. This list was developed through a search of the CNDDDB for specific information on documented observations of special-status species within an approximate one-mile radius of the Sacramento River from Red Bluff to Colusa. Permits and regulations that pertain to sensitive biological resources protection are discussed in Appendix B.

<b>Table 1</b>				
<b>Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring in the Study Area</b>				
<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>CNPS</b>	<b>CDFG</b>	<b>USFWS</b>
<b>Plants</b>				
Ferris's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>ferrisiae</i>	Meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grasslands	1B	--	--
Fox sedge <i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Riparian woodlands, freshwater swamps and marshes	2	--	--
Four-angled spikerush <i>Eleocharis quadrangulata</i>	Freshwater swamps and marshes	2	--	--
Adobe-lily <i>Fritillaria pluriflora</i>	Cismontane woodland; valley and foothill grasslands	1B	--	--
Rose-mallow <i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i>	Freshwater swamps and marshes	2	--	--
Sanford's sagittaria <i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Freshwater marshes and swamps	1B	--	--
Columbian watermeal <i>Wolffia brasiliensis</i>	Shallow freshwater marshes	2	--	--

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<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>CNPS</b>	<b>CDFG</b>	<b>USFWS</b>
<b>Fish</b>				
Chinook Salmon, Spring-run <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Sacramento River and tributaries for spawning	--	CT	FT
Chinook Salmon, Winter-run <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Sacramento River. Gravel beds required for spawning habitat	--	CE	FE
Chinook salmon, Fall/late fall run <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Sacramento River and tributaries	--	CSC	FC
Central Valley steelhead <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Sacramento River and tributaries	--	--	FT
Sacramento splittail <i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i>	Sacramento River	--	CSC	FT
<b>Wildlife</b>				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	Elderberry shrubs, usually in streamside habitats below 3,000 feet through the Central Valley	--	--	FT
Giant garter snake <i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	Freshwater marsh, low gradient streams, drainage canals and irrigation ditches	--	CT	FT
Northwestern pond turtle <i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	Slow-moving streams or ponds with aquatic vegetation, and adjacent upland habitat	--	CSC	FSC
Least bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Freshwater marsh	--	CSC	FSC
Aleutian Canada goose <i>Branta canadensis leucopareia</i>	Winters on natural pasture or cultivated grain fields	--	--	FD
Golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Grasslands	--	CSC, FP	--
Northern harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Grasslands and freshwater marsh	--	CSC	--
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Forages in large bodies of water or rivers with adjacent snags or other perches; nests in large, tall trees near permanent water source	--	CE, FP	FPD
Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Fish-producing waters of bays, estuaries, reservoirs, and large streams or rivers.	--	CSC	--
Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Forages in open meadows, grasslands, and agricultural fields; nests in tall trees (20-30 feet)	--	CT	--
Greater sandhill crane <i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>	Grasslands, irrigated pastures, alfalfa, and fallow fields	--	--	FT
Western-yellow billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Summer resident; inhabits riparian vegetation, especially willows and alders	--	CE	--

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<b>Species</b>	<b>Habitat</b>	<b>CNPS</b>	<b>CDFG</b>	<b>USFWS</b>
Western burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia hypugea</i>	Grasslands and agricultural areas	--	CSC	FSC
Willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Dense willow thickets near wet meadows	--	CE	--
Bank swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	Riparian woodland; nests in vertical banks and cliffs with fine or sandy soils	--	CT	--
California horned lark <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	Grasslands, pastures, and fallow fields	--	CSC	--
Yellow warbler <i>Dendroica petechia bewersterii</i>	Summer resident; associated with riparian vegetation, particularly willows and cottonwoods	--	CSC	--
Yellow-breasted chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	Summer resident; inhabits riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses	--	CSC	--
Tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Forages in grasslands and agricultural fields; nests in freshwater marsh with cattails, tules, or dense shrubs	--	CSC	--
Ringtail <i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	Riparian woodlands, chaparral	--	CSC, FP	--
San Joaquin pocket mouse <i>Perognathus inornatus inornatus</i>	Grasslands with loose-textured sandy soils for burrowing	--	--	FSC

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

- 1B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
- 2 Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

- CE State-listed, Endangered
- CT State-listed, Threatened
- CSC California Species of Special Concern
- FP State-listed, Fully Protected
- CR State-listed, Rare

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

- FE Federally-listed, Endangered
- FT Federally-listed, Threatened
- FSC Federal Species of Special Concern
- FPD Federally Proposed to be Delisted
- FD Federally Delisted (Recovered)

Sources: CNDDDB 2002; CNPS 2002.

## References

- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2002. Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee, David P. Tibor, Convening Editor. CNPS. Sacramento, CA.
- California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB). 2002. Data Base Record Search for Information on Threatened, Endangered, Rare, or Otherwise Sensitive Species and Communities. California Department of Fish and Game, State of California Resources Agency. Sacramento, CA.
- Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (RHJV). 2000. Version 1.0 The riparian bird conservation plan: a strategy for reversing the decline of riparian associated birds in California. California Partners in Flight. August 2000.
- Small, S.L., N. Nur, A. Black, G. Geupel, D. Humple, and G. Ballard. 2000. Riparian bird populations of the Sacramento River system: results from the 1993-1999 field seasons. A report from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory to the Nature Conservancy and USFWS. August 2000.