

Appendix F Species Database Compilation

This appendix outlines the resources consulted and steps taken to compile a list of special status and other rare species in the RCIS Area based on review of literature and databases, and input from the RCIS Steering Committee, Stakeholders, and Technical Advisory Groups.

1. **Compile initial list:** An initial list of special-status species and other rare species that occur currently or historically within the RCIS Area was compiled based on prior lists for Santa Cruz County including the *Conservation Blueprint* (Mackenzie et al. 2011) and the RCD's Partners in Restoration Program (County of Santa Cruz 2004).
2. **Review and Update List:** The technical team used literature and web-based research to update the list to include additional species, evaluate species ranges, update taxonomy (nomenclature) and update listing status since the prior lists were compiled. The following sources, which include those identified in the RCIS guidelines (CDFW 2018), were used:
 - A. California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2019d): A spatial query of special plant and special animal occurrence records within a 5-mile radius of the RCIS Area as conducted. The radius was chosen to consider occurrences of low spatial accuracy, wide-ranging, or migratory species. The list indicated if a record was in the 5-mile buffer only, within 2-miles, or actually within the RCIS Area. Records outside of the RCIS Area were evaluated against other sources (e.g., the Santa Cruz County Bird List [Suddjian 2016] to verify the species occurs in the RCIS Area.
 - B. State Wildlife Action Plan (CDFW 2015): The plan was used to identify the following:
 - i. Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); and
 - ii. Climate-vulnerable species.
 - C. Special Animals List (CDFW 2019b): This list was used to obtain the following status information for animal species:
 - i. Plant and animal species that are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, or are proposed for listing or are a candidate for listing as endangered or threatened
 - ii. Plant or animal species that are listed under CESA as endangered or threatened or are candidates for listing
 - iii. CDFW Animal species of special concern (SSC)
 - iv. California Fully Protected Animals
 - v. NatureServe Element Ranking

- a. Global Rank (G-rank) - describing the rank for a given taxon over its entire distribution
 - b. State Rank (S-rank) - describing the rank for the taxon over its state distribution
 - vi. Species formally listed by the US Forest Service as a Sensitive Species or a Management Indicator Species
 - vii. Species formally listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a Bird of Conservation Concern
 - viii. Animal and plant species listed by the US Bureau of Land Management as sensitive
 - ix. Other species identified by a state or federal agency as having special status
- D. Other CDFW Resources: The following were reviewed to evaluate additional species for inclusion in the species list:
- i. Species specially protected under the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (mountain lion)
 - ii. The Complete List of Amphibian, Reptile, Bird, and Mammal Species in California
 - iii. Native game species managed under CDFW's Game Management Program
 - iv. Lists of terrestrial vertebrates can be generated by queries of the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) Program
- E. Natural Community Conservation Plans: List and maps of current or pending NCCPs in California (CDFW 2019a), none of which overlap the RCIS area.
- F. Other available state, local, or regional resources within the RCIS area: The following additional databases were used to identify rare and special-status species occurring in the RCIS Area.
- i. NatureServe spatial query for the Number of Species of Conservation Concern within Santa Cruz County (NatureServe 2020)
 - ii. California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2020) rare plant inventory website query for Santa Cruz County; including information on California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR), endemic status, and notes
 - iii. Checklist of the Birds of Santa Cruz County, California (Suddjian 2016)

- iv. Western Bat Species list, including distribution and conservation status (WBWG 2020)
 - v. Calflora species profiles (Calflora 2020), geographical range maps, nomenclature, status
 - vi. California Herps Guide (Nafis 2020), geographical range maps of various species
3. **Review with RCIS Participants:** The species lists was reviewed with the RCIS Steering Committee, Stakeholder Group, and Technical Advisory Groups, to obtain feedback. The input of these individuals was primarily used to indicate whether the species currently occurs in the RCIS Area, including to note species that have not been observed in a consideration amount of time and are believed to be currently extirpated.
4. **Identify Natural Communities and Land Cover Types Associated with each Species:** The database was annotated to identify the natural community or other land cover types of rare species occurring in the RCIS Area.