

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2001 and 2002, the literature review, agency consultation, and habitat mapping were completed, and incidental sightings were recorded. There are several game species that are known or may potentially occur in the Study area. These include California valley quail (*Callipepla californica*), mountain quail (*Oreotyx pictus*), band-tailed pigeon (*Columba fasciata*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), and wild pig (*Sus scrofa*). Mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) is also included in this report. Although mountain lion are not considered a game species by CDFG, they, in addition to black bear and others, are species of cultural significance for Native American tribes¹, organizations, and individuals. (Refer to the footnote below). Mule deer is discussed in TERR-14, Mule Deer. There were no documented occurrences in the Study area to map, although several of these species are common in the Study area.

Appropriate habitat for other game species was determined to be all habitat types in the Study area. Incidental sightings were obtained of coyote and bobcat throughout the Study area. A mountain lion was observed on the road to Florence Lake. California quail were observed along Kaiser Pass Road, Canyon Road, and Mammoth Pool Road. Mountain quail were observed near the BC1–EPS Transmission Line and near Crater Creek Diversion Channel. Black bear were observed along the BC1–EPS Transmission Line, near North Fork Stevenson Creek, near Stevenson Creek by Railroad Grade Road, and by Mammoth Pool Road. Western gray squirrels were observed near Stevenson Creek and regularly along Mammoth Pool Road. These incidental sightings were mapped and incorporated into a GIS database.

2.0 STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Determine the location of habitat to support game birds, small game, and big game species.

3.0 STUDY IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 STUDY ELEMENTS COMPLETED

- Compiled information on game birds, small game, and big game, in conjunction with the literature review for common and special-status wildlife species.

¹ Some Native American tribes, organizations, and individuals consider some animal species (such as bear and mountain lion) to have cultural values beyond that as a game and harvest species.

- Identified and mapped appropriate habitat for game birds, small game, and big game species during the vegetation community mapping. Recorded incidental observations of any other game species during all other field surveys for the ALP.

3.2 OUTSTANDING STUDY ELEMENTS

- There are no outstanding study elements.

4.0 STUDY METHODOLOGY

4.1 REVIEW OF EXISTING INFORMATION

Information on game birds, small game, and big game species was compiled from literature review and agency consultation during 2001 and 2002. This included review of: (1) *Wildlife Habitat Relationships System* (CDFG 2002); (2) *A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California* (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988); and (3) other documents that are referenced as appropriate in this document. Agencies such as CDFG and USDA-FS do not typically maintain accessible databases on game species occurrences. Therefore, no map of documented occurrences is provided in this report. Refer to TERR-14, Mule Deer, for information on mule deer.

4.2 HABITAT MAPPING

Vegetation Communities and wildlife habitats were mapped as part of TERR-1, Vegetation Communities, during the fall and winter of 2001/2002. Refer to TERR-1, Vegetation Communities, for a detailed description of methodology. Refer to TERR-5, Common and Special-status Wildlife Species, for a description of wildlife habitats. Appropriate habitat for game species was determined to be all types of forest, chaparral, wet meadow, and wetlands through literature review, particularly Mayer and Laudenslayer (1988) and the *Wildlife Habitat Relationships System* (CDFG 2002). All wildlife habitats in the Study area could potentially support at least one game species. A map of potential habitat was not created for this report. Refer to TERR-1, Vegetation Communities, for a map of all habitat types in the Study area. Refer to TERR-5, Common and Special-status Wildlife Species, for a description of these wildlife habitat types. Refer to TERR-14, Mule Deer, for information on mule deer.

4.3 INCIDENTAL SIGHTINGS

Incidental sightings of game species were recorded during all other field surveys completed as part of the Big Creek ALP.

5.0 STUDY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

5.1 REVIEW OF EXISTING INFORMATION

A number of avian game species are known or expected to occur within the Study area. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- California valley quail (*Callipepla californica*)

- Mountain quail (*Oreotyx pictus*)
- Band-tailed pigeon (*Columba fasciata*)
- Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*)
- Blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*)
- Mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

Additionally, several species of small and large game could potentially occur in the Project area, including, but not limited to the following:

- Western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*)
- Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*)
- Cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*)
- Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)
- Coyote (*Canis latrans*)
- Bobcat (*Felis rufus*)
- Wild pig (*Sus scrofa*)

Table TERR-15-1 provides the preferred habitat, status, hunting season, bag limit, and hunting restrictions for these species.

5.2 HABITAT MAPPING

Appropriate habitat for game species was determined to be all of the habitat types in the Study area. There is no habitat map provided in this report. Refer to TERR-1, Vegetation Communities, for a map of all wildlife habitats in the Study area. Refer to TERR-5, Common and Special-status Wildlife Species, for a description of these wildlife habitat types.

5.3 INCIDENTAL SIGHTINGS

Incidental sightings are provided in Figure TERR-15-1a through d. California quail were observed along Kaiser Pass Road, Canyon Road, and Mammoth Pool Road. Mountain quail were observed near the BC1-EPS Transmission Line and near Crater Creek Diversion Channel. Black bear were observed along the BC1-EPS Transmission Line, near North Fork Stevenson Creek, near Stevenson Creek by Railroad Grade Road, and by Mammoth Pool Road. Coyote and bobcat were observed throughout the Study area. A mountain lion was observed along the road to Florence Lake. Western gray squirrels were observed near Stevenson Creek and regularly all along Mammoth Pool Road.

6.0 LITERATURE CITED

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2002. Wildlife Habitat Relationships System. Sacramento, California.

Mayer, K.E., and W.F. Laudenslayer. 1988. A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.

TABLE

Table TERR-15-1. Game Species Potentially Occurring in the Study Area

Species	Preferred Habitat*	Status	Hunting Season**	Bag Limit**	Hunting Restrictions**
California valley quail (<i>Callipepla californica</i>)	Common, permanent resident of low and middle elevations. Found in shrub, scrub, and brush, open stages of conifer and deciduous habitats, and margins of grasslands and croplands.	None	Sept. 14 - Oct. 18 (early season) Oct. 19 - Jan. 26 (general season)	10 per day, 20 in possession	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB.
Mountain quail (<i>Oreotyx pictus</i>)	Common to uncommon resident, found typically in most major montane habitats of the state. Found seasonally in open, brushy stands of conifer and deciduous forest, woodland, and chaparral.	None	Sept. 14 - Oct. 18 (early season) Oct. 19 - Jan. 26 (general season)	10 per day, 20 in possession	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB.
Band-tailed pigeon (<i>Columba fasciata</i>)	Common resident in hardwood and hardwood-conifer habitats. Inhabits lower slopes of major mountain ranges of the state.	None	Dec. 21 - Dec. 29	2 per day, 4 in possession	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB.
Wild turkey (<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>)	Found mostly in deciduous riparian, oak, and conifer-oak woodlands. Prefers rugged, hilly terrain with low to intermediate canopy, interspersed with numerous grass/forb openings, near water.	None	Nov. 9 - Nov. 24 (fall season) March 29 - May 4 (spring season)	1 per day, 1 per season for fall, 1 per day, 3 per season for spring	Spring season must be bearded turkeys only.

Table TERR-15-1. Game Species Potentially Occurring in the Study Area (continued)

Species	Preferred Habitat*	Status	Hunting Season**	Bag Limit**	Hunting Restrictions**
Blue grouse (<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>)	Uncommon to common permanent resident at middle to high elevations. Occurs in open, medium to mature-aged stands of fir, Douglas-fir, and other conifer habitats, interspersed with medium to large openings, and available water.	None	Sept. 14 - Oct. 14	2 per day, 4 in possession	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB. Permit required for hunting grouse.
Mourning dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	Open woodlands, grasslands, croplands, open hardwood, hardwood-conifer, riparian, low-elevation conifer, and deserts all provide adequate habitat. Requires a water source nearby.	None	Sept. 1 - 15 and Nov. 9 - Dec. 23	10 per day and 20 in possession	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB.
Western gray squirrel (<i>Sciurus griseus</i>)	Fairly common locally in mature stands of most conifer, hardwood, and mixed hardwood-conifer habitats in the Klamath, Cascade, Transverse, Peninsular, and Sierra Nevada Ranges. Dependent upon mature stands of mixed conifer and oak habitats. Closely associated with oaks. Require large trees, mast, and snags.	None	Second Saturday in Sept. to the last Sunday in Jan.	4 per day, 4 in possession	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB.

Table TERR-15-1. Game Species Potentially Occurring in the Study Area (continued)

Species	Preferred Habitat*	Status	Hunting Season**	Bag Limit**	Hunting Restrictions**
Jackrabbit (<i>Lepus californicus</i>)	Common throughout the state, except at the highest elevations. Abundant at lower elevations in herbaceous and desert-shrub areas and open, early stages of forest and chaparral habitats.	None	All year	No limit	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB.
Cottontail (<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>)	Inhabits most of the southern two-thirds of the state, excluding the higher elevations. Abundant to common in grasslands, open forests, and desert shrub habitats.	None	July 1 to the last Sunday in Jan.	5 per day, 10 in possession	Regulations exist for the taking of small game, including shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, and shot size smaller than number BB.
Black bear (<i>Ursus americanus</i>)	Widespread, common to uncommon resident occurring from sea level to high mountain regions. Occurs in fairly dense, mature stands of many forest habitats, and feeds in a variety of habitats including brushy stands of forest, valley foothill riparian, and wet meadow.	None	Begins on the first day of deer season, and ends on the last Sunday in Dec. Archery season begins on the third Saturday in Aug. and extends for 23 days.	One adult per season	Cubs and females accompanied by cubs may not be taken.
Coyote (<i>Canis latrans</i>)	Occurs in almost all habitats and successional stages. Frequents open brush, scrub, shrub, and herbaceous habitats. Also found in younger stands of deciduous and conifer forest and woodland with low to intermediate canopy, and shrub and grass understory.	None	All year	No limit	No restrictions, but a hunting license is required.

Table TERR-15-1. Game Species Potentially Occurring in the Study Area (continued)

Species	Preferred Habitat*	Status	Hunting Season**	Bag Limit**	Hunting Restrictions**
Mountain lion*** (<i>Felis concolor</i>)	Widespread, uncommon permanent resident, ranging from sea level to alpine meadows. Found in nearly all habitats, except xeric regions of the Mojave and Colorado deserts that do not support mule deer populations. Excluded from croplands in the Central Valley. Most abundant in riparian areas, and brushy stages of most habitats.	Specially protected mammal, CDFG Code, Chapter 10, Section 4800	None	NA	NA
Bobcat (<i>Felis rufus</i>)	Common to uncommon, permanent resident throughout most of California. Uses nearly all habitats and successional stages. Optimal habitats are brushy stages of low and mid-elevation conifer, oak, riparian, and pinyon-juniper forests, and all stages of chaparral.	None	Nov. 24 - Jan. 31 (trapping) Oct. 15 - Feb. 28 (hunting)	5 per season	Hunting tags required.
Wild pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	Occurs in riparian areas, oak woodlands, annual grasslands, mature conifer and hardwood forests with moderate to high-canopy closure, and in chaparral and other brush areas. Mast crops, especially acorns, are important.	None	All year	No limit	Hunting tags required.

* Zeiner, D.C., W.F. Laudenslayer, Jr., K.E. Mayer, and M. White, eds. 1988-1990. California's Wildlife Volumes I, II, and III. California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.

** CDFG web sites: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2002/02mammal.pdf, http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2002/02waterfowl.pdf, and http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2002/02uplandgame.pdf, <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/2003BigGameBook>.

*** Mountain lion is not a game species. Some Native American tribes, organizations, and individuals consider some animal species (such as bear and mountain lion) to have cultural values beyond as a game and harvest species.

NA=Not available.

FIGURES

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