



ALTAMONT PASS WIND RESOURCE AREA CONSERVATION PLAN STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

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BIOLOGICAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Biological goals are typically qualitative
- Biological objectives - conservation targets that collectively will achieve each goal
 - Must be measurable
 - Quantitative when possible
 - Focused and succinct
- Conservation actions support/achieve objectives
- Biological goals and objectives summarize the entire conservation strategy (backbone of strategy)
- Biological goals and objectives are often habitat-based to address needs of multiple Plan species



ORGANIZATION

Using hierarchical organization

- Landscape level (e.g., ecosystem processes, wildlife movement, watershed function)
- Natural community level (e.g., grassland, wetland, pond)
- Species level (e.g., single species or groups)



SUMMARY OF GOALS

- 3 landscape-level goals
- 3 natural community-level goals
- 11 focal species goals
 - 4 terrestrial
 - 5 avian
 - 2 plant
- ~3-4 Objectives under each Goal
- Several Conservation Actions support each Objective



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OBJECTIVE STRUCTURE

- Objective 1 – Avoidance and minimization
- Objective 2 – Protection of existing resources (HCP)
 - Protection that results from mitigation
 - Fee title or easement purchase
- Objective 3 – Contribution to recovery (NCCP)





LANDSCAPE EXAMPLE

Goal 3: Restore and enhance natural and semi-natural landscapes to maintain or increase populations of covered and plan species and native biological diversity.

- **Objective 3.1:** Eradicate or reduce the cover, biomass, and distribution of non-native, invasive plants and reduce the number and distribution of non-native, invasive animals in reserve areas.
- **Objective 3.2:** Allow natural disturbance regimes required for natural community regeneration and structural diversity to occur on reserves or implement management actions that mimic those natural disturbances.



NATURAL COMMUNITY EXAMPLE

Goal 4: Protect, maintain, and enhance functional grassland communities that benefit Plan species and promote native biodiversity.

- **Objective 4.1:** Avoid or minimize direct and indirect impacts from implementation of covered activities on grassland communities.
- **Objective 4.2:** For direct impacts to alkali meadow and scald, offset the loss by preserving existing alkali meadow and scald at a 2.5:1 ratio (conserved:impact).
- **Objective 4.3:** For direct impacts to annual grassland, offset the loss by preserving existing annual grasslands at a 2:1 ratio.





NATURAL COMMUNITY EXAMPLE (CONT.)

Goal 4: Protect, maintain, and enhance functional grassland communities that benefit Plan species and promote native biodiversity.

- **Objective 4.4:** To contribute to the recovery of alkali-associated Plan species, preserve X acres of alkali meadow and scald within the planning area.
- **Objective 4.5:** To contribute to the recovery of annual grassland associated Plan species, preserve X acres of annual grassland within the planning area.
- **Objective 4.6:** To contribute to the recovery of annual grassland associated Plan species, enhance annual grasslands by promoting regeneration and recruitment of native species and when necessary, mimicking natural processes which are typically found in these natural communities.



SPECIES EXAMPLE

Goal 6: Protect and maintain habitat for longhorn fairy shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp.

- **Objective 6.2:** Avoid and minimize impacts to longhorn fairy shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp.
- **Objective 6.3:** For direct impacts to seasonal wetland or vernal pool habitat, offset the loss by preserving existing seasonal wetland or vernal pools at a 3:1 ratio, or by purchasing the equivalent in credits at a USFWS approved mitigation bank.
- **Objective 6.4:** To contribute to the recover of longhorn fairy shrimp and vernal pool fairy shrimp, protect and maintain one population within the first half of the permit term.





IMPORTANT POINTS

- Goals are typically very broad
- Objectives should be attainable and measurable
- Conservation Actions support the Objectives and the Objectives support the Goals
- Conservation Actions are very tangible (on-the-ground)
- A single Conservation Action should help achieve Goals and Objectives at every level of the hierarchy
- At this time Goals and Objectives have only been developed for terrestrial species (excluding burrowing owl) and natural communities that will be impacted by covered activities



Questions?