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The relationships between 355 wildlife species and their habitats are examined in a series of matrices, life history notes, and distribution maps covering 26 amphibians, 27 reptiles, 208 birds, and 94 mammals. The information is useful in identifying and evaluating the consequences of proposed land management activities-particularly those that manipulate vegetation. Although designed for use by land managers, the publication provides information useful to both professionals and lay persons interested in California wildlife.

*Retrieval Terms:* habitat management, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, conifer forests, annual grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian deciduous, mountain meadows, Sierra Nevada, California.

# California Wildlife and Their Habitats: Western Sierra Nevada

Jared Verner, Allan S. Boss, *Technical Coordinators*

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## Preface

This report is one of a series from the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships Program sponsored by the California (now Pacific Southwest) Region, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; California Department of Fish and Game; Nevada Department of Fish and Game; and the Southern California Edison Company. The initial stimulus for the Program came from the development of guidelines for management of wildlife species in the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington (Thomas 1979).

The program is seeking to develop a system for providing land managers with quantitative information on the responses of wildlife species to land management alternatives on the forests and rangelands of California and parts of Nevada. Its aim is to apply the knowledge of habitat requirements of wildlife species in identifying and evaluating the consequences of proposed land management activities--particularly those activities that manipulate vegetation. It is designed specifically to help improve wildlife planning by land managers. It is not intended to set management policy. That is the manager's responsibility, given knowledge of the consequences of available options.

The Program area is divided into four zones (*fig. 1*). Each zone has a Working Group responsible for identifying the wildlife species, habitat types, and interrelationships applicable to the ecological attributes of the zone. Each group is developing for its zone a matrix showing relationships of wildlife to habitats, notes on life history, and a distribution map for each species.

This volume covers Zone 1-The Western Sierra Nevada. Its boundaries are: north-boundary between Shasta and Siskiyou Counties; east-Sierran Crest; south-Kern Gap (State Highway 178); and west-the 1000-foot (305-m) elevation contour.

Management documents for selected habitats and wildlife species are also being developed for the Program area as a whole.

The approach taken is to rely on specialists to provide the necessary wildlife information, based on their personal field experience, consultation with experts, and review of the appropriate literature. These specialists are Harold E. Basey, Modesto Jr. College (amphibians and reptiles), Edward C. Beedy and Stephen L. Granholm, University of California, Davis (birds), and Dr. Marshall White, University of California, Berkeley (mammals).

The information in the publication has been stored on a computer accessible through the California (now Pacific Southwest) Region, Forest Service, San Francisco. Ways are being explored to use the computer for efficient application of the extensive data base to land management decisions. A description and explanation of the methods finally adopted will be published as a product of the Program.

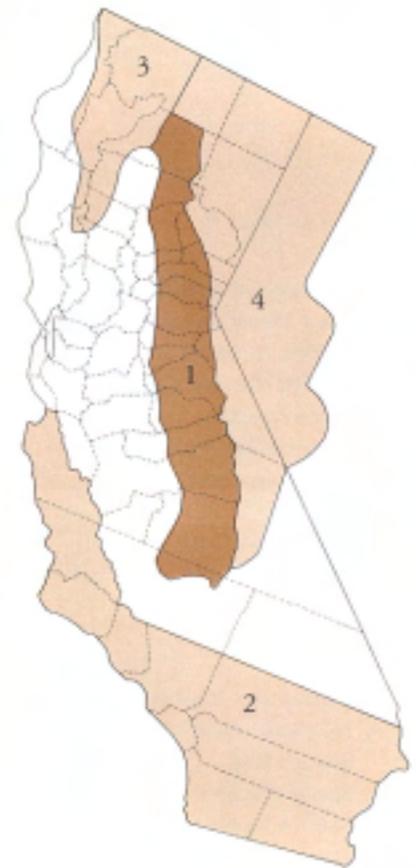


Figure 1-The California Wildlife/Habitat Relationships Program is divided into four zones: 1 (Western Sierra Nevada), 2 (Southern), 3 (North Coast), and 4 (Eastside). The Eastside Zone includes a portion of Nevada.