**JLB87@aol.com**
10/06/2008 09:43 AM

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bcc
Subject Re: Draft INRMP RFP for your review

All,

Here is a work in progress that attempts to review the GP INRMP/IBC and assist those involved in the process. All comments, criticisms, suggestions are welcomed. A specific analysis of the RFP will follow.

Hope it proves helpful.

Jim Brunello

In a message dated 9/29/2008 10:34:12 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, monique.wilber@edcgov.us writes:

All,

Here is the meeting item for the October agenda. It will also be posted on the website shortly. If you are not able to attend the meeting (or if you are attending the meeting and wish to do so), your written comments will be accepted through close of business on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, as edits will need to be made quickly in order to get back to the Board by the end of October.

As a reminder, ISAC will meet this Thursday, October 2 at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room A of Building A, and PAWTAC will meet on Tuesday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room A of Building A.

-Monique

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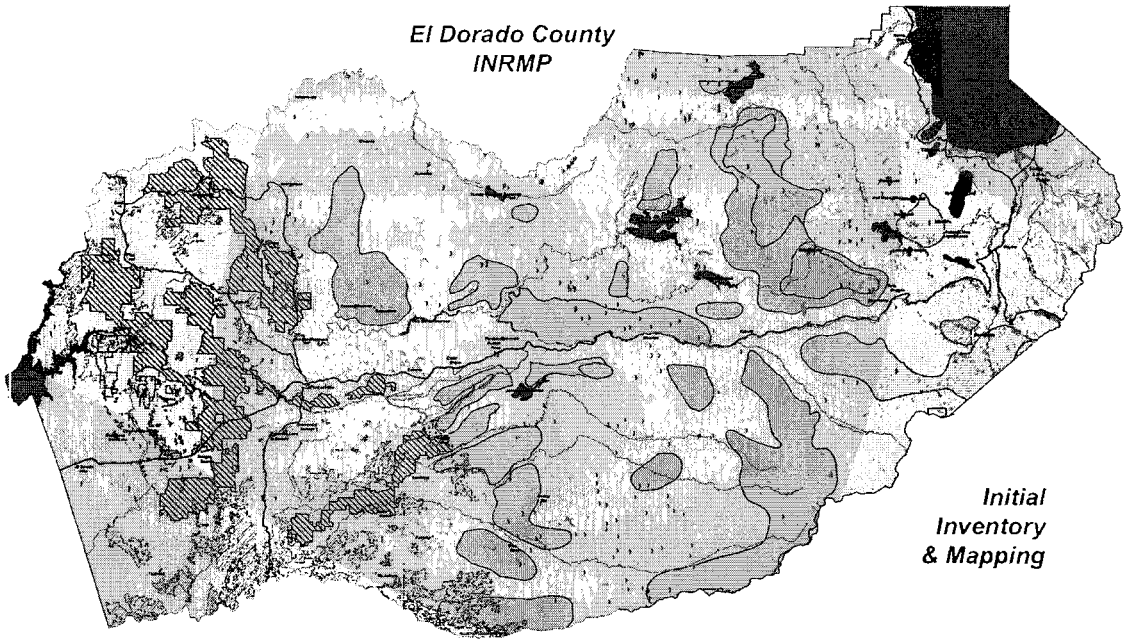
ATTACHMENT 2

# Review of the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan - INRMP

# 2008

**A Work in Progress**





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*"Preserving connectivity between large areas of natural habitat is a key to maintaining opportunities for wildlife movement. Natural linkages often exist in the form of riparian corridors, canyon bottoms, and ridgelines. But connectivity is not just corridors: habitat linkages are best provided by maintaining a permeable landscape, one that permits the uninhibited movement of wildlife species across great distances. Connectivity as it relates to wildlife movement is afforded more by the suitability of the overall landscape matrix than by the presence or absence of discrete corridors. (EIR 5.12-89)".*

The purpose of this report is to discuss the El Dorado County 2004 General Plan requirements for the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Important Biological Corridors (IBCs) and to provide input to assist in preparation of the INRMP/IBC.

October 1, 2008

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## INRMP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Flow Chart to Implement INRMP Habitat Based Local Conservation Plan and IBCs

To mitigate for natural habitat loss and fragmentation associated with planned urban development, the 2004 General Plan developed various mitigation programs: The INRMP was created to conserve and restore identified important habitats to offset loss and habitat fragmentation elsewhere. The INRMP provides the mechanism for compensatory mitigation while Important Biological Corridors (IBCs) create a wildlife corridor between areas in the county planned for conservation.

As an alternative to a *species*-based conservation effort, the EDC GP fashioned a *habitat*-based local conservation plan, with an emphasis on the acquisition and protection of land. Under a habitat-based approach, the species are preserved predominantly as a byproduct of preserving the land, based on the premise that *"by protecting the ecological benefit of a natural habitat, one also protects the many species within that habitat. Such plans de-emphasize specific analysis and mitigation measures, focusing instead on more holistic protection and management of the habitat"* The GP EIR states the objective regarding connectivity:

*"Preserving connectivity between large areas of natural habitat is a key to maintaining opportunities for wildlife movement. Natural linkages often exist in the form of riparian corridors, canyon bottoms, and ridgelines. But connectivity is not just corridors: habitat linkages are best provided by maintaining a permeable landscape, one that permits the uninhibited movement of wildlife species across great distances. Connectivity as it relates to wildlife movement, is afforded more by the suitability of the overall landscape matrix than by the presence or absence of discrete corridors. (EIR 5.12-89)".*

With reference to the attached flow chart (Exhibit A) to meet the language, Goals and Objectives of the INRMP and IBCs, the County should consider the following actions:

1. Inventory and Mapping of the following habitats: Deer, riparian, aquatic, Special Status Species (SSS) with known occurrences and large expanses of native vegetation (GP Policy 7.4.2.8 (A)(1)-(5)).

2. Adopt initial inventory and mapping that includes the above mapped habitats plus the mapped IBCs and other protected areas. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted this map on April 1, 2008.

3. Prepare connectivity studies to assess the matrix of existing connectivity and regulatory constraints and prepare species specific wildlife movement reports based on management indicator species and sample wildlife in both riparian and non-riparian areas to determine possible corridor composition and connectivity policies. Dr. Adina Merenlender, co-author of "*Corridor Ecology*", has graciously agreed to assist EDC in determining what specific studies should be included in an RFP. This consultation is in process between staff and Dr. Merenlender and should include an adaptive management-monitoring program that can develop information and loop that information back into revised management practices as part of the INRMP.

4. After receipt and review of the studies, and creation of revised Inventory and Mapping, the BOS will identify those important habitats not already protected as targets for acquisition or regulatory constraints, or lands (eg: IBCs) previously targeted incorrectly. The BOS should also identify those important habitats that require "no net loss" protection.

5. Acquisition and management of the target important habitats will involve willing sellers and be managed by established land trusts or a dedicated EDC trust with a stakeholder Board of Directors.

## REVIEW OF INRMP/IBC LOCAL CONSERVATION PLANS

### Overview of INRMP/IBC

The 2004 General Plan provides for urban development primarily in Community Regions and Rural Centers. To mitigate the natural habitat loss and fragmentation associated with urban development, the GP developed various programs to mitigate for the loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat. The theory of the GP INRMP and IBCs is that by protecting certain identified habitats, the flora and fauna living in the habitats will be protected. *"'Habitat' is defined in the GP as: "The physical location or type of environment, in which an organism or biological population lives or can be found."* As compared to habitat, the GP Glossary defines "Biotic Community" to mean the plant and animal species that live in the identified habitats. The INRMP places emphasis on purchasing and managing high value blocks of habitat either in fee or conservation easement from willing sellers and connecting these "blocks" by habitat corridors, or IBCs, where appropriate. The GP EIR explained the goal of maintaining landscape connectivity:

> *"Preserving connectivity between large areas of natural habitat is a key to maintaining opportunities for wildlife movement. Natural linkages often exist in the form of riparian corridors, canyon bottoms, and ridgelines. But connectivity is not just corridors: habitat linkages are best provided by maintaining a permeable landscape, one that permits the uninhibited movement of wildlife species across great distances. Connectivity as it relates to wildlife movement, is afforded more by the suitability of the overall landscape matrix than by the presence or absence of discrete corridors. (EIR 5.12-89)".*

### Summary of the INRMP

**GP/INRMP** **Policy 7.4.2.8 (A)** requires that the INRMP shall inventory and map the following important habitats in El Dorado County:

1. Habitats that support Special Status Species (SSS);
2. Aquatic environments including streams, rivers and lakes;
3. Wetland and riparian habitat;
4. Important habitat for migratory deer herds;
4. Large expanses of native vegetation.

In the EIR response to Fish and Game comments, staff explained how the list of important habitat in Policy 7.4.2.8 (A) (1)-(5) was determined:

> *4.2-497: "State and Federal statutory requirements protecting biological resources were considered when developing the list of important habitat listed on page 5.12-56 (INRMP 7.4.2.8 (A)). The determination of the presences of important habitat will be consistent with these requirements". EIR 4.12-497 explains the "County has the option of expanding the definition of important habitats beyond these listed on Policy 7.4.2.8 (A)".*

The County should update the inventory every three (3) years to identify the amount of important habitat protected by habitat type - through County programs and the amount of important habitat removed due to new development during that period. The inventory and mapping effort will be developed with the

assistance of the Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee (PAWTAC), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWF). The inventory shall be maintained and updated by the County Planning Department and shall be publicly accessible.

GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.1.6 provides that the County Agricultural Commission, PAWTAC, representatives of the agricultural community, academia, and other stakeholders shall be involved and consulted in defining the important habitats of the County, and in the creation and implementation of the INRMP.

The interplay between Policy 7.4.2.8 (A) which requires the INRMP to inventory and map selected "important habitats", and Policy 7.4.1.6 which provides for *"defining the important habitats of the County"*, has raised differing views as to what are "important habitats". The issue is important because GP Measure CO-U sets a no-net-loss policy (2:1 conservation offsite and 1:1 replacement on-site) for projects over 10 acres that impact important habitat. In the Oak Portion of the INRMP, the BOS found that Measure CO-U's "no net loss" applied only to projects that impacted oak woodlands that support Special Status Species, and placed a legend on the Priority Conservation Area (PCA) map to that effect. This interpretation was primarily based on Policy 7.4.1.6 being part of Objective 7.4.1: "*Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species – the County shall protect State and Federally recognized rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats consistent with Federal and State laws*". Since Measure CO-U reads that it provides "Mitigation under Policy 7.4.1.6…" and Policy 7.4.1.6 is designed to protect SSS the interpretation is consistent with the goals and objectives of the General Plan. The Board of Supervisors is granted great deference in interpreting the policies in a County General Plan. The standard for determining GP consistency is whether a project, considering all its aspects, would further the objectives and policies of the General Plan and not obstruct their attainment.

However the BOS chooses to interpret these GP policies, as part of the INRMP/IBC process the BOS should identify those habitats that require "no net loss" protection and protect those habitats with a Natural Resource (NR) land use, acquisition or regulation.

**GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.2.8 (B)** establishes the following INRMP strategy and goal: "Protect important habitat based on coordinated land acquisitions, with the goal to conserve and restore contiguous blocks of important habitat to offset the effects of increased habitat loss and fragmentation elsewhere." Or, as stated in the EIR, the INRMP: "describes a strategy for protecting important habitats based on coordinated land acquisition and management of acquired lands. The goal of the strategy shall be to conserve and restore contiguous blocks of important habitat to offset the effects of increased habitat loss and fragmentation elsewhere in the county." (*EIR 5.12-57*)

**GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.2.8 (C)** describes how the INRMP will be managed. The INRMP requires that a program be established to facilitate the mitigation process. GP suggestions include the development of mitigation banks as incentives for developers and landowners to participate in both the acquisition and management components of the INRMP. Qualified land trusts are the common method of managing mitigation programs similar to the INRMP (Yolo, Marin, Placer, etc.) and the INRMP authorizes land trust participation in the acquisition and management of conservation easements and fee title. Grants of conservation easements, or fee title to land trusts, may include a provision that EDC requires transfer of the easement, fee and endowment to the County upon demand. Management of conserved lands will be conducted by either EDC or by land conservation groups approved by EDC.

**GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.2.8 (D)** requires acquisition targets. For purposes of the Oak Portion of the INRMP, habitat acquisition targets were identified by the mapping done for Policy 7.4.2.8 (A) (B) of Protected Conservation Areas (PCAs) of large contiguous blocks of oak woodlands in areas not planned for fragmentation. Within these PCAs, priority should be given to: lands adjacent to existing oak woodlands; lands under or subject to an IBC; existing conserved lands; public lands; open space lands; riparian corridors; ecological preserves; or other PCAs lying west of the Tahoe National Forest. The INRMP/IBC process should further identify important habitats and connectivity choke points that are to be priority targets, based on all considerations and relative qualitative scoring such as identification and severity of threats to connectivity function.

**GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.2.8 (E):** Evaluation of each acquisition to determine whether restoration or management actions should be performed. The procedure for the evaluation is already in place. Measure CO-U conditions could be met via a Biological Resource Study and Habitat Mitigation Plan as a requirement for each conservation easement. The conservation easement would incorporate the findings of the Habitat Mitigation Plan, which should be enforced by the land trust or other entity charged with managing the resources. Restoration issues should include whether a linkage is in need of restoration to restore connectivity function.

**GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.2.8 (F)** requires the creation of a habitat monitoring program. Measure CO-U requires 10 years of monitoring, a Biological Resource Study and a Habitat Mitigation Plan for each conservation easement that impacts important habitat. EDC should require that each conservation easement include a monitoring program and provide an annual report to the County. Terms of the conservation easement should include the findings of the Biological Resource Study and should encompass the Habitat Mitigation Program.

**GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.2.8 (G)** provides for public participation and an informal consultation with local, state and federal agencies having jurisdiction over natural resources within EDC.

**GP/INRMP Policy 7.4.2.8 (H)** requires EDC to establish a conservation fund. The GP EIR explains the goal: *"A County-administered conservation fund (that) would allow the County to pool mitigation funds from multiple projects as well as other sources (such as grants, State Oak Woodlands Conservation Act funds, or County generated funds) and apply those funds towards acquisition and restoration projects that would produce the greatest biological benefits."* (*EIR 4.1-51*). This suggests that although funds may be raised as mitigation for project conversion of selected habitats, the funds may be used to acquire target habitat with the greatest biological benefits, rather than being required to acquire compensatory habitat that is the same as the habitat being converted.

## Oak Portion of the INRMP

EDC oak policy is not driven by fear that GP-directed development will result in a significant cutting and loss of oaks. In fact, a GP study indicated that even at theoretical GP build out, which due to a myriad of constraints is unlikely, only 4 % of oaks would actually be converted. [i] *(Saving-Greenwood)*. A Forest Service study referenced in the GP found that EDC oaks had increased 4% during the 40 years prior to 1988 [ii]. A 2004 University of California report found a slight decrease in Hardwood Canopy Cover between 1991 and 2004[iii]. Oaks are now recognized as assets by landowners and are retained, rather than cleared for grazing or cut for firewood. Although acknowledging that a mere 4% maximum

of oaks might be physically lost due to development based on the 1996 theoretical GP land use build out, Saving-Greenwood theorized that 40% of the oak woodlands would become fragmented, marginal or urban woodland. *"In other words, areas that once functioned under a more natural state and presumably provided functional habitat for species that are degraded either due to proximity to urban land uses or by isolation from patches of contiguous native vegetation"*. (Saving-Greenwood) (*EIR 5.12-39*).

The 1996 General Plan attempted to identify and reduce impacts to important biological resources, though there was no mechanism for compensatory mitigation to offset fragmentation: "*Given the amount of habitat that is expected to be removed and fragmented by 2025, a substantial amount of compensatory mitigation (habitat purchased by the County to be preserved in perpetuity) would be needed, in addition to avoidance and minimization measures to reduce this impact to a less than significant threshold.*" (*EIR 5.12-48*).

The INRMP was designed to acquire and manage compensatory habitat. On April 10, 2006, EDC entered into a Settlement Agreement to resolve GP litigation. As a part of the Agreement, the County agreed to interpret Policy 7.4.4.4 as allowing Option B oak mitigation to proceed <u>only</u> after adoption of the "oak portion of the INRMP". On May 6, 2008 the County adopted the Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP), which included adoption of the "*Oak Portion of the INRMP*", by identifying the Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) for conservation and management.

The Oak Portion of the INRMP mapped large expanses of native oak woodlands in accordance with the requirements of Policy 7.4.2.8 (A): *"shall inventory and map large expanses of native vegetation"*. The PCAs were identified in areas where fragmentation was not planned, in accordance with Policy 7.4.2.8 (B): *"The goal of the strategy shall be to conserve and restore contiguous blocks of important habitat to offset the effects of increased habitat loss and fragmentation elsewhere in the county"*. In adopting the PCAs, the BOS included a clarifying legend to the PCA map as follows:

> *"This map displays initial oak woodland habitat where willing landowners could be approached to negotiate General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 mitigation and other type of oak woodland conservation land acquisition. Identification of oak woodland habitat as priority on this map does not trigger or mandate Policy 7.4.1.6 or Measure CO-U requirements for Policy 7.4.4.4 Option A or Option B unless the oak woodland habitat is within (but not adjacent to) any lands that are already identified as containing threatened, rare or endangered species".*

The legend also notes that these lands are not subject to GP Policy 7.4.1.6 and Measure CO-U's no-net-loss requirements, unless the oak woodland habitat is within (but not adjacent to) any lands that are already identified as containing threatened, rare or endangered species. The Legend is consistent with General Plan Objective 7.4.1 which states:

> *"The County shall protect State and Federally recognized rare, threatened or endangered species and their habitats consistent with Federal and State laws". In addition to these mapped PCAs, projects that support any of the habitats described in 7.4.2.8 (A) (1)-(5) or are within IBCs must be identified by the Biological Resource Study and provided for in the Important Habitat Mitigation Plan."*

Still to be developed is an Oak Preservation Ordinance for individual oak tree preservation for project landscaping and viewing value within areas planned for fragmentation, as compares to habitat value. Policy 7.4.5.2, requires that EDC adopt the Oak Preservation Ordinance to protect all native oaks at the individual tree level. The goal is to require projects to preserve native oaks if feasible for landscaping,

aesthetic and cultural purposes, rather than for their biological value (EIR 5.12-68). The OWMP Technical Advisory Committee explains oak policy within the urban areas:

> *"We accept a policy interpretation that 'woodland habitat' conservation goals and standards are based more upon aesthetic/cultural values than biological values when woodland habitat is located within urban areas..." (Page 2, Attachment 4, OWMP, March 22, 2007, Summary of OWMP TAC Conclusions).*

**Selected General Plan Policies and Measures Necessary to Implement the INRMP**

**GP Measure CO-M** is the implementation measure for the INRMP under Policy 7.4.2.8. While the INRMP is to be developed within five years of GP adoption, Measure CO-M contemplates that certain actions will be implemented prior to completion of the INRMP, including: a) Establishment of the Conservation Fund; b) Development of a strategy for acquisition and management of conservation easements; c) Development and implementation of mitigation assistance program; and d) Acquisition of important habitat after preparation of the initial inventory and mapping.

**THE INRMP:**

1. Does not require the establishment of regulatory constraints beyond those already existing federal, state and County regulations;

2. Does not require mapping of SSS habitat other than reported occurrences;

3. Is a habitat-based plan premised on the intuitive belief that maintenance of important habitats will conserve common species living in important habitat;

4. Will not authorize an Incidental Take Permit for otherwise lawful activities that may harm listed species or their habitats, even if the applicant agrees to "minimize and mitigate" the impact of the permitted take on the listed species. Approval of such activity will continue to require federal and state review;

5. Does not impact the ability of state or federal agencies to enforce laws that protect air, water or soil. There are no assurances to developers that compliance with the INRMP/IBC requirements will satisfy any requirements of any federal or state agency;

6. Does not require a mapped reserve system.

7. May be viewed as an off-site mitigation plan.

## Important Biological Corridors (IBCs)

**GP Policy 7.4.2.9** establishes the Important Biological Corridor (IBC) overlay which identifies specific lands as having "*high wildlife habitat values*" as further mitigation for fragmentation, including loss of connectivity. The goal of the IBC is to provide continuous corridors of vegetation and connectivity between areas of more extensive natural vegetation for greater environmental protection. The IBC overlay "*gives the most promising terms of preserving connectivity of important habitat in western El Dorado County.* Specifically "*...preserve opportunities for north-south movement by large terrestrial mammals through areas dominated by high- and medium-intensity land uses...link the two largest*

*polygons on the Ecological Preserve overlay and protect a portion of the Weber Creek canyon and other major watercourses..." (GP EIR)*

Saving and Greenwood discussed the north-south connection *between "large areas of contiguous habitat in the northwest and southwest portions of El Dorado County" (EIR 5.12-39).* The IBCs generally follow the Savings-Greenwood mapping overlay configuration with respect to the north-south connections for both Weber Creek and a potential southern connection in the Indian Creek canyon area between the Shingle Springs overpass and El Dorado Road. This second connection was qualified, *"although this scenario did not actually maintain the [north-south] connection, several small patches do extend through this area indicating a potential to maintain this critical corridor."* The INRMP studies must analyze the barrier effect of Highway 50 with regards to north-south connectivity.

There are approximately 25,000 acres of oaks within the 65,000 acres of IBCs currently mapped, which are shown on Figure LU-1 of the GP. The INRMP studies should analyze these oak locations and provide alternatives, such as riparian corridors, for review by SAC and PAWTAC and further consideration by the BOS.

## Initial INRMP Inventory and Mapping

The INRMP Initial Inventory and Mapping adopted by the BOS on April 1, 2008 maps the five habitats identified in Policy 7.4.2.8 (A)(1)-(5) (deer, Special Status Species, occurrences, oak woodlands (PCAs) as large expanses of native vegetation, wetlands/riparian and aquatic). The Initial Inventory and Mapping also includes the following: IBCs, Red Legged Frog recovery areas, Valley Oak Woodlands, and Pine Hill protected plant areas. The map is attached as Exhibit B.

## Existing Connectivity Pending Adoption of the INRMP/IBCs

Pending adoption of the INRMP/IBCs, connectivity currently exists between mapped habitats and is further achieved by current regulatory constraints, existing IBCs, stream setback regulations, government owned land as shown on the Initial Inventory Map (Exhibit B) and Figure 2: EDC Existing Connectivity Between Priority Conservation Areas of the OWMP (Exhibit C & D).

## Connectivity Study Factors to Consider

Literature in corridor and connectivity fields suggests that the following factors should be considered:

1. Identification of key species within each habitat to assess biodiversity within the plan area. Identification of basic sampling design and survey methods employed to gather information on the Management Indicator Species (MIS).

2. Identify the representation of indicator species and species groups. Distribution population monitoring should track changes in the distribution of each MIS in the plan area, by monitoring changes in the presence of those species across a number of sample locations.

3. Clarification of project-level versus planning-area-level MIS requirements is needed. There may, or may not, be monitoring or inventory requirements for MIS at the project level. Generally, all monitoring is required only at the plan level.

4. SSS are difficult to find and monitor and should not be used as MIS. However, all SSS occurrences are reported when discovered in project-level biological evaluations. Likewise, project biological studies or CO-U studies that determine the absence of SSS should also be maintained in a data base.

5. EDC cannot monitor each and every species in a given habitat: Inevitably the County must select organisms to monitor. Ideally there would exist an indicator species to assess habitat quality for biodiversity conservation. Clearly one requirement an indicator species must fulfill is its usefulness in small- or medium-scale habitats. Presence or absence of long-distance migratory species does not provide information on the quality of a locally protected habitat. However, such species could be considered when initially selecting a site for protection, but not for monitoring habitat quality once a protection site has been identified.

6. Common species baselines are limited, but effective-sampling strategies would greatly enhance INRMP/IBC objectives. Careful design of the sampling strategies is essential. A fundamental decision is whether to extrapolate from a sample, or develop a comprehensive survey or measure. The precision of an extrapolated sample can be greatly improved by using stratified random samplings based on prior knowledge and a realistic model. Any sampling strategy should make clear when to survey and how often, and estimates should be made on any sources of uncertainty and their impact on the findings. For example, testing the strategy by a pilot study would help to ensure that a sampling is appropriate. Study reporting should include all information relevant to interested parties (assumptions, methods and dates) to allow others to use and interpret the data.

Consideration should be given regarding monitoring and whether it could establish a cause and effect relationship. The forest service's Sierra Nevada Report (SNFPA) found that, "*Existing population data and projected population trends suitable for use at a bio-regional scale are not suitable for determination of cause and effect relationships. Confounding variables such as intermixed public and private land ownership patterns, variable land histories and changes in habitat, stochastic environmental variables such as habitat disturbances from fire and climate change, and effects that occur off the national forests make it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the cause of changes in population trend. For example, population trends from breeding bird surveys are derived from aggregating data across many individual survey routes, which occur across both National Forest System lands and private lands. While some factors such as survey methodology are controlled to limit variability and changes in habitat or populations that may be occurring differentially between public and private lands, cannot easily be distinguished in the derived population trends. For migratory species, it is even more difficult to isolate possible causal factors related to changes in population trend, due to the possibility of effects in distant locations along the migratory path. Nonetheless, general ecological theory suggests that changes in availability in overall habitat would be expected to change population capacity, at least at the local scale*".

## Prioritize Acquisitions

After public input and review of the studies, the BOS should identify those inventoried habitats that are not otherwise protected as government lands, constraints, etc., but that should be protected and

conserved to achieve the greatest biological benefits. This process will include the identification of essential corridors, choke points and missing links for priority acquisition. As part of the process, the BOS should consider changing the land use designations of the most important habitats to Natural Resources (NR).

Or, as stated in Exhibit A, acquire those habitats that provide "the most bang for the buck".

## Adaptive Management

In the environmental policy literature, the process of experimentation, monitoring and redesign of conservation plans is called "adaptive management". Adaptive management is more than a willingness to change. It should be compared to the alternatives of deferred action and trial and error. Deferred action means the ecosystem would not be managed until it is understood. However, the knowledge gained by studies, while deferring plan implementation, may not be valid for the managed plan. Trial and error approaches are also known as "learning by doing" or reactive learning, but particular types of learning may do more harm than good.

The monitoring program should be sufficient to evaluate success and to allow a continuing deliberative process that can modify the plan, based on plan results. The RFP should require the consultant to prepare a monitoring program that can develop information and loop that information back into revised management practices. As we learn more about species and their habitat requirements, the conservation plan should be revisited on a periodic basis.

## Relationship Of INRMP/IBCs to Project Specific Studies

Project applicants will need to comply with the INRMP/IBC requirements based on the following:

1. If Policy 7.4.4.4 (conversion of oaks beyond retention standards) applies, then the applicant will pay a fee to the Conservation Fund which will fund the INRMP.

2. If the project impacts any "important habitat" that is covered by federal or state regulations, the applicant must comply with those regulations plus any additional mitigation that may be imposed by the INRMP.

3. If the project impacts any "important habitat" that is not covered by federal or state regulations, then the applicant must comply with the INRMP/IBC requirements.

4. Any project with important habitats should be required to prepare an important Biological Resource Study and Important Habitat Mitigation Program (Measure CO-U).

5. Any project that substantially reduces the habitat of a wildlife species, or reduces the number or range an endangered, rare or threatened species, is deemed to have a significant impact on the environment as a matter of law. (Guidelines, § 15065 [a].) For these purposes, species include both animals and plants. (Guidelines, § 15380 [a].)

## Comparison of INRMP/IBCs to Other Conservation Plans

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** An HCP generally focuses on one or more protected species with, the goal of allowing the incidental take of protected species habitat during the course of economic activity, in exchange for the establishment of large reserve areas with limited human uses, surrounded by buffer zones of less restrictive use. An extensive survey of 208 HCPs found the following:

1. Approximately 80% of the HCPs covered a single species with nearly 70% being bird species;

2. Multi-species plans are essentially scaled up versions of single species plans. Multi-species HCPs made up 12% of the 208 HCPs;

3. **Only 4%** of the 208 HCPs were habitat-based plans;

4. The median size of the 208 HCPs was 24 acres, and 74% covered less than 240 acres.

Recent HCPs reviewed include more regional plans. A recent article indicated that while historically HCPs pertained to a single listed species, today HCPs are increasingly broader in scope, anticipating future development needs and addressing multiple species. Approximately 80% of the HCPs address single species, while 14% address multiple species and only **6% are habitat based.**

**The INRMP is a habitat-based plan**, meaning it is based on the premise *that "by protecting the ecological benefit of a natural habitat, one also protects the many species within that habitat. Such plans de-emphasize specific analysis and mitigation measures, focusing instead on more holistic protection and management of the habitat"*

**Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP)** The entirely voluntary NCCP program is purportedly designed to preserve blocks of contiguous habitat that are large enough to sustain viable populations of listed species, and to prevent the need for additional listings, while still allowing for "*compatible and appropriate*" economic growth and development. The authority for the program stems from the *State "Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act,"* enacted in 1991. Again, the EDC INRMP will not result in the authorized take of listed species habitat.

**INRMP for Department of Defense** Predating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) which was passed in 1973, the Department of Defense (DOD) manages the natural resources on its installations pursuant to the Sikes Act. In 1997 the Sikes Act required that each DOD installation prepare an INRMP. INRMPs were to be prepared for all military installations with significant natural resources by November 18, 2001. In 2003 the DOD obtained a modification allowing military installations to supplant critical habitat designation for listed species through the use of an INRMP that provides a conservation benefit to the species. Although the EDC GP borrowed the INRMP name from the government, the EDC INRMP does not track with DOD requirements.

**Bird Conservation Plans (BCPs)** Habitat-based BCSs have been prepared using land birds as effective indicator species to evalute the loss and degradation of habitat. It is expected that the EDC INRMP will include avian indicator species and make use of extensive existing data regarding bird movement.

**Off-site mitigation Plan** The INRMP provides a mechanism to mitigate impacts to important habitats by compensating conservation easements or by paying an INRMP fee. Practically speaking, impacts to SSS,

wetlands, aquatic and riparian areas will require compliance with federal and state regulations. Impacts to oak woodlands will be mitigated with a fee or conservation easement of equal or greater biological value than the converted oaks. It is expected that EDC GP Policy 7.4.4.4 Option B fees will be the economic engine that drives the INRMP.

## Environmental Review of the OWMP

The EDC INRMP/IBC should be processed with the expectation that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be required. The planned studies and analysis will allow the BOS to fashion conservation plans outside of the limitations of the GP EIR discussion.

# GLOSSARY

Biota is defined by the EDC GP Glossary as, *"Encompassing all of the species of plants and animals occurring within a certain area."*

Biotic Community is defined in the EDC GP Glossary as: "*A group of living organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of both animal and plant species in a particular habitat".*

Choke point is a narrow or otherwise tenuous habitat linkage connecting two or more habitat blocks (core areas). Choke points are essential to maintain landscape-level connectivity, but are particularly in danger of losing connectivity function. Examples include a narrow peninsula of habitat surrounded by human dominated matrix that connects larger habitat blocks, or an underpass such as Weber Creek that, depending on study results, may prove to be essential to local wildlife movement.

Criticial Habitat When a species is listed as endangered or threatened, the Secretary of the Interior must concurrently designate "critical habitat" that is necessary for the recovery of the species. The critical habitat designation is designed to assist the species by ensuring that the species has a suitable environment in which to recover.

Habitat is defined in the GP Glossary as: "*The physical location or type of environment, in which an organism or biological population lives or can be found."*

Landscape linkage means large regional connections between habitat blocks (core areas) meant to facilitate animal movements and other essential flows, between different sections of the *landscape (Soule' and Terborgh, 1999).* These may include habitat linkages, riparian corridors, etc.

Riparian Habitat refers to the land and plants bordering a watercourse or lake.

Riparian Lands are defined in the EDC GP Glossary as, "*Riparian lands are comprised of the vegetative and wildlife areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams. Riparian areas are delineated by the existence of plant species normally found near freshwater."*

Species is not defined by the EDC GP. In biology, a species is one of the basic units of biological classification and a taxonomic rank. A species is often defined as a group of organisms capable of inter-breeding and producing fertile offspring.

Survey refers to a one-time search of an area for observation of a species or habitat, ecosystem component or vegetation type. Surveys are distinguished from site visit field checks because surveys typically have written systematic protocols for data collection.

Inventory refers to collecting data to describe the size, status or distribution of a population. It can also refer to a survey designed to develop a list of species in a particular area.

**Footnotes**

---

[i] Saving-Greenwood, (2002) The Potential Impacts of Development on Wildlands in El Dorado County, California. USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-184.
http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/gtr-184/039_Saving.pdf

[ii] Bolsinger, CL (1988) The hardwoods of California's timberlands, woodlands and savannas. Res. Bull. PNW RB - 148. Portland OR: Portland Northwest Research Station, U.S.D.A. Forest Service.
http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/rb148/RB148a.pdf

[iii] Frost and Churches, 2004, Monitoring Oak Woodland Canopy Change; El Dorado, Amador and Calaveras Counties, Publication Number CTY-004, University of California Extension.
http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu/files/10110.pdf

EXHIBITS

A. INRMP/IBC Flow Chart

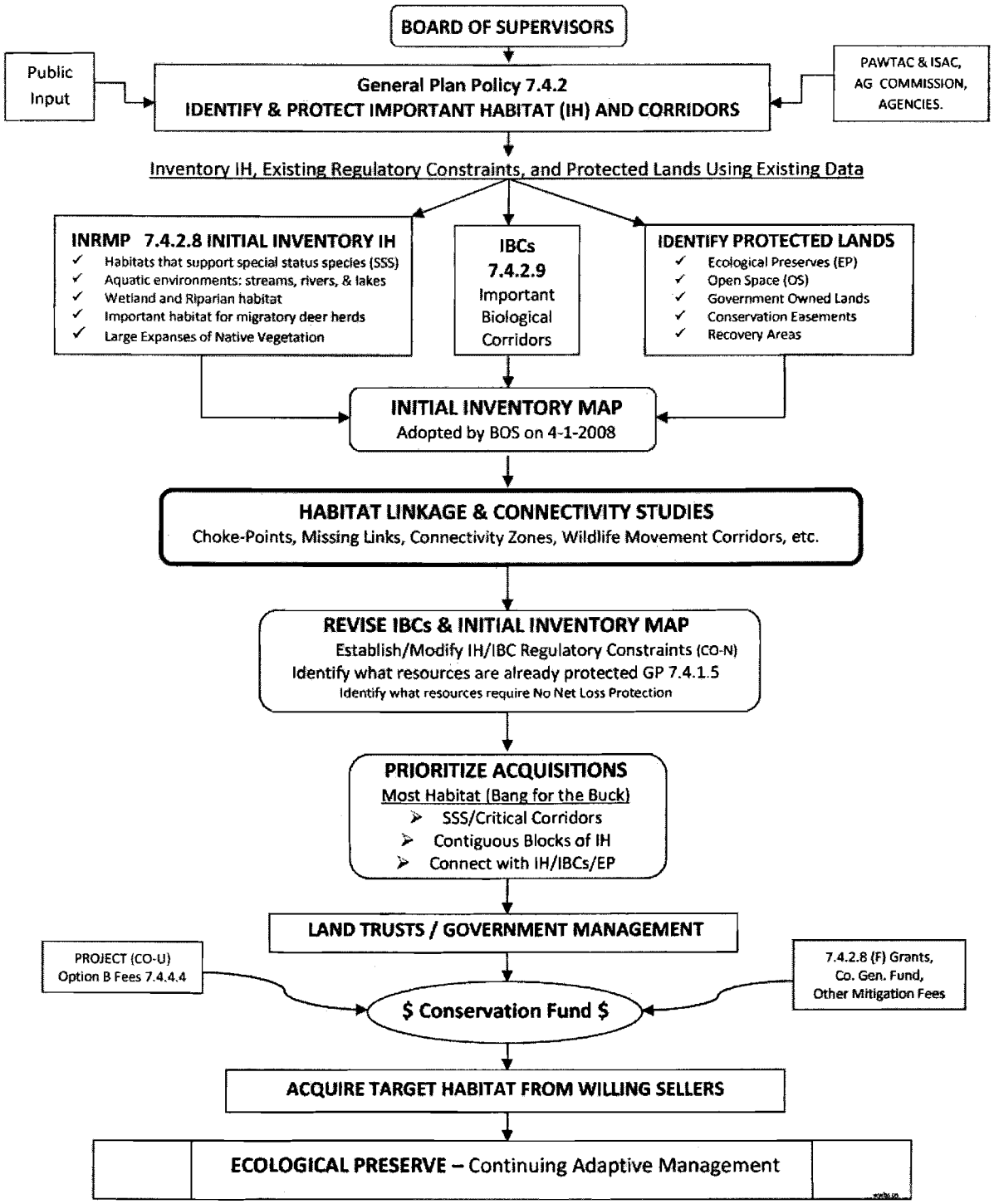
B. INRMP Initial Inventory and Mapping

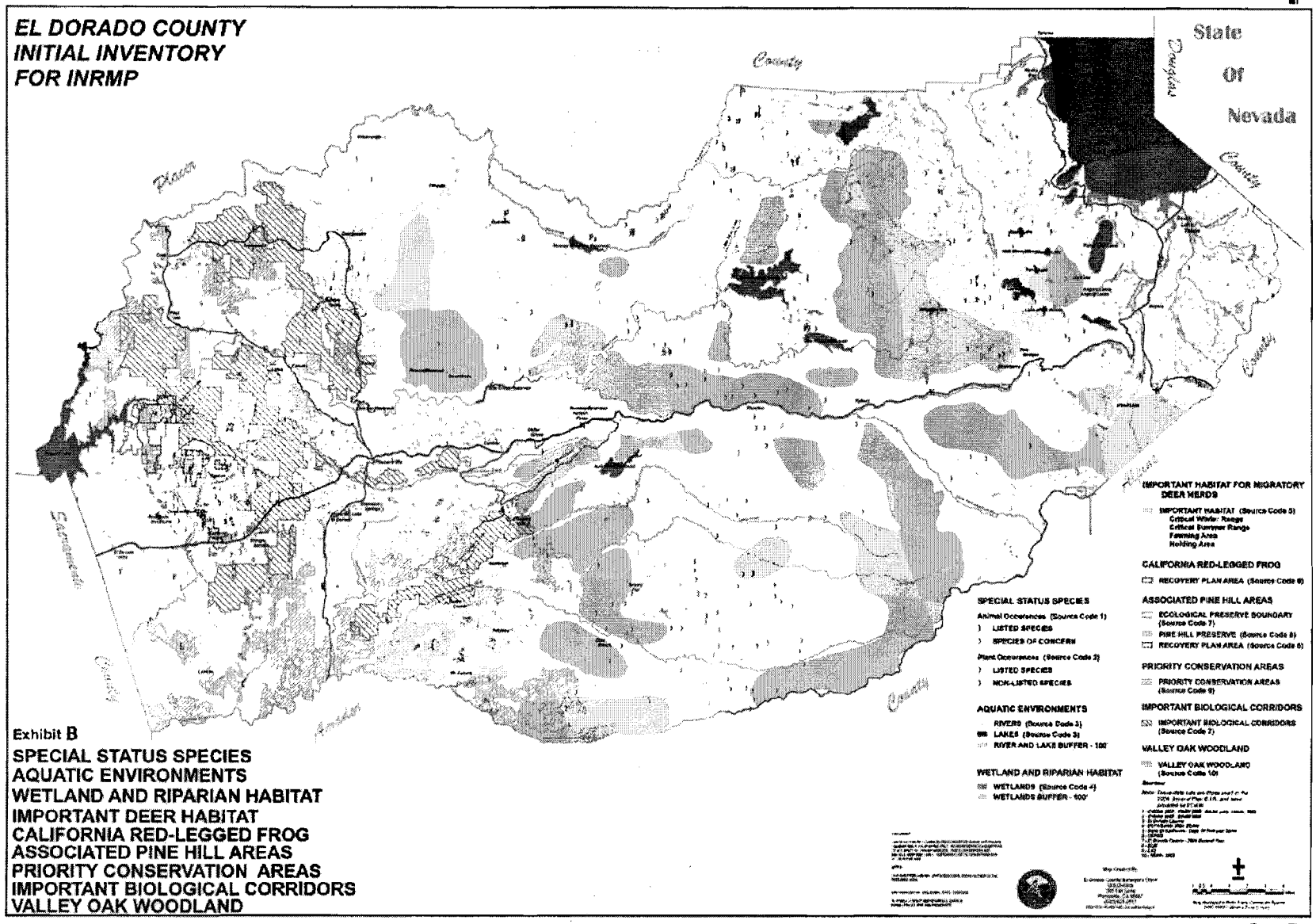
C. Figure 2 OWMP showing existing connectivity

D. Community Coalition Map showing existing connectivity

Cover Image Description: "Sugar Loaf Peak, El Dorado County", by Thomas Hill [http://www.digitalcrocker.org/DCG/v/Early-California-Paintings/1872_529.jpg/en Digital image] from the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California, USA | Date=1865

Exhibit A: INRMP – Flow Chart




EL DORADO COUNTY
INITIAL INVENTORY
FOR INRMP
State
Of
Nevada
Exhibit B
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES
AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS
WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT
IMPORTANT DEER HABITAT
CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG
ASSOCIATED PINE HILL AREAS
PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS
IMPORTANT BIOLOGICAL CORRIDORS
VALLEY OAK WOODLAND
IMPORTANT HABITAT FOR MIGRATORY DEER HERDS
IMPORTANT HABITAT (Source Code 3)
Critical Winter Range
Critical Summer Range
Fawning Area
Holding Area
CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG
RECOVERY PLAN AREA (Source Code 6)
ASSOCIATED PINE HILL AREAS
ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE BOUNDARY (Source Code 7)
PINE HILL PRESERVE (Source Code 8)
RECOVERY PLAN AREA (Source Code 6)
PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS
PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS (Source Code 9)
IMPORTANT BIOLOGICAL CORRIDORS
IMPORTANT BIOLOGICAL CORRIDORS (Source Code 7)
VALLEY OAK WOODLAND
VALLEY OAK WOODLAND (Source Code 10)
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES
Animal Occurrences (Source Code 1)
LISTED SPECIES
SPECIES OF CONCERN
Plant Occurrences (Source Code 2)
LISTED SPECIES
NON-LISTED SPECIES
AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS
RIVERS (Source Code 3)
LAKES (Source Code 3)
RIVER AND LAKE BUFFER - 100'
WETLAND AND RIPARIAN HABITAT
WETLANDS (Source Code 4)
WETLANDS BUFFER - 100'

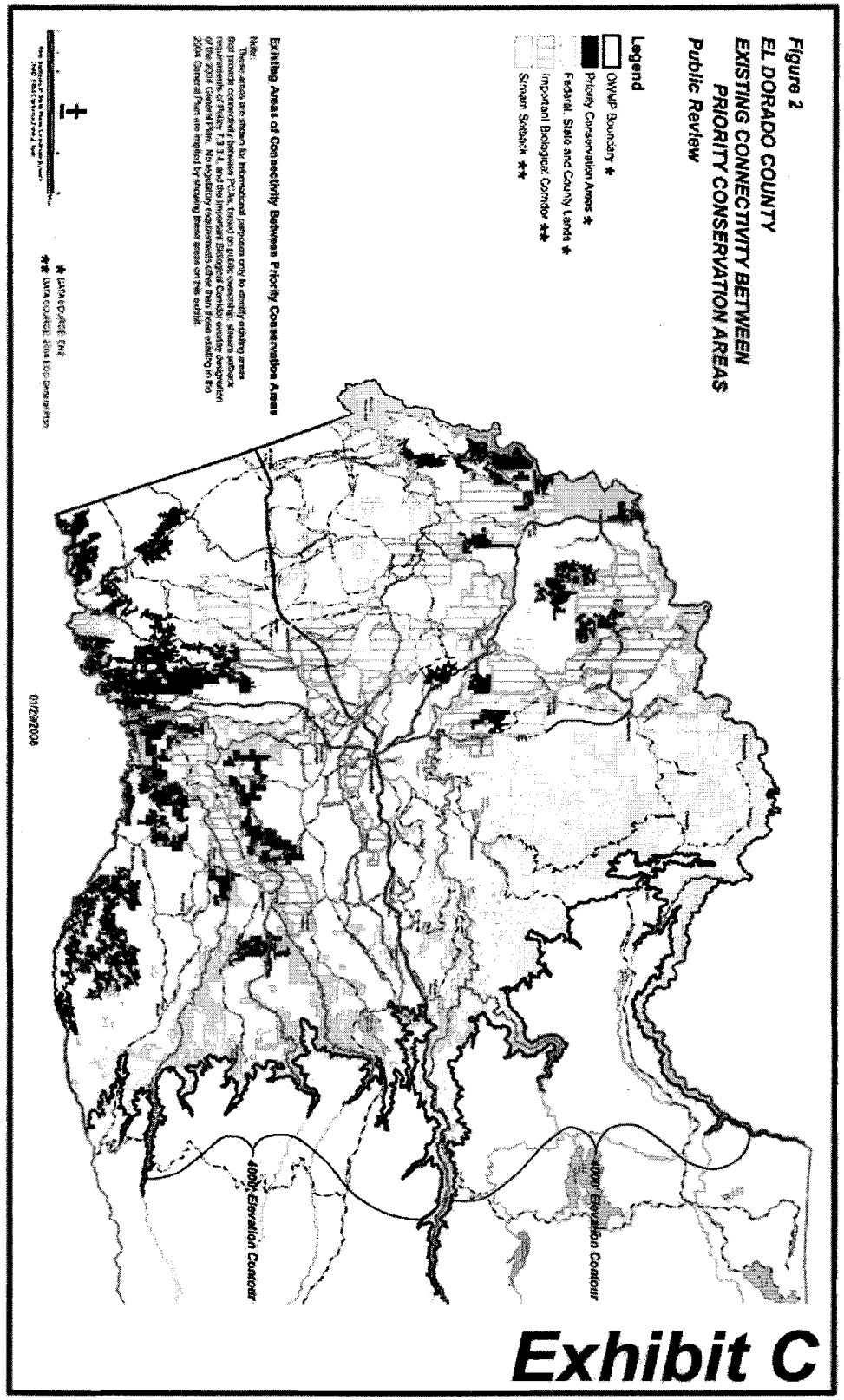
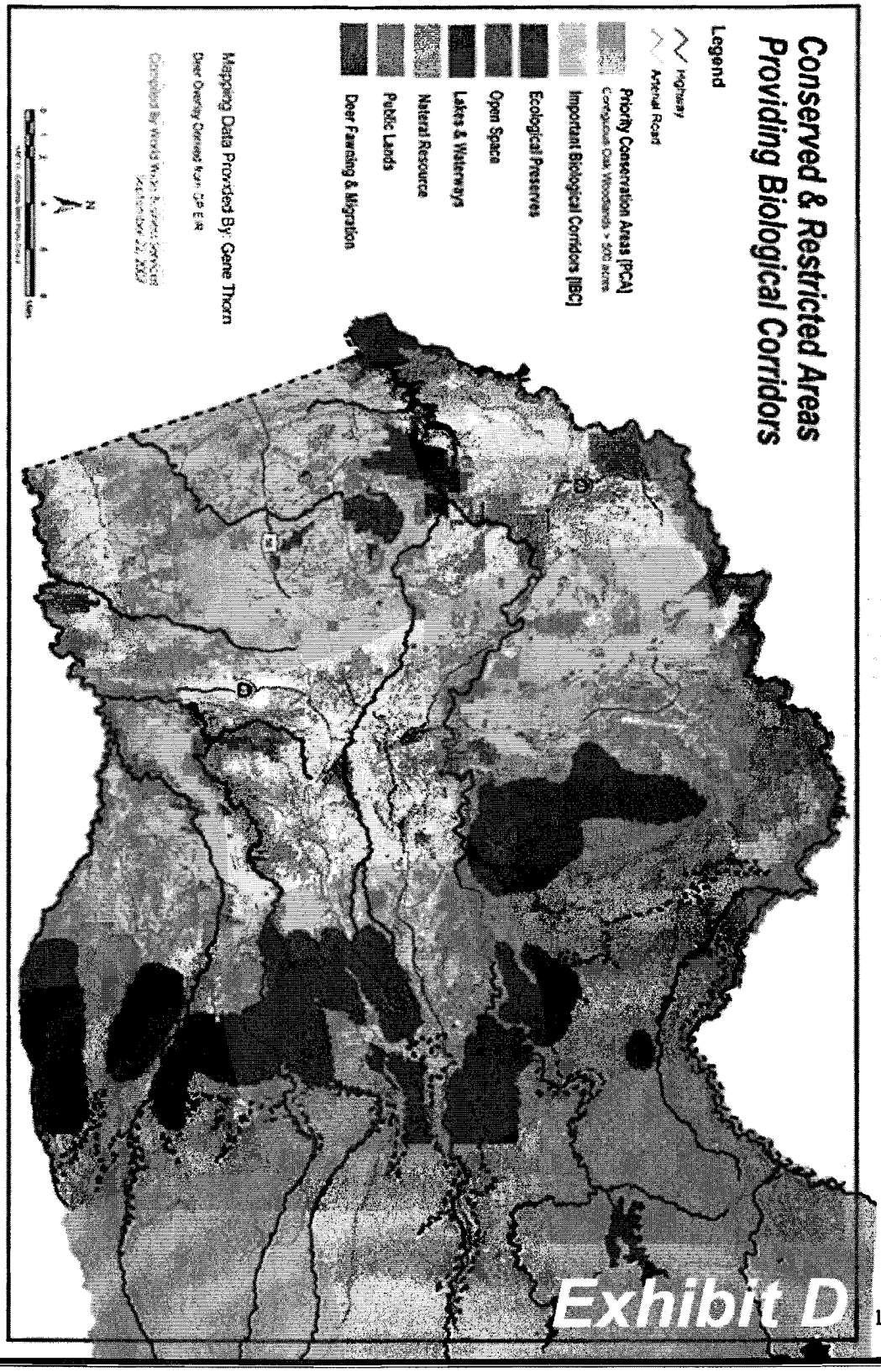


Figure 2
EL DORADO COUNTY
EXISTING CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN
PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS
Public Review
Legend
DWMP Boundary *
Priority Conservation Areas *
Federal, State and County Lands *
Important Biological Corridor **
Stream Setback **
1000' Elevation Contour
4000' Elevation Contour
Existing Areas of Connectivity Between Priority Conservation Areas
01/29/2008
Exhibit C




EDC Existing Connectivity Between Priority Conservation Areas of the OWMP

# The Potential Impacts of Development on Wildlands in El Dorado County, California

**Saving, S. C. and G. B. Greenwood**

**Abstract**

We modeled future development in rapidly urbanizing El Dorado County, California, to assess ecological impacts of expanding urbanization and effectiveness of standard policy mitigation efforts. Using raster land cover data and county parcel data, we constructed a footprint of current development and simulated future development using a modified stochastic flood-fill algorithm. We modeled combinations of constraints from the 1996 County General Plan and parcel data – slope, stream buffers, oak canopy retention, existing development, public ownership, regional clustering, and acquisition programs – and overlaid development outcomes onto the land cover data. We then calculated metrics of habitat loss and fragmentation for natural land cover types. Rural residential development erodes habitat quality much more than habitat extent. Policy alternatives ranging from existing prescriptions to very restrictive regulations had marginal impact on mitigating habitat loss and fragmentation. Historic land parcelization limits mitigation of impacts by the current General Plan prescriptions that only apply when a parcel requires subdivision before development. County-wide ordinances were somewhat more effective in preserving habitat and connectivity. These solutions may not offer enough extra protection of natural resources to justify the expenditures of "political capital" required for implementation. Custom, parcel based acquisition scenarios minimized habitat loss and maximized connectivity. Better analysis of public policy and planning design may be a more effective "smart growth" tool than generic policy prescriptions.

Introduction

Saving and Greenwood were interested in two topics: "1) ecological impacts on wildland habitat resulting from expanding urbanization under the County's General Plan; and 2) the effectiveness of commonly proposed land use policy initiatives to mitigate those impacts."

They recognized that in rural areas (5-40 acre parcels), to which the EDC General Plan allocates 23% of the County, the relative impacts of development could be mimicked through computer modeling of the development patterns. They then modeled impacts to wildland habitat quality from land development by comparing the extent, fragmentation and configuration of the remnant wildlands.

The model used 25 meter pixels representing intact wildland habitat, that would be altered to urban uses as the County builds out. To quantify the impacts to wildland habitat, intact habitat was assumed to be more than 50 meters from a developed parcel, in patches of greater than 100 hectares, and containing no constrictions less than 50 meters. If the patches were greater than 50 meters from development, but were less than 100 hectares or with constrictions of less than 50 meters, it was considered marginal habitat.

Results

The most apparent effect of build out on the extent of wildland habitat was the increase in the number of non-contiguous patches and the separation of habitat into separate north and south regions along the Highway 50 corridor.

They found that, "For oak woodland land cover types, 40 percent of wildland becomes marginal or urban woodland but only 4 percent is physically lost to development. In other words, areas that once functioned under a more natural state and presumably provided functional habitat for species are degraded, either due to proximity to urban land uses or by isolation from larger patches of contiguous natural vegetation."

submitted to PAWTAC by Ray Griffiths 10-14-08

To analyze the impacts to wildland habitat from development, Greenwood and Saving started from the current (2002) footprint of development and ran twelve different iterations of General Plan policies, starting with different assumptions about stream setbacks, percent slope limitations, and increased oak woodland canopy retention.

The different iterations applied different policy alternatives, and analyzed the effects of those policies on the fragmentation of wildland habitat in the County. When they found all of the scenarios ineffective at preserving connectivity across the Highway 50 corridor, they then tested the "Kitchen Sink" alternative, combining all of the most restrictive policies tested (50 m. stream buffers, 40% slope restrictions, oak canopy retention, plus clustering requirements). This alternative too failed to maintain connectivity across the Highway 50 corridor.

After the failure of all the policy alternatives to mitigate for impacts to oak woodlands across the Highway 50 corridor, they took an alternative approach, leaving all the General Plan restrictions intact, but expanding the non-developable by restricting selected parcels in key areas.

"This scenario represents a planned acquisition approach through the use of easements and/or outright purchase of development rights by the county. We selected several vacant parcels in the Indian Creek canyon area where it crosses Highway 50 between Placerville and Shingle Springs in an attempt to reconnect the northern and southern portions of wildland."

"Most importantly, however, scenario 543 comes the closest of all scenarios to maintaining a connection between the northern and southern wildland patches."

"The political expense in implementing ordinance-type solutions would seem to far outweigh the potential ecological benefits to oak woodlands."

"(W)e examined a limited parcel acquisition, or easement, strategy (scenario 543) for areas of concern which removes key parcels from the potential development landscape. One such area is the Indian Creek Canyon region. Here, a stringer of oak woodlands presently connects the northern and southern wildland patches. Although this scenario did not actually maintain the connection, several small patches do extend through the area indicating that the concept has the potential to maintain this critical corridor. This area of the county is highly desirable for development, therefore making this scenario potentially fiscally expensive. However, unlike the ordinance approach, an acquisition approach would encounter fewer stakeholders directly and would offer owners compensation for the loss of development rights on their property. Involving private conservation groups or land trusts could greatly reduce costs to the public sector."

"Most people can agree that high density urban and suburban development do not provide much high quality habitat for most species, but seldom can stakeholders, land managers, public officials, or even scientists agree on the thresholds or the degrees at which rural development begins to impact the landscape. As more of the landscape of California transitions from large extents of wilderness owned by relatively few private individuals to a landscape divided up amongst thousands of owners regularly dotted with houses every few thousand feet, understanding these impacts and enacting policies that are effective, fair, and feasible become ever more important and challenging."

From: (USDA Forest Service Gen. Tech. Rep. PSW-GTR-184. 2002.)

Ray Griffiths
10-14-08
pg 2 of 2

"William Frost"
<wefrost@ucdavis.edu>
10/15/2008 04:06 PM

To <monique.wilber@edcgov.us>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Reminder: Comments due on INRMP RFP by Friday, October 17

History: This message has been forwarded.

Monique,

I don't have additional comments, just want to reaffirm the comments made that the costs associated with the acquisition, management and monitoring programs be determined and that the potential for habitat enhancement (both onsite and offsite) be a consideration.

Also, the next meeting is scheduled for Veteran's Day. Will we be rescheduling this date or skipping the Nov meeting?

Thanks

Bill

Bill Frost
Associate Director
ANR Research and Extension Centers
University of California
One Shields Ave
Davis, CA 95616
530-752-3931
wefrost@ucdavis.edu

**From:** monique.wilber@edcgov.us [mailto:monique.wilber@edcgov.us]
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2008 3:01 PM
**To:** tgardner@dfg.ca.gov; amy_fesnock@fws.gov; raygriff1299@sbcglobal.net; valeriez@edcfb.com; dandjh@hughes.net; britting@earthlink.net; William Frost; dcorcoran@eid.org; craig@sierraforestlegacy.org; myoung@wildlandsinc.com; phil@thornecivil.com; JLB87@aol.com; pmaurer@co.el-dorado.ca.us; monique.wilber@edcgov.us; jgibson@gibsonandskordal.com; jimdaviesforestry@wildblue.net; ehrgott@arconservancy.org; Elena DeLacy; rainboworch@jps.net; vineyard@dkcellars.com; john@zentnervineyard.com; echolanellc@aol.com; dbolster@erarealtycenter.com; artmarinaccio@hotmail.com; pmaurer@co.el-dorado.ca.us; monique.wilber@edcgov.us; jjdago@mindspring.com; beutlerjamie@yahoo.com; floftis@gmail.com; johnrknight@comcast.net; kimbeal@innercite.com; billcenter@innercite.com
**Cc:** larry.appel@edcgov.us
**Subject:** Reminder: Comments due on INRMP RFP by Friday, October 17

All,

Just a reminder that any additional comments or suggestions you wish to submit regarding the INRMP

Request for Proposals that the committees reviewed this month, should be submitted to me by this Friday, October 17, 2008.

Our plan is to make changes to the RFP based on your recommendations, then re-send out the RFP to both groups one more time for review, then present to the Board.

Regards,
Monique

Monique Wilber
Senior Planner
El Dorado County Development Services
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville CA 95667

monique.wilber@edcgov.us
(530) 621-5371
http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.
http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/planning/GeneralPlanINRMP.html

## RFP COMMENTS

### RFQ

It appears the County has pared the list of qualified applicants for the RFP to six from a larger list of potential applicants that had expressed interest in a project such as the INRMP/IBC. Given the start and stop HCP/INRMP/IBC discussions over the past 2 + years, it may be appropriate to begin the process anew with an RFQ that allows applicants to consider participation in the GP defined and BOS directed scope of the INRMP/IBC project

### PROJECTED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The RFP assumes a Mitigated Negative Declaration based on the assumption all significant effects were adequately addressed in the GP EIR.

This is contrary to the general rule that a mitigated Negative Declaration is not recommended when the document on which it is being tiered has identified unavoidable significant cumulative effects. The issue of a how to address project level significant impacts that were the subject of a a statement of overriding considerations in the Program EIR is discussed in Communities for a Better Environment v. California Resources Agency (3d Dist. 200) which may be compared to Citizens for Responsible Equitable Environmental Development v. San Diego (CREED).

In addition, other than the primarily oak woodlands wildlife habitats discussed in Saving-Greenwood (which supported the use of a MND for the OWMP), the development of detailed, species and site specific information that will be developed in the INRMP/IBC was deferred by the GP EIR until such time as the County prepared a future environmental document in connection with the IRMP/IBC. In the Court decision, the court found the deferral of impacts at the program level for mitigation measures such as the INRMP/IBC did not prevent adequate identification of <u>significant effects</u> of the planning approval <u>at the level of the GP EIR,</u> "Petitioners focus on certain mitigation measures adopted by the County that require the future development of more specific information, standards and requirements in the form of studies, guidelines and ordinances. Petitioners contend that the analysis required for those measures should have been included in the GP EIR itself. This Court finds petitioner's contentions to be without merit. The GP is a broad planning-level document and does not involve approval of a specific development proposal. ... Thus, the EIR must focus on secondary effects of adoption, but need not be as precise as an EIR on the specific projects that might follow." The INRMP/IBC is such a project..

There was little analysis in the EIR for the purpose or locations of the Important Biological Corridors, which are drawn on the GP map. The INRMP will develop significant new information regarding connectivity of habitats, including species and specific analysis of wildlife movement which may result in the revising of the Important Biological Corridors, identification of specific areas for conservation, as well as the adoption of additional mitigation measures. The IBC locations are part of the GP and changes may require a GP Amendment which, in turn, should require an EIR (see Al Larson Boat Shop v. Board of Harbor Commissioners for discussion). An INRMP/IBC EIR would implement the applicable mitigation measures developed in the GP EIR, and focus its studies and analysis on species and site-specific issues not previously addressed. A review of the INRMP/IBC process and program will determine whether the INRMP/IBC may arguably have a significant effect on the environment not examined in the GP EIR with any doubts resolved in favor of the EIR.

submitted by
Jim Brunello to
PAWTAC
10-17-2008
pg 1 of 2

Although the RFP may consider a MND as a preliminary position, those submitting proposals should be expected to perform all studies and analysis necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the INRMP/IBCs without regards to whether the program being created will require an EIR.

Jim Brunello
page 2 of 2
10-17-2008

Art Marinaccio
October 17, 2008
Comments on INRMP proposal

I want to start by completely agreeing with Jim Brunello's comments. Rather than reiterate those thoughts I wish only to add a few additional comments.

Quite a few qualified consultants chose to drop out of consideration in this protracted process due to belief that the scope of work had put in terms that were not conducive to success. I personally heard more than one very pointed observation that there was no point in bidding a job that would not actually be done.

We need to have clear direction to redirect our resources to defining the problem.

Where are the studies to define why we are trying to attempt a North-South corridor? Where is the study to define what species we are trying to create these corridors to occupy?

Any attempt to arrive at a proposed process that results in no need for CEQA review is inconsistent with our situation. The existing General Plan and EIR lack any direction as to why we are doing much of this. We need competent analysis of why we should establish corridors.

We have clearly established much more corridor than we need. The problem is we can not reduce the scale of this conundrum without significant evidence in the record as to what and why. Many of us do fully understand that the effort to reduce the studies is to reduce the reduction in lands designated as unusable.

We had to establish reserved areas in excess of what is needed to be sure to not have designated too few areas. WE did what we had to do. We now need the information in order to reduce the designations that prove to have insignificant long term ecological value.

That process will require significant CEQA review. Any truncating of that program back to one that does not allow for shrinking of the over designated areas is of too little actual value to be worth the bother.

Indeed the studies may indicate the need for additional lands to be designated for protection. At least those designations will carry a stated purpose.

Let's take the time to do the studies to articulate what we need to do any why before we design a program to remove the functional usability of valuable property for no reason that is better than it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Thank you,
Art Marinaccio

# RFP COMMENTS 10/23/08

## RFQ

It appears the County has pared the list of qualified applicants for the RFP to six from a larger list of potential applicants that had expressed interest in a project such as the INRMP/IBC. Given the start and stop HCP/INRMP/IBC discussions over the past 2 + years, and current economic conditions, it may be appropriate to begin the process anew with an RFQ that allows applicants to consider participation in the GP defined and BOS directed scope of the INRMP/IBC project as reflected in the RFP.

## PROJECTED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The RFP assumes a Mitigated Negative Declaration based on the assumption all significant effects were adequately addressed in the GP EIR.

This is contrary to the general rule that a mitigated Negative Declaration is not recommended when the document on which it is being tiered has identified unavoidable significant cumulative effects. The issue of a how to address project level significant impacts that were the subject of a a statement of overriding considerations in the Program EIR is discussed in Communities for a Better Environment v. California Resources Agency (3d Dist. 200) which may be compared to Citizens for Responsible Equitable Environmental Development v. San Diego (CREED).

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Although the RFP may consider a MND as a preliminary position, those submitting proposals should be expected to perform all studies and analysis necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the INRMP/IBCs without regards to whether the program being created will require an EIR.

. **IBC**. The RFP includes "updating" and "refinement" of the IBCs. Although implied, the RFP should include "revision" of the IBC map - where appropriate.

submitted by
Jim Brunello
10-23-2008
pg 1 of 1

Comments on INRMP RFP
Mahala Young, Wildlands, Inc.

10-24-2008

- Overall Comment - I know that the intro/purpose and deliverables address the need to prepare an actual plan, but the scope doesn't appear to have a task that specifically requires the consultant to compile and integrate all the other tasks into an actual plan. Suggest adding a task after Habitat Monitoring and before Prepare initial study tasks that requires the consultant to prepare a draft and final INRMP. Also suggest that under each task in the scope that the deliverable be identified, (e.g., under task 1, add viii. Compile information and prepare draft and final Habitat Inventory Report and Map.)

- Purpose –
  - First sentence – Is the consultant is going to assist in the development or conduct the development with County oversight? Overall, the scope of work is very broad with little specific guidance and may be making the process to complicated.
  - Revision to 3rd sentence in 2nd paragraph. 'This will include developing land conservation strategies that conserve and restore habitat connectivity and identifying priority habitat preservation areas, *with preference given* to large contiguous blocks of habitat and where *possible*, corridors to facilitate species movement among these blocks.'
  - End of paragraph – Its more useful to identify habitat (create a habitat map) and allow mitigation to occur anywhere within that habitat. Priority Preservation Areas should be used to identify lands with extraordinary biological value that have increased mitigation ratios to deter development.

- Scope of Services -

  - *The Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee (PAWTAC) and the INRMP Stakeholders Advisory Committee (ISAC) were appointed and established by the Board of Supervisors for their specialized knowledge of El Dorado County. PAWTAC members were chosen for their technical and biological expertise relating to plant and wildlife issues. ISAC members were chosen for their specialized community experience representing various fields.* - Sounds like the PAWTAC, ISAC was established for the same reason you are hiring a consultant. These groups, under supervision of the County staff, should come up with the general outline of a plan and the have the consultant flesh it out.

  - *PAWTAC and ISAC will provide the consultant input for review, critiques, and recommendations for habitat mapping, habitat protections strategy, mitigation assistance, habitat acquisition, habitat management, habitat monitoring, and Important Biological Corridor overlay, utilizing their*

*specialized knowledge of El Dorado County* – seems like the PAWTAC, ISAC, and County should do some of this work prior to hiring a consultant.

- Under task 1, Map Important Habitat Connectivity –

  - Appears that the idea of using just the Habitat Inventory Map has been lost or isn't well conveyed as the task title suggests that they will just be mapping connectivity. First priority should be to map all habitat types including an endangered species layer. Suggest including the Habitat Inventory Map specifically as a reference for developing the Important Habitat Connectivity Map because it was expressly identified as a mitigation measure for the INRMP.
  - Under 1.i. – the scope requires consultant to determine whether further studies are needed. I suggest replacing that task with "The consultant will prepare an assessment of current studies and work with the County and PAWTAC to identify additional studies, if determined necessary."
  - Under 1.iv. - Land values are unreliable and will change as a result of habitat conservation designations. Making assumptions regarding land values might be counterproductive in that it will potentially devalue or overvalue a particular property. Suggest deleting reference to use of land values layer.

- Under task 3 –
  - Suggest that the County and working groups identify the types of mitigation that should be employed, and prioritize the options and come up with fees and ratios for each option. Adaptive management must be an important component. Management activities must be comprehensive and quantifiable enough so that costs can be accurately accounted for.
  - Under iv. - suggest adding reference to the use of mitigation banks as part of the strategy for coordinated land acquisitions.

- Under task 4 –
  - Under i. - I'm confused about the definition of a threshold. It is my understanding that each discretionary project will have to prepare a biological resources study and evaluate the project effects on habitat including important habitat and habitat fragmentation. Policy 7.4.1.6 requires that if all impacts cannot be avoided, the project proponent shall fully mitigate the impact. I think the trigger would be a discretionary permit.

  - Suggest adding in a task for consultant to work with working groups and County to develop biological resource assessment standards to apply to all discretionary projects in areas identified as a priority for conservation and prepare a bio resources study report outline with required content sections for project proponents.

- Suggest that the consultant facilitate meetings with the County and working groups to develop a ratio system to determine the amount of mitigation necessary to offset different levels of development on different categories of habitat that will be incorporated into the INRMP.

- Under iv.- suggest that the land management program options not only address the management of fees but also include the monitoring/holding of conservation easements.

- Under v. - Seems like this task would fit better under 5. Habitat Acquisition.

- Under task 5.i. - the way this task is written, it appears that the County is asking the consultant to help them decide on a project-by-project basis how to implement the strategy. Suggest rewording "Develop strategies, in coordination with the County, to implement the INRMP both for an overall, landscape-level program for habitat protection and for project-by-project based mitigation."

- Under task 6.i. – This task seems beyond the scope of the consultants work. This will happen automatically once the different habitat layers have been created, and should be developed by the County in cooperation with the working groups.

- Under task 7.i. – Suggest adding sentence 'Include adaptive management practices common for the in-perpetuity management of protected habitats.'

- Schedule – the schedule seems a bit aggressive, may want to allow for more time for back and forth between consultant and County.

Jeremiah_M_Karuzas@fws.gov

10/24/2008 08:27 AM

To monique.wilber@edcgov.us

cc

bcc

Subject Re: Revised INRMP RFP comments due by Friday, October 24.

Monique.

So far, it is unclear who in my office shall be taking Amy Fesnock's place on the PAWTAC, and when that has been determined, we will provide you with the name so that you will be able to approve of the replacement, and/or add them to the list. In the mean time, I do not know if Kim Squires (of this office) had replied (as either her of myself will be the one working on this), but I have a couple of brief comments.

1- I do not know how I had missed this before, but in reference to the California red-legged frog (on page 5) the frog population in Weber Creek is considered one of six in the Sierra Nevada (including the foothills).

2- Pg 8, Section 4 iii. . "Develop a program to facilitate mitigation of impacts to biological resources resulting from projects approved by the County that are unable to avoid impacts on important habitats." We had discussed this during the meeting, and I do not see how my concern was addressed. I am concerned that one outcome would be the development on an in-lieu fee program. While I do not have an issue with concept of a fee program, it is important that the program be developed in its entirety which would include the mechanism for spending the money and land acquisition. I think that if this is not spelled out, the fee program may simply be the collection of fees, but without a mechanism identified for actually using those funds (such as timelines etc) there is the potential that the funds will be collected, but not used to in a timely fashion to actually mitigate the impacts for which they were collected.

I do not see a need for us to meet on this in November.

Thanks,

Jeremiah

monique.wilber@edcgov.us

10/22/2008 10:20 AM

To tgardner@dfg.ca.gov, raygriff1299@sbcglobal.net, valeriez@edcfb.com, dandjh@hughes.net, britting@earthlink.net, wefrost@ucdavis.edu, dcorcoran@eid.org, craig@sierraforestlegacy.org, myoung@wildlandsinc.com, phil@thornecivil.com, JLB87@aol.com, pmaurer@co.el-dorado.ca.us, monique.wilber@edcgov.us, jgibson@gibsonandskordal.com, jimdaviesforestry@wildblue.net, ehrgott@arconservancy.org, "Elena DeLacy" <elena@arconservancy.org>, rainboworch@jps.net, <Jeremiah_M_Karuzas@fws.gov>

cc adina@nature.berkeley.edu, larry.appel@edcgov.us

Subject Revised INRMP RFP comments due by Friday, October 24.

All,

Attached is the revised INRMP RFP, with changes based on PAWTAC and ISAC recommendations. Please review it and provide any further comments by this Friday, October 24. If your comments include corrections, please be very direct in communicating the changes you want, with specific wording and location. We apologize for the short turnaround time, but we must receive all comments by Friday in order to make revisions and get our items on the next available Board of Supervisors agenda for November 18, 2008 (we are required to submit items three weeks prior to the Board meeting). December agendas are full, and if we wait, it may be January before this item can get in front of the Board.

Thank you for your consideration. A separate email will be forthcoming regarding PAWTAC's November meeting agenda.

-Monique

Monique Wilber
Senior Planner
El Dorado County Development Services
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville CA 95667

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http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.
http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/planning/GeneralPlanINRMP.html[attachment "INRMP_RFP_101408.doc" deleted by Jeremiah M Karuzas/SAC/R1/FWS/DOI]

Art Marinaccio
<artmarinaccio@hotmail.com
>

10/24/2008 11:40 AM

To <monique.wilber@edcgov.us>

cc <beutlerjamie@yahoo.com>, <billcenter@innercite.com>, <dbolster@erarealtycenter.com>, <echolanellc@aol.com>, <floftis@gmail.com>, <jjdago@mindspring.com>,

bcc

Subject RE: ISAC November 6 meeting agenda and revised INRMP RFP comments deadline

I renew my request that the initial studies requested be to determine what we need to do and why. The effort to devise the studies and work to implement policy that has no other purpose than comply with some poorly thought through and completely unsupported suggestion is inappropriate. There must be an articulated pourpose to North South coinnectivity before we even consider asking anyone to devise a plan to implement the policy. Anyone who thinks Saving Greenwood justified the need for the connector needs to read the work.

To: monique.wilber@edcgov.us
CC: artmarinaccio@hotmail.com; beutlerjamie@yahoo.com; billcenter@innercite.com; dbolster@erarealtycenter.com; echolanellc@aol.com; floftis@gmail.com; jjdago@mindspring.com; john@zentnervineyard.com; johnrknight@comcast.net; kimbeal@innercite.com; pmaurer@co.el-dorado.ca.us; vineyard@dkcellars.com
Subject: Re: ISAC November 6 meeting agenda and revised INRMP RFP comments deadline
From: monique.wilber@edcgov.us
Date: Thu, 23 Oct 2008 14:38:47 -0700

Just a reminder, if you have an opinion to whether to hold the next meeting, agenda topics, or to cancel the meeting, please reply by Sunday evening, as I'll want to synthesize the responses Monday morning.

In addition, if you have any direct comments on the revised INRMP RFP, or general comments you wish to direct to ISAC or to the Board of Supervisors, please reply to me by Sunday evening, as I'll need to finish my staff report on Monday.

Thanks, and have a pleasant weekend.

Monique Wilber
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http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.
http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/planning/GeneralPlanINRMP.html

Monique K Wilber/PV/EDC
10/22/2008 10:30 AM

To vineyard@dkcellars.com, john@zentnervineyard.com, echolanellc@aol.com, dbolster@erarealtycenter.com, artmarinaccio@hotmail.com, Peter N Maurer/PV/EDC@TCP, Monique K Wilber/PV/EDC@TCP, jjdago@mindspring.com, beutlerjamie@yahoo.com, floftis@gmail.com, johnrknight@comcast.net, kimbeal@innercite.com, billcenter@innercite.com

cc
Subj ISAC November 6 meeting agenda
ect

All,

Our next meeting falls after you've reviewed and commented on the revised INRMP RFP, but before the November 18 Board of Supervisor's meeting where it will be presented.

Peter and I would like your input on the agenda for November 6, or whether it is worthwhile to have a meeting. The November 6 meeting could be an opportunity for follow-up and further comment, if you so desire.

Please weigh in on agenda topics, or whether we should cancel the meeting.

Thank you,
Monique

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http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/planning/GeneralPlanINRMP.html

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**"Adina Merenlender" <adina@nature.berkeley.edu>**

10/25/2008 05:21 PM

Please respond to <adina@nature.berkeley.edu>

To <monique.wilber@edcgov.us>

cc <wefrost@ucdavis.edu>

bcc

Subject here you go RE: Revised INRMP RFP comments due by Friday, October 24.

History: This message has been forwarded.

Monique,

I think the revised RFP looks really good. In general, it seems more focused on what you are really after. Nice work!

The purpose articulated on page 2 is clear and concise. The steps on page 6 provide strong guidelines on the necessary methods while leaving sufficient flexibility for the contractor to select the final methods most appropriate. An examination of protection strategies is good to include and I think will ensure that the work done to help prioritize conservation areas will have the necessary elements for implementation through existing and likely future funding sources. You also made the need for consistency with existing plans and priorities clear.

The mitigation, acquisition, and management sections are challenging and I wonder if the folks who would be good at the mapping/targeting work are the same type of people who would be best to consult with on the institutional arrangements required for the county to effectively run the mitigation/acquisition programs. For example, experts who have run trusts and special districts may be important to talk to regarding how the county should implement and oversee the investments in conservation that need to be made. This is probably less of a concern for the management and monitoring inputs that you are requesting (sections 7 & 8) which could be developed by environmental scientists rather than legal/institutional experts.

The timeline looks good but again I worry that sections 4-8 may get the short end of the stick given how much is involved in the first few steps especially given the importance of working with boards/stakeholders on acceptance of the mapped conservation priorities.

Again, I am impressed with the focus that you all have been able to achieve with this effort.

Regards, Adina

PS If possible, you might want to replace the word "consultants" (page 1) with institutions incase folks at CSU or UC would be interested in participating. I think this effort presents some real opportunities for science in practice and I would be happy to help circulate the RFP when it is ready.

---

**From:** monique.wilber@edcgov.us [mailto:monique.wilber@edcgov.us]
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2008 10:21 AM
**To:** tgardner@dfg.ca.gov; raygriff1299@sbcglobal.net; valeriez@edcfb.com; dandjh@hughes.net; britting@earthlink.net; wefrost@ucdavis.edu; dcorcoran@eid.org; craig@sierraforestlegacy.org; myoung@wildlandsinc.com; phil@thornecivil.com; JLB87@aol.com; pmaurer@co.el-dorado.ca.us; monique.wilber@edcgov.us; jgibson@gibsonandskordal.com; jimdaviesforestry@wildblue.net; ehrgott@arconservancy.org; Elena DeLacy; rainboworch@jps.net; Jeremiah_M_Karuzas@fws.gov
**Cc:** adina@nature.berkeley.edu; larry.appel@edcgov.us
**Subject:** Revised INRMP RFP comments due by Friday, October 24.
**Importance:** High

All,

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Thank you for your consideration. A separate email will be forthcoming regarding PAWTAC's November meeting agenda.

-Monique

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