

Attachment C – Excerpt from INRMP Contract Work Plan

Subtask 1.c Develop List of Indicator Species

The Project Team will develop a recommended list of Indicator Species to be utilized in identification of potential core habitat areas, corridors and linkages. For each Indicator Species, the Team will identify habitat relationships and discuss relevant characteristics such as distribution, status, dispersal and home range requirements.

Indicator species can represent particular structural and functional values of habitat, they can be species of particular management or regulatory concern (e.g., endangered species), or they can exert substantial influence on an ecosystem (e.g., mule deer). SEA will describe a combination of indicator species suitable for analyzing habitat quality, extent of usable habitat, connectivity, and habitat conservation. Because there can be a reciprocal relationship between choosing indicator species and finding sufficient data to evaluate their distribution and status, SEA will develop both a list of “best indicator species” and a list of “available indicator species”.

Habitat Relationships

Wildlife occupy specific habitat types, often indicated by particular assemblages of plant types. For each indicator species, SEA will describe the essential habitat relationships, including the ranked habitat preferences and the caveats and accuracy of these relationships. SEA will use the California Wildlife Habitat Relations (CWHR) model, which was developed by CDFG and other biologists. This model provides habitat associations for each vertebrate species in California, ranks habitats for their utility for species, and includes accuracy for the model’s predictions. The primary output will be a map of the highest quality habitat areas for each species.

Distribution/Status/Dispersal

Major vegetation types in the County have been mapped. SEA will use this information in conjunction with wildlife records collected for development, restoration, and other projects to assist with identifying presence/absence of certain species. SEA will also collect as much information as is available for the indicator species regarding their biological, legal, and local status. For each indicator species, SEA will describe their basic dispersal needs, local and regional barriers to dispersal, and information about their actual dispersal and potential dispersal pathways.

Home Range Requirements

Habitat type and quality can determine the actual use of individuals and pairs of wildlife species of the landscape. The size of the home range depends on a combination of the species, individual’s reproductive stage, habitat quality, habitat type, and disturbances. The most probable home range size is known for many species occurring in El Dorado County, allowing for modeling the likely extent on the landscape of potential home range areas. Actual home range areas can be determined by tracking the movements of individual animals. SEA will describe the home range sizes, potential distributions in the County, and threats to home ranges for all major mammal species and certain birds of legal concern (e.g., spotted owl). For other taxonomic groups, there may not be enough known to discuss home range size.