

Attachment to Key Term Definitions
- Summary of Use of Key Terms in DEIR Chapter 5 Section 12 -

Presented below and in the following pages are references, excerpts, and descriptions of where and how the key terms **Important Habitat, Large Expanses, and Native Vegetation** were used in the Draft EIR for the 2004 General Plan. Most information is from the DEIR impact and mitigation discussions to which the INRMP applies.

Only one specific definition of the key terms listed above was found. The key terms were often used in association with wildlife movement.

Summary of word use

Phrase	Number of appearances in DEIR, Section 5.12
“important habitat”	75
“native vegetation”	11
“large expanses”	7

On page 5.12-45, “**Important habitat**” is defined in the following manner:

The policies under Goal CO-6 provide a framework for identifying and protecting important habitat in the County. Important habitat is defined as habitats that support important flora and fauna, including deer winter, summer, and fawning ranges and migration routes; stream, river, and lakeshore habitat; fish spawning areas; seeps, springs, and wetlands; oak woodlands; large expanses of native vegetation; and other unique plant, fish, and wildlife habitats.(Emphasis added.)

“Native vegetation”

When discussing grasslands in El Dorado County the DEIR makes note that these areas contain many non-native species, but that they are necessary to support wildlife (e.g. p5.12-7: “**Annual grassland**, which covers 81,100 acres, is the only major herbaceous-dominated habitat in El Dorado County. Annual grassland is fairly common at low elevations (i.e., below 2,500 feet elevation) in the western region of the county. This habitat comprises mostly non-native annuals, primarily of Mediterranean origin, but can also include a variety of native herbaceous species. Non-native grasslands have replaced most native perennial grasslands in El Dorado County and throughout most of California.” Further, on p 10, “Annual grasslands generally support lower wildlife diversity than woodland and shrub-dominated habitats but are **invaluable** to the grassland-dependent species found in El Dorado County.” (Emphasis added).)

“Natural vegetation” and “large contiguous blocks” are additional terms used in Chapter 5 that could be considered synonymous with “native vegetation” and “**large expanses**” if so decided by the advisory groups.

Keeping in mind the terms and contexts of the terms used in Chapter 5.12, it should be possible to craft definitions through the INRMP process that are not in conflict with the General Plan or its supporting documents.

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SUMMARY TABLE: IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES from DRAFT EIR

Impact	Description	Mitigation Measure(s)	Page Reference
5.12-1	Loss and Fragmentation of Wildlife Habitat	5.12-1(a), Implement Mitigation Measure 5.9-4(b) 5.12-1(b), Minimize Erosion and Maximize Retention of Natural Vegetation; 5.12-1(c), Implement Mitigation Measure 5.9-6(a) for the No Project Alternative; 5.12-1(d), Develop and Implement an INRMP; 5.12-1(e), Adopt a No-Net-Loss Policy and Mitigation Program for Important Habitat; 5.12-1(f), Require Mitigation for Loss of Woodland Habitat; 5.12-1(g), Develop and Implement an Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance; 5.12-1(h), Remove Open Space from Mineral Resource Overlay; 5.12-1(i), Replace Implementation Programs CO-E, CO-F and CO-I with Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(d) for the No Project Alternative; 5.12-1(j), Replace Policy CO-6b with Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(e); 5.12-1(k), Replace CO-6c with Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(f) for NPA; 5.12-1(l), Replace Policy CO-7a with Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(g) for the NPA	5.12-32-34,
5.12-2	Impacts on Special-Status Species	5.12-2(a), Implement Mitigation Measures 5.12-1(d), 5.12-1(e) for No Project Alternative; 5.12-2(b), Establish and Manage Ecological Preserves; 5.12-2, Implement Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(c) for Roadway Constrained 6-Lane Plus Alternative	5.12-69-70
5.12-3	Impacts on Wildlife Movement	5.12-3(a), Implement Mitigation Measures 5.12-1(d) and 5.12-1(e) for No Project Alternative; 5.12-3(b), Apply IBC Overlay to Lands Identified as Having High Wildlife Habitat Values; 5.12-3(c), Implement Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(c) for Roadway Constrained 6-Lane Plus Alternative;	5.12-88-89
5.12-4	Removal, Degradation and Fragmentation of Sensitive Habitats	5.12-4(a), Implement Mitigation Measures 5.12-1(d), 5.12-1(e) and 5.12-3(b) of No Project Alternative; 5.12-4(b), Implement Multiple Policies to Reduce Impacts on Sensitive Habitats	5.12-101-102

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Note: Measures highlighted in **bold** are those most relevant to Phase I scope of work for INRMP process.

**Description of Listed Mitigation Measures
(DEIR, pp5.12-54 & up)**

5.12-1(a): Implement Mitigation Measure 5.9-4(b) of the No Project Alternative

5.12-1(b): Minimize Erosion and Maximize Retention of Natural Vegetation

The County shall modify Policy 7.1.2.2 as follows to minimize soil erosion and maximize retention of natural vegetation:

Revised Policy 7.1.2.2: Discretionary and ministerial projects that require earthwork and grading, including cut and fill for roads, shall be required to minimize erosion and sedimentation, conform to natural contours, maintain natural drainage patterns, minimize impervious surfaces, and maximize the retention of natural vegetation. Specific standards for minimizing erosion and sedimentation shall be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance.

Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(b) would reduce impacts on wildlife habitat by requiring all projects to maximize the retention of natural vegetation.

5.12-1(c): Implement Mitigation Measure 5.9-6(a) for the No Project Alternative

5.12-1(d): Develop and Implement an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (Policy 7.4.2.8)

5.12-1(e): Adopt a No-Net-Loss Policy and Mitigation Program for Important Habitat

5.12-1(f): Require Mitigation for Loss of Woodland Habitat

5.12-1(g): Develop and Implement an Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance

5.12-1(h): Remove Open Space from Mineral Resource Overlay

5.12-1(i): Replace Implementation Programs CO-E, CO-F, and CO-I with Mitigation Measure

5.12-1(d) for the No Project Alternative

New Policy: Please refer to Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(d) of the No Project Alternative.

5.12-1(j): Replace Policy CO-6b with Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(e) of the No Project Alternative

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5.12-1(k): Replace Policy CO-6c with Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(f) of the No Project Alternative

5.12-1(l): Replace Policy CO-7a with Mitigation Measure 5.12-1(g) of the No Project Alternative

Sample text reflecting some uses of key terms in DEIR

“Native Vegetation” p5.12-8

Urban areas in El Dorado County frequently include both ornamental and natural vegetation, with highly developed areas typically having a lower percentage of native vegetation. Low-density urban development is often found in association with patches of fragmented native habitats.

“Large expanse” or “contiguous habitat” p5.12-39

The analysis prepared by Saving and Greenwood (2002) is relevant to the assessment of potential impacts on wildlife habitat described in this EIR because of its similarities with the 1996 General Plan Alternative. The authors modeled future development in western El Dorado County to assess ecological impacts of expanding urbanization. They focused their analysis on what they termed “wildlands”—large areas of contiguous habitat composed primarily of oak woodland. Saving and Greenwood calculated habitat loss and fragmentation incorporating the effects of 1996 General Plan policies that were adopted to preserve and protect habitat.

“Important Habitat” p5.12-44

Under the Roadway Constrained 6-Lane “Plus” Alternative, 50% or greater of the following west slope habitats that provide important wildlife habitat are designated for high- and medium-intensity land uses: annual grassland, blue oak-foothill pine, blue oak woodland, and montane hardwood (Table 5.12-4). Impacts on these major habitat types would be considered significant because conversion for high- and medium-intensity land uses would remove and fragment a substantial amount of the existing wildlife habitat on the west slope.

p5.12-45

Goal CO-6 is to conserve important habitat in sufficient amount and configuration to ensure its ecological function. The policies under Goal CO-6 provide a framework for identifying and protecting important habitat in the county. Important habitat is defined as habitats that support important flora and fauna, including deer winter, summer, and fawning ranges and migration routes; stream, river, and lakeshore habitat; fish spawning areas; seeps, springs, and wetlands; oak woodlands; large expanses of native vegetation; and other unique plant, fish, and wildlife habitats.