

APPENDIX F GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Alpine rocky screes – a mantle of rock fragments created through the movement of water, ice, and snow, at high altitudes above timberline

Bajadas – an arroyo; a streambed that is usually dry

Biodiversity – biological diversity, or the sum of all living things native to a particular area or region

Choke-point – a narrow, impacted 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.

Clearcuts – to cut a forested area completely; a timber-cutting methodology that leaves no standing trees

Connectivity – habitat linkage that connects to or more larger habitat areas; may be a Landscape Linkage, Choke-Point, Missing Link, or other defined linkage type

Conservation Easement – private landowners sell an easement over a portion of, or all of their land to a land trust or other appropriate public agency that restricts certain types of land use; the easement must have a conservation purpose to be deductible for both income and estate taxes

Conservation opportunity – a subjective, qualitative score (rank = one through five) of the feasibility or opportunity of conserving the linkage

Core areas – extensive areas of habitat without paved roads; the majority of core areas lie on publicly owned land

Corridors – connectivity zones, wildlife movement corridors, habitat linkages; corridors connect two or more larger core areas

Culverts - a concrete or metal conduit, that passes under a road, highway, railroad track, etc.

Ecoregional – belonging to a particular ecoregion or region

Emergent vegetation – vegetation that rises unexpectedly from water in wetland habitats

Exotic species – species that are not native to an area; may cause extreme disruptions to natural communities and native species

Extirpated – locally extinct

Flow regime – may be natural stream flow with periodic flood events or altered stream flow in highly managed situations (e.g. controlled water release from dams)

Forbs – herbaceous plants

Fuel breaks – the removal of flammable, often native, vegetation from around structures; County Fire Departments specify the aerial extent that must be cleared

Habitat conversion – the conversion of habitat from a natural state to other land uses

Habitat patches – areas of natural habitat, of varying sizes, surrounded by non-natural conditions

Headwaters – the beginning of a large stream or river

Hydrological – the distribution and cycle of surface and underground water

Inholdings – parcels of privately owned land surrounded by publicly owned land

Insufficient flow – water flow not sufficient to sustain target species

Key species – species indicative of habitat connectivity or habitat quality

Landscape linkage – large, regional connections between habitat blocks (“core areas”) meant to facilitate animal movement and other essential flows between different sections of a landscape (taken from Soulé and Terborgh 1999). These linkages are not necessarily constricted, but are essential to maintain connectivity function in the ecoregion.

Linkages – may be Landscape Linkages, Choke-Points, Missing Links, or other participant defined linkage

Listed species – plant and animal species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal or state Endangered Species Acts

Mesic – plants or habitats that require moisture for sustenance

Missing Link – a highly impacted area currently providing limited to no connectivity function (due to intervening development, roadways, etc.), but based on location one that is critical to restore connectivity function.

Natural disturbance regime – allowing natural disturbances (fire, floods, etc.) to occur as an ecological process necessary for community regeneration

Neotropical migrant – species that migrate with the change of seasons to the biogeographic realm that includes South America, the West Indies, Central America, and tropical Mexico

Obligate – limited to a certain habitat type or ecological condition

Old growth forest – very old forests that have not been logged; closed-canopy conditions

Range management – the management of land open to grazing by domestic livestock

Recovery linkage – participant defined linkage, habitat linkage returning to natural state

Relict habitat linkage – participant defined linkage, remnant of native habitat

Remnant habitat – relic or remaining patch of native habitat

River down-cutting – a timber harvesting methodology that logs trees from the slopes surrounding rivers and streams causing increased sedimentation and erosion

Salmonid – fish of the suborder Salmoniformes; includes salmons, trouts, and most smelts

Sand source linkage – a linkage that promotes movement of sand from a source to a destination; an ecological process

Serpentine geology – geological substrate or soil composed of magnesium silicate

Stepping-stones – scattered habitat patches connecting two or more, larger habitat areas

Stewardship zones – designated as privately owned land with high habitat value

Subpopulation – division of a larger population; subpopulations long-term persistence often dependent on occasional influx of genes from neighboring populations

Threat – participants defined threats to habitat connectivity, existing threats, such as a road or highway, or impending threats, such as a proposed development

Understory – plants that occupy the lower strata in a plant community

Urban matrix – urban or non-natural land uses surrounding native habitat areas or linkages

Vegetation zones – vegetation changes with different physical gradients (elevation, geologic, etc.)

Water impoundments – a dam or something that retains water

Watershed – a ridge dividing the areas drained by different river systems

Xeric – plants or habitat types typical of dry, desert type conditions