

APPENDIX D STATEWIDE ANALYSIS

The statewide analysis was conducted using the database generated from the linkage log sheets completed by participants. Four major categories were used in the analysis: conservation opportunity, target species, overall threat, and existing documentation.

Conservation Opportunity

Conference participants ranked the overall feasibility of each linkage as a conservation priority, from one to five, with one being not feasible, and five being a good opportunity. Participants also identified if there was local support, willing sellers, potential for agency acquisition, and if the linkage was part of a formal conservation plan. One point was given for each populated field (local support, etc); this was summed with the numerical score given for the overall feasibility of the linkage as a conservation priority. The distribution of *Opportunity* was then normalized with quantile breaks and three classification fields, such that: 0 - 4 = 1 or low, 5 - 6 = 2 or medium, and 8 - 9 = 3 or high. An example of how *Opportunities* were calculated is provided in the following table:

Priority	4
Local support	X
Agency support	X
Willing sellers	
Formal plan	X
<i>Opportunity</i>	7

Target Species/Process

Conference participants listed key species and/or ecological processes indicative of connectivity to identify the linkages. This information was categorized by taxon and ecological process in the database as follows: carnivores, mammals, birds, fish, herps, and process. One point was given for each populated field (birds, etc.); populated carnivore fields received an extra point because of their function as umbrella species. The distribution of was then normalized with quantile breaks and three classification fields, such that: 0 - 2 = 1 or low, 3 = 2 or medium, and 4 - 5 = 3 or high. An example of how *Targets* were calculated is provided in the following table:

Carnivores	XX
Mammals	X
Birds	
Fish	X
Herps	X
Process	Sand source
<i>Species/Process</i>	6

Overall Threat

Conference participants scored the overall degree of threat to connectivity function for each linkage. This was represented by the Threat field in the statewide database. The distribution was then normalized with quantile breaks and three classification fields, such that: 0 – 3 = 1 or low, 4 = 2 or medium, and 5 = 3 or high.

Existing Documentation (Certainty)

Conference participants were asked to cite any scientific documentation available demonstrating the value of each linkage. If a formal study was referenced for the linkage then it received three points.

Final Priority Rank

The final priority rank was calculated by adding up all previous rank fields, such that:

Final Priority Rank = Opportunity_Rank + Targets_Rank +Threat_Rank +Certainty_Rank

Final priority ranks were classified into high = 10 –12, medium = 7 – 9, and low = ≤ 6 .

