

# Scoping for Wildlife Issues

“Procedures and Resource Protection  
in the THP Review Process”

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# Definition

- “To look at, especially for the purpose of evaluation”
  - » Merriam Webster

# Scoping Purpose

- Identify a full range of biological resources (species and communities) and their habitats that might be negatively impacted
- Focus analyses on most likely impacted resources

# DFG Review Focus

- State-listed T&E Species
- Federally-listed species
- “CEQA listed species”  
§15380 Guidelines
  - Species of Special Concern (DFG)
- BOF Sensitive Species
- Communities
- Old Growth / late seral
- General Wildlife Species and Habitat Attributes
- Aquatic habitats and conditions
- Policies:
  - Anadromous salmonids
  - Raptors
  - Wetlands
  - Hardwoods

# Basis

- Numerous sections in:
  - CEQA
  - Forest Practice Rules
  - Fish & Game Code

# Some Reasonably Available Sources for Scoping Information:

## On-line

- BIOS (<http://www.bios.dfg.ca.gov/>)
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)
- California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (CWHR)
- CNPS Inventory/CalFlora

## Documents

- **County lists**
- Environmental documents in vicinity:
  - non-THP
  - THP projects

## People/Organizations

- Professional or scientific organizations (e.g., CNPS, The Wildlife Society, ...)
- Academics
- Local experts and enthusiasts
- Other private landowners
- Other resource professionals (foresters, biologists)
- Agency contacts: DFG, USFS Regions, USFS Research Stations, BLM, NRCS, CDF, FWS, NMFS, USGS

# Non-listed species

- Rare species – meeting the criteria for listing in CEQA 15380 or evidence to support they meet the criteria for listing
- May not be rare, but be unique: e.g., Monarch butterfly roost (thousands could be impacted)

# CEQA 15380

- Population or habitat show a persistent decline
- Small population size
- Limited / localized range



# Biological levels other than species

- Communities
- Seral stages
- Habitat elements (structure)
  - Sensitive to alteration
  - High wildlife value

# Scoping Area:

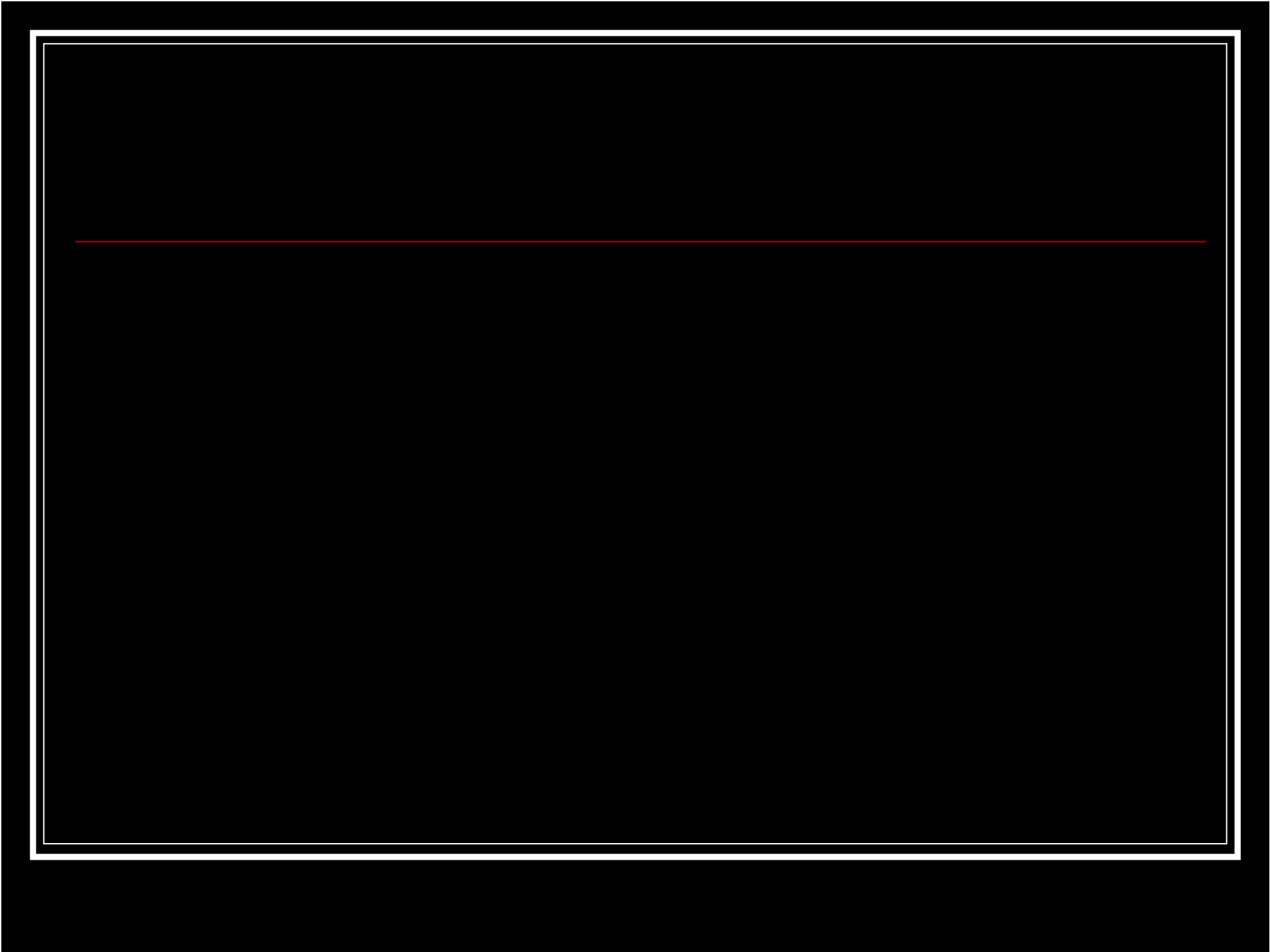
- **Impact area**
  - Footprint
  - Adjacent impact areas
  - non-timbered types
- **Local area** around and including project
- **Broader area**
  - e.g., CWHR run of species in Redwood and Douglas-fir type in Mendocino Co

# Scoping Process

- Develop a **comprehensive & inclusive list** of biological resources potentially impacted
  - include those not known within the project vicinity, but includes suitable habitat and is within the species known range
- Narrow the **focus** to biological resources with the potential to inhabit the project impact area

End

See URLs in handouts



## Print / WEB Sources

- Fish & Game Special Plant and Animal Lists
  - <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/species/list.html>
- Tuttle, A.E. 1999. CDF Guidelines for Species Surveys, Avoidance of Significant Impacts and Identified Mitigations. (see pages 12-15)
  - [http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/downloads/THPINS\\_T0100.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/THPINS_T0100.pdf)

## Print / WEB Sources (Plants)

- DFG's Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities
  - [www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/html/plants.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/html/plants.html)
- DFG's Guidelines for Conservation of Sensitive Native Plant Resources Within the Timber Harvest Review Process and During Timber Harvesting Operations, July 2005
  - [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/THP\\_BotanicalGuidelines\\_July2005.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/THP_BotanicalGuidelines_July2005.pdf)