

Priority Species List (CVPCP/HRP)

Explanation of columns:

- A. Status – The federal listing status of the species: E – endangered, T - threatened.
- B. Common Name – The informal name, not usually based on taxonomy, which is used in common parlance. Different variations may be listed.
- C. Scientific Name – The genus and species name based on Linnaean taxonomic nomenclature. Only species occurring within the boundaries of the CVP CP project area are considered.
- D. Recovery Plan – The name of the recovery plan which addresses the named species.
- E. Plan Stage – The extent to which the plan has been promulgated, where D is the published draft stage and F is the final published stage. D/NP refers to draft plans that are completed but not published, and N/A refers to cases where no recovery plan is written.
- F. Year of Plan – This is the year that either the draft or final published plan, as indicated, was signed by the promulgating authority.
- G. Recovery Priority – The rating of the species based on recovery related criteria:
 - a. listed in the recovery plans, or
 - b. listed in the reports to congress.

Recovery priorities are assigned numbers 1 to 18 depending on degree of threat, recovery potential, and taxonomic distinctness. A species rank may be elevated by adding a “C” designation to indicate that it is, or may be, in conflict with construction or other economic interests and development. Species with a high priority rank (1, 1C, 2, 2C) are those that are the most threatened and have the highest potential for recovery, whereas those with a low rank (16, 17, 18) are least threatened and have low recovery potential. See 48 FR 43102 (Sept. 21, 1983) for a complete explanation.

- H. CVP Priority - The rating is based on two factors:
 - a. The recovery priority assigned to the species, and
 - b. The extent to which that species is impacted either directly or indirectly from the Central Valley Project. Both present day and historical impacts are considered. Future impacts are considered as best as can be predicted given present day trends and plans.

The ratings are either:

- a. Very High – The recovery priority for the species is rated high with an imminent threat of extinction and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly. Some species in this category serve as umbrella species.
- b. High – The recovery priority for the species is high and CVP actions contributed significantly to the species decline, either directly or indirectly.
- c. Medium – The recovery priority is high or medium and a primary cause of decline is not directly or indirectly related to CVP actions, however, CVP actions are in some part responsible for the species decline.

- d. Low – The recovery priority is high, medium or low and the role of CVP actions in the decline of the species is considered minor.

CVP impacts can be categorized as direct and indirect. Direct impacts include changes in water flow regimes and habitat loss due to construction of CVP infrastructure.

Indirect impacts include habitat loss due to agricultural and urban expansion that occur because of the availability of CVP products, loss of habitat due to the interruption of normal water flow regimes, the proliferation of invasive plant species which arrived to the Central Valley as a result of expanded agricultural practices and urbanization, pollution of natural water sources due to agricultural practices and urban runoff, flood control projects, and overgrazing.

The degree of impact that CVP actions historically and presently have on a particular species is not always accurately quantifiable as described in the Biological Opinion for the Interim Contract Renewals, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1995. In these cases, historical and present distribution of the species and the recovery plan's list of reasons for decline can offer substantial background for making judgments.

In some cases, CVP products are expected to be delivered into new areas. In these cases the impact expected from delivery can only be predicted based on prior experience. These judgments were required for certain areas like the Santa Cruz and Monterey County coverage by the CVP CP and HRP.

- I. Explanation – This is a list of rationale used to determine the CVP priority.
- J. Highest Priority Actions – These are the recovery actions taken from the recovery plans. This list includes only the top three or four actions as presented in the recovery plan and does not necessarily reflect which actions have been implemented since the publication of the recovery plan. More detail on recovery actions can be found in the recovery plan. This list is provided to direct the focus of proposed projects towards supporting planned recovery objectives.
- K. Highest Priority Areas – These are the areas where the species are presently found according to recovery plans and the CNDDDB and that are within the delineated boundaries of the CVP CP and HRP.