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Outline for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan

SECTIONS

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview and Background

This section provides background information regarding the DRECP. It will summarize the information noted in Section headings 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.3. It will provide the framework for certain important DRECP considerations including Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goals (33% and a tiered approach to address potential future goals of 40% and 50%), description of status of early action projects (ARRA Fast Track, SB 34 and potentially other) and relationship of those projects to the DRECP planning process.

It will also describe the ways in which science will be integrated in the DRECP planning and review process including a summary of the ISA Report and discussion of other points during DRECP planning process during which scientific input will be sought. ISA recommendations will be considered during development of the Covered Species list, natural communities and disturbed area mapping process, and definition and description of ecological principles and processes. In addition, advice from scientific experts as appropriate will be sought at several points during the process including during preparation of the following: Covered Species Preliminary Description, Covered Activities Preliminary Description, Baseline Biology Report, preliminary biological goals for species, habitat suitability models, and reserve design, and assembly process.

1.1.1 Background of the DRECP

- Executive Order S-14-08 and RETI California Renewable Energy Zones (CREZs)
- Senate Bill (SB) 34 and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- Memorandum of Understanding Between California Department of Fish and Game, California Energy Commission, US Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regarding Establishment of the California Renewable Energy Action Team, November 2008
- Department of the Interior Secretarial Order No. 3285, Renewable Energy Development by the Department of Interior, March 11, 2009; amended February 22, 2010

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- Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California and the Department of the Interior on Renewable Energy, October 2009.

1.1.2 DRECP process overview (Renewable Energy Action Team [REAT], Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI), California Transmission Planning Group [CTPG], BLM/DOE Solar PEIS, Stakeholders, etc.)

1.1.3 Consideration of Science (Independent Science Advisors [ISA] Report, scientific input during DRECP preparation and review)

1.2 Program Goals

This section will describe the overall DRECP program goals beginning with the goals as identified in the DRECP Planning Agreement. It is recommended that Stakeholders review the Planning Agreement goals and suggest possible refinements which will be included in this section.

1.3 Scope of the DRECP

This section will describe the scope of the DRECP in terms of geography, natural communities, Covered Species and Covered Activities. It will include graphics depicting the geographic location and extent of Covered Lands, including sub-units within Covered Lands as appropriate.

This section will introduce the Covered Species list and describe the Covered Natural Communities with reference to more detailed discussion of these items in subsequent sections. For example, this section may include a table listing the proposed Covered Species but detailed background information describing the process used to develop the Covered Species list and specific biological information regarding the species would be provided in other sections. Likewise, this section may include a graphic depicting a composite DRECP natural communities map while detailed information regarding the process used to develop the map would be provided in other sections.

This section will include a summary Covered Activities list, noting that detailed information regarding Covered Activities is included in Section 5.0.

The permit term (in years) is also an important element of the DRECP scope and the proposed permit term will be identified in this section.

1.3.1 Geographic Scope (Covered Lands)

1.3.2 Permit Term

1.3.3 Natural Communities

1.3.4 Covered Species

1.3.5 Covered Activities

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1.4 Regulatory Context

This section will describe the complete regulatory context for the DRECP. The full regulatory framework for the DRECP is still being developed and, per the Planning Agreement, will be a joint NCCP/HCP with an accompanying joint EIR/EIS. A discussion will be provided describing the regulations the joint documents would be expected to comply with such as the NCCP Act, CESA, CEQA, FESA, NEPA etc. The order of the sub-sections in Section 1.4 may be revised as the regulatory framework for the DRECP is defined. The **Regulatory Framework Preliminary Description** will form the basis for this section.

In addition to the specific regulations toward which the DRECP is directed, there are other related regulations and plans such as the BLM Solar PEIS, CDCA, and other state and federal laws and regulations. This section will summarize those and describe their relationship to the DRECP.

- 1.4.1 Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act
- 1.4.2 California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- 1.4.3 Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (Sections 7 and 10, Critical Habitat)
- 1.4.4 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
- 1.4.5 California Desert Protection Act of 1994
- 1.4.6 California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) and CDCA Amendments
- 1.4.7 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Solar Program Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
- 1.4.8 Existing NCCPs, Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and Biological Opinions
- 1.4.9 Other State and Federal Laws and Regulations
 - Fish and Game Code (fully protected species, protection of raptors)
 - State and federal regulatory structure for wetlands protection
 - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
 - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGPA)
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1 Introduction and Definitions

This section will provide an overall introduction to the environmental setting and describe the ways in which the environmental setting, together with the DRECP scope and regulatory context described in Section 1.0, sets the stage for the DRECP.

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This section will reference more detailed information included in the Baseline Biology Report in the Appendix and more detailed information regarding a variety of topics in the companion DRECP environmental document.

This section will provide definitions for key biological and environmental terms used in the DRECP such as natural communities, ecosystem function, biological diversity, ecological integrity, environmental gradients, and others. These terms are defined in the NCCP Act, ESA, and elsewhere but it will be useful for the reader to understand the definition of each of these terms as used in the DRECP. There may also be some DRECP-specific terms regarding particular sub-units or ecoregions.

2.1.1 Introduction

2.1.2 Definitions

2.2 Physical Conditions

This section will provide text, graphics and tables as appropriate to describe physical conditions in the DRECP Plan Area for the physical resources topics noted in Sections 2.2.1 through 2.2.6. The data sources, methods and an overview will be provided for each topic along with the relevance of the particular topic to the DRECP conservation planning process. Climate, topography/geology and soils, groundwater and hydrology provide important context for the biological resources setting in Section 2.3.

2.2.1 Climate

2.2.2 Topography/Geology and Soils

2.2.3 Groundwater

2.2.4 Hydrology and Geomorphology

2.3 Existing Biological/Ecological Setting

This section will provide text, graphics and tables as appropriate to describe the biological/ecological setting in the DRECP Plan Area for the topics noted in Sections 2.3.2 through 2.3.5. The **Covered Species Preliminary Description** (which will include descriptions of ecological process and vegetation communities as well as Covered Species) will form the basis of this section. In addition to Covered Species, this section will discuss planning and keystone species, incorporating recommendations from the ISA, as appropriate, and will describe the ways those species influence the DRECP planning process. With regard to vegetation communities, this section will describe in detail the data sources and methods for the natural communities map layer.

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Data sources and methods will be described including existing available imagery, Geographic Information System (GIS) data sources, literature-based (both published scientific literature and “gray” literature) and other anecdotal data sources used to establish the biological/ecological setting for the DRECP.

2.3.1 Data Sources and Methods

2.3.2 Ecological Processes

2.3.3 Natural Communities and Land Cover Types

2.3.4 Biological Diversity

2.3.5 Species

2.4 Land Use

This section will provide land use and ownership information needed to support the conservation planning process. It is expected that more detailed land use information will be provided in the DRECP environmental document. The **Land Use and Ownership Preliminary Description** will form the basis for this section.

The emphasis in this section will be on describing existing levels of land use protection and management at the federal, state and local levels. Regarding planned land uses, planning documents that guide protection and management of these lands will be discussed and will include items such as land use designations and resource management plans of federal, state and local agencies and entities. These include items such as wilderness area designations, BLM desert wildlife management areas (DWMAs), BLM Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), military bases, National Preserves, National Monuments, and land use categories with particular use restrictions based on local General Plans. A thorough description of the relationship between these land uses and the ability to protect and manage biological resources will be critical for the conservation analysis, especially in multiuse areas.

Existing approved NCCPs and HCPs will also be a consideration as part of the land use setting as it relates to levels of protection and management emphasis. These include the Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP).

2.4.1 Existing Land Use and Ownership

- Existing active land uses (military, recreation, agricultural, urban)
- Protected areas (levels of protection and management emphasis)
- Existing land management practices (military, other federal, state, local)

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2.4.2 Planned Land Uses

- Land management plans for federal, state and local open space lands
- Existing local General Plans.

2.5 Other Environmental Setting Topics

The topics identified in Sections 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 as well as other issues will be discussed in much greater detail in the DRECP environmental document. Section 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 issues are included in this section because they provide important baseline information for the DRECP planning process. The **Other Issues Preliminary Description** along with input from the Cultural Resources Working Group will form the basis for this section.

2.5.1 Scenic Resources

2.5.2 Cultural Resources

3. CONSERVATION PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 Conceptual Conservation Planning Principles

This section builds on the setting information developed in Sections 2.2 and 2.3, as well as the ISA input (Section 1.1.3), program goals (Section 1.2) and regulatory framework (Section 1.4), and more specifically states the conservation planning principles used in the development of the DRECP for the topics noted in Sections 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4. These conservation planning principles provide a broad framework for the conservation planning process and are different from the biological goals and objectives and species-specific measurable goals and objectives identified in Sections 4.2 and 6.3. The conservation planning principles are non-quantitative guiding principles while goals and objectives in Sections 4.2 and 6.3 will be both qualitative and quantitative and measureable.

Data sources for the conservation planning principles will be included in this section and will be different than those presented in Sections 2.2 and 2.3. Data sources in Section 3.1 will be those relevant to conservation planning principles, such as particular literature citations regarding habitat, buffer, management or other requirements for an individual species.

3.1.1 Data Sources

3.1.2 Ecological Processes

3.1.3 Natural Communities and Land Cover Types

3.1.4 Covered Species

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3.2 Preliminary DRECP Renewable Energy Goals

Renewable energy goals are a key element of the conservation planning process for DRECP since acreage, site suitability, transmission and other requirements must be understood in order to estimate the acreage and identify locations for development of Covered Activities under the DRECP. The **Covered Activities Preliminary Description** will form the basis for this section. Information from the Preliminary Description needed to guide the conservation planning process will be included in this section for each of the topics noted in Sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3.

3.2.1 Renewable Energy Generation (MWs and acres by type)

3.2.2 Transmission

3.2.3 Site Suitability Considerations

3.3 Preliminary Gap Analysis

This section summarizes the land use information from Section 2.4, preferably into a data layer that can be visually depicted in a single graphic and described in text and tabular format. By combining this information with the Section 3.1 conservation planning principles as well as the Sections 2.2 and 2.3 setting information, a preliminary analysis of gaps in protection will be developed and presented in graphic, narrative and quantitative terms. The purpose of the gap analysis is to identify areas important for conservation not currently in public ownership and/or with a protection status that would benefit biological resources (*i.e.*, there is a lack [“gap”] of protection in these areas). This informal gap analysis is not to be confused with the formal Gap Analysis Program (GAP) described by Scott *et.al.* (1993), but is based on the same principles (note use of lower case for “gap analysis”).

The preliminary gap analysis will attempt to highlight gaps in protection in both a geographic and a management context. For example, there may be certain geographic locations for which no resource protection is currently provided under existing or anticipated land management regimes. Likewise, there may be geographic locations where some form of resource protection or management is currently provided but the management emphasis is does not currently benefit certain species or protect certain ecological processes.

3.3.1 Protected Lands Summary

3.3.2 Analysis of Gaps in Protection

3.4 “No Regrets” Analysis

This section will describe the “No Regrets” concept and will include principles for the “No Regrets” analysis, using the ISA input as a foundation. The general concept

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of “No Regrets” is to provide specific guidance regarding siting and construction of renewable energy projects within the Plan Area prior to assembly of updated biological resources information, including updated natural communities and land cover mapping. A goal is to direct such projects to biologically unconstrained locations for which it is unlikely that new constraints will be identified as part of ongoing biological resources mapping and data gathering efforts. These locations would also need to meet renewable energy site suitability criteria. The “No Regrets” analysis will combine the Section 3.2 renewable energy goals with the Section 3.3 preliminary gap analysis to identify “No Regrets” areas. The methods and results of the “No Regrets” analysis will be included in this section.

3.5 Reserve Design Considerations

Reserve design considerations will be based on work conducted and described in the previous sections and will be strongly influenced by the Covered Species list, Preliminary Gap Analysis, Renewable Energy Goals and other factors. Reserve design considerations may include emphasis on specific existing and/or proposed biological cores and linkages, existing and/or proposed management regimes and/or other conservation strategy elements. As emphasized by the ISA, the reserve design will be driven by the considerable conservation and recovery planning already available for the region.

Computer-based analytic tools are available and may be used if appropriate as part of reserve design considerations. These include optimizing reserve selection and spatial decision support system software (e.g., SITES, MARXAN, NatureServe Vista, PACT) and landscape permeability and wildlife movement modeling (e.g., CorridorDesign). These software tools, or software developed or updated during the course of the planning process, will be considered and used as appropriate and applicable.

4.0 CONSERVATION STRATEGY

4.1 Introduction and Approach

This section will introduce the conservation strategy and present the overall approach. The conservation strategy typically consists of multiple components including reserve design and assembly, protection and management of conserved biological resources, monitoring, adaptive management and funding. The introduction will summarize the overall approach and focus on the biologically-based elements of the strategy that are the subject of this section.

The biologically-based conservation strategy will likely involve a tiered approach of conservation planning principles; program-level biological goals, objectives, and

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conservation measures; species-specific goals, objectives and measures, and specific monitoring requirements. This tiered approach will be described in this section along with definitions of terms as needed.

4.2 Biological Goals and Objectives

This section will describe the program-level biological goals and objectives, building from the conceptual conservation planning principles presented in Section 3.1. These biological goals and objectives will be qualitative and quantitative and may include reserve design and configuration goals such as number, size, configuration of biological core and linkage areas; natural community goals such as descriptions of habitat blocks, acreage targets for conservation and representativeness of various natural community assemblages; and generalized species goals such as conservation of ecological processes to support species life history requirements. The biological goals and objectives will be DRECP specific and will emerge from the conservation planning process described in Section 3.0.

4.3 Conservation Measures

Similar to Section 4.2, this section will describe the program-level conservation measures that are elements of the conservation strategy. The conservation measures will make explicit specific measures to be undertaken to implement the goals and objectives described in Section 4.2. For example, landscape level conservation measures may describe specific actions to be undertaken to achieve particular reserve design and configuration goals while natural community-level conservation measures may describe specific actions to implement natural community conservation acreage targets.

Covered Activities project design features and avoidance and minimization measures may describe those measures that would always be taken during siting, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Covered Activities described in Section 6.0. As elements of the conservation strategy, the effects analysis will assume implementation of these measures, thus reducing the residual impacts associated with implementation of the Covered Activities.

4.3.1 Landscape-Level Conservation Measures

4.3.2 Natural Community-Level Conservation Measures

4.3.3 Species-Level Conservation Measures

4.3.4 Covered Activities Project Design Features/Avoidance and Minimization Measures

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5.0 MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANGEMENT PLAN

The framework for the monitoring and adaptive management plan will follow the requirements of the NCCP Act and USFWS Five-Point Policy (June 1, 2000 Addendum to USFWS/NMFS Habitat Conservation Planning Handbook [November 1996]). A detailed outline for this section will be prepared when other elements of the DRECP planning process have progressed further. It is anticipated that this section could include the following elements, as appropriate:

- An overview of the monitoring and management plan, including a discussion of existing and ongoing monitoring and management in the plan area.
- A discussion of the consistency of the management and monitoring program with NCCP, USFWS Five-point Policy, and the USGS Adaptive Management Guidelines (Atkinson et al. 2004).
- Administrative structure and coordination among different monitoring and management programs.
- Reporting program
- Structure and role of independent science review
- Discussion of feedback mechanism for incorporating new information and adjusting program including feedback loop and process for determining management strategy adjustments in response to monitoring data
- Overview of adaptive management strategy
 - Environmental stressor/threat focus
 - Formulation of stressor-based models for Covered Species and conserved natural communities
 - Formulation of measurable management goals and objectives
 - Discussion of baseline and experimental research
 - Discussion of management approaches and activities.
 - Identification of monitoring and management priorities
 - General discussions of monitoring and management of different natural communities, Covered Species and other “focal species” as appropriate (e.g., keystone species, umbrella species, habitat indicator or surrogate species)
 - Habitat restoration (including creation, revegetation, and enhancement)
 - Management of habitat linkages and wildlife corridors

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- Monitoring and management of exotic species
- Coordination with other management plans (e.g., grazing management, recreation, etc.).

6.0. DESCRIPTION OF COVERED ACTIVITIES

6.1 Early Action Projects

This section will describe the relationship of the SB-34 and other early action projects to the DRECP including status of those projects at the time of document preparation and relationship of those projects to the baseline considered in the effects analysis. This section will also describe the interim project review process and its relationship to the DRECP.

6.1.1 Projects Assumed in Baseline (Generation and Transmission)

6.1.2 IMS and Interim Project Review (Generation and Transmission)

6.2 RPS Requirements

This section will provide the MW breakdown by acreage and type in order to meet the 33% RPS goal or other goal(s) as may be identified. At this time, it is anticipated that a tiered approach will be used for conservation analysis to address RPS goals of 33%, 40% and 50% that may be phased in over time. To establish parameters for the quantity and geographic extent of Covered Activities, this analysis will utilize the 33% RPS Calculator developed by the California Public Utilities Commission. The RPS Calculator methodology will be used to extrapolate the quantity of land that would be required for the potential tiered RPS goals of 40% and 50%. The **Covered Activities Preliminary Description** will form the basis for this section along with input from the Covered Activities Working Group, RETI partners and industry representatives.

6.2.1 MW Breakdown by Type

6.2.2 MW Breakdown by Acres

6.3 Renewable Energy Covered Activities Components

This section will describe renewable energy components in sufficient detail to provide coverage for activities that are anticipated to occur within the term and scope of the permit/program, and to conduct the effects analysis and provide sufficient information for permit evaluation. The **Covered Activities Preliminary Description** will form the basis for this section along with input from the Covered Activities Working Group, RETI partners and industry representatives. Potential components for the various renewable energy categories to be considered include solar, wind,

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geothermal and biomass and also include transmission and telecommunication lines. Covered Activities from the Planning Agreement will provide the basis for the discussion, and will be further refined based on their likelihood of occurring during the permit term, their permitting requirements (jurisdiction or permitting authority of the DRECP permittees), their occurrence within the plan area, and their likelihood of having impacts on one or more of the Covered Species. The specific Covered Activities uses would be examined in detail to determine impacts associated with construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning/reclamation. Aspects of the Covered Activities that have the potential for direct and indirect impacts on Covered Species will be included in the descriptions, including on- and off-site facilities. Types of solar projects that could be considered include parabolic troughs, Stirling engines, PV panels, solar power towers and the various construction, operations and maintenance components that accompany each technology. Wind energy system components to be considered include wind turbines, transformers, collector cable system, operations and maintenance support facilities. Geothermal energy components to be potentially considered include flash steam power and binary cycling power plants. Bioenergy components to be potentially considered include direct combustion boiler and steam turbines, anaerobic digesting, co-firing/gasification, and pyrolysis.

6.3.1 Solar

- Construction
- Operations and Maintenance
- Decommissioning and Reclamation

6.3.2 Wind

- Construction
- Operations and Maintenance
- Decommissioning and Reclamation

6.3.3 Geothermal

- Construction
- Operations and Maintenance
- Decommissioning and Reclamation

6.3.4 Bioenergy

- Construction
- Operations and Maintenance
- Decommissioning and Reclamation

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6.4 Transmission and Telecommunication Covered Activities Components

This section will describe transmission Covered Activities components in sufficient detail to provide coverage for activities that are anticipated to occur within the term and scope of the permit/program, and to conduct the effects analysis and provide sufficient information for permit evaluation. The **Covered Activities Preliminary Description** will form the basis for this section along with information from the Covered Activities Working Group, RETI partners, CTPG and others as needed. Potential actions needed to construct, maintain and operate transmission and telecommunication facilities that deliver power generated from renewable energy resources include new distribution lines (new foundation, delivery, and connector transmission lines required for accessing renewable energy), transmission upgrades (reconductoring or rebuilding), new transmission lines to connect renewable energy to the grid, tower or pole replacements, substations and switchyards and telecommunication lines needed for the reliable operation of the transmission system.

- Construction
- Operations and Maintenance
- Decommissioning and Reclamation

6.5 Siting Considerations

This section will describe site suitability issues related to siting and design considerations that could affect where facilities are located. Design constraints for wind projects may include factors such as wind speed, military flight patterns, and radar restrictions. Considerations for solar facility siting may include solar radiation, slope, and water availability. In addition to the specific technological considerations, siting restrictions such as land use restrictions and compatibility will be discussed. Finally, the analysis will consider the availability of and proximity to existing infrastructure, such as transmission, access/transportation, and utilities, including water supply. Existing Siting Guidance will be incorporated, including recent approvals of ARRA projects, RETI CREZs, Solar PEIS Renewable Energy Study Areas, Conservation Opportunity Areas, Category I Lands, Category II Lands, “Blackout” areas, etc. The quality of the land proposed for development needs to be taken into account when determining the mitigation requirements

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7.0 CONSERVATION AND EFFECTS ANALYSIS FOR COVERED SPECIES AND CONSERVED NATURAL COMMUNITIES/IMPORTANT LAND COVERS

7.1 Introduction

The Introduction will explain that the conservation and effects analysis in this section is based on the conservation strategy, monitoring and management plan, and Covered Activities descriptions provided in the foregoing Sections 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0. In other words, this section describes and analyzes the residual effects assuming all the conservation and monitoring and management measures incorporated in the conservation strategy are implemented.

7.2 Approach to the Analysis of Direct, Indirect, and Temporary Effects

The primary purpose of this section is to define the parameters for the analysis of direct, indirect, and temporary effects as used in the DRECP. Federal law, such as NEPA and ESA, and State law, such as CEQA and CESA, define these terms differently. Therefore, to achieve a common usage, definitions will be customized for DRECP and DRECP Covered Activities as appropriate using approaches common to other NCCP/HCP multiple species conservation plans.

7.1.1 Direct Effects

7.1.2 Indirect Effects

7.1.3 Temporary Effects

7.3 Covered Species Analyses

This is a 5–8 page summary analysis for each Covered Species. The full species account and analysis will be included in an Appendix, either in the Baseline Biology Report or in a separate document. The Section 7.3.1.1 species profile will be particularly abbreviated with detailed information in the Appendix. It is expected that species profiles will be organized by taxa as recommended by the ISA and profiles will include listing status (federal, state and other special status), if covered in other NCCPs in DRECP Plan Area, known and potential presence in DRECP Plan Area, distribution and range, habitat associations, threats and other life history requirements important to the conservation and management of the species (e.g., breeding sites, important forage areas, refugia, etc). The profile will also summarize modeled suitable habitat for the species in the Plan Area as appropriate.

The specific approach to the Section 7.3.1.2 effects analysis will likely emerge in discussions with the regulatory agencies, but is expected to include assessment of direct, indirect and temporary effects as defined in Section 7.2, a quantitative take assessment (acres of modeled suitable habitat and estimated loss of individuals or populations as appropriate) and a discussion and analysis of the impacts of the

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taking on the species as a whole in the context of factors such as of known populations trends, geographic range, and known or potential threats and stressors. The conservation analysis will include species-specific measurable goals and objectives that guide Plan implementation as well as species-specific management and monitoring requirements. Progress toward these goals and objectives will be measured through annual reporting.

For listed species, particularly those with identified critical habitat and/or recovery plans, the conservation analysis will describe the ways in which proposed conservation measures would contribute to recovery of the particular species. The identified recovery goals will influence the measurable goals and objectives for those species.

7.3.1 Species X (repeat for each Covered Species)

7.3.1.1 Species Profile

- Status and distribution
- Life history and habitat characteristics and use (including modeled suitable habitat or detailed life history and stressor/threat models if available)
- Occurrence on Covered Lands
- Population trends
- Threats/reasons for decline (threat model related to life history if available or create simple models such as done for CVAG MSHCP)

7.3.1.2 Species X Effects and Level of Take (including critical habitat, if applicable)

7.3.1.3 Species X Conservation

- Measurable goals and objectives
- Monitoring and management

7.4 Conserved Natural Communities\Important Land Covers Analysis

This section will provide a quantitative and qualitative assessment of loss and conservation of natural communities and important land covers. The quantitative assessment will be presented in terms of acres of ground disturbance associated with Covered Activities as well as existing and expected acres to be conserved. The qualitative assessment will be presented in terms of relationships to reserve design principles and tenets noted in Sections 7.4.3.1, 7.4.3.2, and 7.4.3.3.

7.4.1 Overview of Conserved Natural Communities\Important Land Covers

7.4.2 Community\Important Land Cover by Community\Important Land Cover Analysis

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7.4.3 Relationship to Reserve Design Principles and Tenets

7.4.3.1 Core Blocks

7.4.3.2 Contiguity and Connectivity

7.4.3.3 Physiographic Representativeness (i.e., location, elevation) and Diversity

8.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

8.1 Implementation Structure

This section will describe the implementation structure for the DRECP. It is anticipated that the Regulatory Framework Preliminary Description will set the foundation for the implementation structure and will form the basis for this section. The outline for this section will depend upon the final agreed upon implementation structure – comprehensive NCCP/HCP (as per the Planning Agreement), focused NCCP/HCP, umbrella NCCP/HCP etc.

8.2 Implementation Costs and Funding Sources

The DRECP will include a funding plan. Using information on avoidance and minimization measures, reserve design, assembly and monitoring and management presented in other Plan sections, this section will provide an estimate of costs to implement the Plan and describe funding sources and methods.

8.2.1 Cost Estimation Methods

8.2.2 Plan Costs

8.2.3 Funding Sources

8.3 Compliance and Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting

Compliance and effectiveness monitoring are required components of NCCPs and HCPs. This section will describe the specific compliance monitoring to be undertaken, based on specific elements of the Plan presented in Sections 4.0, 5.0 and 7.0. Effectiveness monitoring will also be described in more detail in Section 7.3. This section will also describe reporting requirements including information to be contained in DRECP annual reports.

8.4 Regulatory Assurances, Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances

Specific regulatory assurances are required to be provided for both NCCPs and HCPs. This section will provide those regulatory assurances, tailored specifically to the form of the document and the implementation structure described in Section 8.1.

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- 8.4.1 Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances
 - 8.4.1.1 Listing of Non-Covered Species
 - 8.4.1.2 Global Climate Change
 - 8.4.1.3 Fire
 - 8.4.1.4 Flooding
 - 8.4.1.5 Drought

- 8.4.2 Federal No Surprises
- 8.4.3 Federal Section 7 Consultations
- 8.4.4 State NCCP Assurances

8.5 Amendments, Renewal, and Enforcement

This section will describe the specific procedures for amending or changing the plan ranging from minor administrative or clerical corrections to major plan amendments requiring formal public input and review. Procedures for permit renewal and enforcement will also be described.

- 8.5.1 Administrative Changes
- 8.5.2 Minor Modifications
- 8.5.3 Major Amendments
- 8.5.4 Permit Renewal
- 8.5.5 Permit Enforcement

9.0 ALTERNATIVES

Outline for this section to be developed when alternatives are identified. It is anticipated that alternatives will be based on alternative conservation scenarios with potentially alternative implementation strategies.

APPENDICES

- Baseline Biology Report (ISA Report as an Appendix or separate Plan Appendix)
- Cost Analysis
- Funding Analysis
- Implementation Agreement