Focal Species Decision Process

August 2019

AECOM

Primary Considerations = 200+ Species

- Considered "sensitive" by state and federal agencies
- Have high "conservation value," defined as umbrella species or keystone species
- Have "high significance" to Monterey County/RCIS area

Candidate Focal Species = 50 Species

- Species that have only one or two CNDDB records in the periphery of RCIS area, and are more widespread outside of it
- Species that have few opportunities for conservation actions
- Species that have not been observed or collected in the RCIS area since 1985
- Species lacking reliable data, making it difficult to create a robust strategy
- Species lacking federal or state protection

Final Focal Species = 30 Species

- Acting as an umbrella species
- Having over 50 percent of its worldwide range in the RCIS area
- Having a high sensitivity to climate change
- Having experienced a recent very steep decline, particularly in the RCIS area
- Having greater conservation need within the California Central Coast
- Representing one or more habitat types, HUC 10 watershed units, and unique geographical areas not otherwise represented by another focal species
- Representing a taxonomic group not otherwise represented by another focal species
- Having both federal and state protection

Other Key Considerations = 4 Species

- The monarch butterfly was chosen due to the increasing conservation concern
- Mountain lion was chosen because it requires a large home range, and may connect conservation needs between different habitats and geographic areas
- The California brackish water snail was chosen due to its unique habitat preferences
- Yellow-billed magpie was chosen because it represented a unique habitat

Non-Focal Species = 20 Species

After the 30 focal species were selected, 20 of the initial 50 candidate focal species remained. Because these species were strong qualifiers under the three key primary considerations, these species are considered non-focal species, which have preferential consideration for conservation.