

# Conservation Action Plan | 2015-2025

## Californian Coasts & Mountains



### The SJV and Conservation Planning

The Sonoran Joint Venture (SJV) is a partnership of diverse organizations and individuals working to conserve the unique birds and habitats of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. We bring together partners from both sides of the border to integrate the goals and objectives of existing bird conservation plans into a single, strategic effort that addresses the needs of our area. To learn more about our conservation planning process, visit <http://sonoranjv.org/OpenStandards>.

### Conservation Vision

Our long-term vision is a healthy, vibrant landscape for the unique birds, habitats, and people of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.

### The Californian Coasts and Mountains

Hot, dry summers and cool, moist winters creates habitats ranging from Mediterranean chaparral to pine-oak and pine forests and red fir forests at the highest elevations. This region also includes Isla Guadalupe, part of a volcanic archipelago located off the western coast of Baja California.



The Californian Coasts and Mountains includes Bird Conservation Regions 32, 39, and 63.

### What We Want to Conserve

Our top conservation priorities in the Californian Coasts and Mountains are coastal sage scrub/chaparral, coastal and freshwater wetlands, offshore islands, oak woodlands and grasslands, and upland forests. Priority birds include California Condor, Brant, Least Tern, Snowy Plover, Oak Titmouse, Bell's Sparrow, California Gnatcatcher, Tricolored Blackbird, Ashy Storm-Petrel, Black Storm-Petrel, and Xantus's Murrelet.



Ashy Storm-Petrel | Photo by Point Blue Conservation Science/Annie Schmidt

### Conservation Targets

These are species, communities, or ecological systems that represent and encompass the biodiversity found in the Californian Coasts and Mountains.

Conservation Target	Current Condition
Coastal sage scrub/chaparral/birds	Poor
Coastal wetlands/birds	Poor
Freshwater wetlands/riparian/birds	Poor
Oak woodlands and grasslands/birds	Poor
Pine, pinyon-juniper, cypress forest and woodlands/birds	Poor
California Condor	Poor
Offshore islands/birds	Fair

## Goals for Californian Coasts and Mountains

- Protected coastal sage scrub/chaparral
- Protected freshwater wetlands
- Improved conditions for beach nesting birds
- Protected and restored coastal wetlands
- Healthy, undisturbed eelgrass beds
- Conserved freshwater marshes
- Protected Threatened and Endangered landbirds
- Expanded oak-woodland habitats
- Healthy fire regimes for forests on public lands
- No lead ammunition in the ecosystem
- Healthy colonies of seabirds on islands
- Increased breeding pairs of California Condors

## Conservation Challenges

Conservation challenges are primarily human activities that directly affect what we wish to conserve. The following are the most serious and in need of immediate action.

Challenge	Priority
Climate change	Very High
Urban and suburban development	High
Invasive plants	High
Non-native mammals on islands	High
Unsustainable water use	High
Fire and fire suppression	High
Pollution (lead)	High



California Least Tern | Photo by R. Baak/USFWS

## Priority Conservation Strategies

Over the next ten years the SJV partnership will:

- Protect habitat from urban and suburban development
- Remove or eradicate invasive species from islands
- Exclude off highway vehicles from sensitive areas
- Create natural buffers to protect urban areas from wildfire
- Remove obstacles to natural mobility of dunes to decrease invasive species establishment
- Support science and monitoring in Marine Protected Areas
- Coordinate surveillance and enforcement to minimize recreational disturbance to birds and habitats
- Reach out to boat owners and airplane pilots about their role in preventing recreational disturbance to nesting birds
- Reach out to hunters and others about lead toxicity and links to human health



Anacapa Island | Photo by Gregory Smith/Creative Commons



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