

# Conservation Action Plan | 2015-2025

# Pacific Lowlands



## 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 Pacific Lowlands

This region includes thornscrub, tropical deciduous forest, and pine-oak forests, crossed by ribbons of riparian vegetation. The coastal area includes mangroves, bays and estuaries, and shoreline, while offshore areas provide important breeding bird islands and foraging waters.



The Pacific Lowlands includes Bird Conservation Regions 43 and 44

## What We Want to Conserve

Our top conservation priorities include tropical deciduous forest/thornscrub, pine-oak forest, riparian, mangroves, coastal wetlands, shorelines, and islands. Priority birds include Least Tern, Black-capped Vireo, Lilac-crowned parrot, Purplish-backed Jay, Western Sandpiper, Snowy Plover, and a variety of species of waterfowl.



Snowy Plover | Jerry Kirkhart/Creative Commons

## Conservation Targets

These are species, communities, or ecological systems that represent and encompass the biodiversity found in the Pacific Lowlands.

Conservation Target	Current Condition
Coastal and tropical thornscrub/birds	Poor
Riparian/birds	Poor
Coastal wetlands/birds	Poor
Pine-oak forest/birds	Fair
Shorelines/birds	Fair
Tropical deciduous forest/birds	Fair
Islands/birds	Good



## Goals for Pacific Lowlands

- Improved grazing practices
- Increased cow-free acres
- Land under long-term protection across priority habitats
- Improved timber harvest management
- Improved mining practices
- Lowered net loss of habitat
- Improved management of protected areas
- Adaptive management across priority habitats.

## Conservation Challenges

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

Challenge	Priority
Climate change	Very High
Unsustainable mining	Very High
Unsustainable grazing	Very High
Invasive plants and animals	Very High
Unsustainable non-timber forest product management	High
Unsustainable water use	High
Conversion to agriculture	High
Inadequate recreation management	High
Unsustainable tourism development	High
Unsustainable fisheries management	High
Unsustainable aquaculture	High



Elegant Trogon | Dominic Sherony/Creative Commons

## Priority Conservation Strategies

Over the next ten years the SJV partnership will:

- Conduct broad-scale coordinated monitoring across habitats
- Create data sharing system for entire SJV region
- Eradicate introduced mammals on islands
- Protect priority lands through purchase, easements, and land-owner partnerships.
- Protect cavity trees
- Encourage forest protection and management
- Restore degraded coastal wetlands
- Protect nesting areas and colonies along coastlines
- Protect mangroves



Pine-oak Forest in Sinaloa | Robert Mesta

