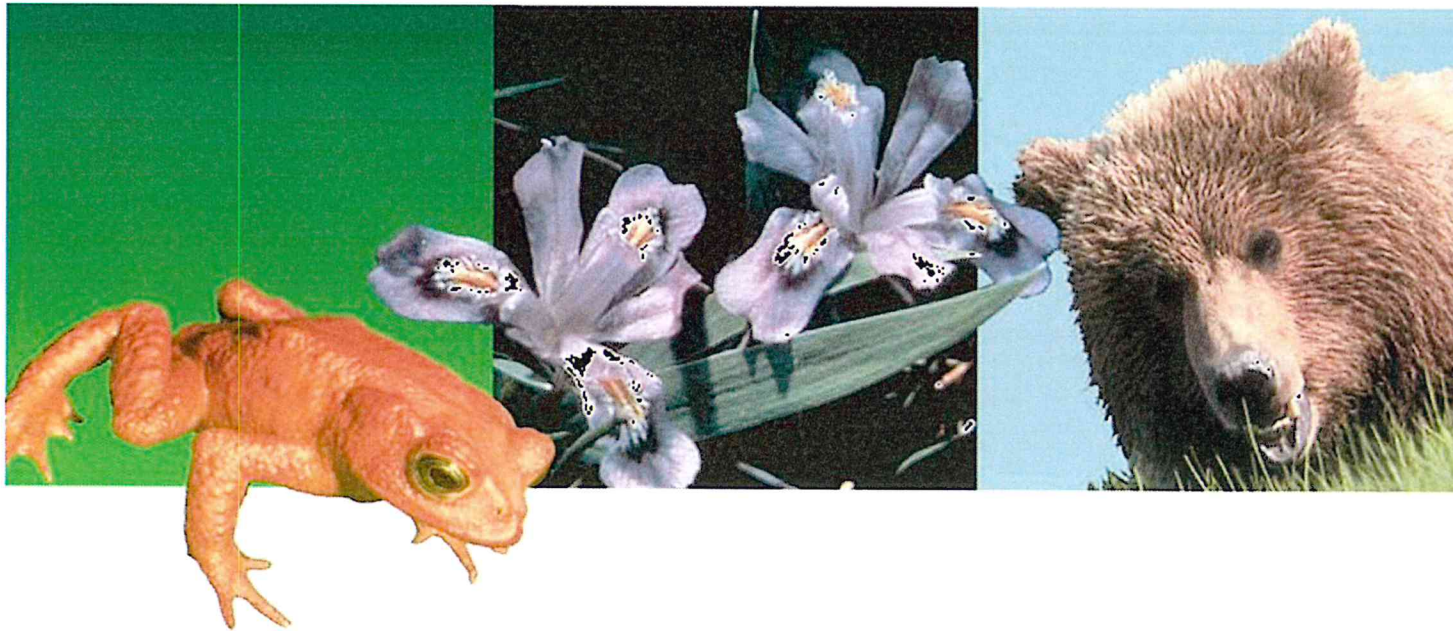




# Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office Activities in El Dorado County

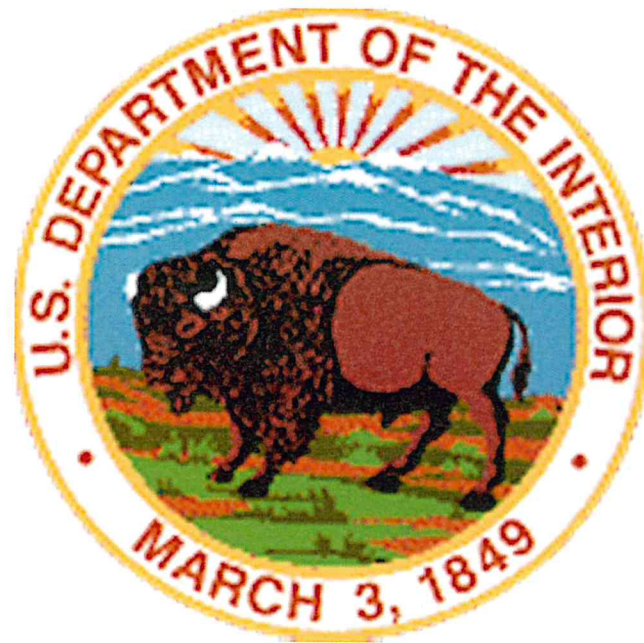


Jennifer Norris, Field Supervisor  
Jan Knight, Deputy Field Supervisor  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
July 15, 2014



# Our Mission

“Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”







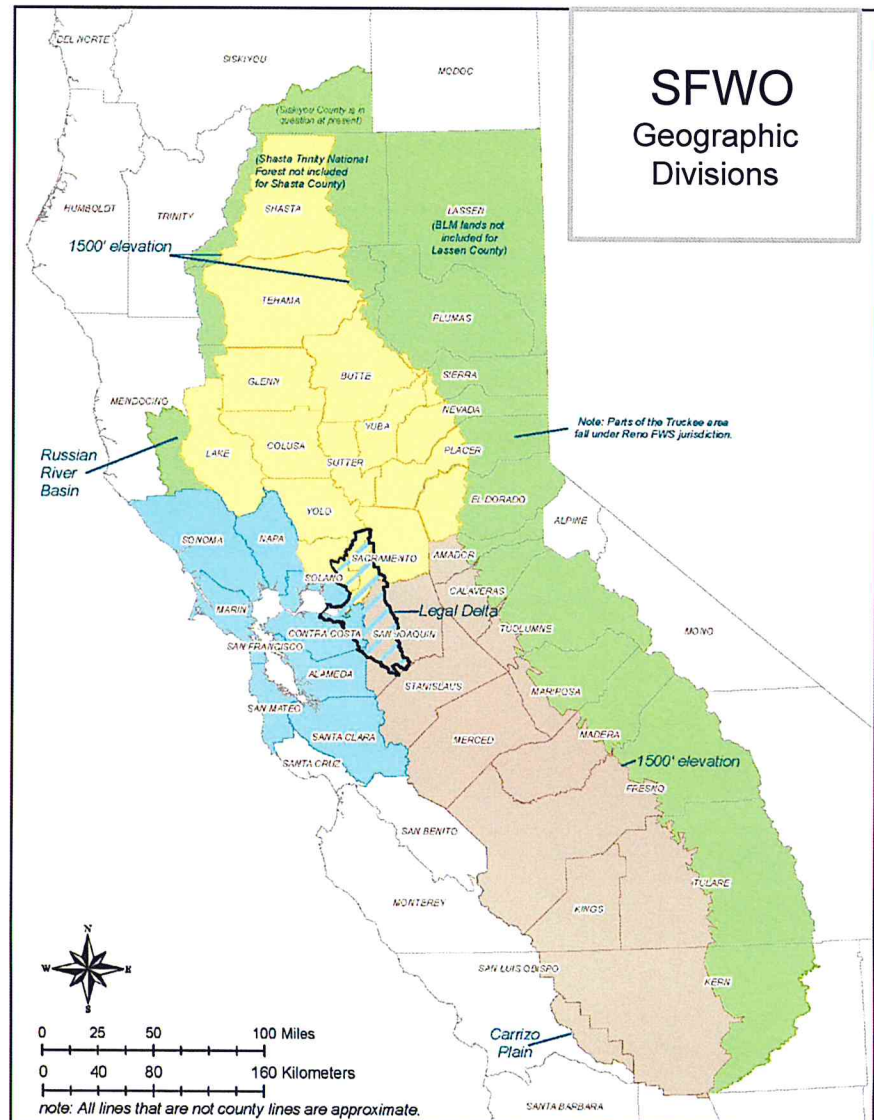
# Today's Goals

1. Provide Overview of the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.
2. Give update on the Gabbro Plants Conservation Strategy.
3. Discuss the 3 Sierra amphibian (3SA) final listing rule and the next steps.
4. Answer your questions.



# Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office

- Region 8 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Interior.
- Responsible for reviewing and permitting projects that have the potential to affect fish and wildlife protected by federal laws.
- Jurisdiction spans 30 counties from Bakersfield to Shasta, the Sierras to the Pacific.







# Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office



## Responsibilities

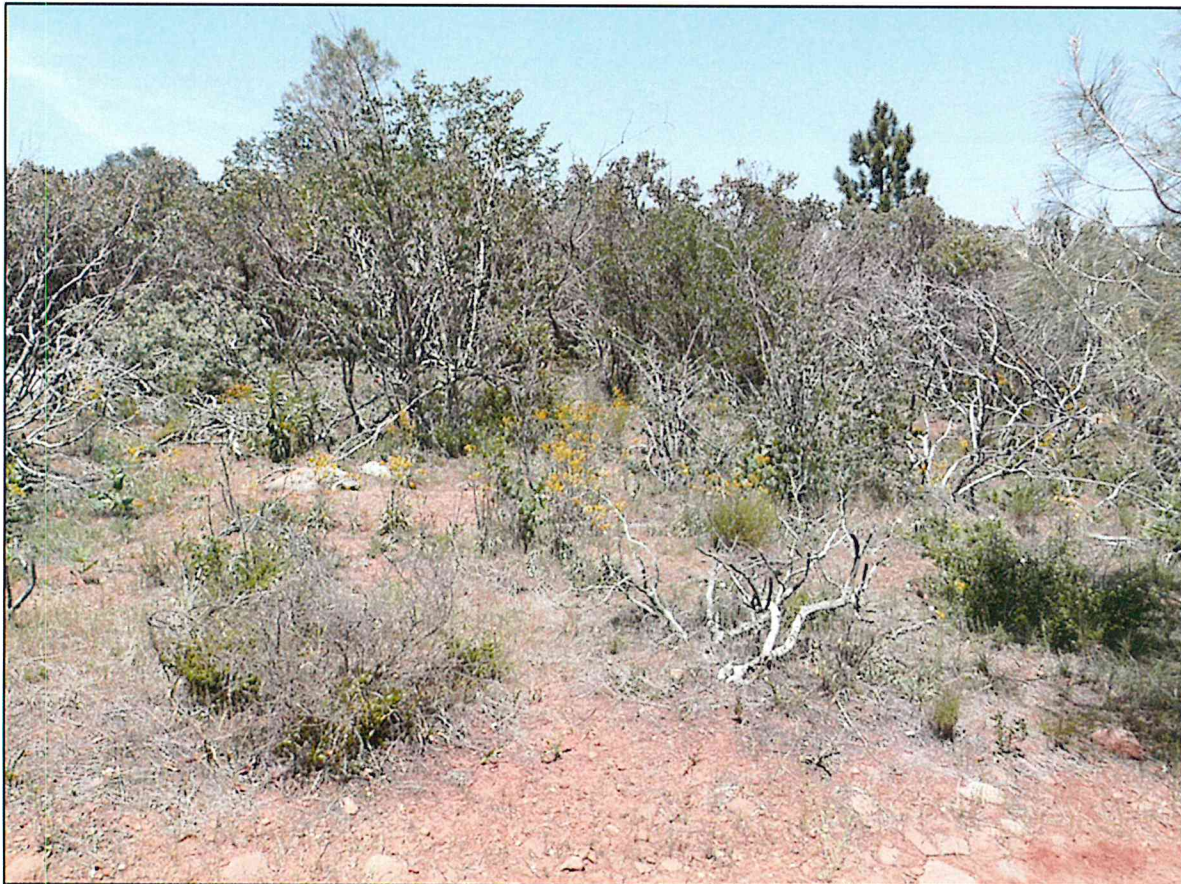
- Endangered Species Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Clean Water Act
- Oil Pollution Act
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund Law)
- Federal Power Act
- Central Valley Project Improvement Act





# GABBRO

2010 – Partnership begins to develop a conservation strategy for the rare plants that stem from gabbro soils.







# GABBRO

## Conservation Strategy Plants

- Stebbins' morning-glory – endangered
- Pine Hill ceanothus - endangered
- Pine Hill flannelbush - endangered
- El Dorado bedstraw - endangered
- Layne's butterweed - threatened
- El Dorado mule-ears – BLM species of concern
- Red Hills soap root - California Native Plant Society rare
- Bisbee Peak rush-rose - California Native Plant Society rare



El Dorado bedstraw



El Dorado mule-ears





# GABBRO



Layne's butterweed



Stebbin's morning glory

## Conservation Strategy Team

- El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
- El Dorado County Planning Department
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- American River Conservancy
- California Native Plant Society





# GABBRO

## Conservation Strategy Guidance

- For project-level permits
- Increased consistency, timeliness, and certainty of county permitting
- Streamlined compliance with federal, state, and local environmental laws, policies, and ordinances.
- A framework for coordinated planning of ongoing and future acquisition and restoration activities aimed at conserving rare gabbro plants.



Pine Hill flannelbush









## 3 Sierra Amphibians

### History

- 2000: Service petitioned by the Center for Biological Diversity and Pacific Rivers Council to list the Sierra Nevada population of the mountain yellow-legged frog and Yosemite toad as endangered and designate critical habitat.
- 2002: Service found listing warranted but precluded. Species placed on the candidate list.
- 2008: Mountain yellow-legged frogs in the northern Sierra were established as a separate species from the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog.
- 2011: FWS enters into global settlement to address listing backlog for over 200 species, including the 3SA.



## 3 Sierra Amphibians

### History

- April 2013: Service published 2 rules to the Federal Register to list and designate critical habitat for the 3SA.
- January 2014: Draft Economic Analysis for 3SA proposed critical habitat rule made available.
- March 2014: 2014: Final public comment period closed.
- April 25, 2014: Final listing rule for the 3SA published in the Federal Register and went into effect June 30, 2014.





## 3 Sierra Amphibians

### Listing - Final

- Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and the Northern DPS of the mountain yellow-legged frog are **Endangered Species**.
- Yosemite toad is a **Threatened Species**.

### Critical Habitat - Proposed

- Publication expected early 2015
- The Service will consider all public comments, peer review, and the best available information before making a final determination.



Mountain yellow-legged frog



Yosemite Toad



## 3 Sierra Amphibians

Our Goal: Species recovery through partner and public cooperation.

We will: Work with other federal agencies to ensure federal actions will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

Work with private and other non-federal agencies whose actions may adversely affect the species to ensure 3SA recovery can happen with other land use activities.





## 3 Sierra Amphibians

### Programmatic Biological Opinion

- Programmatically addresses over 10,000 projects on Forest Service managed lands
- Will streamline activities and consultation
- Projects were batched from 9 National Forests and include vegetation, recreation, timber harvest, grazing, road and trail management as well as mining and special use activities.
- We anticipate completion within the month.





## 3 Sierra Amphibians

### Programmatic Biological Opinion

- Service has already issued biological opinions to the National Park Service for projects at Yosemite National Park and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park
- The National Park Service is also working with the Service on a Programmatic BO for activities on the public lands they administer.







## 3 Sierra Amphibians

### Next Steps

1. Finalize programmatic consultations with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.
2. Work with private and other non-federal groups to conserve species.
3. Review comments and revise critical habitat designation.
4. Critical habitat final rule is expected to publish to the Federal Register early 2015.



# Questions?