

CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE
STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT

COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS FOR REVIEW

Through April 2, 2012

From: Dan Marschalek [mailto:dmarschal@dfg.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:09 PM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson; Strategic Vision
Cc: Lyann Comrack
Subject: Suggestions For CDFG Strategic Vision

Strategic Vision Project,

A suggestion I have for DFG's role in protection of California's resources is to increase the Department's attention to invertebrates. Invertebrates are becoming a focus group for more people with butterfly and dragonfly viewing (similar to bird watching). Trout fishing is another recreational activity that is closely tied with invertebrates, as those fishing must pay close attention to the insects the trout are eating. In addition, and probably more important is that the large number of invertebrates have a great number of ecological roles. Performing these roles is vitally important for proper functioning of our natural (and agricultural) communities. Currently, little is known about many invertebrate species. Without a better understanding, we do not have the tools to ensure that invertebrates are being maintained at levels appropriate for the survival of these species or the natural communities they inhabit. California unquestionably has many rare invertebrate species that warrant specific attention so that they may be preserved.

A specific recommendation is to implement a project to identify invertebrate species of special concern on par with other groups and recent publications (e.g. Bird Species of Special Concern). This would identify and prioritize those invertebrate species that require management for their long-term persistence. Consolidating information about the rare invertebrates would be a valuable tool for those groups (DFG and others) interested in conservation. For example, the California Wildlife Action Plan (2007) included invertebrates but did not distinguish those invertebrates that are at risk compared to others. The Wildlife Action Plan is undergoing a comprehensive revision now and would benefit from an invertebrate species of special concern.

Another recommendation includes a policy change to include insects on California's Endangered Species Act. This would be a mechanism to conserve rare invertebrate species. Invertebrates are provided protection under the definition of "fish" (Section 45 of the Fish and Game Code), but it appears that the Legislature decided CESA was not intended to protect insects. We have documents describing some of these decisions.

California often prides itself as a leader in environmental issues, but this is an area where California falls behind many states.

These suggestions are written with the support of the Wildlife Branch (Lyann Comrack). Thank you for your time,

Dan Marschalek (Ph.D. candidate)
Scientific Aid
San Diego, CA
dmarschal@dfg.ca.gov