

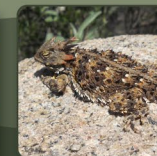
North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan (North County Plan)

Stakeholder Working Group Meeting

July 10, 2024



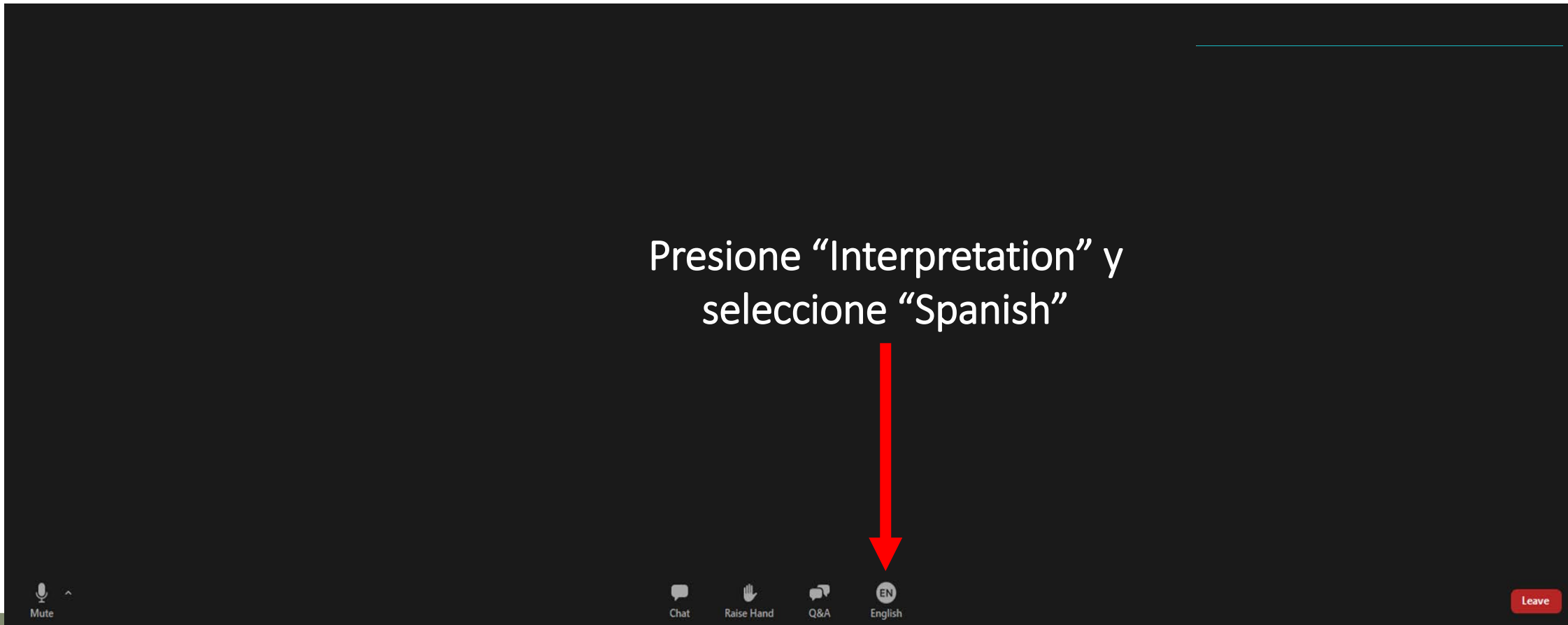
North County Plan



Traducción simultánea en español

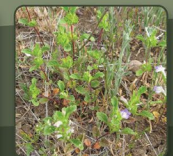
Si necesita traducción simultánea:

Presione "Interpretation" y
seleccione "Spanish"



Agenda

- Workshop Logistics
- Public Communication
- Project Overview
- Conservation Strategy
 - Approach & Components
 - Biological Drivers
 - Project Policies & Guidelines
- Next Steps
- Q&A



How to Participate



Submit Comments/Questions
During the Meeting

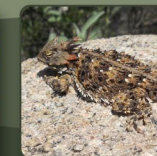


Raise Hand at End of Meeting
for Verbal Comments

**Use the Q&A feature at the
bottom of your screen**

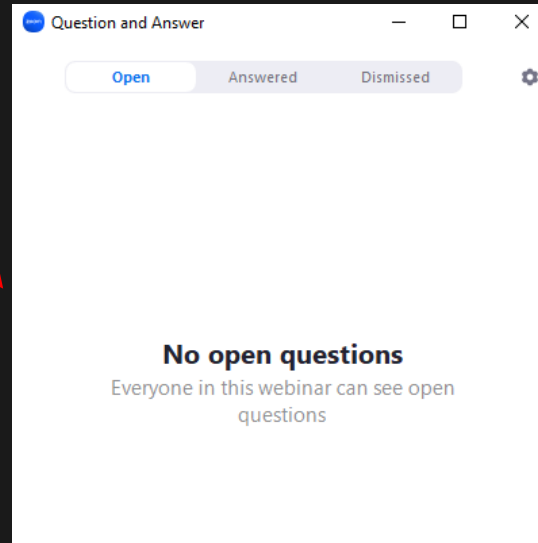


North County Plan

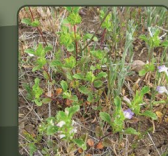
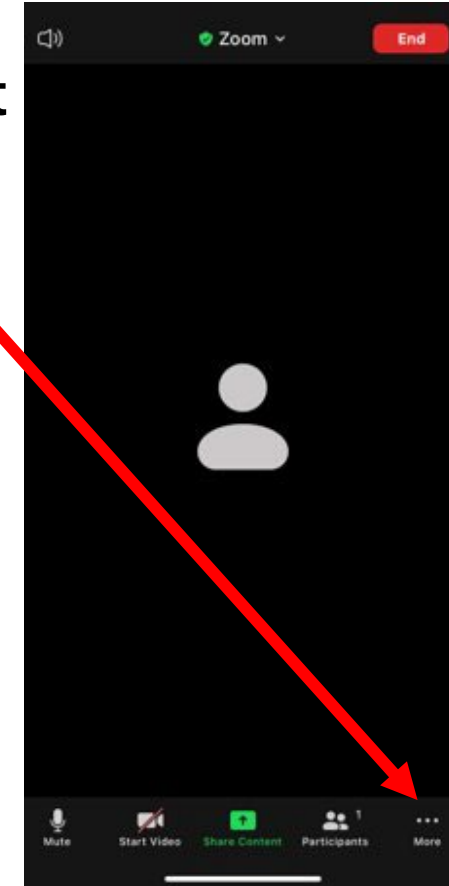


Zoom Meeting Controls

Use Q&A window to send comments/questions



First select "More"



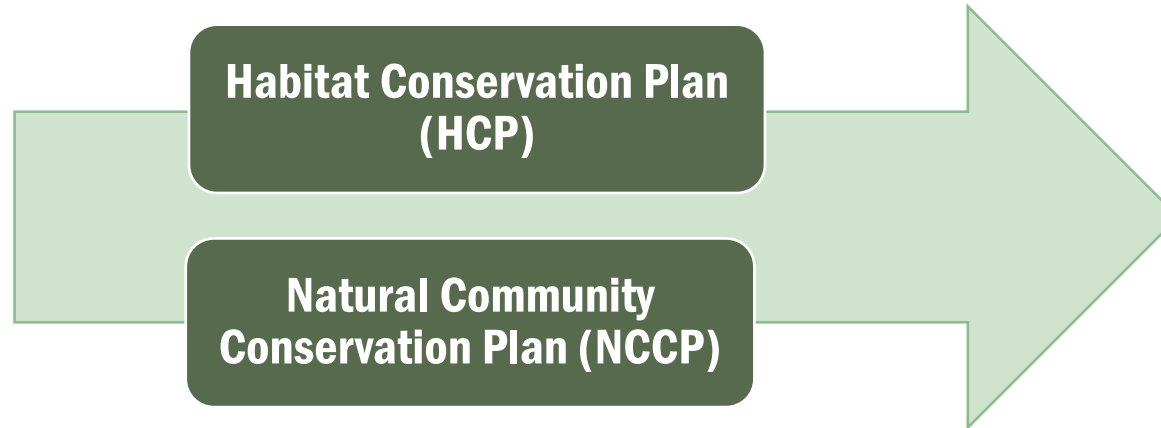
Public Communication



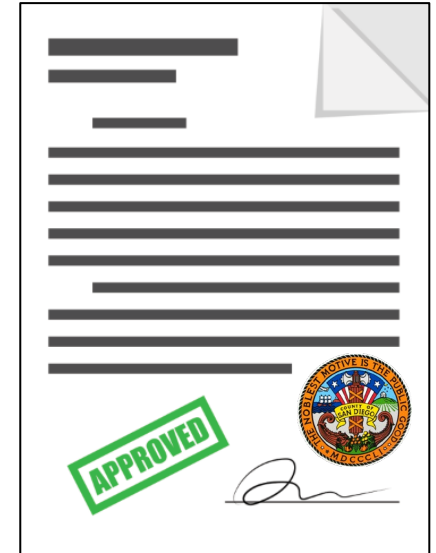
North County Plan



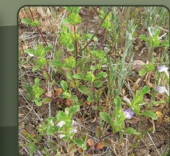
Federal and California Endangered Species Acts



Incidental Take Permit



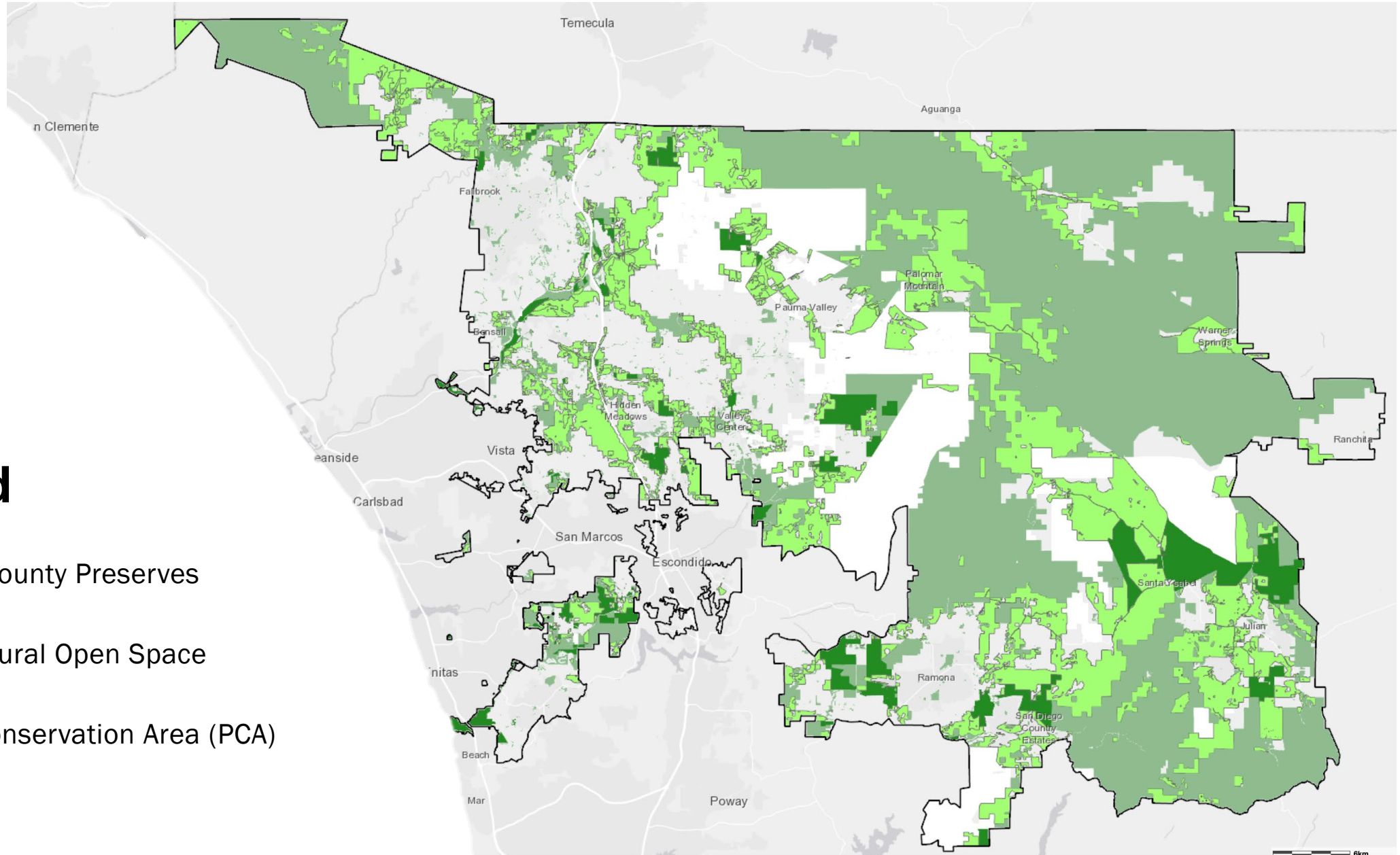
North County Plan



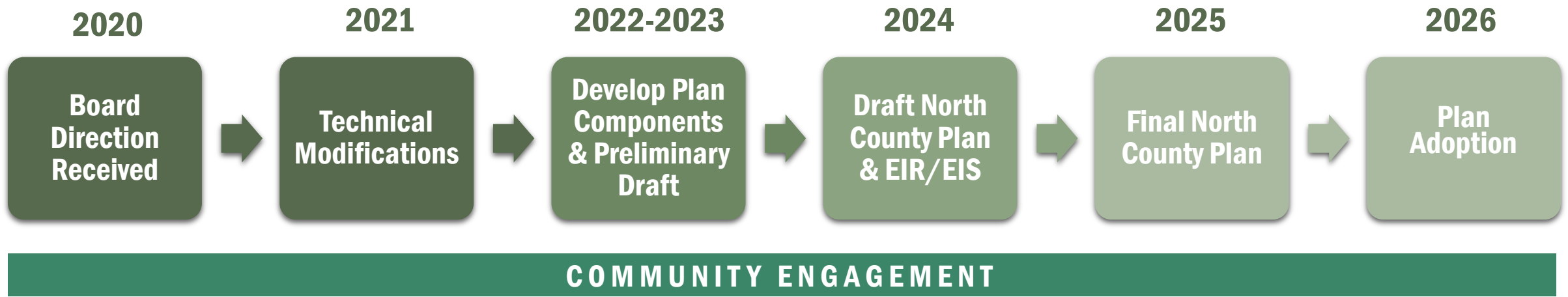
North County Open Space Network

Legend

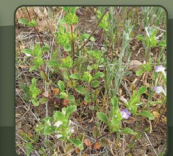
- Existing County Preserves
- Other Natural Open Space
- Priority Conservation Area (PCA)



North County Plan Timeline



North County Plan



Plan Components

1. Introduction
2. Setting
3. Covered Activities
4. Effects Analysis
5. Conservation Strategy
6. Plan Implementation
7. Costs & Funding
8. Alternatives to Take

Drafted

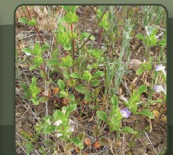
In Development

Implementing Documents

Biological
Mitigation
Ordinance
(BMO)

Framework
Resource
Management
Plan (FRMP)

Implementing
Agreement



Engage San Diego County

The screenshot shows the website for the North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'SanDiegoCounty.gov', 'Home', 'About This Site', 'All Projects', and a search box. Below the navigation bar is a large banner with the County of San Diego logo and the title 'North County Plan'. To the right of the banner are three small images: a bird, a plant, and a lizard. Below the banner, the page title is 'North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan'. There are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email. A large image of a mountain landscape is on the left. To the right of the image is a text block: 'The County is developing a Multiple Species Conservation Plan for the northwestern area of the unincorporated county. Known as the North County Plan, the Plan will help preserve the area's rich biodiversity. All this while expanding recreation and streamlining development in less sensitive areas.' Below this is an 'Overview' section: 'The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is a preservation framework. It outlines how we can protect and connect the most valuable biological habitats in San Diego County. There are three regional plans: [South](#), [North](#) and [East](#). Each plan focuses on the unique threatened plant and animal species for'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'Who's Listening' section with two entries: 'Stephanie Neal, Project Lead, Planning & Development Services, Email: MSCP@sdcounty.ca.gov' and 'Bethany Principe, MSCP Program Coordinator, Parks & Recreation, Email: MSCP@sdcounty.ca.gov'. Each entry includes a small circular profile picture.

engage.sandiegocounty.gov/northcountyplan



North County Plan



Public Review Period

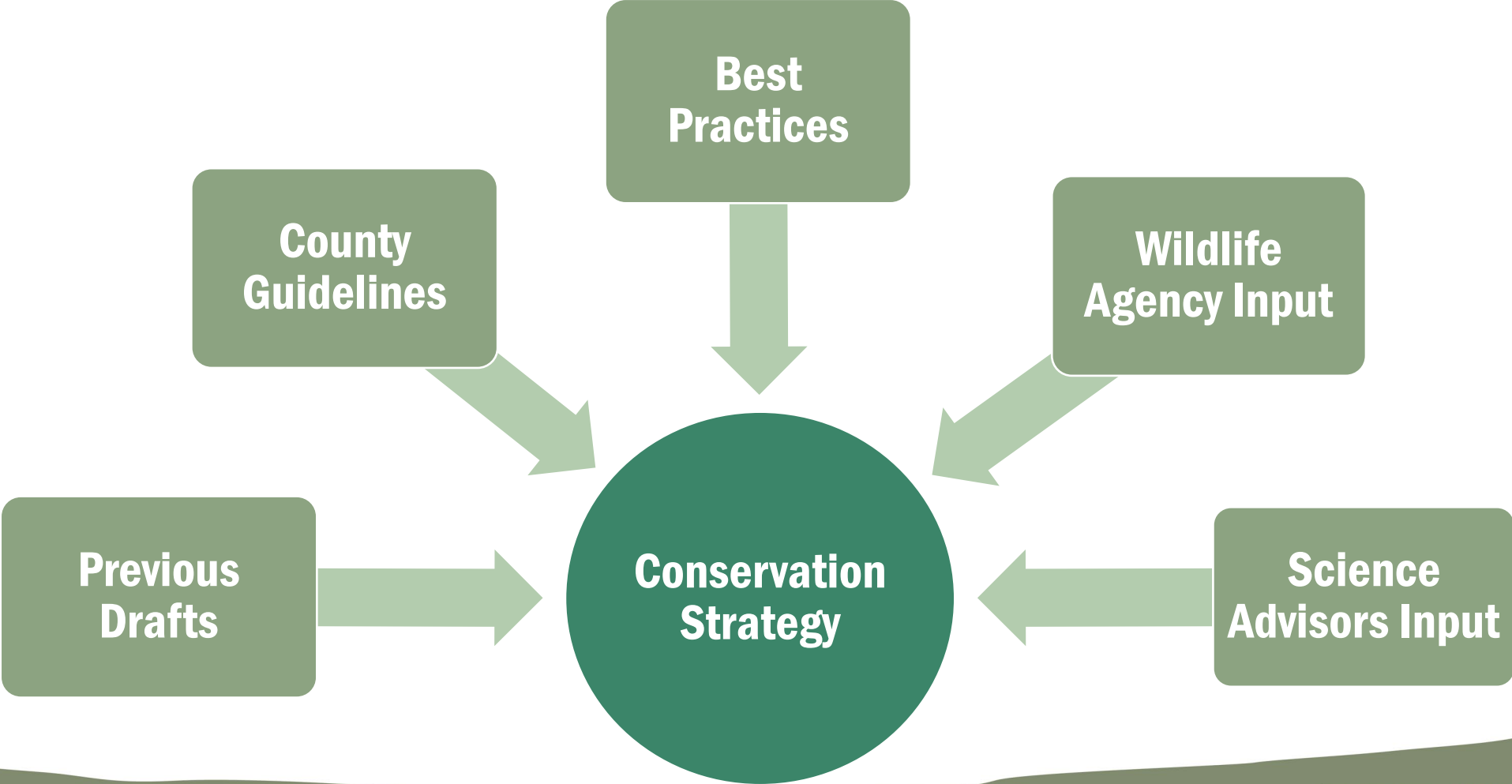
- We held a 45-day public review period to receive feedback on technical components of the Conservation Strategy
- Staff is meeting with science advisors, interested members of the public, and stakeholder organizations to discuss their feedback

Public Review Period
April 22 – June 6, 2024

Document Views	1,165
Commenters	2
Comments	14
Letters Received	6



Conservation Strategy Approach



Conservation Strategy Components

North County Plan Chapter 5

Overview & Components

Preserve Design

Preserve Assembly

Land Acquisition Strategy

Conservation Standards

Avoidance & Minimization

Landscape Conservation
Strategy

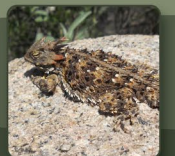
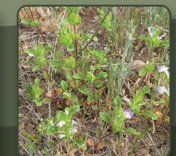
Natural Community
Conservation Strategy

Species-Specific
Conservation Strategy

Adaptive Management &
Monitoring



North County Plan



Conservation Strategy Components

Appendices

Covered Species Evaluation

Planning Unit Descriptions

Species Profiles

Natural Communities &
Aquatic Resources

Climate Change

Existing Protected Areas

Connectivity

Pending Projects

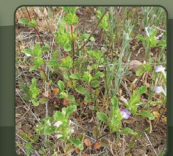
Implementing Documents

Biological Mitigation
Ordinance (BMO)

Framework Resource
Management Plan (FRMP)



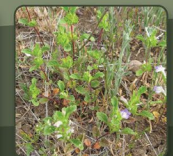
North County Plan



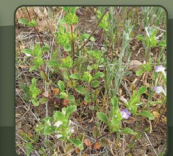
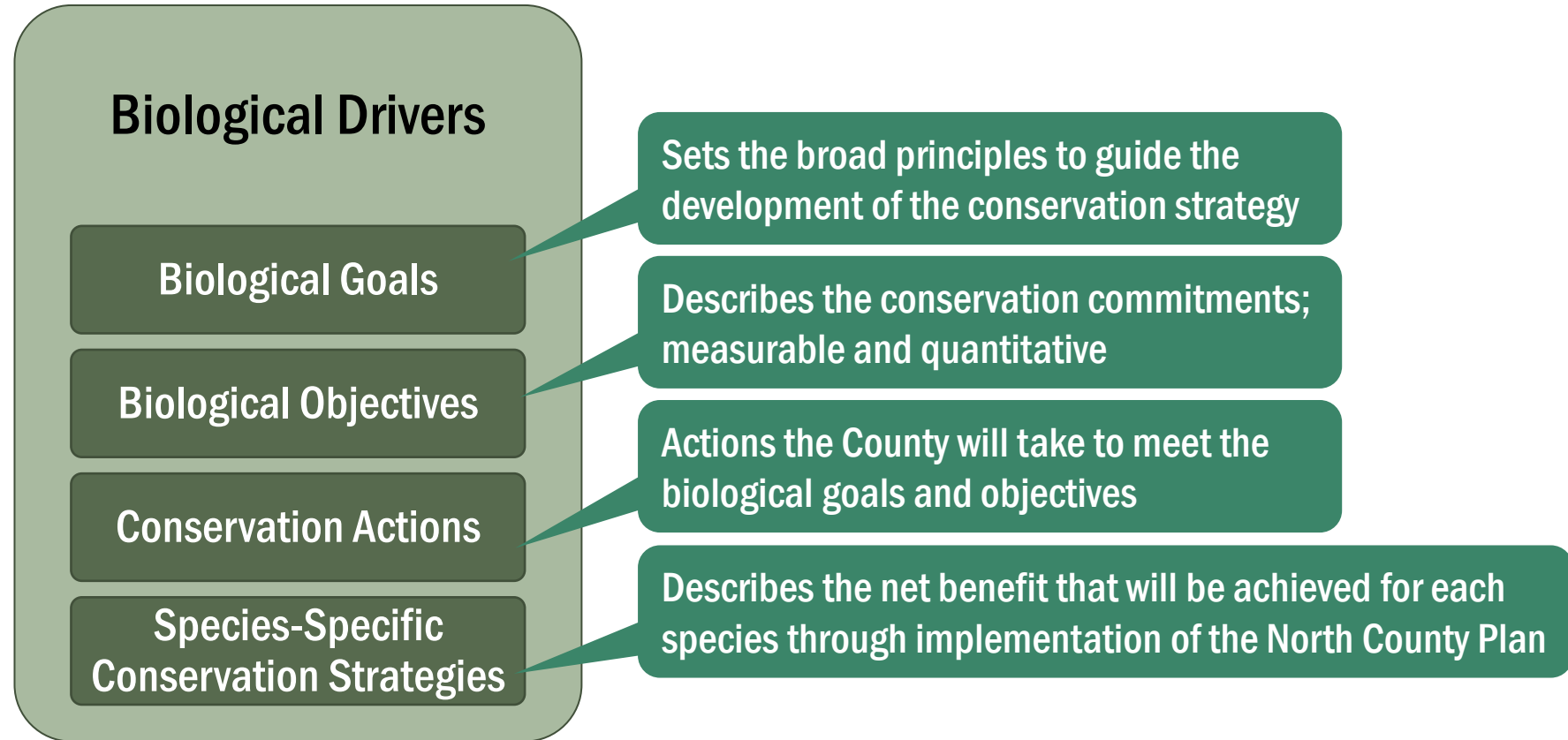
Biological Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions

The foundation of the Conservation Strategy and intended to:

- Describe the desired biological outcomes;
- Provide quantitative commitments and timeframes;
- Serve as benchmarks to measure progress;
- Provide metrics for the adaptive management and monitoring program; and,
- If needed, provide a basis to adjust the conservation actions.



Biological Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions



Biological Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions

Split into three levels: landscape, natural communities, and species

The extent, distribution, and interaction between natural communities and Covered Species within the Plan Area

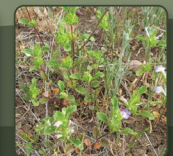
Landscape

The different vegetation and aquatic communities within the Plan Area

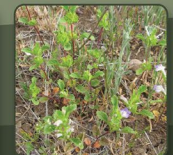
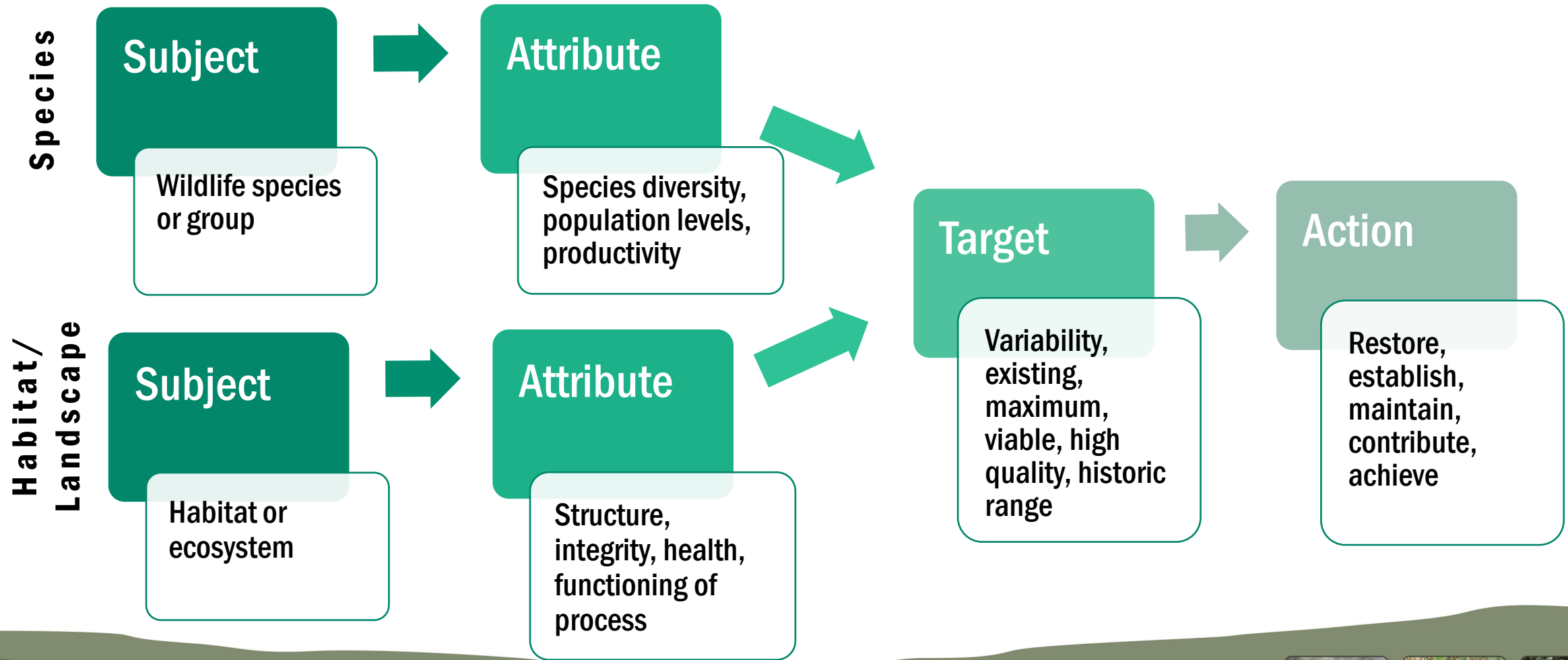
Natural Communities

Addresses stressors and habitat needs specific to each Covered Species

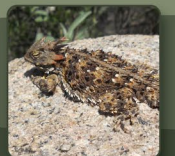
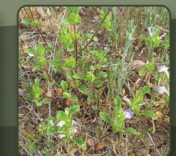
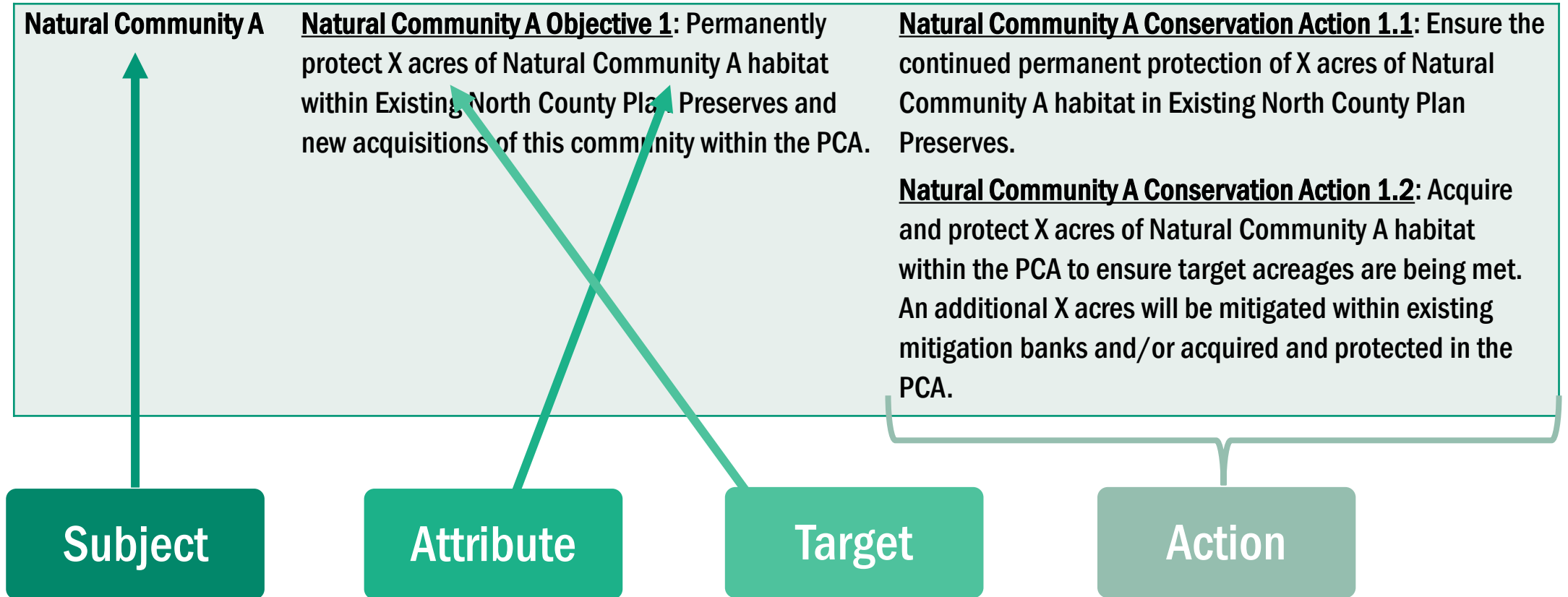
Species



Biological Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions

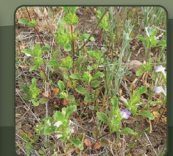


Biological Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions



Biological Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions

Element	Text	References / Sources
Subject	Landscape, natural community, or species	Plan Area map, vegetation mapping
Attribute	Biological resources, modeled habitat, known occurrences	Best available data (i.e., ecological processes, known occurrences/ distribution, life history)
Target	Ecological function/process, acres, no. of occurrences	Conservation needs in PCA and North County Plan Preserve System
Action	Protect, manage, maintain, enhance, reduce impacts	Existing conservation (County Preserves, mitigation banks, private RMPs) and future conservation needs



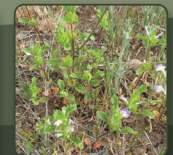
Landscape Level Goals & Objectives

Goal #1 Regional Conservation

- Permanently protect and maintain or enhance 96,577 acres of natural and semi-natural landscapes within Existing North County Plan Preserves and new acquisitions of habitat within the Priority Conservation Areas (PCA).
 - Includes 28,499 acres of existing conservation, 66,252 acres future acquisitions, and 1,827 acres available via mitigation banks

Goal #2 Connectivity

- Permanently protect and manage natural and semi-natural landscapes at key locations in the PCA that secure wildlife movement corridors, wildlife crossings, and provide landscape connectivity.



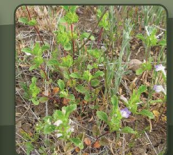
Landscape Level Goals & Objectives

Goal #3 Ecological Processes

- Enhance and manage aquatic resources to protect aquatic, wetland, and riparian hydrological functions and values.
- Include native pollinators as an important component of preserve management.
- Manage the effects of nonnative species, fire, fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides.

Goal #4 Climate Change Resilience

- Permanently protect and manage natural and semi-natural landscapes along environmental gradients within and across a diversity of protected Natural Communities within the North County Plan Preserve System.



Natural Communities Level Goals & Objectives



Meadows & Seep
758 acres



Chaparral
37,546 acres



Grassland
13,491 acres



Oak Woodland & Forest
10,441 acres



Vernal Pools
TBD



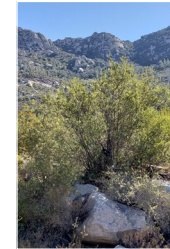
Coniferous Forest
7,421



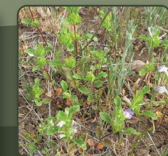
Desert Scrub
201 acres



Riparian & Floodway
3,601 acres

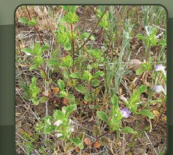


Coastal Sage Scrub
22,370 acres

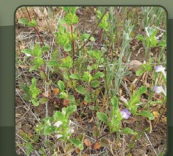
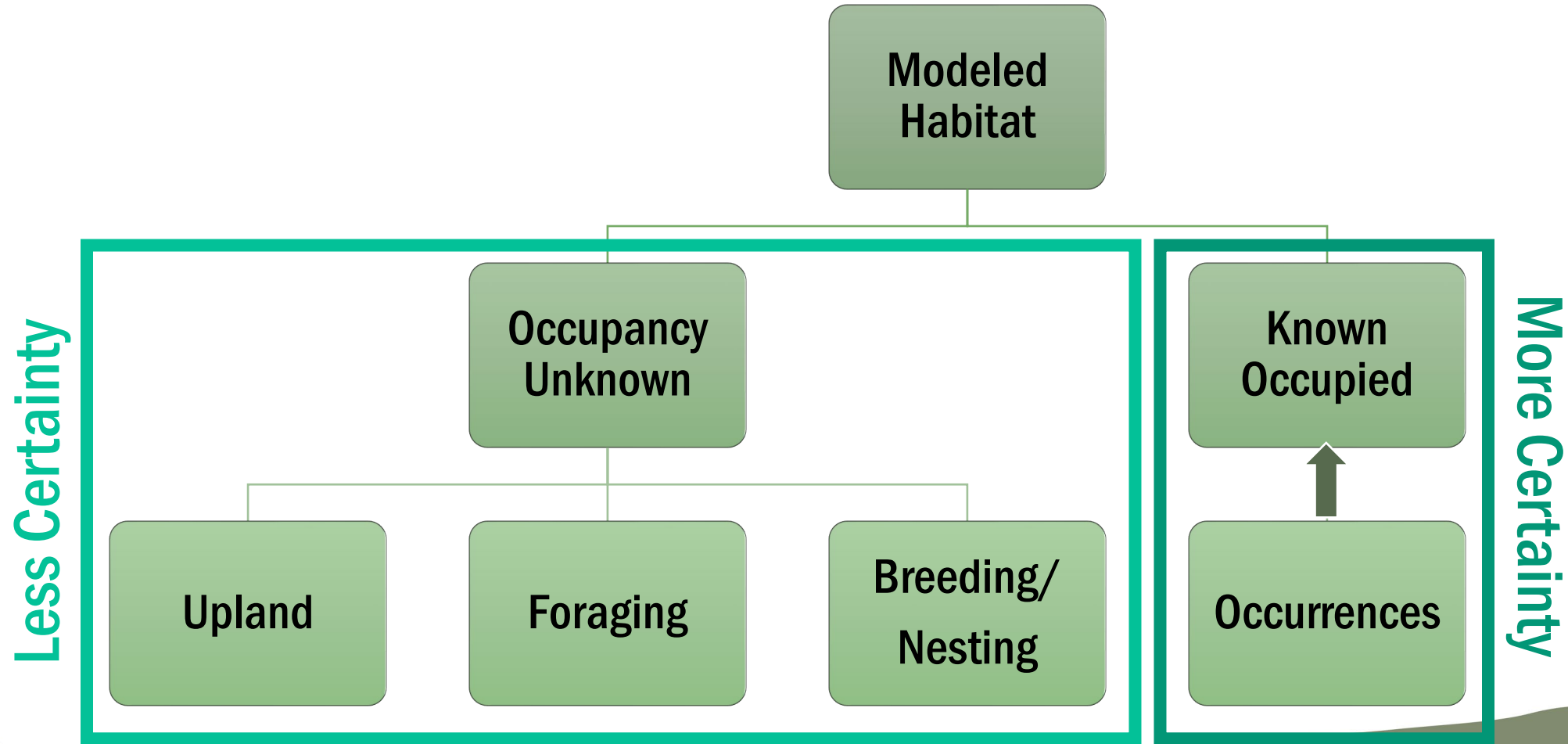


Species Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions

- When developing biological goals & objectives at the species-level, it's important to consider:
 - Existing conservation information (existing protections, management plans)
 - Threats and stressors (habitat loss/fragmentation, edge effects)
 - Best available data (occurrences, movement)
- Habitat may be used as a surrogate for species occurrences to express conservation goals in terms of habitat area trends
 - Species-based goals set specific population or life history targets for a covered species
 - Habitat-based goals are used for protecting, restoring, and establishing a specific type or amount of habitat for a covered species



Species Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions



Species Goals, Objectives & Conservation Actions

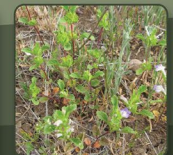
Species B

Goal: Contribute to the conservation and management of sufficient breeding habitat and foraging habitat to support self-sustaining population of Species B in the Plan Area.

Species B Objective 1: Permanently protect **X acres of Modeled Habitat**, of which at least **X acres is Known Occupied Habitat**, **X is Breeding Habitat Occupancy Unknown** and **X is Foraging Habitat Occupancy Unknown**, for Species B within Existing North County Plan Preserves and new acquisitions of breeding habitat and foraging habitat within the PCA.

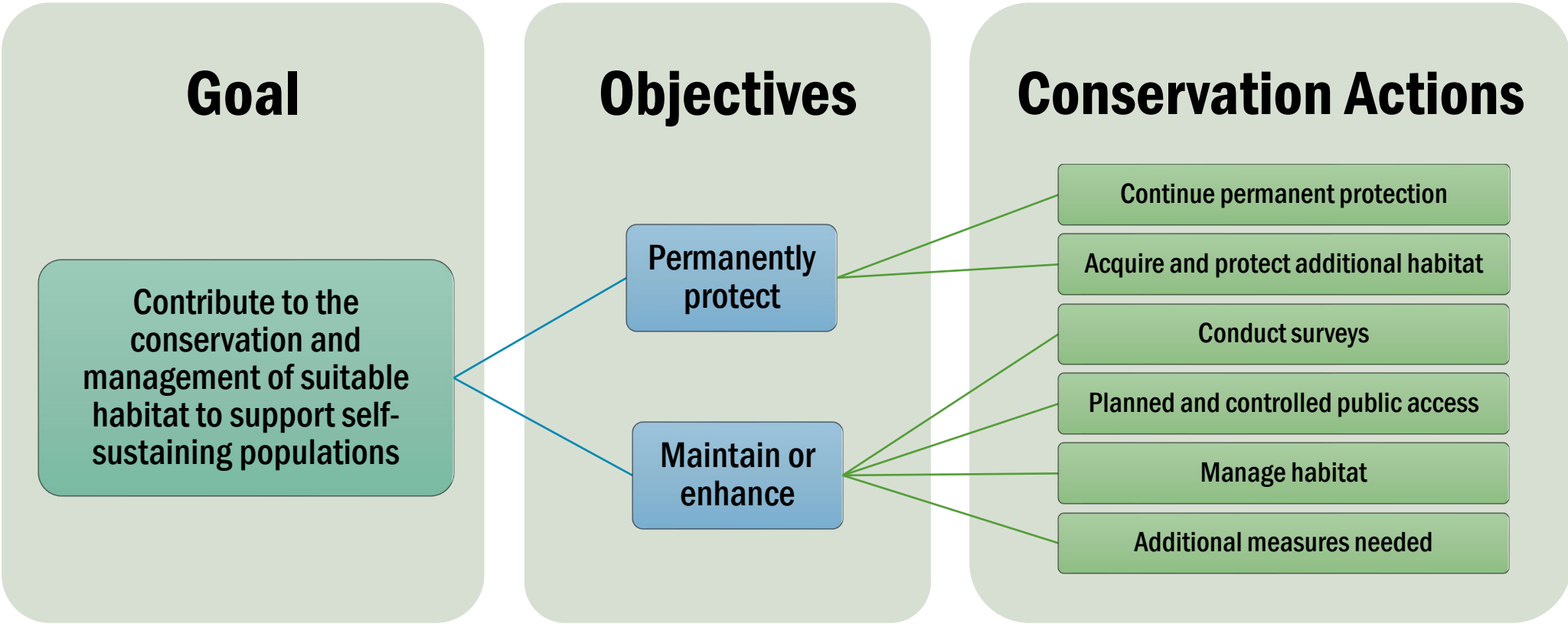
Species B Conservation Action 1.1: Ensure the continued permanent protection of **X acres of Modeled Habitat**, of which at least **X acres Breeding Habitat Occupancy Unknown** and **X is Foraging Habitat Occupancy Unknown**, for Species B in Existing North County Plan Preserves.

Species B Conservation Action 1.2: Acquire and protect an additional **X acres of Modeled Habitat**, of which **X acres is Known Occupied Habitat**, **X is Breeding Habitat Occupancy Unknown** and **X is Foraging Habitat Occupancy Unknown**, for Species B in the PCA. An additional **X acres of Modeled Habitat**, of which **X acres is Known Occupied Habitat**, will be mitigated within existing mitigation banks and/or acquired and protected in the PCA.



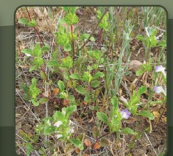
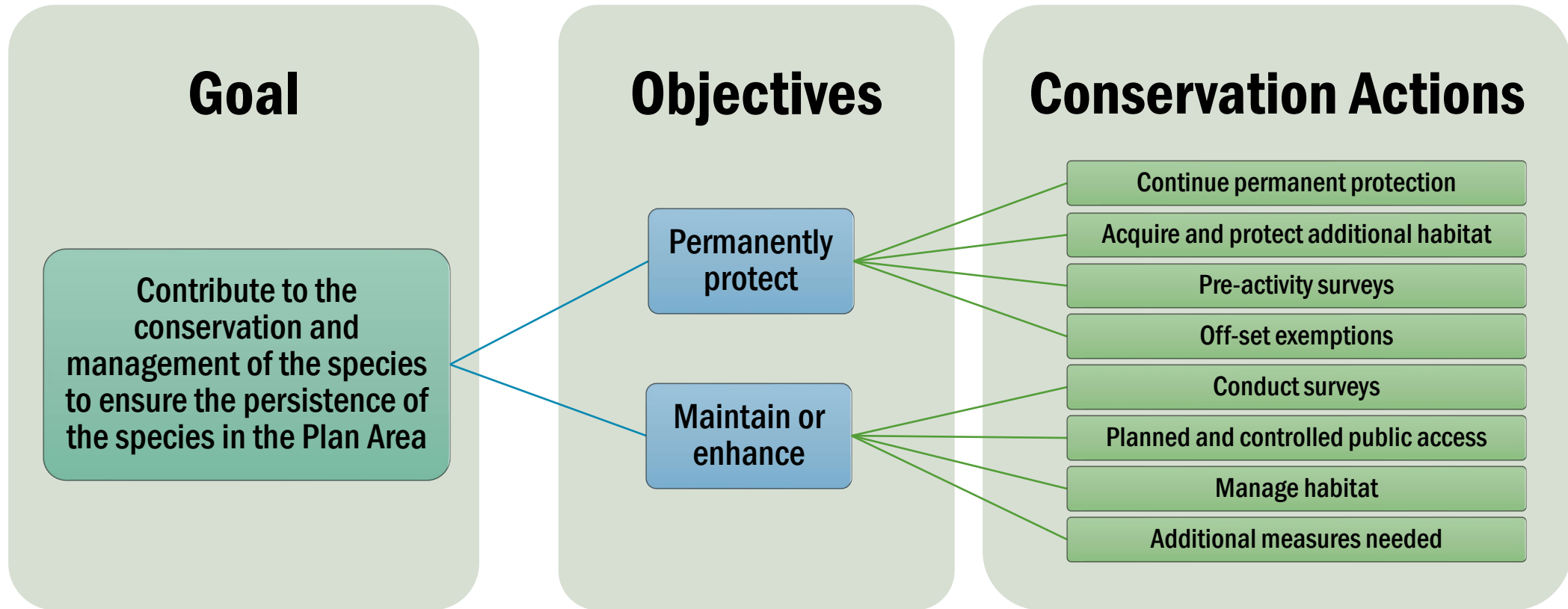
Species Level Goals & Objectives – Animals

Target: Known Occupied and Occupancy Unknown



Species Level Goals & Objectives – Plants

Target: Known Occupied Habitat and # of occurrences



Species Conservation Strategy Content

- Species background summary
- Current protection status
- Benefits of landscape and natural communities' goals
- Quantitative species-specific goals, objectives, and actions
- Applicable conservation standards and AMMs
- Preserve assembly considerations
- Expected outcome and rationale for coverage

Section 5.11 XXX

5.11.13 Arroyo Toad (ARTO)

5.11.13.1 (Regulatory Conservation and Management) and criteria for the species within the North County Plan Provisions. Arroyo Toad will benefit from the habitat which maintains species composition and diversity and...

5.11.13.2 (Regulatory Conservation and Management) and criteria for the species within the North County Plan Provisions. Arroyo Toad will benefit from the habitat which maintains species composition and diversity and...

5.11.13.3 (Regulatory Conservation and Management) and criteria for the species within the North County Plan Provisions. Arroyo Toad will benefit from the habitat which maintains species composition and diversity and...

5.11.14 Existing Area of Known Occupied Habitat, Modified Habitat or Critical Habitat for Arroyo Toad in the North County Plan Area

Biological Resource	North County Open Space Network		Other Natural Open Space	Total Habitat as Open Space	North County Plan Area
	Planning Element	Impact			
Arroyo Toad	500	0	0	500	0
...

Conservation Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Application of Landscape and Natural Community Objectives Benefiting Arroyo Toad

Conservation Goals, Objectives, and Actions

5.11.15 (Regulatory Conservation and Management) and criteria for the species within the North County Plan Provisions. Arroyo Toad will benefit from the habitat which maintains species composition and diversity and...

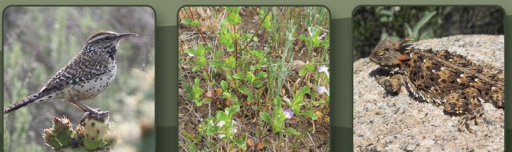
5.11.16 (Regulatory Conservation and Management) and criteria for the species within the North County Plan Provisions. Arroyo Toad will benefit from the habitat which maintains species composition and diversity and...

5.11.17 (Regulatory Conservation and Management) and criteria for the species within the North County Plan Provisions. Arroyo Toad will benefit from the habitat which maintains species composition and diversity and...

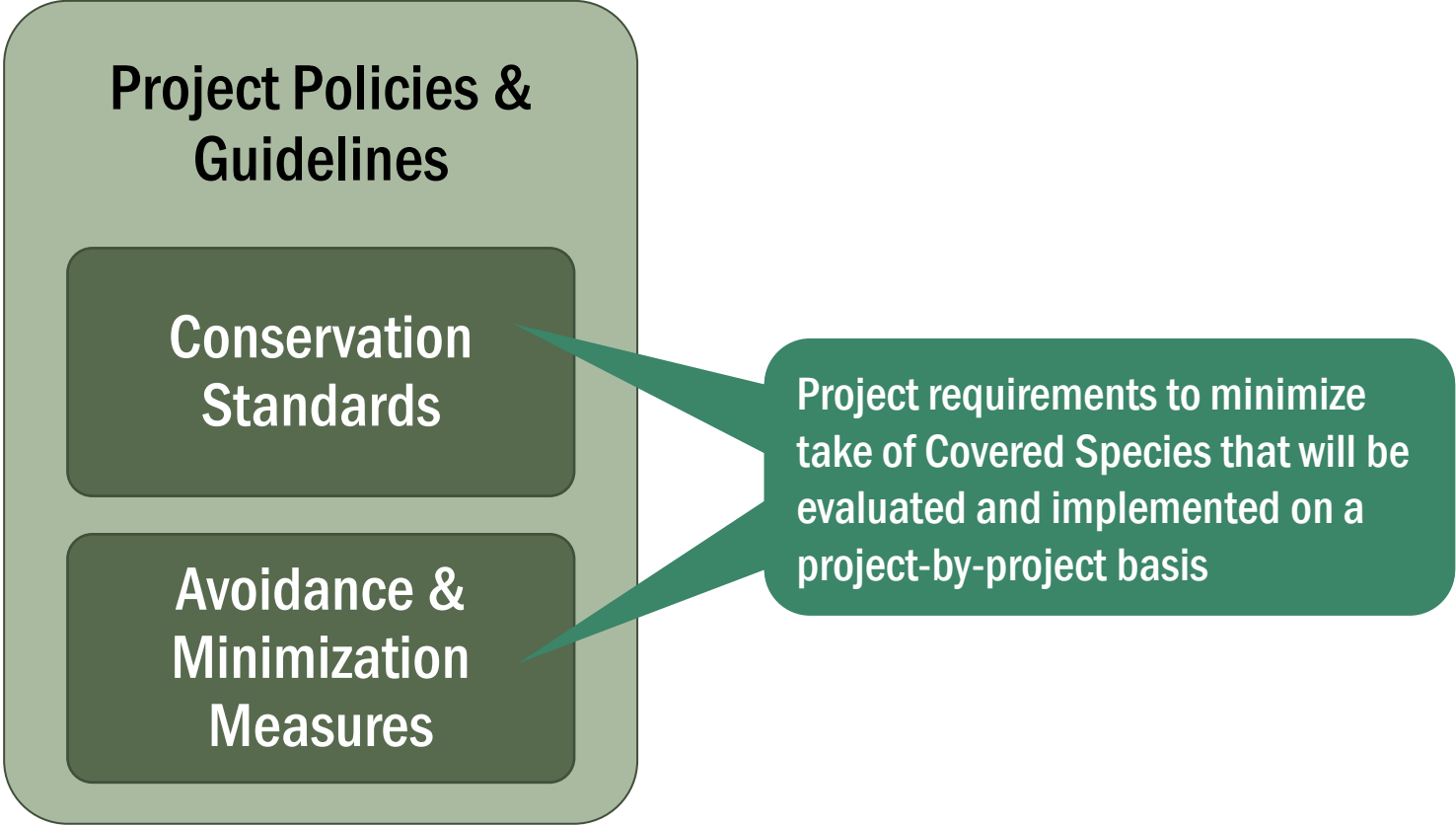
5.11.18 (Regulatory Conservation and Management) and criteria for the species within the North County Plan Provisions. Arroyo Toad will benefit from the habitat which maintains species composition and diversity and...



North County Plan



Project Policies & Guidelines



Conservation Standards

Rare and Narrow
Endemic Plants

Wetlands

Vernal Pools

Breeding Birds

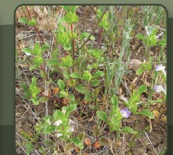
Bald & Golden
Eagles

Bats

Wildlife Linkage,
Corridor, and
Crossing

Pesticide Use

Recreation &
Public Access



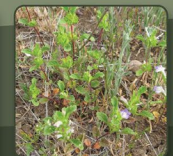
Rare and Narrow Endemic Plants Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**

- Protect and manage populations of rare and narrow endemic plants within their natural distribution range.
- Ensure no less than 95% conservation within Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) and 80% outside PCAs.

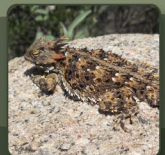
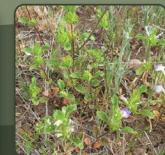
- **Measures and Actions:**

- Limit encroachment to no more than 5% of the population on-site within PCAs and 20% outside PCAs.
- Allow for translocation or relocation as a biologically superior alternative with Wildlife Agency concurrence.



Wetlands Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**
 - Protect core wetland habitats from development impacts.
 - Enhance and restore degraded wetlands to their natural state.
- **Measures and Actions:**
 - Apply buffer zones based on site-specific assessments of habitat sensitivity.
 - Restore wetland habitats using native plant species and removal of invasive species.



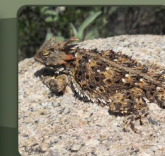
Vernal Pools Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**

- Preserve the ecological integrity and hydrological function of vernal pools.
- Implement appropriate mitigation ratios to compensate for any unavoidable impacts.

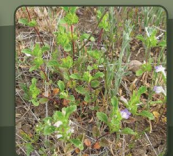
- **Measures and Actions:**

- Conduct detailed biological assessments to document the presence of vernal pools and covered vernal pool species.
- Establish a minimum 100-foot buffer from pool edges to avoid impacts from edge effects.



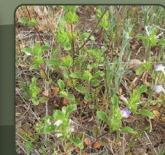
Breeding Birds Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**
 - Avoid impacts to birds during their critical breeding periods.
 - Ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- **Measures and Actions:**
 - Conduct pre-construction surveys to identify and protect active nests.
 - Establish protective measures such as buffers or noise attenuation devices around active nests.



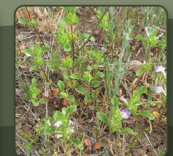
Bald and Golden Eagles Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**
 - Minimize disturbance to nesting bald and golden eagles, particularly during breeding seasons.
 - Comply with federal guidelines to protect these birds under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA).
- **Measures and Actions:**
 - Implement no-disturbance buffers, adjusted based on the visibility and nature of nearby activities.



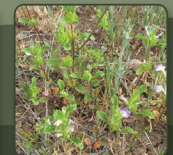
Bat Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**
 - Protect known or newly discovered important roosting sites and foraging habitats for bats.
 - Minimize impacts from development activities.
- **Measures and Actions:**
 - Require habitat assessments to identify potential bat roosting sites.
 - Implement project design measures to avoid disturbing important bat habitat areas.



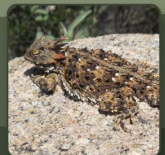
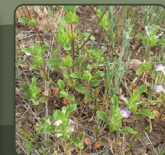
Wildlife Linkage, Corridor, and Crossing Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**
 - Maintain and enhance ecological connectivity across the landscape.
 - Facilitate safe wildlife movement between habitat patches and across roadways.
- **Measures and Actions:**
 - Design wildlife corridors that incorporate diverse landscape features to support species movement.
 - Install over or undercrossings on County roads to preserve functionality, if needed.



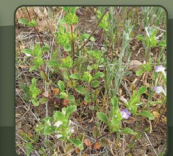
Pesticide Use Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**
 - Minimize impacts of pesticides on covered species and their habitats.
 - Employ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to manage pests sustainably.
- **Measures and Actions:**
 - Require training and certification for pesticide applicators.
 - Monitor and enforce the use of pesticides in preserve areas to ensure compliance with conservation guidelines.



Recreation and Public Access Conservation Standard

- **Conservation Goals:**
 - Manage recreational activities to minimize their impact on sensitive habitats.
 - Educate the public on the ecological importance of conservation areas and responsible recreational use of preserve areas.
- **Measures and Actions:**
 - Implement design criteria for trails and facilities to ensure compatibility with conservation objectives.
 - Regularly assess the impacts of recreational use and adjust management practices as necessary.



Avoidance & Minimization Measures

Split into three levels: general, natural communities, and species

Includes 28 measures for all Covered Activities and 1 measure for stormwater best management practices

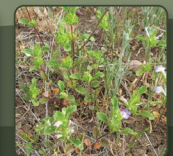
Includes measures for riparian and aquatic habitat, vernal pools, and woodlands and forests

Some, but not all, Covered Species include additional measures to minimize take

General

Natural
Communities

Species



Next Steps

Spring – Summer 2024

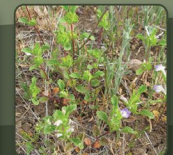
**Species-Specific
Conservation Strategies**

Summer/Fall 2024

**MSCP Open House &
Scoping Meeting**

Fall 2024

**Preserve Assembly & Plan
Implementation Workshop**



Public Comment



**WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!**



**PLEASE SHARE
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.**



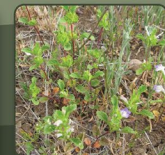
ASK ANY QUESTIONS.

Check out our project website: bit.ly/NorthCountyMSCP

Email us at: MSCP@sdcounty.ca.gov



North County Plan



Thank you for participating!



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www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/mscp

