# Chapter 13Wildlife Resources

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#### 13.1 Affected Environment

4 This section describes the affected environment related to wildlife resources. 5 including special-status species, for the dam and reservoir modifications 6 proposed under SLWRI action alternatives. For a more in-depth description, see 7 the Wildlife Resources Technical Report. 8 Shasta Dam and Shasta Lake are located on the upper Sacramento River in 9 Northern California. Shasta Dam is located approximately 9 miles northwest of 10 Redding, and the dam and entire reservoir are located in Shasta County. Elevations in the Shasta Lake vicinity portion of the primary study area range 11 between approximately 1,070 and 1,200 feet, and the terrain is moderate to 12 13 steep. 14 The wildlife resources setting for the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area consists of the impoundment area (five arms and the main 15 16 body of Shasta Lake) and the relocation areas (Figure 13-1). The Shasta Lake 17 and vicinity portion of the primary study area is composed of Shasta Dam and 18 Shasta Lake and the lower reaches of the tributaries draining into Shasta Lake. 19 Reclamation established project boundaries for focused surveys in the area that 20 would be subject to inundation under various enlargement scenarios. The lower boundary corresponds to the current full-pool elevation defined by Reclamation 21 (1,070-foot mean sea level (msl) contour line). The upper boundary was 22 established using the 1,090-foot msl contour line around the entire lake. This 23 area is hereafter referred to as the "impoundment area" (Figure 13-1). 24 25 To examine the physical and biological resources along riverine habitats that 26 would be subject to inundation if Shasta Dam were enlarged, reaches of 11 streams and rivers that are tributary to Shasta Lake were also incorporated into 27 28 the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. These streams 29 were selected by Reclamation in conjunction with USFS as an initial sampling of streams representative of riverine and riparian habitats. 30 31 Areas subject to physical disturbance as an indirect result of the proposed project (i.e., areas proposed as relocation sites for roadways, bridges, utilities, 32 33 and campgrounds that would be inundated subsequent to the enlargement of

Shasta Dam as well as proposed dike locations) were incorporated into the

1 2	Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. These locations are hereafter referred to as "relocation areas" (Figure 13-1).
3 4 5 6	For the purposes of this investigation, approximate acreages for habitat types are reported by arm of the lake. For a relocation area that falls between two arms, the area is included with the arm that has the most acreage of the vegetation type or water of the United States.
7 8	Descriptions of biological resources were derived primarily from the following sources:
9	<ul> <li>Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation Mission Statement</li></ul>
10	Milestone Report (Reclamation 2003)
11	<ul> <li>Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation Initial Alternatives</li></ul>
12	Information Report (Reclamation 2004)
13	<ul> <li>Chapter 3, "Biological Environment," in the Draft Shasta Lake Water</li></ul>
14	Resources Investigation Plan Formulation Report (Reclamation 2007)
15	<ul> <li>USFWS Endangered Species Database (USFWS 2011)</li> </ul>
16	• The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (2012)
17	<ul> <li>Numerous technical studies of wildlife resources conducted in the</li></ul>
18	Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area since 2002.
19 20 21	Several attachments to the <i>Wildlife Resources Technical Report</i> provide detailed lists and descriptions of special-status wildlife species present in the primary and extended study areas:
22	<ul> <li>Attachment 1, "Special-Status Wildlife Species Potentially Occurring</li></ul>
23	in the Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of the Primary Study Area"
24	<ul> <li>Attachment 2, "Species Accounts for Special-Status Wildlife in the</li></ul>
25	Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of the Primary Study Area"
26	<ul> <li>Attachment 3, "Breeding Bird Survey Results – 2007"</li> </ul>
27	<ul> <li>Attachment 4, "Species Accounts for Special-Status Wildlife in the</li></ul>
28	Primary Study Area Downstream from Shasta Dam"
29	<ul> <li>Attachment 5, "State and Federal Lists of Special-Status Wildlife</li></ul>
30	Species in the Vicinity of the Primary Study Area"
31	<ul> <li>Attachment 6, "Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur</li></ul>
32	in the Primary and Extended Study Areas by Area"
33 34	• Attachment 7, "List of All Sensitive Wildlife Species in the Extended Study Area Reported to the CNDDB"

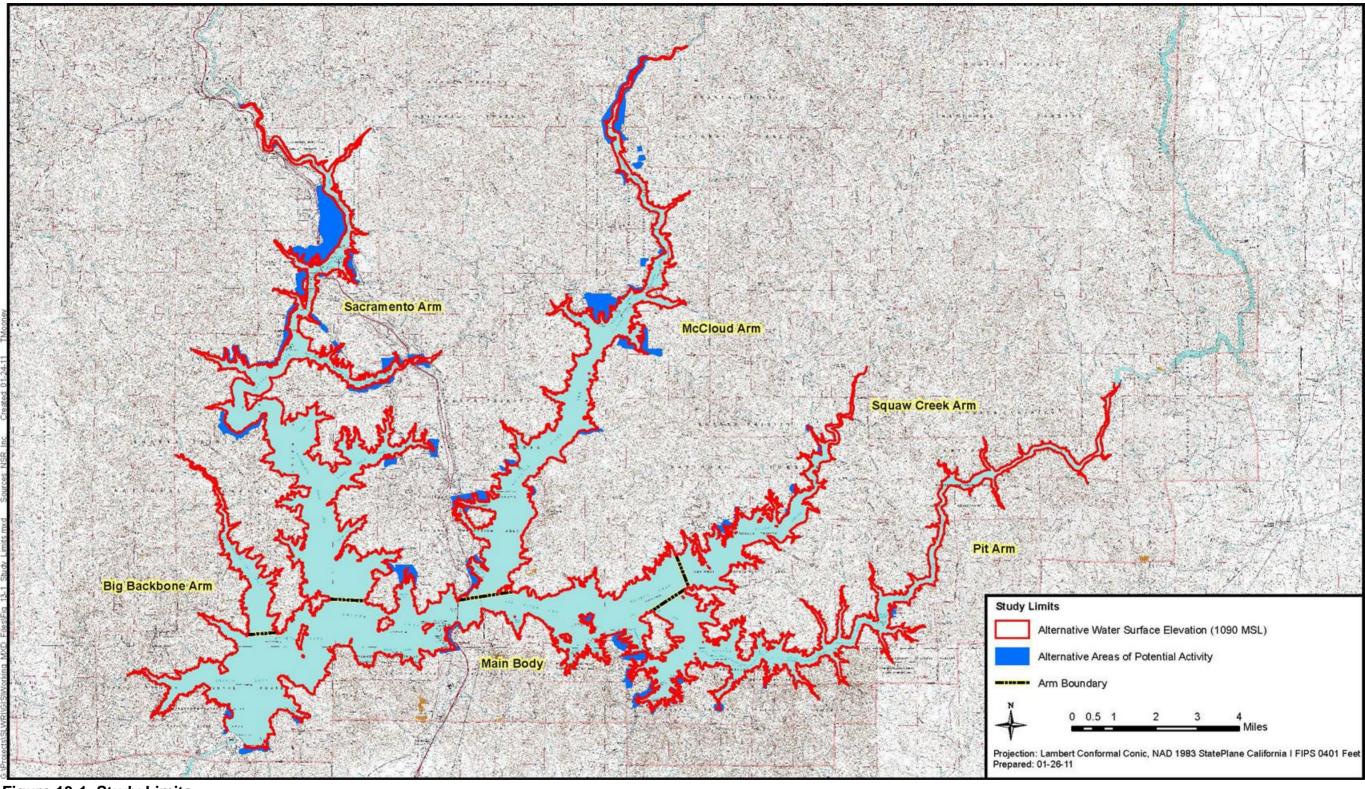


Figure 13-1. Study Limits

#### 13.1.1 Wildlife

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Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Wildlife resources described in this chapter result from the wealth and diversity of climatic and vegetative associations in and adjacent to the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. Influences from the southeastern Klamath Mountains, Coast Ranges, the southern Cascade Range, the northern Sierra Nevada, the Great Basin, and the Central Valley provide for a unique mix of biota. Much of this region, especially in the Central Valley, has been modified by past and present land uses.

Prior to Euro-American settlement, the area was dominated by riparian vegetation in the annual floodplains, with stands of valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and interior live oak (O. wislizenii) on higher ground. Herbaceous wetland bottoms and upland native grassland communities were common in this vegetation mosaic. The extensive oak forests and riparian/wetland habitats hosted a diverse and abundant wildlife community. Cattle grazing, deforestation of the oak woodlands, water development, flood protection, and expansion of agriculture onto the floodplains in the early to mid-1800s substantially altered the historical floodplain and channel vegetation.

Rural development, fire suppression, recreation, and wildfires have affected the population and distribution of wildlife in this area. Fire suppression, which has generally increased understory vegetation, has had mixed effects on wildlife. Bear, deer, and birds that prefer near-ground vegetation for food and cover have generally benefited, whereas birds requiring aerial foraging habitat, such as the golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum), and great horned owl (Bubo virginianus), have declined. Species that have adapted or thrived in the altered human environment include coyotes (Canis latrans), raccoons (Procyon lotor), and various other late-successional species. The quality of potential bat habitat, found primarily in the limestone formations to the north and east of Shasta Lake, has suffered from increased use by recreational rock climbers and spelunkers. Wildlife may also be affected by fragmented travel corridors in certain portions of the area that prevent species from moving between remaining suitable habitats.

Wildlife Habitats The Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area is characterized by a variety of habitats typical of mixed woodlands and low-elevation forests found in the southeastern Klamath Mountains. These habitats were mapped and classified using the Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). Habitats present in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area are summarized in Tables 13-1 and 13-2, and depicted in Figures 13-2a through 13-2f. General habitat descriptions, including typically occurring wildlife species, are described below. Plant taxonomy follows Baldwin et al. (2012).

#### 1 Table 13-1. Summary of Wildlife Habitats in the Impoundment Area

	Area (acres¹)						
Habitat	Main Body	Big Backbone Arm	Sacramento Arm	McCloud Arm	Squaw Creek Arm	Pit Arm	
Annual grassland	0.44	0.00	3.10	0.70	0.00	0.00	
Barren	2.30	0.00	10.60	3.56	0.00	4.13	
Blue oak-foothill pine	10.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.29	1.94	
Blue oak woodland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.81	
Closed-cone pine- cypress	32.68	0.00	12.95	20.89	44.72	373.48	
Douglas-fir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.00	0.00	
Mixed chaparral	29.19	13.64	161.04	15.14	10.35	59.50	
Montane hardwood	73.49	38.76	171.01	70.55	19.43	2.49	
Montane hardwood–conifer	70.68	0.99	150.42	136.36	111.63	10.55	
Montane riparian	4.16	6.67	26.16	13.91	1.53	1.57	
Ponderosa pine	215.11	30.72	188.19	161.64	49.56	57.50	
Riverine	0.00	0.88	5.24	15.43	1.41	0.00	
Urban	21.95	0.00	1.95	7.96	0.00	1.92	
Total	460.37	91.67	730.66	446.49	242.92	519.90	

Note:

#### 2 Table 13-2. Summary of Wildlife Habitats in the Relocation Areas

	Area (acres¹)						
Habitat	Main Body	Big Backbone Arm	Sacramento Arm	McCloud Arm	Squaw Creek Arm	Pit Arm	
Annual grassland	5.05	0.00	28.84	10.40	0.84	0.88	
Barren	23.81	0.00	86.26	36.37	11.53	20.91	
Blue oak-foothill pine	3.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.17	
Blue oak woodland	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.68	0.00	1.08	
Closed-cone pine- cypress	0.11	0.00	56.90	10.06	1.94	20.99	
Douglas-fir	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.02	0.00	0.00	
Mixed chaparral	25.63	0.00	119.21	44.65	4.44	93.01	
Montane hardwood	48.17	0.00	198.56	212.60	6.34	1.24	
Montane hardwood-conifer	121.63	0.00	203.65	309.12	42.22	37.85	
Montane riparian	0.34	0.00	4.28	3.93	0.23	0.37	
Ponderosa pine	185.04	0.00	466.77	402.08	43.08	36.00	
Riverine	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Urban	21.71	0.00	230.21	0.48	0.00	0.57	
Total	434.11	0.00	1,395.07	1,036.68	110.61	219.03	

Note:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Acreage values are approximate.

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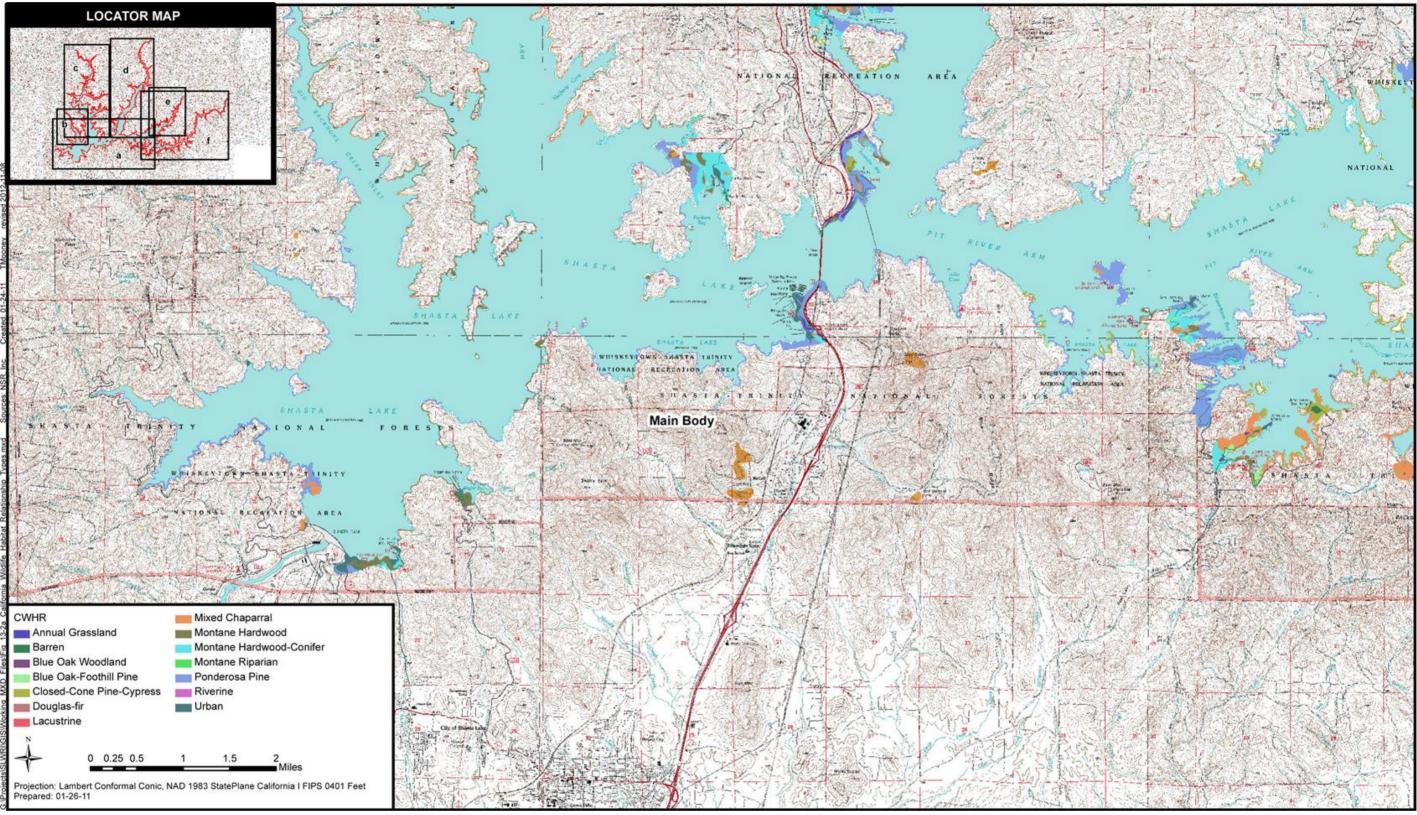


Figure 13-2a. California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Types

Figure 13-2b. California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Types

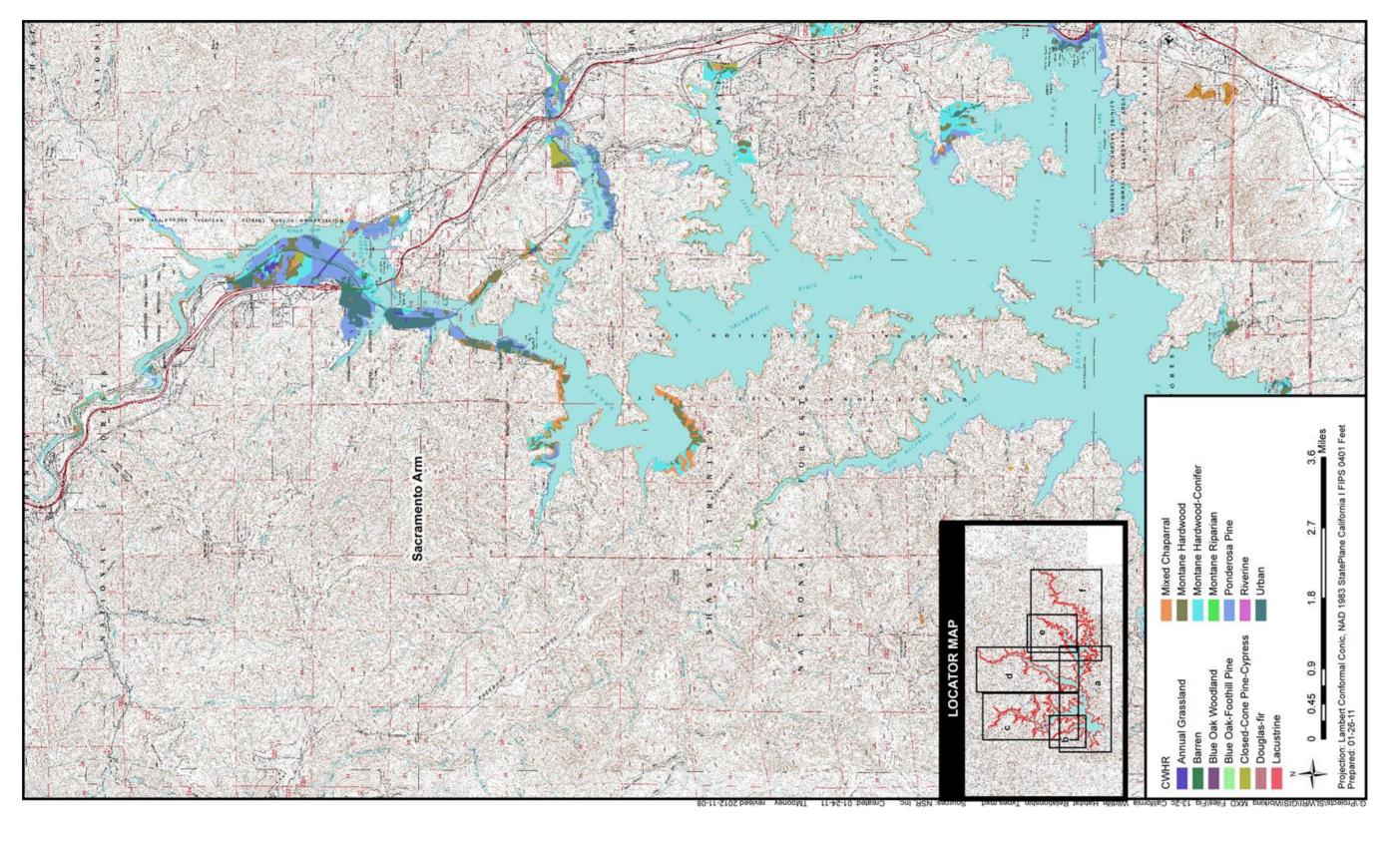


Figure 13-2c. California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Types

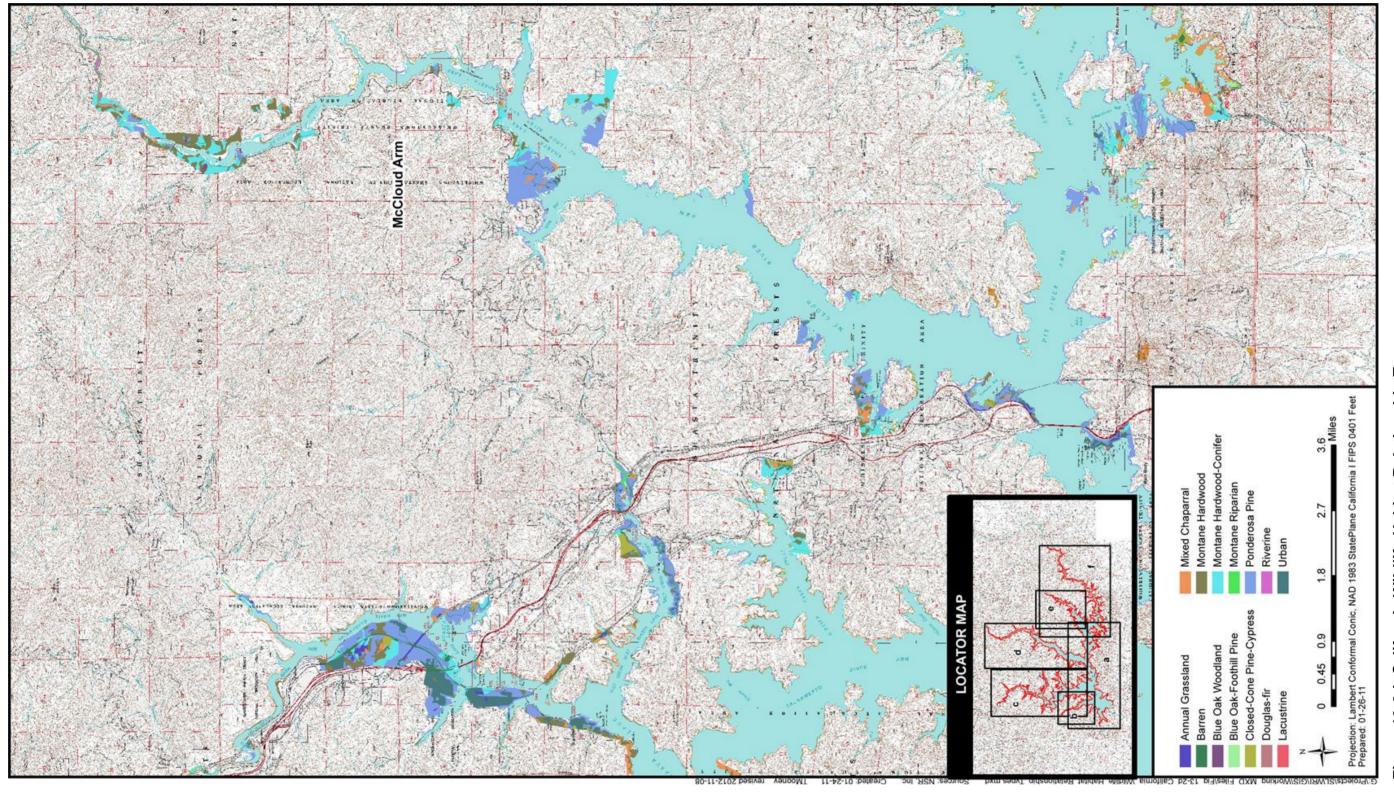


Figure 13-2d. California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Types

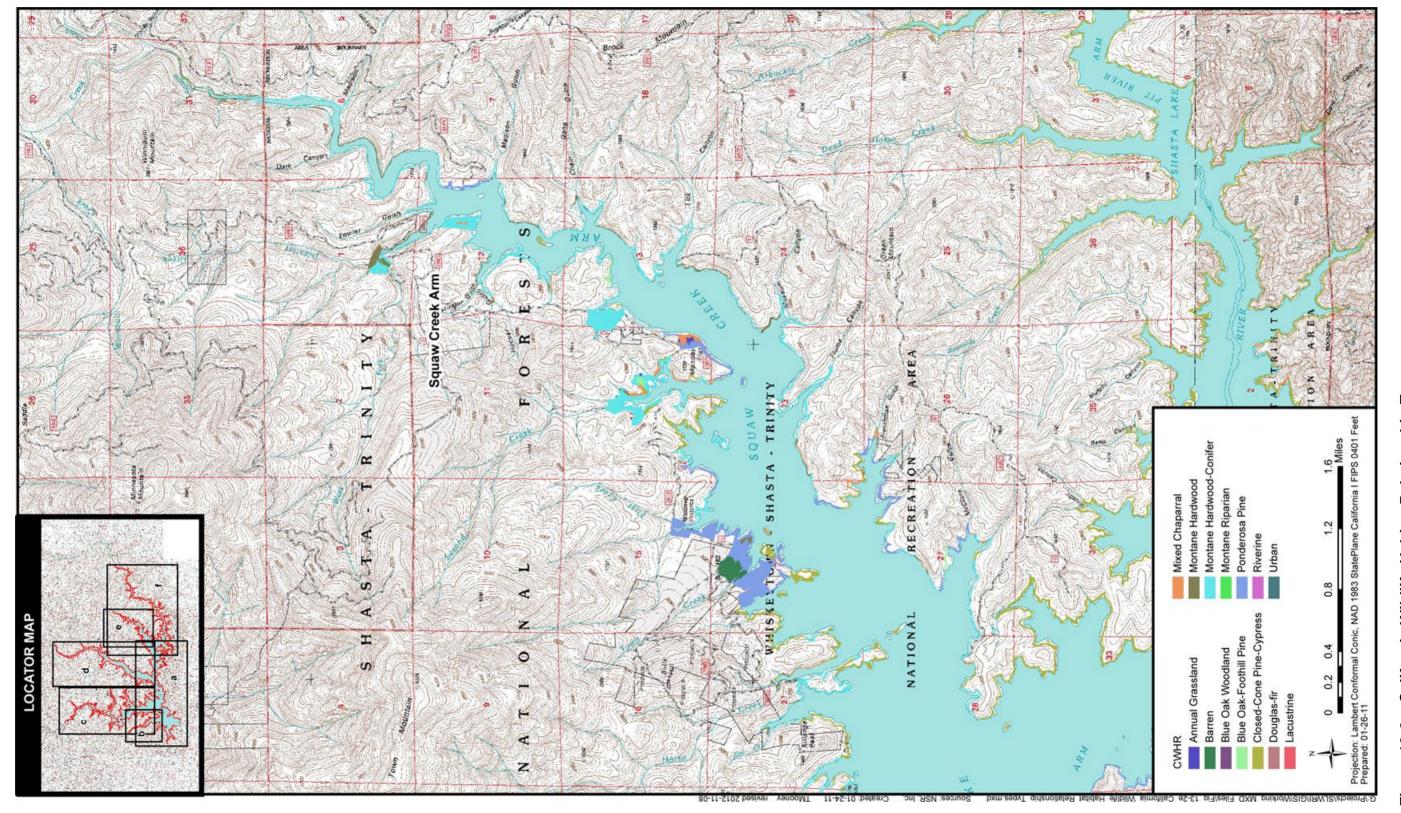


Figure 13-2e. California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Types

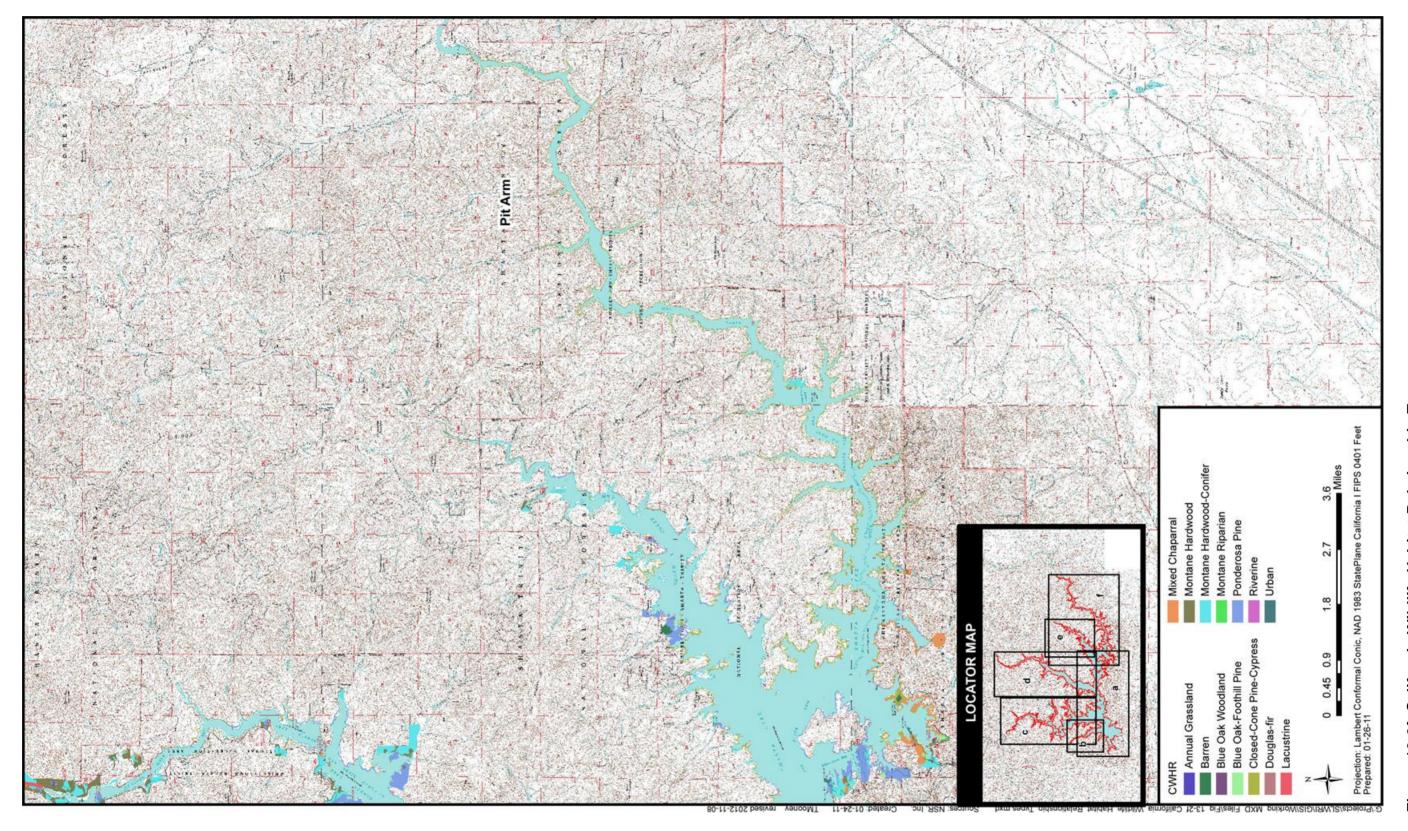


Figure 13-2f. California Wildlife Habitat Relationship Types

**Annual Grassland** Annual grassland is uncommon in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area and occurs as small inclusions in other more prevalent plant series types or in areas subjected to previous disturbance. Dominant species include wild oat (Avena fatua), cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum), ripgut (B. diandrus), vellow star-thistle (Centaurea solstitialis), squirreltail (Elymus elymoides), and European hairgrass (Aira caryophyllea). Grassland bird species, such as the mourning dove (Zenaida macroura), savannah sparrow (Passerculus sandwichensis), and white-crowned sparrow (Zonotrichia leucophrys), as well as rodents, such as the California ground squirrel (Spermophilus beecheyi), Botta's pocket gopher (Thomomys bottae), and deer mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus), may forage on the seed crop this community provides. These species, in turn, attract predators, such as the gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and coyote. Reptile species expected to inhabit this area include the western fence lizard (Sceloporus occidentalis), western skink (Eumeces skiltonianus), western rattlesnake (Crotalus viridis), and yellow-bellied racer (Coluber constrictor).

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**Barren** Barren habitat consists mainly of human-made features without vegetation scattered throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area, including boat ramps, parking lots, and roads. Other barren habitats include a large gravel plain feature at the confluence of Butcher Creek and Shasta Lake (Main Body) and a sealed riprap feature adjacent to Interstate 5 near the upper Sacramento Arm and Shasta Lake confluence. Vegetation is usually not present, although a sparse cover of grasses/forbs or weedy species may be present. Barren habitat has limited value for wildlife; however, many species in adjacent habitats may use these areas occasionally as opportunities arise, such as for feeding. Also, open nesting species, such as killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), may use some barren surfaces for nesting.

Blue Oak Woodland Blue oak woodland occurs mainly as small inclusions within other more prevalent habitats; however, moderate-sized stands also occur. This habitat occurs at scattered locations along the Main Body, McCloud Arm, and Pit Arm. Blue oak woodland is characterized by a moderate overstory of blue oak (Quercus douglasii) with a dense herbaceous understory. Oak woodlands produce acorns used as forage by a variety of species, including acorn woodpeckers (Melanerpes formicivorus), western scrub-jays (Aphelocoma californica), turkey (Meleagris gallopavo), western gray squirrels (Sciurus griseus), and black-tailed deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus). Snags and live trees containing cavities provide nesting habitat for species such as the western bluebird (Sialia mexicana), tree swallow (Tachycineta bicolor), American kestrel, and northern flicker (Colaptes auratus), as well as roost sites for bats and denning sites for mammals, such as the raccoon, Virginia opossum (Didelphis virginiana), and gray fox (Urocyon cinereoargenteus). Raptors, including the red-tailed hawk and great horned owl, also nest in these woodlands. Amphibian and reptile species found here include the Pacific chorus frog (Pseudacris regilla), bullfrog (Rana catesbeiana), western fence lizard,

southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), western terrestrial garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans*), common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), and western rattlesnake.

**Blue Oak–Foothill Pine** Blue oak–foothill pine habitat also occurs mainly as small inclusions within other more prevalent habitats in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area; however, moderate-sized stands also occur. This habitat is found in the Main Body, Squaw Creek Arm, and Pit Arm. Species composition is similar to the blue oak woodland habitat; however, gray pine and a shrub component are more common. Dominant overstory species include blue oak, California black oak (Ouercus kelloggii), valley oak (Ouercus lobata), interior live oak (Quercus wislizenii), and gray pine (Pinus sabiniana). Common shrubs observed in this habitat include white leaf manzanita (Arctostaphylos viscida), buck brush (Ceanothus cuneatus), poison oak (Toxicodendron diversilobum), coffee berry (Frangula californica), snowdrop bush (Styrax officinalis), wild mock orange (Philadelphus lewisii), deer brush (Ceanothus integerrimus), and California buckeye (Aesculus californica). Common grasses and forbs observed in this vegetation habitat include pussy ears (Calochortus tolmiei), Pacific hounds tongue (Cynoglossum grande), slender wild oat, and soaproot (Chlorogalum pomeridianum). Lianas of Dutchman's pipe (Aristolochia californica) and chaparral clematis (Clematis lasiantha) shroud shrubs and often grow into the tree canopy.

The blue oak—foothill pine community provides breeding habitat for a large variety of wildlife species, although no species is completely dependent on it for breeding, feeding, or cover. Many of the species found in blue oak habitat are also found here. Acorns and gray pine seeds are an important resource for many of the species using this habitat, such as the acorn woodpecker, western scrubjay, and western gray squirrel. The newly emerged leaves of oaks in the spring support an abundance of insects that attract migrating and nesting warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and other insectivorous birds. In addition, the shrubs provide habitat for birds, such as the spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), and blue-gray gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*). Characteristic reptiles and amphibians include western toads (*Bufo boreas*), a wide variety of snakes (common garter snakes, California whipsnakes (*Masticophis lateralis*), gopher snakes, and western rattlesnakes), western skinks, southern alligator lizards, and western fence lizards.

Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress Closed-cone pine-cypress consists of open to dense knobcone pine (*Pinus contorta*) stands. This habitat is scattered throughout all portions of the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area and often occurs in disturbed areas, including areas subject to wildfires and historic mining activities. Dominant species include knobcone pine, with occasional canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), California black oak, ponderosa pine, and gray pine. The shrub layer is moderate to dense and is dominated by white leaf manzanita and poison oak. The ground cover varies and is dominated by various grasses and forbs. Numerous game and nongame

species make use of this habitat for feeding and cover. Steller's jays (*Cyanocitta stelleri*) and western scrub-jays, downy woodpeckers (*Picoides pubescens*), and western gray squirrels extract seeds from partially opened cones. The great horned owl and red-tailed hawk are among the few species known to use this habitat for breeding.

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**Douglas-Fir** As a habitat type, Douglas-fir is uncommon in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. This habitat type occurs in the upper portion of the McCloud Arm. Douglas-fir is characterized by moderate to dense conifer stands dominated by Douglas-fir (Pseudotsuga menziesii), with occasional ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*), incense cedar (Calocedrus decurrens), canyon live oak, and California black oak. Associated understory species vary and include Pacific dogwood (Cornus nuttallii), mock orange (Philadelphus lewisii), poison oak, snowdrop bush, and white leaf manzanita. The ground layer ranges from open to moderate and is dominated by various grasses and forbs. The multilayered vegetation in the Douglas-fir community supports a variety of wildlife species. A significant feature of the community is the presence of cavity-bearing trees. Mature, fire-damaged, and wind-damaged forests typically contain snags (dead trees that are still standing), which are a valuable resource for birds and mammals that prefer nest and den sites in cavities, such as the flammulated owl (Otus flammeolus) and northern pygmy owl (Glaucidium gnoma). Snags also support wood-boring insects that provide food for bark-gleaning insectivorous birds, such as the brown creeper (Certhia americana). Other birds foraging and/or breeding in this habitat include the sharp-shinned hawk (Accipiter striatus), American peregrine falcon, mountain quail, western wood-pewee (Contopus sordidulus), and western tanager (Piranga ludoviciana). Mammals found in this habitat include the long-eared myotis (Myotis evotis), western red bat (Lasiurus blossevillii), northern flying squirrel (Glaucomys sabrinus), and bobcat (Lynx rufus).

**Lacustrine** Lacustrine habitat consists of the area regularly inundated by Shasta Lake (i.e., areas up to and below the 1,070-foot elevation). Most of this area is barren of vegetation and is characterized as exposed soil and/or rock. Portions of the lacustrine habitat do support vegetation during draw-down periods, including woody riparian species, such as black willow, button willow, Fremont cottonwood, and various grasses and forbs.

**Mixed Chaparral** Mixed chaparral is a common habitat type and is scattered throughout all portions of the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. This habitat often occurs on exposed slopes and/or in disturbed areas, including areas subject to wildfires and historic mining activities. Mixed chaparral is typically characterized by dense shrub stands dominated by white leaf manzanita, buck brush, toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), California buckeye, Brewer's oak (*Quercus garryana* var. *breweri*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), interior live oak, Lemmon's ceanothus (*Ceanothus lemmonii*), birch-leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), holly-leaf

redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), and poison oak. Few herbaceous plants occur in this habitat. Mixed chaparral provides habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. It provides seeds, fruit, and protection from predators and harsh weather. In addition, it provides singing, roosting, and nesting sites for many species of birds, including the California quail (*Callipepla californica*), wrentit, and Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). Mammals common in this habitat include the blacktailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), gray fox, coyote, and deer mouse. Reptiles that make use of this habitat include the western fence lizard and southern alligator lizard.

Montane Hardwood Montane hardwood is a common tree habitat type and is scattered throughout all portions of the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. The montane hardwood stands are typically characterized by moderate to dense stands of California black oak, canyon live oak, and occasional interior live oak. The understory is variable, although often sparse in the evergreen (live oak) stands because of a typically dense overstory canopy. Mast crops provided by montane hardwood forests are an important food resource for many species, including the acorn woodpecker, Steller's jay, mountain quail (*Oreortyx pictus*), western gray squirrel, and black-tailed deer. In addition, cavities in mature trees provide nesting and denning habitat for species such as the northern flicker, western screech owl (*Otus kennicottii*), American kestrel, and Virginia opossum. In moist areas, many amphibians and reptiles are found in the duff layer, including ensatina (salamander) (*Ensatina eschscholtzii*) and western skink.

Montane Hardwood–Conifer Montane hardwood–conifer is a common tree habitat type and is scattered throughout all portions of the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. Montane hardwood–conifer is a complex forest type generally characterized by a complex of hardwood and conifer tree species. Stand composition varies, depending on numerous physical and geographic factors, and can include California black oak, canyon live oak, interior live oak, Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), gray pine, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, sugar pine, and knobcone pine. Understory species are generally moderate to dense and include white leaf manzanita, buck brush, California buckeye, western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), California bay, poison oak, birch-leaf mountain mahogany, Brewer's oak, and snowdrop bush. The ground layer varies and is dominated by various grasses and forbs, including pussy ears, soaproot, Pacific hound's tongue, and slender wild oat.

The variability of the canopy cover and understory vegetation makes montane hardwood–conifer habitat suitable for numerous species of wildlife. Hollow trees and logs provide denning sites for mammals, such as the coyote and gray fox, and cavities in mature trees are used by cavity-dwelling species, such as the acorn woodpecker, violet-green swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*), northern flicker, great horned owl, raccoon, and California myotis (*Myotis californicus*). In addition, raptors, such as the red-tailed hawk, construct nests in the upper

canopy of mature trees. Moreover, mast crops and conifer seeds are an important food source for many birds and mammals, including the Steller's jay, acorn woodpecker, California quail, black-tailed deer, and western gray squirrel. In moist areas, many amphibians and reptiles, including ensatina and western fence lizards, inhabit the duff layer. Snakes, including the western rattlesnake and sharp-tailed snake (*Contia tenuis*), also are found in this habitat.

Montane Riparian Montane riparian is the dominant riparian habitat type and is scattered throughout all portions of the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. Montane riparian habitat occurs as thin stringers and large patches along most stream corridors and is characterized as a sparse overstory of white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), or big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), along with a fairly dense mid-story and herbaceous layer. The mid-story is dominated by red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), narrow-leafed willow (*S. exigua*), red willow (*S. laevigata*), spicebush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*), mock orange, button willow (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), American dogwood (*Cornus cericea*), California ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*), and mugwort (*Artemesia douglasiana*). Brambles of Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) and California blackberry (*R. ursinus*) often engulf broader, low-gradient riparian areas. Lianas, including California grape and greenbriar (*Smilax californica*), grow into the canopy.

Riparian habitats are among the most important wildlife habitats because of their high floristic and structural diversity, high biomass (and therefore high food abundance), and high water availability. In addition to providing breeding, foraging, and roosting habitat for a diverse array of animals, riparian habitats also provide movement corridors for some species, connecting a variety of habitats throughout the region.

The leaf litter, fallen tree branches, and logs associated with the riparian community in the study area provide cover for the western toad and Pacific chorus frog. The western fence lizard, western skink, and southern alligator lizard are also expected to occur here. Common species nesting and foraging primarily in the riparian tree canopy include the bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), white-breasted nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*), and Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*). Other resident species, such as the spotted towhee and song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), nest and forage on or very close to the ground, usually in dense vegetation. A variety of mammals also inhabit riparian communities, including the deer mouse, raccoon, Virginia opossum, and several bat species.

**Ponderosa Pine** Ponderosa pine is the most common conifer habitat type in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area and is scattered throughout all portions of the area. This habitat is characterized by open to dense conifer stands dominated by ponderosa pine. Associated species include occasional Douglas-fir, sugar pine, incense cedar, canyon live oak, and

California black oak. Associated understory species vary and include redbud, buck brush, mock orange, poison oak, snowdrop bush, and white leaf manzanita. The ground layer ranges from open to moderate and is dominated by various grasses and forbs.

Ponderosa pine needles, cones, buds, pollen, twigs, seeds, and associated fungi and insects provide food for many species of birds and mammals, including the mountain quail, western gray squirrel, black-tailed deer, Allen's chipmunk (*Tamias senex*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Mature trees provide nesting habitat for raptors, such as the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), sharp-shinned hawk, and red-tailed hawk, and snags and hollow logs provide shelter for species such as the Virginia opossum, western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*), and several bat species.

**Riverine** Riverine habitat includes the free-flowing portions of the rivers and larger streams tributary to Shasta Lake. The riverine habitat is highly variable and ranges from moderately to well-confined stream reaches with low to steep gradient. Most riverine habitat is dominated by run-and-riffle habitats, with bedrock, boulder, cobble, gravel, and sand substrates. The vegetation in the active stream channel is sparse, with occasional clumps of torrent sedge (*Carex nudata*) and Indian rhubarb (*Darmera peltata*).

Riverine areas provide habitat for numerous fish, including rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), and riffle sculpin (*Cottus gulosus*). Aquatic wildlife species include the foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*), aquatic garter snake (*Thamnophis atratus*), and the aquatic phase of the rough-skinned newt (*Taricha granulosa granulosa*). Birds present include the American dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*), common merganser (*Mergus merganser*), and belted kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*). Many mammals in the surrounding upland habitats use the riverine areas, including raccoon, gray fox, black-tailed deer, and many bat species.

**Urban** Urban habitat consists of various human-made features scattered throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area, including resorts and a portion of the visitor center complex at Shasta Dam. These features are typically a combination of buildings, pavement areas with manicured landscaping, and lawns. The wildlife species most often associated with urban areas are those that are most tolerant of periodic human disturbances, including several introduced species, such as European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock dove (*Columba livia*), and house mouse (*Mus musculus*). Native species that are able to use these habitats include the western fence lizard, American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), mourning dove, house finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), California ground squirrel, black-tailed hare, and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). In addition,

bats that forage in nearby habitats may make use of small cavities around the eaves of structures.

#### Upper Sacramento River (Shasta Dam to Red Bluff)

Important wildlife habitat is found throughout the upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area, and large contiguous blocks that contain multiple habitat types have the potential to support the highest wildlife diversity and abundance. Overall, the quantity and variety of wildlife species now inhabiting the area have been reduced since agricultural and residential development permanently removed much of the native and natural habitat. Most affected have been wildlife species associated with riparian habitats, which have declined substantially and been highly altered by land use, water resources development, and land management practices. Wildlife species associated with grassland and oak woodland habitats have also been affected by habitat loss resulting from habitat conversions to residential, commercial, and agricultural uses; cattle grazing; and other compounding factors, such as lack of oak regeneration, spread of Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, and competition from invasive species. The region also supports a variety of nonnative plant and animal species, some of which are detrimental to survival of native species.

Habitats present in this portion of the primary study area are riparian woodland, riparian scrub, oak woodland, chaparral, annual grassland, agriculture, and urban. (See the *Wildlife Resources Technical Report* for a description of the plant and wildlife species typical of these habitats.) Riparian habitat has been designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a sensitive habitat in California because of its limited abundance and high value to wildlife.

#### Lower Sacramento River and Delta

The roughly 300 miles of the Sacramento River can be subdivided into distinct reaches. The reaches in the lower Sacramento River and Delta portion of the extended study area are discussed separately below because of differences in morphology, riparian vegetation, and habitat functions.

Sacramento River from Red Bluff Pumping Plant to the Delta Most habitat types and many of the wildlife species found in the upper Sacramento River portion of the primary study area have the potential to occur in the Central Valley portion of the extended study area, with additional species occurring in upland and foothill areas. The segment of the extended study area between Red Bluff Pumping Plant and the Delta includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats – floodplains, basins, terraces, active and remnant channels, and oxbow sloughs. The variety and availability of habitats along the middle Sacramento River support a wide range of wildlife species: a variety of resident and migratory waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds, plus a variety of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles that inhabit both aquatic and upland habitats.

**Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta** Delta wetlands are considered to be among the most productive wildlife habitats in California. These wetlands consist of permanent saline, brackish, and freshwater marshes; seasonal freshwater wetlands; open water; tidal and nontidal marshes, and emergent wetlands; and seasonally flooded agricultural cropland, such as rice fields (CALFED 2000a). (See the *Wildlife Resources Technical Report* for a discussion of the plant and wildlife species typical of Delta wetlands.)

San Joaquin River Basin to the Delta Most habitat types and many of the wildlife species described above for the Sacramento River corridor have the potential to occur in the Central Valley portion of the extended study area, with additional species occurring in upland and foothill areas. The current wildlife habitat value of this area is somewhat limited by the predominance of agricultural lands, which support a relatively low diversity of wildlife species. However, the orchards, row and field crops, and fallow fields can be used by a number of common species, and fallow fields and some crops (e.g., wheat and barley) can support a variety of small mammals and provide high-quality foraging habitat for many species of raptors. More importantly, remnant native vegetation patches are likely to support a high diversity of wildlife species.

#### CVP/SWP Service Areas

The CVP and SWP service areas contain a large diversity of both lowland and upland habitats and species, although agricultural and urban growth has reduced the area and connectivity of important habitats that are critical to sustaining a wide variety of unique plants and animals (CALFED 2000a). The agricultural land and urban development that dominate the CVP and SWP service areas, respectively, can support many wildlife species, most of which are highly adapted to these disturbed environments.

#### 13.1.2 Special-Status Species

Special-status species addressed in this section include animals that are legally protected or are otherwise considered sensitive by Federal, State, or local resource conservation agencies and organizations. Specifically, these include species that are Federally listed and/or State-listed as rare, threatened, or endangered; those considered as candidates or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered; species identified by CDFW as fully protected or species of special concern; species identified by USFS as sensitive, or endemic; species identified by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as sensitive; species designated by the *Northwest Forest Plan* as survey and manage; other animals protected by the California Fish and Game Code; and those designated as Multi-Species Conservation Strategy (MSCS) covered species by the CALFED Bay-Delta Program (CALFED).

#### Shasta Lake and Vicinity

For the purposes of this evaluation, wildlife species of concern include species that are any of the following:

1 2	<ul> <li>Designated as threatened or endangered by the State or Federal government</li> </ul>
3	Proposed or petitioned for Federal listing as threatened or endangered
4	State or Federal candidates for listing as threatened or endangered
5	• Identified by CDFW as a species of special concern
6	<ul> <li>Considered sensitive or endemic by USFS</li> </ul>
7	<ul> <li>Considered sensitive by BLM</li> </ul>
8	<ul> <li>Considered survey and manage species by Northwest Forest Plan</li> </ul>
9	<ul> <li>Designated as MSCS-covered species by CALFED</li> </ul>
10 11 12 13 14	Special-status wildlife species with the potential to occur in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area were determined using several database searches; review of USFWS and CDFW special-status species lists for Shasta County; review of the CALFED MSCS list; review of other appropriate literature; discussions with BLM, CDFW, DWR, USFS, and USFWS personnel;
15	and professional experience in the area. All special-status wildlife species
16	potentially occurring in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary
17 18	study area are discussed in Attachment 1 of the <i>Wildlife Resources Technical Report</i> , which provides a general comparison of habitat requirements for each
19	species and the general habitats in the primary study area above Shasta Dam.
20	For those special-status species for which generally suitable habitat was
21	determined to be present, results from the various vegetation habitat mapping
22	and wildlife surveys conducted in the area by North State Resources, Inc. (NSR)
23	since 2002 were used to determine the likelihood of their presence in the
24	primary study area above Shasta Dam (Table 13-3).
25	The survey and manage species include species listed in the most current survey
26	and manage species list used by the Northwest Forest Plan Survey and Manage
27	Program. This list includes species from the annual review for survey and
28	manage species that was completed in compliance with the 2001 record of
29	decision (ROD) for amendments to the survey and manage, protection buffer,
30	and other mitigation measures standards and guidelines. Compliance with this
31	ROD is conducted by completion of an annual species review and category
32	assignment. The current survey and manage species list is from the December
33	2003 annual status review and includes species included in <i>Survey and Manage</i>
34	Standards and Guidelines and Category Assignment of the 1994 ROD for the
35	Northwest Forest Plan. For the purposes of this evaluation, survey and manage
36 37	species of concern include taxa that are designated as Category A and C by the
38	current category assignment. These categories include taxa that require what are
20	known as predisturbance (i.e., preproject) surveys.

The CNDDB was reviewed for records of special-status plant species in or near the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. The CNDDB is a database consisting of historical observations of special-status plant species, wildlife species, and natural communities. The CNDDB is limited to reported sightings and is not a comprehensive list of special-status species that could occur in a particular area.

### 7 Table 13-3. Wildlife Species of Concern in the Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of the Primary Study Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status <sup>1</sup>	Potential for Occurrence
Shasta sideband	Monadenia troglodytes troglodytes	FP, USFS S, S&M, MSCS m	Endemic to Shasta County. Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and woodland habitats, especially near limestone. Species occurs in limestone on the McCloud Arm.
Wintu sideband	Monadenia troglodytes wintu	FP, USFS S, S&M	Endemic to Shasta County. Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and woodland habitats, especially near limestone. Known to occur between the Pit and Squaw Creek arms and at Mountain Gate.
Shasta chaparral	Trilobopsis roperi	FP, USFS S, S&M	Endemic to Shasta County. Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitats. Known occurrences in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the study area.
Shasta hesperian	Vespericola shasta	FP, USFS S, S&M	Endemic to the southeastern Klamath Mountains. Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitats (riparian and/or riverine habitats). Known occurrences in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the study area.
Shasta salamander	Hydromantes shastae	CT, USFS S, S&M, MSCS m, BLMS	Only known from the southeastern Klamath Mountains. Potentially occurring in mixed conifer, woodland, and chaparral habitats, especially near limestone. Known occurrences in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the study area.
Tailed frog	Ascaphus truei	CSC	Potentially occurring in stream habitats in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the study area. Known occurrences in the McCloud Arm and the upper Sacramento Arm tributaries outside the study area boundaries (CDFG 2003).
California red-legged frog	Rana draytonii	FT, CSC, MSCS m	Requires aquatic habitat for breeding; also uses a variety of other habitat types, including riparian and upland areas. The Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the study area is outside the current species range. A USFWS habitat assessment is in preparation to determine habitat suitability.
Foothill yellow- legged frog	Rana boylii	CSC, USFS S, MSCS m, BLMS	Potentially occurring in stream habitats. Known occurrences scattered throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.

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## Table 13-3. Wildlife Species of Concern in the Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of the Primary Study Area (contd.)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Potential for Occurrence
Western pond turtle	Actinemys marmorata	CSC, USFS S, MSCS m	Potentially occurring in stream or other wetland habitats. Adjacent upland habitats are potential nesting areas. Known occurrences scattered throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
Great blue heron	Ardea herodias	MSCS m	Known to breed in nearshore wooded habitat in the Turntable Bay area of Shasta Lake.
Cooper's hawk	Accipiter cooperi	MSCS m	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitats.
Northern goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	CSC, USFS S, BLMS	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer habitats. Known to occur in the upper McCloud Arm.
Bald eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	FD, FB, CE, CP, USFS S, MSCS m, BLMS	Occur in riverine and lacustrine habitats. Common at Shasta Lake, and a substantial number of nests occur in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area and vicinity. Shasta Lake has the highest density of breeding bald eagles in the continental United States.
Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	MSCS m	Occur in riverine and lacustrine habitats. Common at Shasta Lake, and many known nests occur in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area and vicinity.
American peregrine falcon	Falco peregrinus anatum	FD, CD, CP, MSCS m	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitats. Nesting sites in the study area unlikely due to lack of suitable eyrie sites; however, potential eyrie sites occur adjacent to the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. A historical nest site occurs in the cliffs near Shasta Caverns and a "new" nest site is believed to occur in cliffs along the Sacramento Arm of Shasta Lake. Another nest site is located south of Shasta Lake at Gray Rocks, near Mountain Gate.
Long-eared owl	Asio otus	CSC, MSCS m	Potentially occurring in coniferous forest habitats.
Northern spotted owl	Strix occidentalis caurina	FT, MSCS m	Potentially occurring in coniferous forest habitats. The species has been recorded within 0.5 mile of the study area along the Squaw Creek Arm.
Vaux's swift	Chaetura vauxi	CSC	Potentially occurring in coniferous forest and conifer/woodland habitats. Known to occur in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the study area.
Willow flycatcher	Empidonax traillii	CE, USFS S, MSCS r	Uncommon migrant in riparian habitat; unlikely to nest in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.

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## Table 13-3. Wildlife Species of Concern in the Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of the Primary Study Area (contd.)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Potential for Occurrence
Purple martin	Progne subis	CSC	Potentially occurring in conifer, woodland, and riparian habitats. Foraging habitat occurs throughout Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. Nests along the Pit River Arm. Shasta Lake is one of the few known breeding sites in interior northern California.
Yellow warbler	Dendroica petechia brewsteri	CSC, MSCS r	Potentially occurring in riparian habitats. Known occurrences in and near the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
Yellow-breasted chat	Icteria virens	CSC, MSCS m	Potentially occurring in riparian habitats. Known occurrences in and near the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
Pallid bat	Antrozous pallidus	CSC, USFS S, BLMS	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitat throughout the study area.
Townsend's big- eared bat	Plecotus townsendii	CSC, USFS S	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitat throughout the study area. Known occurrence from a cave on the Backbone Arm in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
Spotted bat	Euderma maculatum	CSC, BLMS	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitat throughout the study area. Species has been recorded on Squaw Creek within approximately 6 miles of the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
Western red bat	Lasiurus blossevillii	USFS S	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitat throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
Long-eared myotis	Myotis evotis	BLMS	Potentially occurring in a wide variety of forest habitats throughout the study area.
Yuma myotis	Myotis yumanensis	BLMS	Potentially occurring in a wide variety of forest habitats throughout the study area.
Western mastiff bat	Eumops perotis	CSC, MSCS m*, BLMS *californicus subspecies only	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitat throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
Ringtail	Bassariscus astutus	CP, MSCS m	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitats. Known occurrences in and near the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.
American marten	Martes americana	USFS S	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer habitats.
Pacific fisher	Martes pennanti	FC, CSC, USFS S, BLMS	Potentially occurring in mixed conifer and conifer/woodland habitats. Known occurrences in and near the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area.

#### Table 13-3. Wildlife Species of Concern in the Shasta Lake and Vicinity Portion of 1 the Primary Study Area (contd.)

Note:

<sup>1</sup>Status Definitions

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BLMS = U.S. Bureau of Land Management sensitive

CD= California delisted

CE = California endangered

CP = California fully protected

CSC = California species of special concern

CT = California (State) listed as threatened

FB = Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

FC = Federal candidate for listing

FD = Federally delisted

FP = Federally petitioned for listing

FPD = Proposed for Federal delisting

FT = Federally listed as threatened

m = Maintain. Ensure that any adverse effects on the species that could be associated with implementation of CALFED Bay-Delta Program actions will be fully offset through implementation of actions beneficial to the species.

MSCS = Multi-Species Conservation Strategy covered species

r = Contribute to recovery. Implement some of the actions deemed necessary to recover species' populations in the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy focus area.

USFS M = U.S. Forest Service survey and manage species

USFS S = U.S. Forest Service sensitive

The life history of species known or potentially occurring in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area are described in detail in Attachment 2 of the Wildlife Resources Technical Report. Figures 13-3a through 13-3f depict the known locations of special-status wildlife species in the primary study area above Shasta Dam located during various surveys conducted by NSR and recent USFS records. Figures 13-4a through 13-4f depict the known locations of special-status terrestrial mollusks.

**Summary of Wildlife Investigations** Because wildlife studies are ongoing,

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Shasta Salamander Surveys Reclamation has conducted three survey efforts for Shasta salamander in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. These include survey efforts during 2003 and 2006 to 2007 along selected portions of the Shasta Lake shoreline and current efforts initiated in 2010 at the relocation areas. Additionally, several other Shasta salamander locations have been found incidentally during other biological survey tasks throughout the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area. Shasta salamanders have been found at 38 locations. These findings and other known locations show that this species occurs in all arms of Shasta Lake in both limestone and nonlimestone habitats (Figures 13-3a through 13-3f).

**Bald Eagle/Osprey Surveys** Reclamation mapped all known bald eagle and osprey nests in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area in 2007 and 2010. Additional data, including diameter of nest trees, nest tree height, nest height, proximity to the high-water mark, surrounding vegetation, and shoreline erosion rating, were recorded for the bald eagle nests. Twenty-eight bald eagle nests and 54 osprey nests were located (Figures 13-3a through 13-3f). Reclamation is currently working with USFS to update this data set, because several bald eagle nesting pairs are no longer active and/or have moved to new locations.

Neotropical Migrant Bird Surveys Reclamation conducted a breeding bird survey in the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area in 2007. Additionally, focused surveys for purple martins and an analysis of purple martin habitat at Shasta Lake were conducted. These surveys provided information on use of the Shasta Lake and vicinity portion of the primary study area by breeding birds, including breeding neotropical migrant species. Sixty-seven bird species were detected during these surveys, including 38 neotropical migrant species.

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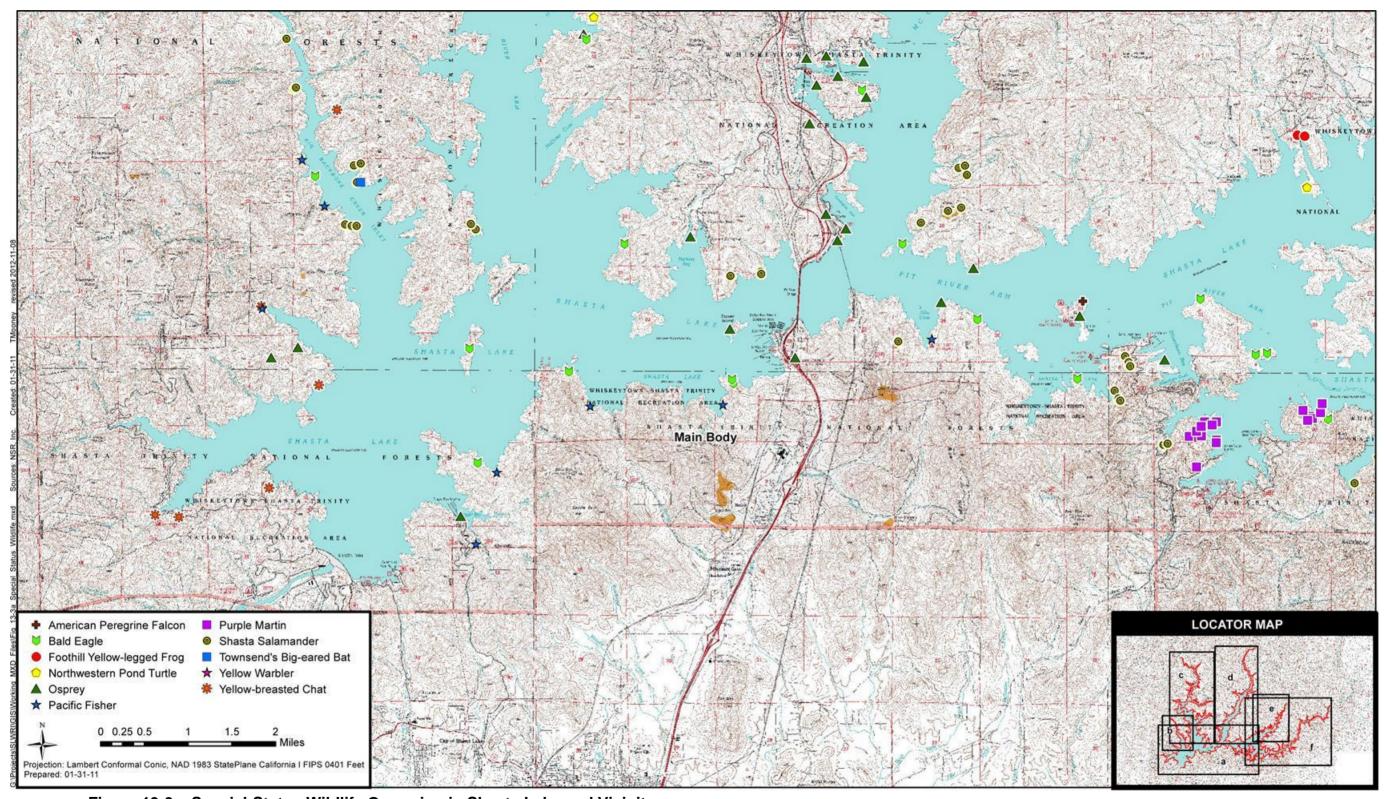


Figure 13-3a. Special-Status Wildlife Occurring in Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Figure 13-3b. Special-Status Wildlife Occurring in Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Figure 13-3c. Special-Status Wildlife Occurring in Shasta Lake and Vicinity

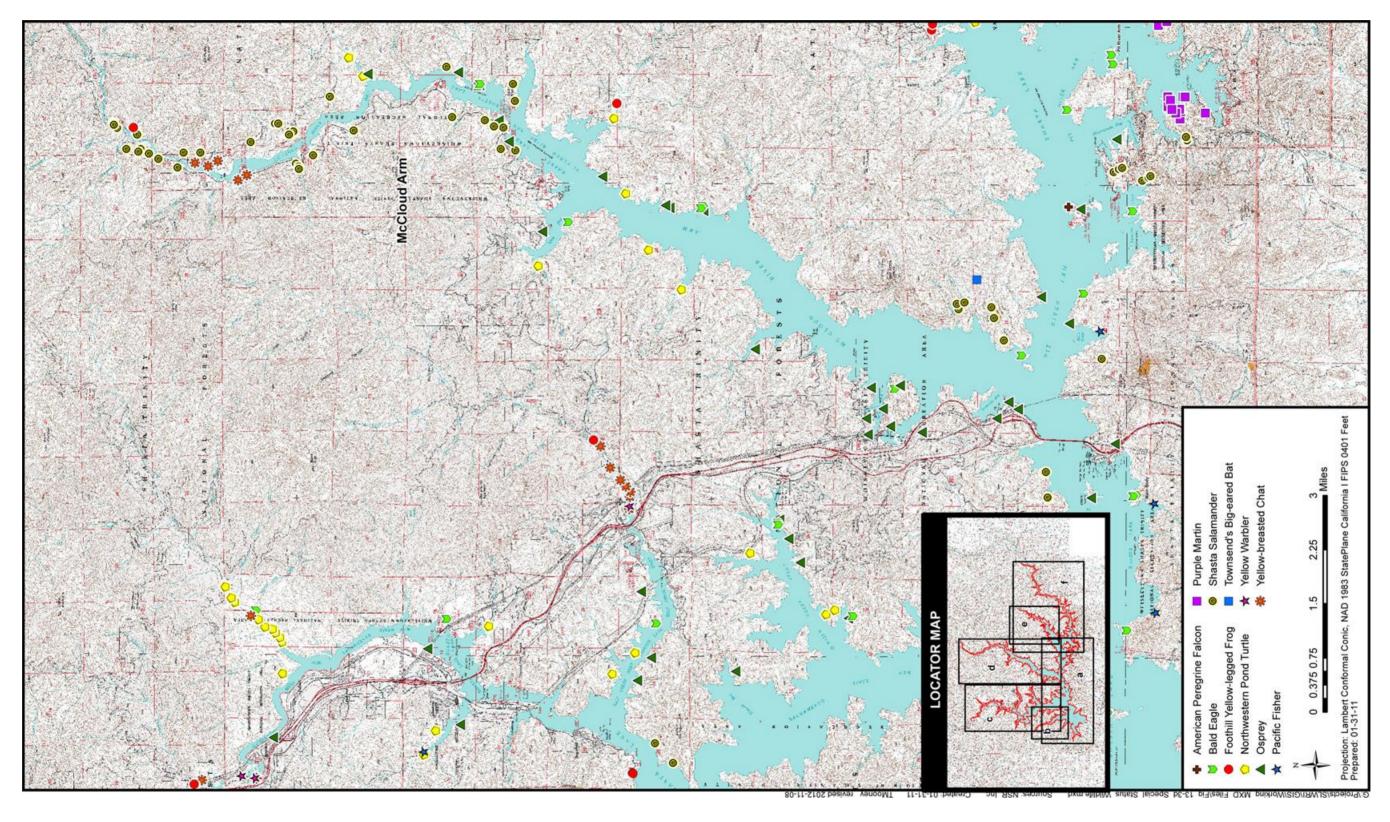


Figure 13-3d. Special-Status Wildlife Occurring in Shasta Lake and Vicinity

Figure 13-3e. Special-Status Wildlife Occurring in Shasta Lake and Vicinity