

Collaborative Regional Advance Mitigation Planning (RAMP) by California's Largest Infrastructure Agencies

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Natasha Nelson, DWR

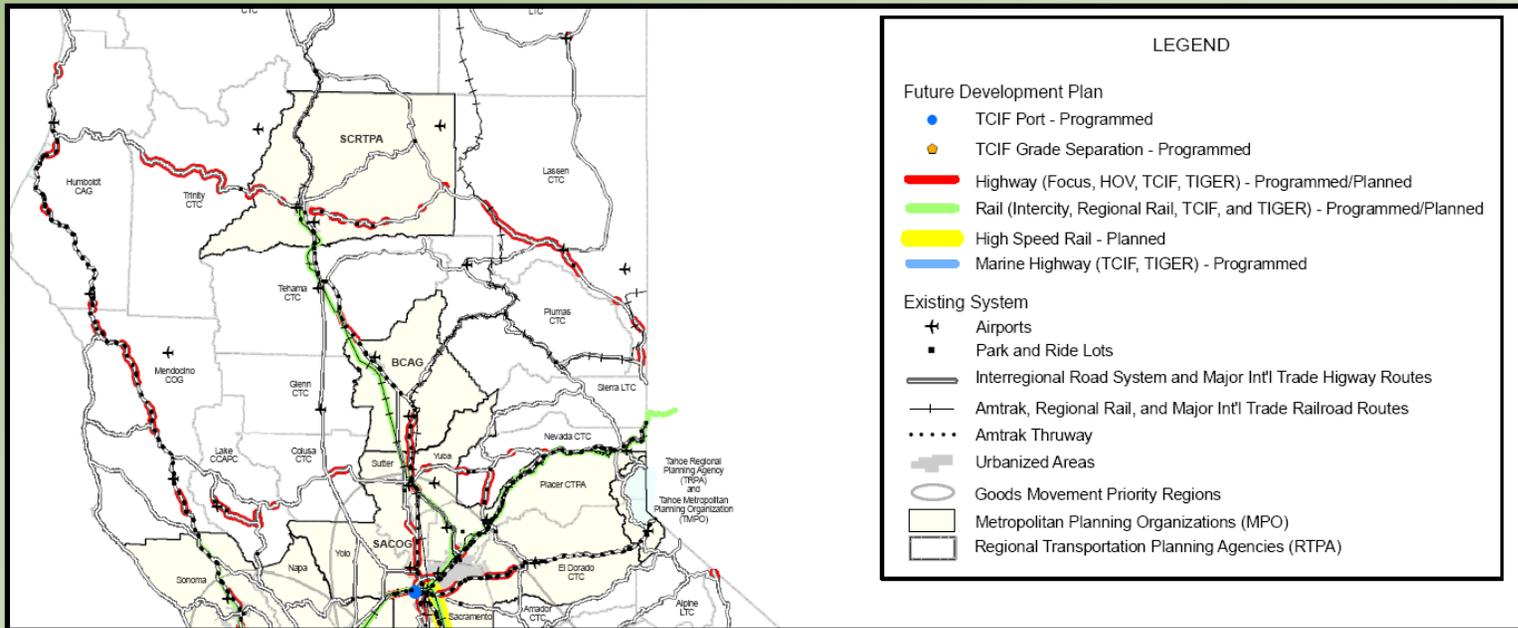
Main Collaborators and RAMP Work Group

- Vance Howard, Susan Sanders, John Hunter, Elizabeth Boyd, AECOM
- Debra Bishop, HTH
- Andrea Williams, Stephen Kent, Marilee Mortenson, Carolyn Brown, Caltrans
- Marc Hoshovsky, Dale Hoffman-Floerke, Gail Newton, DWR
- Clifton Meek, USEPA
- Liz O'Donoghue, Dick Cameron, TNC
- Roberta Gerson, USFWS
- Helen Birss, Brenda Johnson, Monica Parisi, Tina Bartlett, DFG
- Patrick Huber and Jim Thorne, UC Davis
- Chris Beale, Resources Law Group
- Mike Nepstad, USACE
- + 20 others

The I-Phone moment

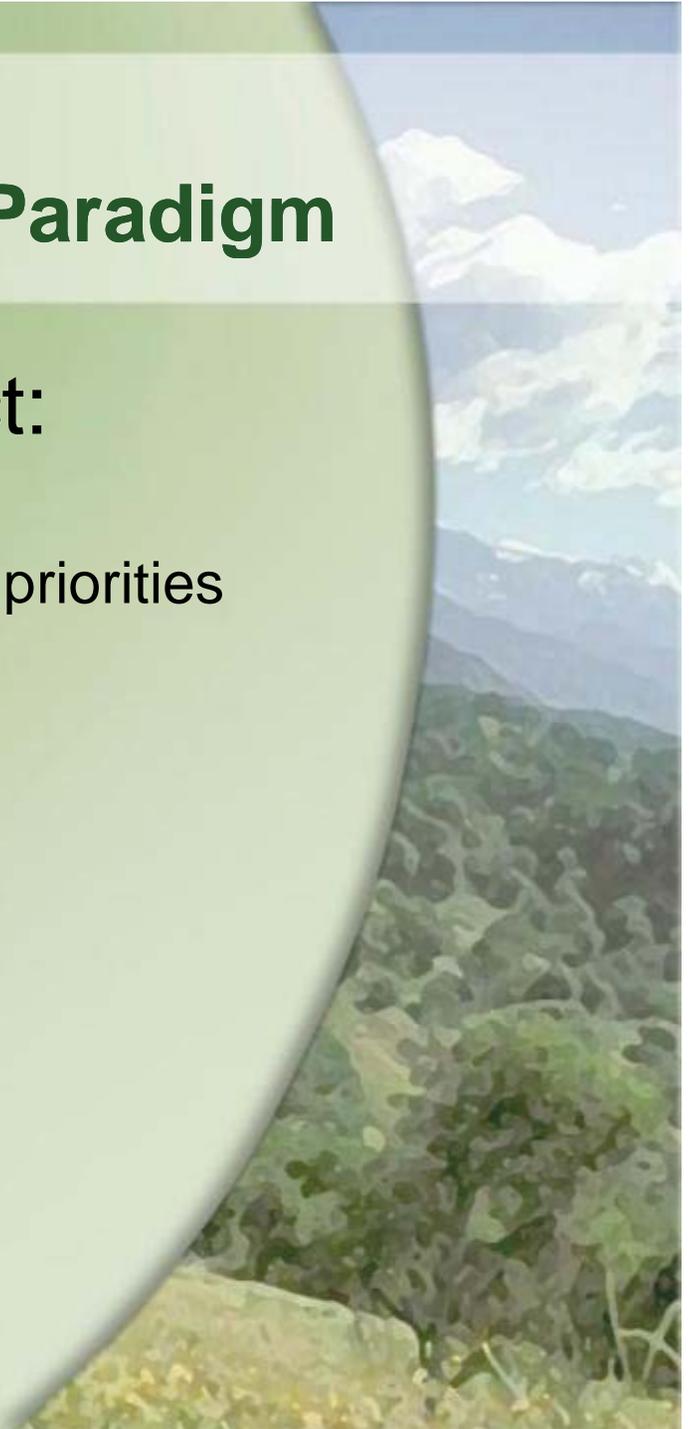


Infrastructure Projects using Prop. 1E and 1B \$



Adopting a Better Mitigation Paradigm

- **Traditional Project-by-Project:**
 - Little planning a landscape level
 - Disconnect from regional conservation priorities
 - Postage stamp protection
 - Lost opportunities due to conversion
- **A solution: regional advance mitigation planning**



Regional Scale Approach

Infrastructure Benefits:

- Fosters coordination
- Promotes planning in advance
- Expedites project delivery
- More cost effective

Healthy Ecosystems:

- Promotes connectivity between sites for species
- Can maximize size of patches and interior
- Creates mosaics of habitats



Levels of Monitoring and Planning



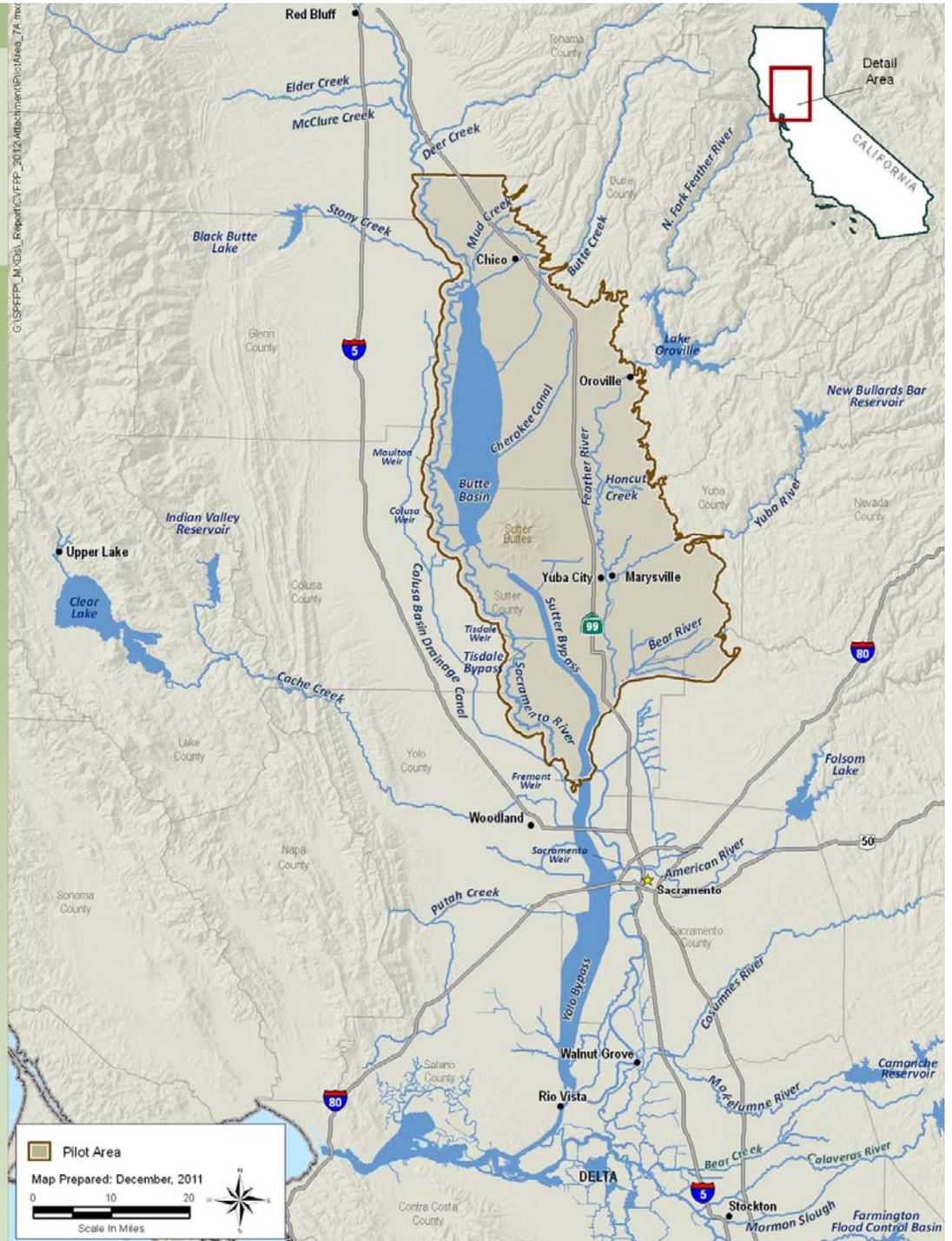
SFEI, 2012

RAMP Documents

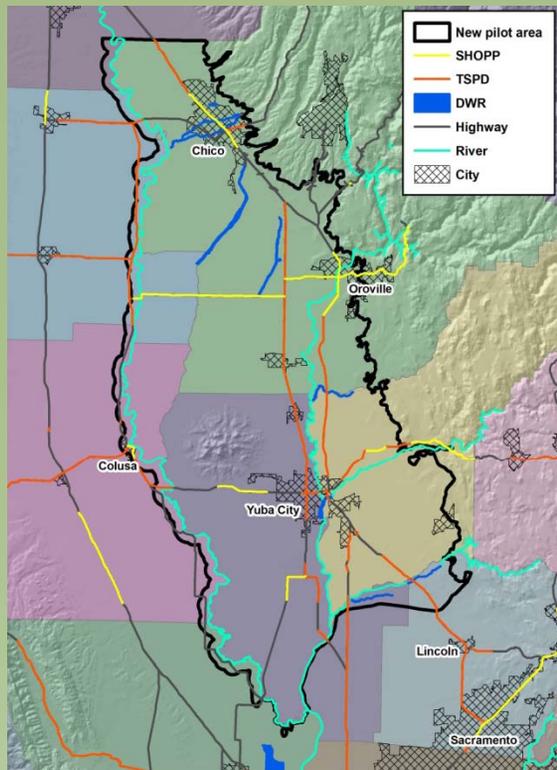
1. Regional Assessment
2. Action Plan
3. Site Plan

RAMP Pilot Area

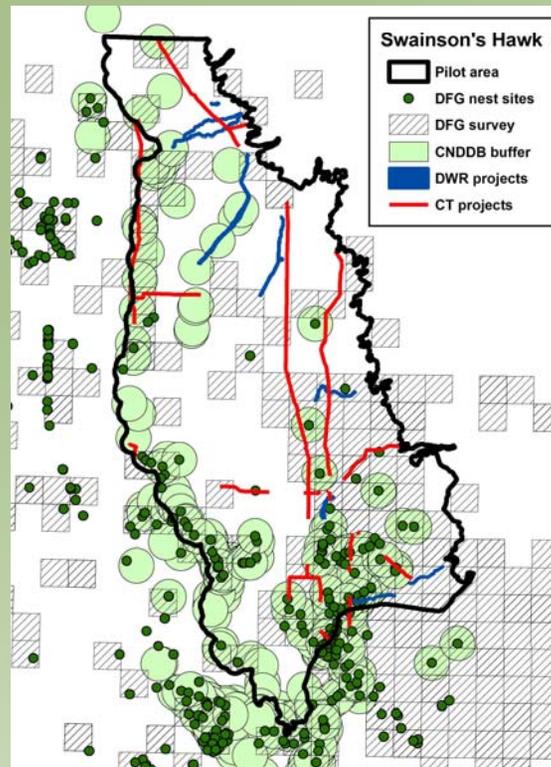
- 1,500 square miles
- Contains all of Sutter Bypass and Butte Basin
- Selected for:
 - Number of infrastructure projects
 - Number of known conservation plans
 - Support of local entities



RAMP Methods to Quantify Impacts (Level 1)



Map planned infrastructure projects

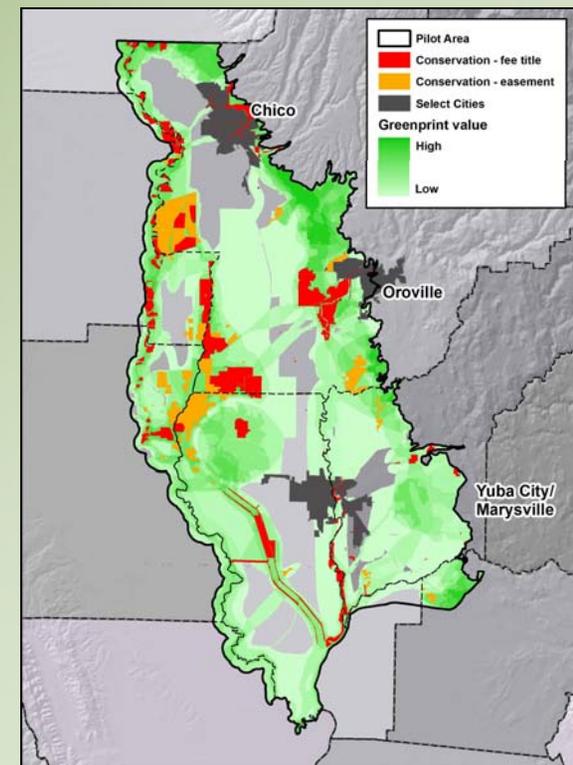


Map resources that may need mitigation due to potential impacts



Locating Mitigation in “Greenprint” (Level 1)

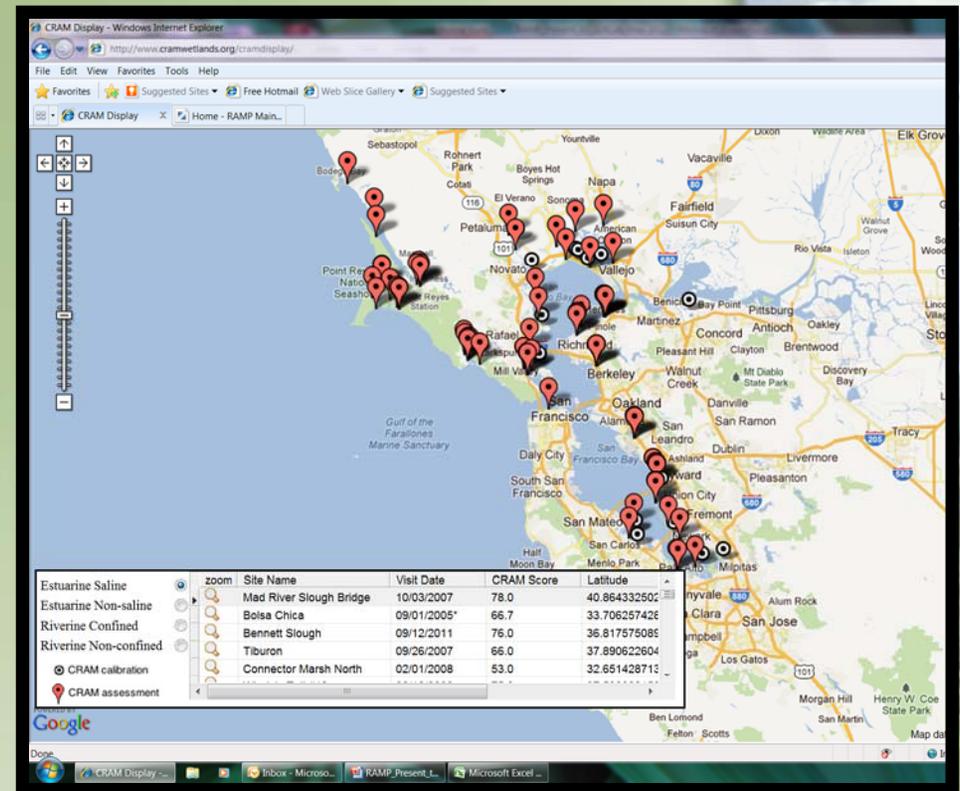
| Planning Agencies | Data Type |
|------------------------|---|
| DFG | ACE II; LAE; CAPP |
| USFWS | Vernal Pool Core Areas; Butte County Meadow Foam |
| CEHC | Ca. Essential Habitat Connectivity Report |
| Placer County | HCP/NCCP Acquisition Areas |
| The Nature Conservancy | Sac. River Project; Ecoregional Priorities |
| CRCC | Ca. Rangeland Cons. Coalition areas of high biological resources |
| Audubon Society | Important Bird Areas |
| Huber, UC Davis | Core conservation areas |



Supply

Restoration Science in “Action Plans” (Level 2)

- “Losses”
 - Planned projects have an evaluation – for quality
- “Gains”
 - Rapid Assessment of Conditions at mitigation site(s)
 - CRAM
 - Species presence/absence on a site(s)



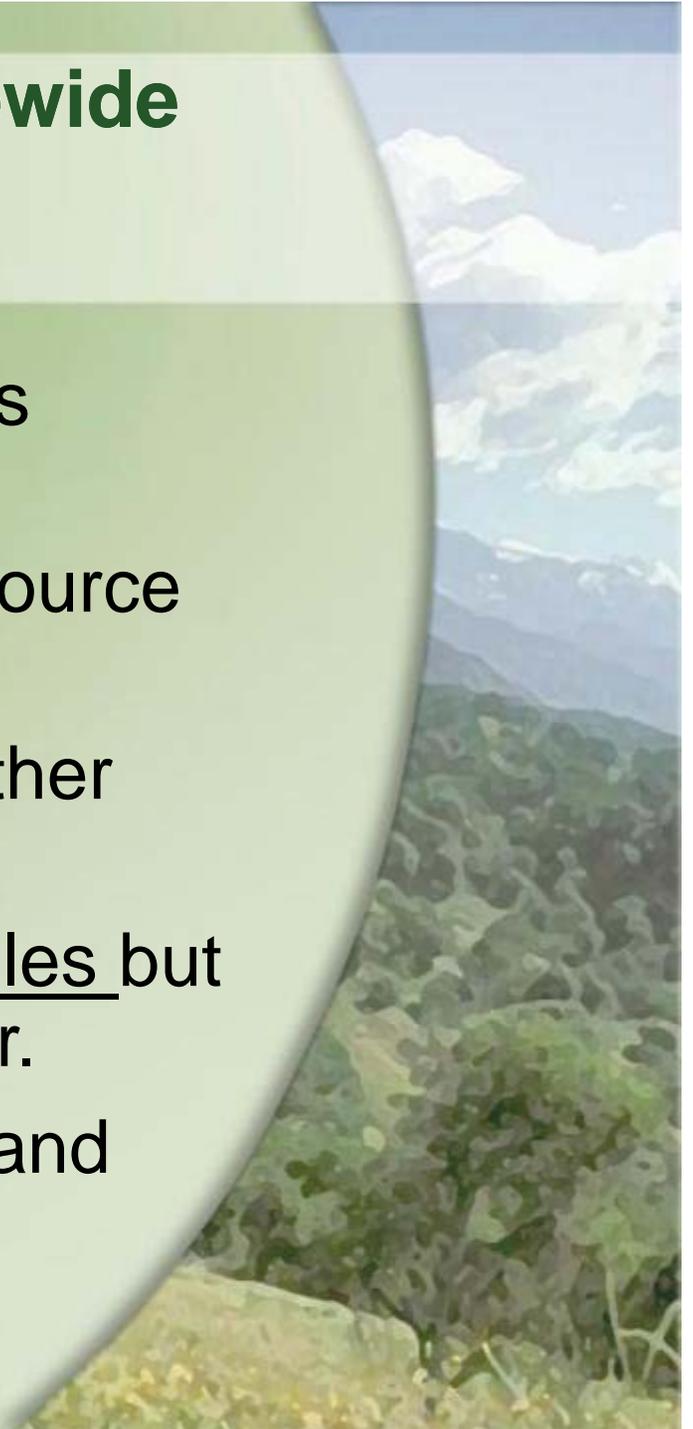
Restoration Science at RAMP Sites (Level 3)

- Techniques for Restoration
 - Planting techniques for specific species
 - Machines and equipment that are efficient
- Techniques for Land Management
 - Grazing regimes
 - Invasive weed control



Implementation: Caltrans' Statewide Advance Mitigation Initiative (SAMI) Program

- Statewide offsite-mitigation needs program
- Collaborative leadership with resource agencies
- Leverage RAMP solutions and other programs
- Comply with current mitigation rules but on a large and integrated manner.
- Provide transparency on credits and costs



RAMP Progress to Date

- Two MOUs signed (Statewide RAMP and SAMI)
- Draft Statewide Framework nearly complete
- Central Sacramento Valley pilot underway
- State legislation developed
- Implementation opportunities



RAMP Challenges and Take Aways



Contacts and Information

- <https://rampcalifornia.water.ca.gov>
- Thorne, J. H., P. R. Huber, E. H. Girvetz, J. Quinn, and M. C. McCoy. 2009. Integration of regional mitigation assessment and conservation planning. *Ecology and Society* **14(1): 47.**

www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss1/art47/

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