ATTACHMENT C

The text that follows herein is the Final Report, entitled "Identifying Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas in California: Pilot Implementation," by B. Todd and J. P. Rose, July 2012. The entire 114 pp. report can be viewed also at the following link:

https://dl.dropbox.com/u/4125587/California%20PARCA%20report%20no%Apdx.pdf

Identifying Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas in California: Pilot Implementation

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with additional GIS support from Stacie Hooper and Kristi Fien California Department of Fish & Game

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Background and Methods

The purpose of this project was to preliminarily identify Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas (PARCAs) using the suggested criteria set forth in Sutherland and deMaynadier (2012), developed in collaboration with Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. Our goal here was to focus on those species, subspecies, and designated populations recognized by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as Species of Special Concern, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, listed on the Special Animals list, or otherwise recognized as imperiled. In this project, we use expert-drawn range maps, known occurrences, and quantitative information on landscape viability to highlight first-pass areas that can serve to inform the identification and implementation of PARCAs in California. Our analysis should be viewed only as a pilot study; PARCA designation will require additional input and validation from experts in private, academic, and public sectors, including biologists with CDFG. Additionally, as discussed in the concluding sections of this document, full implementation of a PARCA system in California will require additional high-quality data and may also necessitate some deviation from the suggested PARCA implementation guidelines (see Sutherland and deMaynadier 2012 for criteria).

We used the same taxonomy recently used in the revision to California's list of Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern (Table 1), which generally uses the phylogenetic species concept and recognizes distinct species, subspecies, and designated populations that may receive different regulatory or legal recognition and protection by state or federal agencies, statutes, or laws. To conduct our analyses, we obtained species' legal or regulatory statuses from CDFG and the US Fish and Wildlife Service and imperilment rankings from NatureServe and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). We obtained expert-drawn range maps in the form of GIS shapefiles from the CDFG Biogeographic Data Branch. Each range map was created by CDFG personnel and collaborators using species occurrence data and known associations with wildlife habitat as part of the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (see http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/ for more information). When range maps were not available for newly described species, subspecies, or to reflect distinct populations with different regulatory status, we modified those maps obtained from CDFG or created new ones using occurrence data, published studies, and habitat/ecoregion relationships.

To incorporate landscape viability as described in the PARCA implementation guidelines (Sutherland and deMaynadier 2012), we used the natural landscapes land-use metric and associated GIS shapefiles developed by Theobald (2010). Briefly, the natural landscapes (NL) metric evaluates the degree of human modification of native natural land cover due to factors that include agriculture, urban development, residential land use, and roadways or road networks (see Theobald 2010 for more information). The NL data layer provides information at the resolution of a 270-m cell. The NL metric is calculated by first quantifying the proportion of natural cover at seven scales using circular neighborhoods of 0.07, 0.58, 5.90, 51.7, 478, 4,186, and 38,972 km². The NL value for each 270 m cell is then determined by finding the mean value across all scales (Theobold 2010). It is a

proportional value ranging from 0 to 1. Although not entirely equivalent, a value of 0.5 can be roughly interpreted as representing a cell with 50% landscape viability that reflects the degree of intact natural landscape within the cell as well as in nearby cells. See Theobald 2010 for complete discussion.

For each taxon, we identify whether it meets PARCA Criteria 2 (federally listed or globally imperiled), Criteria 3 (state listed or state imperiled), or Criteria 4 (Species of Special Concern or Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified by the state).

For PARCA Criteria 2 and 3, we provide a map for each taxon that meets these criteria. Each map outlines the species' distribution, shows historical and modern occurrences, and is overlaid on the natural landscape habitat layer. Occurrence data were obtained from published papers, the California Natural Diversity Database maintained by CDFG, and from HerpNet (http://www.herpnet.org/) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (http://www.gbif.org/).

For Criteria 4, we highlight and shade all areas where two or more Criteria 4 species overlap in distribution within the state. We have drawn potential PARCAs where modern occurrence data suggest that the species still currently overlap and presently occur, and where the landscape meets or exceeds the 50% landscape viability criteria outlined in Criteria 1.

For Criteria 5, we provide an overview of total herpetofaunal richness on an ecoregion basis. Species distributions were converted to rasters with a 1 km resolution. We have drawn a single potential PARCA where richness is greatest in each ecoregion, except in some regions where multiple areas have equivalent richness. Additionally, we ensured that each area selected for potential PARCA designation met or exceeded the 50% landscape viability criteria outlined in Criteria 1.

Results

Table 2 lists all amphibian and reptile species, subspecies, or designated populations that meet criteria to be considered for PARCA implementation. The table is sorted first according to the highest PARCA Criterion each taxon meets and then alphabetically by species binomen. It also includes forthcoming additions to the revised Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern list, which will result in the addition of some species, subspecies, or designated populations to the CDFG Special Animals list. Table 2 also identifies the total areal distribution of each of the taxa on the list, as well as the amount of area required to meet strict implementation of Criteria 2-4.

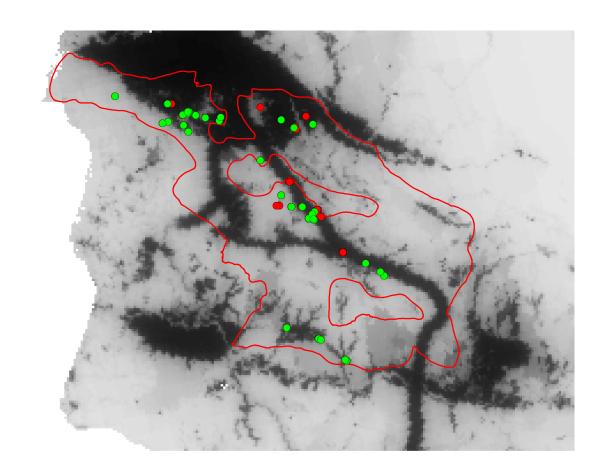
Criteria 2 and 3

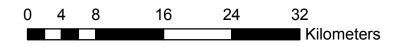
On the following 72 pages, we have created a map for each species, subspecies, or designated population that meets Criteria 2 or 3 (see Table 2 for list). Each map identifies the species in question, depicts the range of the species, and displays historical and modern occurrences for this species. These are overlaid on a natural landscape layer used to identify high quality, intact habitat versus that which has been converted or degraded. Challenges and potential obstacles to the strict implementation of PARCAs as described in Criteria 2 and 3 are discussed at the end of this document in the section titled Challenges to PARCA Implementation.

Santa Barbara Tiger Salamander Ambystoma californiense "Santa Barbara"

N N

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



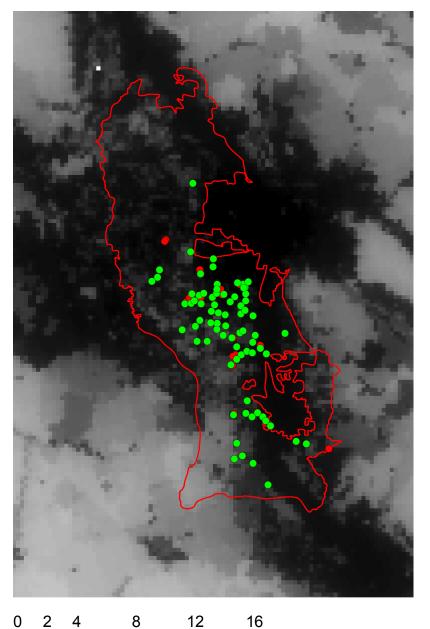


Natural Landscape Value

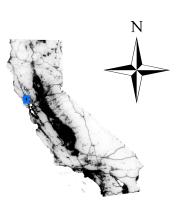


Sonoma Tiger Salamander Ambystoma californiense "Sonoma"

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



■ Kilometers



Natural Landscape Value

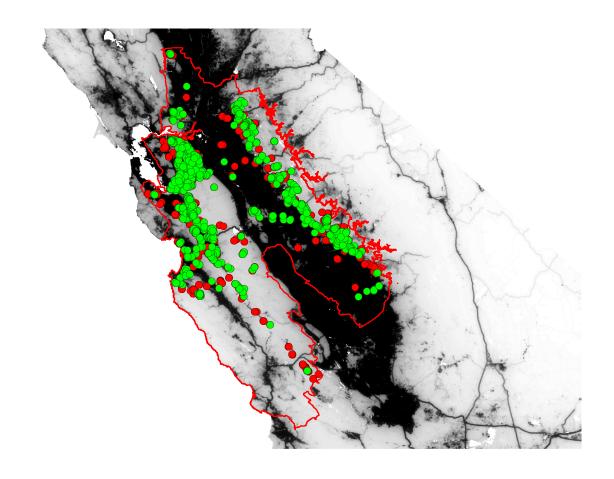
High: 1

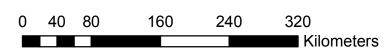
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California Tiger Salamander Ambystoma californiense

N

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





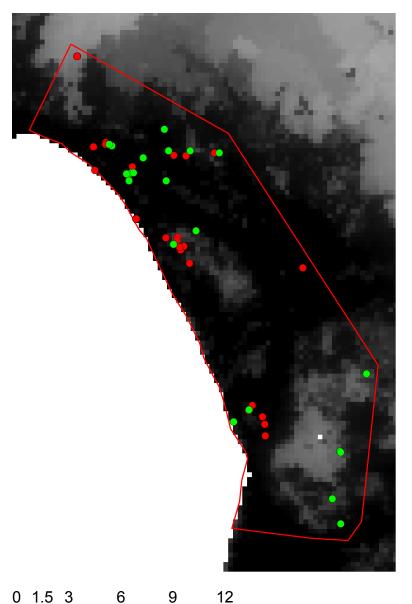
Natural Landscape Value



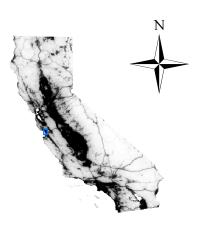
High: 1

Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



■ Kilometers



Natural Landscape Value

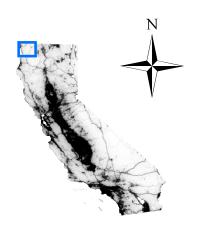
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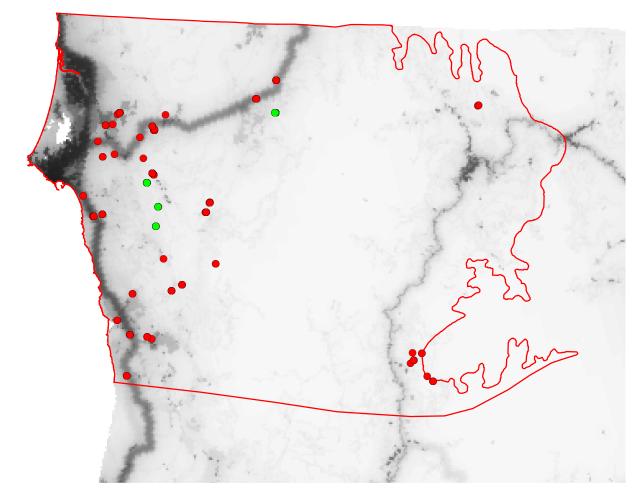
High: 1

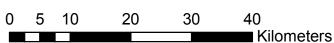
Low : 0

Clouded Salamander Aneides ferreus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





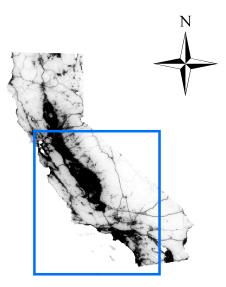


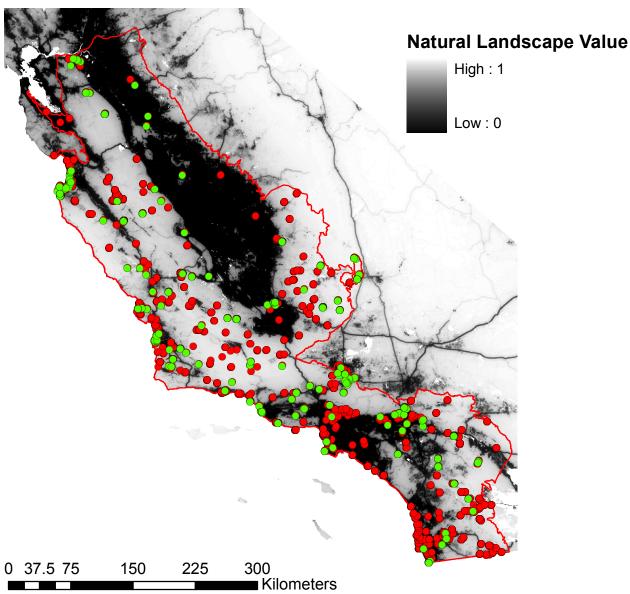
Natural Landscape Value



California Legless Lizard *Anniella pulchra*

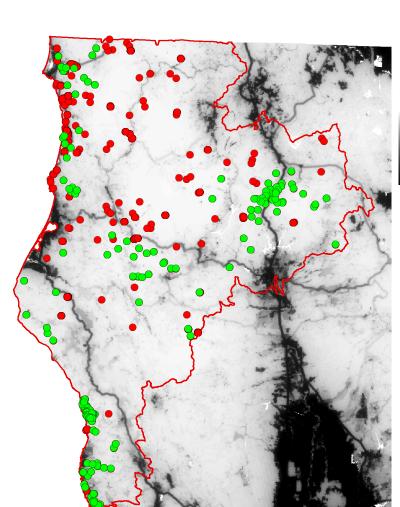
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





Coastal Tailed Frog Ascaphus truei

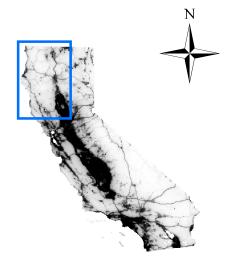
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



160

■ Kilometers

120



Natural Landscape Value



High: 1

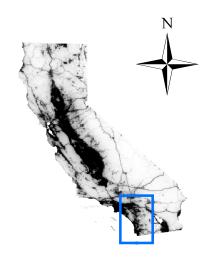
Low: 0

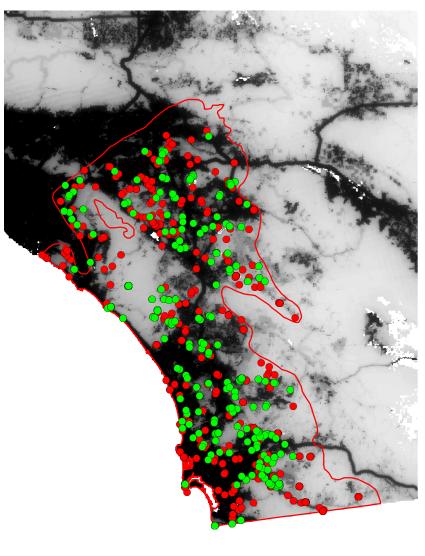
80

0 20 40

Orange-throated Whiptail Aspidoscelis hyperythra

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





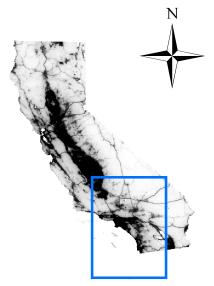
Natural Landscape Value

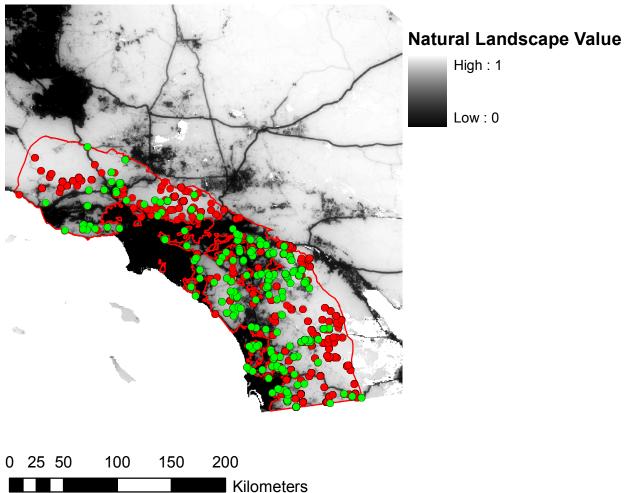
High: 1

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Coastal Whiptail Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri

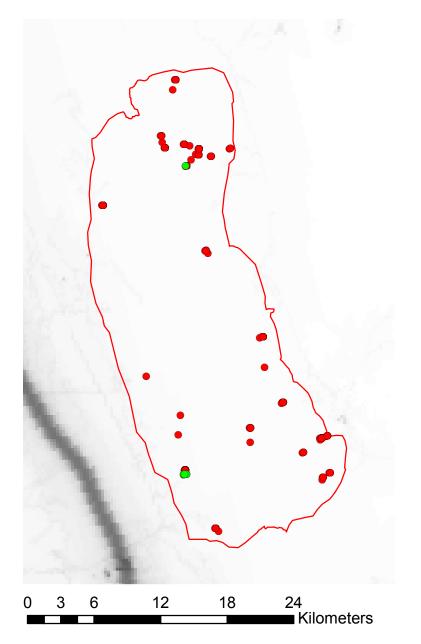
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

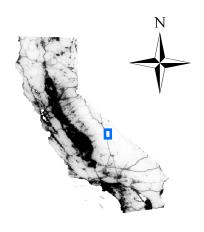




Inyo Mountains Salamander Batrachoseps campi

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



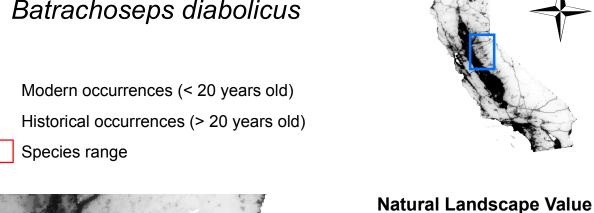


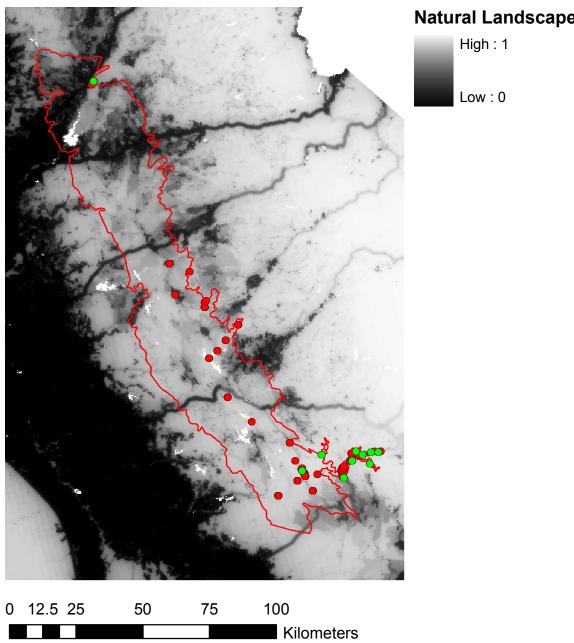
Natural Landscape Value



High: 1

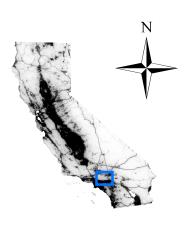
Hell Hollow Slender Salamander Batrachoseps diabolicus

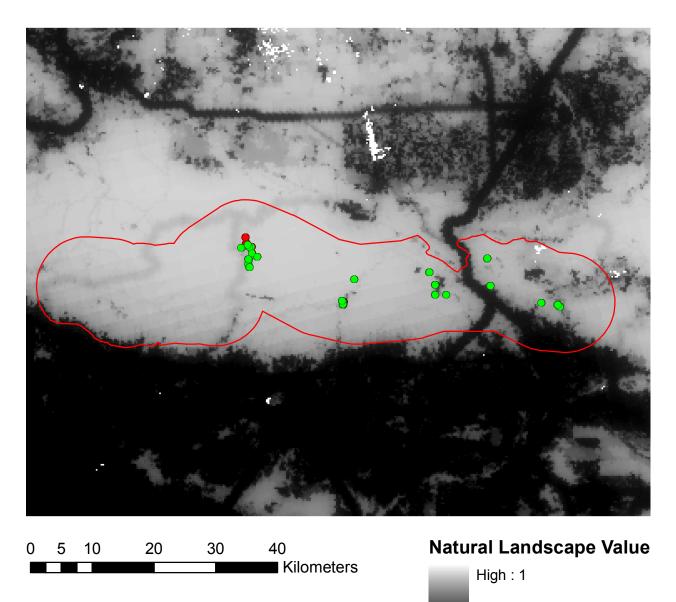




San Gabriel Mountains Slender Salamander Batrachoseps gabrieli

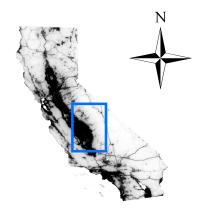
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

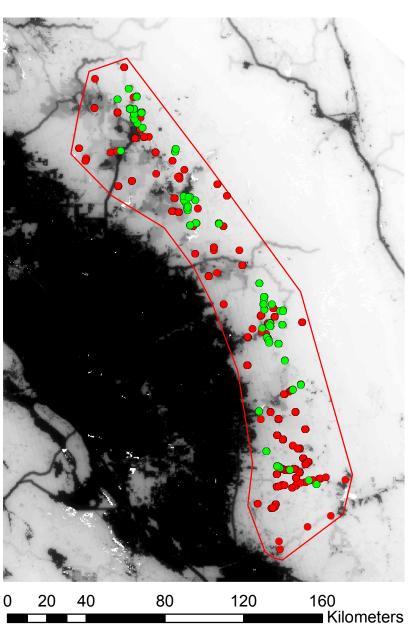




Gregarious Slender Salamander Batrachoseps gregarius

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



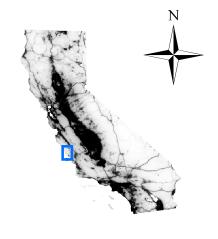


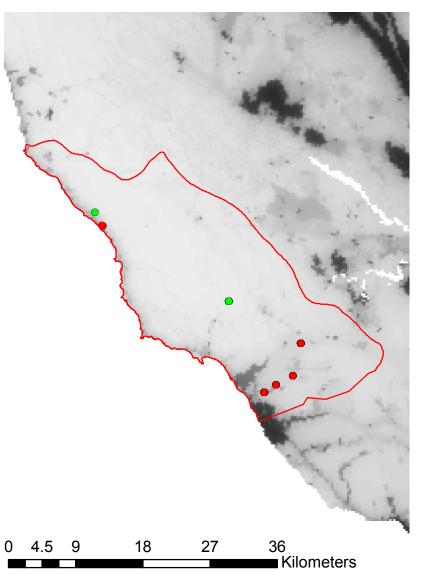
Natural Landscape Value

High: 1

San Simeon Slender Salamander Batrachoseps incognitus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





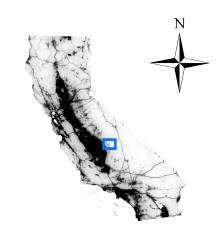
Natural Landscape Value

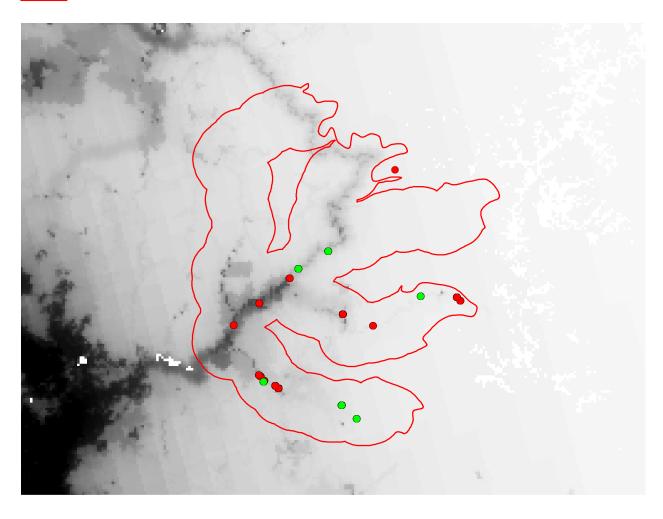
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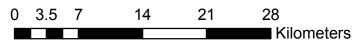
High: 1

Sequoia Slender Salamander Batrachoseps kawia

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





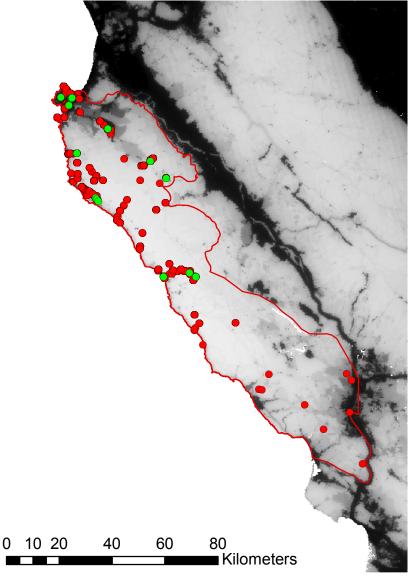




Santa Lucia Mountains Slender Salamander Batrachoseps luciae

N

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



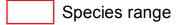
Natural Landscape Value

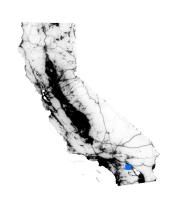
High: 1

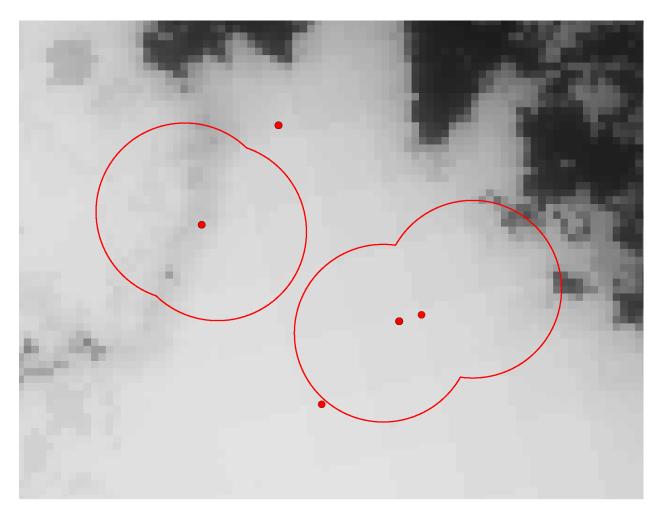
Low : 0

Desert Slender Salamander Batrachoseps major aridus

• Historical Occurrences (> 20 years old)







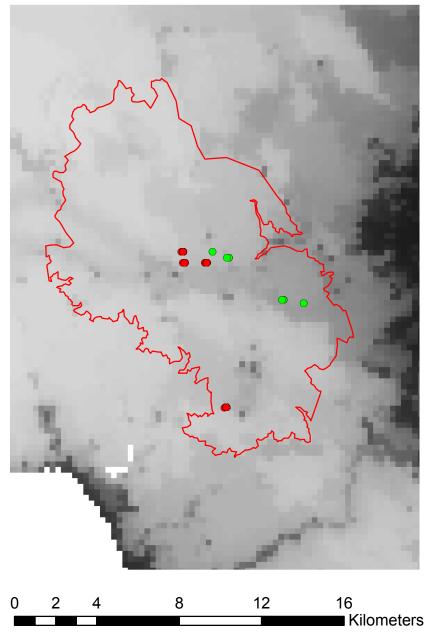


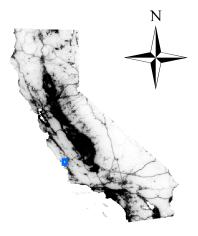
Natural Landscape Value



Lesser Slender Salamander Batrachoseps minor

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





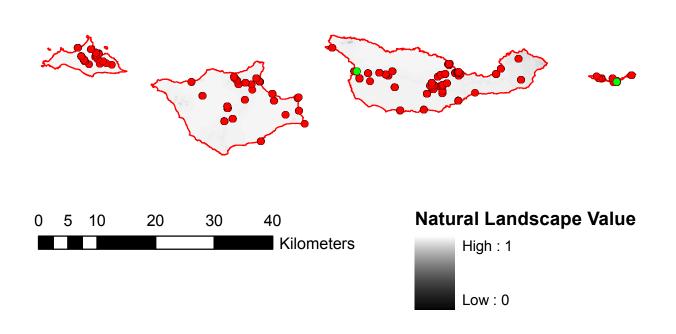
Natural Landscape Value

High : 1

Channel Islands Slender Salamander Batrachoseps pacificus

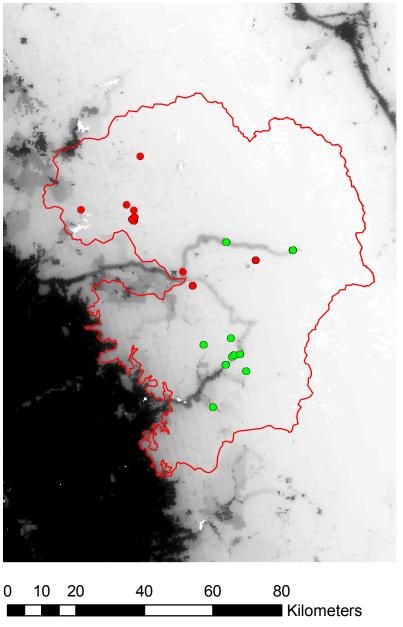
- N N
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences(> 20 years old)

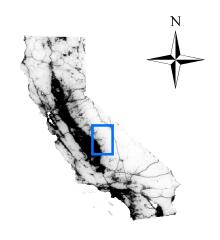
Species range



Kings River Slender Salamander Batrachoseps regius

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



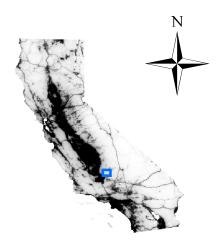


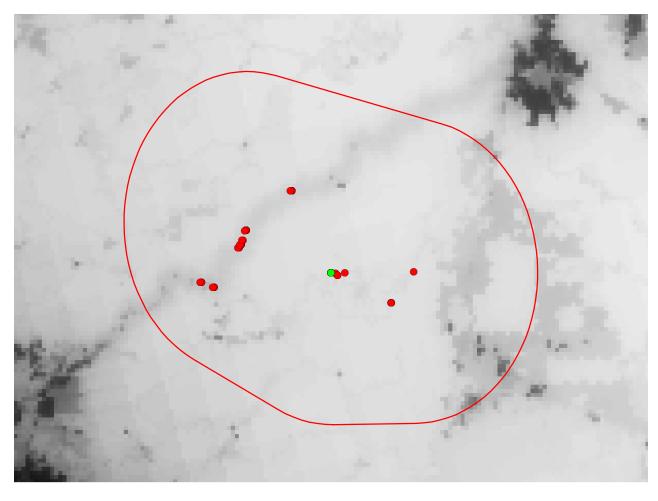


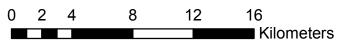


Relictual Slender Salamander Batrachoseps relictus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





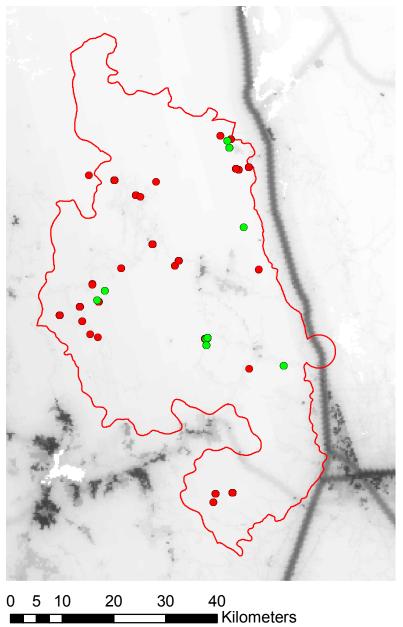


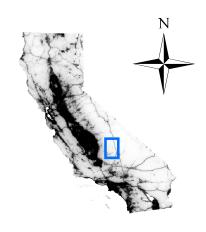
Natural Landscape Value High: 1

High : 1

Kern Plateau Salamander Batrachoseps robustus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



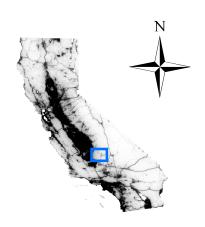


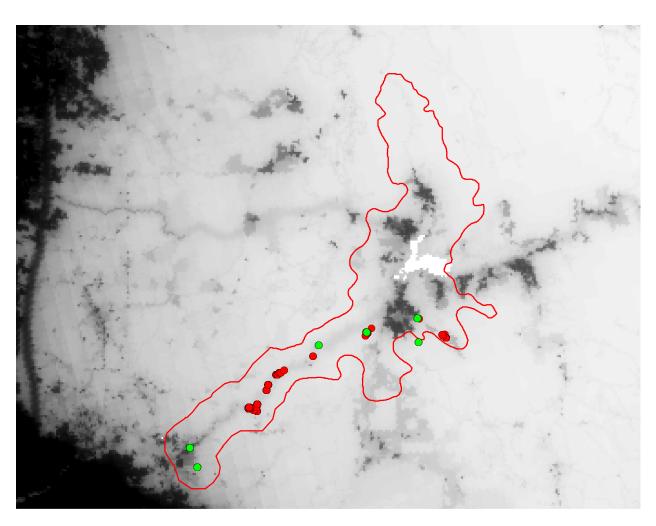
Natural Landscape Value

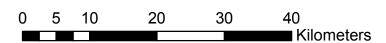
High: 1

Kern Canyon Slender Salamander Batrachoseps simatus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range







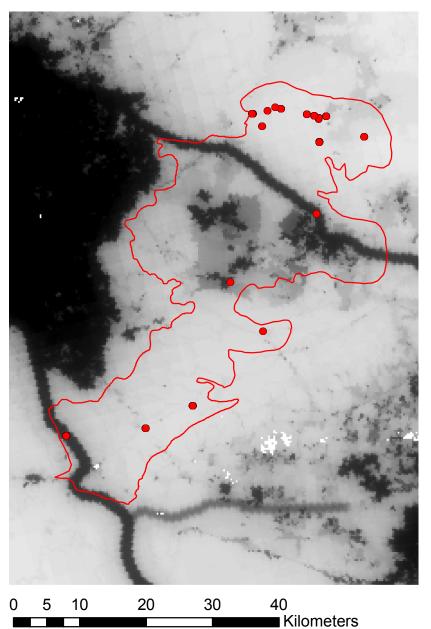
Natural Landscape Value

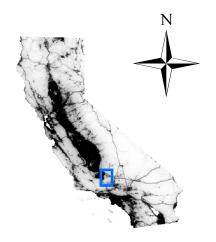


Tehachapi Slender Salamander Batrachoseps stebbinsi

• Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)

Species range



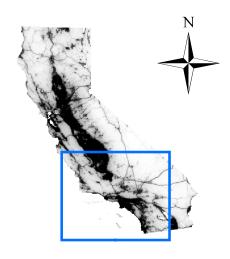


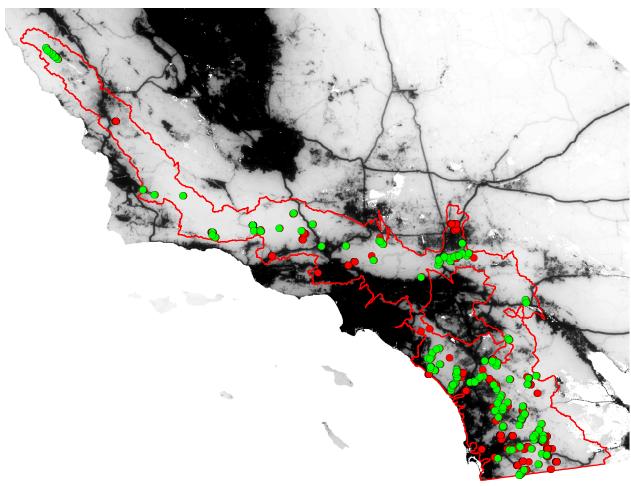
Natural Landscape Value

High : 1

Arroyo Toad Bufo californicus

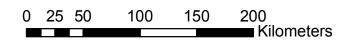
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





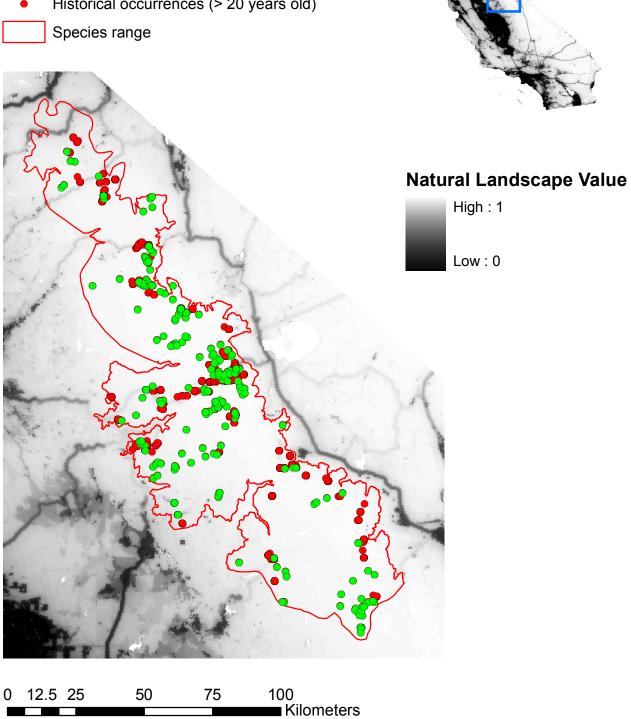
Natural Landscape Value





Yosemite Toad Bufo canorus

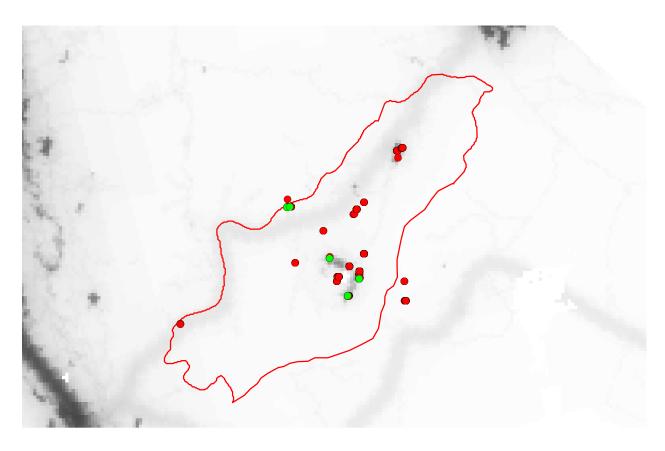
- Modern occurrences (<20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)

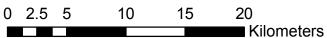


Black Toad Bufo exsul

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range







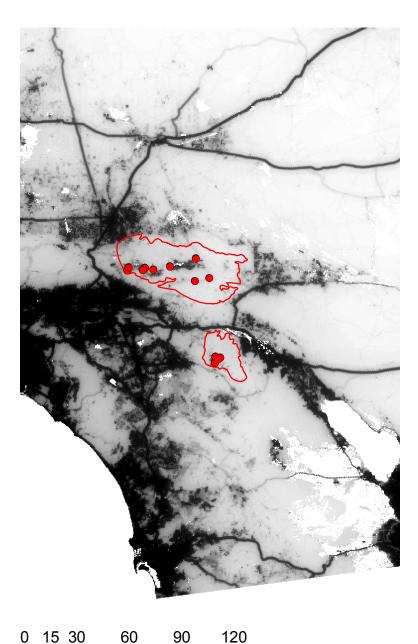




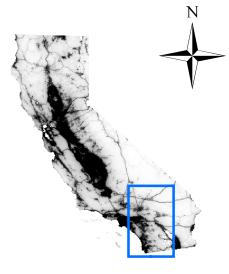
Southern Rubber Boa Charina bottae umbratica

Historical Occurrences (> 20 years old)

Species range



Kilometers



Natural Landscape Value Value

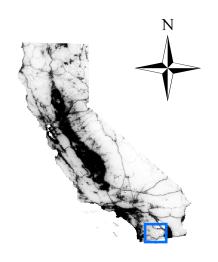
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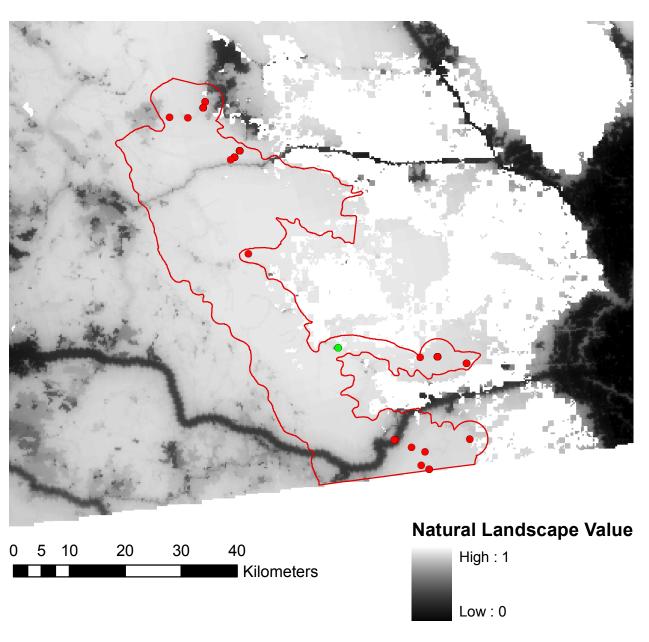
High: 1

Low : 0

Barefoot Gecko Coleonyx switaki

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

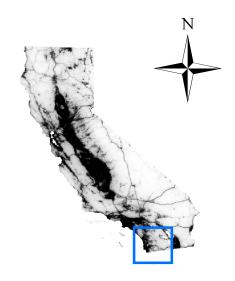


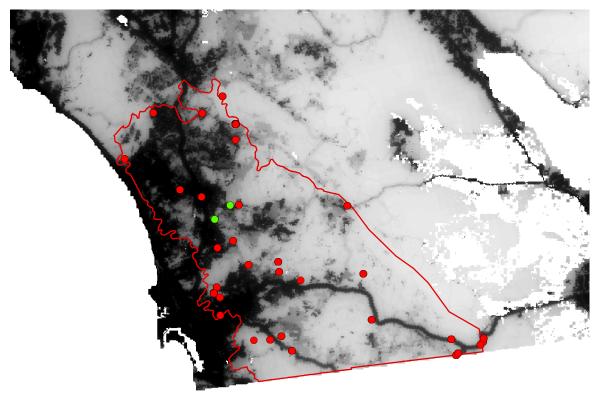


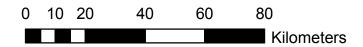
San Diego Banded Gecko Coleonyx variegatus abbotti

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)

Species range





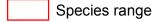


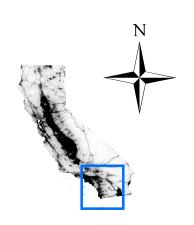


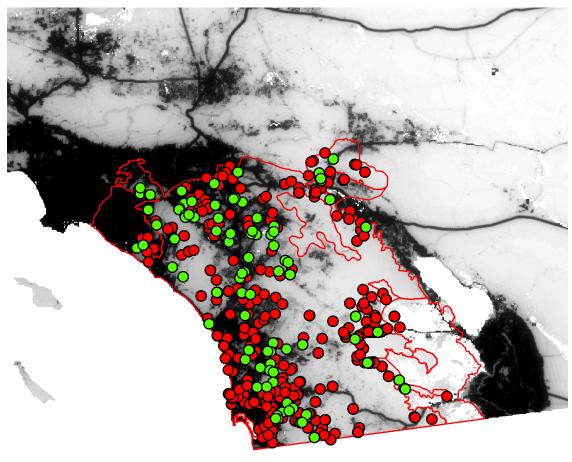
High : 1

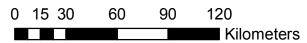
Red Diamond Rattlesnake Crotalus ruber

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)







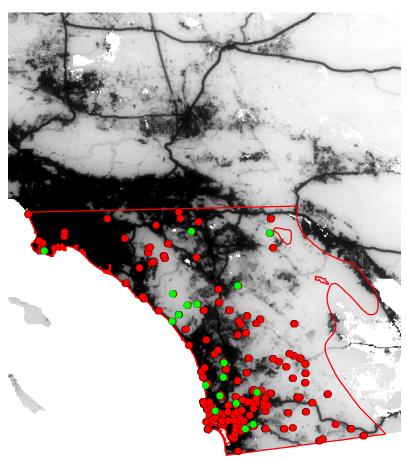






Ring-necked Snake Diadophis punctatus "Southern Clade",

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

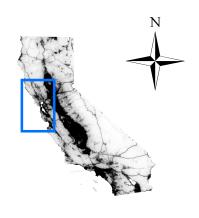


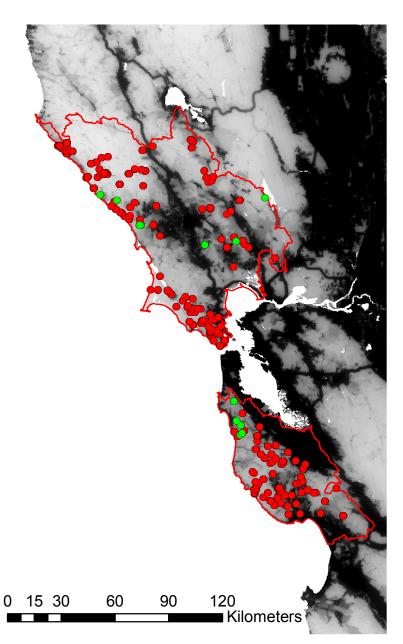
Natural Landscape Value Value



California Giant Salamander Dicamptodon ensatus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





Natural Landscape Value

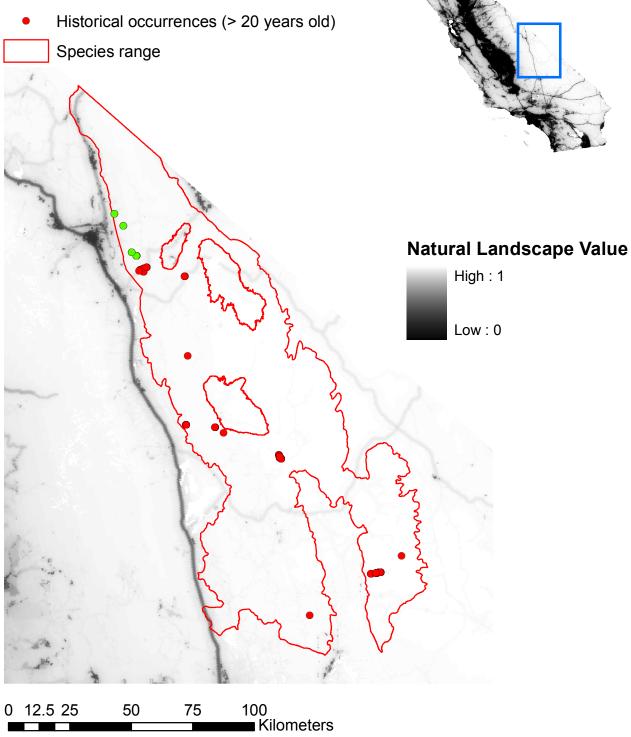


High: 1

Low : 0

Panamint Alligator Lizard Elgaria panamintina

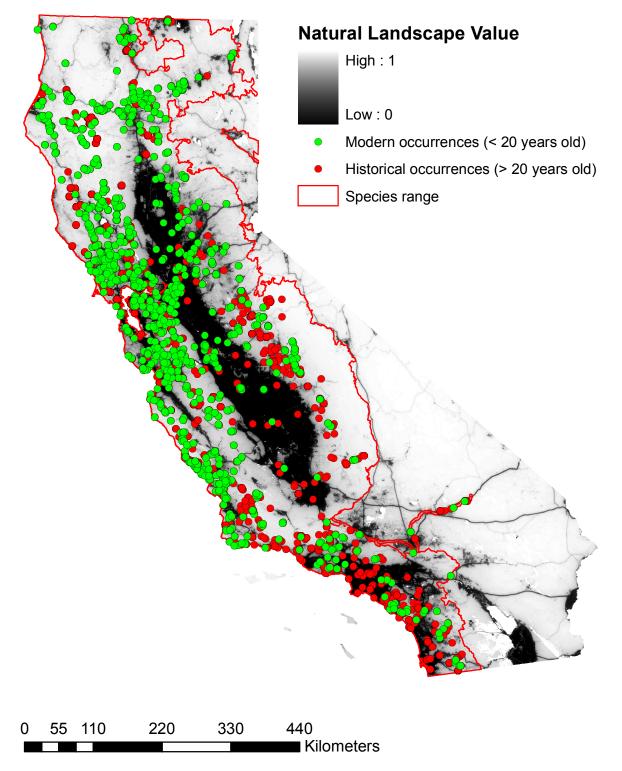
Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)



N

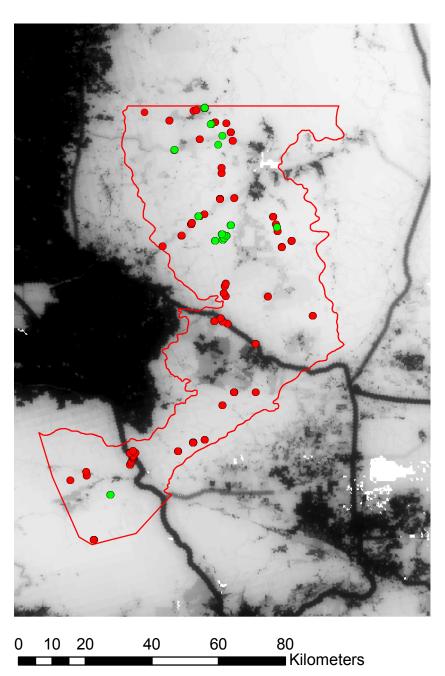
Western Pond Turtle Emys marmorata

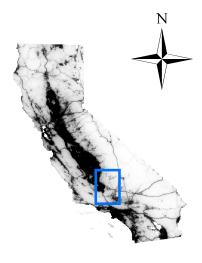




Yellow-blotched Ensatina Ensatina eschscholtzii croceater

- Modern occurrences (<20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



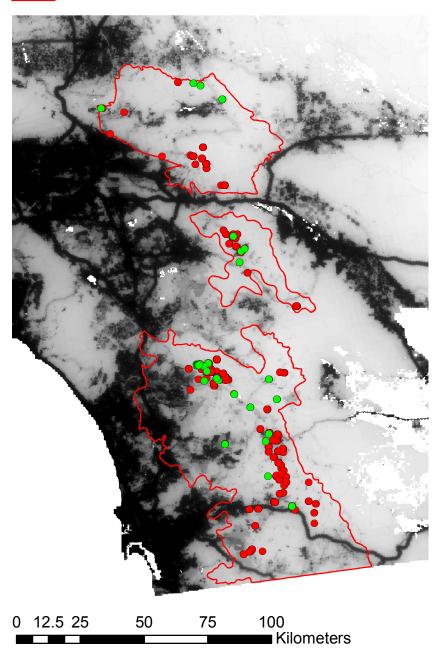


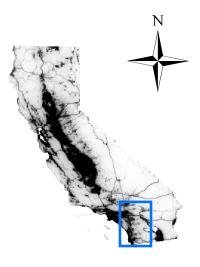
Natural Landscape Value



Large-blotched Ensatina Ensatina eschscholtzii klauberi

- Modern occurrences (<20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





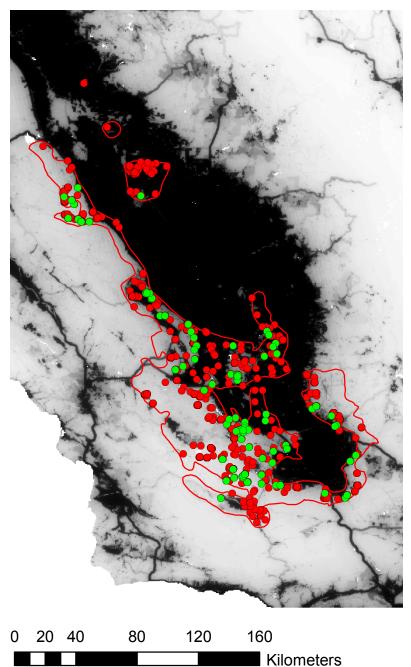
Natural Landscape Value

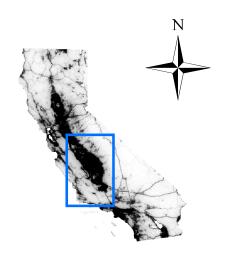
High: 1

Low:0

Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard Gambelia sila

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

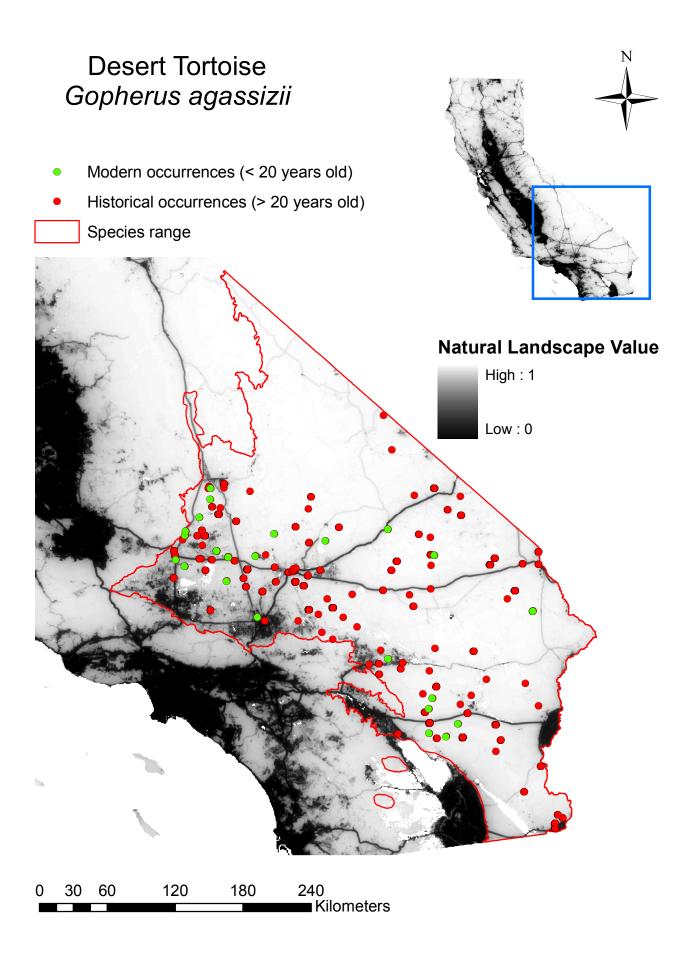


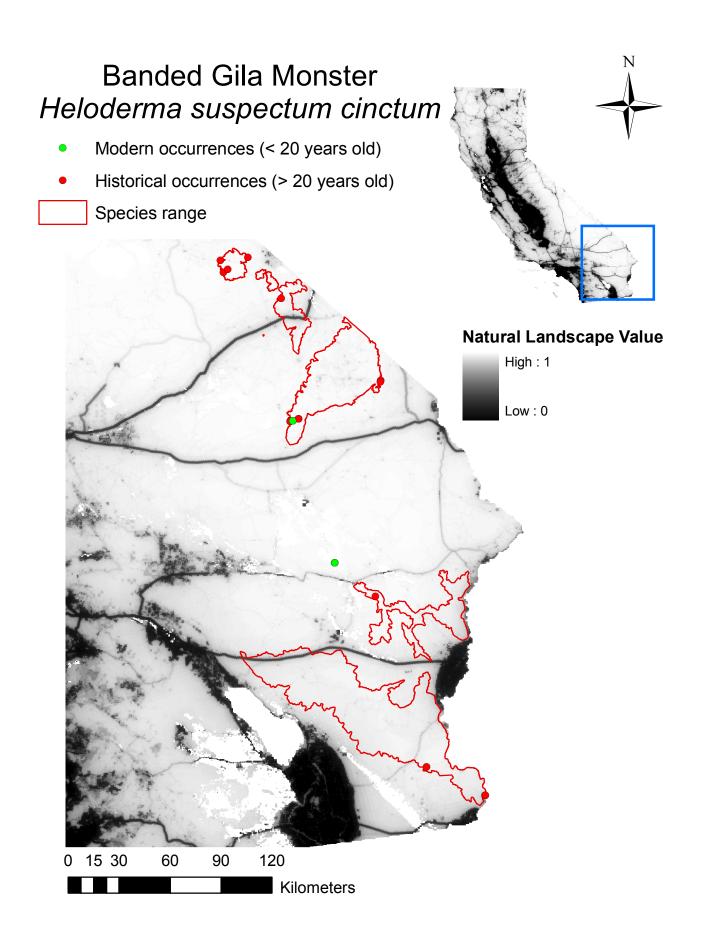


Natural Landscape Value

High: 1

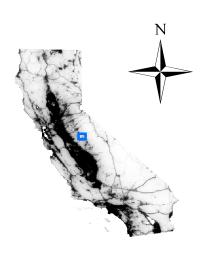
Low: 0

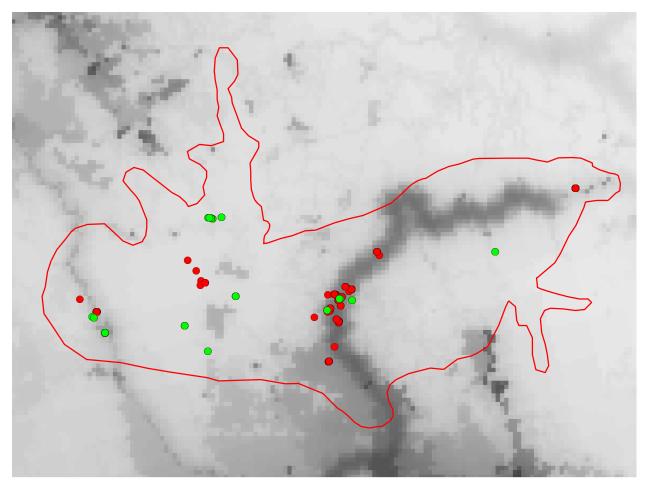


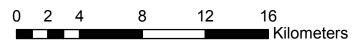


Limestone Salamander Hydromantes brunus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



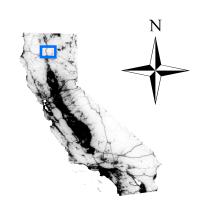


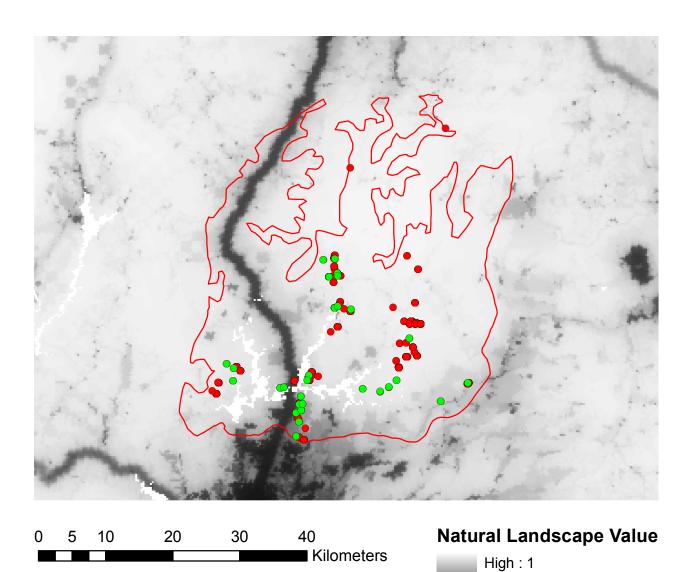




Shasta Salamander Hydromantes shastae

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

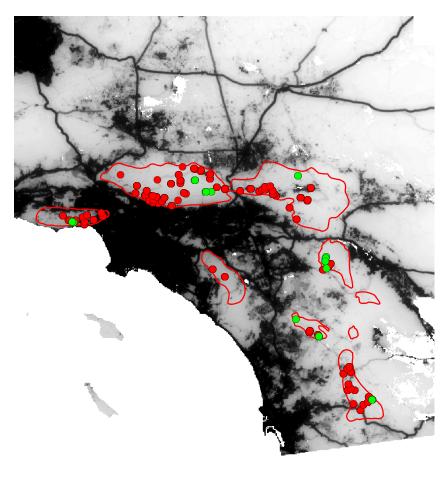




Low: 0

California Mountain Kingsnake Lampropeltis zonata "Southern Clade N

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



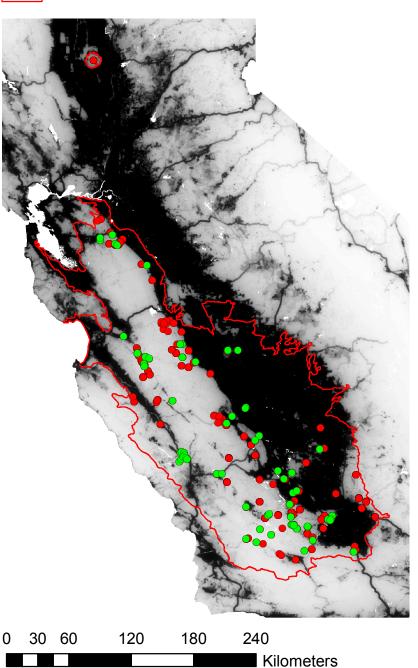
Natural Landscape Value Value

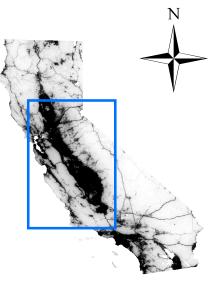


0 25 50 100 150 200 Kilometers

San Joaquin Coachwhip Masticophis flagellum ruddocki

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





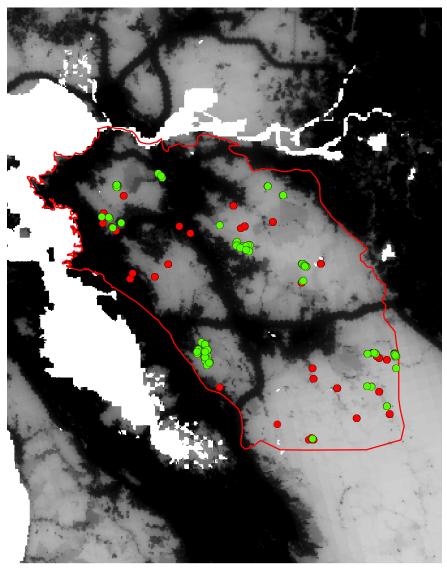
Natural Landscape Value Value



Alameda Striped Racer Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





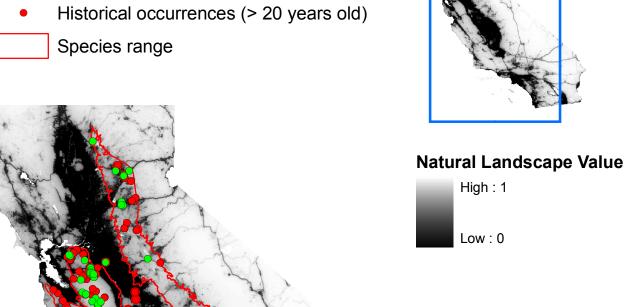
Natural Landscape Value Value High: 1

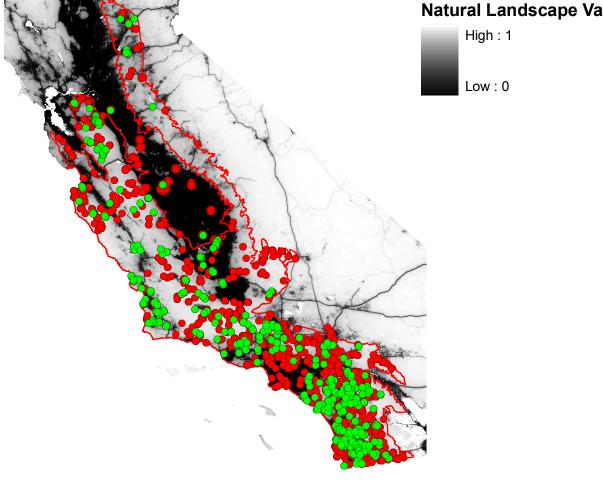


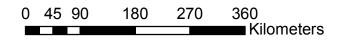
0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

Coast Horned Lizard Phrynosoma blainvilli

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)

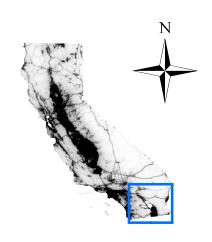


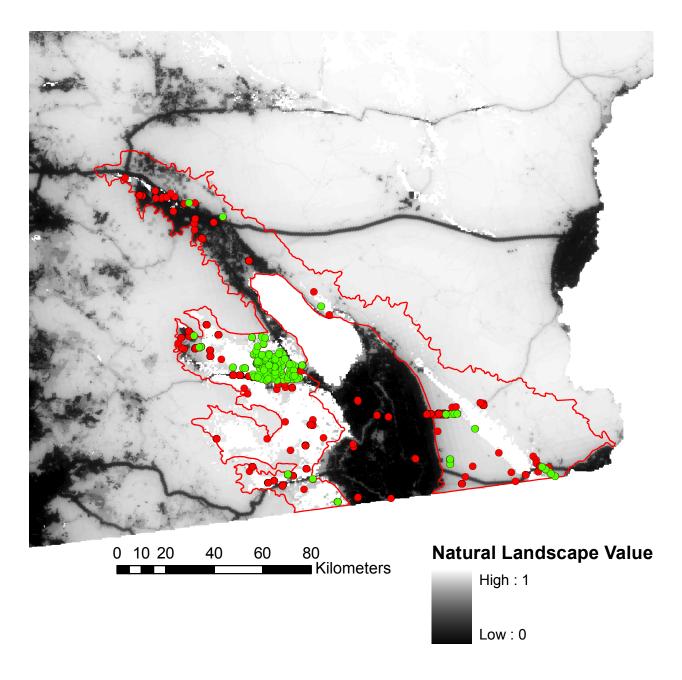




Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Phrynosoma mcalli

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



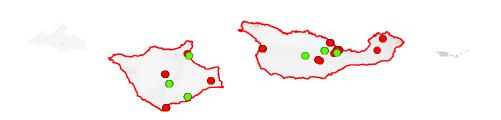


Santa Cruz Island Gopher Snake Pituophis catenifer pumilis

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range







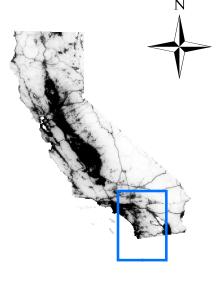


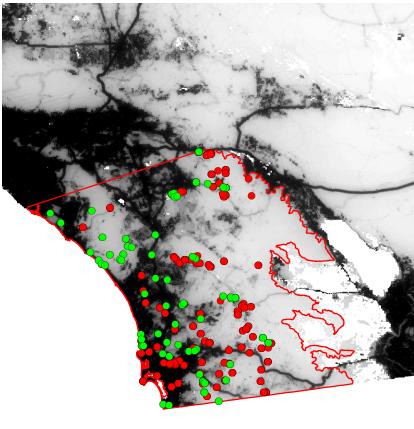
Natural Landscape Value Value



Coronado Skink Plestiodon skiltonianus interparietalis

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





120

160

Kilometers

Natural Landscape Value

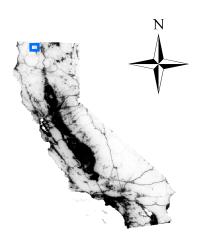
High : 1

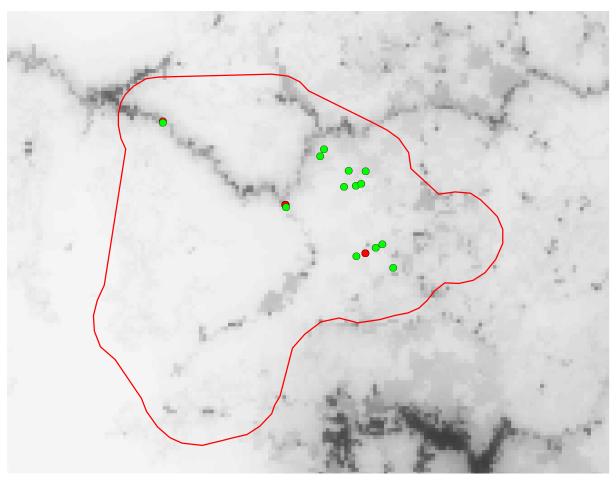
Low: 0

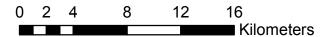
80

Scott Bar Salamander Plethodon asupak

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





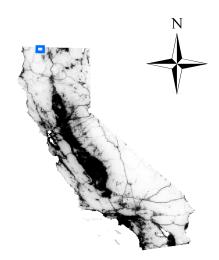


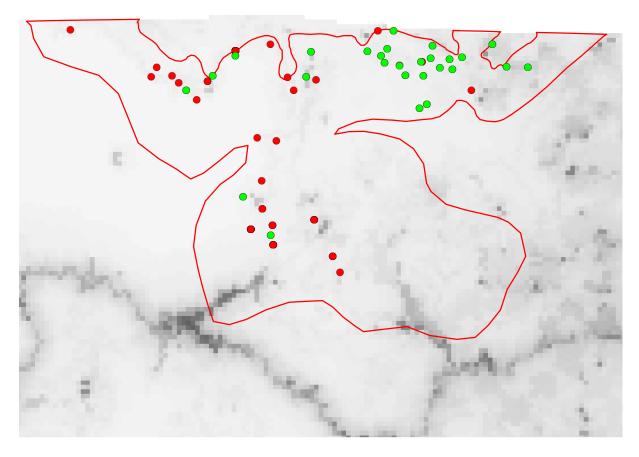
Natural Landscape Value

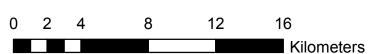


Siskiyou Mountains Salamander Plethodon stormi

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range







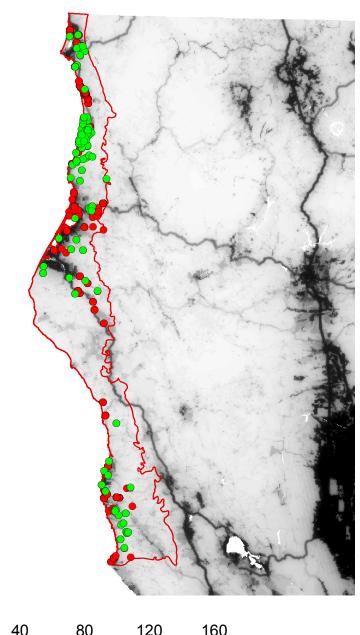
Natural Landscape Value

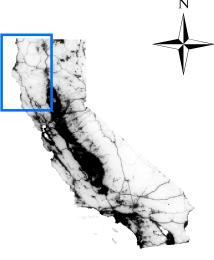


Northern Red-legged Frog Rana aurora

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)

Species range





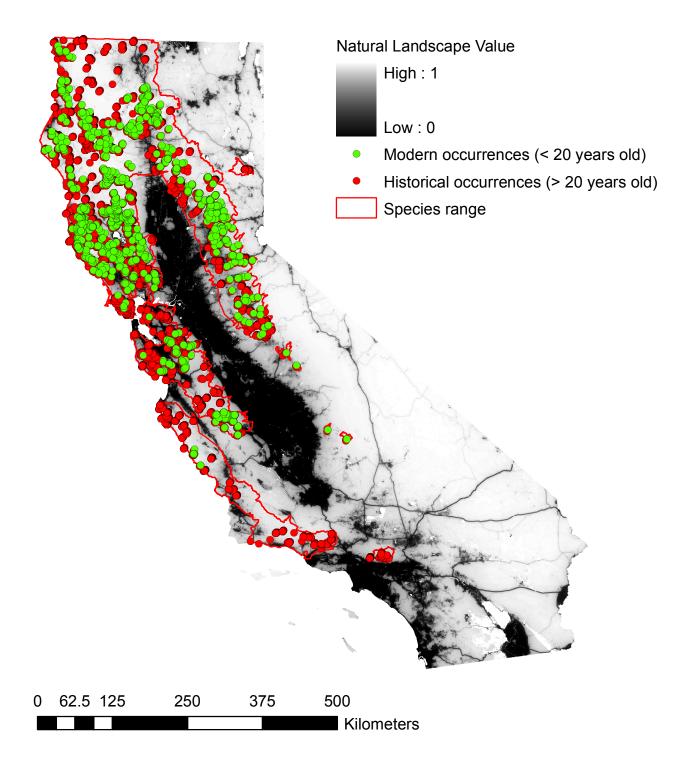


High: 1 Low: 0

160 ■ Kilometers 120 80 20 40

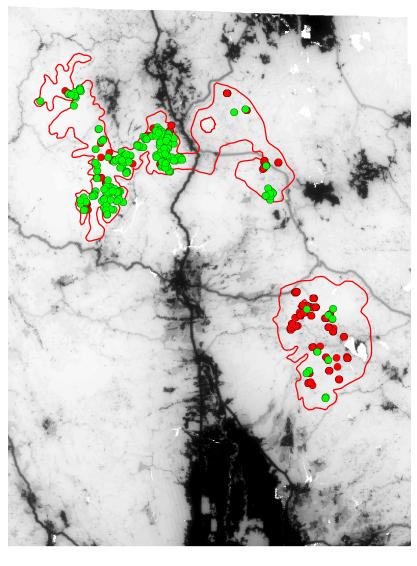
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Rana boylii

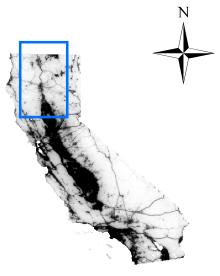




Cascades Frog Rana cascadae

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





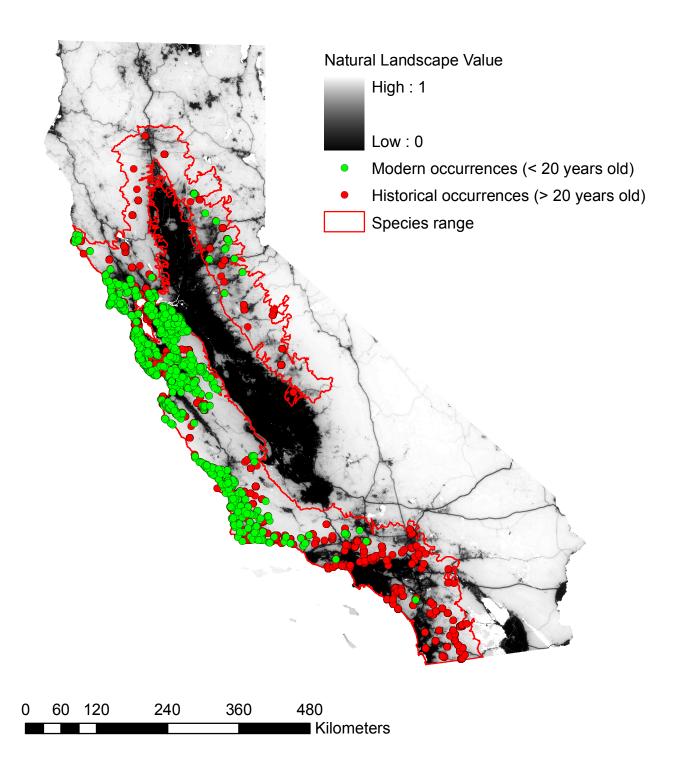
Natural Landscape Value

High : 1

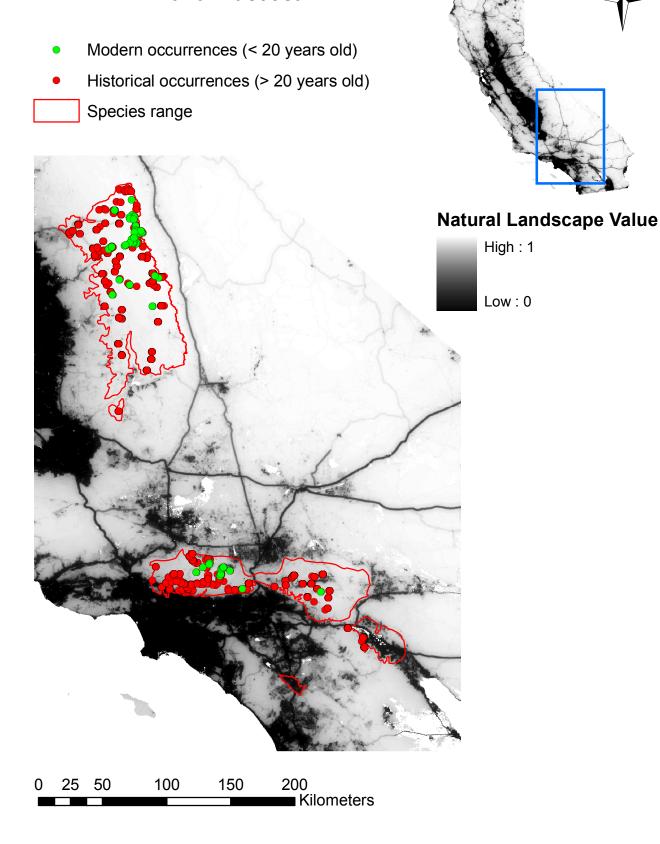
0 15 30 60 90 120 Kilometers

California Red-legged Frog Rana draytonii





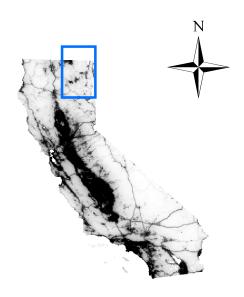
Southern Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Rana muscosa

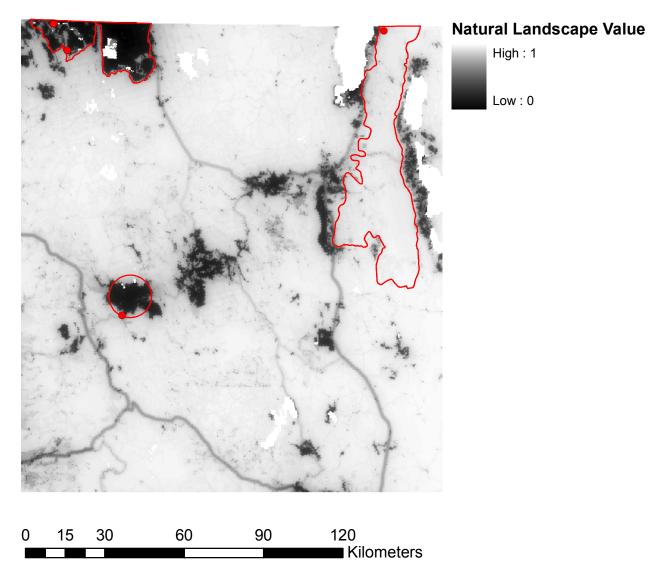


Oregon Spotted Frog Rana pretiosa

• Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)

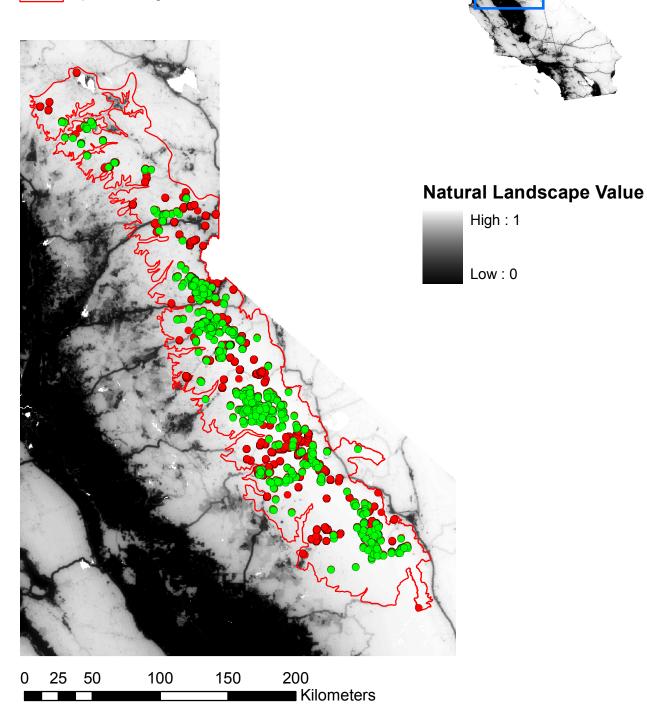
Species range





Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Rana sierrae

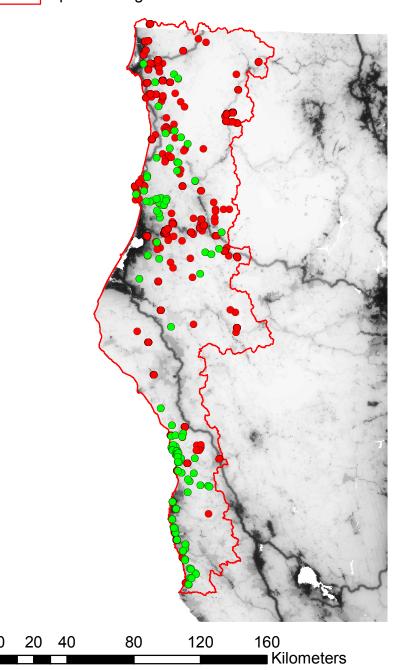
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

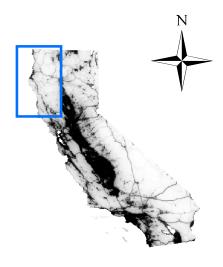




Southern Torrent Salamander Rhyacotriton variegatus

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





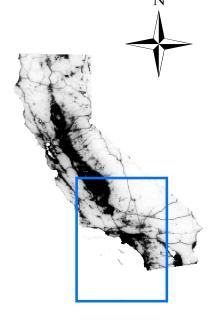
Natural Landscape Value

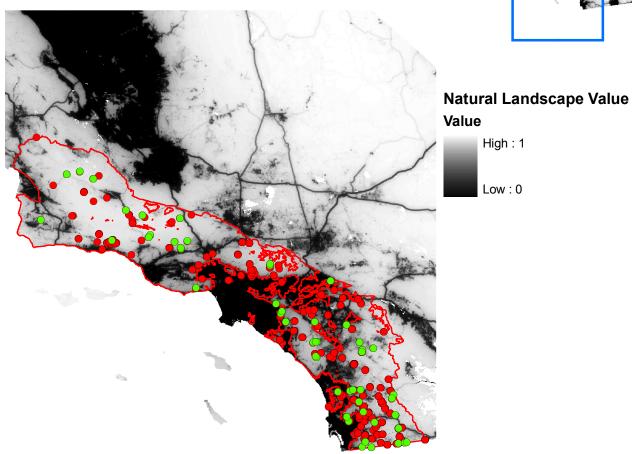
High: 1

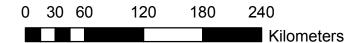
Low: 0

Coast Patch-Nosed Snake Salvadora hexalepis virgultea

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

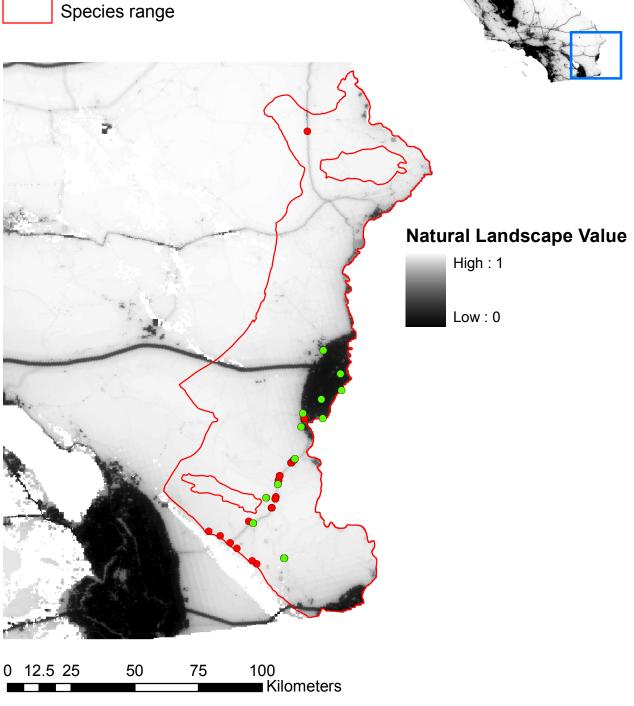






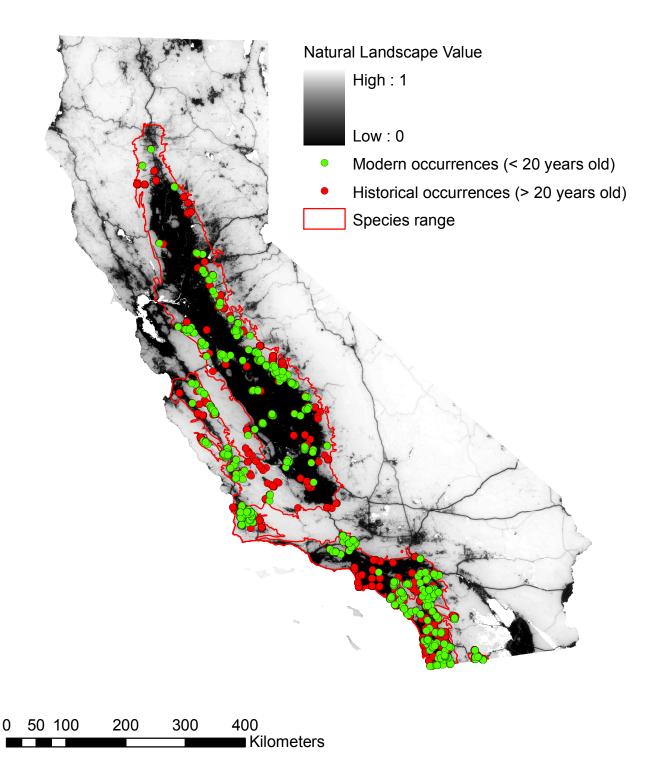
Couch's Spadefoot Scaphiopus couchii

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)



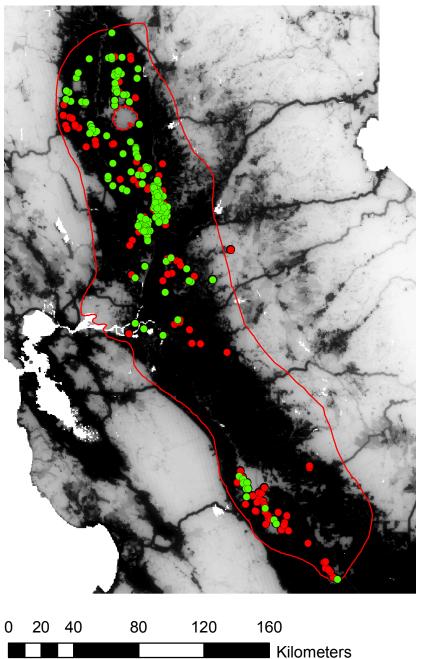
Western Spadefoot Spea hammondii

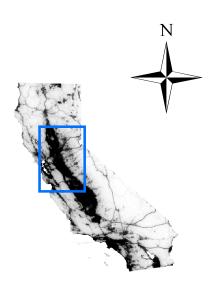




Giant Gartersnake *Thamnophis gigas*

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range



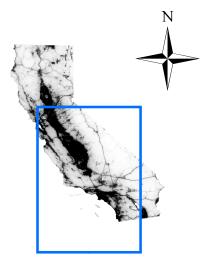


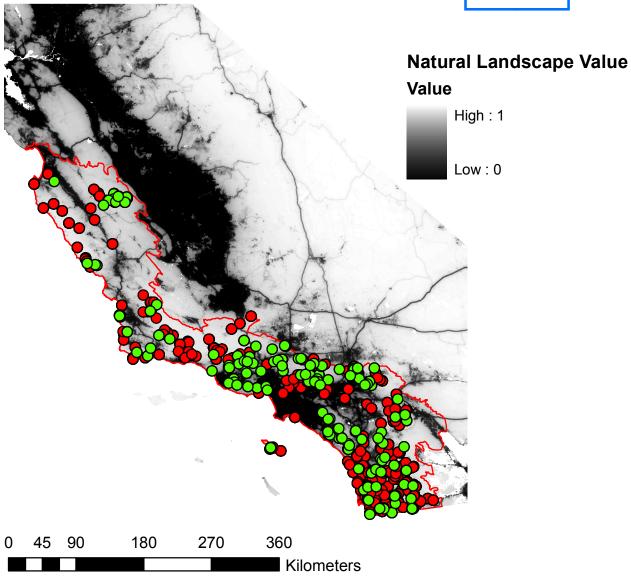
Natural Landscape Value Value



Two-Striped Gartersnake Thamnophis hammondii

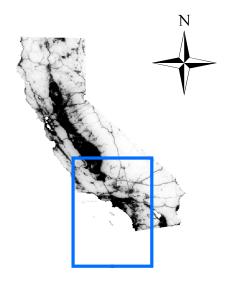
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

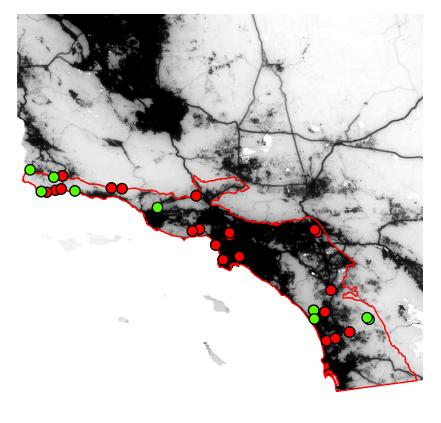




South Coast Gartersnake *Thamnophis sirtalis sp.*

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (>20 years old)
- Species range





Natural Landscape Value Value

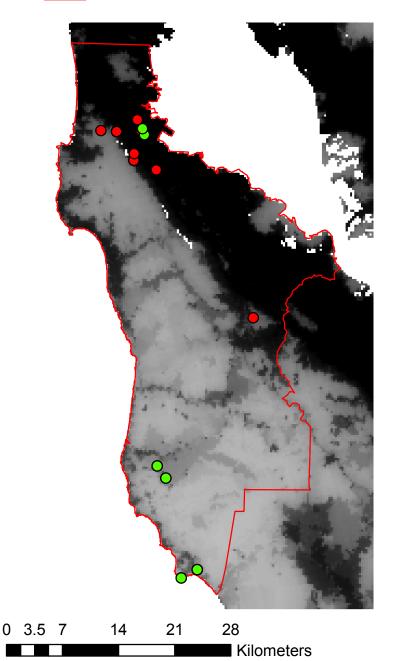


High: 1

Low: 0

San Francisco Gartersnake Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





Natural Landscape Value Value

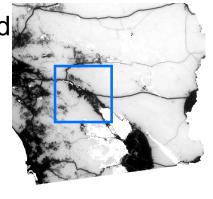


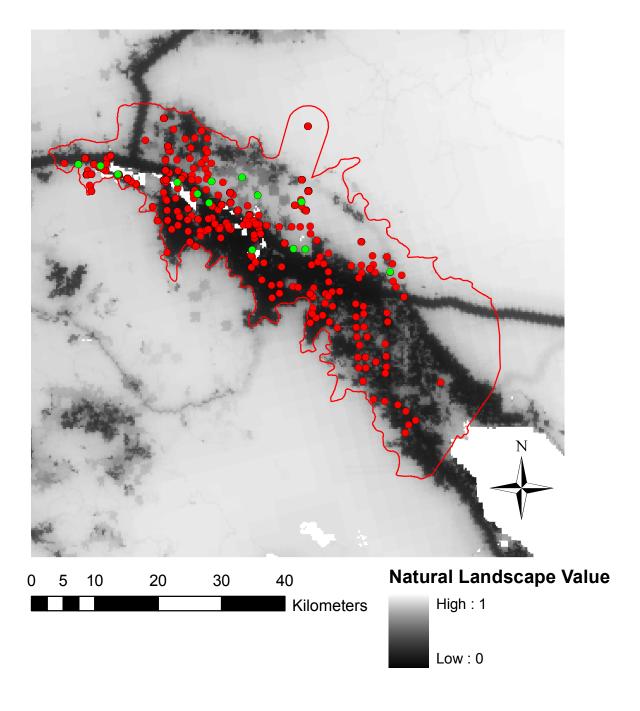
High: 1

Low : 0

Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Uma inornata

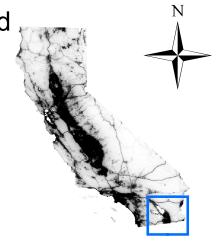
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

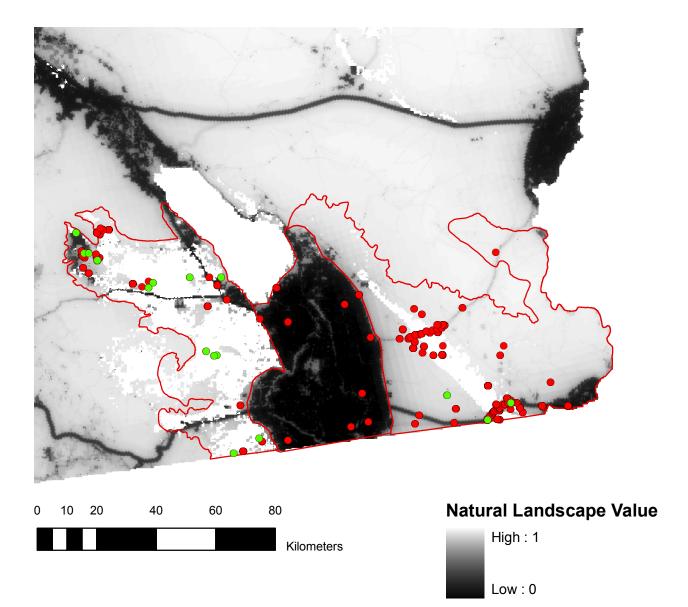




Colorado Desert Fringe-toed Lizard *Uma notata*

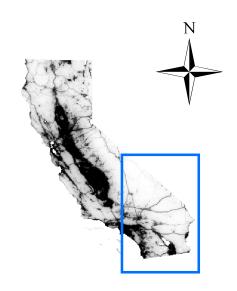
- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range

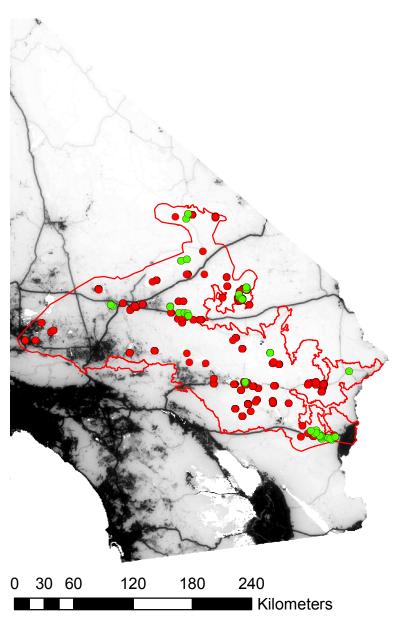




Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard Uma scoparia

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





Natural Landscape Value

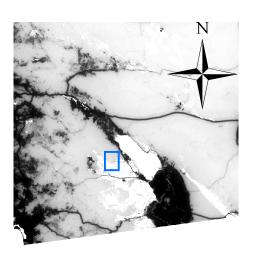
١

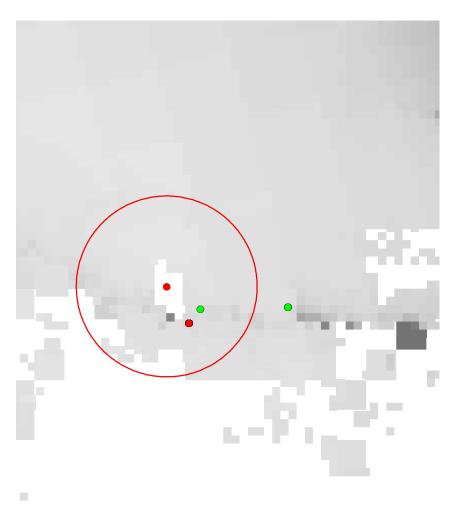
High: 1

Low: 0

Sandstone Night Lizard Xantusia gracilis

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





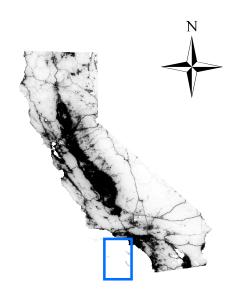
Natural Landscape Value High: 1

Low : 0

0 1 2 4 6 8 Kilometers

Island Night Lizard Xantusia riversiana

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





Natural Landscape Value



High: 1

Low: 0

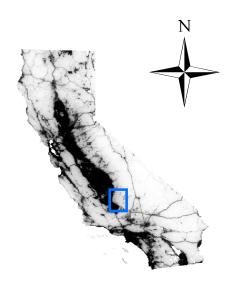


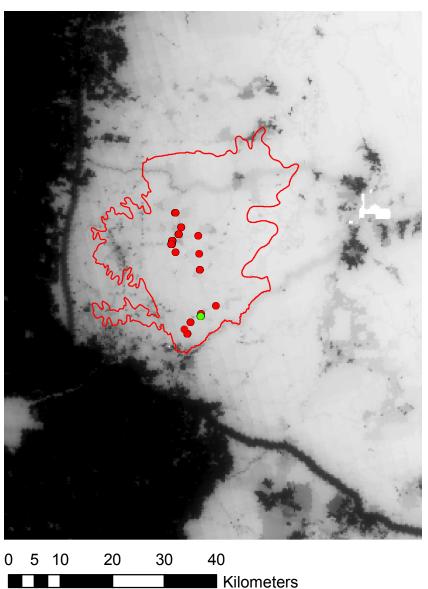


0 510 20 30 40 Kilometers

Sierra Night Lizard Xantusia vigilis sierrae

- Modern occurrences (< 20 years old)
- Historical occurrences (> 20 years old)
- Species range





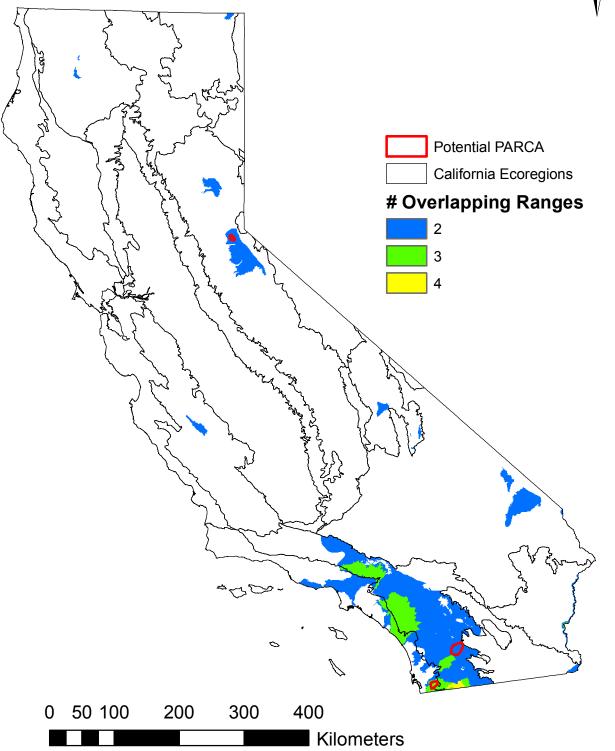
Natural Landscape Value High: 1 Low: 0

Criteria 4

On the following two pages, we identify all areas in California where two or more of the state's Species of Special Concern overlap. We identify potential candidate PARCAS that are supported by recent occurrences (<10 years) for each species. These areas and potential candidate PARCAs are overlaid on two different maps to demonstrate the underlying landscape viability (PARCA Criteria 1) as discussed previously. Challenges and potential obstacles to the strict implementation of PARCAs as described in Criteria 4 are discussed at the end of this document in the section titled Challenges to PARCA Implementation.

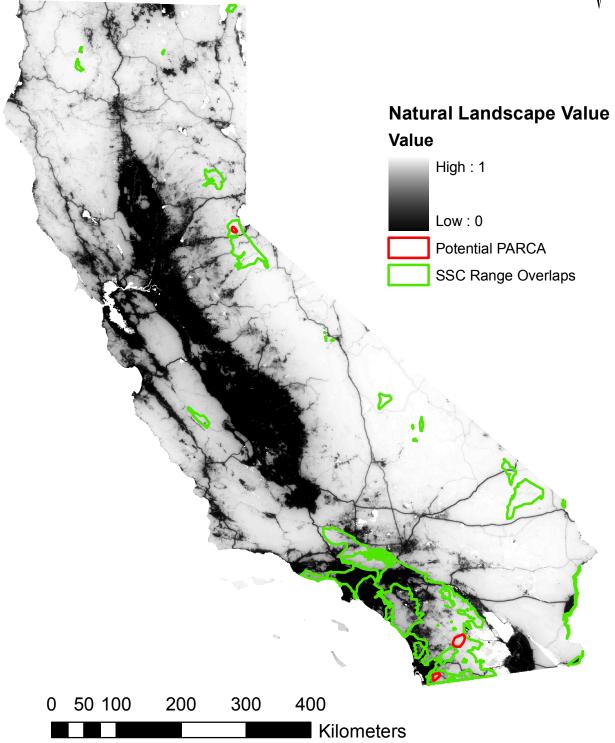
Criteria 4: State Vulnerable Species or Species of High Regional Responsibility





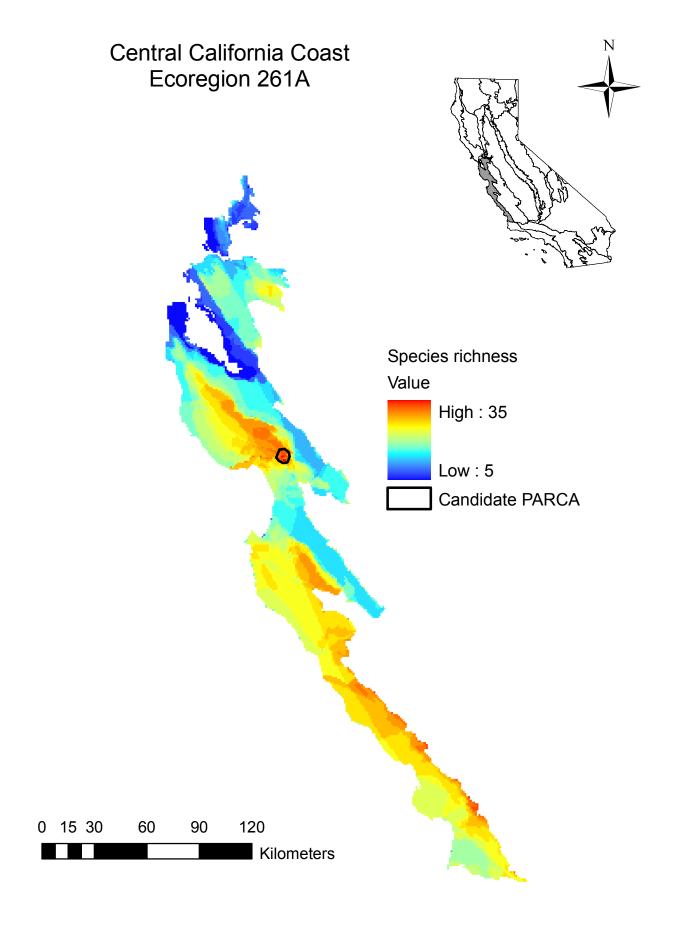
Criteria 4: State Vulnerable Species or Species of High Regional Responsibility

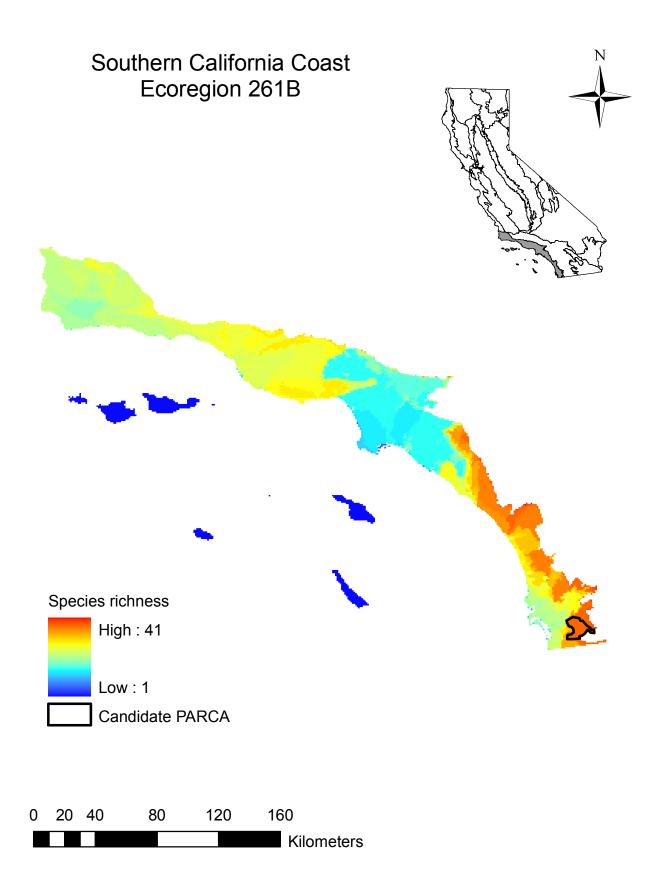


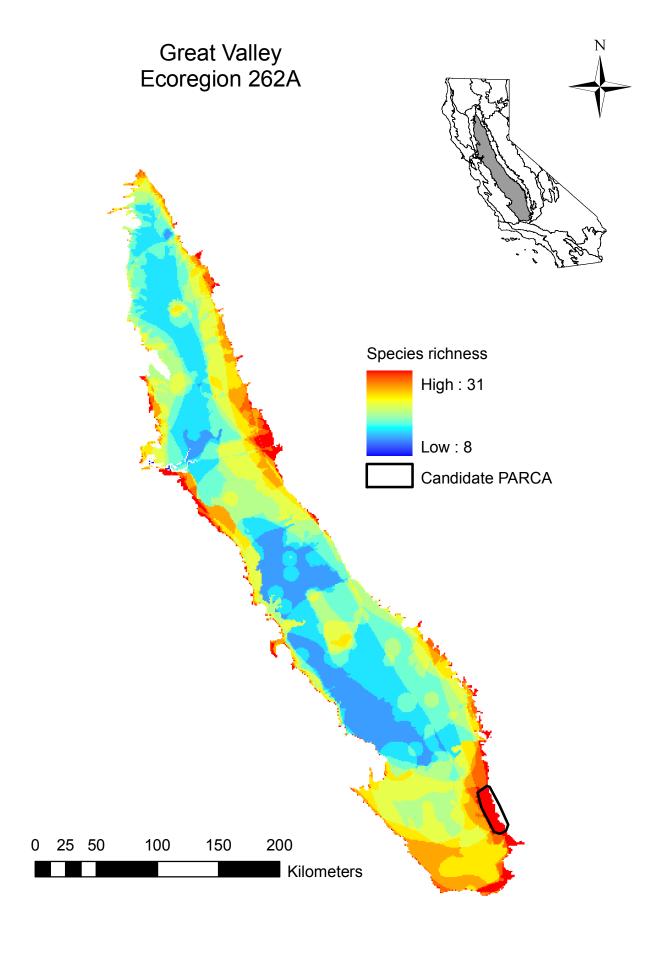


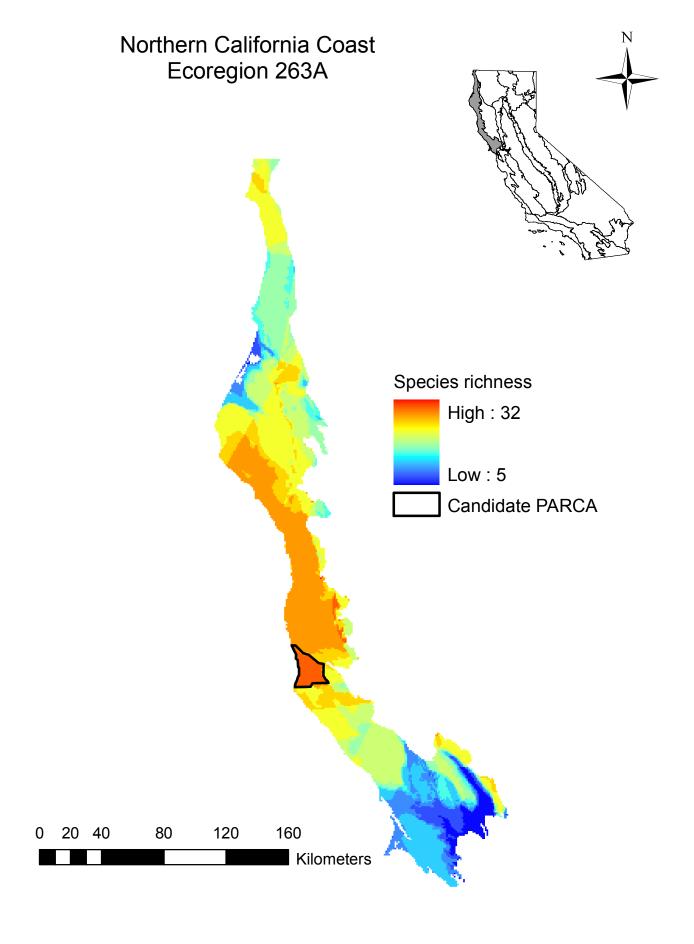
Criteria 5

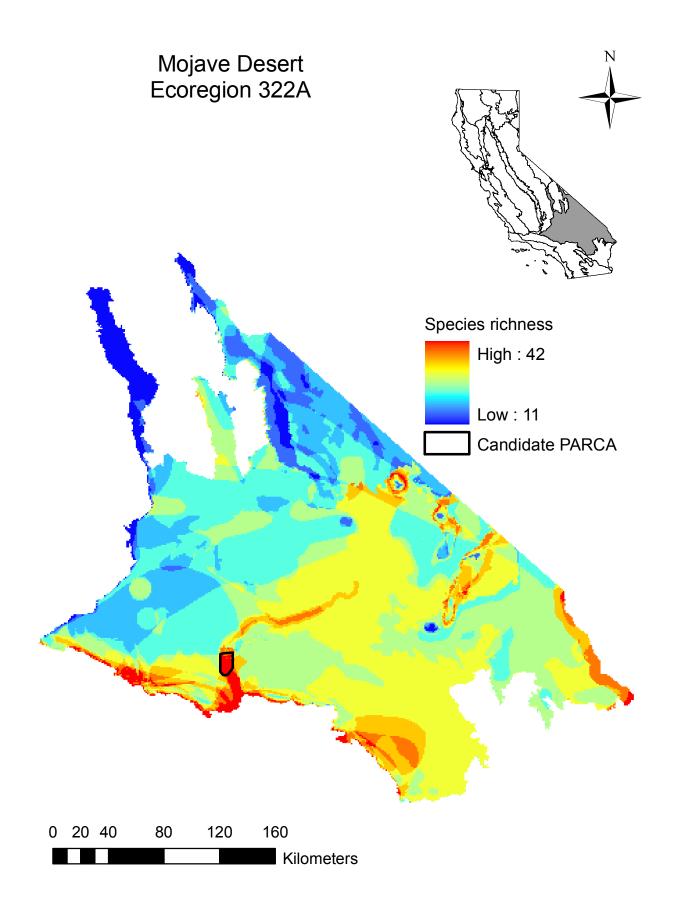
The figures on the following pages demonstrate pilot implementation of PARCA Criteria 5, which prioritizes the designation of PARCAs in areas of high species richness for each ecoregion. Each map features a given ecoregion and displays total species richness for all reptiles and amphibians in that ecoregion. The potential candidate PARCAs drawn on each map identify the single area where total species richness is greatest and where landscape viability surpasses the 50% natural landscape threshold required to meet Criteria 1. Where multiple areas had similar species richness and landscape viability, we outlined more than one possible candidate PARCA. Challenges and potential obstacles to the strict implementation of PARCAs as described in Criteria 5 are discussed at the end of this document in the section titled Challenges to PARCA Implementation.

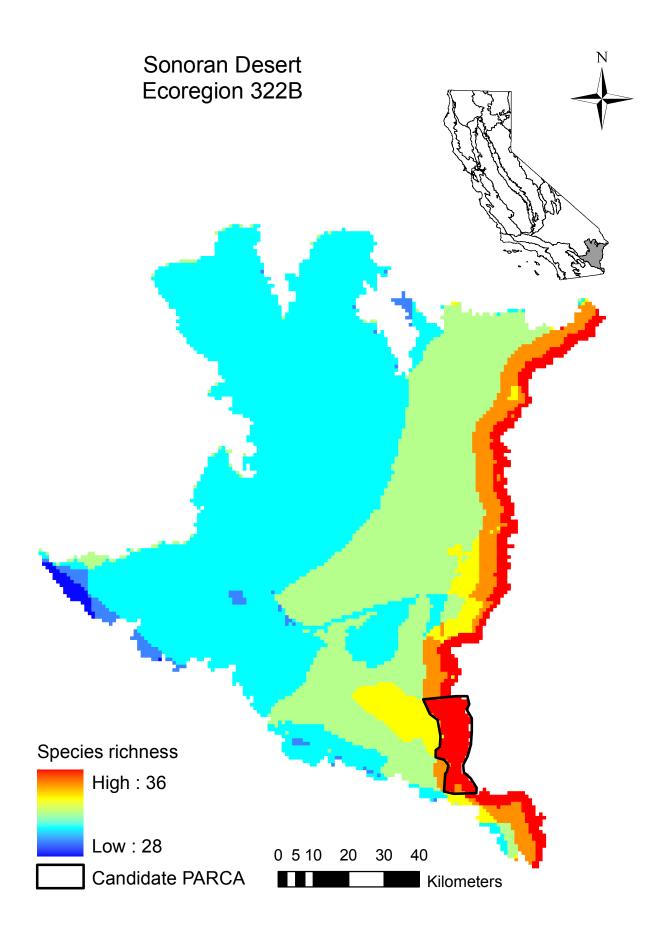


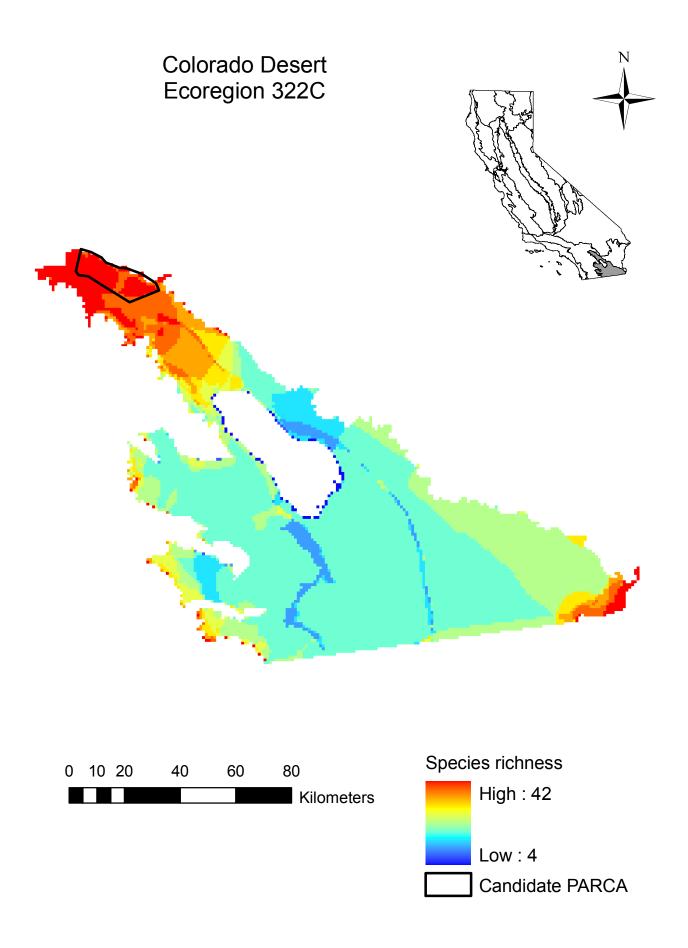


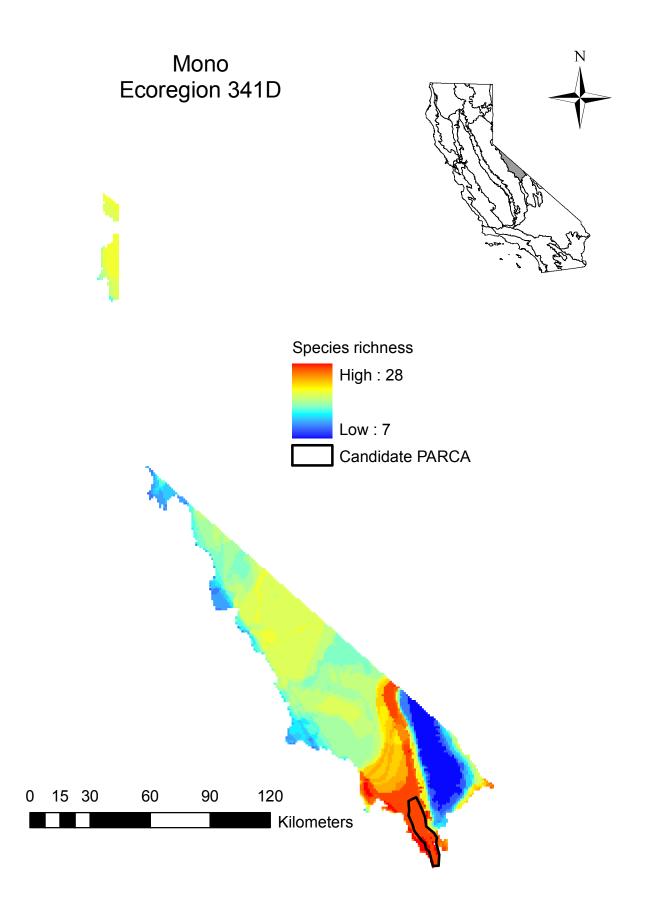


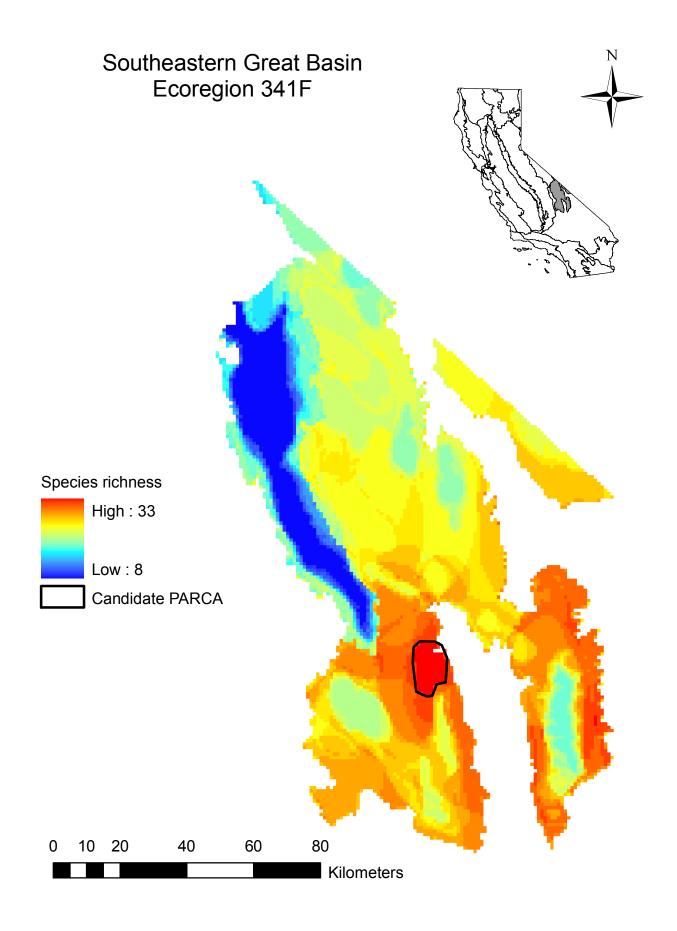




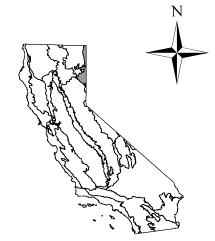


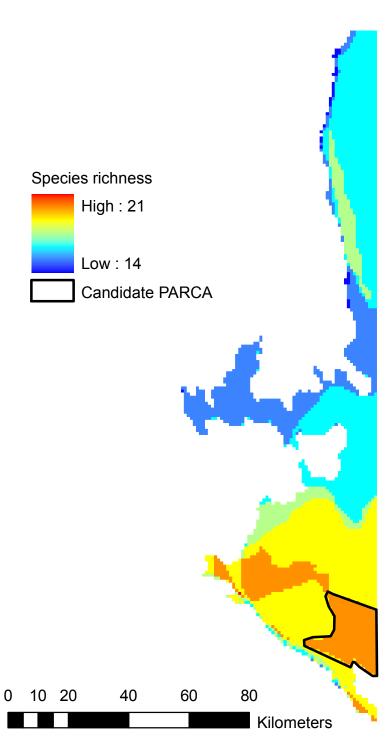


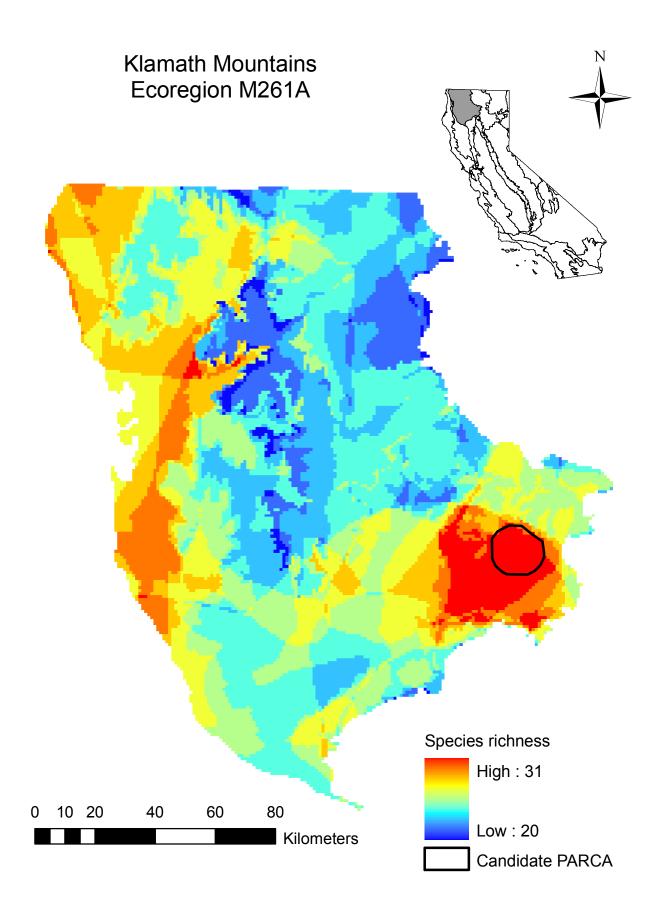


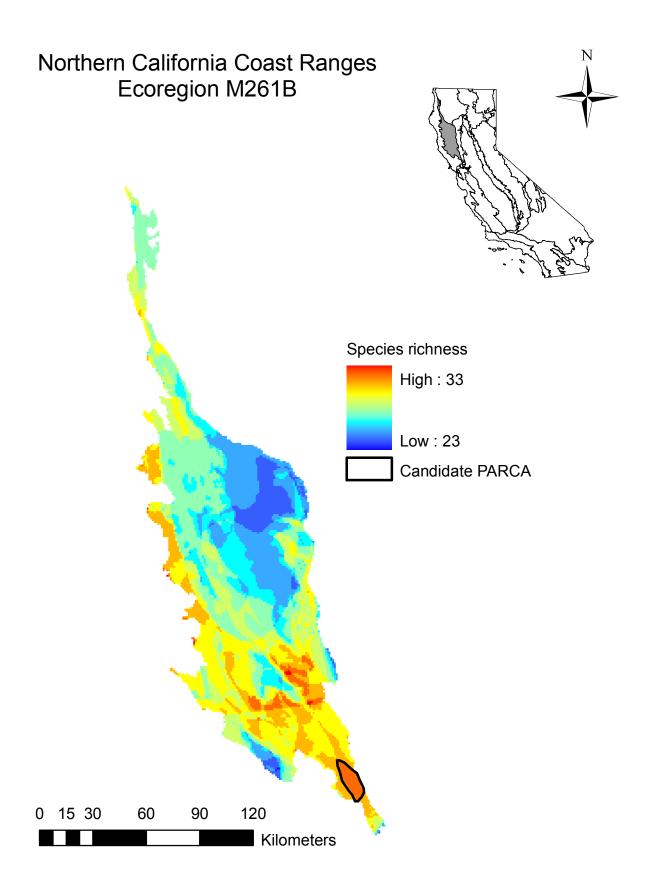


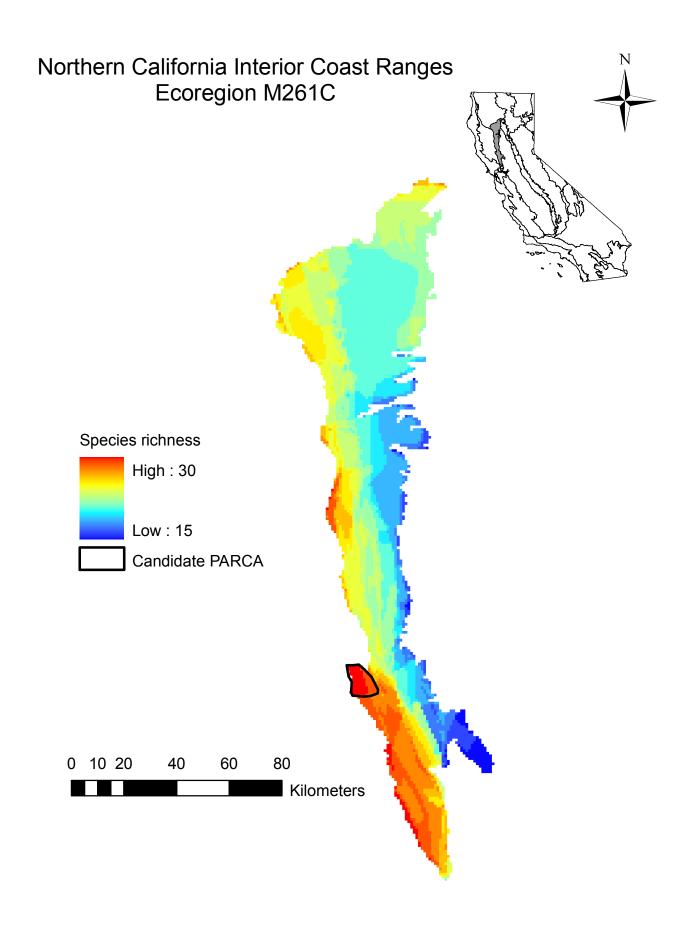
Northwestern Basin and Range Ecoregion 342B

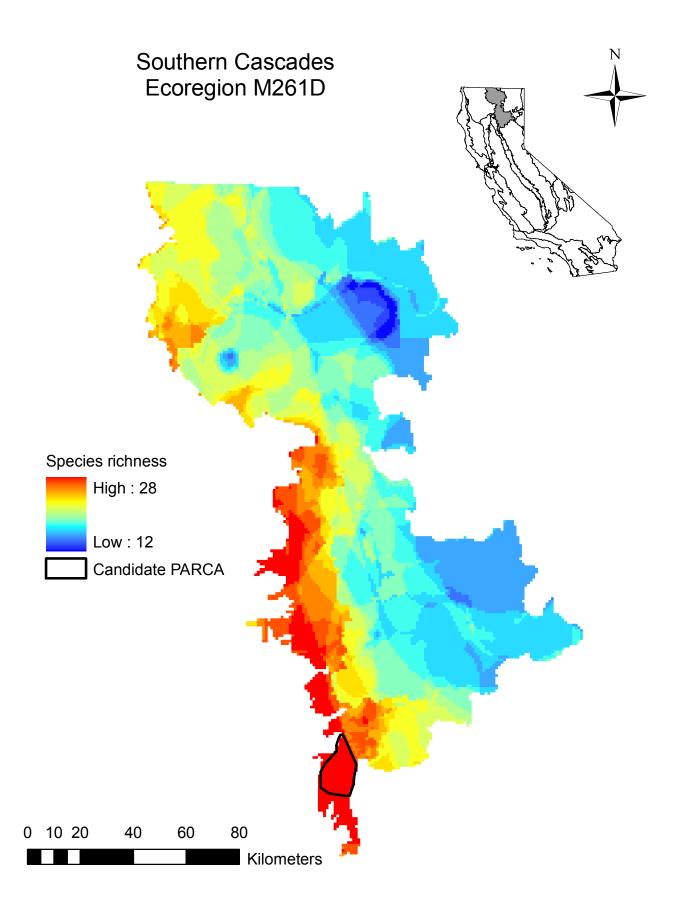


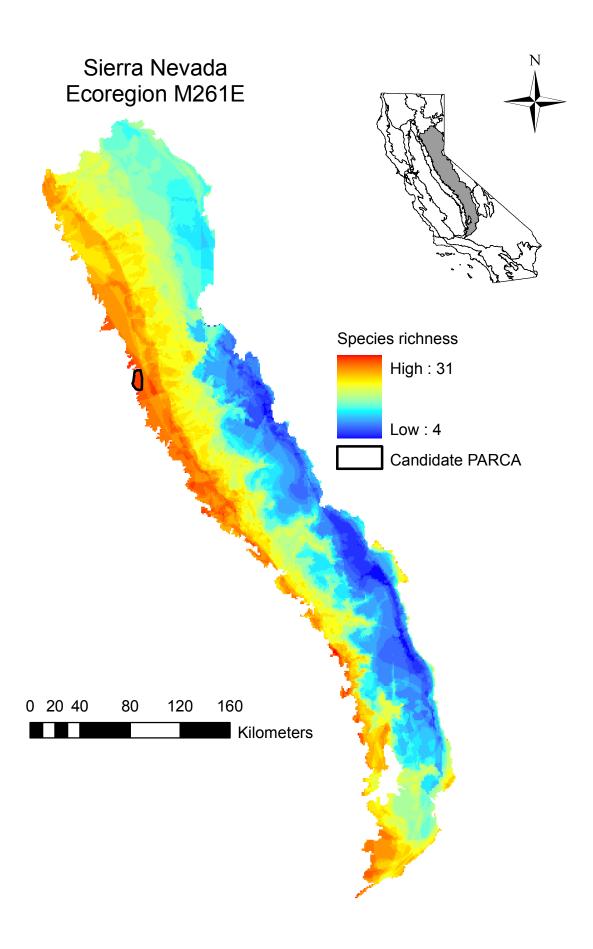


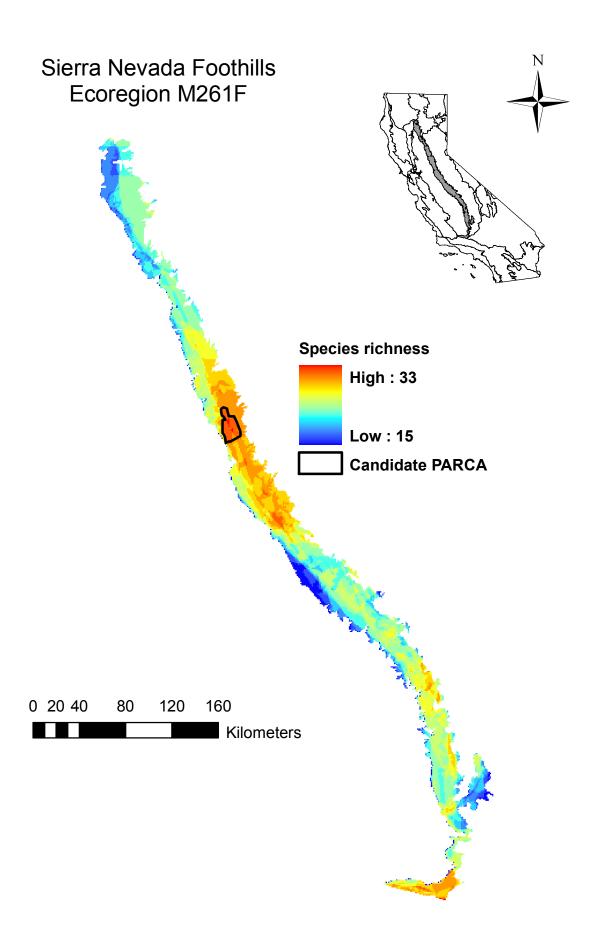


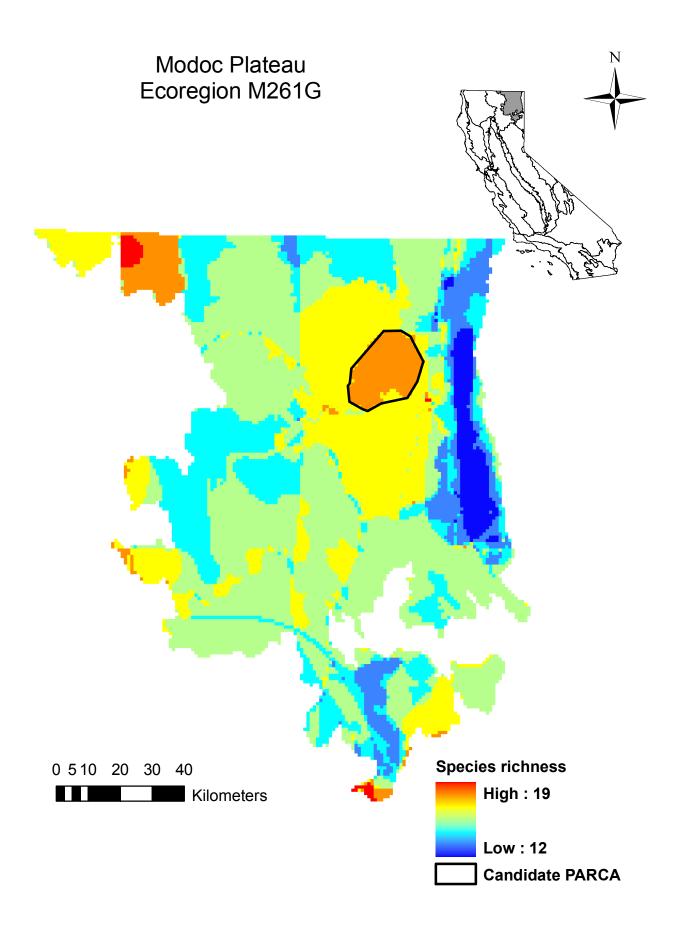


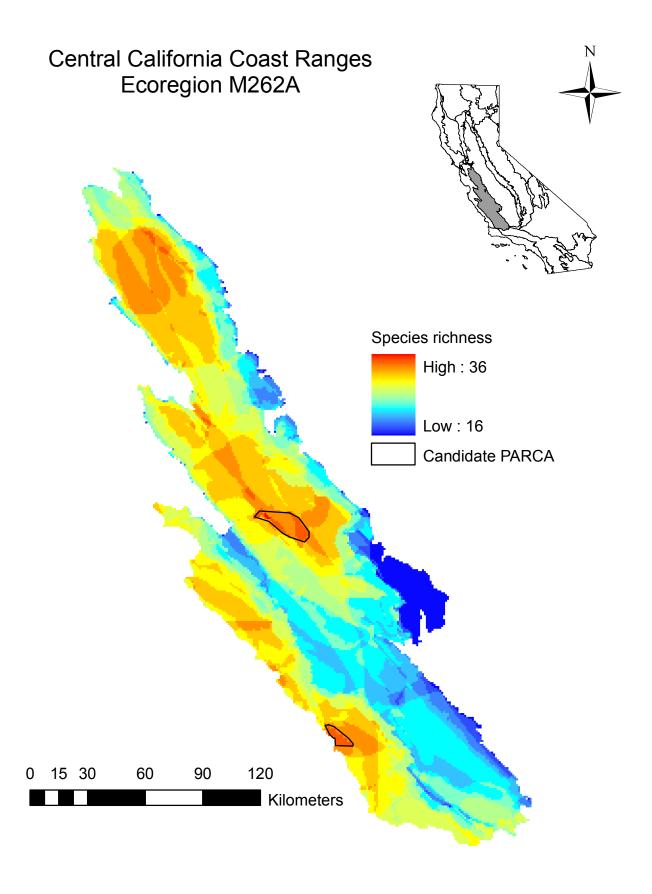


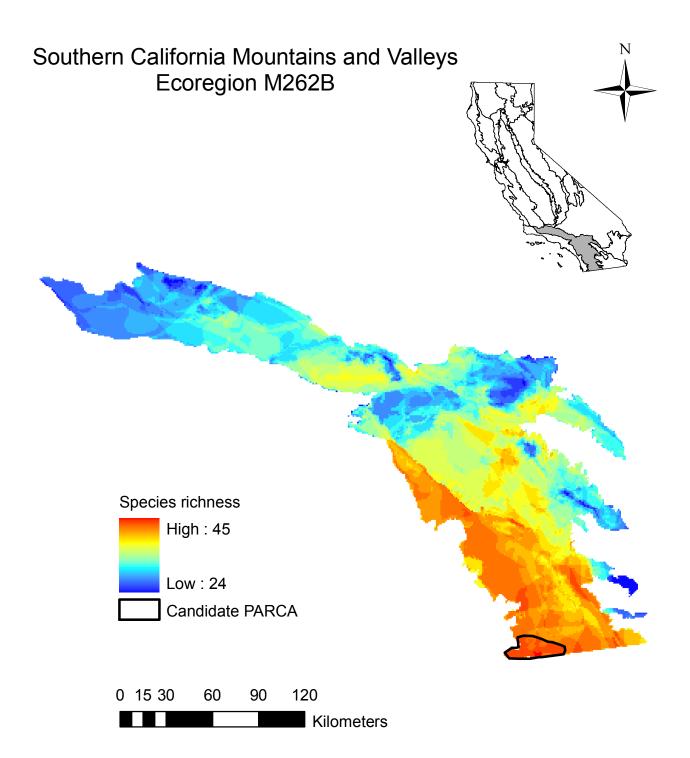












Challenges to PARCA Implementation

We have identified several challenges or obstacles to the identification of PARCAs in California if the criteria set forth in the PARCA implementation guidelines are to be strictly adhered to. Foremost, there is a pressing need for modern occurrence data. The designation of PARCAs places a premium on knowing not just the distribution of species in the state, but also the very recent distribution and status of these species. In California, despite having widespread occurrence data on many species across the state, there are too few records less than 10 years old or less than 20 years old for most species. To effectively identify the presence of species and establish important PARCAs, better, more recent, and more widespread occurrence data are needed.

A second challenge related to occurrence data is knowing which species truly occur in given ecoregions. More specifically, the distribution of many species is such that they are often restricted to some ecoregions for climate or environmental reasons. However, errors or imprecision in georeferenced occurrences, expert opinion, and some actual occurrences occasionally identify species as crossing ecoregional boundaries to occur just barely in adjacent ecoregions. It is difficult to know the degree to which those species marginally occurring in an ecoregion should reflect total species richness and whether those species actually do occur in a given ecoregion. This will affect the total count of species for each ecoregion and thus affects whether areas meet the minimum proportional thresholds for total richness in an ecoregion required to meet Criteria 5.

In addition to some uncertainty about total species richness for each ecoregion, it is often the case that the minimum proportional thresholds for total richness in an ecoregion required to meet Criteria 5 are in fact not met. In fact, in California, for most ecoregions, there are simply no areas where at least 75% of the total herpetofaunal species in an ecoregion or 90% of either amphibian or reptiles in an ecoregion all occur with overlapping distributions. A critical and unintended consequence of having to meet these thresholds for PARCA designation is that ecoregions of high species richness often have no areas that meet these thresholds whereas ecoregions of low species richness often have many areas that meet these thresholds. The result is a perverse scenario in which Criteria 5 contributes to the establishment of "richness PARCAs" only in ecoregions that are relatively depauperate of species whereas those ecoregions of high richness are left with no "richness PARCAs". A better alternative would be to designate PARCAs in each ecoregion that do represent the highest species richness in that ecoregion. We have taken such an approach in our maps for Criteria 5 and this could also be extended to include 3 areas that each meet highest total richness, highest reptile richness, and highest amphibian richness.

There is yet one more obstacle to the implementation of Criteria 5 for PARCA designation. Many of California's ecoregions extend beyond the borders of the state. However, Criteria 5 requires that PARCAs only be designated for areas that are among the three most speciose for each ecoregion. This is difficult to implement on a state-wide basis. At a minimum, a better alternative would be to allow each state to identify the three areas

in an ecoregion based on counts from within only their state, thus ignoring those species and areas that occur in an ecoregion outside the state's borders.

There are some additional challenges to the implementation of Criteria 2, 3, and 4. Notably, the size requirements are often onerous and would result in PARCAs that are excessively large and well beyond the scope of any current conservation management. Requiring at least 10, 20, or 30% of a species' range means that for wide-ranging species, areas as large as thousands of square kilometers would need to be designated as a PARCA (Table 2). This is simply not tenable. The alternative to these size requirements is to identify those areas that support the most important populations for each species. This is more achievable but will require the input of scientific experts with demonstrated knowledge of these species, their status, and their distributions.

A final challenge to the implementation of any PARCA is the need to meet Criteria 1 standards for landscape viability. Theobold's (2010) natural landscapes GIS layer is a reasonable and useful proxy for landscape viability. Using this tool, however, it becomes apparent that there are some highly imperiled taxa that meet Criteria 2 and 3 but which do not occur in areas that meet the landscape viability requirements for the minimum size requirement of 1,500 acres. For these species, there would simply be no opportunity to designate a PARCA.

References

Sutherland R, deMaynadier P. 2012. Model Criteria and Implementation Guidance for a Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Area (PARCA) System in the USA. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Technical Publication PARCA-1. 28 pp.

Theobold DM. 2010. Estimating natural landscape changes from 1992 to 2030 in the conterminous US. *Landscape Ecology* 25(7):999-1011.

Taxon Common Name

CAUDATA

AMBYSTOMATIDAE

Ambystoma californienseCalifornia Tiger SalamanderAmbystoma californiense "Santa Barbara"Santa Barbara Tiger SalamanderAmbystoma californiense "Sonoma"Sonoma Tiger SalamanderAmbystoma gracileNorthwestern Salamander

Ambystoma macrodactylum croceumSanta Cruz Long-toed SalamanderAmbystoma macrodactylum sigillatumSouthern Long-Toed Salamander

DICAMPTODONTIDAE

Dicamptodon ensatusCalifornia Giant SalamanderDicamptodon tenebrosusPacific Giant Salamander

PLETHODONTIDAE

Aneides ferreusClouded SalamanderAneides flavipunctatusBlack SalamanderAneides flavipunctatus nigerSanta Cruz Black SalamanderAneides flavipunctatus "shasta"Shasta Black SalamanderAneides lugubrisArboreal SalamanderAneides vagransWandering Salamander

Batrachoseps altasierrae Greenhorn Mtns Slender Salamander Batrachoseps attenuatus California Slender Salamander Batrachoseps bramei Fairview Slender Salamander Batrachoseps campi Inyo Mountains Salamander Batrachoseps diabolicus Hell Hollow Slender Salamander San Gabriel Mtns Slender Salamander Batrachoseps gabrieli Batrachoseps gavilanensis Gabilan Mtns Slender Salamander Batrachoseps gregarius Gregarius Slender Salamander San Simeon Slender Salamander Batrachoseps incognitus Batrachoseps kawia Sequoia Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps luciae Santa Lucia Mtns Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps naior aridus Desert Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps major aridusDesert Slender SalamanderBatrachoseps major majorGarden Slender SalamanderBatrachoseps minorLesser Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps nigriventris Black-bellied Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps pacificusChannel Islands Slender SalamanderBatrachoseps regiusKings River Slender SalamanderBatrachoseps relictusRelictual Slender SalamanderBatrachoseps robustusKern Plateau SalamanderBatrachoseps simatusKern Canyon Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps simatus Kern Canyon Slender Salamander Batrachoseps stebbinsi Tehachapi Slender Salamander

Ensatina eschscholtzii croceater Yellow-Blotched Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii eschscholtzii Monterey Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii klauberi Large-Blotched Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii oregonensis Oregon Ensatina Ensatina eschscholtzii picta Painted Ensatina

Ensatina eschscholtzii platensis Sierra Nevada Ensatina Ensatina eschscholtzii xanthoptica Yellow-eyed Ensatina

Hydromantes brunusLimestone SalamanderHydromantes platycephalusMount Lyell Salamander

Hydromantes shastae Shasta Salamander

Plethodon asupakScott River SalamanderPlethodon dunniDunn's SalamanderPlethodon elongatusDel Norte Salamander

Plethodon stormi Siskiyou Mountains Salamander

RHYACOTRITONIDAE

Rhyacotriton variegatus Southern Torrent Salamander

SALAMANDRIDAE

Taricha granulosaRough-skinned NewtTaricha rivularisRed-bellied NewtTaricha sierraeSierra Newt

Taricha torosa Coast Range Newt

ANURA

ASCAPHIDAE

Ascaphus truei Coastal Tailed Frog

BUFONIDAE

Bufo alvarius Sonoran Desert Toad

Bufo boreas boreas Western Toad

Bufo boreas halophilus California Western Toad

Bufo californicus Arroyo Toad

Bufo canorusYosemite ToadBufo cognatusGreat Plains Toad

Bufo exsul Black Toad

Bufo punctatusRed-spotted ToadBufo woodhousiiWoodhouse's Toad

HYLIDAE

Pseudacris cadaverina California Treefrog
Pseudacris regilla Pacific Treefrog

RANIDAE

Rana aurora Northern Red-legged Frog
Rana boylii Foothill Yellow-legged Frog

Rana cascadae Cascades Frog

Rana draytonii California Red-legged Frog

Rana muscosa Southern Mountain Yellow-legged Frog

Rana pipiensNorthern Leopard FrogRana pretiosaOregon Spotted Frog

Rana sierrae Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog

Rana yavapaiensis Lowland Leopard Frog

SCAPHIOPODIDAE

Scaphiopus couchii Couch's Spadefoot

Spea hammondiiWestern SpadefootSpea intermontanaGreat Basin Spadefoot

TESTUDINES

EMYDIDAE

Emys marmorata marmorata Northern Pacific Pond Turtle Emys marmorata pallida Southern Pacific Pond Turtle

KINOSTERNIDAE

Kinosternon sonoriense Sonoran Mud Turtle

TESTUDINIDAE

Gopherus agassizii Desert Tortoise

SQUAMATA - LIZARDS

ANGUIDAE

Elgaria coerulea Coerulea San Francisco Alligator Lizard

Elgaria coerulea palmeri Sierra Nevada Alligator Lizard

Elgaria coerulea shastensis Shasta Alligator Lizard

Elgaria coerulea principisNorthwestern Alligator LizardElgaria multicarinata multicarinataCalifornia Alligator LizardElgaria multicarinata scincicaudaOregon Alligator LizardElgaria multicarinata webbiiSan Diego Alligator Lizard

Elgaria panamintina Panamint Alligator Lizard

ANNIELLIDAE

Anniella pulchra pulchra
Anniella pulchra nigra
Silvery Legless Lizard
Black Legless Lizard

CROTOPHYTIDAE

Crotaphytus bicinctores Great Basin Collared Lizard
Crotaphytus vestigium Baja California Collared Lizard

Gambelia copeiiCope's Leopard LizardGambelia silaBlunt-nosed Leopard LizardGambelia wislizeniiLong-nosed Leopard Lizard

GEKKONIDAE

Coleonyx switaki Barefoot Gecko

Coleonyx variegatus abbotti San Diego Banded Gecko Coleonyx variegatus variegatus Desert Banded Gecko

Phyllodactylus nocticolus Leaf-toed Gecko

HELODERMATIDAE

Heloderma suspectum cinctum Banded Gila Monster

IGUANIDAE

Dipsosaurus dorsalis Desert Iguana

Sauromalus ater Chuckwalla

PHRYNOSOMATIDAE

Callisaurus draconoides Zebra-tailed Lizard

Petrosaurus mearnsi Banded Rock Lizard

Phrynosoma blainvillii Coast Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma douglassiPigmy Short-horned LizardPhrynosoma mcalliiFlat-tailed Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma platyrhinos calidiarum Phrynosoma platyrhinos platyrhinos Southern Desert Horned Lizard Northern Desert Horned Lizard

Sceloporus graciosus gracilis
Sceloporus graciosus graciosus
Sceloporus graciosus vandenburgianus
Sceloporus magister uniformis
Sceloporus magister transversus
Sceloporus occidentalis becki
Sceloporus occidentalis biseriatus
Sceloporus occidentalis bocourtii
Sceloporus occidentalis longipes
Sceloporus occidentalis occidentalis
Sceloporus occidentalis taylori

Western Sagebrush Lizard Northern Sagebrush Lizard Southern Sagebrush Lizard Yellow-backed Desert Spiny Lizard

Barred Desert Spiny Lizard
Island Fence Lizard
San Joaquin Fence Lizard
Coast Range Fence Lizard
Great Basin Fence Lizard
Northwestern Fence Lizard
Sierra Fence Lizard
Granite Spiny Lizard

Uma inornata Uma notata Uma scoparia

Sceloporus orcutti

Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard Colorado Desert Fringe-toed Lizard Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard

Urosaurus graciosus Urosaurus nigricaudus Urosaurus ornatus Long-tailed Brush Lizard
Baja California Brush Lizard

Ornate Tree Lizard

Uta stansburiana elegans Uta stansburiana nevadensis Uta stansburiana stansburiana Western Common Side-blotched Lizard Nevada Common Side-blotched Lizard Northern Common Side-blotched Lizard

SCINCIDAE

Plestiodon gilberti Plestiodon skiltonianus skiltonianus Plestiodon skiltonianus interparietalis Gilbert's Skink Western Skink Coronado Skink

TEIIDAE

Aspidoscelis hyperythra
Aspidoscelis tigris munda
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri
Aspidoscelis tigris tigris

Orange-throated Whiptail California Whiptail Coastal Whiptail Great Basin Whiptail

XANTUSIIDAE

Xantusia gracilis Xantusia henshawi Xantusia riversiana Sandstone Night Lizard Henshaw's Night Lizard Island Night Lizard Xantusia vigilis sierrae Xantusia vigilis vigilis Xantusia wigginsi Xantusia sp. "Yucca Valley" Xantusia sp. "San Jacinto"

Sierra Night Lizard
Desert Night Lizard
Baja California Night Lizard
Yucca Valley Night Lizard
San Jacinto Night Lizard

Rubber Boa

Southern Rubber Boa

SQUAMATA - SNAKES

BOIDAE

Charina bottae bottae Charina bottae umbratica

Lichanura orcutti California Rosy Boa

COLUBRIDAE

Arizona elegans candidaMojave Glossy SnakeArizona elegans eburnataDesert Glossy SnakeArizona elegans occidentalisCalifornia Glossy Snake

Bogertophis rosaliae Baja California Rat Snake

Chionactis occipitalis annulata
Chionactis occipitalis occipitalis
Chionactis occipitalis talpina
Colorado Shovel-nosed Snake
Mojave Shovel-nosed Snake
Nevada Shovel-nosed Snake

Coluber constrictor mormon Western Yellow-bellied Racer

Contia longicaudae Forest Sharp-tailed Snake
Contia tenuis Common Sharp-tailed Snake

Diadophis punctatus "Coastal CA"

Diadophis punctatus "Eastern CA"

Diadophis punctatus "Southern CA"

Diadophis punctatus "Great Basin"

Ring-necked Snake

Ring-necked Snake

Ring-necked Snake

Ring-necked Snake

Ring-necked Snake

Hypsiglena chlorophaeaNorthern Desert Night SnakeHypsiglena ochrorhyncha klauberiSan Diego Night SnakeHypsiglena ochrorhyncha nuchulataCalifornia Night Snake

Lampropeltis californiae Common Kingsnake

Lampropeltis zonata "Coastal Clade" California Mountain Kingsnake

Lampropeltis zonata "Northeastern Clade" Lampropeltis zonata "Southern Clade" California Mountain Kingsnake California Mountain Kingsnake

Masticophis flagellum piceus
Masticophis flagellum ruddocki
Masticophis fuliginosus
Masticophus lateralis euryxanthus
Masticophus lateralis lateralis
Masticophis taeniatus

Red Coachwhip San Joaquin Coachwhip Baja California Coachwhip Alameda Striped Racer California Striped Racer Striped Whipsnake

Phyllorhynchus decurtatus

Spotted Leaf-nosed Snake

Pituophis catenifer affinis
Pituophis catenifer annectens
Pituophis catenifer catenifer
Pituophis catenifer deserticola
Pituophis catenifer pumilis

Sonoran Gopher Snake San Diego Gopher Snake Pacific Gopher Snake Great Basin Gopher Snake Santa Cruz Island Gopher Snake

Rhinocheilus lecontei

Long-nosed Snake

Salvadora hexalepis hexalepis Salvadora hexalepis mojavensis Salvadora hexalepis virgultea Desert Patch-nosed Snake Mojave Patch-nosed Snake Coast Patch-nosed Snake

Sonora semiannulata

Western Ground Snake

Tantilla hobartsmithi Tantilla planiceps Southwestern Black-headed Snake California Black-headed Snake

Thamnophis atratus atratus Thamnophis atratus hydrophilus Thamnophis atratus zaxanthus Santa Cruz Aquatic Garter Snake Oregon Aquatic Garter Snake

Thamnophis couchii Thamnophis elegans elegans Diable Range Aquatic Garter Snake Sierra (Western Aquatic) Garter Snake Mountain Terrestrial Garter Snake Coast Terrestrial Garter Snake

Wandering Terrestrial Garter Snake

Thamnophis elegans terrestris Thamnophis elegans vagrans

Giant Garter Snake

Thamnophis gigas

Two-striped Garter Snake Checkered Garter Snake Northwestern Garter Snake

Thamnophis hammondii Thamnophis marcianus Thamnophis ordinoides Thamnophis sirtalis fitchi Thamnophis sirtalis infernalis

Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia

Valley Garter Snake

California Red-sided Garter Snake

San Francisco Gartersnake

Thamnophis sirtalis sp. South Coast Garter Snake

Trimorphodon lambda Sonoran Lyre Snake Trimorphodon lyrophanes Peninsular Lyre Snake

LEPTOTYPHLOPIDAE

Leptotyphlops humilis humilis Southwestern Blind Snake

Leptotyphlops humilis cahuilae Desert Blindsnake

VIPERIDAE

Crotalus atrox Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake

Crotalus cerastes cerastes Mojave Desert Sidewinder Crotalus cerastes laterorepens Colorado Desert Sidewinder

Crotalus mitchellii Speckled Rattlesnake

Crotalus oreganus helleriSouthern Pacific RattlesnakeCrotalus oreganus lutosusGreat Basin RattlesnakeCrotalus oreganus oreganusNorthern Pacific RattlesnakeCrotalus ruberRed Diamond RattlesnakeCrotalus scutulatusNorthern Mojave Rattlesnake

Crotalus stephensi Panamint Rattlesnake

Table 2

Taxon	Highest Relevant Ranking Status	PARCA Criteria	Total Area of Distribution	Required Size of PARCA designation
Ambystoma californiense	Threatened - USFWS	2	60,792	6,079
Ambystoma californiense "Santa Barbara"	Endangered - USFWS	2	755	76
Ambystoma californiense "Sonoma"	Endangered - USFWS	2	223	22
Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum	Endangered - USFWS	2	103	10
Aneides ferreus	NatureServe-G3	2	4,381	438
Anniella pulchra	NatureServe-G3G4	2	121,664	12,166
Batrachoseps campi	IUCN - Endangered	2	578	58
Batrachoseps diabolicus	NatureServe-G2	2	5,548	555
Batrachoseps gabrieli	NatureServe-G2	2	1,510	151
Batrachoseps gregarius	NatureServe-G2G3	2	8,720	872
Batrachoseps incognitus	NatureServe-G2G3	2	726	73
Batrachoseps kawia	NatureServe-G1G2	2	754	75
Batrachoseps luciae	NatureServe-G2G3	2	5,134	513
Batrachoseps major aridus	Endangered - USFWS	2	96	10
Batrachoseps minor	NatureServe-G1G2	2	146	15
Batrachoseps regius	NatureServe-G1	2	6,325	632
Batrachoseps relictus	NatureServe-G2	2	492	49
Batrachoseps robustus	NatureServe-G2	2	2,960	296
Batrachoseps simatus	NatureServe-G2	2	773	77
Batrachoseps stebbinsi	USFWS - Candidate	2	1,329	133
Bufo californicus	USFWS-Endangered	2	31,750	3,175
Bufo canorus	USFWS-Candidate	2	8,320	832
Bufo exsul	NatureServe-G1Q	2	309	31
Charina bottae umbratica	NatureServe-G2G3	2	2,159	216
Dicamptodon ensatus	NatureServe-G3	2	11,370	1,137
Elgaria panamintina	NatureServe-G2G3	2	10,845	1,085

Emys marmorata	NatureServe-G3G4	2	265,202	26,520
Gambelia sila	USFWS-Endangered	2	12,540	1,254
Gopherus agassizii	USFWS-Threatened	2	85,916	8,592
Hydromantes brunus	NatureServe-G1	2	381	38
Hydromantes shastae	NatureServe-G1G2	2	1,583	158
Masticophus lateralis euryxanthus	USFWS-Threatened	2	3,025	303
Phrynosoma blainvilli	NatureServe-G3G4	2	113,424	11,342
Phrynosoma mcallii	NatureServe-G3	2	8,276	828
Plethodon asupak	NatureServe-G1G2	2	525	52
Plethodon stormi	IUCN - Endangered	2	323	32
Rana boylii	NatureServe-G3	2	120,389	12,039
Rana cascadae	NatureServe-G3G4	2	7,963	796
Rana draytonii	USFWS-Threatened	2	133,206	13,321
Rana muscosa	USFWS-Endangered	2	13,364	1,336
Rana pretiosa	USFWS-Candidate	2	2,509	251
Rana sierrae	USFWS-Candidate	2	27,093	2,709
Rhyacotriton variegatus	NatureServe- G3G4	2	18,487	1,849
Spea hammondii	NatureServe-G3	2	101,157	10,116
Thamnophis gigas	USFWS-Threatened	2	24,961	2,496
Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia	USFWS-Endangered	2	1,231	123
Uma inornata	USFWS-Threatened	2	1,606	161
Uma notata	NatureServe-G3	2	9,160	916
Uma scoparia	NatureServe-G3G4	2	34,471	3,447
Xantusia gracilis	NatureServe-G1	2	28	3
Xantusia riversiana	NatureServe-G1	2	207	21
Ascaphus truei	NatureServe-S2S3	3	39,464	7,893
Aspidoscelis hyperythra	NatureServe-S2	3	11,030	2,206
Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri	NatureServe-S2S3	3	25,648	5,130
Batrachoseps pacificus	NatureServe-S2	3	507	101
Coleonyx switaki	NatureServe-S1	3	1,646	329
Coleonyx variegatus abbotti	NatureServe-S2S3	3	5,712	1,142

Crotalus ruber	NatureServe-S2	3	22,751	4,550
Diadophis punctatus "Southern CA"	NatureServe-S2	3	18,510	3,702
Ensatina eschscholtzii croceater	NatureServe- S2S3	3	5,489	1,098
Ensatina eschscholtzii klauberi	NatureServe- S2S3	3	7,840	1,568
Heloderma suspectum cinctum	NatureServe-S1	3	7,698	1,540
Lampropeltis zonata "Southern" Clade	NatureServe-S1S2	3	6,764	1,353
Masticophis flagellum ruddocki	NatureServe-S2	3	50,419	10,084
Pituophis catenifer pumilis	NatureServe-S1	3	465	93
Plestiodon skiltonianus interparietalis	NatureServe-S1S2	3	16,123	3,225
Rana aurora	NatureServe-S2	3	8,529	1,706
Salvadora hexalepis virgultea	NatureServe-S2S3	3	33,679	6,736
Scaphiopus couchii	NatureServe-S2S3	3	8,596	1,719
Thamnophis hammondii	NatureServe-S2	3	63,970	12,794
Thamnophis sirtalis "South Coast"	NatureServe-S1S2	3	22,154	4,431
Xantusia vigilis sierrae	NatureServe-S1	3	936	187
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum	CDFG-SSC	4	19,484	5,845
Aneides flavipunctatus niger	CDFG-SSC	4	2,170	651
Arizona elegans occidentalis	CDFG-SSC	4	50,754	15,226
Bufo alvarius	CDFG-SSC	4	475	142
Diadophis punctatus "Great Basin"	CDFG-SSC	4	2,956	887
Gambelia copeii	CDFG-SSC	4	192	58
Hydromantes platycephalus	CDFG-Special Animal	4	15,316	4,595
Kinosternon sonoriense	CDFG-SSC	4	214	64
Lichanura orcutti	CDFG-Special Animal	4	97,142	29,143
Masticophis fuliginosus	CDFG-SSC	4	1,021	306
Plethodon elongatus	CDFG-Special Animal	4	8,326	2,498
Sceloporus graciosus graciosus	CDFG-Special Animal	4	30,900	9,270
Taricha rivularis	CDFG-SSC	4	10,861	3,258
Taricha torosa - southern range	CDFG-SSC	4	14,915	4,475