

XV. Glossary

The following explanations help clarify the definitions and intent of the terms used throughout the OWMP.

1:1 On-site Replacement – On-site oak woodland replacement shall be based on the following described formula; replacement oak planting plans shall be approved in writing by the Planning Department prior to implementation: either one oak sapling, three acorns, or one pre-germinated acorn planted at a spacing of about 15 feet for every 200 square feet of ground disturbance within the parcel's oak woodland (Standiford et al., 2002). Replacement plantings shall be designed to achieve the same or a comparable mix of native oak trees that were removed.

Certified Arborist is a person certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA), or other recognized professional organization of arborists that provides professional advice and licenses professionals to do physical work on trees.

Certified Rangeland Manager is a person licensed by the State of California through the California State Board of Forestry. Certified Rangeland Managers apply scientific principles to the art and science of managing rangelands and are recognized by the California Section, Society for Range Management as meeting the education, experience, and ethical standards for professional rangeland managers (University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources website).

Equal or Greater Biological Value – With reference to off-site mitigation for discretionary projects that are subject to CEQA, the Equal or Greater Biological Value mitigation fee will be determined through a Biological Resources Study (and an Important Habitat Mitigation Program) as required under Policy 7.4.4.4, Policy 7.4.2.8, and Measure CO-U.

Fragmentation – Fragmentation refers to the division or breaking-up of continuous (e.g., Large Expanse of Oak Woodland) habitat into smaller units that are separated from one another, resulting in degradation of habitat.

Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitat – All contiguous Oak Woodland Habitats that are a minimum of approximately 500 acres in size, have limited existing and potential for fragmentation (the expanse is mostly undeveloped and existing parcels are greater than or equal to 40 acres), and can be interconnected to other Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitat, and OWCs. Portions of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area include Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitat.

Non-Riparian Oak Woodland Corridor – Oak Woodland Habitat that: 1) is at least 500 feet wide, and 2) connects Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitat. The corridor may include short segments of CWHR types that are not oak woodland; however, the predominant CWHR types within the corridor are oak woodland. Sections of the proposed Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor represent examples of this type of oak woodland corridor.

Oak Tree Canopy Cover – Oak Tree Canopy Cover is the area of ground covered by the vertical projection of the aerial portions of all oak trees within a parcel and is usually recorded as a percentage. It is calculated for the entire parcel, regardless of whether all or part of the parcel has woodland. Canopy cover is based on 2004 or more recent aerial imagery or an on-site survey of oak canopy. Oak tree canopy cover is calculated assuming 100 percent canopy closure within the dripline. Where oak tree canopy does not meet the thresholds (10 percent canopy cover) for Oak Woodland, then mitigation for oak tree removal shall comply with the Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance (Policy 7.4.5.2).

Oak Woodland – Oak Woodland means an oak stand with greater than 10 percent canopy cover or that may have historically supported greater than 10 percent canopy cover (Oak Woodlands Conservation Act, Fish and Game Code Section 1361). Although still subject to discussion, the existing General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 defines Oak Woodland as oak tree canopy that covers at least 10 percent of parcels less than 1 acre in size, and parcels that are 1 acre or larger where at least 1 percent of the parcel area is covered by oak tree canopy of at least 10 percent.

Oak Woodland Corridors (OWCs) – Areas of existing habitat connectivity that primarily follow perennial stream courses and represent important habitat links between PCAs. Land management within OWCs should avoid fragmentation, degradation or discontinuity, and encourage fencing, vegetation, and fuels/fire management activities that promote biological and other habitat resource values. Oak woodland corridors are closely related and interdependent with Patches of Oak Woodland Habitat. Hilty (2001), Hilty and Merenlender (2004), and Hilty et al. (2006) discuss corridors. Two or more OWCs should connect each PCA. The Weber Creek corridor is an example of an OWC.

Oak Woodland Habitat – Oak Woodland Habitat is defined by the following CDFG California Wildlife Habitat Relationship (CWHR) types: Blue Oak Woodland (BOW), Blue Oak-Foothill Pine (BOP), Montane Hardwood-Conifer (MHC), Montane Hardwood (MHW), and Valley Oak Woodland (VOW). Valley-Foothill Riparian (VRI) is a sixth category of woodland habitat type that would meet the above definitions for oak woodland; however, FRAP mapping does not differentiate this woodland category in El Dorado County. VRI habitat conservation is addressed through two other mechanisms: 1) the designation of OWC (defined above), and 2) the County's setback requirements for perennial and intermittent streams and riparian and wetland areas as described in General Plan Policies 7.3.3.4 and 7.4.2.5, and Implementation Measure CO-O.

On-Site Preservation and/or Restoration – As required under Option B for certain developments, On-Site Preservation and/or Restoration will be determined through the completion and County approval of a Biological Resources Study and Important Habitat Mitigation Program.

Option A Canopy Retention – Oak woodland canopy percentage retention requirements in Policy 7.4.4.4. Requirements are based on percentage of existing canopy cover.

Option B Mitigation – Option B under Policy 7.4.4.4 includes two alternative methods for off-site mitigation: 1) payment of a fee (for mitigating oak woodland acreage directly lost and indirectly impacted by habitat fragmentation) to the County’s INRMP conservation fund for acquisition, restoration, management, and monitoring of habitat at a 2:1 ratio, or 2) applicant acquisition, restoration, and/or management, and payment of an endowment for County monitoring and reporting of replacement oak woodland habitat at a 2:1 ratio that is of equal or greater biological value subject to County approval.

Patches of Oak Woodland Habitat – All Oak Woodland Habitats that are a minimum of approximately 10 acres in size and at least 300 to 500 feet in width, are either undisturbed or have a high potential for oak woodland restoration success, and are interconnected with Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitat, PCAs, or OWCs. Patches are not meant to substitute for Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitat but are meant to provide “stepping stones” of suitable habitat along corridors between Large Expanses (Hilty et al., 2006). The smallest Patches are intended for urban areas when larger Patches no longer exist. Patches that occur within the Cool area and that interconnect with OWCs of the North Fork American River are examples of this category of woodland habitat.

Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) – Priority Conservation Areas meet the definition of Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitat and are unlikely to undergo substantial fragmentation because of the General Plan land use designations. Conservation funding shall prioritize PCAs, OWCs, VOW and VRI CWHR types designated by the 2004 General Plan EIR as ‘sensitive’ habitats for El Dorado County, and BOW and BOP CWHR types due to the statewide policy (AB 242 and SB 1334) on conservation of these oak woodland habitat types (and due to the low success rate for regeneration of these types). County requests for grants and cost-sharing, and allocation of Option B funding, shall emphasize Large Expanses of Oak Woodland Habitats (i.e., PCAs) that have a high proportion of VOW, VRI, and BOW or BOP for conservation or preservation purposes. Also, because of the relatively higher density land uses, smaller parcels, and high probability of fragmentation along the Highway 50 corridor, designated OWCs that trend north-south across Highway 50 represent examples of higher priority areas for conservation funding.

Qualified Biologist is a person who meets qualifications as determined by the Director of Development Services. A qualified biologist has a BA/BS or advanced degree in biological sciences or other degree specializing in the natural sciences, professional or academic experience as a biological field investigator, taxonomic experience and knowledge of plant and animal ecology, familiarity with plants and animals of the area including species of concern, and familiarity with the appropriate county, state and federal policies and protocols related to special-status species and biological surveys (El Dorado County, 2006).

Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is a person licensed by the State of California to perform professional services that require the application of forestry principles and techniques to the management of forested landscapes. RPFs have an understanding of forest growth, development, and regeneration; forest health; wildfire; soils, geology, and hydrology; wildlife and fisheries biology, and other forest resources (California Licensed Foresters Association website).

Riparian Oak Woodland Corridor – Oak Woodland Habitat that: 1) is at least 500 feet wide and either adjacent to, centered on, or otherwise closely follows perennial stream or river courses or other perennial water bodies, and 2) interconnects OWCs and/or PCAs. Corridors may be considered along intermittent streams but perennial streams will receive the greatest consideration. The vegetation immediately adjacent to the water may be natural vegetation that is not dominated by oak trees; however, the predominant CWHR types within the corridor are oak woodland. (Taken generally from Hilty et al., 2006). The Greenwood Creek Riparian Oak Woodland Corridor, located between Georgetown and Cool, is an example of this type of Oak Woodland Corridor.

Sensitive Habitat – For purposes of the OWMP, and as used in the 2004 General Plan EIR, ‘sensitive’ oak woodland habitat refers to those CWHR types labeled VOW and VRI, which are recommended in this plan to receive highest priority for conservation and preservation. Since VOW and VRI are typically associated with riparian and other waterway habitats, this OWMP definition is consistent with the ‘sensitive’ habitat definition under Policy 7.4.2.8 (INRMP).