

# Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Investment Strategy

## Focal Species

26 species have been identified within the AV RCIS study area that could require mitigation or are considered as species of conservation importance.

Plants	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals
Alkali mariposa-lily	Coast horned lizard	Burrowing owl	American badger
Joshua tree	Desert horned lizard	California condor	Desert kit fox
California juniper	Desert tortoise	Golden eagle	Mohave ground squirrel
Spreading navarretia	Western pond turtle	Le Conte's thrasher	Mule deer
		Least Bell's vireo	Tehachapi pocket mouse
		Loggerhead shrike	
		Mountain plover	
		Northern harrier	
		Prairie falcon	
		Willow flycatcher	
		Swainson's hawk	
		Tricolored blackbird	
		Long-billed curlew	

## Other Important Resource Conservation Elements

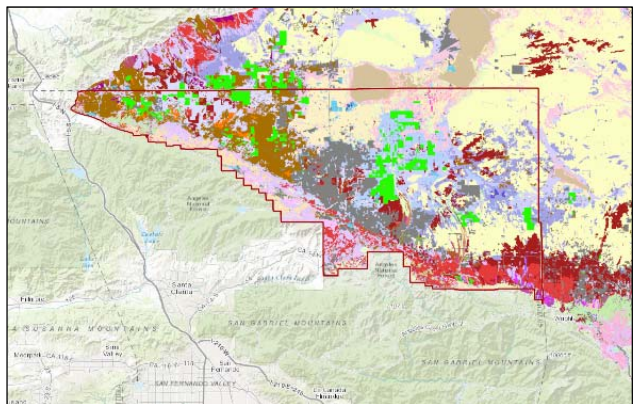
Other important resources considered in the RCIS include:

### Natural Communities

Natural communities are assemblages of species that recur together in particular environmental conditions. These groups of plants and associated animals can be classified and described by their dominant biological and physical features.

### Habitat Connectivity

Habitat connectivity between core habitat areas, including how future climate change may affect wildlife corridors, will be an important consideration for the RCIS.

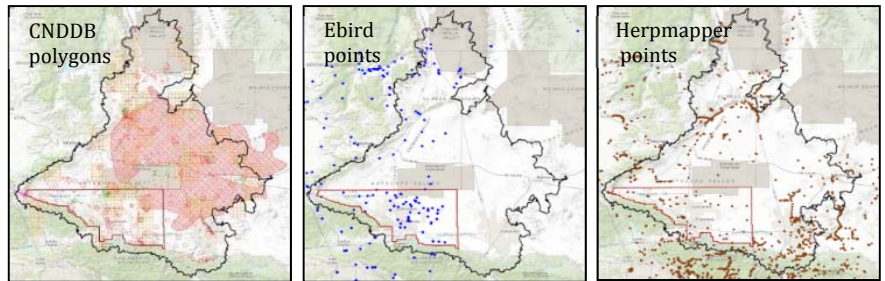


## Sensitive Species Occurrences

The California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB January 2017), eBird, and HerpMapper data identify areas of concentrated sensitive species occurrences.

## Water Features

Ponds, springs, seeps, and ephemeral wetlands are some of the water features that have high conservation value in the Antelope Valley desert landscape.



## Agricultural Land

The conservation value of preserving work lands for agricultural uses, and for their value as habitat to certain focal species (e.g., Swainson's hawk, long-billed curlew) will be considered.

## Existing Protected Lands

Public lands, conservation easements, and other permanently protected lands in the RCIS study area form important cornerstones for future conservation. These areas will be evaluated to determine where conservation investments can have the greatest benefit to focal species and other important resource conservation elements by building upon areas already protected. The map below shows most of the currently protected lands in the RCIS study area.

