Appendix 4

California Strongholds: Threats and Vulnerabilities Assessment

California Strongholds: Threats and Vulnerabilities Assessment
North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership
Prepared by Trout Unlimited

Overview

A truly effective salmon conservation effort in California requires state, federal, and tribal resource managers along with leading non-governmental agencies to prioritize, coordinate, and fund landscape-scale strategies to conserve the healthiest wild salmon ecosystems – known as "salmon strongholds" – across jurisdictional boundaries, in partnership with local stakeholders. To reach that goal, the effort must first identify threats and needs in each of California's identified strongholds.

We have used California Trout's *Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout in California: Status of an Emblematic Fauna* report (the "SOS Report") and Trout Unlimited's Conservation Success Index (CSI) to identify the threats and vulnerabilities of each stronghold. The SOS Report is a comprehensive account of the status of California's native salmonids completed by Peter Moyle, Joshua Israel, and Sabra Purdy of University of California – Davis' Center for Watershed Sciences and commissioned by California Trout in 2008. The SOS Report provides detailed information on life history, habitat requirements, abundance, factors affecting status, conservation, and trends for each species. The full report is available at www.caltrout.org/SOS-Californias-Native-Fish-Crisis-Final-Report.pdf

The CSI is a watershed-scale assessment of information related to a species' distribution, habitat features, and future threats. The CSI assembles GIS data available from national or state resource management agencies in a database, summarizes the data by watershed, and assigns a categorical score (5 through 1, reflecting exceptional through poor condition) to the data based on the best scientific understanding of the influence of the particular data on salmon. These species-specific analyses – 17 "indicators" – are organized into four thematic groups and summed for the current distribution of each species/run: range-wide conditions, population integrity, habitat integrity, and future security. This threats and vulnerabilities analysis will focus on the habitat integrity and future security indictors. Habitat integrity metrics assess habitat condition based on stressors that can be readily captured by GIS data. Each indicator takes into account a variety of factors related to watershed condition (primarily roads), temperature, watershed connectivity (barriers), water quality (primarily land uses), and flow regime. Future security indicators anticipate the threats salmonids will face in the near future. Indicators account for a variety of factors related to land conversion (urban and vineyard), resource extraction (renewable and non-renewable), climate change, sedimentation, and land stewardship.

The effects of climate change will be of particular interest within the strongholds. The CSI assesses the vulnerability of salmonids to climate change based on three risk factors – increasing summer temperatures, changes in flow volume, and changes in precipitation and flow regime. Increasing air temperatures will increase water temperatures, displacing species

from portions of their current distribution. Based on the observed relationship between the distribution of coho and winter steelhead in California and August air temperature (Agrawal et al 2005), the CSI calculates the average risk of exceeding these species-specific temperature thresholds under current climate conditions (PRISM, 2008) and using forecasts for 2050 (Maurer, 2007). The CSI also assesses changes in flow volume, which will be most pronounced in systems with surface runoff flow regimes. The CSI summarizes precipitation forecasts for 2050 (Maurer, 2007) and base flow index (Wolock, 2003), the ratio of base flow (groundwater flows) to total flow expressed as a percentage, by watershed. Finally, the CSI identifies areas vulnerable to changes in precipitation and flow regime. Transitions in California's winter precipitation regimes may be associated with changes in spring peak flow timing and magnitude, summer low flow magnitude, and increased likelihood of rain-on-snow events. For each watershed, we predict the transition in precipitation regime, where regimes include snow-dominated (Dec – Feb mean temperature < - 1°C), mixed (Dec – Feb mean temperature between – 1°C and 1°C), and rain-dominated (Dec – Feb mean temperature > 1°C), based on current climate (PRISM, 2008) and forecasts for 2050 (Maurer, 2007).

Additional information, including descriptions of the variables, a scoring framework, and references for all data used in the analysis, is available at www.tu.org/csi

Taken together, the SOS Report and the CSI provide an in-depth narrative account of species-specific factors affecting salmonid survival and persistence and a quantitative assessment of habitat and threat data of consistent source and scale to characterize their watersheds. These findings are summarized below by stronghold. The threats and needs identified are the factors that stand out as immediate threats or through comparison across strongholds; *local understanding and knowledge will provide important information on fine-scale threats and needs within strongholds.*

Smith River stronghold

The Smith River has characteristics that evoke a pristine stronghold – clear, cold rivers flowing from a largely protected watershed. Nonetheless, several stressors are present that could influence the stronghold.

CSI findings focused on existing habitat conditions identify several factors that currently influence the productivity of the system. Barriers are relatively abundant, both within watersheds (especially in watersheds surrounding the estuary) and downstream on mainstem streams and rivers. These barriers can inhibit salmon and steelhead passage and represent false movement corridors, entraining juveniles. Additionally, active mines are present in lower portions of the stronghold.

CSI future security results identify the expansive forest resources within the stronghold as a potential vulnerability. However, much of these resources are encumbered within formally protected federal lands, including the Smith River National Recreation Area and the Siskyou Wilderness Area. CSI climate change analyses identify the surface runoff regime within the stronghold as moderately susceptible to changes in precipitation and flow volume. Several

watersheds have moderate risk for increased summer temperature for coho, the most temperature intolerant of California's salmon species. The inherent geomorphic structure of the basin is at moderate risk to shallow landslides. Some of this vulnerability is due to roads, many a legacy of historical logging activities, which traverse unstable slopes. The patterns of these stressors are depicted in Map 1. Average CSI metrics and scores for all watersheds within each stronghold are summarized in Table 1.

The SOS Report also suggests that the logging legacy within the basin continues to contribute sediment to streams. Two other vulnerabilities for the system described by the SOS Report are the estuary conditions, where dikes and levees have contributed to the conversion of much of the important estuary habitats, and hatchery influences, especially the small and unnecessary fall chinook program at the Rowdy Creek Hatchery. Nonetheless, the Smith River is the largest coastal river in California without a major dam. Conservation efforts, including the designation of the Smith River National Recreation Area and private conservation actions by groups like the Smith River Alliance, have made major strides in ensuring the continued productivity of the Smith River.

Salmon/Mid-Klamath stronghold

The Salmon/Mid-Klamath stronghold contains largely uninhabited watersheds in federal ownership held by the US Forest Service, but many of the threats and vulnerabilities to the stronghold relate to legacy land uses and conditions upstream and downstream that influence the access, survival, and persistence of salmon and steelhead locally.

The CSI identifies several factors that are current threats to the Salmon and Mid-Klamath system. Both strongholds have temperature issues, reflected in high mileages of streams listed by the State Water Resources Control Board (303(d)) for temperature and in miles of habitat currently exceeding the summer temperature threshold for coho. The mainstem Klamath is also listed for microcystin toxins, which can directly and indirectly influence the survival of adult and juvenile salmon and steelhead. Both strongholds also are identified as having relatively high numbers of downstream barriers. Additionally, the Salmon River stronghold is identified as having a high ratio of road mileage within the riparian zone to stream miles, a metric that can reflect floodplain alteration and the disruption of river connectivity.

For future security, the CSI reveals an inherent geomorphic risk related to shallow slope landslides that can be particularly exacerbated by roads and suppressed fire regimes. Building on current climate stresses, future climate scenarios suggest further increasing risk for coho and moderate risk for steelhead due to increased summer temperatures, especially along the mainstem Klamath and lower elevation portions of its tributaries. Map 2 provides an overview of the distribution of these threats in the stronghold.

These temperature findings are confirmed by the SOS Report, which details the importance of coldwater tributaries to the integrity of the basins. The SOS Report further describes a number of additional stressors, including the legacy effects of logging and fires in both strongholds and

19th century mining in the Salmon River stronghold. Although under a temporary moratorium until 2012, continued suction dredge mining remains a threat in the Salmon River.

Other vulnerabilities for the Salmon/Mid-Klamath stronghold are related to its position upstream of the lower Klamath and Trinity Rivers and downstream of hydroelectric and agricultural development in the Upper Klamath. Upstream dams influence the stronghold by altering flow and temperature regimes in the mainstem Klamath. Downstream threats include the condition of mainstem and estuary habitats, ich and columnaris disease (especially for chinook runs), behavioral and genetic interactions with hatchery fish, and harvest (including commercial and sport fisheries that take all species and the illegal harvest of summer steelhead while holding in mainstem pools during summer).

Mattole/South Fork Eel stronghold

The Mattole and South Fork Eel stronghold, which also encompasses the Bear River, is largely privately owned and populated at low densities. Active forestry and some agriculture – and their legacies - are associated with many of the vulnerabilities within this stronghold.

The habitat assessment indicators within the CSI reveal multiple existing stressors in the Mattole/South Fork Eel stronghold. The South Fork Eel and Mattole basins both have a relatively high mileage of streams on the 303(d) list for sedimentation and temperature. Much of the sedimentation in both systems is associated with historical logging, slope failures, and flooding. High road densities in the Mattole and South Fork Eel and high ratios of road miles in riparian zones to stream miles in the South Fork Eel are also reflective of the logging legacy. A relatively high number of instream sand and gravel mining operations are an additional stressor in the South Fork Eel.

Future threats identified by the CSI specific to the Mattole River are vineyard conversion and roads that exist on slopes susceptible to shallow landslides. The vineyard conversion analysis within the CSI looks at the climatic, topographic, and soil characteristics that are suitable for growing wine grapes, an increasing cause of land conversion in coastal California. Vineyards are associated with water uses for frost and heat protection during critical low instream flow periods. The South Fork Eel is also at risk to vineyard conversion, as well as at moderate risk for increased summer temperature for coho. The entire stronghold is vulnerable to the effects of continued forestry operations and the lack of formally protected lands. The pattern of threats within the Mattole/South Fork Eel stronghold are displayed in Map 3.

The SOS Report describes multiple additional threats to the Mattole/South Fork Eel stronghold. In the Mattole, elevated instream temperatures are an issue likely tied to low flows resulting from widespread rural landowner water use. Additionally, the Mattole estuary is impaired by temperature, habitat degradation, and sedimentation. Much of the sediment in the estuary is related to the logging legacy in the basin. The South Fork Eel is similarly influenced by the effects of historical logging, particularly on mainstem habitats. Like the Salmon/Mid-Klamath stronghold, the integrity of the South Fork Eel stronghold is susceptible to conditions in the

downstream river, including estuary conditions and predation of juveniles by introduced Sacramento pikeminnow in the mainstem.

Sacramento stronghold

The Sacramento River stronghold encompasses much of the best remaining habitat in what was once the most productive salmon system in California. Antelope, Mill, Deer, and Butte Creeks and the mainstem Sacramento River are included in the stronghold.

Existing threats to the Sacramento stronghold, as identified within the CSI, fall into four main categories: passage and flow alterations associated with water infrastructure, urban and agricultural development, resource extraction, and inherent conditions. Mill and Deer Creeks are least affected by water infrastructure, but have relatively high numbers of downstream barriers, like all watersheds in the stronghold. Antelope and Butte Creek and the mainstem Sacramento have high risk of altered flows and juvenile entrainment due to high densities of canals (Butte and Sacramento), high densities of within watershed diversions (Antelope), high densities of diversions (Antelope and Sacramento), and the presence of multiple dams (Butte). Urban and agricultural development is relatively abundant in Butte Creek and along the Sacramento. Resource extraction activities in the stronghold are reflected in relatively high counts of active mines (Butte Creek), instream sand and gravel mining operations (Butte Creek), oil and gas wells (Butte Creek and the mainstem Sacramento), and miles of riparian area roads to stream miles (Antelope and Deer Creek, Sacramento). All watersheds except Deer Creek exceed the summer air temperature threshold related to steelhead persistence, though the spring-fed creeks in the stronghold may be buffered from air temperatures.

Future threats classified within the CSI for the Sacramento stronghold range from land use change to resource development to climate change. Urban development forecasts are most pronounced in Butte Creek. Developing the geothermal or wind resources in Deer and Mill Creek or forest resources in all watersheds except the Sacramento could bring new disturbance to those watersheds. Potential hydroelectric sites have been identified in Deer and Butte Creeks and the Sacramento, a threat that will have more immediacy with increasing water demands of agricultural and urban users in California. CSI climate change analyses find warming risk to be moderate for all watersheds in the stronghold, but high in the mainstem Sacramento. Headwater drainages in Butte, Deer, and Mill Creeks are at moderate risk of flow regime change, as they are forecast to transition from a snow/rain mixed winter precipitation regime to rain-dominated. Map 4 depicts CSI metrics and results.

The SOS Report describes an additional suite of threats and vulnerabilities for the Sacramento stronghold. Lost habitat, in the form of floodplain loss along the mainstem Sacramento and estuary conversion downstream to San Francisco Bay, is a major limiting factor for the stronghold. Harvest and competition with hatchery fish in the estuary represent additional vulnerabilities outside of the stronghold. Mill, Deer, and Butte Creeks are the watersheds in the stronghold with the least local influence of hatchery fish. The effects of historical mining in Mill and Deer Creeks and widespread logging in the upland portions of all the stronghold watersheds are a legacy influence on current productivity. The SOS Report identifies an

extreme threat in the form of the destructive eruption of Mt Lassen, which could eliminate much the productivity of the northern Sacramento River. The stronghold is also vulnerable to wildfire and sustained drought as less severe natural disturbances.

Big Sur stronghold

The Big Sur stronghold includes the Big Sur and Little Sur Rivers and San Jose Creek. These systems drain out of the Los Padres National Forest and portions of the Ventana Wilderness Area directly into the Pacific Ocean.

Within the Big Sur watershed, the only stressor identified by the CSI for current conditions is the ratio of diversions to stream miles, representing surface water usage. San Jose Creek has a relatively high number of active mines, within watershed barriers, and miles of riparian area roads to stream miles. The Little Sur River has no current threats as reflected in the metrics included in the CSI.

The CSI identifies several future threats for the stronghold. The Big Sur and Little Sur River watersheds are both at moderate risk for flow volume changes (as surface runoff dominated systems), moderate inherent risk to shallow slope landslides due to geomorphology, and high risk to landslides due to road placement on unstable slopes. The San Jose Creek watershed has similar vulnerability to flow volume change, but faces additional threats from land conversion to urban development and forest resource development. CSI results and metrics are mapped in Map 5.

The SOS Report describes the degraded estuary and lagoon conditions of each watershed in the Big Sur stronghold as the primary limiting factor related to anthropogenic causes. Other vulnerabilities for these watersheds relate to wildfire, drought, and increasing temperatures inland. These last stressors have likely historically acted upon all the small watersheds in the south-central California coast, causing some populations to become temporarily extirpated, but later recolonized by stray steelhead from neighboring watersheds.

Santa Clara stronghold

The Santa Clara stronghold represents the southernmost-identified stronghold for California's salmon and steelhead and the winter steelhead runs it is intended to protect are the southernmost-occurring anadromous species in North America. Given the significant declines of these runs and the urbanization of Southern California, this stronghold is faced with the largest suite of threats and vulnerabilities.

The CSI identifies multiple existing stressors in the Santa Clara. Large portions of the lower basin are converted to agricultural and urban land uses, a disturbance associated with many detrimental instream impacts. High road densities, high mileages of road miles in the riparian zone relative to stream miles, and high mileage of canals reflect these land uses. To meet the water needs of agricultural and urban water users, the basin has highly developed water storage infrastructure; these dams, barriers, and diversions block fish passage and alter flow and temperature regimes. Instream sand and gravel mining operations, other mines, active oil

and gas wells, 303(d) listing of the mainstem Santa Clara for toxins, and warm summer temperatures in the lowest elevation reaches also all pose additional existing threats to the stronghold. Future threats revealed by the CSI are increased urbanization, renewable energy development (solar and wind) in the eastern portion of the basin, and increasing summer temperatures. Map 6 shows the general distribution of threats in the Santa Clara basin.

The SOS Report confirms these findings, listing channel connectivity and barriers as major threats. Nonetheless, most of these threats are concentrated in the mainstem, migratory habitats. Large portions of rearing habitat on a major tributary are formally protected in the Sespe Creek Wilderness Area. If these habitats became readily accessible, they could again become highly productive. Additional work to restore habitat and mitigate pollution in the estuary and reduce the abundance of introduced, predatory smallmouth bass could further secure the Santa Clara stronghold.

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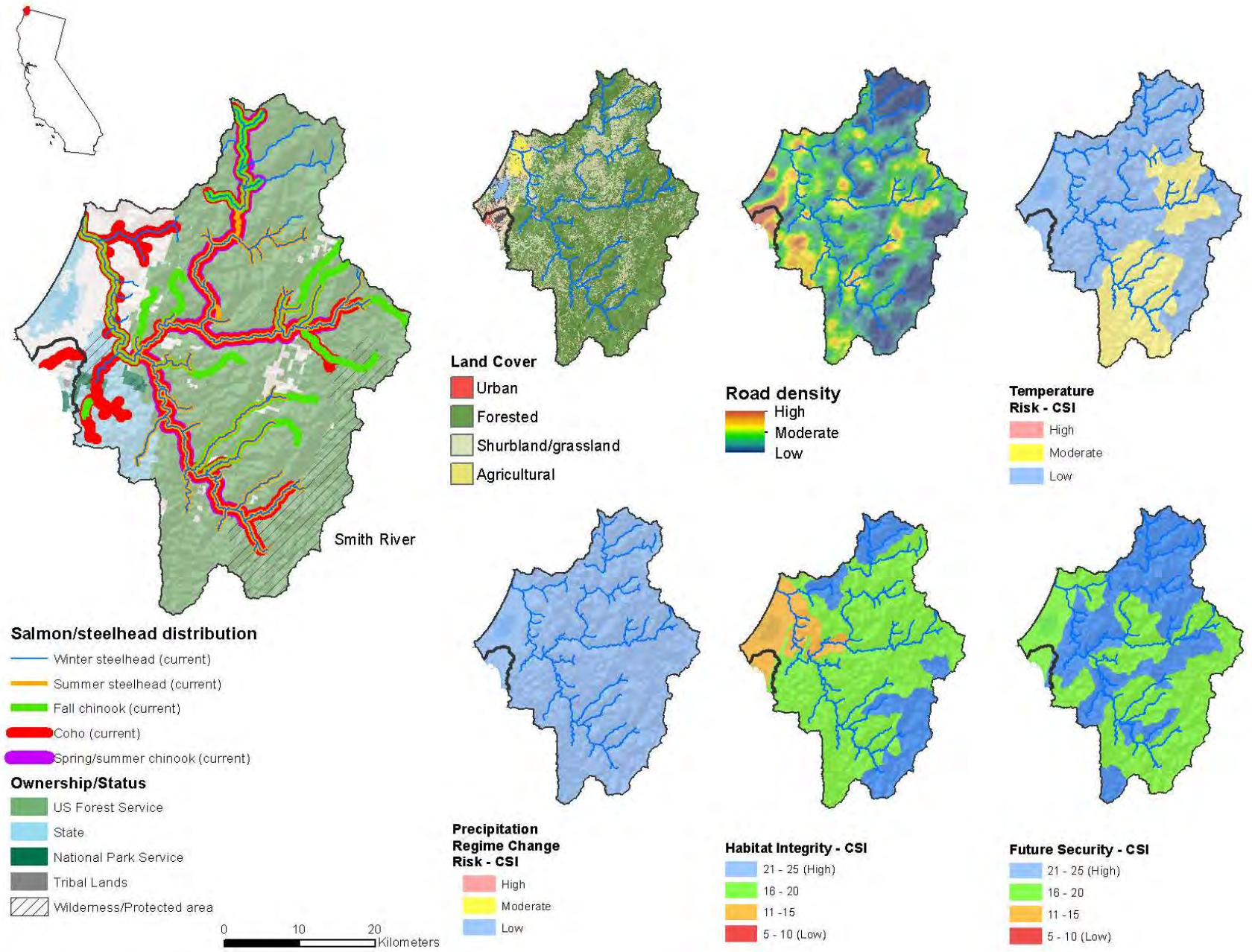
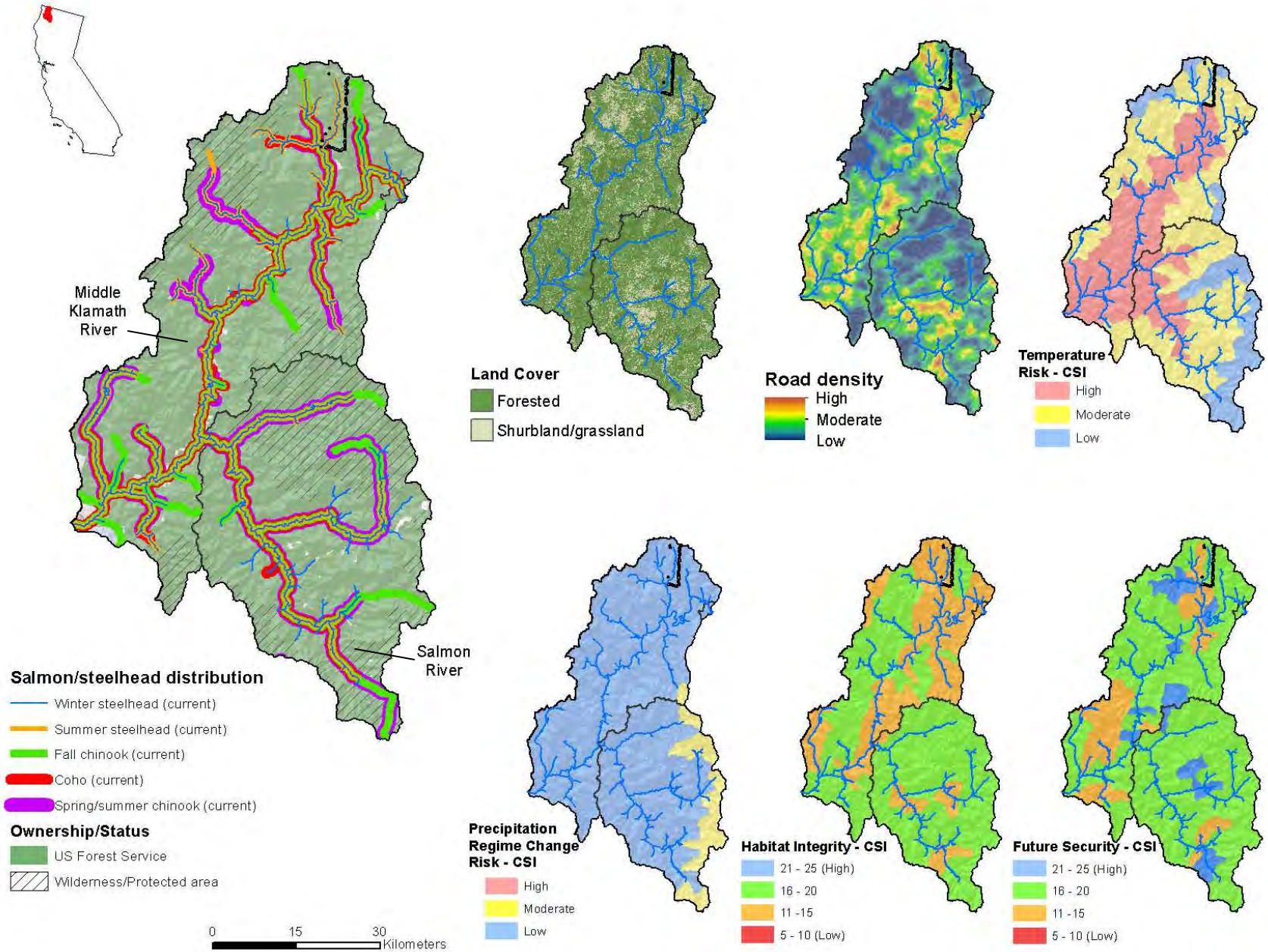
Table 1: Average CSI results by stronghold. Metrics that are potential threats are highlighted in red, while lowest threats are highlighted in green.

		Smith	Salmon	Mid-Klamath	Mattole	South Fork Eel	Bear	Antelope Cr	Mill Cr	Deer Cr	Butte Cr	Sacramento	Big Sur	Little Sur	San Jose Creek	Santa Clara
Habitat Integrity	Miles 303d sediment	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.1	15.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Road mi/stream mi	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4
	Road density	2.2	1.9	2.4	2.2	3.4	1.4	2.1	1.5	2.1	2.3	2.5	1.1	1.0	1.8	2.7
	Sand and gravel mine count	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
	Watershed Conditions CSI score	**2.8**	**2.4**	**2.6**	**2.3**	**1.7**	**3.2**	**2.3**	**3.5**	**2.5**	**2.6**	**2.4**	**3.4**	**4.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**
	Miles 303d temperature	0.0	12.0	13.3	17.1	15.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	% stream miles > 21.5 C (Coho threshold)	0.0%	35.4%	49.5%	0.0%	6.9%	0.0%									
	% stream miles > 24 C (Winter steelhead threshold)	0.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.7%	22.3%	16.6%	68.6%	81.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	39.7%
	Temperature Limitations CSI score - Coho	**4.4**	**2.5**	**2.2**	**3.0**	**2.9**	**4.5**									
	Temperature Limitations CSI score - Steelhead/Chinook	**4.4**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**3.0**	**4.5**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.2**	**2.3**	**1.1**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**2.3**
	Barriers in watershed	5.4	0.6	1.3	2.6	2.4	0.0	3.3	1.8	2.0	2.6	1.5	2.4	0.3	15.0	7.5
	Barriers downstream	19.2	5.2	6.7	1.3	3.6	0.0	18.7	13.5	21.3	6.6	5.9	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.3
	Watershed Connectivity CSI score	**2.2**	**2.4**	**2.8**	**3.5**	**2.7**	**5.0**	**2.0**	**2.5**	**2.0**	**2.7**	**3.7**	**3.2**	**4.3**	**2.0**	**2.9**
	Miles 303d toxins/nutrients	0.0	0.1	13.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.6	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4
	% agricultural or urban	4.6%	1.6%	3.1%	2.0%	4.4%	1.2%	1.1%	2.6%	4.2%	40.7%	69.0%	2.2%	0.3%	2.9%	15.1%
	Active mines	1.11	0.49	0.47	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.00	0.25	0.17	1.13	0.66	0.20	0.67	2.00	1.93
	Active oil and gas wells	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.12	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	32.3	118.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	794.0
	Water Quality CSI score	**4.4**	**4.7**	**3.0**	**4.9**	**4.7**	**4.8**	**5.0**	**4.8**	**4.5**	**2.8**	**1.7**	**4.6**	**4.3**	**4.0**	**2.3**
	Dam count	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
	Miles canal	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	47.1	89.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	4.3
	Storage/stream mile	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.8	16.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	77.6
	Diversions/stream mile	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3
	Flow Regime CSI score	**4.9**	**4.9**	**4.8**	**4.9**	**4.8**	**5.0**	**4.3**	**5.0**	**4.8**	**2.3**	**2.4**	**4.8**	**4.7**	**5.0**	**4.0**
Future Security	% vulnerable to conversion (urban)	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	1.1%	0.1%	0.0%	1.1%	0.1%	10.0%	3.2%	1.4%	0.7%	13.9%	11.3%
	% vulnerable to conversion (vineyard)	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	10.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%	0.7%	0.1%	3.9%
	% easements	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	1.3%	3.0%	5.8%	2.4%	3.7%	0.6%	0.0%	11.3%	0.1%
	% productive forest	58.5%	11.6%	45.2%	72.4%	57.4%	60.9%	0.0%	8.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	29.3%	31.9%	5.9%	0.0%
	% vuln. to conv. (urb. + vin., no redwood or easement)	0.7%	0.1%	0.2%	2.5%	10.7%	0.6%	0.0%	1.1%	0.1%	10.1%	3.5%	1.4%	1.3%	14.0%	13.5%
	Land Conversion CSI score	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**4.7**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**4.8**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**4.7**
	% vulnerable to resource extraction (all energy)	1.9%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	1.1%	2.8%	2.2%	7.0%	10.2%	0.2%	1.4%	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%	13.0%
	% vulnerable to resource extraction (forestry)	10.3%	25.4%	48.6%	58.6%	47.1%	60.0%	40.1%	26.4%	42.2%	26.2%	0.0%	8.1%	19.2%	56.2%	3.3%
	New dams	0.00	0.01	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.19	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	% vuln. to res. ext. (en. + for., adjusted for own.)	7.5%	6.7%	13.0%	50.4%	35.7%	46.3%	18.3%	13.1%	30.0%	13.0%	1.4%	4.9%	14.9%	50.9%	9.5%
	Resource Extraction CSI score	**4.3**	**3.7**	**1.9**	**1.7**	**2.3**	**1.8**	**2.0**	**2.3**	**1.7**	**2.5**	**3.3**	**4.2**	**3.3**	**2.0**	**3.7**
	Warming risk - Coho	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Low									
	Warming risk - Steelhead/Chinook	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low	Low	Low	Moderate
	Flow risk	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Precipitation regime risk	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	Climate Change CSI score - Coho	3.6	3.4	2.5	3.6	2.9	3.7									
	Climate Change CSI score - Steelhead/Chinook	**4.0**	**4.6**	**4.1**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**3.7**	**3.5**	**3.8**	**2.2**	**1.4**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**4.0**	**2.6**
	Inherent geomorphic risk	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low
	Geomorphic risk (fire regime on unstable slopes)	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low
	Geomorphic risk (road network on unstable slopes)	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low	Low	Low	High	High	Low	Low
	Sedimentation and Scour CSI score	2.8	1.6	2.3	3.2	4.5	4.3	5.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	4.2
	% stream habitat protected	85.8%	66.7%	45.6%	13.3%	20.4%	0.0%	18.0%	32.7%	24.0%	0.8%	13.6%	88.6%	65.2%	0.8%	29.3%
	% watershed area protected	85.5%	65.0%	39.7%	14.0%	13.0%	0.2%	19.6%	36.0%	24.4%	1.3%	8.6%	84.4%	63.0%	0.1%	30.7%
	Land Stewardship CSI score	**4.7**	**4.5**	**3.7**	**1.8**	**2.5**	**1.0**	**2.0**	**3.3**	**3.0**	**1.0**	**1.9**	**5.0**	**4.7**	**1.0**	**3.1**

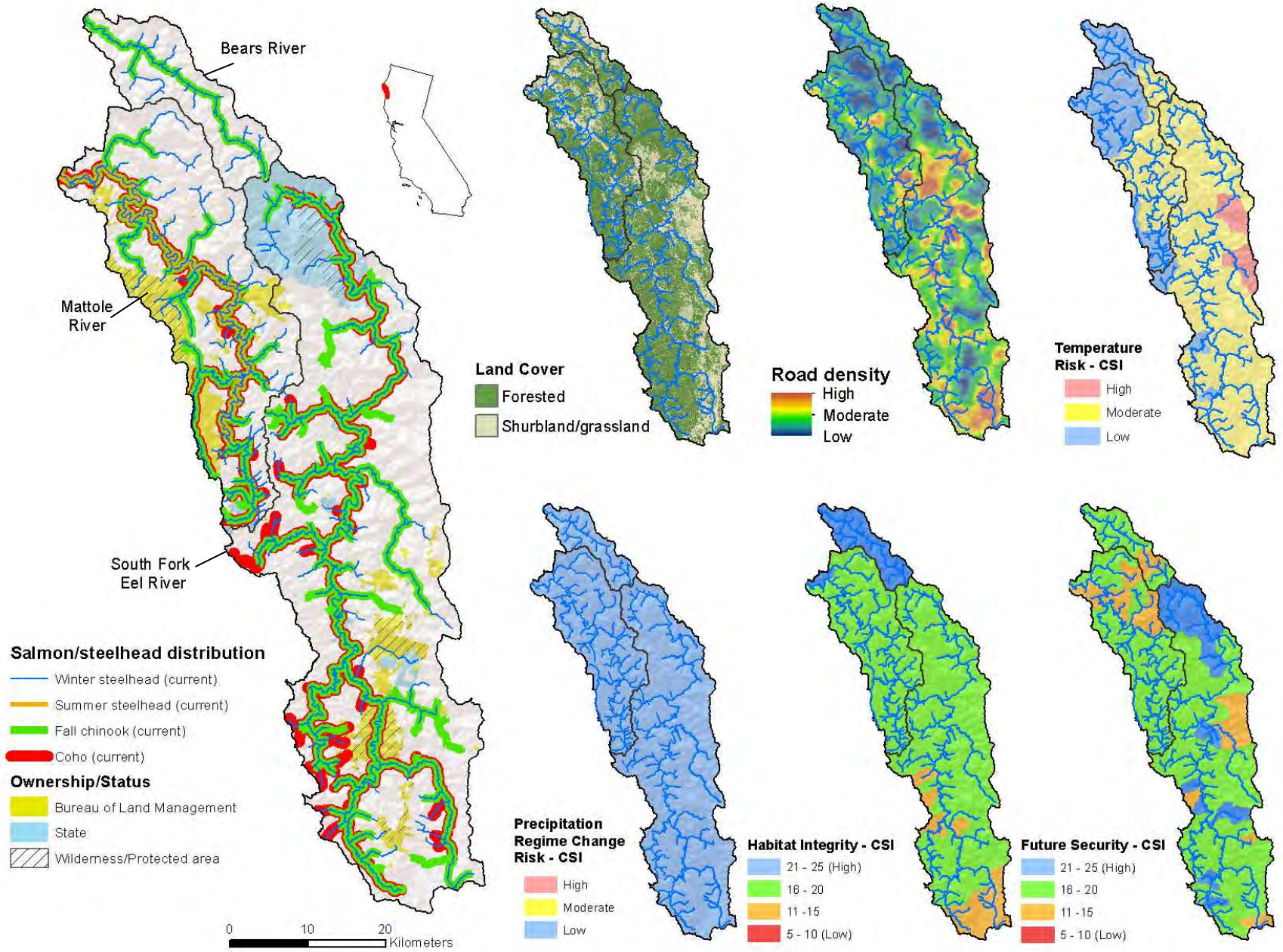
Map 1: Smith River Stronghold



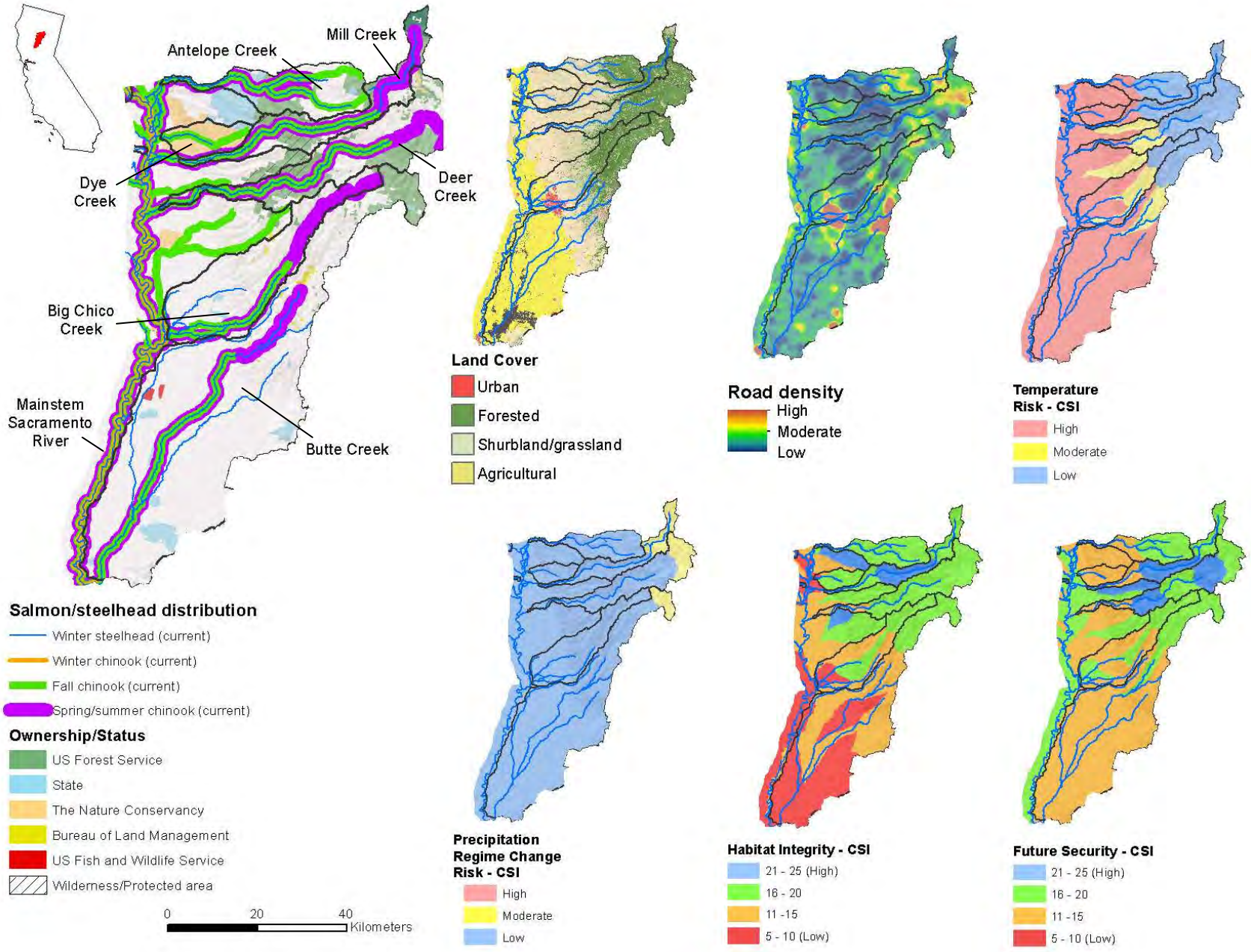
Map 2: Salmon/Mid-Klamath River Stronghold



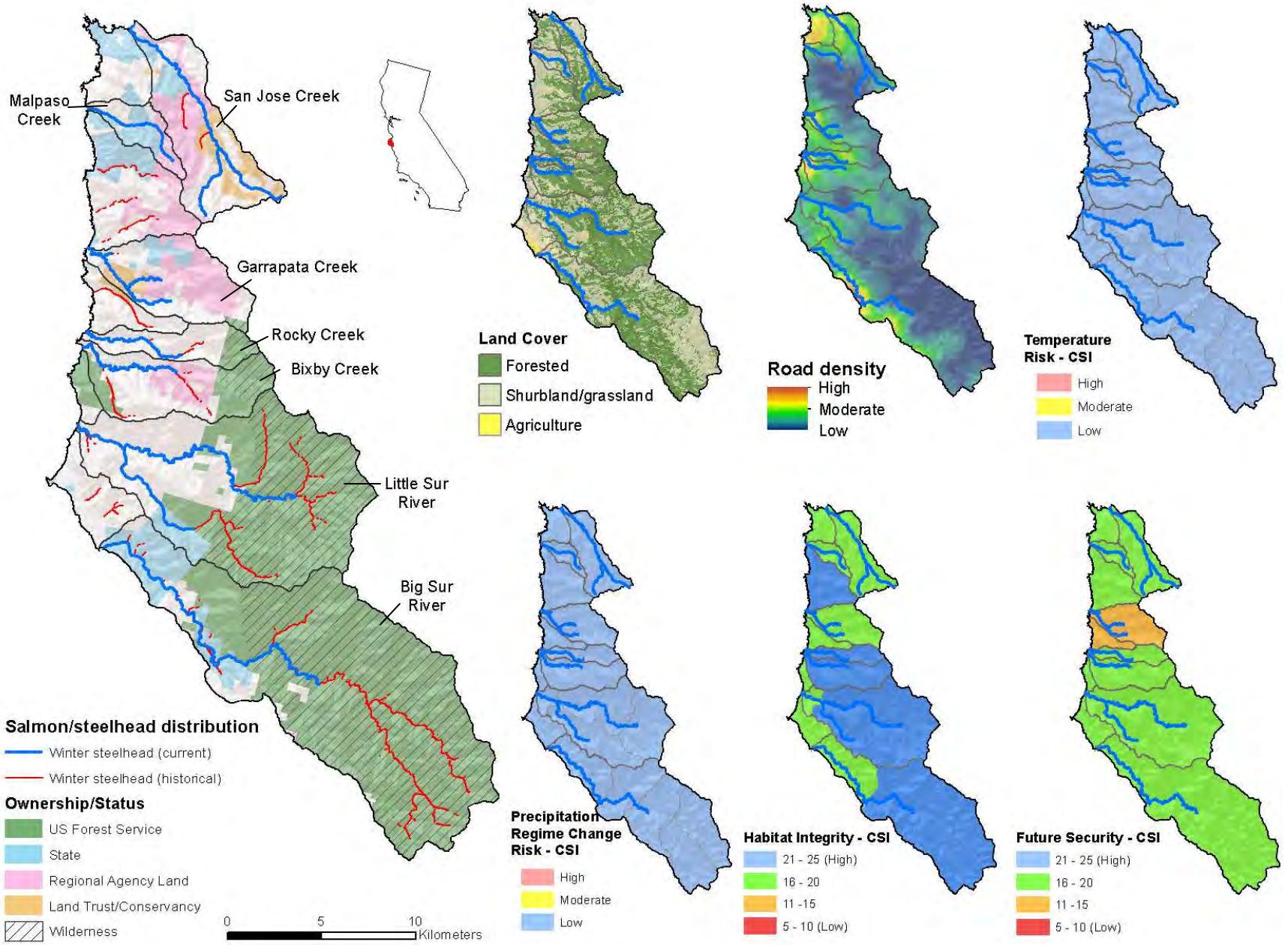
Map 3: Mattole/South Fork Eel Stronghold



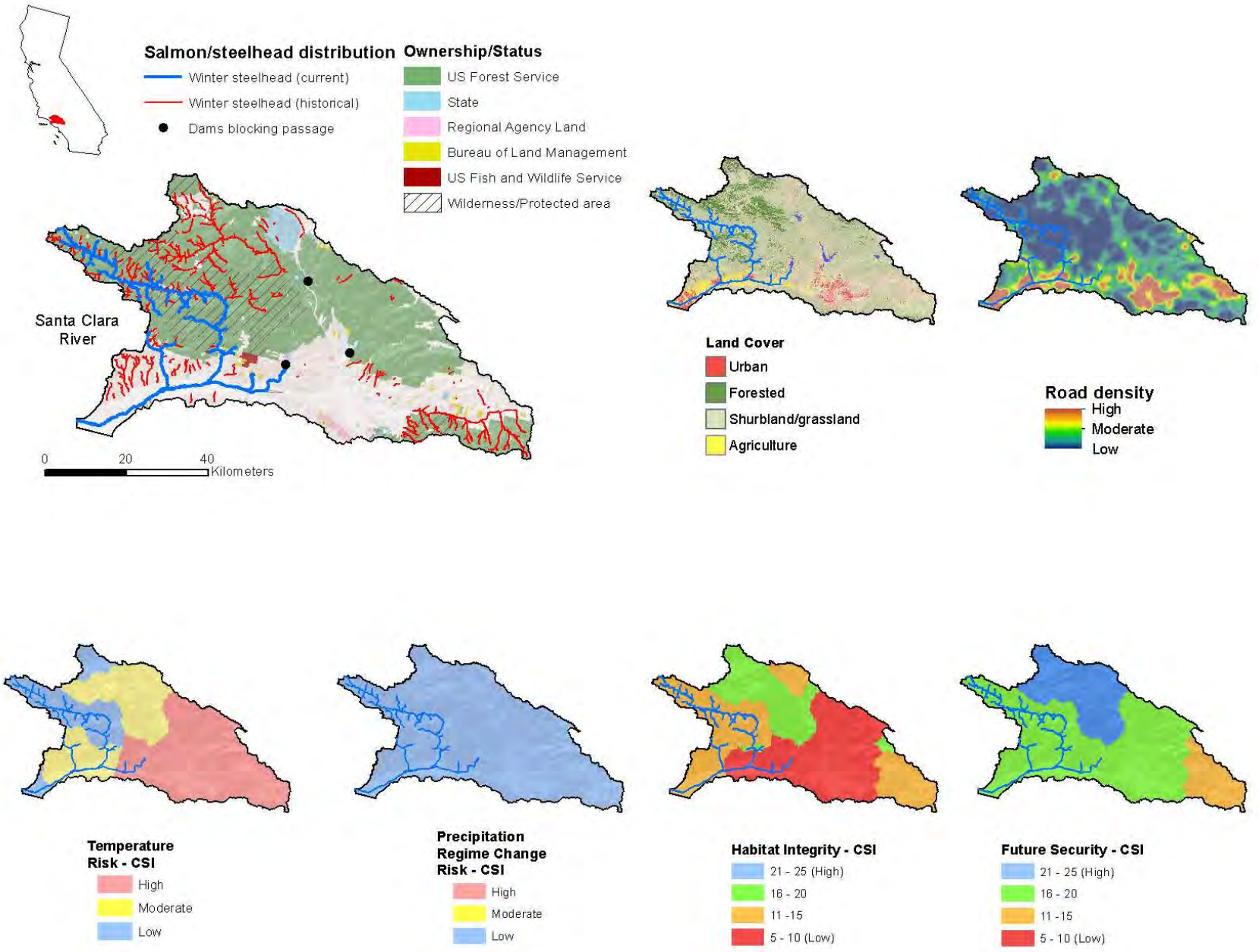
Map 4: Sacramento River Stronghold



Map 5: Big Sur Stronghold



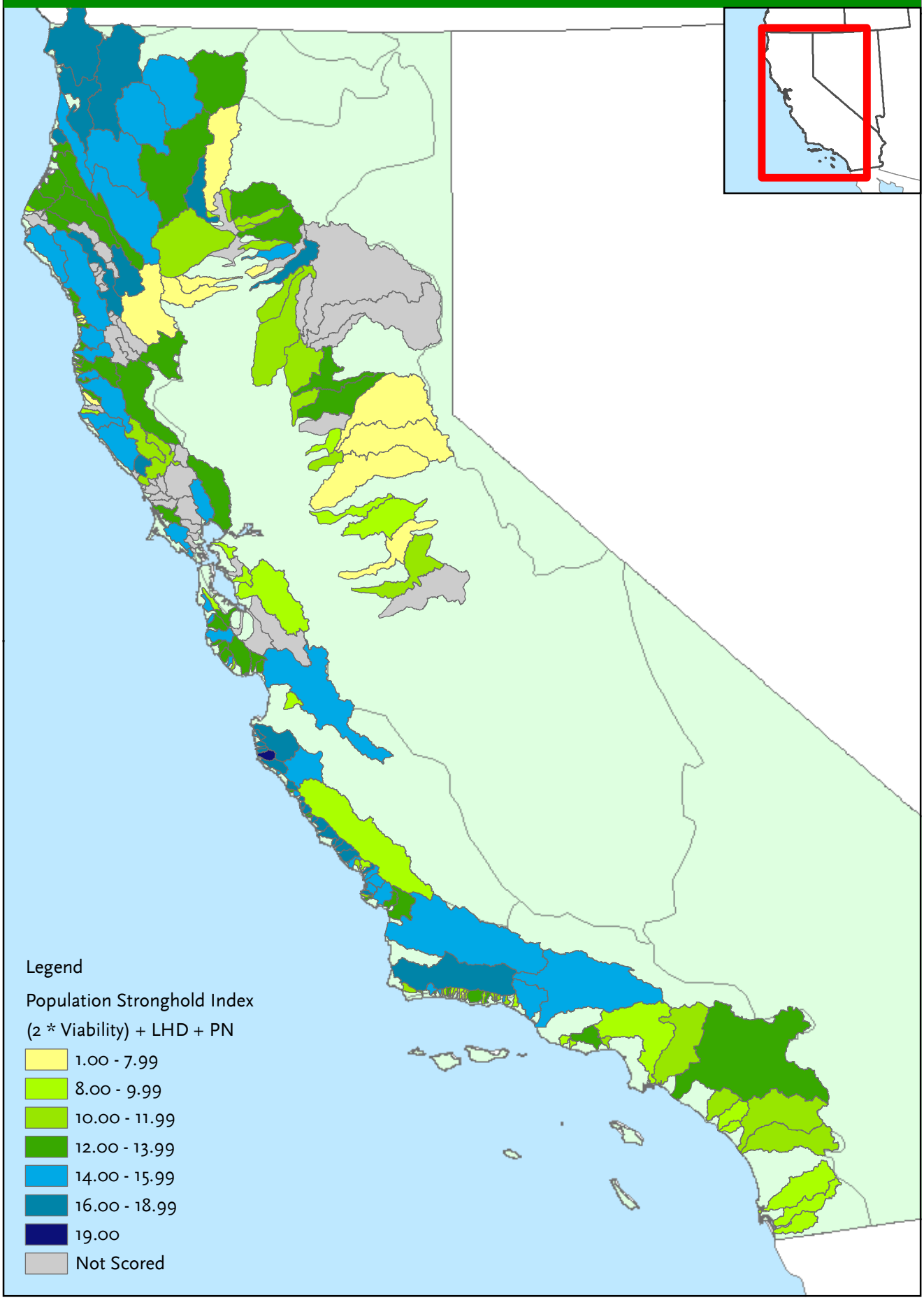
Map 6: Santa Clara River Stronghold



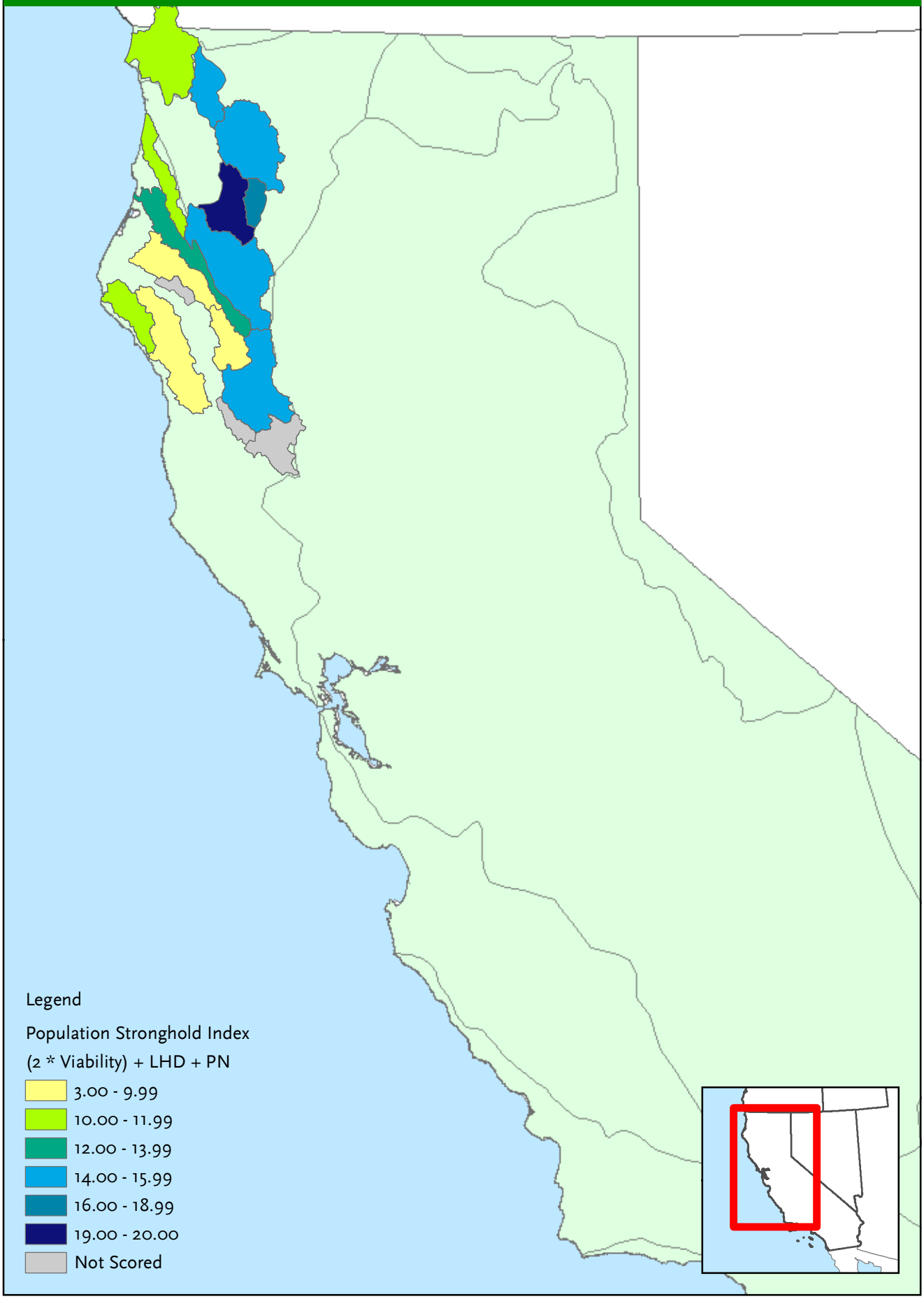
Appendix 5

Maps of Population Scoring Index by Species

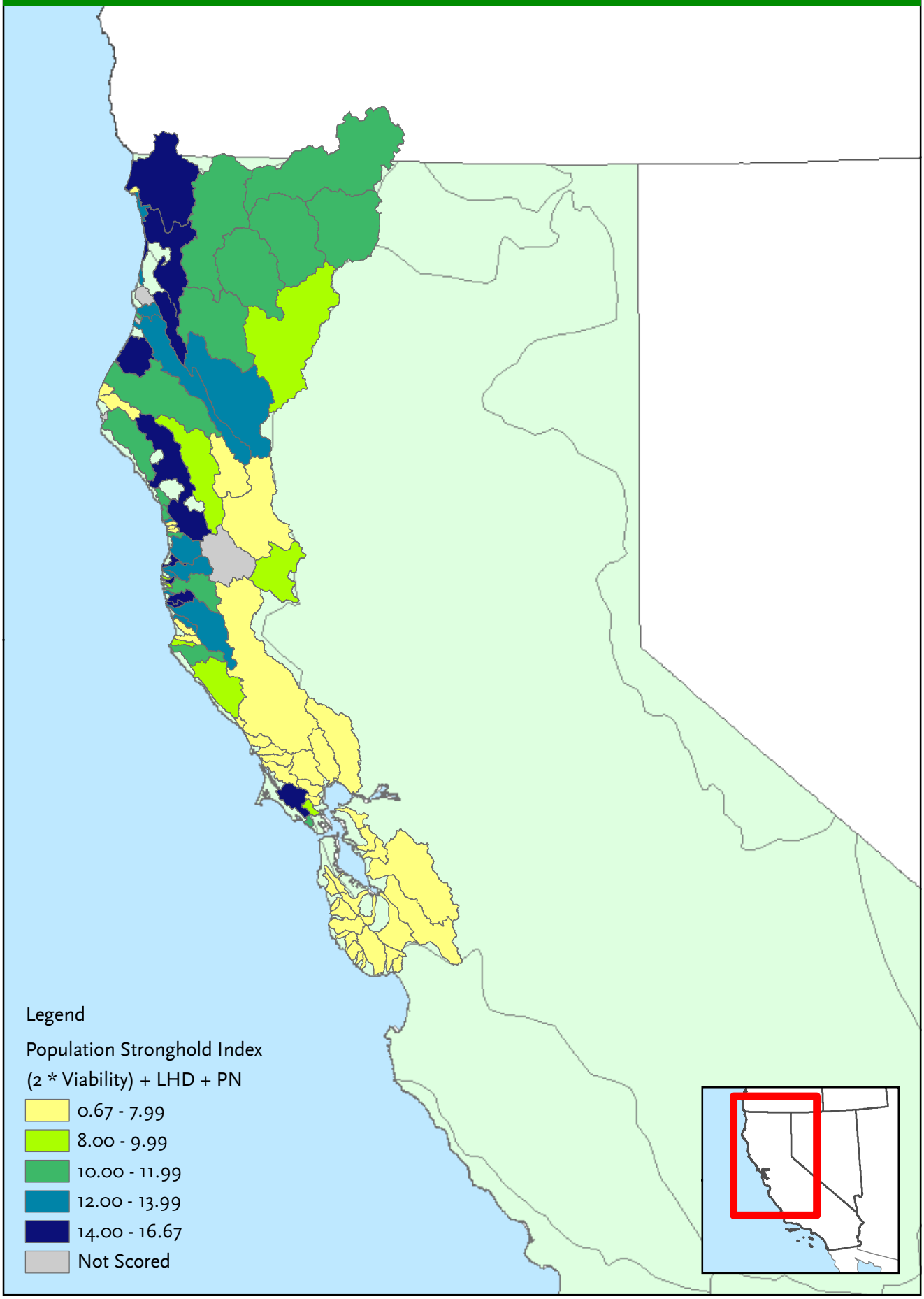
California Winter Steelhead Populations



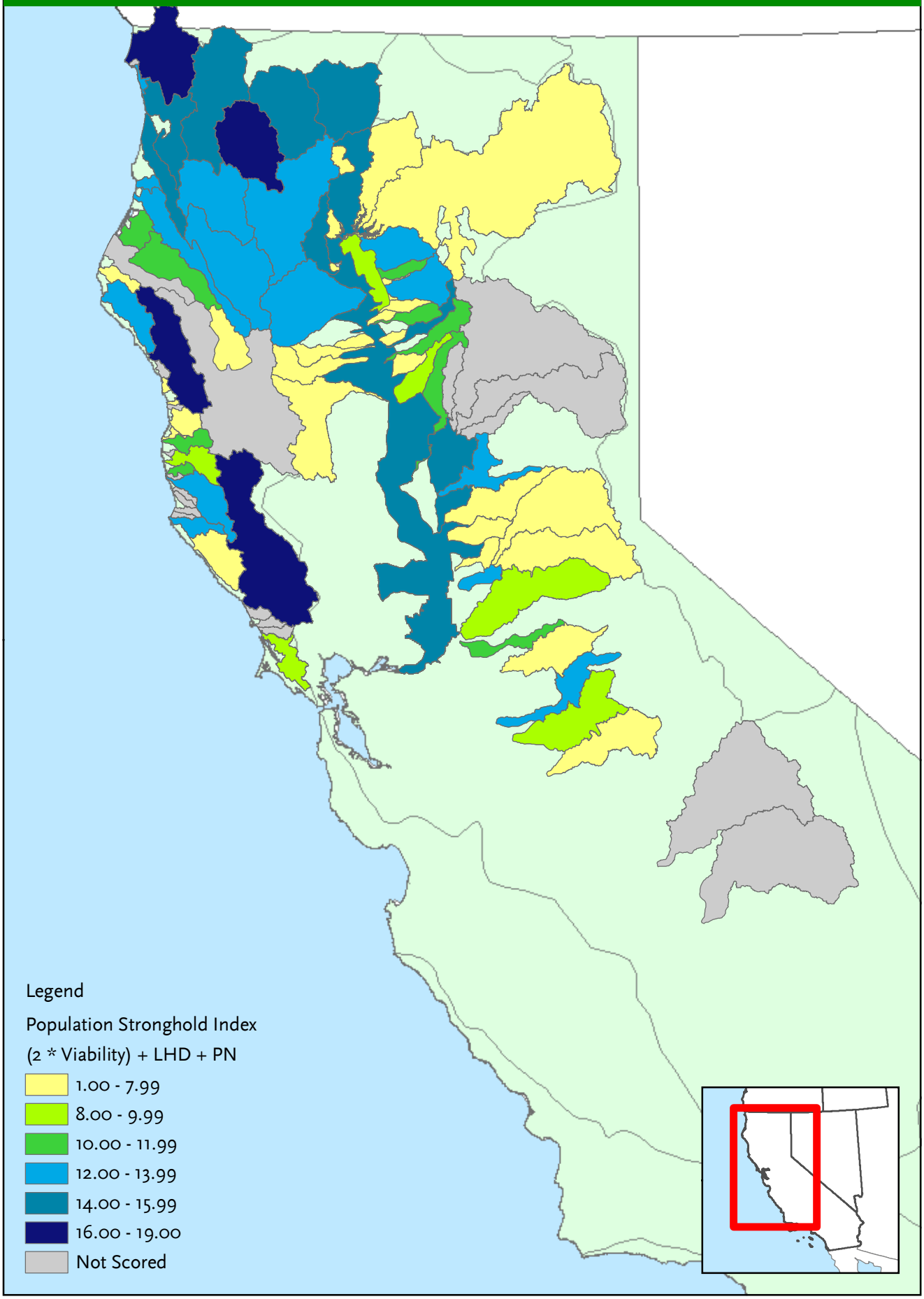
California Summer Steelhead Populations



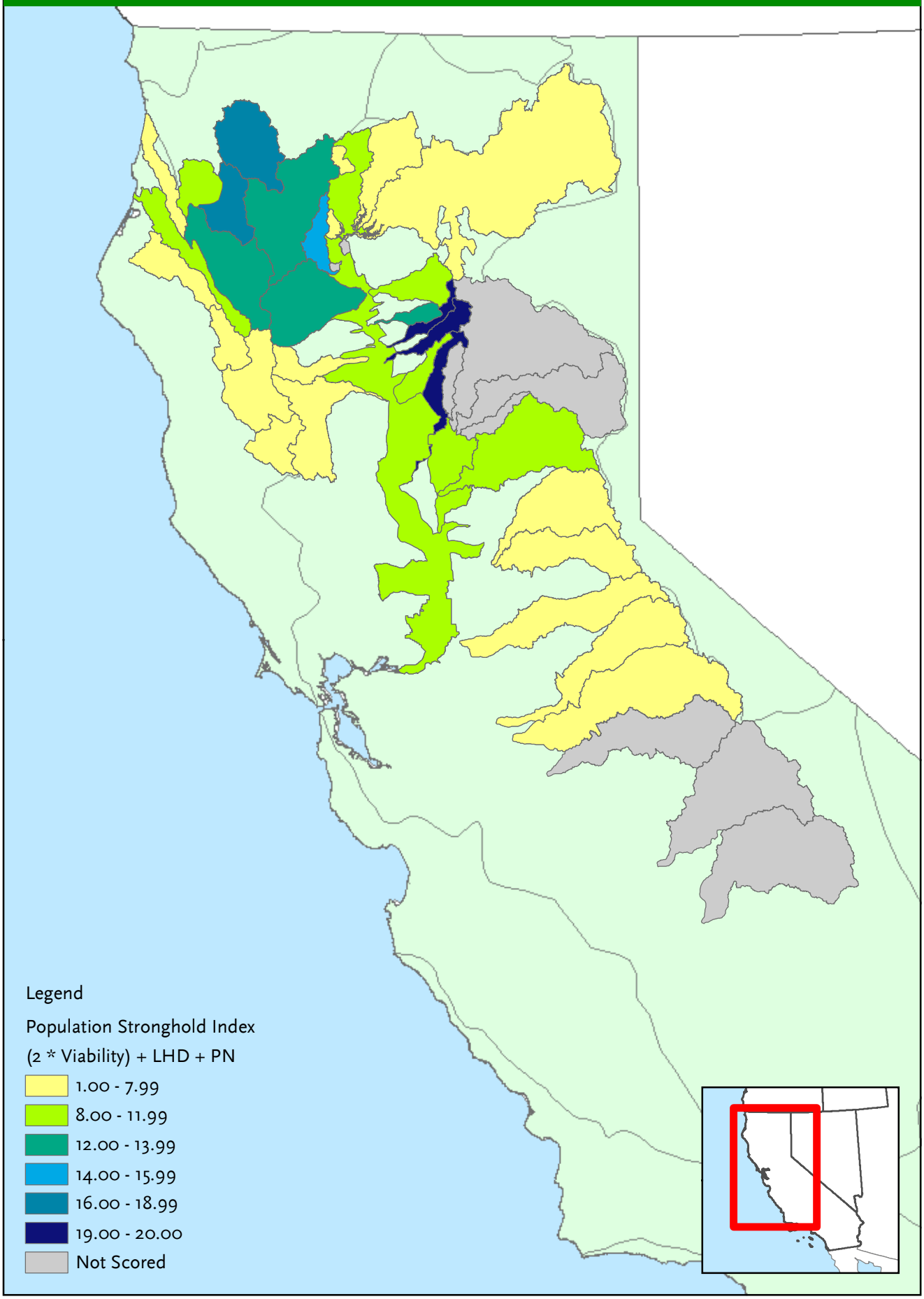
California Coho Populations



California Fall Run Chinook Populations



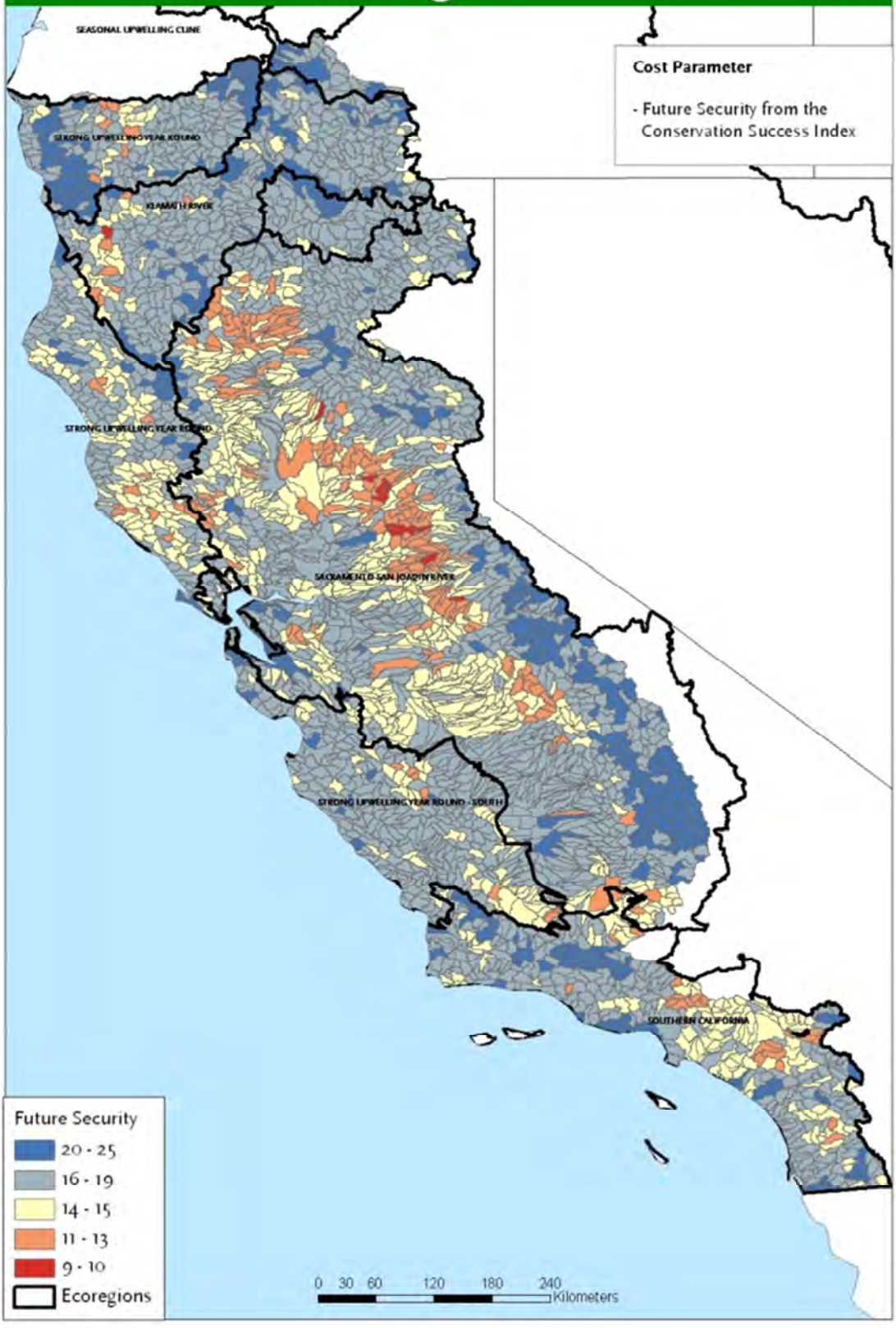
California Spring/Summer-Run Chinook Populations



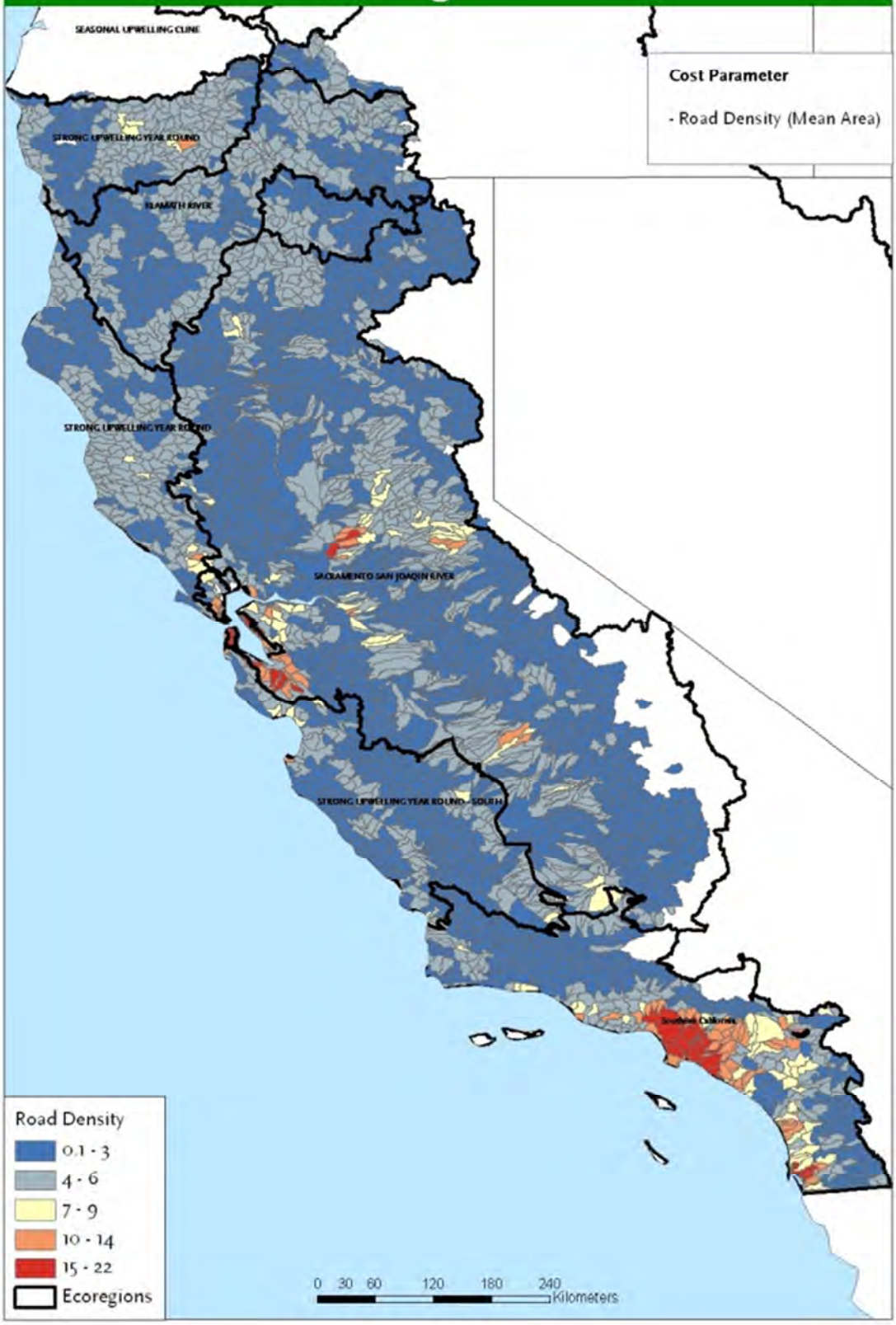
Appendix 6

Selected Sensitivity Analysis Maps

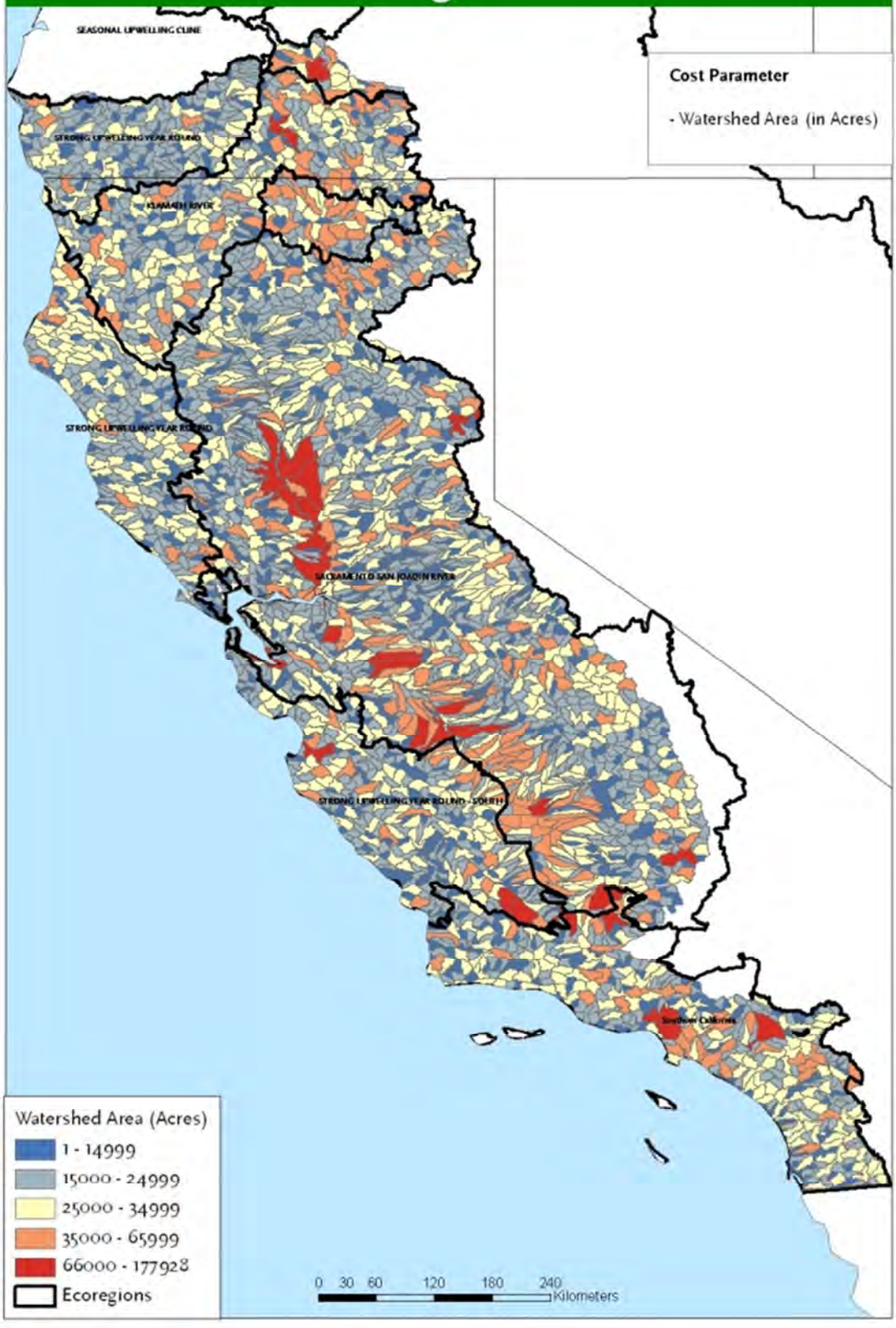
California Stronghold Assessment



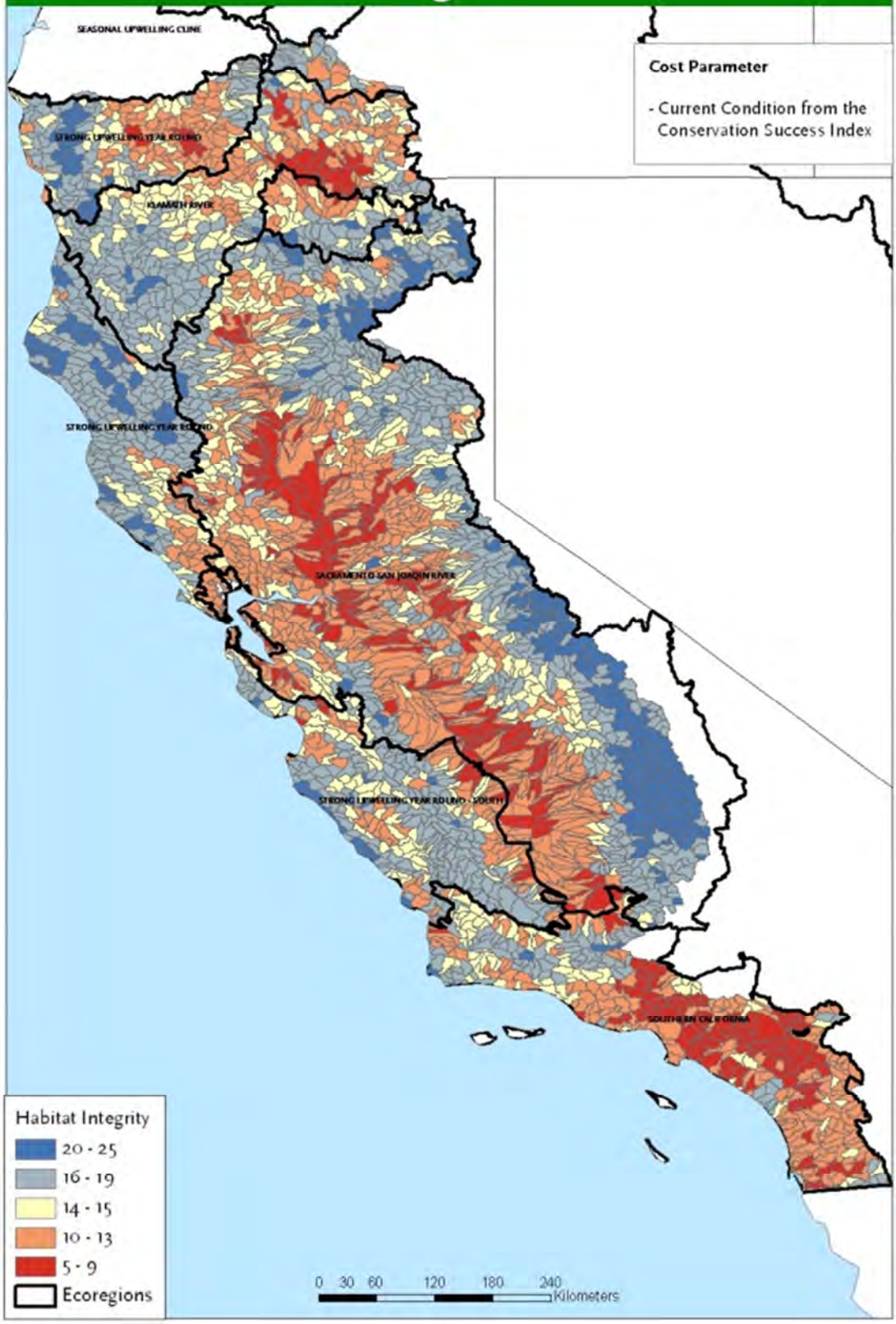
California Stronghold Assessment

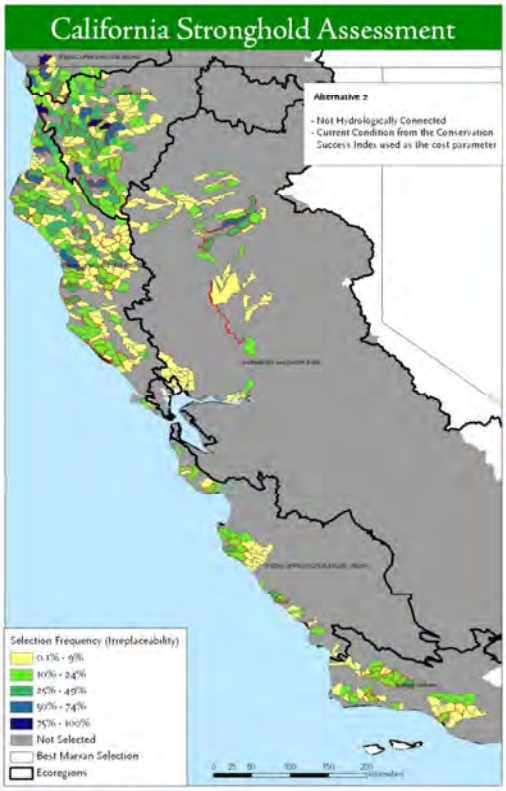


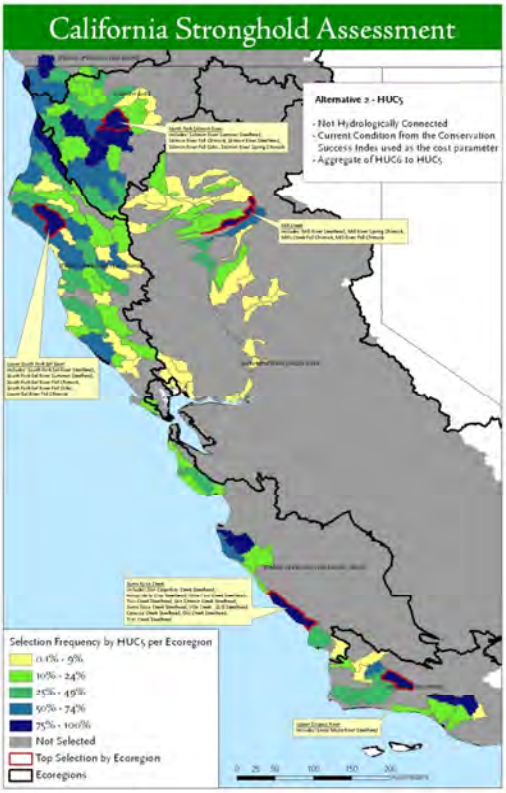
California Stronghold Assessment

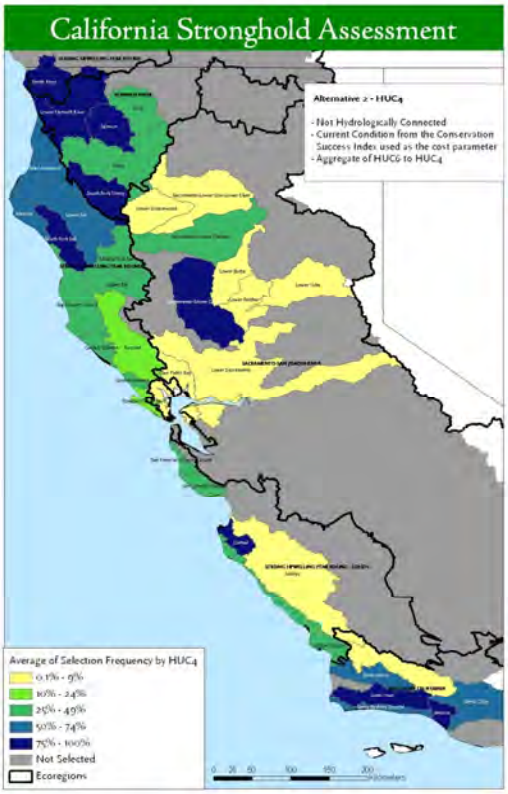


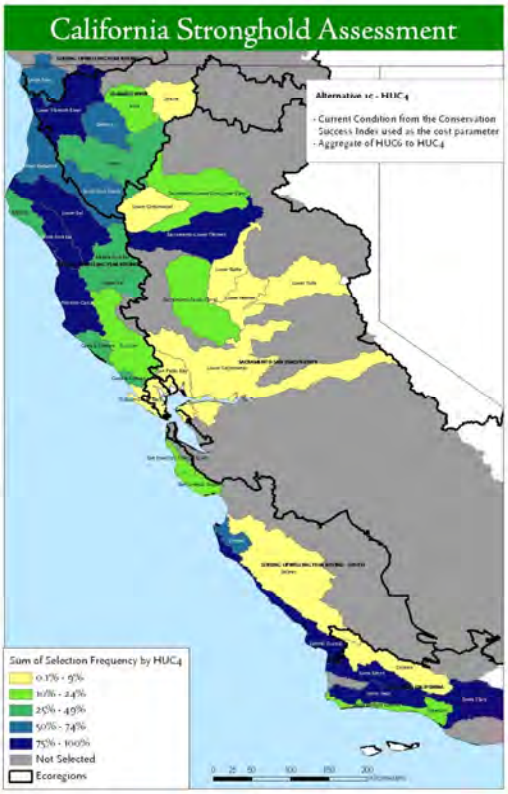
California Stronghold Assessment



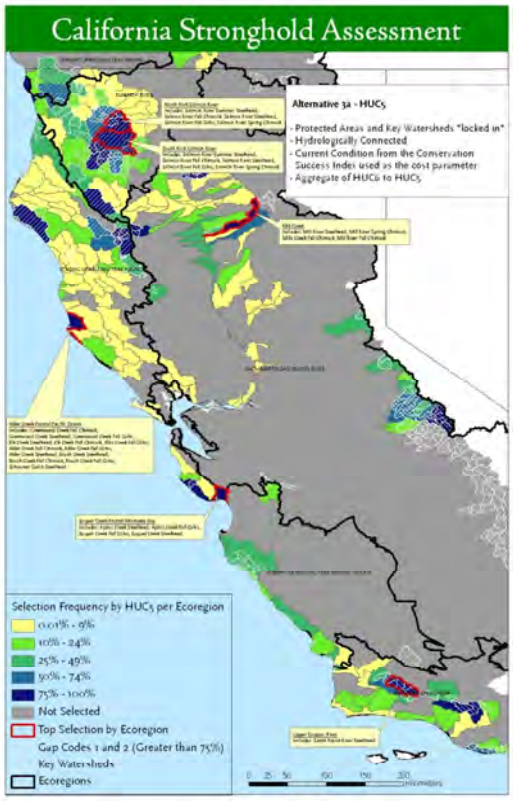

California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 2
- Not Hydrologically Connected
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
Selection Frequency (Irreplaceability)
0.1% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Best Marxan Selection
Ecoregions

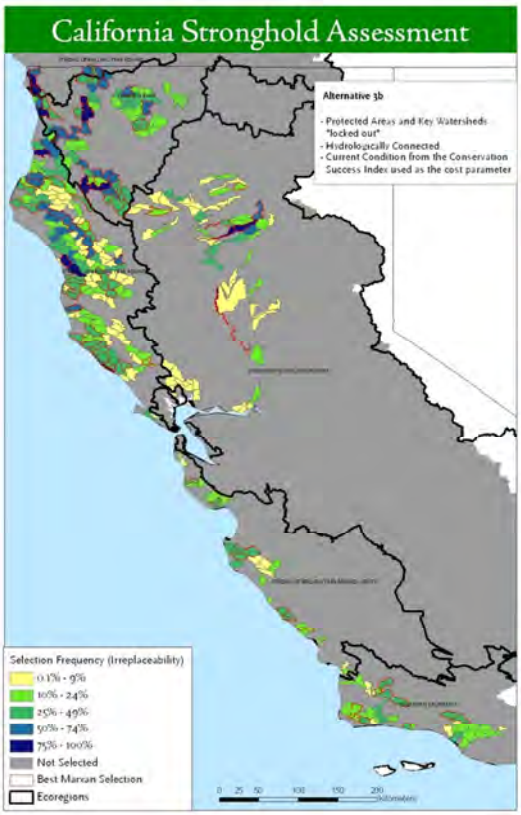

California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 2 - HUC5
- Not Hydrologically Connected
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
- Aggregate of HUC6 to HUC5
Selection Frequency by HUC5 per Ecoregion
0.1% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Top Selection by Ecoregion
Ecoregions

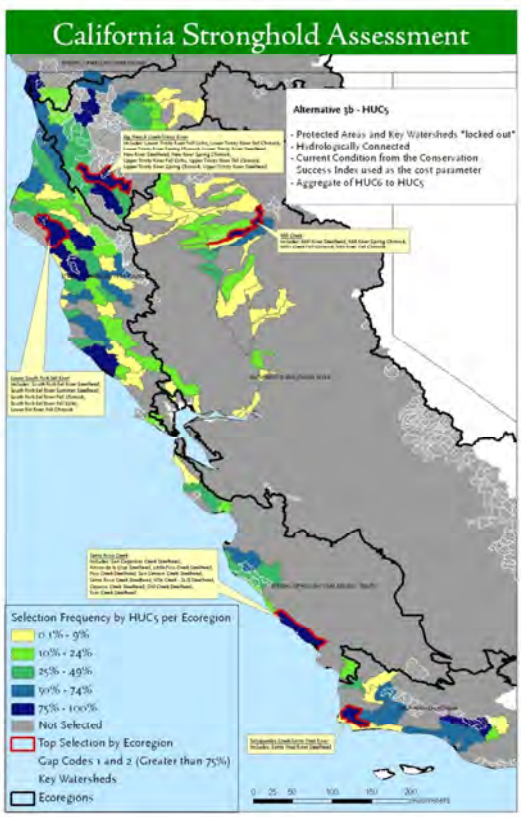

California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 2 - HUC4
- Not Hydrologically Connected
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
- Aggregate of HUC6 to HUC4
Average of Selection Frequency by HUC4
0.1% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Ecoregions


California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 1c - HUC4
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
- Aggregate of HUC6 to HUC4
Sum of Selection Frequency by HUC4
0.1% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Ecoregions


California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 3a
- Protected Areas and Key Watersheds "locked in"
- Hydrologically Connected
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
Selection Frequency (Irreplaceability)
0.01% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Best Marxan Selection
Ecoregions


California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 3a - HUCs
- Protected Areas and Key Watersheds "locked in"
- Hydrologically Connected
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
- Aggregate of HUC8 to HUC5
Selection Frequency by HUC5 per Ecoregion
0.01% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Top Selection by Ecoregion
Gap Codes 1 and 2 (Greater than 75%)
Key Watersheds
Ecoregions


California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 3b
- Protected Areas and Key Watersheds "locked out"
- Hydrologically Connected
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
Selection Frequency (Irreplaceability)
0.1% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Best Marxan Selection
Ecoregions


California Stronghold Assessment
Alternative 3b - HUCs
- Protected Areas and Key Watersheds "locked out"
- Hydrologically Connected
- Current Condition from the Conservation Success Index used as the cost parameter
- Aggregate of HUC6 to HUC5
Selection Frequency by HUC5 per Ecoregion
0.1% - 9%
10% - 24%
25% - 49%
50% - 74%
75% - 100%
Not Selected
Top Selection by Ecoregion
Gap Codes 1 and 2 (Greater than 75%)
Key Watersheds
Ecoregions

Appendix 7

Correspondence with Expert Reviewers

August 18, 2009

Re: Invitation to participate in "Expert Rating" of California salmon and steelhead populations

Dear Expert Reviewer:

I am writing to invite your participation in one of three round table discussions of California (CA) salmon populations taking place the week of August 31 - September 4, 2009. The purpose of each meeting is to review the abundance, productivity, and diversity of CA salmon populations to identify salmon strongholds in the state. California Trout, Trout Unlimited and Wild Salmon Center have initiated this project in CA as part of a larger initiative, the North America Salmon Stronghold Partnership (NASSP), which is being led by a consortium of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and tribes.

As an expert with unique knowledge of the biological characteristics of several CA salmon and steelhead populations, we hope you will join this process by providing your expertise to help us enhance the Stronghold Partnership's population database. This database will be used to identify "Core Salmon Strongholds" distributed throughout four CA ecoregions. Your name was identified as a potential participant by the project's steering committee, which includes:

- Dan Free, NOAA
- Nick Hetrick, USFWS
- Wendy Millet, TNC
- Jay Nicholas, WSC
- Kevin Shaffer, CDFG
- Tom Weseloh, CalTrout
- Jack Williams, TU

Meetings are scheduled for: Arcata (August 31); Davis (Sept 2); and San Luis Obispo (Sept 3). Please find enclosed a one page summary of the watersheds and populations that will be discussed at each meeting (See "Which meeting should I attend?").

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
721 NW Ninth Avenue, Suite 300 • Portland, Oregon 97209 USA • tel: 503.222.1804 • fax: 503.222.1805
info@wildsalmoncenter.org • www.wildsalmoncenter.org

Additional Background

The North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership is a voluntary initiative intended to supplement existing ecosystem protection and restoration efforts by providing leadership, enhanced coordination, and public and private resources to support science-based, locally supported conservation actions in salmon strongholds. Currently NASSP is engaged in the process of identifying "core" salmon Strongholds from California through Alaska. (See attached "Stronghold Classification Framework" for additional information on "core" and "contributing" strongholds.) The expert rating scores provided for CA, OR, ID, and WA will provide the foundation for Stronghold identification in these four states. (The methodologies for stronghold identification are currently under development for populations in British Columbia and Alaska.)

The process now underway in CA follows a similar process undertaken by the Wild Salmon Center during 2007 and 2008 in CA, OR, WA, and ID. This early work tested the expert interview methodology and scoring criteria, and yielded a preliminary screening of the strongest remaining salmon and steelhead populations in the lower 48. The intent of the current series of "expert" interviews is to validate and supplement data collected during the initial polling. This series of interviews with CA salmon and steelhead experts is expected to considerably strengthen the accuracy of stronghold identification by substantially increasing the number of experts interviewed and adding to the number of populations that are rated.

Process and Outcomes

1. On the enclosed "Population Rating Worksheet", experts will score the salmon and steelhead populations for which they have sufficient expertise (see "Scoring Instructions"). Scores will be provided for three criteria: a) viability, b) wildness, and c) diversity. (See "Database Scoring and Criteria Summary" for explanations of these criteria). Experts will submit their scores to Tom Miewald (contact information provide below) week prior to meetings on **August 25, 2009**.

2. Experts will meet during the week of August 31 – September 4 to discuss, review, and finalize scores. In addition to collaborating on reviews of specific populations, experts will discuss appropriate ecoregional and/or ESU delineations that may be applicable to Core Stronghold analyses in CA. This analysis will follow the scoring process.

3. Wild Salmon Center and CalTrout staff will analyze scores provided by experts and produce new maps displaying scores of salmon and steelhead populations.

4. New scores will provide the basis for identifying core Salmon Strongholds by ecoregions, ESU, and/or similar unit as is most meaningful to long term conservation of anadromous salmonids.

On behalf of all the partners engaged in this effort, I would like to thank you for your participation in this process. The result, identification of the strongest remaining salmon and steelhead populations distributed across CA, will be a key element of long-term efforts to both protect and recover these magnificent fish from California through Alaska.

Please RSVP the meeting(s) that you will attend to Trozell Weaver at tweaver@wildsalmoncenter.org or 971-255-5560.

If you have questions about this process and/or scoring populations, please contact WSC's Conservation Planner, Tom Miewald, tmiewald@wildsalmoncenter.org (971-255-5556) or myself (503-222-1804).

Sincerely,

Jay Nicholas
WSC, NASSP Coordinator

Enclosures:

- Population Rating Worksheet
- Scoring Instructions & Deadline
- Database Scoring and Criteria Summary
- Ecoregional Approach Summary
- Stronghold Classification Summary
- "Which Meeting Should I Attend?"
- Population and Basin Maps