Habitat Conservation Plans
Past and Future
Habitat Conservation Planning

- Endangered Species Act - 1973
- HCPs, Incidental Take for Otherwise Lawful Activities - 1985
- Early HCPs - Single Species, Local
Regional Conservation Planning

- Response to Economic Needs
- Multiple Species
- Natural Communities
- Ecosystem Processes
- NCCP Act - 1991
HCP – Mandatory Elements

• Results of the Taking
• Minimize, Mitigate – for Take
  - Monitor – The Conservation Strategy
• Funding Assurances
• Unforeseen and Changed Circumstances
• Alternatives to the Taking
Trends and Directions

• HCPs Address Applicant Needs
• Long Term Plans
• Biological Goals and Objectives
• Evolution of Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances
• Cross Region Coordination Planning
  • Landscape (Bioregion) Level Planning
  • Strategic Habitat Conservation
Longterm Plans = Longterm Issues

• Structure BGOs for changing environment
  – Not just physical environment
    • Methodologies change
    • Technologies change

• Maintaining Political Will
  – Local and National
  – Successful Plans Can Become Victims of Their Own Success

• Budget – Developer Fees = Dependence upon economic cycle
Biological Goals and Objectives

• Goal
  – Descriptions of Desired Future Conditions
  – Convey purpose, but do not define measurable units

• Objectives
  – Specific
  – Measurable
  – Achievable
  – Results-oriented
  – Time-fixed
Changed and Unforeseen Circumstances

• Sets Meets and Bounds on Obligations

• Tied to No Surprises Assurances

• Evolving Practice
  • Climate Change
  • Fire
  • Invasive Species
Strategic Conservation Planning

- Ecologically Meaningful Scale
- Partnerships
- Adaptive Management Framework
- Science
SHC Why and How

- Consistent
- Transparent
- Accountable
- Collaborative
The Future of HCP

• Cross boundary – Ecoregion Partnerships
  – Gnatcatcher
  – Cactus Wren
  – Rare Plants

• Constituency
  – Conservation Community
  – California HCP Coalition
  – National HCP Coalition
Questions?

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