

Preservation History and Recovery Plans

This section of the book introduces litigation attempts to preserve Central Valley vernal pools and describes a vernal pool landscape recovery plan. Unique adaptations to vernal pool ecosystems, restriction to specific geographic areas, and habitat-loss by human activity resulted in some California vernal pool species being listed as endangered by federal and/or state agencies. The protection gained from these listings led to a legal method to support the preservation of impacted vernal pool landscapes.

These articles present a paradigm shift that stresses a developing cooperation between land owners, land-use managers, government agencies, private organizations, and the general public. This paradigm shift is supported by papers throughout the book describing why vernal pool landscape managers need help from researchers, land owners, and individuals that are interested in educating the general public.

Barbara Vlamis presents a litigant's viewpoint, considering how legal advocacy can be used to halt the loss of vernal pool landscapes from land use changes. The litigation activity concerning endangered vernal pool species was expanded to include the need to declare critical habitat for these species. One of the lawsuits moved through the legal system to final approval by the Supreme Court. The Vlamis paper illustrates development of cooperative arrangements that resulted in the recovery plan addressing a number of species (including some not listed) dependent upon vernal pool landscapes.

Elizabeth Warne describes the recovery plan developed to support vernal pool species in California and Southern Oregon. The paper addresses how threats to endangered and threatened species can be stopped and long-term survival can be ensured. Warne discusses the need to establish regional working groups that will support outreach and provide regional incentives to support habitat protection. This proposed system will be successful if it emphasizes broad-based cooperation between researchers, managers, landowners and the general public.

Research and Recovery in Vernal Pool Landscapes