

# CWHR

**Model Uses** Resource Conservation; Planning; Wildlife; Habitat; Predictive Modeling

**Major Categories** Decision Support; Habitat Classification; Population Modeling; Ecological

**Subject Knowledge Level**  
Basic

**Minor Categories** Conservation; Wildlife; Habitat Fragmentation; Desired Future Conditions; Population Viability Analysis

**Technical Difficulty Level**  
Intermediate

**Model Type** Physical Model

**Geographic in Nature?**  
Semi

## **Abstract**

California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) is a state-of-the-art information system for California's wildlife. CWHR contains life history, management, and habitat relationships information on 675 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals known to occur in the state. CWHR products are available to anyone interested in understanding, conserving, and managing California's wildlife.

The information in CWHR is based on current published and unpublished biological information and professional judgement by recognized experts on California wildlife. Because of the predictive nature of its models, CWHR has many applications for wildlife resource issues, including wildlife population, community, and habitat conservation and management, land use planning, impact assessment, education, and research.

CWHR has been used for several large area wildlife resource conservation efforts including California's GAP effort, the Legislatively-authorized Timberland Task Force effort, the Sierra Nevada Framework effort, and sustained yield planning efforts by several large private timber companies. CWHR is part of regulations adopted by the California Board of Forestry and State Water Resources Control Board.

CWHR is operated and maintained by the California Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the California Interagency Wildlife Task Group (CIWTG). The CIWTG was created in 1985 to develop standards and guidelines for studying California's wildlife communities and habitats. Consisting of staff from the major State and Federal natural resource agencies, the CIWTG meets quarterly to discuss CWHR and other wildlife resource issues.

## **Future Developments**

Unknown

## **Model Limitations**

Predictive in nature, only.

## **Model Features**

- Develop predictive models with information on:
  - Life history
  - Geographic distribution
  - Taxonomy and legal status
  - Habitat-relationships
- Habitat Classification System
- GIS data and supporting applications

## **Required Data Types**

None

## **Model Outputs**

Listing of wildlife species that are projected to occur in a given location and set of habitat conditions. Habitat suitability indices can also be calculated for each species in a given habitat condition and these values can be compared between two different habitat conditions for land use planning assessments. Location categories that can be used in CWHR queries include counties, 1-min x 1-

min blocks of latitude and longitude, Calwater 2.0 Hydrologic Regions, California Department of Fish and Game Regions, U.S. National Forests, U.S. Bureau of Land Management Field Offices, USDA Ecological Regions and CERES Bioregions.

**Source**

California Department of Fish and Game

**Source (URL)**

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/html/cwhr.html>

**Hardware Requirements**

None stated

Supported Platforms			
DOS	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNIX	<input type="checkbox"/>
Windows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Macintosh	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Software Requirements**

ArcView or other GIS applications required to tie CWHR to geography.

**Cost, Licensing and Availability**

Free