# **APPENDIX B**

Copy of Field Data Sheets

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Creek Site Habitat Assessment

Date: mm Ob dd 110 yy O10 Site #: _ Creek Name/Location: CLOVER VALLEY CREEK - LOWER ON TOWNShip: Pange: Service Service Service State Habitat Assessment  USGS Quad: Rockhal Township: Pange: Service	,
USGS Quad: Rekhal Township: Range: Section: 4 Section: Elevation: 2008 File Name: N/A Weather: Sky: Overcast Partly Overcast Clear Wind: Inclement Fair (Ideal)  Total Site Length: 10000 Creek Aspect: 5-5W Discharge (cfs) 25 Water Target (deal)	کے
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AMPHIBIAN HABITAT TYPES  ROWDISC/Card #:	•
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- Side-Sput Channel	
DOW CREATER KITTE	
• Pool Tail-Out/Pool Backwater • Side Pool • Other Perennial Stream	
Site/Subsite: Length: ~150 m Width: 5 m Approximate Area (m²):	
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% Emergent Vegetation: Type: grass sedge rush pondweed other:	
% Submerged Vegetation: Type: algae rooted aquatic veg other:	
Dom.: U	
% Cover Aquatic: < 10 Type: rootwad aquatic veg. woody debris gaps between substrate other: magin veg,	
% Cover Terrestrial: 100%  Type: duff/leaf litter burrows woody debris undercut bank other. blackberries	
20M. U 11 II II II II.	
% Overhanging Vegetation: 20-80 Type: willow blackberry alder dogwood other.	
% Riparian Canopy: 0-40 Type: willow ash alder months and the state of	
% Riparian Canopy: 0-90  Type: willow ash alder maple oak conifer other: cottoning of Dom.:   Dom.: K S	
Aquatic Substrate (%): citt/alan 50	
Aquatic Substrate (%): silt/clay 50 sand 50 gravel/pebble cobble boulder bedrock	
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100 mgn (4-10+%)	
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Bank Gradient: low (<15°) R/L (mod (15-40°) / R/L) high (>40°) / R/L	
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Other Species Observed: other: other: other:	
Impacts to Amphibian Habitat: grazing recognition in the interior of the inter	
Comments. DANGOWNER CLAIMS THAT FLOW THIS VR. ~ 3 times works That would for	
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banks dominated with blackberry	-
	-
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DA/OC (initials):	-
A V C TORROUT! TIPEP	

## Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Creek Site Habitat Assessment

Creek Site Habitat Assessment
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USGS Quad: Rock-IN  Township: Range: Section: V. Section: Elevation: ~3/2  Weather: Sky: Overcast Partly Overc
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Observers: ACP CPS Initial Site Visit Follow-up Site Visit Mater Temp: (edgewater) (main channel)  Photograph # (index to notebook): 3, 4 55 - HID LOKING VS 45 545; b 7 58 - K of Mid looking 4/5 / 5 5 / 4 Roll/Disc/Card #:
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- Cascade/Pool
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ruoi Tan-Out/Pool Backwater • Run
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% Margin Vegetation: 70 + Type: forbs grass sedge (ush) blackberry other. Cattail
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Daniel Black Spry GPA-
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Substrate Embeddedness: low (<25%) moderate (25-50%) high (> 50%)  Dominant Substrate Share: annula moderate (25-50%)
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Creek Habitat: riffle: run: 60 glide: 40 pool: cascade/pool: step-pool: pocket water.
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## Footbill Yellow-Legged Frog Creek Site Habitat Assessmen

Date: - Classification Size in Size in Size Habitat Assessment
Date: mm Ob dd 16 yy Ob Site #: 3 Subsite #: - Creek Name/Location: Clover Valley (r Uppic por USGS Quad: Rockun)  Township: Range: Section: 4 Section: Elevation: 43  GPS File Name: 1/2 Weather: Sky: Overcast Partly Overcast Gear Wind: Inclement Fair Ideal  Total Site Length: 10,000 H Creek Aspect: 5 Discharge (fix) 23 Cff Water Terms (deal)
GPS File Name: 44 Westler G Range: Section: 4 Section: Elevation: 42
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% Overhanging Vegetation: 20-70 Type: willow blackberry alder dogwood other:
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% Riparian Canopy: CO Type: willow ash alder maple cak conifer other:
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moderate (15-50%) high o (nex)
Dominant Substrate Shape: angular sub-angular rounded
Creek Habitat: riffle: 30 run: 70 glide: pool: cascade/pool: step-pool: pocket water
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Upland Habitat Type: mixed conifer foothill hardwood/conifer foothill hardwood/ scrub/shrub other:  Fish Present: Yes No Type: salmonid centrarehid and address the salmonid centrarehid and address
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Herpetofauna & Life Stage (A J T E) tree frog bullfrog w. pond turtle garter snake other
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Impacts to Amphibian Habitat: grazing recreation industrial other: low mod high
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## Appendix D - Exploration for California Black Rails at Clover Valley

Figure 1- Aerial Photos of Clover Valley Showing Approximate Locations of Wetlands Surveyed and Black Rail Detection

Appendix A - "California Black Rail" from Species Accounts, Placer County Natural Resources Department, Prepared by Jones and Stokes for Placer County Planning Department, Auburn, CA, April, 2004

Appendix B - California Natural Diversity Database Form submitted for Black Rail Detection at Clover Valley

Image courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey
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FIGURE 1. APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF SURVEYED LOCATIONS AND BLACK RAIL DETECTION

# APPENDIX A

# California Black Rail (Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)

## **Status**

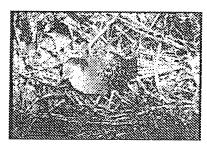
Federal: Species of Concern

State: Threatened

Other: Fully Protected (California Fish and Game Code 3511)

Recovery Plan: None

Placer Legacy Category: 1



Peter La Tourrette

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## Distribution

#### North America

Black Rails breed primarily along the eastern seaboard from Long Island, New York south to southern Florida and along parts of the Gulf Coast. There are scattered small populations in California, the Midwest to the southern Great Plains, and interior North Carolina to northern Georgia. (Eddleman et al. 1994.)

#### California

California Black Rail populations were previously thought to be restricted to the San Francisco Bay Area, Bolinas Lagoon, Tomales Bay, Morro Bay, Suisun Bay, the Delta region to White Slough in San Joaquin County, the Salton Sea area, and the Lower Colorado River Valley (Grinnell and Miller 1944; Manolis 1978; Garrett and Dunn 1981; Evens et al. 1991; Eddleman et al. 1994). In 1994, however, new populations were discovered in the western Sierra Nevada foothills of Yuba County (Aigner et al. 1995), and subsequent surveys revealed previously unknown populations in the foothills of Butte and Nevada Counties (Tecklin 1999, pers. comm.). As of 1999, there were 71 known locations of Black Rails below 250 m. elevation in the foothills of Butte, Nevada and Yuba Counties (Tecklin 1999).

## Placer County Phase I Planning Area

Historical

There are no historical records of California Black Rail in the Phase I Planning Area.

#### Current

There is one record of 3-4 individuals in Placer County. This small population was discovered on 15 April 2003 near Camp Far West Reservoir within the planning area (J. Sterling, Jones & Stokes data).

# **Population Status & Trends**

#### North America

Black Rail populations have declined throughout the species' range, especially in the Midwest, due to habitat destruction (Eddleman 1994).

#### California

Black Rail populations have been extirpated from Ventura to San Diego Counties (Garrett and Dunn 1981). The loss of 95% of marsh habitat in the San Francisco Bay Area likely had a substantial effect on Black Rail populations. Populations along the Lower Colorado River declined about 30% from 1973 to 1989. (Evens et al. 1991.)

The Sierra Nevada foothill population was estimated at 125-184 during 1997 and 1998 (Tecklin 1999).

## Placer County Phase I Planning Area

Although Black Rail populations were discovered in Yuba and Nevada Counties in 1994, a small population was only recently discovered in Placer County. Therefore there is no information on population trends in the planning area (J. Sterling, Jones & Stokes data).

## **Natural History**

## **Habitat Requirements**

Black Rails in the Sierra Nevada foothills are found in perennial wetlands dominated by *Juncas* and cattails (*Typha latifolia*) and often with other associated plants such as *Scirpus*, *Eleocharis* and *Paspalum* (Aigner et al. 1995; Tecklin 1999). These wetlands are in open grasslands, grazed pastures or oak savannas (Tecklin 1999). Nesting habitat is characterized by water depths of less than 3 centimeters (1.2 inches) that do not fluctuate during the year, and by dense vegetation providing adequate cover (Eddleman 1994, Tecklin 1999). Wetlands greater than 0.4 hectares are more likely to support populations that persist over time (Tecklin 1999). Also, Black Rails were not found during surveys of roadside ditches that had dense patches of *Typha* and *Scirpus* (Tecklin 1999).

#### Reproduction

California Black Rails lay three to eight eggs, incubate them for 17–20 days, and probably brood the precocial chicks for several days after hatching (Eddleman 1994). There is little information on parental care after hatching and no information is available on reproductive success and survivorship.

#### **Dispersal Patterns**

There is no information on dispersal of birds from the Sierra Nevada foothill population, although it is likely that young birds disperse to seek new sites for colonization if densities in an occupied marsh exceed the habitat's carrying capacity or if an occupied marsh is degraded. This hypothesis is supported by records of juveniles from other populations appearing in atypical habitats, migrant rails striking TV towers and buildings, and low recapture rates of banded juveniles compared to those of adults (Eddleman et al. 1994).

## Longevity

There are no published estimates of Black Rail longevity; however, one male along the Lower Colorado River lived for at least 2.5 years (Eddleman 1994).

#### Sources of Mortality

Documented predators of Black Rails include Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias), Great Egret (Ardea alba), Northern Harrier (Circus cyaneus), Ring-billed Gull (Larus delawarensis), Great Horned Owl

(Bubo virginianus), Short-eared Owl (Asio flammeus), and Loggerhead Shrike (Lanius ludovicianus) (Eddleman et al. 1994; Evens and Page 1986). In marshes around San Francisco Bay, rats (Rattus spp.) and red fox (Vulpes vulpes) are thought to prey on nests (Evens pers. comm. in Eddleman et al. 1994).

#### **Behavior**

Black Rails forage on invertebrates, including snails, beetles, earwigs, grasshoppers, ants; and on seeds from bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.) and cattails (*Typha* spp.) (Eddleman 1994). There is no specific information on the diet of the Sierra Nevada foothill population.

## **Movement and Migratory Patterns**

California Black Rails are mostly resident, although there is some local movement from San Pablo Bay south to the southern San Francisco Bay (Evens et al. 1991). Based on continual presence throughout the year, the Sierra Nevada foothill population is thought to be nonmigratory (Tecklin 1999, pers. comm.).

## **Ecological Relationships**

Black Rails occupy marshes with Virginia Rails and Soras (Tecklin 1999) but there is no information on interspecific interactions (Eddleman et al. 1994).

# **Population Threats**

The primary population threats are destruction, desiccation, flooding, grazing and other forms of degradation of marsh habitats; development-related increases in predation pressures from domestic cats, herons, egrets, and other predators; and pollution carried by runoff into occupied marshes (Eddleman et al. 1994). Grazing occurs at 60% of the known wetlands occupied by Black Rails in the Sierra Nevada foothills and is the most common threat to those wetlands (Tecklin 1999).

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#### **Personal Communication**

Tecklin, Jerry. Black Rail researcher in the Sierra Nevada foothills. 1998–present – Field visits and conversations. 530/639-8809.

Sterling, John. Ornithologist. Jones & Stokes. Field observations 1972 - present.

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