

# ***ENDANGERED SPECIES***

**Goal:** Development that provides natural habitat areas for native species and wildlife corridors for their movement.

**Measured by:** The Ventura County Plan data from the California Natural Diversity Data Base listing State designated endangered and rare species as well as federal designated threatened and candidate species.

**Findings:** The County Plan data for 1987 listed 8 extinct species in the county and 34 species on one of the lists above. Of those listed, 11 were in the Oxnard area and 3 were in the Ventura area.

**Context:** Loss of natural wildlife and native plant habitat to farming and urban development is the major cause of the loss of biodiversity. The loss of species poses unknown risks to the natural stability of ecosystems and to their pest-control functions. The loss also results in an impoverished environment from an aesthetic point of view.

Development and farming which destroy large areas of natural habitat will increase the number of plants and animal species considered threatened, rare or endangered. Development which preserves green spaces and encourages wildlife movement by providing safe corridors, prevents loss of species, and the loss of their genetic diversity (an indirect threat to their long term survival).

Sources: <http://www.ventura.org/vcrma/rma.htm>  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/html>