

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As a Californian, you are interested in protecting the wide range of species living in the state. You know that the state's human population is growing. You also know that everyone depends on ecosystem goods and ecosystem services provided by diverse natural systems.

Your task is to propose a specific action you think will help to protect species or habitats in California. Use your imagination. A few possibilities include:

- a new program to promote ecologically sound agricultural or fishing practices
- purchase of land to protect a specific species or type of habitat
- setting up conservation easements on private property
- an action to protect or restore an endangered species
- organization of volunteer action (for example, to remove an invasive plant from a nature preserve)
- an effort to educate the public about ways in which individuals can make a difference in the state's efforts to protect or restore species
- regulation or incentives to reduce effects of pollution on sensitive habitats
- a program to lower consumption rates and increase rates of recycling

**Instructions:** Prepare a paper describing your proposal. In your proposal, be sure to address all of these questions. Use the **California Biodiversity Action Plan Scoring Tool** on the next page to guide your writing.

### 1. Introduction

- a. What is meant by the word "biodiversity"?
- b. Why is biodiversity important in California?
- c. How do human population growth and activity affect biodiversity in California?

### 2. Action Plan

- a. What problem or issue does your proposal address?
- b. What type of action do you propose?
- c. In which bioregion will your action occur? Why did you select that bioregion?

### 3. Justification

- a. Why is this action important to people?
- b. What changes to natural systems would result from your proposed action, and how would this affect biodiversity?
- c. What types of ecosystem goods and ecosystem services would be conserved or protected?

### 4. Conclusion

- a. Why does loss of species matter to natural systems and to humans?
- b. How would your proposed action help to meet the needs of natural communities and the growing human population in California?