

Summary of Changes to the CRAM Individual Vernal Pools Field Book

Version 6.1 to Version 6.2

3/31/20

Title Page:

- Updated version number and date of release
- Updated cover photo

Basic Information Page:

- Removed the question about the apparent hydrologic regime of the wetland (as it applies to Depressional wetlands)

Scoring Sheet:

- Changed all text to black, rather than colored by each Attribute as before
- Updated page numbers for each Attribute

Identify Wetland Type:

- Updated with new flowchart that has episodic riverine wetlands

Establish the Assessment Area:

- Table 1- Added note about local watershed boundaries as AA boundaries.
- Table 3- Updated the recommended AA size for Vernal Pool Systems so that the number of pool replicates is reduced from 6 to 3
- Table 4- Updated the guidance to include “extends upward from the edge of the seasonal saturation zone to the local watershed boundary”

Attribute 1: Buffer and Landscape Context

Metric 1- Aquatic Area Abundance

- Worksheet 1- Revised the order of the cardinal directions to north, east, south, west
- Table 5- Adjusted the value of Aquatic Area Abundance in each scoring bin to better reflect the distribution of Aquatic Area Abundance raw scores. Changed A to an average of 31-100%, B to an average of 21-30%, C to an average of 11-20%, and D to an average of 0-10%

Metric 2- Buffer

- Removed the Special Note about areas of open water, as this note is not applicable to Vernal Pool Systems
- Replaced the map in Figure 4 with a Vernal Pool specific example
- Table 7- removed the reference to open water
- Table 8- revised language to clarify procedure
- Added a new example within Figure 5 to show an AA that has 100% buffer
- Table 10- Changed “naturalized” to “non-native” to be consistent with other CRAM modules

Attribute 2: Hydrology

Metric 1- Water Source

- Added language to clarify local watershed evaluation

Attribute 3: Physical Structure

Metric 1- Structural Patch Richness

- Worksheet 4- Added language regarding 3 m² minimum patch size
- Patch Type Definitions for Vernal Pool Systems- Added clarification to some patch type definitions, particularly regarding the potential location of each patch within the pools or entire AA

Metric 2- Topographic Complexity

- Table 17- removed “Macro” from title, removed “mima-mounds” from description and changed to “mounds”
- Figure 4- updated the previous line-drawing profiles to these profiles that better illustrate the features, and also include plants for scale. Added an additional option for a score of C
- Table 17- Revised scoring narrative to clarify roles of breaks in slope and changes in depth along with micro-topography. Added the second scoring option for C

Attribute 4: Biotic Structure

Metric 2- Plant Community

Submetric A- Number of Co-dominant Species

- Added clarification that co-dominant plant species must be at least 10% relative cover within the pool, not including adjacent uplands

Submetric C- Vernal Pool Endemic Species Co-Dominants

- Added two new Southern California endemic species (*Marsilea vestita* subsp. *vestita* and *Eryngium pendletonense*) to the Endemic List (Appendix I)