

Definitions for NCCP Team Use

The team preparing the Altamont Wind Resource Area Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) for the Altamont Wind Resource Area requested that the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) define the following terms for their use during preparation of the HCP/NCCP.

1. **Migration flyways** – a broad area in which related migration routes are associated or blended in a definite geographic region. There are several major migration flyways in North America. An example is the Pacific Flyway that encompasses most bird migratory movement through interior California. In contrast, a migration route is a more traditionally-used, species or population-specific migratory pathway.
2. **Movement pathways** – regularly used bird flight corridors usually formed as a result of topographical features (e.g., canyons, saddles, etc.) and/or wind patterns that facilitate movement with reduced energy expenditure relative to the surrounding landscape. These are areas of potentially high collision mortality.
3. **Saddle** – a depression, or low point, along a ridge line. These can be a component of a movement pathway, as defined above, and thus are sometimes sites of high bird use and collision mortality.
 - a) **Dip** – a depression (or saddle) along the linear axis at a ridge whose lowest point is at least 25 feet below the highest adjacent point along the linear access of the ridge within a distance of 150 feet. The side slopes of a dip have a gradient equal to or greater than 1:6 (~17% slope), where the horizontal of the slope angle is six times greater than the vertical component.
 - b) **Notch** – a depression (or saddle) all on the linear access of the ridge line with a side slope gradient of 1:4 (~25% slope).
 - c) **Draw** – a depression (or saddle) along the linear access of a ridge line with a side slope gradient of 1:3 (~33% slope).
 - d) **Canyon** – a depression (or saddle) along the linear access of a ridge line with a side slope gradient of 1:2 (~50% slope).
4. **Cliff edge** –Typically referred to as the top of a steep slope. Turbines that are located near a cliff edge, particularly immediately down slope, are considered potentially high risk sites. For purposes of turbine siting, a cliff edge is the portion of the ridge line within 100 feet of a steep slope.
5. **Slope Break** - an abrupt change in slope gradient creating sites that function somewhat similarly as saddles in that they are assumed to facilitate bird movement and thus are potentially high fatality risk sites.
6. **High-use area** – a relative description indicating geographic areas with consistently high documented bird occurrences. A high-use area may indicate a potentially high risk condition for turbine siting.
7. **High-density foraging area** – a relative description indicating geographic areas with consistently high documented bird foraging events. High density foraging areas vary by species based on prey availability, physical conditions, and bird

behavior. A high density foraging area may indicate a potentially high risk condition for turbine siting.

8. ***High-mortality area*** – a relative description indicating geographic areas with consistently high documented bird fatalities. A high-mortality area suggests physical conditions that may be regarded as high risk from turbine presence.