The characteristic landscape of the Central Basin and Range (13) has an alternating pattern of wetlands, mesic parks, and upland grasslands, and is mostly Entisols and Aridisols that typically have a thermic temperature regime; they are warmer than those of more northerly regions. Vegetation is limited to small shrubs and scattered grasses, and most of the range is sparsely vegetated. The ecoregion is mostly absent although scattered salt-tolerant plants, such as pickleweed, iodinebush, black greasewood, and inland saltgrass, are found in the valley bottoms. Recurrent wind and water erosion form terrace-like deposits and washes that form flat areas across the plains. Flattened washes are an important resource for livestock grazing, but are otherwise mostly unused. Numerous small rivers and streams provide valuable habitat for native fish and wildlife in the region. Most of Ecoregion 13 is dedicated to recreational, military, and industrial uses.

Subalpine meadows and scattered white fir, limber pine, and whitebark pine mingle upwards to the jagged, exposed peaks at 5,000 ft in Sierra Nevada. Summer precipitation. Both pinyon and juniper decline north of Ecoregion 13q; in Ecoregion 80, juniper grows alone and without pinyon. The Sierra Nevada Program is designed to provide guidelines for protecting the plants and habitats of the region. Important species include the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and many plants that are found only in this area. The value of streams and associated riparian habitat is also emphasized.

Ecoregions 13h and 13j disappeared during the last glacial period, and only three of the Central Basin and Range (13) ecotones are today more diverse than the valley bottoms. These three valleys are the Lahontan and Tonopah Playas (13h) and the Reese River Valley (13j). The value of streams and associated riparian habitat is also emphasized. Important species include the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and many plants that are found only in this area. The value of streams and associated riparian habitat is also emphasized. Important species include the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog and many plants that are found only in this area. The value of streams and associated riparian habitat is also emphasized.