



Figure 6. Stratification.



Refining SPOT outputs

To account for the random element in the generation of portfolios by SPOT, we ran SPOT ten times for each set of goals and determined the frequency of cells selected in each of the ten sets of portfolios. Cells selected in all ten SPOT runs indicate that they are the highest priority for achieving that set of goals. Figure 7 shows SPOT results using Goal sets 1 and 5, depicting the frequency of selection in each of the ten respective SPOT runs. We used the combinations of these SPOT portfolios to categorize the entire study area relative to different conservation objectives or functions by identifying groups of cells that were selected with different frequencies:

- Category A—nodes of regional biodiversity that meet both integrity criteria and vegetation conservation goals.
- Category B—intact habitat areas that meet some vegetation conservation goals (but to a lesser degree than Category A areas) and that buffer and provide connectivity between Category A areas.
- Category C—natural areas that are fragmented by roads and human uses, but which support isolated, high value resources (e.g., vernal pools) and serve as habitat linkages.
- Category D—areas dominated by urban communities and intensive agriculture (e.g., orchards, dairies, vineyards).

We then refined the boundaries of these conservation categories by referring to more detailed sources, including:

- Phase I studies in the Tijuana-Tecate corridor (Pronatura 2004)
- Cross-border linkage studies (CBI 2003)
- Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP)
- Existing literature, museum and other species records from experts
- Studies of existing protected areas (Figure 8)
- Watershed boundaries and topography
- Human modifications to the landscape (e.g., new development, roads)