Map of density of groundwater dependent wetlands and vegetation alliances in California. Map represents the density of groundwater dependent wetlands and vegetation alliances per HUC12 unit. HUCs were ranked as quartiles as follows: 1 = (.0475–1.97 ha/1,000 ha); 2 = (1.99–7.842 ha/1,000 ha); 3 = (7.844–24.808/1,000 ha); 4 = 24.81–81.080 ha/1,000 ha.
Discussion

All three types of groundwater-dependent ecosystems studied here (springs, groundwater dependent wetlands, and rivers) are widely, although unevenly, distributed across California (Figures 3–10). Although different types of GDEs are clustered more densely in certain areas of the state, watersheds with multiple types of GDEs are found in both humid (e.g., coastal) and more arid

Figure 9. Groundwater dependence index. Map of index of groundwater dependence at the HUC12 scale in California. The index is the sum of groundwater dependent variables (springs, groundwater dependent wetlands and associated vegetation alliances and baseflow index). Based on quartile distribution of the sum, HUCs were ranked as follows: 0 = no groundwater dependent ecosystems; 1–3 = Very Low; 4–5 = Low; 6–7 = Medium; 8–12 = High.

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