

## Conservation Easements and Other Instruments:

### Promising compliments to rangeland leases

Central Coast Rangeland Coalition

Training: Leases That Work For The Land, Landowners, Lessees & Livestock

Half Moon Bay, California

April 17, 2014

Bill Coleman

Great Ecology Inc.

[wcoleman@greatecology.com](mailto:wcoleman@greatecology.com)

Sacramento 916-376-7691

San Francisco 415-706-6154



# Bill's Info

wmgcoleman@gmail.com  
wcoleman@greatecology.com

415-706-6154

## Work Experience:

- **Great Ecology Inc.**, Senior Associate San Francisco
- **PG&E Environmental Dept.**, Habitat Conservation Plan Program
- Global Footprint Network (Oakland), Director of Technical Programs
- Green Building Exchange (Redwood City), President / COO
- Planktos Inc. (Foster City), COO
- Consultant / Earth Assets Group – Ecosystem Marketplace, Intertox Inc., Futura Solar, Lehr Inc., Luminesa
- EPRI Environment Division (Palo Alto), Manager / Director (18 yrs)
  - **Ecological Asset Management**
- Edison Electric Institute (Washington D.C.), Govt. Affairs Exec. Liaison
- Entergy Corporation (Little Rock), Manager / Environmental Affairs (10 yrs)

## Education:

University of New Mexico – Environmental Science (terrestrial ecology)

University of Arkansas – Environmental Psychology

Stanford / Columbia – Ecological Economics

We've been hearing about the economics of sustainability for 10 years or more.

Is sustainability measurable?

Is it profitable?



What does sustainability mean in terms of rangeland management?



# Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable

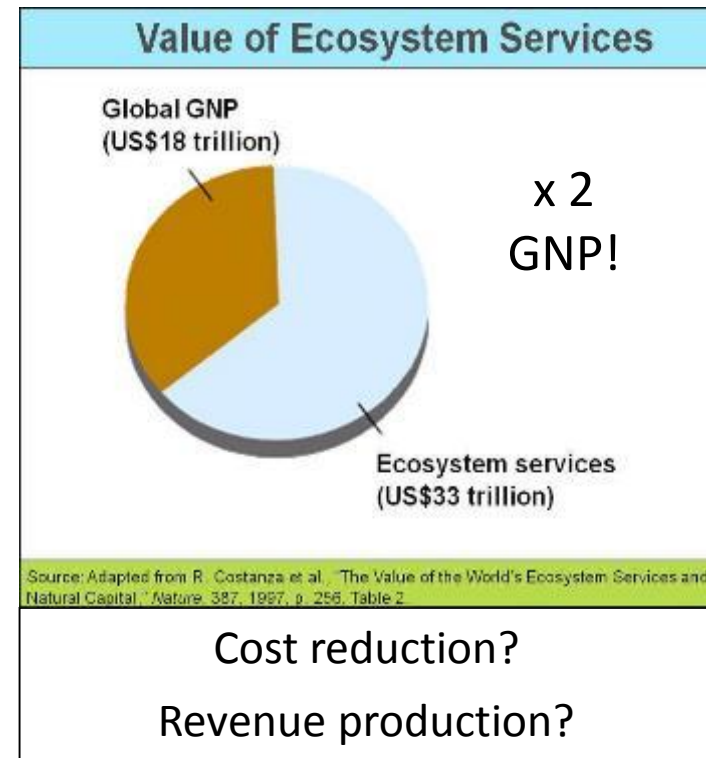


Intro Aug. 19, 2003



## Progress towards sustainable ranching:

- holistic landscape planning
- rotational grazing
- drought intensive management
- passive irrigation
- integrated pest management
- use of organic or non-toxic chems



While sustainability was being debated things were changing.

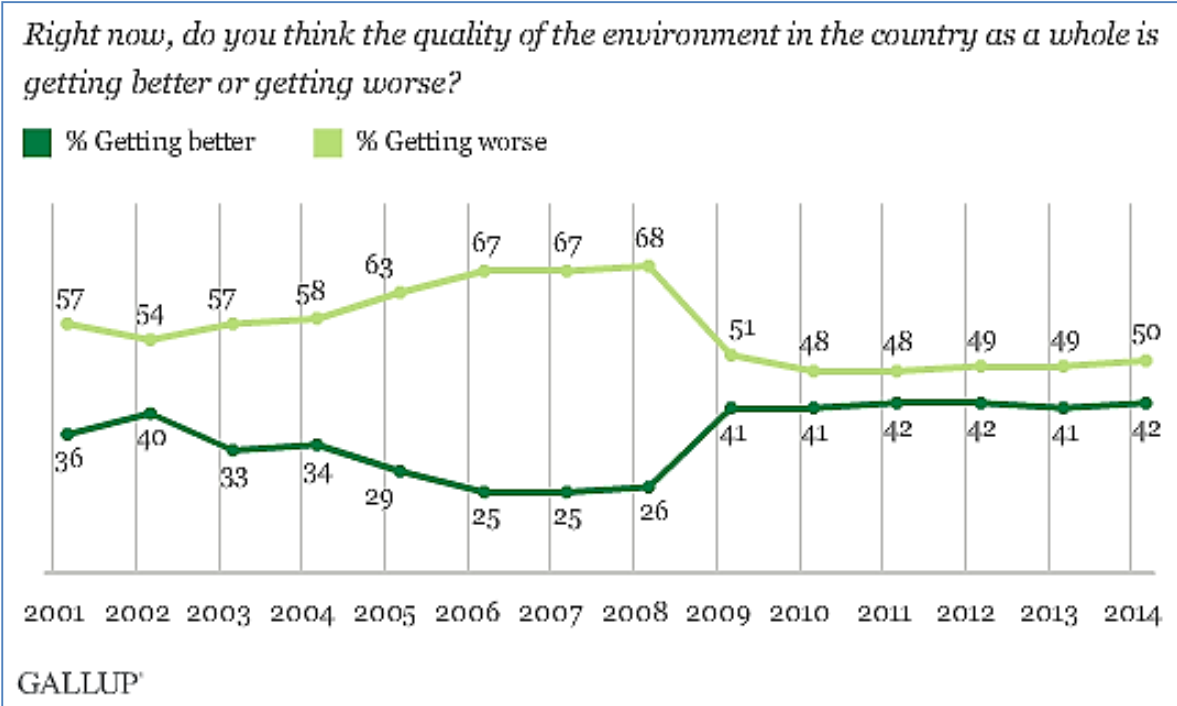
Example: quality of life was still in question.

March 19, 2014

### Americans' Outlook for U.S. Environmental Quality Steady

Republicans more likely than Democrats to say environment is excellent or good

by Rebecca Riffkin

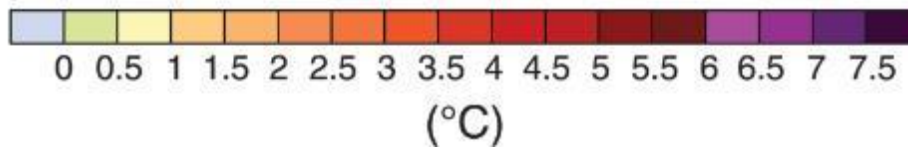


The pace of global change was accelerating.

# IPCC Report: A changing climate creates pervasive risks



Climate Change Adjustments Must Be Fast And Major, U.N. Panel Says

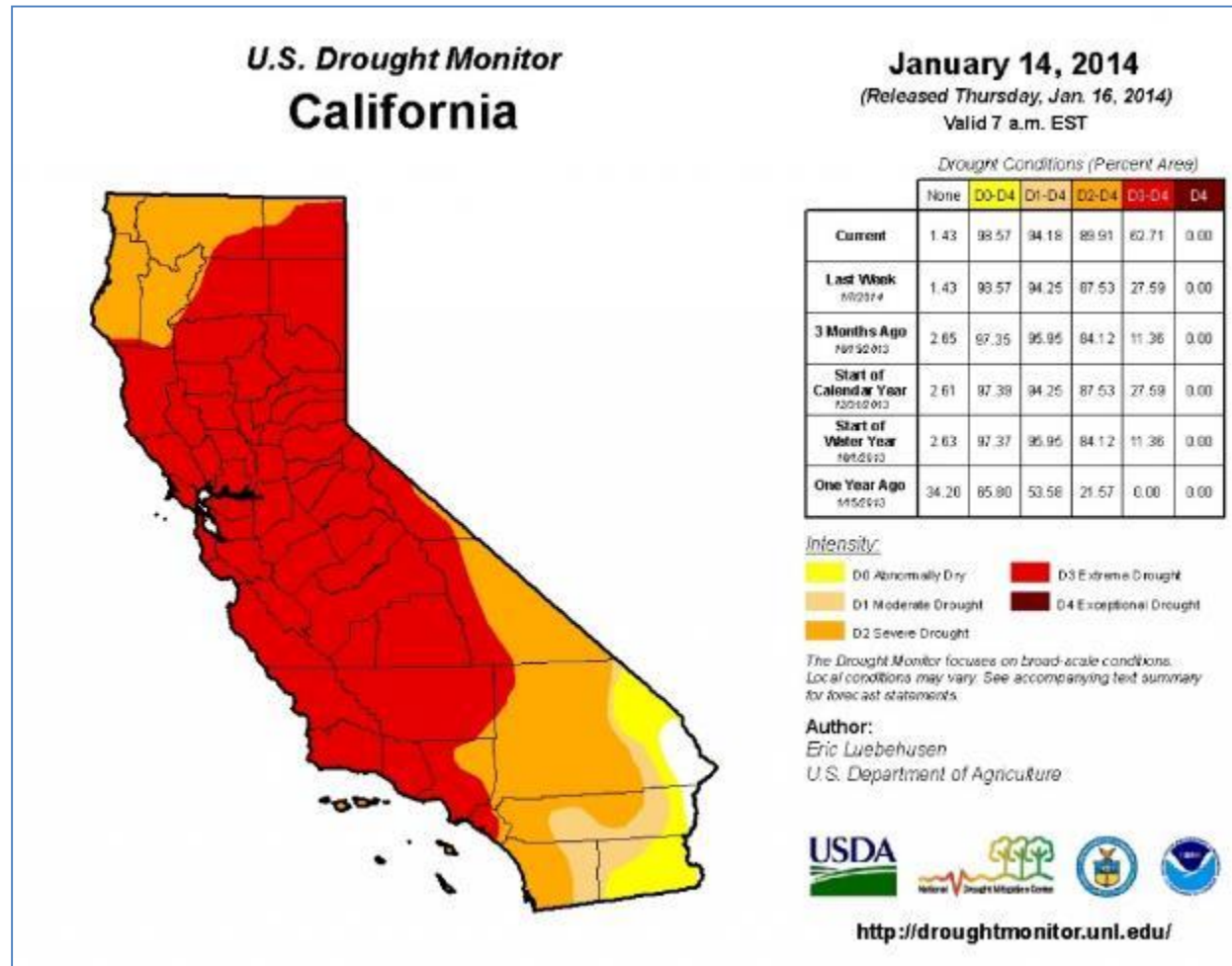


Climate change keeps getting closer to home.

# California drought: Feds declare 27 counties as 'natural disaster areas'

Posted on January 17, 2014

Governor Jerry Brown's emergency drought declaration on Friday came on the heels of the US DOA designating nearly half of California's counties as "natural disaster areas".

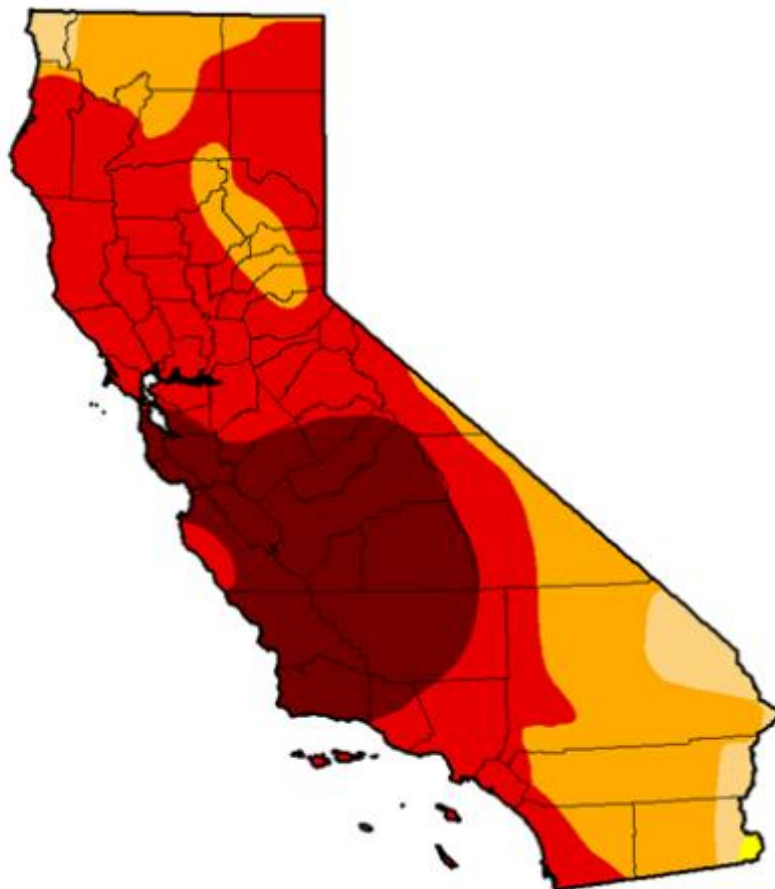




# Current Drought Situation

## U.S. Drought Monitor California

**April 1, 2014**  
(Released Thursday April 3, 2014)  
Valid 7 a.m. Eastern



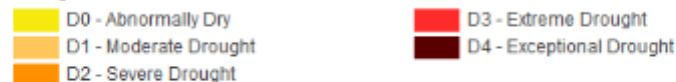
Statistics type:  Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.)  Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4/1/2014	0.00	100.00	99.81	95.21	68.76	23.49
Last Week	3/25/2014	0.00	100.00	99.80	95.21	71.78	23.42
3 Months Ago	12/31/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	12/31/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year	10/1/2013	2.63	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago	4/2/2013	0.00	100.00	48.38	24.22	0.00	0.00

[View More Statistics](#)

### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.

### Author:

Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

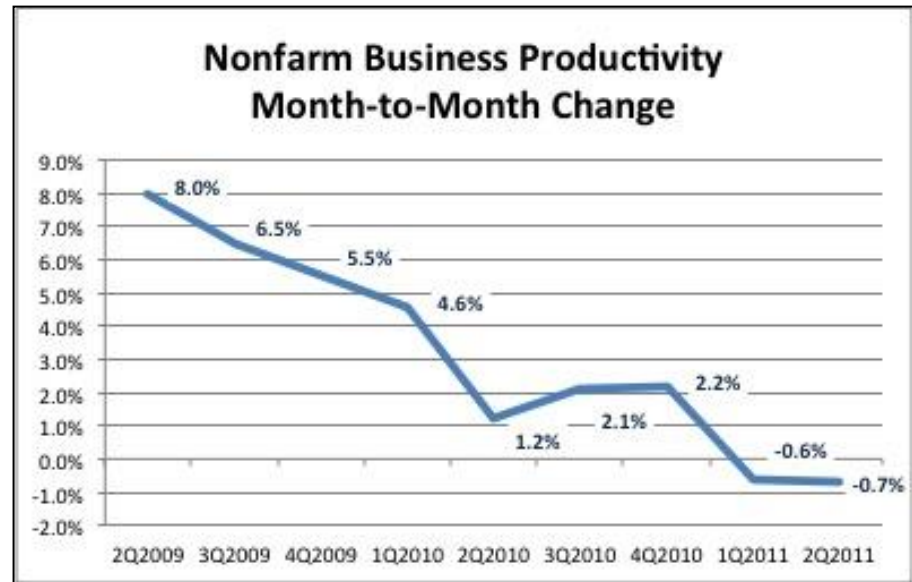
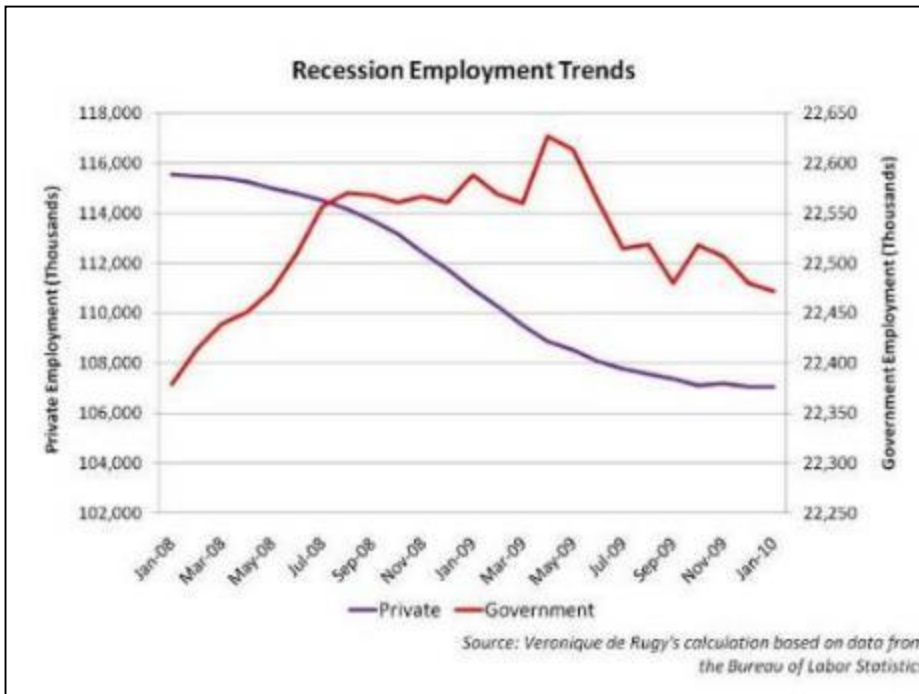
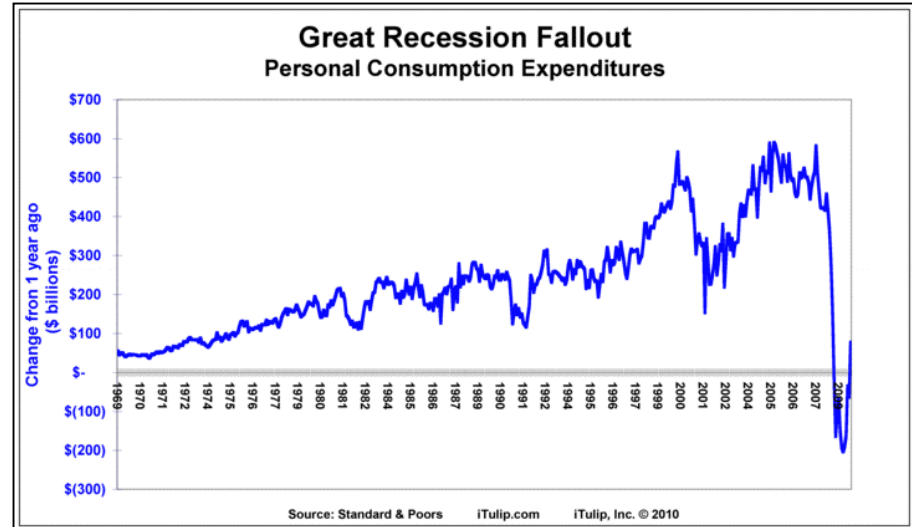
Lesson 1:  
Ranching is often at the  
mercy of the elements  
Profits don't come easy



The economy collapsed.

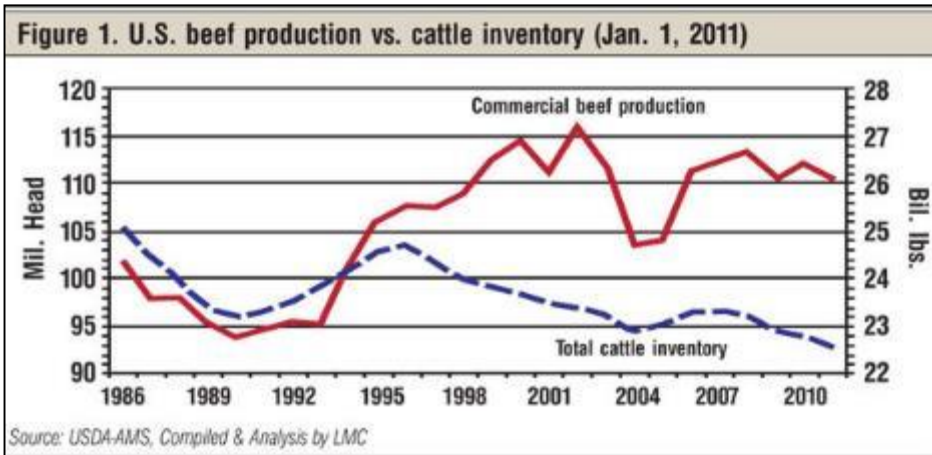
# 'Great Recession' 2007 – 2012

Every business was affected



Lesson 2:  
 Ranch economics is changing  
 Profits don't come easy

Beef cow numbers declined – starting in the 1990s, when the biofuels era began.



### Beef prices hit all-time high in U.S.

Extreme weather has thinned the nation's cattle herds, roiling the beef supply chain from rancher to restaurant.



Off-farm income became scarce.

- fewer in-town jobs
- fewer unskilled jobs
- more in-town seekers
- more minimum-wage jobs
- higher costs to get to town

Lesson 3:  
Off-farm income is iffy

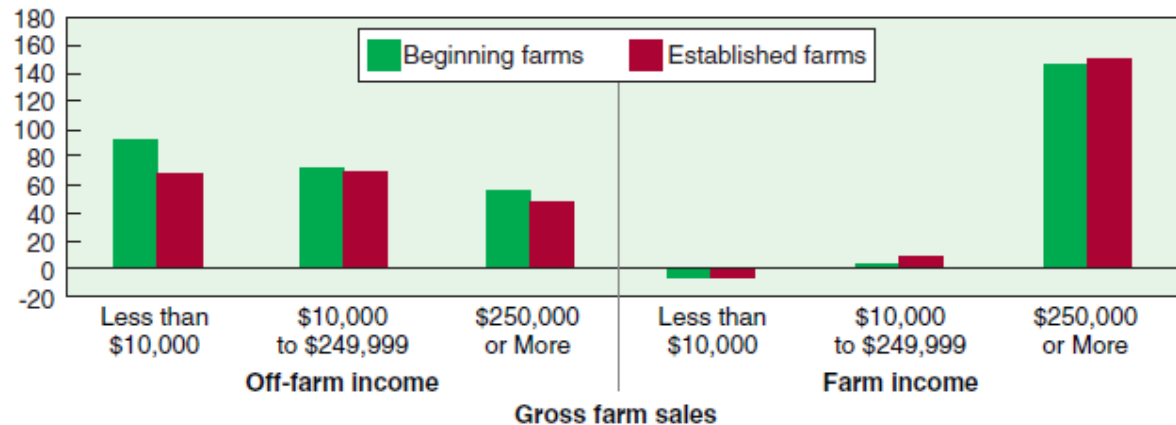
Profits don't come easy

## Households Receive Most of Their Income From Off-Farm Sources

For decades, most farm households—whether beginning or established—received a majority of their household income from off-farm sources. On average, off-farm income accounted for 83 percent of farm operator household cash income in 2011. Most farm families operating small farms have negative net farm income (after depreciation)—that is, in a typical year, they lose money farming. The average farm income of beginning farm households is less than that for established farm households (\$1,902 versus \$18,119 in 2011), but their households had higher average off-farm incomes than established farm households (\$89,015 versus \$68,172). Beginning farm households received less farm income and more off-farm income than established farms regardless of farm size.

**Households operating beginning farms have higher average off-farm income and lower average farm income at every farm size**

Thousands \$



Note: Households of principal operators only.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service, Agricultural Resource Management Survey, 2011.



# California OUTDOOR PROPERTIES

Participating with



[www.CabelasTrophyProperties.com](http://www.CabelasTrophyProperties.com)

[Click here to view CTP video](#)


AMERICA'S  
**BEST**  
BROKERAGES  
The Land Report  
2011, 2012

Cabela's  
Trophy Properties  
TOP OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
AWARD  
2011, 2009

Cabela's  
Trophy Properties  
REAL ESTATE  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD  
2010

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## California Ranches For Sale



### Vineyard View Ranch

**\$195,000 | 80 +/- Acres | El Dorado County, CA**

**Property Type:** Recreation - Hunting and Timber, Ranchette and Residential

The Vineyard View Ranch is beautiful level to rolling acreage immediately adjacent to the well-known Perry Creek Vineyards with incredible views of the vineyards, the valley below and surrounding mountains. Dense woods to open meadows. Huge building pad with view, access roads throughout property. Cedars, pines, madrones, black oaks, live oaks and manzanita. Lots of wildlife. 80 acres. Adjacent 20 acre parcel with

We all want the ranches to survive



Despite careful management ranching costs can still exceed the market value of livestock.

So how does a common rancher stay in business?

“Every rancher has some way to reduce costs, to ignore others, and to find **supplementary sources of revenue.**”

What are the revenue options?

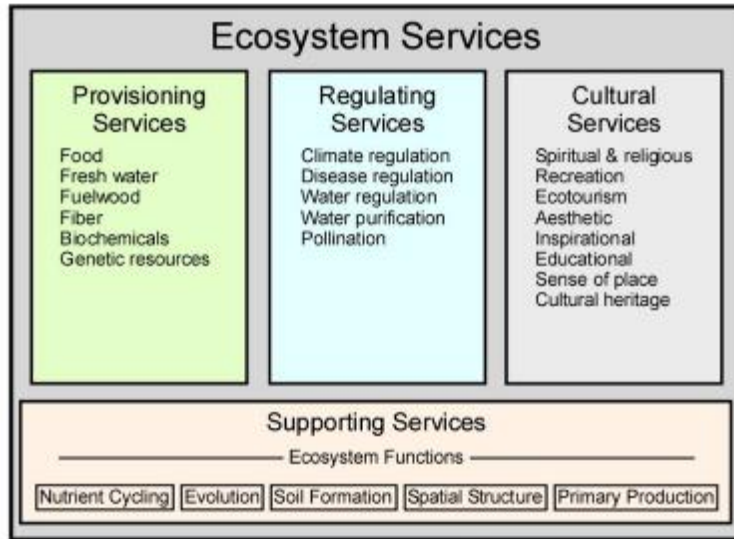
- Curb spending
- Off-ranch work
- Rent / lease land
- Raise hay, grass to sell
- Hunting, education, recreation fees

“The cattle operation itself has little, if any, margin. But land values keep rising.”

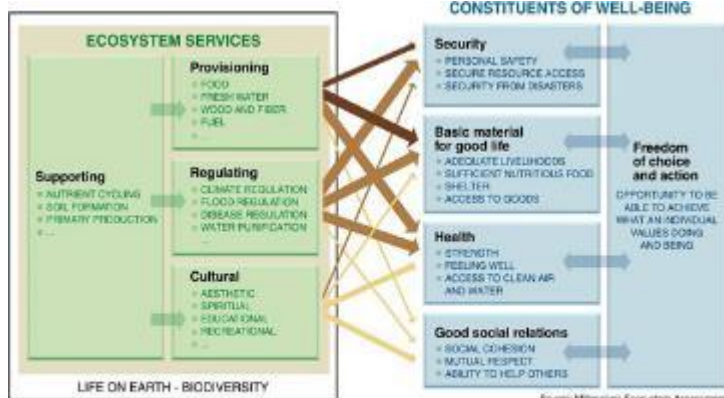
- Should we sell off portions of the land ?
- **Should we look into new, high-value ‘cash crops’?**



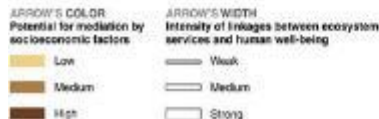
# Ecosystem Services – source of *all* economic productivity



Modified, with additions, from the Millennium Assessment



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



## Ecosystem Services – A Framework for Thinking about Sustainability

By Kevin Halsey

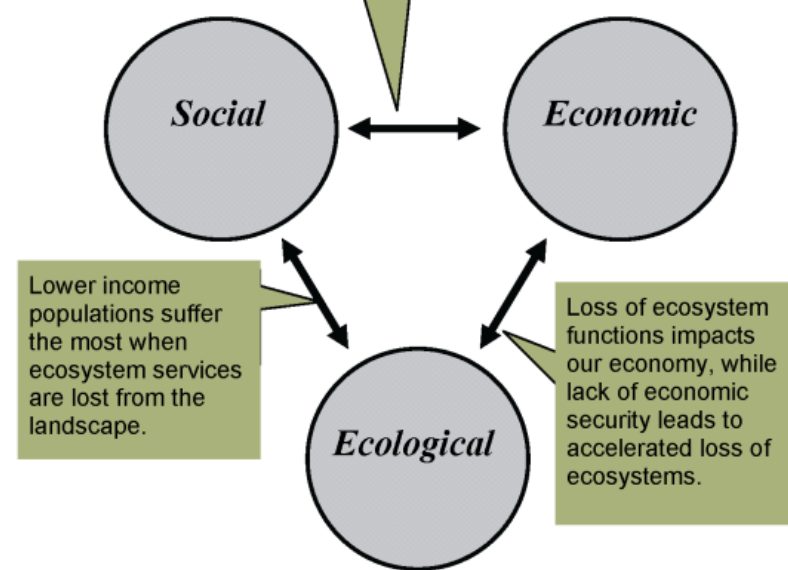
In recent years, *sustainability* has become a widespread concern, and there are many efforts to help move towards sustainability. For instance, we are told to “reduce, reuse, recycle”—very good advice. Businesses increasingly manage their operations to meet a triple bottom line of economic, social, and ecological accountability, which should be encouraged and rewarded. Indeed there are efforts at many levels, from LEED certification standards for new buildings to carbon trading, to reduce harmful emissions.

All of these efforts are laudable and necessary to help reduce the footprint of our presence on the planet, and they should be rewarded and encouraged. However, as valuable as they are, they currently represent steps towards an unknown endpoint. The question remains: *how do we think about what it means to be sustainable? What is a sustainable footprint, and how might we measure our progress toward that critical goal?*

Ultimately, we know that to be sustainable we must be able to exist without depleting the planet’s available resources (theoretically, in perpetuity). It is also generally accepted that sustainability requires us to balance economic health, social equity, and ecological stewardship. This suggests that to be sustainable, we must live in a manner whereby our total landscape, both natural and human, is able to perform the entire suite of social, economic and ecological functions we need for survival and quality of life. Furthermore, these functions must be performed at adequate levels, with appropriate distribution, and at a non-consumptive rate that will allow these functions to continue over time.

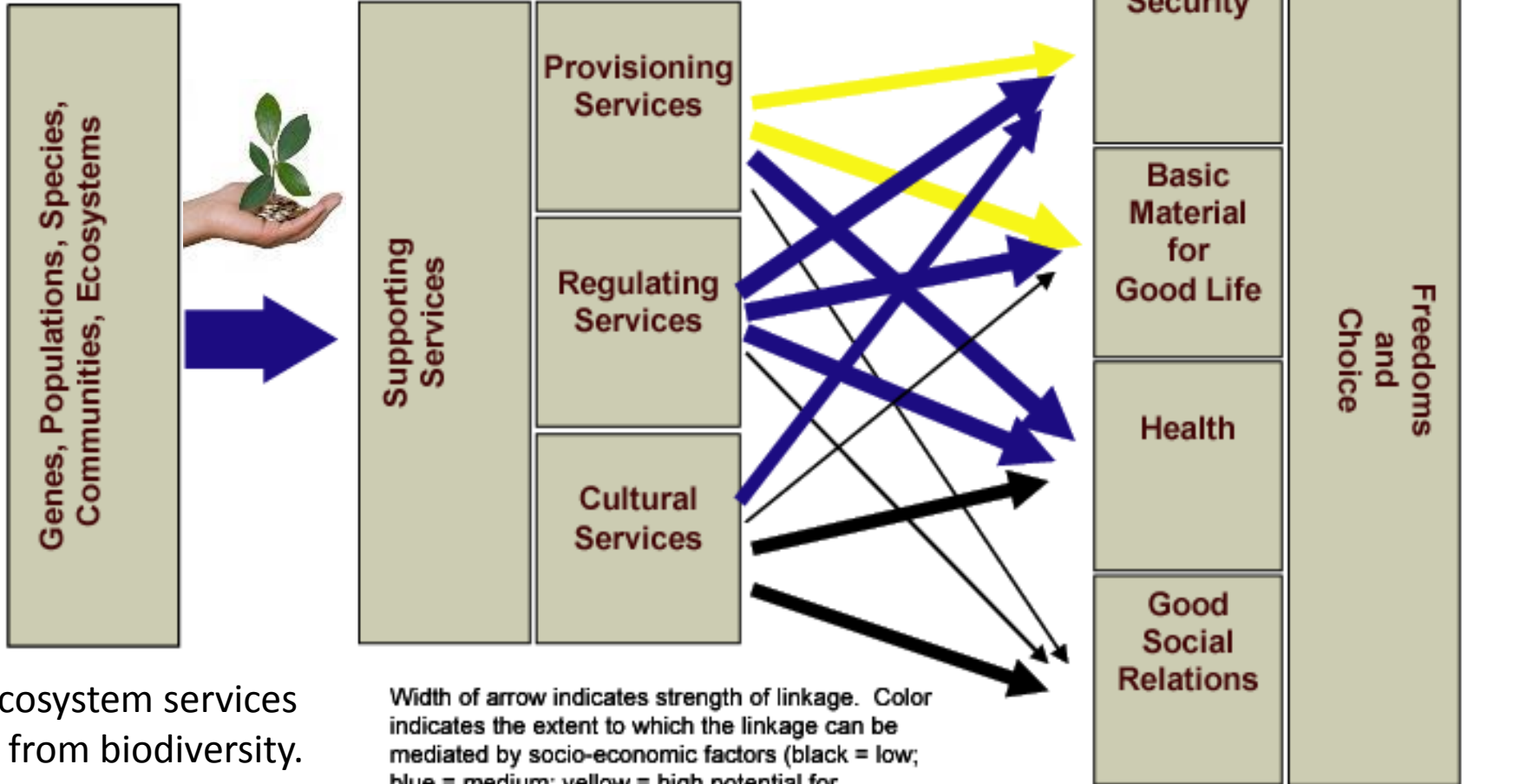
If the adequate performance of the full suite of economic, social, and ecological functions is truly the target, then there are several important ramifications that we must face as we seek to reach that target. First, we must understand that the full suite of functions is vast and all these functions must be

When economic security is not equitable, it leads to social dysfunction (from crime, eventually even to revolution).



# Ecosystem Services & Human Well-Being

**Biodiversity**



All ecosystem services arise from biodiversity.

Width of arrow indicates strength of linkage. Color indicates the extent to which the linkage can be mediated by socio-economic factors (black = low; blue = medium; yellow = high potential for mediation by socio-economic factors)

Biodiversity supports *all economic productivity*.

# Protecting Ecosystem Services

## San Benito County

### Provisioning Services

Products obtained from wetland ecosystems:

- Food
- Fresh Water
- Fibre & Fuel
- Genetic resources
- Biochemical Products

### Regulating Services

Benefits obtained from regulation of wetland ecosystem processes:

- Climate regulation
- Hydrological regimes
- Erosion Protection
- Reduction of Natural Hazard risk
- Pollution Control & Detoxification processes

### Cultural Services

Material and non-material benefits obtained from wetland ecosystems:<sup>1</sup>

- Spiritual & Inspirational
- Recreational
- Aesthetic
- Educational
- Historical Artifacts
- Traditional Livelihoods & Knowledge

### Supporting Services

Services necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services:

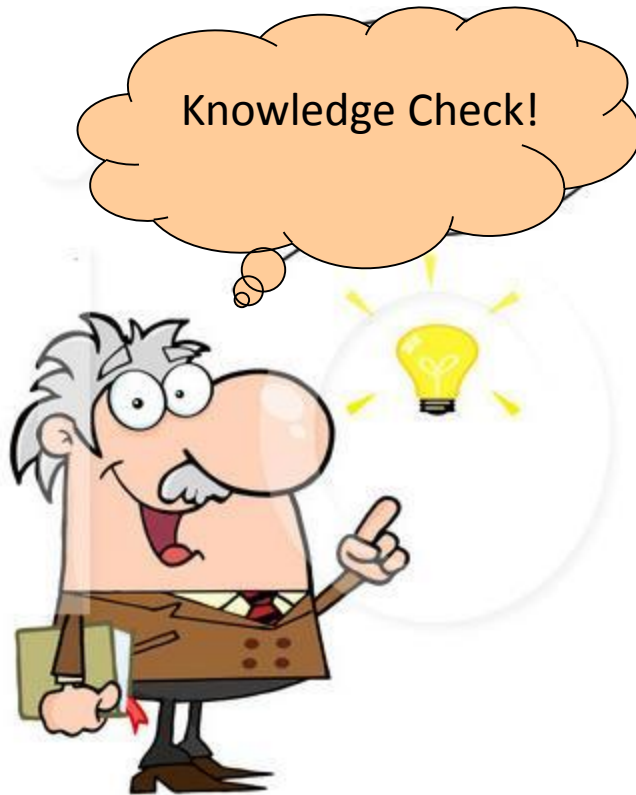
- Soil formation
- Nutrient cycling
- Primary production

rangeland biodiversity

energy  
materials  
information

Renewable  
Natural  
Resources



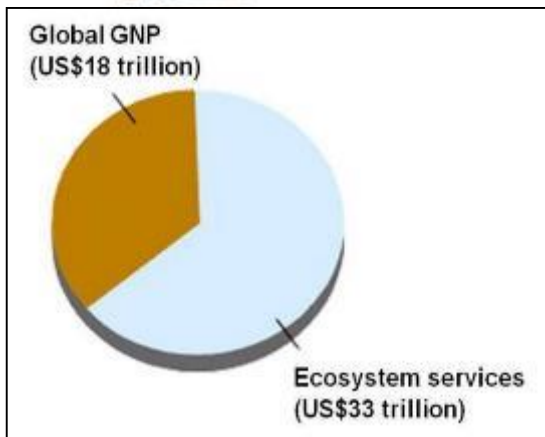


All ecosystem services stem from biodiversity productivity.

Biodiversity supports *all economic productivity*.

Ranches are *rich* in biodiversity.

Monetizing biodiversity value could lead to your next significant source of rangeland revenue.



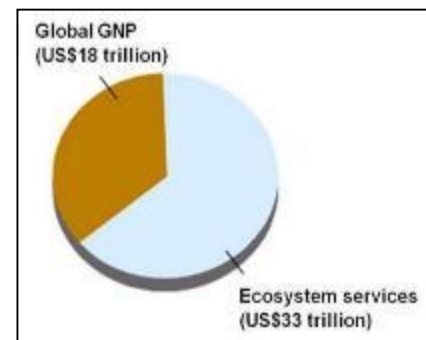
## Government Programs (subsidies) supporting sustainability:

- Wildlife & Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
- Forest Land Enhancement Program (FELP)
- Conservation Reserve Program - State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)
- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Grazing Land Conservation Initiative
- Conservation of Private Grazing Land (CPGL) program
- Forest Legacy Program
- Forest Stewardship Program
- Watershed Forestry programs
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Ecological Assets = market based revenue production

Menu of rangeland ecological assets →

- wetlands restoration (wetland credits)
- habitat / species protection (biodiversity credits)
- carbon sequestration credits – soils & trees
- stream runoff buffer / filtration credits
- riparian stream zone protection / restoration credits
- aquifer recharge credits



# 80,500 farms and ranches in California

## California Agricultural Production Statistics

California has more than 18 million acres of rangelands in the Central Valley /Coast Range.

The state's 80,500 farms and ranches received a record \$44.7 billion for their output in 2012, up from \$43.3 billion in 2011 and \$37.9 billion during 2010.

+ 1% ? = \$450 million / yr

+ 10% ? = \$4.5 billion / yr

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/statistics/>



# Future Scenarios of Impacts to Ecosystem Services on California Rangelands

*The 18 million acres of rangelands in the Central Valley of California provide multiple benefits or “ecosystem services” to people—including wildlife habitat, water supply, open space, recreation, and cultural resources. Most of this land is privately owned and managed for livestock production. These rangelands are vulnerable to land-use conversion and climate change. To help resource managers assess the impacts of land-use change and climate change, U.S. Geological Survey scientists and their cooperators developed scenarios to quantify and map changes to three main rangeland ecosystem services—wildlife habitat, water supply, and carbon sequestration. Project results will help prioritize strategies to conserve these rangelands and the ecosystem services that they provide.*



*Most of this land is privately owned and managed for livestock production. These rangelands are vulnerable to land-use conversion and climate change.*

Cattle on rangeland on Mission Peak, near Fremont, California, in the San Francisco Bay area. This image is an example of the expansion of urban areas into former rangeland. (Photograph courtesy of David Amme, California Native Grasslands Association.)




Agencies are increasingly supportive of measured ecosystem service value, *including* monetized ecological asset value.

# News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Media Contacts:

Steve Lyle, CDFA Public Affairs, (916) 654-0462 



## FIRST-EVER ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DATABASE SHEDS LIGHT ON FARMLAND'S MULTIPLE BENEFITS



SACRAMENTO, September 13, 2013 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture is pleased to announce what is believed to be the first-ever Ecosystem Services Database, which is now available at <http://apps.cdfa.ca.gov/EcosystemServices>

Ecosystem Services are defined as the multiple benefits we gain from farming and ranching, including crop and livestock production. Many of these benefits extend into environmental stewardship and conservation. For example, the maintenance of wildlife habitats, biodiversity enhancements on working lands, renewable energy use and production, increased nutrient cycling and storage, soil enrichment, water conservation, and support for pollinating insects are some of the benefits. A more comprehensive list of ecosystem service benefits in agriculture can be found at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/EcosystemServices.html>

"California's working farms and ranches are an important part of our natural landscape," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "The commitment to ecosystem services demonstrates clearly that beyond the productivity of fields and pastures, resource management decisions by farmers and ranchers provide us with wildlife and pollinator habitat, contribute to clean water and air, provide recreational and tourism connections, and much more."

The database contains nearly 400 farms and ranches. It is intended to easily communicate to a broad audience the multiple benefits provided by agriculture in California. The database can be queried by key word, county, crop type, and type of ecosystem service. An interactive map allows users to view where the services are taking place.

The purpose of the database is twofold. It helps the department discuss the multiple benefits provided by California agriculture, and it assists growers, ranchers, and stakeholders who want to learn more about ecosystem services.

## CDFA's first-ever farm & ranch ecosystem services database

- 400 properties reported (0.5%)
- 13 value-based ecosystem services
  - ✓ ...Wildlife habitat
  - ✓ Biodiversity conservation

The screenshot shows the homepage of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Ecosystem Services Database. The header includes the CA.GOV logo and navigation links for Home, Divisions, Customer Service, Meetings, News, Jobs, Laws/Regs, Statistics, and Publications. Below the header is a large image of a vineyard with the title "Ecosystem Services Database". The main content area features a description of the database, a list of service categories, and a search interface. The service categories listed are: Wildlife Habitat, Nutrient Cycling, Food, Fiber, Fuel, Recreation & Cultural, Soil Structure Formation & Fertility, Biodiversity Conservation, Water Cycling, Atmospheric Gas & Climate Regulation, Water Quality, Pest Control, and Pollination Services. A map of California is also visible on the right side of the page.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

CA.GOV

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### Ecosystem Services Database

CDFA Home > Ecosystem Services Database

#### ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DATABASE

Ecosystem Services in agriculture is defined as "the multiple benefits we gain from farming and ranching including crop and livestock production." The information contained in this database is collected from farm and ranch websites and on-line case studies and is updated annually. The database is designed to allow and communicate, to a wide audience, the many social and environmental benefits offered by growers and ranches in California, including food production. The database can be searched by key word and categories as well as through the interactive map below.

This database of nearly 400 farms and ranches is comprised predominantly of farms growing specialty crops. There are approximately 300 specialty crop farms and 100 non-specialty crop growers.

Would you like to be included in the Ecosystem Services Database? Please complete the submission form.

Keyword(s)

Type of Crop

County

Ecosystem Services Provided

- Wildlife Habitat [More Info >](#)
- Nutrient Cycling [More Info >](#)
- Food [More Info >](#)
- Fiber [More Info >](#)
- Fuel [More Info >](#)
- Recreation & Cultural [More Info >](#)
- Soil Structure Formation & Fertility [More Info >](#)
- Biodiversity Conservation [More Info >](#)
- Water Cycling [More Info >](#)
- Atmospheric Gas & Climate Regulation [More Info >](#)
- Water Quality [More Info >](#)
- Pest Control [More Info >](#)
- Pollination Services [More Info >](#)

Browse services by county >

# 53 properties (13%) state-wide delivering 'wildlife' and 'biodiversity' eco-services

**Ecosystem Services Database**

CDFA Home > Ecosystem Services Database

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DATABASE**  
Search results: (click on column heading to change sort order)

Farm	Crop Type	Location
Avenales & Canyon Ranches	Livestock and Dairy	Santa Margarita
Bar Eleven Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Hillville
Barinaga Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Marshall
Batcheller Ranch	Livestock and Dairy	
Bear Valley Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Big Bluff Ranch	Livestock and Dairy	Red Bluff
Boere Dairy	dairy and livestock	Sun City
California Cloverleaf Farms / Burroughs Family	Livestock and Dairy	Denair
Casa Rosa Farms	Livestock and Dairy, Tree Crops	Madera
Centennial/Dressler Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Chileno Valley Ranch	Livestock and Dairy, Tree Crops	Petaluma
Conlan Ranches California	Livestock and dairy, field crops	Valley Ford
Cook Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Cunningham Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Dairy Farms (four anonymous dairies)	Livestock and Dairy	
East Sheridan Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Ecker Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
El Chorro Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Far View Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Ranger
Genasci Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Hafenfeld Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Hallowell Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Priest
Hearst Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Hidden Villa	Field Crops, Livestock and Dairy	
HollyOak Ranch	Field Crops, Livestock and Dairy	Grass Valley

Howe Creek Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Pamala
Ichord Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Joseph Gallo Farms	Livestock and dairy	Abwater
Kester Ranches	Livestock and dairy	
Koopmann Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Sunol
Lazy K Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Leavitt Lake Ranches	Livestock and dairy	Vina and Susanville
Lone Willow Ranch	Field Crops, Tree Crops, Livestock and Dairy	Firebaugh
Nelson Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Old Creek Ranch	Livestock and Dairy, Tree Crops	Cayucos
Orvis Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Prather Ranch	Livestock and Dairy, Field Crops	Fall River Hills
Rancho La Viña	Livestock and dairy, field crops, tree crops	
San Lorenzo Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Santa Margarita Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Scott River Ranch	Livestock and Dairy	Sira
Sparrowk Livestock	Livestock and dairy	Clements
Stemple Creek Ranch	Livestock and dairy	
Tejon Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Tejon Ranch
Thompson Valley Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Quincy
Three Creeks Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Silk Creek
Toluma Farm	Livestock and dairy	Tonawka
Tomatero Farm	Field Crops, Livestock and dairy	Aptos
Touch the Earth Ranch	Livestock and dairy	Paloma
V6 Ranch	Livestock and dairy	San Miguel
Wise Acre Farm	Field Crops, Tree Crops, Livestock and Dairy	Arbuckle
Work Family Ranch	Livestock and dairy	San Miguel
Yolo Land & Cattle Co.	Livestock and Dairy	Woodland

[View Search](#)

## WHAT ARE *ECOSYSTEM SERVICES*?

The Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel has defined ecosystem services as

*"the multiple benefits we gain from farming and ranching including crop and livestock production.*

*In addition to valuable open space and wildlife habitat, the management decisions and conservation practices of farmers and ranchers also enhance environmental quality, provide recreational opportunities and offer social benefits."*



Lundberg Family Farms



Full Belly Farm near Davis

### **WILDLIFE HABITATS** ([View Image](#))

Provide habitats for resident and transient wildlife populations

### **NUTRIENT CYCLING** ([View Image](#))

Provide nutrient storage and cycling

### **FOOD, FIBER AND FUEL PRODUCTION** ([View Image](#))

Provide food, fiber, and fuel to sustain a growing global population

### **RECREATION AND CULTURAL** ([View Image](#))

Provide opportunities for recreational activities

### **SOIL STRUCTURE, FORMATION AND FERTILITY**

Provide opportunities for enhancing the soil system, promotes organic matter buildup/carbon sequestration, and prevent disturbances

### **BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

Promote biodiversity

### **WATER CYCLING**

Maintain soil moisture and regulate water movement/cycling

### **ATMOSPHERIC GAS/CLIMATE REGULATION**

Regulate atmospheric chemical composition.

### **WATER QUALITY**

Reduces salinity and organic/inorganic constituents in surface and ground water.

### **PEST CONTROL**

Control pests and weeds by natural enemies and weed seed predators, respectively

### **POLLINATION SERVICES** ([View Image](#))

Contribute to fruit, nut, and vegetable production

# Examples of California Listed Species

Tri-colored blackbird



California tiger salamander



California red legged frog



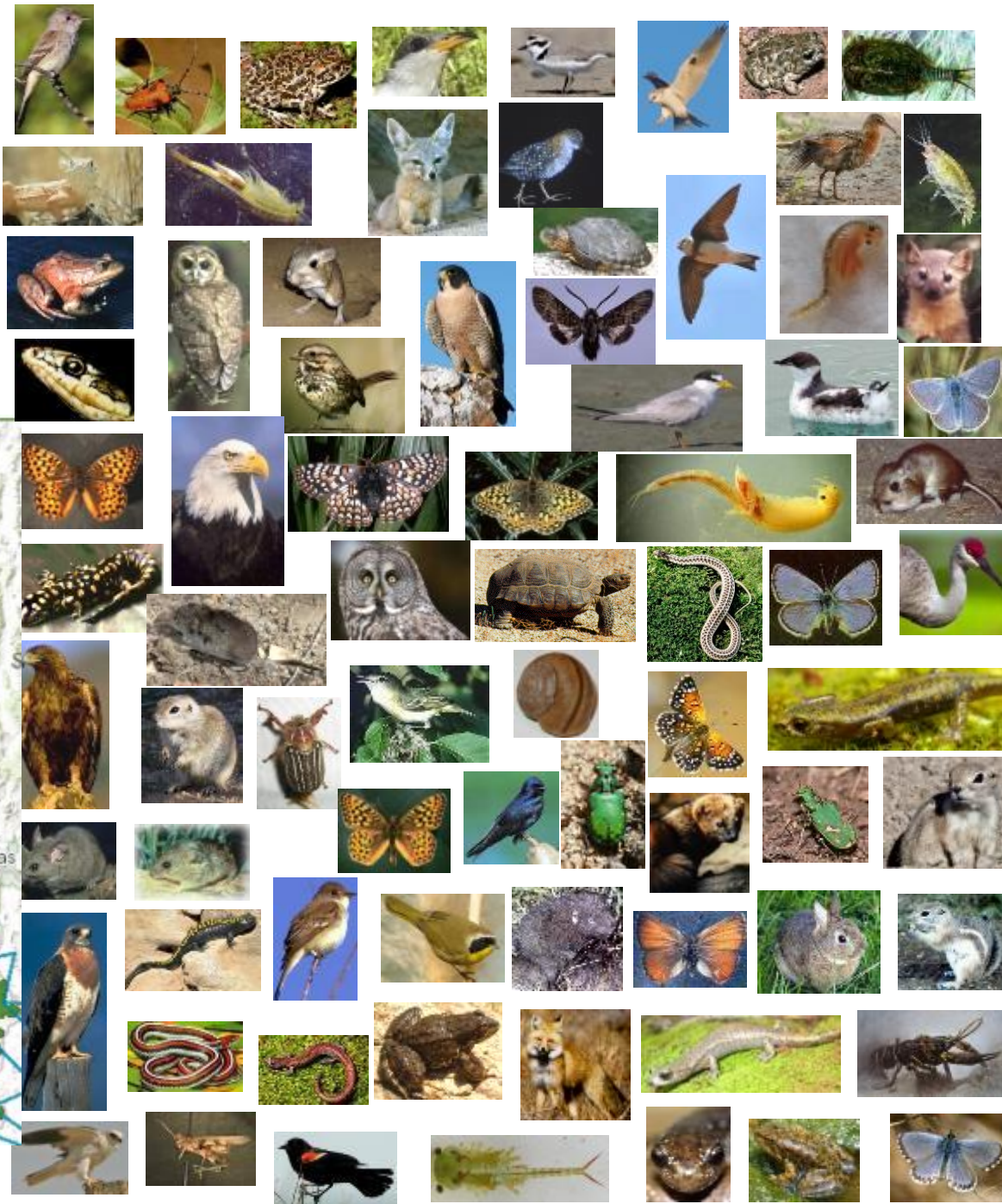
Vernal pool shrimp species



Riparian brush rabbit

Riparian wood rat

California is home to  
hundreds of rare,  
threatened & endangered  
species





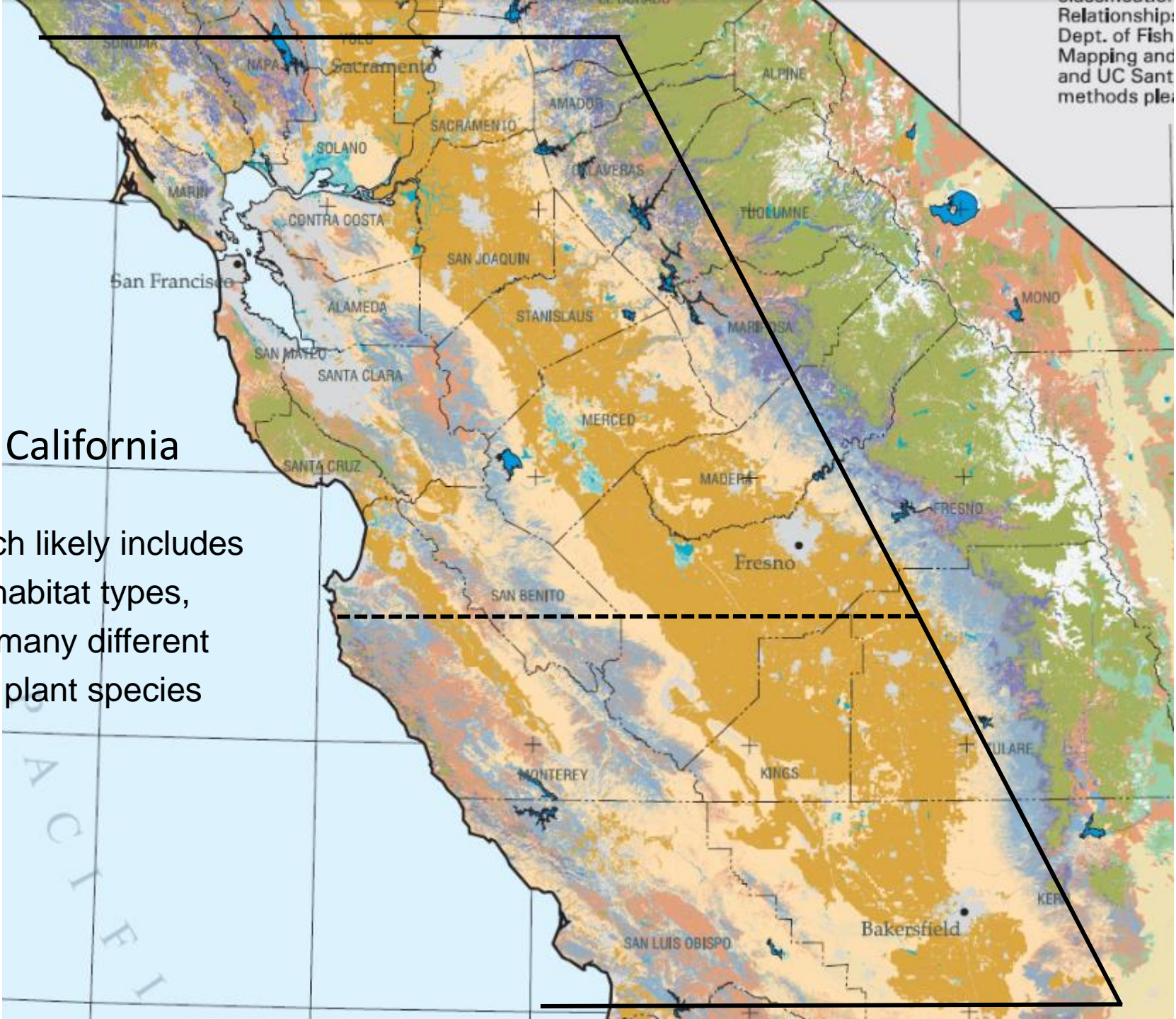
Why so many listed species in California?

California's unique geology has created a huge variety of microhabitats – more so than any state in the nation.





Relationship:  
Dept. of Fish  
Mapping and  
and UC Sant  
methods ple



## Central California

Your ranch likely includes multiple habitat types, home to many different animal & plant species

You may be thinking:

What does any of this have to do with me?

I'm not ranching salamanders, owls or frogs!



But many of your properties already support listed species.

Until recently, nobody knew how to put a price on these eco-assets.

All that has changed.

If you own or manage properties that include any of the following *underutilized natural habitats*, you may be leaving money on the table year to year:

- Native grasslands
- Wetlands or streams
- Shrub or scrub lands
- Forest or woodlands

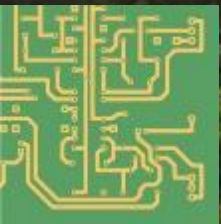




Riparian habitats support a rich diversity of species.









## Compensatory Mitigation:

~ Compensating for impacts by 'mitigating' or 'offsetting' effects ~

Mitigation offsets development impacts by conserving similar habitat, often of higher quality than the impacted area itself.

Mitigation is often larger than the impacted areas. Mitigation ratios come into play.

Compensation is required by State & Federal Agencies.

Compensation can happen in several ways, but the most popular is:

- purchasing mitigation credits offered by approved mitigation or conservation banks
- purchasing mitigation credits developed via conservation easements

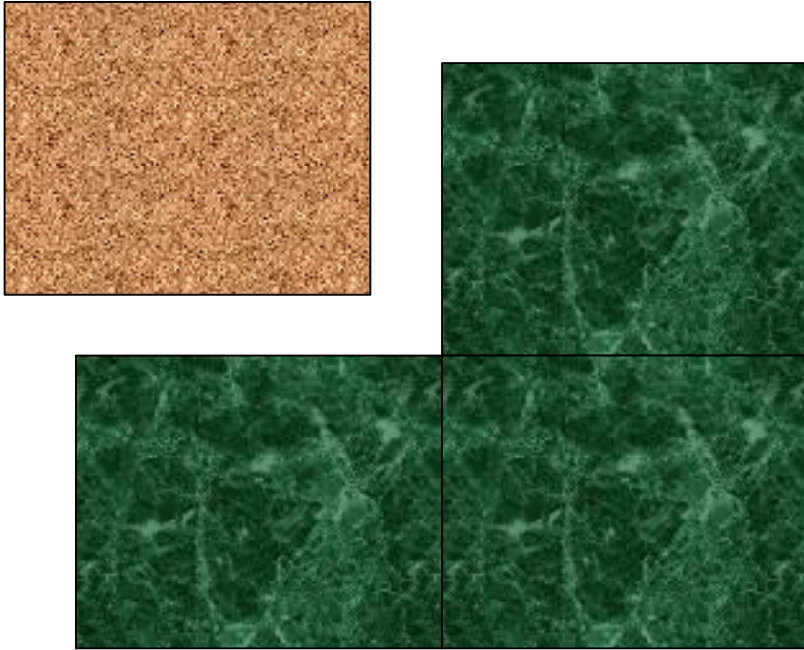


A **mitigation bank** is a wetland, stream, or other aquatic resource area that has been preserved, enhanced, restored, or (in some cases) created in order to compensate for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources permitted under the Clean Water Act or similar wetland regulation.

A **conservation bank** is an area of dry land habitat that has been conserved and managed for the conservation of identified natural resource values, the benefits of which are used to offset negative impacts to the resource occurring on other areas from land use activities.

A **conservation easement** allows a landowner to limit conflicting uses on their property, while retaining private ownership of the land. A third party conservancy (or land trust) receives the easement in the public interest and enforces the terms *in perpetuity*. Once signed, an easement applies to all future owners of the land.

## Mitigation Ratios



Consider a parcel of natural habitat that is impacted by development:

- 1 acre of development is therefore subject to mitigation.
- Agencies assign a 3 : 1 mitigation ratio.
- 3 acres of similar habitat must be acquired as compensation,
- then transferred to the public domain *in perpetuity*.
- Mitigation credits (acres) will come from approved conservation banks or easements.

‘You might be leaving money on the table.’

What kind of money? Examples in California include:

- Wetland mitigation credits -- \$200,000 / acre
- Species mitigation credits (from conservation easements or conservation banks)
  - Burrowing owl -- \$22,000 / credit-acre
  - California tiger salamander
  - California red legged frog -- \$8,000 / credit-acre
  - Tri-colored blackbird -- \$10,000 / credit-acre
  - Vernal pool credits (fairy shrimp, etc.) -- \$16000 / cr-ac
- Carbon sequestration credits @ \$10/ton/yr
- Nitrate reduction credits (Monterey County), prices tbd

# Review of Mitigation Costs in Western States

July 18, 2012

**Draft Report**

**ECONorthwest**  
ECONOMICS • FINANCE • PLANNING

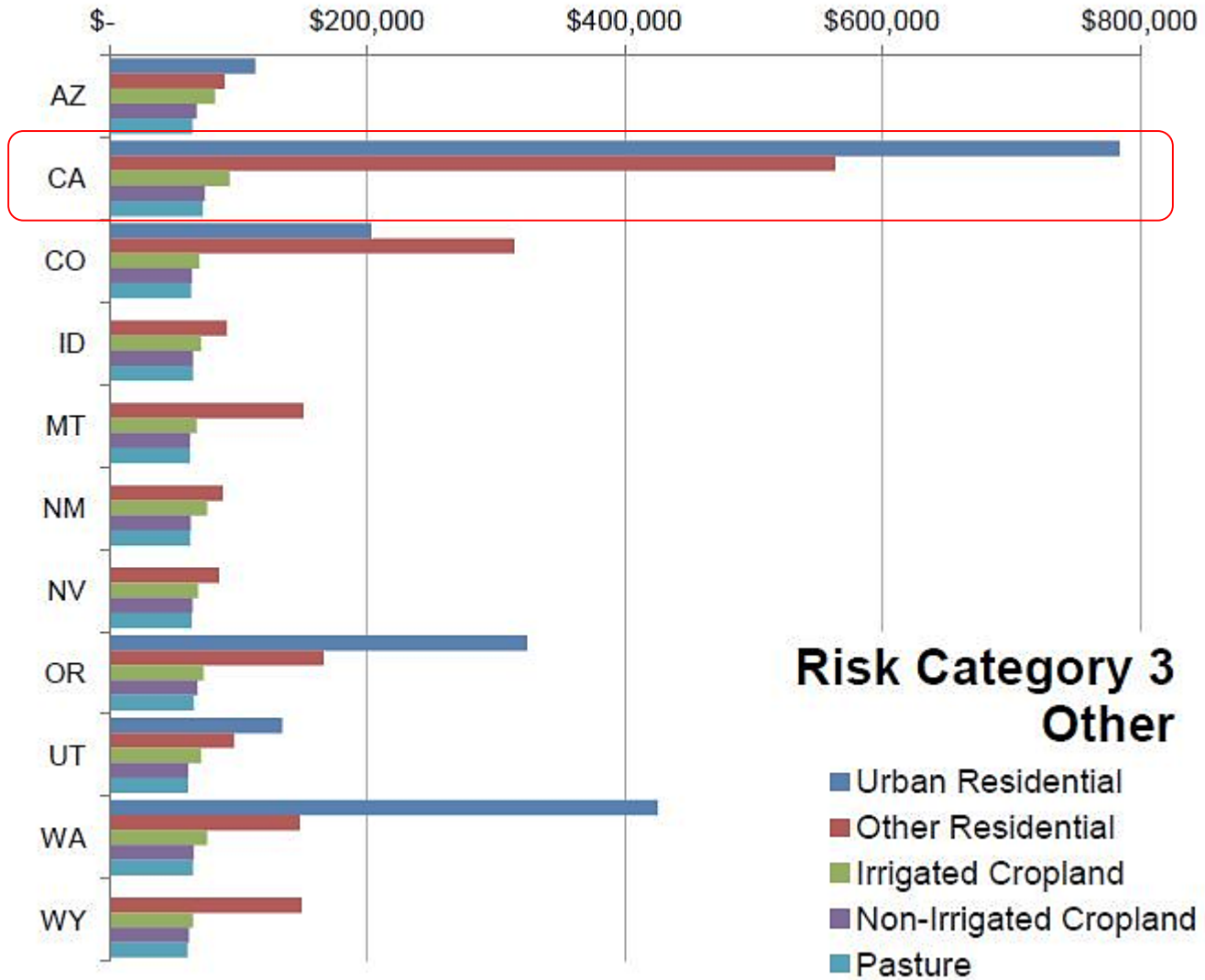
**Eugene**  
99 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 400  
Eugene, OR 97401  
541.687.0051

**Portland**  
222 SW Columbia, Suite 1600  
Portland, OR 97201  
503.222.8060

[www.econw.com](http://www.econw.com)

**Table 6. Mitigation Costs for Risk Category 3 - Endangered Species**

State	Year	Project Type	Mitigated	Acres	Total Cost per Acre (1)
CA	2000	HCP	Desert tortoise	368,000	\$1,478
CA	2010	Transmission line	Desert tortoise CH	94	\$3,616
CA	2010	Bank credit	Chaparral (low \$)	NS	\$8,178
CA	2000	HCP	Marshland	1,631	\$9,918
CA	2010	Bank credit	Chaparral (high \$)	NS	\$15,335
CA	2010	Bank credit	San Joaquin kit fox (high \$)	NS	\$15,335
CA	2012	Bank credit	Alameda whipsnake	NS	\$19,000
CA	2010	Bank credit	Giant garter snake (low \$)	NS	\$30,669
CA	2010	Bank credit	Giant garter snake (high \$)	NS	\$46,004
CA	2010	Bank credit	Vernal pool (low \$)	NS	\$51,115
CA	2012	Bank credit	Meadowfoam	NS	\$75,000
CA	2010	Bank credit	Salmonids (low \$)	NS	\$81,784
CA	2005	Critical habitat	Riverside fairy shrimp	306	\$82,846
CA	2010	Bank credit	Delhi sands flower-loving fly (low \$)	NS	\$102,230
CA	2010	Bank credit	Native fisheries (low \$)	NS	\$102,230
CA	2010	Bank credit	Salmonids (high \$)	NS	\$122,676
CA	2010	Bank credit	Least vireo breeding pair	NS	\$127,788
CA	2010	Bank credit	Delhi sands flower-loving fly (high \$)	NS	\$153,345
CA	2010	Bank credit	Fairy shrimp (low \$)	NS	\$153,345
CA	2010	Bank credit	Native fisheries (high \$)	NS	\$153,345
CA	2012	Bank credit	Vernal pool	NS	\$275,000
CA	2010	Bank credit	Fairy shrimp (high \$)	NS	\$306,690
CA	2012	Bank credit	Sonoma Sunshine	NS	\$325,000
CA	2010	Bank credit	Vernal pool (high \$)	NS	\$332,248
CA	2005	Toll road	Riverside fairy shrimp	NS	\$587,281
CA	2012	Bank credit	Burke's Goldfields	NS	\$900,000



Who's buying these credits? The list includes:

- Caltrans
- High Speed Rail Authority
- Big-Five energy companies
- Renewable energy projects
- Oil & gas industry (fracking!)
- Colleges & universities
- Agriculture (wineries)
- Mining companies
- Residential / commercial developers

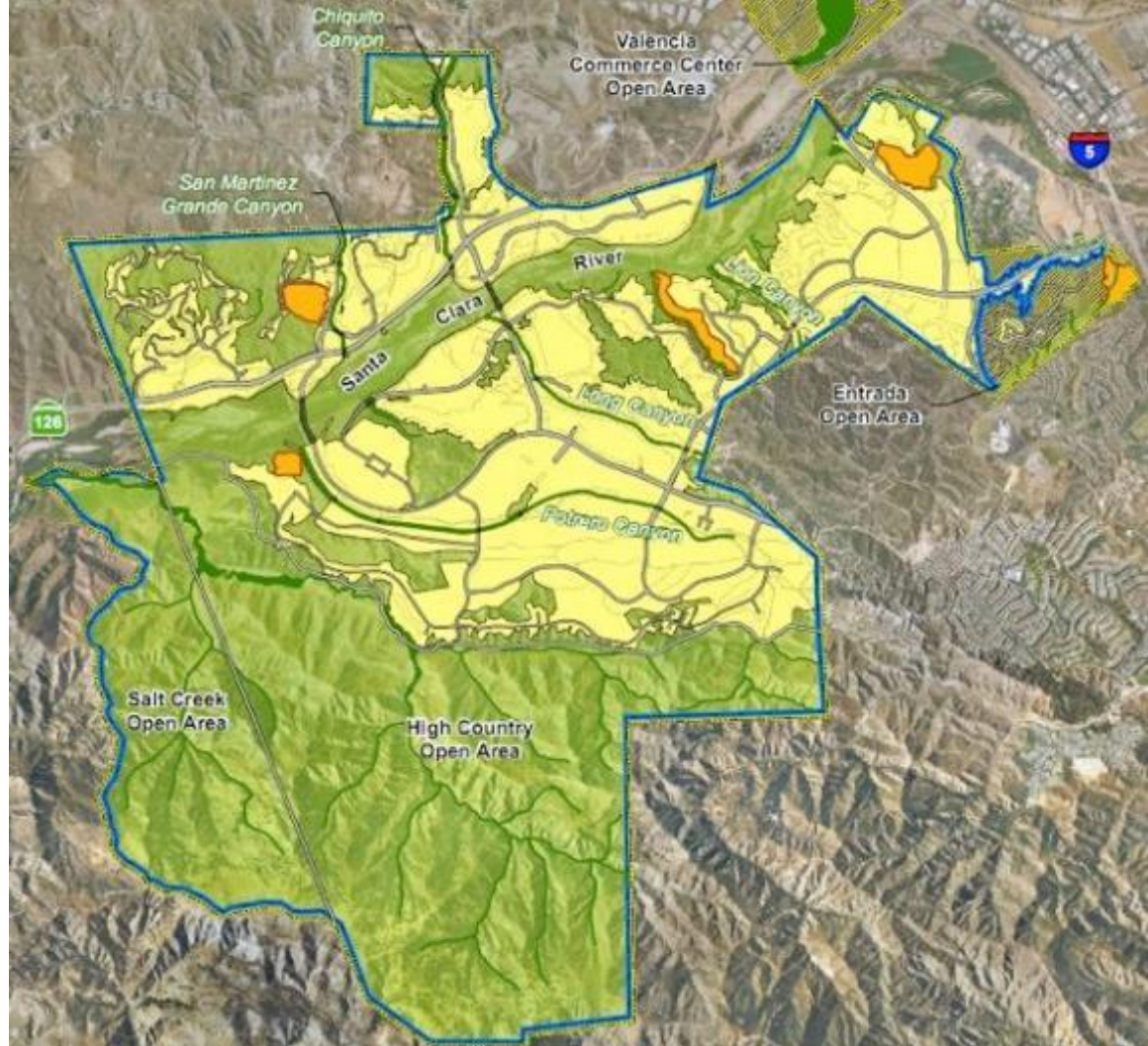
# Newhall Ranch in Valencia, California

**Newhall Ranch** is a 12,000 acre master-planned community, west of Santa Clarita, along the Santa Clara River.

The **Newhall Land and Farming Company** incorporated in 1883 by the five sons of Henry Newhall, a businessman who had purchased 143,000 acres of former Mexican land grants.

Newhall instructed his sons not to sell the land after his death. But the income generated by ranching was not enough to support the families of all five sons.

They gradually sold their holdings leading to the Newhall Ranch community plan.



The development includes 21,000 homes, a commercial district, seven schools, three fire stations, a water reclamation plant, four parks, a golf course, and a 15-acre lake.

Developers will convert 20 miles of waterways into storm drains or levees and use 20 million cubic yards of excavated soil to fill in wetlands.



**MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN**

for the

**NEWHALL RANCH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
AND SPINEFLOWER CONSERVATION PLAN**

as required by

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

as lead agency under the

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

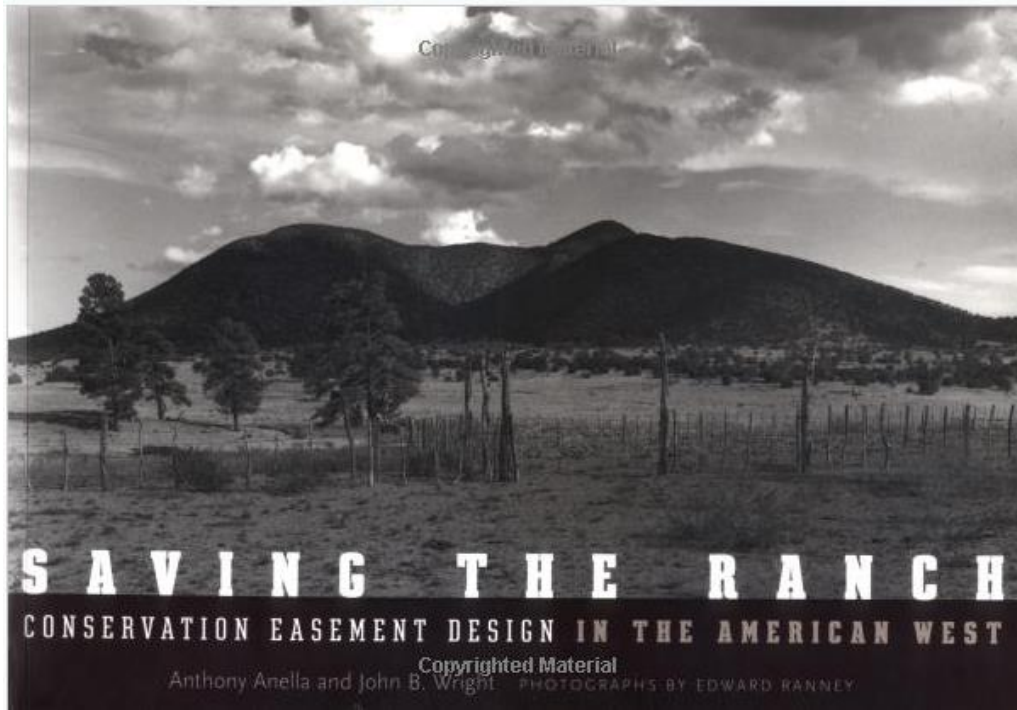
“The Potrero Canyon and Mayo Crossing restoration sites are considered the initial sites to be implemented prior to impacts by development, thereby establishing up front mitigation credits.

“As individual Project components are proposed for construction, quantities of mitigation acreage required to offset permanent impact acreages shall be calculated.

“A project would not proceed unless adequate mitigation capacity is demonstrated. Temporary impact areas shall be mitigated in place in a manner that restores impacted functions and services.

“If up front compensatory mitigation cannot be achieved, a Corps-approved method would be utilized to determine the additional compensatory mitigation to offset the temporal loss of functions and services not included in the 1:1 mitigation ratio for permanent impacts.”

According to the EPA, the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan was lacking a sufficient strategy to minimize or mitigate harmful effects of the project. The EPA *does not believe* the proposed mitigations “will replace the ecological functions provided by the existing natural features” or “that surface water quality will be protected from the project’s storm water discharges”.



# SAVING THE RANCH: Conservation Easement Design in the American West, Island Press (2004)

31,000 acre  
Montosa Ranch



# Keep the Ranch?

Conservation banking  
Conservation easements  
Payment for 'eco-services'  
Cropland Reserve Pgm  
Wetland Reserve Pgm

Love this way of life  
Personal values / ethics

Ample water

Lease income

Wildlife / Recreation income

Town income

Profit—cattle, crops, timber

# Sell the Ranch?

I need a drink

Do WHAT with the family ranch?

Public perception of ranching; Govt. regs

Govt. land use regulations

Brand new business model; the Govt. 'dole'

All or nothing—ranch or develop

Newcomers bring different values / ethics

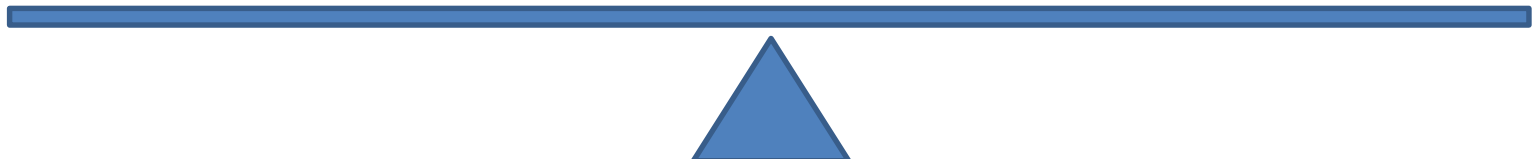
Water supply problems

Lease disadvantages

Species / land use / neighbor conflicts

No jobs, we're too far from town

Loss—cattle, crops, timber



# Ranching with the public interest in mind



Mitigation banking  
Conservation easements  
Payment for 'eco-services'  
Cropland Reserve Pgm  
Wetland Reserve Pgm

Ranching as  
granddad  
intended



Love way of life  
Personal values / ethics

Ample water  
Timber income  
Wildlife / Recreation income  
Town income  
Profit—cattle, crops, timber

## What's the bad news?

- Consulting scientists like me are involved
- Attorneys are involved
- Government agencies are involved
- Big companies are involved
- The process takes a while – maybe 2 years, start to finish
- The process can seem expensive at first



Now for the good news:

- Mitigation credits pay *real money* per the examples shown



- Conservation easements bring a second form of payment -- an endowment, to cover annual management costs



*... in perpetuity*

A conservation easement (CE) on 120 acres in San Luis Obispo County sold for \$275,000. The endowment was priced at \$1.1 M.

A CE on 140 acres in San Joaquin County sold for \$545,000. The endowment was priced at \$800,000.

A CE on 1280 acres in San Benito County was priced at \$8.7 M. The endowment was priced at \$2 M.

This property is now developing as a conservation bank.



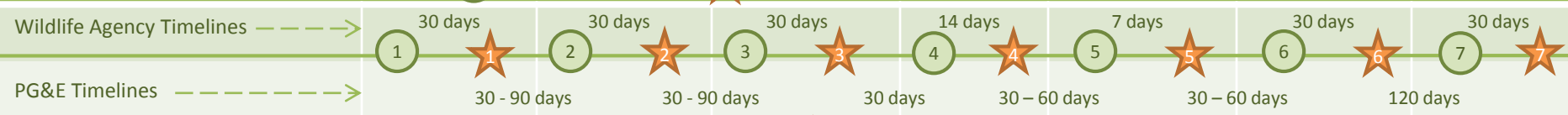
## Acquisition Process

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9
Identify Target Species per Subregion	Qualify New Leads	Confirm New Leads with Agencies	Conduct Biological Due Diligence; Report Results to Agencies	Develop and Submit Draft MAF	Conduct Site Visit with Agencies	Finalize Site Requirements with Agencies	Submit Final MAF	Complete Acquisition; Submit Supporting Materials

## Research Process

Review Resources	Submit Documentation				
San Joaquin Valley O&M HCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CNDDDB</li> <li>Recovery Units</li> <li>Critical Habitat</li> <li>Willing CE Developers</li> <li>Mitigation Bankers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map</li> <li>Site Description</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat Assessment</li> <li>Supporting Studies</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. County Assessor's Parcel Map</li> <li>2. Site Location Map</li> <li>3. Phase 1 EA</li> <li>4. Preliminary Title Report</li> <li>5. Documents supporting title exceptions / encumbrances</li> <li>6. Draft Management Plan and PAR</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Certificate of Visual Inspection (CDFW documentation)</li> <li>8. A Proposed LAF or MAF</li> <li>9. Transaction Summary</li> <li>10. Original signed, notarized CE Deed or Grant Deed</li> <li>11. Final Management Plan &amp; PAR</li> </ol>

## Key Meetings, Decision Points, and Timeline



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> PG&E and Wildlife Agencies discuss and advance new leads. PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to meeting.  | <b>4★</b> Wildlife Agencies document final edits and additional required information within 14 days of site visit.                                      |
| <b>1★</b> Wildlife Agencies identify required biological due diligence to advance opportunity or provide rationale for rejection within 30 days of meeting. | <b>5</b> PG&E and Wildlife Agencies resolve edits/ info requests within 30-60 days of Decision Point 4. PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to meeting. |
| <b>2</b> PG&E and Wildlife Agencies review biological due diligence results (30 - 90 days). PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to meeting.                 | <b>5★</b> Wildlife Agencies document their approval of Key Meeting 5 outcomes within 7 days of meeting.   |
| <b>2★</b> Wildlife Agencies document their preliminary approval/rejection of the site within 30 days of meeting.  | <b>6</b> PG&E and Wildlife Agencies discuss Final MAF, item 8, and supporting documentation (30 - 60 days). PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to mtg. |
| <b>3</b> PG&E and Wildlife Agencies review Draft MAF and items 1-6 (30 - 90 days). PG&E provides meeting materials 2 weeks prior to meeting.                | <b>6★</b> Wildlife Agencies document approval/ rejection of Final MAF within 30 days. This triggers the property acquisition.                           |
| <b>3★</b> Wildlife Agencies document their comments, continued support or rejection of mitigation opportunity within 30 days of meeting.                    | <b>7</b> PG&E and Wildlife Agencies review items 9-11. PG&E provides material s provided with 120 days of closing and a least 1 week prior to meeting.  |
| <b>4</b> PG&E and Wildlife Agencies conduct site visit within 30 days of completion of Decision Point 3.  | <b>7★</b> Wildlife Agencies provide final approval of mitigation property within 30 days of receipt of final materials.                                 |

# Mitigation Credit Development (Conservation Easement)

## Development Steps

Green Light

Identify Priority  
Habitat, Species &  
Decision Makers

Qualify  
Eco-Asset Types  
& Sources

Confirm Property  
Opportunities  
with Agencies

Conduct Property  
Due Diligence;  
Report Results to  
Agencies

Develop Draft  
Mitigation  
Acquisition Form

Finalize Site  
Requirements  
with Agencies

Submit Final MAF  
and Supporting  
Materials

## Supporting Information

Prelim Approval

Mitigation Credit  
Marketplace  
(credit demand)

- CNDDB
- Recovery Units & Corridors
- Critical Habitat Designations
- Corridor Linkage
- Mitigation Developers & Price Signals (credit supply)

- Site Review
- Habitat & Wildlife Review
- Supporting Studies<sup>1</sup>

1. County Assessor's Parcel Map
2. Site Habitat Map
3. Phase 1 Env Assessment (toxics)
4. Preliminary Title Report
5. Documents supporting title exceptions / encumbrances
6. Draft Management Plan and Property Analysis Record (PAR)

Final Approval

7. Original signed, notarized CE Deed or Grant Deed
8. Mitigation Acquisition Form (MAF)
9. Transaction Summary
10. Certificate of Visual Inspection
11. Final Management Plan & PAR

<sup>1</sup>Studies will address property-specific information needs



# San Joaquin County Mitigation

140 acres of 30,000 acre total



red-legged frog



tiger salamander



# San Luis Obispo County

120 acres of 50,000 acre total



antelope squirrel



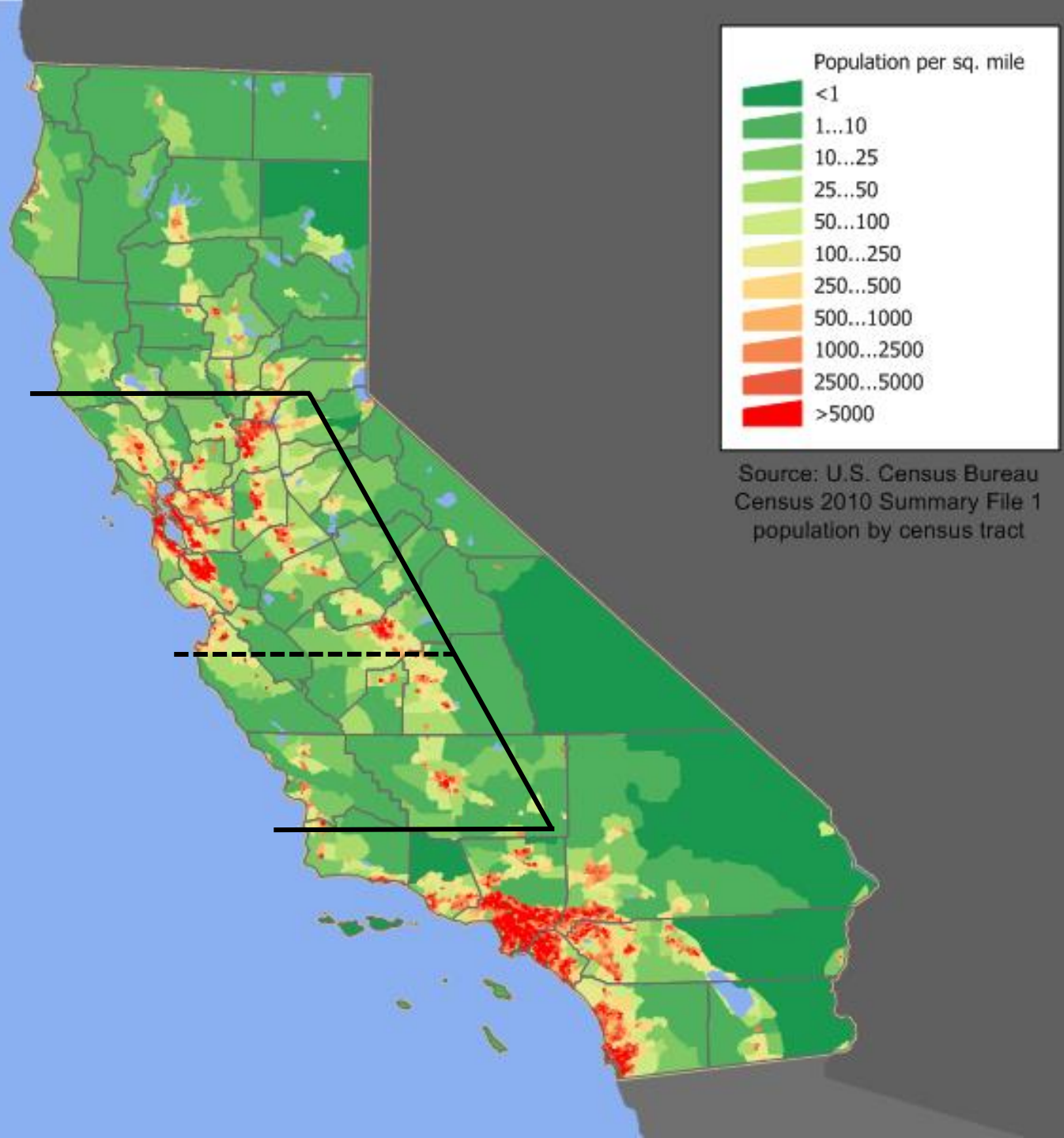
kit fox



red legged frog

Demand for mitigation will come from growth areas in the state.

Central California is projected to see the most rapid growth by 2050.



# Mitigation Credit Development (Conservation Easement)

## Development Steps

Green Light

Identify Priority  
Habitat, Species &  
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<sup>1</sup>Studies will address property-specific information needs

# Basic 4-Stage Process for Developing Mitigation Credits

Step 1

High level property evaluation for mitigation credit potential

Step 2

Detailed site review & 'wildlife management plan'

Step 3

Shepard WMP thru the agency review process

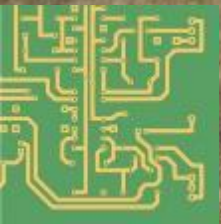
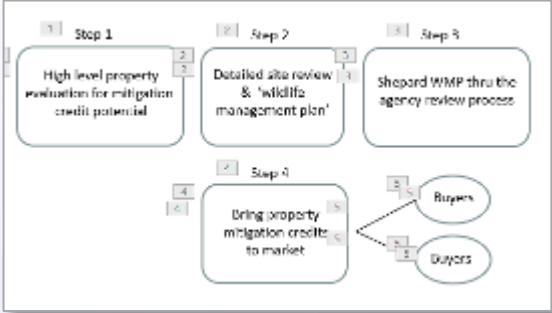
Step 4

Bring property mitigation credits to market

Buyers

Buyers



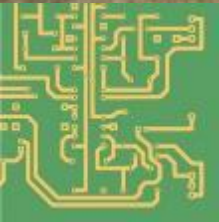




\$\$ - management fund (yrs)

- fencing
- planting / clearing
- contouring
- livestock mgmt
- pond mgmt
- leasing, hunting...

\$\$ - mitigation credits (1 x)



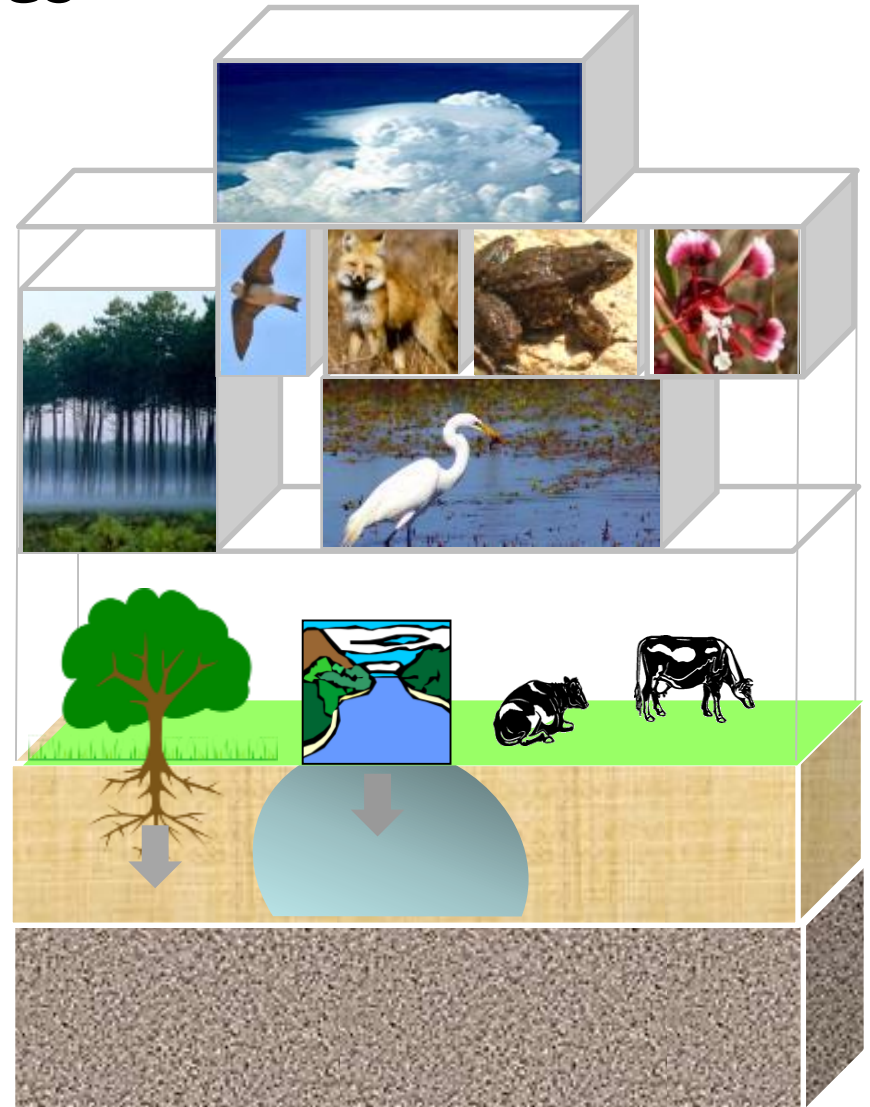


# 'Stacking' Eco-Asset Values

Mitigation credits can be leveraged again and again over the years.

Managed with ecological assets in mind, the property can earn a variety of mitigation credits.

A property contributes many different ecosystem service values.



Should I develop credits now or wait for credit markets to mature?

What's the status of the biodiversity credit marketplace today?

The market is quickly maturing. Here are 8 reasons why:

1. Government support is growing
2. Standards are being established
3. Buyer-seller visibility is improving
4. Project partnerships are emerging
5. Development processes are being streamlined
6. Product volume is increasing, yet so is product demand
7. Credit prices are stabilizing as market visibility improves
8. A secondary market may soon emerge, drawing more participants



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=74QdTdB4Yb8&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74QdTdB4Yb8&feature=youtu.be)

Secretary Jewell discusses the  
Department of the Interior's mitigation strategy  
to meet conservation and  
development objectives

Apr 10, 2014

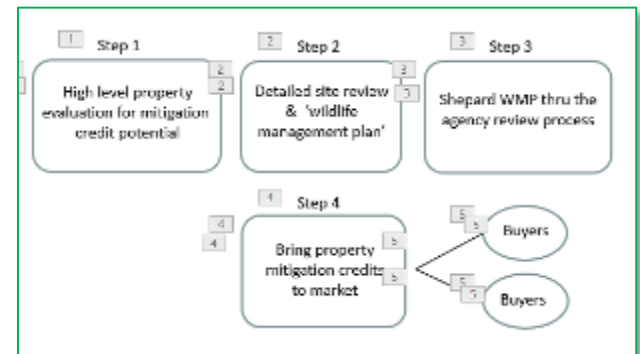
Is rangeland sustainability measurable?

Is it profitable?

Yes – in terms of ecological assets

~ species / habitat mitigation credits ~

Real value – from investing in nature



Thank you!