



California Biodiversity Council Conservation Updates

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Pop-Up #1: California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC)

Presenter: Larry Rabin, Assistant Regional Director, Science Applications, US Fish & Wildlife Service (US FWS)



The CA LCC is a growing community of resource managers, scientists, conservation practitioners, and others that are successfully collaborating to advance and implement actions that promote resilient and adaptable ecosystems across the California landscape in the face of environmental change. The CA LCC has funded 41 collaborative projects to support the application of climate science to landscape conservation. In addition to promoting applied science projects, the CA LCC supports the Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project (CVLCP), which aims to align conservation planning in the Central Valley and increase the adaptive capacity of priority natural resources. The project will create spatially-explicit products that assess current and projected landscape patterns and processes, identify measurable objectives for priority resources, and define climate-smart adaptation strategies. The CVLCP has completed most of the planning phase of the iterative, climate-smart landscape conservation process and will soon move into implementation.

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Webpage: <https://californialcc.org/> and <http://climate.calcommons.org/cvlcp>

Pop-Up #2: Statewide Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Presenter: Armand Gonzales, Special Advisor, Climate Science & Renewable Energy

The State Wildlife Action Plan was approved in early 2016. The Department has been focused on implementation of it and nine sector-focused companion plans. Two significant achievements were realized this past year: First, our partner received a grant to develop an operations plan for SWAP. Second, we were fortunate to have an intern this summer who helped put together plans to integrate climate adaptation into our CDFW land management plans.

Contact: Junko Hoshi, Sr. Environmental Scientist | junko.hoshi@wildlife.ca.gov

Webpage: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/SWAP>

Pop-Up #3: Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC)

CA Department of Conservation (DOC)

Presenter: Mandy Latzen, Division of Land Resources Protection (DLRP)

The SALC Program seeks to reduce GHG emissions associated with urban development by permanently protecting agricultural land on the urban-edge. The SALC program funds the purchase of agricultural conservation easements and the development of local agricultural protection policies. In collaboration with the Strategic Growth Council, DOC is currently reviewing the third round of projects for this California Climate Investment program. To date, the program is in the process of protecting 35,200 acres of farm and rangeland.



Contact: Kathryn Lyddan, DLRP Division Director | (916) 324-0850

Webpage: www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/SALCP/Pages/Index.aspx

Pop-Up #4: Merced County Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Assessment Tool

CA Department of Conservation (DOC)

Presenter: Bruce Gwynne, Senior Environmental Scientist, DLRP

DOC is working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to create a tool to assess the GHG impacts of development, conservation and management practices on working lands. The project is creating an assessment of Merced County's current GHG emissions and sequestration and will create a tool that planners can use to assess different land use scenarios. Once completed, the project will provide a guide for other jurisdictions interested in developing a GHG accounting tool. The project will be completed by August, 2018.

Contact: Bruce Gwynne, Senior Environmental Scientist, DLRP | (916) 323-4943

Webpage: www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/

Pop-Up #5: Transportation Bill and Advanced Mitigation

CA Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Presenter: Amy Bailey, Office Chief of Strategic Biological Planning, Advance Mitigation and Innovation

Senate Bill 1 (SB 1), The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, provides the first significant, stable, and ongoing increase in state transportation funding in more than two decades. In providing this funding, the Legislature has provided additional funding for transportation infrastructure, increased the role of the California Transportation Commission (Commission) in a number of existing programs, and created new transportation funding programs for the Commission to oversee. Section 35 of SB 1 and SB 103 established the Advance Mitigation Program (Article 2.5 to Chapter 4 of Streets and Highways Code Section 800) within Caltrans, which oversees the planning, delivery, implementation and tracking of advance mitigation projects.

Contact: Amy Bailey, Office Chief of Strategic Biological Planning, Advance Mitigation and Innovation | (916) 651-8166

Webpage: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/env/bio/advance-mitigation.html>

Pop-Up #6: Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Resource Management

US National Park Service (NPS)

Presenter: Brent Johnson, Integrated Cultural and Natural Resources Chief

For thousands of years, the first peoples of California managed the landscape. Practices such as setting fires and tending desirable plants promoted a patchwork mosaic of habitats and resources. When European settlers arrived, indigenous management practices were disrupted and California's native plants and people were changed forever. Today the descendants of California's first peoples are working to restore traditional knowledge, and Pinnacles National Park is a venue for this process.



Contact: Brent Johnson, Integrated Cultural and Natural Resources Chief | brent_johnson@nps.gov

Pop-Up #7: Wildlife Conservation Board Strategic Plan Implementation

CA Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)

Presenter: Peter Perrine, Assistant Executive Director

The WCB Strategic Plan (Plan) provides a high-level blueprint for WCB decision making, and establishes the primary framework for implementing the WCB vision for 2014-2019. This Plan represents a rational and disciplined approach to articulate policy level priorities, strategic actions and measures of WCB performance and success.

As part of this Plan, WCB is working with many partners to develop an implementation plan that will identify actions that WCB will take to complement and support the strategies, actions and project selection criteria identified in the Plan. Through input from many partners, WCB has identified “Measurable Goals for WCB Acquisition Projects”, which include goals to increase biodiversity, provide resilience to climate change, support CDFW’s State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), provide ecosystem benefits on working landscapes, improve water-related habitats, and provide appropriate public access. To support WCB’s efforts, CDFW is updating their Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE-III) tool and their guidelines for preparing land acquisition proposals, and the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is developing a conservation prioritization tool based on regional resource assessment. In addition, staff is developing a monitoring plan to assess WCB’s conservation effectiveness that will define specific and measurable outcomes and develop a cost-effective approach to evaluating its conservation investments.

Contact: Peter Perrine, WCB Assistant Executive Director | (916) 445-1109

Webpage: <https://wcb.ca.gov/>

Spotlight #1: Conservation Strategy for 2017

Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) Update

CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Presenter: Lori Clamurro-Chew, Program Manager

Updated every five years, the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) is California's strategic blueprint to improve flood risk management in the Central Valley. It lays out a strategy to prioritize the state's investment in flood management over the next three decades, as well as strategies to promote multi-benefit projects and to integrate and improve ecosystem functions associated with flood risk reduction projects. The CVFPP also incorporates information about system wide and regional flood management needs, advancements in the best available science, and new policy considerations. (DWR) has prepared the 2016 draft CVFPP Conservation Strategy (Conservation Strategy). The Conservation Strategy is a primary component of the 2017 Update to the CVFPP. It outlines a comprehensive, long-term approach to improve riverine and floodplain ecosystems, and provides guidance on how multi-benefit projects can provide ecological benefits while protecting public safety.

Contact: Lori Clamurro-Chew, Program Manager | lori.e.clamurro-chew@water.ca.gov

Webpage: <http://www.water.ca.gov/cvfpmp/index.cfm>

Spotlight #2: Forest Planning and Management Update

Presenter: Don Yasuda, Regional Analyst, US Forest Service (USFS)

Spotlight #2-1: Forests and Rangelands Assessment 2017 Update

CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

Prepared by CAL FIRE Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), the Assessment links together state requirements for natural resource inventories and strategies and the federal government's desire to rely more heavily on these state programs in determining priorities for funding. Guided by the Forest and Rangelands Assessment Steering Committee (FRASC) composed of local, state, and federal agencies as well as non-governmental organizations and private stakeholders. The 2017 update is nearing completion and will be released soon.

Contact: Chris Keithley, Program/Research Manager | chris.keithley@fire.ca.gov

Website: <http://frap.fire.ca.gov/assessment/index>

Spotlight #2-2: Forest Carbon Plan

Forest Climate Action Team

Prepared in support of Assembly Bill 32, the “California Global Warming Solutions Act.” The Forest Carbon Plan describes forest conditions across California today; provides a projection of future conditions given the ongoing and expected impacts of climate change; and describes goals and related specific actions that can be taken to improve overall forest health, including resilient carbon storage, and principles and policies to guide and support those actions. Expected to be released soon.

Contact: Russ Henly | russ.henly@resources.ca.gov

Website: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/fcat/>

Spotlight #2-3: National Forest Plan Revision

USFS, Pacific Southwest Region

The National Forests in California are revising their Land Management Plans under the 2012 Planning Rule with an emphasis on ecological, social, and economic sustainability. The Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests are “early adopters” of the revision process to pilot approaches that will streamline future revisions. The revision process includes more public and interagency engagement throughout the process and will initiate with conducting a forest assessment.

Contact: Mary Beth Hennessy | mhennessy@fs.fed.us

Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/planning>

Spotlight #2-4: Interagency Tree Mortality Task Force

Governor's Office, CAL FIRE, Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES)

The Tree Mortality Task Force is comprised of state and federal agencies, local governments, utilities, and various stakeholders that participate in many working groups to coordinate emergency protective actions, and monitor ongoing conditions to address the vast tree mortality resulting from four years of unprecedented drought and the resulting bark beetle infestations across large regions of the State. Shifting from short-term hazard tree response towards long-term forest health issues.

Contacts: Rick Carr | rick.carr@fire.ca.gov

Gabe Schultz | gabe.schultz@fire.ca.gov

Website: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/>

Spotlight #2-5: AB 1492 Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program (TRFR)

CA Natural Resources Agency, CAL FIRE, CDFW, State and Regional Water Boards, CA Geological Survey

Funded via a one-percent assessment on retail lumber and engineered wood products, the TRFR Program seeks transparency and efficiency improvements to the State’s timber harvest regulation programs, supports forest restoration grant programs, and is working to develop ecological performance measures for management outcomes on the State’s forests. Conducting the Campbell Creek Planning Watershed Pilot Project (Mendocino County) as a public stakeholder and agency effort to identify watershed cumulative impacts and restoration needs for fish and wildlife.

Contact: Russ Henly | russ.henly@resources.ca.gov

Website: <http://resources.ca.gov/forestry/>

Spotlight #2-6: AB 1504 Forest Ecosystem and Harvested Wood Product Carbon Inventory

CAL FIRE, USFS

Board of Forestry is required to ensure maximum sustained production of high-quality timber in serving the public's needs while also providing other forest benefits such as carbon sequestration, recreation, water resources, habitat, economic vitality, etc. CAL FIRE is completing a forest ecosystem and harvested wood product carbon inventory in accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines and with support by the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station. First inventory report released soon.

Contact: Nadia Tase | nadia.tase@fire.ca.gov

Website: http://bof.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/ab_1504_process/

Spotlight #2-7: Fire Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Partnership

Over 20 local, state, federal, academic, and non-governmental organizations

Fire MOU established to increase the use of fire to meet ecological and other management objectives across the state. Partnership supports the Fire MOU by engaging with a variety of stakeholders to: encourage minimizing barriers to implementing fire use by improving smoke management coordination (Policy Work Group); increase public education and outreach (Communication and Outreach Work Group); and help increase capacity to use wildland fire through expanded training opportunities and resource sharing (Capacity Work Group).

Contacts: Craig Thomas | craig@sierraforestlegacy.org

Rob Griffith | rgriffith@fs.fed.us

Websites: <https://sites.google.com/site/managedfiremou/home>

https://www.sierraforestlegacy.org/CF_ManagingFire/FireMOU.php

Spotlight #2-8: The Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program (WIP)

Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) & USFS Region 5

The WIP is a coordinated, integrated, collaborative program to restore the health of California's primary watershed through increased investment, needed policy changes, and increased infrastructure. This comprehensive effort is being organized and coordinated by the SNC and USFS in close partnership with other federal, state, and local agencies as well as diverse stakeholders, and aims to increase the pace and scale of restoration across the Sierra Nevada Region.

Handout: <http://www.snc.ca.gov/our-work/sierra-nevada-wip/WIPFactSheet2016FINAL.pdf>

Contacts: SNC: Mandy Vance | mandy.vance@sierranevada.ca.gov

USFS: Amanda Cundiff | acundiff@fs.fed.us

Website: <http://restorethesierra.org/>

Spotlight #2-9: The Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI)

Sierra Nevada Conservancy & The California Tahoe Conservancy in partnership with the USFS Region 5, the Eldorado and Tahoe national forests, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, The Nature Conservancy, the National Forest Foundation, Sagehen Experimental Forest, the California Forestry Association, and the University of California.

The Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative is the first large pilot landscape under the Sierra Nevada WIP. This initiative is bringing together a variety of "game-changing" approaches to increase the pace and scale of restoration work across the watersheds of the Central Sierra Nevada and Lake Tahoe areas. The group is currently pursuing potential funding opportunities and developing a communications plan for the TCSI.

Handout: http://www.snc.ca.gov/our-work/sierra-nevada-wip/copy_of_TahoeSummit2017_MapOnePager.pdf

Contacts: SNC: Mandy Vance | mandy.vance@sierranevada.ca.gov

USFS: Amanda Cundiff | acundiff@fs.fed.us

Website: <http://restorethesierra.org/tahoesierra/>

Spotlight #3-1: Resource Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) Program, AB 2087

CDFW

Presenter: Ron Unger, Landscape Conservation Planning Program Manager

CDFW is currently updating the guidelines for California's newest conservation tool, the RCIS Program. The sunset date of January 1, 2020 was recently lifted with passage of SB 103, along with enabling CDFW to approve more than eight RCISs (if a state water or transportation infrastructure agency requests CDFW's approval of the RCIS). CDFW is finalizing the Mitigation Credit Agreement (MCA) portion of the guidelines, anticipated for release in Fall 2017. CDFW is also currently reviewing the first submitted RCIS for the Santa Clara County area.

Contact: Ron Unger, Landscape Conservation Planning Program Manager | ronald.unger@wildlife.ca.gov

Webpage: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation>

Spotlight #3-2: Areas of Conservation Emphasis (ACE-III)

CDFW

Presenter: Peter Perrine, Assistant Executive Director, WCB

CDFW is currently updating a spatial database called Areas of Conservation Emphasis II (ACE-II), which is publically available. The first deliverable under this update is expected this fall and will be circulated in-house to test its functionality. Layers for climate change refugia, habitat connectivity and the SWAP targets will be available through the data system. We are planning to provide guidelines for using the data system when releasing the new update.

Contact: Karen Miner, Biogeographic Data Branch Chief | karen.miner@wildlife.ca.gov

Webpage: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Regional-Conservation>

Spotlight #4: Bay Area Greenprint

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Bay Area Open Space Council, Greenbelt Alliance, American Farmland Trust, and GreenInfo Network

Presenter: Liz O'Donoghue

The Bay Area Greenprint is an easy-to-use tool that reveals the multiple benefits of natural and agricultural lands, empowering users to inform land use decisions with better data. The Greenprint identifies, maps, and measures the values that natural and working lands contribute to the ecosystem, the economy, and the local and regional community. It aims to conserve important ecosystems and avoid adverse effects on natural and agricultural resources from development, infrastructure, and other projects. The goal is to provide a regional source of accessible conservation data and a framework for interpretation for planners, agencies, conservation practitioners, and community stakeholders to incorporate conservation information early into land use and infrastructure planning

Contact: Liz O'Donoghue, Director of Infrastructure and Land Use, TNC of California | eodonoghue@tnc.org

Webpage: www.bayareagreenprint.org

Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP)/Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP) Update

CDFW

CDFW recently approved a new NCCP/HCP in June for the Orange County Transportation Authority, making it the 14th approved NCCP/HCP (which includes six subarea plans under the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program and Multiple Habitat Conservation Program). These approved plans will protect over one million acres of habitat throughout California. In addition, more than a dozen additional NCCP/HCPs are in various stages of preparation throughout the state, including the Yolo HCP/NCCP, which recently closed its public comment period.

Contact: Shannon Lucas, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor | shannon.lucas@wildlife.ca.gov

Webpage: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/NCCP>

Pinnacles Gateway Partners

NPS

Pinnacles Gateway Partners is a regional consortium of agencies, non-profits, Native American tribal members, businesses, tourism entities, ranchers, farmers, and residents of San Benito and Monterey Counties who are working together to protect resources, inspire visitors, and foster economic prosperity and community enrichment for the long-term stewardship of Pinnacles National Park and its gateways. Meetings are held bi-monthly and open to all interested parties.



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