



Fay Canyon

State of California
Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
2018 Year in Review

BOARD MEMBERS

Charlton H. Bonham, Chair
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Keely Martin Bosler, Member
Director, Department of Finance

Eric Sklar, Member
President, Fish and Game Commission

Alina Bokde, Public Member
Appointed by the Governor

Fran Pavley, Public Member
Appointed by the Governor

Diane Colborn, Public Member
Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Mary Creasman, Public Member
Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Jean Fuller

Senator Nancy Skinner

Vacant

Assemblymember Laura Friedman
Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi - Alternate

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago - Alternate

Assemblymember Monique Limon
Assemblymember Marc Levine - Alternate

ABOUT WCB

Originally created within the California Department of Natural Resources in 1947, and later placed with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is a separate and independent Board with authority and funding to carry out programs for wildlife conservation (Fish and Game Code 1300, et seq.).

WCB MISSION

WCB protects, restores and enhances California's spectacular natural resources for wildlife and for the public's use and enjoyment, in partnership with conservation groups, government agencies and the people of California.

WCB VISION

WCB envisions a future in which California's wildlife, biodiversity and wild places are effectively conserved for the benefit of present and future generations. WCB projects and programs maximize return on taxpayer investment in conservation and wildlife-oriented recreation, and empower and inspire current and future generations to protect California's precious habitat and wildlife resources.



WCB IN 2018

WCB works with willing landowners and provides notice to local communities on all proposed projects. WCB contributed to more than 100 projects in the 2018 calendar year, allocating approximately \$77 million in funding including:

\$33.2 MILLION was allocated for acquisition, planning and restoration projects that enhance stream flow.

\$19.4 MILLION was allocated for CDFW and other conservation partners to purchase approximately 12,000 acres of wildlife habitat.

\$14.3 MILLION was allocated for our conservation partners to protect approximately 28,800 acres of wildlife habitat via acquisition of conservation easements.

\$7.8 MILLION was allocated for habitat restoration and enhancement of more than 3,500 acres.

\$2.3 MILLION was allocated for public access, infrastructure improvements to educational and research facilities on University of California Natural Reserve System properties, and to support the development of Natural Resource Community Conservation Plans.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

New Board Members

In 2016, SB 1089 amended Fish and Game Code Section 1320 to expand the Board's composition by adding four new members, bringing the number to seven. These new members include one appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, one by the Senate Committee on Rules, and two by the Governor. The four new public members are: Alina Bokde, Deputy Director of the Planning Development Agency for Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation; Diane Colborn a retired Chief Consultant to the California Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife; Mary Creasman, Chief Executive Officer of the California League of Conservation Voters; and Fran Pavley, a former California State Senator.



Proposition 68

In June 2018, California voters approved Proposition 68, the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. Proposition 68 authorizes the Legislature to appropriate \$275 million to WCB for the Lower American River Conservancy Program, Regional Conservation Investment Strategies, Natural Resource Community Conservation Plans, UC Natural Reserve System, Climate Adaptation and Habitat Resiliency Projects, as well as existing WCB programs. At least 20 percent of the overall Proposition 68 funds shall be allocated for projects serving severely disadvantaged communities and up to 5 percent may be used for community access projects. The Proposition 68 Evaluation Guidelines were finalized at WCB's November 2018 Board meeting.



Strategic Plan Update

Pursuant to Proposition 68, WCB's Strategic Plan will be updated in 2019. We will seek stakeholder input, evaluate key trends in resource conservation, and develop strategic direction to prioritize conservation efforts. Staff are currently working on the update and outreach effort.

Lower American River Conservancy Program

With the passage of Assembly Bill 1716 in 2016, the Lower American River Conservancy Program (Program) was created within the Wildlife Conservation Board. In 2017, WCB convened the legislatively mandated 12-member Advisory Committee and held a total of five Committee meetings in 2017 and 2018. The Advisory Committee approved a Committee Charter, Program Guidelines and a 2018 Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN). The Program's first PSN was released at the end of August and focused on land acquisition, habitat restoration and public access projects. Addressing one of the key priorities of AB 1716, WCB awarded a grant to Sacramento County Regional Parks for the development of a Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) for the lower American River. We expect the NRMP to be complete by the fall of 2021. It will describe existing conditions of parkway resources, formalize goals and objectives for resource areas, and develop individual projects that accomplish each goal and objective. The NRMP will also describe a monitoring program and adaptive management approach to evaluate project efficacy in meeting the goals and objectives. Money for projects from the initial PSN will be awarded in 2019.



Stream Flow Enhancement Program

Proposition 1, the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act was approved in 2014, and \$200 million was appropriated to WCB in the California Stream Flow Enhancement Program (SFEP), for projects that enhance stream flows. WCB has solicited proposals each year, since 2015. In 2017/2018, \$33,174,151 was awarded for 23 projects. Guided by the California Water Action Plan, program funding focuses on projects that will lead to a direct and measurable enhancement to the amount, timing and/or quality of water for anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered or at risk species; or to provide climate change resilience. Selected projects include: a \$3,919,146 project to remove approximately 250 acres of invasive giant reed in the Santa Clara River watershed, to save 2000 acre feet of water; a \$5,070,900 grant to construct multi-benefit flood control, ecosystem restoration, and recreation improvements at the Oroville Wildlife Area; and a \$3,000,000 grant to restore and enhance long-term river/stream and floodplain function, improve water quality and stream flow conditions, and enhance the resiliency of aquatic and terrestrial riparian habitats on the Napa River.



Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program

The Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program was created by AB 109, which amended the Budget Act of 2017 to provide \$20 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to WCB for local assistance. The Program is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide Cap-and-Trade program. In April 2018, WCB solicited project proposals for acquisition of conservation easements, planning and implementation of climate adaptation and resilience projects, and to provide technical assistance. WCB received 49 full proposals requesting more than \$32 million. Funds for the projects selected will be awarded in 2019.



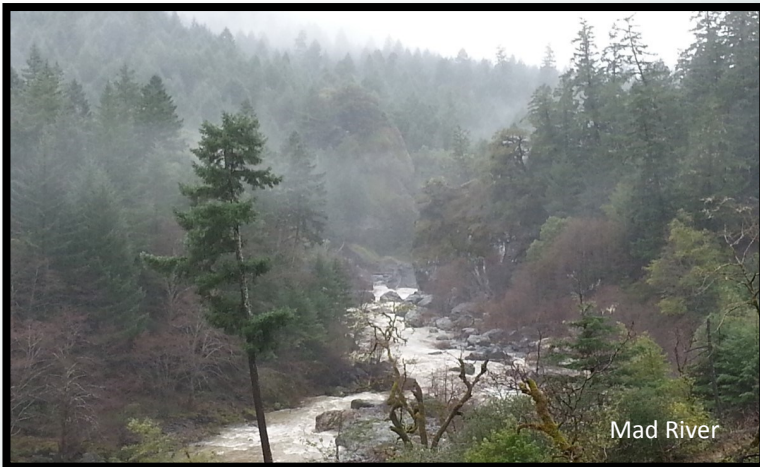
Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program

The Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program was created by AB 2421 in August 2018. It provides grant funding opportunities for technical assistance, and restoration and enhancement projects benefiting breeding and wintering monarch butterfly habitat on private and public lands. We plan to issue guidelines and a request for proposals in spring of 2019.

Monitoring

Monitoring and adaptive management are critical components of long-term conservation. To better ensure California receives continued benefits for projects funded over the years, WCB has developed a plan to implement a structured compliance monitoring program. With over 1,300 completed projects to monitor, it was not feasible to visit all projects annually, so a systematic approach was developed to sample a representative subset of projects. Nearly 100 former projects were monitored, with a 98 percent project compliance rate. A similar monitoring program will be implemented in 2019, data will be carefully analyzed, and the program will be refined over time.

2018 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Hunter Ranch

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust received a \$3,030,000 grant to acquire a conservation easement over approximately 15,682± acres of mixed conifer working forest lands, including diverse oaks and oak woodland habitat for preservation of wildlife habitat, habitat linkages for numerous wildlife species, and to help sustain water quality. The project is near Pilot Rock in Humboldt County.

Hart Ranch Instream Flow Enhancement

California Trout received a \$2,181,282 grant for a cooperative instream flow enhancement project with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, and UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences. Through a California Water Code Section 1707 transfer, 1.5 cubic feet per second of cold water will be dedicated instream to the Little Shasta River through a combination of on-farm efficiency savings and voluntary flow contributions. This project is on privately-owned land east of Montague in Siskiyou County.



Sierra Meadow Hydrology Monitoring

Plumas Corporation received a \$763,771 planning grant for a cooperative project with the Department of Water Resources, California State University, Sacramento, and the U.S. Forest Service to implement a long-term monitoring program that accurately quantifies the flow of water from mountain meadow landscapes to document the effectiveness of restoration efforts. The project will occur in Tulare, Fresno, Calaveras, El Dorado, Sierra, Plumas, and Lassen counties.

2018 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Water Recirculation and Wetland Restoration

The California Waterfowl Association received a \$1.5 million grant for a cooperative project with CDFW and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council to develop water conveyance infrastructure and enhance wetlands on Gray Lodge Wildlife Area in Butte County about 60 miles north of Sacramento.



Gray Lodge

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve Amphitheater Improvements

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation received a \$278,000 grant for a cooperative project with CDFW to redesign and repair the existing outdoor amphitheater at CDFW's Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve, south of the City of Watsonville in Monterey County.



Elkhorn Slough Amphitheater

Palisades Ranch Mojave River

The Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) received a \$1.24 million grant and a USFWS Land Acquisition grant to acquire approximately 1,640 acres of land for the protection and preservation of desert riparian and desert tortoise habitats and to protect other listed or protected species. The project is near the community of Helendale in San Bernardino County.



Palisades Ranch

FINANCIAL DATA

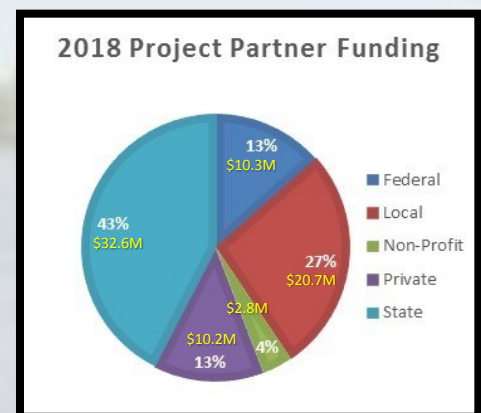
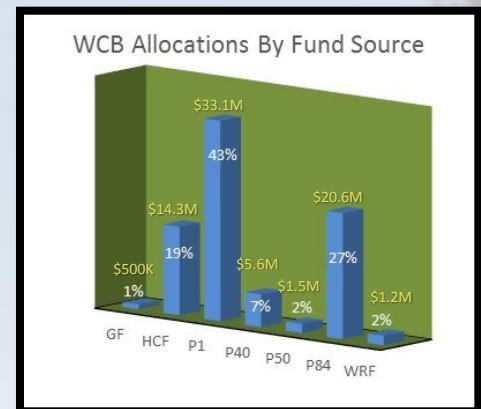
WCB's funding in recent years has come primarily from several large bond initiatives. Most recently, WCB received \$275 million from Proposition 68. With authorized funds from earlier bond initiatives diminishing, participation from our project partners is crucial. This year WCB focused on maximizing the expenditure of remaining bond funds as well as implementing our strategic plan by placing emphasis on projects with matching funding, reduced overhead, and long-term partner commitment.

PROJECT PARTNERS AND MATCHING FUNDING

WCB works closely with CDFW which provides invaluable input and assistance on virtually all WCB projects. In addition to helping identify potential projects and willing landowners, CDFW provides assessments and opinions based on the biological merits of each project and helps WCB set regional and statewide priorities.

WCB also maintains essential partnerships with many other organizations, including federal, state, and local resource agencies, conservancies, joint ventures and non-profit conservation organizations. These partners provide additional resources and expertise, sustain local community support, and assist with project operations and maintenance costs. These creative partnerships have greatly expanded WCB's capacity by helping us leverage state funds with other sources of matching funds.

In 2018, approximately **\$77 million** of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly **\$76.6 million** in partner contributions.



Shasta Big Springs Photo: Chuck Nelson

2018: Total Acreage Protected or Restored and WCB Allocation by County

County*	Total Acres	Total Allocation	Conservation Easement		Fee Title		Restoration & Enhancement		Stream Flow**		Other***	
			Acres	Allocation	Acres	Allocation	Acres	Allocation	Acres	Allocation	Acres	Allocation
Alameda		\$5,358,075								\$5,358,075		
Alpine	359	\$1,430,000			359	\$1,430,000						
Butte	224	\$7,054,900					219	\$1,500,000		\$5,070,900	5	\$484,000
Contra Costa	307	\$1,875,250			302	\$1,075,250	3	\$350,000			2	\$450,000
Del Norte	191	\$300,000			133		58	\$300,000				
El Dorado	1,018	\$2,510,000			1,018	\$2,510,000						
Fresno	2	\$400,000									2	\$400,000
Humboldt	16,941	\$12,217,270	15,682	\$3,030,000	967	\$1,755,000			292	\$7,432,270		
Imperial	1	\$1,493,000					1	\$1,493,000				
Kern	3	\$8,000			3	\$8,000						
Lassen	194	\$396,000					194	\$396,000				
Los Angeles	235	\$10,825,000	3	\$5,015,000	232	\$5,810,000						
Mendocino	5,203	\$2,397,914	2,703	\$1,270,000			2,500	\$180,000		\$947,914		
Merced		\$600,000						\$600,000				
Monterey	8	\$533,000					3	\$255,000			5	\$278,000
Napa	864	\$6,525,000	864	\$3,525,000						\$3,000,000		
Nevada	140	\$959,970					140	\$350,000		\$609,970		
Placer	563	\$2,504,064			333	\$615,000	230	\$950,000		\$939,064		
Plumas	2,325		2,325									
Riverside	328	\$2,075,000			328	\$1,885,000		\$190,000				
Sacramento		\$500,000										\$500,000
San Benito	5,522	\$610,000	5,522	\$610,000								
San Bernardino	2,254	\$1,688,500	209	\$123,750	2,045	\$1,564,750						
San Diego	136	\$720,000					136	\$720,000				
San Luis Obispo	200	\$877,288								\$877,288		
San Mateo	160	\$961,590	160	\$75,000						\$886,590		
Shasta		\$113,654								\$113,654		
Sierra	162	\$122,000			162	\$122,000						
Siskiyou	7,196	\$3,200,000	1,346	\$610,000	5,849	\$2,440,000					1	\$150,000
Solano	226	\$125,000			226	\$125,000						
Sonoma		\$851,806								\$851,806		
Tulare	34	\$52,964			34	\$52,964						
Ventura		\$6,713,004								\$6,713,004		
Yolo	146	\$884,616					19	\$511,000	127	\$373,616		
Totals	44,941	76,882,865	28,814	14,258,750	11,991	19,392,964	3,503	7,795,000	419	33,174,151	15	2,262,000

* Counties not listed had no projects approved in 2018

** Stream Flow Enhancement Program funds acquisition, planning, and restoration projects that enhance stream flow

*** Other includes public access, plans and studies

WCB Funded Projects for 2018



THANK YOU

We would like to thank our project partners and organizations who contributed vision, effort, funds, creativity, passion and commitment to the success of projects funded by the WCB in 2018.

We look forward to future successful partnerships.



Alameda County Flood Control District
Alameda County Water District
American River Conservancy
Beya Newhouse Schaeffer
Big Sur Land Trust
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Cache Creek Conservancy
Cal Poly Corporation
CAL FIRE
California Rangeland Trust
California Coastal Conservancy
California Conservation Corps
California Department of Corrections
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Waterfowl Association
California Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
Caltrans
Central Coast Salmon Enhancement
City of Arcata
City of San Diego
City of San Luis Obispo
County of Napa
County of Sacramento
County of Yolo
Department of Water Resources
Desert Research Institute
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
East Bay Regional Park District
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
El Dorado County
Elkhorn Slough Foundation
Emigrant Trails Greenway
Estate of Margaret Kendall
First Baptist Church
Friends of the Dunes Land Trust, Inc.
H.T. Harvey
Hicks Law
Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Jack & Jeanne Dangers Trust
Jan M. Bridges Trustee
Jeanine Eby
Jeanne Kataoka
Jose Jesus & Heredia & Edith P. de Gastelum
Lahontan Regional Water Resources Control Board
Lahontan Water Board

Land Trust of Napa County
Linda Welsh
Los Angeles County
Mad River Alliance
Mattole Salmon Group
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Forest Foundation
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Natural Resources Agency
NOAA Veterans Program
North American Wetlands Conservation Council
Northcoast Regional Land Trust
Pacific Forest Trust
Peter Fredrickson Trustee
Placer Land Trust
Redwood Community Action Agency
Regents of the University of California
River Partners
Salmonid Restoration Federation
San Joaquin River Conservancy
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
Sanctuary Forest
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Sempervirens Fund
Sierra Watershed Progressive
Solano County Resource Conservation District
Sonoma Resource Conservation District
State Lands Commission
State Water Resources Control Board
Stillwater Sciences
Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
The Wildlands Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Forest Service
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District
Watershed Systems Consulting
Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Yolo County Resource Conservation District