



American River Headwaters
Photo courtesy of American River Conservancy

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



State of California
Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

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John P. Donnelly

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Michael Cohen

Director, Department of Finance

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Senator Fran Pavley

Senator Lois Wolk

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Assemblymember Marc Levine - Alternate

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia

Assemblymember Miguel Santiago - Alternate

Assemblymember Das Williams

Assemblymember Richard Bloom - 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 (California Fish and Game Code 1300, et seq.).

WCB MISSION

The Wildlife Conservation Board 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.

In 2015, the WCB continued efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat and to promote wildlife-related public access projects, in partnership with a variety of public and private funding sources, conservation programs and organizations throughout California.

2015 Project Highlights

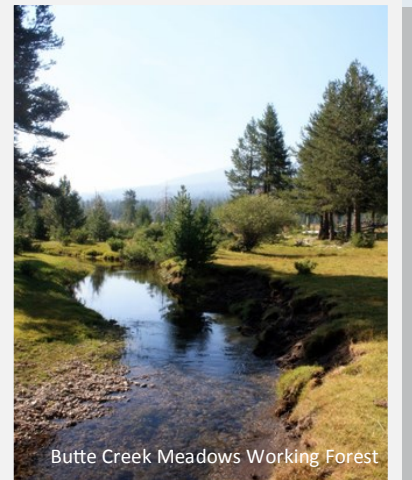
Carson River Enhancement A \$360,000 grant to American Rivers, Inc. for a cooperative project with CDFW, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Wildlife Conservation Society, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Alpine Watershed Group for ecological restoration of the West Fork Carson River in CDFW's Hope Valley Wildlife Area and USFS's Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 12 miles south of Lake Tahoe in Alpine County.



Cienega Springs A \$7.5 million acquisition of approximately 282 acres of land by CDFW and in cooperation with the U.S. Department of the Interior Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund for the protection of threatened and endangered species, and riparian and floodplain habitat along the Santa Clara River, and to provide wildlife-oriented public use opportunities associated with CDFW's Fillmore Fish Hatchery in Ventura County.

Butte Creek Meadows Working Forest A \$1.6 million grant to Pacific Forest Trust to acquire a conservation easement over approximately 3,468 acres of land for the protection of a mixed conifer working forest and habitat linkages located near the community of Montague in Siskiyou County.

Santa Cruz Island Argentine Ant Elimination A \$568,000 grant to the Nature Conservancy for a cooperative project with the National Park Service to eliminate Argentine ants from Santa Cruz Island, approximately 20 miles west of Ventura Harbor in Santa Barbara County.



Santa Cruz Mountains Linkages, Coyote Ridge (NCCP) The Board authorized a tax credit on behalf of United Technologies Corporation in the amount of \$8,607,500, consistent with the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act Program and awarded \$2.7 million to reimburse the state general fund. This is part of a larger cooperative project with Santa Clara Open Space

Authority, USFWS, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, California State Parks, California Coastal Conservancy, the Resources Legacy Fund and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to acquire approximately 1,831 acres of land. Purchasing this land will protect threatened and endangered species, provide movement corridors and connectivity, and provide wildlife-oriented public use opportunities near Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County.



The WCB requires participation with willing landowners and provides notice to local communities on all proposed projects. The WCB contributed to 75 projects in the 2015 calendar year, allocating approximately \$72 million dollars in funding as follows:

\$43 million was allocated for the fee acquisition of nearly **24,000 acres** of wildlife habitat by CDFW and other conservation partners.

\$11 million was allocated for the protection of more than **16,000 acres** of wildlife habitat via acquisition of conservation easements by our conservation partners.

\$10.5 million was allocated for habitat restoration and enhancement of nearly **2,500 acres**.

\$7 million was allocated for public access, infrastructure improvements to build and repair educational and research facilities on University of California Natural Reserve System properties and to assist in the development of Natural Resource Community Conservation Plans.

Yolo County HCP/NCCP Development, Phase III



California Streamflow Enhancement Program

There are many challenges facing water management in California. The California Water Action Plan (CWAP), shows that decreases in water supplies, reduced water quality, degradation of native fish and wildlife habitat, coupled with population growth and climate change highlight the need for collaborative, complex and resilient management practices to ensure long term sustainability.

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 authorized the Legislature to appropriate \$200 million to WCB to address some of these challenges as they specifically relate to stream flow, with a total of \$38.4 million being allocated for expenditure in FY 2015/16. Guided by the CWAP, the California Stream Flow Enhancement Program (CSFEP) funding focuses on projects aimed at the direct and measurable enhancement to the amount, timing and/or quality of water, which will be available to improve habitat for anadromous fish; special status, threatened, endangered or at risk species; and to provide resilience to climate change. On July 27, 2015, the CSFEP Solicitation Package was released and remained open through September 30, 2015. WCB received proposals for 81 projects, totaling \$76,126,722.56 in requested funds.

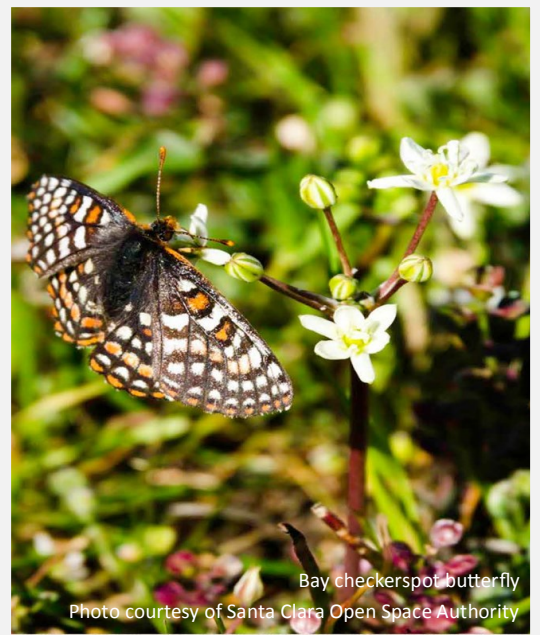
Projects were reviewed through a multi-tiered process. Applications first went through an administrative review and a technical review. Applications receiving scores of 85 or higher (roughly 75% of the total possible points) were presented to a Selection Panel made up of managers and staff from WCB, CDFW, and the State Water Resources Control Board, for further assessment and discussion. The selection panel will meet in early 2016 and projects recommended by the Selection Panel will be reviewed by the WCB Executive Director and then go before the Board for approval in February 2016.



Tri Colored Blackbird
Santa Cruz Mountains Linkages, Coyote Ridge (NCCP)

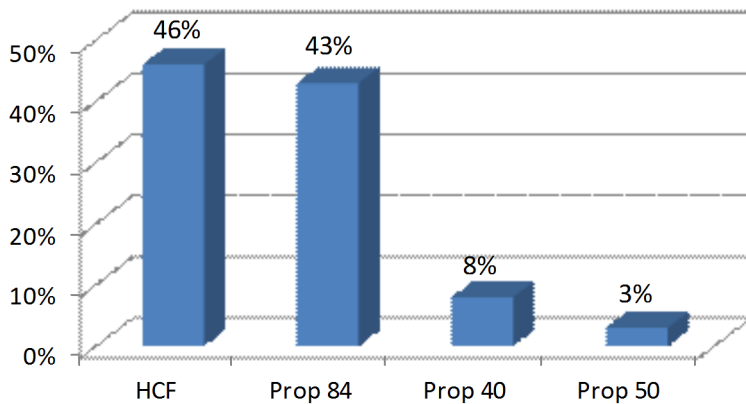
The Financials

The WCB utilized two major funding sources in 2015: The Habitat Conservation Fund (**HCF**) and The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (**Prop 84**). These two funding sources made up 89% of the total funding allocated by the WCB in 2015.



Bay checkerspot butterfly
Photo courtesy of Santa Clara Open Space Authority

2015 Allocations by Fund Source



In addition to HCF and Prop 84, WCB allocated funds from two other sources: The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (**Prop 40**) and The California Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (**Prop 50**).



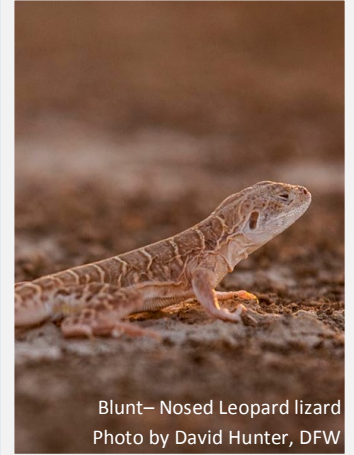
Sea Otter
Photo by Ron Eby



Santa Cruz Island Scrub Jay
Photo by Tim Hauf



Santa Cruz Island Fox
Photo by Stephen Francis



Blunt-nosed Leopard lizard
Photo by David Hunter, DFW

2015 WCB Allocations by County

County	Fee Title		Conservation Easement		Restoration & Enhancement		Public Access Infrastructure & NCCP Development
	Acres	Allocation	Acres	Allocation	Acres	Allocation	Allocation
Alpine					5	\$360,000.00	
Butte	255	\$2,640,000.00					
Contra Costa	906	\$3,624,900.00					
El Dorado	22	\$10,000.00					
Fresno	145	\$4,953,400.00			51	\$550,000.00	\$850,000.00
Humboldt					10	\$450,000.00	
Imperial					150	\$750,000.00	
Inyo					14	\$730,000.00	
Kern			1,019	\$210,000.00	10	\$162,000.00	
Los Angeles					1	\$610,000.00	
Madera							\$4,500,000.00
Mendocino			4,572	\$5,146,000.00			\$682,000.00
Merced					70	\$853,000.00	
Mono	2,036	\$1,345,000.00					
Monterey					52	\$2,170,000.00	
Napa	443	\$1,420,000.00			1,575	\$399,000.00	
Nevada			1,477	\$2,135,000.00	1	\$132,000.00	
Placer	9,955	\$3,500,000.00	37	\$189,000.00			
Riverside	3,297	\$2,531,340.00					
Sacramento	100	\$810,000.00					
San Bernardino	46	\$926,775.00					
San Diego	2,723	\$5,667,936.00					
Santa Barbara					10	\$1,409,000.00	\$505,000.00
Santa Clara	1,831	\$2,710,000.00					
Santa Cruz					2	\$465,000.00	
Shasta	13	\$350,000.00					
Sierra					200	\$410,000.00	
Siskiyou			3,468	\$1,679,500.00			
Solano					21	\$375,000.00	
Stanislaus			44	\$0.00			
Sutter					169	\$620,000.00	
Tehama			5,639	\$1,547,000.00			
Tulare	8	\$0.00					
Tuolumne	576	\$876,000.00					
Ventura	592	\$9,397,126.00					
Yolo							\$462,500.00
Yuba	732	\$2,630,000.00					
Totals:	23,680	\$43,392,477.00	16,256	\$10,906,500.00	2,341	\$10,445,000.00	\$6,999,500.00

WCB Funded Projects for 2015



Project Partners and Matching Funding

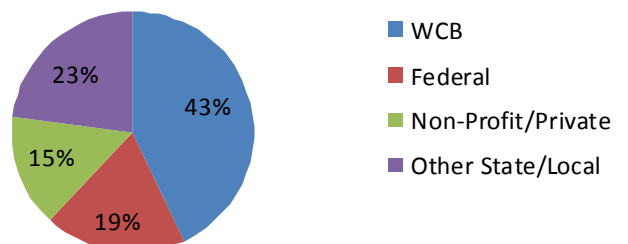


The WCB works closely with CDFW which provides invaluable input and assistance on virtually all WCB projects. In addition to helping identify potential projects and willing landowners, the CDFW provides assessments and opinions based on the biological merits of each project and helps the WCB set priorities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

The WCB also maintains essential partnerships with many other organizations, including federal 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 the WCB's capacity by helping leverage state funds with other sources of matching funds.

The WCB's funding in recent years has derived primarily from several large bond initiatives. With the authorized funds from these 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. In 2015, approximately **\$72 million** of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly **\$94 million** in partner contributions.

2015 Project Funding Distribution



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 2015. We look forward to future successful partnerships.

Summers Meadow

Alpine Watershed Group
AmeriCorps Volunteers
Bella Vista Foundation
Big Sir Land Trust
Buena Vista Audubon Society
Bureau of Reclamation
California American Water
California Conservation Corps
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Transportation
California Department of Water Resources
California Invasive Plants Council
California Natural Resources Agency
California Waterfowl Association
Center for Land Based Learning
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Coastal Impact Assistance Program
County of El Dorado
Ducks Unlimited
East Bay Regional Park District
East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
Elkhorn Slough Foundation
Endangered Habitats Conservancy
Escondido Creek Conservancy
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Humboldt and Del Norte County Agriculture Departments
Innovative Readiness Training Program
Los Angeles County
Mattole Restoration Council
Mendocino Land Trust
Mother Lode Land Trust
Mountains Restoration Trust
Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Park Service
National Science Foundation
Natural Resource Conservation Service
NOAA South West Fisheries Science Center
Northern California Regional Land Trust
Olive Springs Quarry
Open River Initiative
Pacific Forest Trust
Placer County
Placer Land Trust
Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District
Redwood Community Action Agency
Regents of the University of California, Berkeley
Regional Water Quality Control Board
Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County
Resources Legacy Fund
River Partners
Sacramento Valley Conservancy
San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust
San Joaquin River Conservancy
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust
Santa Clara County Open Space Authority
Santa Cruz County Public Works Department
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Solano County Water Agency
Solano Resource Conservation District
State Coastal Conservancy
State Water Resources Control Board
The Escondido Creek Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara
The Wildlands Conservancy
Transition Habitat Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Trust for Public Land
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Forest Service
Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Army Corp of Engineers
United Technologies Corporation
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
Wildlife Conservation Society
Yolo Habitat Conservancy
Yurok Tribe