



# Wildlife Conservation Board 2008 Annual Report

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## Executive Director

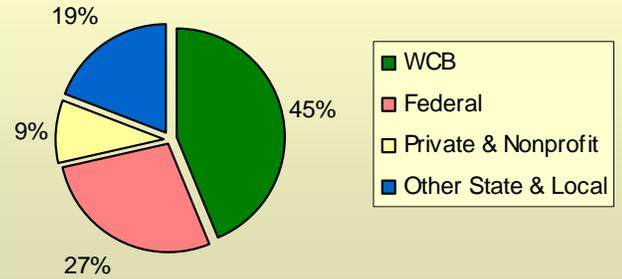
John P. Donnelly

In 2008, the Wildlife Conservation Board (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.

### Project Partners and Matching Funding

The WCB's funding in recent years has derived primarily from several large bond initiatives. Given global economic conditions, the participation of project partners has been crucial to California's success in protecting and restoring some of the best California wildlife habitat lands. **In 2008, approximately \$112 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$143 million in partner contributions** – more than doubling the impact of the WCB's limited funding, in tangible projects on the ground. In particular, California wildlife benefits from a number of federally funded projects completed in 2008, utilizing more than double the amount of federal funding accessed in 2007.

2008 Project Funding Distribution



### Project Successes

The WCB works with willing landowners only and provides notice to local communities on all proposed projects. The WCB contributed to more than 100 projects in calendar year 2008, as follows:

**Approximately \$62 million was allocated for the acquisition of nearly 22,000 acres of wildlife habitat by DFG and other conservation partners.**

**Almost \$21 million was allocated for the protection of nearly 17,000 acres of wildlife habitat via conservation easement.**

**Approximately \$25 million was designated for habitat restoration, enhancement and public access projects on almost 13,000 acres.**

*See table below, as well as map and table on next pages, for more information about these expenditures. In addition, approximately \$4 million was allocated for conservation planning, infrastructure improvements and water rights acquisition.*

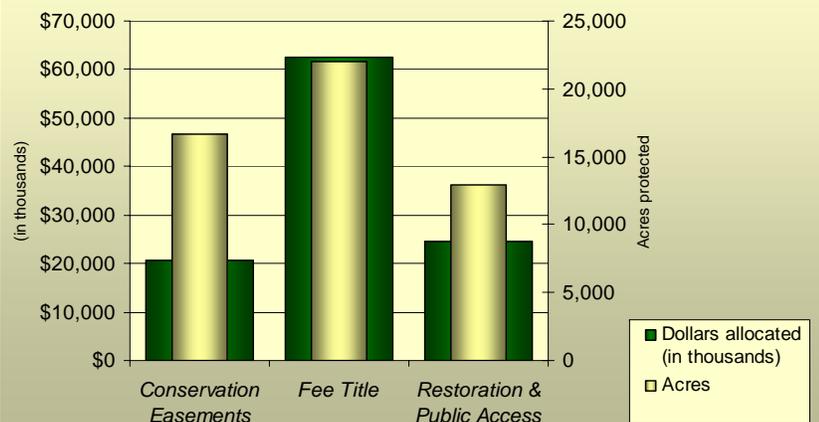


### Funding: Proposition 84

The WCB has allocated the majority of prior bond funding sources and is now utilizing its most recent bond funding source: the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

For more information about projects and programs under Proposition 84, see <http://bondaccountability.resources.ca.gov/p84.aspx>.

Acres Protected & Dollars Allocated Per Category



## Changes in Climate

With the passage of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), California has taken a leadership role in science and policy related to climate change. As part of this effort, WCB staff participated in the Governor's Climate Action Team forestry subgroup, which proposed specific measures to capture carbon through forest planting, improved forest management and conservation, improved fuel management and improved urban forest practices. WCB staff continues work with partners to develop strategies to incorporate the use and sale of carbon credits on state-owned lands and private lands protected with conservation easements.

The WCB also participates in the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Climate Change Task Force, which seeks to develop climate adaptation measures for incorporation into land acquisition and restoration projects. Such measures are intended to help minimize the effects of climate change on the state's natural resources through implementation of adaptation and mitigation standards, policies and practices that provide clear benefits to plants, fish and wildlife, recognizing the uncertainty associated with future climatic states. For more information on California's climate change planning, see <http://climatechange.ca.gov/>.



## Program Progress: Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands



In California, a large number of wildlife species are dependent on privately owned agricultural lands for habitat. However, the extent to which wildlife benefit depends significantly on landowner stewardship practices. Proposition 84 authorized the WCB to create and implement the Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands (ERAL) program, which is geared to assist farmers in integrating ecosystem restoration and wildlife protection with agricultural activities. In ERAL's first full year, the WCB worked directly with farmers and other agricultural landowners to fund six projects providing long-term habitat benefits for wildlife consistent with landowner objectives (including economic sustainability), that also have the potential for replication on a statewide basis. This funding provides an

important complement to federal funds available through the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation programs. For more information about ERAL, see [http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/eral\\_project.asp](http://www.wcb.ca.gov/Pages/eral_project.asp).

Originally created within the California Department of Natural Resources in 1947, and later placed with the Department of Fish and Game, the **Wildlife Conservation Board** 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.).

The Wildlife Conservation Board's three main functions are land protection, habitat restoration and development of wildlife-oriented public access facilities. These activities are carried out under the following 10 programs:

- California Forest Conservation
- California Riparian Habitat Conservation
- Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands
- Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
- Inland Wetlands Conservation
- Land Acquisition (General)
- Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit
- Oak Woodland Conservation
- Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection
- Public Access



# 2008: Wildlife Conservation Board Project Locations



## 2008: Total Acreage Protected or Restored, and WCB Allocations

County	▲ <u>Conservation Easement</u>		■ <u>Fee Title for DFG or Others</u>		◆ <u>Public Access</u>	● <u>Restoration / Enhancement</u>	
	Acres	\$ Allocation	Acres	\$ Allocation	\$ Allocation	Acres	\$ Allocation
Butte	704	\$ 610,000				800	\$ 488,176
Colusa						483	\$ 475,000
Del Norte						1250	\$ 2,869,000
El Dorado	558	\$ 1,510,000	405	\$ 2,235,000			
Fresno			685	\$ 8,155,500	\$ 852,852		
Glenn	259	\$ 440,000					
Humboldt	1500	\$ 10,000	173	\$ 1,004,000	\$ 574,000		
Kern			236	\$ 497,148			
Lake					\$ 470,721		
Lassen			86	\$ 420,000		380	\$ 308,000
Los Angeles			116	\$ 2,000,000			
Madera	1080	\$ 3,015,000			\$ 275,000		
Marin						556	\$ 420,000
Mendocino			162	\$ 247,872		1	\$ 269,756
Merced	2912	\$ 4,400,000	154	\$ 922,375		2900	\$ 211,000
Modoc						891	\$ 232,000
Mono			33	\$ 840,000			
Monterey			432	\$ 4,771,377			
Napa			738	\$ 3,370,000		1460	\$ 8,060,850
Orange			356	\$ 13,460,000		1000	\$ 2,000,000
Riverside			13,506	\$ 8,615,455			
San Bernardino			8	\$ 152,500			
San Diego			2321	\$ 691,500			
San Joaquin					\$ 170,176		
San Luis Obispo	1172	\$ 1,005,000	21	\$ 810,000			
San Mateo						468	\$ 563,000
Santa Barbara	2725	\$ 4,155,000	20	\$ 469,000		2	\$ 1,177,800
Santa Clara						45	\$ 127,200
Santa Cruz			605	\$ 10,005,000		30	\$ 301,600
Shasta	4950	\$ 1,804,503	391	\$ 2,020,000			
Sierra			982	\$ 764,696			
Siskiyou						70	\$ 200,000
Solano						1080	\$ 750,000
Sonoma						24	\$ 288,000
Statewide					\$ 28,002		\$ 400,000
Sutter						250	\$ 1,811,350
Ventura						51	\$ 269,616
Yolo	835	\$ 3,780,000				575	\$ 862,000
Yuba			529	\$ 935,000			
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>16,695</b>	<b>\$20,729,503</b>	<b>21,959</b>	<b>\$62,386,423</b>	<b>\$2,370,751</b>	<b>12,316</b>	<b>\$22,084,348</b>

Note: Table columns correspond to map legend. Counties that did not contain WCB projects in 2008 are not included.



Bighorn sheep (Riverside County), Monarch butterflies (Santa Barbara County), red-legged frog (El Dorado County), turkey (Napa County).

## Partnerships in Conservation

The WCB works closely with the Department of Fish and Game, which provides invaluable input and assistance on virtually all WCB projects. In addition to helping identify potential projects and willing landowners, the DFG 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 more conservation 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 the WCB's capacity by helping it leverage state funds with other sources of matching funds.

The following organizations contributed vision, effort, funds, creativity, passion and commitment to the success of projects funded by the WCB in 2008. The WCB looks forward to future successful partnerships.

In 2008, WCB staff members were grateful for acknowledgements of their special efforts by project partners:

The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** honored WCB land agents with **Certificates of Appreciation and Special Thanks**, in recognition of the resourcefulness and perseverance that contributed to the success of many federal grants.

WCB riparian program manager Scott Clemons (now retired) received the **River Partners 2008 Restoration Pioneer Award**, in recognition of his dedication to conservation and habitat protection during his tenure at WCB.

### 2008 Partner Agencies and Organizations

American River Conservancy  
Bataquitos Lagoon Foundation  
Bureau of Land Management  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
California Conservation Corps  
California Deer Association  
California Department of Boating and Waterways  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
California Department of Transportation  
California Department of Water Resources  
California Rangeland Trust  
California Natural Resources Agency  
California Transportation Commission  
California Waterfowl Association  
California Wildlife Foundation, Inc.  
Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program  
Carpinteria Coalition Volunteers  
Center for Land Based Learning  
Center for Natural Lands Management  
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
City of Arcata  
City of Lucerne  
City of Winters  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers  
Community Environmental Council  
County of Fresno

County of Humboldt  
County of Madera  
County of Orange  
County of Riverside  
County of San Diego  
County of San Luis Obispo  
County of Santa Barbara  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Eastern Sierra Land Trust  
Elkhorn Slough Foundation  
Endangered Habitats League  
Endangered Habitats Conservancy  
Friends of the Dunes Land Trust, Inc.  
Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Kingfisher Foundation  
Kings River Conservancy  
Land Trust for Santa Barbara County  
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
Lassen Land and Trails Trust  
Lester Family Foundation  
Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee  
Mendocino County Department of Transportation  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
National Audubon Society, Inc.  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Park Service  
National Science Foundation  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
North American Wetlands Conservation Council  
David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Point Reyes National Seashore Association

Regents of University of California Resources Legacy Fund Foundation  
River Partners  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Sacramento Valley Conservancy  
San Joaquin River Conservancy  
San Luis Canal Company  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency  
Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District  
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Save-the-Redwoods League  
Shasta Land Trust  
Sierra Foothill Conservancy  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Smith River Alliance  
Trout Unlimited, Inc.  
Southern California Edison  
State Water Resources Control Board  
The Conservation Fund  
The Land Trust of Napa County  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
Truckee Donner Land Trust  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Ventura County Watershed Protection District  
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority  
Wetlands Recovery Project  
Wild Farm Alliance  
Yolo Land Trust

California Wildlife Conservation Board

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