## Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Program

**Agency:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

**Purpose:** Funds the restoration of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta wetlands, coastal wetlands, and mountain meadows.

**Structure:** Competitive

**Eligible Recipients:** Public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and recognized tribes.

**Reaching Priority Populations:** Projects benefiting disadvantaged communities receive higher application scores.

### Program Benefits

Wetland restoration projects create a GHG benefit by increasing the amount of carbon sequestered in plants, soils, and sediments. Restored wetlands protect and improve water quality through filtration and pollution reduction, and enhance water storage through the replenishment of groundwater aquifers. Wetlands also protect against floods and sea level rise. In the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, wetland restoration may reduce or reverse land subsidence. Restored wetlands can enhance biodiversity by providing essential habitat for many species of fish and wildlife, including endangered or threatened species such as salmon. By improving habitat and water quality, wetland restoration creates and enhances opportunities for recreational, subsistence, and commercial fishing and/or hunting. Adjacent communities directly benefit from decreased flood risk and increased recreation opportunities, and may benefit from jobs created by restoration activities.

### Funding Outcomes

**2017**

Implemented: $0.0m

**CUMULATIVE**

Allocated: $41.8m

Implemented: $21.3m

### Outcomes of Cumulative Implemented Funds

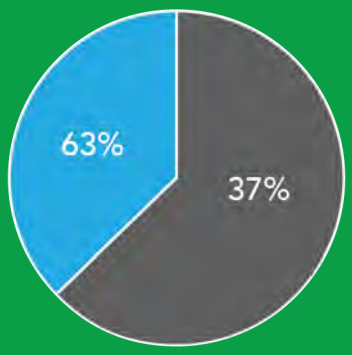
**GHG BENEFITS**

570,900 $MTCO_2E$

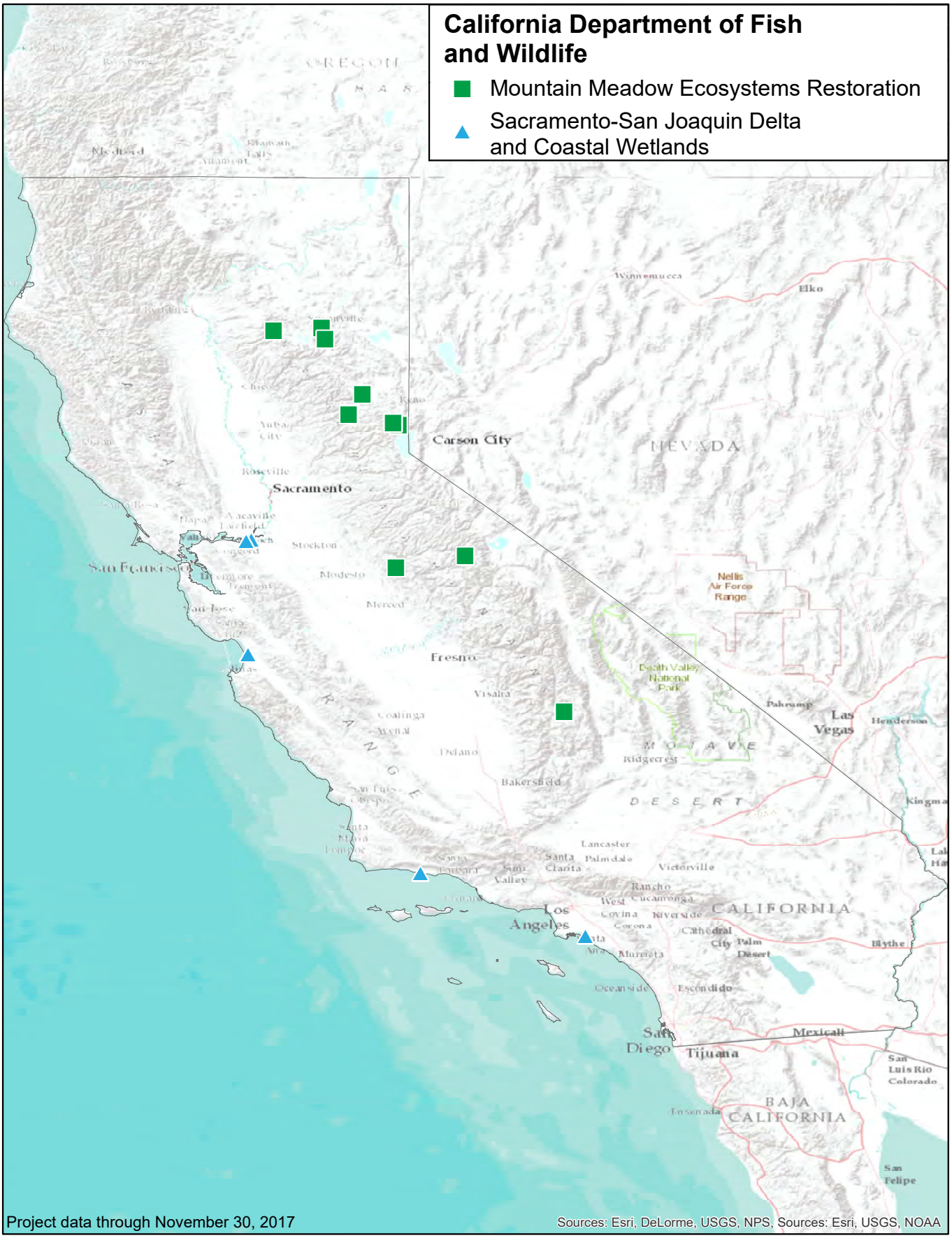
**GHG TIMEFRAME**

2016-2070

**FUNDING DISTRIBUTION**




- in & benefiting disadvantaged communities
- benefiting disadvantaged communities
- other areas in California


California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mountain Meadow Ecosystems Restoration
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Coastal Wetlands
Carson City
NEVADA
Sacramento
San Francisco
Fresno
Las Vegas
Los Angeles
San Diego
Tijuana
CALIFORNIA
BAJA CALIFORNIA
Project data through November 30, 2017
Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

# Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Program

## Mountain Meadow Ecosystem Restoration Project

### SIERRA NEVADA AND CASCADE MOUNTAINS

Meadows in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges act as nature's sponge and filter, accumulating high amounts of organic soils that help provide California with a year-round water supply. Acting like a mini-reservoir, the meadows store carbon as they capture and clean water.

Sadly, damage from poor land use practices over the last century is compromising the meadows' ability to provide these critical functions. Some meadow streams have transformed into gullies that quickly move water through and off, leaving the meadows high and dry. The meadows often suffer further degradation as they lose soil and vegetation. For downstream residents and users, this means increased winter flooding, poor water quality, and a reduced amount of water available during drier times of the year.

That's why the Sierra Meadows Restoration Partnership formed as a coalition of groups interested in restoring California's damaged mountain meadows. The group then sought support from the DFW's Wetlands and Watershed Restoration Program, funded by Cap-and-Trade dollars. Now the partnership is using those funds to restore more than 700 acres of degraded mountain meadows in the Sierra Nevada-Cascade mountains system.

"Mountain meadows, in healthy conditions, are high carbon-sinks and provide an array of important benefits of supporting plants, animals, fish and downstream communities, as well as supporting a more water-secure California," says Mark Drew of California Trout Inc. "Unfortunately, roughly 50 percent of these meadows are in a degraded state. The provision of California Climate Investments grants from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to restore some mountain meadows to healthy conditions was well-timed for an urgent need to bring back these important ecosystems."

The Sierra Meadows Restoration Partnership, Yosemite National Park, and University of California, Davis are collaborating on the projects. The restorations not only improve the conditions of some meadows in the Sierra Nevada-Cascade, it also is estimated to sequester over 52,000 $MTCO_2e$, while making California more resilient to climate change.

Under healthy conditions, the mountain meadows will also improve flood protection, increase the meadow's ability to clean and store water for longer into the drier season, improve wildlife habitat, and create recreational/education opportunities for the benefit of all.

* The Sierra Meadows Restoration Partnership is a coalition of entities working together on California Climate Investments (DFW) funded mountain meadow restoration projects. The partnership comprises of the following: California Trout, Inc., Plumas Corporation, Truckee River Watershed Council, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, and South Yuba River Citizens League.