

State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo: Ackerson Meadow



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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.



Photo: Lake Earl Wildlife Area

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.



Photo: Van Norden Meadow

WCB IN 2022

WCB contributed to 92 projects in the 2022 calendar year, allocating approximately \$161.6 million in funding including:

\$64.5 million for habitat restoration and enhancement of over 20,600 acres.

\$60.1 million for purchase or conservation easement on over 43,100 acres of wildlife habitat.

\$37 million was spent on public access, plans, and studies.

APPLICATION STREAMLINING

In 2022, WCB implemented a continuous online application process to fund projects across all programs that is a two-step process. Applicants fill out a pre-application that is evaluated internally. Applicants whose project most closely aligns with our Strategic Plan priorities and funding sources are asked to submit a full application. The full application is reviewed and, if it scores well, for funding consideration, and is developed for one of the quarterly Board meetings.

Since the online process went live in April, over 200 pre-applications have been received. Of those, about 70 percent were asked to provide a full application and about 130 projects are being reviewed and evaluated now for consideration at a future Board meeting.



Photo: Mechoopda Indian Tribe at Big Chico Creek Preserve. Photo by Jason Halley – Chico State Photographer.

Working with California Native American Tribes

With passage of AB 379, WCB now can directly grant to tribes and in 2022 a number of different tribal projects were initiated. One success story was the transfer of land to the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria in Butte County. The Mechoopda Tribe received 93± acres of its ancestral land from Chico State Enterprises through a zero-dollar land transfer agreement. The Mechoopda Indian Tribe will manage, protect, restore, and steward the land, which has spawning habitat for Chinook Salmon and yellow-legged frog.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES



Objectives were implemented under the 2019 Strategic Plan Update in the following eight Strategic Initiatives:

Climate Change Adaptation, Resiliency, and Mitigation

WCB invested in projects that mitigate the effects of climate change, provide connectivity among and between intact landscapes, and provide habitat and species resiliency.

Biodiversity Actions

WCB focused on conserving California's unparalleled biodiversity and helped meet the state's biodiversity goals.

Public Access and Wildlife-Oriented Recreation

WCB provided public access and wildlife-oriented opportunities for Californians in natural and wild areas including projects which improved access for disadvantaged communities.

Partnerships

WCB continued to collaborate with partners, maintaining and strengthening existing partnerships while exploring and securing new ones.

Organization and Transparency

WCB provided transparency and expanded communication by making Board meetings accessible online and saw increases in public participation. Meetings continue to be online and in person.

Natural Resources Conservation Leadership

WCB provided leadership and continued coordinating priorities among agencies for competitive grant solicitations and continued participation in statewide policy development for topics such as forest management, monarchs and pollinations, and 30x30 implications.

Monitoring and Program Evaluation

Implementation of the WCB monitoring program was restricted in 2022 with limited visits occurring when safe due to COVID 19. Work continues to develop a more robust implementation and effectiveness monitoring program.

Ecosystem Services

WCB supported projects that also include benefits gained from natural environments and properly functioning ecosystems such as clean water delivered by a healthy upper watershed and projects that restore native pollinator habitat.

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES REPORT

These graphs and tables summarize the Strategic Plan objectives met in 2022. Some of the plan objectives are short term and measured annually, while others are long term measured every five years.

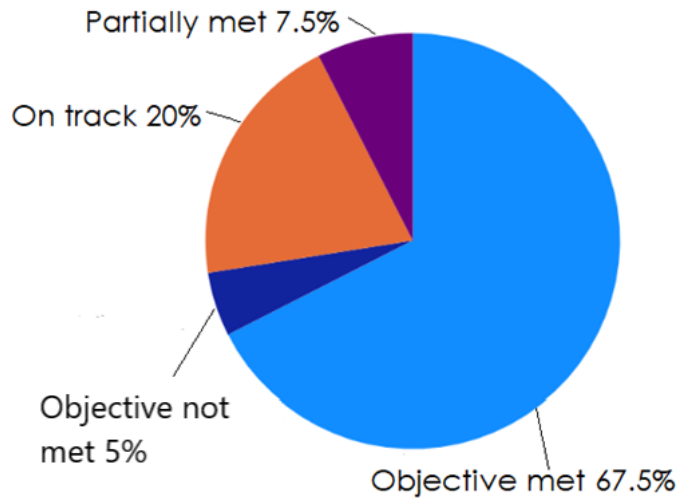


Photo: Escondido Creek Riparian Habitat

Table 2: Strategic Plan Objectives Reported in 2022 – Annual Target

Objective	Description	Target	Approved Projects
1.1	Wildlife under or over crossing project	3	4
1.6	Upper watershed project for resilience to CC	5	5
2.2	Advance targets in conservation plans	5	10
2.3	Addresses CWAP priorities (Prop 1)	10	13
4.1	Upper watershed ecosystem services	5	6
4.2	Native pollinator habitat	3	4

Table 3: Strategic Plan Objectives Reported in 2022 – Five Year Target

Objective	Description	Target	Approved Projects
1.2	Connectivity projects	5	39
1.4	Provides long-term carbon sequestration	5	11
2.1a	Oak woodlands projects	10	8
2.1b	Riparian habitat projects	10	17
2.1c	Rangeland projects	10	7
3.1	Public access for disadvantaged communities (DAC)	5	6
3.2	Boating/fishing/hunting access for DAC	5	5
3.3	Hunting/fishing opportunities	10	10
3.4	Non-consumptive wildlife recreation	10	12
4.3	Lower watershed ecosystem services benefits	5	7
5.1	Safe harbor program projects	3	0

Table 4: Strategic Plan Objectives – Staff Activities in 2022

Objective	Description	Target Status
1.5	Catastrophic natural res. events criteria for solicitations	on track
3.5	Meeting for public access program	partially met
5.2	Outreach meeting with a new partner	objective met
5.3	Coordinated multi-org, solicitation	on track
6.1	WCB meetings accessible online	objective met
6.2	Standardize solicitations and develop online portal	objective met
6.3	Program goals on website	partially met
6.4	Public maps illustrating project/program relationships	partially met
6.5	WCB program/feedback workshop	objective met
6.6	Sponsored conferences or workshops	objective met
7.1	Coordinate conservancies/agencies, re. habitat solicitation priorities	on track
7.2	Attend working lands and state safeguarding and scoping plan meetings	objective met
7.3	CDFW's acquisition priorities and project review process	objective met
7.4	Policy meetings for fire resiliency (Forest Mgmt. Task Force)	objective met
7.5	Refine priority conservation areas for programs and report	objective met
8.1	Define criteria for effectiveness monitoring	objective not met
8.2	Monitor completed projects and post summary on website.	on track
8.3	Monitoring survey platform accessible on website	on track
8.4	Monitoring data in annual report by county and SWAP habitat	objective not met
8.5	Update 60-year assessment	objective met



Photo: Sans Topo Ranch Conservation

2022 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Cháchaany Hamuk Trailhead Improvement

The National Forest Foundation received \$398,720 for a cooperative project with the Cleveland National Forest to install a loop road and parking areas, double vault restrooms, picnic tables, and other signage features. The project is located in the Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest, approximately 54 miles from San Diego.



*Photo: The Cháchaany Hamuk Trailhead
Three Sisters Falls*

Banning Ranch

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) received \$15,500,000 for a cooperative project with CDFW, Natural Resources Agency, USFWS, and SCC to acquire 385± of land for the protection of upland and lowland habitat consisting of wetlands, vernal pools, and coastal sage scrub that support both state and federally endangered species and; to provide for potential wildlife habitat preservation, wildlife-oriented education and research, and for compatible public uses, located in the cities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach in Orange County.



Photo: Banning Ranch

Rancho Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, Expansion 1

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes received \$4,830,000 for a cooperative project with USFWS, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, and the County of Los Angeles to acquire 96± acres of land for the protection of wildlife and endangered species habitat, wildlife corridors, and to provide potential future wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities in the city of Rancho Palos Verdes in Los Angeles County.



Photo: Rancho Palos Verdes Nature Preserve

Bonelli Regional Park Fishing Pier Replacement

Los Angeles County received \$863,500 for a project to construct a new fishing pier to replace the existing damaged pier at Puddingstone Reservoir in Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, located in the San Gabriel Valley. The project also includes ADA improvements to pathways and restrooms, as well as multilingual interpretive signage.



Photo: Bonelli Regional Park Fishing Pier

Cienega Springs Ecological Reserve Wetland and Riparian Restoration

UC Santa Barbara received a grant of \$6,476,450 for a cooperative project with CDFW, USFWS, and Santa Clara River Conservancy to restore and enhance 235 acres of wetland and riparian habitat on CDFW's Cienega Springs Ecological Reserve, located one mile east of Fillmore in Ventura County.



Photo: Cienega Springs Wetland

Habitat Assessments and Restoration for Monarch Butterflies

Ventura County Resource Conservation District received \$1,551,407 for a project with State Parks, USFWS, and others to restore and enhance 11 acres at nine different monarch butterfly breeding and migratory habitat sites and develop detailed habitat management plans for three overwintering sites. Site locations are throughout Ventura and southern Santa Barbara counties.



Photo: Monarch Butterflies Habitat in Ventura County

Temescal Ranch

The Nature Conservancy received a \$3,500,000 grant to acquire fee title to 3,148± acres for the protection of deer, mountain lion and special status species habitat, and to increase protection of regional wildlife habitat corridors in the Tehachapi Mountain Range located near Bakersfield in Kern County.



Photo: Temescal Ranch, Santa Margarita River

Sequoia Grove Restoration

Great Basin Institute received \$1,443,000 for a cooperative project with NPS and Sequoia Park Conservancy to enhance forest health and protect giant sequoia groves located in Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park approximately 50 miles east of Fresno in Tulare County.



Photo: Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park

Mammoth 395 Wildlife Crossing Planning

Caltrans received \$3,170,000 for a cooperative project with CDFW, Eastern Sierra Land Trust, and United States Bureau of Land Management to complete the designs and environmental compliance necessary to install a wildlife crossing corridor consisting of two enhanced under crossing structures and exclusion fencing along U.S. Highway 395, 10 miles southeast of the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County.



Photo: Culvert Under Highway 3

Van Norden Meadow Restoration

South Yuba River Citizens League received \$3,746,000 for a cooperative project with USFS, CDFW, Placer County, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore meadow habitat located in Tahoe National Forest, approximately nine miles west of Truckee in Placer and Nevada counties.



Photo: Van Norden Meadow

Sierra Valley Conservation Area, Expansion 7 (Bates Ranch)

The Feather River Land Trust received \$2,382,268 for a project with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to acquire a conservation easement over 4,101± acres of working landscape to protect and preserve open waterways, emergent wetlands, wet meadows, perennial native grasslands, and open-space which support numerous sensitive species and future potential wildlife-oriented, public-use opportunities, located in Plumas County.



Photo: Bates Ranch

Redwood National and State Parks Riparian Restoration and Trails Gateway

The State Coastal Conservancy received \$5,951,136 for a cooperative project with Save the Redwoods League, National Park Service, Ocean Protection Council, USFWS, and Cal Trout to restore floodplain connectivity and riparian habitat and construct accessible public access amenities on privately-owned land known as the former Orick Mill in Humboldt County.



Photo: Prairie Creek

2022 BY THE NUMBERS

The majority of WCB's funding came from General Fund in 2022. WCB maintains essential partnerships with many other organizations that expanded WCB's capacity by leveraging state funds with other sources of matching funds.

In 2022, \$161.6 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$196.5 million in partner contributions.

Table 5: WCB Allocations by Fund Source

Fund Source	Allocation Amount
GF	\$53,345,398
GGRF	\$2,094,600
HCF	\$36,857,153
P1	\$11,039,239
P40	\$3,961,131
P50	\$6,650,000
P68	\$45,831,061
P84	\$1,800,484



Photo: Photo: Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, Mesquite Ridge



Photo: Ventura River

Table 6: 2022 Project Partner Funding

Project Partner	Funding Amount
State (non-WCB)	\$72,121,941
Federal	\$25,402,898
Local	\$13,362,212
Non-Profit	\$26,445,534
Private	\$59,155,264

2022 Total Acreage Protected or Restored and WCB Allocation by County

In 2022, WCB protected or restored a total of approximately 63,846 acres with a total allocation of \$124.6 million covering 37 counties. An additional \$37.0 million was spent on public access, plans, and studies. Counties not listed in the tables below had no projects approved in 2022.

Table 7: Fee Title

County	Acres	Allocation
El Dorado	972	\$1,155,000
Los Angeles	267	\$12,870,000
Orange	868	\$16,610,000
Placer	560	\$1,331,000
Riverside	30	\$20,000
San Benito	2,613	\$4,015,000
San Luis Obispo	13,527	\$4,742,600
Santa Cruz	3	\$950,000
Siskiyou	666	\$195,825
Trinity	10,848	\$10,050,000
Totals	30,354	\$51,939,425

Table 8: Conservation Easements

County	Acres	Allocation
Mendocino	95	\$10,000
Mono	1,741	\$988,750
Nevada	806	\$1,309,600
Plumas	4,101	\$2,392,268
Santa Benito	4,503	\$670,000
San Luis Obispo	641	\$785,000
San Mateo	920	\$2,030,000
Totals	12,807	\$8,185,618



Photo: Researcher house, Quail Ridge UC Davis Natural Resource System, Implementation

Table 9: Restoration and Enhancement

County	Acres	Allocation
Butte	1,500	\$645,000
Calaveras	45	\$538,314
El Dorado	90	\$892,000
Fresno	5	\$933,000
Humboldt	12	\$10,149,725
Imperial	815	\$2,400,000
Kern	594	\$962,000
Lassen	2,346	\$1,030,000
Los Angeles	0	\$560,000
Mendocino	4	\$4,714,861
Merced	6,693	\$1,373,000
Napa	3	\$1,708,125
Nevada	28	\$1,190,000
Orange	50	\$605,403
Placer	508	\$6,626,000
Riverside	1	\$1,811,000
San Diego	99	\$3,969,919
San Mateo	235	\$1,124,485
Santa Clara	1	\$400,000
Siskiyou	1	\$844,000
Solano	853	\$2,410,263
Sonoma	0	\$1,230,000
Tehama	404	\$1,164,055
Trinity	3,500	\$1,835,000
Tulare	2,405	\$2,021,000
Tuolumne	230	\$2,786,000
Ventura	244	\$9,882,857
Yolo	19	\$709,377
Totals	20,685	\$64,515,384



Photo: Año Nuevo

Table 10: Project Planning, Studies, and Public Access

County	Acres	Allocation
Alameda	0	\$649,400
Humboldt	5	\$691,000
Lake	0	\$313,500
Los Angeles	516	\$18,514,988
Mendocino	10	\$726,604
Mono	451	\$3,332,000
Monterey	0	\$232,500
Napa	0	\$224,100
Nevada	2	\$372,662
Riverside	0	\$1,276,363
San Diego	41	\$665,920
San Luis Obispo	0	\$219,104
San Mateo	1	\$65,000
Santa Clara	13	\$3,420,000
Shasta	1	\$636,000
Siskiyou	0	\$812,891
Statewide	0	\$735,644
Tehama	97	\$1,097,988
Tulare	432	\$406,000
Ventura	1	\$2,546,975
Totals	1,570	\$36,938,639



Photo: Sierra Valley Conservation Area

WCB Projects Awarded in 2022



THANK YOU

2022 marked the 75th year WCB has actively been protecting and restoring wildlife habitat and providing wildlife oriented recreational opportunities to the public. Over this 75-year timeframe, WCB has protected 1.8 million acres of habitat and restored 970,000, while investing nearly \$3.5 billion to support California's natural resources. WCB 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 WCB in 2022. We look forward to future successful partnerships in 2023.

American River Conservancy
American Rivers
Arroyo Seco Foundation
Audubon Society
Bear Yuba Land Trust
Bella Vista Foundation
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Cal Poly Corporation
California Conservation Corps
California Department of Conservation
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 Native Plant Society
California Natural Resources Agency
California Ocean Protection Council
California Rangeland Trust
California State Coastal Conservancy
California Trout, Inc.
California Waterfowl Association
Camp Arnaz Girl Scouts
Center for Land Based Learning
Chico State Enterprises
City of Arcata
City of Fullerton
City of Lake Elsinore
City of Oceanside
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
City of San Luis Obispo
Collins Products, LLC
Modoc Timber Lands LLC
Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers
County of Los Angeles
County of San Diego
Creek Lands Conservation
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Earth Island Institute
Eastern Sierra Land Trust
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Feather River Land Trust
Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Great Basin Institute
Harmony Union School District
Hicks Law
Humboldt State University
Integrated Regional Water Management
John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy
Kern Community Foundation
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Lindmore Irrigation District
Los Angeles County
Meiners Oaks Water District
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Forest Foundation
National Park Service
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Nature Collective
Nevada Irrigation District
North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council
Ojai Valley Inn
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Placer County
Plumas Corporation
Point Blue Conservation Science
Resource Environmental Solutions
River Garden Farms
River Partners
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
Riverside County Transportation Commission
Salmonid Restoration Federation
San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District
Sanctuary Forest, Inc.
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District

Save Oswit Canyon, Inc.
Save The Redwoods League
Sempervirens Fund
Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company
Sequoia Park Conservancy
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Siskiyou Land Trust
South Yuba River Citizens League
State Water Resources Control Board
Sterling Hills Golf Course
Stillwater Sciences
Suisun Resource Conservation District
Tehama County Resource Conservation District
The Nature Conservancy
The Thacher School
The Wildlands Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
Truckee River Watershed Council
Trust for Public Land
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
United Water Conservation District
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Ventura County Resource Conservation District
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Ventura River Municipal Water District
Watershed Progressive
Xerces Society
Yosemite Conservancy

