



Wildlife Conservation Board
February 16, 2023, 10:00 am Board Meeting
First Floor Auditorium, CNRA Headquarters Building

Pescadero Creek



Item 2. Public Forum

Barber Creek



Item 3. Discussion and Selection of new Board Chair

San Gregorio Creek



Item 4. Funding Status - Informational

Kramer Ranch

4. Funding Status

Allocation	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
Water Resilience Package		
Drought Impacts on Fish and Wildlife (Wildlife Corridor & Fish Passage)	\$49,500,000	\$40,000,000
Program Delivery (Drought Impacts on Fish and Wildlife)	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Removal of Dams to CA State Parks	\$12,500,000	
Protect Fish & Wildlife Resources from changing conditions - Climate Resilience	\$31,000,000	\$221,000,000
Stream Flow Enhancement		
Water Supply for Environmental Flows (Stream Flow Enhancement Program)	\$99,000,000	\$149,000,000
Program Delivery (Stream Flow Enhancement Program)	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program		
Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Rescue Program		\$5,000,000
Nature -Based Solutions Package**		
Nature-Based Solutions programs. (Biodiversity conservation adjacent/directly benefitting climate-vulnerable communities, DAC or California Native American tribes)		\$150,000,000
Resource Conservation Investment Strategies		\$2,000,000
Cascades and High Sierra Upper Watersheds Program		\$12,000,000
Land Acquisition and Habitat Enhancement Program -SoCal		\$12,000,000
Program Delivery (NBS Program)		\$900,000



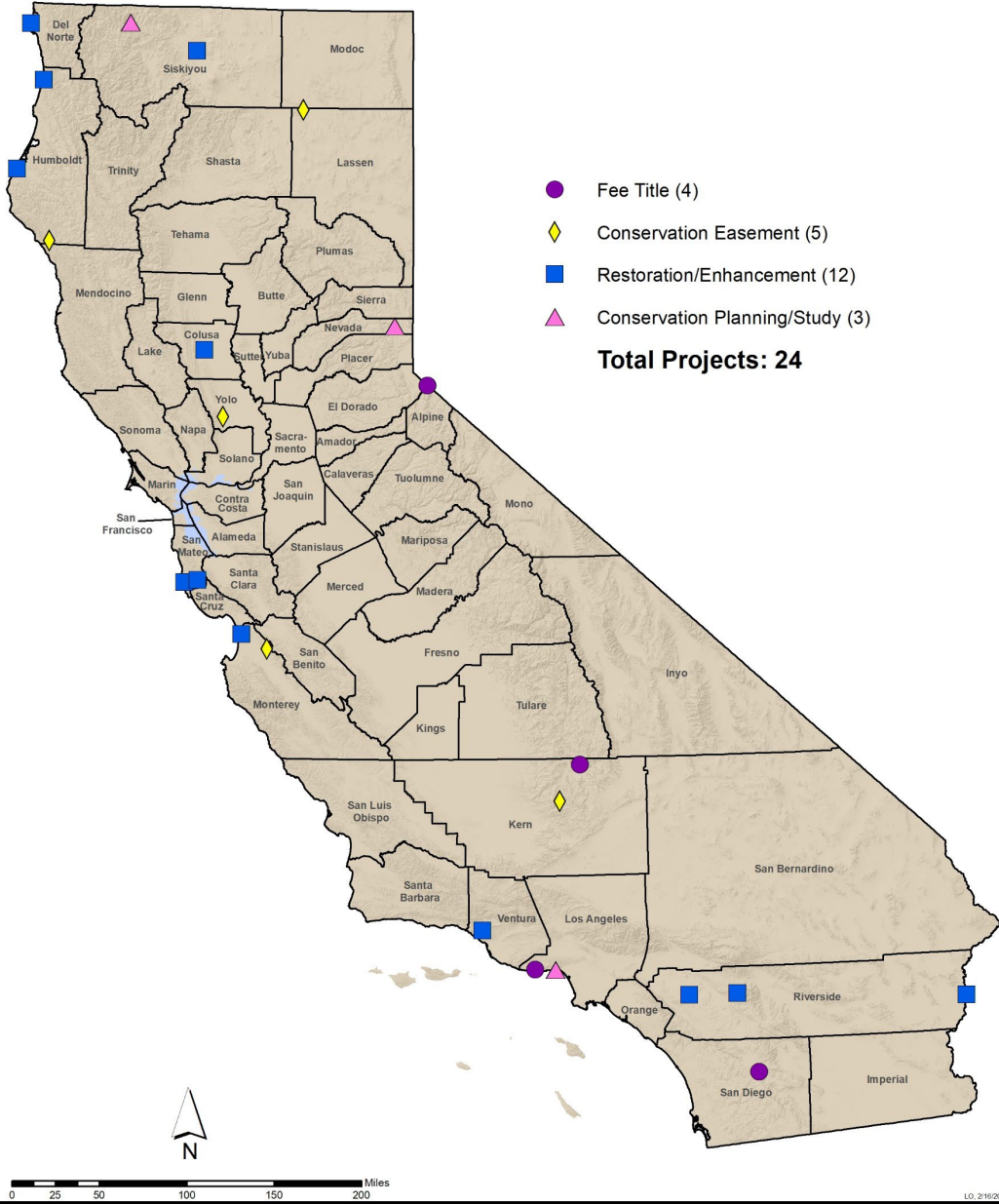
Item 5. Herbicide Presentation

Monitor Island



Wildlife Conservation Board Proposed Projects

February 16, 2023



Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting February 16, 2023 Project Map

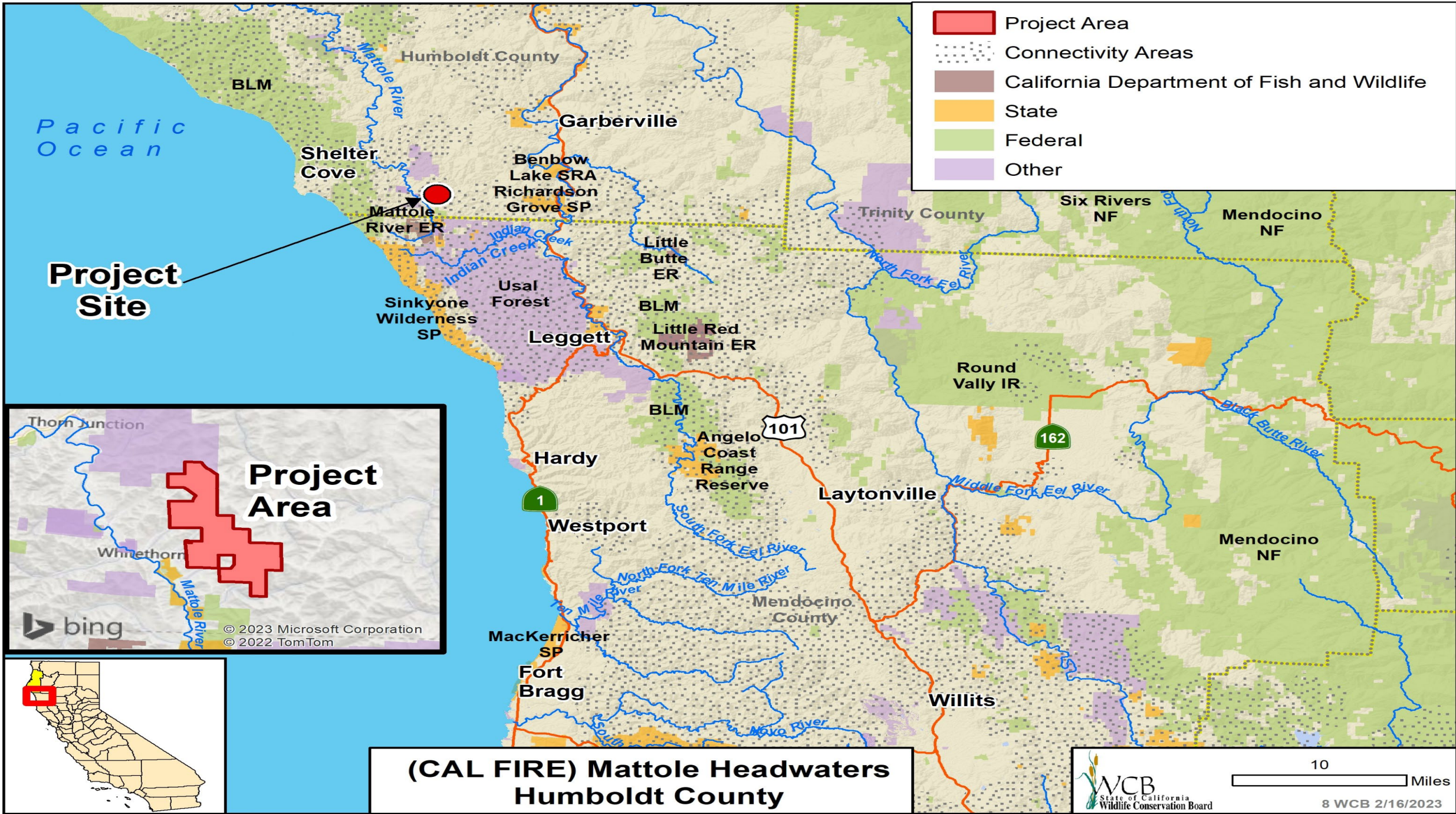


Consent Items 6-17

Escondido Falls



Consent Items 6-17 Motion



- Project Area
- Connectivity Areas
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other

Project Site

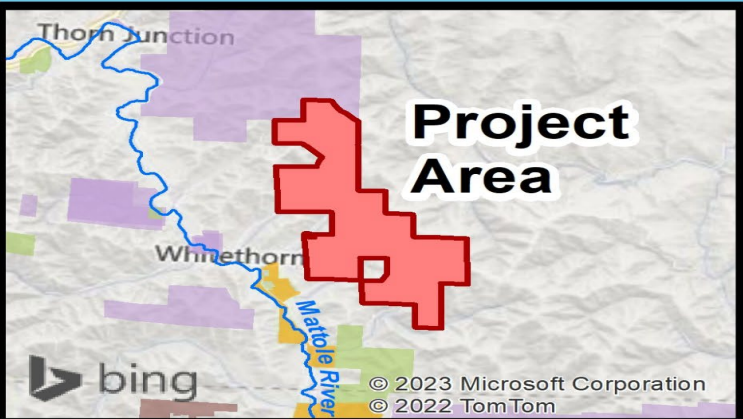
Project Area

**(CAL FIRE) Mattole Headwaters
Humboldt County**



10 Miles

8 WCB 2/16/2023



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7. (CAL FIRE) Mattole Headwaters

Slide 1

Typical Yreka Phlox habitat found on Soap Ridge Anderson Property.

Photo courtesy of Kathleen Hitt, ED Siskiyou Land Trust



7. (CAL FIRE) Mattole Headwaters

Slide 2

Left: Northeasterly facing view of Harris Creek Road and north end of property.

Right: Typical interior access through property - facing easterly. Photograph courtesy of appraiser.

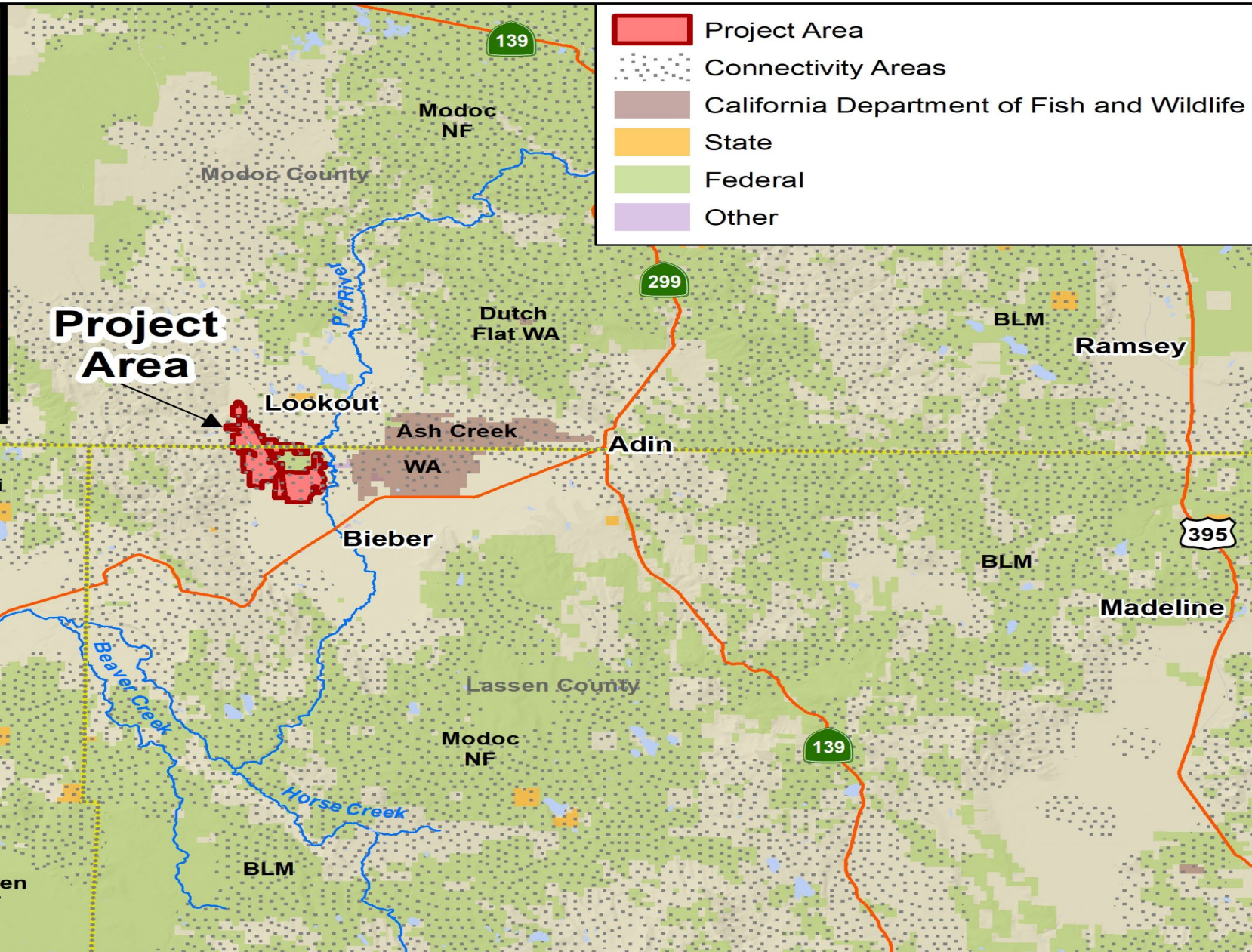
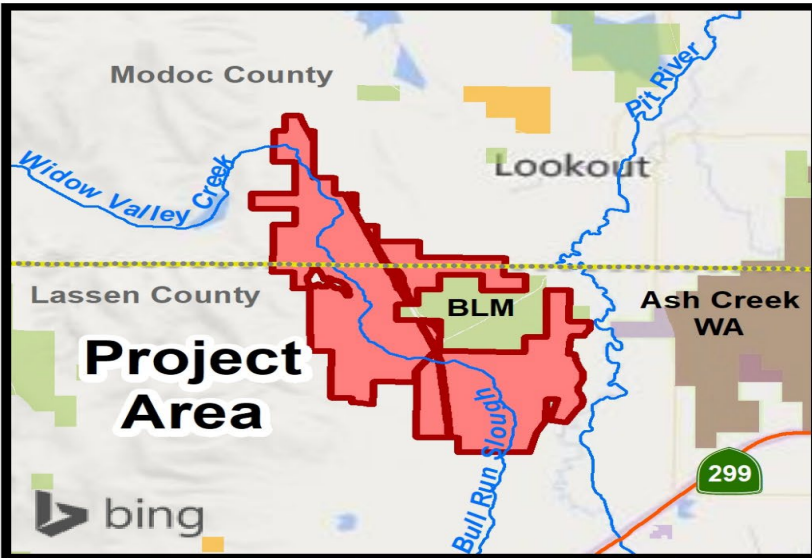


7. (CAL FIRE) Mattole Headwaters

Slide 3

Left: Old growth redwood above Stanley Creek

Right: Cluster of old growth redwood trees in Stanley
Creek drainage



- Project Area
- Connectivity Areas
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other



**Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement
Lassen and Modoc Counties**



8. Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 1

- Left: Migratory birds over Kramer Ranch
- Right: Sandhill Cranes at Kramer Ranch



8. Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 2

- Left: Widow Valley Creek and wet meadow in west central portion of Kramer Ranch
- Right: Grassland and barn in east central region of Kramer Ranch



8. Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 3

- Left: Reservoir in northern region of Kramer Ranch.
- Right: Western pond turtle, a California Species of Special Concern, near a stock pond in the southeastern area of Kramer Ranch.



8. Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 4

- Left: Jeffrey pine forest at the edge of a wet meadow in the northern region of Kramer Ranch.
- Right: Natural spring in northern region of Kramer Ranch.



8. Kramer Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 5

- Left: Irrigated pasture/meadow on the west side of Kramer Road.
- Right: Residence and agricultural buildings in one of the headquarters building envelopes.



9. Monitor Island Transfer

Slide 1

Monitor Island, Viewed from boar ramp at
end of Monitor Point

Photo taken by Chris Bell on September 26, 2022

A photograph of a lake with mountains in the background and a warning pole in the foreground. The sky is clear blue. The mountains are dark and forested. The water is blue with some ripples. A wooden pole with a sign is in the water. The text '9. Monitor Island Transfer' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

9. Monitor Island Transfer

slide 2

Island warning pole – at North end of Monitor Island, showing low level of Clear Lake

Photo taken by Chris Bell on September 26, 2022



9. Monitor Island Transfer

Slide 3

Southern edge of Monitor Island –
showing typical Tule cover



9. Monitor Island Transfer

Slide 4

Western edge of Monitor Island, facing
northerly

Photo taken by Chris Bell on September 26, 2022



9. Monitor Island Transfer

Slide 5

Western edge of Monitor Island, facing
northerly from the lake

Photo taken by Chris Bell on September 26, 2022

A wide-angle photograph of a body of water, likely a lake or reservoir, with a grassy bank and several trees in the background. The sky is clear and blue. The water is dark blue with some ripples. The grass is dry and yellowish-brown. The trees are green and have a rounded shape. The overall scene is bright and clear.

9. Monitor Island Transfer

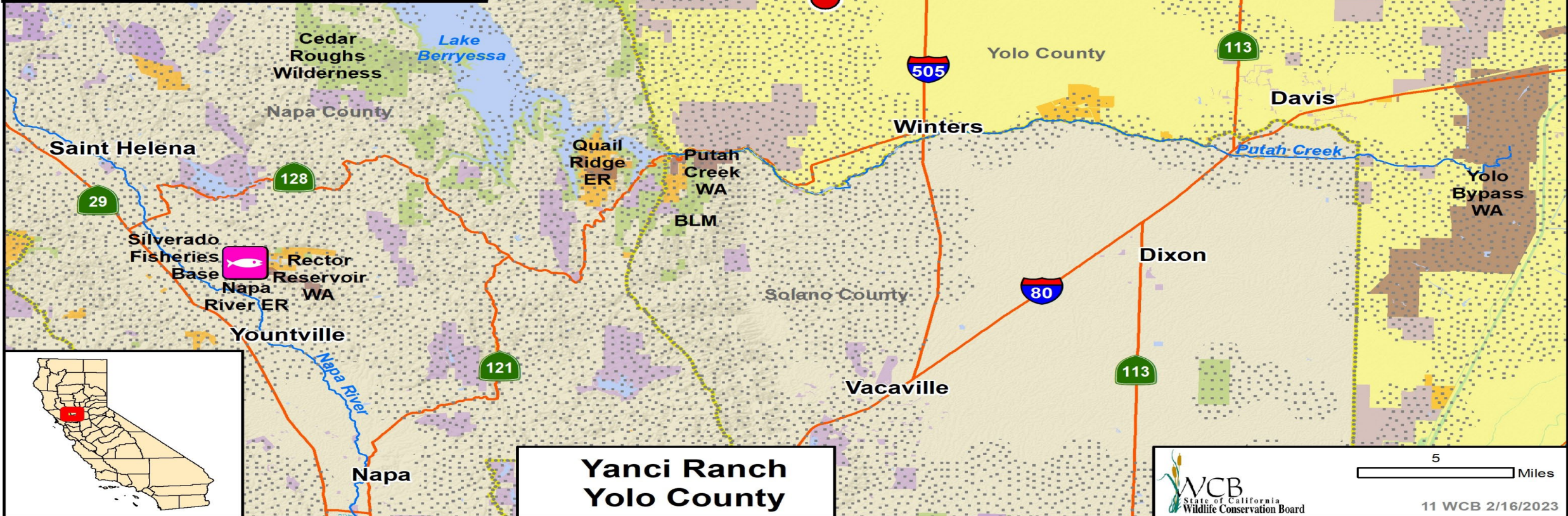
Slide 6

North side of Monitor Island – facing
southerly from the lake

Photo taken by Chris Bell on September 26, 2022



- Project Area
- Connectivity Areas
- HCP/NCCP
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other



10. Yanci Ranch

Slide 1

Shot pond improved with redwing blackbird breeding habitat. ; located north of the historical farmstead and north of the proposed 6.8 acre Development Envelope.

Photograph courtesy of Yolo Habitat Conservancy.

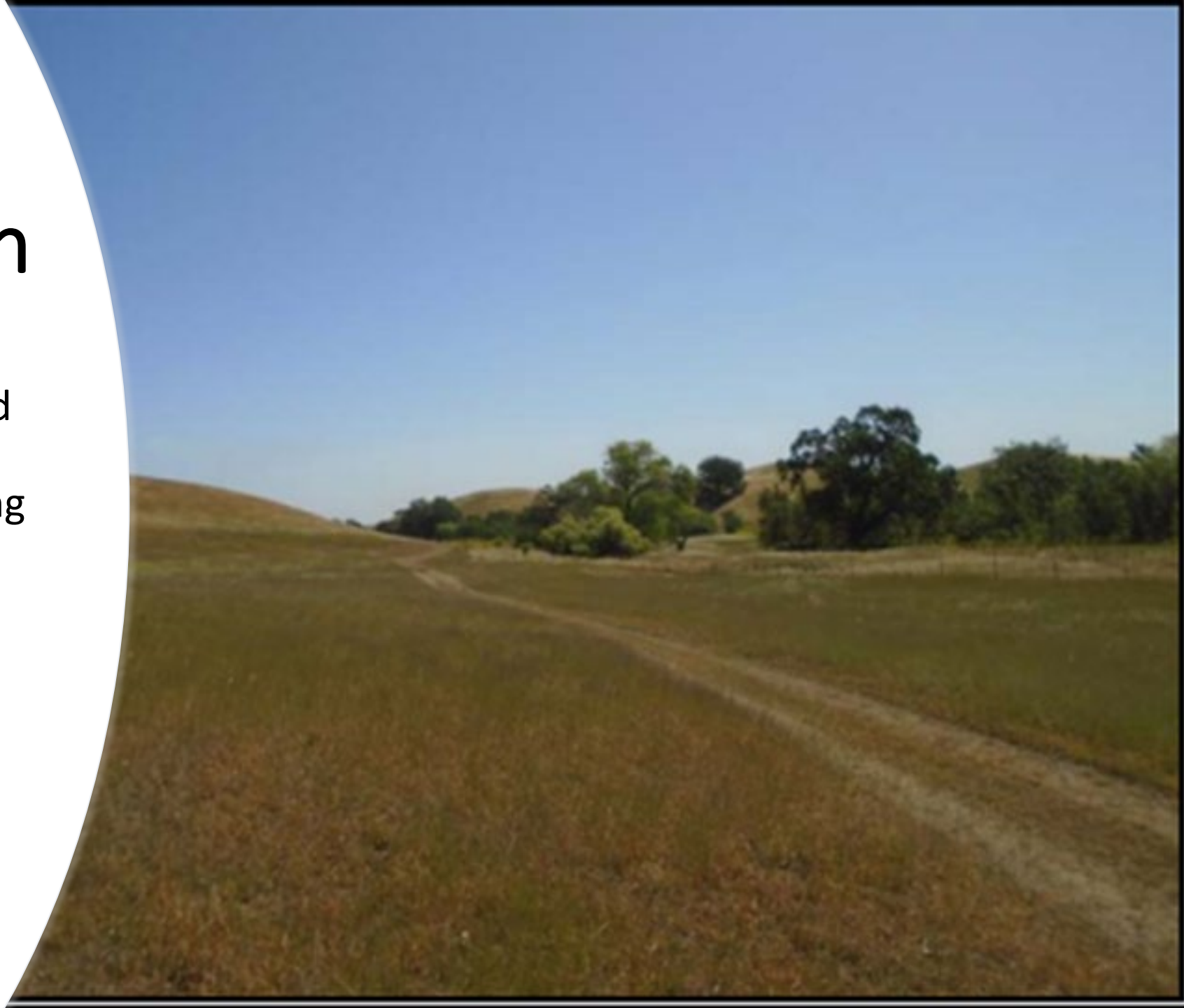


10. Yanci Ranch

Slide 2

Photograph of dirt farm road that generally follows Union School Slough. Shot is looking east toward farmstead with slough on the right. Rolling terrain and grasslands are typical of the Property.

Photograph courtesy of Yolo Habitat Conservancy.



10. Yanci Ranch

Slide 3

Photograph looking west along the developed farm road, towards the more sloping west (rear) portions of the property. Grasslands and rolling terrain typical of the Property. Oaks in the distance.

Photograph courtesy of Yolo Habitat Conservancy..

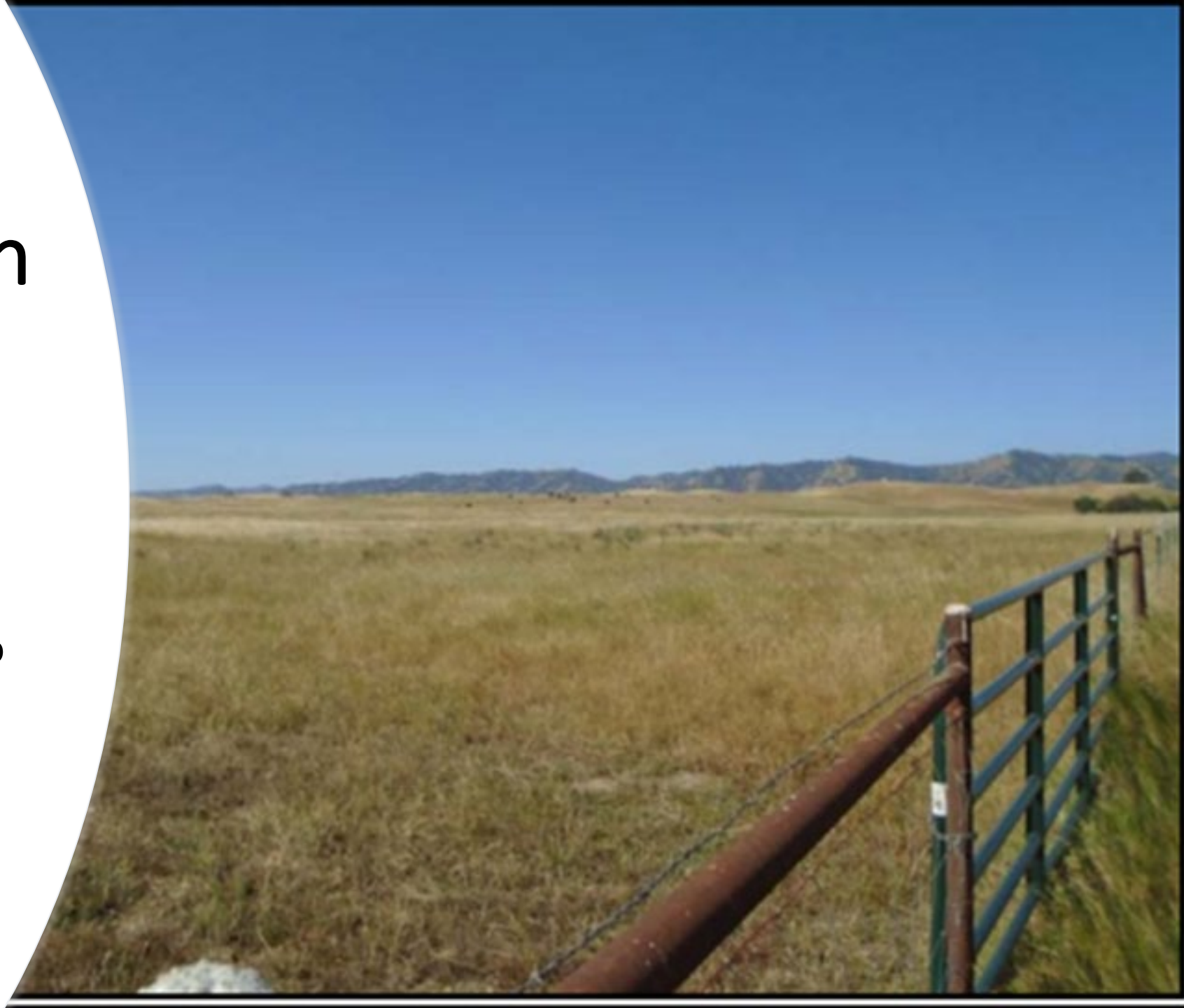


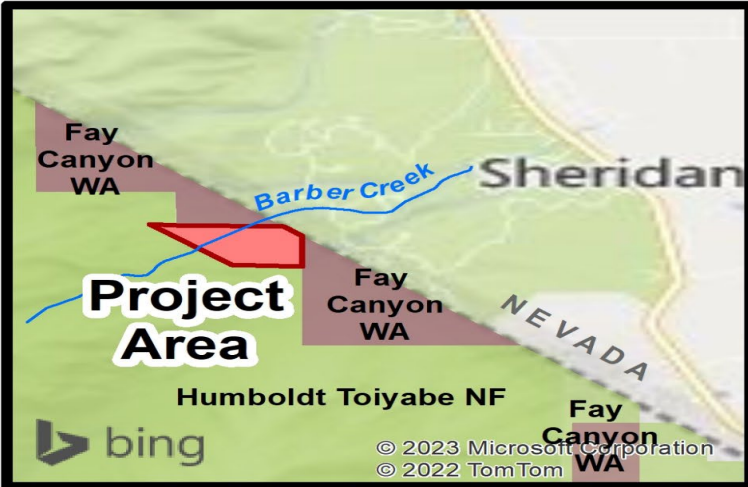
10. Yanci Ranch

Slide 4

Photograph from the access gate. Flat area of the property identified as a plantable orchard.

Photograph courtesy of Yolo Habitat Conservancy.





- Project Area
- Connectivity Areas
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other



11. Barber Creek

Slide 1

U.S. Forest Service Access Gate





11. Barber Creek

Slide 2

Subject property and Carson Valley view.



11. Barber Creek

Slide 3

East property boundary facing northerly



11. Barber Creek

Slide 4

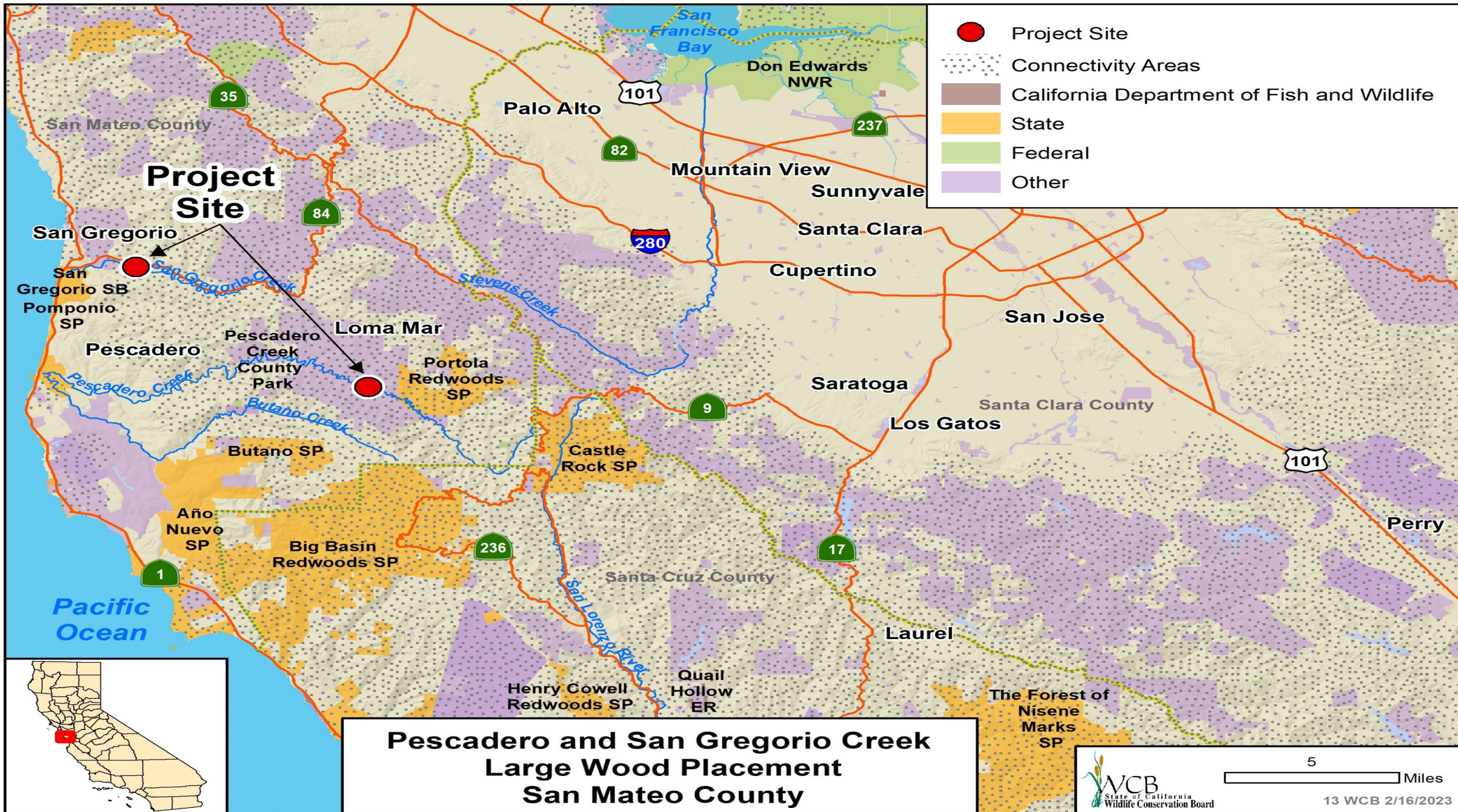
Job's Peak, Freel Peek, and Job's Canyon
facing southwest



11. Barber Creek

Slide 5

Barber Creek facing westerly



Project Site

**Pescadero and San Gregorio Creek
Large Wood Placement
San Mateo County**

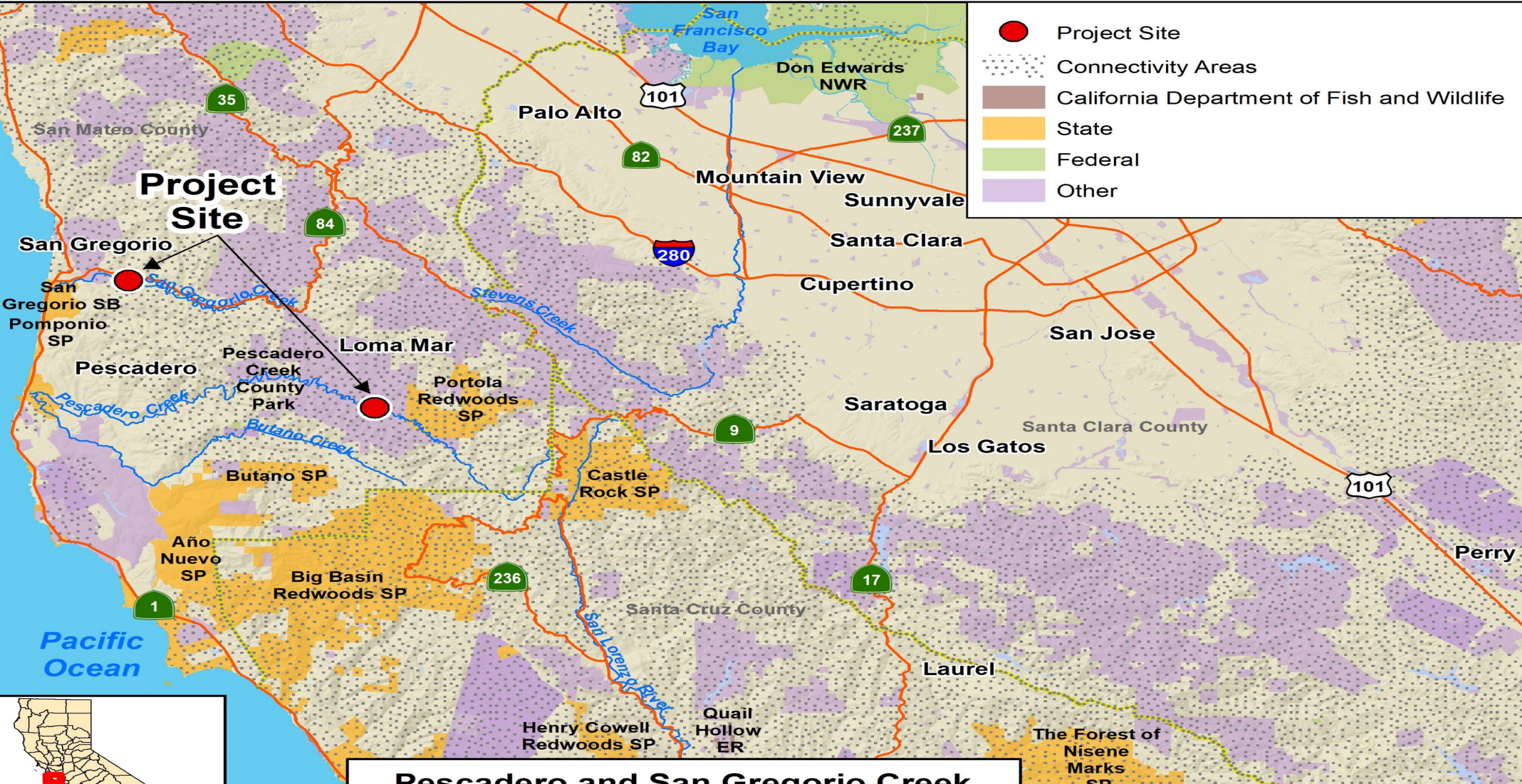
5 Miles



13 WCB 2/16/2023



- Project Site
- Connectivity Areas
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other

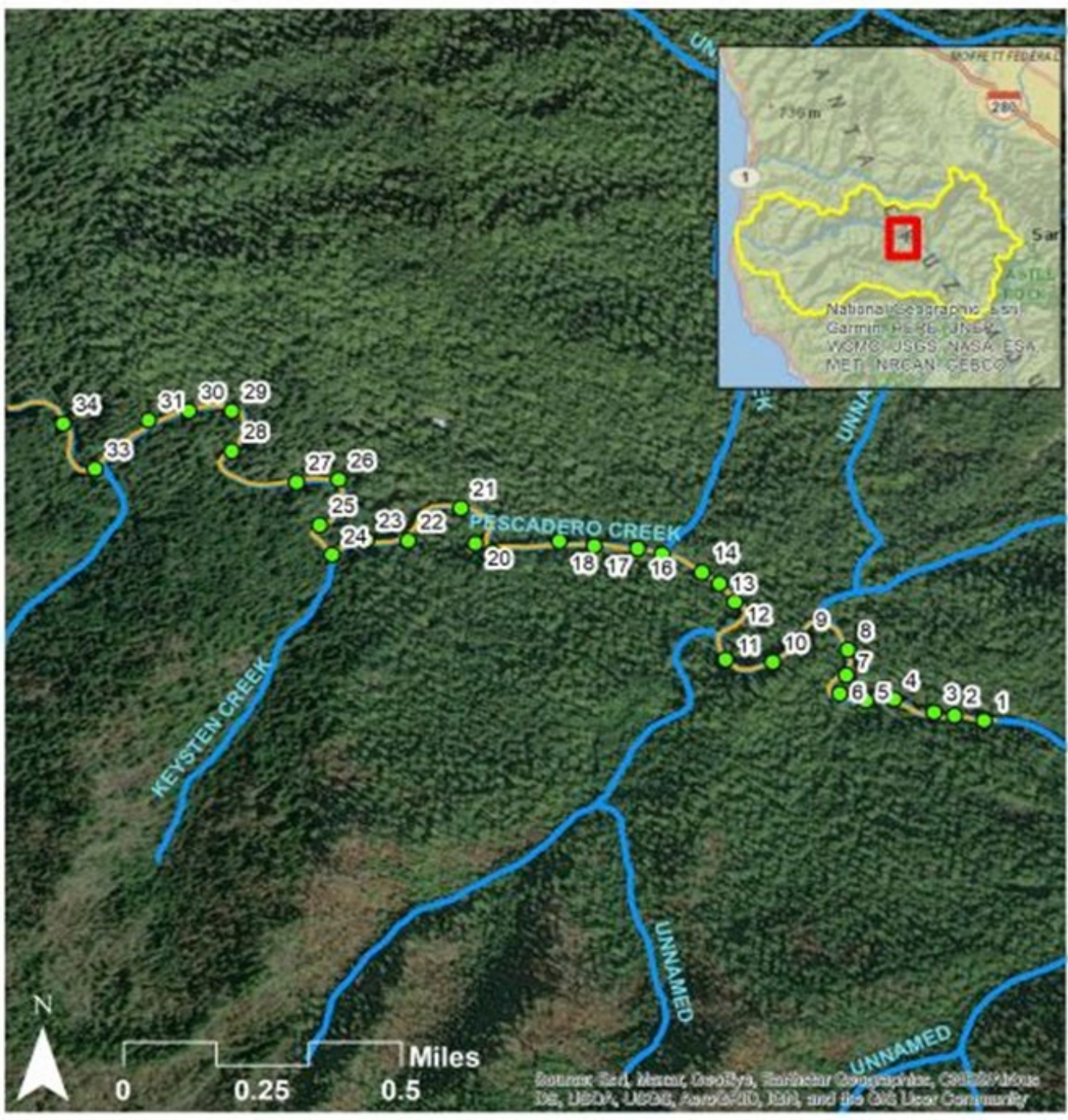


12. Pescadero and San Gregorio Creek Large Wood Placement

Slide 1

Pescadero Work Site

Site-scale map showing proposed locations for 35 large wood habitat structures. The Project site covers approximately 2 miles of Pescadero Creek in the northwest portion of Pescadero Creek County Park.



Legend

- LWD Sites
- Reach Treated
- Streams
- ▭ Pescadero-Butano Watershed



12. Pescadero and San Gregorio Creek Large Wood Placement

Slide 2

Example of a “bowling alley”,
February 2022.

The Project will create new pools
and refugia and enhance overall
habitat complexity while reducing
channel incision by capturing
sediment.

Credit: San Mateo RCD.



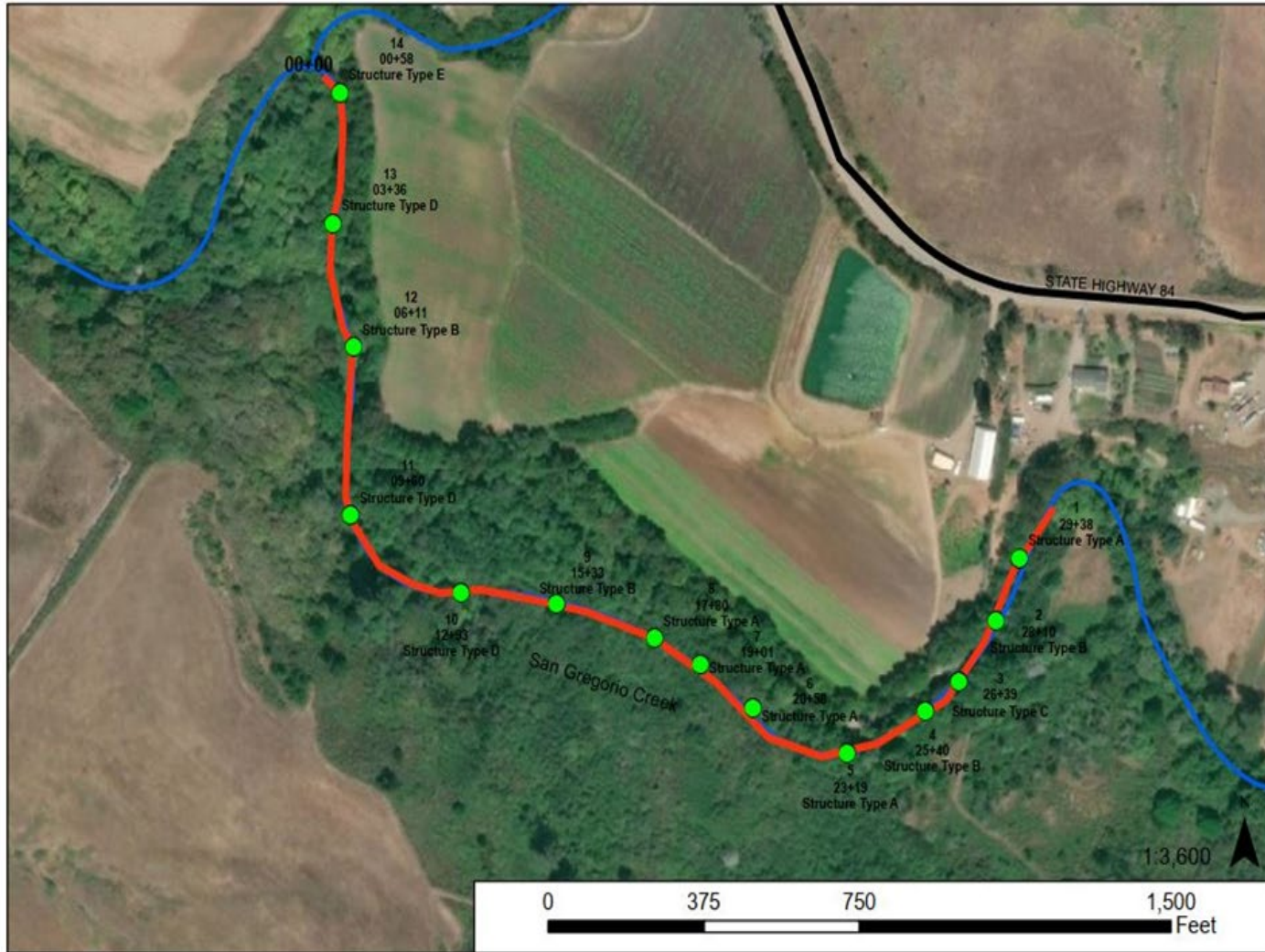


12. Pescadero and San Gregorio Creek Large Wood Placement

Slide 3

Redwood and Douglas fir trees marked for felling along the banks of Pescadero Creek. The Project will utilize a direct felling approach to minimize disturbance.

Credit: San Mateo RCD



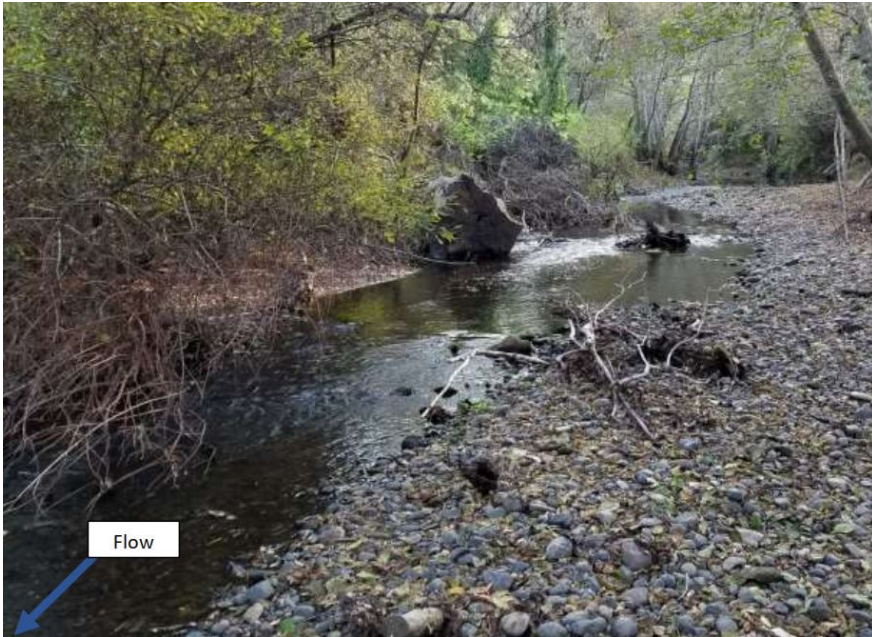
12. Pescadero and San Gregorio Creek Large Wood Placement

Slide 4

Site-scale map showing proposed locations for 14 large wood habitat structures.

The Project site covers approximately 2,700 feet of San Gregorio Creek and is located 2 miles upstream of the creek mouth.

The property is an active farm growing pumpkins, hay, and flowers. It features an off-stream reservoir implemented by San Mateo RCD in 2017 to provide water security for the landowner and improve stream flow for sensitive species.



12. Pescadero and San Gregorio Creek Large Wood Placement

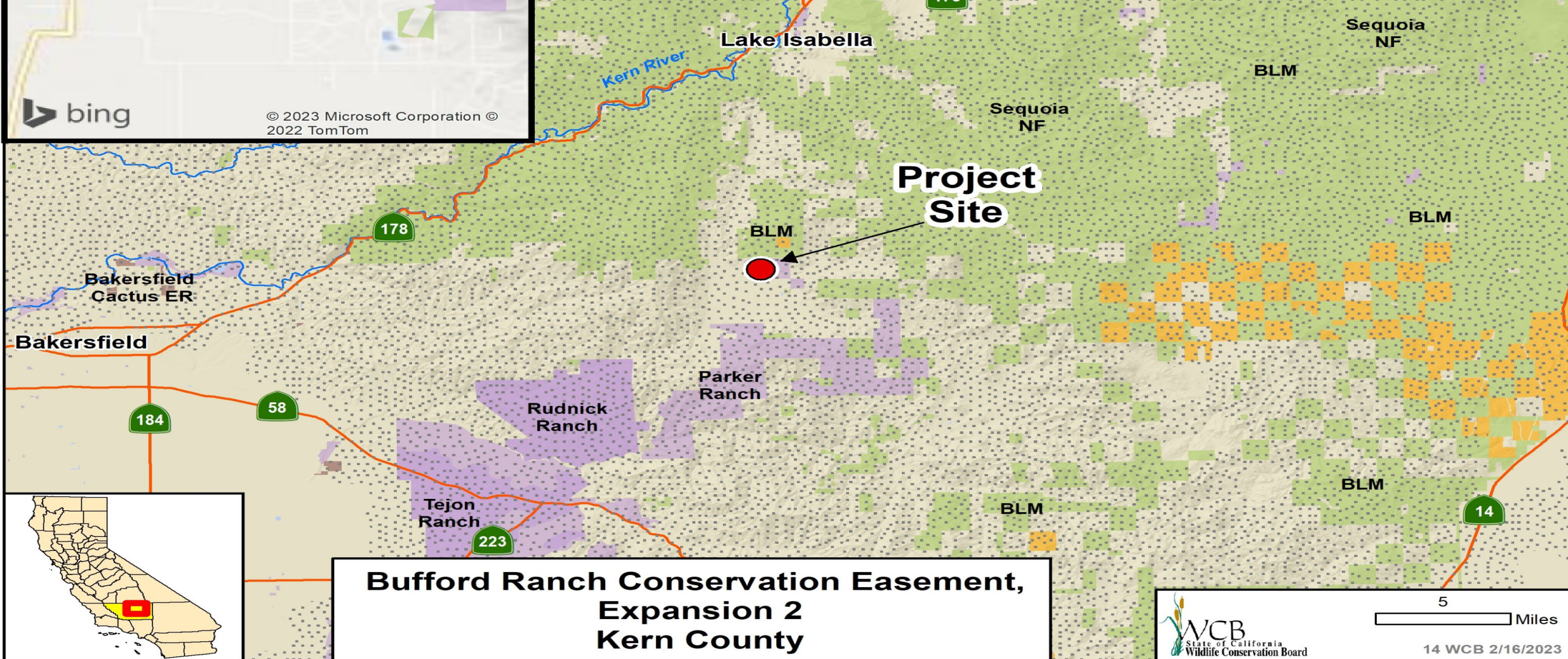
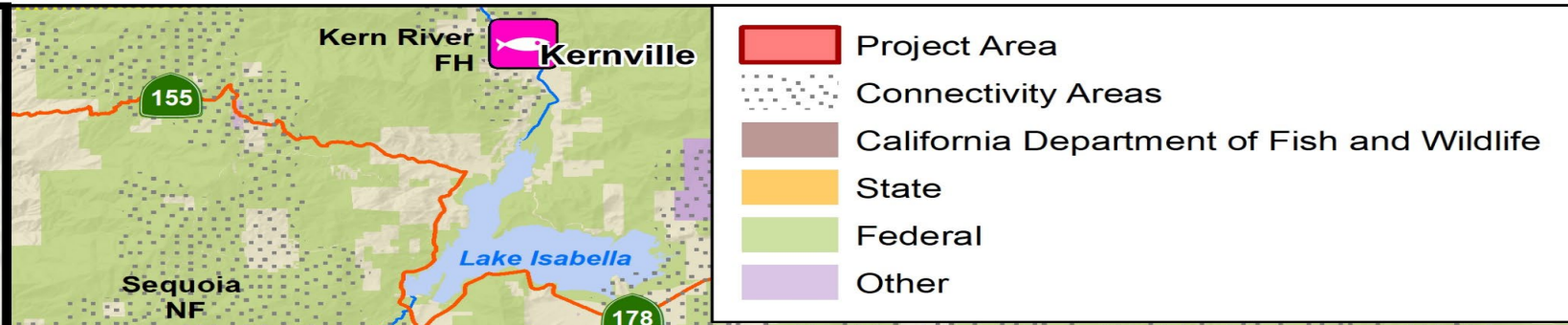
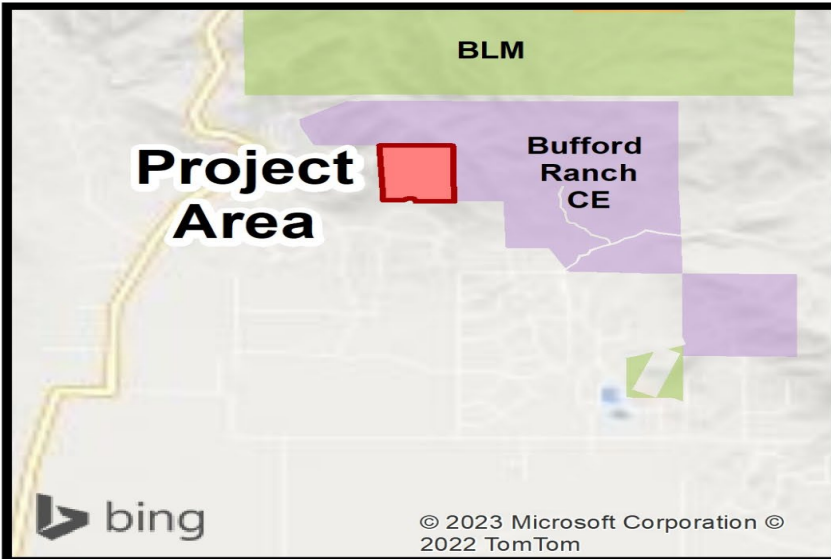
Slide 5

Left: San Gregorio Creek in dry conditions

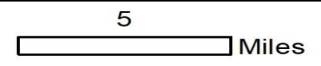
Above Left: San Gregorio Creek with moderate stream flow

Above Right: San Gregorio Creek in high flow conditions. Habitat complexity is low.

Credit: San Mateo RCD



Bufford Ranch Conservation Easement, Expansion 2 Kern County





13. Bufford Ranch Conservation Easement, Expansion 2

Slide 1

Typical view of
property from
clearing.



13. Bufford Ranch Conservation Easement, Expansion 2

Slide 2

Steep terrain of
the property

13. Bufford Ranch Conservation Easement, Expansion 2

Slide 3



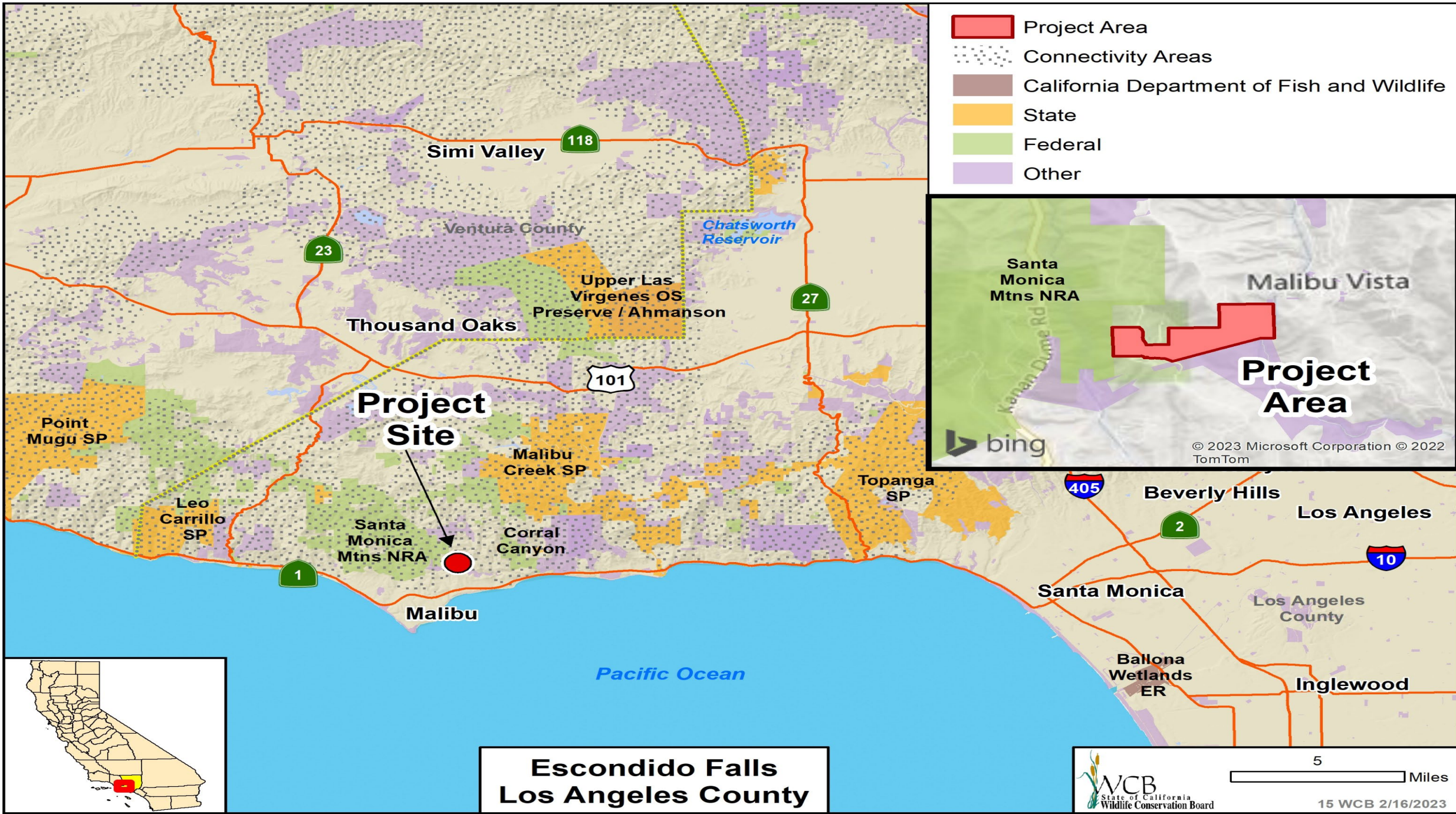
View from property.



Looking north towards
northerly property line.

13. Bufford Ranch Conservation Easement, Expansion 2

Slide 4





14. Escondido Falls

Slide 1

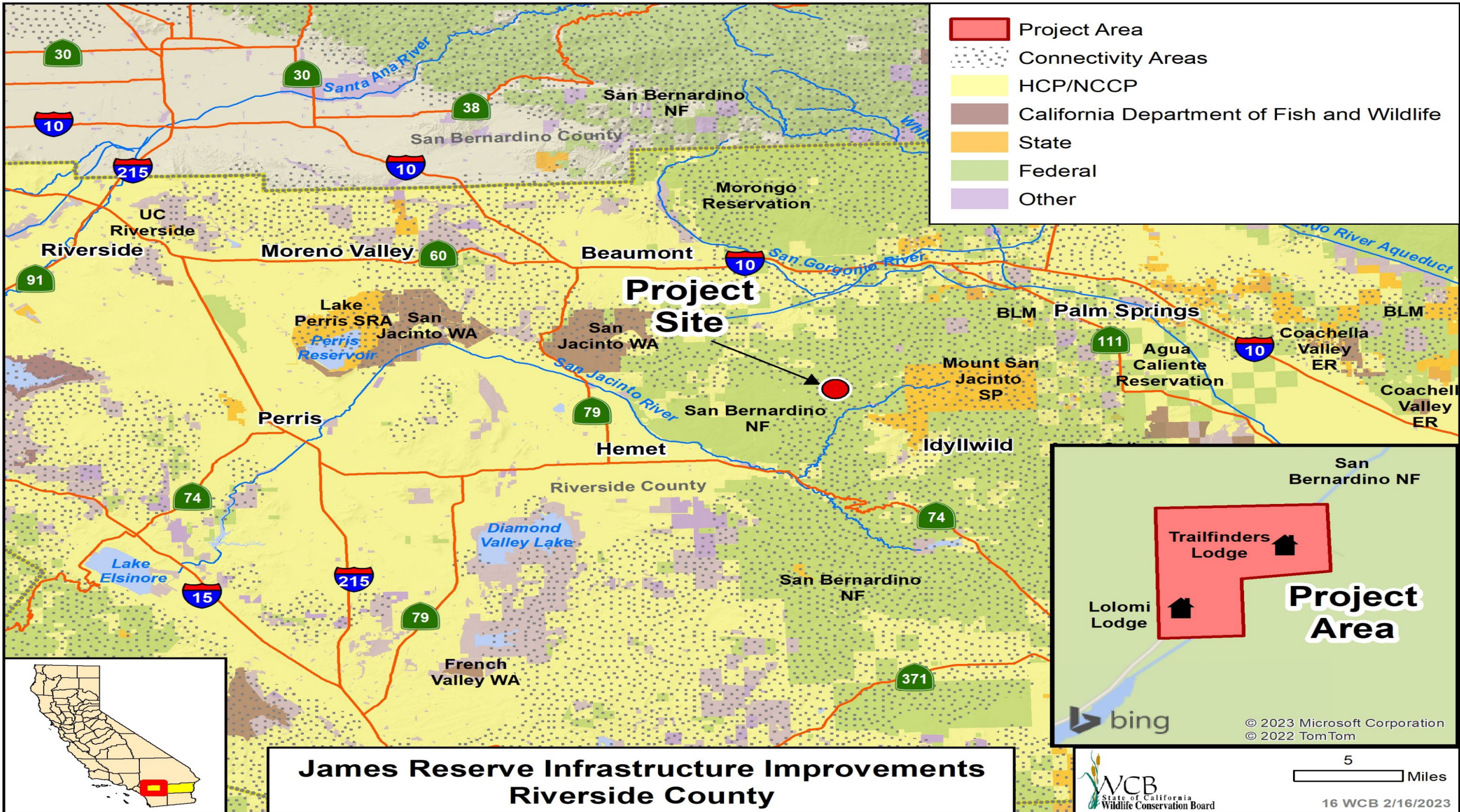
View (Looking South) of Escondido Canyon Park and Malibu Coast from terminus of Murphy Way



14. Escondido Falls

Slide 2

View (Looking North) of
Escondido Falls and Subject
Acquisition Property from Murphy
Way Trail



**James Reserve Infrastructure Improvements
Riverside County**





15. James Reserve Infrastructure Improvements

Slide 1

Lolomi Lodge showing
asphalt shingle roof.



15. James Reserve Infrastructure Improvements

Slide 2

- Lolomi Lodge during the winter.

15. James Reserve
Infrastructure Improvements
Slide 3

Trailfinder Lodge – single paned windows would be replaced with high efficiency windows to better insulate in the summer and winter.





15. James Reserve Infrastructure Improvements

Slide 4

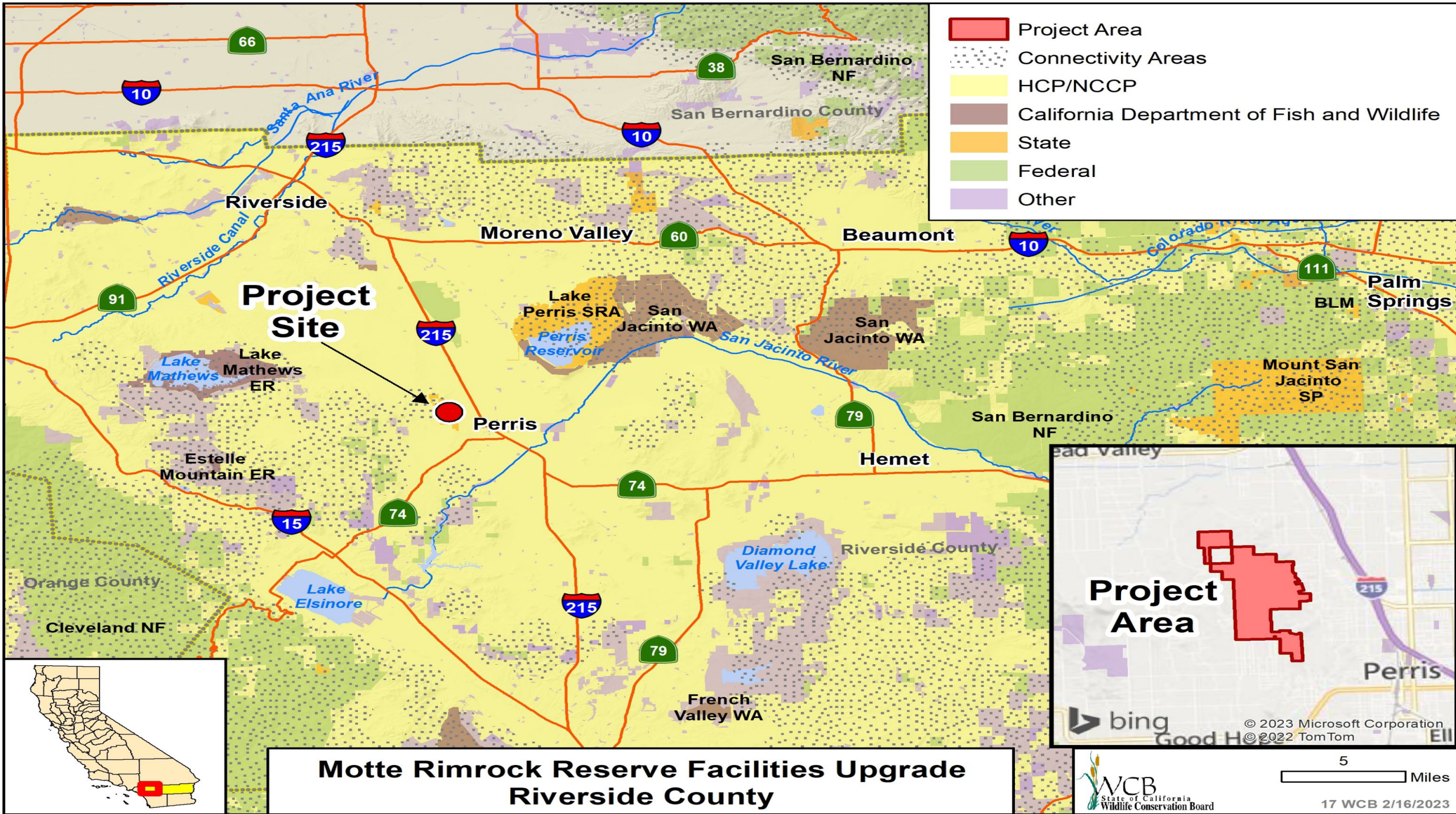
Trailfinder Lodge – exterior view



15. James Reserve Infrastructure Improvements

Slide 5

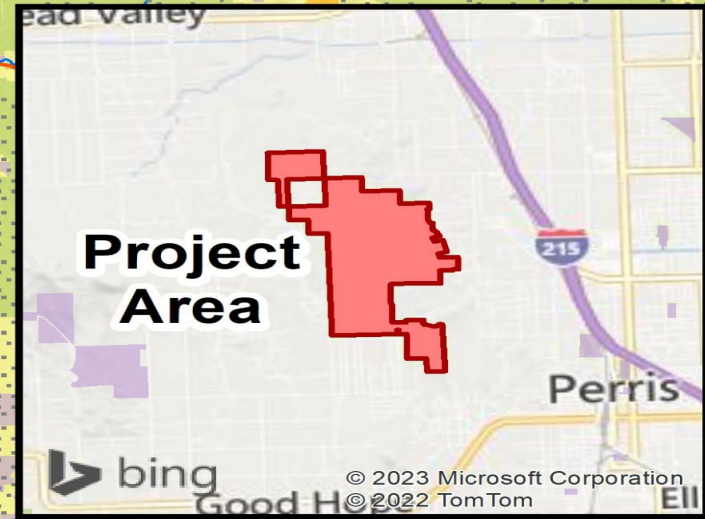
Example of the type of doors
to be replaced.



- Project Area
- Connectivity Areas
- HCP/NCCP
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other

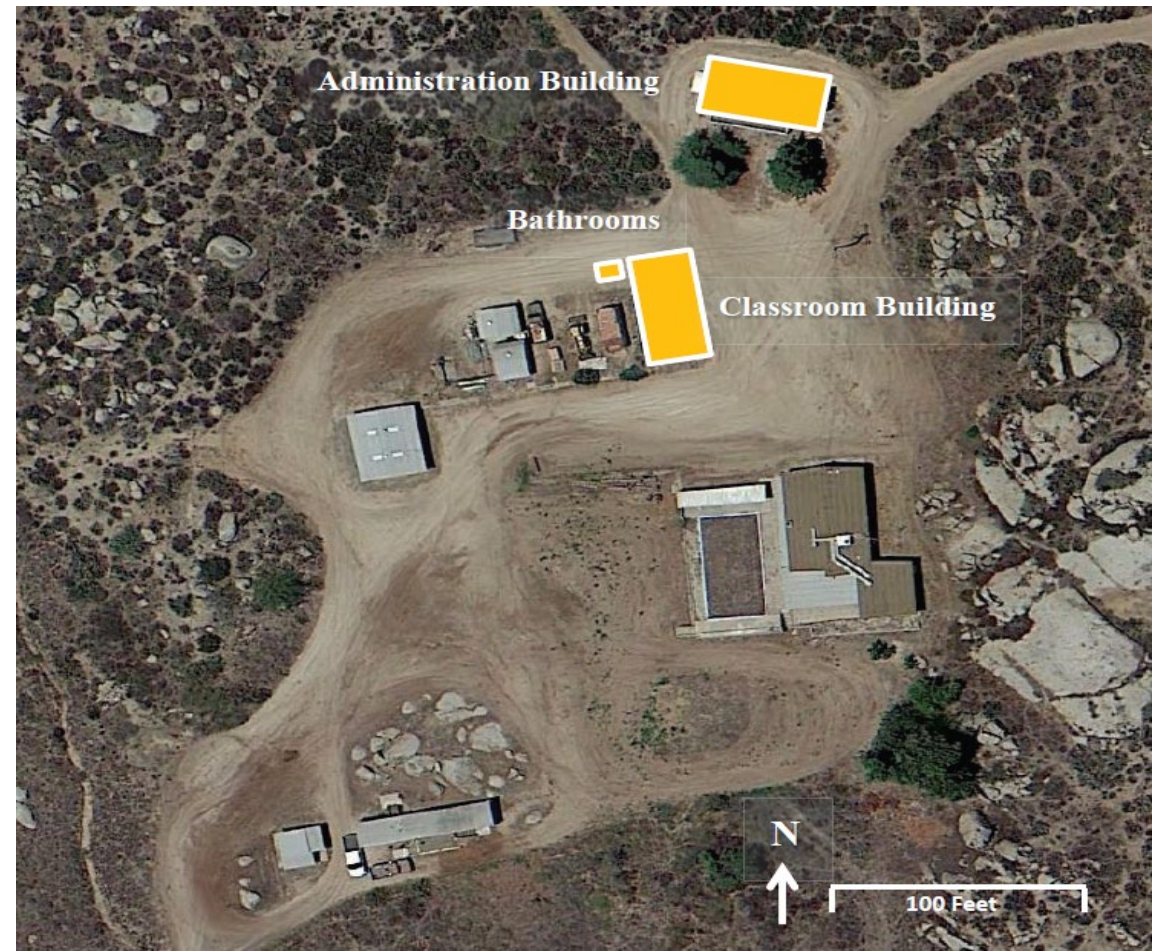
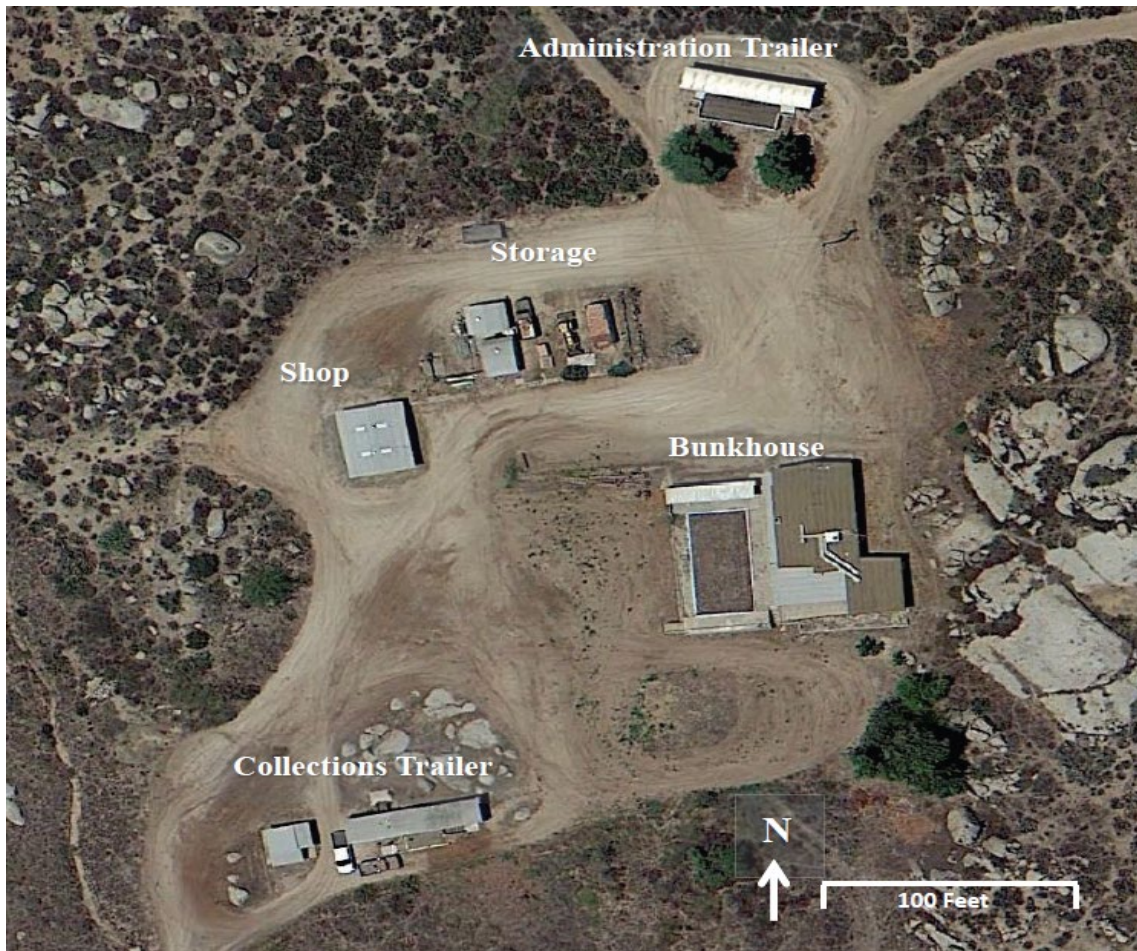
Project Site

**Motte Rimrock Reserve Facilities Upgrade
Riverside County**



5 Miles





16. Motte Rimrock Reserve Facilities Upgrade

Slide 1

Left: Current layout of Motte Facility Buildings

Right: Proposed layout of Motte Facility Buildings



16. Motte Rimrock Reserve Facilities Upgrade

Slide 2

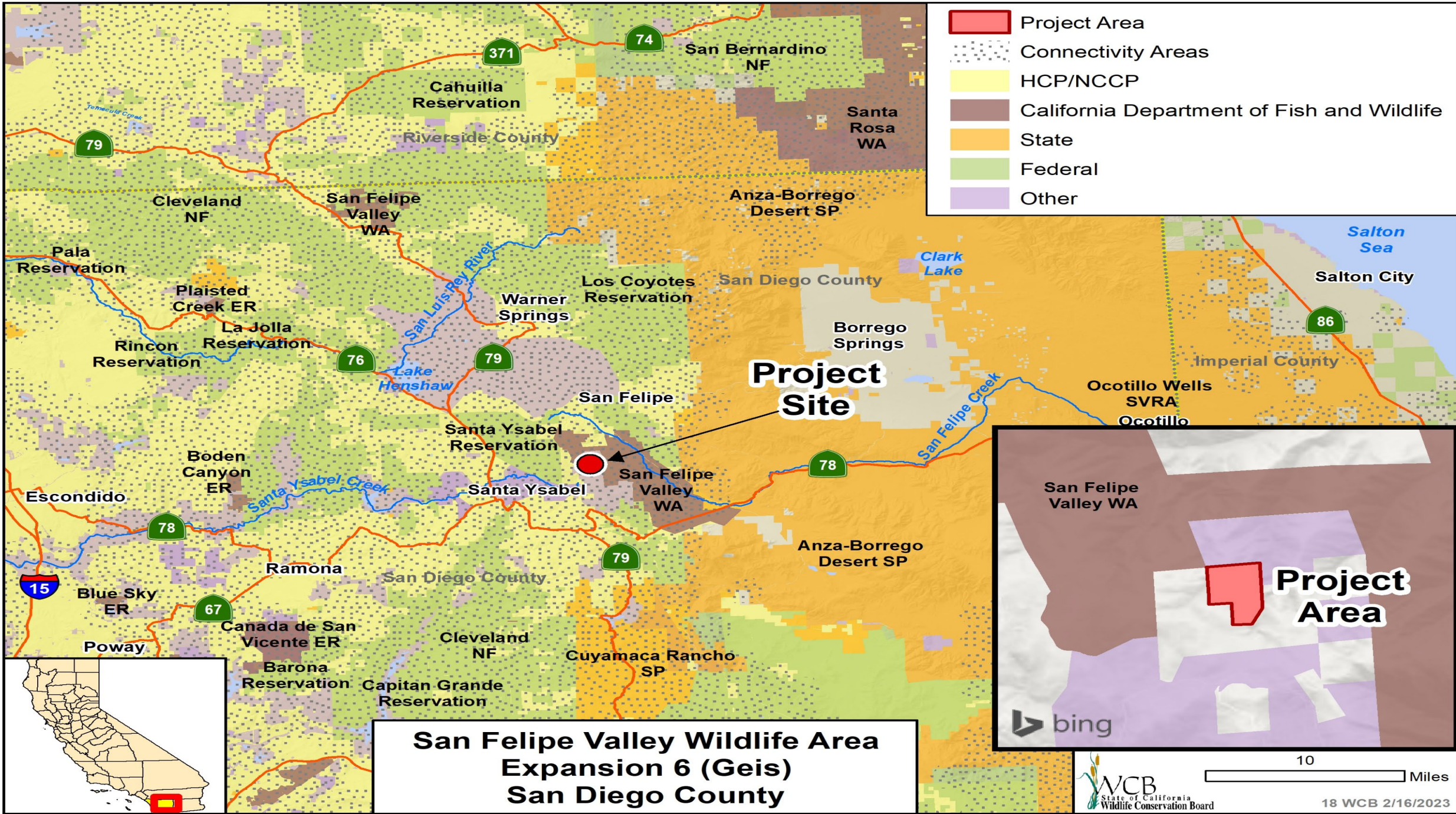
Proposed site for admin building.

16. Motte Rimrock Reserve Facilities Upgrade

Slide 3

Sites for classroom and bathrooms facing west (top) and facing east (bottom).







17. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Geis)

Slide 1

- View of western portion of the property



17. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Geis)

Slide 2

- View of southern portion of the property.

A photograph of a forest with a 'NO HUNTING' sign on a tree trunk. The sign is orange with black text. The forest consists of many thin trees, some with green needles and some with bare branches. The ground is covered in dry leaves and twigs.

**NO
HUNTING**
PROPERTY OF
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NO. 1764-1000
Bureau of Land Management
1616 East 17th Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80202
303-733-1311

17. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Geis)

Slide 3

View of eastern portion of the property.



17. San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area, Expansion 6 (Geis)

Slide 4

View of entrance leading to the property



Presented Items 18-33

CAL Fire Mattole Headwaters



Item 18. WCB Appraisal Policy Amendment

Soap Creek Ridge



Wildlife Conservation Board Appraisal Policy

TIME FOR A CHANGE

The Existing Policy Since 2012

WCB must contract for its own appraisal for any project where WCB grants or spends more than \$5,000,000 in state funds

WCB Staff Right-of-Way Agents review all appraisals for compliance with State of California Department of General Services (DGS) published guidelines

For projects where WCB grants or spends \$5,000,000 or more in state funds, it must contract for an independent appraisal review

This process has made it necessary to retain two separate contracts with outside appraisers when WCB grants or spends over \$5,000,000 in state funds

In addition to the appraisal and independent appraisal review, WCB still has DGS conduct an appraisal review for a total of three appraisal reviews

The Proposed New Policy, Reversion Back to State Law

For any project where more than \$150,000 in state funds is proposed for grant or expenditure, WCB may contract for an appraisal or rely on an appraisal contracted for by a project partner

WCB Staff Right-of-Way Agents would still review all appraisals for compliance with DGS published guidelines

For projects where WCB grants or spends \$15,000,000 or more in state funds, WCB would contract for an independent appraisal review

DGS would still review all appraisals and provide WCB with a detailed analysis of valuation

WCB's Appraisal Policy will still retain standards for an independent appraisal review which are above those required by state law



Cutting The Green Tape

Will remove unnecessary reviews for projects involving less than \$15 million in state funds

Will facilitate 30x30 acquisition goals, State Wildlife Action Plan Goals, and WCB Goals

Will allow WCB to expedite meaningful projects

Will allow WCB staff to bring more projects to the board for approval in a timely fashion, thereby benefitting people and wildlife throughout the state

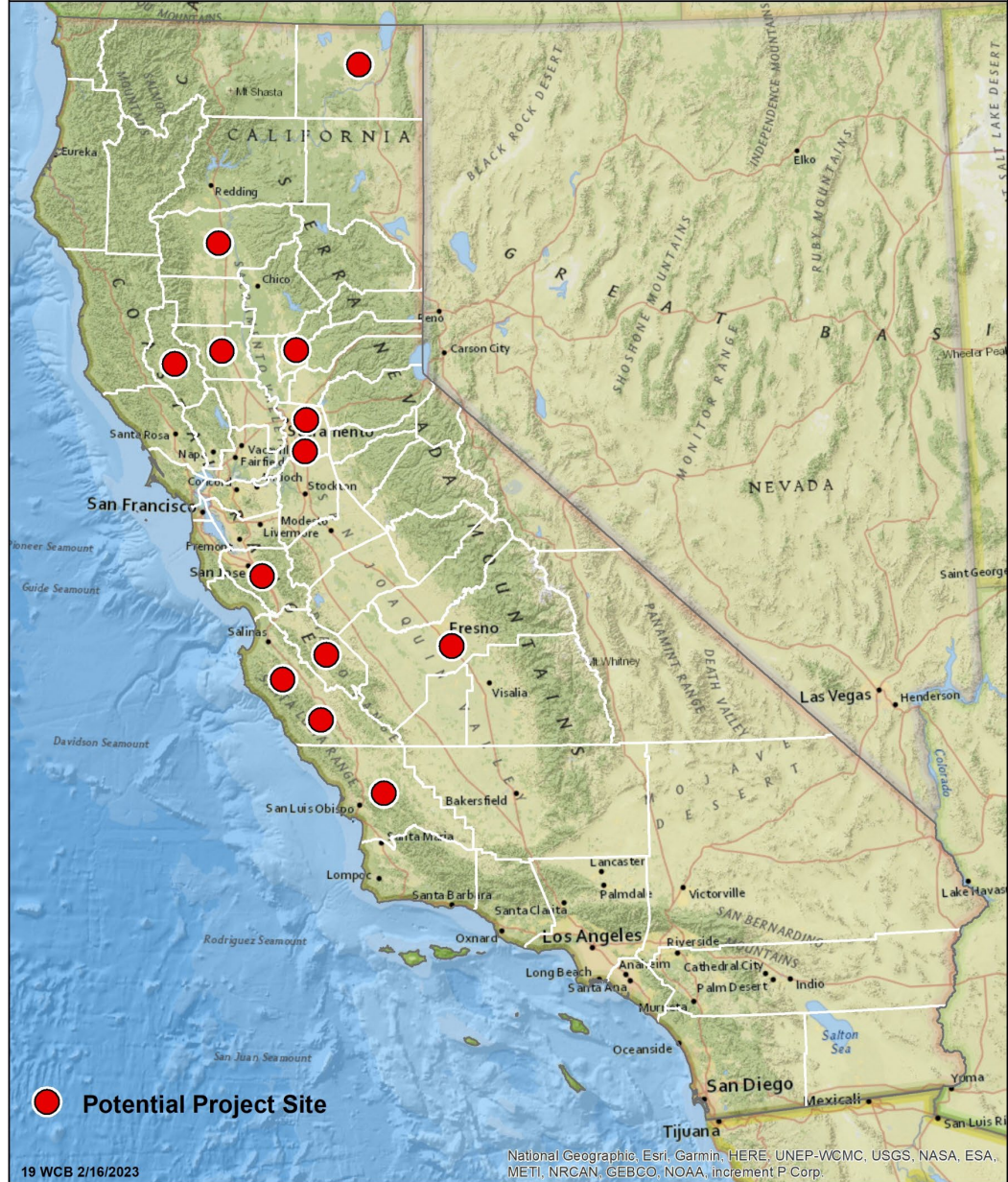
Will facilitate faster recovery, and protection of habitat, of threatened and endangered species

Support for WCB's proposed appraisal policy change

California Council of Land Trusts
The Trust for Public Land
The Pacific Forest Trust
The Nature Conservancy
The Department of General Services
Wildlands Conservancy
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Big Sur Land Trust
Santa Clara Open Space Authority
Senator Mike McGuire, Second
Senate District



Audubon Conservation Ranching Program Phase 2 Statewide



19. Audubon Conservation Ranching Program

Slide 2

Background: California's Rangelands

- Approximately 41 million acres
- Average 20,000 acres lost annually
- Lack of support for existing ranch operations



19. Audubon Conservation Ranching Program

Slide 3

Purpose: Connect sustainable ranching with eco-conscious consumers.

Overall process:

- Select participating ranches
- Develop and implement Habitat Management Plan
- Certification
- Align products with market opportunities
- Monitor certified ranches

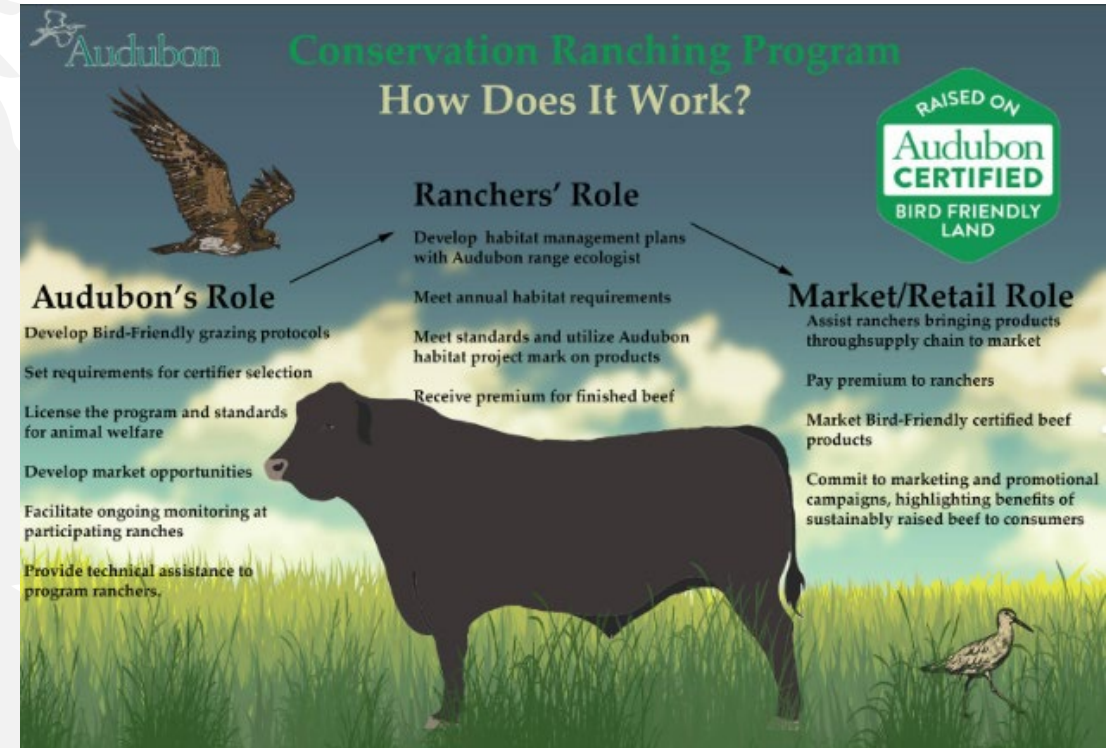


Image courtesy of Audubon California.



19 Audubon Conservation Ranching Program – Phases 1 and 2

Slide 4

Audubon Conservation Ranching Program: Phase 1 (\$512,000 approved May 2019)

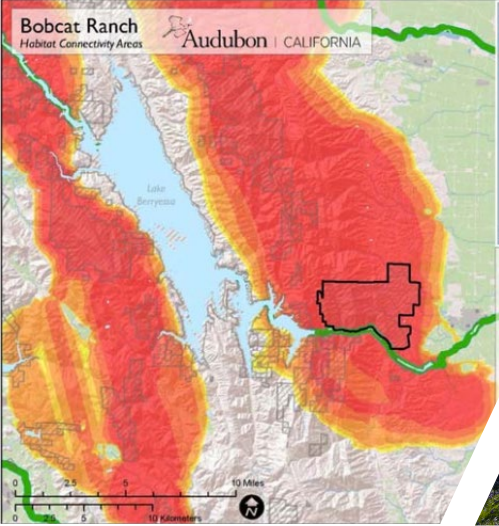
- Established the ACR in California
- Six ranching operations certified, covering 23 properties cumulatively covering over 80,000 acres across 8 counties.

Audubon Conservation Ranching Program: Phase 2 (this project)

- Enroll an additional 30 operations that graze over 250,000 acres



Map image courtesy of Audubon California.



19 Audubon Conservation Ranching Program:

Slide 5

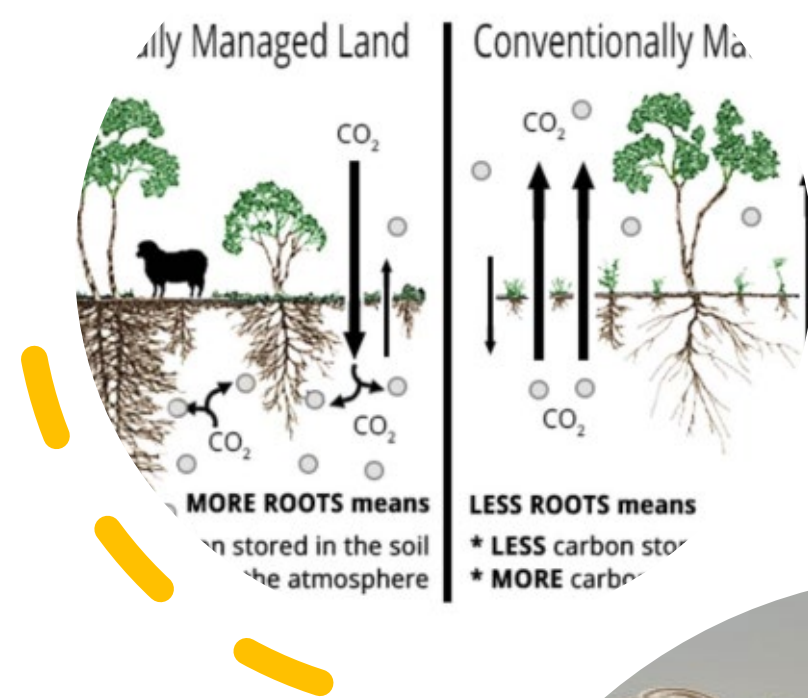
Bobcat Ranch Demonstration Site

Images courtesy of Audubon California.

19 Audubon Conservation Ranching Program: Certification Criteria and Monitoring

Slide 6

- Habitat management
- Forage and feeding
- Animal health and welfare
- Environmental sustainability

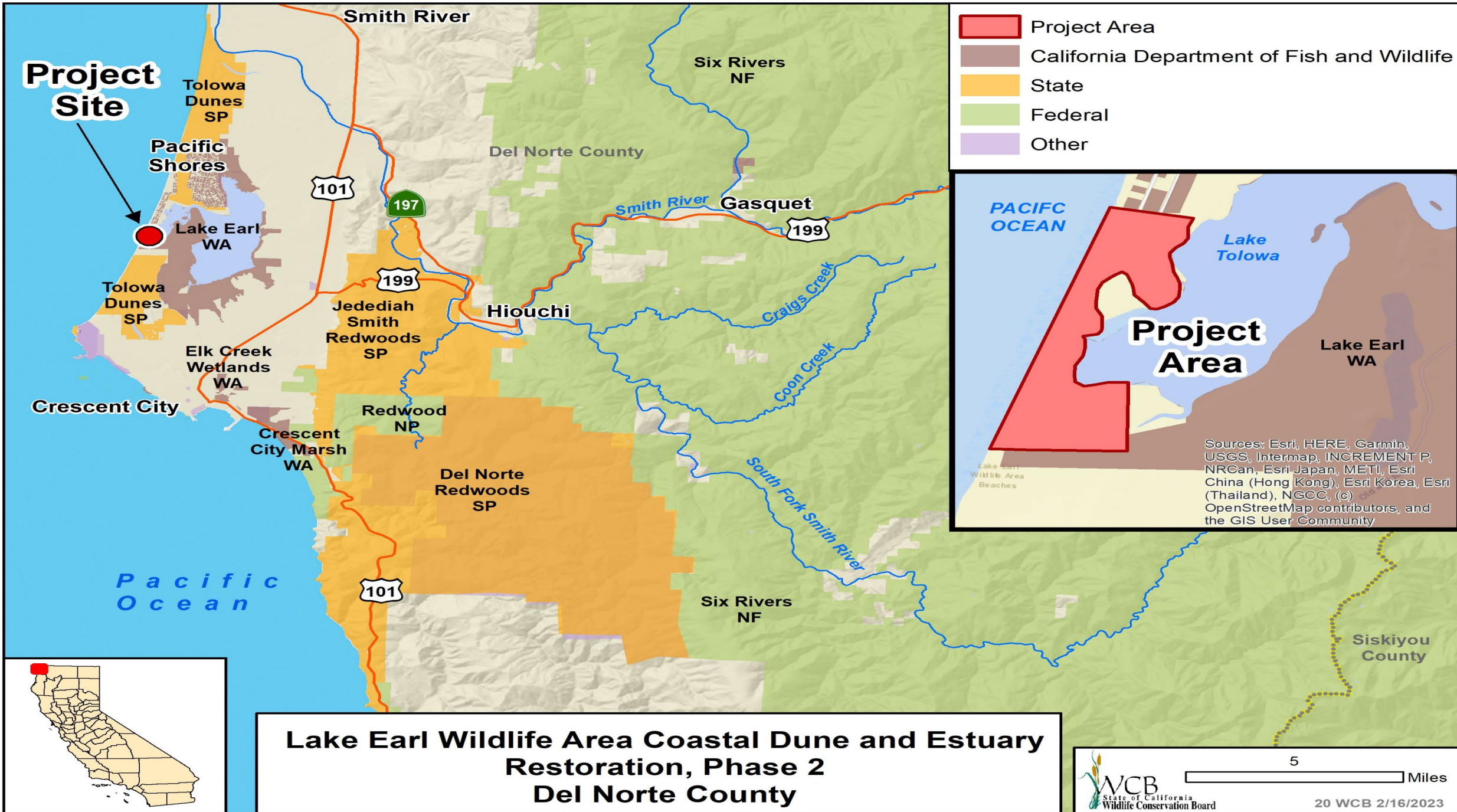




Thank You



Images courtesy of Audubon California and Point Blue Conservation Science.



- Project Area
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other

Project Area

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

**Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2
Del Norte County**



Lake Earl Wildlife Area/Tolowa Dunes State Park Complex





20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 3

Left: Lake Earl Wildlife Area - project area

Right: Aerial of Phase 2 restoration site

Images courtesy of Tolowa Dunes Stewards



20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration - Phase 2

Slide 4

- *Ammophila arenaria*
(European beachgrass)

Images courtesy of Tolowa Dunes Stewards and the California Invasive Plant Council

20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 5

Aerial: Phase 2 proposed restoration area. (within red border)

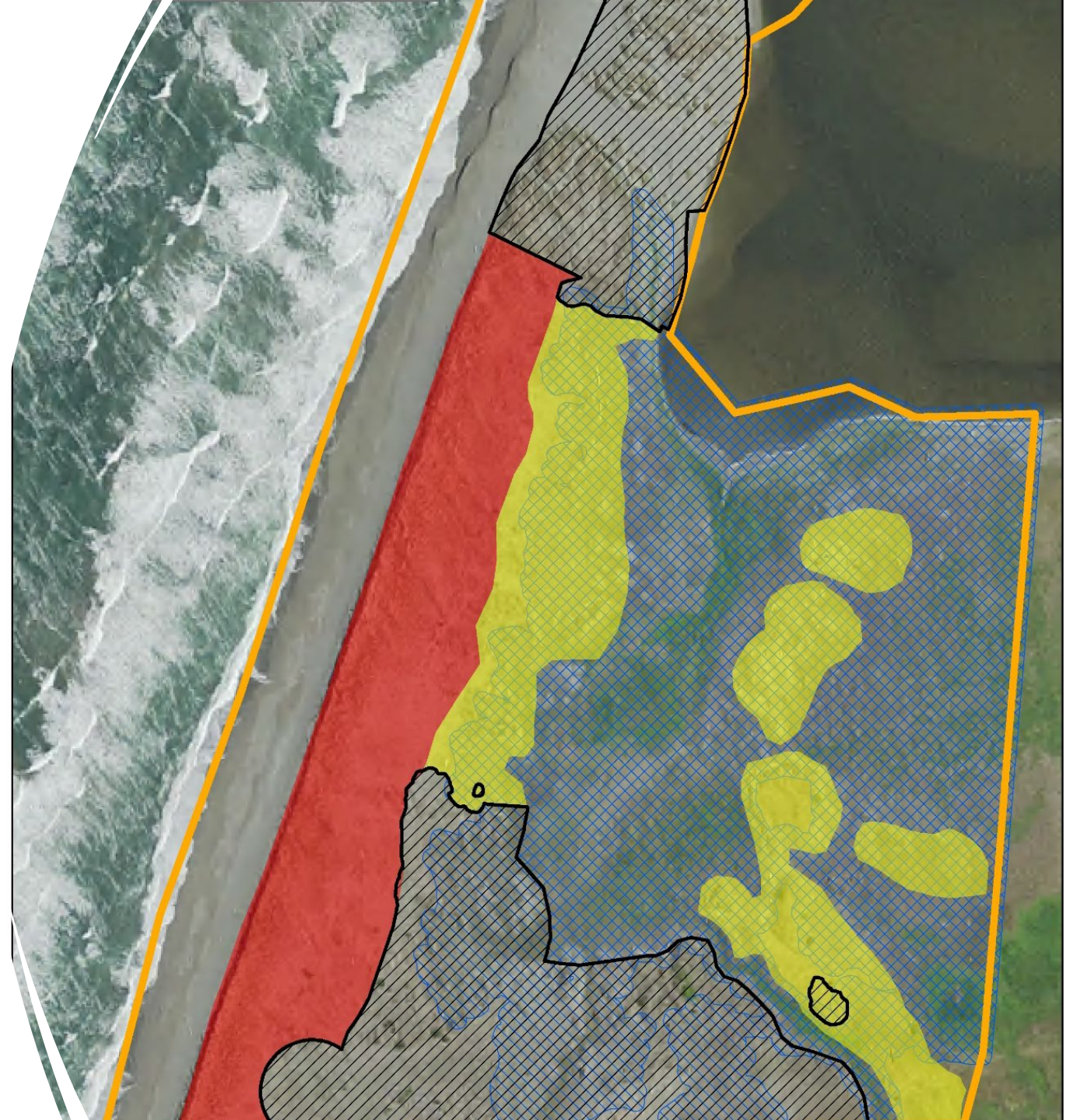
- Note restored area north and south of the LEWA/TDSP border.
- *Ammophila* north of the red polygon buried by heavy equipment during Phase 1.



20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 6

- Proposed Phase 2 restoration areas (mechanical removal in red, manual removal in yellow).
- Project boundaries and restored areas under management. Once complete, the combined projects will span 367 acres.



20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 7

Top: Steep foredune from *Ammophila* stabilization in the project area.

Bottom: California Conservation Corps working on LEWA/TDSP border to manually remove *Ammophila* from foredune.



20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 8



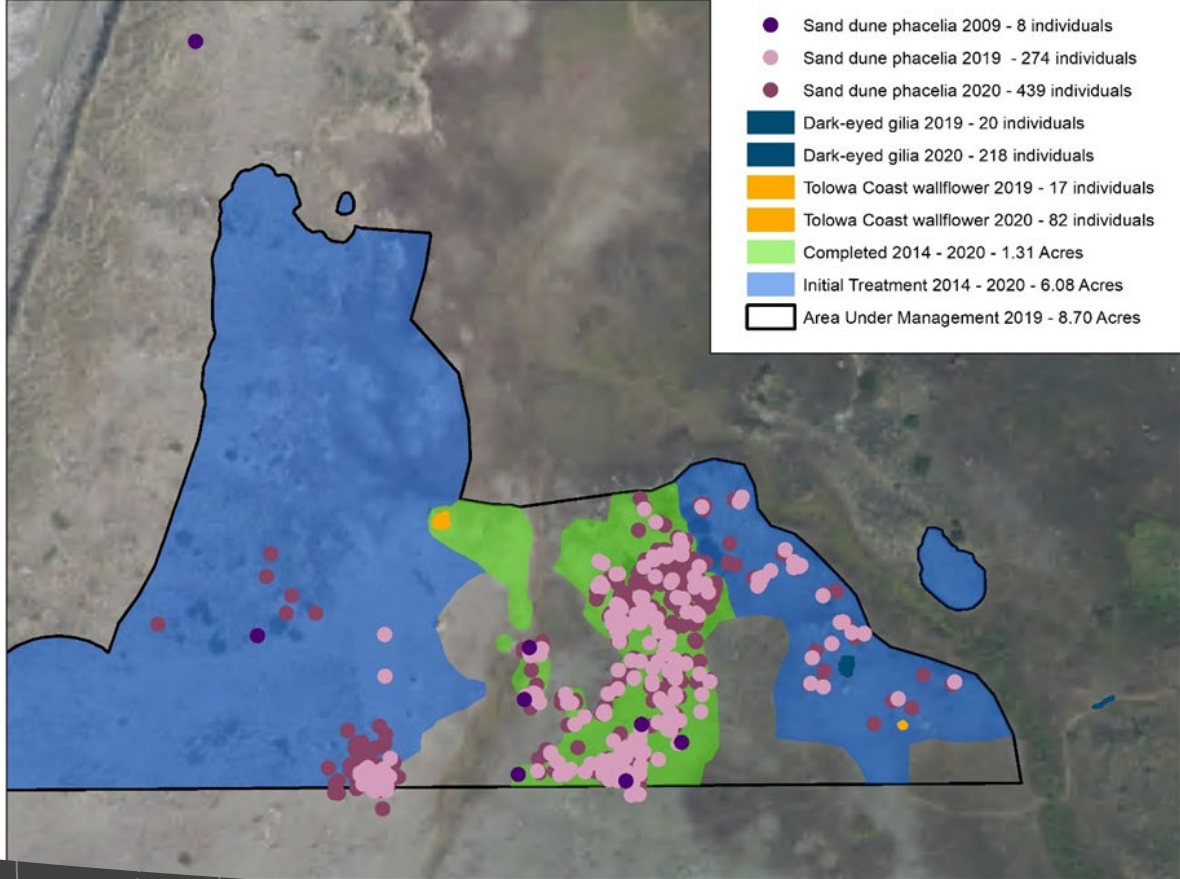
- *Top: Ammophila* on backside of foredune adjacent to delineated wetlands.
- *Bottom: Ammophila* on smaller dune/island within delineated wetlands. Lake is tidal.

20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 9

- Top: Tolowa Dune Stewards working with Del Norte County's Youth Training Academy and Sierra Service Project youth and families to remove *Ammophila* in the project area.
- Bottom: LEWA restored dune habitat with Sierra Service Project volunteers in the background.





20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 10

Left: Map showing location and increase of special status plant species in restoration area.

Right: Native bee on sand dune phacelia (*Phacelia argentea*).

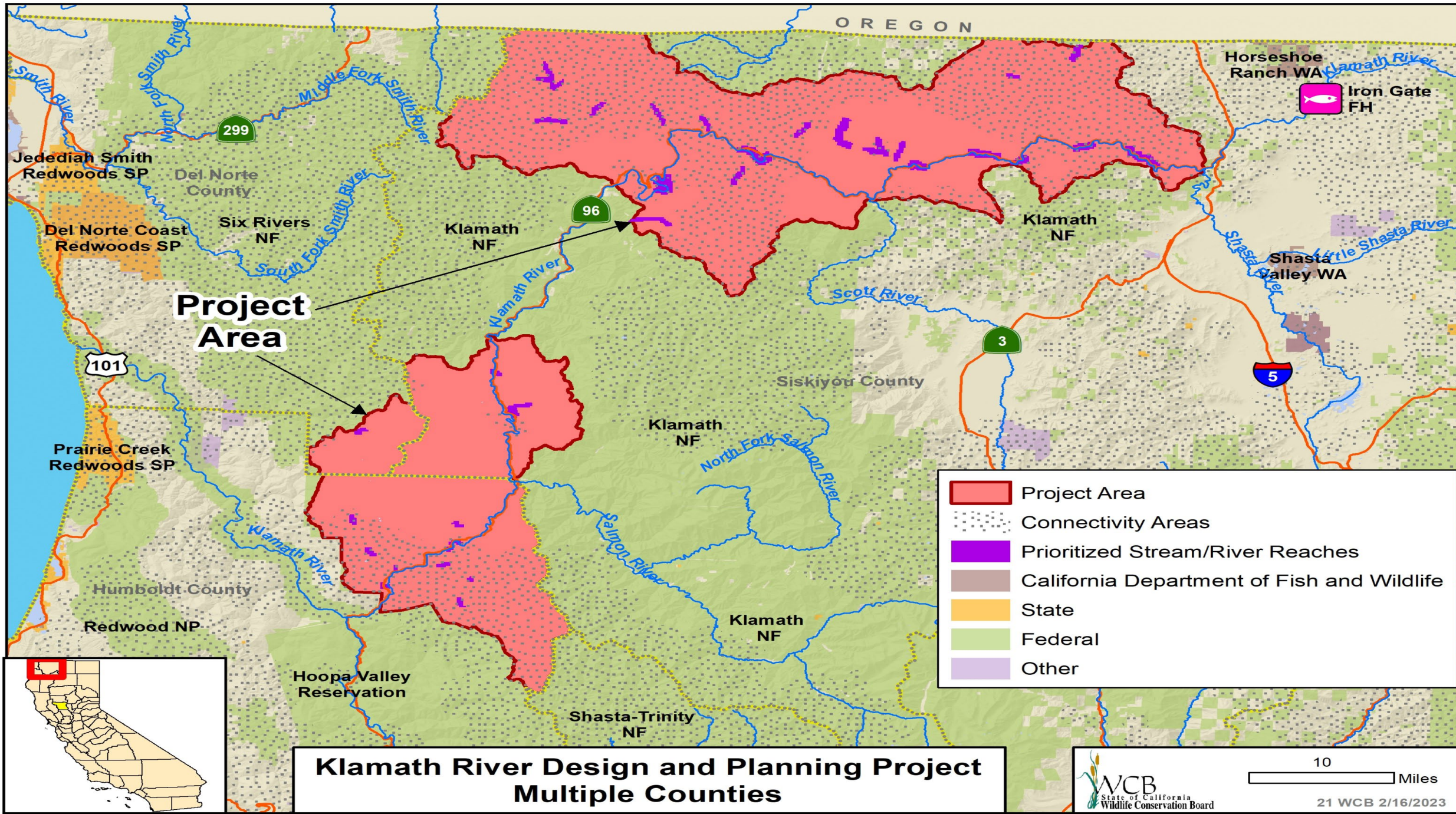


20. Lake Earl Wildlife Area Coastal Dune and Estuary Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 11

- Project volunteers

Images courtesy of Tolowa Dunes Stewards



**Klamath River Design and Planning Project
Multiple Counties**



10 Miles




21. Klamath River Design and Planning Project

Slide 1

Seiad Creek in January showing high flows rushing down a straightened creek bed.





21. Klamath River Design and Planning Project

Slide 2

Grider Creek at a site that is surveyed for
Coho Salmon spawning. Creek is straight
and fast flowing.

2016/12/14



21. Klamath River Design and Planning Project

Slide 3

Doolittle Creek was within the area of a high intensity fire. This area now poses significant erosion potential that will tend to silt up stream and riverbeds downstream.



21. Klamath River Design and Planning Project

Slide 4

Degraded culvert on Middle
Creek is a barrier to fish
movement.

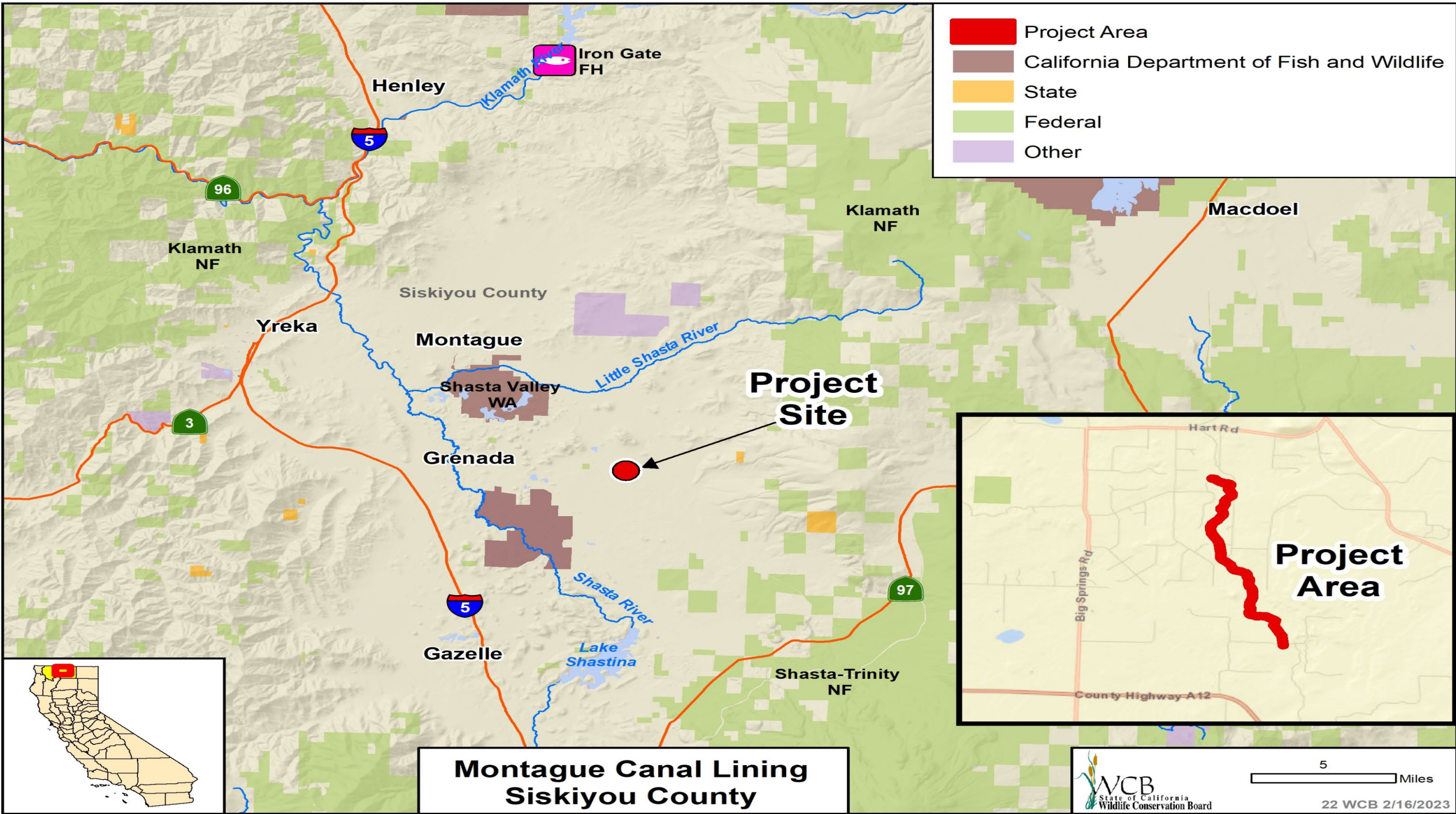


21. Klamath River Design and Planning Project

Slide 5

Mining tailings on the bank of the
mainstem Klamath River blocking
connection with the river's historic
floodplain.





- Project Area
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other

Project Site

Project Area

**Montague Canal Lining
Siskiyou County**



5 Miles

22. Montague Canal Lining

Slide 1

- An unlined portion of the Montague Main Canal that will be lined under this grant. This earthen ditch has high leakage loss.

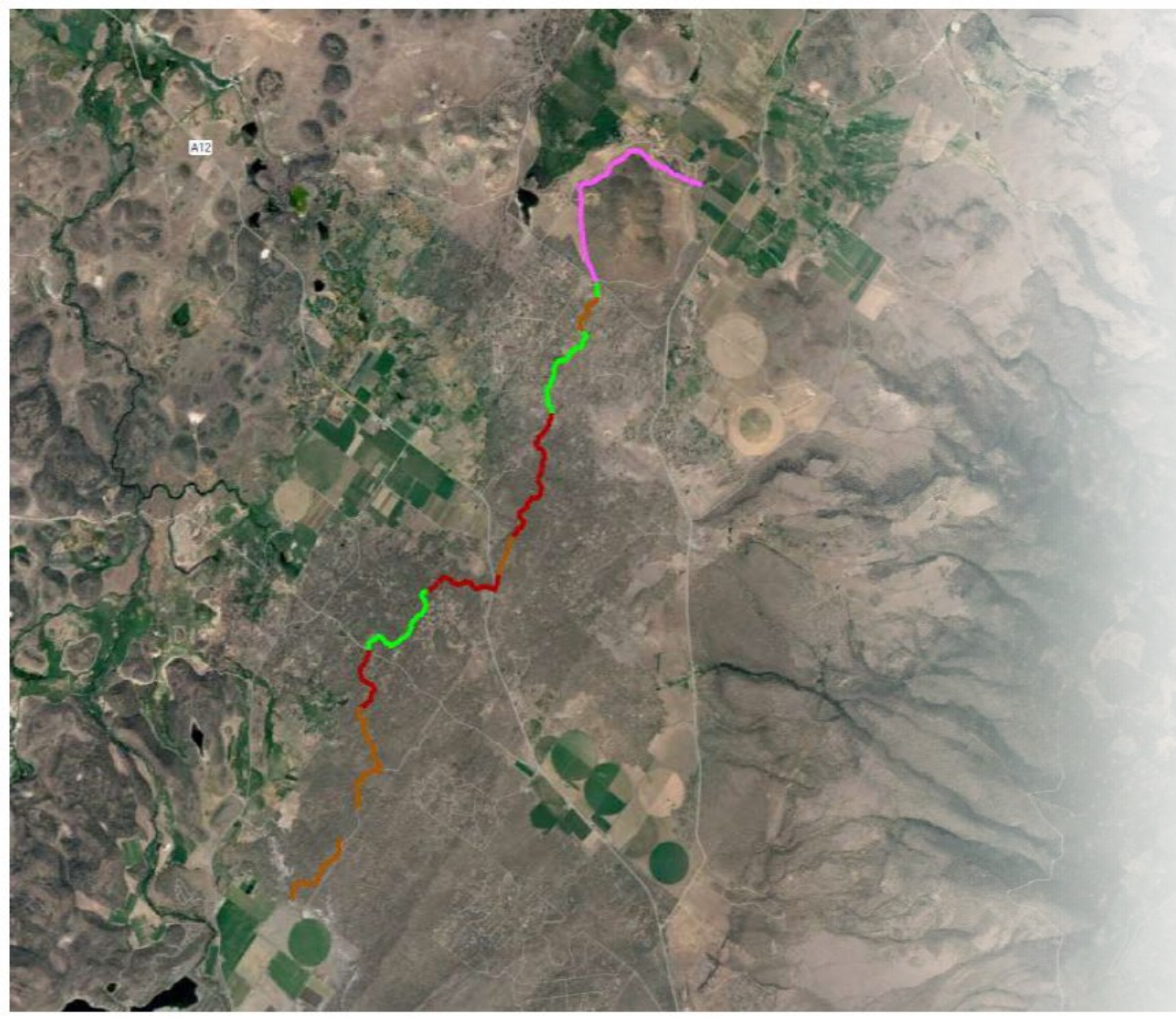


22. Montague Canal Lining

Slide 2

Map of Montague Canal

- Brown - Historically Lined
- Red - Recently Lined or Funded
- Green - Proposed for WCB & WCB Alternative Reach
- Purple - Priority Unfunded Reaches



22. Montague Canal Lining

Slide 3

- Another unlined portion of the Montague Main Canal that will be lined under this grant. This is an example of how degraded the condition of the canal has become in sections with destabilized banks.



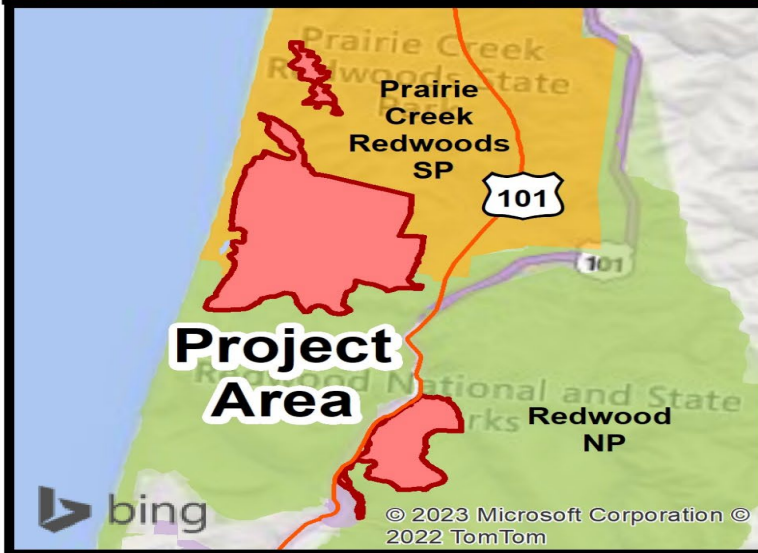
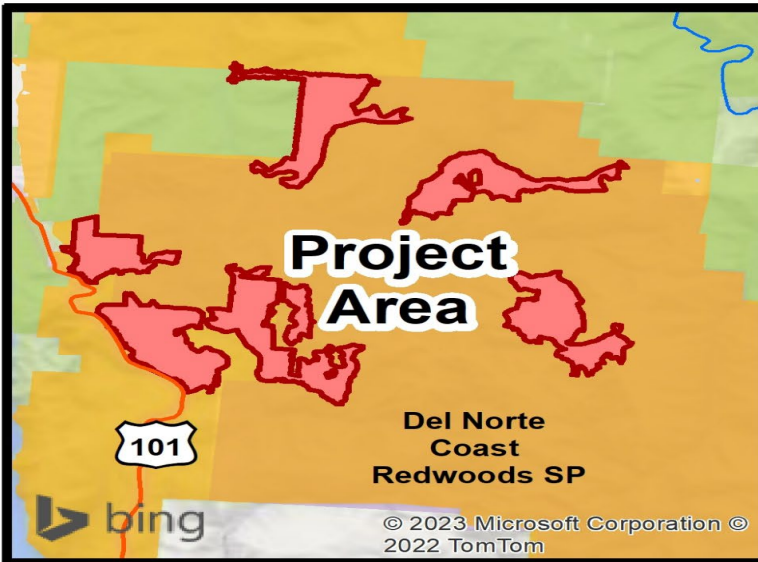


22. Montague Canal Lining

Slide 4

Left: Example section of the Montague Main Canal that has already had a geo-membrane liner placed and staked in the canal.

Right: Example section of the Montague Main Canal with the concrete layer being applied over the geo-membrane.

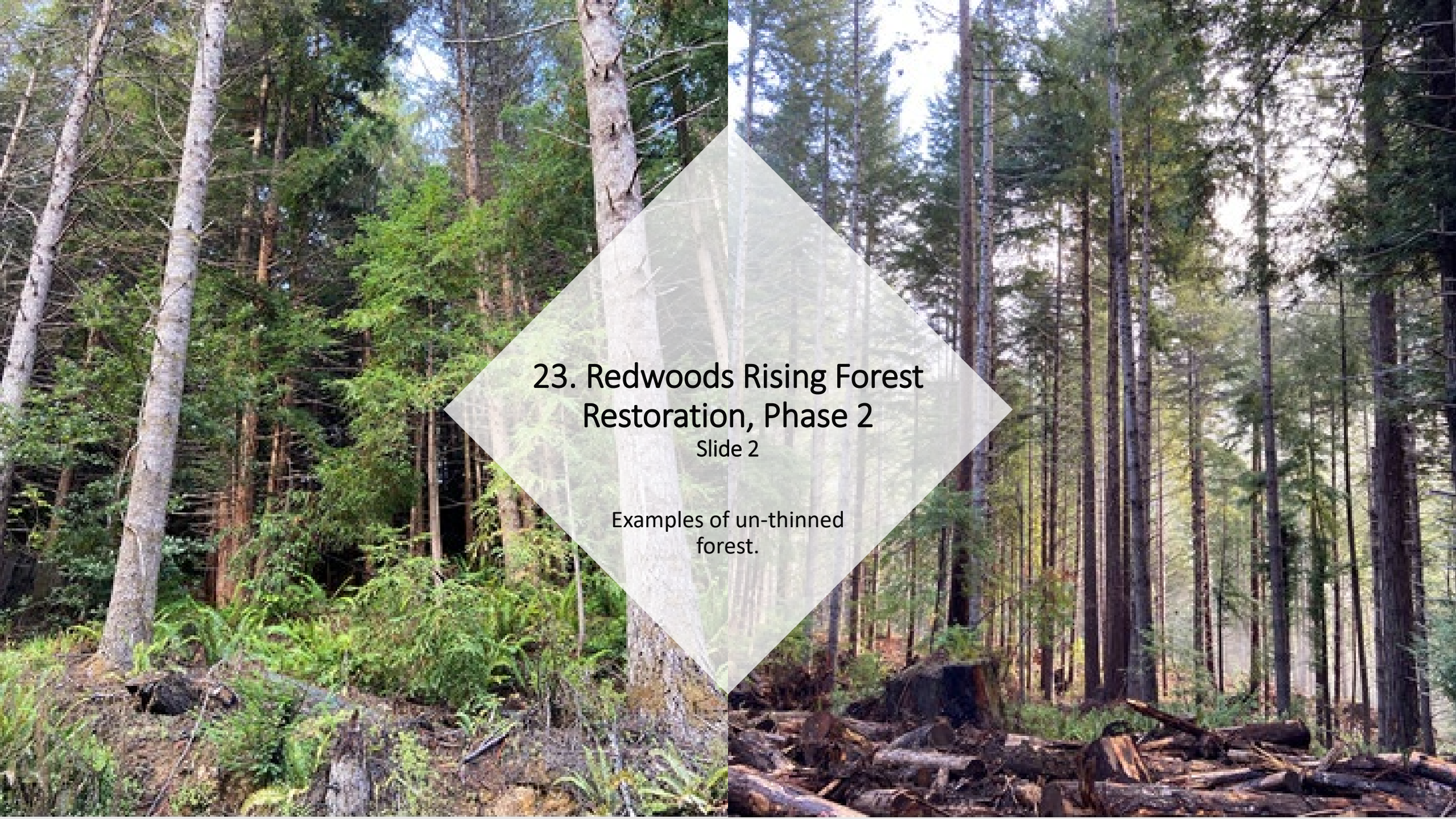




23. Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 1

Example of thinned forest on right and
un-thinned forest on left.



23. Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 2

Examples of un-thinned
forest.

23. Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 3

State Parks personnel at
forest monitoring point.





23. Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 4

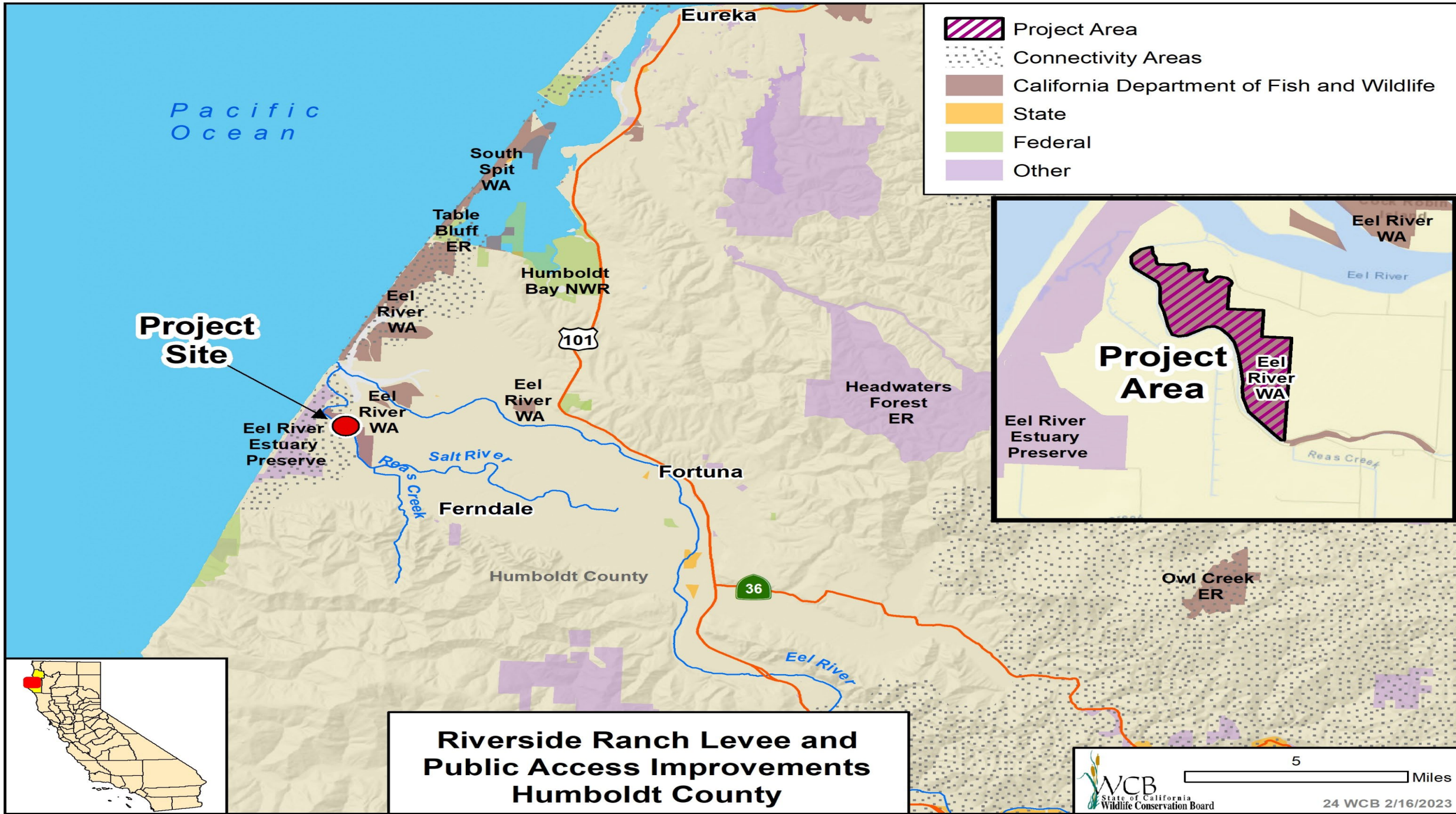
- Left: Road removal site immediately following restoration.
- Right: Road removal site several years after restoration.



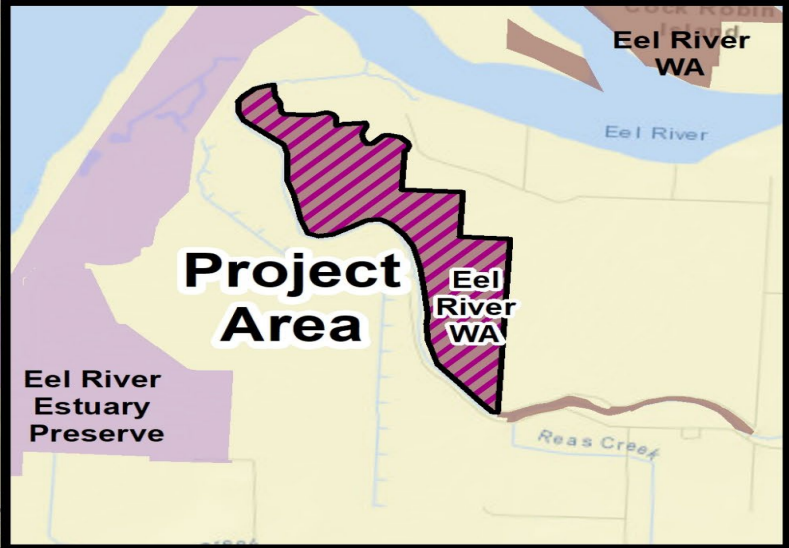
23. Redwoods Rising Forest Restoration, Phase 2

Slide 5

- Left: State Parks and Save the Redwoods League staff at Greater Mill Creek
- Right: National Parks & Save the Redwoods League staff at Greater Prairie Creek.



-  Project Area
-  Connectivity Areas
-  California Department of Fish and Wildlife
-  State
-  Federal
-  Other



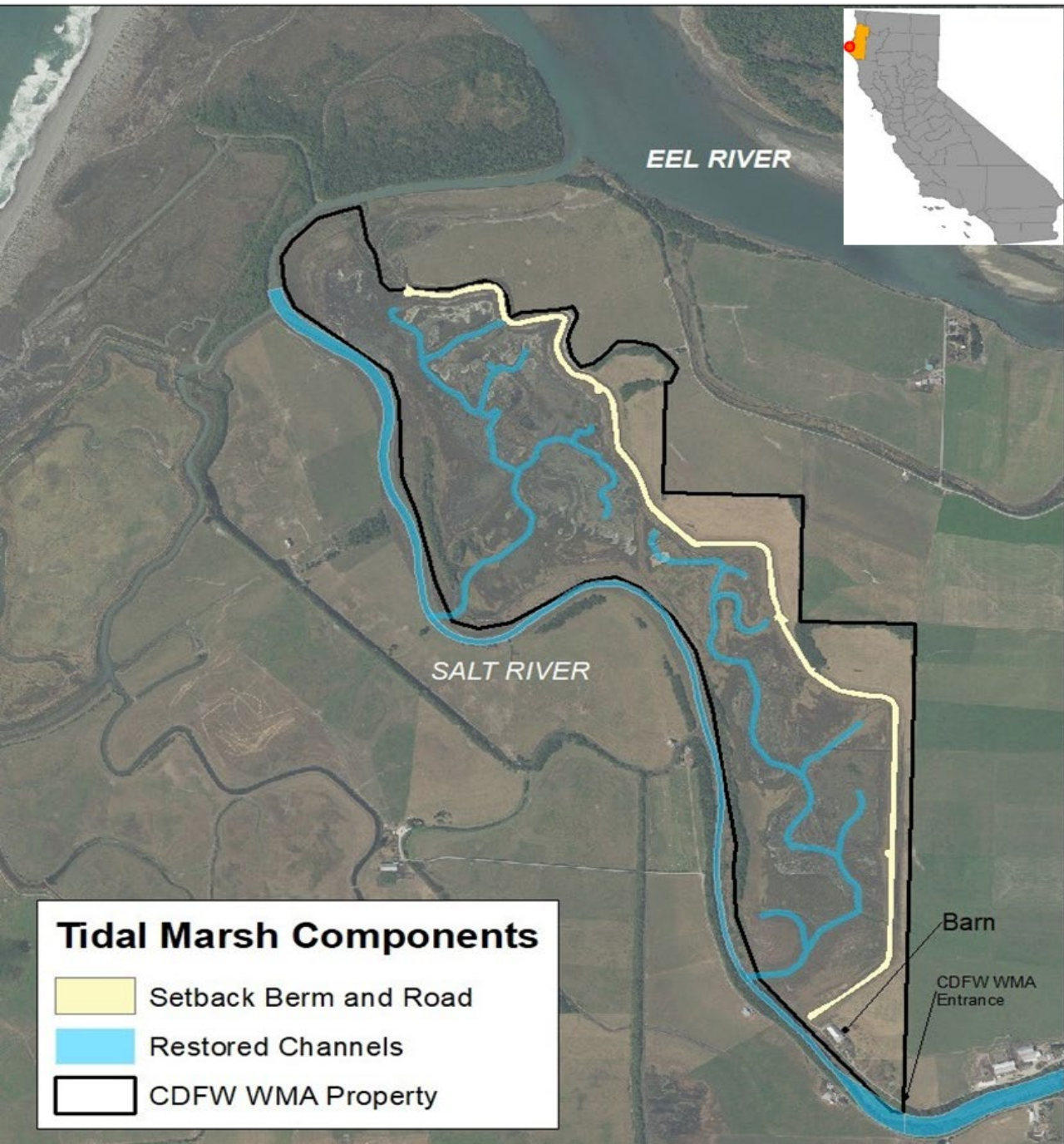
**Riverside Ranch Levee and
Public Access Improvements
Humboldt County**



24. Riverside Ranch Levee and Public Access Improvements

Slide 1

Riverside Ranch looking west



24. Riverside Ranch Levee and Public Access Improvements

Slide 2

Project map of previous restoration effort.



24. Riverside Ranch Levee and Public Access Improvements

Slide 3

Riverside Ranch, post flood event –
March 2016



24. Riverside Ranch Levee and Public Access Improvements

Slide 4

Salt River and tidal slough channels for boating access.

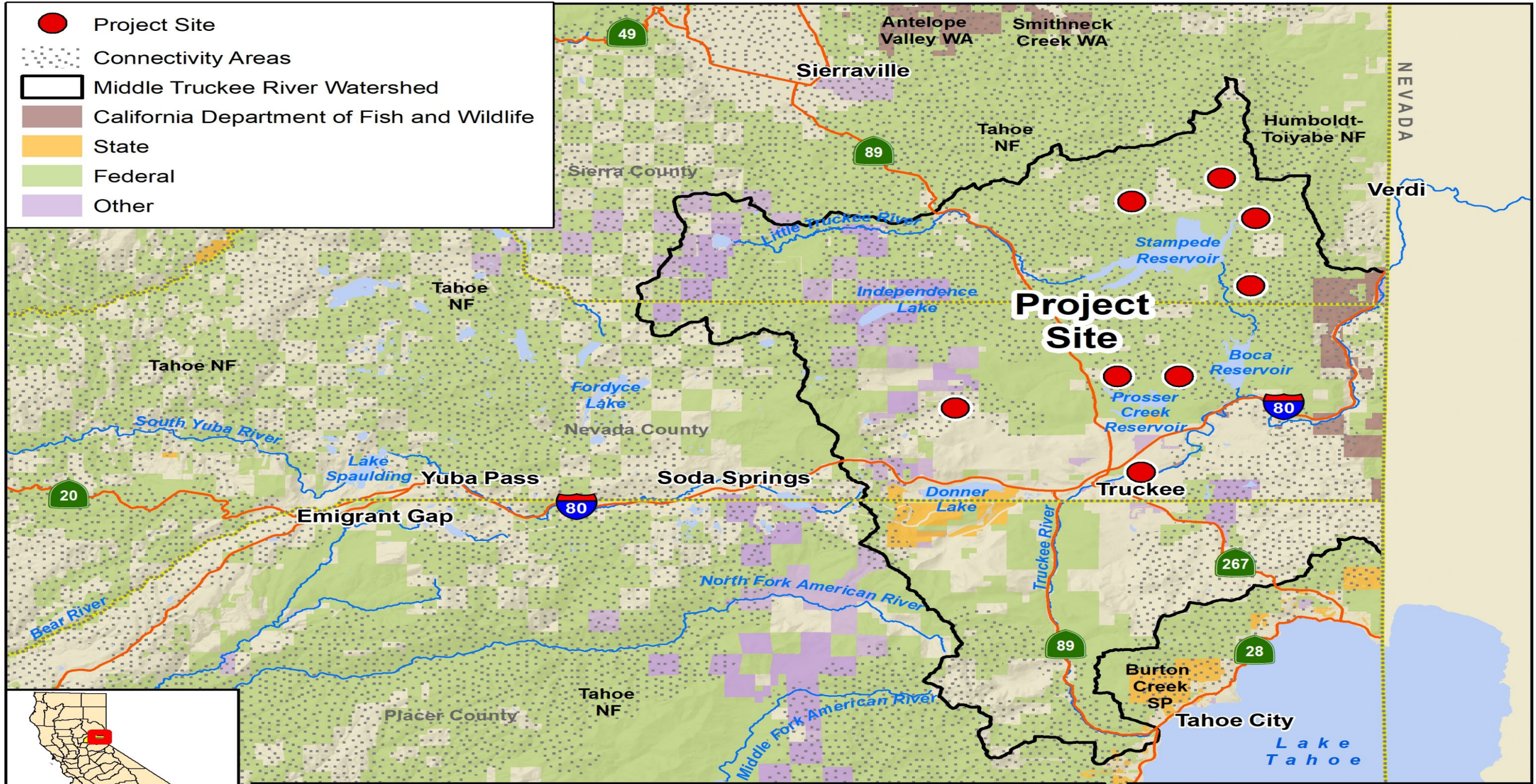


24. Riverside Ranch Levee and Public Access Improvements

Slide 5

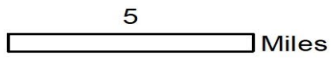
Public access to path on setback berm shown adjacent to existing barn.

-  Project Site
-  Connectivity Areas
-  Middle Truckee River Watershed
-  California Department of Fish and Wildlife
-  State
-  Federal
-  Other



Truckee River Watershed Resiliency Planning Nevada and Sierra Counties





25 WCB 2/16/2023



25. Truckee River Watershed Resiliency Planning

Slide 1

Old gabion structure in channel, Upper Hoke Meadow.

A group of five people, three men and two women, are standing in a meadow. The meadow is characterized by a significant amount of bank erosion, with exposed dark soil. The vegetation is a mix of green grasses and sagebrush, with some coniferous trees encroaching from the left side. The background shows a line of trees under a cloudy sky, with power lines visible overhead.

25. Truckee River Watershed Resiliency Planning

Slide 2

Bank erosion, along with encroachment of sagebrush and conifers, in Upper Hoke Meadow

A wide, gravel-paved road stretches from the foreground into the distance, bisecting a large, open meadow. The meadow is filled with tall, dry grasses in shades of yellow and brown. In the background, a dense line of evergreen trees, likely pines or firs, forms a dark silhouette against a cloudy, overcast sky. The overall scene is a natural, rural landscape.

25. Truckee River Watershed Resiliency Planning

Slide 3

Road bisecting Prosser Boca Meadow

25. Truckee River Watershed Resiliency Planning

Slide 4

Crossing impacting stream
and meadow function, Euer
Valley Creek

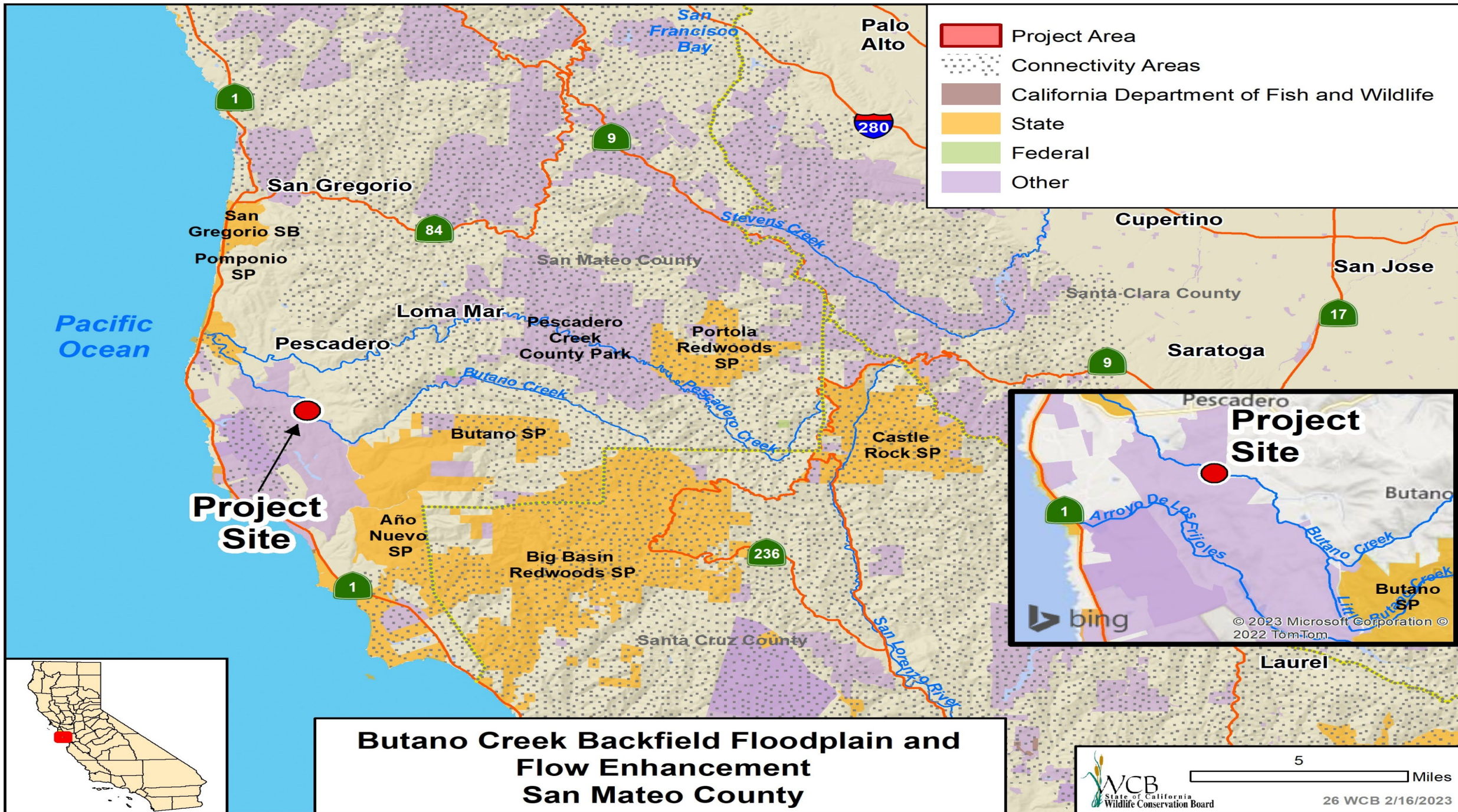


A photograph showing a stream crossing structure. The structure consists of several large, corrugated metal pipes (culverts) laid out in a row, supported by wooden planks. The pipes are partially submerged in a stream. The surrounding area is a lush, green meadow with tall grasses and some shrubs. The sky is not visible, but the lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

25. Truckee River Watershed Resiliency Planning

Slide 5

Crossing impacting stream and meadow function, Euer Valley Creek



- Project Area
- Connectivity Areas
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other

Project Site

Project Site

**Butano Creek Backfield Floodplain and Flow Enhancement
San Mateo County**

5 Miles

26 WCB 2/16/2023



26. Butano Creek Backfield Floodplain and Flow Enhancement

Slide 1



Left: View from the entrance to the backfield looking West
Above: View from Butano Creek looking South across the field

Credit San Mateo RCD.



**26. Butano Creek
Backfield Floodplain and
Flow Enhancement
Slide 2**

**Left: Existing pond, viewed through
trees and vegetation.**

**Right: View from the pond looking
towards Butano Creek.**

Credit: San Mateo RCD

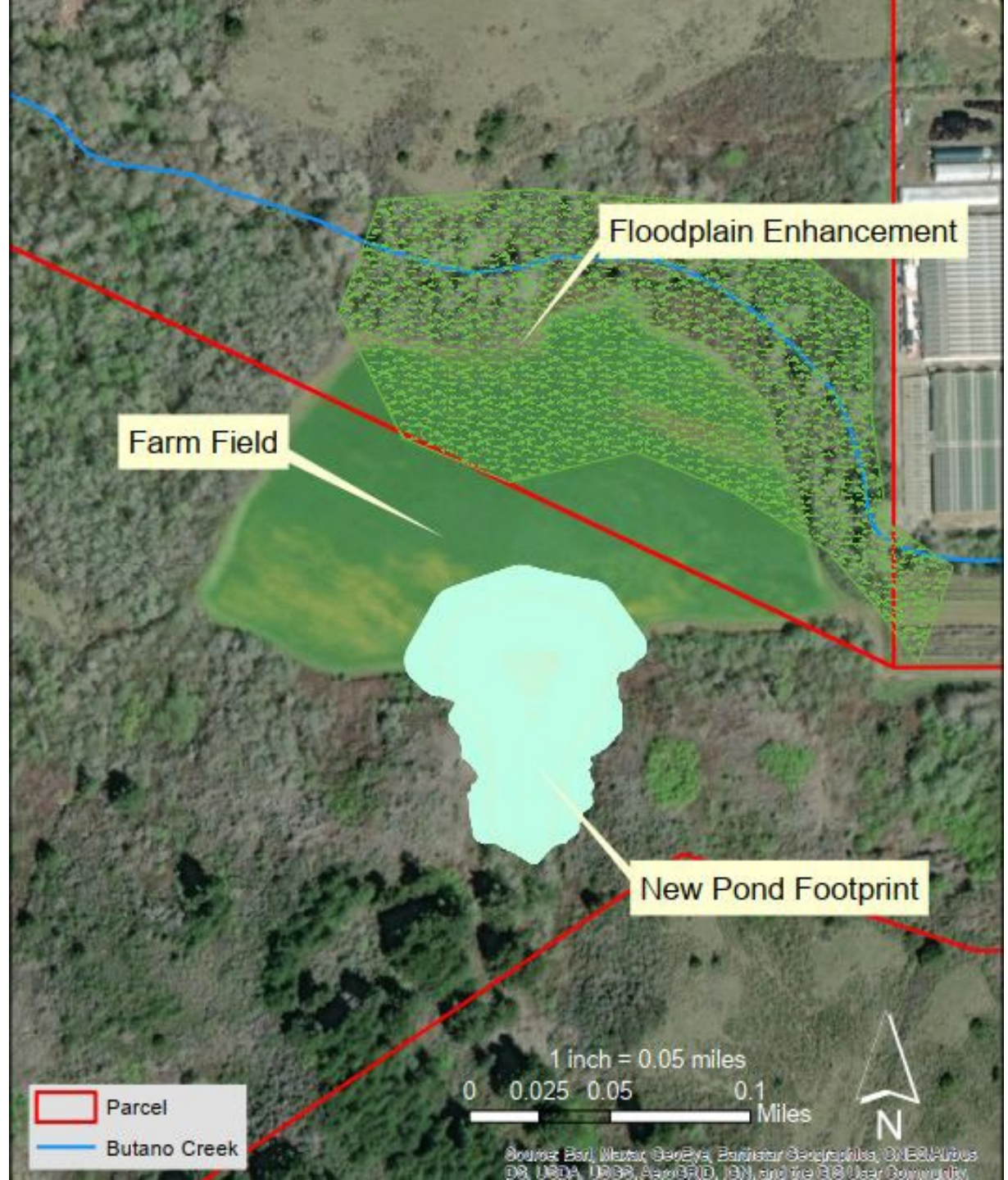
26. Butano Creek Backfield Floodplain and Flow Enhancement

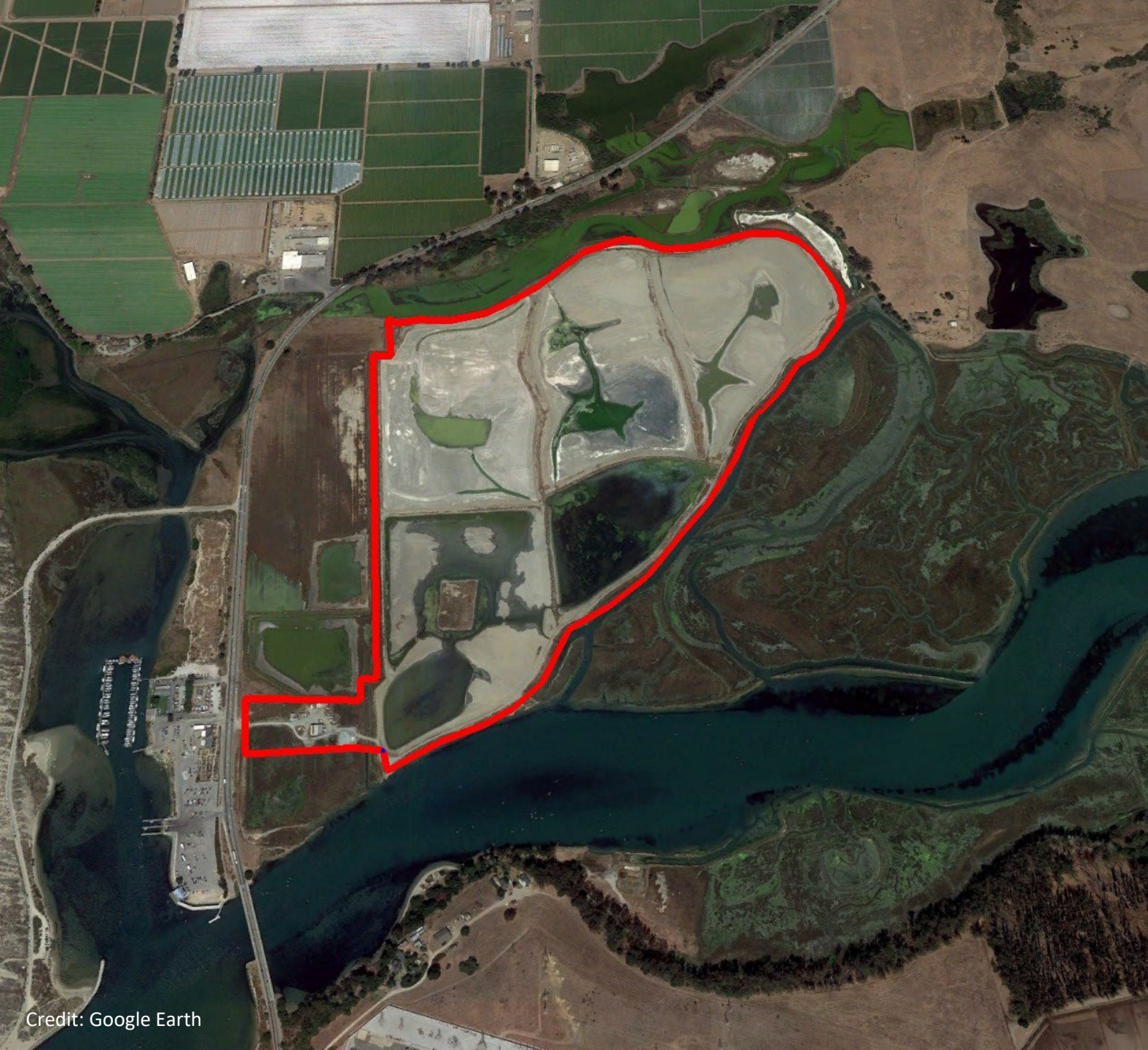
Slide 3

Project Goals:

- Improve dry season conditions in Butano Creek
- Bolster habitat for steelhead and coho salmon, other listed species
- Restore more natural sediment transport dynamics in Butano Creek
- Provide a more secure water supply for irrigation while protecting instream flow

Aerial view showing proposed project footprints.
Credit: San Mateo RCD





27. Moss Landing Wildlife
Area Shoreline Resilience
and Habitat Enhancement
Slide 1



Photo Courtesy of C. Eyster



Photo Courtesy of J. Erbes



Photo Courtesy of J. Cann

27. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Shoreline Resilience and Habitat Enhancement

Slide 2



27. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Shoreline Resilience and Habitat Enhancement

Slide 3

From left to right:

- Looking east along trail on existing perimeter levee, Elkhorn Slough (right) and managed ponds (left).
- Looking west at the western viewing platform and Elkhorn Slough.
- Looking east at eastern viewing platform from levee trail.



27. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Shoreline Resilience and Habitat Enhancement

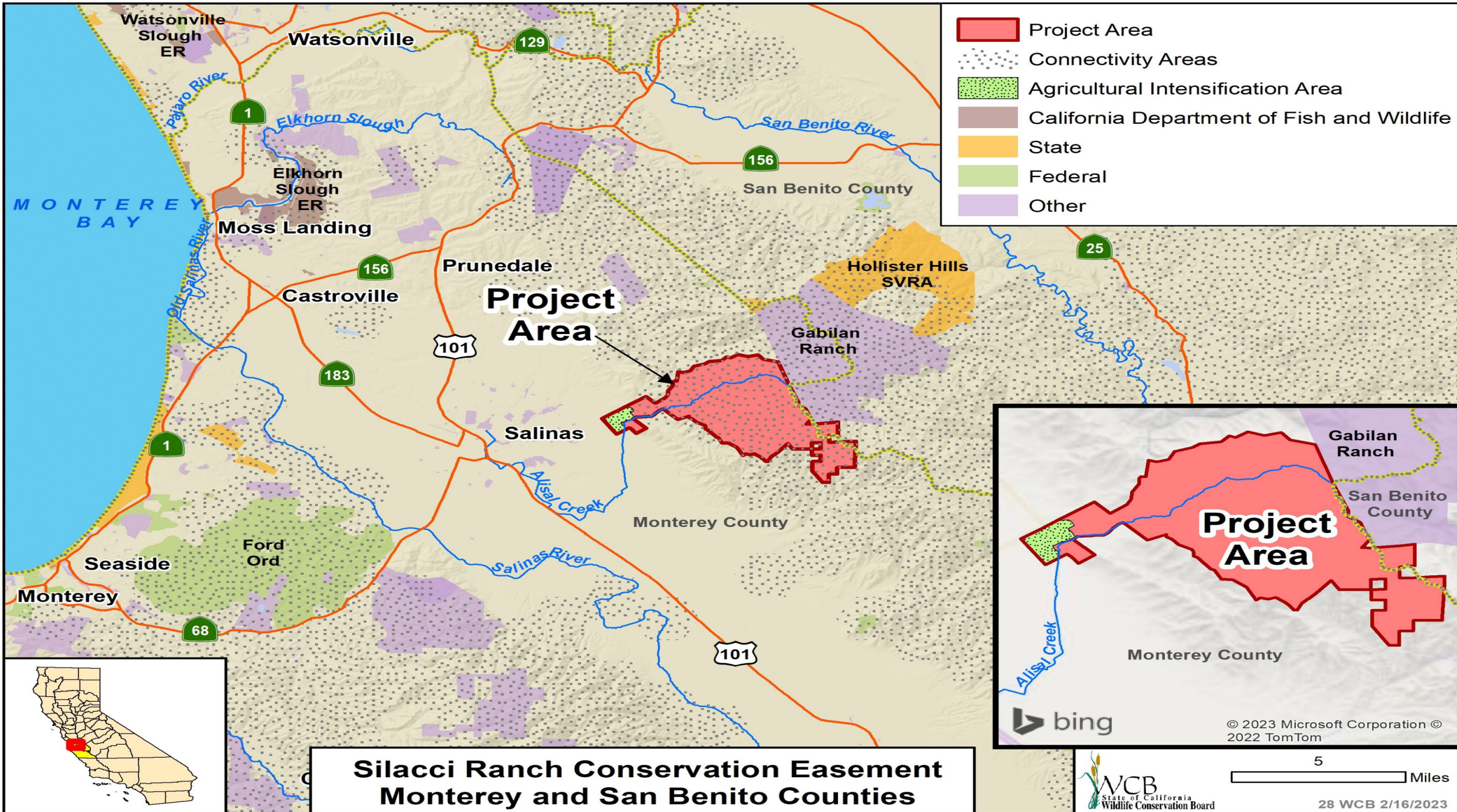
Slide 4

Series of Google Earth Images showing progression of Elkhorn Slough bank erosion (May 2012 [left], Sept. 2017 [center], and June 2022 [left])



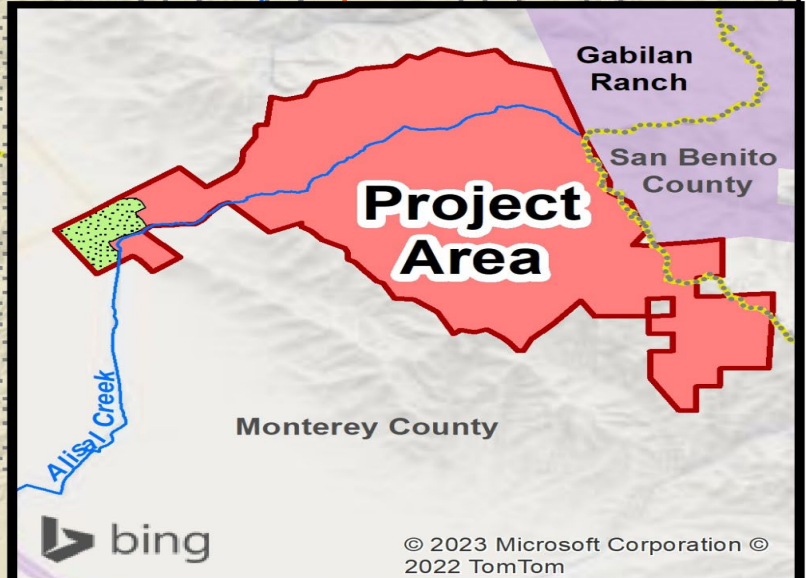
27. Moss Landing Wildlife Area Shoreline Resilience and Habitat Enhancement

Slide 6



- Project Area
- Connectivity Areas
- Agricultural Intensification Area
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other

**Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement
Monterey and San Benito Counties**

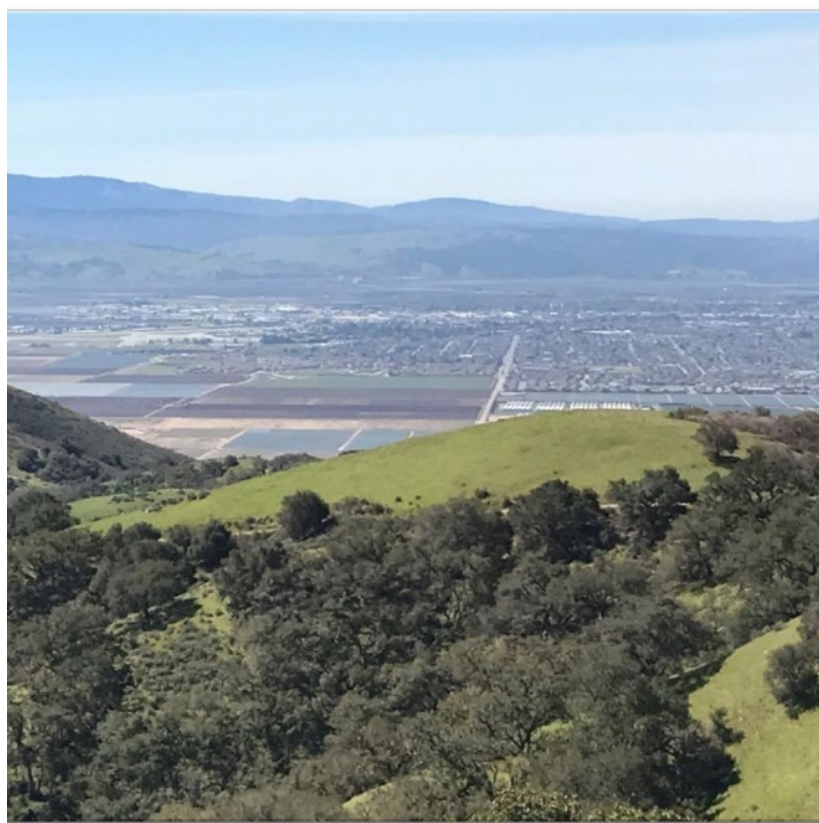


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5
Miles





28. Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 1

View from Silacci Ranch west to the farmland and development of Salinas Valley. Photograph courtesy of California Rangeland Trust.

A photograph of a coastal oak woodland. The image shows several trees with thick, gnarled branches covered in bright green moss. The background is a dense canopy of green leaves, creating a soft, dappled light effect. The overall scene is lush and vibrant.

28. Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 2

Coastal Oak Woodland
habitat on Silacci Ranch.
Photograph courtesy of
California Rangeland Trust.

28. Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 3

-
- California Falselupine (*Thermopsis macrophylla*), a special status species, in the Montane Hardwood-Conifer habitat in the eastern area of Silacci Ranch. Photograph courtesy of California Rangeland Trust.





28. Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 4

One of the 11 stock ponds on Silacci Ranch. Photograph courtesy of California Rangeland Trust.

28. Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement

Slide 5

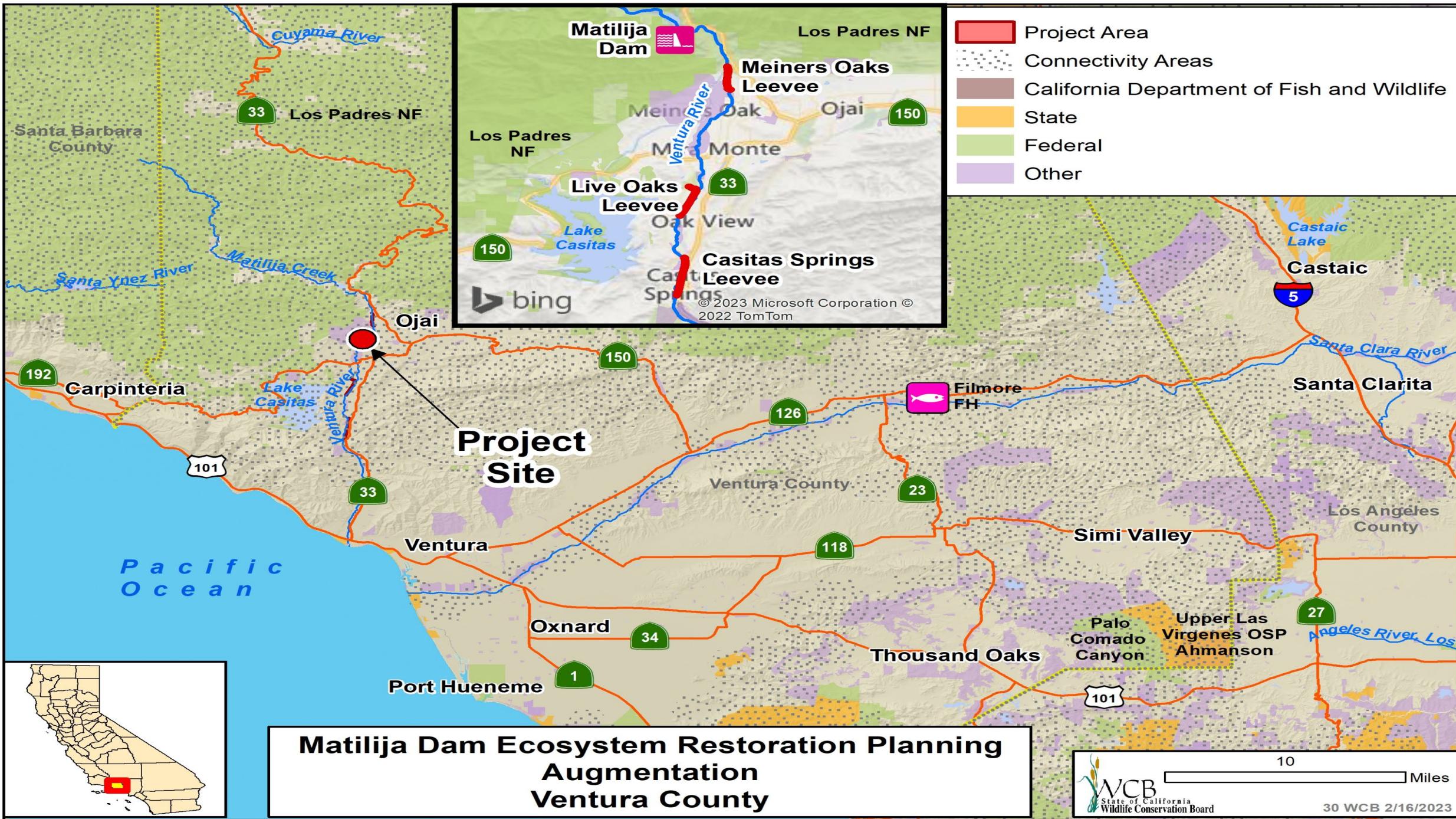
Example of a wildlife crossing gate on Silacci Ranch. Photograph courtesy of California Rangeland Trust.





29. Fay Creek Ranch

Withdrawn from
consideration at this time.



30. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Planning, Augmentation

Slide 1



Matilija Dam

- Volume of 7,000 acre-feet
- Intended for water supply, flood protection and recreational use
- Less than 150 acre-feet remaining
- Concrete is deteriorating from alkali-silica reaction



Trapped Sediment Behind Matilija Dam

30. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Planning, Augmentation

Slide 2

- Southern California Steelhead
 - National Marine Fisheries Service priority recovery action
 - CDFW Fish Passage Barrier Priority List
- Wildlife Habitat
 - 65 special-status wildlife species
 - 54 special-status plant species
 - Six sensitive natural communities
- Sediment Transportation/Beach Nourishment



30. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Planning, Augmentation

Slide 3



Ventura River Watershed

Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (MDERP)

- WCB allocated \$5.2 million in May 2020
 - Matilija Dam removal final designs
 - Final designs for modification of three downstream levees
- 65% designs and environmental review
 - CDFW grant shortfall
 - Only progressed to CEQA scoping
- Augmentation
 - CEQA initial studies through EIR
 - Dedicated CDFW scientist

30. Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Planning, Augmentation

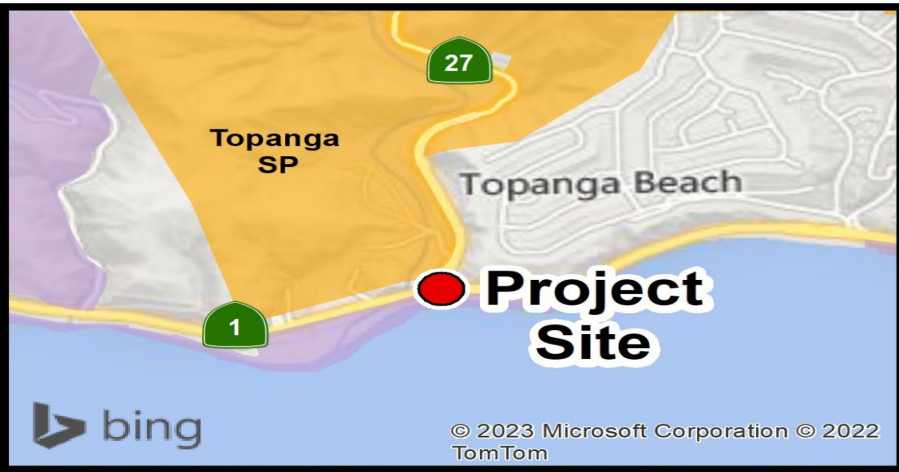
Slide 4

Project Benefits

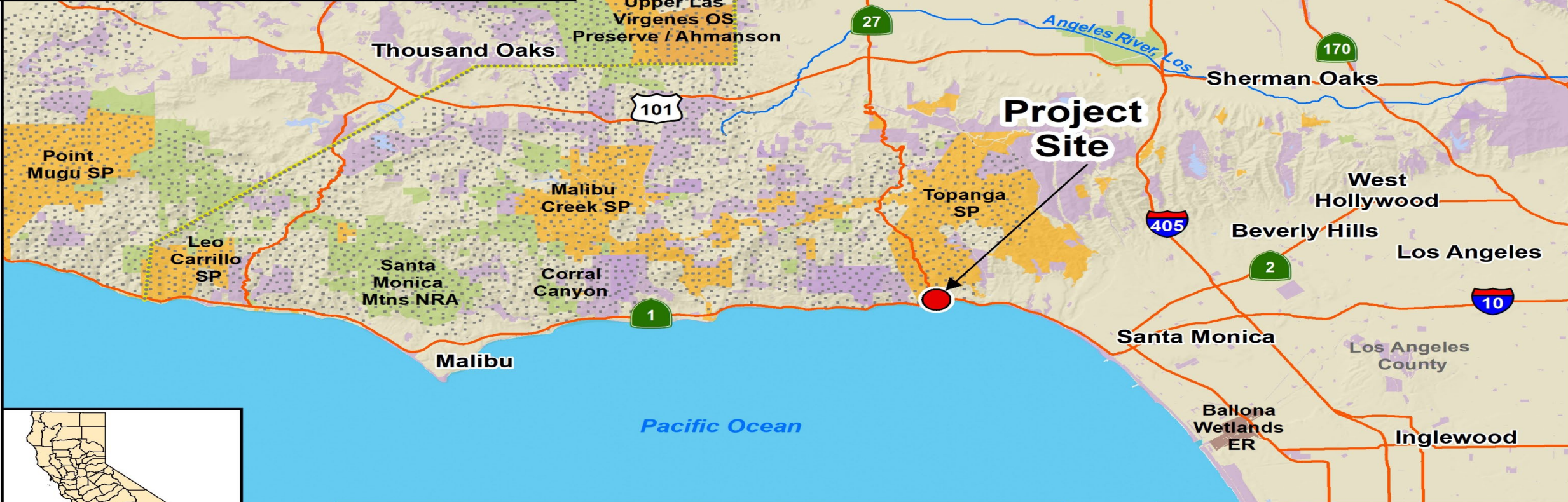
- 17.3 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat
- 2,268 acres of varied riparian habitats
- Restoration of sediment transport
 - Ventura River delta
 - Local beaches



Ventura River



- Project Site
- Connectivity Areas
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- State
- Federal
- Other



Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning Los Angeles County

WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board

5 Miles

31 WCB 2/16/2023

31. Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning

Slide 1

Topanga Lagoon

- Mouth of the third largest watershed that drains into the Santa Monica Bay
- Maintains a natural hydrologic regime
 - Supports three native fish species
 - Over 20 native amphibians
- Population of endangered tidewater goby
- Only watershed left in the Santa Monica Bay that supports southern steelhead.
- Coastal wetlands



Topanga Lagoon

31. Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning

Slide 2



Topanga Creek Watershed

31. Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning

Slide 3

- Southern California Steelhead
 - Core 1 population
 - National Marine Fisheries Service priority recovery action
- Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) bridge constrains flood flows
 - Localized flooding due to obstructions
 - Velocity barrier
- Federally listed tidewater goby
 - Relies upon brackish habitat
 - PCH bridge project reduced lagoon size



Southern California steelhead trout



Tidewater goby

31. Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning

Slide 4

Project Goals



PCH Bridge at Topanga Lagoon

- Expanding the lagoon from 0.56 acres to between 7-10 acres
 - Replacing the 79 ft long PCH culvert bridge with a 200 ft main span
 - Removing legacy fill placed in the Lagoon
- Restoring and enlarging the floodplain/beach area
 - 29 degraded acres to 35-36 restored acres
- Improving water quality by reducing wastewater impacts
- Increasing community and ecosystem resiliency to sea level rise

31. Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning

Slide 5

- Budget Act of 2022

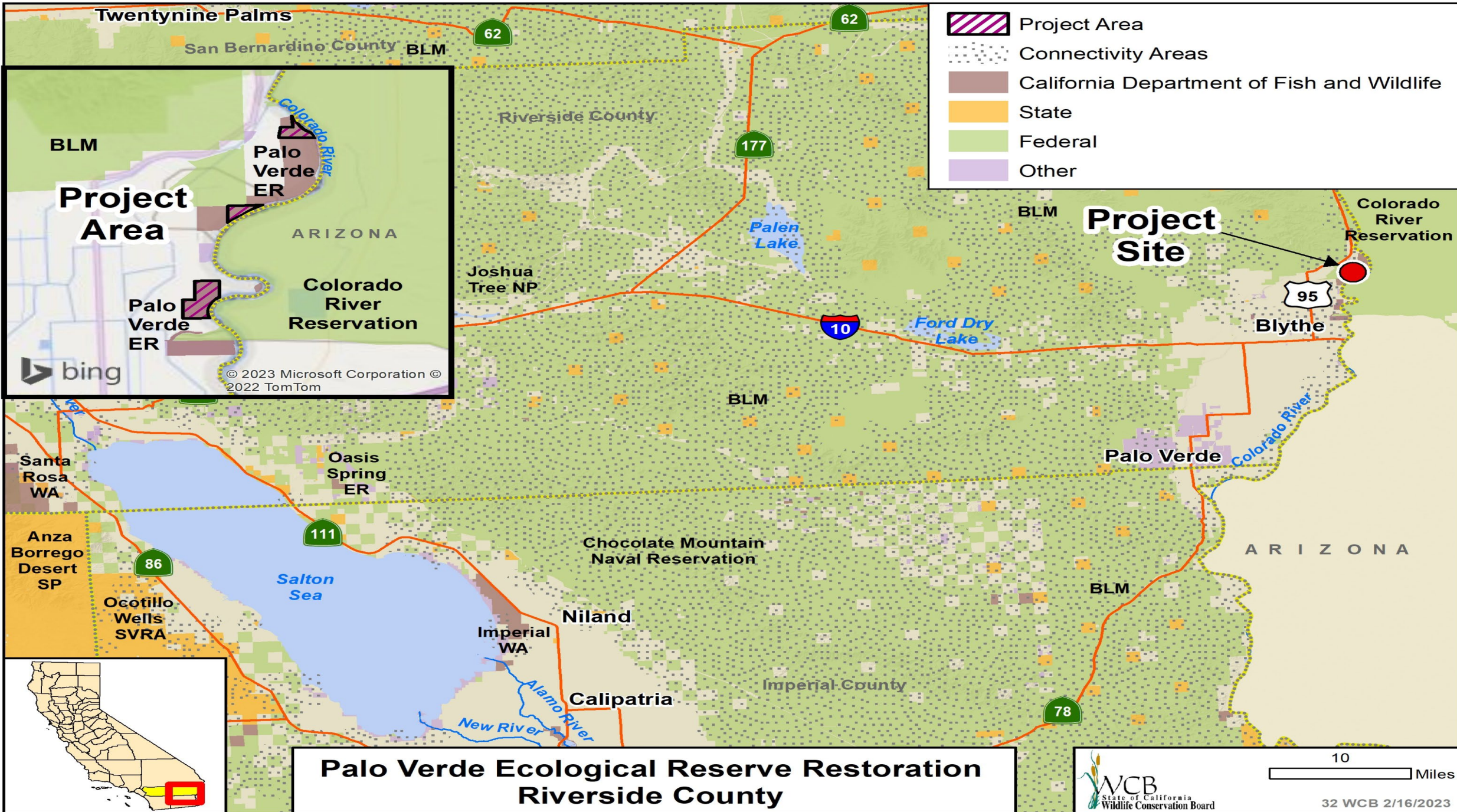
*To be allocated by the Wildlife Conservation Board, \$15,000,000 to the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains to assist in the recovery of the federally endangered southern steelhead trout (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*) found in the Santa Monica Mountains with habitat restoration, genetic preservation, and hatcheries.*

Project Elements

- Engineering reports and technical studies
- Preferred project alternative
 - Meets the needs of Caltrans, State Parks, and the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors.
- CEQA final certification
- Caltrans Project Approval and Environmental Document (PAED)



PCH Bridge at Topanga Lagoon



Project Area (hatched pattern)

Connectivity Areas (dotted pattern)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (brown)

State (orange)

Federal (light green)

Other (light purple)

Project Area

BLM

Palo Verde ER

Colorado River

ARIZONA

Colorado River Reservation

Palo Verde ER

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Project Site

Colorado River Reservation

Blythe

SR 95

**Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration
Riverside County**

10 Miles

WCB
State of California
Wildlife Conservation Board

32 WCB 2/16/2023



32. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration

Slide 1

- Palo Verde Ecological Reserve sits on the bank of the Lower Colorado River



32. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration

Slide 2

Wetland unit at the Reserve



32. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration

Slide 3

Failing ditch that was patched
with a pipe as a short term fix.



32. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration

Slide 4

- Water delivery ditch with caving concrete sides.



32. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration

Slide 5

Green feed unit planted with wheat.



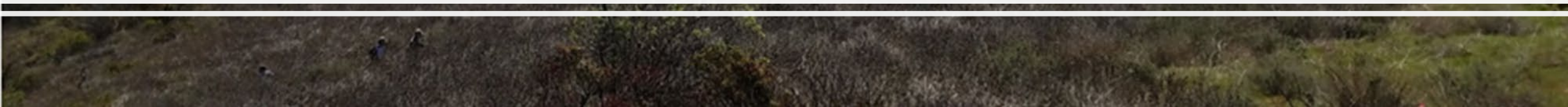
32. Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration

Slide 6

Green feed unit that
currently has no water
supply.



33. Subcommittee Recommendations on DAC Definitions



Subcommittee Recommendations on DAC Definitions

- Per the Budget Act of 2022 (AB 179), at least 40% of the Nature-Based Solutions funding must be awarded to projects and programs adjacent to or directly benefiting
 - Climate-vulnerable communities,
 - Disadvantaged communities (DAC), or
 - CA Native American tribes
- Board Subcommittee was formed to define “climate-vulnerable communities” and “DAC”
 - Subcommittee reviewed WCB project data and existing climate-vulnerable and DAC definitions

34. Executive Director's Report

Slide 1

State of California
Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Wildlife

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo: Ackerson Meadow



34. Executive Director's Report

Slide 2

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.



35. Executive Session (Not open to the Public)



Kramer Ranch



Stay Safe and Healthy, Enjoy the Rest of Your Day!

Next Board meeting – May 25, 2023, 10:00 am – CNRA HQ

Kramer Ranch