

Attachment 3:

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Summaries
El Dorado Wildlife Area October 2022;
Peace Valley Ecological Reserve June 2023**

**Land Management Summary for
El Dorado Wildlife Area
October 2022**

Description

The proposed El Dorado Wildlife Area (EDWA) is located in the Upper Cosumnes River watershed. The property consists of 1,821 acres near the city of Latrobe. It is surrounded by private lands which include rural development and agriculture. The property is accessed via South Shingle Road and the southern property boundary follows the Cosumnes River for approximately 0.7 miles. The proposed Wildlife Area is planned to expand to additional units in southwestern El Dorado County with a focus on protecting wildlife movement corridors in the watershed. The initial area of 1,821 acres will be referred to as the Ervin Ranch Unit.

This property is located within the Upper Cosumnes River Basin Conceptual Area Protection Plan, which helps guide efforts to preserve an intact, landscape-scale ecosystem, running the entire 80-mile length of the Cosumnes River. The acquisition purpose was to provide protection and improvement of wildlife habitat, provide access for wildlife viewing related recreation, and contribute to a larger conservation effort in the watershed. The first acquisition for the property was 1,781 acres, which was acquired in 2018 for \$9,550,000 by the American River Conservancy with the California Wildlife Conservation Board, with a condition that the property to be transferred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In 2019, CDFW acquired a 40-acre inholding on the property for \$140,000.

The property includes blue oak foothill pine woodland, chamise-redshank chaparral, valley foothill riparian, riverine, and annual grassland habitat types. Wildlife and plant sensitive species that may be present, based upon their habitat needs and documented occurrence in the area, include: Central Valley steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), Central Valley Drainage Hardhead (*Mylopharodon conocephalus*), giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), North American porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), Sanford's arrowhead (*Sagittaria sanfordii*), Bisbee Peak rushrose (*Crocantemum scoparium*), Greene's legenera (*Legenera limosa*), and Tuolumne button-celery (*Eryngium pinnatisectum*). Many other native species of mammals, waterfowl, songbirds, reptiles, and amphibians also occur, including game species such as mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*), and California quail (*Callipepla californica*). A baseline inventory is currently being conducted.

Management Objectives

The primary purpose of acquiring property to create the EDWA is to provide protection and improvement of wildlife habitat, provide access for wildlife viewing related recreation, and contribute to a larger conservation effort in the upper Cosumnes River watershed.

Major management objectives for EDWA include:

1. Conserve biodiversity, with an emphasis on threatened species and species of special concern;
2. Provide habitat for fish and wildlife populations in the Cosumnes Valley region;
3. Protect the riparian corridor for wildlife movement and overall landscape connectivity;
4. Protect water quality of the Cosumnes River Watershed;
5. Provide nature-based public recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing;
6. Align management of the landscape with California's climate goals, including the 30 x 30 initiative.

Reason for Proposed Added Regulation

The addition of the EDWA to Section 551(b), Title 14, California Code of Regulations clarifies that the primary management purpose of the property is conservation, preservation, and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat as well as providing opportunities for public use in a manner that is compatible with the primary purpose, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Proposed Regulatory Language: Designations and Site-Specific Regulations

§551. Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas.

(b) Wildlife areas owned and operated by the department:

El Dorado Wildlife Area (El Dorado County), including the Ervin Ranch Management Unit (Type C)

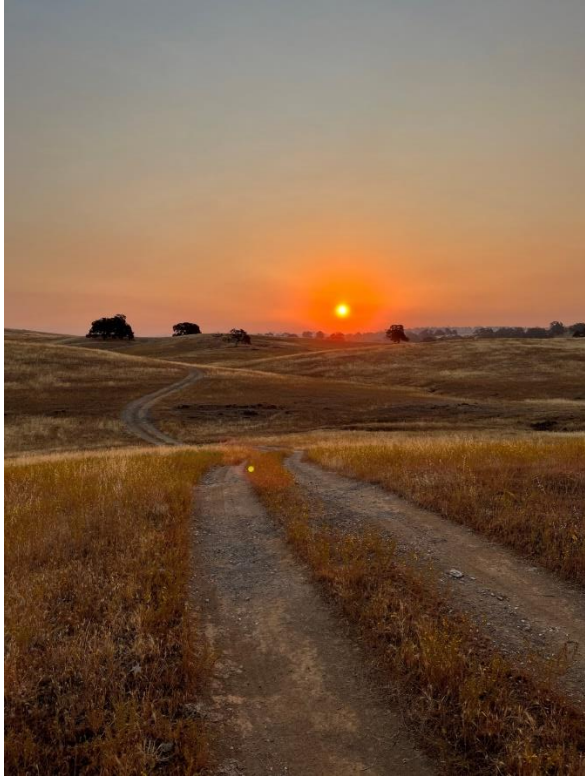
(j) Bicycles

Allowed only on designated trails and roads. No organized events and group size shall not exceed 8 bicycles.

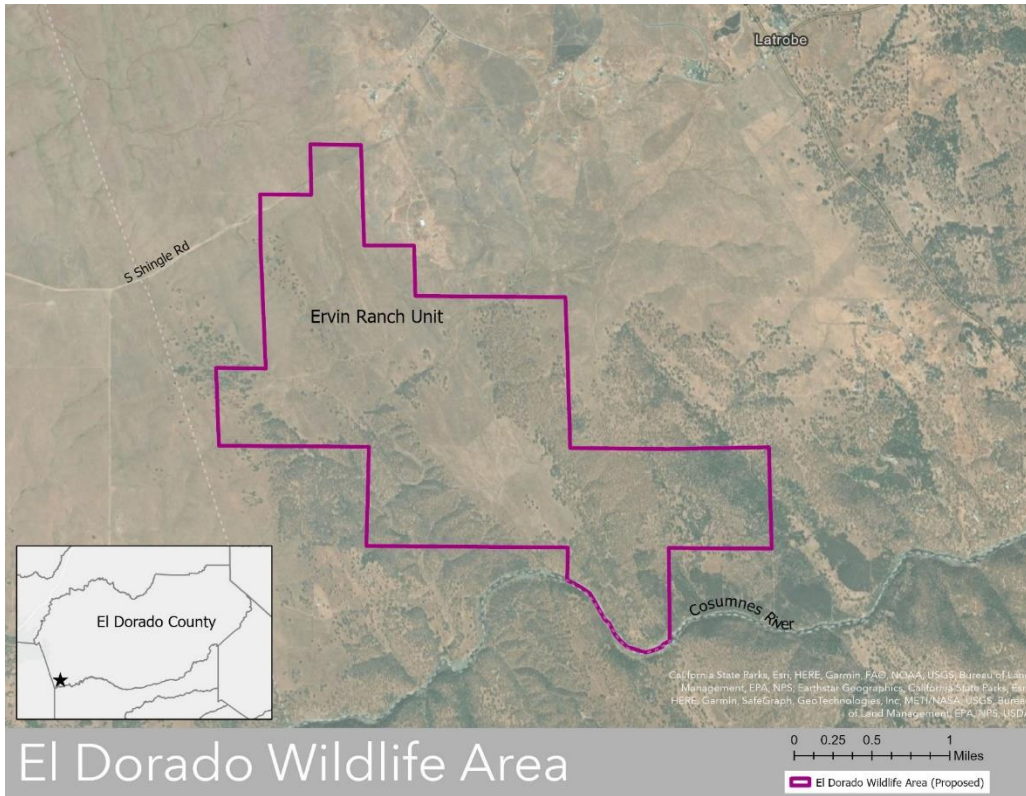
(l) Wildlife Areas with Boat and/or Horse and Pack Stock Restrictions:

Horse trailer parking is permitted within the designated parking area when space is available. Allowed only on designated trails and roads. No organized events and group size shall not exceed 8 horses.

Images



Map



Land Management Summary for Peace Valley Ecological Reserve June 2023

Description

The property proposed to become the Peace Valley Ecological Reserve (PVER) is south of the town of Gorman and west of Quail Lake Restoration Area in Los Angeles County and includes approximately 909 acres. Vegetation types within the Reserve consist of chaparral, sage scrub, riparian, oak woodland (including large Tucker oaks) and grassland habitat. Historically, the land had been owned and managed by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as open space and State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure. The land is adjacent to US Forest Service property where public access for hunting and shooting has been permitted. Currently, the property is managed for wildlife and their habitats, research, and hunting. Bakersfield cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*), a federal and state endangered species, may occur on the property. The property does not contain any designated critical habitat for federally listed species.

The property consists of three primary areas. The largest, approximately 648 acres, extends up into mountainous terrain; the smallest, approximately 20 acres, is a somewhat linear parcel located along Interstate 5; and the third parcel, located almost four miles south of the other two parcels, is approximately 233 acres, extends into mountainous terrain, and encompasses an area known as Coyote Canyon, a somewhat large braided ephemeral arroyo. These properties were transferred in fee title to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) August 23, 1983. The property also contains power transmission and oil pipeline easements.

Management Objectives

The property was acquired by to CDFW settle a DWR mitigation requirement for construction of the SWP and to conserve and protect habitat areas.

The major management objectives include:

- **Endangered Species/Critical Habitats:** To protect, restore, and enhance native habitats, aid the recovery of federally and state listed endangered and threatened species.
- **Connectivity:** Maintain/provide habitat linkage and migration corridors for wildlife in the adjacent habitats.
- **Biodiversity:** To protect and manage the woodlands, arroyos, grasslands, and upland habitats representative of the biological diversity of the area.
- **Wildfire Resiliency:** To protect and manage the habitat to provide resiliency against wildfire and to reduce wildfire hazard along the wildland-urban interface through weed management and fuel management.
- **Amend subsection 630(d) Ecological Reserves with Hunting as a Designated Public Use:** Once designated, CDFW will work to identify portions of the property

that can be opened to the public with the intent of allowing additional access to Angeles National Forest.

- Amend subsection 630(h) Designated Closures and Restrictions on Ecological Reserves: Peace Valley Ecological Reserve will be closed to all visitor use/access until special hunting opportunities are identified as provided in subsection 630(d).

Reasons for proposed additions, deletions, or amendments to regulations

Based upon the purpose for which the subject property was acquired, CDFW recommends designating Peace Valley-DWR Mitigation-L.A. as Peace Valley Ecological Reserve as defined in California Fish and Game Code (FGC), sections 1580-1585. Designation as an Ecological Reserve will bring the property under the protection of subsection 630(b), Title 14, California Code of Regulations, and clarifies that the primary management purpose of the property is the conservation of the sensitive natural resources. The designation also allows the property to be available for public use in a manner that is compatible with the primary purpose. Designation as an ecological reserve will also provide a critical tool for enforcement purposes. Additionally, designation of the PVER and adoption of specific regulations will provide additional opportunities for CDFW to seek funding and provide appropriate levels of managed public use while protecting open space habitat and native species.

CDFW would provide special hunt opportunities on a portion of the property. Hunters drawn for each hunt would be allowed to hunt the PVER on a specified date and location determined by CDFW. It is not anticipated that limited regulated hunting would unduly interfere with the primary purpose for which the PVER was acquired nor would hunting have an adverse impact on non-hunted species or their habitats due to the seasonality of hunting.

CDFW recommends that PVER should only be opened to limited public use for the following reasons: The proposed PVER is immediately adjacent to the SWP that provides drinking water to Southern California. The infrastructure located on the proposed PVER is a connecting section of the SWP and this is an area that is of significant importance to the transfer of water for the state. Public access in areas adjacent to the SWP can be allowed through the special hunt program and could also be provided through other CDFW educational programs on a limited basis. CDFW would retain sections of the property that allow access to the Angeles National Forest open to the public to provide that access.

Proposed Regulatory Language: Designations and Site Specific Regulations

§630. Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Ecological Reserves.

(b) Ecological Reserves owned and operated by the department

Peace Valley Ecological Reserve, Los Angeles County.

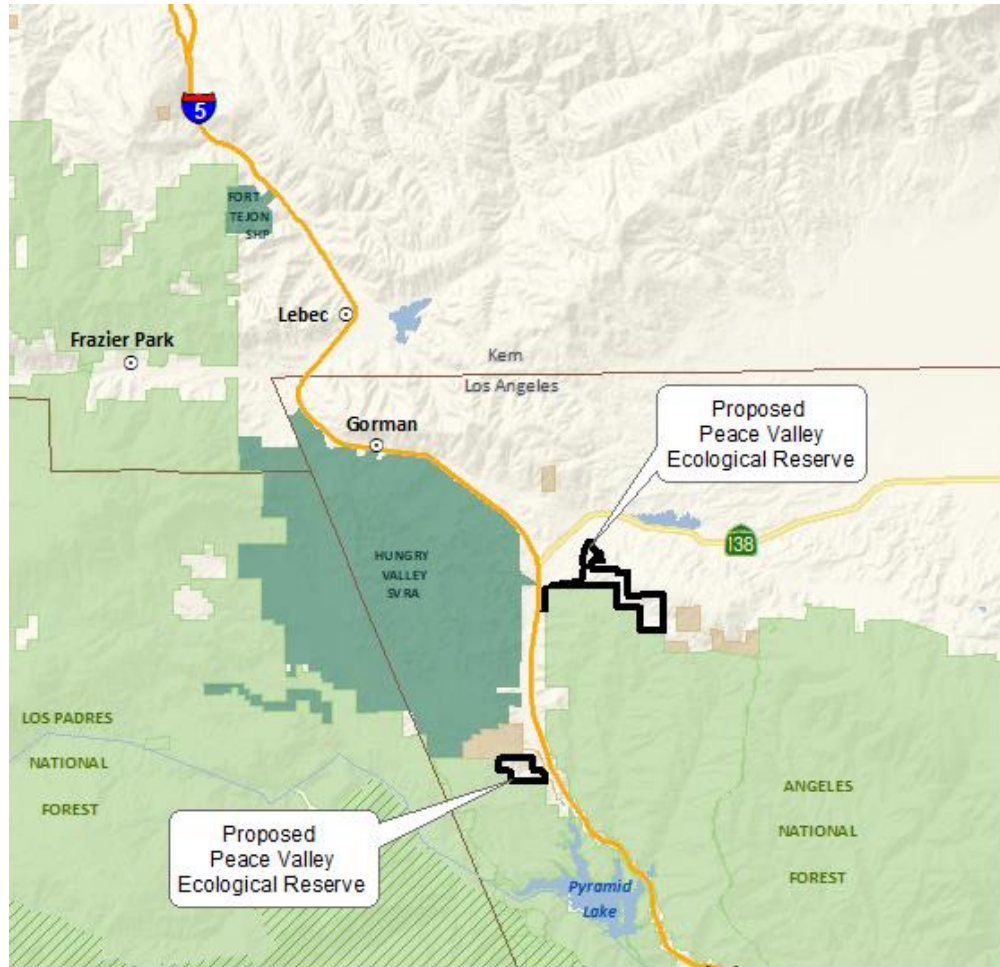
(d) Ecological Reserves with Hunting as a Designated Public Use

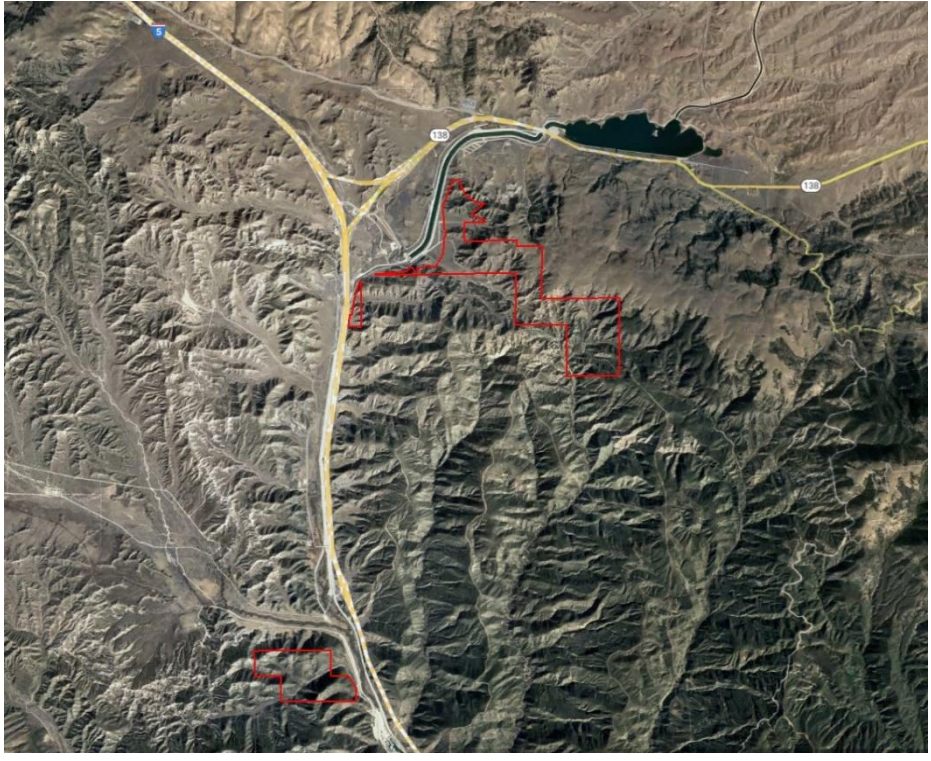
Peace Valley Ecological Reserve: Allowed only at such times and in the specific areas designated by the department.

(h) Designated Closures and Restrictions on Ecological Reserves

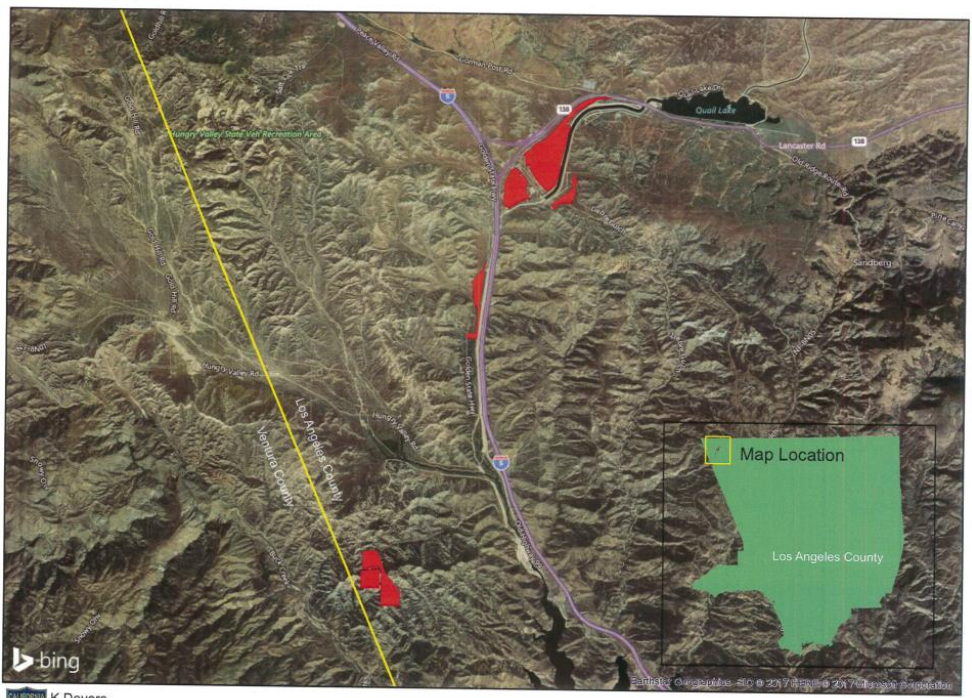
Peace Valley Ecological Reserve: Closed to all visitor use/access except for special hunting opportunities as provided in subsection 630(d) of these regulations.

Maps





In the map below, the red polygons include additional areas CDFW does not yet own but which have been offered to CDFW.



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CALIFORNIA
K.Devore
R5 GIS 2017

U-16B-03 w/addons

0 20 40 80 Miles
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Map