



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# **Wildlife Conservation Board**

## Year in Review | 2023



# THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD



*On behalf of the Wildlife Conservation Board, I am pleased to share the 2023 Year-In-Review and the numbers that exemplify the impactful and critical projects and partnerships that protect lands, restore habitats, and advance outdoor equity. 2023 was marked by incredible progress, but there is more work to do as we advance to the next chapter at WCB!*

Alina Bokde, Chair and Public Board Member



---

## BOARD MEMBERS

**ALINA BOKDE, Chair, Public Member**  
Appointed by the Governor

**CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Vice-Chair**  
Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife

**DAMON NAGAMI, Public Member**  
Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

**FRAN PAVLEY, Public Member**  
Appointed by the Governor

**KATHRYN PHILLIPS, Public Member**  
Appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules

**ERIC SKLAR, Member**  
President, Fish and Game Commission

**JOE STEPHENSHAW, Member**  
Director, Department of Finance



---

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Jennifer M. Norris, PhD

**LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Senator Nancy Skinner  
Senator Henry Stern  
Senator Vacant  
Assemblymember Steve Bennett  
Assemblymember Luz Rivas  
Assemblymember Rick Zbur



# ***Reflecting on a Year of Change***

A Message from WCB's Executive Director

2023 was a year of big changes at WCB. Last winter, John Donnelly announced his retirement after 17 years as Executive Director. His farewell celebration drew hundreds of partners and friends, a moving testament to the depth and breadth of his impact. Under John's leadership, WCB protected hundreds of thousands of acres of habitat and ensured that Californians everywhere can enjoy our state's incredible natural beauty.

In February, Rebecca Fris stepped in to support the Board and guide WCB. During her seven months as Acting ED, she hired our first ever Public Information Officer, reorganized the leadership team to create a Deputy Executive Director of Acquisitions, and lured John Walsh back to fill the role.



*Left to Right: Jennifer M. Norris, PhD, WCB Executive Director, John Donnelly, Former WCB Executive Director, and Rebecca Fris, WCB Deputy Executive Director, Restoration and Administration, at John Donnelly retirement gathering in West Sacramento, May 26, 2023. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*



In November, I started as the new ED with a full staff and giant shoes to fill. I arrived with a passion to meet California's commitment to conserve 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30) and deliver on the promise of outdoor equity. WCB made real progress in 2023, protecting and restoring nearly 100,000 acres, building new relationships with tribes, and supporting many new community-based organizations in their efforts to protect biodiversity and reconnect people and nature. I look forward to taking this work to the next level.

One thing is for certain, change is on the horizon for 2024. Accelerating biodiversity loss, climate driven weather disasters, and the State's budget challenges will demand our ongoing creativity and collaboration. But I know that, collectively, we will do amazing things! This report highlights a fraction of our accomplishments. I can't wait to see what 2024 brings and the incredible conservation we can deliver together.

Thank you to our partners past, present and future. Now let's get to it!

Jen



*Left: Jennifer M. Norris, PhD, WCB Executive Director, is sworn in by Chuck Bonham, CDFW Director, at a ceremony in Sacramento, November 1, 2023. Photo courtesy California Conservation Corps.*

*Right: Rebecca Fris, WCB Deputy Executive Director, Restoration and Administration, Jennifer M. Norris, PhD, WCB Executive Director, and John Walsh, WCB Deputy Executive Director, Land Acquisition, at Rana Creek Ranch commencement celebration, November 9, 2023. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*



## 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.*



## PART 1

---

# ***Building on Our Legacy, Charting a New Future***

The WCB was founded in 1947 for the purpose of conserving California's wildlife and providing wildlife-oriented recreation. Since that time, we have grown and evolved, staying true to our mission but responding to the times. In addition to fulfilling its original purposes, WCB is now also responsible for implementing a variety of legislative and voter-approved conservation programs statewide. We continue to protect wildlife areas and create opportunities to hunt, fish and birdwatch, but in recent years have added programs to address climate change, protect the desert, and placed a greater emphasis on ensuring all Californians have access to nature.

WCB delivers our mission through two main programs: Acquisitions and Development. Our Acquisitions Team acquires lands and property interests on behalf of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and partners with other State agencies, local governments, and non-profits to conserve land through fee-title purchase and conservation easements. Our Development Team works with partners to plan and implement projects that restore ecosystems, reconnect important habitat areas, and create opportunities for outdoor recreation. Our small but mighty staff works in every corner of the state and each one of California's terrestrial biomes.





*"The WCB had a remarkable 2023, delivering strong on our commitment to protect 30 percent of California by 2030 (30x30). I am especially pleased to see increased partnership with tribes and community organizations to protect biodiversity and expand access to nature across the state."*

- WADE CROWFOOT  
Natural Resources Secretary

## WCB IN 2023

**WCB contributed to 127 projects for the 2023 calendar year, allocating approximately \$496 million in funding including:**



**\$221.6 million**  
for habitat restoration  
and enhancement of over  
**22,300 acres**



**\$153 million**  
for purchase or  
conservation easement on  
**77,162 acres of land**



**\$121.4 million**  
for public access, project  
planning, and studies



## PART 2

---

# *Strategic Plan Initiatives*



Wildlife Conservation Board  
Strategic Plan Update | 2019-2024



WCB is guided by our 2019 Updated Strategic Plan which advances eight strategic initiatives. In the last several years, guided by our expanded Board including public members, WCB has been increasingly focused on equity, tribal partnerships, and the climate crisis. This year's annual report showcases projects across our state that advance our strategic initiatives with these additional priorities in mind.





## ***Climate Change Adaptation, Resiliency, and Mitigation***

WCB invests in projects that mitigate the effects of climate change by providing connectivity among and between protected landscapes, conserving and restoring habitats that enhance species resiliency, and investing in ecosystems that sequester carbon. Projects include wildlife crossings, dam removal, and forest and watershed management.



*Beaver dam analog in Benedict Meadow in a heavily burned area of the Creek Fire. Sierra National Forest Bass Lake 8 Project. Photo courtesy Trout Unlimited.*





## Basin Ranch

WCB helped protect the 5,105-acre Basin Ranch in Monterey County through a grant to the Big Sur Land Trust. Big Sur Land Trust will co-manage the Property with the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County who will have access to the property for management and implementation of traditional ecological knowledge practices and cultural practices including harvesting of culturally relevant plants. The project protects habitat for a large diversity of plant and animal species, provides connectivity, and increases climate resiliency.

## Climate Smart Meadow Restoration

The Sierra Meadows Partnership (SMP) is a diverse coalition of public and private organizations working collaboratively to restore and protect 30,000 acres of Sierra Meadows by 2030. Through this grant, SMP will apply their extensive expertise in restoration and science to restore 6,000 acres of meadow habitat, complete planning for 4,000 acres and prioritize 2,500 acres for future restoration planning and implementation. This grant is advancing meadow restoration projects that will have multiple benefits for wildlife habitat, hydrologic functioning, fire refugia and carbon sequestration.

*Above: Oak woodland and perennial grassland at the Basin Ranch project site in Monterey County. Photo courtesy Big Sur Land Trust.*



*Below: Point Blue Conservation Science staff and partners leading a tour of a meadow restoration site. Photo courtesy Point Blue Conservation Science.*





## ***Biodiversity Actions***

WCB supports the protection of California's unique biodiversity by protecting and restoring habitat for rare and imperiled species, enhancing stream flows, and supporting the development and implementation of strategic conservation plans.

### **Butano Creek Backfield Floodplain and Flow Enhancement**

This project is implemented by San Mateo RCD on a 25-acre organic farm adjacent to Butano Creek. Endangered coho salmon have been at risk of extirpation in the Pescadero-Butano watershed due to historical impacts and extremely low instream flows during the dry season. The project combines two scientifically backed approaches to address these issues. The habitat component was completed in 2023, creating 4.2 acres of new floodplain and increasing channel complexity along an 1,800-foot stretch of Butano Creek. In 2024, a defunct off-channel reservoir will be repaired and enlarged.



*Left: Aerial view of the Pescadero-Butano watershed adjacent to Butano Creek in San Mateo County. Photo courtesy San Mateo Resource Conservation District.*



## Dos Rio Norte

WCB provided a \$22.6 million grant to River Partners for the acquisition of 1,594 acres of flood plain at the confluence of the Feather and Sacramento Rivers in the Sutter Bypass. The property is home to Sacramento splittail, salmon, Swainson’s hawk, yellow-billed cuckoo, least Bell’s vireo and other neo-tropical migratory birds.

## Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement

WCB is executing a Property Transfer Agreement on behalf of CDFW for future acceptance of 7,027 acres from the Klamath River Renewal Corporation as part of the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA). The transfer will occur following the completion of dam removal on the Klamath River and associated habitat restoration. The Property Transfer Agreement is an essential step in executing the KHSA, which will ultimately achieve a free-flowing condition and fish passage in the river through the largest dam removal and river restoration project in US history.

## Mohave Ground Squirrel Management Actions

WCB awarded a grant to the Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Council, a newly formed nonprofit dedicated to assuring the survival of viable populations of the state threatened Mohave ground squirrel (MGS) throughout its range. The grant supports the development of a methodology or protocol for range-wide detection and monitoring of MGS population demographics and their habitats that can provide information required by resource managers for decision-making and effective policy development. Ultimately, this grant will provide the framework and baseline data for ongoing monitoring of the species and trends in populations.

*Top Left: The Mohave Ground Squirrel was listed as threatened in 1971, and to date, there has not been any development of effective survey methods for this species. Photo courtesy Freya Reder.*

*Top Right: The Sacramento River flows through the Dos Rios Norte property, adjacent to the Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area in Sutter County. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*

*Bottom Right: Klamath River at one of the four dams proposed for removal in Siskiyou County. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*





## ***Ecosystem Services***

WCB invests in ecosystem services through projects that improve watershed health, restore pollinator habitat, and durably protect working lands.

### **Building Wildlife-Friendly Resilience in Working Landscapes**

WCB provided a large block grant to Point Blue Conservation Science to implement projects to build wildlife-friendly, climate resilient habitat in working landscapes. Point Blue has awarded 77 small grants to a variety of local partners to implement projects such as riparian restoration, hedgerow plantings, beaver dam analogs, wildlife-friendly fencing, and monarch and pollinator plantings. In the first funding round, 74% of applicants qualified as disadvantaged by one or more criteria.



*Left: Point Blue Conservation Science staff performing restoration efforts in Sierra Nevada meadow. Photo courtesy Point Blue Conservation Science.*



## Mojave Desert Land Trust Seed Bank Expansion



WCB awarded the Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) with a grant to increase MDLT's capacity to collect, process, and store seed by 300 additional taxa to their existing seed bank. Seed banking has become a fundamental tool for preserving biodiversity within an ecoregion by acting as an insurance policy for maintaining a repository of source-identified, genetically appropriated seed. This grant increases

MDLT's capacity to make high quality seed collections from across the Mojave and Colorado deserts, to process collections of source-identified native seed for use in restoration across the region, and to maintain collections.

## Silacci Ranch Conservation Easement

WCB granted \$2 million to California Rangeland Trust for a cooperative project with the California Department of Conservation and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to purchase a conservation easement on 9,418 acres of grasslands, chaparral, oak woodlands, riparian wetlands, and agricultural lands. The Silacci Ranch provides habitat for California Tiger Salamander, bald eagle, golden eagle, American badger, mountain lion, tricolored blackbird, western pond turtle and numerous other plants and animals.

## Upper Rose Bar Restoration Construction

Adult Chinook Salmon and Steelhead migrate up many rivers of California looking for gravel of certain sizes to make their nests and lay eggs in. Once the eggs hatch, young fish of each species need certain depths and speeds of water to grow and thrive. The Upper Rose Bar project is creating these conditions in the Yuba River. By adding gravel, this project expands the spawning areas. By altering the riverbanks of that same stretch to create flooded areas, this project is creating habitat for the young fish. This ensures Chinook Salmon and Steelhead have the functioning ecosystems they need to continue migrations from the ocean to the upper watersheds.

*Top Left: Annual grassland at Silacci Ranch near the crest of the Gabilan Range. Photo courtesy California Rangeland Trust.*

*Top Right: Upper Rose Bar project site along the Yuba River. Photo courtesy South Yuba River Citizens League.*

*Inset: Collected seeds in storage, for use in restoration. Photo courtesy Mojave Desert Land Trust.*



*“Through the years, WCB has been a true partner to MDLT in our mission to protect California’s deserts. In addition to being a funder, they put in the hard work to find alignment in our common goals and offer insight into how we can achieve them together. This kind of collaboration is building a lasting legacy of collaborative conservation in California’s deserts.”*

**- KELLY HERBINSON  
Executive Director, Mojave Desert Land Trust**







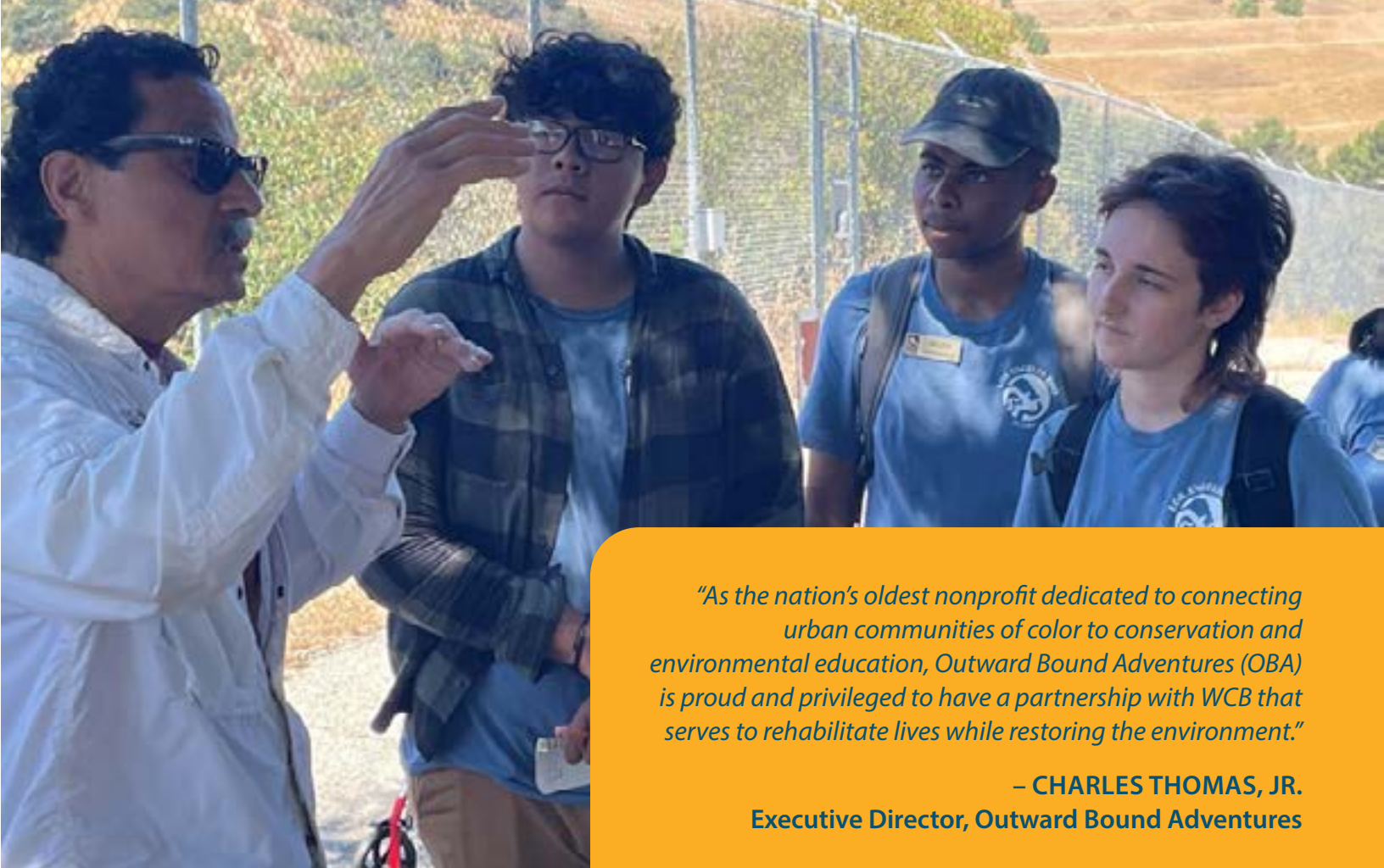
## ***Partnerships***

Partners are the cornerstone of WCB's success. In 2023, WCB approved 130 projects representing 169 governments, organizations, and partners, 44 of which are brand new to WCB. We are incredibly excited about the new faces at our Board meetings and the opportunity to work together in innovative and creative ways.

In 2023, WCB increased partnerships with Native American communities. Notably, WCB provided grant funding for the purchase of the 1,246 acre Fay Creek Ranch in Kern County by the Tübatulabals of Kern County and executed the transfer of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Mount Whitney Fish Hatchery, a 40-acre property in Inyo County, to the Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Reservation.

*Sarah Newkirk, Executive Director, Land Trust Santa Cruz County, and Valentin Lopez, Chairman of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, at the Rocks Ranch celebration in Santa Cruz County.  
Photo courtesy WCB staff.*





*“As the nation’s oldest nonprofit dedicated to connecting urban communities of color to conservation and environmental education, Outward Bound Adventures (OBA) is proud and privileged to have a partnership with WCB that serves to rehabilitate lives while restoring the environment.”*

**– CHARLES THOMAS, JR.  
Executive Director, Outward Bound Adventures**

## LA Zoo Oak Woodland Restoration

WCB supported Outward Bound Adventures, a non-profit dedicated to providing outdoor education, conservation, and environmental learning expeditions for low-income urban youth, to restore oak woodland habitat at the Los Angeles Zoo. The project engages members of disadvantaged communities in paid, site-based workforce training and includes academic partners to learn about this incredibly important ecosystem while gaining career skills in ecological restoration and land management. The Project provides employment, mentorship, and pathways to careers in outdoor education and conservation.



## Lower LA River Restoration and Access

WCB provided funding to Trout Unlimited and local non-governmental organizations to work with members of underserved communities of Paramount and Compton to advance public access concepts that improve how people interact with the river by providing safe accessible opportunities for wildlife viewing, physical activity, and exploration. The river’s concrete channel will be redesigned with local, state, and federal agencies to provide nature-based solutions for improving the quality of water that flows into the river, enhancing stream flow for southern California steelhead migration, and planting vegetation.

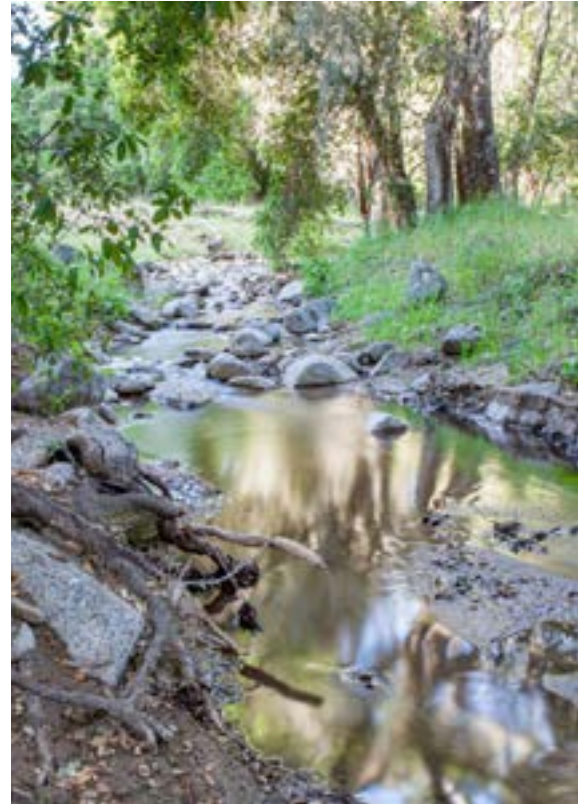
*Above: Charles Thomas, Jr., Executive Director, Outward Bound Adventures, talks with OBA/LA Zoo conservation workforce interns at the LA Zoo Oak Woodland Restoration site, July 2023. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*

*Below: The low-flow Lower Los Angeles River is a trapezoidal, concrete bottom low-flow channel that contains dry weather flow from recycled water. The project will benefit members of nearby severely disadvantaged communities through engagement and youth membership programs. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*



## Rana Creek

The Wildlands Conservancy received \$24,000,000 to acquire 11,691 acres in Monterey County. This property hosts oak woodland savanna, chapparal, freshwater creeks, wetlands, and riparian habitats. Rana Creek Ranch is the traditional homeland of the Esselen tribe. The Wildlands Conservancy will partner with the tribe to co-steward the land, restore its fish and wildlife, and host the visiting public.



*Above Left: Frazier Haney, Executive Director, The Wildlands Conservancy, gives a gift to Tom Little Bear Nason, Tribal Chairman of the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, at the Rana Creek Celebration, November 8, 2023.*

*Above Right: Rana Creek includes seasonal creeks that are home to numerous species, including threatened and endangered California red-legged frogs and the California tiger salamander. Photo courtesy Hall and Hall/The Wildlands Conservancy.*



*“The property is the size of – and has the grandeur of – many of California’s state parks. It’s a wonderland of oak-filled valleys and magnificent flower-studded ridgelines. It’s the largest private land holding that we know of in the Carmel Valley, and this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect a landscape of that size and that natural beauty.”*

**– FRAZIER HANEY**  
Executive Director,  
The Wildlands Conservancy

*The Wildlands Conservancy staff looks out at the expansive Rana Creek Ranch property with the Carmel Valley in Monterey County in the distance. Photo courtesy Landon Peppel/The Wildlands Conservancy.*





## ***Public Access and Wildlife-Oriented Recreation***

WCB works with partners to develop opportunities for recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and birdwatching. WCB is committed to an Outdoors for All and ensuring all Californians experience the benefits of nature.



### **Fay Creek Ranch**

WCB helped protect 2,285 acres in northeastern Kern County at Fay Creek Ranch through a grant to Western Rivers Conservancy and the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation. The project expands connectivity by preserving a wildlife corridor, protecting rare and endangered flora and fauna, increasing climate resiliency, and providing the opportunity

to create new, free outdoor public access for the nearby underserved communities. Most significantly, 1,246 acres of the 2,285 acres of culturally significant ancestral lands have been directly conveyed to the Tübatulabal Tribe of Kern County.

*Perennial cold-water Fay Creek flows downstream to the adjacent Canebrake Ecological Preserve and drains to the Kern River, which provides drinking water for the city of Bakersfield.  
Photo courtesy Western Rivers Conservancy.*



## Tahoe Forest Gateway

The Wildlife Conservation Board provided a \$2.27 million grant to 40 Acre Conservation League, California's only Black-led conservation group, for Tahoe Forest Gateway Leidesdorff Property in Placer County in partnership with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The conservation group will acquire approximately 650 acres of land near the Tahoe National Forest for purposes of providing opportunities for public access and wildlife-oriented recreation as well as wildlife habitat preservation, restoration, and management.

*Above: Putt Lake. Photo Courtesy 40 Acre Conservation League.*

*Below: Darryl Lucien, Consultant, 40 Acre Conservation League, and Joe Navari, WCB Acquisitions Supervisor, look out at Putt Lake on the Tahoe Forest Gateway Leidesdorff Property in Placer County, August 2023. Photo Courtesy WCB staff.*





## ***Program Monitoring and Evaluation***

WCB invests in ongoing monitoring to support adaptive management and to ensure public investments are delivering results.



*Above: Hayley Pechner, WCB Environmental Scientist, and Adam Ballard, WCB Monitoring Supervisor, look out at the Merced County Vernal Pool Grasslands project site during a WCB monitoring visit, October 2023. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*

*Left: Parks Creek Flow Enhancement and Fish Passage during a WCB monitoring visit with grantee California Trout, July 2023. Photo courtesy California Trout.*





## ***Transparency in Communications and Outreach***

WCB continues to spread the word about grant opportunities and ways to get involved in our work. WCB sponsors and participates in numerous public workshops, conferences and other convenings. At the same time, WCB ensures transparency through taped, hybrid Board meetings and regularly posted information on our website.

In 2023, WCB hired it's first Public Information Officer. This is part of the long-term vision to publicize our programs, the work we do with our partners, and the opportunity for all

Californians to access our grant programs.

WCB introduced new social media channels in 2023, including Instagram, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter), in addition to revamping our Facebook and YouTube pages.

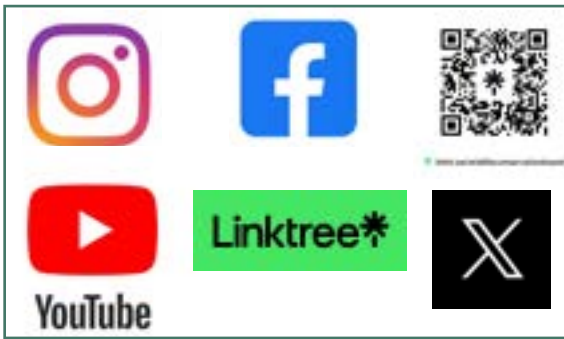


*Above: Scott McFarlin, WCB Restoration Supervisor, Celestial Reysnor, WCB Associate Right of Way Agent, Connor Jandreau, Conservation Coordinator, California Central Coast Joint Venture, and Hayley Pechner, WCB Environmental Scientist on a site visit to Santa Lucia Preserve, May 10, 2023. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*

*Left: Mark Topping, WCB Information Officer, John "Griff" Griffith, California State Parks interpreter, and Jennifer Stanfield WCB Forest Conservation Program Manager, at the Redwoods Rising anniversary celebration near Orick, September 21, 2023. Photo courtesy Save The Redwoods League.*



## Social Media



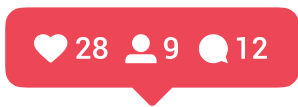
For the first time, WCB began promoting projects and programs on Instagram, averaging 866 views per post when published in collaboration with our stakeholder partners. These partnerships have helped WCB expand its reach exponentially throughout the state, raising awareness, and ultimately educating more Californians about our programs.

WCB will ride this momentum into 2024, with a consistent and frequent posting cycle on social media, continuing to highlight the extraordinary work of our staff and partners. Strengthening our outreach programs -- building new relationships with organizations across the state -- while reaching out to those who have traditionally had limited access to conservation opportunities, are top priorities for WCB in the new year.



# Instagram

BY THE NUMBERS



- Instagram follower count increased 72% between August and December
- 9,490 unique views or impressions
- 6,256 non-follower accounts reached
- Audience engagement up 55% last quarter of 2023
- Average of 593 unique views per post

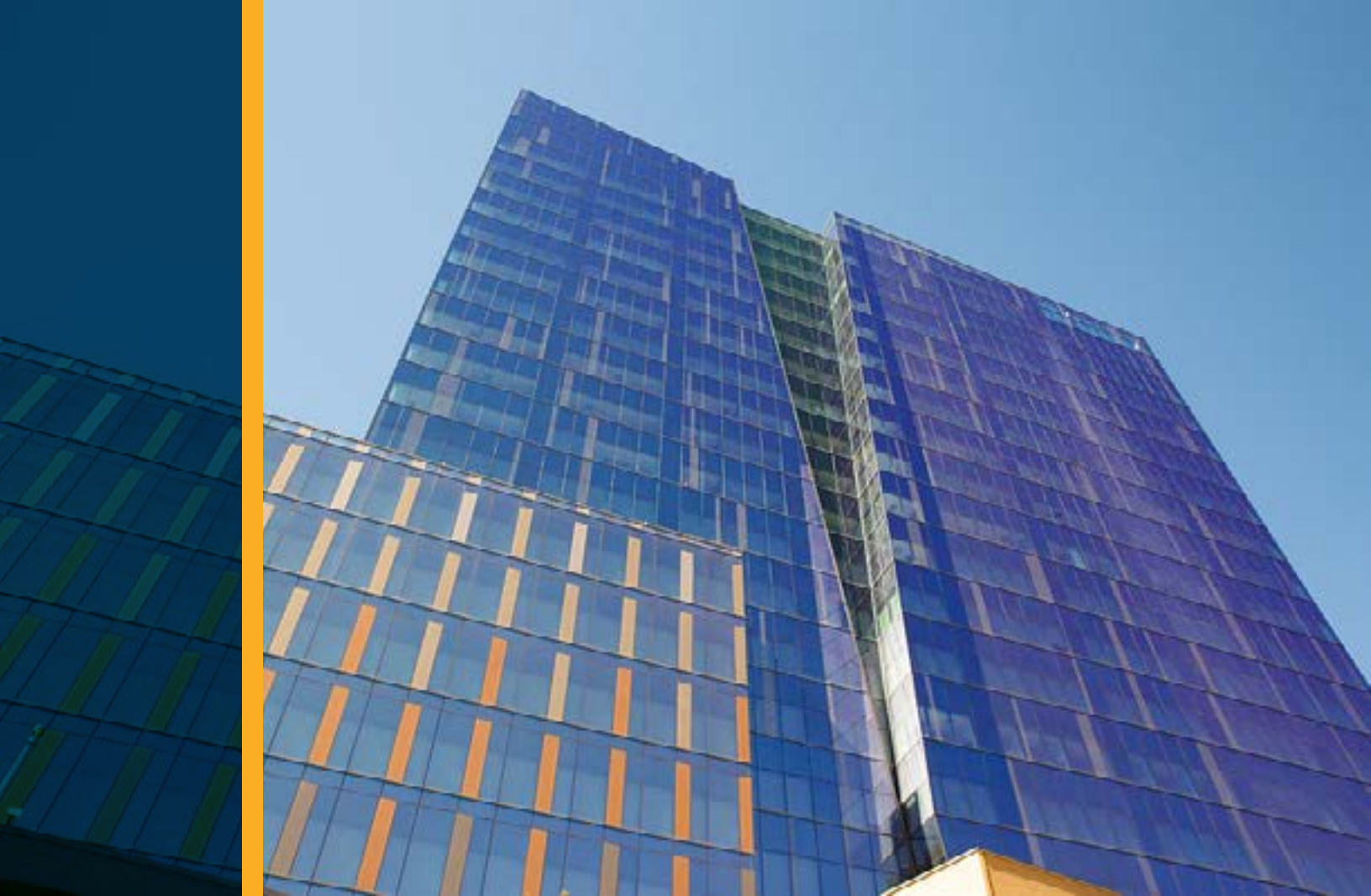


# facebook

BY THE NUMBERS



- Facebook posts had a 40% increase in the last quarter of 2023
- 4,300 unique views or impressions
- 1,806 page visits



## ***Natural Resources Conservation Leadership***

WCB plays an active role in advancing habitat restoration and protection across the state including participation on multiple Boards and Task Forces and through the implementation of statewide priorities such as [Pathways to 30x30](#), [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#) and the [Outdoors for All Strategy](#).



*Daniel Vasquez, WCB Acquisitions Supervisor greets Peter Colby, Project Manager, Western Rivers Conservancy, with Scott McFarlin, WCB Restoration Supervisor, and John Walsh, WCB Deputy Executive Director, Land Acquisition at the 30x30 Partnership Gathering, Riverside, October 11, 2023. Photo courtesy WCB staff.*





## PART 3

---

# ***2023 By the Numbers***

The majority of WCB's funding came from the General Fund in 2023. WCB maintains essential partnerships with many other organizations that expanded WCB's capacity by leveraging state funds with other sources of matching funds.

In 2023, \$496.1 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$339.3 million in partner contributions.



“

*With strategic support from WCB, CalTrout and its partners are increasing the impact, scope and scale of restoration across California. In the Klamath Region alone, our partnership with WCB has leveraged other funding five times over, built strong relationships with tribes and landowners, and led to the implementation of land-scape scale restoration that benefit our fishes, watersheds, and communities.*

”

DAMON GOODMAN,  
Mount Shasta/Klamath Regional Director, California Trout

**TABLE 1: WCB Allocations by Fund Source**

FUND SOURCE	ALLOCATION AMOUNT
GF	\$449,022,523
GGRF	\$2,010,000
HCF	\$17,962,400
P40	\$2,766,006
P50	\$5,673,955
P68	\$17,430,148
P70	\$1,018,471
P84	\$155,104

**TABLE 2: 2023 Project Partner Funding**

PROJECT PARTNER	FUNDING AMOUNT
Federal	\$144,395,532
Local	\$89,967,664
Non-Profit	\$35,621,879
Private	\$28,310,675
State	\$40,976,679



## 2023 Total Acreage Protected and WCB Allocation by County

TABLE 3: Fee Title

COUNTY	ACRES	ALLOCATION
Alpine	66	\$290,000
El Dorado	1,026	\$2,720,000
Kern	2,285	\$3,356,929
Lake	86	\$870,000
Los Angeles	208	\$3,140,000
Mono	2,333	\$4,220,000
Monterey	16,796	\$32,675,200
Napa	2,300	\$7,030,000
Placer	650	\$2,270,000
Riverside	1,330	\$16,495,820
Sacramento	170	\$1,832,000
San Bernadino	60	\$1,880,000
San Diego	1,389	\$31,160,200
Santa Clara	735	\$2,020,000
Santa Cruz	14	\$274,000
Siskiyou	7,347	\$540,000
Sutter	1,522	\$22,695,000
Trinity	8,085	\$3,945,000
Ventura	21	\$1,655,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>46,423</b>	<b>\$139,069,149</b>

TABLE 4: Conservation Easements

COUNTY	ACRES	ALLOCATION
Humboldt	1,163	\$87,000
Kern	65	\$95,000
Lassen	4,922	\$1,366,788
Monterey	9,418	\$2,010,000
Napa	846	\$1,860,133
Siskiyou	13,530	\$8,477,000
Yolo	795	\$20,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>30,739</b>	<b>\$13,915,921</b>

*Fay Creek Ranch creates a natural wildlife corridor between South Fork Kern Valley and the Kern Plateau. Photo courtesy Western Rivers Conservancy.*



# 2023 Restoration by County



**BUTTE**  
\$4,871,000



**COLUSA**  
\$9,900,000



**DEL NORTE**  
\$1,969,820



**HUMBOLDT**  
\$35,691,512



**IMPERIAL**  
\$7,178,000



**KERN**  
\$767,000



**LOS ANGELES**  
\$10,275,000



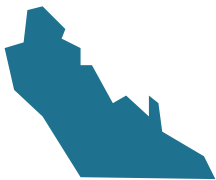
**MADERA**  
\$1,060,000



**MARIN**  
\$3,142,000



**MENDOCINO**  
\$1,521,000



**MONTEREY**  
\$8,711,600



**NEVADA**  
\$10,668,000



**ORANGE**  
\$529,000



**RIVERSIDE**  
\$1,805,000



**SAN DIEGO**  
\$1,813,000



**SAN MATEO**  
\$6,513,000



**SANTA BARBARA**  
\$5,404,000



**SANTA CLARA**  
\$8,124,706



**SHASTA**  
\$5,433,000



**SISKIYOU**  
\$6,223,585



**SONOMA**  
\$1,292,319



**STANISLAUS**  
\$7,008,820



**YOLO**  
\$1,672,000



**YUBA**  
\$4,081,000

**SINGLE COUNTIES: \$145,654,362**

**MULTIPLE COUNTIES: \$24,731,000**

**STATEWIDE: \$51,220,530**

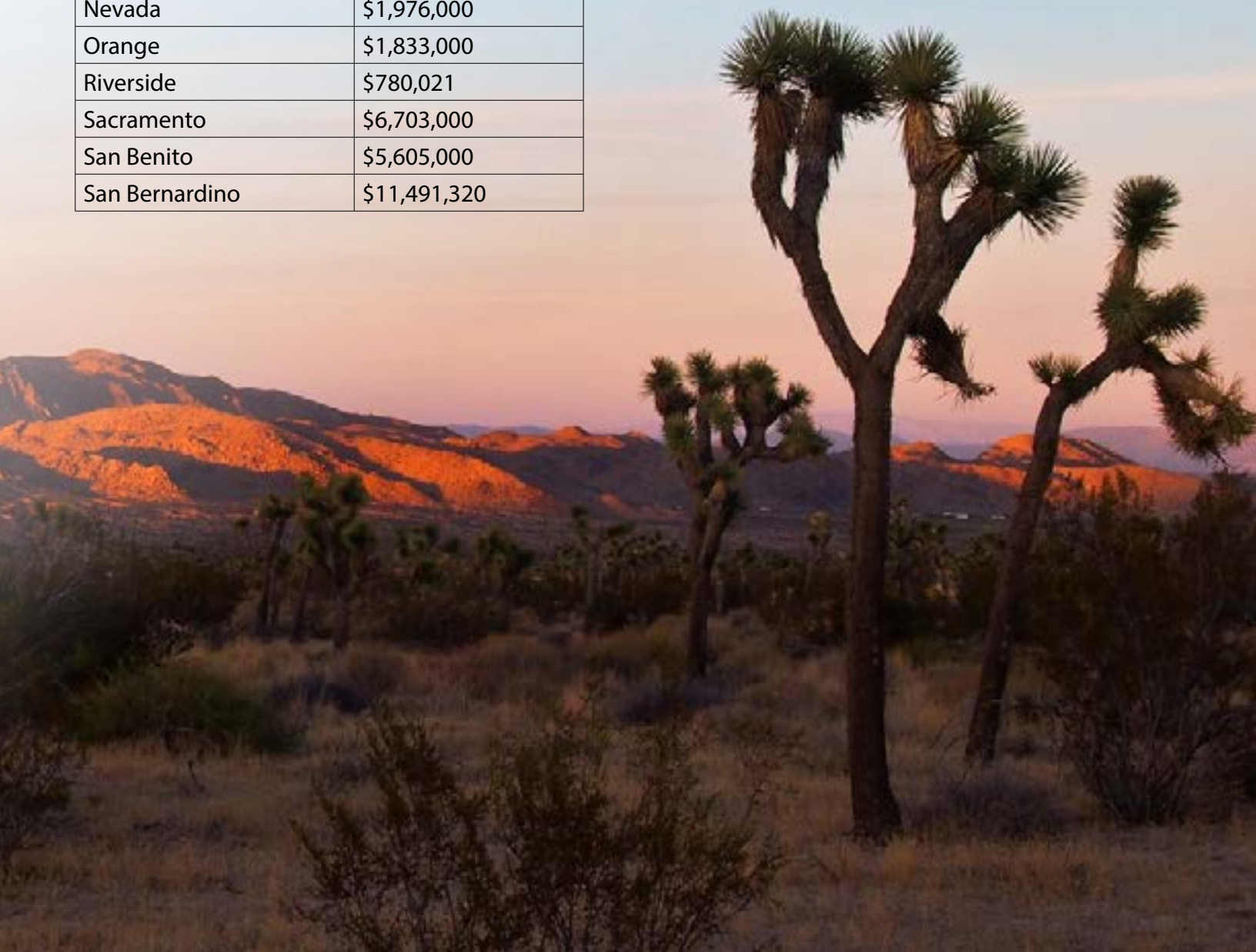
**OVERALL TOTAL: \$221,605,892**



**TABLE 5: Project Planning, Studies, and Public Access**

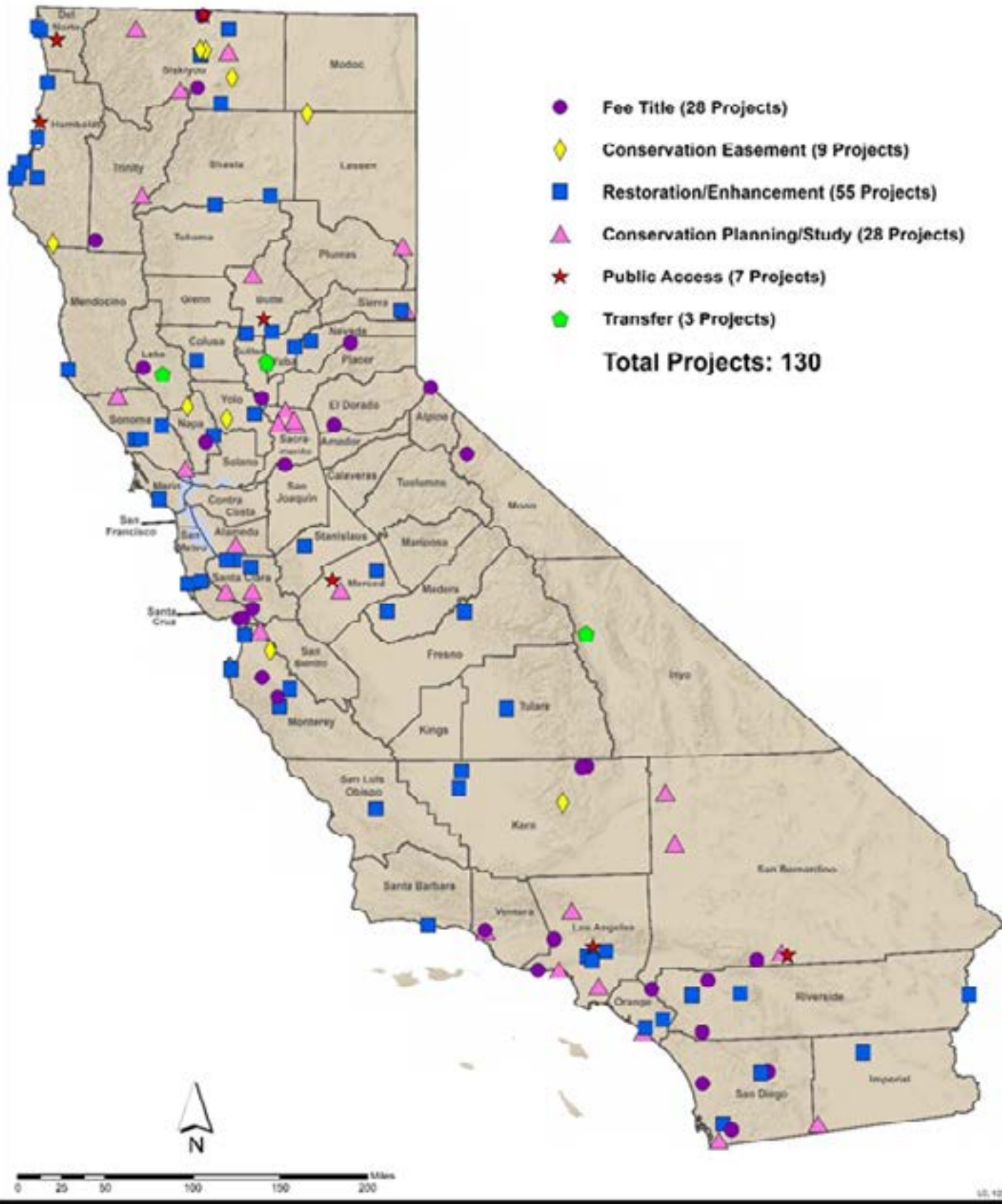
COUNTY	ALLOCATION
Alameda	\$7,094,000
Butte	\$5,895,000
Del Norte	\$865,000
Humboldt	\$433,665
Imperial	\$5,808,000
Lassen	\$5,375,000
Los Angeles	\$27,505,000
Merced	\$2,506,000
Napa	\$74,104
Nevada	\$1,976,000
Orange	\$1,833,000
Riverside	\$780,021
Sacramento	\$6,703,000
San Benito	\$5,605,000
San Bernardino	\$11,491,320

COUNTY	ALLOCATION
San Diego	\$409,000
Santa Clara	\$7,355,250
Siskiyou	\$8,841,757
Sonoma	\$3,428,528
Stanislaus	\$13,138,000
Ventura	\$4,331,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$121,447,645</b>



*View of the San Geronio Wilderness on the Big Morongo Canyon Springs property in San Bernardino County. The Native American Land Trust is working to protect American Southwest riparian forests and woodlands, springs, spring brooks and wetlands on the property. Photo courtesy Drew Reese.*

# WCB Projects Awarded in 2023







## PART 4

---

# Thank You



2023 marked the 76th year WCB has actively been protecting and restoring wildlife habitat and providing wildlife oriented recreational opportunities to the public. Over this 76-year timeframe, WCB has protected approximately 1.9 million acres of habitat and restored approximately 1 million acres,

while investing nearly \$4 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 2023. We look forward to future successful partnerships in 2024.



## OUR PARTNERS

*\*New Partners in 2023*

40 Acre Conservation League*	California Trout, Inc.
American Bird Conservation*	California Waterfowl Association
American River Conservancy	Camp Arnaz Girl Scouts
American Rivers	Catena Foundation*
American Whitewater*	Center for Land Based Learning
Arroyo Seco Foundation	Chico State Enterprises
Audubon Society	City of Arcata
BEC Environmental, Inc.*	City of Fullerton
Bear Yuba Land Trust	City of Laguna Beach*
Bella Vista Foundation	City of Lake Elsinore
Bender Rosenthal, Inc.*	City of Oceanside
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	City of Rancho Cordova*
Cal Poly Corporation	City of Rancho Palos Verdes
California Conservation Corps	City of San Luis Obispo
California Department of Conservation	Collins Products, LLC
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Community Foundation of Mendocino County*
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers
California Department of Parks and Recreation	County of Los Angeles
California Department of Transportation	County of San Diego
California Department of Water Resources	Creek Lands Conservation
California Native Plant Society	Descanso Gardens Foundation*
California Natural Resources Agency	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
California Ocean Protection Council	Earth Island Institute
California Plant Rescue*	Eastern Sierra Land Trust
California Rangeland Trust	Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
California State Coastal Conservancy	Esselen Tribe*



Feather River Land Trust  
Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Great Basin Institute  
Harmony Union School District  
Hicks Law  
Hoopa Valley Tribe\*  
Humboldt State University  
Integrated Regional Water Management  
John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy  
Kern Community Foundation  
Kester Appraisal, Inc.\*  
Klamath River Renewal Corporation\*  
Laguna Ocean Foundation\*  
Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County  
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
Lassen County Transportation Commission\*  
Lindmore Irrigation District  
Los Angeles County  
Meiners Oaks Water District  
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District  
Mid Klamath Watershed Council\*  
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
Modoc Timber Lands LLC  
Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Council\*  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Napa County Flood Control & Water Conservation  
District  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Forest Foundation  
National Park Service  
Native American Land Conservancy\*  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Nature Collective  
Nevada County Office of Emergency Services\*  
Nevada Irrigation District  
North Coast Resource Conservation and Development  
Council

Ojai Valley Inn  
Ojai Valley Land Conservancy  
Oswit Land Trust\*  
Outward Bound Adventures Inc.\*  
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy  
Peninsula Open Space Trust  
Piini Realty, Inc.\*  
Placer County  
Plumas Corporation  
Point Blue Conservation Science  
Resource Conservation District Greater San Diego\*  
Resource Environmental Solutions  
River Garden Farms  
River Partners  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
Salmon River Restoration Council\*  
Salmonid Restoration Federation  
San Bernardino County Special Districts\*



San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	The Thacher School
San Diego Habitat Conservancy*	The Wildlands Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority*	Tongva Taraxat Paxaavxa Conservancy*
San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians Foundation*	Trout Unlimited
San Mateo County Resource Conservation District	Truckee River Watershed Council
Sanctuary Forest, Inc.	Trust for Public Land
Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority*	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Santa Lucia Conservancy*	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation*
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	U.S. Department of Homeland Security*
Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Santolucito Dore Group, Inc.*	U.S. Forest Service
Save Oswit Canyon, Inc.	United Water Conservation District
Save The Redwoods League	University of California, Berkeley
Schroll Timberlands, LLC*	University of California, Davis
Sempervirens Fund	University of California, Irvine
Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company	University of California, Merced*
Sequoia Park Conservancy	University of California, Riverside
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	University of California, Santa Barbara
Siskiyou Land Trust	University of California, Santa Cruz
South Yuba River Citizens League	Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
State Water Resources Control Board	Ventura County Resource Conservation District
Sterling Hills Golf Course	Ventura County Watershed Protection District
Stillwater Sciences	Ventura River Municipal Water District
StopWaste Alameda County*	Volcan Mountain Foundation*
Sugarloaf Land & Cattle Company, LLC*	Watershed Progressive
Suisun Resource Conservation District	Wilton Rancheria*
Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust*	Wiyot Tribe*
Tehama County Resource Conservation District	Xerces Society
The Modoc Nation of Oklahoma Tribe*	Yosemite Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy	Yuba Bear Burn Cooperative*







CALIFORNIA  
NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
AGENCY



30x30  
CALIFORNIA

This program receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240