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**Wildlife Conservation Board
August 28, 2025 Board Meeting
First Floor Auditorium, CNRA Headquarters Building**

(CAL FIRE) Shackleford Forest CE
Credit: Siskiyou Land Trust



Item 1. Roll Call

Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration
Credit: WCB



Item 2. Approval of Agenda

Elfin Acres
Credit: WCB



Item 3. Executive Director's Report

White Atterbury
Credit: WCB





Item 4. Board Member Updates and Reports

Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Monitoring – Augmentation
Credit: Mojave Desert Land Trust



Item 5. Funding Status

North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Wojcik)
Credit: WCB



Item 6. 2025-2030 Strategic Plan

Eel River Trail Accessible Ramp
Credit: City of Rio Del



California Wildlife Conservation Board

STRATEGIC PLAN

2025 - 2030



Strategic Plan Public Process

- Five community workshops
- Two rounds of tribal consultation
- Four tribal listening sessions
- 60-day public review period
- 31 letters
- 65 unique comments

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows several monarch butterflies with orange and black wings feeding on a cluster of small white flowers. The background is a clear blue sky.

Feedback/Comments

- Text changes that improved clarity
- Recommendations for targets
 - Support for existing targets
 - Requests for new programs and funding
 - Requests for specific project types
- Process recommendations
- Comments on issues addressed in our guidelines

Special Thanks

- Geneva Iversen-Krampitz
- Drew Mahoney
- Sabrina Chavez
- Mark Topping
- Hayley Pechner
- Meredith Fleener
- Workshop Partners
 - Shasta County Arts Council
 - Big Sur Land Trust
 - Japanese American Citizens League of Monterey County
 - Baldwin Hills Conservancy
 - City of Inglewood
 - Riverside County
 - Western Riverside RCA



Wildlife Conservation Board PROPOSED PROJECTS

August 28, 2025



Wildlife Conservation Board Meeting August 28, 2025 Project Map



Consent Items 7 - 14

Antelope Lake Conservation Easement
Credit: Eastern Sierra Land Trust



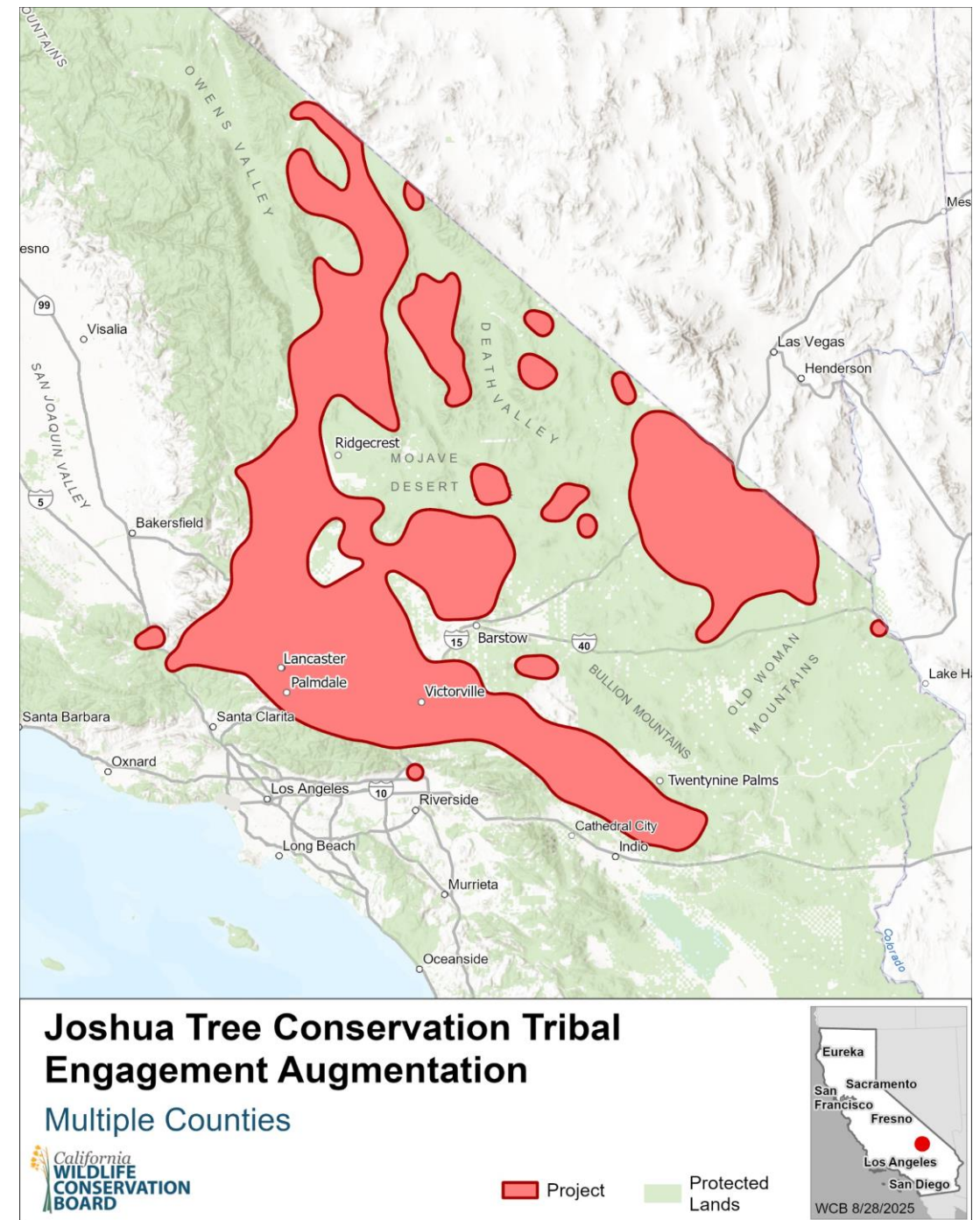
Item 7. Recovery of Funds

Fund Name	Amount
General Fund	\$69,178.00
Habitat Conservation Fund	\$3,424.50
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund	\$0.00
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006	\$25,880.00
Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Fund of 2014	\$150,745.90
The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018	\$0.01
<i>Total Recoveries for All Funds</i>	<i>\$249,228.41</i>

Joshua Tree Conservation Tribal Engagement - Augmentation

- Species: western Joshua tree
- \$771,937

Credit: WCB



Joshua Tree Conservation Tribal Engagement – Augmentation

Slide 2

- Continues tribal engagement through March 2028

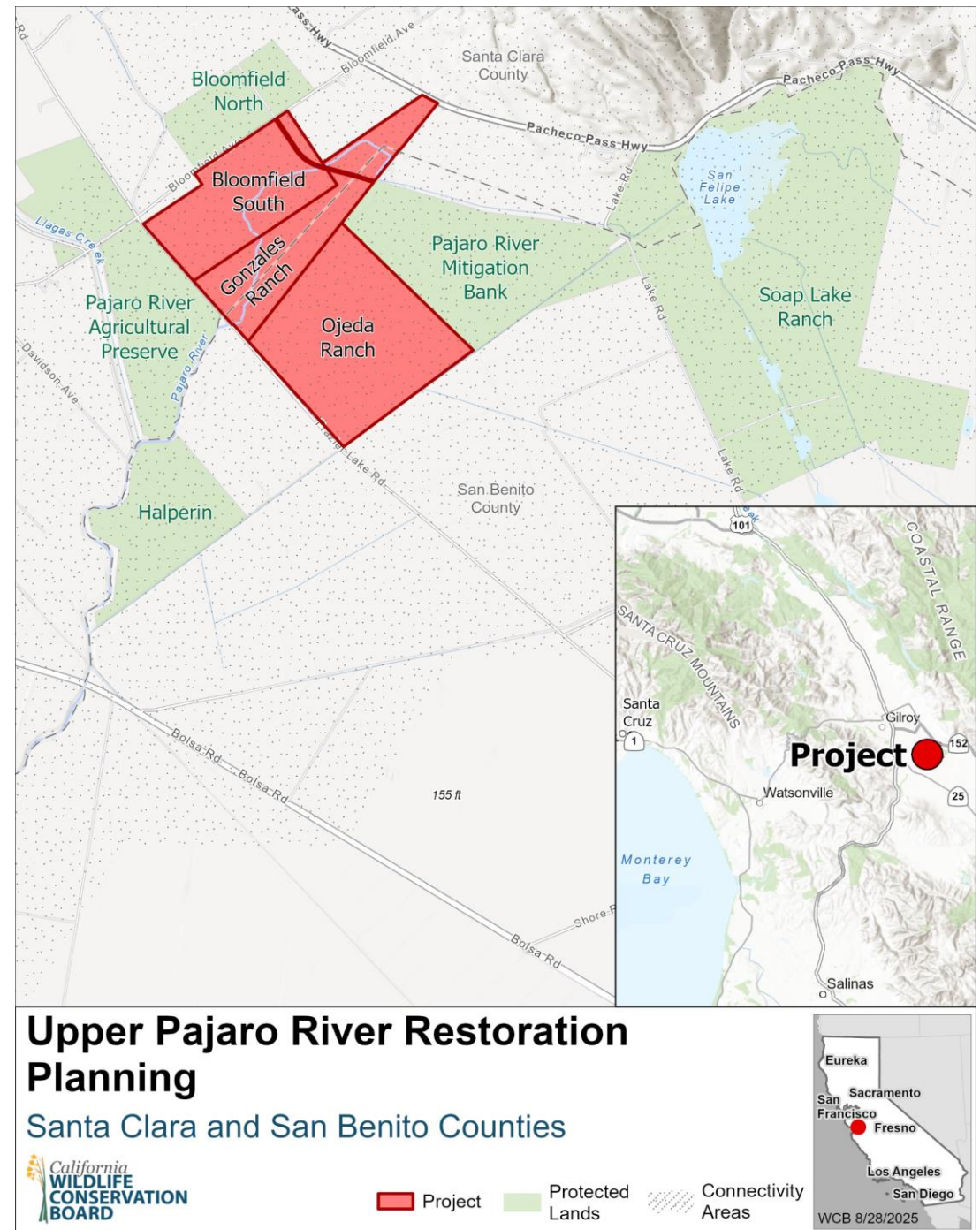
Intertribal Meeting held Joshua Tree National Park
Credit: Native American Land Conservancy



Upper Pajaro River Restoration Planning

- Peninsula Open Space Trust (applicant/landowner)
- 668 acres of riparian and wetland restoration planning
- Important wildlife corridor
- Justice project – tribal and CalEnviroScreen
- \$500,000 WCB request
- \$417,000 cost share

Map of the Upper Pajaro River Valley
Credit: POST



Upper Pajaro River Restoration Planning

Slide 2

Project area outlined in red.

- Part of larger conserved landscape for habitat connectivity and flood risk reduction.
- Active farm leases
- Contain 4,800 feet of historic Pajaro River channel
- Part of 9,000-acre Soap Lake floodplain

Map of the project parcels
Credit: POST





Looking NE at Diablo Range



Looking west at Santa Cruz Mountains

Upper Pajaro River Restoration Planning

Slide 3

Project objectives include:

- Protect the Soap Lake floodplain functions
- Identify compatible farming practices
- Restore over 70 acres of riparian and wetland habitat, including a 300-foot riparian zone
- Enhance one mile of wildlife corridor
- Integrate tribal perspectives, TEK, and protect and steward cultural resources
- Reduce flood risk and improve water quality

Aerial views of planning area

Credit: POST

Upper Pajaro River Restoration Planning

Slide 4

Planning Tasks:

- Baseline assessments
- Restoration visioning with TAC
- Conceptual restoration plan for three concepts
- Develop 65% designs for initial phase concept
- Complete CEQA (SERP)
- Develop adaptive management and monitoring plan

Ojeda Ranch (left), Gonzales Ranch (right) and Bloomfield South Farm (bottom)

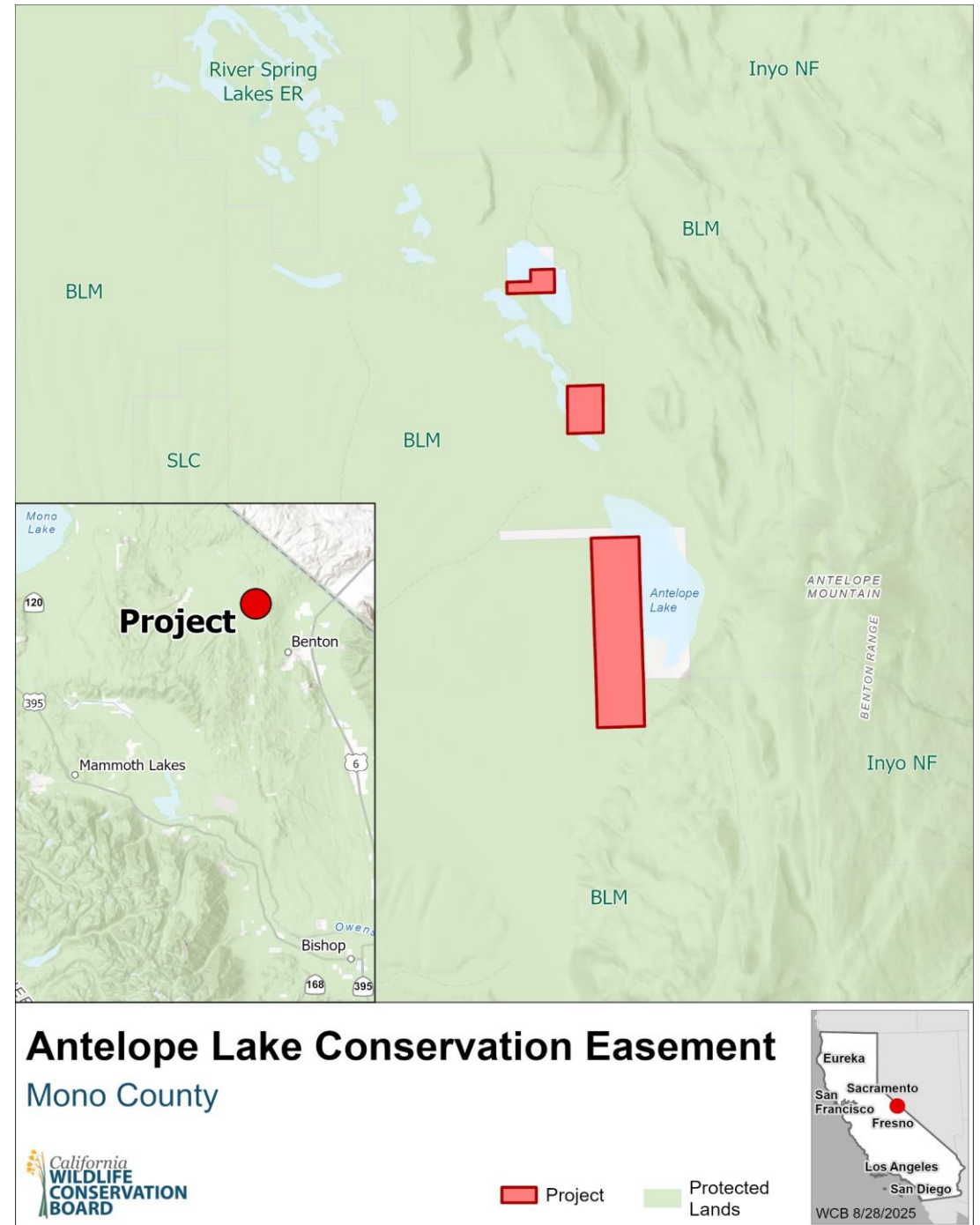
Credit: POST



Antelope Lake Conservation Easement

- Eastern Sierra Land Trust
- 197± acres
- Located near the community of Benton in Mono County
- Mostly surrounded by protected public lands

Credit: WCB



Antelope Lake Conservation Easement

Slide 2

View of Antelope Lake during the summer
of 2023

Credit: Eastern Sierra Land Trust



Antelope Lake Conservation Easement

Slide 3

Winter at Antelope Lake

Credit: Eastern Sierra Land Trust



Antelope Lake Conservation Easement

Slide 4

Meadow and lake



Credit: Eastern Sierra Land Trust

Antelope Lake Conservation Easement

Slide 5

Red Crossbill

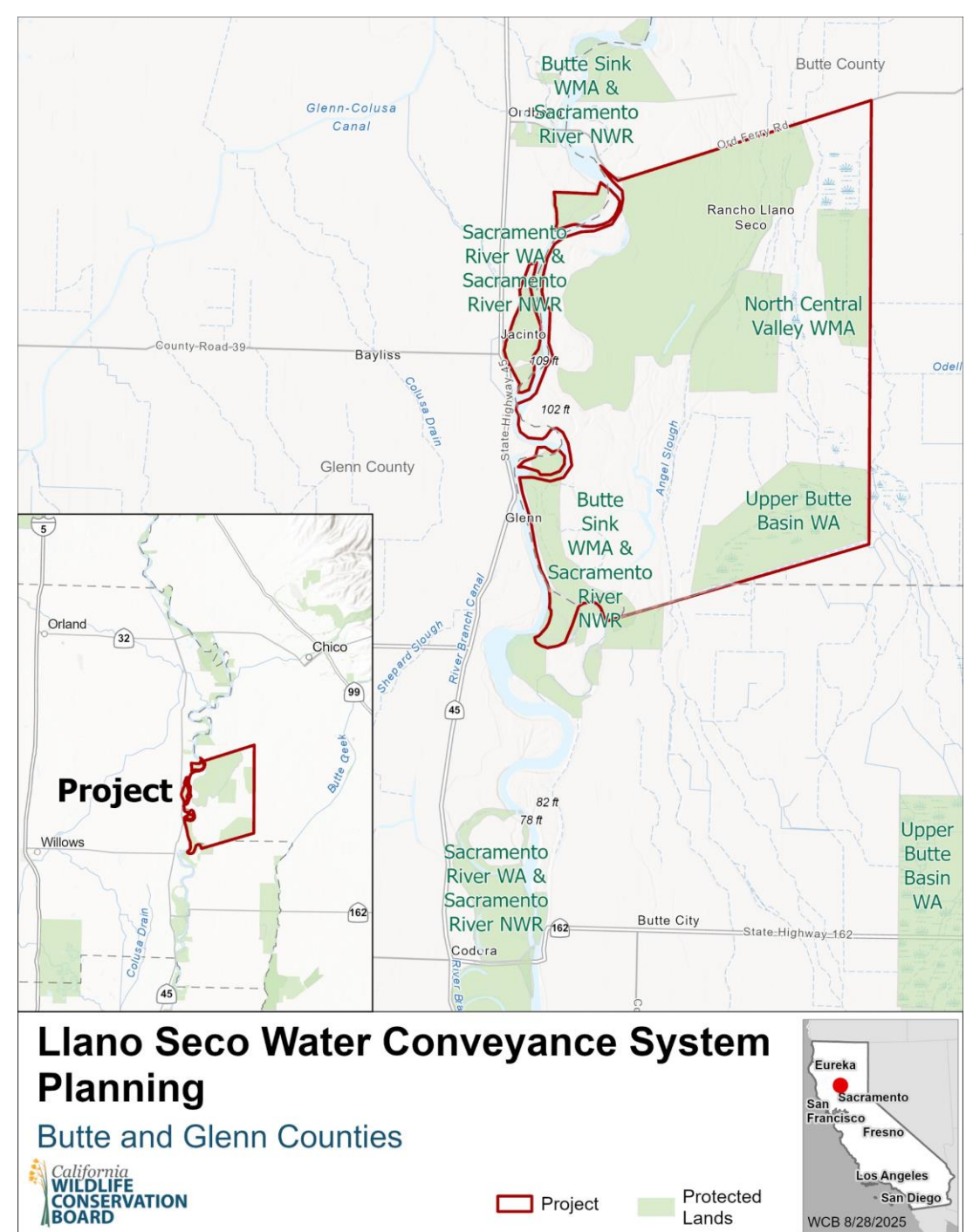
Credit: Eastern Sierra Land Trust



Llano Seco Water Conveyance System Planning

- Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- \$375,000
- Disadvantaged Community
- 98% of project area within conservation easement
- Project benefits 4,500 acres of wetland/riparian habitat and 2,700 acres of irrigated agriculture including rice

Credit: WCB





Llano Seco Water Conveyance System Planning

Slide 2

18,000 acre Rancho Llano Seco was established as a Mexican land grant in 1845 to Sebastian Keyser

By 1875 Rancho Llano Seco was acquired by John Parrott

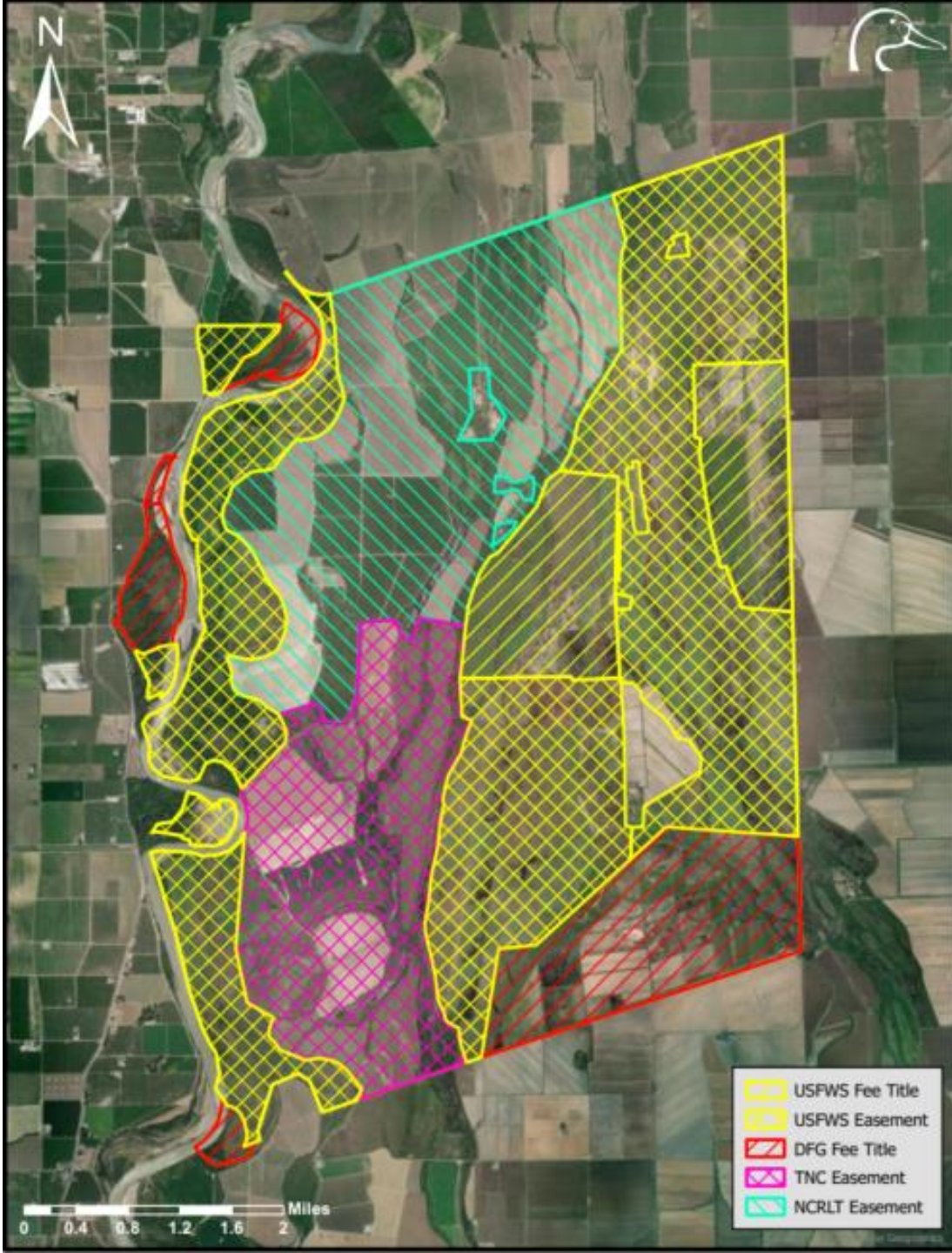
Top left: Pair of Short-billed Dowitcher

Top right: Northern Pintail

Bottom: Riparian area

Credit: CDFW





Llano Seco Water Conveyance System Planning

Slide 3

Landowners:

- Llano Seco Ranch – Private
- Llano Seco Unit North Central Valley Wildlife Management Area – USFWS
- Llano Seco Unit Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area – CDFW
- 2,700 acres of agricultural lands
- 4,500 of wetlands

Map showing locations of fee title and easements
Credit: Ducks Unlimited

Llano Seco Water Conveyance System Planning

Slide 4



Future Implementation Project Goals:

- Replace two failed canal siphons
- Improve 9.7 miles of canals
- Replace water control structures
- Improve all borrow areas
- Create valley oak riparian habitat

Photo of failed siphon
Credit: WCB

Llano Seco Water Conveyance System Planning

Slide 5



Planning Project Goals:

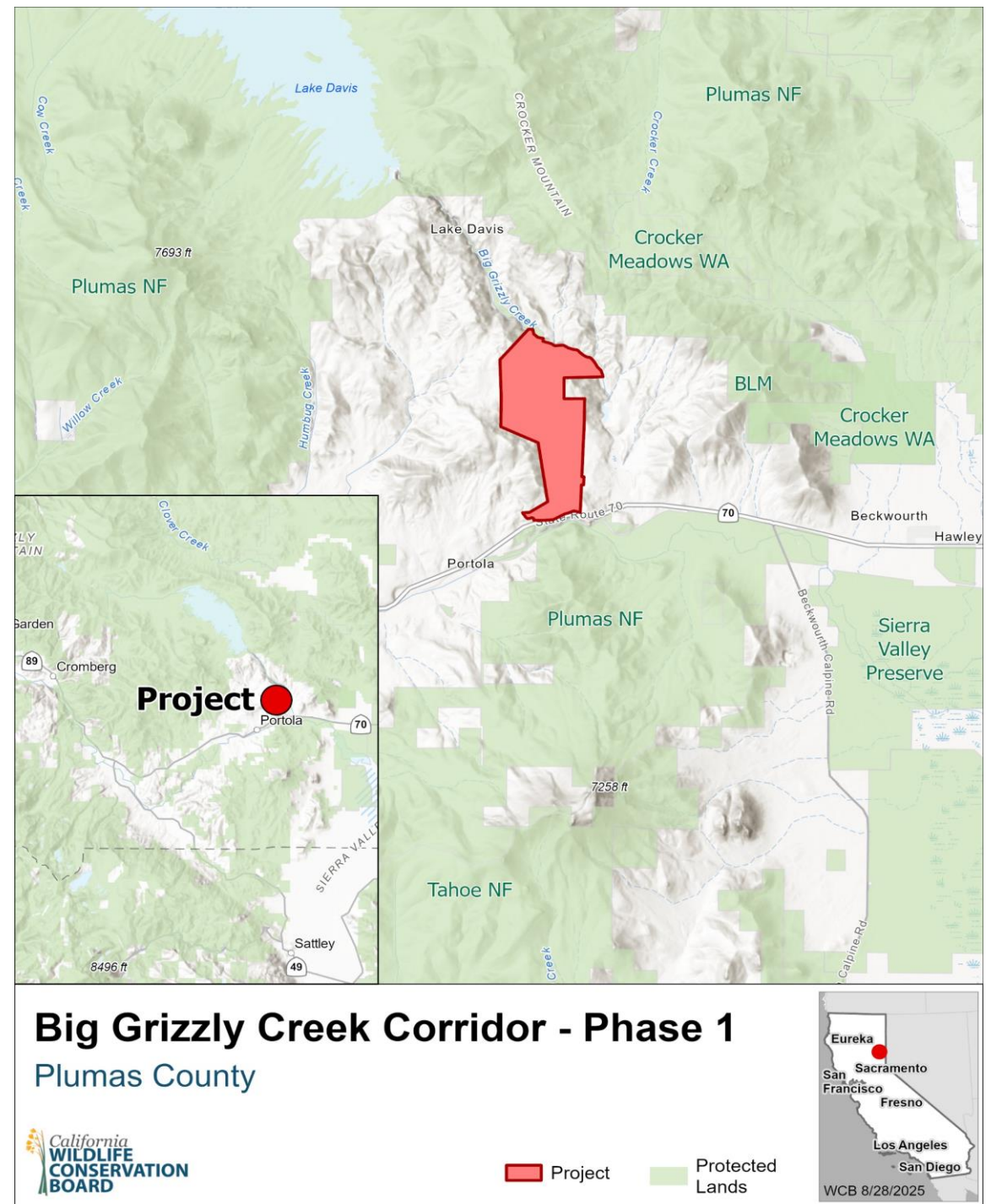
- Finalize NEPA/CEQA document, prepare Notice of Determination for future WCB Board meeting
- Submit permits
 - CVFPB Encroachment Permit
 - USACE 404
 - RWQCB 401
 - CDFW LSAA
- Advance Project Designs to 100%

Picture of leaking siphon
Credit: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Big Grizzly Creek Corridor - Phase I

- \$975,000
- Feather River Land Trust and Sierra Nevada Journeys
- Permanently protect 1,025± acres

Credit: WCB





Big Grizzly Creek Corridor - Phase I

Slide 2



Big Grizzly Creek Corridor Project, a 1,025-acre undeveloped property in the northern Sierra, supports abundant bird species and notably healthy habitats and populations of wide-ranging mammals.

Top left: Looking down on the property's meadows with Sierra Valley in the distance

Top right: Property meadow covered in snow

Bottom: SNJ runs a state-of-the art, fully ADA, outdoor environmental education camp onsite that hosts thousands of students and educators annually

Credit: Feather River Land Trust



Big Grizzly Creek Corridor - Phase I

Slide 3

The property provides important wildlife connectivity between national forest lands.

Credit: Feather River Land Trust



Big Grizzly Creek Corridor - Phase I

Slide 4

Perennial creek that flows
downstream through the property
and under Hwy 70 before
discharging to the Middle Fork
Feather River

Credit: Feather River Land Trust





Big Grizzly Creek Corridor - Phase I

Slide 5

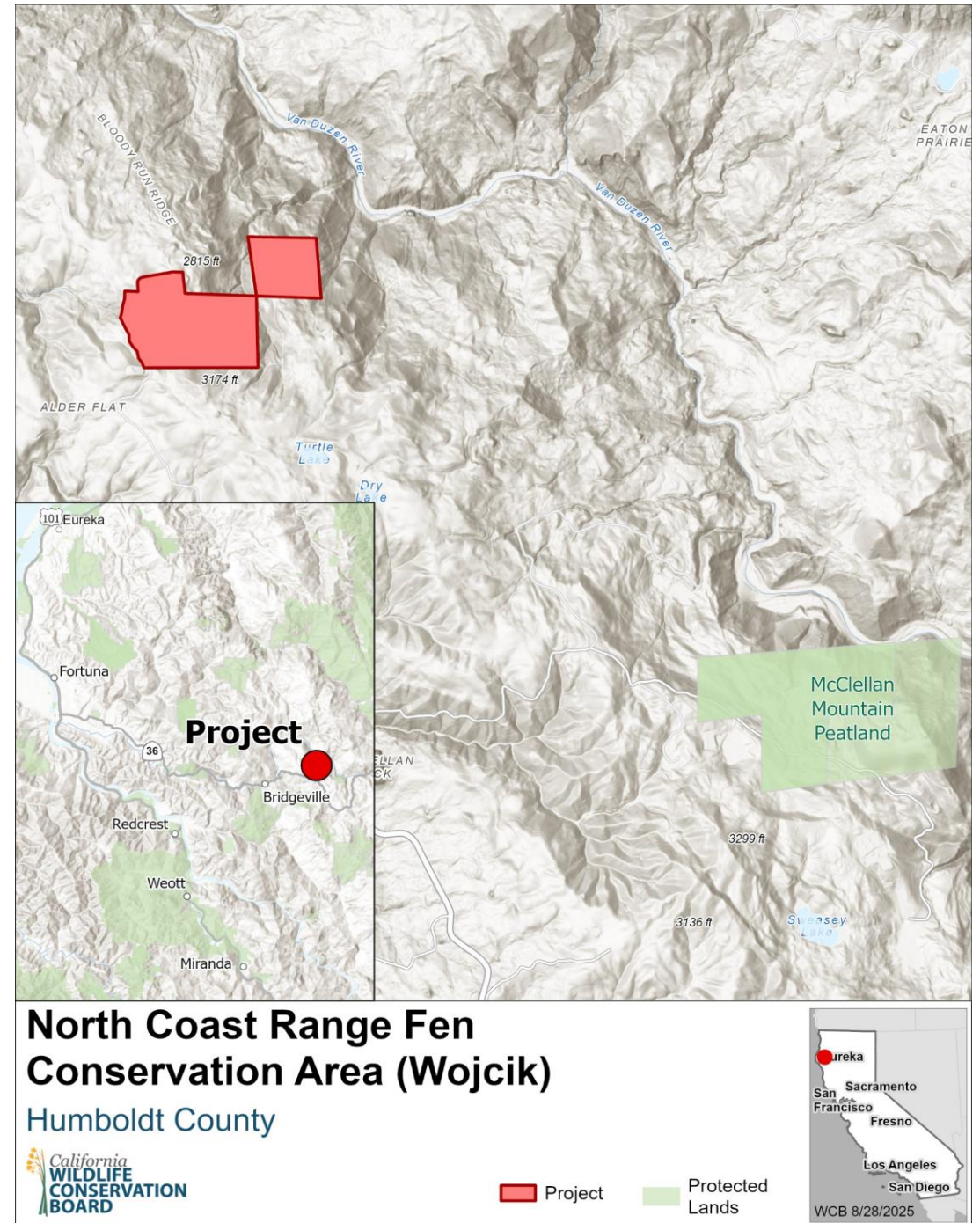
View from a ridge on the property

Credit: Feather River Land Trust

North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Wojcik)

- \$559,000
- CDFW acquisition
- 120± acres
- Protects a rare fen wetland

Credit: WCB





North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Wojcik)

Slide 2

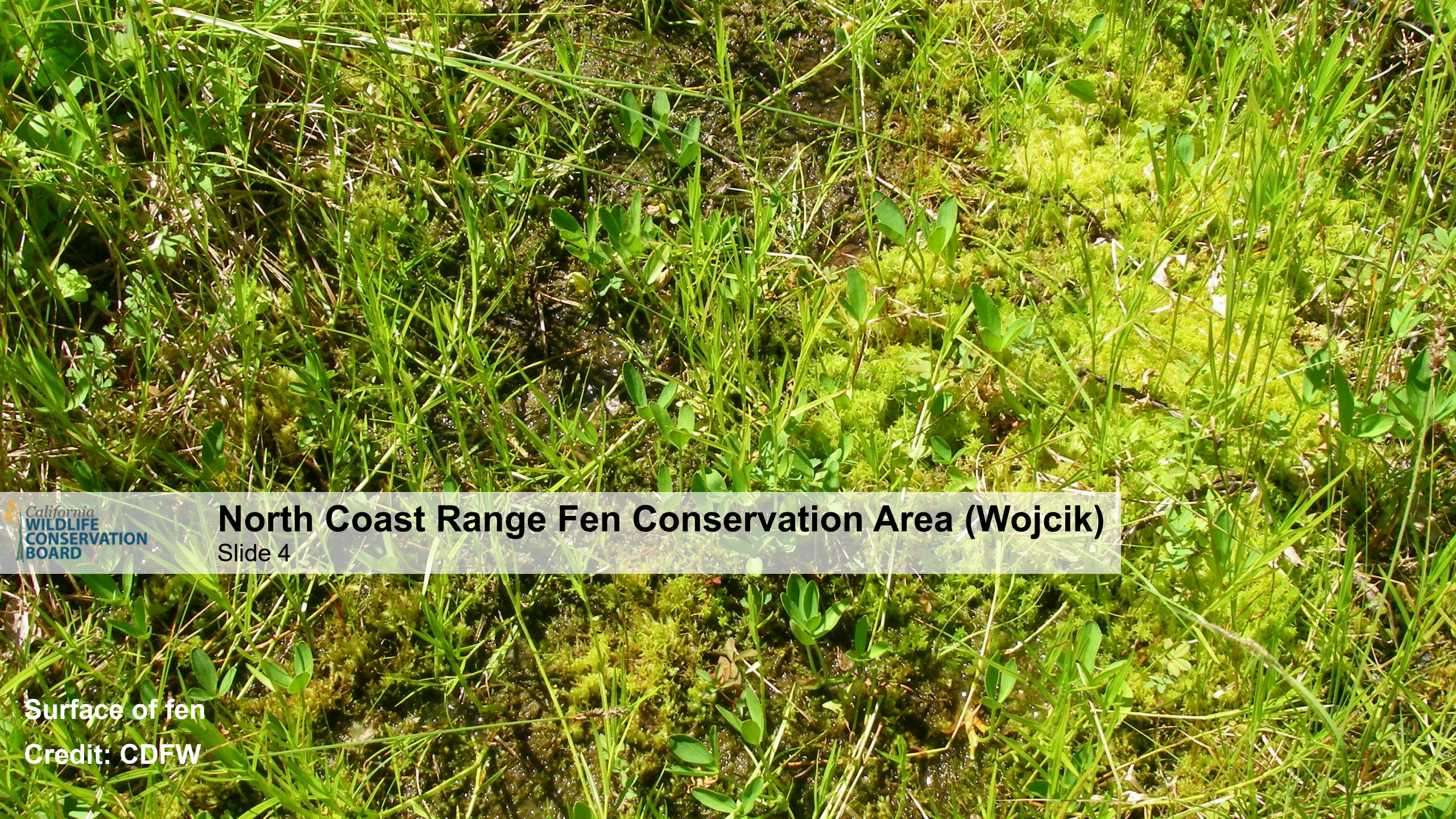
Winter (left), spring (middle) and fall conditions of the fen (right)

Credit: CDFW

North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Wojcik)

Slide 3





North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area (Wojcik)

Slide 4

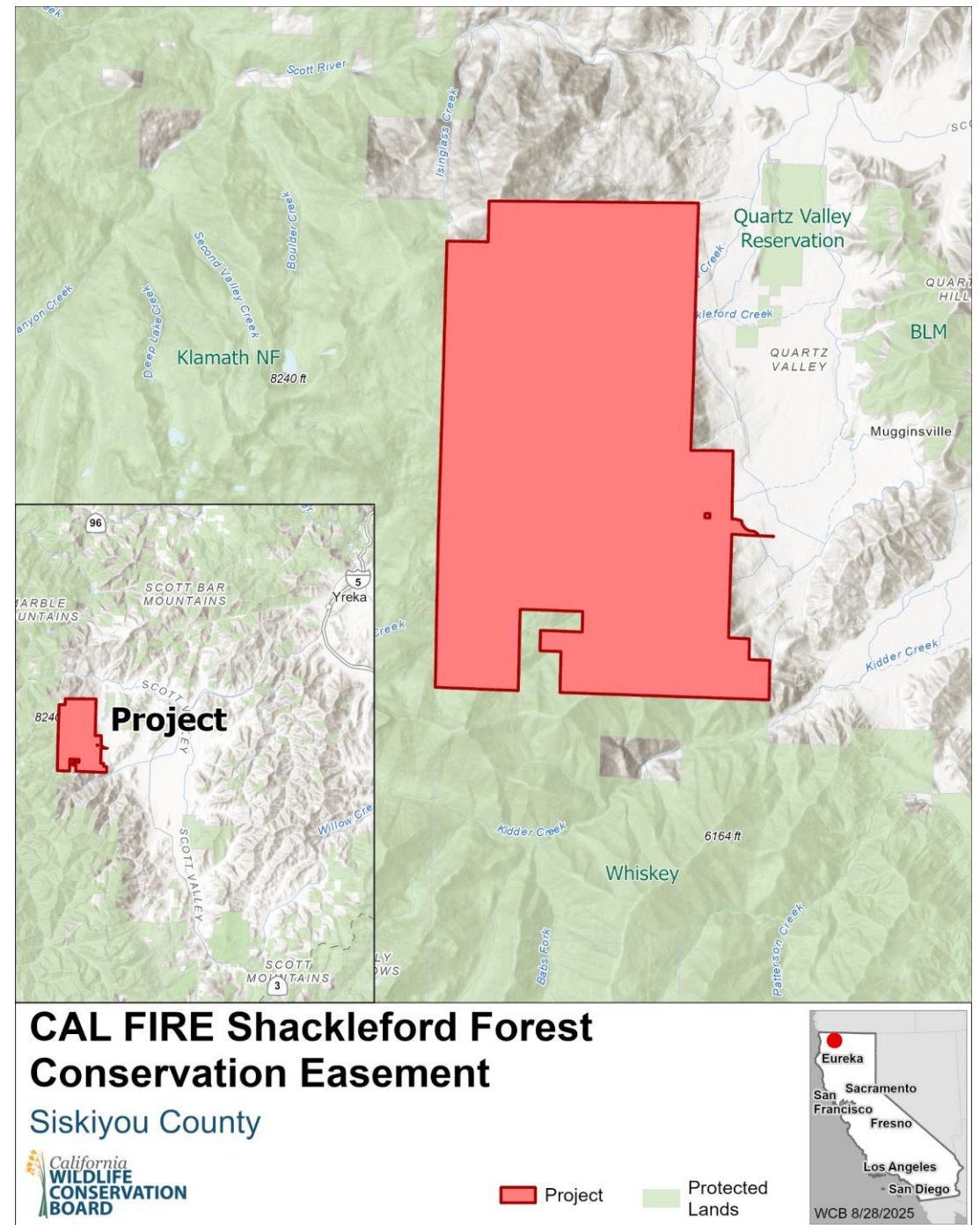
Surface of fen

Credit: CDFW

(CAL FIRE) Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement

- 12,124± acres of working forest
- CAL FIRE will hold the conservation easement
- Third and final tract of the Scott River headwaters conservation effort protecting nearly 40,000 acres
- Conservation easement value: \$3,335,000
- Property provides 1.3 miles of critical stream habitat for Coho Salmon

Credit: WCB



(CAL FIRE) Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement

Slide 2

The property is in the Klamath-Siskiyou Ecoregion and consists of a Klamath mixed-conifer forest, streams and riparian areas and meadows.

Looking east across Big Meadows and Scott Valley towards Mt. Shasta.

Credit: Siskiyou Land Trust



(CAL FIRE) Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement

Slide 3

Streams on the property provide important refugia for cold-water dependent species such as trout and salmon.

Shackleford Falls (top) found in Shackleford Creek (bottom)

Credit: Siskiyou Land Trust



(CAL FIRE) Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement

Slide 4

Key Species:

- coho salmon
- northern spotted owl
- Franklin's bumble bee
- great grey owl
- grey wolf

Aspen tree with bear claw marks (top left), grey wolf (top right) and coho salmon (bottom)

Credit: Landowner and Siskiyou Land Trust





Consent Items 7-14, Motion

Antelope Lake Conservation Lake
Credit: Eastern Sierra Land Trust



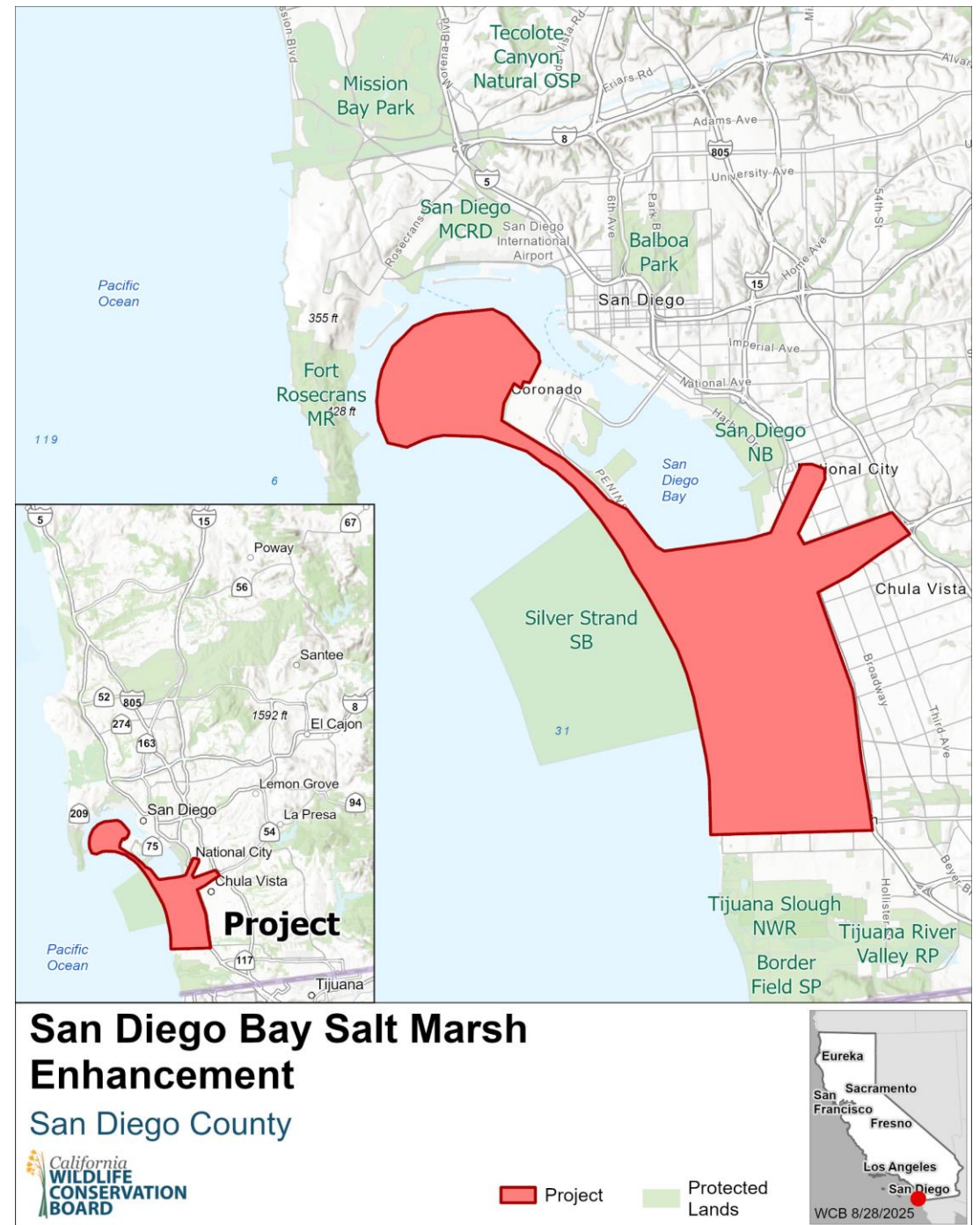
Presented Items 15-23

(CAL FIRE) Shackleford Forest Conservation Easement
Credit: Siskiyou Land Trust

San Diego Bay Salt Marsh Enhancement

- \$890,000 request from the Conservation Biology Institute
- Treating nonnative European sea lavender and Algerian sea lavender
- Coastal wetland and wetland/upland transitional habitat adjacent to the San Diego Bay
- Within the cities of Chula Vista, National City, Imperial Beach, and Coronado

Credit: WCB



San Diego Bay Salt Marsh Enhancement

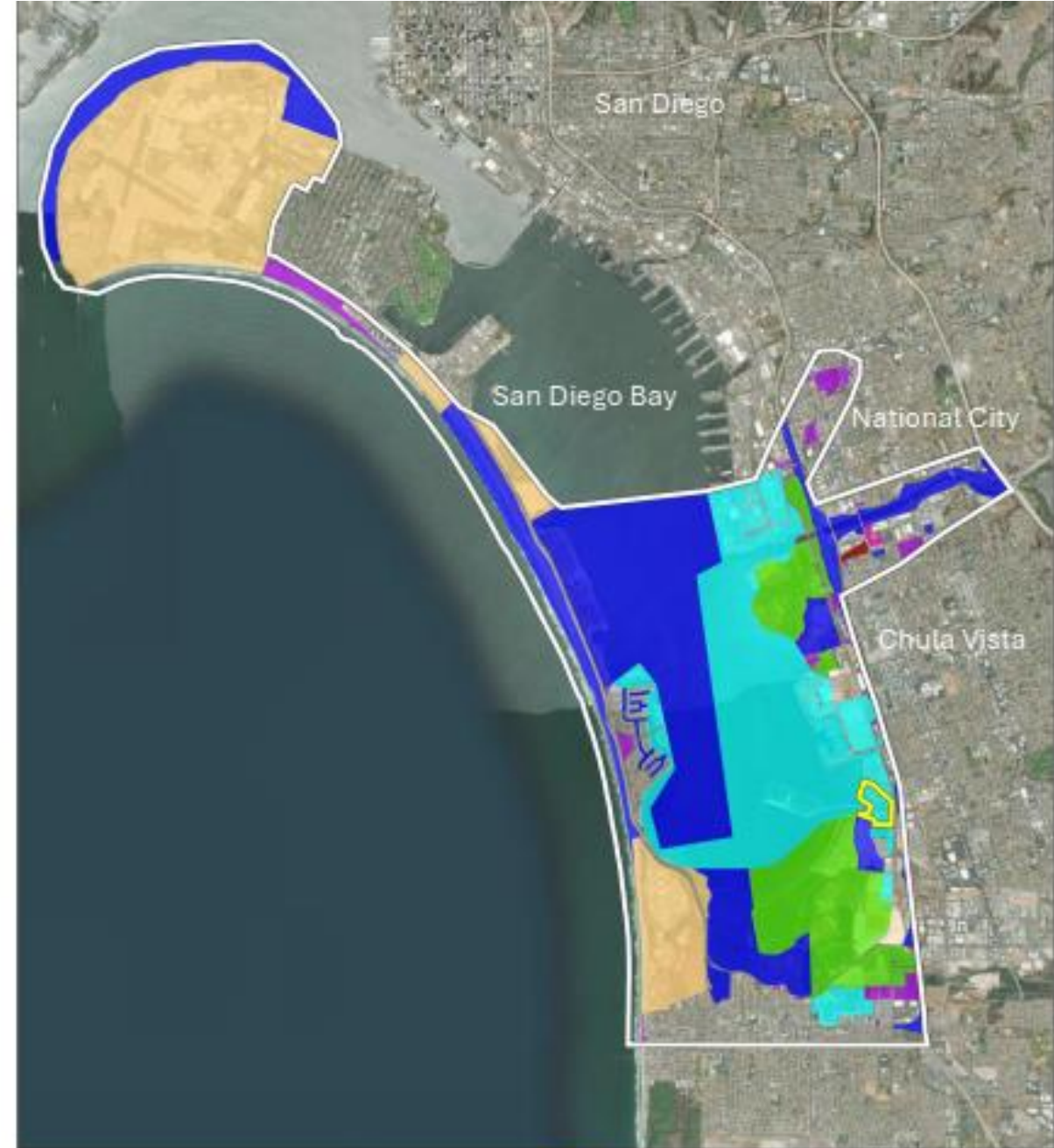
Slide 2

San Diego Bay:

- Third largest protected natural bay in California
- 90% of salt marshes and 50% of original mudflats lost to development

Conserved Areas:

- San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve
- Silver Strand State Beach



San Diego Bay Salt Marsh Enhancement

Slide 3

Nonnative Sea Lavender (*Limonium* spp.):

- Creates dense mats that displace native vegetation
- Loss of breeding and foraging habitat for wildlife

Vulnerable Habitats:

- Mid- to high-elevation salt marsh
- Marsh to upland transition areas
- Coastal dunes
- Riparian areas leading into San Diego Bay





San Diego Bay Salt Marsh Enhancement

Slide 4

Project Scope:

- Previous effort
 - USFWS Surveyed 1,400 acres
 - Infestation area of 118 acres
 - Previous treatments on 96.84 acres
- Current project
 - Survey additional 69 acres
 - Treat additional 21.6 acres

Credit: Conservation Biology Institute



San Diego Bay Salt Marsh Enhancement

Slide 5



Limonium Removal:

- Tarping in areas of dense infestation
- Hand pulling or flame treatment in less dense areas
- Two follow up treatments per year
- Treat 100% of mapped Limonium spp. and achieve a 99% reduction

Credit: Conservation Biology Institute



San Diego Bay Salt Marsh Enhancement

Slide 6

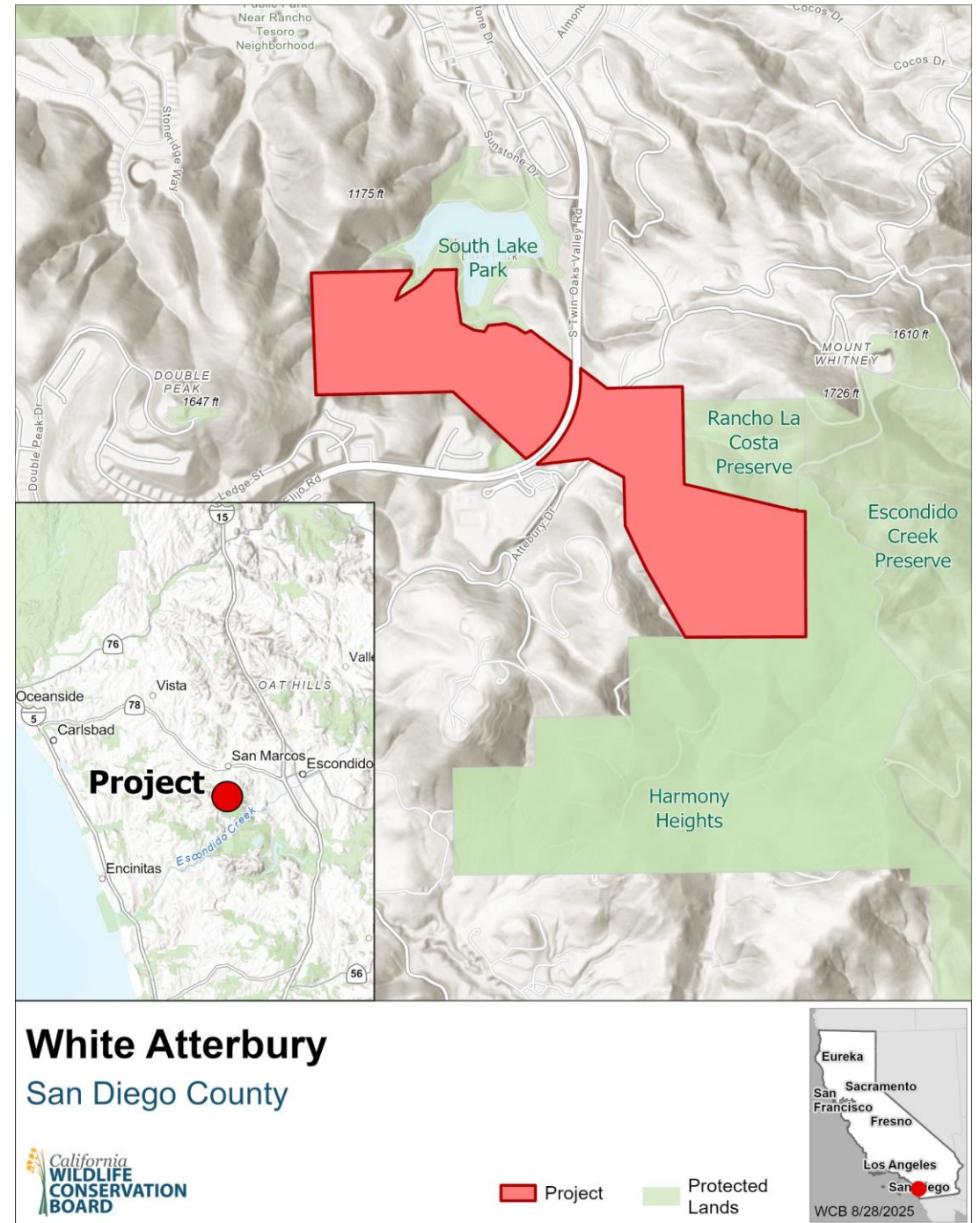
Project Benefits:

- Improved habitat for 15 listed and rare species
 - 4 Birds, 2 Insects, and 9 Plants
- Improved filtering of excess nutrients and pollutants
 - Benefiting oyster reefs and seagrass beds

White Atterbury

- 160± acres located in San Marcos, San Diego County
- Escondido Creek Conservancy is the grantee
- \$2,400,000 WCB grant
- Property is within the core gnatcatcher habitat area and borders several other conserved properties and open space
- Property is within City of Carlsbad Habitat Management Plan, Northwest San Diego County Multiple Habitat Conservation Program, and Natural Communities Conservation Plan

Credit: WCB



White Atterbury

Slide 2

The property habitats consist of coastal sage scrub and chaparral

Credit: Escondido Creek Conservancy





White Atterbury

Slide 3

Key Species:

- Coastal California gnatcatcher
- Southwest pond turtle
- Western spadefoot toad



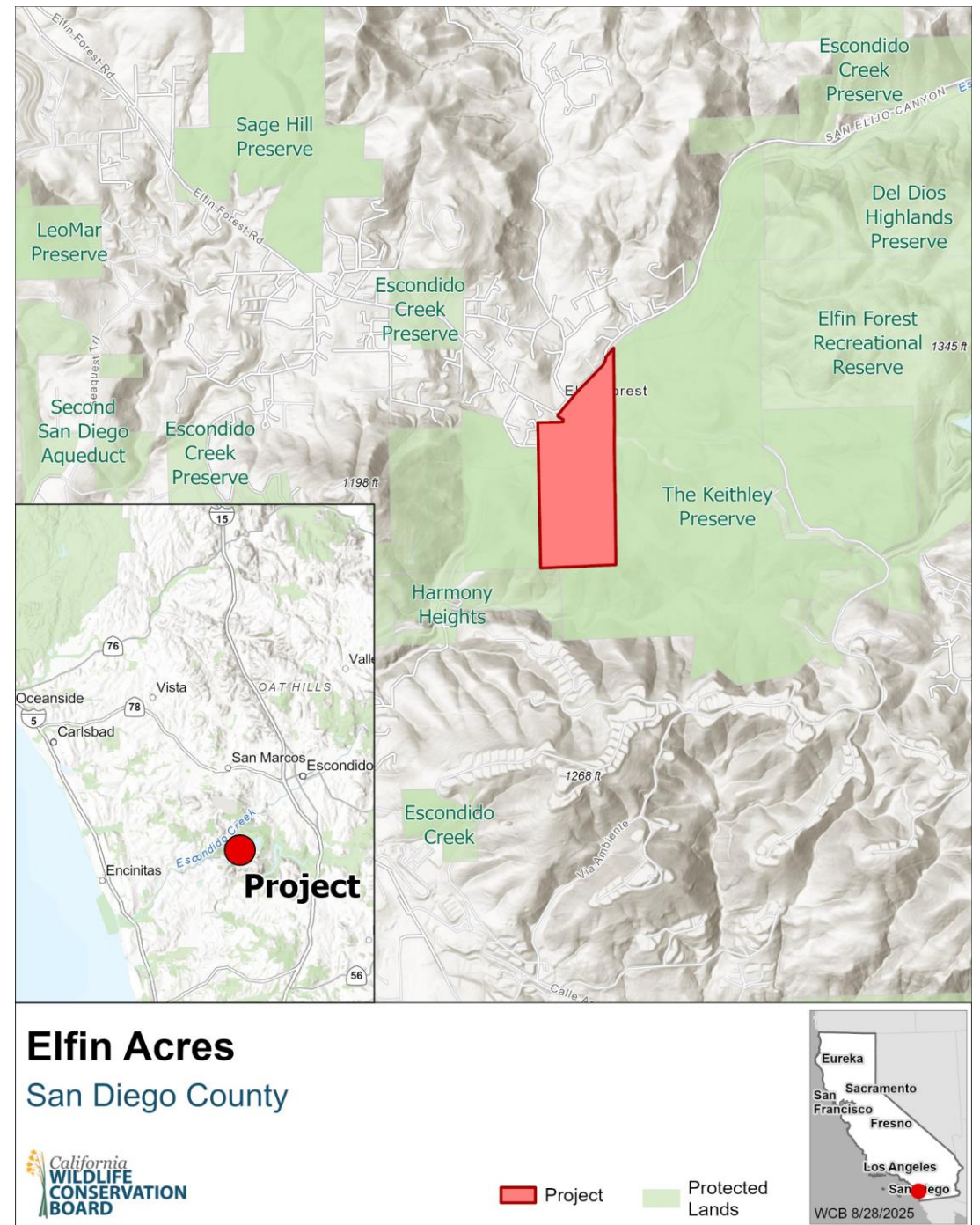
Male coastal California Gnatcatcher (left) and green heron (right)

Credit: Escondido Creek Conservancy

Elfin Acres

- Escondido Creek Conservancy
- 96± acres
- San Marcos, San Diego County

Credit: WCB



Elfin Acres

Slide 2

Property adjacent to 910 acre Keithly Preserve

Oak woodland and grassland on property
Credit: Escondido Creek Conservancy





Elfin Acres

Slide 3

Key Species:

- California gnatcatcher
- Southwest pond turtle
- Western spadefoot toad

Rolling hills on property
Credit: Escondido Creek Conservancy

Elfin Acres

Slide 4

Riparian habitat along Escondido Creek

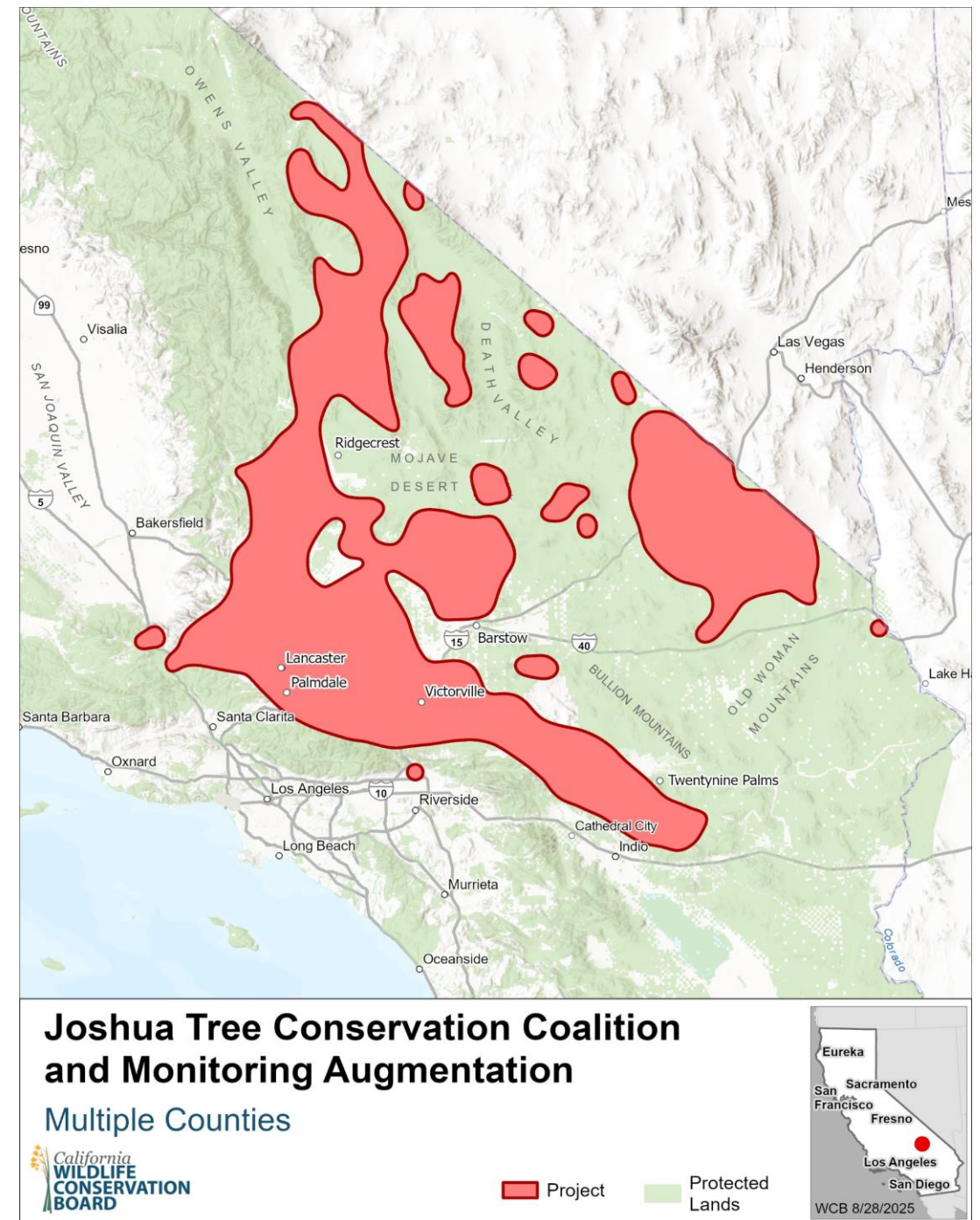
Credit: WCB



Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Monitoring - Augmentation

- Species: western Joshua tree
- \$1,618,000

Credit: WCB



Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Monitoring – Augmentation

Slide 2

- Extends the work of the Coalition
- Adds 100 monitoring plots

Monitoring plot showing clonal western Joshua trees
Credit: Mojave Desert Land Trust



Big Canyon Coastal Wetland Restoration

- \$3,241,000 request from the Newport Bay Conservancy
- Restoration of 14 acres of salt marsh and riparian habitat in the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve
- Will benefit several threatened and endangered species and improve climate resiliency
- Within the city of Newport Beach

Credit: WCB



Big Canyon Coastal Wetland Restoration

Slide 2

Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve:

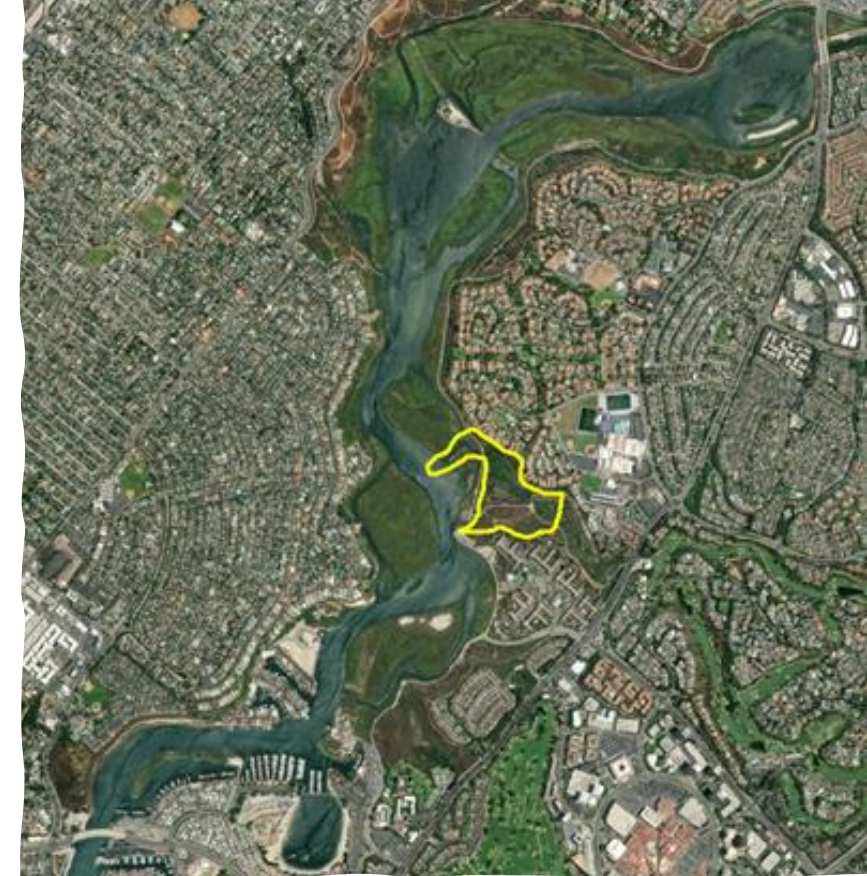
- Salt marsh, mudflat, and estuary habitats

Big Canyon Restoration Project:

- Phase 1 - Upper watershed, completed in 2017
- Phase 2 - Central watershed, completed in 2020

Current Project (Phase 3):

- 14 acres of historical salt marsh and transitional wetlands





Big Canyon Coastal Wetland Restoration

Slide 3



Big Canyon Stressors:

- Water Quality Degradation
 - Upstream development
 - Selenium-laden groundwater seepage
- Historical Land Disturbance
 - Grazing and agricultural activities
 - Dredge and fill materials
- Altered Hydrology
 - Increased peak-flows during storm events
 - Year-round dry weather flows
- Invasive Species

Credit: Newport Bay Conservancy



Big Canyon Coastal Wetland Restoration

Slide 4

Project Elements:

- Realignment of Big Canyon Creek
 - Reduce selenium
 - Remove existing freshwater pond
 - Protect intertidal salt marsh habitat
- Restore tidal flow
- Invasive species removal
- Native plant installation

Freshwater pond area
Credit: WCB

Big Canyon Coastal Wetland Restoration

Slide 5

Project Benefits:

- Improved water quality entering Newport Bay
- 14 acres of restored habitat
 - Salt marsh, freshwater marsh, riparian, upland, and wet alkali meadow
- Enhanced habitat for threatened and endangered species
 - 6 Birds, 6 Plants
- Improved climate change adaptation

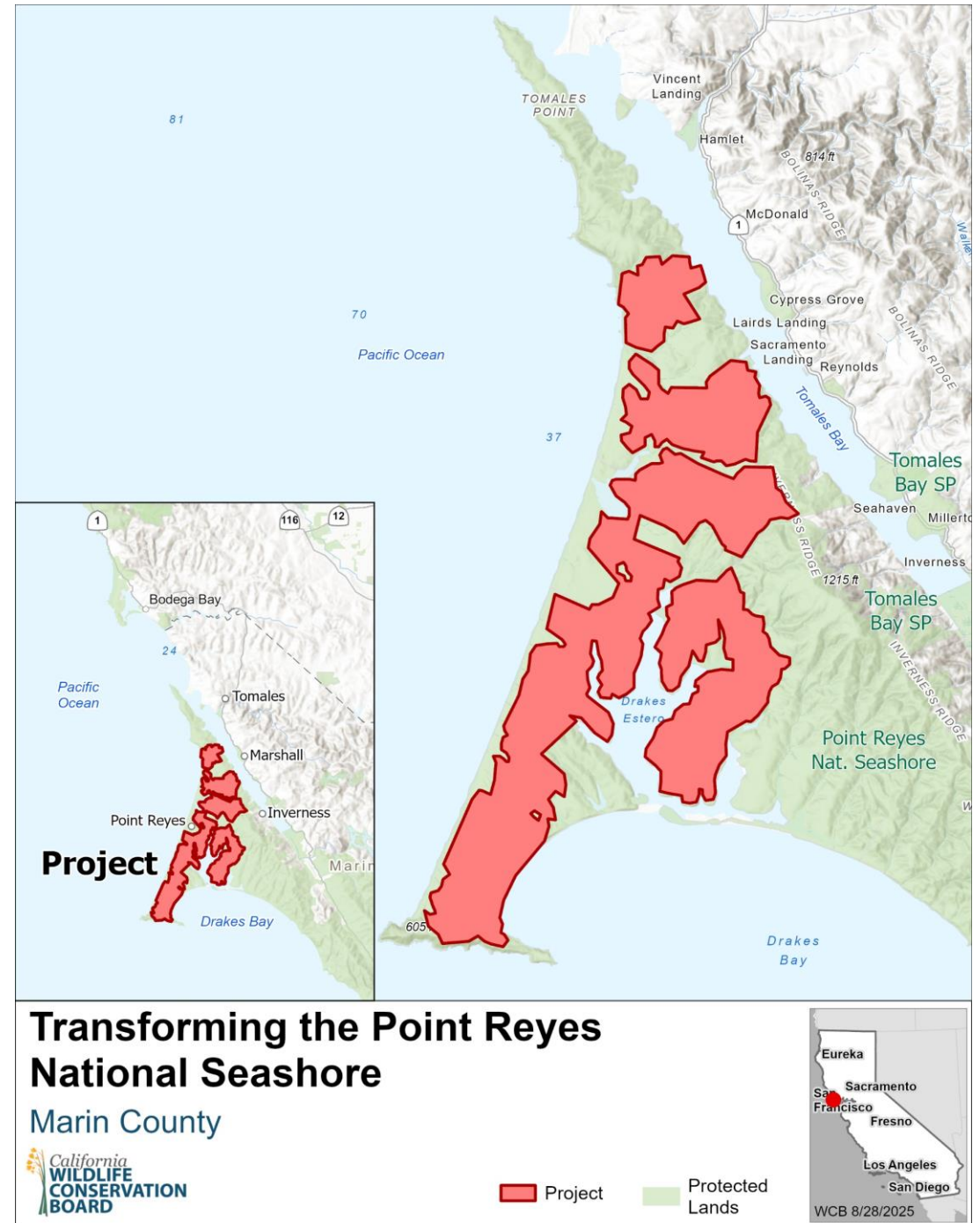


Credit: Newport Bay Conservancy

Transforming the Point Reyes National Seashore

- Protect and restore over 16,000 acres of sensitive coastal habitat within the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS)
- Develop a targeted conservation grazing regime to protect and restore sensitive ecosystems
- Develop research and monitoring to assure effective long-term management

Credit: WCB



Transforming the Point Reyes National Seashore

Slide 2

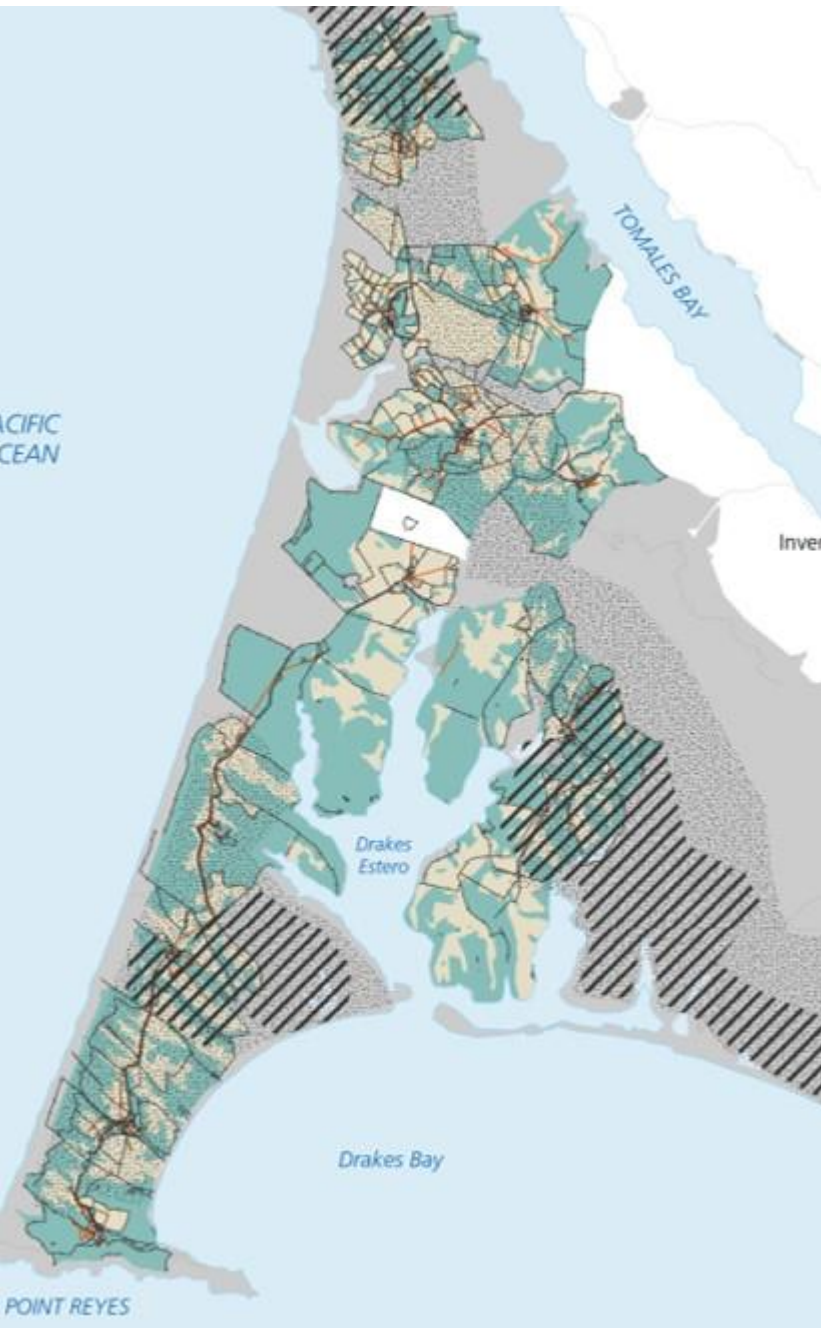
Background

- Time immemorial: Tamál-Húye
- 19th century: Beef/dairy operations established
- 1962: PRNS founded
- 1978: Tule elk re-introduced
- 1980: General Plan developed
- 2014-2024: Leases/General Plan updates/challenges
- 2025: General Plan Amended/voluntary settlement

Images: Upper left: B Ranch, circa 1905; upper right: Tule elk; bottom: Historic C Ranch.

Credit: Jack Mason Museum of West Marin History, Los Angeles Times, National Park Service





Transforming the Point Reyes National Seashore

Slide 3

Current conditions

Images: Map of existing grazing infrastructure and tule elk distribution (left), tule elk fencing (middle), landscape view of cattle/tule elk interface (right)

Credit: TNC/WCB/Google Earth



Transforming the Point Reyes National Seashore

Slide 4



Project Goals:

- Develop a managed grazing plan/restoration plan
- Complete design/permitting needed for conservation grazing and wildlife connectivity
- Restoration planning for the most highly impacted areas
- Develop research and monitoring program

Tule elk herd near Tomales Point

Credit: WCB

Transforming the Point Reyes National Seashore

Slide 5



Outreach:

- Public meetings to be held for community input on concerns, opportunities, and priorities
- Public review and feedback on the draft managed grazing plan/restoration plan, once developed
- Ongoing coordination with the National Park Service, for consistency with management of the area as a national park

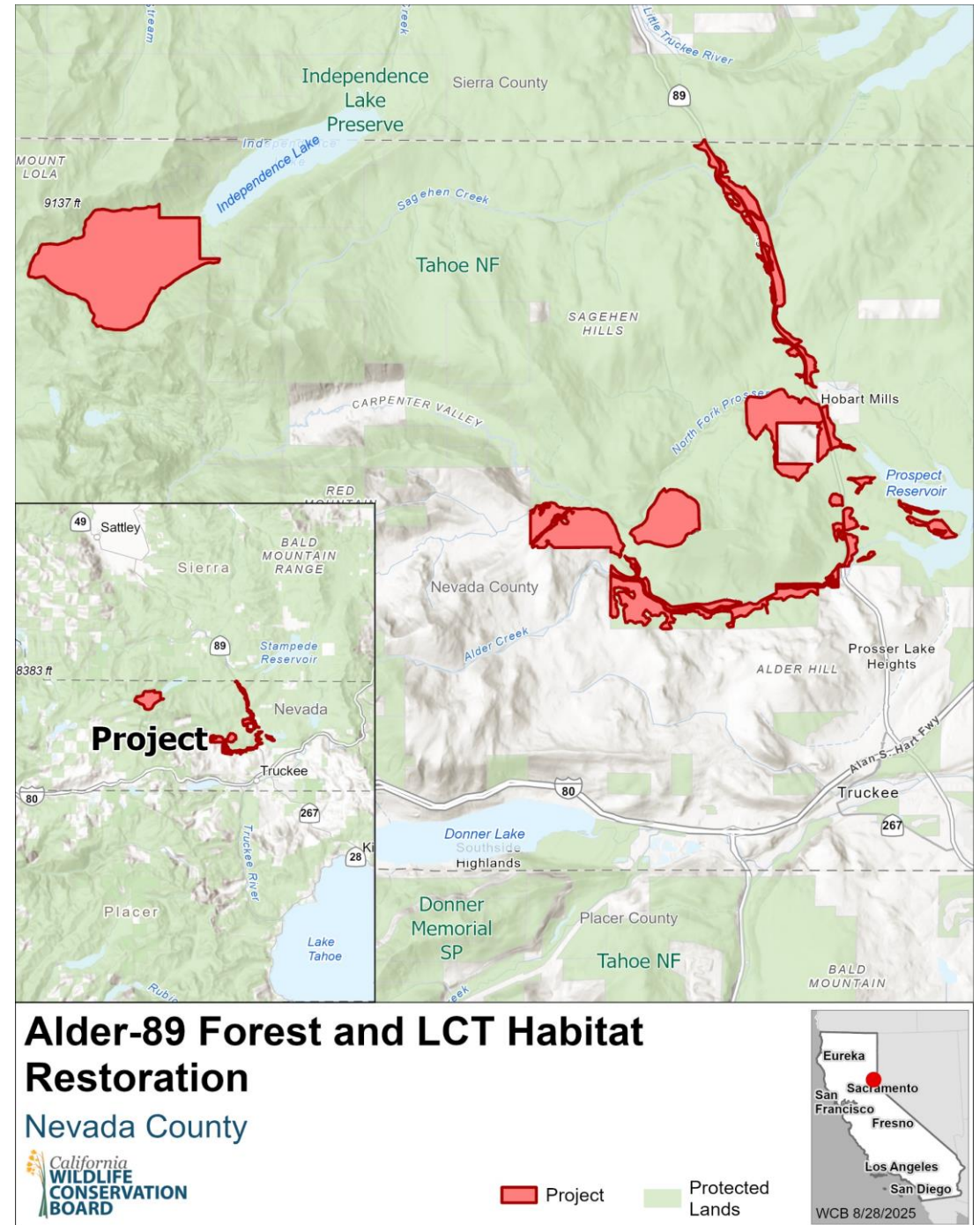
Tule elk

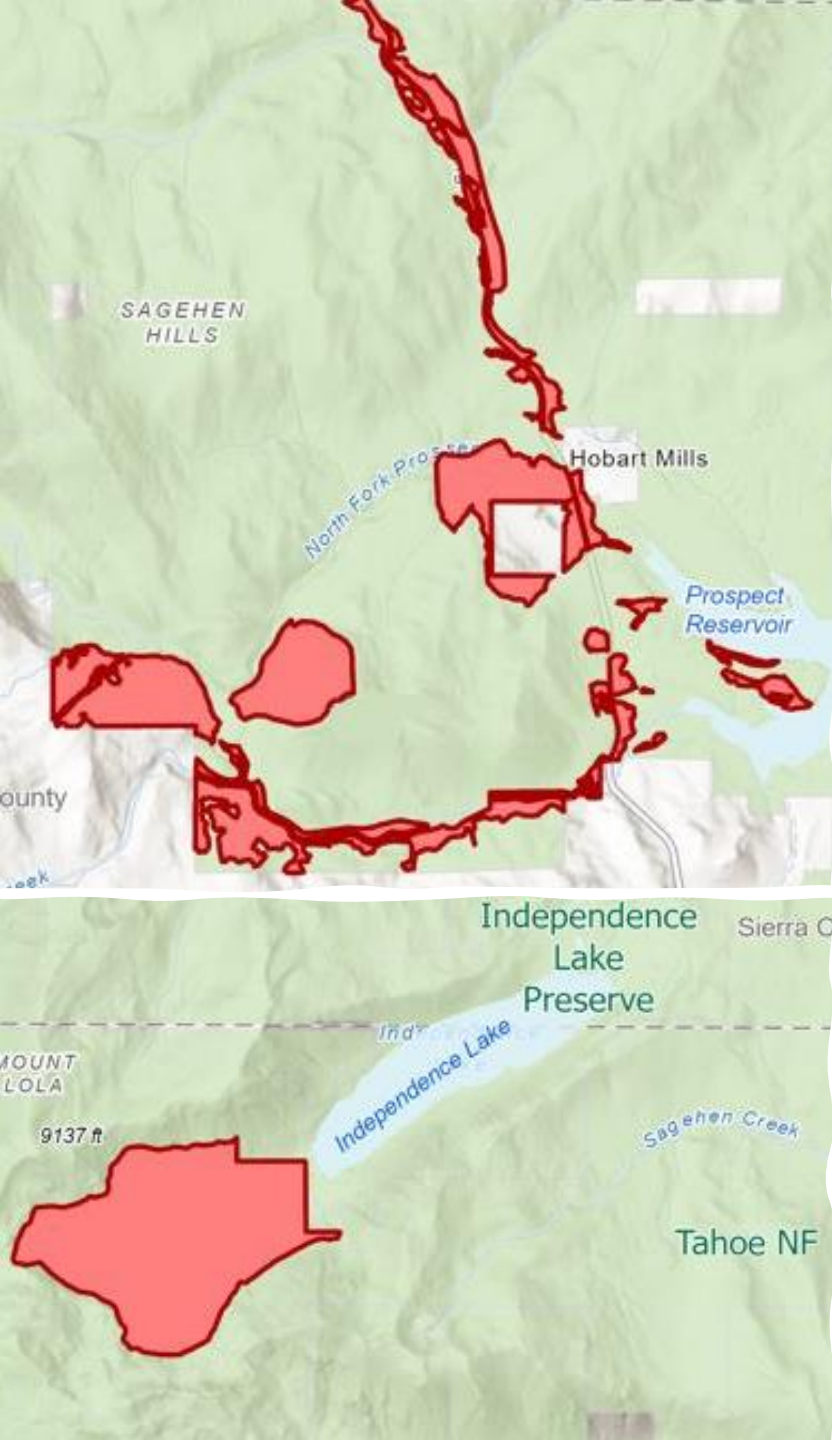
Credit: Los Angeles Times

Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration

- \$3,623,800
- Grantee: Truckee River Watershed Council
- Landowner: U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest

Credit: WCB





Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration

Slide 2

Alder-89 Implementation:

- 2,509 acres of conifer thinning, 46 acres of aspen
- WCB funding 1,006 acres of treatment within project area (split-funded with CALFIRE)

LCT Restoration Planning:

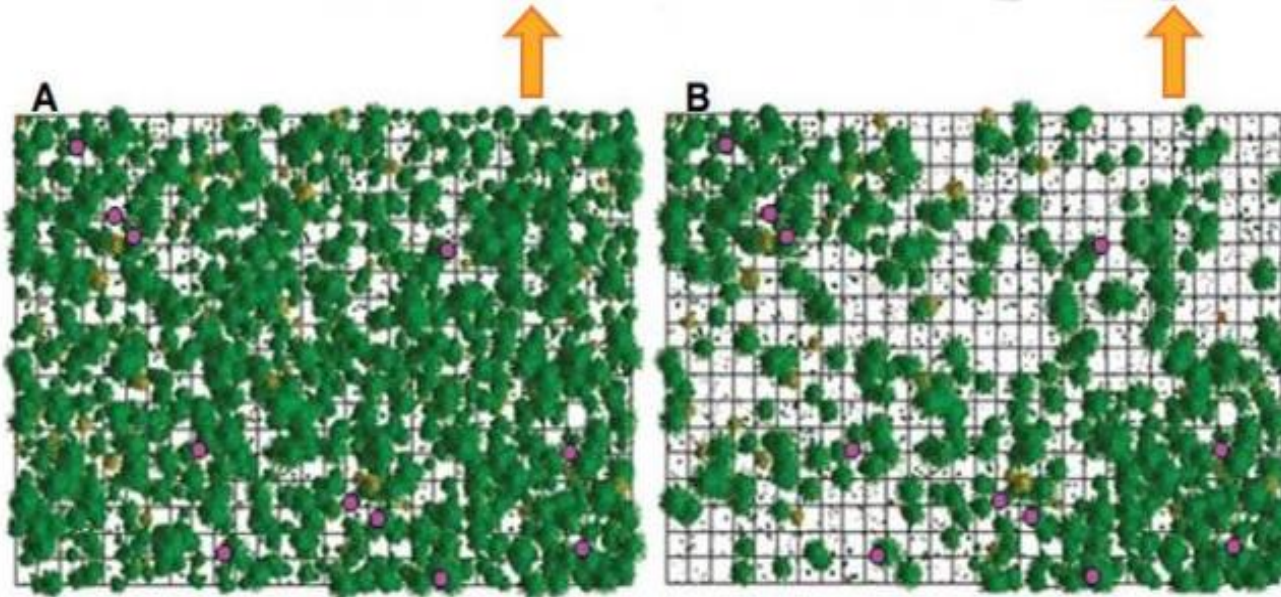
- 1,245 acre study area to benefit Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT)

Alder-89 Implementation (top)
LCT Restoration Planning (bottom)
Credit: WCB



Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration

Slide 3



Alder-89 treatment unit (top left), Credit: WCB
Example thinned unit (top right), Credit: Sierra Club/Avery Hill
Variable density thinning (bottom), Credit: USFS

Alder-89 Implementation:

- Overstocked, homogenous conditions
- Degraded ecosystem function
- Variable density thinning used to mimic disturbance-reliant mosaic
- Surface and ladder fuel treatment

Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration

Slide 4

- Reduced tree competition
- Disruption of conditions favorable to forest pests/pathogens
- Habitat benefits for northern goshawk, California spotted owl, and willow flycatcher
- Co-benefit of reduced community wildfire risk





Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration

Slide 5

LCT Restoration Planning:

- NEPA planning to benefit federally-listed Lahontan cutthroat trout

Meadow with conifer encroachment (left), forest conditions (middle) and remnant aspen (right)
Credit: WCB



Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration

Slide 6

- Surveys (biological, silvicultural, cultural)
- Restoration prescriptions/designs
- Access improvements to enable implementation

Forest edge overlooking Upper Independence Creek
Credit: WCB

Alder-89 Forest and LCT Habitat Restoration

Slide 7



Project will increase:

- Biodiversity and habitat function
- Forest health
- Climate resilience
- Community fire resilience
- Regional collaboration

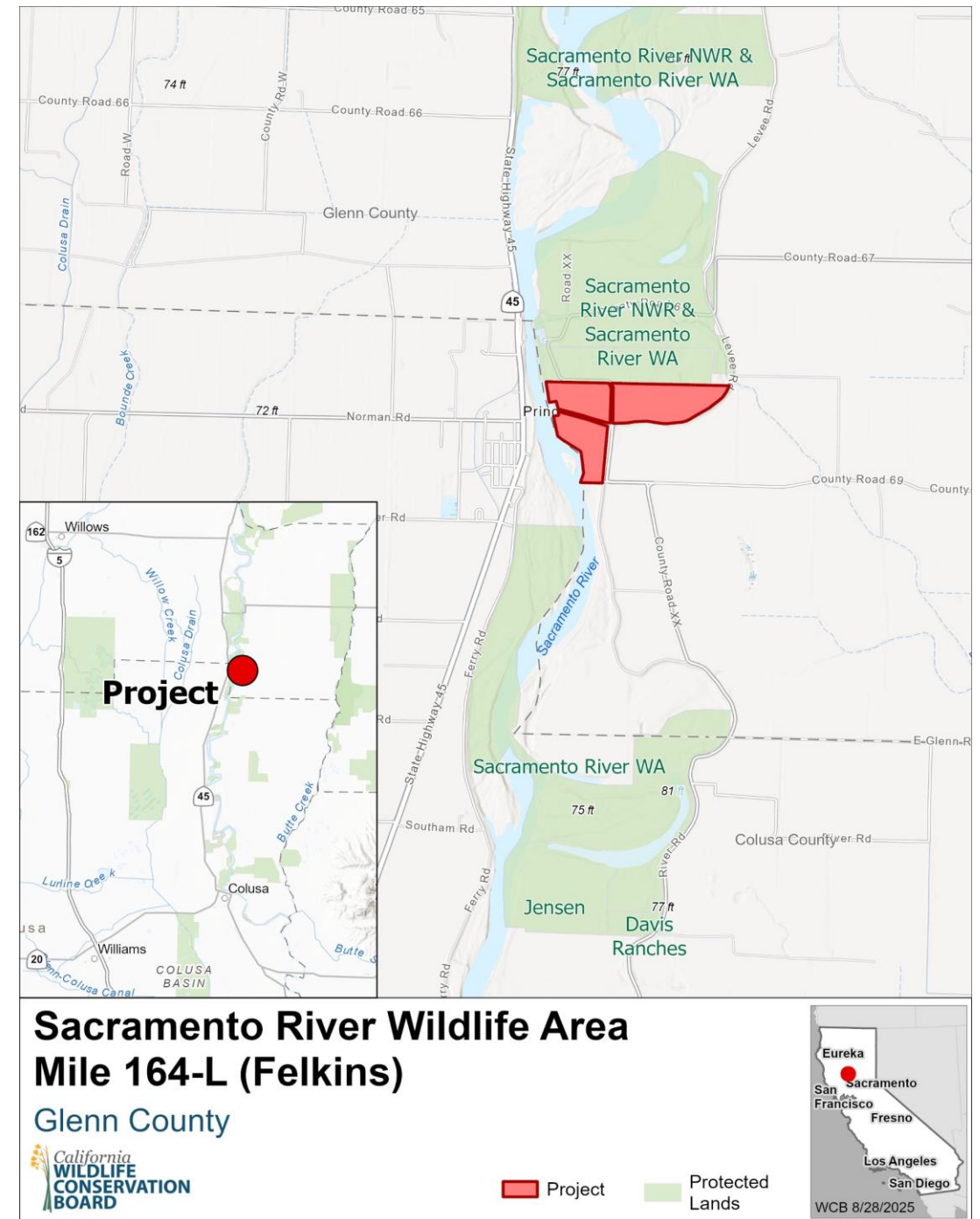


Alder-89 treatment unit (top left), LCT Restoration Planning road access (top right), and Independence Lake (bottom)
Credit: WCB

Sacramento River Wildlife Area Mile 164-L (Felkins)

- Adds 128± acres to CDFW's Sacramento River Wildlife Area corridor
- Protects invaluable floodplains
- Restores river process
- Benefits native species and habitats
- 13 miles north of the city of Colusa
- Disadvantaged Community
- Public access

Credit: WCB





Sacramento River Wildlife Area Mile 164-L (Felkins)

Slide 2

- Current Land Uses
 - Nut orchards
 - Riparian and riverine habitats
- Upon CDFW's Acquisition
 - Revert to natural condition over time
 - Wildlife-oriented recreation

Overlooking walnut orchard
Credit: WCB



Sacramento River Wildlife Area Mile 164-L (Felkins)

Slide 3

- Key Species
 - Valley elderberry longhorn beetle
 - Bank swallow



Upper left: Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (representative)
Credit: Jon Katz and Joe Silveira, USFWS

Upper right: Valley elderberry (green vegetation)
Credit: WCB

Bottom: Bank swallows along the Sacramento River
Credit: CDFW

Sacramento River Wildlife Area Mile 164-L (Felkins)

Slide 4

- Purchase Price
 - \$1,820,000
 - Appraised Fair Market Value
 - Approved by DGS

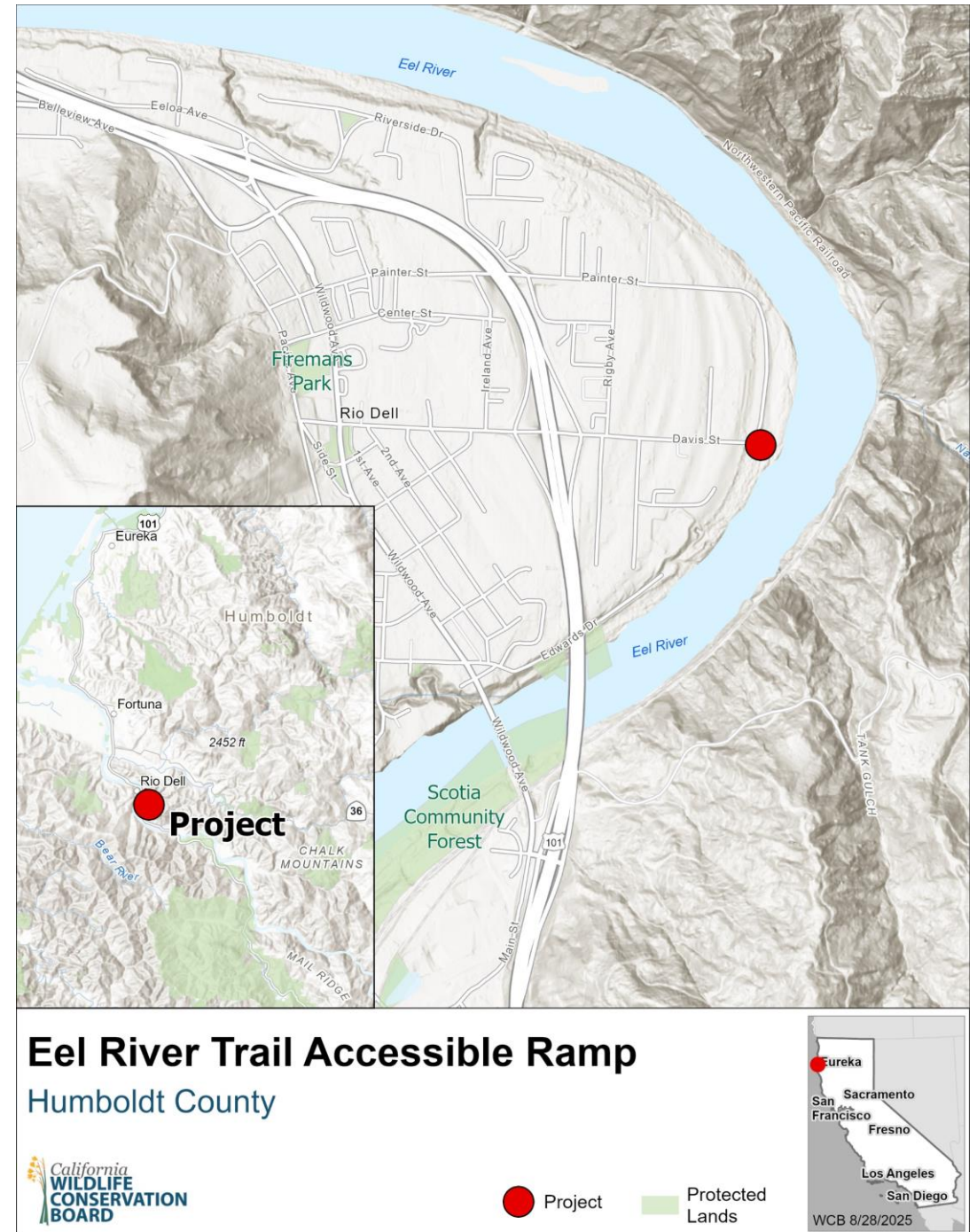
Facing west at the river's edge
Credit: WCB



Eel River Trail Accessible Ramp

- City of Rio Dell
- \$1,200,000
- Benefits a Severely Disadvantaged Community
- ADA access to a new walking and biking trail along the Eel River

Credit: WCB



Eel River Trail Accessible Ramp

Slide 2

Multi-use path connects Edwards Drive and Davis Street

- Provides a safe 2-mile loop for walking and biking
- Improves access to river bar for fishing and recreation
- Creates opportunities for outdoor education and connecting with nature
- Part of the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan

Edwards Drive trailhead (left), Section of paved trail (right)
Credit: City of Rio Dell

Trail provides views of the Scotia Bluffs (bottom)
Credit: WCB





Eel River Trail Accessible Ramp

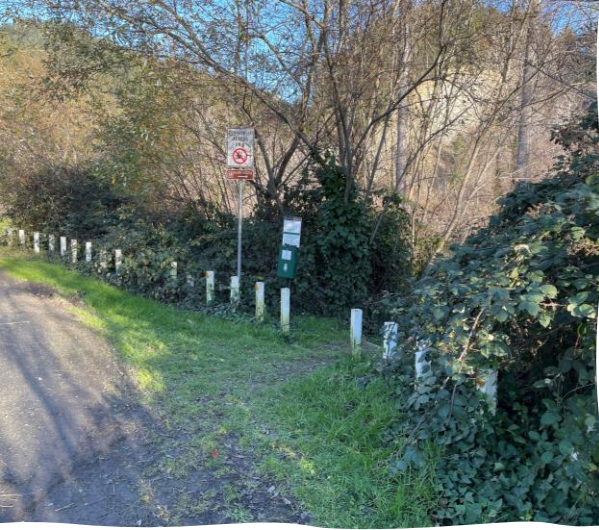
Slide 3

Phase I (Complete):

- Pedestrian and bicycle path with signage, benches, and waste receptacles
- Trailhead amenities, parking, and signage at Edwards Drive
- Riparian enhancements

Rio Dell Trail ribbon cutting ceremony in June 2025

Credit: CalTrans



Eel River Trail Accessible Ramp

Slide 4

Phase II (Proposed):

- Concrete switchback style ramp and trailhead amenities at Davis Street



Entrance from Davis Street (top left)

Looking up the stairs to Davis Street from trail (top right)

Credit: WCB

Current end of trail and proposed location of ramp (bottom)

Credit: City of Rio Dell

2026 Board Meeting Dates

The Board will be asked to approve WCB meetings dates for 2026:

- Thursday, February 26, 2026
- Thursday, May 28, 2026
- Thursday, August 27, 2026
- Thursday, November 19, 2026



Item 25. Executive Session (Not Open to the Public)

Joshua Tree Conservation Coalition and Monitoring - Augmentation
Credit: Mojave Desert Land Trust



Meeting Adjourned
Next Board Meeting, November 20, 2025

Big Grizzly Creek Corridor - Phase I
Credit: WCB