



# Wildlife Conservation Board 2012 Annual Report

## Board Members

Charlton H. Bonham, Director (Chair)  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Michael Sutton, President  
Fish and Game Commission

Ana J. Matosantos, Director  
Department of Finance

## Legislative Advisory Committee

Senator Jean Fuller

Senator Fran Pavley

Senator Lois Wolk

Assembly Member Richard Gordon

Assembly Member Ben Hueso

Assembly Member Das Williams

## Executive Director

John P. Donnelly



Originally created within the California Department of Natural Resources in 1947, and later placed with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the **Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)** is a separate and independent Board with authority and funding to carry out programs for wildlife conservation (California Fish and Game Code 1300, et seq.).

The WCB's three main functions are land protection, habitat restoration and development of wildlife-oriented public access facilities. These activities are carried out under the following 10 programs:

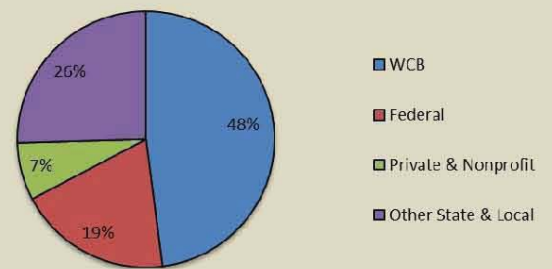
- California Forest Conservation
- California Riparian Habitat Conservation
- Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands
- Habitat Restoration and Enhancement (General)
- Inland Wetlands Conservation
- Land Acquisition (General)
- Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit
- Oak Woodland Conservation
- Rangeland, Grazing Land and Grassland Protection
- Public Access

In 2012, the WCB continued efforts to protect and restore wildlife habitat and to promote wildlife-related public access projects, in partnership with a variety of public and private funding sources, conservation programs and organizations throughout California.

### Project Partners and Matching Funding

The WCB's funding in recent years has derived primarily from several large bond initiatives. Given global economic conditions, the participation of project partners has been crucial to California's success in protecting and restoring some of the best California wildlife habitat lands. **In 2012, approximately \$89 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$97 million in partner contributions**—more than doubling the impact of the WCB's funding—in tangible projects on the ground.

### 2012 Project Funding Distribution



### Project Successes

The WCB works with willing landowners only and provides notice to local communities on all proposed projects. The WCB contributed to 86 projects in calendar year 2012, as follows:

**Approximately \$39 million was allocated for the acquisition of nearly 15,000 acres of wildlife habitat by CDFW and other conservation partners.**

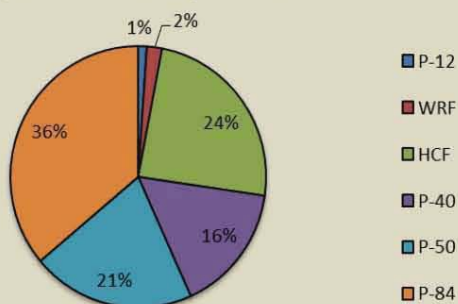
**Approximately \$24 million was allocated for the protection of nearly 33,000 acres of wildlife habitat via acquisition of conservation easement by our conservation partners.**

**Approximately \$19.5 million was designated for habitat restoration, enhancement and public access projects on more than 4,000 acres.**

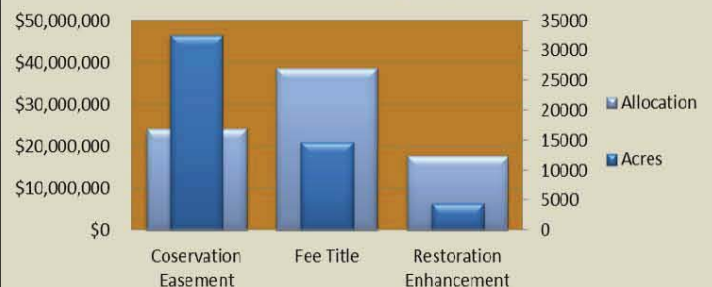
**Approximately \$6.5 million was allocated for infrastructure improvements to build and repair educational and research facilities on University of California Natural Reserve System properties, to assist in the development of Natural Community Conservation Plans and to assist the CDFW in developing management plans for its properties.**

See the charts below and a map and table on following pages for more information about these expenditures.

### Expenditures by Fund Source



### Acres Protected & Dollars Allocated Per Category



## 2012: Total Acreage Protected or Restored, and WCB Allocations

County	Conservation Easement		Fee Title		Public Access	Restoration Enhancement	
	Acres	\$ Allocation	Acres	\$ Allocation	\$ Allocation	Acres	\$ Allocation
Alameda					\$ 250,000.00	400	\$ 8,000,000.00
Butte						711	\$ 700,000.00
Calaveras	2,643	\$ 3,316,055.00					
Contra Costa			135	\$ 393,755.00	\$ 234,000.00		
Del Norte					\$ 674,500.00		
El Dorado			605	\$ 2,370,000.00			
Fresno			12	\$ 190,000.00	\$ 468,000.00	34	\$ 207,000.00
Humboldt	10,083	\$ 4,428,750.00	22	\$ 650,000.00			
Kern						308	\$ 900,000.00
Los Angeles			1,044	\$ 2,960,200.00			
Madera					\$ 94,000.00		
Marin	447	\$ 610,000.00					
Mendocino			428	\$ 4,010,000.00			
Merced						475	\$ 1,186,000.00
Modoc						1,500	\$ 1,154,000.00
Mono*							
Monterey			114	\$ 552,076.00			
Napa			10	\$ 70,000.00			
Nevada			108	\$ 549,600.00			
Riverside			3,778	\$ 3,232,000.00			
Sacramento			375	\$ 2,713,514.00			
San Bernardino			624	\$ 685,000.00			
San Diego			2,176	\$ 5,898,750.00		376	\$ 2,978,000.00
San Luis Obispo*							
Santa Barbara			63	\$ 910,000.00		4	\$ 1,173,000.00
Santa Clara			339	\$ 868,000.00			
Santa Cruz	25	\$ 87,921.00	1,210	\$ 2,510,000.00		116	\$ 263,000.00
Siskiyou	3,104	\$ 1,332,900.00					
Solano			2,910	\$ 6,407,000.00			\$ 350,000.00
Sonoma					\$ 50,000.00	556	\$ 500,000.00
Stanislaus	1,603	\$ 5,509,000.00					
Sutter			13	\$ 10,000.00			
Tulare			10	\$ 17,500.00			
Various*							\$ 400,000.00
Ventura			35	\$ 1,010,000.00			
Yolo	13,112	\$ 7,845,000.00					
Yuba	1,620	\$ 1,104,000.00	679	\$ 2,720,000.00			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32,637</b>	<b>\$ 24,233,626.00</b>	<b>14,690.00</b>	<b>\$ 38,727,395.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,770,500.00</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>\$ 17,811,000.00</b>

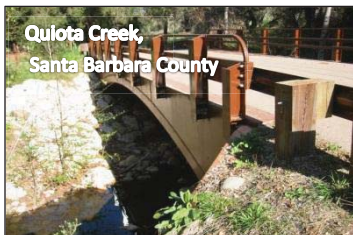
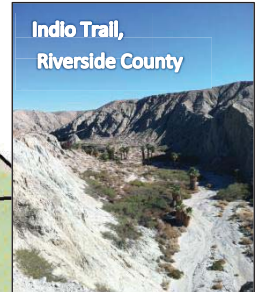
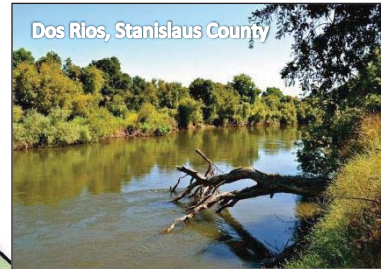
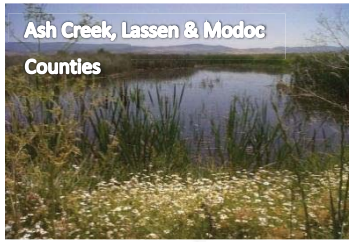
\*Projects in Mono and San Luis Obispo Counties were for CDFW Land Management Plans and for projects on the UC Reserve System properties to improve infrastructure (\$6,692,500.00). One project in Southern California will restore habitat on properties in several counties, and is listed as "Various".

### Santa Rosa Mountains, Riverside County





# Protecting California's Natural Heritage



0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles



## Planning and Policy Development

The year 2012 marked the initiation of significant milestones in WCB's goals for transparency and project development. In the spring the WCB finalized an appraisal policy and in September began developing a Strategic Plan. These actions will be used to help guide the WCB over the next decade in accomplishing its mission of purchasing land and waters suitable for recreation purposes, and preserving, protecting and restoring wildlife habitat.

Conaway Ranch, Yolo County



Vernal pool and grassland habitat, Yolo County



## Strategic Plan

The WCB has undertaken the task of developing a Strategic Plan to document existing processes and identify effective approaches to project selection and internal administration, with a goal of transparency in WCB operations, project selection and project ranking. The WCB will engage its many partners in the development of this Strategic Plan. Staff also anticipates soliciting and incorporating input from stakeholders and the public as we move forward.

It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan will assist the WCB in its current and future processes by:

- Articulating clear goals and objectives both for the organization as a whole and the individual mandated programs;
- Recognizing and identifying approaches to integrate larger landscape-scale conservation efforts into its activities, including climate change adaption, mitigation, and conservation initiatives developed by federal, local agency and non-profit organizations;
- Defining strategies that adhere to legal mandates and ensure a transparent, integrated process for ranking and selecting projects across program areas; and
- Establishing metrics for measuring, monitoring, and reporting the activities and progress of the WCB program areas.

We plan to complete the Strategic Plan by the winter of 2013.

## Appraisal Policy

In 2012 the WCB adopted a new real estate appraisal policy, developed by WCB staff through a comprehensive process involving multiple conservation groups, appraisal professionals and resource agencies. The policy responded to a desire for increased transparency and review on substantial acquisitions of high value, where the WCB was proposing to fund more than \$5,000,000 toward the purchase price or on properties exceeding 5,000 acres in size. As adopted by the WCB, the new policy defines and requires additional independent technical review and public disclosure on substantial acquisitions. Subsequent to the WCB action, legislation (SB 1266) was passed, which replicated the policy adopted by the WCB in many ways, but waived the acreage criteria. Consequently, the WCB waived the acreage criteria to conform to the new legislation.

Conaway Ranch, Yolo County



Suisun Marsh, Grizzly Ranch, Solano County



Southern California Wetland Restoration, Various Counties

Joshua Tree, San Bernardino County



Salmon Falls, El Dorado County



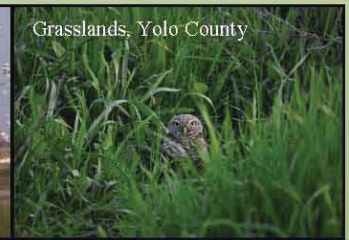


## Partnerships in Conservation

The WCB works closely with the CDFW, which provides invaluable input and assistance on virtually all WCB projects. In addition to helping identify potential projects and willing landowners, the CDFW provides assessments and opinions based on the biological merits of each project and helps the WCB set priorities on a regional and statewide basis.

The WCB also maintains essential partnerships with many other conservation organizations, including federal, state and local resource agencies, conservancies, joint ventures and non-profit conservation organizations. These partners provide additional resources and expertise, sustain local community support, and assist with project operations and maintenance costs. These creative partnerships have greatly expanded the WCB's capacity by helping it leverage state funds with other sources of matching funds.

The following organizations contributed vision, effort, funds, creativity, passion and commitment to the success of projects funded by the WCB in 2012. The WCB looks forward to future successful partnerships.



### 2012 Partner Agencies and Organizations

American River Conservancy  
Anza-Borrego Foundation  
Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy  
Bechtel Family Foundation  
Big Sur Land Trust  
Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board  
California State Coastal Conservancy  
California Department of Conservation  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Department of Water Resources  
California Natural Resources Agency  
California Waterfowl Association  
California Wildlife Foundation, Inc.  
Caltrans Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program  
Chaparral Lands Conservancy  
City of Arcata  
City of Fairfield  
City of Santa Barbara  
City of Santa Clarita  
City of Santee  
City of Watsonville  
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission  
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy  
County of Fresno  
County of Los Angeles  
County of Monterey  
County of Sacramento  
Crescent City Harbor District  
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Earth Island Institute  
East Bay Regional Park District

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy  
Endangered Habitats Conservancy  
Federal Forest Legacy Program  
Forest Legacy Program  
Friends of the Desert Mountains  
Goleta Valley Land Trust  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
Joseph and Vera Long Foundation  
Kern River Corridor Endowment and Holding Co.  
Kumeyaay-Diegueno Land Conservancy (Sycuan Tribal Development)  
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
Marin Agriculture Land Trust  
Mendocino Land Trust Inc.  
Mojave Desert Land Trust  
Moore Foundation  
Mother Lode Land Trust  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Park Service  
National Park Service - Land and Water Conservation Fund  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Northcoast Regional Land Trust  
Pacific Forest Trust  
Pit Resource Conservation District  
Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative  
Regents of University of California  
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation  
River Partners  
Riverside Land Conservancy  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
San Diego Association of Governments

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy  
San Francisco Public Utility Commission  
San Joaquin River Conservancy  
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc.  
Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund  
Santa Barbara County Flood Control District  
Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District  
Save-the-Redwoods League  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Solano Land Trust  
Sonoma County Regional Parks  
Sonoma Land Trust  
Southern California Edison  
State Coastal Conservancy  
State Lands Commission  
Syar Foundation  
The Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship  
The Conservation Fund  
The Nature Conservancy  
TransNet Sandag  
The Trust for Public Land  
Tuolumne River Preservation Trust  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Department of Defense  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
United States Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative  
University of California, San Diego  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
University of California, Berkeley  
Watsonville Wetlands Watch

California Wildlife Conservation Board

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