

Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 2, Napa County

Last updated: 8/13/2008

Project Name: Knoxville Wildlife Area, Expansion 2, Napa County

Approving Board: Wildlife Conservation Board

Link to Board Meeting and Agenda: www.wcb.ca.gov

Agenda Item: 26

Allocation: \$3,370,000.00

County: Napa

Size: Fee title to one property totaling 738 acres

Bond Section Providing Funding: Public Resources Code Section 75055(b); Wildlife Habitat Conservation

The existing 16,000 acre Knoxville Wildlife Area currently includes the Knoxville Ranch acquired by the Wildlife Conservation Board in 2000, and the Expansion 1 property acquired in 2005. The adjacent 6,800 acre McLaughlin Reserve is managed as a University of California (U.C.) Natural Reserve by U.C. Davis. U.S. Bureau of Land Management land is adjacent to the east and west. This project area is included within the 500,000-acre Blue Ridge-Berryessa Natural Area (BRBNA), defined by a collaborative partnership of federal, state and local government agencies, local businesses, non-profit organizations and private landowners seeking conservation of the natural and working landscapes in the area. Additional BRBNA partners, including the California State Parks and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation have contributed to the preservation of more than 40,000 acres of contiguous protected land in the immediate area.

The Knoxville Wildlife Area itself is remote and large enough to support tule elk, deer, bald and golden eagles, mountain lions and bears, as well as a variety of hawks, falcons, owls and other raptors. The proposed addition would protect grassland, oak woodland and riparian habitats of the Eticuera and Toll Canyon Creek watersheds, both tributaries to the Sacramento River. The subject property provides the enormous habitat benefits of nearly two miles on both sides of Eticuera Creek. A diversity of songbirds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates abound on the property. In

addition, this project would bolster protection of surrounding Knoxville Wildlife Area lands by removing the threats of impacts of potential development on the subject property.

The Department of Fish and Game will incorporate the subject property into the existing operation and management of the Knoxville Wildlife Area. The existing improvements on the property would allow the Department to establish an on-site presence in the wildlife area by providing staff with housing and office space.

The property owner has agreed to sell the property to the State at the appraised fair market value of \$3,280,000, as approved by the Department of General Services. The proposal also involves start up costs in the amount of \$75,000 and administrative expenses of \$15,000, bringing the total proposed allocation to \$3,370,000.

The purposes of this project are to protect threatened and endangered species habitat, oak woodlands, riparian and wetland areas, and create linkages with other Department of Fish and Game managed properties. These purposes are consistent with the stated purposes of the funds provided to the Wildlife Conservation Board under Chapter 6, Section 75055(b)(1)(A) to promote recovery of threatened and endangered species, (B) provide corridor linkages and (D) implement the recommendations of the California Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy; and with the general priority characteristics for natural resource protection projects described under Chapter 10, Section 75071 (a) Landscape/Habitat Linkages protection.