



Conservation Easements and Other Instruments:

Promising compliments to rangeland leases

Central Coast Rangeland Coalition
Training: Leases That Work For The Land, Landowners, Lessees & Livestock
Half Moon Bay, California
April 17, 2014

Bill Coleman
Great Ecology Inc.
wcoleman@greatecology.com
Sacramento 916-376-7691
San Francisco 415-706-6154



Bill's Info

wmgcoleman@gmail.com wcoleman@greatecology.com

415-706-6154

Work Experience:

- Great Ecology Inc., Senior Associate San Francisco
- PG&E Environmental Dept., Habitat Conservation Plan Program
- Global Footprint Network (Oakland), Director of Technical Programs
- Green Building Exchange (Redwood City), President / COO
- Planktos Inc. (Foster City), COO
- Consultant / Earth Assets Group Ecosystem Marketplace, Intertox Inc., Futura Solar, Lehr Inc., Luminesa
- EPRI Environment Division (Palo Alto), Manager / Director (18 yrs)
 - Ecological Asset Management
- Edison Electric Institute (Washington D.C.), Govt. Affairs Exec. Liaison
- Entergy Corporation (Little Rock), Manager / Environmental Affairs (10 yrs)

Education:

University of New Mexico – Environmental Science (terrestrial ecology)

University of Arkansas – Environmental Psychology

Stanford / Columbia – Ecological Economics

We've been hearing about the economics of sustainability for 10 years or more.

Is sustainability measurable?

Is it profitable?



The Economics of Sustainability: A Review of Journal Articles John C. V. Pezzey and Michael A. Toman January 2002 • Discussion Paper 02-03 RESOURCES

What does sustainability mean in terms of rangeland management?











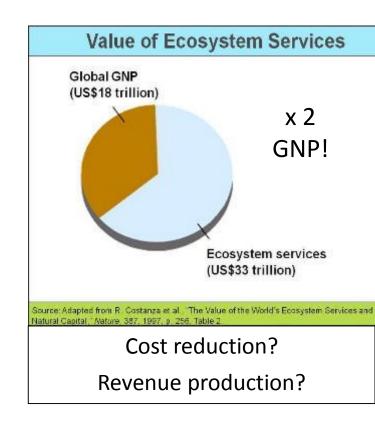






Progress towards sustainable ranching:

- holistic landscape planning
- rotational grazing
- drought intensive management
- passive irrigation
- integrated pest management
- use of organic or non-toxic chems



While sustainability was being debated things were changing.

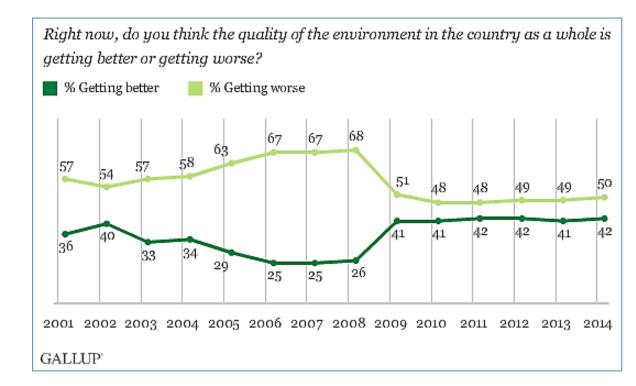
Example: quality of life was still in question.

March 19, 2014

Americans' Outlook for U.S. Environmental Quality Steady

Republicans more likely than Democrats to say environment is excellent or good

by Rebecca Riffkin



The pace of global change was accelerating.

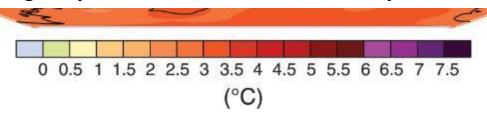
IPCC Report: A changing climate creates pervasive risks







Climate Change Adjustments Must Be Fast And Major, U.N. Panel Says

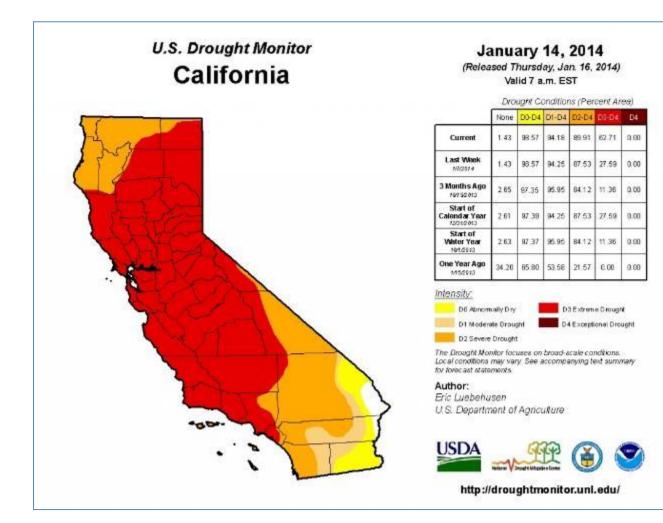


Climate change keeps getting closer to home.

Governor Jerry Brown's emergency drought declaration on Friday came on the heels of the US DOA designating nearly half of California's counties as "natural disaster areas".

California drought: Feds declare 27 counties as 'natural disaster areas'

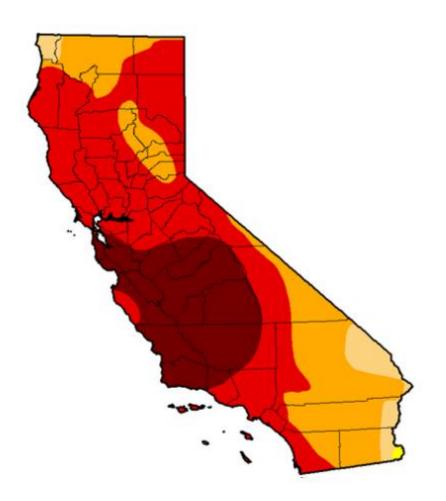
Posted on January 17, 2014



Current Drought Situation

U.S. Drought Monitor

California



April 1, 2014

(Released Thursday April 3, 2014) Valid 7 a.m. Eastern

Statistics type:
Traditional (D0-D4, D1-D4, etc.)
Categorical (D0, D1, etc.)

Drought Condition (Percent Area):

Week	Date	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4/1/2014	0.00	100.00	99.81	95.21	68.76	23.49
Last Week	3/25/2014	0.00	100.00	99.80	95.21	71.78	23.42
3 Months Ago	12/31/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	12/31/2013	2.61	97.39	94.25	87.53	27.59	0.00
Start of Water Year	10/1/2013	2.63	97.37	95.95	84.12	11.36	0.00
One Year Ago	4/2/2013	0.00	100.00	48.38	24.22	0.00	0.00

View More Statistics

Intensity:

D0 - Abnormally Dry

D3 - Extreme Drought
D4 - Exceptional Drought

D1 - Moderate Drought D2 - Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Richard Tinker CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP







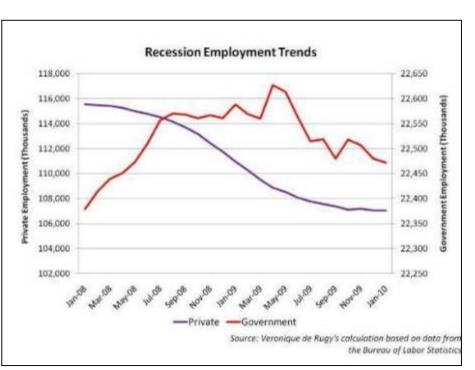


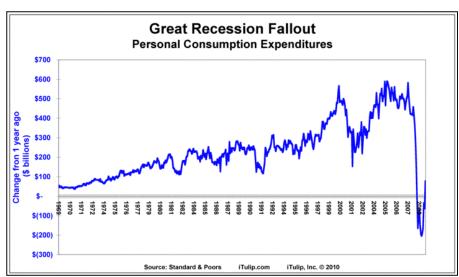


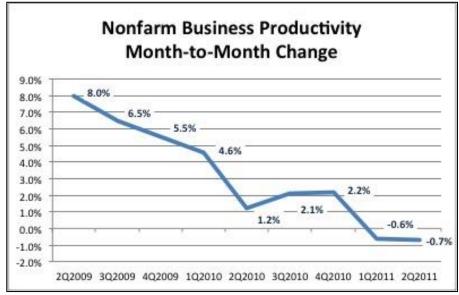
The economy collapsed.

'Great Recession' 2007 – 2012

Every business was affected

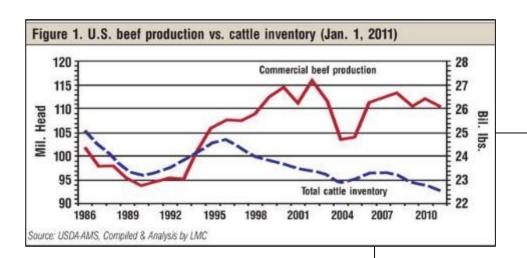






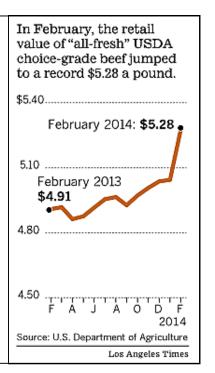
Beef cow numbers declined – starting in the 1990s, when the biofuels era began.

Lesson 2:
Ranch economics is changing
Profits don't come easy



Beef prices hit all-time high in U.S.

Extreme weather has thinned the nation's cattle herds, roiling the beef supply chain from rancher to restaurant.



Off-farm income became scarce.

- fewer in-town jobs
- fewer unskilled jobs
- more in-town seekers
- more minimum-wage jobs
- higher costs to get to town

Lesson 3:

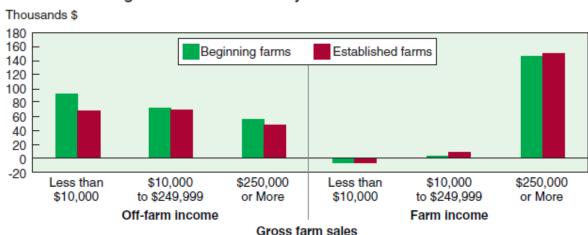
Off-farm income is iffy

Profits don't come easy

Households Receive Most of Their Income From Off-Farm Sources

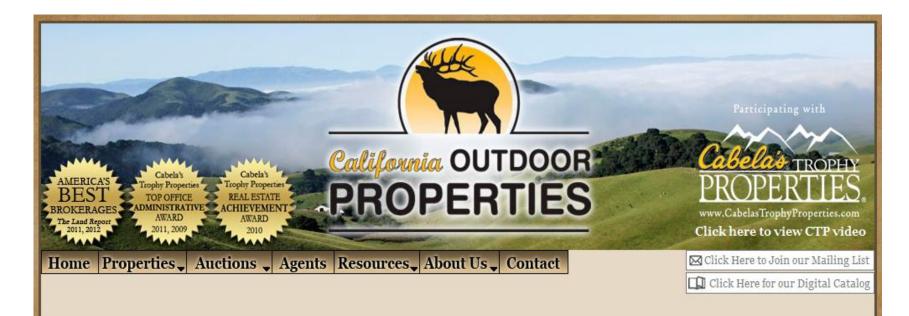
For decades, most farm households—whether beginning or established—received a majority of their household income from off-farm sources. On average, off-farm income accounted for 83 percent of farm operator household cash income in 2011. Most farm families operating small farms have negative net farm income (after depreciation)—that is, in a typical year, they lose money farming. The average farm income of beginning farm households is less than that for established farm households (\$1,902 versus \$18,119 in 2011), but their households had higher average off-farm incomes than established farm households (\$89,015 versus \$68,172). Beginning farm households received less farm income and more off-farm income than established farms regardless of farm size.

Households operating beginning farms have higher average off-farm income and lower average farm income at every farm size



Note: Households of principal operators only.

Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service, Agricultural Resource Management Survey, 2011.



Looking for something else?

Ranches For Sale

Northern California Timber

Land For Sale

Northern California

Ranches For Sale

Mountain Properties For

Sale

California Hunting Land For

Sale

Recreation Properties

Northern California Hunting

California Ranches For Sale



Vineyard View Ranch

\$195,000 | 80 +/- Acres | El Dorado County, CA

Property Type: Recreation - Hunting and Timber, Ranchette and Residential

The Vineyard View Ranch is beautiful level to rolling acreage immediately adjacent to the well-known Perry Creek Vineyards with incredible views of the vineyards, the valley below and surrounding mountains. Dense woods to open meadows. Huge building pad with view, access roads throughout property. Cedars, pines, madrones, black oaks, live oaks and manzanita. Lots of wildlife, 80 acres. Adjacent 20 acre parcel with

We all want the ranches to survive



Despite careful management ranching costs can still exceed the market value of livestock.

So how does a common rancher stay in business?

"Every rancher has some way to reduce costs, to ignore others, and to find **supplementary sources of revenue**."

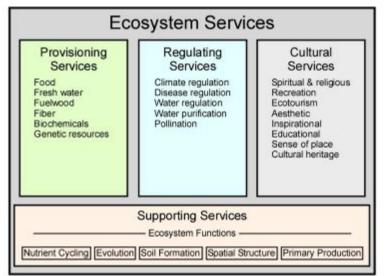
What are the revenue options?

- Curb spending
- Off-ranch work
- Rent / lease land
- Raise hay, grass to sell
- Hunting, education, recreation fees

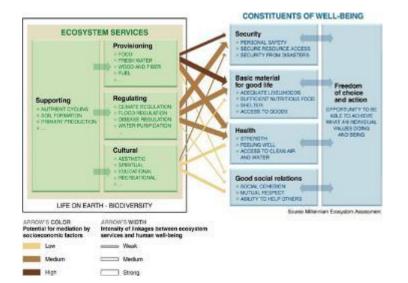
"The cattle operation itself has little, if any, margin. But land values keep rising."

- Should we sell off portions of the land?
- Should we look into new, high-value 'cash crops'?

Ecosystem Services — source of *all* economic productivity



Modified, with additions, from the Millennium Assessment



Ecosystem Services – A Framework for Thinking about Sustainability

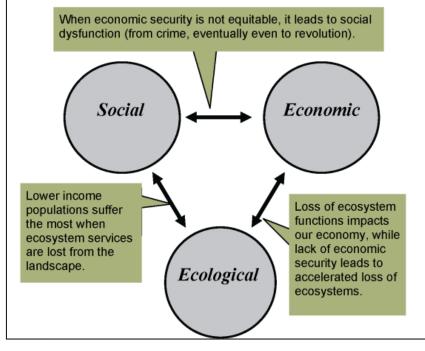
By Kevin Halsey

In recent years, sustainability has become a widespread concern, and there are many efforts to help move towards sustainability. For instance, we are told to "reduce, reuse, recycle"—very good advice. Businesses increasingly manage their operations to meet a triple bottom line of economic, social, and ecological accountability, which should be encouraged and rewarded. Indeed there are efforts at many levels, from LEED certification standards for new buildings to carbon trading, to reduce harmful emissions.

All of these efforts are laudable and necessary to help reduce the footprint of our presence on the planet, and they should be rewarded and encouraged. However, as valuable as they are, they currently represent steps towards an unknown endpoint. The question remains: how do we think about what it means to be sustainable? What is a sustainable footprint, and how might we measure our progress toward that critical goal?

Ultimately, we know that to be sustainable we must be able to exist without depleting the planet's available resources (theoretically, in perpetuity). It is also generally accepted that sustainability requires us to balance economic health, social equity, and ecological stewardship. This suggests that to be sustainable, we must live in a manner whereby our total landscape, both natural and human, is able to perform the entire suite of social, economic and ecological functions we need for survival and quality of life. Furthermore, these functions must be performed at adequate levels, with appropriate distribution, and at a non-consumptive rate that will allow these functions to continue over time.

If the adequate performance of the full suite of economic, social, and ecological functions is truly the target, then there are several important ramifications that we must face as we seek to reach that target. First, we must understand that the full suite of functions is vast and all these functions must be



Ecosystem Services & Human Well-Being

Good Social Relations

Biodiversity Ecosystem Services Constituents of Well-being Security Provisioning Services Genes, Populations, Species, Communities, Ecosystems Basic Material for Supporting Services Regulating Good Life Freedoms Services Choice Health Cultural Services

<u>All</u> ecosystem services arise from biodiversity.

Biodiversity supports all economic productivity.

Width of arrow indicates strength of linkage. Color indicates the extent to which the linkage can be mediated by socio-economic factors (black = low; blue = medium; yellow = high potential for mediation by socio-economic factors)

Provisioning Services

Products obtained from wetland ecosystems:

- Food
- Fresh Water
- Fibre & Fuel
- Genetic resources
- Geneuc resource
- Biochemical Products

Regulating Services

Benefits obtained from regulation of wetland ecosystem processes:

• Climate regulation

- Catalane regionales
- Hydrological regimes
 Erotion Protection
- 2201001210001001
- Reduction of Natural Hazard risk
- Pollution Control & Detoxification processes

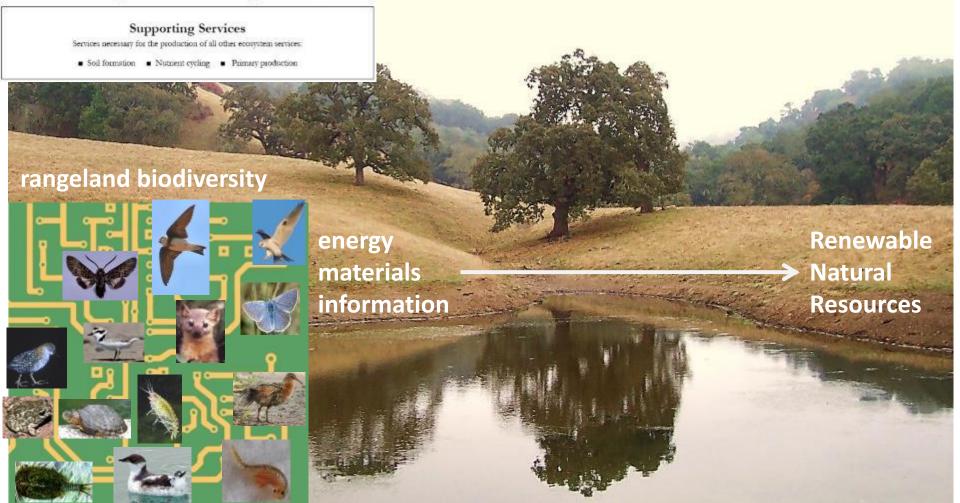
Cultural Services

Material and nonmaterial benefits obtained from wetland ecosystems.¹

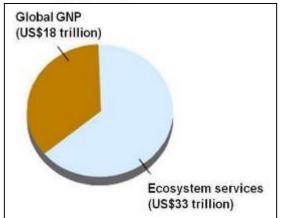
- Spiritual & Inspirational
 Recreational
- Aesthetic
- Educational
- Historical Artifacts
- Traditional Livelihoods & Knowledge

Protecting Ecosystem Services

San Benito County







<u>All</u> ecosystem services stem from biodiversity productivity.

Biodiversity supports *all economic* productivity.

Ranches are *rich* in biodiversity.

Monetizing biodiversity value could lead to your next significant source of rangeland revenue.

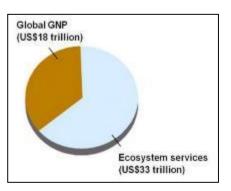
Government Programs (subsidies) supporting sustainability:

- Wildlife & Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
- Forest Land Enhancement Program (FELP)
- Conservation Reserve Program State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)
- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Grassland Reserve Program
- Grazing Land Conservation Initiative
- Conservation of Private Grazing Land (CPGL) program
- Forest Legacy Program
- Forest Stewardship Program
- Watershed Forestry programs
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Ecological Assets = market based revenue production

Menu of rangeland ecological assets \rightarrow

- wetlands restoration (wetland credits)
- habitat / species protection (biodiversity credits)
- carbon sequestration credits soils & trees
- stream runoff buffer / filtration credits
- riparian stream zone protection / restoration credits
- aquifer recharge credits



80,500 farms and ranches in California

California Agricultural Production Statistics

California has more than **18 million acres** of rangelands in the Central Valley /Coast Range.

The state's 80,500 farms and ranches received a record \$44.7 billion for their output in 2012, up from \$43.3 billion in 2011 and \$37.9 billion during 2010. +1%? = \$450 million / yr

+ 10% ? = \$4.5 billion / yr

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/statistics/





Future Scenarios of Impacts to Ecosystem Services on California Rangelands

The 18 million acres of rangelands in the Central Valley of California provide multiple benefits or "ecosystem services" to people—including wildlife habitat, water supply, open space, recreation, and cultural resources. Most of this land is privately owned and managed for livestock production. These rangelands are vulnerable to land-use conversion and climate change. To help resource managers assess the impacts of land-use change and climate change, U.S. Geological Survey scientists and their cooperators developed scenarios to quantify and map changes to three main rangeland ecosystem services wildlife habitat, water supply, and carbon sequestration. Project results will help prioritize strategies to conserve these rangelands and the ecosystem services that they provide.



Cattle on rangeland on Mission Peak, near Fremont, California, in the San Francisco Bay area. This image is an example of the expansion of urban areas into former rangeland. (Photograph courtesy of David Amme, California Native Grasslands Association.)

Agencies are increasingly supportive of measured ecosystem service value,

including monetized ecological asset value.

News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Media Contacts:

Steve Lyle, CDFA Public Affairs, (916) 654-0462 😯

FIRST-EVER ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DATABASE SHEDS LIGHT ON FARMLAND'S MULTIPLE BENEFITS



SACRAMENTO, September 13, 2013 - The California Department of Food and Agriculture is pleased to announce what is believed to be the first-ever Ecosystem Services Database, which is now available at http://apps.cdfa.ca.gov/EcosystemServices

Ecosystem Services are defined as the multiple benefits we gain from farming and ranching, including crop and livestock production. Many of these benefits extend into environmental stewardship and conservation. For example, the maintenance of wildlife habitats, biodiversity enhancements on working lands, renewable energy use and production, increased nutrient cycling and storage, soil enrichment, water conservation, and support for pollinating insects are some of the benefits. A more comprehensive list of ecosystem service benefits in agriculture can be found at

http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/EnvironmentalStewardship/EcosystemServices.html

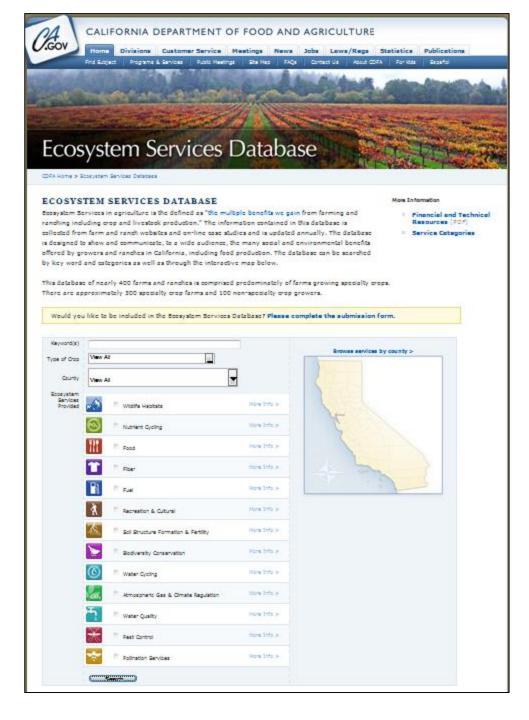
"California's working farms and ranches are an important part of our natural landscape," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "The commitment to ecosystem services demonstrates clearly that beyond the productivity of fields and pastures, resource management decisions by farmers and ranchers provide us with wildlife and pollinator habitat, contribute to clean water and air, provide recreational and tourism connections, and much more."

The database contains nearly 400 farms and ranches. It is intended to easily communicate to a broad audience the multiple benefits provided by agriculture in California. The database can be queried by key word, county, crop type, and type of ecosystem service. An interactive map allows users to view where the services are taking place.

The purpose of the database is twofold. It helps the department discuss the multiple benefits provided by California agriculture, and it assists growers, ranchers, and stakeholders who want to learn more about ecosystem services.

CDFA's first-ever farm & ranch ecosystem services database

- 400 properties reported (0.5%)
- 13 value-based ecosystem services
 - ✓ ...Wildlife habitat
 - ✓ Biodiversity conservation



53 properties (13%) state-wide delivering 'wildlife' and 'biodiversity' eco-services

A Home > Scopystem Services Database		
COSYSTEM SERVICES DATABASE earch results: (click on column heading	to change sort order)	
Farm	Crop Type	Location
Avenales & Canyon Ranches	Livestock and Dairy	Santa Hargarita
Bar Eleven Ranch	Ilvestock and dainy	Hilvila
Barinaga Ranch	Ilvestock and daily	Harshall
Batcheller Ranch	Livestock and Dairy	
Bear Valley Ranch	Ilvestock and dainy	
Big Bluff Ranch	Livestock and Dairy	Red Bluff
Boere Dairy	dainy and livestock	Sun Oty
California Cloverleaf Farms / Burroughs Family	Uvestock and Dairy	Densir
Casa Rosa Farms	Livestock and Dairy, Tree Crops	Madera
Centennial/Dressler Ranch	Ilvestock and dainy	
Chileno Valley Ranch	Livestock and Dairy, Tree Crops	Petaluma
Conlan Ranches California	Ilvestock and daily, field crops	Valley Ford
Cook Ranch	Ilvestock and dainy	
Cunningham Ranch	livestock and daily	
Dairy Farms (four anonymous dairies)	Livestock and Dairy	
East Sheridan Ranch	Ilvestock and daily	
Ecker Ranch	Evestock and dainy	
El Chorro Ranch	livestock and dainy	
Far View Ranch	Ivestock and dainy	Bangor
Genasci Ranch	Evestock and dairy	
Hafenfeld Ranch	Evestock and dainy	
Hallowell Ranch	livestock and dainy	Priant
Hearst Ranch	Ivestock and dairy	
Hidden Villa	Field Crops, Livestock and Dairy	

Howe Creek Ranch	livestock and dainy	Ferndale
Ichord Ranch	Ivestock and daily	
Joseph Gallo Farms	Ivestock and dainy	Absober
Kester Ranches	livestock and dainy	
Koopmann Ranch	livestock and dainy	Sunol
Lazy K Ranch	Ilvestock and dainy	
Leavitt Lake Ranches	Ilvestock and dainy	Vins and Suzanville
Lone Willow Ranch	Field Crops, Tree Crops, Livestock and Dairy	Finebaugh
Nelson Ranch	livestock and dainy	
Old Creek Ranch	Livestock and Dairy, Tree Crops	Cayucos
Orvis Ranch	livestock and dainy	
Prather Ranch	Livestock and Dairy, Field Crops	Fall River Hills
Rancho La Viña	livestock and daily, field grops, tree crops	
San Lorenzo Ranch	livestock and dainy	
Santa Margarita Ranch	livestock and dainy	
Scott River Ranch	Livestock and Delry	Dra
Sparrowk Livestock	livestock and daily	Clements
Stemple Creek Ranch	Ivestock and dainy	
Tejon Ranch	livestock and dainy	Tejon Ranch
Thompson Valley Ranch	livestock and dainy	Quincy
Three Creeks Ranch	livestock and dainy	Elk Creek
Toluma Farm	livestock and dainy	Tomales
Tomatero Farm	Field Crops, livestock and dainy	Aptos
Touch the Earth Ranch	livestock and dainy	Paloma
V6 Ranch	livestock and daily	San Higual
Wise Acre Farm	Field Crops, Tree Crops, Livestock and Dairy	Arbuckle
Work Family Ranch	livestock and dainy	San Higual
Yolo Land & Cattle Co.	Livestock and Delhy	Woodland

Listed Species

WHAT ARE *ECOSYSTEM SERVICES*?

The Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel has defined ecosystem services as

"the multiple benefits we gain from farming and ranching including crop and livestock production.

In addition to valuable open space and wildlife habitat, the management decisions and conservation practices of farmers and ranchers also enhance environmental quality, provide recreational opportunities and offer social benefits."





WILDLIFE HABITATS (View Image)

Provide habitats for resident and transient wildlife populations

NUTRIENT CYCLING (View Image)

Provide nutrient storage and cycling

FOOD, FIBER AND FUEL PRODUCTION (View Image)

Provide food, fiber, and fuel to sustain a growing global population

RECREATION AND CULTURAL (View Image)

Provide opportunities for recreational activities

SOIL STRUCTURE, FORMATION AND FERTILITY

Provide opportunities for enhancing the soil system, promotes organic matter buildup/carbon sequestration, and prevent disturbances

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Promote biodiversity

WATER CYCLING

Maintain soil moisture and regulate water movement/cycling

ATMOSPHERIC GAS/CLIMATE REGULATION

Regulate atmospheric chemical composition.

WATER QUALITY

Reduces salinity and organic/inorganic constituents in surface and ground water.

PEST CONTROL

Control pests and weeds by natural enemies and weed seed predators, respectively

POLLINATION SERVICES (View Image)

Contribute to fruit, nut, and vegetable production

Examples of California Listed Species









Vernal pool shrimp species





California is home to hundreds of rare,



A Listed Species 'eye chart'

California has over

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Hospital Carvon larksour (Delphinium californium zan, Interius) Kawash Grodinas (Brodinas Instrukt)	PORANGEGAZ Inc	PORANGEGAZ ndf		Naturasarya Naturasarya	-	- Endangered	18.2	-	PORANOZGAZ PMLILOCOSO	₩	•
Keck's checkerbloom (Sidelpes Aschil)	PDMAL11000.ing	POMAL11000.ndf	5005	Naturasanya	Endangered	-	18.1	-	POMAL11000	10	
Kem malow (Gramabhe kamanzir) Kind's gold (Twisselmannis celfornice)	PORRAZZO10 inc	POMALOCO21.ndf POSRA23010.ndf	REGIS	Naturanava Naturanava	Endangered	-	16.1	-	POMALOCO31 POSRA33010	₽	
Larce-flowered fiddleneck (Amainokia crandiflora)	P080R01050.ing	P080R01050.nd	5005	Natureserve	Endangered	Endangered	18.1	-	P020R01050	1	•
Lesser salacale (Afridas minuscula)	PDCHE042M0.ing	PDCHE042M0.ndf		Naturasanya	-	-	18.1	-	PDCHE04ZM0	1	
Little mouseful (Myosurus minimus san. anus)	PORANOH021.ing	PORANOHOZI.ndf		Natureserve	-	-	18.2	-	PORANOHO31 POAST4ROVO	╌	
Lost Hills selbout (Atrinias validate)	PDCHE04250.ing	POCHEO4250.ndf		Material	-	-	16.2	-	POCHE04250	l	
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Mt. Disbio rhscells (Phacels rhscelodes)	PDHYD0C300.iss	PDHYDDC3D0.nd		National	-	-	16.2	-	POHYDOCIGO	1	
Mt. Hamilton coreonals (Coreonals hamiltonii) Muser's tirtudina (Laula muserii)	PDAST2LOCG inc	PDAST2L0C0.ndf		Natureserve Natureserve	-	-	18.2	-	PDAST2L000 PDAST5N080	\mathbb{H}	
Palmate-bracked bind's basik (Contributions calmatus)	P05CR0.0.0.ing	POSCROJOJO neľ	5005	Natureserve	Endangered	Endangered	18.1	-	POSCROJOJO	1	
Secured larksour (Delphinum recurretum) Sen Joseuin adobe sunburst (Pseudobehis neirsoni)	PDRANGETUD.ing	PORANOSIUO.ndf POASTTP030.ndf	5005	Naturanava Naturanava	- Threstened	Endangered	16.2	-	PORANGE1JO POASTTP030	\mathbb{H}	
Sen Joseuin Valley groutt grass (Orguttis Insequalit)	PMPOA4G080.inc	PMPDA4G083.ndf	FCOR	Naturasanya	Threstened	Endangered	18.1	-	PMPOA4G060	4	
Sen Josouin wook-threads (Monolonis /=Lembertis'i conodonii) Senford's Arrowheed (Sentiaris senfordi)	PDASTA8010.ing PMALI04000.ing	PMALI04000.ndf	_	Naturanava Naturanava	Endangered	-	18.2	-	PDASTA8010 PMALI04000	\mathbb{H}	
Show Indian clover (Trifolium emperum)	PDFAB40040.ing	PDFAB40040.ndf	5005	Natureserve	Endangered	-	15.1	-	PDFA840040	1	
South thistle (Circlum cressbaule) Soiny-sensied button celery (Stynobyn spinosenstym)	POAST2EOUG.ing	PDAPIGEOVO.ndf		Naturalism	-		18.1	-	PDAST2EGUD PDAPIGZGYG	ll.	
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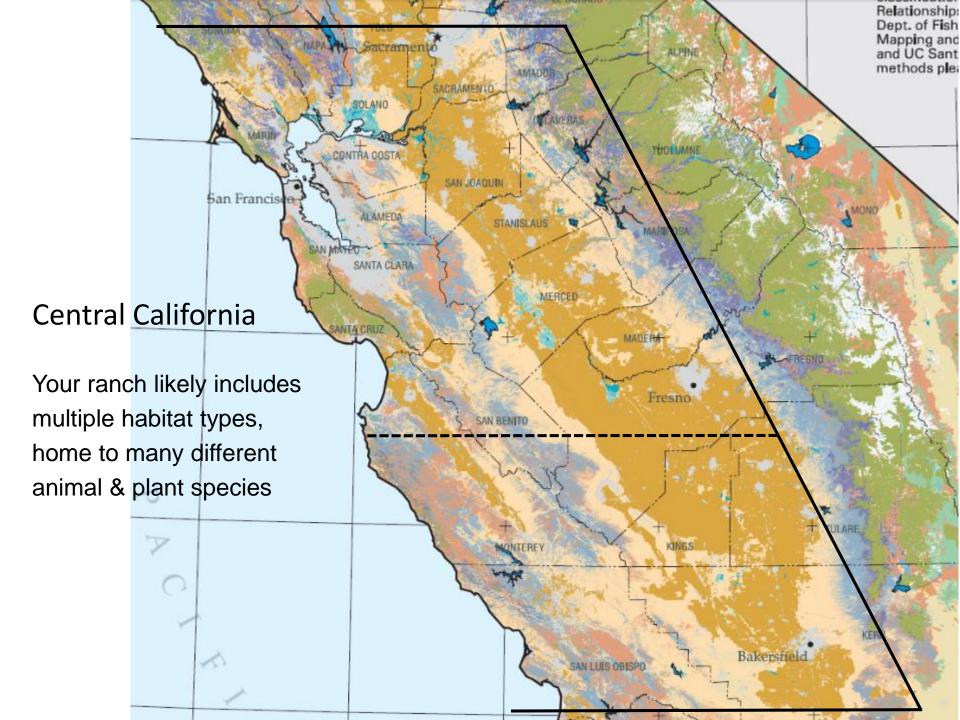
Species information

		MANIMALS															
		Suena Vista L	ake shrew (5)	crez crostus relicius)			AMARA	0110Z.ing	AMAGA01102	nd	FERR	Makusassawa	Endangered	-	_	SC	AMAGA01102
		Glant kannarop rat (Dinodomus Intens)				AMAFD02050.ing AMAFD02050.ndf			FERR	Maturessance		Endangered	_	_	AMAF 003080		
					AMAFD02151.ing AMAFD02151.ndf			.ndf	FERS	Natureserve		Endangered	_	_	AMAF 002151		
				Short-named lamourous		ninsipiles brevinssus)	AMAET	03153.ino	AMAE 003153	ndi		Networrence	_	_	_	SC	AMAF 002153
				Tiston kansaroo rat (D)			AMAGE	09457.inc	AMAE D02152	net.	5005	Natureserve	Endangered	Endangered	_	_	AMAF 002152
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Why so many listed species in California?

California's unique geology has created a huge variety of microhabitats – more so than any state in the nation.





You may be thinking:

What does any of this have to do with me?

I'm not ranching salamanders, owls or frogs!



But many of your properties already support listed species.

Until recently, nobody knew how to put a price on these eco-assets.

All that has changed.

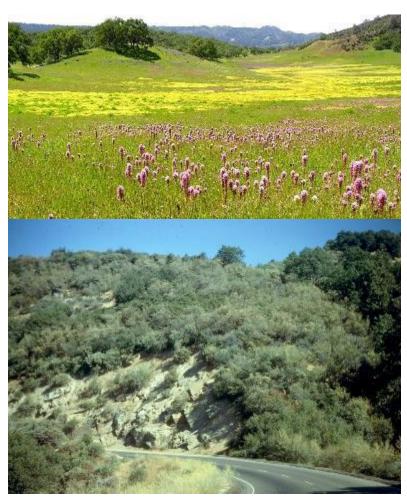
If you own or manage properties that include any of the following underutilized natural habitats, you may be leaving money on the table year to year:

Native grasslands

Wetlands or streams

Shrub or scrub lands

Forest or woodlands











Compensatory Mitigation:

~ Compensating for impacts by 'mitigating' of 'offsetting' effects ~

Mitigation offsets development impacts by conserving similar habitat, often of higher quality than the impacted area itself.

Mitigation is often larger than the impacted areas. <u>Mitigation ratios</u> come into play.

Compensation is required by State & Federal Agencies.

Compensation can happen in several ways, but the most popular is:

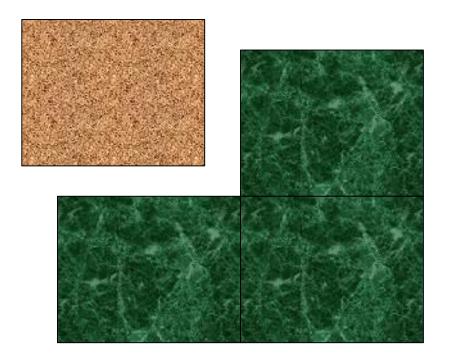
- purchasing mitigation credits offered by approved mitigation or conservation banks
- purchasing mitigation credits developed via conservation easements

A **mitigation bank** is a <u>wetland</u>, stream, or other aquatic resource area that has been preserved, enhanced, restored, or (in some cases) created in order to compensate for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources permitted under the Clean Water Act or similar wetland regulation.

A **conservation bank** is an area of <u>dry land habitat</u> that has been conserved and managed for the conservation of identified natural resource values, the benefits of which are used to offset negative impacts to the resource occurring on other areas from land use activities.

A **conservation easement** allows a landowner to <u>limit conflicting uses</u> on their property, while retaining private ownership of the land. A third party conservancy (or land trust) receives the easement in the public interest and enforces the terms *in perpetuity*. Once signed, an easement applies to all future owners of the land.

Mitigation Ratios



Consider a parcel of natural habitat that is impacted by development:

- 1 acre of development is therefore subject to mitigation.
- Agencies assign a 3: 1 mitigation ratio.
- 3 acres of similar habitat must be acquired as compensation,
- then transferred to the public domain in perpetuity.
- Mitigation credits (acres) will come from approved conservation banks or easements.

'You might be leaving money on the table.'

What kind of money? Examples in California include:

- Wetland mitigation credits -- \$200,000 / acre
- Species mitigation credits (from conservation easements or conservation banks)
 - Burrowing owl -- \$22,000 / credit-acre
 - California tiger salamander
 - California red legged frog -- \$8,000 / credit-acre
 - Tri-colored blackbird -- \$10,000 / credit-acre
 - Vernal pool credits (fairy shrimp, etc.) -- \$16000 / cr-ac
- Carbon sequestration credits @ \$10/ton/yr
- Nitrate reduction credits (Monterey County), prices tbd

Review of Mitigation Costs in Western States

July 18, 2012

Draft Report

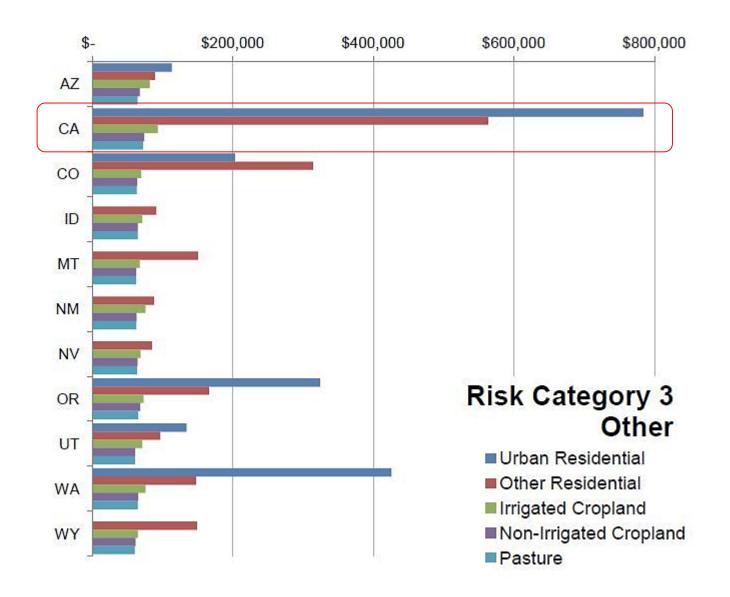


Eugene 99 W. 10th Avenue, Suite 400 Eugene, OR 97401 541.687.0051

Portland 222 SW Columbia, Suite 1600 Portland, OR 97201 503.222.6060

www.econw.com

State	Year	Project Type	Mitigated	Acres	Total Cost pe Acre (1)	
CA	A 2000 HCP		Desert tortoise	368,000	\$1,478	
CA	2010	Transmission line	Desert tortoise CH	94	\$3,616	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Chaparral (low \$)	NS	\$8,178	
CA	2000	HCP	Marshland	1,631	\$9,918	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Chaparral (high \$)	NS	\$15,335	
CA CA	2010	Bank credit Bank credit	San Joaquin kit fox (high \$) Alameda whipsnake	NS NS	\$15,335 \$19,000	
CA	2012	Bank credit	Giant garter snake (low \$)	NS	\$30,669	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Giant garter snake (high \$)	NS	\$46,004	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Vernal pool (low \$)	NS	\$51,115	
CA	2012	Bank credit	Meadowfoam	NS	\$75,000	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Salmonids (low \$)	NS	\$81,784	
CA	2005	Critical habitat	Riverside fairy shrimp	306	\$82,846	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Delhi sands flower-loving fly (low \$)	NS	\$102,230	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Native fisheries (low \$)	NS	\$102,230	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Salmonids (high \$)	NS	\$122,676	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Least vireo breeding pair	NS	\$127,788	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Delhi sands flower-loving fly (high \$)	NS	\$153,345	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Fairy shrimp (low \$)	NS	\$153,345	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Native fisheries (high \$)	NS	\$153,345	
CA	2012	Bank credit	Vernal pool	NS	\$275,000	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Fairy shrimp (high \$)	NS	\$306,690	
CA	2012	Bank credit	Sonoma Sunshine	NS	\$325,000	
CA	2010	Bank credit	Vernal pool (high \$)	NS	\$332,248	
CA	2005	Toll road	Riverside fairy shrimp	NS	\$587,281	
CA	2012	Bank credit	Burke's Goldfields	NS	\$900,000	



Who's buying these credits? The list includes:

- Caltrans
- High Speed Rail Authority
- Big-Five energy companies
- Renewable energy projects
- Oil & gas industry (fracking!)
- Colleges & universities
- Agriculture (wineries)
- Mining companies
- Residential / commercial developers

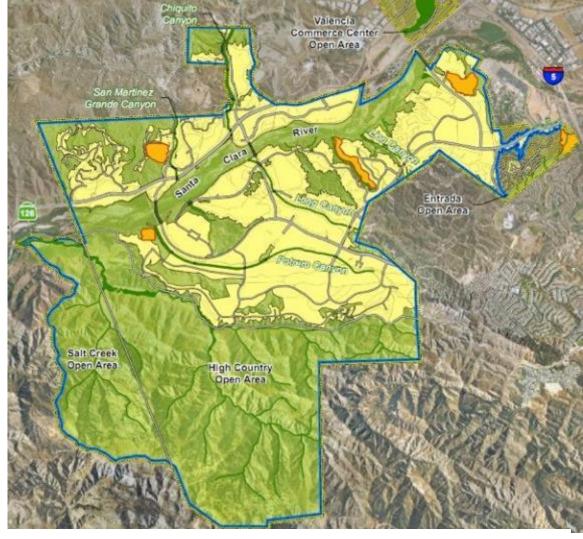
Newhall Ranch in Valencia, California

Newhall Ranch is a 12,000 acre master-planned community, west of Santa Clarita, along the Santa Clara River.

The Newhall Land and Farming Company incorporated in 1883 by the five sons of Henry Newhall, a businessman who had purchased 143,000 acres of former Mexican land grants.

Newhall instructed his sons not to sell the land after his death. But the income generated by ranching was not enough to support the families of all five sons.

They gradually sold their holdings leading to the Newhall Ranch community plan.



The development includes 21,000 homes, a commercial district, seven schools, three fire stations, a water reclamation plant, four parks, a golf course, and a 15-acre lake.

Developers will convert 20 miles of waterways into storm drains or levees and use 20 million cubic yards of excavated soil to fill in wetlands.

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

for the

NEWHALL RANCH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND SPINEFLOWER CONSERVATION PLAN

as required by

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

as lead agency under the

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

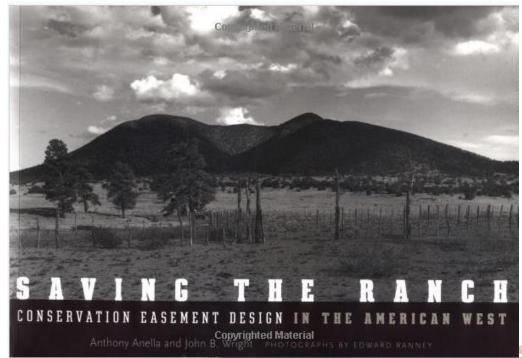
"The Potrero Canyon and Mayo Crossing <u>restoration sites</u> are considered the initial sites to be implemented prior to impacts by development, thereby establishing up front mitigation credits.

"As individual Project components are proposed for construction, quantities of mitigation acreage required to offset permanent impact acreages shall be calculated.

"A project would not proceed unless adequate mitigation capacity is demonstrated. Temporary impact areas shall be mitigated in place in a manner that restores impacted functions and services.

"If up front compensatory mitigation cannot be achieved, a Corps-approved method would be utilized to determine the additional compensatory mitigation to offset the temporal loss of functions and services not included in the 1:1 mitigation ratio for permanent impacts."

According to the EPA, the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan was lacking a sufficient strategy to minimize or mitigate harmful effects of the project. The EPA *does not believe* the proposed mitigations "will replace the <u>ecological functions</u> provided by the existing natural features" or "that surface water quality will be protected from the project's storm water discharges".



SAVING THE RANCH:
Conservation
Easement Design in the American West,
Island Press (2004)

31,000 acre Montosa Ranch



Keep the Ranch?

Sell the Ranch?

Conser	vation	hank	ina
COLISEI	vation	Dalik	ıllıg

I need a drink

Conservation easements

Do WHAT with the family ranch?

Payment for 'eco-services'

Public perception of ranching; Govt. regs

Cropland Reserve Pgm

Govt. land use regulations

Wetland Reserve Pgm

Brand new business model; the Govt. 'dole'

Love this way of life

All or nothing—ranch or develop

Personal values / ethics

Newcomers bring different values / ethics

Ample water

Water supply problems

Lease income

Lease disadvantages

Wildlife / Recreation income

Species / land use / neighbor conflicts

Town income

No jobs, we're too far from town

Profit—cattle, crops, timber

Loss—cattle, crops, timber

Ranching with the public interest in mind



Mitigation banking

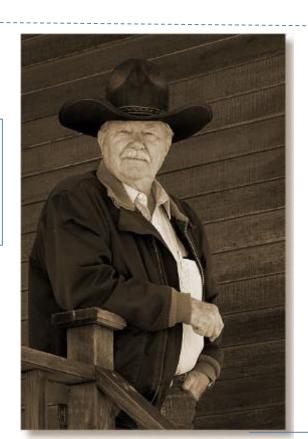
Conservation easements

Payment for 'eco-services'

Cropland Reserve Pgm

Wetland Reserve Pgm

Ranching as granddad intended



Love way of life

Personal values / ethics

Ample water

Timber income

Wildlife / Recreation income

Town income

Profit—cattle, crops, timber

What's the bad news?

- Consulting scientists like me are involved
- Attorneys are involved
- Government agencies are involved
- Big companies are involved
- The process takes a while maybe 2 years, start to finish
- The process can seem expensive at first



Now for the good news:

Mitigation credits pay real money per the examples shown





 Conservation easements bring a second form of payment -an <u>endowment</u>, to cover annual management costs









..... >

... in perpetuity

A conservation easement (CE) on 120 acres in San Luis Obispo County sold for \$275,000. The endowment was priced at \$1.1 M.

A CE on 140 acres in San Joaquin County sold for \$545,000. The endowment was priced at \$800,000.

A CE on 1280 acres in San Benito County was priced at \$8.7 M. The endowment was priced at \$2 M.

This property is now developing as a conservation bank.

Acquisition Process									
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	
Identify Target Species per Subregion	Qualify New Leads	Confirm New Leads with Agencies	Conduct Biological Due Diligence; Report Results to Agencies	Develop and Submit Draft MAF	Conduct Site Visit with Agencies	Finalize Site Requirements with Agencies	Submit Final MAF	Complete Acquisition; Submit Supporting Materials	
Research Process	Research Process								
Review Resource	s	Submit Documen	tation						
San Joaquin Valley O&M HCP	 CNDDB Recovery Units Critical Habitat Willing CE Developers Mitigation Bankers 	MapSiteDescription	Habitat AssessmentSupporting Studies	exceptions /	n Map	documentati 8. A Proposed L 9. Transaction S 10. Original signs	AF or MAF		
Key Meetings, De	cision Points, and	Timeline = k	Key Meeting	= Decision F	Point				
Wildlife Agency Timelines ————————————————————————————————————									
PG&E and Wildlife Agencies discuss and advance new leads. PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to meeting. Wildlife Agencies document final edits and additional required information within 14 days of site visit.									
Wildlife Agencies identify required biological due diligence to advance opportunity or provide rationale for rejection within 30 days of meeting. 5 PG&E and Wildlife Agencies resolve edits/ info requests within 30-60 days of Decision Point 4. PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to meeting.									
PG&E and Wildlife Agencies review biological due diligence results (30 – 90 days). PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to meeting. Wildlife Agencies document their approval of Key Meeting 5 outcomes within 7 days of meeting.									
Wildlife Agencies document their preliminary approval/rejection of the site within 30 days of meeting. PG&E and Wildlife Agencies discuss Final MAF, item 8, and supporting documentation (30 – 60 days). PG&E provides materials 1 wk. prior to m									
PG&E and W PG&E provid	ildlife Agencies revies meeting materia	iew Draft MAF and i als 2 weeks prior to r	tems 1-6 (30 – 90 c meeting.	lays). Wi Thi	Wildlife Agencies document approval/ rejection of Final MAF within 30 days. This triggers the property acquisition.				
		eir comments, contir n 30 days of meeting	6&E and Wildlife Agencies review items 9-11. PG&E provides material solution ovided with 120 days of closing and a least 1 week prior to meeting.						
PG&E and Wildlife Agencies conduct site visit within 30 days of completion of Decision Point 3. Wildlife Agencies provide final approval of mitigation property within 30 of receipt of final materials.							ty within 30 days		

Mitigation Credit Development (Conservation Easement)

Development Steps

Green Light

Identify Priority Habitat, Species & Decision Makers Qualify Eco-Asset Types & Sources Confirm Property
Opportunities
with Agencies

Conduct Property
Due Diligence;
Report Results to
Agencies

Develop Draft Mitigation Acquisition Form Finalize Site Requirements with Agencies Submit Final MAF and Supporting Materials

Supporting Information

Mitigation Credit Marketplace (credit demand)

- CNDDB
- Recovery Units & Corridors
- Critical Habitat Designations
- Corridor Linkage
- Mitigation
 Developers &
 Price Signals
 (credit supply)

- Site Review
- Habitat & Wildlife Review
- Supporting Studies¹

- **Prelim Approval**
- 1. County Assessor's Parcel Map
- 2. Site Habitat Map
- 3. Phase 1 Env Assessment (toxics)
- 4. Preliminary Title Report
- Documents supporting title exceptions / encumbrances
- Draft Management Plan and Property Analysis Record (PAR)

Final Approval

- Original signed, notarized CE Deed or Grant Deed
- 8. Mitigation Acquisition Form (MAF)
- 9. Transaction Summary
- 10. Certificate of Visual Inspection
- 11. Final Management Plan & PAR

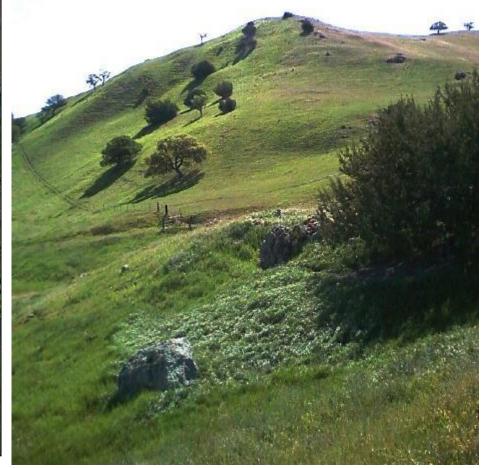
¹Studies will address property-specific information needs



San Joaquin County Mitigation

140 acres of 30,000 acre total

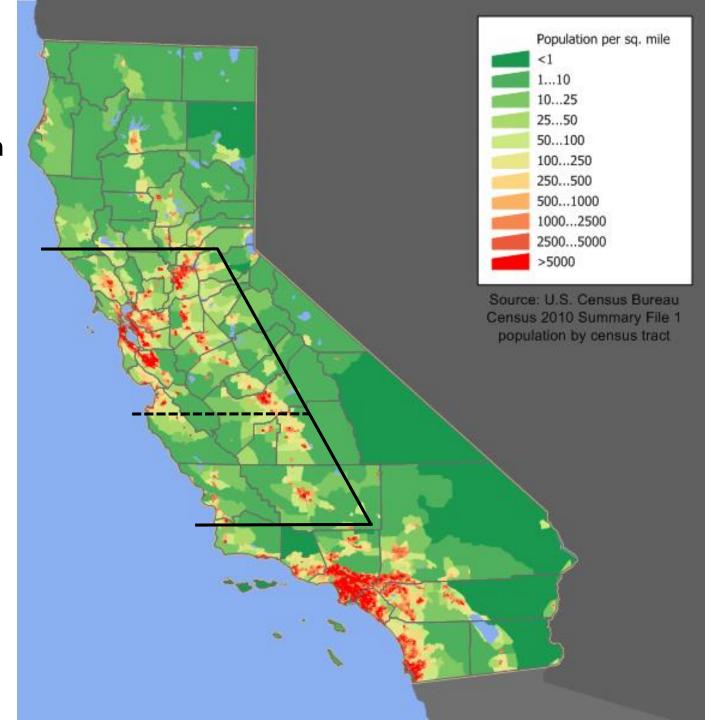




San Luis Obispo County 120 acres of 50,000 acre total antelope squirrel red legged frog

Demand for mitigation will come from growth areas in the state.

Central California is projected to see the most rapid growth by 2050.



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¹Studies will address property-specific information needs

Basic 4-Stage Process for Developing Mitigation Credits

Step 1

High level property evaluation for mitigation credit potential

Step 2

Detailed site review & 'wildlife management plan'

Step 3

Shepard WMP thru the agency review process

Step 4

Bring property mitigation credits to market

Buyers

Buyers





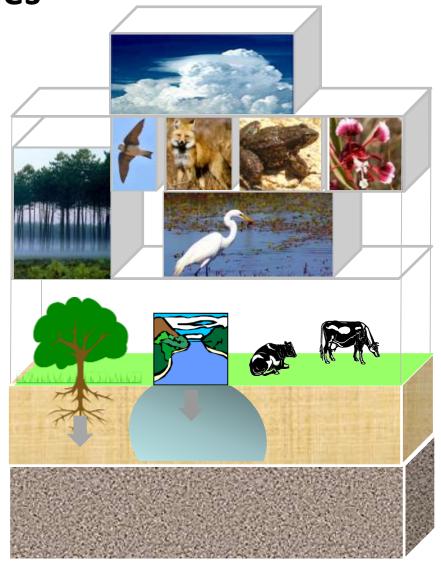


'Stacking' Eco-Asset Values

Mitigation credits can be leveraged again and again over the years.

Managed with <u>ecological assets</u> in mind, the property can earn a variety of mitigation credits.

A property contributes many different <u>ecosystem service</u> values.



Should I develop credits now or wait for credit markets to mature? What's the status of the biodiversity credit marketplace today?

The market is quickly maturing. Here are 8 reasons why:

- 1. Government support is growing
- 2. Standards are being established
- 3. Buyer-seller visibility is improving
- 4. Project partnerships are emerging
- 5. Development processes are being streamlined
- 6. Product volume is increasing, yet so is product demand
- 7. Credit prices are stabilizing as market visibility improves
- 8. A secondary market may soon emerge, drawing more participants



www.youtube.com/watch?v=74QdTdB4Yb8&feature=youtu.be

Secretary Jewell discusses the Department of the Interior's mitigation strategy to meet conservation and development objectives Is rangeland sustainability measurable?

Is it profitable?

Yes – in terms of ecological assets

~ species / habitat mitigation credits ~

Real value – from investing in nature







