

Tuleyome works to protect “Deep Home Place”

by Bob Schneider,
Senior Policy Director, Tuleyome

Tuleyome (tuleyome.org) is a regional conservation organization based in Woodland, which gets its name from a Lake Miwok word meaning “Deep Home Place.” We work in the Northern Inner Coast Range, which is anchored by the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (in the south) and the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument (in the north). Our goal is to protect our public lands and get folks outdoors. As a land trust, we focus on key ecological parcels and those that provide access to our public lands. We recently joined California Oaks Coalition.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region, north of the San Francisco Bay Area, and west of Sacramento, consists of steeply tilted interbedded sandstone and shale, with streams in deep canyons. Rolling oak woodlands and oak-forested lands provide habitat for wildlife, including black bears, mountain lions (*Puma concolor*), Pacific fishers (at Snow Mountain Wilderness), Tule elk (*Cervus canadensis nannodes*) (at Cache Creek Wilderness), bald and golden eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus* and *Aquila chrysaetos*), peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*), ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), and river otters (*Lutra Canadensis brevipilosus*).



© Bob Schneider

Blue oak woodland in winter, overlooking Lake Berryessa from Blue Ridge

I particularly enjoy the blue oak woodlands that teem with wildlife on the flanks of many of the mountain ranges of the Inner Coast Range, including Vaca Mountains, Blue Ridge, and Cortina Ridge. The symbiotic relationship between blue oaks and native grasses sustains the complexity of the biota. Native grass roots extend up to 20 feet deep, leaving moisture at the surface for acorns to germinate and grow. Native grasses benefit from the shade of blue oaks, often providing a ring of green under the oak canopy. – Bob Schneider

The region displays world-renowned examples of plate tectonics, is dense with cultural resources, harbors great biological diversity, offers north-south landscape connectivity, and provides opportunities for climate adaptation. President Obama designated the region as a national monument on July 10, 2015, protecting 330,780 acres of federal public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service.

Adjacent state lands include the Knoxville Wildlife Area and Putah Creek Wildlife Area, managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Locally protected lands include the recently acquired Smittle Creek parcels adjacent to the Cedar Roughs Wilderness managed by the Napa County Regional

Parks and Open Space District, and Yolo County Park lands on Cache Creek. Additionally, conservation easements on large private ranches protect this largely unfragmented landscape and the natural and cultural resources of the region.

University of California (UC) Natural Reserves in the region include Stebbins Cold Canyon, Quail Ridge, and McLaughlin. Research Natural Areas are at Hale Ridge and Frenzel Creek in the Mendocino National Forest. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern—BLM areas where special management attention is needed—at Walker Ridge and the Cache Creek further underscore the biological and cultural sensitivity of the region.

— continued on page 8

Inside

Pages 2-3

California Oaks Coalition Reports and Resources

El Dorado County and Important Plant Areas

Pages 4-5

Oak Restoration Reports

Pages 6-7

California Wildlife Foundation Partner Reports

Skaggs Island and Antioch Dunes, *Guide to California's Marine Life Management Act*, and California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference

California Oaks Coalition

California Oaks Coalition brings together state, regional, and local organizations to conserve and perpetuate the state's primary old growth resource. Members of California Oaks Coalition are united by the vital role of oaks in providing habitat, sustaining healthy watersheds, and sequestering carbon:

American River Watershed Institute
Butte Environmental Council
California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC)
California Native Plant Society
California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild)
Californians for Western Wilderness (CalUWild)
Carpe Diem West
Clover Valley Foundation
Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy
Elder Creek Oak Woodland Preserve
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
Environmental Water Caucus
Foothill Conservancy
Forests Forever
Friends of the Richmond Hills
Friends of Spenceville
Hills for Everyone
Los Padres Forest Watch
Lower Kings River Association
Napa County Water, Forest and Oak Woodland Protection Committee
Northern California Regional Land Trust
Planning and Conservation League
Redlands Conservancy
Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains
Rural Communities United
Sacramento Tree Foundation
Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE)
Sierra Club Placer County
Tejon Ranch Conservancy
Tuleyome
University of California Los Angeles Botanical Garden

The four areas of support being developed for the Coalition are:

- 1) Research and advocacy updates (available at californiaoaks.org).
- 2) Information to educate and engage the public.
- 3) Tools for engaging in planning processes and educating opinion leaders.
- 4) Materials to inform local, regional, and state governmental agencies of the opportunities for and benefits of protecting oak woodlands.

For more information please contact Oaks Network Manager Angela Moskow, oakstaff@californiaoaks.org.

Legal challenge to protect El Dorado County's oak woodlands

by Cheryl Langley,
Rural Communities United

California Oaks Coalition member Rural Communities United (RCU) is hopeful that a recently filed legal action will result in the adoption of policies in El Dorado County to foster the preservation of our oak woodlands and heritage oaks. We believe the county's economic development need not entail wholesale destruction of important habitat, and that there is ample opportunity to move forward in a manner that respects and protects our natural environment.

On November 21, 2017, RCU (ruralcommunitiesunited.org) challenged El Dorado County's adoption of a Biological Resources Policy Update to the 2004 General Plan and associated Oak Resource Management Plan and Oak Resources Conservation Ordinance, on the grounds that these policies are in violation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Specifically, RCU alleges that the environmental review upon which these policies were adopted was deficient in its analysis of the project's greenhouse gas and wildlife habitat impacts. Past policies that provided for oak retention on project sites were needlessly eliminated, eroding protections for the county's old growth resources, and the natural and built communities that rely upon their ecosystem services.

Under the newly approved plan, a total of

145,552 acres (nearly 60 percent) of the county's 246,806 acres of oak woodlands at or below 4,000 feet could be lost. This includes 132,281 acres (approximately 54 percent) with no oak mitigation requirements because of the plan's Agricultural Activities Exemption.

While blue oaks will bear the majority of the impacts, the plan's Environmental Impact Report indicates up to 65 percent of the county's 3,970 acres of valley oak woodland could be lost as well. In the face of such devastation, El Dorado County concludes: "At least 5,945 acres of oak woodlands within the county are permanently protected under deed restrictions and conservation easements." This represents 2.4 percent of the county's existing oak woodlands covered by the plan—inadequate compensation for the extensive loss of mature woodland and wildlife habitat.

Also of concern is the low mitigation fee paid in lieu of retaining oak woodlands. This fee of roughly \$8,000 per acre includes only \$4,400 for land acquisition, with the remainder delegated to the management and monitoring of the mitigation site. A fee of such a low dollar amount allows only for the acquisition of conservation easements in remote areas of the county. It does little to provide for the establishment of wildlife corridors in areas where development is likely to occur and land values far exceed the land acquisition fee.



Off Latrobe Road in El Dorado Hills

© Don VanDyke

Mapping Important Plant Areas

RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA): The Fall-Winter 2017 newsletter included an article on negative impacts of groundwater overdraft on riparian oak communities. Below are informational resources for those interested in using SGMA to protect groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

Department of Water Resources has a wide range of information on SGMA: bit.ly/2sUorqw.

The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) publication, *Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act—Guidance for preparing Groundwater Sustainability Plans* is available in electronic form at: bit.ly/2HPDvJa. Other TNC groundwater publications can be found at: www.GroundwaterResourceHub.org.

Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) published *Getting Involved in Groundwater—A Guide to Groundwater Sustainability Plans* in English and Spanish language editions: bit.ly/2CL1154. UCS also hosts a bilingual website portal to link those with questions to their experts: bit.ly/2BRWPVH.

Groundwater Matters (cagroundwater.org) is hosted by Clean Water Fund in collaboration with other non-profit organizations. It posts information on groundwater issues and resources.

The January-March 2018 issue of the University of California's *California Agriculture* journal is a special issue, covering SGMA: It can be downloaded from: calag.ucanr.edu/.

ONLINE TREE VALUATION TOOLS:

Urban Tree Calculator quantifies the role of urban trees in reducing the runoff, nutrient, and sediment during storm events: bit.ly/2GNLyEW.

i-Tree provides online tools for assessing and managing forest and community trees: itreetools.org.

ONLINE NATIVE PLANT TOOLS:

PlantID.net helps with native plant identification.

calscape.org lists plants native to specific locations and native plant nursery sources.



© Robert Wick

Intact oak woodlands, such as this blue oak woodland, are Important Plant Areas in California.

by Greg Suba,
Conservation Program Director,
California Native Plant Society

With its high diversity and endemism, the flora of California is like no other in the world, and California Oaks Coalition member California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and our collaborators are working to protect and preserve its natural beauty.

Advances in online mapping and technology and an urgency to address changing climate conditions have hastened the pace and scale of conservation and development planning in the last ten years. CNPS has set a goal to complete an Important Plant Area (IPA) map of California within five years to bring vital botanical information to assist scientists, conservationists, and decision makers in planning the state's future.

We are mapping California one region at a time, and then stitching these maps together like a patchwork quilt. The work includes areas where rare plant surveys and vegetation mapping still need to be performed. As new botanical data are gathered, they are incorporated into plant conservation mapping tools. Southern San Joaquin Valley, Modoc Plateau, and North Coast Region IPA maps are now in their modeling stages.

This effort, which commenced in 2017, builds on work over the past 50 years—accomplished through partnerships with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board, the US Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Forest Service, and others—to assemble botanical resources for use by the

public and decision makers. CNPS's *Online Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California* (rareplants.cnps.org) and *Manual of California Vegetation Online* (vegetation.cnps.org/) are integral to local, regional, and statewide conservation and development planning efforts.

IPAs also build upon well-established conservation planning methods, including federal Habitat Conservation Plans and state Natural Community Conservation Plans, and newer tools such as Regional Conservation Investment Strategies, and Regional Conservation Assessments. Each offers a different approach to identifying and protecting high-value conservation lands, including oak woodlands and oak-forested lands.

CNPS has been convening workshops around the state to gather botanical information to enter into regional digital maps. Models are then used to identify and score IPAs. For example, we are using the Ecosystem Evaluation Modeling System, developed by the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) and available via their Data Basin website (databasin.org) to translate IPA information into mapping units that are readily accessible to state regulators and planners, to CNPS Chapter conservation advocates, and to other conservationists.

Participants in both the Southern San Joaquin and North Coast IPA workshops identified areas of oak woodlands and delineated these stands as important plant areas. Once identified, IPAs such as intact oak woodlands, will be scored using a suite of criteria that results in a conservation priorities map for the region.



San Jose Heritage tree #96, Great Oak Boulevard

Re-oaking for Silicon Valley and beyond

by Erica Spotswood, PhD,
Applied Ecologist,
San Francisco Estuary Institute

At 13.7 feet around, San Jose Heritage Tree #96 is a little too large for two people to hug with joined hands. Lopsided from the loss of an upper limb, this valley oak appears jocular and alone in a field along Great Oak Boulevard. To get that big takes time, and its early years were spent when Silicon Valley was just a valley, before fruit trees, and before suburbs.

A brief run-down of this oak's virtues gives us reason to appreciate the protection afforded by the city. At its size, it has already stored roughly 100,000 pounds of carbon—enough to sequester approximately one million miles of automotive emissions. Its canopy also creates shade, reduces runoff, and removes particulate matter from the air. In short, like most trees, it provides many benefits that make cities more desirable places to live. But it is a large valley oak, and that means it also provides for species beyond our own.

California's native oaks support the most biodiversity-rich ecosystem type in the state. Many oak-dwellers can live in cities, though how to integrate oaks into urban landscapes for both people and wildlife remains a question.

In *Re-oaking Silicon Valley: Building Vibrant Cities with Nature*, the San Francisco Estuary Institute explores this question. Funded by Google's Ecology Program, the report is part of Resilient Silicon Valley (resilientsv.sfei.org), an initiative to guide investments in regional ecosystem health. The report contains many recommendations to help launch re-oaking programs. Here are

some highlights:

Champion native diversity. California is a biodiversity hotspot, revered for its nature. Planting native oaks will bring the beauty of oak woodlands to our streets, enhancing the unique character of California cities. Supplementing oaks with other oak-associates such as toyon, madrone, and California buckeye will build ecological resilience while reducing the risk of disease outbreaks.

Defend the large. Large trees are hubs for carbon and wildlife. Storing more carbon per year, and retaining what was sequestered in the past, large trees keep carbon currency in the bank. But protecting existing large trees is only part of the puzzle. Keeping large trees on the landscape also means prioritizing planting species that will become large over time, ensuring that the next generation will provide the same benefits.

Leave the leaves. Tending oaks with a low-maintenance approach will reduce maintenance costs and create habitat for wildlife. Where feasible, leave leaf litter, downed logs, and mistletoes intact, and reduce pruning of trees. Leaf litter can control weed growth and enhance soil fertility.

California's urban forests will require transformation over coming decades to address drought and climate change—in Silicon Valley and beyond. That means our choices could help shape the resilience of urban forests for decades to come. Planting native oaks, and protecting large trees like Heritage Tree #96, could play a key role in this transformation.

For more information please visit: sfei.org/projects/re-oaking#sthash.SuGCeR3P.dpbs.

Restoring blue oak woodlands in Bidwell Park

Planting one acorn at a time in one of our nation's largest municipal parks

by Natalie Carter,
Executive Director,
Butte Environmental Council

At 3,670 acres, Chico's Bidwell Park (bit.ly/2phaqhp) is one of the largest municipal parks in the United States. Donated by Annie Bidwell in 1905, Bidwell Park is a true gem in the heart of Chico, spanning 11 miles, from downtown to the eastern foothills.

Blue oaks are the dominant species found in the dry, thin soils of Upper Bidwell Park, where the oaks support a diverse and abundant web of wildlife. Acorn woodpeckers (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), wild turkeys, and deer are often seen collecting acorns in autumn. Bidwell Park provides critical winter habitat for the Eastern Tehama deer herd (bit.ly/2FbDLDO), the largest in California, and is home to other large animals, including mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), black bear, and coyote. Cooper's and Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni* and *Accipiter cooperii*) can be spotted soaring over the oak woodlands, and, under the cover of darkness, Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*) can be heard as they climb about in search of food.

Unfortunately, regeneration of both valley and blue oaks is inadequate to

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The next generation of oak trees in the hands of the next generation.



Excited students planting acorns.

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ensure their long-term ecological health. California Oaks Coalition member Butte Environmental Council (BEC; becnet.org), with funding from California Wildlife Foundation's (CWF's) Vesta Fund, launched the Oaks Restoration Program (becnet.org/oak-restoration) in 2014 to help ensure the survival of the oak trees and the wildlife they support in Upper Bidwell Park.

Acorn collection began in the fall of 2014. One hundred sites were planted and 50 more were protected through a collaboration with local schools, the City of Chico, and other community organizations. A second round of volunteer planting days was held in 2015, bringing the total number of planting sites to 200.

Tubes and then caging are placed around seedlings and young trees to ensure survival from predation by insects, rodents, and deer. The sites are watered by volunteers every week for the first three years until the trees become established enough to survive Chico's high summer temperatures and low rainfall.

CWF extended support for this program in 2017 as the initial planting sites were receiving their last volunteer deliveries of water. The grant funds planting 100 more sites. BEC will be nurturing Upper Bidwell Parks oak woodlands until 2021!

Students plant oaks to save the world

by Melissa Pitkin,
Point Blue Education and Outreach Director

I remember the first time I witnessed students restoring habitat. It was a cold, foggy winter morning, and about 60 fourth-grade students, wearing rubber boots, warm jackets, and gloves, were busy working. In teams of four, they scraped grass, dug holes, tenderly removed small plants from their containers, and built cages around the newly planted seedlings. *Busy, industrious, hardworking, serious, motivated*—those are the words that came to mind while I watched the scene unfold. No goofing off, no arguing, just harmony as they worked toward the common goal of healing the planet.

That was STRAW in action. Coordinating a network of teachers, students, and restoration scientists, Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed (STRAW) works with ranchers and public landowners to implement watershed studies and restoration projects in the Bay Area.

Since its 1992 inception, over 45,000 K-12 students have participated in more than 600 restorations on creeks and wetlands, benefitting 35 miles of rural and urban creek bank.

Building environmental resilience: STRAW students produce professional quality restorations, resulting in long-lasting benefits for our ecosystem, changing climate, and economy. Benefits include:

- Each mile of stream habitat restored by STRAW sequesters an average of 289 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents every year for the next 50 years, equal to taking 55 cars off the road.
- For every dollar invested in STRAW, \$14.22 in environmental benefits are generated.
- We utilize climate-smart planting design, which includes selecting plants that can survive in a range of possible weather scenarios.
- Restored riparian vegetation improves water quality by preventing erosion, increasing dissolved oxygen for aquatic populations, and shading streams to cool water.
- STRAW restorations enhance habitat quality and corridor potential for a range of native species, often increasing the

number and diversity of birds and other wildlife present.

- Restorations can also contribute to the recovery of endangered species, including Tidewater Goby (*Eucycloglobius newberry*), Myrtle Silver Spot butterfly (*Speyeria zerene myrtleae*), Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus obsoletus*), and California freshwater shrimp (*Syncares pacifica*)—the species that inspired the formation of STRAW.

With support from California Wildlife Foundation's Vesta Fund and other partners, STRAW students have planted 46,000 native plants, including thousands of oaks. We plant oaks every year because they are critical to local ecosystems, sustaining a myriad of species. Recently, at Tolay Creek Regional Park, students planted 2,702 coast live oaks and valley oaks in just two winters! STRAW also implements best management practices (bit.ly/2prHIQn) for preventing transmission of sudden oak death.

By combining quality science education, collaborative partnerships, and the latest restoration science, STRAW partners with communities to revitalize habitats, generate clean water, and sequester greenhouse gases. STRAW also inspires the next generation of conservation leaders. As one second-grader, planting his acorns, said, "I'll stay all day and work just to save the world!"

Visit bit.ly/2D3H2QJ to learn more.



Lawrence Jones Middle School students plant oaks at burn site at Live Oaks Ranch.

Turning the clock back

by Don Brubaker,
Manager,

Antioch Dunes, Marin Islands, and San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Hay, bricks, and partnerships—seemingly innocuous components for creating a bustling life in the Bay Area or for achieving the recovery of species and their habitats.

We only need to turn the clock back to the late 19th century to have a good idea of what this region looked like prior to Spanish settlement. Early Spanish explorers saw a vast wetland off the top end of San Pablo Bay, comprising over a quarter of the wetland habitat that existed in the Bay Area. They also saw a sand dune stretching a couple of miles along the south shore of the San Joaquin River near a place later called Antioch.

People used horses and mules before Fords, Hondas, and Teslas. These animals, along with local dairies, needed hay, and the growth of Richmond, Oakland, and San Francisco required building materials: bricks—lots of bricks.

Hay: Chinese laborers piled mud hauled out of San Pablo Bay's sloughs to create levees that eventually cordoned off large portions of wetland. Wetlands were drained, creating islands to be farmed for hay. Steam-powered dredgers later picked up the pace of this wetland conversion, eventually transforming nearly the entire wetland to hay.

Bricks: Antioch dune sand was an especially pure material. A brick was made in less than a day from pressure-cooked sand and a dash of phosphorous—vastly quicker than the week-long process to manufacture ordinary bricks. Sand mining and brick making were so feverish that railroad spurs were built to haul sand or bricks to building sites. Three buildings made of dune sand still stand in San Francisco.

By the middle to late 20th century we began to realize haying and brick making had destroyed most of the habitat that sustained salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*), Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus obsoletus*), Antioch Dunes evening primrose (*Oenothera deltoides* ssp. *howellii*), Contra Costa wallflower (*Erysimum capitatum* var. *angustatum*), and Lange's metalmark butterfly (*Apodemia mormo langei*). The desire to turn the clock back was strong enough to create National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) to protect and recover these species from the

brink of extinction. Efforts to recover habitat vital to species survival moved forward with the designation of San Pablo Bay NWR in 1974, and Antioch Dunes NWR in 1980.



Lange's metalmark butterfly © Sarah Bettelheim

The United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the bureau under the Department of the Interior that manages NWRs. Management includes the development and maintenance of partnerships through which lands are conveyed to a refuge for their habitat value. On occasion, the conveyance also includes funding. Such was the case when the US Navy transferred a portion of

Skaggs Island—3,300 acres of former salt marsh converted to hay farming and radio communications facilities—to San Pablo Bay NWR in 2011. The Navy had funding to clean up Skaggs Island prior to the conveyance, with the balance of the funds to be held by California Wildlife Foundation (CWF) for ongoing maintenance.

San Pablo Bay NWR and CWF worked together since 2011 maintaining pumps to keep the area dry to prepare the land for restoration to salt marsh. The maintenance and operation of these pumps also helped keep an adjacent hay farm operation—Haire Ranch, an 1,100-acre portion of Skaggs Island still in private ownership—dry.

Additional partners, including Sonoma Land Trust, US Department of Agriculture, and California State Coastal Conservancy, purchased and conveyed Haire Ranch to San Pablo Bay NWR in December 2013. Subsequently, the partnership with CWF, in collaboration with Ducks Unlimited, has helped initiate the restoration of Haire Ranch. Who would have thought recovery of salt marsh harvest mice and Ridgway's Rails would involve so many organizations!

With so much sand hauled away, Antioch Dunes NWR once looked like a fenced-off vacant lot full of weeds. Again, the partner-

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© Don Brubaker

Looking like an upland habitat, Skaggs Island is actually six to seven feet below sea level due to decades of hay farming. Imagine this being a vast estuary back in the late 1800s.

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ship with CWF helped accomplish habitat restoration and endangered species recovery. CWF's ability to hold funds and to bid and contract for agency-approved projects is a great administrative help to USFWS and other entities. State and federal land management agencies are often required to spend their allotted dollars within a few years or less while restoration and recovery spans many years and requires a consistent year-round cash flow to be effective.

CWF manages the mitigation funds that come to Antioch Dunes NWR for the recov-

ery of Antioch Dunes evening primrose, Contra Costa wallflower, and Lange's metal-mark butterfly. These dollars fund invasive weed management, the restoration of host plants for the butterfly, and several months of time for a biological technician who helps with weeding, planting, and monitoring.

Through a partnership with the Port of Stockton and US Army Corps of Engineers, over 67,000 cubic yards of sand have been dredged out of the San Joaquin River and deposited on the refuge, creating over five acres of dune habitat to be restored to productive habitat from a bygone era.

Second edition of *Guide to California's Marine Life Management Act*

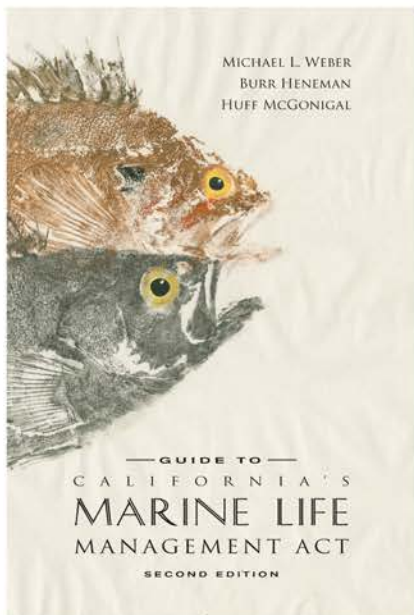
California Wildlife Foundation (CWF) recently published the second edition of the *Guide to California's Marine Life Management Act* through a philanthropic partnership of Resources Legacy Fund's California Fisheries Improvement Strategy and CWF's Vesta Fund.

The new guide—authored by Michael L. Weber, Burr Heneman, and Huff McGonigal builds on the first edition, which was published in 2000. The second edition shares lessons learned from the Marine Life Management Act's (MLMA's) implementation to date, addresses new challenges, and coincides with a recently launched effort by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and California Fish and Game Commission to revise the Master Plan for Fisheries.

The new guide includes an extensive description of the management setting and discussion of a range of initiatives and tools to inform how California meets current and future challenges to the sustainability of its fisheries. The guide's appendices include profiles of commercial fisheries, information about management jurisdictions for different fisheries and restricted access programs, and summaries of relevant state and federal fishery management plans.

For more information on the Marine Life Management Act visit: wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MLMA.

For free print and electronic copies of the Guide, visit: californiawildlifefoundation.org/MLMA.



Cover illustration of Brown rockfish and Black rockfish by Christopher M. Dewees. Book design by Eric Larson, Studio E Books

CWF role in Fisheries Management Plan Development

As reported in the Fall/Winter 2016 newsletter, CWF provided fiscal and administrative management for the development of the California Spiny Lobster Fisheries Management Plan (FMP), with funding through Ocean Protection Council (OPC). For more information, please visit: wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Lobster-FMP.

CWF is also performing this role for the Pacific Herring FMP. Audubon California is leading the development of the FMP, with funding from Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In-kind contributors include Audubon California, California Ocean Science Trust, Oceana, OPC, and a steering committee comprised of representatives of stakeholder groups. For more information, please visit: wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Commercial/Herring.

Oaks at native plant conference

California Oaks Coalition member California Native Plant Society (CNPS) held its Conservation Conference in Los Angeles in February. California Wildlife Foundation (CWF)/California Oaks participated as a sponsor, hosted an open house to introduce the Oaks Coalition to conference participants, and convened a technical session on Oaks and Oak Rangelands.

The oaks technical session speakers were:

Tom Gaman, Registered Professional Forester and member of CWF's Advisory Council, presented an update of the 2006 *Oaks 2040* report on oak woodland and oak-forested acreage by county.

Carol Rice, Principal at Wildland Resource Management, presented on fire ecology, history, and management in California's oak woodlands.

Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist with Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (member of California Oaks Coalition), presented research results about drought, beetle, and temperature impacts to native trees in a wildland park.

Sara Sweet, Project Ecologist with The Nature Conservancy's Cosumnes River Preserve, presented about the development of vegetation metrics to inform implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Kate Marianchild, author of *Secrets of the Oak Woodlands*, reported on the Mendocino Medical Cannabis Regulation Ordinance's significant protections for oaks; the commitment by the Board of Supervisors to adopt an oak woodland protection ordinance by January 1, 2020; and the role of citizen activism in securing oak protections.

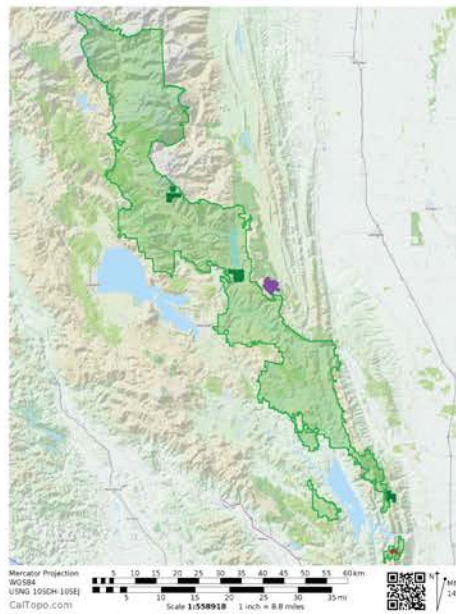
Oaks also featured prominently in the keynote address delivered by **Professor Douglas Tallamy**, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware. He spoke of the specialized relationships between animals and plants, which determine the stability and complexity of local food webs. Visit: bit.ly/2FDtVlS to learn more.

Special thanks to Brien Brennan, Marie Brennan, and Kate Marianchild for their invaluable assistance in planning and facilitating the Oaks Coalition Open House.

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McLaughlin, Cold Canyon, and Huber Ranch: In 2010, California Wildlife Foundation's (CWF's) Vesta Fund and other partners helped Tuleyome purchase the Varni Parcel adjacent to the UC McLaughlin Reserve. Lake County Land Trust placed a permanent conservation easement on the property, which was subsequently donated to the reserve. Tuleyome then purchased the Cold Canyon Headwaters parcel at the southern end of the UC Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve to protect the reserve from development advancing from the south and link BLM lands along Pleasants and Cold Canyon ridges.

We are now working to purchase and protect the 160-acre Huber Ranch, which contains the mountain at the confluence of Cold Canyon and Wild Horse creeks. The purchase, which CWF's Vesta Fund is supporting, will extend the contiguous boundaries of these protected lands, enhancing wildlife connectivity, research opportunities, and recreational trails.



Berryessa Snow Mountain monument is designated in light green. Tuleyome fee-title properties are dark green, the conservation easement on Wilbur Ranch is purple, and Huber Ranch is red.

Bond measures on the June and November ballots

California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks is supporting two upcoming statewide bond measures that will provide essential funding to sustain land and water conservation programs in California. Environmental funds from Proposition 1 of 2014 will likely be expended by 2019 and federal funds for conservation will diminish in the foreseeable future.

Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, scheduled for the November 2018 ballot, includes more than \$3 billion for watersheds and riparian corridors, with \$50 million specifically for oak woodland conservation. If approved, this measure will replenish depleted Oak Woodland Conservation Program funds at Wildlife Conservation Board and provide other critical funding for the stewardship of California's natural resources.

This \$8.877 billion measure will authorize more funds to be invested in watershed conservation than any measure ever presented to the voters of any state. It includes funds for water conservation, wastewater recycling, groundwater remediation, and the restoration of existing storage and conveyance facilities. There is no funding for new reservoirs or for Delta tunnels. Visit waterbond.org for more information.

About \$4.1 billion in conservation funds are included in **Proposition 68**, the **California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act**, which qualified for the June 5, 2018, ballot through the passage SB 5 (de León). This is the first bond measure in state history to focus on social equity, including access to parks for all Californians, while targeting water and flood control investments to the areas with the greatest unmet need. A growing group of partners has formed the Committee for Clean Water, Natural Resources and Parks in support of this measure. Visit www.yes68.ca for more information.



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How you can help:

- Send a donation in support of California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks. A secure donation can be made from our website: californiaoaks.org/donate.
- Spend time in an oak woodland or forest. Click on californiaoaks.org/resources for a summary of oak landscapes around the state that have public access.
- Please consider including oak conservation in your financial and estate planning efforts. Additional information can be found at californiaoaks.org/donate.
- Be vigilant about threats to oak woodlands and oak forested lands in your community and email [California Oaks](mailto:californiaoaks.org) for information: oakstaff@californiaoaks.org.
- Sign up for the Oaks e-newsletter at www.californiaoaks.org.
- Support local and statewide measures to protect natural resources, and hold decision makers accountable for protecting our green infrastructure.

California Oaks is a fund within California Wildlife Foundation, federal tax identification number 68-0234744. Contributions of cash, stocks, and bonds are tax deductible. California Oaks also works with partners to protect land and establish easements for conservation purposes.

Latin names are used for species with designated state or federal conservation status.

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