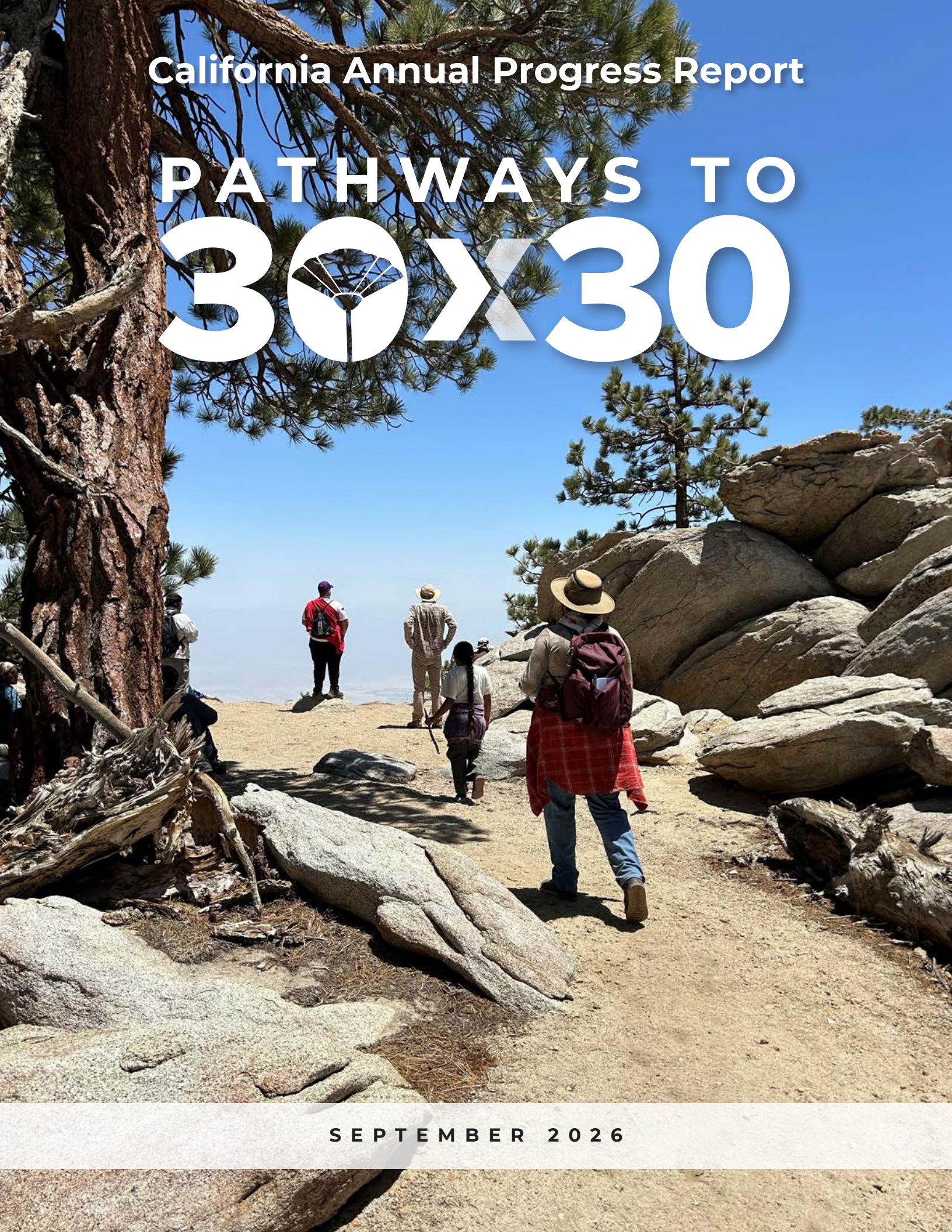




California Annual Progress Report

PATHWAYS TO 30X30

SEPTEMBER 2026



Asilomar State Marine Reserve, Monterey County



Administration of Governor Gavin Newsom

September 2026

We're doing it! Together we are conserving more land and coastal waters than ever before in California thanks to countless dedicated leaders and groups across our state. Thousands of Californians first came together to establish our [Pathways to 30x30 Strategy](#), then built our [30x30 Partnership](#) to implement this strategy, and are now actively expanding conservation across millions of acres of land and sea. Our movement toward 30x30 is open to all and we look forward to building our collaboration together in years to come.

Cover Photo:

Overlooking the Coachella Valley, climate stewards hiking at Mount San Jacinto State Park in Riverside County were reminded to cherish and protect the ecological “islands” as climate change reshapes the deserts of Southern California.

Executive Summary

California's firm commitment and steady progress to protect and conserve 30% of its land and coastal waters by 2030 has positioned our state as a global leader in the 30x30 movement. Each year, we demonstrate how bold action to conserve our environment helps people and nature thrive together. 30x30 actions safeguard our biodiversity, protect our natural resources, expand outdoor access, bolster local economies, and safeguard public health and safety amidst worsening climate change. Our collaboration across governments, conservation organizations, and local communities is building durable, equitable, and resilient conservation that benefits all Californians and our shared future.

As of June 2026, 27.1% of California's lands and 21.9% of its coastal waters are conserved and under long-term management. This includes 1,023,000 acres of land added over the past year, adding up to more than 3.5 million acres of conserved lands and coastal waters since our [Pathways to 30x30 Strategy](#) was released in 2022. The cumulative acreage added since 2022 is larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. This year's increase marks a new milestone, propelling California past the halfway point of the acreage of land that we need to conserve since setting our 30x30 commitment.

Historic investments continue to drive this work. Over the past four years, the Newsom Administration and California Legislature have together invested nearly \$1.3 billion in nature-based solutions. Additionally, California voters have approved a \$10 billion [Climate Bond](#) (Proposition 4, 2024) that is funding a range of conservation efforts. These investments have enabled California to accelerate conservation, restoration, and climate resilience projects at an unprecedented scale. Upcoming funding from the Climate Bond will continue to deliver lasting conservation outcomes across the state.

California also deepened its commitments to tribal leadership and stewardship this year. The state's first-ever [Tribal Stewardship Policy](#), accompanied by a comprehensive [Tribal Stewardship Toolkit](#), has established a clear and actionable framework to expand tribal stewardship across at least 7.5 million acres of lands and coastal waters. This policy and toolkit build upon historic ancestral land return that continues to be prioritized within our 30x30 movement. Together, these improvements will guide continued 30x30 progress, help to align decision-making with tribal priorities, strengthen government-to-government relationships, and ensure that environmental conservation in California honors the original stewards of these lands.

Several other major milestones that strengthen durable conservation and climate resilience have been reached this past year, including:

- › Governor Newsom and California State Parks launched [State Parks Forward](#), which will add three new state parks in the Central Valley and enable existing state parks to expand by 30,000 acres by 2030, thanks to partnerships with land trusts and conservation organizations.
- › The [Salton Sea Conservancy](#) was established, marking a transformational step to restore one of the state's most ecologically significant but challenged landscapes. The Conservancy will ensure the long-term benefits of projects that protect local communities and restore habitat around California's largest inland water body.
- › A new [Cutting Green Tape Directive](#) was issued by state agency leaders to accelerate ecologically beneficial projects and strengthen coordination across agencies. A second Interagency Summit on Advancing Restoration followed to empower state agency staff to improve restoration permitting and achieve environmental review efficiencies.
- › \$10 million was invested to advance 30x30 in coastal waters, including projects that identify biodiversity hotspots, restore kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, and dune ecosystems, and support tribally-led stewardship and restoration of vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems. [Evaluation Criteria for 30x30 Conservation Areas in Coastal Waters](#) were established to complement this investment.



Western gull off of Catalina Island, Los Angeles County

As California accelerates toward achieving 30x30, we must also ensure that conserved lands and coastal waters receive the long-term care needed to remain healthy, resilient, and accessible. Implementing [AB 900](#) (2025, Papan) will help the state assess stewardship needs and identify the sustained investments required to support 30x30's ongoing success. Building stewardship capacity through strong partnerships with tribes, conservation organizations, and local communities, along with targeted investments in restoration, monitoring, and workforce development, will be essential to sustaining the benefits of today's conservation progress for generations to come.

California's progress would not be possible without the visionary leadership of Governor Newsom and the enduring partnership of the California Legislature. The Governor's initial commitment to 30x30 through [Executive Order N-82-20](#) in October 2020 set an ambitious course for the state, while the Legislature has played a critical role by codifying 30x30 into [state law](#) and championing investments that have transformed the vision into lasting action. Together, they have partnered with government agencies, California Native

American tribes, landowners, scientists, conservation organizations, and communities on these visionary objectives.

Achieving 30x30 will require conserving almost three million more acres of land and 283,000 more acres of coastal waters, but this is well within reach. California's progress to date has demonstrated that our state is capable of sustaining the pace and scale needed to achieve the 30x30 goal. With fewer than four years remaining, success depends upon sustained collaboration, innovation, and investment. But 30x30 is about more than reaching a milestone. Together, through this commitment, we are building a future in which people and nature thrive together, ensuring that generations to come inherit a healthy, resilient, and abundant natural world.

Connecting Global Partners Driving 30x30

Representatives from nine governments from around the world that are committed to achieve 30x30 gathered in San Diego at the 30x30 Partnership 2025 Summit. They exchanged ideas, shared lessons learned, and strengthened collaboration to advance the global 30x30 goal. The summit showcased how governments at every level are delivering on-the-ground conservation outcomes by highlighting innovative approaches, addressing shared challenges, and elevating the vital role subnational leadership plays as a driving force in achieving biodiversity commitments worldwide.



30x30 Partnership 2025 Summit, San Diego County

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KEY OBJECTIVES	7
CORE COMMITMENTS	11
PROGRESS TO DATE	15
PATHWAYS TO 30X30	18
COLLABORATION	29
ONWARD TOGETHER	34

Key Objectives

The [Pathways to 30x30 Strategy](#) set out three core objectives for 30x30, on which we've made major progress over the last year.

1

**Protect and Restore
Biodiversity**

2

**Expand Access
to Nature**

3

**Mitigate and
Build Resilience
to Climate Change**



Carmel Beach, Monterey County



North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area, Humboldt County

Protect and Restore Biodiversity

California is home to an extraordinary diversity of ecosystems, from redwood forests and deserts to coastal marshes, alpine peaks, and some of the world's most productive marine environments. These places and their biodiversity support communities, drive the economy, and help California adapt to a changing climate. Protecting and restoring biodiversity is essential to safeguarding the natural systems that provide clean water, healthy soils, wildfire resilience, and cultural and recreational benefits for all Californians.

California's progress to protect and restore biodiversity is reflected in promising signs such as improved Chinook salmon populations in the Klamath River Basin and Sacramento River, which have reopened to limited commercial and recreational salmon fishing in areas that had been closed for three years. The recently released [Salmon Strategy Progress Report](#) highlights this momentum, reporting that nearly half of the Strategy's 71 priority actions have been completed, with the remaining actions underway to accelerate salmon recovery and strengthen climate resilience across the state. To help sustain and build on this progress,

Protecting a Rare North Coast Peat Fen

One hundred twenty acres near Bridgeville in Humboldt County were acquired by CDFW to permanently protect a critically imperiled and rare peat fen wetland that includes mixed evergreen hardwood and riparian forests, thanks to funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). Saturated year round, the fen is a vital source of cold water for endangered summer steelhead trout in the Van Duzen River and stores an estimated 1,034 metric tons of carbon. This acquisition expands the North Coast Range Fen Conservation Area, protecting sensitive species, enhancing habitat connectivity, and supporting forest restoration efforts that strengthen long-term wildfire resilience.

the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) completed a 10-year update of the [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) in 2025. Developed through extensive collaboration, the update supports 30x30 by providing a blueprint for conserving California's highest priority species and habitats. In May 2026, the California Multi-Agency Monarch and Pollinator Collaborative also [released a report](#) identifying priorities for stabilizing and recovering western monarch butterfly populations. Together, these efforts demonstrate how science, conservation planning, and coordinated action are helping protect and restore California's biodiversity.

At the national level, [The Nature Record](#) is compiling a comprehensive assessment that integrates digitized natural history records and expert-reviewed data to reveal trends in species and ecosystems. This work provides important context for understanding how California's biodiversity patterns fit within broader national trends and can help guide future conservation priorities and cross-state collaboration.

Expand Access to Nature

From iconic national parks to local city gardens, spending time outdoors helps us feel grounded, strengthens our communities, and cultivates stewards of the natural world. Yet for many Californians, access to nature still remains out of reach. Communities across the state face barriers, such as limited transportation options, lack of nearby parks and trails, or long-lasting impacts of systemic exclusionary policies. Expanding access to nature is essential to address historical inequities and improve quality of life so that all Californians can thrive.

California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) [Outdoors for All](#) Strategy emphasizes that increased access to nature can be achieved alongside our biodiversity conservation goals. Furthermore, public lands managed for biodiversity offer immense benefits for both people and wildlife. A [new economic analysis from California State Parks](#) illustrates how the state park system generates substantial economic activity and supports local jobs through outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism.

Significant outdoor access milestones were met last year. In February 2026, CNRA hosted the first Outdoors for All Convening, bringing together

community organizations, tribal partners, advocates, scientists, and state agencies. California's [State Parks Forward initiative](#)—announced on Earth Day 2026—aims to add three new state parks and expand existing parks by 30,000 acres by 2030. State Parks launched a new \$188.5 million Proposition 4 grant program, the [Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program](#), to help underserved communities create new parks and expand outdoor recreation opportunities, advancing 30x30 while improving equitable access to nature. Additionally, to improve trail-system access, CNRA and State Parks invited all Californians to share experiences and insights through a survey that will inform funding programs for important improvements.

Sunset Dunes:

A Monumental Coastal Access Project

Working together, the California State Coastal Conservancy (Coastal Conservancy) and the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department opened Sunset Dunes, the largest highway-to-pedestrian conversion in California history, in April 2026. This 50-acre oceanfront park provides residents and visitors with a place to recreate, relax, and connect. Coastal Conservancy funding supported studies and community engagement on dune revegetation and stabilization, recreation accessibility redesigns, and a multi-modal transportation strategy to support biodiversity while improving access to the coast within a dynamic dune environment.



Sunset Dunes, San Francisco County



Mitigate and Build Resilience to Climate Change

Conserving nature is essential to safeguard communities and wildlife from climate change. Healthy ecosystems remove and store carbon from the atmosphere while providing refuge from the effects of increased temperatures and extreme weather, such as drought, wildfire, flooding, and rising sea levels. Restoring wetlands and floodplains protects communities from coastal erosion and large storms, while expanded green spaces reduce temperatures in populated regions.

Led by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, [California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment](#) recently released new climate change projections that will inform conservation and further guide planning, policy, and investments to protect communities and strengthen climate resilience. In addition, CNRA released the [first progress report](#) on California's Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets, highlighting progress toward harnessing the power of nature to build resilience to

Reforestation the Tahoe Basin

Young adults in the California Conservation Corps are combining traditional methods with innovative technology to help heal forests in the Tahoe Basin after the devastating 2021 Caldor Fire. Their work to revive the iconic sugar pine population includes planting climate-adapted saplings from seeds gathered from local, drought-resistant parent trees. In partnership with UC Davis, corpsmembers are also exploring how drone operations can improve the efficiency of reforestation as they care for the growing saplings over the coming years.

climate-driven extremes. CNRA also hosted California's first Nature-Based Solutions Summit, convening diverse leaders to share their experiences, exchange insights, and chart a path forward. Furthermore, the California Coastal Commission adopted new guidance on Nature-Based Adaptation Strategies through a Coastal Act lens for evaluating and permitting a range of adaptation approaches. Together, these efforts show that California is accelerating the use of nature-based solutions at a scale that will help safeguard communities, strengthen ecosystems, and advance climate resilience for generations to come.

Core Commitments

The 30x30 initiative's three core objectives continue to be grounded in equity, collaboration with California Native American tribes, and economic prosperity. Over the past year, our collective progress has allowed these principles to be woven even more deeply into work underway across the state.

1

**Advance Benefits
and Belonging for All**

2

**Strengthen Tribal
Partnerships**

3

**Sustain Our Economic
Prosperity, Clean Energy
Resources, and Food Supply**



Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego County



Upper Truckee River, Placer County

Advance Benefits and Belonging for All

The 30x30 initiative remains committed to advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion and ensuring its benefits reach those most affected by environmental harm. Communities of color have too often been excluded from decision-making, pushed out of green spaces, and exposed to higher levels of air and water pollution. These historical inequities have contributed to the disproportionate effects of climate change on these communities seen today. This year, CNRA released its updated [Environmental Justice and Equity Policy](#), setting clear departmental standards and actions to enhance public participation, promote fairness, and ensure that conservation benefits are shared equitably across California. The initiative focuses conservation efforts on delivering multiple benefits that improve community health and strengthen a sense of belonging for all Californians. This includes urban greening, expanding access to nature, and centering historically marginalized voices in decision-making.

Recognizing that all conservation is local and must reflect community needs, priorities, and

Community Comes Together to Restore Upper Truckee Marsh South

The California Tahoe Conservancy launched public outreach for the 31-acre Upper Truckee Marsh South Project, bringing together local communities, tribal partners, and stakeholders to help shape a restoration project that benefits both people and wildlife. Guided by its 2024 Racial Equity Action Plan, the Conservancy piloted new engagement approaches, including holding public workshops, meeting with community-based organizations, and hosting site walks. Engagement with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Wašičiw) was a priority, including participating in community gatherings to hear from tribal youth and elders.

Providing outreach materials in English and Spanish and interpreters at all events helped ensure accessibility and inclusivity.

contexts, the 30x30 initiative works with diverse partners across the state and relies on a wide range of perspectives to achieve its goals. The Climate Bond requires 40% of total funding to be used to deliver direct and meaningful benefits to disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations. To support this, CNRA developed the [Meaningful and Direct Benefits Assessment](#) to help grant administrators design programs and evaluate projects to meet this requirement. The [Vulnerable Communities Platform](#), released this year by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, maps current and projected climate impacts alongside key social and demographic factors. Agencies can use it to identify frontline communities and inform outreach and funding decisions.

Strengthen Tribal Partnerships

As the original stewards of the lands and waters in the state, California Native American tribes have helped maintain ecological balance since time immemorial. However, a series of historical wrongs by the State over the last two centuries—including forced removal from ancestral lands, criminalization of cultural burning, and attempted genocide—have severed and disrupted tribal stewardship and management of these lands. This, in turn, has had negative impacts on the health and well-being of tribal communities and ecosystems alike. Tribal and nontribal communities are still affected by those harmful policies today.

In recent years, California has entered a new era of tribal partnerships, beginning with Governor Newsom's formal apology to California Native American tribes ([Executive Order N-15-19](#)), which acknowledged the State's role in committing historical wrongs and established a Truth and Healing Council. In 2024, the first [Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program](#) supported the return of more than 47,000 acres to California Native American tribes, the first public funding program in the U.S. to enable ancestral land return. This year, approximately \$9.2 million was made available through the Climate Bond to continue this work, funding tribal priorities for multi-benefit nature-based solutions. The Climate Bond also requires 40% of funding be used to deliver meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations, disadvantaged

communities, and severely disadvantaged communities, including California Native American tribes.

This year, CNRA launched the state's first-ever Tribal Stewardship Policy, establishing a statewide goal of expanding tribal stewardship to more than 7.5 million acres of lands and coastal waters in California—roughly 7% of the state. This number represents the area originally promised through the 18 treaties with the federal government that Congress failed to ratify in 1852 and kept secret for decades. The new [Tribal Stewardship Policy](#) provides a statewide framework for tribal access, collaboration, and ancestral land return. A companion [toolkit](#) contains training materials, templates, webinars, and technical resources designed for tribes, agency staff, and partners working to advance access, collaboration, and land return.

Restoring Balance in the Central Valley

The Tule River Indian Tribe reclaimed 17,030 acres of their ancestral territory in the Sierra Nevada foothills and Central Valley region, affirming tribal sovereignty and restoring their connection to their sacred homelands. Encompassing properties known as Hershey Ranch and Carothers Ranch, this October 2025 land return was done in partnership with CNRA, WCB, CDFW, and The Conservation Fund. Preserving these historical sites and renewing access to traditional foods and medicines supports the continuity of important cultural practices for future generations.

Yowlumni Hills, Tulare County

Sustain Economic Prosperity, Clean Energy Resources, and Food Supply

California has the fourth largest economy in the world. To be successful in achieving 30x30's goals, our industries and communities must work to support that economy and ensure a sustainable future for all. The State continues to work across sectors to transition to clean energy, create green jobs, conserve water, mitigate urban heat, strengthen wildfire resilience, and protect biodiversity on working lands.

California's farms, ranches, and forests produce food, fiber, and other resources while providing environmental and economic benefits totaling nearly [1.5 million jobs and \\$404 billion in sales annually](#). By protecting biodiversity on working lands, California is strengthening the ecological systems that support a sustainable, reliable food supply. This year, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) released the [Climate Resilience Strategy for California Agriculture](#),

outlining actions to help farmers and ranchers address climate challenges while advancing climate-smart, resilient, and regenerative food systems. As part of the strategy, CDFA committed to developing biodiversity and agriculture guiding principles to inform programs and coordinated actions that enhance biodiversity on working lands, strengthening agricultural resilience while supporting California's food supply.

Madera Ranch: A Haven for Valley Wildlife

A rich array of rare and declining species—among them, the San Joaquin kit fox, Swainson's hawk, and genetically distinct northernmost population of blunt-nosed leopard lizard—occupy the valley grasslands, extensive vernal pools, and high-quality soils of the nearly 11,000-acre Madera Ranch northwest of Fresno. Now protected by a conservation restriction, the site will eventually become a new CDFW Ecological Reserve. This major conservation success also supports renewable energy development by meeting mitigation requirements for two planned solar projects. It reflects years of partnership among the Madera Irrigation District, the Trust for Public Land, and Terra Gen, as well as the alignment of conservation, clean energy, and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act priorities.

Madera Ranch, Madera County

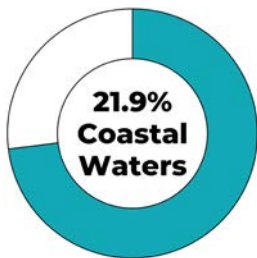
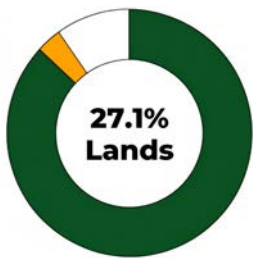
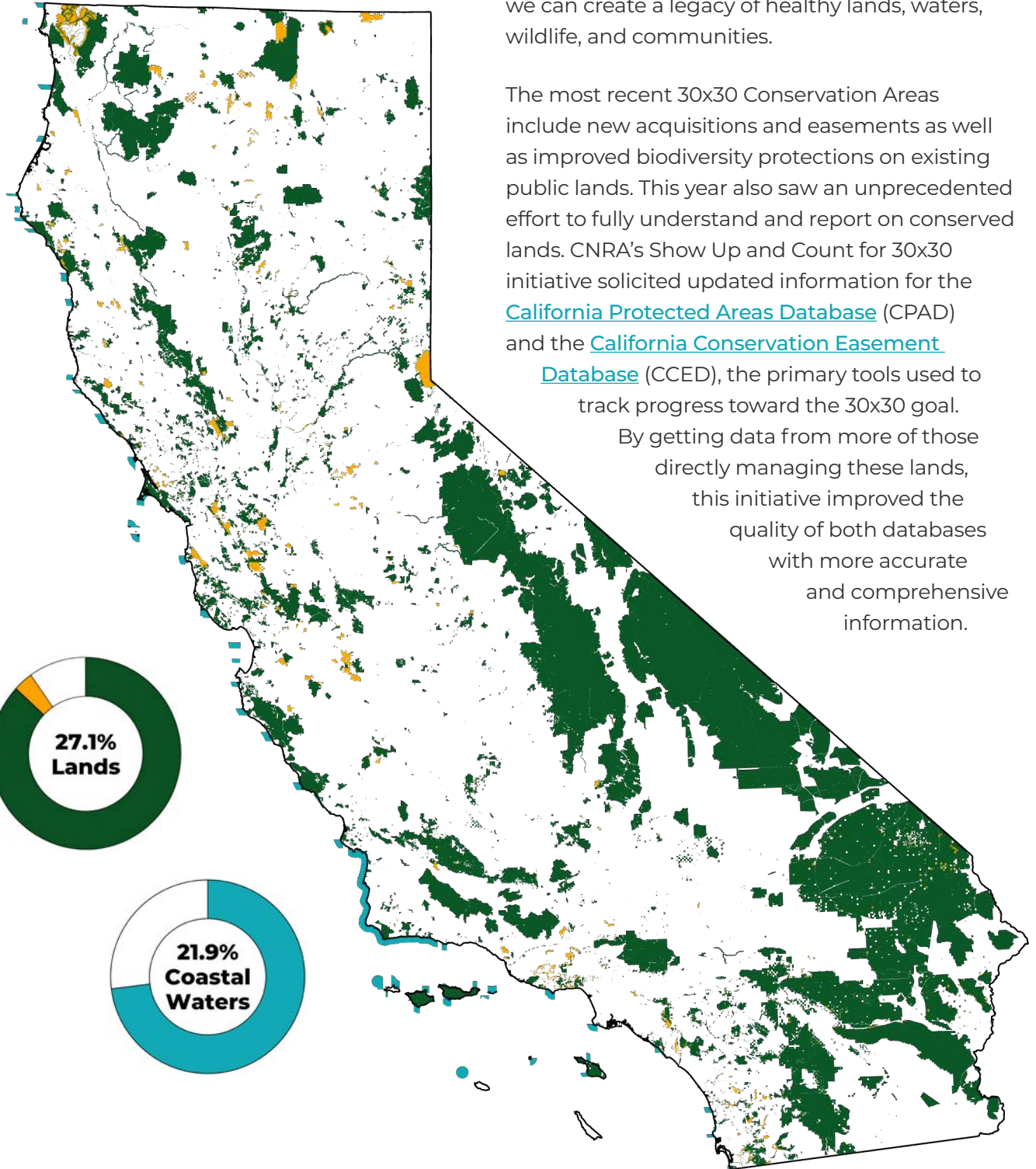
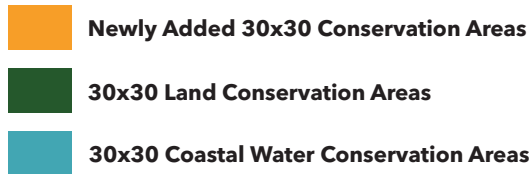


Progress to Date

California has added more than 3.5 million acres of lands and coastal waters toward the 30x30 goal since tracking began in April 2022. This year is the largest annual increase yet with an additional 1,023,000 acres of 30x30 Conservation Areas, including grasslands, deserts, freshwater areas, forests, and other habitats. This incredible achievement is thanks to the hard work of tribal governments and communities, local governments, land trusts, nonprofits, community-based organizations, and many others.

Photo: Kelp forest off of Catalina Island, Los Angeles County

Conserved Lands and Coastal Waters



With 27.1% of lands and 21.9% of coastal waters conserved, California needs to add a little less than 3 million acres of land and 283,000 acres of coastal waters to achieve 30x30. The more than 800,000 acres contributed every year for the past three years have kept us on track for success. 30x30 is within reach, and by working together, we can create a legacy of healthy lands, waters, wildlife, and communities.

The most recent 30x30 Conservation Areas include new acquisitions and easements as well as improved biodiversity protections on existing public lands. This year also saw an unprecedented effort to fully understand and report on conserved lands. CNRA's Show Up and Count for 30x30 initiative solicited updated information for the [California Protected Areas Database](#) (CPAD) and the [California Conservation Easement Database](#) (CCED), the primary tools used to track progress toward the 30x30 goal.

By getting data from more of those directly managing these lands, this initiative improved the quality of both databases with more accurate and comprehensive information.

Show Up and Count for



With additional conserved areas and better data comes a more complete understanding of where conservation has occurred, where important gaps remain, and where future investments can have the greatest impact. Better information allows us to make smarter decisions, strengthen accountability, and ensure that our efforts are delivering meaningful benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience, and access to nature.

Show Up and Count for 30x30

Recognizing that achieving California's 30x30 goal depends on strong partnerships and shared information, CNRA partnered with [Power in Nature](#) to convene a series of regional workshops across the state as part of the Show Up and Count for 30x30 initiative. These workshops brought together land managers, conservation practitioners, California Native American tribes, local governments, and other partners to discuss opportunities for improving data, identifying gaps, and exploring ways to better measure and communicate progress toward 30x30. The discussions also provided a valuable forum for sharing regional perspectives, highlighting successful conservation efforts, and identifying new collaborative opportunities.



30x30 Partnership 2025 Summit, San Diego County.



Pathways to 30x30

Partners across the state have continued to drive progress toward advancing the ten [Pathways to 30x30](#). California made real progress across these ten Pathways, advancing 109 of the 112 strategic actions. Highlights of this work follow. For a complete list of all progress made on the strategic actions under each Pathway, see [Appendix A](#).

Photo: Proposed new state park at San Joaquin River Parkway, Fresno County.

Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation

Regionally led conservation remains essential to ensuring that local priorities guide progress toward 30x30. California's strong foundation of regional conservation planning, shaped by the work of diverse local partners over many years, continues to support this initiative. Purposeful and meaningful inclusion of underrepresented communities and California Native American tribes remains critical to help ensure that regional strategies reflect a full breadth of local knowledge, priorities, and stewardship values.

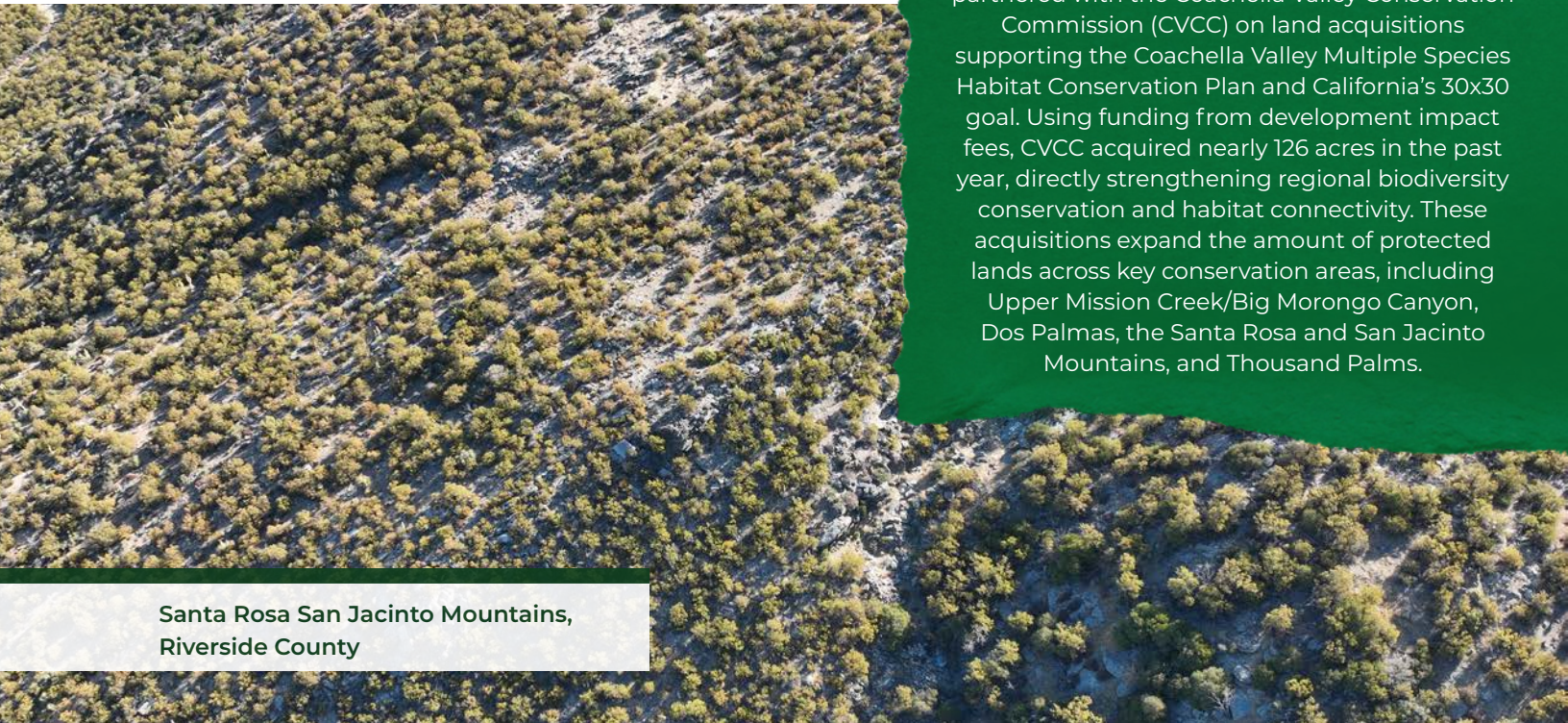
Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › The California Tahoe Conservancy and partners developed [a shared vision](#) that includes a coordinated framework to advance priority restoration projects in the Upper Truckee River watershed, an area vital to Lake Tahoe's health and of deep cultural significance to the Washoe people.

- › The California Coastal Commission supported regional coastal adaptation planning through more than \$4 million in [Local Assistance Grant Program](#) awards to the Cities of Los Angeles, Pismo Beach, Redondo Beach, Huntington Beach, Half Moon Bay, and the City and County of San Francisco.
- › CDFW [Natural Community Conservation Planning \(NCCP\)](#) grants supported acquisitions in Placer and San Diego Counties, ensuring conservation is balanced with the ongoing development needs of communities. CDFW also awarded more than \$500,000 in [Local Assistance Grant Program](#) funding to support high-priority NCCP implementation tasks, including restoration and monitoring projects in Yolo, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Diego, and Riverside Counties.

Pathway 1 in Action: Advancing Regional Conservation in the Coachella Valley

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy partnered with the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) on land acquisitions supporting the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and California's 30x30 goal. Using funding from development impact fees, CVCC acquired nearly 126 acres in the past year, directly strengthening regional biodiversity conservation and habitat connectivity. These acquisitions expand the amount of protected lands across key conservation areas, including Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon, Dos Palmas, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, and Thousand Palms.



Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains,
Riverside County

Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions

Voluntary land acquisitions continue to play a critical role in meeting 30x30 goals. Prioritizing areas that enhance habitat connectivity, strengthen climate resilience, expand public access, protect rare or sensitive species, and/or provide clean water and air helps ensure that conservation investments deliver the greatest long-term benefits.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- Approximately 640,000 acres of lands owned in fee title and protected for open space purposes were added to CA Nature as 30x30 Conservation Areas.
- California's largest-ever land back conservation acquisition returned 47,097 acres of the Blue Creek watershed and lower Klamath River to Yurok stewardship, securing one of the state's most important cold-water refuges for salmon while demonstrating how tribal leadership is central to achieving 30x30.

- The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy protected 1,080 acres of Southern California urban and wilderness habitats, including a 470-acre donation that connects key wildlife linkages and year-round streams in the Santa Monica Mountains.
- California State Parks used new authorities to expedite low-cost acquisitions, expanding Montgomery Woods, Pigeon Point Light Station, and South Yuba River State Parks by a total of 804 acres through the addition of three properties, strengthening biodiversity, public access, and trail connectivity across these landscapes.

Pathway 2 in Action: A Collaborative Effort to Restore Washoe Homelands

The acquisition of Loyalton Ranch returned more than 10,000 acres of ancestral territory to Washoe Tribal stewardship. The result of a four-year collaboration among the tribe, the Northern Sierra Partnership, and the Feather River Land Trust, it will be held by the Wášiŋw-šiw Land Trust and will support the long-term protection and restoration of culturally significant landscapes. Made possible by a \$5.5 million WCB grant as well as private funding, this transfer will enhance habitat connectivity for the Loyalton-Truckee deer herd, protect 33 special-status species, and enable the tribe to restore fire-affected grasslands and riparian areas while expanding cultural and ecological programs.

Loyalton Ranch, Sierra and Lassen Counties

Pathway 3: Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements

Conservation easements provide an effective, voluntary way for private landowners to contribute to durable habitat protection goals while restricting future development and providing financial incentives for long-term stewardship. State agencies and conservancies work with land trusts, nonprofits, and interested landowners to advance these agreements across priority landscapes.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- Approximately 383,000 acres of conservation easements were added to 30x30 Conservation Areas.
- Thanks to the Show Up and Count for 30x30 initiative, information in the CCED is now up to 87% landowner or land manager-reported, making it the most accurate it has ever been.

- California Rangeland Trust added 10,000 acres to their total of 430,000 acres of conserved working lands, including a more than 3,000-acre agricultural conservation easement on Ray-Mar Ranch, supported by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy Program permanently conserved 30,000 acres of working forestlands through new conservation easements, safeguarding landscapes at risk of conversion while supporting sustainable forestry, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreation, and long-term stewardship.

Pathway 3 in Action: Advancing Large-Scale Working Forest Conservation in Siskiyou County

The 12,213-acre Shackleford Forest easement in Siskiyou protects vital forest habitat while also expanding public access to Shackleford Falls, Big Meadows, and nearby trailheads. This working forest easement was secured by CAL FIRE in partnership with Siskiyou Land Trust, with support from the USDA Forest Service and CAL FIRE's Forest Legacy Program. The third phase of a nearly 40,000-acre conservation effort that also includes the Whiskey and Wildcat conservation easements, these projects create new opportunities for recreation and connection to this landscape.

Shackleford Forest, Siskiyou County

Pathway 4: Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters

Restoration and continuous stewardship of California's public lands and coastal waters are vital to safeguarding biodiversity and building climate change resilience. Applying improved long-term management practices on public lands and in coastal waters is necessary to meet the definition of 30x30 Conservation Areas.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- ▶ The California Native Plant Society's Sequoia Chapter has been a leader in building local government and community partnerships to support restoration and stewardship of more than 120 acres of riparian, grassland, and valley oak woodland habitat at China Creek County Park.

- ▶ Two-thousand acres of newly filled ponds in the Salton Sea Management Program's Species Conservation Habitat Project will provide important habitat for fish and birds while improving regional air quality.
- ▶ CAL FIRE improved salmonid habitat across its demonstration state forests, contributing to broader statewide species resilience and recovery gains through CDFW's Fisheries Grant Program and partnerships with Trout Unlimited and the Mendocino Land Trust.
- ▶ Established at the end of 2025, the [Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council](#) provides a community-based forum for resource management, including the development of biocultural indicators rooted in tribal knowledge that will inform monitoring, research, and stewardship.

Pathway 4 in Action: Formation of the Chuckwalla Intertribal Commission

The creation of the Chuckwalla Intertribal Commission was announced in October 2025. This collaboration among the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, the Cahuilla Band of Indians, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes ensures that tribal values, expertise, cultural heritage, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge are incorporated into the management of Chuckwalla National Monument.

With more than 624,000 acres of public lands south of Joshua Tree National Park, the monument is home to an abundance of historic artifacts and ancestral belongings that attest to the powerful connection between people and this land since time immemorial.

Chuckwalla Mountains, Riverside and Imperial Counties

Pathway 5: Institutionalize Advance Mitigation

Advance mitigation takes a proactive approach to conserving habitat by identifying and securing mitigation areas before development occurs, thereby helping California meet its housing, clean energy, and infrastructure needs while safeguarding sensitive species and ecosystems. By protecting larger contiguous areas and establishing long-term management and monitoring upfront, advance mitigation reduces habitat loss, streamlines project delivery, and improves conservation outcomes. Tools like mitigation banks and CDFW's NCCP program continue to support this approach, ensuring that mitigation is planned and implemented in ways that strengthen ecological resilience.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › Four new conservation banks established and approved by CDFW will now durably protect and restore more than 1,837 acres.

- › With public input, CDFW updated the [Conservation and Mitigation Banking Guidelines](#), marking the first major update since they were established in 2014 and improving their clarity and alignment with Fish and Game Code and other banking agencies around the state.
- › The federal-state interagency group overseeing conservation banks restarted annual public webinars and authorized a new [Conservation Bank Enabling Instrument template](#) to expedite approvals.
- › CDFW received its first submittal for a Mitigation Credit Agreement Framework from the Santa Clara Valley Water District for Stevens Creek Fish Passage, and is reviewing the final submittal for approval in fall 2026.

Pathway 5 in Action: Doolan Canyon Conservation Bank Strengthens Regional Habitat Connectivity

The 1,178-acre Doolan Canyon Conservation Bank protects important habitat for sensitive species (e.g., the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, golden eagle, western burrowing owl, and San Joaquin kit fox) as well as riparian areas and wetlands. Located between Dublin and Livermore, the bank links nearly 4,000 acres of protected lands, creating a regionally significant corridor that supports wildlife movement and long-term ecological resilience. The bank provides advance mitigation for public infrastructure, renewable energy development, and housing, helping meet conservation requirements while supporting responsible regional growth.

Doolan Canyon Conservation Bank,
Alameda County

Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship

Critical habitat protections must be coupled with proactive restoration to strengthen biodiversity and climate resilience. Ongoing stewardship is also essential to maintain healthy ecosystems. To succeed, this work must happen at a pace and scale that meets and even exceeds our most pressing challenges. The [Cutting Green Tape initiative](#) remains central to this effort, streamlining permitting and regulatory processes so ecologically beneficial projects can move forward more quickly and effectively.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › Cutting Green Tape has resulted in more than 500 fast-tracked projects, restoring 400,000 acres of habitat, improving 1,300 miles of streams, and saving \$12 million in permitting costs over the last four years.
- › Building on the success of the [2021 CNRA Cutting Green Tape Report Implementation](#)

[Secretarial Memo](#), the [2026 Joint Secretarial Memorandum](#) directed CNRA and the California Environmental Protection Agency to institutionalize key Cutting Green Tape improvements while continuing to identify and enact additional process and regulatory efficiencies.

- › Through funding from the Department of Conservation's (DOC) [Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program](#), eight Resource Conservation Districts completed projects that restored stream and upland habitats, repaired hydrological connectivity, removed invasive species and debris, and improved ecological function across more than 400 acres.
- › The California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force released the [draft Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan 2026–2031](#), which outlines a coordinated, science-driven framework linking landscape resilience, community preparedness, and regional collaboration to scale up wildfire risk reduction work and strengthen local and tribal capacity in the state's highest-risk areas.

Pathway 6 in Action: Restoring Wetlands and Supporting Wildlife in the Yolo Bypass

One of California's most-visited public wetlands, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, received upgrades to its water supply infrastructure, restoring 220 acres and enhancing an additional 1,159 acres of seasonal wetlands, improving 91 acres of semipermanent wetlands, and reinforcing the long-term sustainability of 540 acres of agricultural land. The project, which was supported by the Delta Conservancy in partnership with state, regional, and local agencies, improves migratory bird and other wildlife habitat, bolsters sustainable agriculture, and improves flood and water management across the northern Delta region.

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Yolo County

Pathway 7: Strengthen Coordination Among Governments

Successfully achieving the 30x30 goal requires strategic coordination among local, regional, state, federal, international, and tribal governments. California will continue to work across all sectors and levels of government to build relationships, strengthen collaboration, and elevate communities that have been historically excluded from conservation efforts.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- California joined the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN), elevating its role in global efforts to address climate change, protect biodiversity, and advance sustainable development.
- The state's [Marine Protected Area Network](#) is now recognized on the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas as the global gold standard for marine conservation—the first nature network in the world to receive this honor.

- The San Diego River Conservancy funded and continued to work in close partnership with Mission Trails Regional Park and the City of San Diego to acquire inholdings and improve the visitor experience at Mission Trails, one of the largest urban parks in the United States, protecting ~8,000 acres and hosting more than 2 million visitors annually.
- Through an Intergovernmental Policy Council, California partnered with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and the federal government to co-manage biodiversity and cultural heritage resources at the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Pathway 7 in Action: Wiyot National Park Service Advances Tribal Stewardship

The Wiyot National Park Service oversees more than 400 acres of returned ancestral lands within the Wiyot Tribe's Dishgamu Humboldt Community Land Trust. While managing for ecological restoration and the protection of cultural practices, the tribe is also developing public amenities and infrastructure within the park. The Dishgamu Humboldt Community Land Trust ensures these places will remain in Wiyot stewardship in perpetuity, supporting affordable housing creation, workforce development, and environmental and cultural restoration.

Digawututklh, Humboldt County

Pathway 8: Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits

Funding for 30x30 comes from a number of sources, including government agencies, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic groups, and industry. Coordinating these investments is essential to maximize the initiative's benefits, ensure that public funds are responsibly allocated, and effectively leverage private investment. Public-private partnerships are a proven model for pooling resources to drive conservation progress, from increasing organizational capacity and project development to supporting research, monitoring, and long-term stewardship.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › OPC, in partnership with California Sea Grant, approved nearly \$10 million for 13 ocean

science and restoration projects, including efforts to identify biodiversity hotspots; restore kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, and dune ecosystems; and support tribally-led stewardship and restoration of vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.

- › The City of Fresno and the San Joaquin River Conservancy are expanding public access to the San Joaquin River Parkway through a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Economic Development Initiative program, including extending a trail, opening additional properties, enhancing ADA accessibility, adding recreational facilities, and restoring habitat.
- › California State Parks and Parks California awarded more than \$2.4 million to 13 community and tribal organizations through the Career Pathways grants program, training approximately 380 participants in park operations and stewardship, including wildfire resilience, trail building, habitat restoration, and visitor services.

Pathway 8 in Action:

Public and Private Partners Invest to Protect Ventura River Headwaters

Rancho Cañada Larga represents a major public and private investment to protect nearly 6,500 acres of oak woodlands, grasslands, and riparian habitat along Cañada Larga Creek in the Ventura River watershed. Led by the Trust for Public Land and supported by WCB, the Holdfast Collective, and private donations, the effort leveraged multiple funding sources to permanently conserve the property and prevent future development. This coordinated investment is now supporting long-term watershed and wildlife habitat restoration, expanded public access, and partnerships with the Barbareño Ventureño Band of Mission Indians to advance cultural stewardship.

Rancho Cañada Larga, Ventura County



Pathway 9: Advance and Promote Complementary Conservation Measures

Lands and waters that don't meet the definition of 30x30 Conservation Areas can still play an important role in ensuring ecosystem health and climate resilience. Implementing complementary conservation measures in these areas builds connectivity between habitats and buffers conserved spaces. These conservation practices can take many forms, from replacing lawns with native plants and greening schoolyards to managing fire-resilient ranchlands and pollinator-friendly farms. These places often also contribute to other state priorities, such as [California's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#) and [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#).

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › CDFA Pollinator Habitat Program funded projects to support wildlife on farms by establishing more than 1,300 acres of cover crops, 200 acres of conservation cover, 26 miles of hedgerows, and 74 acres of other habitats.

- › The [Blue Whales Blue Skies](#) program was scaled statewide, with OPC serving as an advisor. This voluntary vessel speed reduction program incentivizes ships to slow down in California's offshore waters, helping protect whales, improve coastal air quality, and reduce underwater noise.
- › OPC invested close to \$4 million in seven projects that increase ocean and coastal resilience to climate change by supporting adaptive fisheries management and endangered species recovery.
- › The first cycle of CNRA's [Urban Greening Grant Program](#) under the Climate Bond launched this year, making \$46,125,000 available for projects that will help communities become more climate-resilient and reduce impacts of extreme heat.
- › [DOC's Sustainable Agriculture Lands Conservation Program](#) supported the acquisition of 10,294 acres of working lands with critical conservation values to prioritize biodiversity conservation by ensuring the continued use of regenerative and climate-smart management practices.



Downtown Santa Barbara,
Santa Barbara County

Pathway 9 in Action: Gardens Growing in Downtown Santa Barbara

Downtown Santa Barbara is a lot greener now thanks to the efforts of 40 volunteers who added 200 new native plants to the heart of the city. A collaboration among the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Friends of State Street, and the City of Santa Barbara, this pilot project moves the city closer to its goal of 30% native plant cover in its urban areas. The Botanic Garden and its partners will monitor and care for the new plantings while also exploring ways to expand the native plant network. The new gardens along historic State Street are shining examples of urban areas adopting sustainable designs that will benefit wildlife and the community.

Pathway 10: Evaluate Conservation Outcomes and Adaptively Manage

In a rapidly changing world, conservation priorities and practices must be continually evaluated and updated to reflect the best available science, long-term monitoring data, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. An adaptive management approach ensures that effective conservation measures can be implemented in response to evolving conditions.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

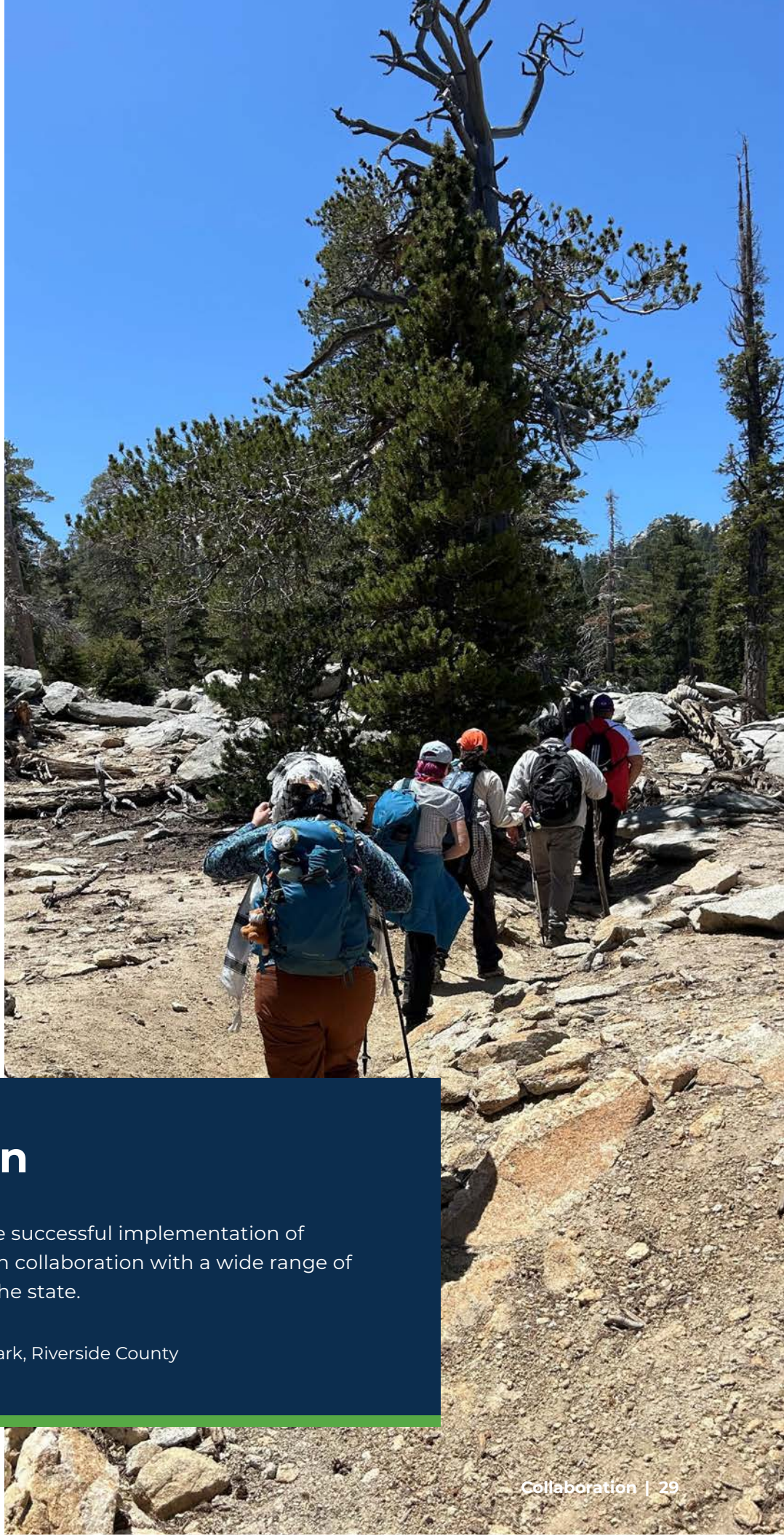
- › The California [Sentinel Sites for Nature](#) network has expanded to now include over 400 sites, with new biodiversity and climate-monitoring locations added by University of California (UC) Nature, the California State University system, California State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- › The California Tahoe Conservancy helped the Institute for Bird Populations expand its riparian bird and bumble bee monitoring across Sierra Nevada meadows to help managers design meadow restoration projects that support local biodiversity and ecological function.
- › The California Missing Linkages Symposium brought together more than 260 conservation practitioners to advance a [renewed statewide vision for ecological connectivity](#).
- › CDFW's recent [progress report](#) on the 71 actions outlined in the [2024 California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future](#) shows that 51% of those actions are underway and 49% are now complete.
- › OPC released the [2026 California Coast and Ocean Report](#)—the first comprehensive, science-based assessment of coastal and ocean health in the state's history—which establishes a baseline to evaluate changes over time and inform management actions to conserve marine and coastal biodiversity into the future.



California Biodiversity Day bioblitz in San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, San Diego County

Pathway 10 in Action: Strengthening Conservation Decisions Through Shared Data

The [California Biodiversity Data Exchange](#) (CalBioDEX) is a first-of-its-kind partnership between CDFW, California Academy of Sciences, and iNaturalist that enables community science observations to securely flow into state biodiversity datasets. Improved access to timely, accurate information strengthens conservation planning by enabling use of biodiversity data in management decisions, environmental review processes, and research. The initiative also supports targeted community science campaigns to fill data gaps for particular species.



Collaboration

In a very fundamental way, the successful implementation of Pathways to 30x30 depends on collaboration with a wide range of partner organizations across the state.

Photo: Mount San Jacinto State Park, Riverside County

Public Funding

CNRA collaborates with other agencies to leverage public funding and make progress towards our biodiversity, access, and climate goals.

From 2022 to 2025, California invested \$1.24 billion from the General Fund in 552 projects. This funding was made possible by the leadership of the Governor and Legislature to adopt a Nature-Based Solutions funding package in the state budget. Thanks to California voters, the Climate Bond passed in fall 2024, making \$10 billion available for drought, water, parks, climate, coastal protection, and outdoor access projects.

To be more transparent and publicly accessible, CNRA launched the [new Climate Bond website](#), which highlights specific funding categories, grant opportunities, key guiding documents and answers to frequently asked questions. While most of the bond's sections help achieve 30x30, the following funds allocated in fiscal year 2025–2026 specifically advance this initiative:

- › Chapter 6 of the Climate Bond makes \$1.2 billion available to protect biodiversity and advance nature-based climate solutions. California has allocated \$390 million of this funding, including \$256 million for WCB projects that enhance fish and wildlife habitats.
- › Chapter 8 makes \$700 million available to create and sustain public parks, increase access to nature, and support educational activities. California has allocated \$466 million of this funding including \$190 million for the Statewide Parks Program.
- › Chapter 4 makes \$1.2 billion available to support coastal resilience programs, including sea-level-rise planning, wetland restoration, flood management, and dam removal projects. California has allocated \$279 million of this funding.

So far, more than \$433 million of the Climate Bond has been invested in more than 200 30x30-related projects ([Appendix B](#)).

30x30 Partnership

The 30x30 Partnership acts as a central space for communication, collaboration, planning, and collective action among those supporting and contributing to the state's ambitious goals. In August 2025, CNRA convened the annual 30x30 Partnership Summit in San Diego, drawing more than 500 in-person participants from across California. Centered on the theme “Sustain, Strengthen, Succeed,” the event fostered meaningful conversations about the progress achieved so far and the shared vision for achieving 30x30 in the years ahead.

Over the past year, the 30x30 Partnership benefited greatly from the support of the following groups:

30x30 Partnership Coordinating Committee



The 30x30 Partnership Coordinating Committee (PCC), made up of key community leaders, facilitates the exchange of information and ideas between their communities and CNRA. The committee works with local and state agencies to ensure that community priorities are recognized at every level. The first PCC established the group's roles and responsibilities by helping advance the Pathways to 30x30 Strategy. The 2025–2026 cohort, with four new and 19 returning members, continues to build on that foundation, supporting partners through collaboration and shared learning to drive progress toward the 30x30 goal.

California Biodiversity Council

The California Biodiversity Council brings together local, state, and federal resource and environmental agencies to support coordinated conservation action. It serves as an effective structure for aligning state and federal efforts on shared priorities. Though national priorities have shifted, California remains committed to working with our federal partners to find creative solutions for achieving common goals.

California Biodiversity Network

The California Biodiversity Network (CBN) provides a collaborative forum for diverse conservation organizations and institutions prioritizing biodiversity protection, stewardship, environmental education, and scientific inquiry. It continues to hold roundtables focused on the themes of systematic conservation planning, biodiversity informatics and community science, California Sentinel Sites for Nature, and stewardship, which were identified as priorities in the [Pathways to 30x30 Appendix D](#). This year, the Biodiversity Informatics and Community Science Roundtable and the Sentinel Sites Roundtable had a joint meeting to discuss how they could work together on urban biodiversity topics. Also in 2026, [CBN's rapid biodiversity assessment](#) of California's natural lands and fresh water resources was published in *Artemisia*, the journal of the California Native Plant Society, and a full [report](#) about the assessment was released, which includes additional maps and detail. The biodiversity assessment was recently updated using the 2026 CA Nature dataset ([Appendix C](#)). CBN partnered with CNRA to host a webinar to discuss how the assessment analyzes important metrics of areas that are currently conserved under 30x30 and how it can help focus future conservation efforts. Lastly, a new [publication](#) based on the work done by the Stewardship Roundtable identified key barriers to stewardship workforce development and presented strategies with real-world examples from California to advance the stewardship sector.

Ocean Protection Council

Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is a cabinet-level state agency spearheading the effort to conserve 30% of California's coast and ocean by 2030. They work with state and federal agencies, NGOs, tribes, and the public to maintain healthy, resilient, and productive marine ecosystems. In December 2025, OPC approved its [2026–2030 Strategic Plan: Safeguarding Our Coast and Ocean for All Californians](#), which was developed with essential input from public meetings and tribal consultations. The plan advances OPC's mission to protect California's coast and ocean and will guide its investment priorities through the end of this decade. This year, in collaboration with the Ocean Science Trust, OPC also released the [2026 California Coast and Ocean Report](#) and accompanying [2026 Coast and Ocean Assessment Methodology](#), which together provide a comprehensive evaluation of the threats facing these important ecosystems, as well as of progress being made to improve their health and resilience.

Tribal Partnerships

This year, CNRA launched a landmark [Tribal Stewardship Policy and Toolkit](#), providing a framework for tribal access, collaboration, and ancestral land return for all CNRA departments, conservancies, commissions, boards, and many other non-tribal partners. The policy explicitly acknowledges the state's role in perpetuating historical wrongs against tribes and establishes a statewide goal of expanding tribal stewardship over at least 7.5 million acres of land and coastal waters. This is a key step in the long journey to repair relationships and build lasting partnerships grounded in mutual respect with the original stewards of these lands.

In its first cycle, the [Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant Program](#) disbursed \$107.7 million to support the return of roughly 47,000 acres to California Native American tribes. An additional \$10 million has been made available through the Climate Bond to continue this important work. Separately, OPC approved \$3.4 million in June of this year to support 30x30 projects that restore and revitalize tribal stewardship of California's coast and ocean.

Communications and Engagement

Public input was critical to developing the initial Pathways to 30x30 Strategy and remains a priority for its implementation. In addition to the annual 30x30 Partnership Summit, CNRA employed a number of strategies to inform and be informed over the past year, including:

- Publishing an updated [ArcGIS Story Map](#) summarizing the objectives and commitments of 30x30 in an interactive, accessible format.
- Presenting at more than 20 [webinars](#) to share information and resources and hear partners' feedback on topics such as multibenefit conservation, tribal stewardship, regulatory strategies for restoration, data improvements, and the importance of protecting and restoring California's biodiversity at local and global scales.
- Attending more than 30 local meetings and field visits to discuss community priorities and conservation successes.
- Sharing the monthly [30x30 Biodiversity Beat](#) newsletter to highlight program updates, 30x30 success stories, conservation partners in action, and funding opportunities.
- Updating the [Community Conversations blog](#) to elevate 30x30 partners' experiences and perspectives.
- Posting on dedicated 30x30 social media accounts (including LinkedIn, Instagram, and X) to increase access to resources, share real-time updates, and amplify success stories.
- Hosting the [30x30 Partnership 2025 Summit](#) at the San Diego Natural History Museum, bringing together more than 500 attendees in person and 200 online to sustain progress toward 30x30 and strengthen the partnerships, policies, and innovations needed to reach this goal.
- Launching the [30x30 Ambassadors Program](#) to improve outreach to and education in more communities.



Summer Educational Program in Suisun City, Solano County

CA Nature

In partnership with Esri, CNRA continues to maintain and enhance [CA Nature](#), the statewide mapping platform used to track acres contributing to the 30x30 total and visualize biodiversity, access, and climate priorities. These publicly accessible GIS tools and datasets improve transparency and help track progress. Updates to CPAD and CCED have strengthened the state's ability to accurately reflect conserved lands. Based on feedback from partners, a time-series feature was added to the [30x30 Conserved Areas Explorer](#), allowing users to see the state's conservation progress by year.

30x30 Ambassadors

This year, CNRA launched the 30x30 Ambassadors Program, a group of 30 leaders selected from across the state trained to share 30x30 with local communities, stakeholders, and partners. At the first workshop, Ambassadors came together to learn from one another, make connections, and brainstorm engagement strategies to uplift 30x30. The [2025-2026 cohort](#) is now conducting its own trainings statewide to educate their communities on 30x30.



30x30 Ambassadors Gathering, Sacramento County



Onward Together

In the past year, California expanded its 30x30 Conservation Areas by 1,023,000 acres, a strong testament to the momentum and shared commitment behind this statewide effort. These new additions reflect the work of agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, local governments, landowners, and community leaders—partners who continue to advance conservation rooted in local priorities and collective purpose.

Photo: Lassen National Park, Lassen County



Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area, Monterey County

California's progress toward 30x30 is not only strengthening biodiversity and climate resilience at home, but is also positioning the state as a global leader in nature-based solutions and biodiversity conservation. We are demonstrating what ambitious, collaborative action can achieve. During the final year of the Newsom Administration, we can be proud of the durable foundation built through partnerships that will continue to guide and inspire conservation efforts for years to come.

Looking ahead, the transition to a new governor's administration presents an opportunity to build on this momentum, ensuring 30x30 remains a lasting framework for collaborative conservation across California. The stewardship section of the expanded 2027 Pathways to 30x30 Annual Progress Report will strengthen this work, offering a statewide

assessment of stewardship needs and costs, highlighting best practices and workforce enhancement strategies, and recommending actions to strengthen the long-term care of conserved lands. By identifying the resources, capacity, and investments required to ensure resilient and well-managed 30x30 Conservation Areas, it will help guide the next phase of California's resource stewardship.

The first six years of California's 30x30 achievements reflect the vision, dedication, and partnership of people across the state. Each new acre protected and each investment in conservation, restoration, and stewardship strengthen the foundation for a more resilient, thriving California. As we look to the future, let us carry this momentum forward with shared purpose and optimism, continuing to protect the lands and waters that sustain us all.

Pathways to 30x30 Annual Progress Report

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Diana Rosas	Front Cover
Emily Majluf	2
Musi Majluf	4
Nurit Katz	5
Rida Ali	7
James Ray	8
Brian Stokle, San Francisco Recreation and Park Department	9
Beth Hotchkiss, California Conservation Corps	10
Nurit Katz	11
California Tahoe Conservancy	12
WCB	13
Julie Vance	14
Emily Majluf	15
Happy Valley Film Co.	17
Brian Baer, ©2026, California State Parks.	18
Max Ochoa	19
Elizabeth Carmel	20
Siskiyou Land Trust	21
Bob Wick	22
Ecosystem Investment Partners	23
Travis VanZant, CDFW	24
Wiyot Tribe	25
Trust for Public Land	26
Molly Lofton	27
Veronica Cuadras	28

Pathways to 30x30 Annual Progress Report

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Emily Majluf	29
Rida Ali	30
Sara Nevis, California Department of Water Resources	32
CNRA	33
Jennah Hillyard	34
Emily Majluf	35
Rida Ali	Back Cover



Big Sur, Monterey County