

PATHWAYS TO
30x30
CALIFORNIA
Annual Progress Report



SEPTEMBER 2024



Coho Salmon, Siskiyou County



Administration of Governor Gavin Newsom

September 2024

The creation of the Pathways to 30x30 strategy and the progress made to date would not have been possible without the many dedicated individuals and groups who make up the [30x30 Partnership](#). California's 30x30 initiative is "open-source" and designed to be inclusive and transparent. All who are committed to its principles and objectives are invited to work together to achieve its goals.

Cover Photo:

Gathering hosted by the California Biodiversity Network focused on indigenous co-stewardship of public lands. Tolay Lakes Regional Park, Sonoma County

Executive Summary

California is a leader in the global movement to conserve and restore nature. Our remarkably diverse landscapes are being conserved and protected in ways never seen before. New partnerships have emerged to steward lands and waters in ways that protect our world-renowned biodiversity and confront climate change while expanding outdoor access. In many places, tribal leadership is driving these efforts.

California's 30x30 target has catalyzed this transformational movement. Nearly every country in the world [has united around the effort to conserve 30% of our planet by 2030](#). This groundbreaking commitment, known as "30 by 30" or 30x30, is driven by an urgent need to stem biodiversity loss across the world and protect people and nature in the face of accelerating climate change. In California, we are breathing life into this global goal by working to achieve 30x30 across our own state. This year we demonstrated significant progress while proving that we don't have to choose between biodiversity conservation, ambitious climate targets, equity, and economic prosperity.

It began in October 2020, when Governor Newsom committed to conserving 30% of our lands and coastal waters by 2030 through his Nature-Based Solutions [Executive Order N-82-20](#). Within months, President Biden established a federal target for 30x30 called [America the Beautiful](#). In 2023, the state's commitment to 30x30 was signed into law via [Senate Bill 337](#), ensuring that this goal will remain in place for future administrations through 2030.

30x30 is people powered! On-the-ground leaders are bringing 30x30 to life through local projects to conserve and steward lands and waters. These projects are led by tribal governments and communities, local governments, federal agencies, non-governmental groups, scientists, researchers, private landowners, caring community members, and you! The California Natural Resources Agency includes more than two dozen departments, conservancies, and commissions coordinating the 30x30 initiative.

[Pathways to 30x30](#)—the strategic roadmap developed to meet this ambitious goal—was released in April 2022, with 10 concurrent and complementary strategies. This roadmap was built by leaders and groups across California, who came together to guide the implementation of 30x30 to achieve multiple benefits. The [CA Nature](#) platform was also launched at that time; the platform provides online mapping to identify conservation opportunities and transparently track and report progress.

This annual report is the second update on progress toward achieving 30x30. The [first update](#), released in May 2023, detailed the addition of approximately 631,000 acres to the total of conserved lands across the state in the first year of implementation.

We are proud to announce that as of June 2024, 25.2% of California's lands and 16.2% of its coastal waters are under long-term conservation and care for the benefit of plant, animal, and human communities. This includes an addition of 861,000 acres of conserved lands that are verified across our state.

Increase in 30x30 acreage over the last year includes:

- Ancestral land returns to California Native American tribes.
- Acquisitions of land for conservation purposes.
- Voluntary conservation easements placed on private lands.
- Enhanced protection of federally managed lands.
- Adding existing conserved areas that meet 30x30 criteria but were not previously verified in the statewide database of protected areas.
- Including lands that have recently upgraded protections that meet 30x30 criteria.

A portion of lands added to the 30x30 acreage total in 2024 come from the painstaking and ongoing

work to track down conserved and protected lands across 52 counties that have not been previously recorded as durably protected and managed for biodiversity in statewide records. Bringing all of these protected lands into California's centralized, publicly available database is important to be able to effectively protect these lands and integrate them into planning further conservation. These data improvements will only generate a limited portion of the remaining 30x30 target. More newly conserved areas will be essential.

Big strides were made this past year, with the expansion of San Gabriel Mountains and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monuments enhancing protections for approximately 120,000 acres of federal lands. It also saw the first-ever ancestral land return effort through the Tribal Nature Based Solutions Grant Program, which will provide funding to support the return of approximately 38,950 acres for conservation. Much of this progress has been made possible by the almost \$1.3 billion in state funding allocated by Governor Newsom and the State Legislature over the last three years, combined with important funding from federal and tribal governments as well as philanthropic, private, and nonprofit entities.



Molok Luyuk, Lake County



Ecological Workforce Initiative Training, Marin County

This unprecedented level of investment in [nature-based solutions](#) across California will restore and conserve nature to help us meet our most pressing environmental goals.

These combined investments have mobilized conservation and stewardship in a way never seen before and generated momentum that will yield lasting 30x30 outcomes. However, as the state's fiscal conditions become more constrained, we know smart strategies that maximize the impact of every dollar are more important than ever.

Looking forward, the 30x30 movement must conserve an additional 4.8 million acres on land and 500,000 acres of coastal waters to meet our commitment. This is no small task. With fewer than six years until 2030, achieving it will require all of us to work together in an unprecedented way to meet our goal.

The Newsom Administration is committed to ensuring that 30x30 advances equity, tribal partnerships, and economic prosperity. In 2022, we established the [30x30 Partnership](#), an inclusive alliance of groups and individuals open

to anyone working toward this vision of holistic environmental conservation. It now includes hundreds of groups across the state.

Two annual statewide, in-person 30x30 Partnership events brought together hundreds of leaders from across California to strengthen the movement toward 30x30. The 2023 event, held in Riverside, included more than 350 people. In addition, over the past year, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) also hosted five webinars, released nine newsletters, and participated in more than 50 events related to 30x30. CNRA's commitment to leading this ongoing learning, connection, adaptation, and collaboration is unwavering. Investing in diverse partnerships supports the innovative, knowledge-based, action-oriented, and equity-driven progress we need.

30x30 is a global movement, and the world is watching California. To succeed, we must diligently continue to build on the progress we have made. Our shared ambition can only be achieved by working strategically, creatively, efficiently, and—most importantly—together.

Key Objectives

The [Pathways to 30x30](#) strategy expands enduring conservation of California's lands and coastal waters to achieve the three key objectives listed here. New partnerships and an increased focus on multibenefit conservation projects over the past year have made major headway toward meeting these objectives.

1

**Protect and Restore
Biodiversity**

2

**Expand Access
to Nature**

3

**Mitigate and
Build Resilience
to Climate Change**



Torrey Pines State Beach, San Diego County



Beaver at Tásmam Koyóm, Plumas County

Protect and Restore Biodiversity

A global [Biodiversity Hotspot](#), California is home to thousands of plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. The foundation of the state's unique ecosystems, this biological richness is also essential for healthy human communities and climate-change resilience. Yet California also has more imperiled species than any other state. Conservation and stewardship to support healthy pollinator and plant communities, improve soil health, reintroduce lost species, and restore degraded habitats are critical to reversing this trend.

Several new efforts in the past year have bolstered the 30x30 initiative's focus on biodiversity protection and restoration. These include the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA's) report, [Soil Biodiversity in California Agriculture: Framework and Indicators for Soil Health Assessment](#), which offers an approach to understanding the vital

Bringing Beavers Back to California

The habitat that the North American beaver creates benefits multitudes of other species and improves water quality and storage. This in turn reduces wildfire severity and improves the function of the entire ecosystem. In 2023, CDFW and the Maidu Summit Consortium released a family of seven beavers into a location known to the tribal community as Tásmam Koyóm in Plumas County. This marks the first beaver release in nearly 75 years and the first phase of [CDFW's Beaver Restoration Program](#).

role that the living networks beneath our feet play in carbon, water, and nutrient cycling. The California Native Plant Society, in coordination with state and federal agencies, nonprofits, and community partners, also published the [California Native Seed Strategy for Ecological Restoration](#). This comprehensive evaluation of what is needed to get the right seed in the right place at the right time for restoration will be invaluable for meeting biodiversity goals. The Newsom Administration also released the [California Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future: Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems in the Age of Climate Change](#), which will guide aquatic barrier removal, habitat restoration, and partnership building. In addition, keystone species such as the North American beaver, gray wolf, and wolverine are returning to the state's lands, managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Expand Access to Nature

At the heart of the 30x30 California initiative is the commitment to ensuring that everyone—regardless of background, location, or circumstance—can experience the transformative power of nature. This includes breaking down barriers that have systematically excluded communities from enjoying parks and natural spaces. More nature in our everyday lives not only promotes physical and mental well-being, but also cultivates a deeper connection to, and appreciation of, the environment. The success of ecosystem protection hinges on connecting people and nature, enriching lives, and strengthening communities.

This past year, CNRA released its [Outdoors for All strategy](#), charting progress on equitable outdoor access, highlighting work underway, and identifying additional ways to realize the promise of a California for All. Together, the 30x30 initiative and the Outdoors for All strategy will help empower us to achieve environmental conservation that is both sustainable and inclusive.

PassPORTS Connects Kids to Parks

The [PassPORTS program](#) combines digital and in-person experiences, including funding transportation for K–12 youth from Title I schools to visit California’s state parks. Thanks to this program, more than 4,700 students from approximately 100 classrooms throughout the state were able to connect with nature and have a richer educational experience during the 2023–2024 school year. This builds on the successful California State Parks’ online [PORTS program](#), which annually connects to more than 170,000 school children.



Trione-Annadel State Park, Sonoma County



Black Lake Preserve, Mono County

Mitigate and Build Resilience to Climate Change

All of California is vulnerable to the intensifying wildfires, heat, drought, and atmospheric rivers caused by climate change. Healthy, resilient ecosystems help buffer all living things from these threats and build resilience to future climate-driven extremes. Reconnected floodplains reduce the effects of large storms, coastal wetlands slow and absorb rising sea levels, and trees and greenspaces lower temperatures in heat-vulnerable communities. Healthy landscapes more durably and sustainably sequester carbon. Nature-based solutions—grounded in both Traditional Ecological Knowledge and western science—must continue to be expanded to protect California from the effects of climate change and to achieve carbon neutrality.

Earlier this year, CNRA released the [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#) to guide the implementation of these approaches over the next 20 years. The targets aim to meet or exceed [California's carbon stock target](#), which is how land stewardship can contribute to the state's carbon neutrality commitment

Climate Smart Land Management Capacity-Building Grants

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust received a Department of Conservation (DOC) Climate Smart Land Management grant to help tribes build capacity over the next three-and-a-half years. The funding will support partnerships to increase land conservation and greater tribal participation in 30x30 and climate-smart land management efforts, create a regional collaboration hub for tribes and communities. The grant will also fund the application of Traditional Ecological Knowledge of fire- and flood-adapted landscapes to improve stewardship for climate resilience.

by 2045. These targets also drive one of the state's six [climate adaptation priorities](#): to accelerate nature-based climate solutions and strengthen the climate resilience of natural systems. These targets are based on the [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#), established in 2022 to identify priority nature-based solutions that support carbon neutrality and climate resilience. Together, these targets and the Pathways to 30x30 strategies will yield multibenefit conservation solutions to achieve California's climate and biodiversity goals.

Core Commitments

The work to advance the three previously discussed Pathways to 30x30 key objectives is anchored in core commitments to equity, tribal partnerships, and economic prosperity. Our shared progress over the past year sets us on a path to expand conservation in a manner that further institutionalizes these core values.

1

**Advance Justice,
Equity, Diversity,
and Inclusion**

2

**Strengthen Tribal
Partnerships**

3

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



Point Arena, Mendocino County



Los Angeles Zoo, Los Angeles County

Local Communities Restore Los Angeles Zoo Oak Woodland Habitat

Outward Bound Adventures, Inc., received funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), The Wildlands Conservancy, and the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority to restore approximately six acres of oak woodland habitat adjacent to the Los Angeles Zoo. The project provides employment, mentorship, and career pathways in outdoor education and conservation by engaging members of underserved communities in paid, site-based, workforce training. It also includes academic partners so that participants can gain an even greater depth of knowledge about this incredibly important ecosystem.

Advance Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Many in California have lacked access to nature and its benefits, felt unwelcome in public open spaces, or have been excluded from management decisions. Communities of color have been exposed to higher concentrations of environmental pollution, and California Native American tribes have lost sacred lands and species along with the ability to steward these lands. Climate change exacerbates these inequities and disproportionately affects those with the least capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-driven threats.

To combat historical injustices, 30x30 expands access to and opportunities within natural areas for communities disconnected from nature and works with historically marginalized people to ensure that all communities help shape

conservation efforts. In 2023, CNRA released its first [Equity Year in Review](#) report, highlighting progress to advance justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the agency, including many initiatives aligned with 30x30's three key objectives.

Strengthen Tribal Partnerships

Native American tribes have stewarded the lands and waters now known as California since time immemorial. However, colonization, forced removal, and attempted genocide severed many tribes' access to their ancestral lands. Centuries of historical wrongs and Western conservation practices excluded tribal expertise and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Governor Newsom's formal apology to California Native American tribes ([Executive Order N-15-19](#)) acknowledges this history and sets California on the path to healing. The Governor also released a [Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands](#) to further advance tribal access, co-management, and ancestral land return.

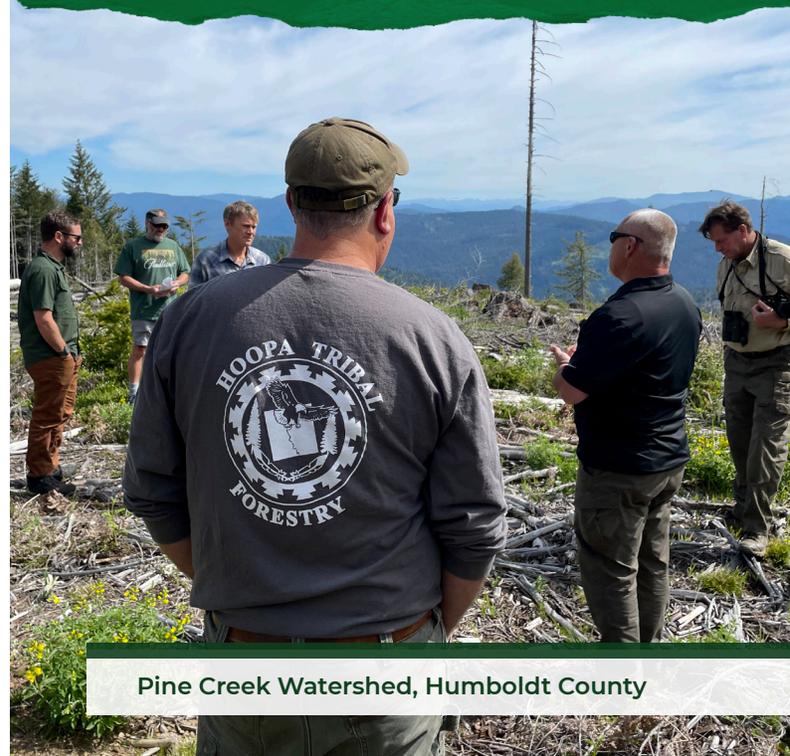
Pathways to 30x30 recognizes that tribal connections to, as well as ownership, stewardship, and use of ancestral lands are central not only to tribal identity and sovereignty, but also, to the health of nature. Consulting early, often, and meaningfully with California Native American tribes with the goal of collaborative problem-solving is essential for equitable inclusion, shared planning, and decision-making. Honoring tribal expertise, tradition, knowledge, and intellectual property is imperative, and our collective conservation work is made richer by the diversity of perspectives and leadership tribes bring.

In 2024, partnership among CNRA, the California State Coastal Conservancy (Coastal Conservancy), CAL FIRE, and the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) awarded 34 projects through the first [Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program](#) awards. These grants will support tribal acquisition of approximately 38,950 acres of land and advance important planning and implementation projects. This public funding is the first of its kind in the U.S. to enable ancestral

land return. In addition, during the past year, CNRA departments (e.g., California State Parks) have increased access and co-management opportunities, and state agencies (e.g., CDFW, WCB, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and Coastal Conservancy) have advanced the return of tribal land ownership.

Hoopa Valley Tribe Land Back

The Hoopa Valley Tribe received funding from the Coastal Conservancy and CNRA through the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program to reacquire approximately 10,300 acres of their ancestral lands in the Klamath River watershed. Formerly managed by a timber trust, these lands suffered from years of commercial logging; plans are underway to improve water quality, anadromous fish and wildlife habitat, connectivity, forest health, and tribal and public access.



Pine Creek Watershed, Humboldt County

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

California's future depends on the health of the lands and waters that sustain us. We must work across sectors to create jobs, improve human health, and expand practices that conserve water, reduce urban heat effects, increase soil health, protect pollinators, build wildfire resiliency, and orient land management toward environmental sustainability.

Many efforts are occurring throughout the state to bolster this core commitment. For example, the [Flood-MAR Network](#), a broad collaboration advancing aquifer recharge, is addressing California's water supply by increasing the land's capacity to capture and store water through floodplains, basins, and farmland, thus facilitating groundwater recharge while simultaneously reducing flood risk. Healthy and sustainable groundwater and reconnected floodplains contribute to overall ecosystem health and biodiversity resilience. By improving recharge methods, water districts retained three times more groundwater in 2023 than in any other year. The Network also set the stage for the Newsom Administration's [Executive Order N-4-23](#), which addresses groundwater overdraft while ensuring public safety and environmental protection.

Adding to this, CDFA's [Healthy Soils Program](#), [Pollinator Habitat Program](#), and [Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program](#) promote conservation management practices that sequester carbon, reduce greenhouse gasses, bolster biodiversity, and improve soil health—all while continuing to support productive working landscapes.

A Historic Alliance Protects Rivers, Fish, and Farms

The Yurok Tribe, CalTrout, and Farmers Ditch Company signed a historic MOU for collaborative work on the Scott River to create beneficial solutions for rivers, fish, and farmers. The company provides water to 1,028 acres of family-owned farmland adjacent to Scott River. The river provides habitat for Chinook salmon, federally threatened coho salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and other species that the Yurok Tribe depends on for sustenance and ceremony. This historic alliance was built with mutual respect and an understanding that communities, farmers, and fish all rely on healthy water, and that building partnerships like this has cross-community benefits. CalTrout, the Karuk Tribe, Scott River Water Trust, and other partners will also work cooperatively on this project.



Scott River Restoration Project Brings Together CalTrout, Yurok Tribe, & Farmer's Ditch Company, Siskiyou County

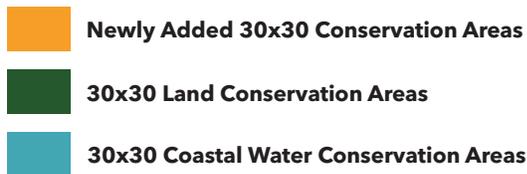


Progress to Date

California has added more than one million acres of land that count toward the 30x30 goal since tracking began in April 2022. To last year's significant contribution of 631,000 acres, we have added approximately 861,000 acres this year, including grasslands, deserts, freshwater areas, and other habitats. The remarkably diverse conservation projects that enable this progress are being undertaken by our full range of partners: tribal governments and communities, federal agencies, local governments, land trusts, resource conservation districts, local conservation groups, and many more.

Photo: San Gabriel National Monument, Los Angeles County

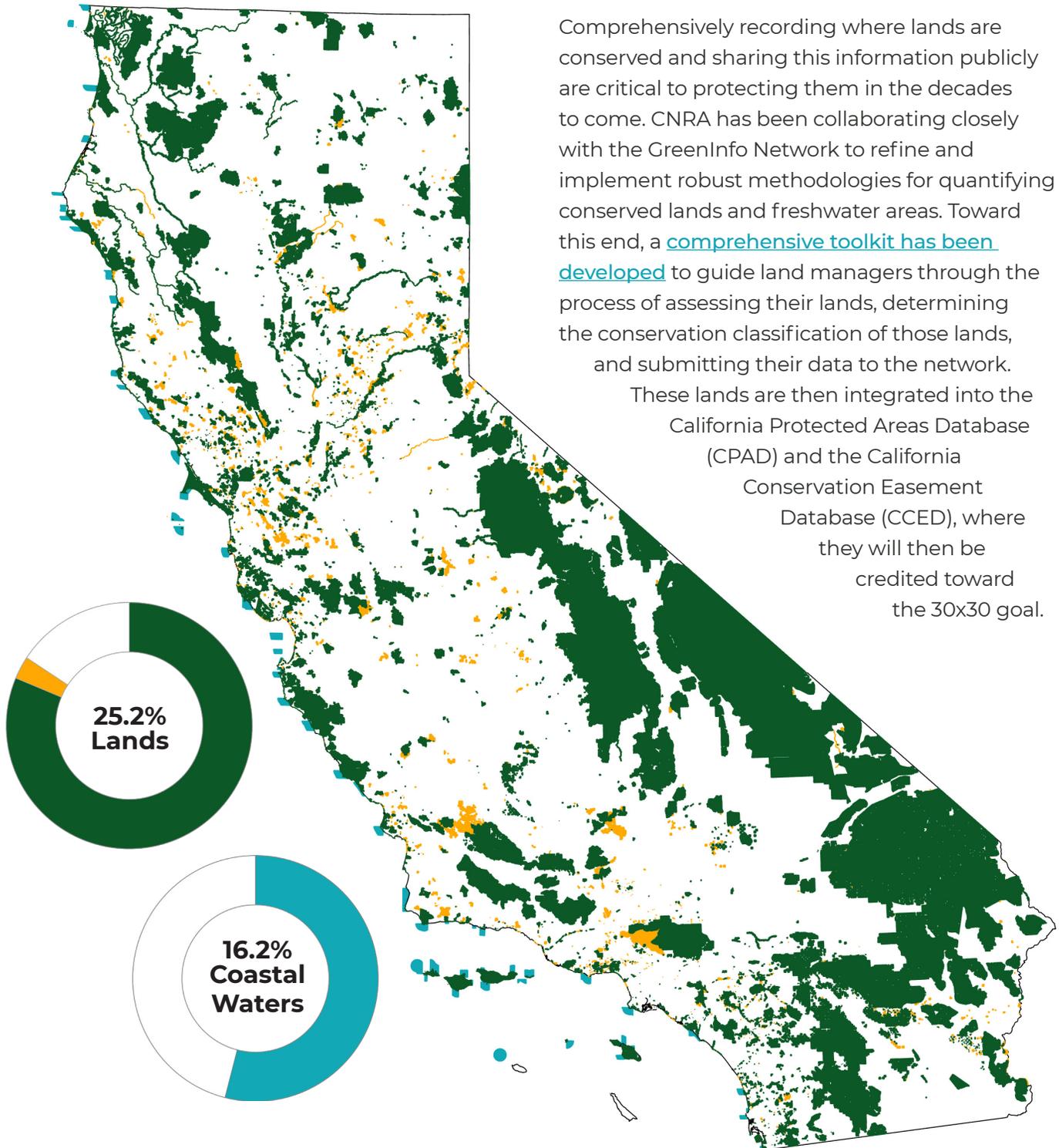
Conserved Lands and Coastal Waters



While California is making great progress toward 30x30, reaching this goal will require ongoing statewide collaboration to improve data collection and management, conserve lands that are currently unprotected, and enhance how other lands are managed so they qualify as 30x30 Conservation Areas.

Comprehensively recording where lands are conserved and sharing this information publicly are critical to protecting them in the decades to come. CNRA has been collaborating closely with the GreenInfo Network to refine and implement robust methodologies for quantifying conserved lands and freshwater areas. Toward this end, a [comprehensive toolkit has been developed](#) to guide land managers through the process of assessing their lands, determining the conservation classification of those lands, and submitting their data to the network.

These lands are then integrated into the California Protected Areas Database (CPAD) and the California Conservation Easement Database (CCED), where they will then be credited toward the 30x30 goal.





Dana Point, Orange County

Data improvements and integrity remain a priority. Enhancing our accounting and understanding of conserved areas can inform future conservation investments, identify opportunities for habitat connectivity, and provide transparency on the level of conservation across habitat types. As data accuracy improves, we expect there to be modest shifts that increase and/or decrease the total acres that count toward 30x30 year to year; however, there will also be an overall increasing trajectory. As part of our data-integrity effort, during the summer of 2024, CNRA hosted two interns to help with education and outreach to more than 200 land managers across the state and assist with reporting conserved land acreage and management to CPAD and CCED. Some of the resulting data improvements are reflected in the acreage reported in this year's progress report.

California's marine protected area (MPA) network already conserves 16.2% of our coastal waters, and OPC is spearheading the effort to conserve an additional 13.8% of coastal waters by 2030. This will include adaptively managing the MPA network; strengthening biodiversity protections in California's National Marine Sanctuaries; exploring the role of area-based biodiversity conservation tools beyond MPAs and sanctuaries (such as water quality protected areas or fisheries management measures in specific areas); and supporting tribally led conservation, including through the designation and co-stewardship of Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas.

In June, OPC released [a draft decision-making framework for evaluating candidate 30x30 Conservation Areas in coastal waters](#) that builds upon internationally recognized, science-based

OPC Forms Technical Advisory Panel

In fall 2023, OPC partnered with the California Ocean Science Trust and the ocean research community to convene a technical advisory panel that would adapt international guidance on evaluating candidate 30x30 Conservation Areas in coastal waters. The panel provided direction on translating and applying policy goals such as durability, effective management, functional ecosystems, and biodiversity protection. A draft decision-making framework was released for tribal consultation and public comment in June. This will be followed by a series of regional public workshops planned for late summer and early fall to solicit feedback from the wide range of community members whose lives are intertwined with the sea. The framework is anticipated to be finalized by the end of this year.

guidance and sets an ambitious standard for marine protections. Simultaneously, it recognizes that biodiversity conservation and sustainable, well-managed use of marine ecosystems are not mutually exclusive. OPC is conducting robust public engagement and tribal consultation on the draft framework throughout the summer of 2024. The goal is to have it finalized and make initial determinations about areas beyond MPAs that may count toward 30x30 by the end of the year. In the future, the framework will help identify potential new conservation measures to address major threats to biodiversity in coastal waters. These measures would then be designed and implemented in partnership with tribes, coastal communities, conservation organizations, and commercial users.

Additionally, following the first-ever science-based review completed last year, the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC), in close



OPC Draft 30x30 Framework Public Meeting, San Diego County

partnership with CDFW and OPC, has begun considering community-driven petitions for changes to the MPA network. In parallel, OPC initiated early consultation with California Native American tribes to explore the concept of Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas and develop a pathway for their designation and co-stewardship. Last year, as sovereign nations, the Resighini Tribe of Yurok People (now the Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People), Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, and Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria designated the first-ever Indigenous Marine Stewardship Area in the U.S. along the North Coast. This is a critical step in restoring Traditional Ecological Knowledge and management practices that sustained the area's natural abundance before colonial disruption. The state is in the early stages of developing policies to support this concept, and OPC is working in partnership with these three tribes on next steps to align state and tribal priorities.

Combined, these efforts will identify opportunities for California to build partnerships, strengthen biodiversity protections, and conserve an additional 500,000 acres of coastal waters in the coming years.



Pathways to 30x30

The 30x30 strategy identified ten Pathways to achieve its goal. The sections that follow summarize significant advancements made toward each Pathway in the last year and provide a few key examples of how each is being achieved. For a complete list of the progress made on all the strategic actions under each, see Appendix A to this report.

Photo: Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration, El Dorado County

Pathway 1: Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation

- › California has a proud history of effective, regionally led conservation planning, with hundreds of published strategies representing the voices and priorities of local communities. Purposeful, meaningful inclusion of underrepresented communities and California Native American tribes remains critical for California's 30x30 initiative to be successful.
- › Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:
- › [Assembly Bill 2805](#), which took effect in 2023, updated advance mitigation and Regional Conservation Investment Strategies (RCIS). These voluntary, regionally led conservation plans identify local conservation priorities. The update makes the strategies more flexible, establishes them in law, authorizes federally recognized tribes to propose them, and creates an adaptive management framework to evaluate outcomes and create mitigation credits.
- › The [Western Joshua Tree Conservation Act](#) was passed, requiring the creation of a conservation plan for this species, as well as setting rules regarding its movement or sale and establishing a fund to support its conservation. Central to this act is the incorporation of tribal co-management principles and Traditional Ecological Knowledge as well as a provision for relocating western Joshua trees to tribal lands.
- › The new [Natural Community Conservation Planning \(NCCP\) 30x30 Grant Program](#) supported the development and implementation of NCCP and federal Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP). CDFW awarded ~\$3.9 million for development and implementation projects that support these plans and is moving forward with nearly \$25 million in land acquisition proposals to conserve areas identified in them.



Desert Bighorn Sheep, Riverside County

Pathway 1 in Action: Coachella Valley Wildlife Connectivity along Interstate 10

The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission was awarded its largest grant ever from CDFW as part of their NCCP and Multiple Species HCP. The project, "Wildlife Connectivity Assessment for Interstate 10 and Closely Associated Transportation Infrastructure in the Banning Pass," is identifying threats to wildlife connectivity and facilitating the development of connectivity designs and mitigation for future Caltrans and county projects in this area.

Pathway 2: Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions

Partners across the state continue to find opportunities to acquire and conserve new areas that protect biodiversity, advance climate action, and expand equitable access to nature. Identifying new acquisitions through voluntary, locally led endeavors builds upon the many regional strategies that inform the location of priority conservation areas.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- Approximately 627,000 acres of lands owned in fee title and protected for open space purposes were added to CA Nature as 30x30 Conservation Areas.
- CNRA, in partnership with CAL FIRE and the OPC, awarded \$107.7 million for California Native American tribes to acquire and regain ownership of approximately 38,950

acres through the new Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program.

- The state's capacity-building investments included a \$5 million WCB grant to the California Council of Land Trusts, which is expected to move support up to 3 million acres in additional land protection, and the DOC's \$8.5 million in grants to six organizations to increase climate action on natural and working lands, some of which will help meet the 30x30 goal.
- The [Nature-Based Solutions Climate Targets](#) are informing strategic acquisition of lands that sequester carbon and buffer climate impacts.

Pathway 2 in Action: Tahoe Forest Gateway Acquisition

The WCB and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided a grant to 40 Acre Conservation League, California's only Black-led land conservancy, to purchase the Tahoe Forest Gateway Leidesdorff Property in Placer County. These 650 acres of land near the Tahoe National Forest will provide opportunities for public access and wildlife-oriented recreation as well as habitat preservation, restoration, and management.

Tahoe Forest Gateway, Placer County

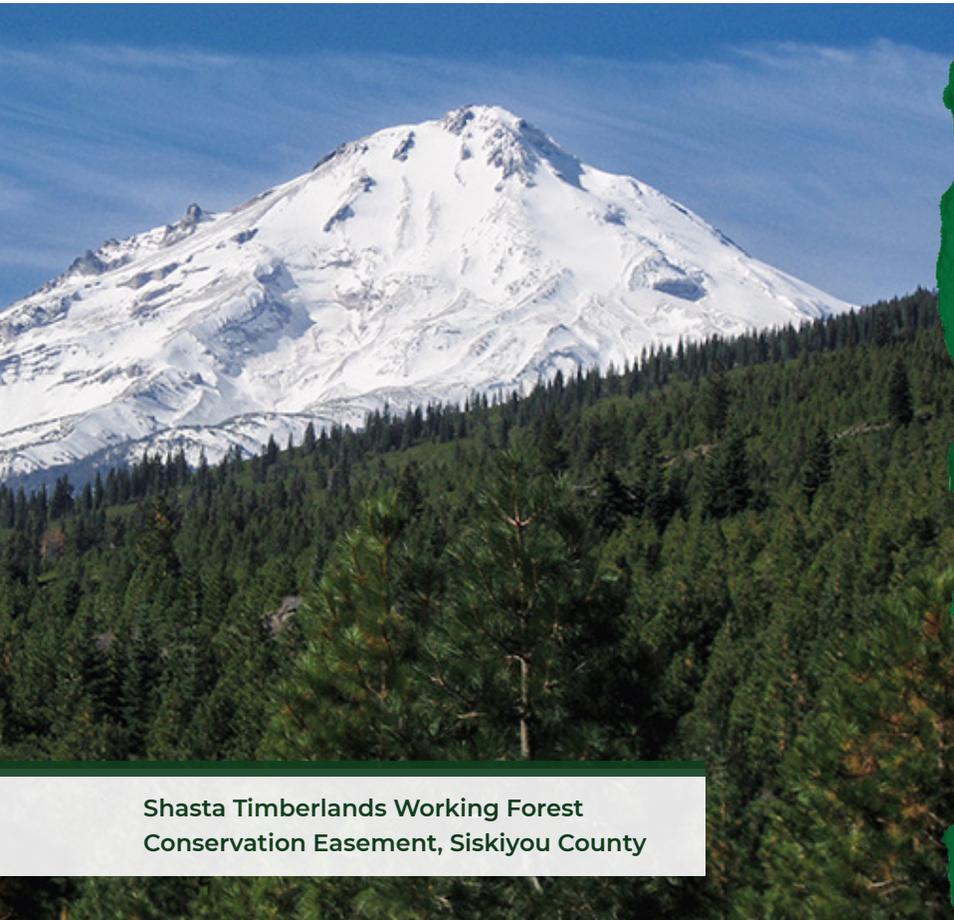
Pathway 3: Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements

Conservation easements are a well-established way to help maintain lands for open space, wildlife habitat, ecological health, and scenic enjoyment while providing financial incentives to private landowners to maintain the land in a natural state (often in association with sustainable agricultural or ranching practices). State agencies continue to work with non-governmental partners to expand opportunities for easements and to address barriers for interested landowners.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- Approximately 234,000 acres of conservation easement lands were added to CA Nature as 30x30 Conservation Areas.

- CNRA hosted a [30x30 Partnership webinar](#) that provided resources and highlighted creative collaborations to build awareness of this approach and inspire momentum for new conservation easements.
- Caltrans received funding to build a wildlife overpass across State Route 20 in Colusa County that will connect 137,058 acres of existing conservation easements for the Cache Creek Tule elk herd.
- More than 100 acres of sensitive habitat that also allow access to the coast were conserved in 2023 through the [California Coastal Commission's Open Space/Conservation Easement Program](#).



Shasta Timberlands Working Forest Conservation Easement, Siskiyou County

Pathway 3 in Action: Shasta Timberlands Working Forest Conservation Easement Funded

The Shasta Timberlands Working Forest Conservation Easement was funded by the WCB and managed by Pacific Forest Trust to conserve 7,589 acres of habitat supporting approximately 237 wildlife species, including 25 special-status plants and animals. The easement also has suitable habitat for four endemic, 36 rare, and 42 climate-vulnerable plant and animal species. The property's large, healthy tree stands store atmospheric carbon, helping the state meet its neutrality goal. Stewardship under the easement will help maintain climate-resilient forests that will be better able to withstand natural disturbance and stressors brought about by climate change. Further, the easement permanently establishes non-motorized public access, complementing the world-class recreation already available on Mt. Shasta.

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

Strengthening environmental stewardship on public lands increases the number of places that meet the definition of 30x30 Conservation Areas. Coordination among state agencies and with federal partners—along with key policy improvements—gives public land managers the tools they need to reach the 30x30 benchmark. By improving long-term management practices, these areas can greatly contribute to biodiversity, climate, and access goals.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › California Native American tribes, advocates, and CNRA supported the expansion and designation of proposed

national monuments to add more acres to California's 30x30, enshrine and conserve unique ecosystems, boost outdoor access for underserved communities, and protect significant tribal cultural resources.

- › On May 2, 2024, [President Biden designated two national monument expansions in California](#)—San Gabriel Mountains National Monument and Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument—adding 119,615 acres to 30x30.
- › OPC deepened its engagement with the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary when the update to their management plan created the opportunity for a state-federal partnership to identify threats to biodiversity in the sanctuary and new protections to address those threats.



White House, Washington D.C.

Pathway 4 in Action: National Monument Expansions

On May 2, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration expanded Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument in Lake and Colusa Counties, and San Gabriel National Monument in Los Angeles County. Combined, they added 119,615 acres of 30x30 Conservation Area land. The Berryessa Snow Mountain expansion protects Molok Luyuk, a culturally significant mountain ridge of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, which helped lead the initiative to expand the monument and secured its co-management. The San Gabriel expansion provides improved outdoor access in one of the most densely populated and “park-limited” areas of the country.

Pathway 5: Institutionalize Advance Mitigation

Advance mitigation takes the proactive approach of protecting land and identifying actions to offset development impacts before a project starts. It is a way to plan for future development, including housing and road infrastructure, while simultaneously identifying key habitat areas that need to be protected and/or restored. Finally, it can address barriers created by infrastructure (for example, railroads and highways), which, along with habitat fragmentation, can significantly affect wildlife migration. Examples of advance mitigation include Regional Advance Mitigation Plans (RAMP), RCIS, NCCP, and mitigation banking.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- Caltrans approved 11 advance mitigation projects, seven of which will be funded (bringing the total to nine funded projects to date).

- [Senate Bill 790](#) authorized CDFW to approve mitigation credits for wildlife connectivity work, leading the agency to draft new [Wildlife Connectivity Advance Mitigation Guidelines](#) for their Conservation and Mitigation Banking and RCIS Programs.
- Three [Caltrans Regional Advance Mitigation Needs Assessments](#) were completed in the Great Valley, Southern Cascades, and Klamath Mountains Ecoregions.
- Southern California Association of Governments updated its [Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy](#), which sets forward goals through 2050, identifies and funds critical land acquisition and habitat restoration projects, and improves coordination on major infrastructure projects that could generate one billion dollars for conservation.



Cayetano Creek, Alameda County

Pathway 5 in Action:

Two New Conservation Banks Added

In 2023, two new conservation mitigation banks were established, protecting and restoring Cayetano Creek in Contra Costa County and Piedra Azul in Merced County. Both sites were selected based on their overall ecological benefit for multiple threatened and endangered species, such as the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, Western Burrowing Owl, Swainson's Hawk, San Joaquin kit fox, and other non-listed species. At Cayetano Creek, approximately 13 acres of wetland are being restored, along with riparian woodlands and native grasslands. The Piedra Azul project will also include durable wetland and upland habitat restoration, and because its proximity to other conservation sites means that approximately 5,000 acres of continuous habitat will be protected.

Pathway 6: Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship

The pace and scale of habitat restoration must increase as quickly, strategically, and cost-effectively as possible to protect and restore the state's biodiversity and improve climate resilience. Collaborative funding for land and coastal restoration is one key to success. Another is the [Cutting Green Tape](#) initiative, which simplifies and expedites permitting, regulatory processes, and grant procedures for ecologically beneficial projects. The initiative was also a catalyst for new expedited pathways to meet conservation objectives at the federal level, resulting in "Programmatic Biological Opinion" documents now available through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- CDFW's [Cutting the Green Tape program](#) supported 217 projects by expediting funding, permitting, and/or environmental review. These projects, which include 18,728 acres, and 477 stream miles, were saved an estimated \$2.5 million and an average processing time of 45 days.
- Thirty-seven [Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act](#) projects were approved, addressing a variety of restoration objectives, including invasive species control, meadow restoration, and [building beaver dam analogs](#).
- The [California State Parks Wildfire and Forest Resilience Program](#) continued to invest in new restoration projects, increased workforce, and expanded partnerships to dramatically increase the pace and scale of this work across more than 100 state-park units: over 500 permanent and seasonal

employees contributed to completing in excess of 10,000 acres of prescribed fire and fuels-reduction projects.

- The California-based nonprofit Sustainable Conservation launched the [Accelerating Restoration website](#), providing restoration leaders with easy access to the major permitting options available to them.
- OPC, in partnership with California Sea Grant, funded almost \$6 million in projects that will protect and restore California's kelp forests, including those that explore novel restoration techniques and build capacity for tribally led kelp monitoring and restoration in Northern California.



Trinidad Head, Humboldt County

Pathway 6 in Action: Cutting the Green Tape in Redwoods

CDFW's Cutting the Green Tape program supported [Redwoods Rising](#), a collaboration among Save the Redwoods League, California State Parks, and the National Park Service with a goal of restoring 80,000 acres of Redwood National and State Parks. These parks are home to almost half of the world's remaining protected old-growth redwood forests, which store more carbon per acre than any other on Earth. They also safeguard imperiled species such as salmon and trout, the Marbled Murrelet, and the western lily. Redwoods Rising implements landscape-scale projects in collaboration with nonprofits, tribes, and local communities; it also offers an apprenticeship program that provides career development opportunities for the next generation of natural resource managers.

Pathway 7: Strengthen Coordination Among Governments

An enormous undertaking such as conserving 30% of California's lands and waters requires strategic coordination between agencies at all levels and California Native American tribal governments. Local governments in particular have insights about and connections to their communities, including those historically excluded from these processes.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › California State Parks signed seven new MOUs with California Native American tribes; these MOUs formalized coordination and cooperation for the protection, preservation,

and interpretation of parks on tribal ancestral homelands.

- › California received its first [Sentinel Landscape designation](#) in the Mojave Desert from the U.S. Departments of Defense, Interior, and Agriculture, creating a new partnership and providing access to new funding opportunities for landscape conservation.
- › Five California habitat restoration and connectivity projects were awarded federal funds through the [American the Beautiful Challenge in 2023](#), three of which directly supported projects being led by California Native American tribes.
- › California signed on to the federal [America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge](#), a partnership to conserve and restore America's rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands.



McCloud River, Shasta County

Pathway 7 in Action: Tribal, State, and Federal Partners Return Endangered Chinook Salmon to Historical Habitat

CDFW, NMFS, and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe [signed agreements](#) to restore Chinook salmon to mountain streams north of Redding, California. The agreements support a joint effort to return this species to its original spawning areas, cold mountain rivers now blocked by Shasta Reservoir in Northern California. The goal is an ecological and cultural restoration that will one day renew fishing opportunities for the tribe, which historically depended on the once-plentiful salmon for food and much more. The agencies agreed to make the tribe a co-equal decision-maker, and CDFW has awarded the tribe a \$2.3 million grant to support its participation in salmon conservation measures.

Pathway 8: Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefit

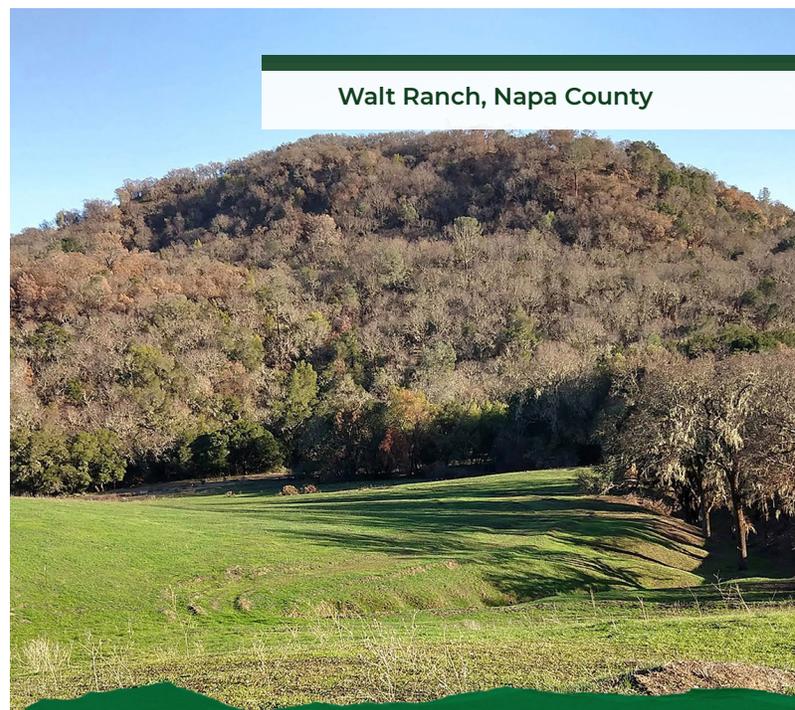
A wide array of funding for conservation efforts is available from state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental organizations. [Pathways to 30x30's Appendix C](#) details funding opportunities accessible at the time of publication. CNRA also promotes funding opportunities through our newsletter and social media channels. However, after several years of significant public investment in 30x30, we expect to receive less funding in the 2024–2025 state budget, which will require project proponents to strategically align their investments to maximize 30x30 outcomes. CNRA and partners are also actively working to unlock new or additional funding sources to support 30x30 implementation through federal partners, private and philanthropic opportunities, and opportunities such as advance mitigation.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- The Governor and the legislature allocated almost \$1.3 billion in the [Nature-Based Solutions Package](#), which was specific to implementing the Pathways to 30x30 strategy and the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy. Thus far, almost \$774 million has been committed to 335 projects that will help advance 30x30.
- Between 2020 and April 2024, approximately \$9.6 billion in state funding beyond the Nature-Based Solutions Package has been invested across all programs and funding packages for nature-based solutions.
- Three new grant programs awarded first-time funding to projects that support 30x30, including \$100 million for the [Tribal Nature-Based Solutions](#) Program through CNRA, \$16 million for the [Climate Smart Land](#)

[Management Program](#) through the DOC, and \$30 million for the [NCCP 30x30 Grant Program](#) through CDFW.

- In 2023, \$496.1 million of WCB grant expenditures were matched by nearly \$339.3 million in partner contributions.
- CNRA is partnering with philanthropic and outdoor-industry groups to leverage state and federal funding to make progress toward 30x30.



Walt Ranch, Napa County

Pathway 8 in Action: Walt Ranch Acquisition

The Land Trust of Napa County acquired the 2,300-acre Walt Ranch property, located within two important wildlife corridors: the Marin Coast (Point Reyes National Seashore)-to-Mendocino National Forest and the Blue Ridge. It also abuts more than 5,500 acres of protected land, including a City of Napa reservoir. Funding was made possible by a landowner donation of more than 25% of the value of the property and by grants from the Coastal Conservancy, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the WCB.

Pathway 9: Advance and Promote Complementary Conservation Measures

30x30 Conservation Areas work best when other areas nearby are also conserved and managed in complementary ways so that combined, they increase ecosystem health and climate resiliency. The many conservation practices occurring outside of 30x30 Conservation Areas (e.g., managing wildlife-friendly farms, improving soil health, greening schoolyards, increasing urban tree canopy) are critically important for the health of our communities and our planet. Many of these areas also directly contribute to state strategic priorities, including our Natural and Working Lands strategy. In addition, they offer unique opportunities for partnership, innovation, and holistic restoration. The success of the 30x30 initiative hinges on these kinds of Complementary Conservation Measures.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › CDFA funded \$13.2 million in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects from the [Conservation Agriculture Planning Grants Program](#) and \$12.25 million from the [Pollinator Habitat Program](#) for organizations to work directly with farmers and ranchers to support pollinators.
- › The California Strategic Growth Council approved more than \$116 million in [Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program](#) grants to permanently protect approximately 50,500 acres of croplands and rangelands, as well as lands used by California Native American tribes to cultivate traditional resources.
- › CAL FIRE awarded more than \$121 million through the [Green Schoolyard Grant Program](#) that will help advance the Governor's [Extreme Heat Action Plan](#) to help schools convert asphalt to green spaces by planting trees and other vegetation to respond to extreme heat while enhancing the natural environment.



Roots Project, Sonoma County

Pathway 9 in Action: Building Wildlife-Friendly Resilience and Equity in California's Working Landscapes

Point Blue's new Roots Program, funded by a WCB block grant, is maximizing the benefits of working landscapes to wildlife by providing technical and financial assistance for habitat restoration (particularly to tribes and underserved communities). The program catalyzes community-led conservation, directly engaging a broad spectrum of Californians in the value of land stewardship for wildlife conservation and building ecological and climate resiliency.

Current projects include riparian restoration, hedgerow plantings, beaver dam analogs, hazardous fence removals, monarch and pollinator plantings, bird/bat box and raptor perch installations, cover crop plantings, upland habitat restoration, oak plantings, invasive species removal, and more. While some of this work will take place on lands that count in acres toward the 30x30 goal, some may occur on working lands that aren't currently counted as 30x30 Conservation Areas (due to size, durability, or management intent), but that can still provide important benefits for biodiversity.

Pathway 10: Evaluate Conservation Outcomes and Adaptively Manage

Effectively caring for lands and waters depends upon adaptive management that integrates the best available science and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Adaptability is essential in an ever-evolving world. Under climate change, core assumptions, planning principles, and strategies must be regularly evaluated and updated. Consistent long-term monitoring and program metrics will be essential to re-evaluate current goals and adaptively manage our lands and waters into the future.

Notable accomplishments that advanced this Pathway in the past year:

- › CDFW's [Climate-Biodiversity Sentinel Site Network](#) kicked off its first field season with climate and biodiversity monitoring at 30-plus sites as part of a public-private effort to track changes in biodiversity and climate and inform a wide range of related management decisions
- › Following the first-ever [Decadal Management Review](#) of the state's MPA network, the CFGC is working closely with CDFW and OPC to consider community-driven petitions for changes to the network.
- › CDFW updated its [Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity dataset](#) within the [Areas of Conservation Emphasis database](#), which summarizes information on terrestrial connectivity, including the presence of mapped corridors or linkages to support conservation planning efforts.



Tolowa Dee-Ni' eDNA Sampling, Del Norte County

Pathway 10 in Action: Monitoring California's Marine Protected Areas

Last year, OPC invested \$9.5 million to support long-term monitoring of California's MPA network. Following the first-ever Decadal Management Review of the network, OPC and CDFW hosted workshops to discuss monitoring results, incorporate lessons learned, and discuss ways to drive innovation and improve equity in California's MPA monitoring program. Building on these workshops, monitoring teams will continue to collect critical biological, ecological, and environmental data in rocky intertidal, sandy beach, kelp forest, and estuary ecosystems across the state for the next three years. This will provide data necessary to assess MPA performance as well as inform decision-making on other state priorities, including fisheries management and climate resilience. The Tribal Marine Stewards Network—an alliance of five coastal tribes that conducts monitoring and community engagement with the goal of returning stewardship and management of ocean and coastal territories to California tribes—is a vital component of this work.



Collaboration

CNRA promotes and coordinates Pathways to 30x30 implementation, but success fundamentally relies on collaboration with many others.

Photo: 30x30 Partnership 2023 Gathering, Riverside County

Public Funding

Over the past three years, the California State Budget Act committed almost \$1.3 billion to the [Nature-Based Solutions Package](#), with specific programs to support 30x30 across the state. So far, almost \$774 million has been invested in 335 different projects (Appendix B). More broadly, as of April 2024, the state has invested approximately \$9.5 billion across a variety of funding packages and programs for nature-based solutions, many of which support the 30x30 goal. CNRA continues to collaborate with federal, state, and local partners to leverage and align funding to promote conservation for biodiversity, access, and climate resilience.

30x30 Partnership

CNRA's work remains focused on building and equipping the [30x30 Partnership](#) to engage and empower all of those working toward this initiative's ambitious goal. This alliance of conservation partners is open to anyone interested in being part of an organizational hub for dialogue, shared learning, coordination, and strategic planning. In October 2023, CNRA hosted the annual 30x30 Partnership event in Riverside, California, which brought together more than 350 partners from all over the state to celebrate, collaborate, and co-create on opportunities to achieve the 30x30 goal. Over the past year, the 30x30 Partnership has benefited greatly from the support of these groups:

30x30 Partnership Coordinating Committee

The [30x30 Partnership Coordinating Committee](#) (PCC) comprises key community organizers who act as conduits for information and ideas between their constituents and CNRA, elevating local and regional 30x30 implementation opportunities. The inaugural 30x30 PCC members, which included 19 leaders from across the state, served from August 2022 until September 2023. They defined

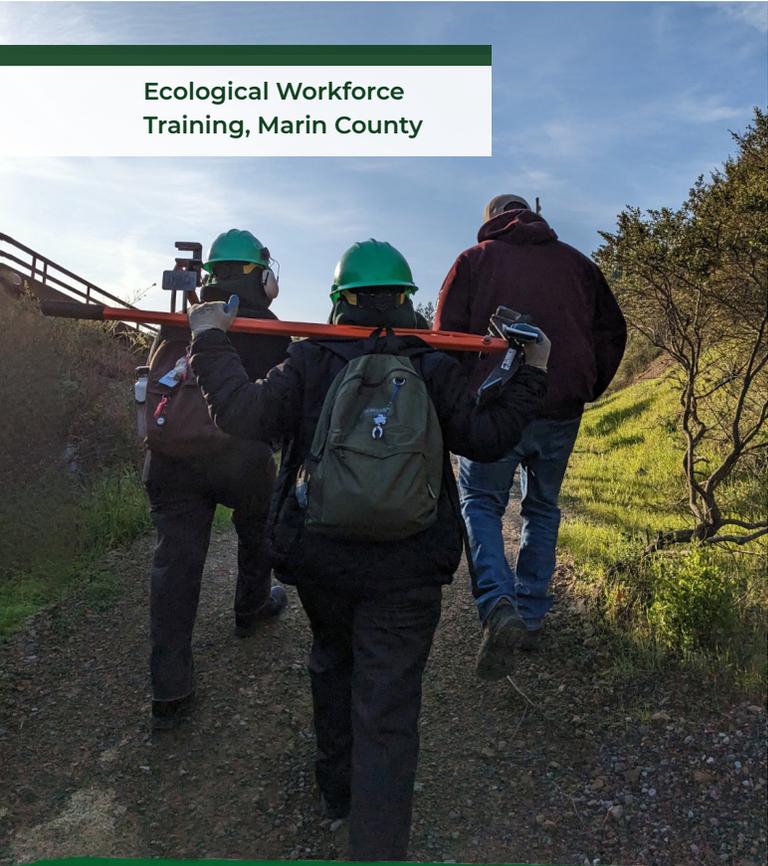
the roles and responsibilities of this group by supporting CNRA's implementation of Pathways to 30x30. The 2023–2024 30x30 PCC members include 17 leaders; five are new, 12 are returning. The group's monthly meetings help sustain momentum and empower partners to achieve the 30x30 goal.

California Biodiversity Council

The California Biodiversity Council continues to meet, providing a venue for collaboration between local, state, and federal resource management and environmental protection agencies. This shared space has proven to be an effective way for the state to collaborate with the federal government on "America the Beautiful," the national counterpart to California's 30x30 initiative.

California Biodiversity Network

The [California Biodiversity Network](#) (CBN) continues to provide a collaborative forum for the state's diverse conservation organizations, land managers, practitioners, and scientific institutions to inform and accelerate 30x30 efforts. This past year, CBN hosted the second day of the annual 30x30 Partnership event for participants to share and collaborate on 30x30 science and research needs. In early 2024, it co-hosted an Indigenous Co-Stewardship of Public Lands Workshop with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, bringing together representatives from California Native American tribes and local, state, and federal governments to discuss and advance co-stewardship opportunities. It has also continued implementing funded research priorities identified in the [Pathways to 30x30 Appendix D](#), including convenings centered around five cross-functional themes: 1) Systematic Conservation Planning (focusing on biodiversity on working lands), 2) Biodiversity Informatics and Community Science (leveraging community-collected biodiversity data), 3) Climate-Biodiversity Sentinel Site Network (establishing a long-term monitoring network



**Ecological Workforce
Training, Marin County**

**CBN Stewardship Workforce
Training Database Released**

Inspired by the effort to expand and diversify the stewardship workforce, CBN released a [Stewardship Workforce Training Database](#)—a hub of information on programs across the state that aim to care for biodiversity and bolster ecosystem resilience through practices such as prescribed fire, habitat restoration, and invasive species management. Users can search for programs related to their interests to identify training, certification, and collaboration opportunities. CBN's Stewardship Roundtable spearheaded this effort, and extends its thanks to [MIG](#) for gathering the data and to the [University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Informatics and GIS Program](#) for tool development. Special thanks also go to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for funding the development of this resource and for its commitment to championing biodiversity efforts across the state.

across the state), 4) Stewardship (working together toward a more sustainable and equitable stewardship workforce), and 5) Equity (advancing equity, inclusion, and diversity within the field of conservation).

Ocean Protection Council

OPC is spearheading the effort to conserve 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030. This year, they partnered with CFGC and CDFW to begin considering community-driven petitions for changes to the state's MPA network; deepened the state's partnership with the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary; and, in collaboration with CNRA, initiated early tribal consultation to further explore the concept of Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas. In addition, the group kicked off an assessment of the biodiversity benefits of other spatial management measures (beyond MPAs and sanctuaries) in California's coastal waters, which included convening a Technical Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive decision-making framework. OPC has also held public workshops on key topics related to the conservation of coastal waters, and continues its work to address the most critical research priorities and information gaps identified in the [Pathways to 30x30 Appendix E](#).

Tribal Partnerships

CNRA was allocated \$100 million to establish the new Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Program. On April 26, 2024, CNRA—in partnership with CAL FIRE and the OPC—announced awards of \$107.7 million to fund 33 projects and support the return of approximately 38,950 acres of ancestral land to California Native American tribes. We continue to consult and collaborate with California Native American tribes to advance meaningful access, co-management, and ancestral land return across the state, and are exploring policy options and technical assistance opportunities to continue this work.

Communications and Engagement

Public input was critical to developing the Pathways to 30x30 strategy and remains a priority for its implementation. In addition to the annual 30x30 Partnership event, CNRA employed a range of ways to inform and be informed over the past year, including:

- › [Five webinars](#) to share information and resources and hear partners' feedback on topics such as Pathway 3 and Pathway 4, as well as the importance of protecting and restoring California's biodiversity.
- › More than 50 local meetings and field visits focused on community priorities and conservation successes.
- › A regular [30x30 newsletter](#) to share program updates, examples of 30x30 in action, and funding opportunities.
- › The [Community Conversations blog](#) as a platform to elevate and share 30x30 partners' experiences and perspectives.
- › Dedicated 30x30 social media (including a [new Instagram account](#)) to engage with partners, increase access to resources, share real-time updates, and amplify success stories.
- › A California Climate Action Corps Fellow focusing on communications for 30x30 in support of these efforts.

CA Nature

CNRA received \$500,000 in the California Budget Act to maintain and update [CA Nature](#). These GIS applications and their underlying data, which have provided transparency and effectively tracked progress toward the initiative's goal, are widely used by partners to

identify opportunities for 30x30 conservation projects. Updates include improvements to CPAD and CCED to increase tracking of acres conserved, and a toolkit to help partners better understand and record how future conservation projects will fit into 30x30 Conservation Areas. In partnership with Esri, CNRA is working to update CA Nature applications to display new data that will better inform conservation opportunities for biodiversity, access, and climate resilience.



30x30 Partnership 2023 Gathering

In October 2023, CNRA hosted its second annual 30x30 Partnership event in Riverside, California. The theme of Connect, Celebrate, and Co-Create brought in more than 350 partners from across the state to reflect, learn from each other, and build momentum toward 30x30. It included a "Making the Impossible Possible" panel that highlighted big, complex projects in California. Local coalitions from across the state took part in a "Success Stories Showcase" that highlighted funding, permitting, and partnership accomplishments. The event also included knowledge-building workshops focused on critical components of the Pathways to 30x30 strategy.



Onward Together

In the two years since the Pathways to 30x30 strategy was released, we have increased our 30x30 Conservation Areas by more than one million acres!

Photo: Redwood State and National Parks, Humboldt County

Following Governor Newsom's Nature-based Solutions Executive Order N-82-20 in 2020, California has defined what would be mapped and counted toward the 30% goal and brought together the best available data and visualization tools to transparently track progress. While new conservation areas have been added, the increase in acreage also benefited from improvements in data collection and management. As we move forward, it is critical that we ramp up our efforts to both add new conservation areas and improve how existing ones are protected and stewarded to meet the goal.

Challenges that we will continue to tackle over the coming year include:

During the next year the 30x30 Partnership will:

- › Collecting data needed from land managers across the state.
- › Determining at what percent threshold a parcel is considered conserved.
- › Evaluating criteria and thresholds for conservation areas in coastal waters.
- › Ensuring ongoing funding to implement Pathways to 30x30 and for long-term care of conserved lands.

During the past two years, the 30x30 Partnership focused on near-term strategic actions (outlined in [Appendix B](#) of the Pathways to 30x30 strategy) that jumpstart progress toward the 30x30 goal. CNRA and the 30x30 Partnership will build upon the significant progress made so far and focus on initiating new strategic actions over the coming year.

The 30x30 Partnership also continues to explore creative solutions to address the need for durable funding for ongoing 30x30 Conservation Area stewardship and monitoring. This is especially pertinent in light of projected state budget allocations.

During the next year, the 30x30 Partnership will:

- › Explore new and creative funding opportunities to continue to advance 30x30.
- › Identify new Cutting the Green Tape opportunities to streamline and improve environmental permitting.
- › Identify key corridors and connectivity between 30x30 Conservation Areas and Complementary Conservation Areas to facilitate species movement and increase climate resilience.
- › Update CA Nature applications to improve and share new data and improve users' experience.
- › Continue to build relationships and amplify the 30x30 Partnership and local 30x30 efforts through tribal consultations, webinars, workshops, and a conference.
- › Increase and elevate efforts to tell stories of success and lessons learned here and abroad so that California can continue to serve as a model for 30x30 implementation.

Achieving the 30x30 commitment will take all of us, together. No agency, tribe, organization, or individual will succeed alone. Rather, creative, locally led collaborations backed by science, supportive programs, policies, and funding at all levels of government are required.

This work is vital. Conservation today will affect California's communities and natural ecosystems for generations to come. Let us celebrate how far we have come, rise to meet our challenges, and push forward together!

Pathways to 30x30 Annual Progress Report

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