

# Cooperative Landscape Conservation in the Central Valley

*Cooperative Landscape Conservation is a process and a product that achieves common goals and priorities across a network of partners to ensure sustainable ecosystems across a broad landscape. The process results in a science-based, spatially-explicit product that assesses current and projected landscape patterns and processes, identifies measurable objectives for priority conservation targets, and defines climate-smart adaptation strategies. When delivered in a coordinated fashion, strategies can match societal values and needs with maintaining ecological integrity and biodiversity.*

## **Why the Central Valley?**

The Central Valley is highly vulnerable to numerous stressors including continuing land use changes, increasing temperatures, drought, and loss of important habitats for endangered species and migratory birds. Conflicts in the Central Valley between the health of natural resources, agricultural production, and use of water for industry and state-wide human consumption has caused the creation of major cooperative initiatives to reach common ground and reduce conflict. Some of those initiatives include the Central Valley Joint Venture, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and multiple private landowner partnership programs. Many of these initiatives have identified important resources and priorities, but have been focused on narrow agency or specific programmatic goals and objectives.

Through these and other local initiatives, volumes of data and analyses have been developed across the Central Valley to monitor trends. The CA LCC Steering Committee has requested assistance integrating existing science-based information for the Central Valley and making sense of climate change and other data. This includes integrating a litany of analytic efforts that are not easily accessible and are mostly agency or program centric approaches.

## **Who?**

Members of the CA LCC Steering Committee and Central Valley Joint Venture will make up the majority of partners for this effort. Additional stakeholders will be requested to join including agricultural groups, academia, and others as the goals and priorities are developed.

## **What?**

### **Decisions Cooperative Landscape Conservation can Inform**

- How and where can we achieve multiple, sometimes competing, resource management goals?
- What actions and strategies can be taken to increase the Central Valleys' adaptive capacity for climate change?
- How and where can infrastructure improvements and functional ecological processes work synergistically?

### **Anticipated Products**

1. Climate-smart conservation goals and objectives for priority resources in Central Valley.
2. Vulnerability assessments and comparable maps for priority resources.
3. Adaptation strategies the partners can implement.
4. Spatially explicit design options to support prioritization of priority resources to guide partner decision making.
5. An online tool box and outreach plan to help partners implement the adaptation strategies.

## **Timeframe**

The stakeholders in this area will begin to meet in summer 2014 with the intent of having finished products by fall 2016.

## **Contact**

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