

Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project

*The **goal** of this project is to identify actions that will maximize adaptive capacity of priority species, habitats, and ecosystem to support an ecologically connected Central Valley landscape. The project will create spatially-explicit products that assess current and projected landscape patterns and processes, identify measurable objectives for priority resources, and define climate-smart adaptation strategies.*

Why the Central Valley?

The Central Valley is highly vulnerable to numerous stressors including continuing land use changes, increasing temperatures, drought, and loss of habitats. Conflicts in the Central Valley between the health of natural resources, agricultural production, and use of water for industry and human consumption have resulted in the development of major cooperative initiatives to reach common ground and reduce conflict. Those initiatives include the Central Valley Joint Venture, the Central Valley flood management, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, and multiple other efforts. Many of these initiatives have identified important resources and priorities, yet have not integrated efforts across sectors.

How does this add value to ongoing Central Valley conservation efforts?

This project provides a **landscape-scale** perspective that integrates initiatives across jurisdictions, **collates existing data** into an easily accessible platform, and incorporates **climate analysis** to support decision making by natural resource managers.

Who?

The target audience for the project is natural resource managers and decision makers in the Central Valley. Current partners include the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) Steering Committee and Central Valley Joint Venture Management Board. Additional partners may include agricultural groups, academia, and others.

What decisions can be informed?

The CA LCC will assist in bringing partners together, integrating existing goals and objectives, identifying priority resources, applying climate science, and defining spatially explicit adaptation strategies and actions for the Central Valley. Management questions to be addressed include:

- How and where can we achieve multiple, sometimes competing, resource management goals?
- What actions and strategies can be taken to increase the Central Valley's adaptive capacity for climate change?
- Where can we enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitats to support ecologically connected landscapes?

Anticipated Products

1. Climate-smart conservation objectives for priority resources collectively developed by a broad set of partners.
2. An assessment of current and anticipated future natural resource conditions.
3. A spatially explicit description of desired future natural resource conditions.
4. A set of adaptive strategies and actions for achieving those conditions.
5. Integrated data, an online toolbox, and outreach plan.
6. A "lessons learned" document to inform similar efforts within the CA LCC and other LCCs.

Timeframe

The project kick-off meeting is October 7, 2014. Products are expected by fall 2016.

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