

Conservation Planning in Placer County

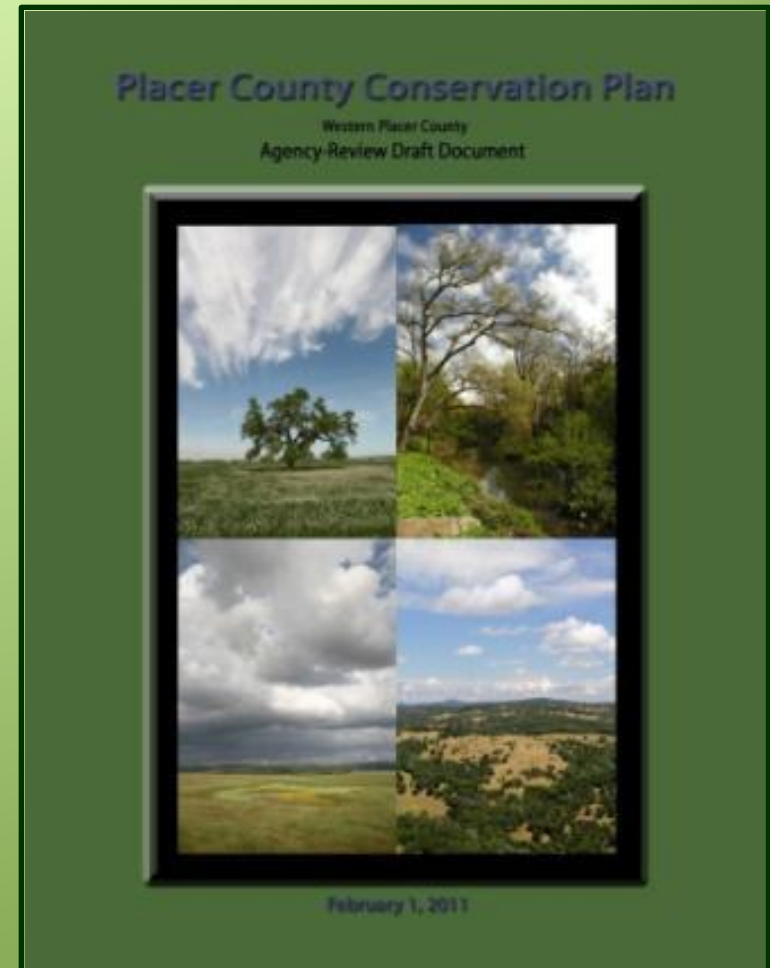
Placer County Conservation Plan and Placer Legacy

**Fresno COG Peer
Exchanges**

**Placer County's
Experience:**

**Placer County
Conservation Plan
and Placer Legacy
Program**

August 20, 2014





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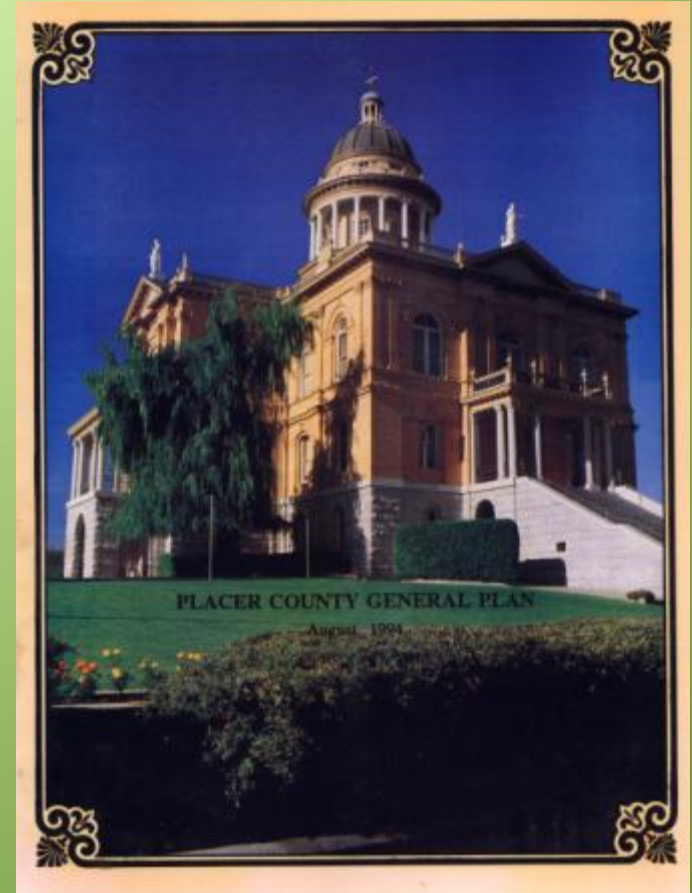
Presentation Overview

- Policy and Program Development
- Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program Overview
- Placer County Conservation Plan Overview
- Conservation Planning Objectives – How do we measure success?
- Public Engagement

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Program Development – grounded in policy

The *Placer Legacy* Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program and the Placer County Conservation Plan were initiated by the Board of Supervisors in April of 1998 **to implement** the goals, policies and programs of the 1994/2013 Placer County General Plan.



A policy foundation is critical



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Program Development

Placer Legacy – Placer Legacy is intended to provide a non-regulatory program to conserve various elements of the Placer County landscape. It is based upon a number of broad goals and specific geographic objectives.

Each program helps implement the other

Placer County Conservation Plan - It was determined that the County needed to address the regulatory issues around endangered species and wetlands due to the significant role that those state/federal decisions have on land use and infrastructure planning in Placer County.

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Placer Legacy – Program Goals



Maintain a viable agricultural segment of the economy;

Conserve natural features necessary for access to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities;

Preserve the diversity of plant and animal communities;

Protect endangered and other special status plant and animal species;

Separate urban areas into distinct communities;

Ensure public safety; and

Retain important scenic and historic areas



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Placer Legacy - Program Development

Placer Legacy – Developed through a 2-year collaborative effort involving key stakeholders and public/private partnerships.

- Public/private partnership between Placer County and the Sierra Business Council with NGO and local funding.
- Stakeholder-based participation with Citizens Advisory Committee. An interagency and science working group were also formed.
- Numerous public workshops for information gathering and sharing
- Targeted outreach when necessary – e.g., the agricultural community
- Need program champions and consistent leadership: politically, staff and stakeholders
- Pre-internet days of communication and networking

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Placer Legacy



The Placer Legacy Program has 5 key planning elements:



- Preparation of a habitat conservation plan/natural community conservation plan
- Watershed level planning through ecosystem restoration plans
- Public outreach and education
- Acquisition of fee title interest and conservation easements consistent with program goals
- Opportunities for outdoor recreation



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Placer Legacy – Program Funding

Program implementation has cost approximately \$21M of which over \$11M has come from outside sources; primarily state grant funds.

- Originally sought funding that was modeled after the Sonoma County program – ¼ cent sales tax
- Measures V/W in 2000 – significant lack of electorate support (26% yes on the funding measure) but majority support for the advisory measure.
- General Funds \$ have been allocated for program implementation for half of the program's history at ~\$1M/year. These funds have been critical as match funding for grants.
- Strong state support for grant funding through Propositions 204, 12, 13, 50, and 84. If you can put projects on the ground reliably – they will support you. Your success is their success
- Gifts and donations do help – but people have to know and trust you.

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Significant Accomplishments

Acquisitions and Restoration

Over 9,200 acres of property protected throughout the County including:

Sierra Nevada Foothills



Hidden Falls
Regional Park

Sierra Nevada



Cisco Grove - Gould Park

Central Valley



Aitken Ranch

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Placer Legacy Acquisitions: Example



Hidden Falls Regional Park Site – Coon Creek

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Placer Legacy Acquisitions: Example



Features include:

50-car parking lot for
passenger vehicles and
trailers for horses

Picnic areas

Restroom Facilities

30+ miles of trails

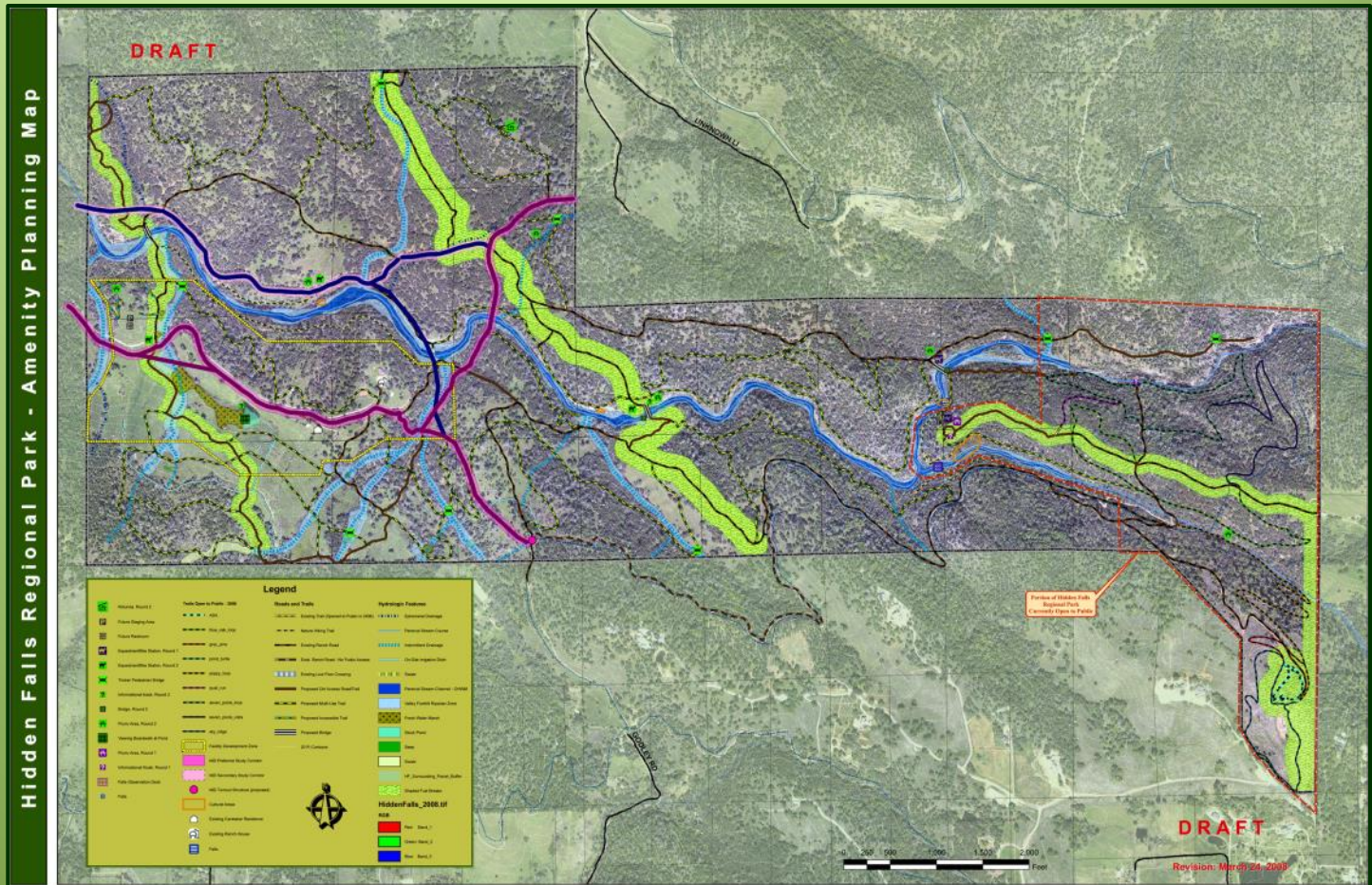
Hiking, biking, fishing and
equestrian access – no
camping or motorized
vehicles

Open sunrise/sunset

1,200 Acre Hidden Falls Regional Park Site

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Placer Legacy Acquisitions: Example



Hidden Falls Master Plan

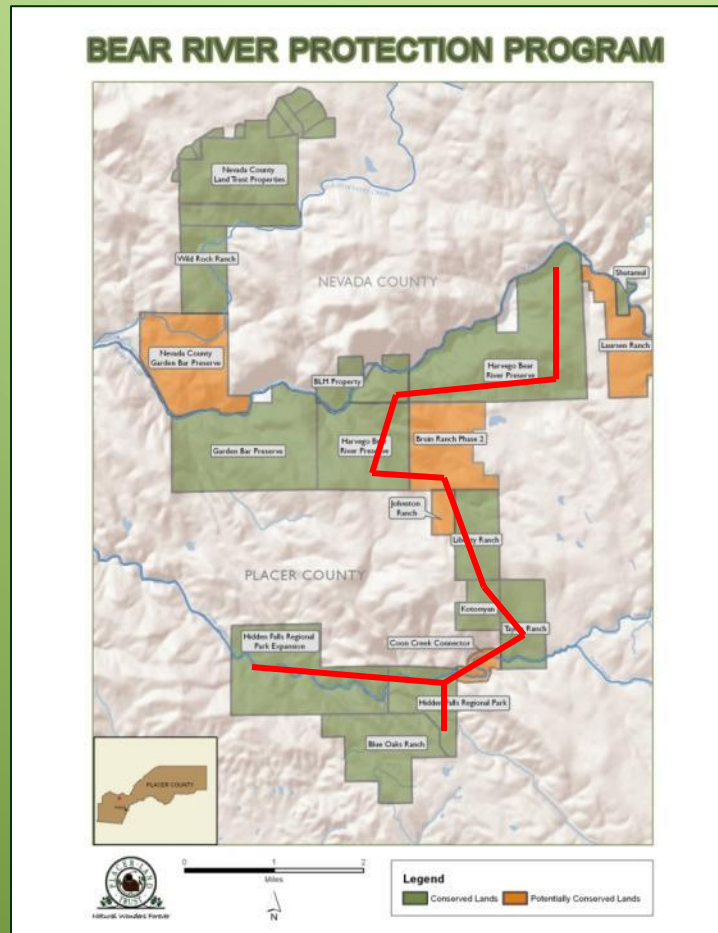
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Placer Legacy Acquisitions - Persistence

10 properties secured with 5,000+ accessible acres of trail access including 3 miles of the Bear River

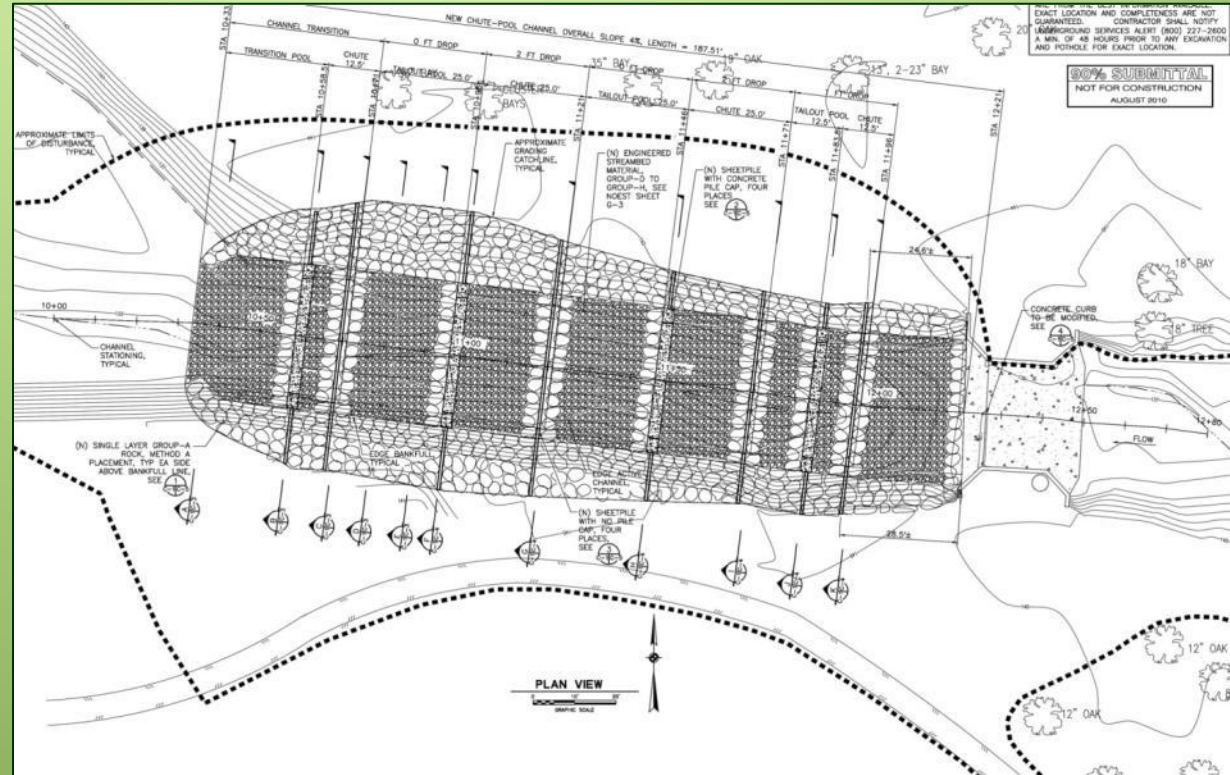
Persistence Pays Off

Placer County, working with Placer Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land have collaborated on a number of projects in the Bear and Coon Creek watersheds. Combined with the efforts of the Nevada County Land Trust and other public lands owned by the Department of Fish and Game ~6,000 acres of blue oak woodland and over 5 miles of the Bear River have been preserved.



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Placer Legacy - Habitat Restoration



Placer County and the Nevada Irrigation District jointly funded and designed a salmonid fish passage project on Auburn Ravine in down town Lincoln.

Auburn Ravine Fish Passage

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Placer Legacy - Habitat Restoration



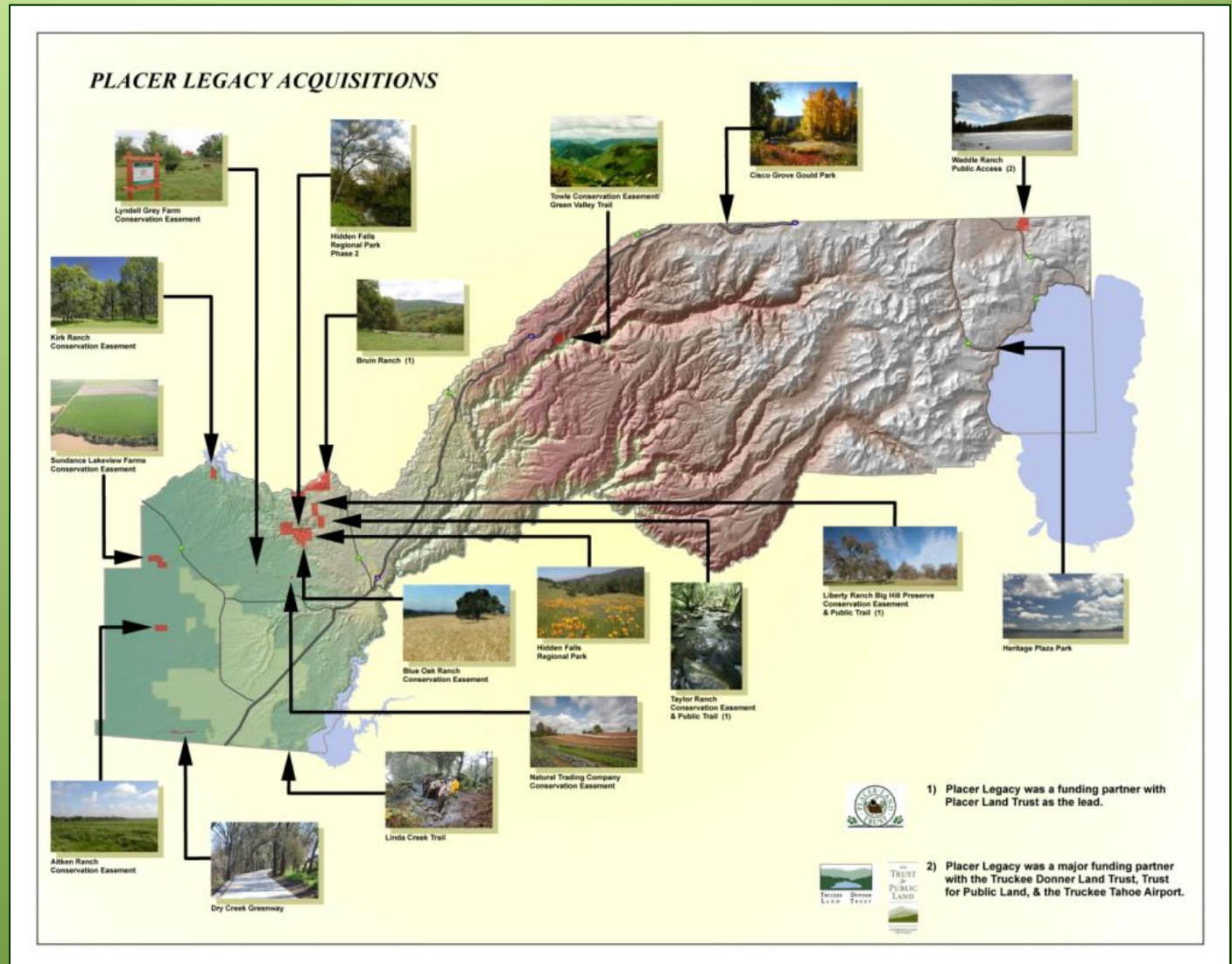
It Worked!

The project is the first of two phases with the second phase modifying the Hemphill Canal east of Hwy. 65. Once modified, Auburn Ravine will be virtually passage free to important spawning and rearing areas.

Auburn Ravine Fish Passage

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Placer Legacy Acquisitions

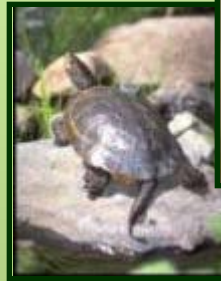


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Placer County Conservation Plan

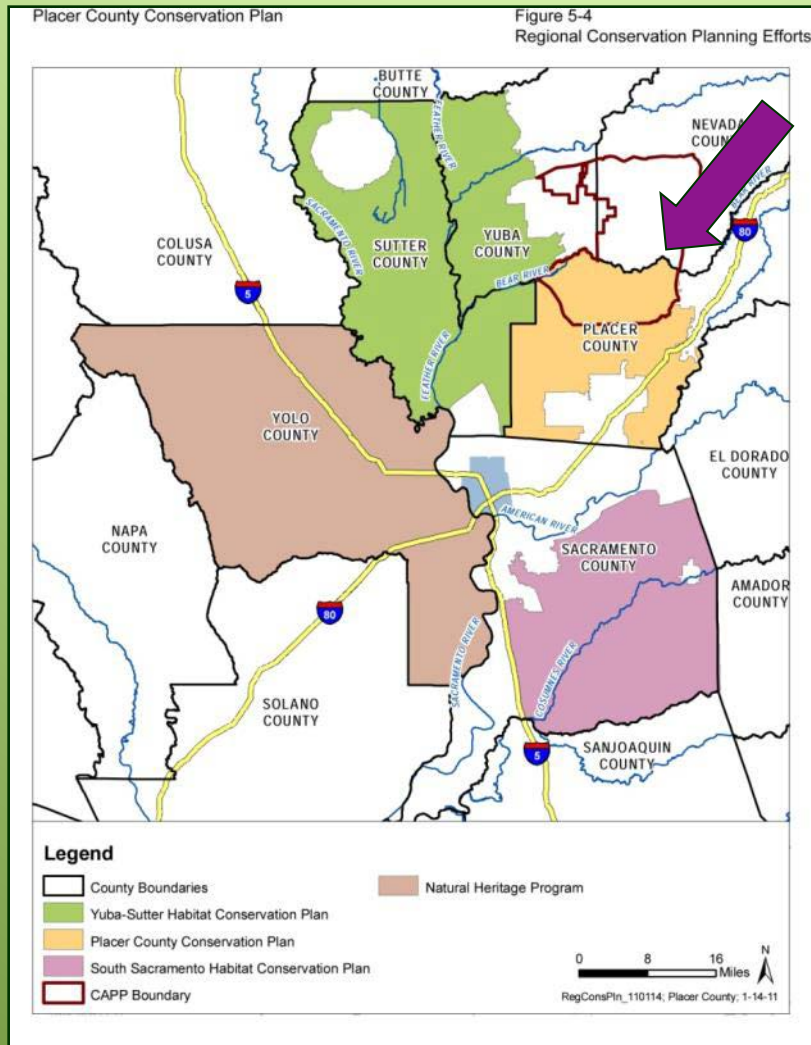
16 Total Species:

- Birds
- Reptiles
- Amphibians
- Salmon/steelhead
- Invertebrates
- Plants



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PCCP Permit Area



The PCCP is one of four major conservation efforts in the Sacramento Region including efforts in Yolo County, Sacramento County, and a joint effort in Sutter/Yuba County.



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Regulatory Setting – What is the PCCP?

- Federal Endangered Species Act – federally-listed endangered species
- California Endangered Species Act and Natural Communities Conservation Act – state-listed endangered species
- Federal Clean Water Act – water quality and wetland fills
- Section 1600 Fish and Game Code – stream protection
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Local policy and ordinances



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PCCP – A Cooperative Effort

PCCP Participating Agencies:

- Placer County
- PCWA
- City of Lincoln
- SPRTA

Regulatory Coverage for:

- Placer Parkway
- Public infrastructure
- Conservation Activities
- Cumulative and indirect impacts associated with the conveyance, distribution of water
- Land Development in Unincorporated Western Placer County and City of Lincoln



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PCCP - Program Development

PCCP – This is a more challenging effort to engage stakeholders.

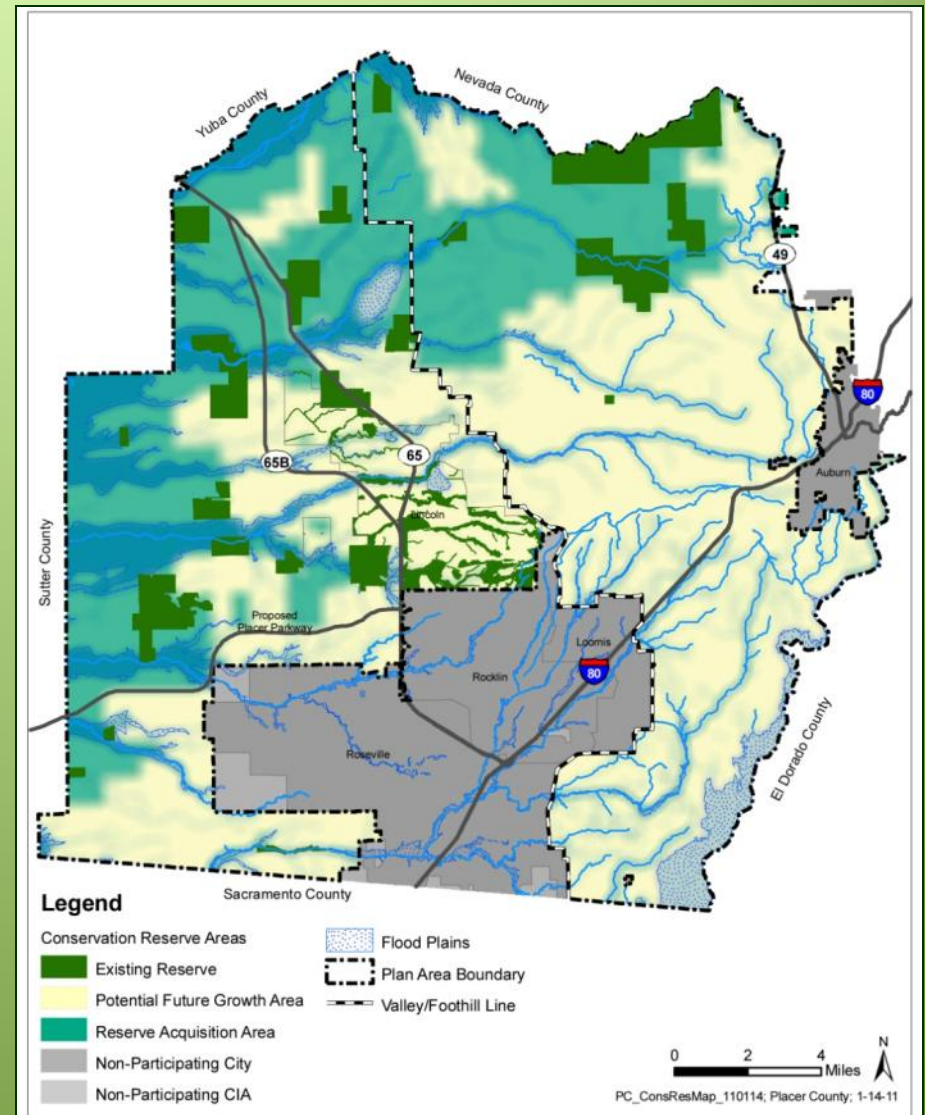
- State/federal regulatory interests dominate the dialogue.
- Stakeholder-based participation with a Biological Stakeholder Working Group.
- Ad Hoc working group of 2 elected officials from each jurisdiction.
- Some public workshops for information gathering and sharing. Most of the dialogue is with Board of Supervisors, key stakeholders and state/federal agencies.
- Targeted outreach when necessary – e.g., the agricultural, development, and environmental community.
- Need program champions and consistent leadership: politically, staff and stakeholders.

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Proposed PCCP Conservation Map - 2013

-  = Stream System
-  = Existing Conservation
-  = Proposed Reserve Area
-  = Development Opportunity Area
-  = Non-participating City

Proposed Conservation Map



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PCCP Costs - One time & Ongoing

PCCP Cost Allocation – 50-year Permit Term			
Cost Category	Valley	Foothills	Total
PCCP Implementation Costs ¹	\$812,990,000	\$282,070,000	\$1,095,060,000
Plan Preparation Costs for Reimbursement	\$6,120,000	\$320,000	\$6,440,000
Endowment Funding for Post-Permit Costs	\$28,580,000	\$9,920,000	\$38,500,000 (yielding \$88,160,000 at a 3% rate of return at the end of the permit term)
TOTAL	\$847,690,000	\$292,310,000	\$1,140,000,000

¹PCCP Implementation Costs include:

- Land acquisitions
- Restoration
- Monitoring
- Land Management

With the exception of potential funding associated with covered County activities, no direct County funding of plan operations is anticipated.

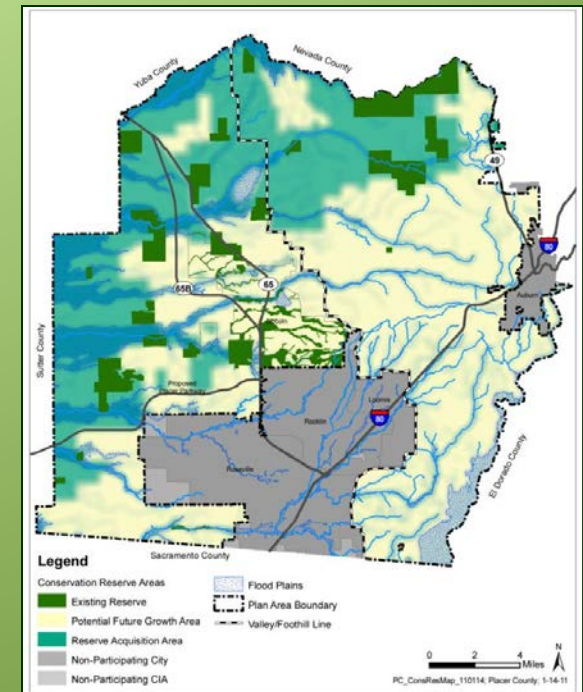
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PCCP Measurements of Success

Success = 50-year permit term
with 33,000 acres conserved on
the valley floor and 15,000 acres
conserved in the foothills.

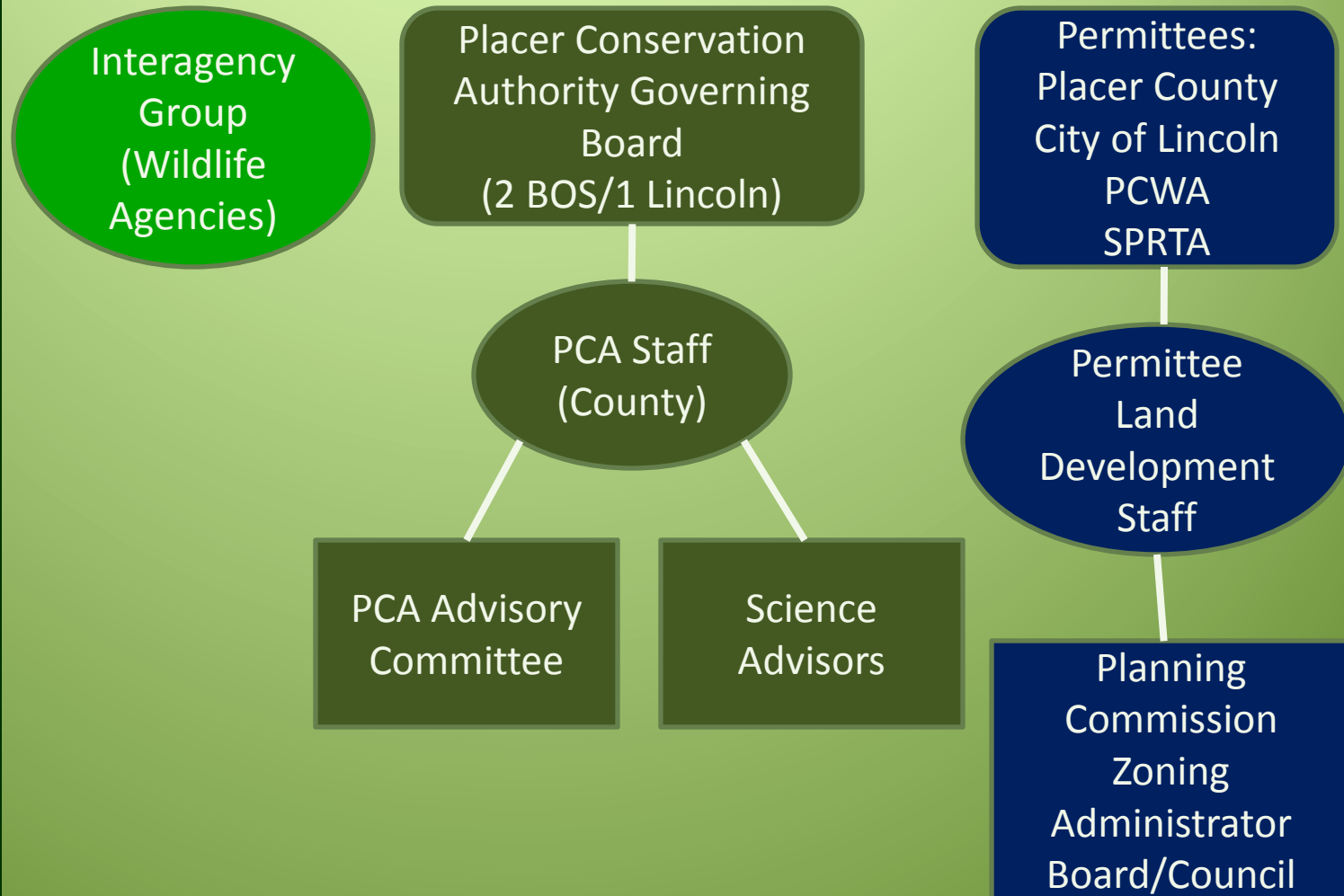
Habitat restoration on vernal
pools, riparian woodland, valley
oak woodland and grasslands.

In terms of economic
development, ~153,000
households and ~90,000 new
jobs whose permitting was
streamlined via the PCCP.



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PCCP Governance



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Conclusion

Questions & Answers



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<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/Planning/PlacerLegacy>
<http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/communitydevelopment/planning/pccp>