

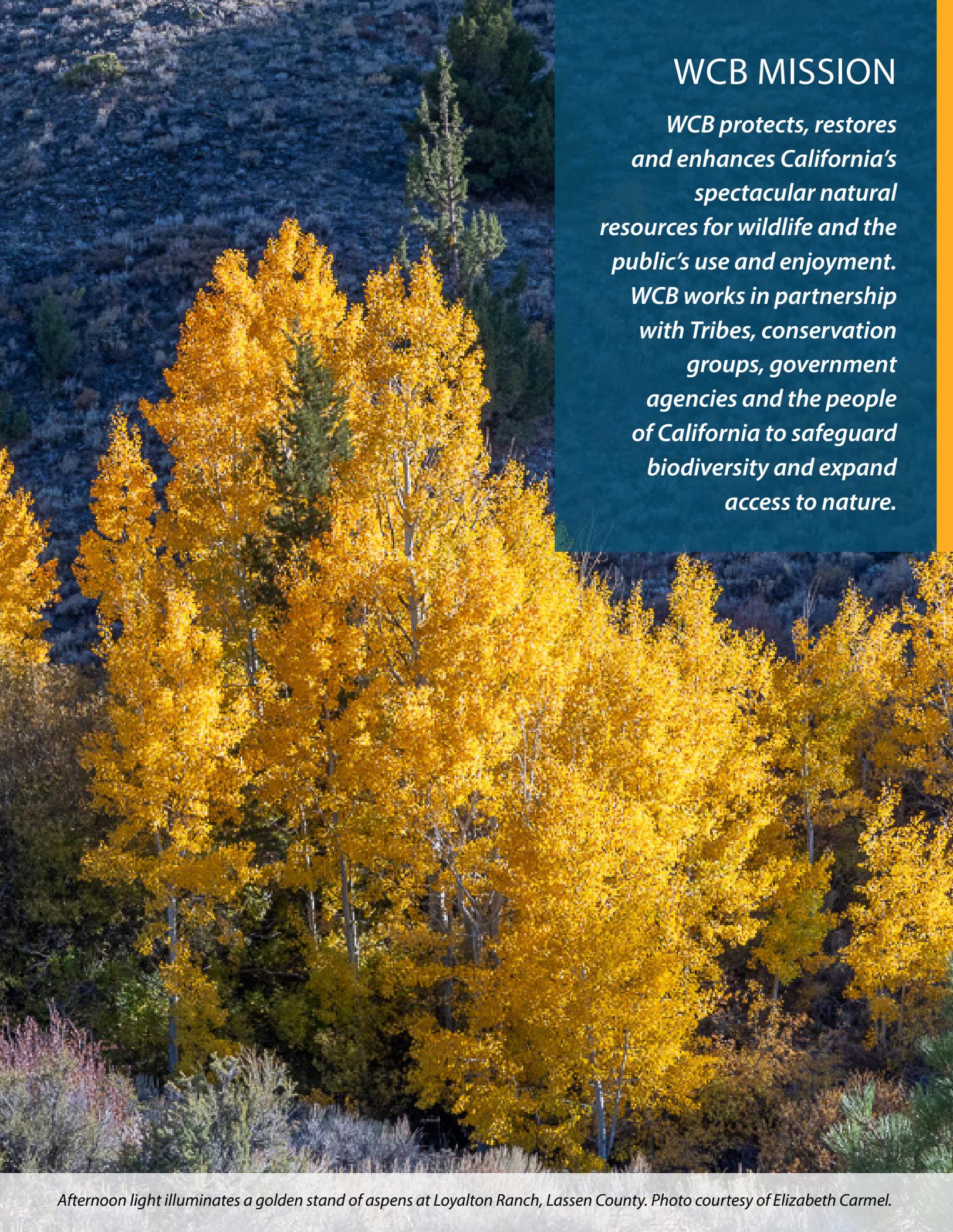
Blue Creek flows into Klamath. Photo courtesy of Peter Marbach/Western Rivers Conservancy.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Wildlife Conservation Board

Year in Review | 2025



WCB MISSION

WCB protects, restores and enhances California's spectacular natural resources for wildlife and the public's use and enjoyment. WCB works in partnership with Tribes, conservation groups, government agencies and the people of California to safeguard biodiversity and expand access to nature.

Afternoon light illuminates a golden stand of aspens at Loyaltan Ranch, Lassen County. Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Carmel.



This is What We Do!

A Message from WCB's Executive Director

*Jennifer Norris,
WCB Executive Director.
Photo courtesy of California
Natural Resources Agency.*

I am pleased to share WCB's 2025 Year in Review. It was a year of big moments—and even bigger success stories for the protection and restoration of California's incredible biodiversity.

We finalized our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, the result of nearly a year of outreach and conversations about what we do and how we will focus our work moving forward.

In 2025, we conserved more than 50,000 acres of habitat by supporting the acquisition of land in fee or through conservation easements. Every acquisition provides durable protections for biodiversity. This is especially true for lands returned to tribal ownership and care.

We restored nearly 23,000 acres of habitat, for butterflies and elk, beaver and native plants. In November alone, we invested more than \$70 million in projects that improve habitat for Central Valley salmon.

Our Board welcomed new public members for the first time in four years and, in November, held its first-ever meeting outside of Sacramento. We also said goodbye to Chuck Bonham, who served as chair or vice chair since 2011, helping us protect and restore millions of acres throughout California.

We are so lucky to do what we do. And we are grateful for the support of our partners, the Legislature and the Newsom Administration, who understand that protecting biodiversity is not a luxury. It is essential to our health and well-being. It is what makes us who we are.

We are so excited to see what comes next. Here's to another year of amazing conservation.

From all of us at WCB, thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Norris".

WCB STAFF AT WORK



Left to Right, Top to Bottom:; All photos courtesy of Wildlife Conservation Board, unless noted. WCB staff at Native American Day at the California State Capitol. WCB staff and board members tour San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and Nature Center in Cardiff. Northern Sierra Partnership, Feather River Land Trust, and WCB staff with Washoe Tribal Chairman Serrell Smokey at WCB board meeting in Cardiff. Celestial Reysner, Jennifer Norris, and Alexa Dunn at the California Council of Land Trusts conference near Yosemite. John Walsh and Daniel Vasquez at the 30x30 Partnership Summit in San Diego. Big Sur Land Trust's Diedre Monroe and CDFW's Zach Mills with Joe Navari and Mark Topping at Joshua Creek in Monterey County,). Photo courtesy of Big Sur Land Trust.



Aerial view of Beach Ranch fields marsh at Pajaro Dunes Colony in Watsonville. Photo courtesy of Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

BY THE NUMBERS

WCB in 2025

WCB contributed to 70 projects for the 2025 calendar year, allocating approximately \$207 million in funding including:



\$107 million

for habitat restoration and enhancement of nearly **23,000 acres**



\$76.8 million

for purchase or conservation easement on **51,000 acres of land**



\$22.8 million

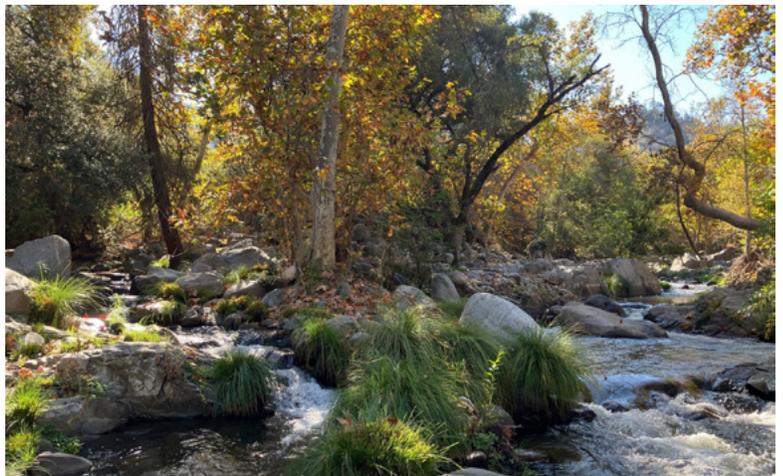
for public access, project planning, and studies



Blue Creek provides critical cold-water refuge as it flows into the Klamath River. Photo courtesy of Cindy Diaz.

2025 Native American Tribal Partnership Projects

In 2025, WCB advanced seven projects working with Native American tribes across California. Four of these projects focused on ancestral land return and property transfers, returning more than 8,500 acres of culturally significant lands to tribes. Three additional projects supported tribal engagement, co-management, and the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into conservation planning, including work associated with the Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan.



Left: Yowlumni Hills in Tulare County. Photo courtesy of The Conservation Fund.

Right: Deer Creek runs through Yowlumni Hills in Tulare County. Photo courtesy of Ben Fryer/The Conservation Fund.



Aerial view of Carr Lake Restoration Area in Salinas. Photo courtesy of Big Sur Land Trust.

2025 Justice Community Partnerships

WCB invests in justice communities throughout the state, providing public access, renewed natural landscapes, job opportunities and climate resiliency to historically underrepresented communities.



\$130 million
(or 49%) of WCB funds supported work in justice communities



34 of the 70
approved projects were equity projects



28,692 acres
of land restored, acquired or improved benefiting justice communities



Monte Rio Redwoods Expansion property in Sonoma County. Photo courtesy of Wildlife Conservation Board.

2025 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS





A dense woodland of blue oak and live oak on Schwendel Ranch near Mount Diablo in Contra Costa County. Photo courtesy of Cooper Ogden.

STORYMAPS

Please visit our StoryMaps below to learn more about WCB's latest efforts to protect, restore and enhance California's natural resources.



TRIBAL
StoryMaps



MAY
StoryMaps



AUGUST
StoryMaps



NOVEMBER
StoryMaps



FEBRUARY
StoryMaps



2024
StoryMaps

FOLLOW US



LINKTREE

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) is a state grant-making agency dedicated to safeguarding California's spectacular biological diversity and wild spaces for the benefit of present and future generations. WCB works in partnership with tribes, conservation organizations, and government agencies to acquire lands and design and implement habitat restoration and public access projects statewide.

WCB consists of seven voting members including the Director of CDFW, the Director of the California Department of Finance, the President of the Fish and Game Commission, and four public members. Two public members are appointed by the California legislature and two are appointed by the Governor. Non-voting members include three advisors each, from the State Assembly and the State Senate.

WCB staff at 30x30 Partnership Summit at the California Natural Resources Headquarters in Sacramento.





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30x30
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