PLENARY PRESENTATIONS
Oak Woodland Management in the Bureau of Land Management¹

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in California manages approximately 14.3 million acres of which approximately 970 thousand acres are classified as hardwoods. Of this total, approximately 180 thousand acres of hardwoods are classified as timberland; the remaining 790 thousand acres are hardwoods associated with grazing management.

Of the 19 species of Native California Oaks, 13 are found on BLM-managed lands.

Hardwoods on BLM forest lands are not part of any Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) (No harvest of oaks planned). In fact each of our three Sustained Yield Unit Timber Management Environmental Assessments has specific mitigation measures protecting the hardwood resources.

In 1986, BLM reexamined its hardwood management policy at the same time the California Department of Forestry was looking into the cutting of hardwoods in Northern California. A hardwood management policy was adopted for the Redding Resource Area, ensuring retention of the hardwood ecosystem on BLM lands, and was incorporated into the current Resource Management Plan. BLM does not offer for sale live hardwoods except on a case-by-case basis for such actions as road right-of-ways.

BLM in California has actively been pursuing partnerships to ensure sustainable ecosystems in support of the California Biodiversity Council. The Agreement on Biological Diversity began in 1991 and established the framework by which public agencies and locally elected leaders could establish collaborative conservation planning and management programs on a bioregional and local scale.

Key oak woodland areas have been protected and expanded under this process. Some examples are:

**North Coast Area** - King Range National Conservation Area: 60,000 acres

Key Actions: Maintenance and restoration of old-growth forest habitat and watershed improvements to improve and protect water quality for salmon and steelhead

Principal Partners: Mattole River Restoration Council

**North Central Valley Area** - Cache Creek Management Area: 50,000 acres

Key Actions: Protection of key wildlife and cultural value along Cache Creek (Tule elk and Bald Eagles). Protection of riparian habitats

Principal Partners: California Department of Fish and Game, Yolo County Sacramento River Management Area: 13,600 acres

Key Actions: Protection of 26 miles of Sacramento River frontage Protection of key wildlife and salmon and steelhead habitat

Principal Partners: California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Conservation Board

¹This was an invited, plenary paper for the Symposium on Oak Woodlands: Ecology, Management, and Urban Interface Issues, 19-22 March 1996, San Luis Obispo, Calif. In the absence of the author, it was presented by Carl D. Rountree, Deputy State Director for the Division of Natural Resources, California State Office of the Bureau of Land Management. None of the plenary papers was subjected to technical peer review.

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**Central Sierra Area** - Inimin Forest - Yuba River Watershed: 1600 acres
Key Actions: Community-based forest management plan
Maintenance of old-growth forest for local community economic stability (farmers guild hued beam and furniture operation)
Key Partners: Yuba Watershed Institute
Timber Farmers Guild of North America
Tahoe National Forest

**Central Valley Area** - Consumes River Preserve: 1600 acres
Key Actions: Restoration of valley oaks
Maintenance and restoration of wildlife habitat
Key Partners: Ducks Unlimited
The Nature Conservancy
Wildlife Conservation Board
California Department of Fish and Game
Sacramento County Parks and Recreation
Sacramento County

**Central Coast Area** - Fort Ord: 15,000 acres
Key Actions: Habitat maintenance of 45 Special Status botanical species and 7 Listed Endangered Species.
Key Partners: Department of Defense
Monterey County Board of Supervisors
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Environmental Protection Agency
California Department of Fish and Game
State Parks and Recreation
Local governments