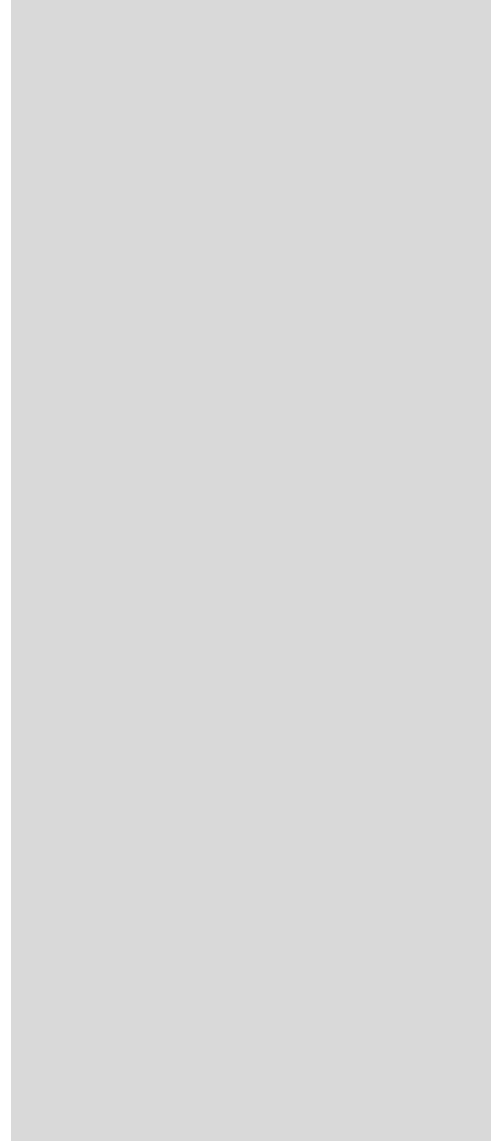


PLENARY PRESENTATIONS



Oak Woodland Management in the Bureau of Land Management¹

Ed Haste²

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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American Land Conservancy Trust for Public Lands
 California State Lands Commission
 California State University—Chico
 Department of Boating and Waterways
 El Paso Natural Gas Company

Central Sierra Area - Inimim 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