Advanced Mitigation – Part 2 Living the Dream: Insights on Implementation

AEP California State Conference

March 24, 2015









LAND VERITAS

Advanced Mitigation

Moderator:

Julie Vandermost Beeman, President VCS Environmental

Panelists:

Aaron Allen, Chief North Coast Branch, US Army Corps of Engineers

Hal Holland, Senior Conservation Planner Westervelt Ecological Services

Tracey Brownfield, Principal & Co-Founder Land Veritas



Mitigation Banks in the Los Angeles District

Aaron O. Allen, Ph.D. Chief, North Coast Branch March 24, 2015





Disclaimer

The following presentation does not represent formal guidance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Instead, the following information is based on case-by-case mitigation decisions that the Los Angeles District has made subsequent to the 2008 Mitigation Rule.



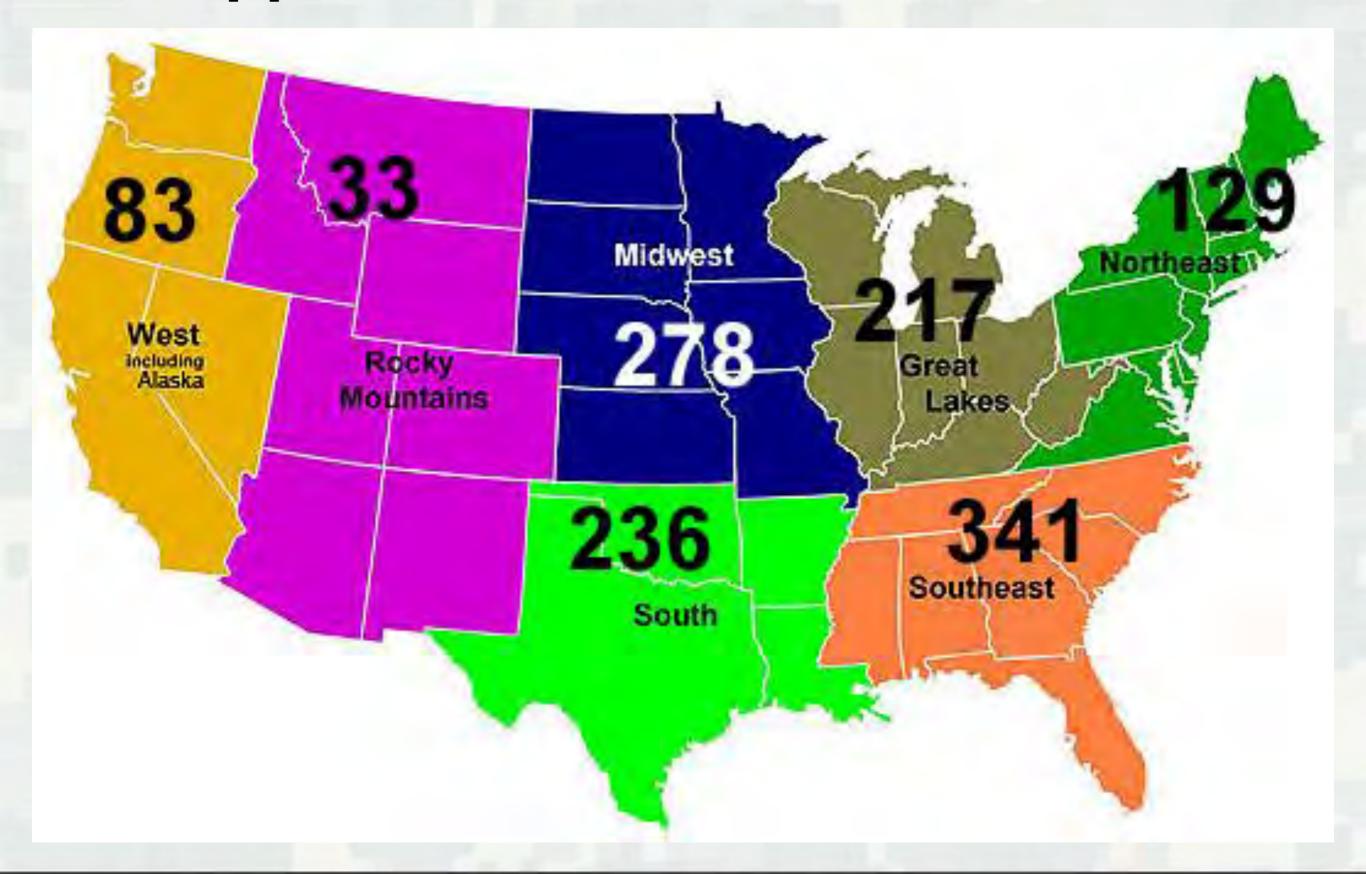
2014 Status (404 and ESA)

1,965 Bank sites loaded including:

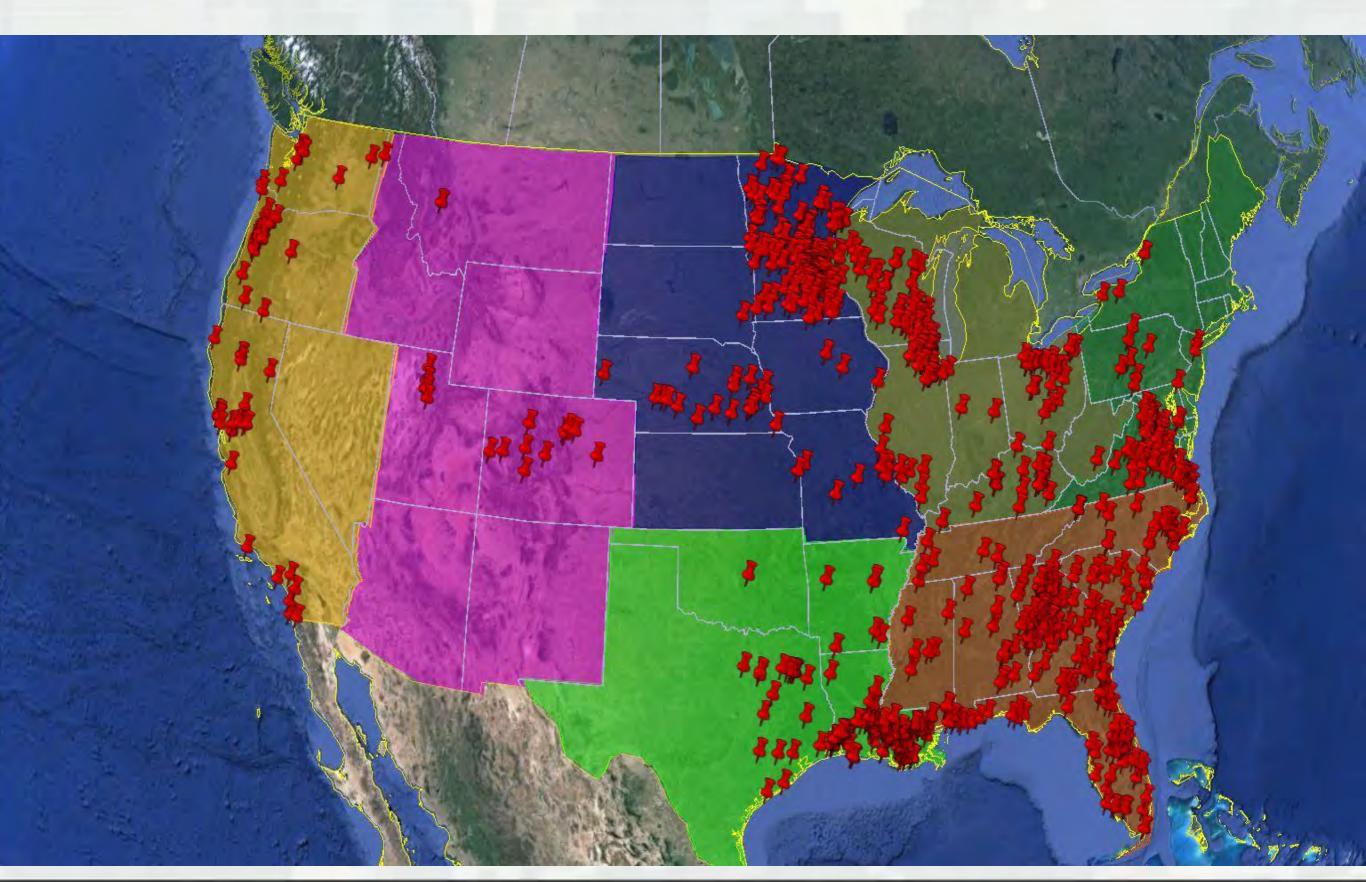
- 64% approved
- 14% pending
- 13% sold out
- 2% suspended
- 7% terminated / withdrawn



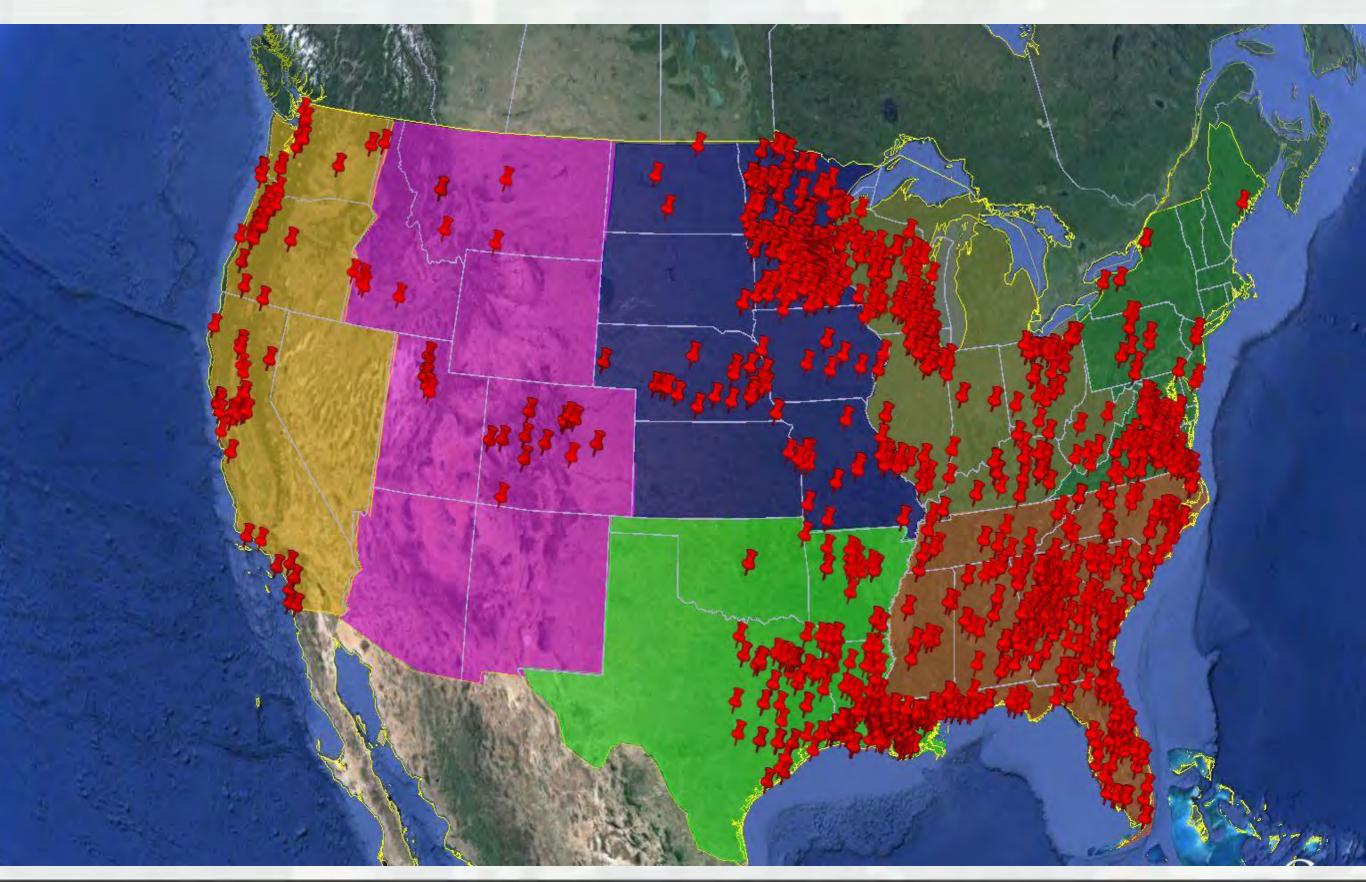
All Approved 404 Bank Sites in RIBITS



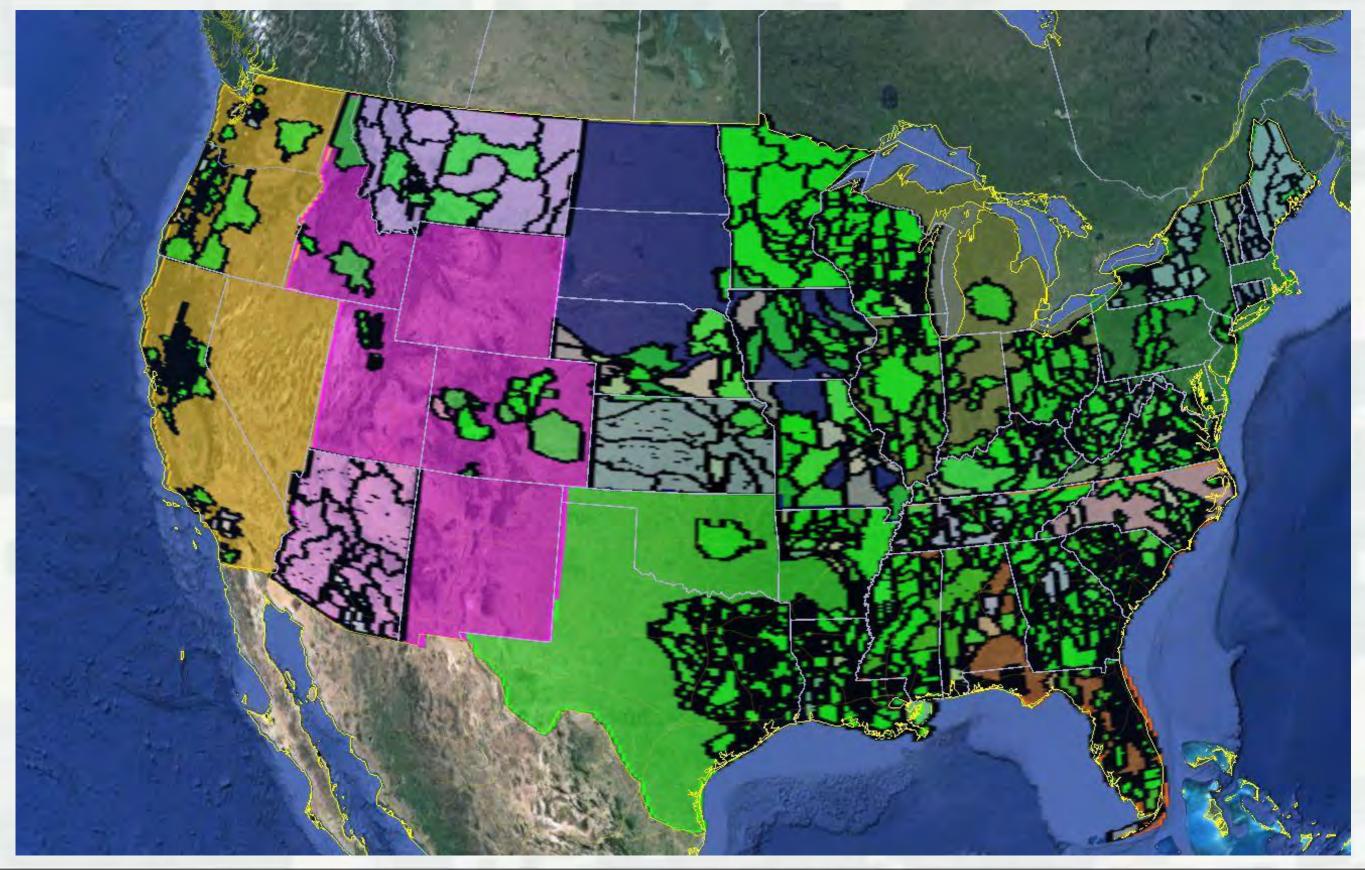
404 Bank Sites 2008



404 Bank Sites End of 2013



Bank and ILF Service areas (end of 2013)



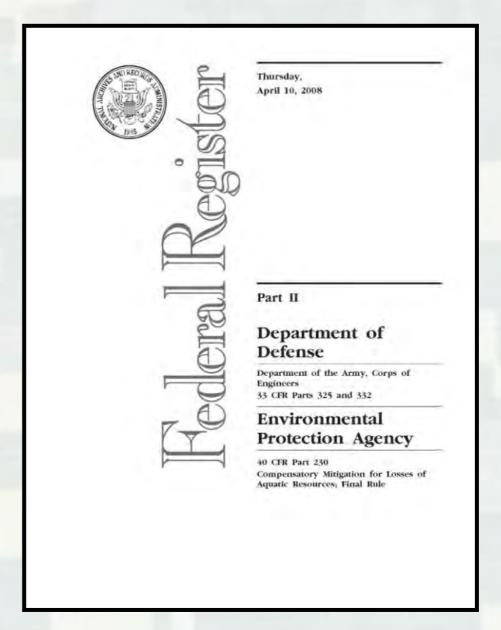
Corps General Mitigation Policy

- Compensatory mitigation is for significant resource losses
 - Specifically identifiable
 - Reasonably likely to occur
 - Of importance to the human or aquatic environment
- All mitigation will be:
 - Directly related to the proposed impacts
 - Appropriate to the scope and degree of those impacts
 - Reasonably enforceable



2008 Corps-EPA Mitigation Rule

- Establishes requirements for mitigation for impacts to aquatic resources
- "Where" and "how" mitigation is conducted
- Governs all forms of mitigation
- Equivalent standards for all forms
- Preference for 3rd party mitigation





General Considerations

- Objectives
 - Offset impacts
 - Practicable
 - Environmentally preferable
- Commensurate with impacts





General Mitigation Requirements

- Mitigation type
 - In-kind preferred
 - On-site/off-site or both
 - Difficult to replace resources (e.g. bogs, fens, streams)
- Timing
- Amount of compensation
 - 1:1 minimum
- Temporal Losses





Type & Location of Mitigation

Usually within same watershed as impact AND where most likely to replace lost functions.

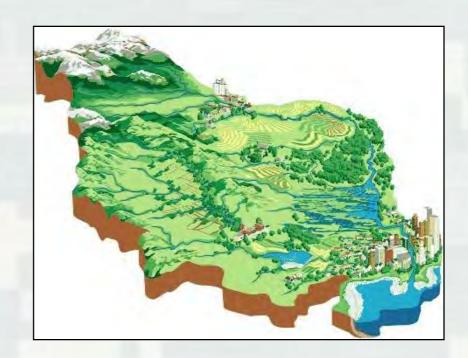
- Consider:
 - Habitat diversity
 - Connectivity
 - Land use trends
 - Compatibility with adjacent uses
- Mitigation may be sited on public or private lands





Watershed Approach to Mitigation Selection

- Strategic selection of projects
- Existing watershed plans
- Without suitable plan, use available information on condition and needs
- Consider landscape position and sustainability
- Provide suite of functions
- Level of information and analysis commensurate with impacts





3rd Party Mitigation

- One or more sites where resources are restored, established, enhanced, and/or preserved to offset permitted impacts
- Permittees acquire mitigation credits
- Sponsor assumes responsibility for the mitigation
- Operation and use are governed by an instrument



Benefits of Third Party Mitigation

- Reduced risk & uncertainty
- More efficient compliance
- Often greater planning and scientific effort
- May provide mitigation, when permittee-responsible mitigation is not practicable
- May streamline permitting, by reducing effort evaluating mitigation proposal



Drawbacks of 3rd Party Mitigation

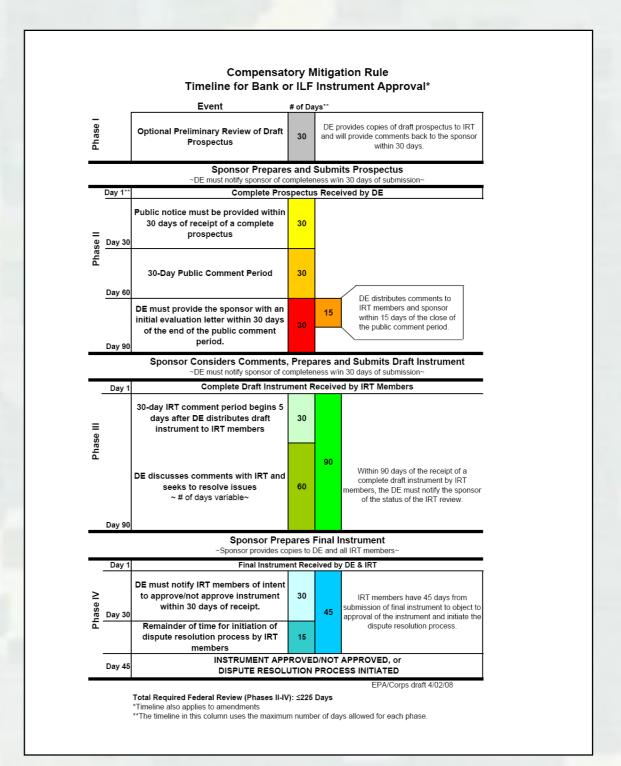
- Failure may result in substantial loss of aquatic resource function
- Migration of functions and services
 - Extensive agency effort in instrument development and oversight





3rd Party Instrument Development

- Draft prospectus
- Prospectus
- Draft instrument
- Final instrument





Interagency Review Team

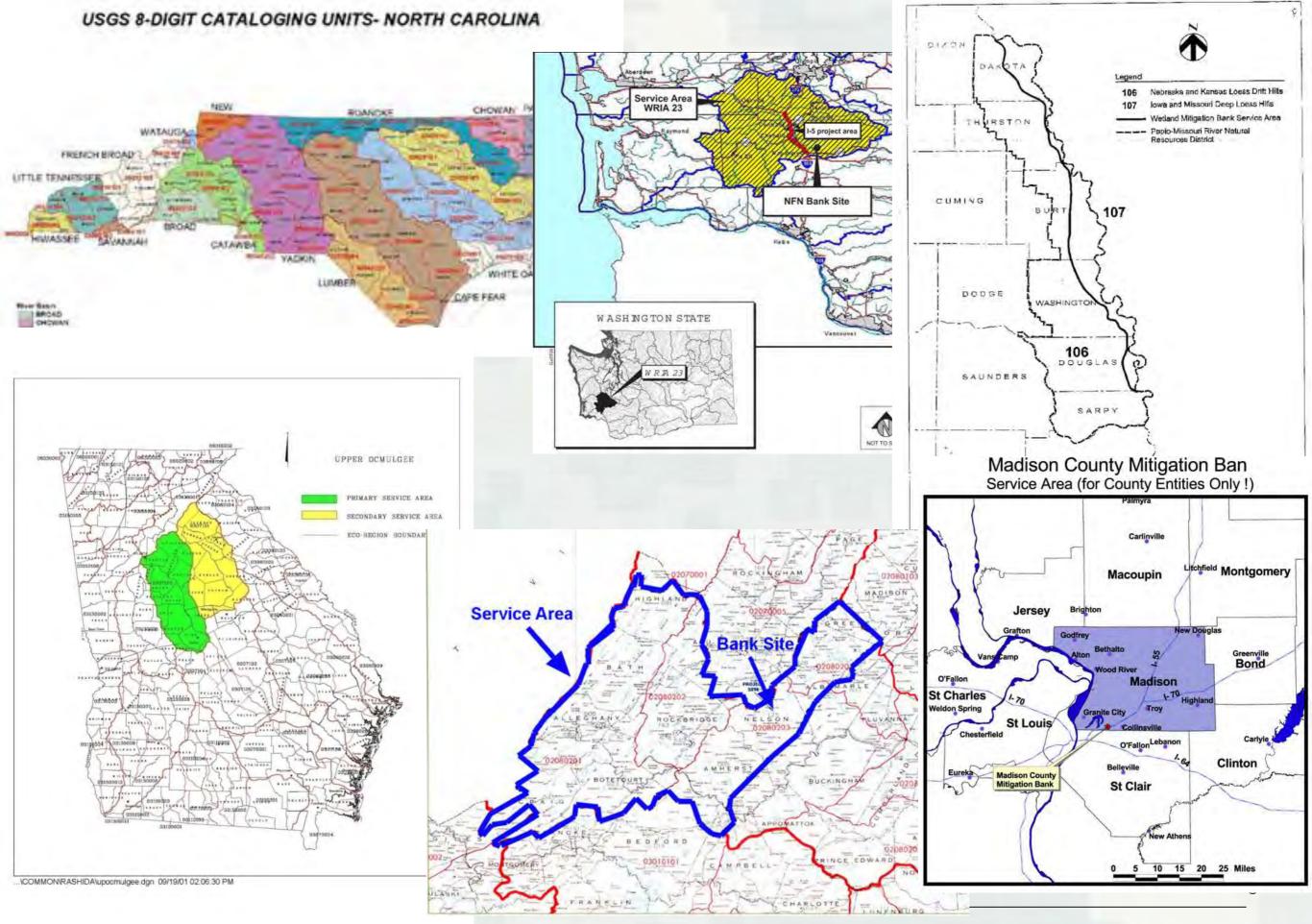
- Reviews establishment and operation of 3rd party mitigation
- Federal, Tribal, State, and local resource agencies
- Coordination required
- Consensus is desired
- Corps makes final decision



Service Areas

- Geographic area where bank or ILF can provide mitigation
 - May be based on watershed, ecoregion, physiographic province, or other suitable geographic area
 - One or more 8-digit HUCs may form service area
 - May consider economic viability
 - Basis for determining service area must be documented in the instrument





Site Protection

"...mitigation project must be provided long-term protection through real estate instruments or other available mechanisms, as appropriate."





Financial Assurances

"...(Corps) shall require <u>sufficient</u> financial assurances to ensure a <u>high level of confidence</u> that the mitigation <u>project</u> will be <u>successfully completed</u>, in accordance with applicable performance standards."



Why Financial Assurances?

- Funds to correct or replace unsuccessful mitigation if responsible party is unable/unwilling to do so
- Allow initial credit release for mitigation banks
- Funds for long-term management





Management of Mitigation Projects

- Maintenance Plan
- Long-term management plan identifies:
 - Responsible party(ies)
 - Management requirements
 - Costs
 - Funding





Preference Hierarchy for Mitigation

- 1. Mitigation bank credits
- 2. In-lieu fee program credits
- 3. Permittee-responsible mitigation under a watershed approach
- 4. On-site and/or in-kind permittee-responsible mitigation
- 5. Off-site and/or out-of-kind permittee-responsible mitigation



Standard Operating Procedure for **Determination of Mitigation Ratios**



12501-SPD REGULATORY PROGRAM STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINATION OF MITIGATION RATIOS



South Pacific Division

Table of Contents

- 1.0 Purpose
- 2.0 Applicability
- 3.0 References
- 4.0 Related Procedures 5.0 Definitions
- 6.0 Responsibilities
- 7.0 Procedures 8.0 Records & Measurements
- 9.0 Attachments
- 1.0 Purpose. The purpose of this document is to outline the process for determining compensatory mitigation requirements as required for processing of Department of the Army (DA) permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act.
- 2.0 Applicability. This process applies to the Regulatory Program within South Pacific Division (SPD), including its four subordinate districts, Albuquerque District (SPA), Sacramento District (SPK), Los Angeles District (SPL), and San Francisco District (SPN). Subordinate offices or organizations shall not modify this procedure to form a specific procedure. This procedure is applicable for all permit applications received after 20 April 2011.

Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources (33 C.F.R. Part 332).

Smith, R. D., D. R., A. Ammann, C. Bartoldus, M. M. Brinson. 1995. An Approach for Assessing Wetland Functions Using Hydrogeomorphic Classification, Reference Wetlands, and

Current Approved Version: August/2012. Printed copies are for "Information Only." The controlled version resides on the SPD QMS SharePoint Portal.

12501-SPD Regulatory Program - Determining Mitigation Ratios

SPD QMS

Functional Indices., Wetlands Research Program Technical Report WRP-DE-9. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, Mississippi

Cowardin, L. M., V. Carter, F. C. Golet, E. T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Jamestown, ND: Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center Home Page. http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/1998/classwet/classwet.htm (Version 04DEC98).

Collins, J.N., E.D. Stein, M. Sutula, R. Clark, A.E. Fetscher, L. Grenier, C. Grosso, and A. Wiskind. 2008. California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) for Wetlands. Version 5.0.2.

4.0 Related Procedures.

5.0 Definitions

Compensatory mitigation - The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

Condition - The relative ability of an aquatic resource to support and maintain a community of organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to reference aquatic resources in the region.

Enhancement - The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic

Establishment (creation) - The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

Functions - The physical, chemical, and biological processes that occur in ecosystems.

Impact - Adverse effect.

In-kind - A resource of a similar structural and functional type to the impacted resource.

In-lieu fee program - A program involving the restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation of aquatic resources through funds paid to a governmental or non-profit natural resources management entity to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements for DA permits.

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resides on the SPD QMS SharePoint Portal. 12501-SPD Regulatory Program - Determining Mitigation Ratios



Step name changed to "Risk and uncertainty" to better reflect issues considered.

Attachment 2 Instructions (step 7)

Risk and uncertainty Mitigation ratios should reflect the inherent uncertainty of mitigation. Factors to consider include: 1) Permitteeresponsible mitigation; 2) mitigation site did not formerly support targeted aquatic resources; 3) difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 C.F.R. 332.3(e)(3) and (f)(2)); 4) modified hydrology (e.g., high-flow bypass); 5) artificial hydrology (e.g., pumped water source); 6) structures requiring long-term maintenance (e.g., outfalls, drop structures, weirs, bank stabilization structures); 7) planned vegetation maintenance (e.g., mowing, landclearing, fuel modification activities): 8) e.g., shallow, buried structures (riprap, clay liners), and 9) absence of long-term preservation mechanism. Note: this list is not all-inclusive.

Each factor can range from +0.1 to +0.3 depending on the level of anticipated risk and the amount of maintenance or management required to sustain the compensatory mitigation project. Sum factor adjustments (+0 if no factors). Generally, uncertainty in banks and in lieu fee programs is accounted for in the credit release process.

Ratio adjustment:
PM justification:

Ratio adjustment

PM justification:

Note: if too many uncertainty factors are identified, this may indicate the overall mitigation proposal/design is not acceptable.

Ratio adjustment:

PM justification:

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12501.2-SPD Regulatory Program – Instructions for Mitigation Ratio Checklist



Attachment 2 Instructions (step 8)

Temporal loss: Constructed habitats take time to mature and replace aquatic functions; this	Ratio adjustment:	Ratio adjustment:	Ratio adjustment
typically warrants a higher mitigation ratio in cases where a delay is planned between impacts and full replacement of functions. PM should estimate the time between when the authorized impacts occur and constructed mitigation is expected to replace lost functions, including the monitoring period. In cases where all performance standards are expected to be achieved prior to impacts, no temporal loss should be assessed (for Permittee-responsible	PM_justification:	PM justification	PM justification:
only). Similarly, in cases where interim performance standards are expected to be achieved, a lower ratio adjustment may be appropriate. Unexpected delays in compensatory mitigation project implementation should be handled as compliance actions. a. For scheduled, known delays between impacts and construction of mitigation multiply delay (in months) by 0.05; b. To account for time required for full replacement of functions during	then u	chose simple approad sing complex and involved ral loss equations pre erature.	validated
monitoring period; generally, if mitigation is comprised of trees/woodlands or saltmarsh. +3; if shrubs, +2; if herbaceous, +1; c. Add adjustments from steps (a) and (b).			

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12501.2-SPD Regulatory Program – Instructions for Mitigation Ratio Checklist 6 of 9



Questions?









Leveraging Mitigation To Achieve Large-Scale Ecological Goals

March 24, 2015



Planning Objectives







Presentation Overview

- Review of Mitigation Alternatives
- Benefits of Regional Planning
- Mitigation Site Selection Process





Forms of Mitigation

Permitee Responsible

- Tailored to Project
- Pay as you go
- Responsible for:
 - Site Selection
 - Development
 - Implementation
 - Performance

In Lieu Fee

- Advanced Regional Planning
- Transfer of Liability
- Three Years for Implementation

Bank Credits

- Advanced Planning
- Transfer of Liability
- Project Implemented
- Cost Certainty

High Mitigation Ratio

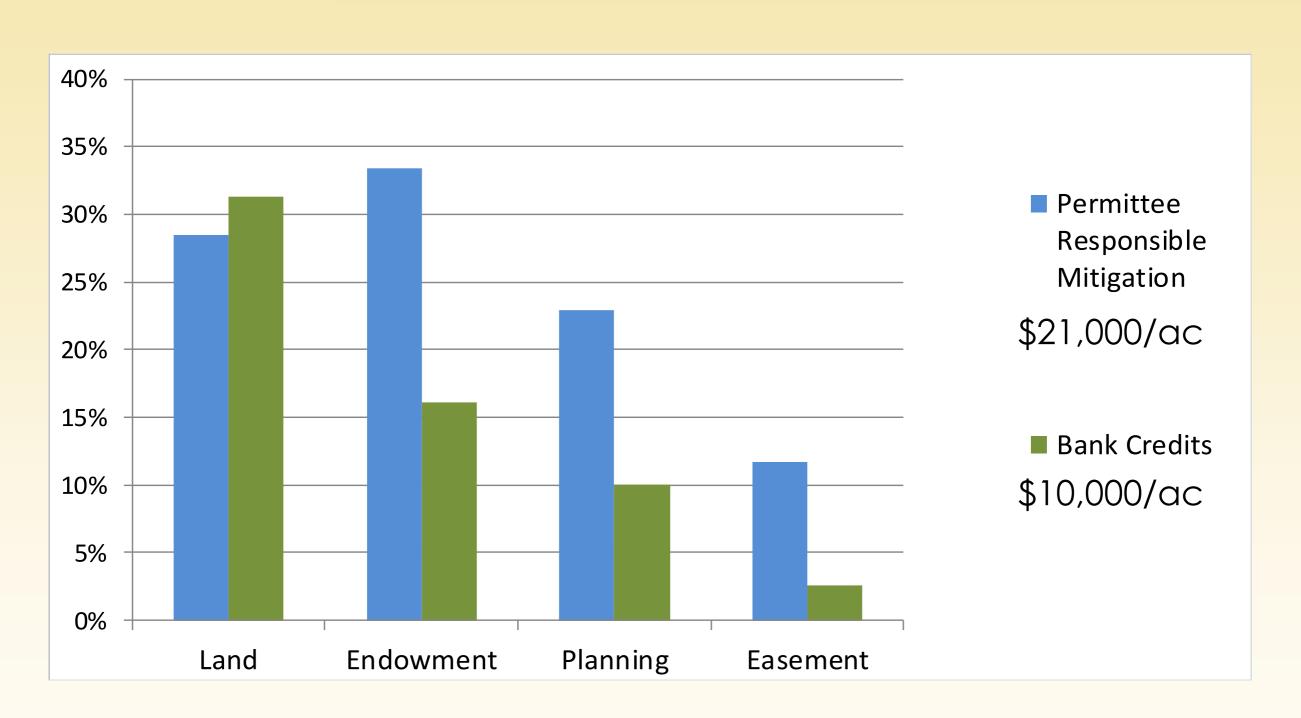
Reduced Mitigation Ratio Lowest Mitigation Ratio ³⁵

Compliance Monitoring Credits Technical Studies Permittee Responsible Long-term Management Mitigation Design & Construction **Easement Planning Endowment** Land Design & Construction **Easement Endowment**

Land











Mitigation Considerations







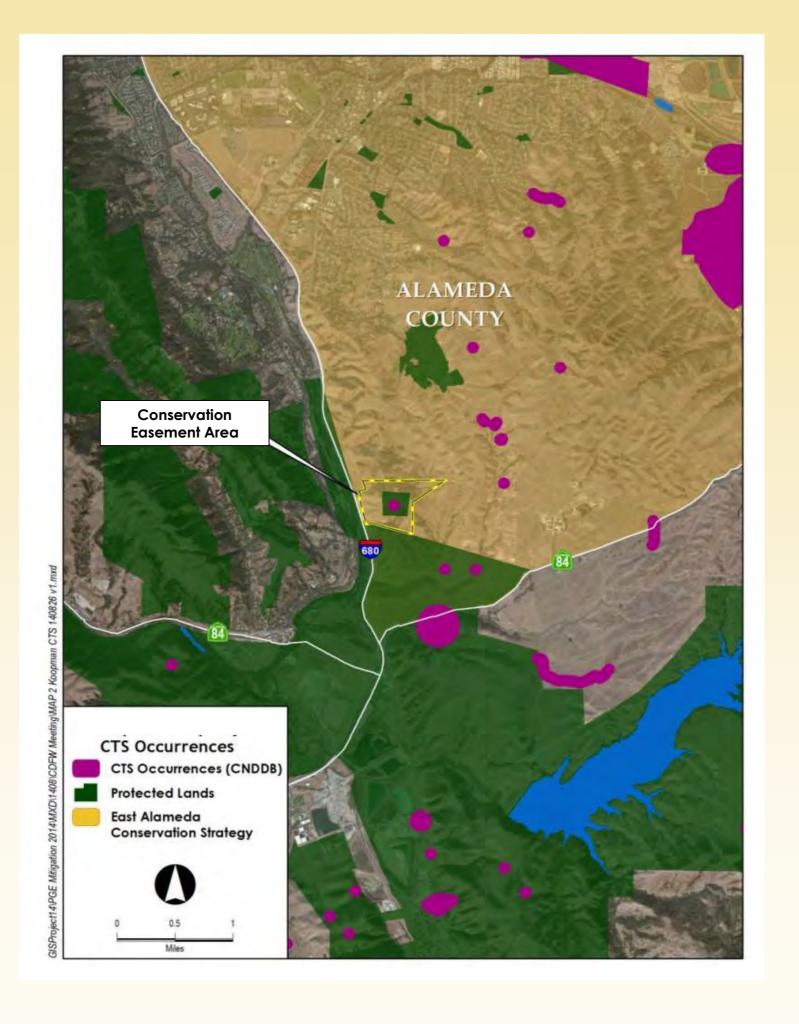


Presentation Overview

- Review of Mitigation Alternatives
- Benefits of Regional Planning
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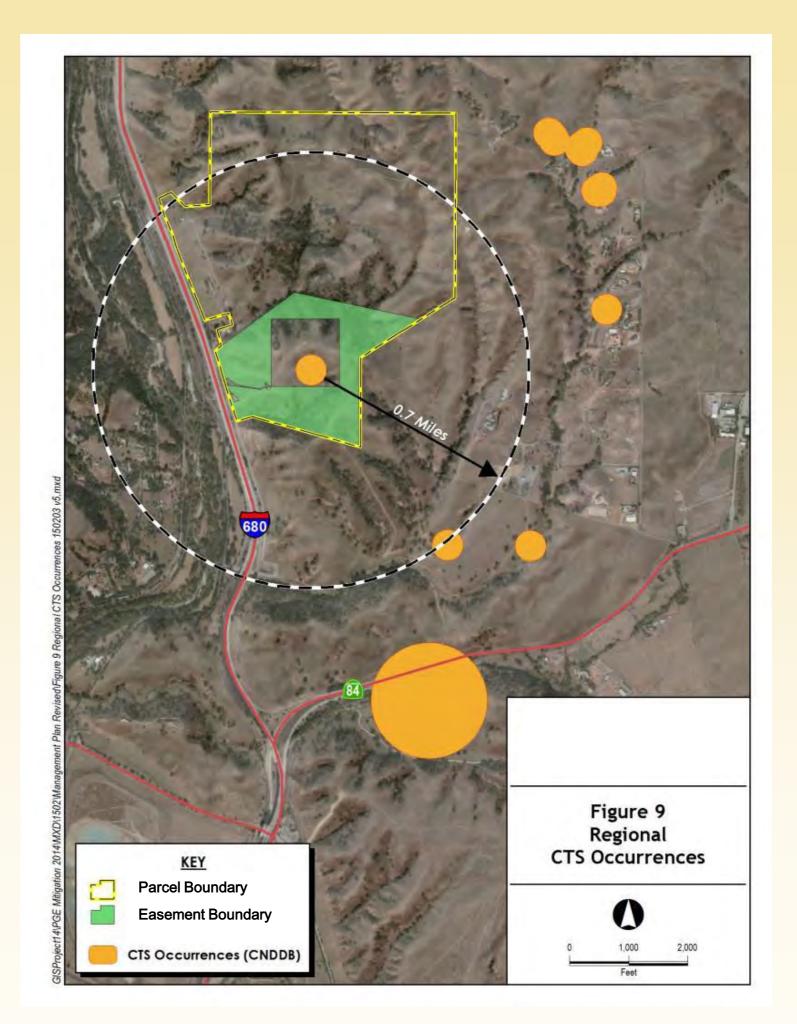


Permittee Responsible Mitigation Site Selection



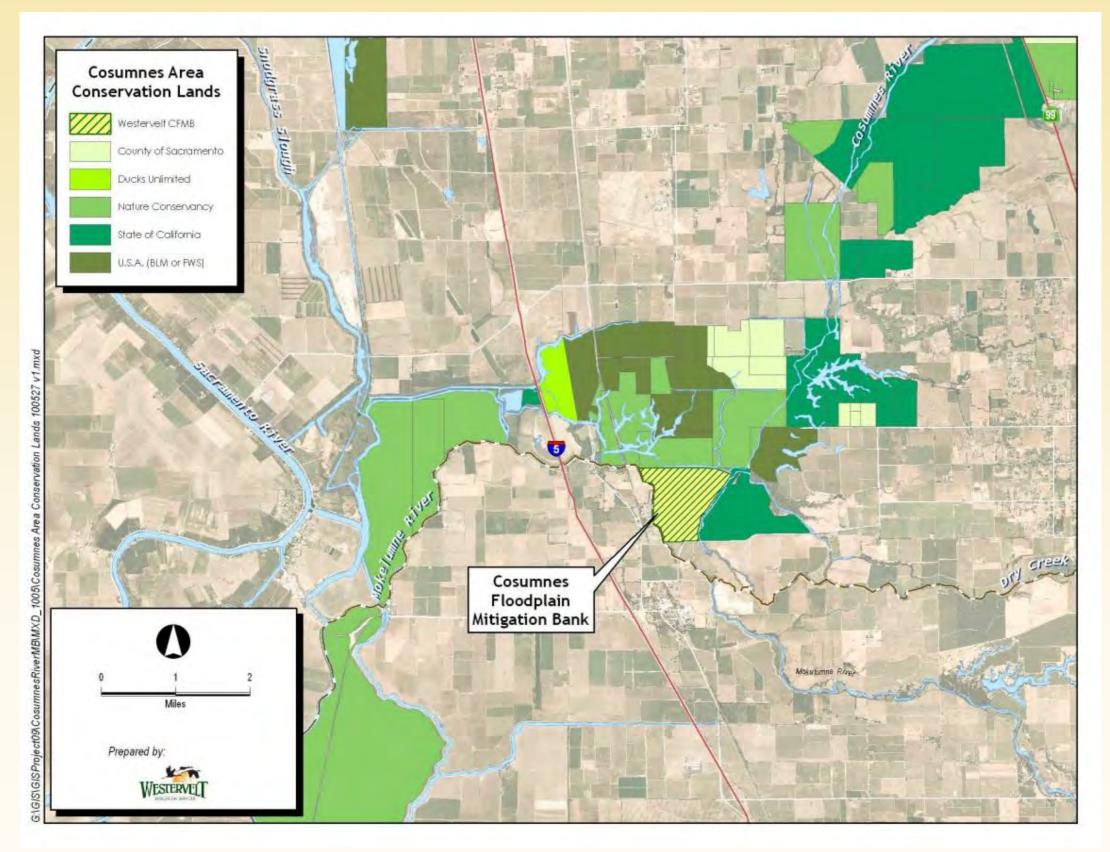


Permittee Responsible Mitigation Site Selection





Mitigation Bank Site Selection





Watershed Approach to Mitigating Impacts

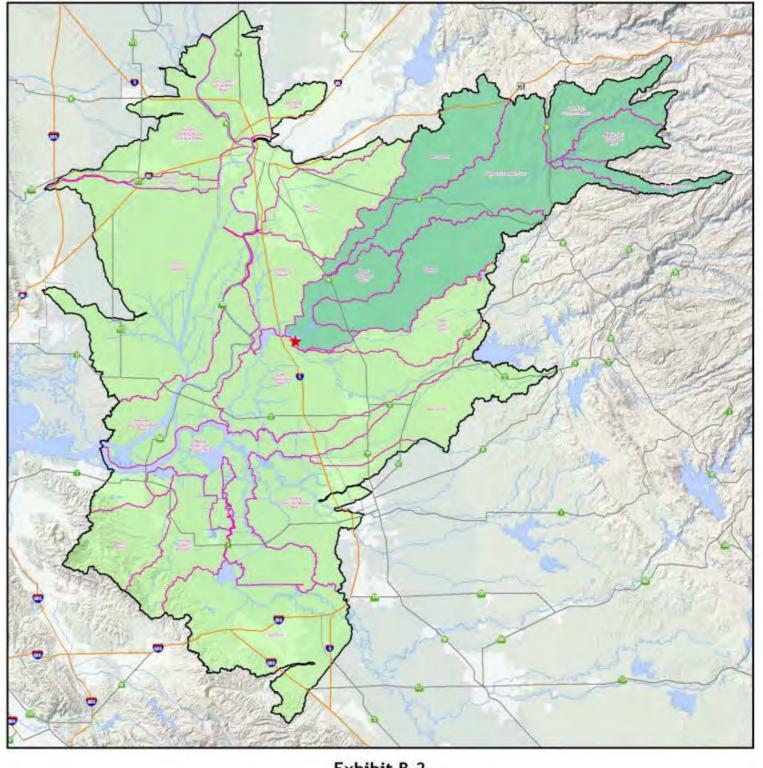
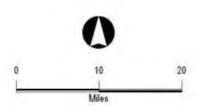


Exhibit B-2 Cosumnes Floodplain Mitigation Bank Service Area





Consumnes Floodplain Mitigation Bank



Service Area



Cosumnes River Watershed (18040013)



10-digit HUC







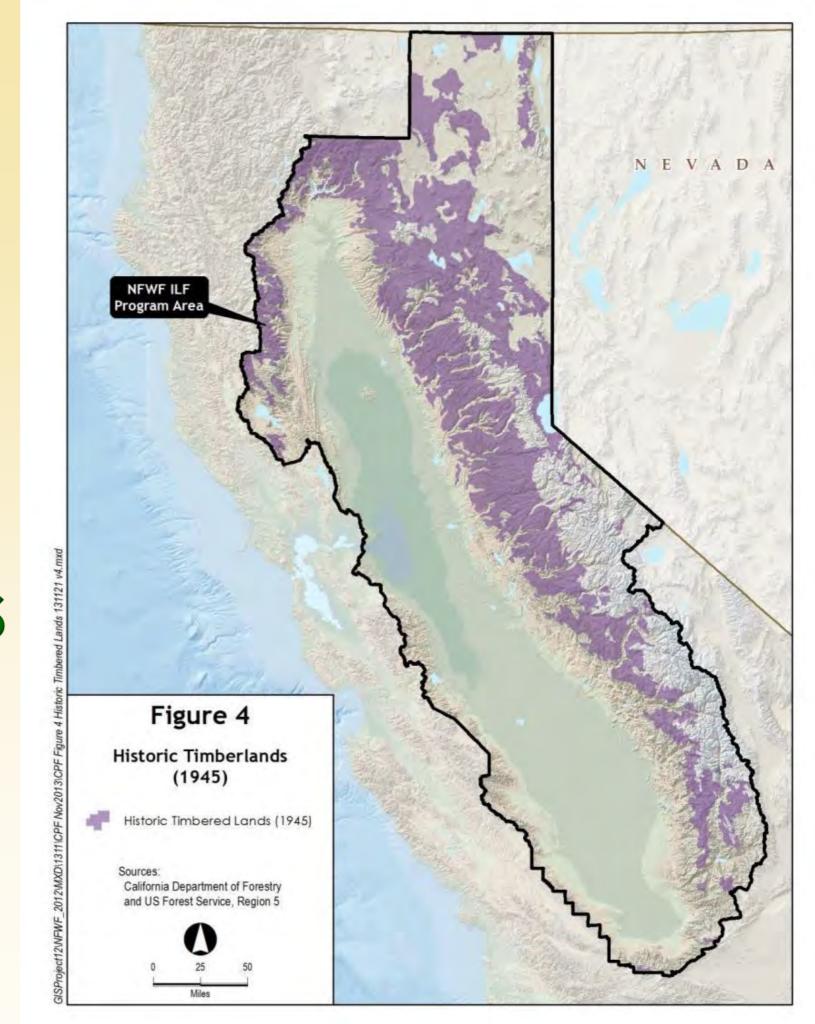


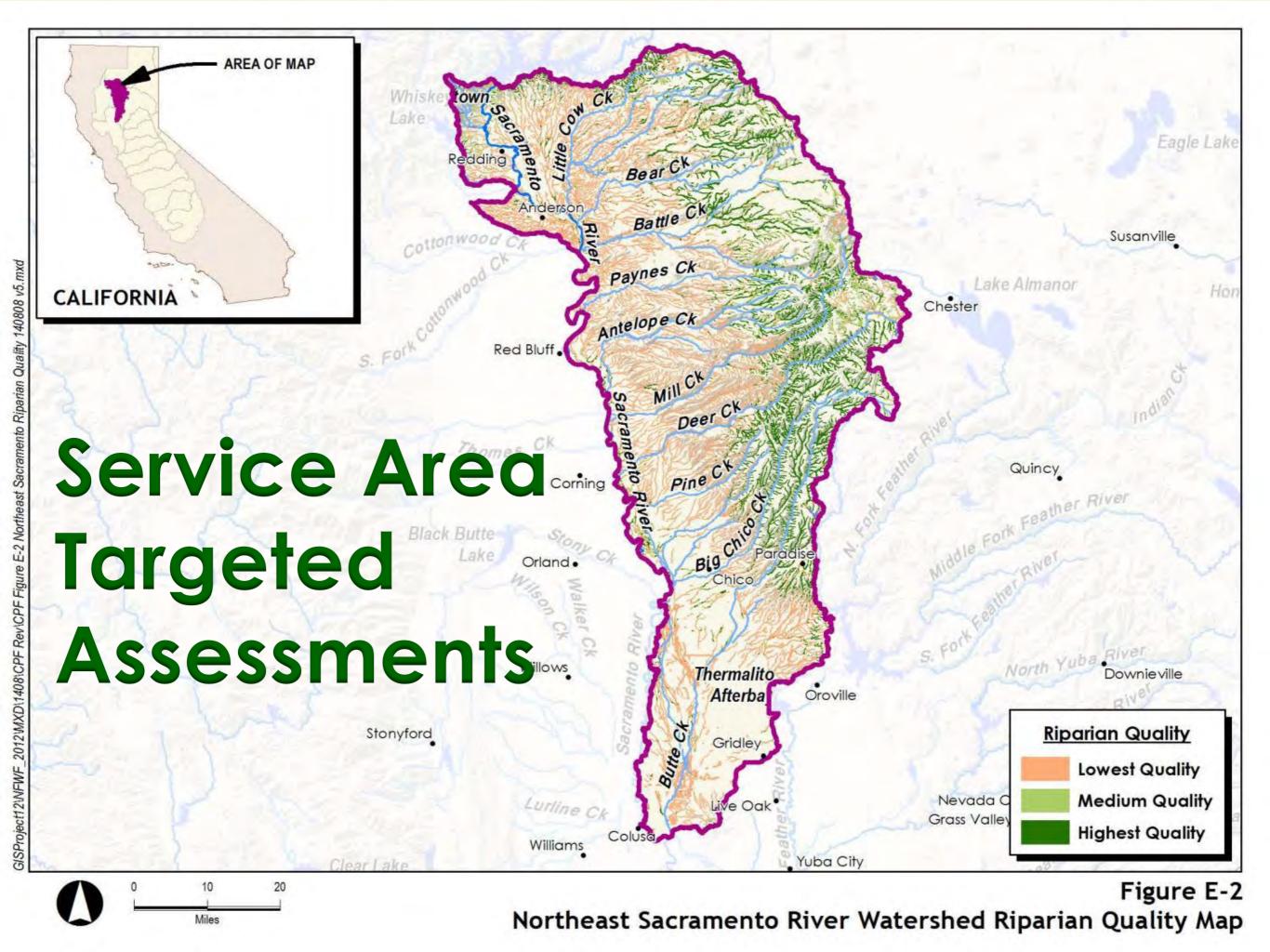
In Lieu Fee Program – Planning Area





Program Area Assessments





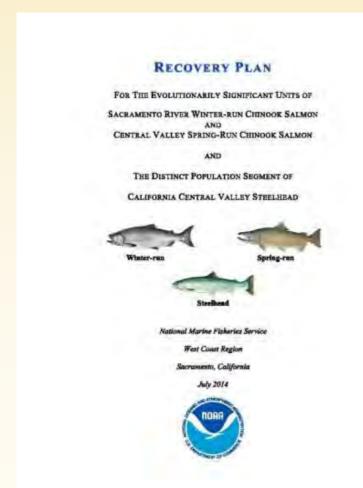


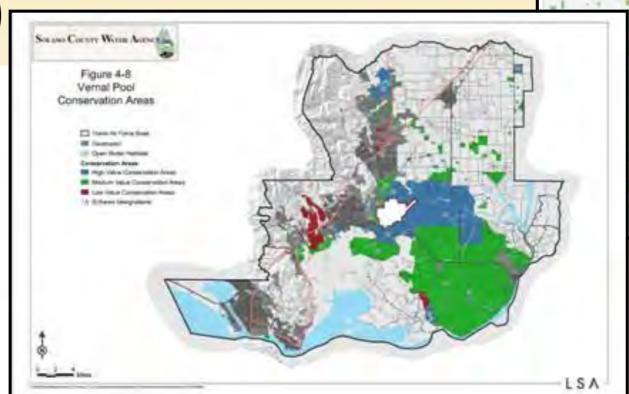
Regional Planning Tools

Twenty-First Century Open Space Vision

Land Trusts (Sac Valley Conservancy – Open Space Vision)

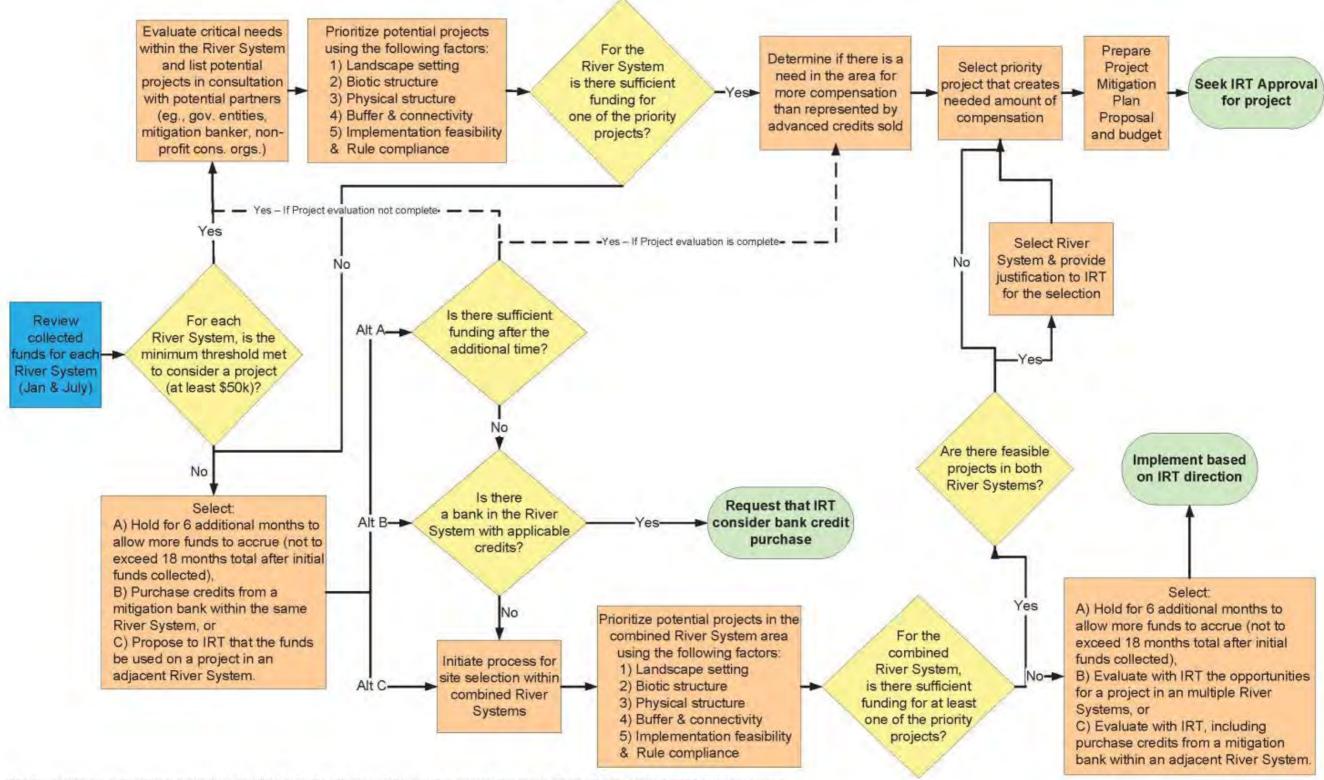
Recovery Plans (NOAA - Salmonids)





HCPs (Solano County)

Figure 6 - Process for Wetland Mitigation Development



^{*}This figure depicts in a generalized, and at times simplified, form, the mitigation project selection process described in Section 5 of the SAC CA ILF Program Prospectus.

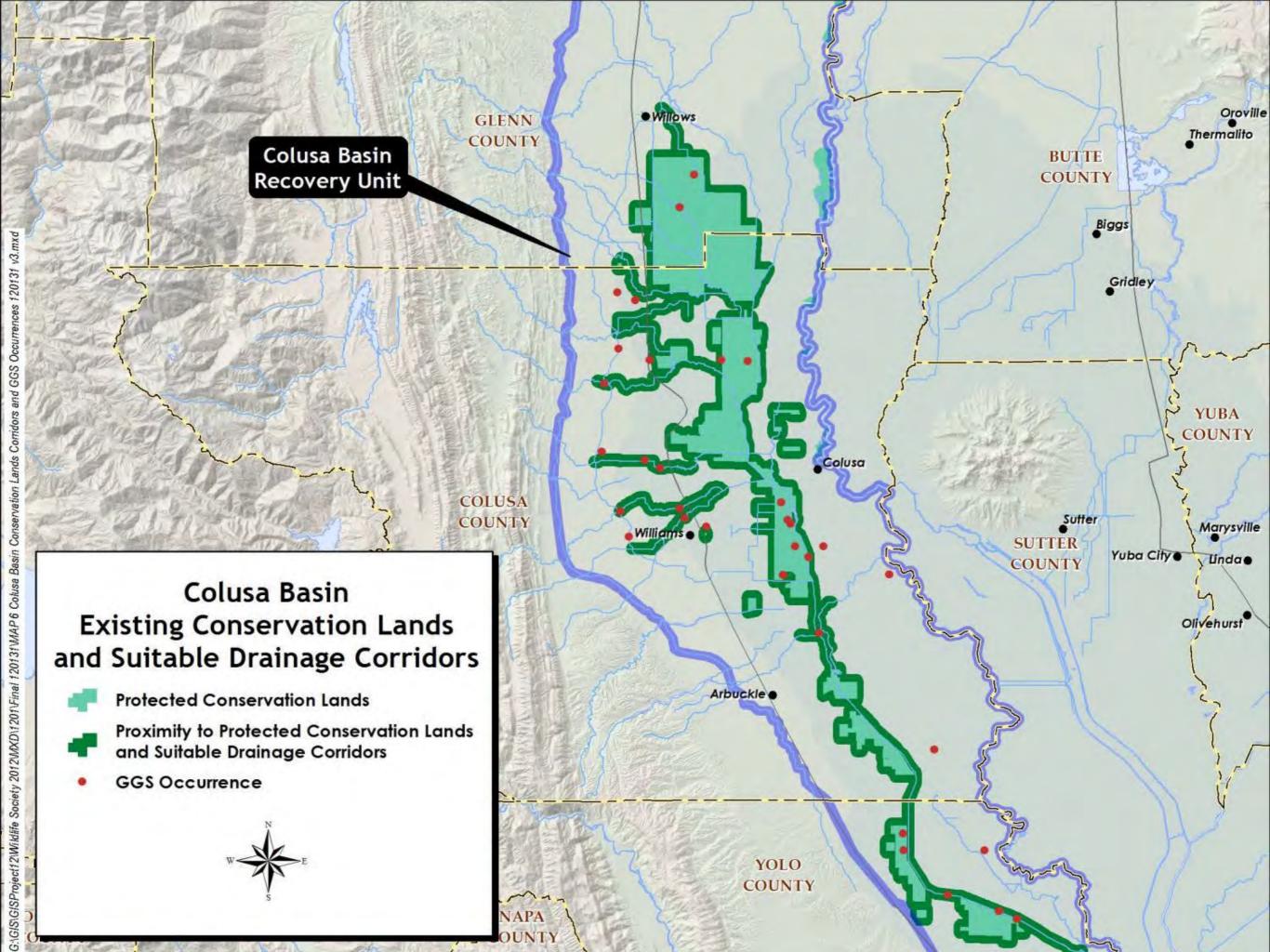


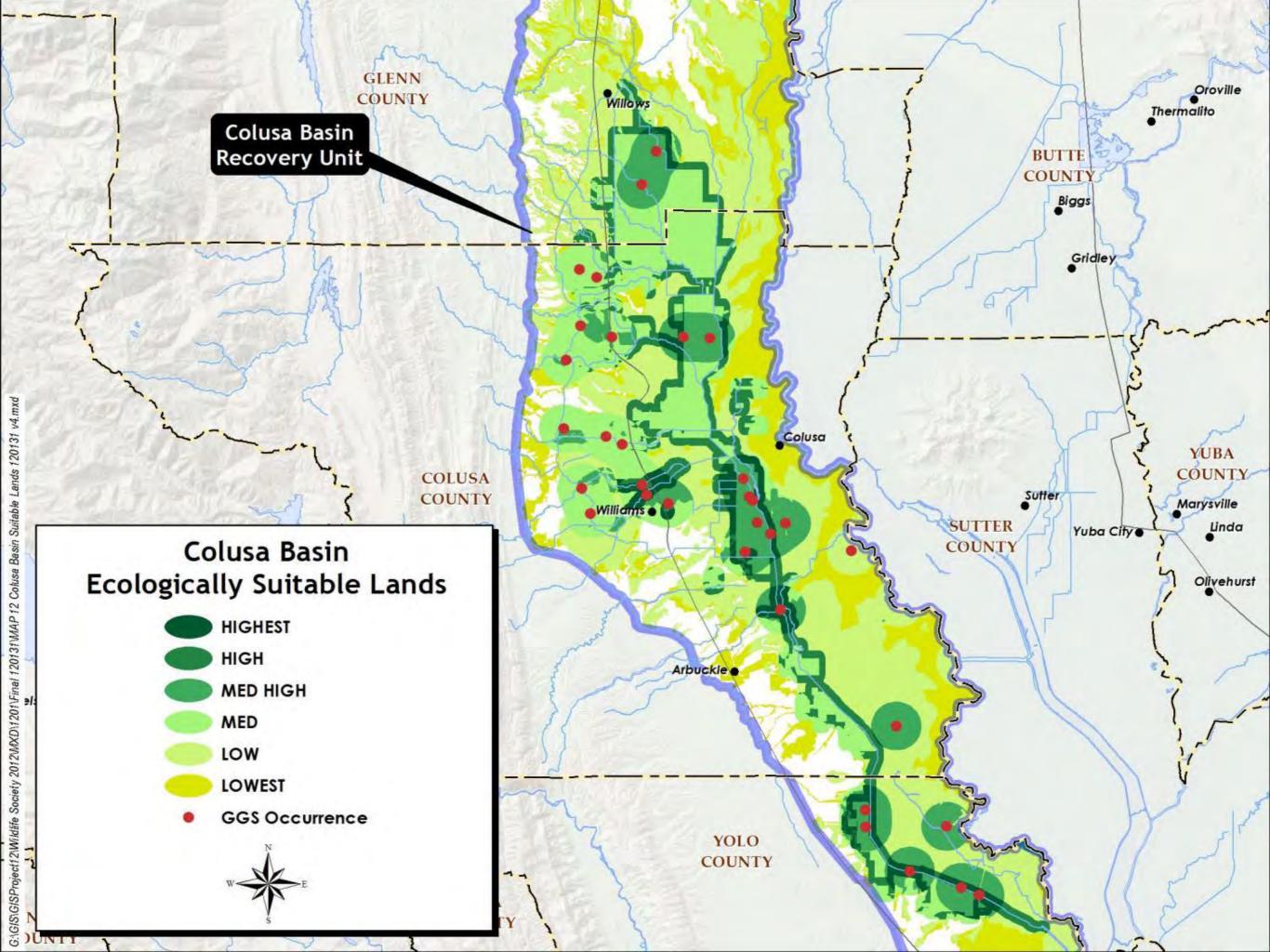


Presentation Overview

- Review of Mitigation Alternatives
- Benefits of Regional Planning
- Mitigation Site Selection Process























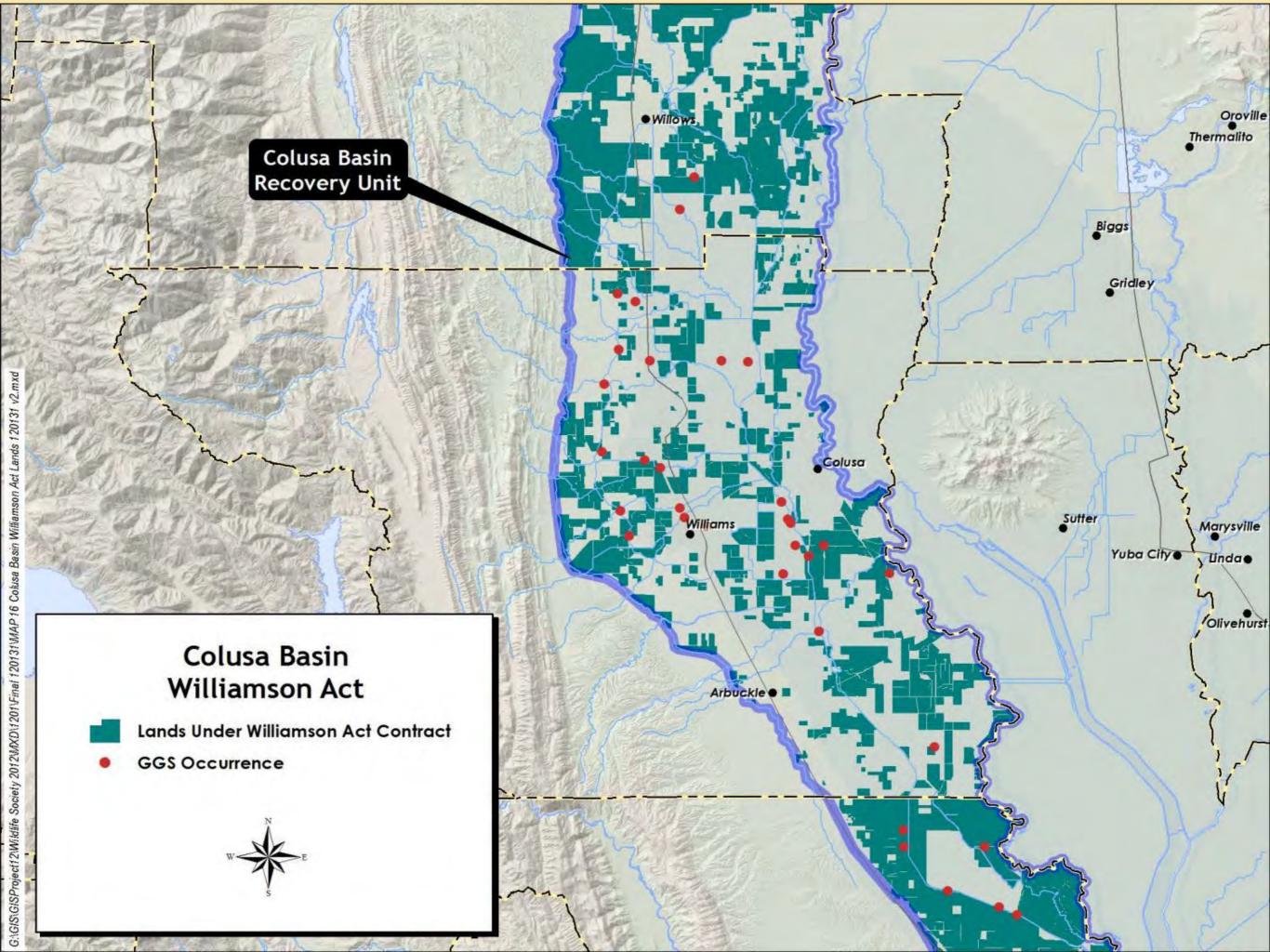
Ecology

Real Estate Rights/ Title

Sustainable Restoration

Land Use

Regulation







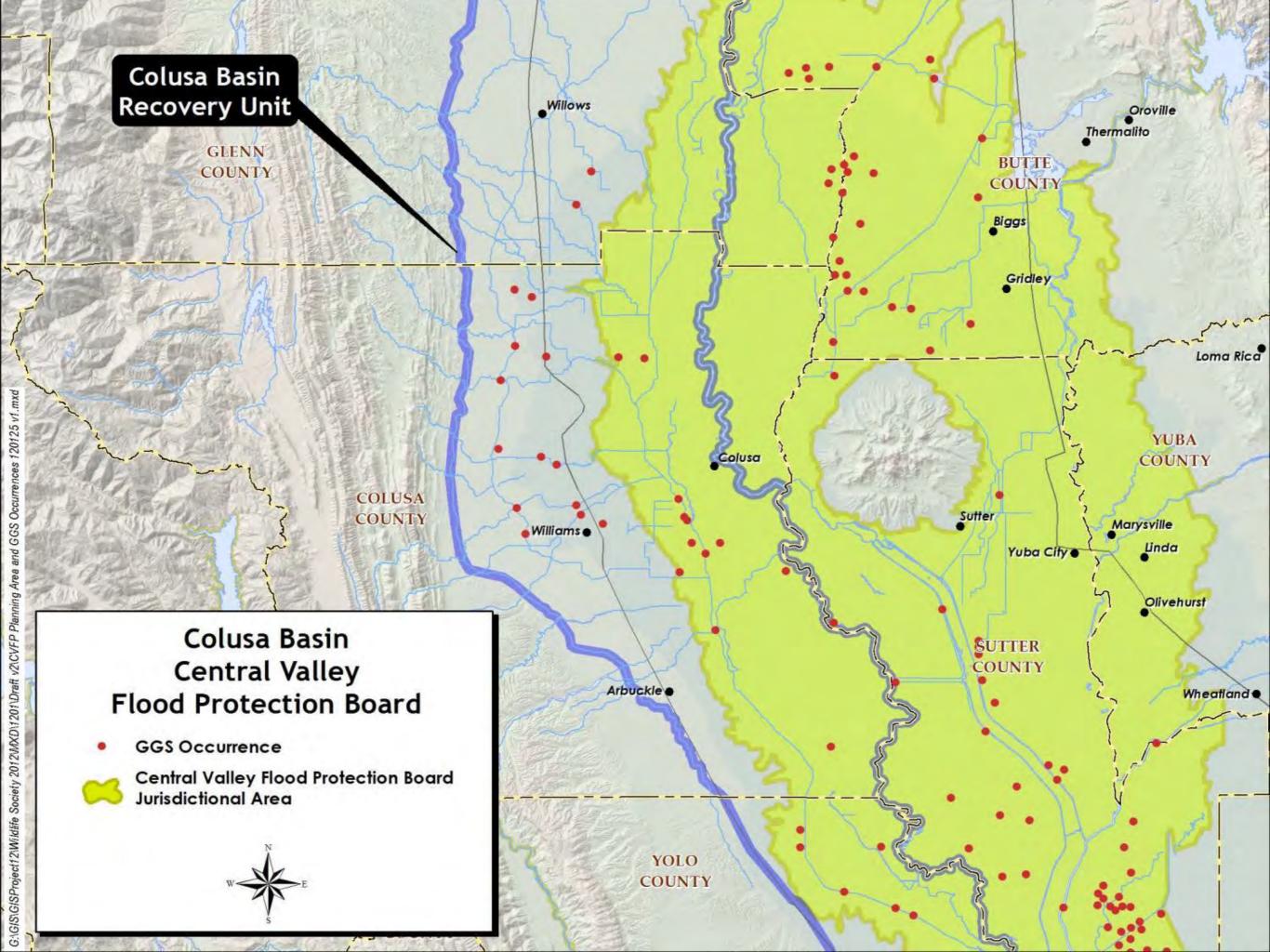
Ecology

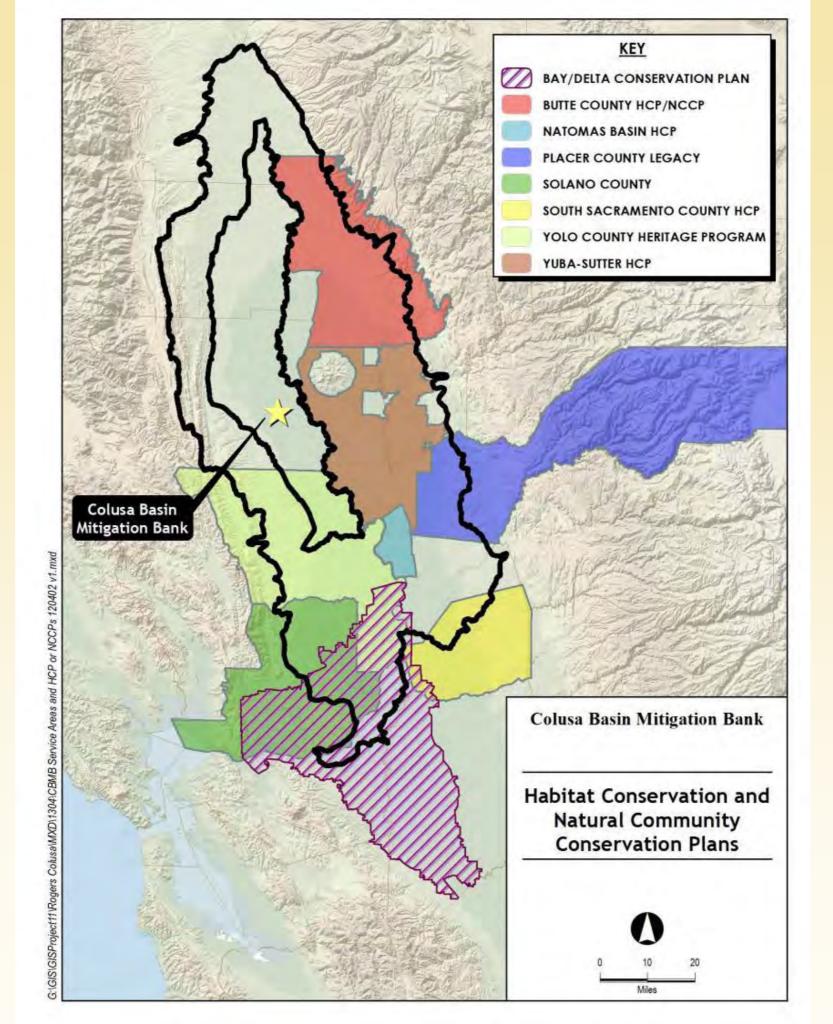
Real Estate Rights/ Title

Sustainable Restoration

Land Use

Regulation









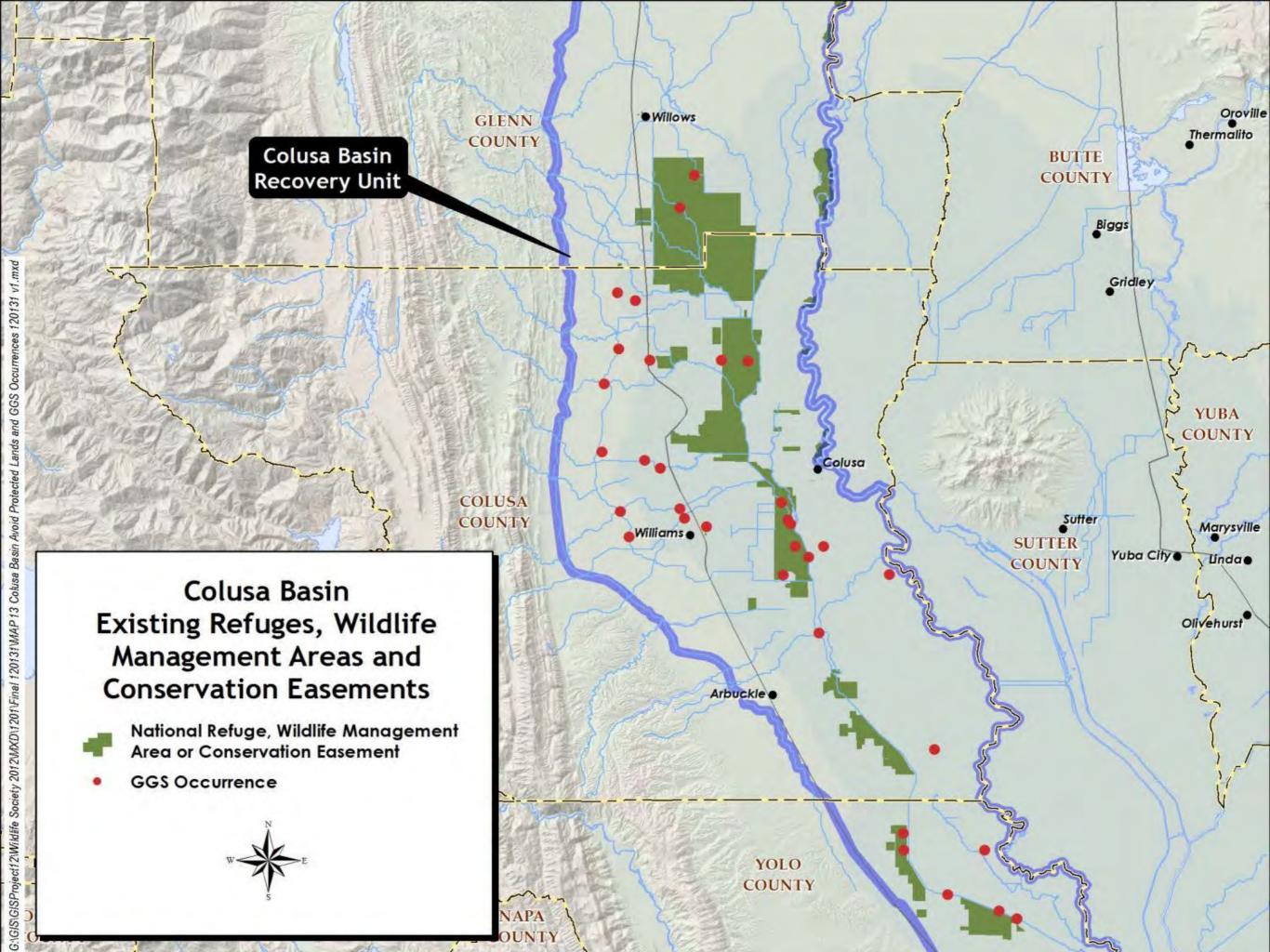
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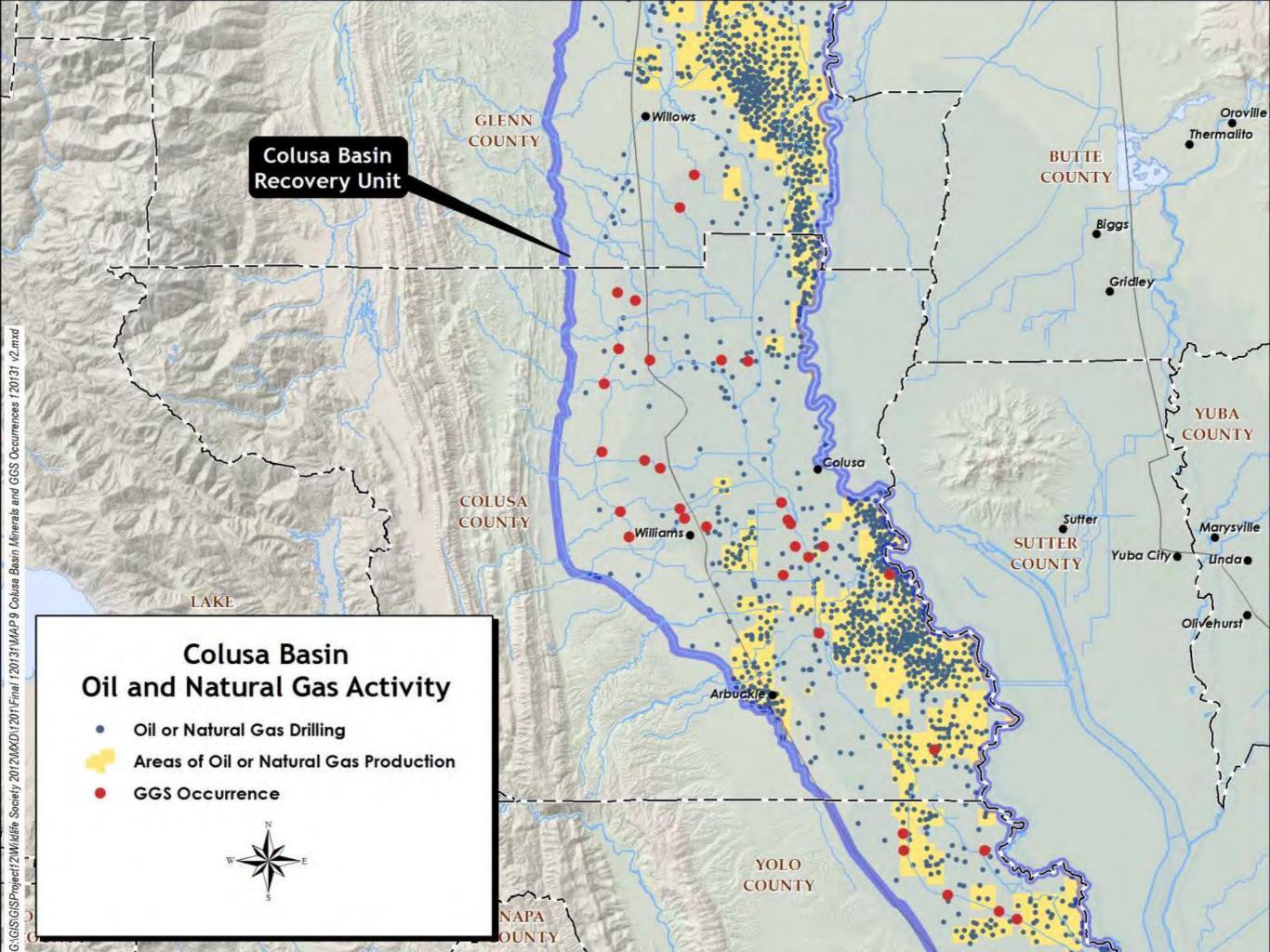
Ecology

Real
Estate
Rights/
Title

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Land Use

Regulation

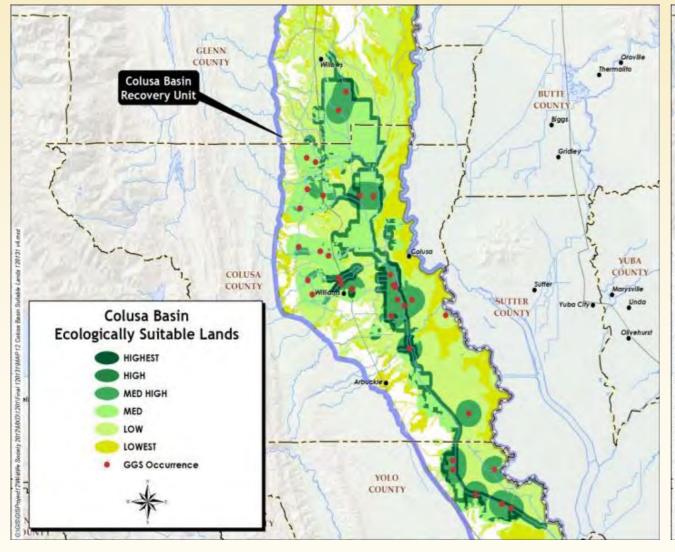


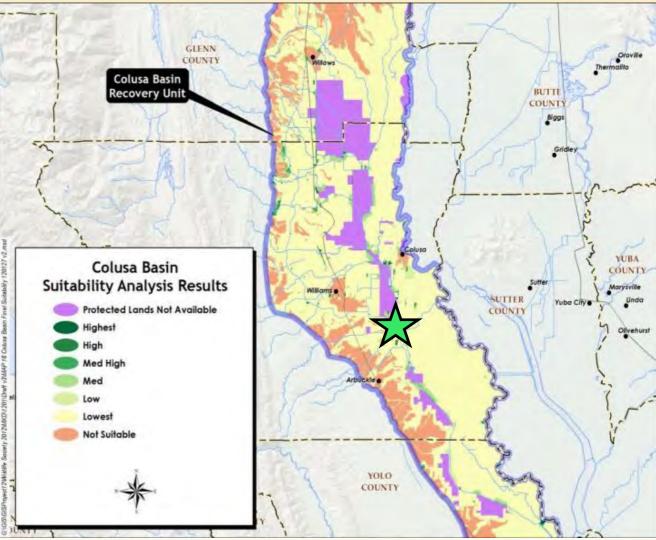




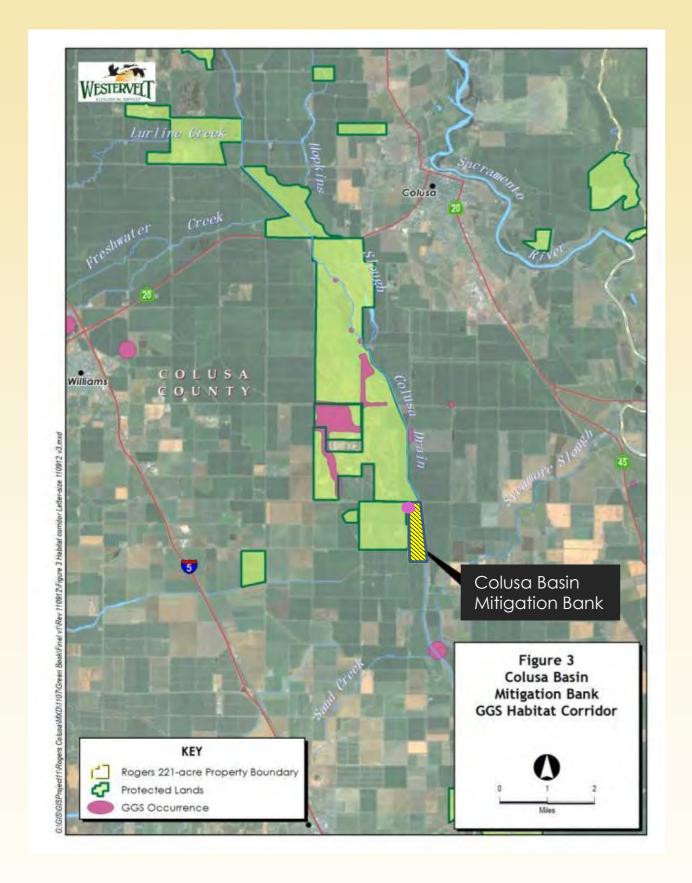
Ecological Suitability

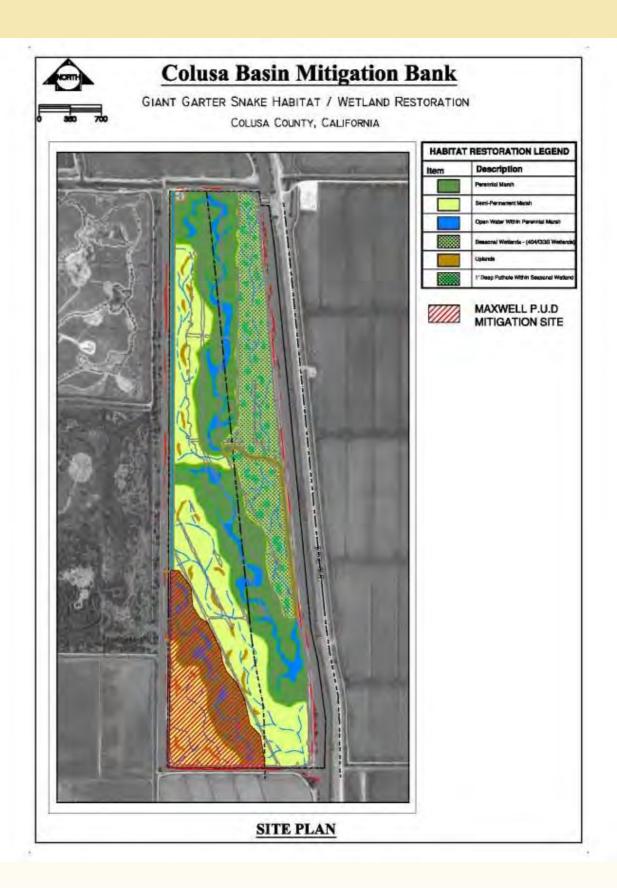
Overall Suitability





Expanding Critical GGS Habitat



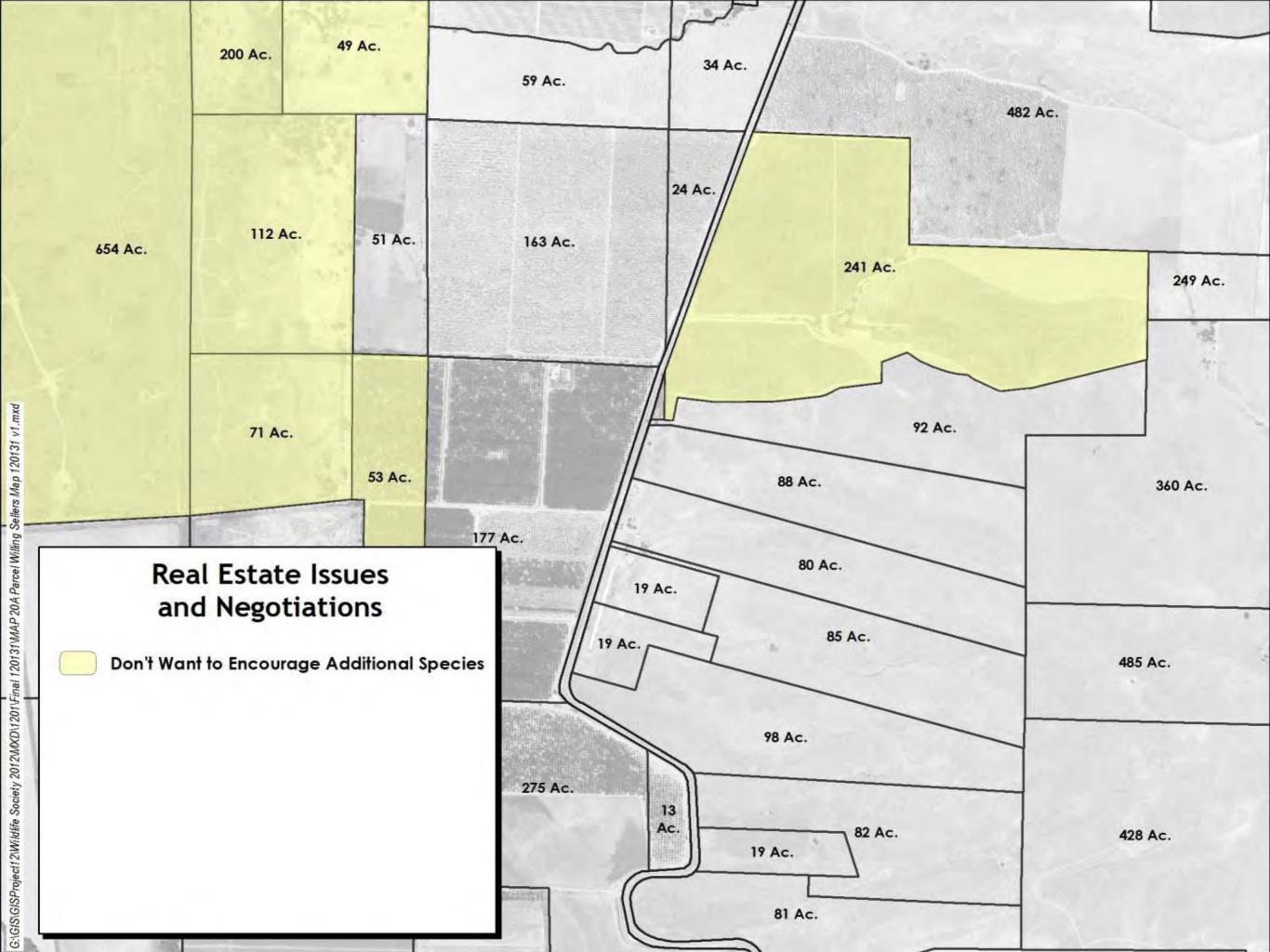


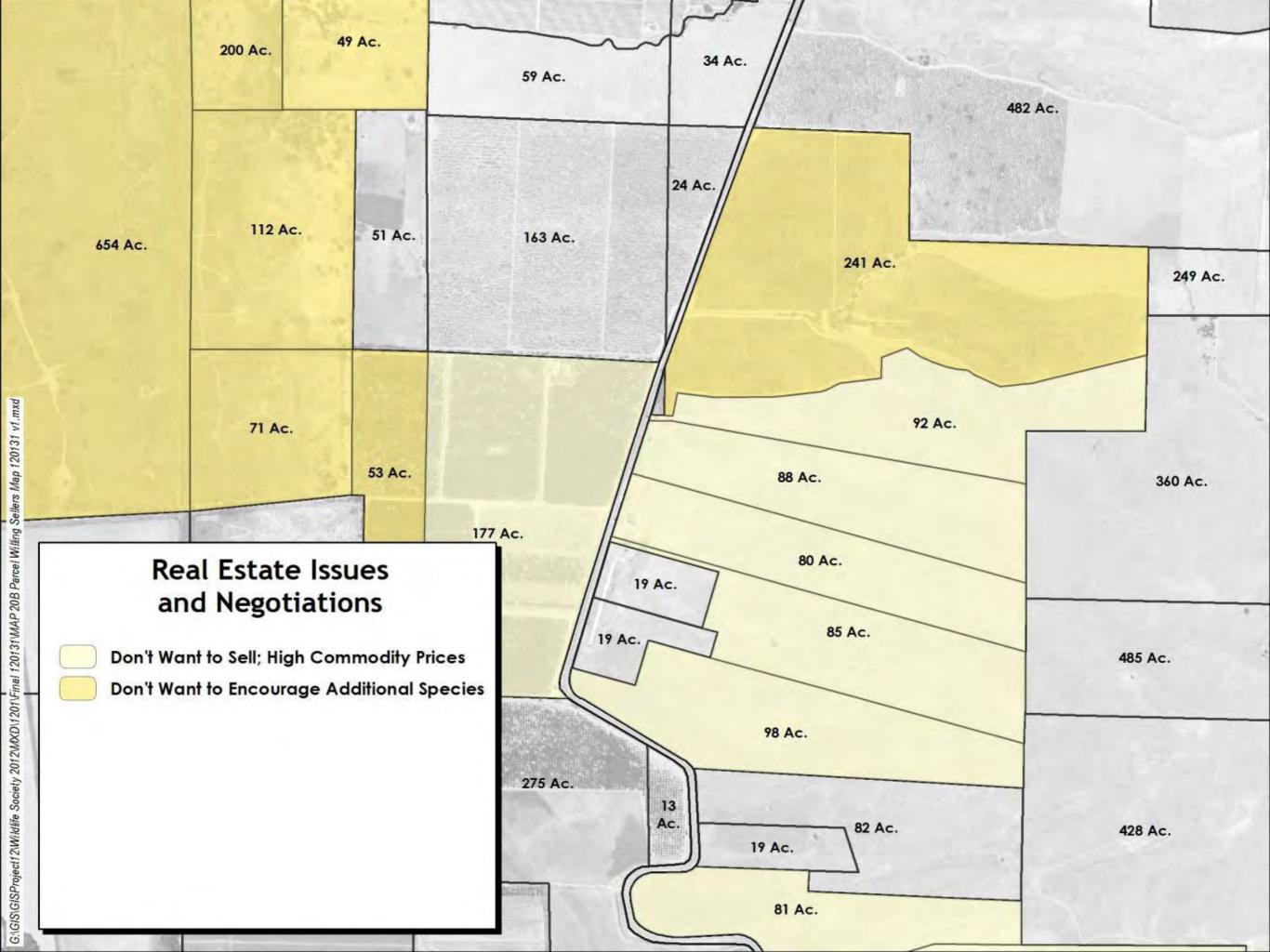


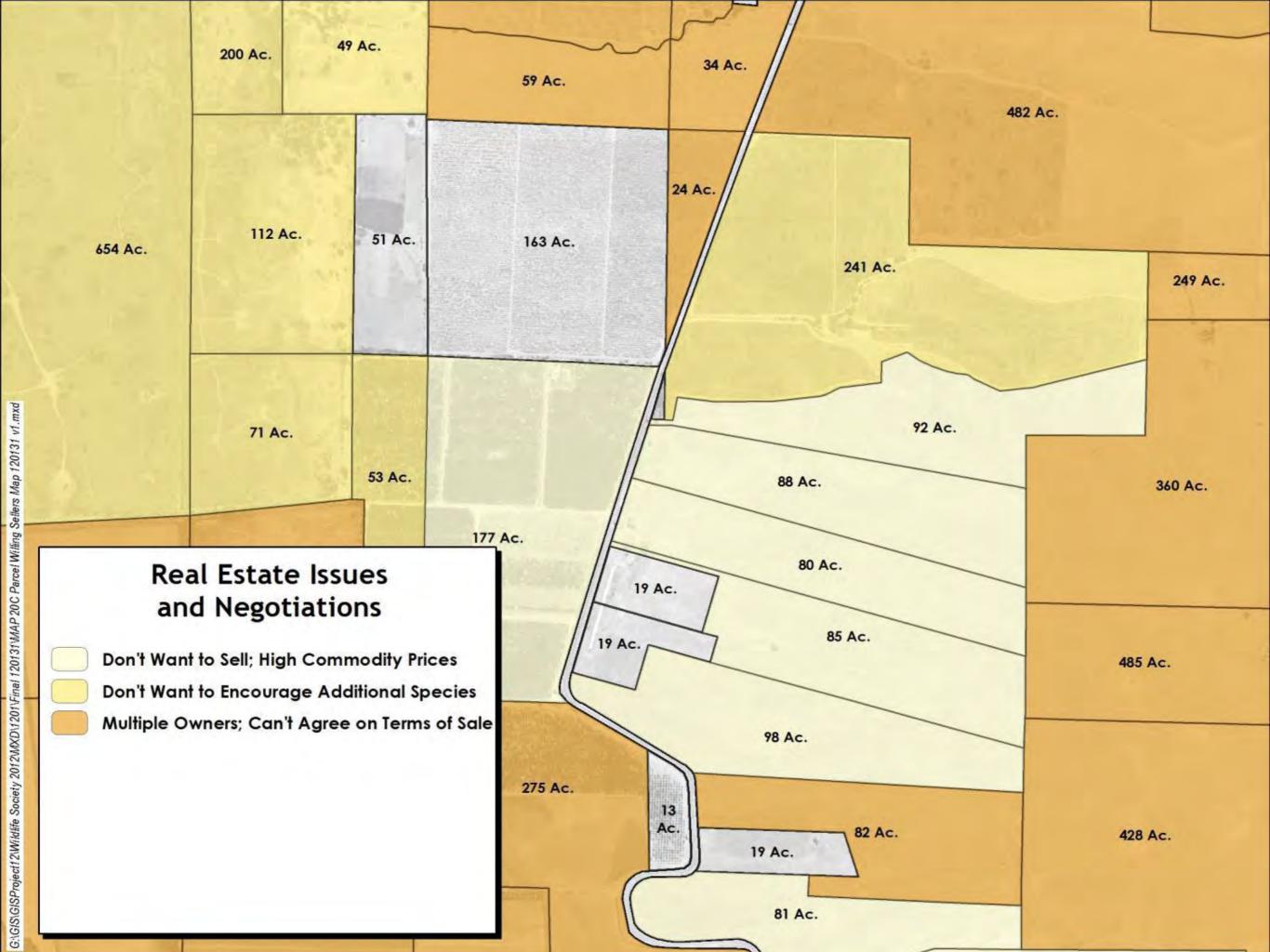


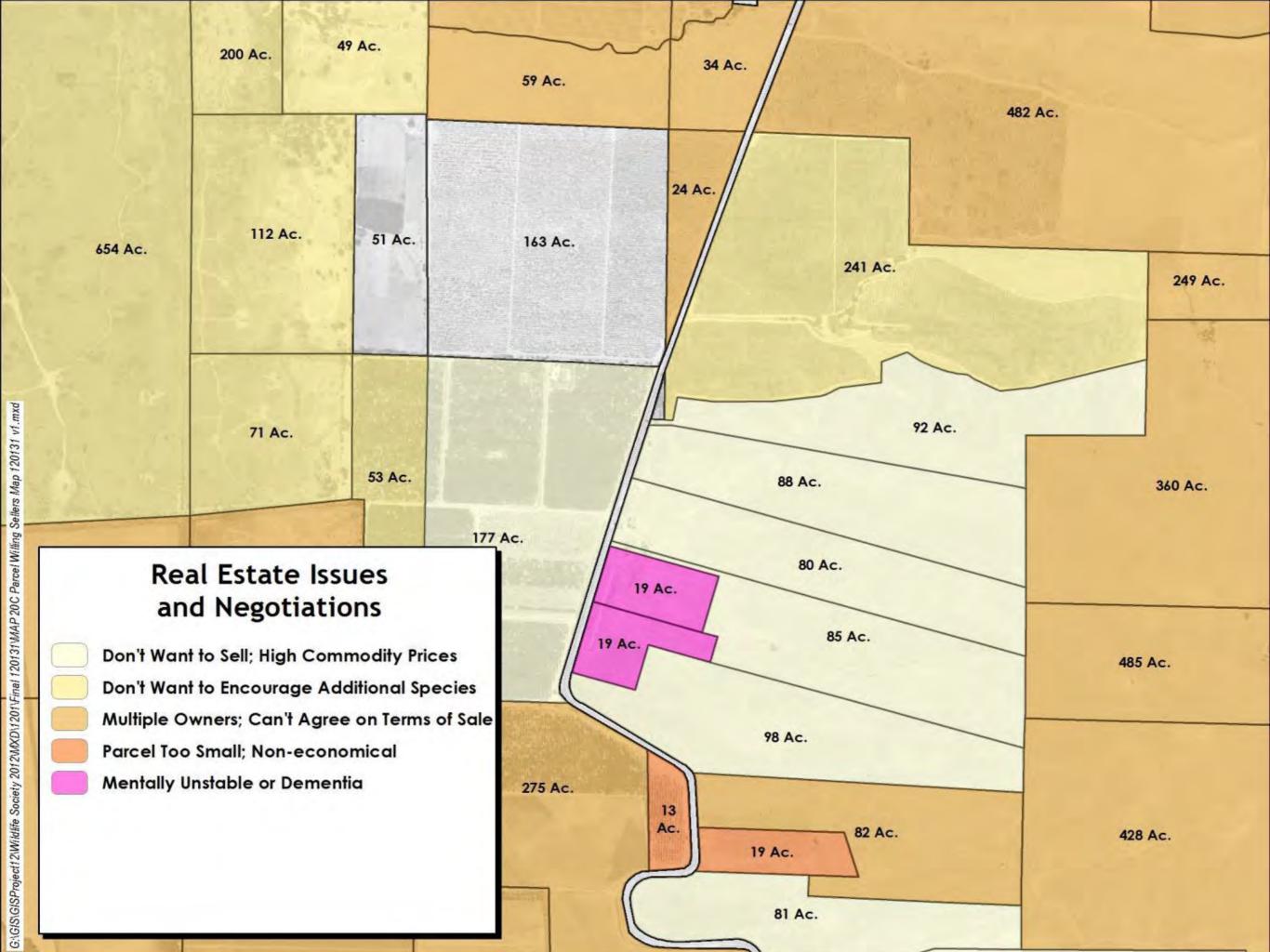
Presentation Overview

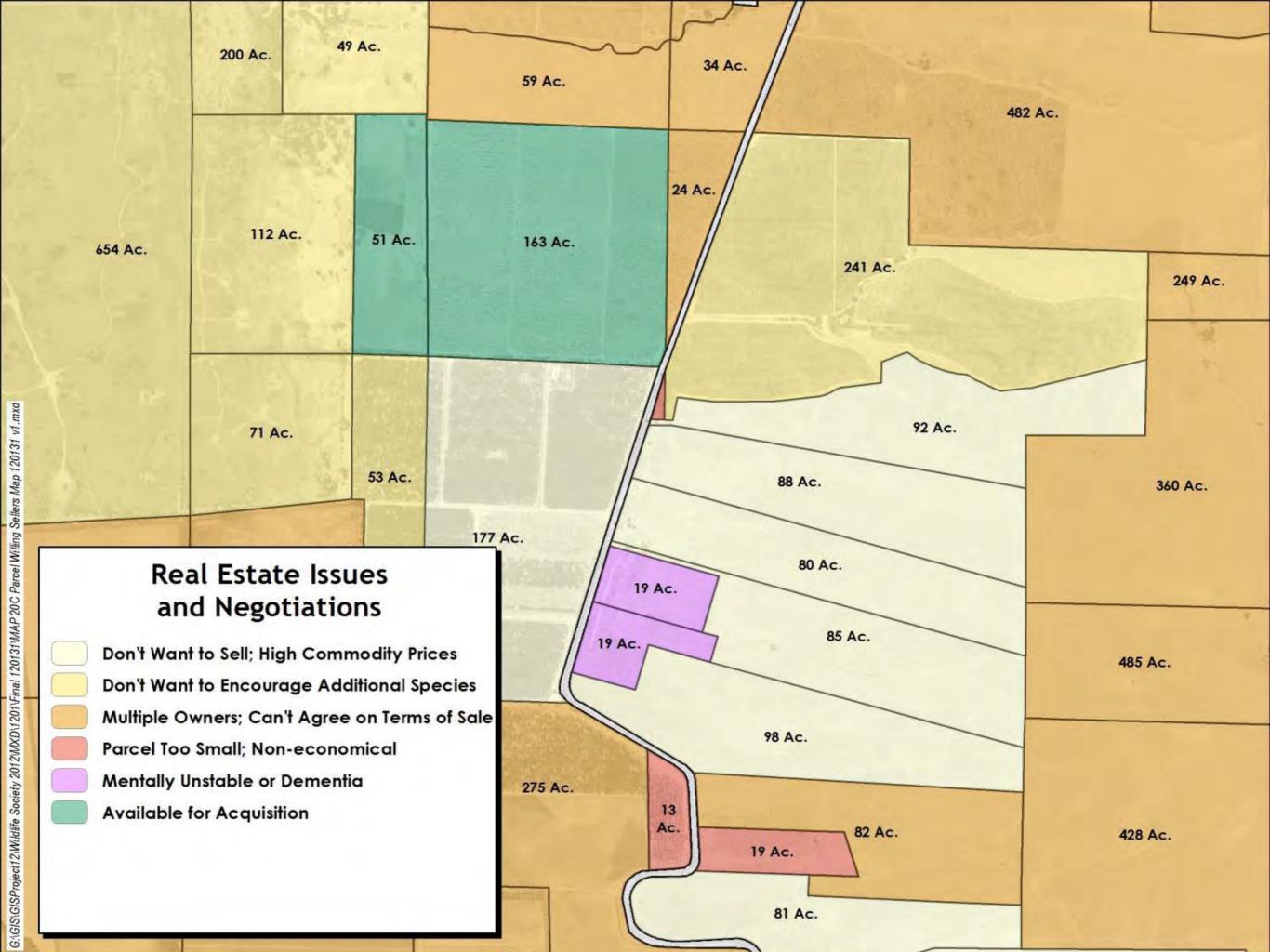
- Review of Mitigation Alternatives
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- Mitigation Site Selection Process

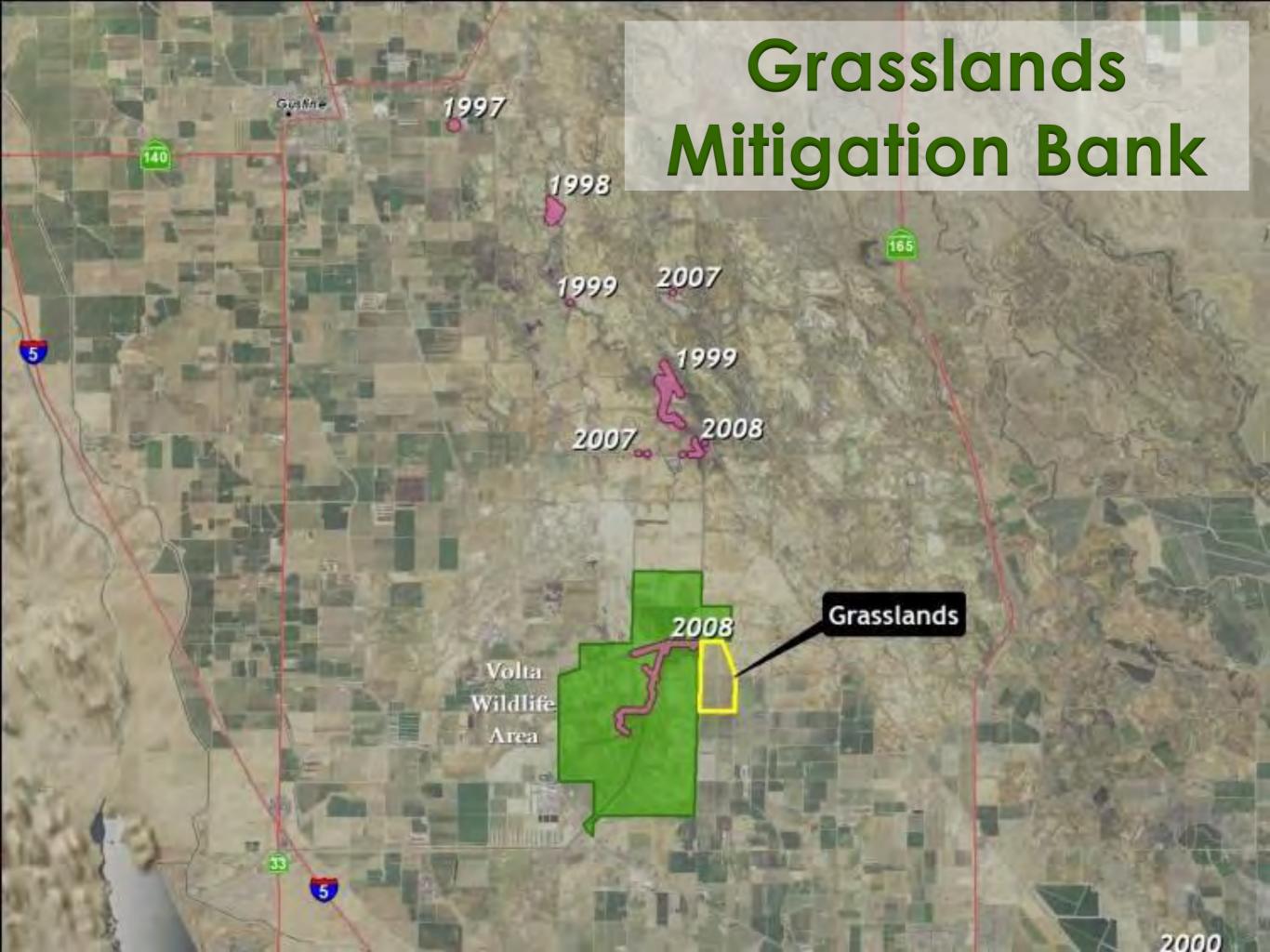














MITIGATION BANKING





BENEFITS OF BANKING

No Permitting
Delays or
Temporal Loss



BENEFITS OF BANKING

No Permitting
Delays or
Temporal Loss

Regulatory
Preference for
Approved Banks



BENEFITS OF BANKING

No Permitting
Delays or
Temporal Loss

Regulatory
Preference for
Approved Banks

Cost Savings and Transparency For Clients: RIBITS





Evaluate
Properties
in Target
Markets



Evaluate
Properties
in Target
Markets

Procure Resource Rich Land



Evaluate
Properties
in Target
Markets

Procure Resource Rich Land

Stringent
Scientific/Fina
ncial Due
Diligence



Submit Regulatory
Applications



Submit Regulatory
Applications

Design Bank



Obtain Government Approvals



Obtain
Government
Approvals

Sell Credits



The Actual Process





Evaluate
Properties
in Target
Markets



Evaluate
Properties
in Target
Markets

Procure Resource Rich Land



Evaluate
Properties
in Target
Markets

Procure Resource Rich Land

Stringent
Scientific/Financial Due
Diligence



Submit Regulatory Applications



Submit Regulatory Applications CDFW Shuts Down
Banking Program;
Applications Put
On Hold



Submit Regulatory Applications CDFW Shuts Down
Banking Program;
Applications Put
On Hold

Tell Your Investors It Will Be Okay



Pavley Bill
Puts CDFW
Back in
Business



Pavley Bill
Puts CDFW
Back in
Business

Puts CDFW IRT Established for LA Back in District



Pavley Bill Puts CDFW Back in Business

Puts CDFW IRT Established for LA Back in District

Design Bank



Submit
Revised
Documents
to IRT



Submit Revised Documents to IRT

Monthly IRT Meetings To Negotiate Bank Approvals



Submit Revised Documents to IRT

Monthly IRT Meetings To Negotiate Bank Approvals Begin to
Question Your
Career Choice



Obtain
Government
Approvals

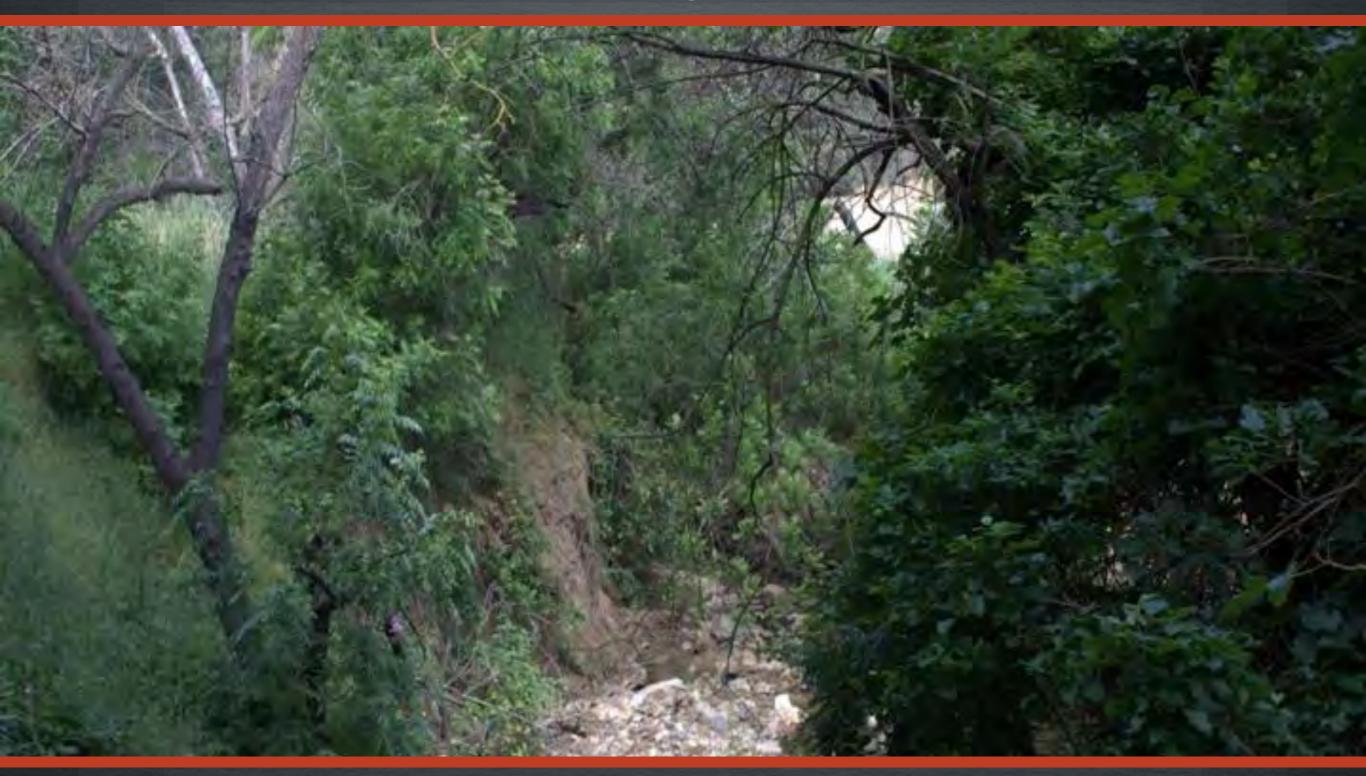


Obtain
Government
Approvals

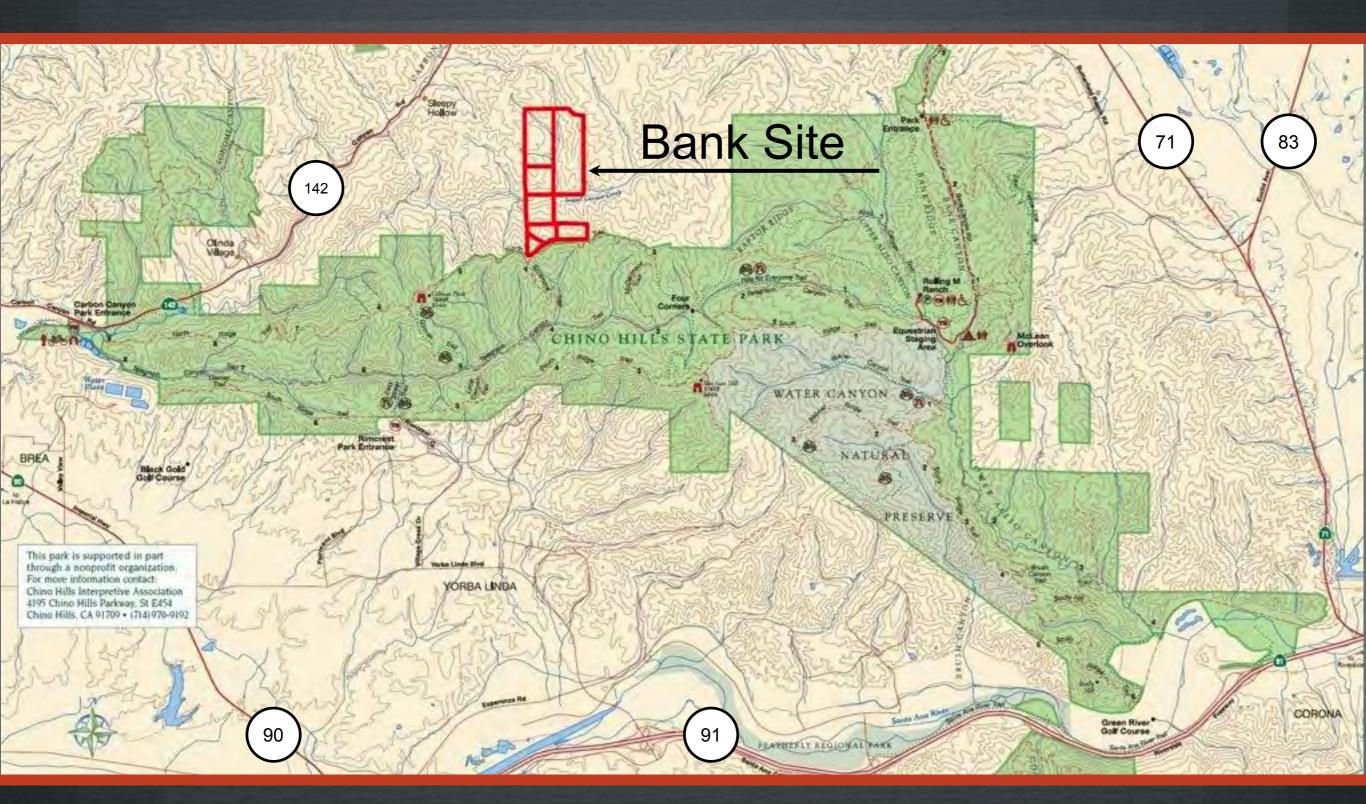
Sell Credits



CASE STUDY - Soquel Canyon Mitigation Bank



CHINO HILLS STATE PARK





SOQUEL CANYON MITIGATION BANK

313 acres, serves Santa Ana River and San Gabriel River watersheds

No existing mitigation banks in service area

High resource value land

Adjacent to State Park

Fire in 2008 and overgrazing damaged native habitat

There will continue to be large mitigation requirements in the service area due to an increasing population and numerous large scale public infrastructure projects

RESOURCES

- > 80,000 LF of streams with associated riparian habitats
- Extensive oak and walnut woodlands
- Coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities
- > Potential habitat for CA Coastal gnatcatcher, least bell's vireo

SERVICE AREA



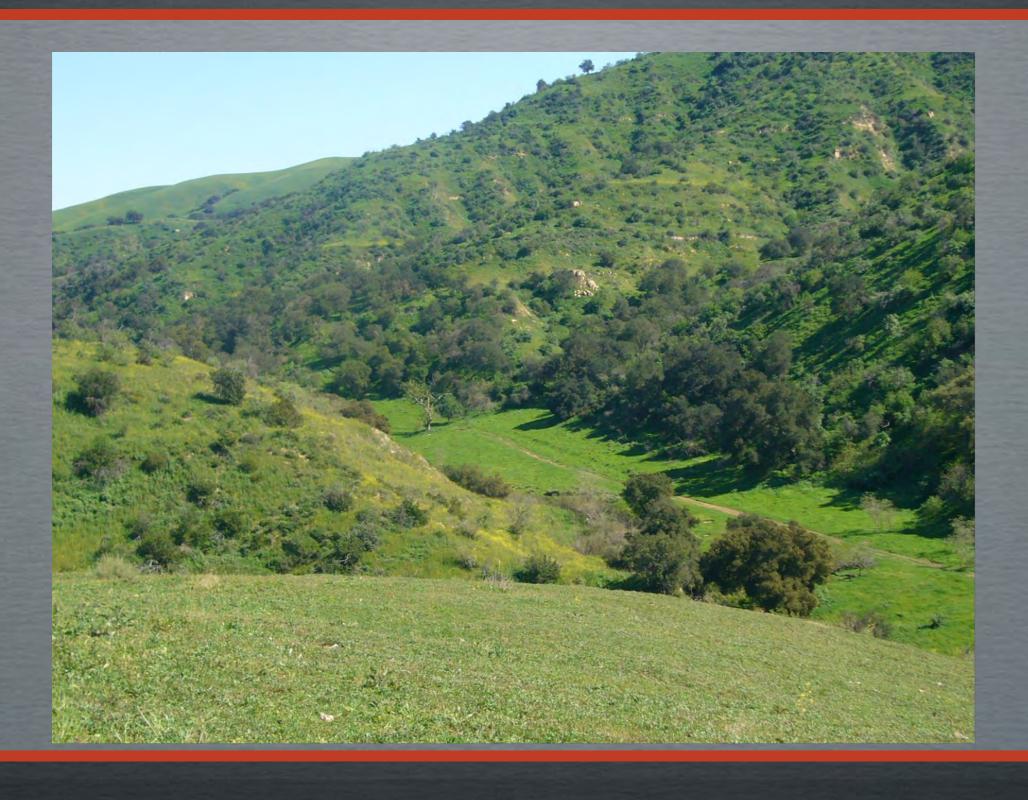










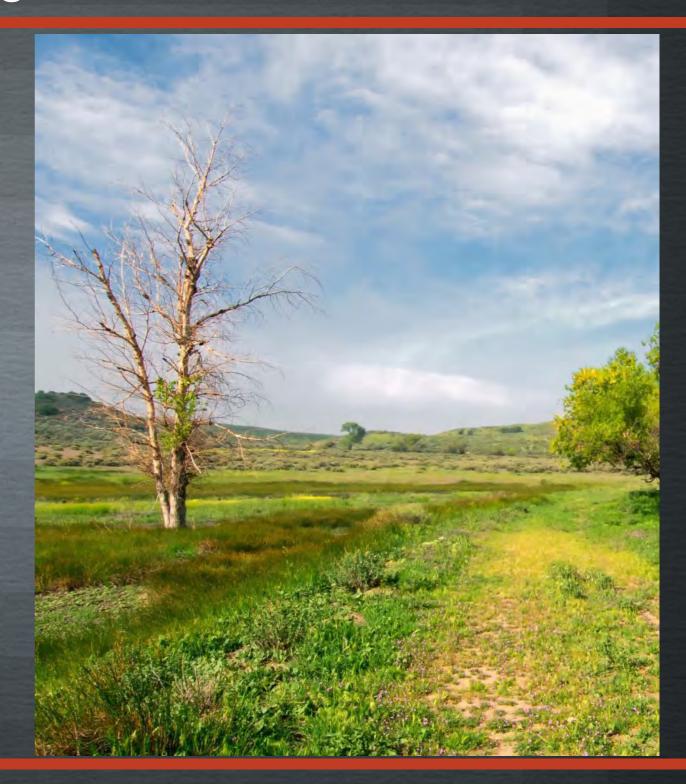




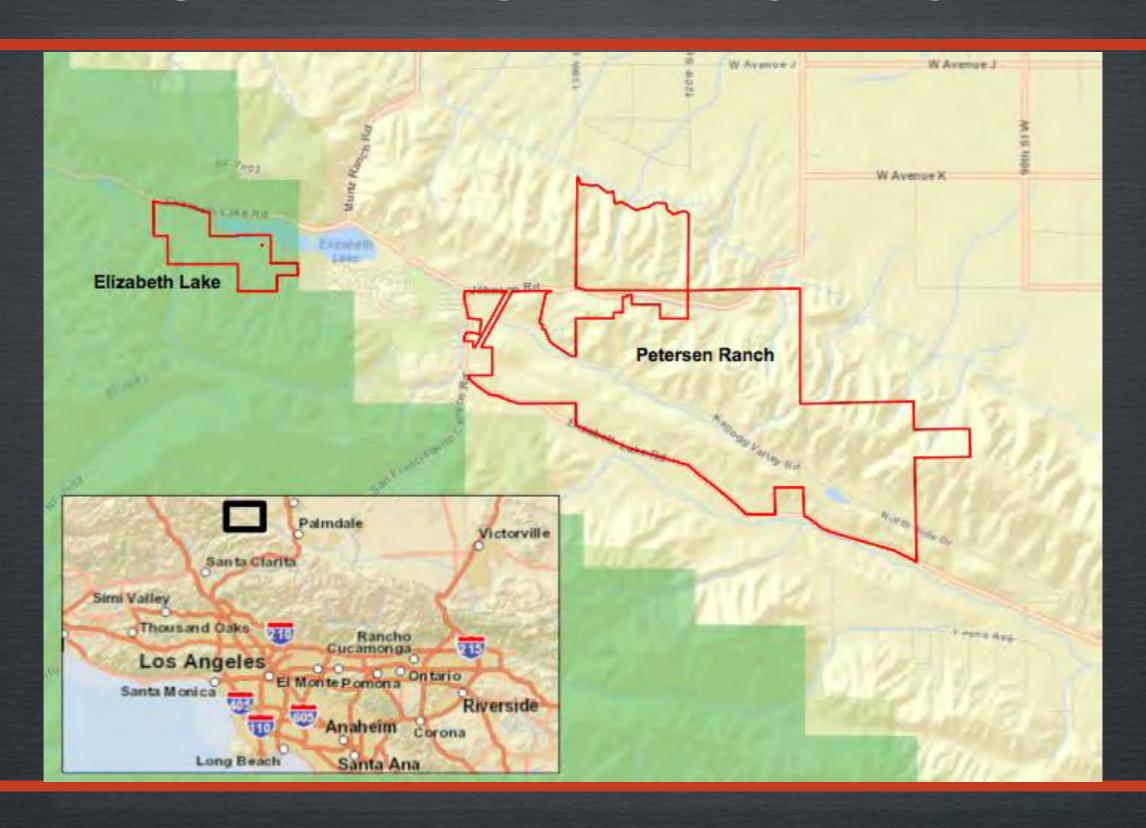


CASE STUDY - Petersen Ranch Mitigation Bank





PETERSEN RANCH MITIGATION BANK





PETERSEN RANCH MITIGATION BANK

4,236 acres including 3,919 acre ranch and 300+ acres on Lake Elizabeth

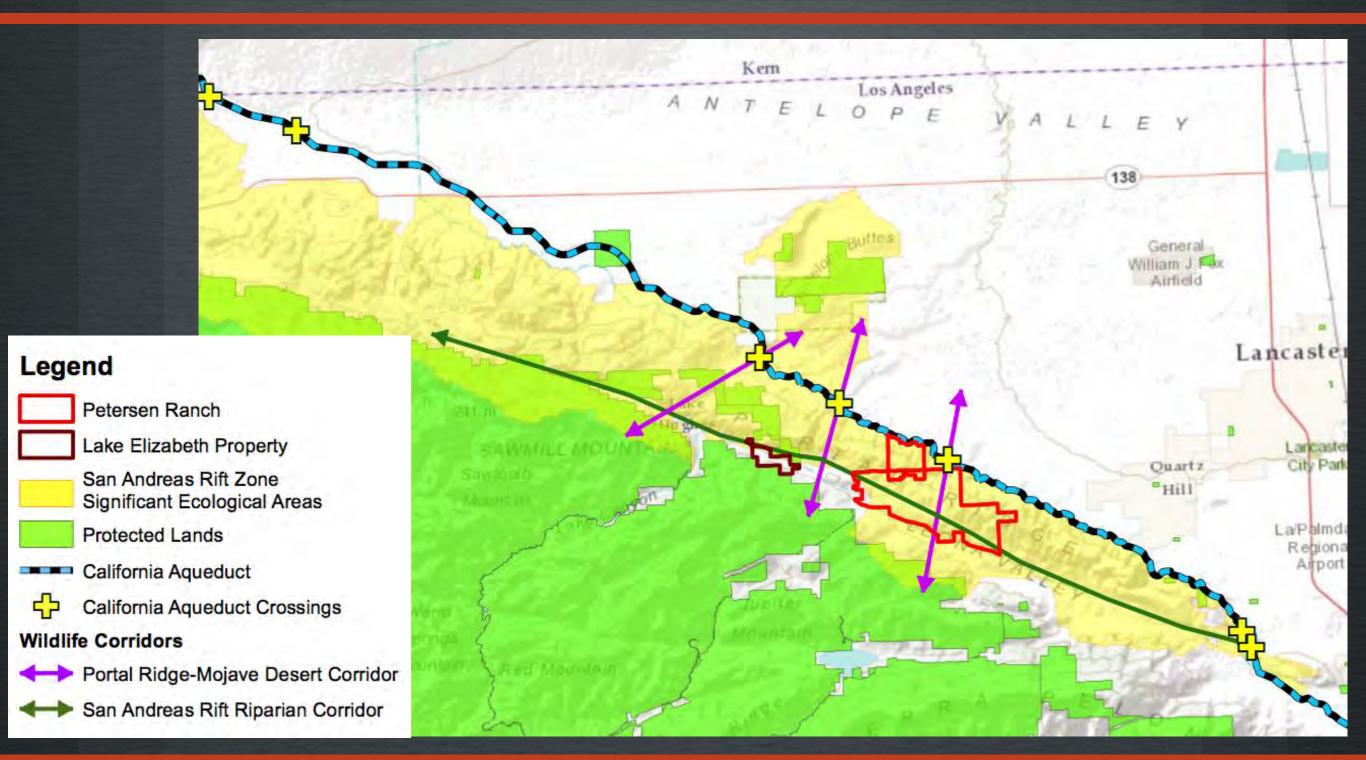
Headwaters of Santa Clara and Fremont-Antelope Valley watersheds

First mitigation bank in LA County

Provides important wildlife linkages between Angeles National Forest and Antelope Valley The Bank is within the DRECP boundary and in an LA County SEA, with signficant demand from private development, renewable energy, and large scale infrastructure projects



PETERSEN RANCH MITIGATION BANK





RESOURCES

- Location in San Andreas Rift Zone results in over 1,200 acres of wetlands and buffers including desert wash
- Swainson's hawk, tri-colored blackbird and western pond habitat in addition to many other species
- Thousands of acres of diverse vegetation and habitat including grasslands, riparian forests, scrublands, chaparral communities, woodlands and alluvial floodplains



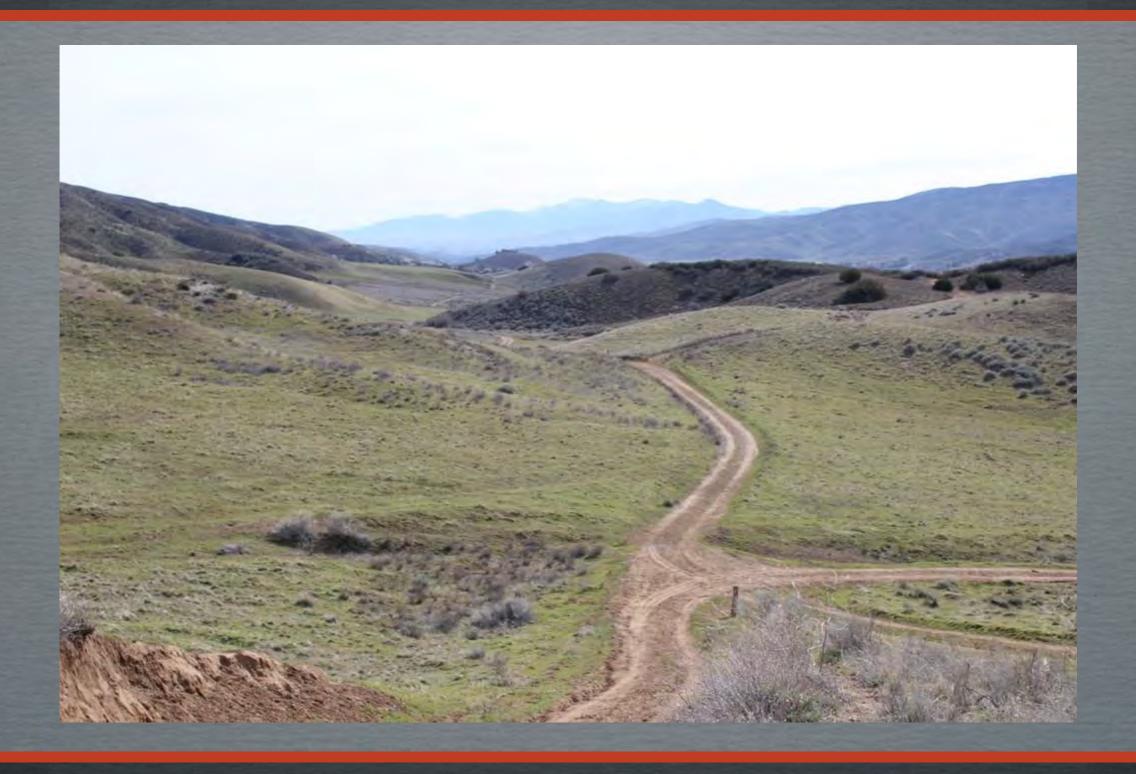
SERVICE AREA





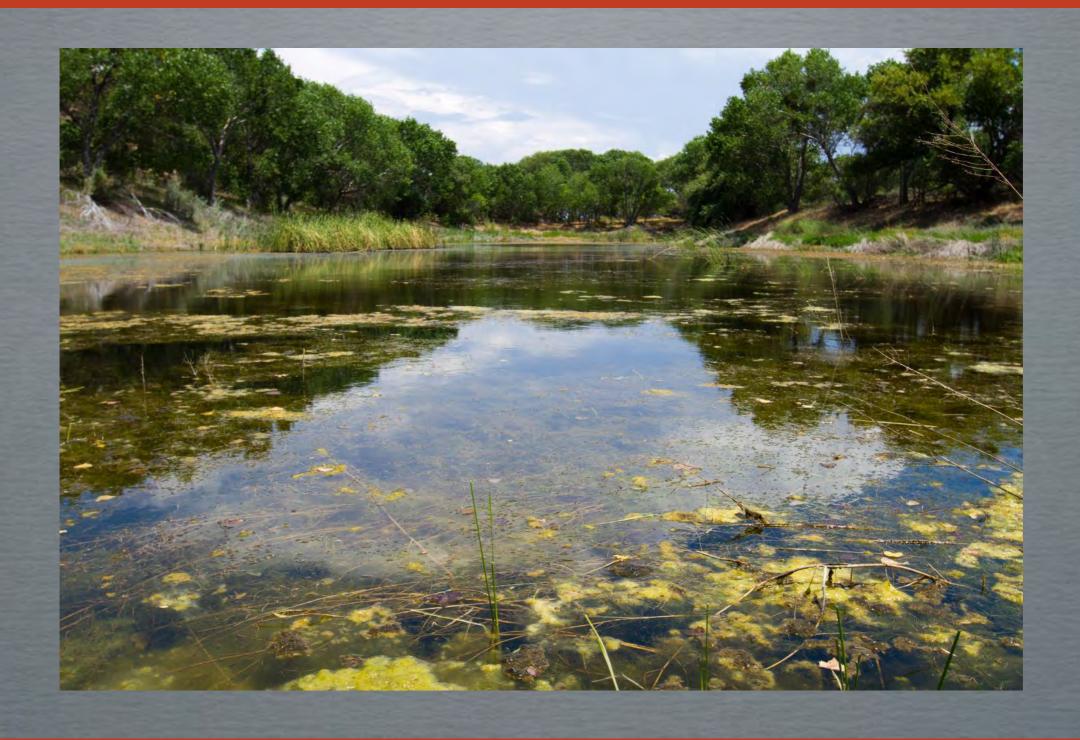






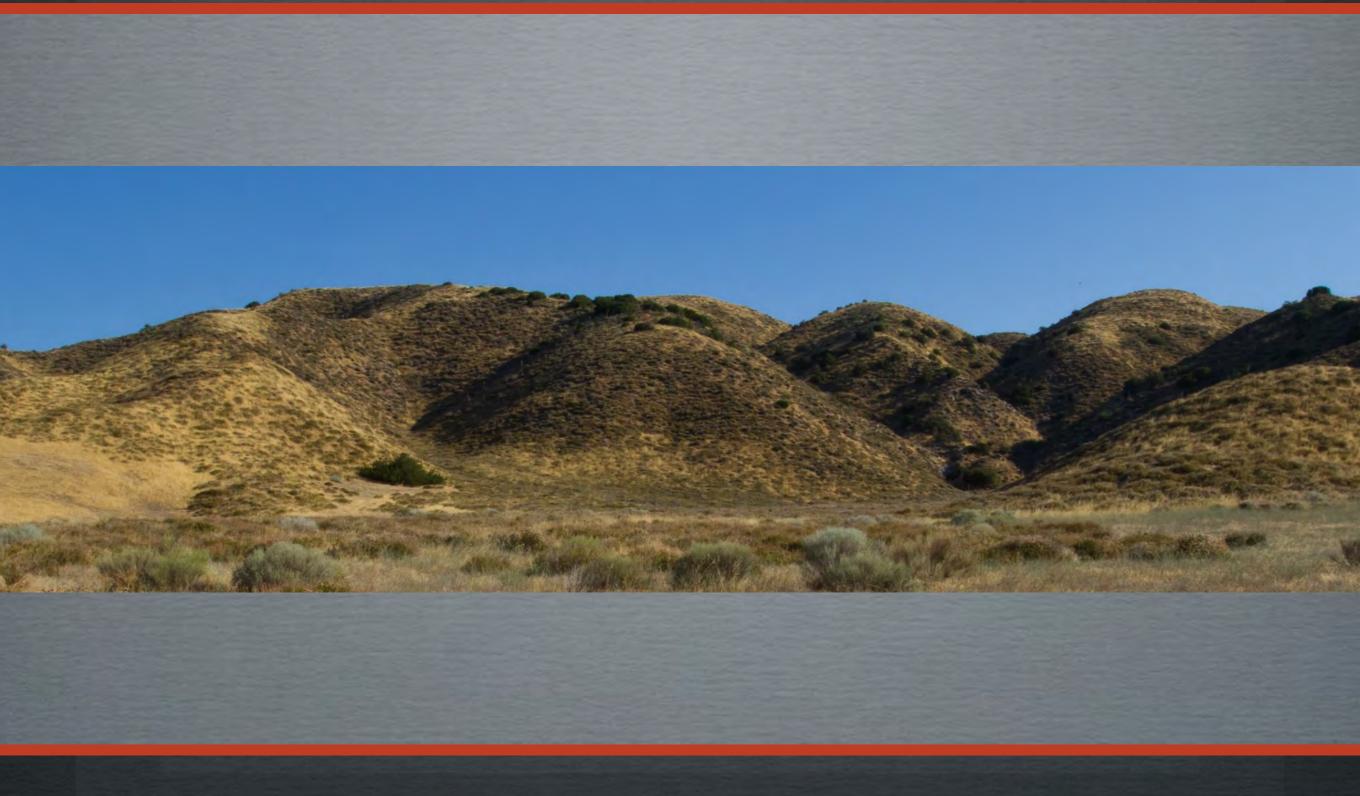












Mitigation Banking vs. Applicant Sponsored Mitigation

	Applicant-Sponsored	Mitigation Banking
Requires purchase and/or dedication of land for mitigation.	√	
Requires approved Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) prior to permit issuance.	~	
 Requires applicant to post letters of credits or bonds for permit issuance. 	✓	
Requires conservation easement approved by Corps' legal counsel, often prior to grading.	✓	
5. Requires long-term management plan prior to grading.	✓	
6. Requires 3 rd party non-profit for CE compliance and long-term management plan.	✓	
7. Requires non-wasting endowments for CE compliance and long-term management, reporting, and maintenance.	✓	
Requires plant installation; five years of monitoring, maintenance; and reporting and compliance with performance standards, including CRAM report.	✓	
Requires purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank only.		✓

Thank You



LAND VERITAS

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