

PATHWAYS TO 30X30 CALIFORNIA

Appendix B

NEAR-TERM ACTIONS TO JUMPSTART 30X30

This appendix identifies near-term priority actions to jumpstart our efforts to meet the 30x30 goal. Note, actions correspond to those presented in Pathways to Achieve 30x30 chapter and numbering below may not be sequential. While some actions are marked as near-term priorities, sustained implementation of all actions will be necessary through 2030.

NEAR-TERM ACTIONS TO JUMPSTART 30X30			
Pathways to Achieve 30x30		Organizational Lead	Key Partners
1. Accelerate Regionally Led Conservation			
<i>Invest in regional conservation planning and implementation</i>			
1.1	Strategically deploy resources to implement completed conservation plans, including Natural Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and companion Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs).	CNRA	CDFW, DOC, State Conservancies, WCB, NRCS, USFWS, California Native American tribes, land trusts, local governments, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts
1.2	Provide resources that enable California Native American tribes to participate in planning processes.	CNRA	California Native American tribes

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1.3	Provide capacity building and technical support to enable community engagement in conservation planning, especially for tribes and historically marginalized communities, to ensure meaningful consultation, engagement, and partnership.	CNRA	CDFW, DOC, State Conservancies, WCB, NRCS, USFWS, California Native American tribes, land trusts, local governments, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts
<i>Advance equitable access through meaningful and inclusive local planning processes</i>			
1.6	In partnership with California Native American tribes, develop a process to protect cultural resources, sacred sites, and other important locations with expanded conservation, as well as address trade-offs between recreational access and tribal rights to access lands for cultural, subsistence, or ceremonial purposes.	CNRA	California Native American tribes
1.7	Utilize regional workshops and working groups to identify and prioritize conservation projects that serve historically marginalized communities and California Native American tribes.	CNRA	California Native American tribes, local governments, NGOs
1.8	Where possible, improve public access on state-owned conserved lands, including the state's approximately one million acres of Ecological Preserves.	CDFW	CNRA, CSP, State Conservancies, California Native American tribes

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2. Execute Strategic Land Acquisitions			
2.1	Coordinate state funded land acquisitions to meet 30x30 objectives and maximize conservation across the state.	CNRA	CDFW, DOC, State Conservancies, WCB
2.2	Mobilize a state-federal interagency team to identify and secure emerging federal funding for new conservation acquisitions, including the recently approved federal infrastructure bill and expansion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.	CNRA	CDFW, CSP, SLC, State Conservancies, WCB, BLM, DOD, NPS, NRCS, USFS, USFWS
2.3	Prioritize additional lands for acquisition that provide habitats that are underrepresented in currently conserved areas, enable expanded public access, sequester carbon, and buffer climate impacts.	CNRA	CDFW, CSP, DOC, SLC, State Conservancies, WCB, BLM, DOD, NPS, NRCS, USFS, USFWS
2.4	Prioritize acquisition of unprotected lands adjacent to or surrounded by currently established public lands (for example, lands owned in checkerboard format or areas where wetlands will likely migrate over time) to expand and improve habitat and achieve climate benefits.	CNRA	CDFW, CSP, DOC, SLC, State Conservancies, WCB, California Native American tribes, local governments, NGOs

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3. Increase Voluntary Conservation Easements			
3.1	Work with and help build capacity for land trusts, Resource Conservation Districts, and other community coalitions and organizations to invest state conservation easement program funds strategically and efficiently.	CDFW	CNRA, DOC, WCB, NRCS, USFWS, land trusts, local governments, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts, California Native American tribes
3.2	Integrate complementary climate change benefits into publicly funded conservation easement programs where possible to enable expanded carbon sequestration and storage and to strengthen natural resilience to climate change impacts.	CNRA	CDFW, CDFA, DOC, WCB, academics, California Native American tribes, land trusts, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts
3.3	Improve access on lands conserved through publicly funded conservation easement programs where possible by improving voluntary incentives and grant program guidelines and policies.	CNRA	CDFW, CDFA, DOC, WCB, California Native American tribes, land trusts, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts

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4. Enhance Conservation of Existing Public Lands and Coastal Waters			
<i>Enhancing conservation on public lands</i>			
4.1	Monitor state and federal legislation to support, where appropriate, enhanced conservation on public lands, including new designations and expansion of wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national monuments.	CNRA	
4.2	Partner with federal agencies to explore where on public lands enhanced environmental conservation is beneficial and appropriate, and constructively engage in federal land management planning to identify and implement appropriate improvements.	CNRA	CDFW, CSP, SLC, State Conservancies, WCB, BLM, DOD, NPS, NRCS, USFS, USFWS
<i>Strengthen partnerships with federal resource managers and California Native American tribes to improve conservation within coastal waters</i>			
4.5	Explore possible new measures and initiatives to address threats to biodiversity within National Marine Sanctuaries in partnership with California Native American tribes, scientists, federal resource managers, and key stakeholder groups, such as strengthening water quality and invasive species protections, exploring mandatory vessel speed reductions to protect whales, and enhancing the durability of existing restrictions on fishing gear and methods.	OPC	CDFW, Coastal Conservancy, CCC, NOAA, academics, California Native American tribes, fishing community, NGOs

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4.6	Identify high priority science needs related to strengthening conservation within National Marine Sanctuaries.	OPC	CDFW, Coastal Conservancy, CCC, NOAA, academics, California Native American tribes
4.7	Develop a pathway through which California Native American tribes and key stakeholder groups (including but not limited to fishermen and environmental NGOs) can share information and input with state and federal resource managers to benefit coastal environmental conservation and management.	OPC	California Native American tribes, fishing community, NGOs, other stakeholder groups
4.8	Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of coastal and ocean health to improve conservation outcomes of federal and state management.	OPC	CDFW, Coastal Conservancy, CCC, NOAA, academics, California Native American tribes
5. Institutionalize Advance Mitigation			
5.1	Execute regional advance mitigation projects between Caltrans, CDFW, and others for transportation modernization projects that create co-benefits for wildlife connectivity and species climate resiliency.	CDFW and Caltrans	CNRA

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5.2	Work with Caltrans to complete Regional Advance Mitigation Needs Assessments (RAMNAs), for all 12 districts to accelerate mitigation investments and projects.	CDFW and Caltrans	CNRA
5.3	Incorporate important mitigation projects from strategically designed conservation plans (such as NCCP, HCPs, RCISs) and other resource protection and recovery plans into mitigation programs for state-funded development projects.	CNRA	CDFW, State Conservancies, WCB, NRCS, USFWS, California Native American tribes, land trusts, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts
5.4	Continue to improve and streamline mitigation banking processes for approving banks and releasing credits with the Banking Agency Management Team and California Project Delivery Team.	CDFW	CNRA, Army Corps, EPA, USFWS
6. Expand and Accelerate Environmental Restoration and Stewardship			
<i>Restore degraded landscapes, waterways, and priority habitats</i>			
6.1	Identify and prioritize restoration projects on degraded landscapes and waterways most important to protecting biodiversity or restoring natural systems.	CNRA	CDFW, DWR, USFWS, academics, California Native American tribes, local communities, NGOs

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6.2	In coordination with implementation of the Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and other relevant state climate change initiatives, identify areas where environmental restoration will achieve the most significant climate benefits, including protecting carbon stores, sequestering carbon, and buffering human and natural communities from the impacts of climate change.	CNRA	Cal EPA, OPR, California Native American tribes, local communities, NGOs
<i>Restore degraded seascapes and priority coastal habitats</i>			
6.12	Prioritize coastal habitats and degraded seascapes for restoration through science-based assessment.	OPC	CDFW, Coastal Conservancy, CCC, NOAA, academics, California Native American tribes, fishing community, NGOs, other stakeholder groups
<i>Accelerate restoration and stewardship by improving processes</i>			
6.19	Identify specific ways to simplify and streamline governmental funding opportunities and processes across agencies, such as through developing standard templates for grant guidelines, application materials, and project scoring and review procedures.	CNRA	CDFA, CDFW, CSP, DWR, SLC, State Conservancies, WCB

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6.20	Scale the success of CDFW's Restoration Leaders Committee by establishing additional regionally focused agency-stakeholder partnerships that expedite a set of prioritized projects by streamlining grant administration and permitting.	CNRA	CDFW, California Native American tribes, local governments, NGOs,
7. Strengthen Coordination Among Governments			
<i>Leverage federal partnerships to advance conservation</i>			
7.1	Reshape and revitalize the California Biodiversity Council to be a focused, effective, and durable hub for coordination between state and federal agencies to implement 30x30 and ensure alignment between the state and the federal 30x30 America the Beautiful initiative.	CNRA	Biodiversity Council
7.2	Engage California's Congressional delegation to advance 30x30 and secure support for federal funding and policies that advance important conservation projects across California.	CNRA	NGOs

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Prioritize and invest in tribal conservation			
7.6	Establish a tribal advisory body to plan and inform implementation and consultation strategies related to 30x30.	CNRA	California Native American tribes
7.7	Develop programs that provide stable, long-term support for tribal establishment and administration of tribally protected landscapes and other tribally managed or co-managed areas, terrestrial and marine, including support for a set-aside for tribal conservation and related research.	CNRA	California Native American tribes
7.8	Work with California Native American tribes to develop a definition and appropriate counting mechanisms for tribal areas to fit within California's 30x30 Conserved Areas.	CNRA	California Native American tribes
7.9	Explore administrative or regulatory mechanisms for California Native American tribes' ancestral land return programs for conservation and fee to trust land acquisition.	CNRA	California Native American tribes
7.10	Explore administrative or regulatory mechanisms for California Native American tribes to establish Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas (IMSA) focused on enhancing biodiversity and resilience.	OPC	California Native American tribes

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8. Align Investments to Maximize Conservation Benefits			
8.1	Coordinate across state agencies and departments to align state funding for conservation activities to optimize investments and avoid duplication.	CNRA	CCC, CDFA, CDFW, DOC, OPC, SLC, State Parks, State Conservancies, WCB
8.2	Strengthen state government's coordination with and support of California's land trusts, Resource Conservation Districts, regional partnerships, and other community-based organizations to build technical and financial capacity, leverage resources, share expertise, conduct landowner outreach, identify multi-benefit land conservation projects, and coordinate project implementation.	CNRA	CCC, CDFA, CDFW, DOC, OPC, SLC, State Parks, State Conservancies, WCB, California Native American tribes, land trusts, local governments, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts
8.3	Establish a network of philanthropic and business organizations and public agencies to develop partnerships that develop shared priorities, build public support for implementation, and coordinate funding, projects, and programs to meet 30x30 key objectives.	CNRA	Academics, business organizations, NGOs, philanthropy
8.4	Work with philanthropy and business groups to explore innovative financing mechanisms for multi-benefit conservation and restoration projects, including program-related investments, New Market Tax Credits, revenue-raising techniques, and other impact investing vehicles.	CNRA	Academics, business organizations, NGOs, philanthropy

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9. Advance and Promote Complementary Conservation Measures			
9.1	Encourage utilization of existing voluntary climate-smart management programs offered through federal Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Wildlife programs for conservation.	CNRA	CalFire, CDFA, DOC, OPR, NRCS, USFWS
9.2	Explore how state agencies can potentially aggregate small conservation projects to be measurable under 30x30.	CNRA	CDFA, CDFW, DOC, GreenInfo Network
9.3	Evaluate potential biodiversity benefits of complementary conservation measures in our coast and ocean environments, including restrictions and closures established for the purposes of conservation-based fisheries management in California's coastal waters.	OPC	OPC Science Advisory Team, academics, fishing community, NGOs

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10. Evaluate Conservation Outcomes and Adaptively Manage			
<i>Invest in long-term monitoring, adaptive management, and stewardship</i>			
10.1	Inventory and verify current conservation areas and easements to ensure ownership and conservation data is included in the protected areas database and is accurate and usable for planning, management, and other conservation purposes.	DOC	CNRA, WCB, NRCS, USFWS, USGS, GreenInfo Network, land trusts, local governments, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts
10.2	Establish standardized protocols and systems for tracking additional 30x30 Conservation Areas, including future acquisition and easement purchases and ownership transfers involving state and federal agencies, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and private owners.	CNRA	CDFA, CDFW, DOC, WCB, NRCS, USFWS, USGS, GreenInfo Network, land trusts, local governments, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts, California Native American tribes
10.3	Maintain and regularly update state geospatial information systems to support conservation decision making, and its underlying data to ensure it is fully reflective of conservation progress.	CNRA	DOC, Green Info Network

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10.4	Establish mechanisms for tribes to protect and share tribal expertise and traditional knowledges such that the development, use, and incorporation into conservation and land and water management is driven, completed, and cared for by California Native American tribes.	CNRA	California Native American tribes
<i>Invest in actionable science to inform decision making</i>			
10.13	Use CA Nature and other tools to assess gaps in biodiversity protection and identify habitats or ecosystem types that should be prioritized in future conservation.	CNRA and OPC	CCC, CDFA, CDFW, CSP, DOC, SLC, State Conservancies, WCB, academics, land trusts, local governments, NGOs, Resource Conservation Districts
10.14	Identify monitoring gaps and explore the development of ongoing monitoring and data analysis programs with long-term funding to support adaptive management of lands and coastal waters for biodiversity protection and climate benefits.	CNRA and OPC	Cal EPA, CDFW, CSP, DWR, SLC, State Conservancies, WCB

State Agency Abbreviations:

Cal EPA: California Environmental Protection Agency

CalFire: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Caltrans: California Department of Transportation

CCC: California Coastal Commission

CDFA: California Department of Food and Agriculture

CDFW: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CNRA: California Natural Resources Agency

CSP: California State Parks

DWR: Department of Water Resources

DOC: California Department of Conservation

NAHC: Native American Heritage Commission

OPC: Ocean Protection Council

OPR: Office of Planning and Research

SLC: State Lands Commission

State Conservancies: Baldwin Hills Conservancy, California Tahoe Conservancy, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy,

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, San Diego River Conservancy, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and

Mountains Conservancy, San Joaquin River Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and

State Coastal Conservancy

WCB: Wildlife Conservation Board

Federal Agency Abbreviations:

Army Corps: Army Corps of Engineers

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

BOR: Bureau of Reclamation

DOD: Department of Defense

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NPS: National Park Service

NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service

USFS: U. S. Forest Service

USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS: U.S. Geological Survey

Other Abbreviations:

NGOs: Non-governmental organizations

30x30

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