

CALIFORNIA RANGELAND CONSERVATION COALITION

Focus Area Prioritization

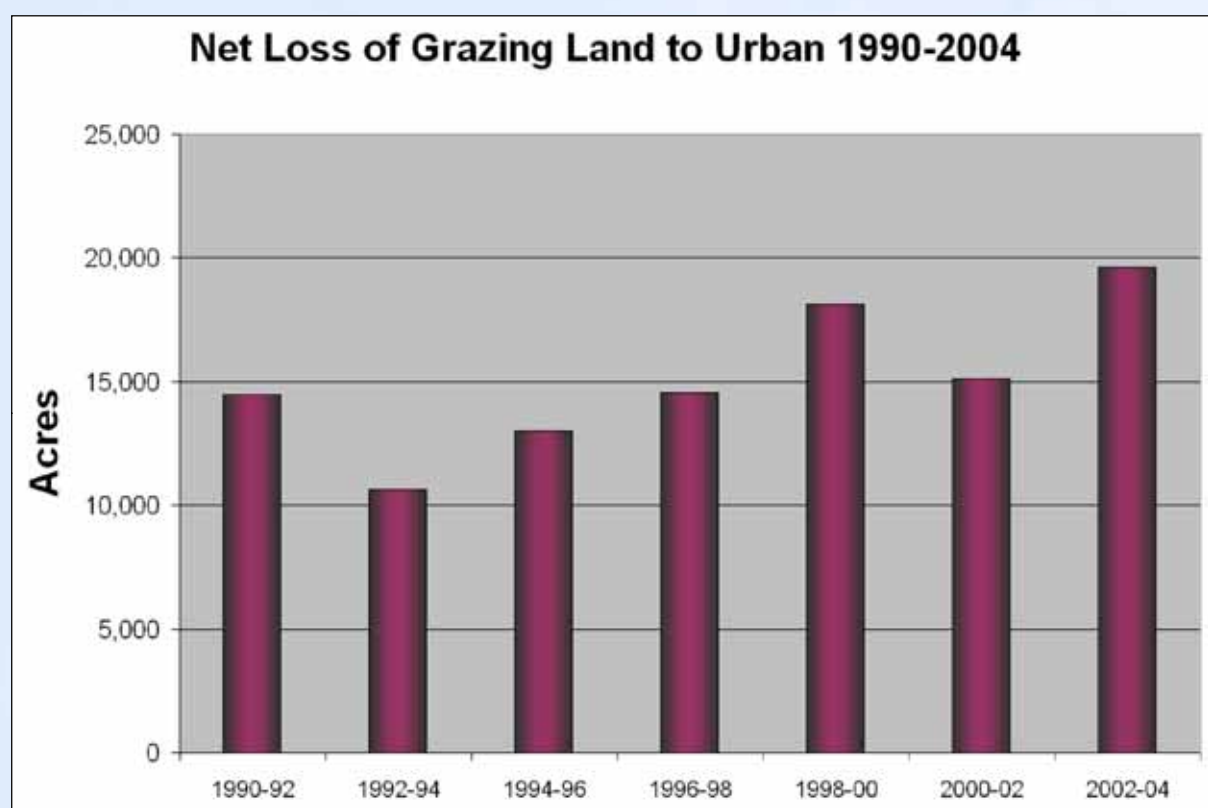
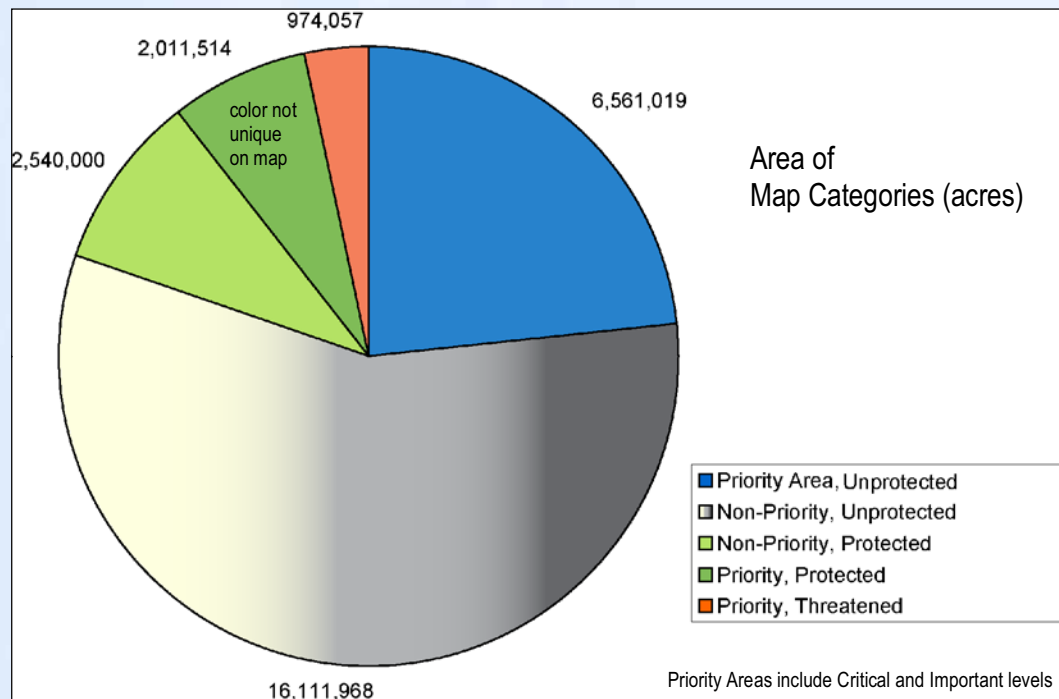
Rangelands represent one of the most threatened habitats throughout the western United States. In addition to being threatened, these oak savannah and grassland habitats have relatively low levels of conservation management while maintaining high biodiversity values. Many grassland birds, native plants and threatened vernal pool species on this landscape benefit from responsible grazing practices. Intact, privately-owned rangelands face threat from increased low density, rural residential housing development in the foothills and conversion to other uses.

Out of this concern environmentalists, cattlemen and government agencies have come together to form a most unlikely conservation partnership, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition. This map illustrates the coalition's priority focus area for conservation and enhancement. The Rangeland Coalition works with willing private landowners to preserve ranches through conservation easements and to carry out habitat enhancement projects for common and threatened species.

For more information on the Coalition contact:
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0 5 10 20 30 40 50
Miles

CRCC study area
is 28 million acres



source: Farmlands Mapping and Monitoring Program

Priority Areas

- Areas Critical to CRCC's Conservation Goals
- Areas Important to CRCC's Conservation Goals
- Important or Critical Areas Threatened by Fragmentation*

Non-Priority Areas

- Currently (2004) Urban or Suburban
- Areas Facing Fragmentation Threat outside of Priority Areas by 2030

- CRCC Boundary
- Public and Privately Protected Land**
- Lakes and Reservoirs

* At least one housing unit per 40 acres as mapped by 2000 Census data

** This map shows all fee and easement including non-rangeland areas.

Data Sources:
Conservation Targets: CDF Multi-source Land Cover data v2 (2002); USFS Calveg (2002-2003); CNDSS 2004, 2005, 2006; California Gap Analysis Project (1998); Department of Water Resources Land Use Land Cover (1999-2003); DFGUSFWS Vernal Pool Complexes of the Central Valley (1998); CSU Stanislaus/USFWS San Joaquin Estuary (1998-2004); Predicted Distribution of Listed Vernal Pool Taxa (Holland-unpublished 2005); DFG Central Valley Wetlands and Riparian GIS (1997); Bureau of Reclamation Land Cover of Central Valley (2003); Grassland Birds - Christmas Bird Counts (1999-2006) and Breeding Bird Survey (1994-2003); site is scored based on relative abundance (to regional averages) for six focal targets.
Conservation Lands: California Gap Analysis Project (1998); Public and Conservation Trust Land (PCTL) 04, 05; The Nature Conservancy (2006); GreenInfo Network (2005); American Land Conservancy (2006); Legacy Resource Agency Easement data (2003); Central Valley Joint Venture (2005); Sonoma County APOSD (2005)
Suitability Factors: Adjusted 2000 Census Block Housing Density; CDF (2003); TIGER line roads data (2000); CDF Multi-source Land Cover data v2 (2002); CA Department of Conservation FMMP (2004)
Housing Density Growth: Spatially-Explicit Regional Growth Model (SERGM) v2; Theobald, D.M. 2005. Landscape patterns of suburban growth in the USA from 1980 to 2020. Ecology and Society 10(1): 32. [online]
URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol10/iss1/art32/>
CA Farmlands Mapping and Monitoring Program 2004

For further information see methodology write-up.
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