

# Rangeland Conservation Funding Sources For Grazing Operations

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Interested in improving habitat, water quality, forage production? Considering a conservation easement? Check out these funding sources.

## NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)

See table on next page for contact information for your NRCS office.

Program	Purpose	Example Projects	Notes
EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)	Improve forage production, water quality, and wildlife habitat	Fencing, watering facilities, range plantings, and spring development	Contact your local NRCS office for details.
WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program)	Improve wildlife habitat, especially for listed species	Invasive plant removal, forest restoration, ponds and other projects to benefit wildlife	Additional consideration is given to projects where other partners are contributing toward the project's cost.
CCPI (Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative)	Targets funding to specific needs in an area	Any practice that is funded through EQIP, WHIP or CSP	This new program requires an agency (RCD or other agency) to become an NRCS partner and submit a proposal to meet conservation needs of ranchers in the area.
CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)	General conservation	Intensive grazing rotations, diversity of forage, water for wildlife, transition to organic grazing	Participants receive an annual payment for 5 years. The payment is determined based on the conservation enhancements that the participants agree to.
WRP (Wetland Reserve Program), FRPP (Farm & Ranch Protection Program), GRP (Grazing Reserve Program)	Easements to protect agricultural, ranch or wetlands from development	WRP and GRP contracts can include restoration to improve wetland or grazing functions.	Applications are received year round.

## RCDs (Resource Conservation Districts)

See table on next page for contact information for your RCD office.

Programs vary. Contact your local RCD to find out about programs in your area. Typical projects are similar to those of NRCS - improving water quality, habitat, and forage production. RCDs work closely with NRCS and can provide matching funds for various grants.

## USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Mary Root (805-644-1766 x 233)

Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Restore or enhance native plant and animal communities	Riparian fencing installation; native tree and shrub plantings; invasive weed removal; rehabilitation of failing stock ponds to improve habitat for California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander	USFWS provides up to 50% of project cost for a maximum of \$25,000. You don't need an agency or non-profit to submit your application, but you can work through an RCD or other agency if you prefer. USFWS can facilitate the permitting process for projects. You have to commit to maintaining the project for 10 years.
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<b>CDFG (California Department of Fish and Game – Wildlife Conservation Board)</b>			
<b>ERAL Program - Chad Fien (916-323-8979)</b>		<b>Riparian Program – Tony Chappelle (916-324-7487)</b>	
<b>Program</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Example Projects</b>	<b>Notes</b>
ERAL (Ecosystem Restoration on Agricultural Lands)	Restore habitat and improve water quality	Habitat restoration and enhancement of water corridors, streams, ditches, canals, tail water and return basins and ponds; vegetated filter strips and other wildlife buffers; native grassland restoration	For all CDFG/Wildlife Conservation Board programs, you need an agency or non-profit (e.g. RCD) to submit the proposal. There is a 25-year maintenance agreement. All projects are recorded through the deed and transferred to next owner if within the 25 years. CDFG usually provides about 75% of the project cost, but the more cost-share you can get from other sources the better chance you have of getting the grant.
Riparian Program	Protect riparian habitat	Bank stabilization and revegetation; restoration of riparian vegetation; riparian fencing; floodplain restoration; weed control	
<b>TNC (The Nature Conservancy)</b>			
<b>Dan Olstein (415-281-0422 x 2122 dolstein@TNC.org)</b>			
Conservation Easements	Help maintain working ranches	Conservation Easements (donating or selling development rights) can provide the landowner with a short-term infusion of cash and long-term tax benefits above and beyond Williamson Act benefits.	Landowners can take a tax deduction on the amount of the land that is donated. If a conservation easement will help keep the ranch in the family after an intergenerational transfer of the ranch (because someone passed away or the land was given as a gift) TNC can help with estate planning as well.

**Contact information for NRCS and RCD offices in the 9 SF Bay Area counties**

<b>County</b>	<b>NRCS Office</b>	<b>RCD Office</b>
Alameda	(925) 371-0154	(925) 371-0154
Contra Costa	(925) 672-4577 x3	(925) 672-4577 x5
Marin	(707) 794-1242	(415) 663-1170
Napa	(707) 252-4189	(707) 252-4188
San Francisco	(650) 726-4660	N/A
San Mateo	(650) 726-4660	(650) 712-7765
Santa Clara	(831) 637-4360	Guadalupe-Coyote (408) 288-5888 Loma Prieta (408) 847-4171
Solano	(707) 678-1931	(707) 678-1655 x5
Sonoma	(707) 794-1242	Gold Ridge (707) 874-2907 Sotoyome (707) 569-1448 Southern Sonoma (707) 794-1242 x5