

FACT SHEET

General Information about the Kit Fox Fund

- Launched in March 2003, the Kit Fox Fund is a cooperative program between San Luis Obispo County, the Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that was established to assist the County in providing a means for developers and landowners to mitigate for loss of San Joaquin kit fox habitat under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in a cost-effective manner while providing for a comprehensive, large-scale conservation effort.
- The program is implemented by the County for discretionary projects located within the kit fox habitat area.
- The program essentially allows developers and landowners to develop their parcel in exchange for preserving kit fox habitat elsewhere in the county.
- The program does not apply when there is a possibility of take of kit fox. Projects resulting in potential take must obtain permits from CDFG and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).
- Over \$200,000 per year has been collected in in-lieu fees since program started.
- Approximately 140 County-approved projects have been able to mitigate their impacts via the Kit Fox Fund.
- Most projects are small, 95% are less than 5 acres, and 83% are less than 1 acre
- Large projects often have the option of mitigating onsite by providing an open space easement for kit fox that is preserved and managed for perpetuity.

Results to Date

- In June 2006, TNC transferred \$250,000 of the collected in-lieu fees to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the purchase of private in-holdings within the Carrizo Plain National Monument.
- This block grant has allowed the BLM the flexibility to purchase in-holdings from willing land owners as they become available.
- In mid-March the BLM closed escrow on two parcels within the monument totaling 140 acres
- Another parcel of approximately 82 acres was acquired by BLM in late April.
- Once the BLM completes an appraisal of additional in-holding properties, they will make additional purchases.
- Benefits to the kit fox: by buying private in-holdings within the kit fox core population area, the BLM will be able to more efficiently and effectively manage for kit fox. Other sensitive species of the region also benefit, including blunt-nosed leopard lizard, antelope ground squirrel, giant kangaroo rat, and several sensitive plant species.
- Partnering with BLM has provided additional benefits: funds from the in-lieu fee program can be combined with other sources of funds to achieve favorable economies of scale; lands purchased will be managed by BLM, providing additional cost-benefit.