



There is a future where we are not
the only dominant species.

Together we can plan for it.

California Climate Resilience Plan | Biodiversity

Globally, biodiversity is collapsing at an unprecedented rate, and massive ecological disruptions due to climate change are contributing to species losses. To safeguard natural systems and protect biodiversity in California, we need to create a vast network of protected lands that will allow species to move and adapt in response to changing conditions. Additionally, to retain conservation value and maximize biodiversity amidst rapid climate change, exotic species invasion and intensifying land conversion, we must ensure that these protected lands are actively managed.

In the 2021 budget, California made multi-year investments in land protection and restoration, including \$458 million to the Wildlife Conservation Board for land protection, biodiversity and wildlife corridors, and \$768 million to California Natural Resources Agency for biodiversity, land and water protection. However, California needs significant additional funding to implement the State's 30x30 Strategy, which involves conserving 6 million more acres of land in the next 8 years. California must invest at least \$1.2 billion this year to conserve lands, protect biodiversity and create wildlife crossings that will prevent habitat fragmentation. While The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has grown over the past half-century, so has the urgency of our mission. To achieve the needed pace of conservation, the protection output by TNC and partners in California needs to roughly double through 2050.

TNC has identified these top funding priorities to protect lands and preserve biodiversity in California:

1. Begin building a resilient, connected network of protected lands through strategic acquisition | \$270M
2. Restore priority riparian corridors to enhance connectivity and increase resilience, with a focus on the Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Mountains and foothills | \$15M
3. Restore key floodplains, estuaries and coastal habitat to enhance climate resilience in high-biodiversity coastal streams | \$100M
4. Develop new strategies and technologies aimed at reducing the cost and increasing the effectiveness of adaptive management.

Begin building a resilient, connected network through strategic acquisition | \$270 million

- **Protect the San Andreas Corridor:** Located in the Inner Coast Range, which spans from Santa Barbara County to the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond, the San Andreas Corridor is one of the state's most important wildlife corridors. By protecting this vast territory, we will preserve the many rare plants and animals that thrive in the complexity created by the San Andreas Fault, while also facilitating the movement of large animals such as tule elk, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, bobcat and the San Joaquin kit fox across hundreds of miles. TNC will focus on regions that bolster existing protected areas and connect them to other adjacent conserved lands, targeting the protection of almost 600,000 total acres.

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- **Secure the heart of a vital North American wildlife corridor, the Tehachapi linkage:** The Tehachapi linkage is Southern California's last wild connection between the coastal and inland ranges and supports wide-ranging cougars and bears along with countless other species of flora and fauna. TNC's vision is to establish a 110,000-acre nature preserve in the Tehachapis that will secure a vast swath of wilderness that reaches from Baja California through the Sierra Nevada in a chain of national parks and forests extending virtually uninterrupted to Alaska. Having already secured more than 70,000 acres, our goal is to protect and restore additional properties to create a preserve and provide for its management.
- **Protect mesquite habitat and groundwater resources in the Mojave Desert's Amargosa River watershed:** Along the Mojave Desert's Amargosa River lies a network of biologically rich conservation sites that contain a vast watershed and groundwater basin supporting a wide variety of rare and unique species and habitats. In this area, TNC aims to also protect one of the largest mesquite habitats in the region and the organisms it supports.
- **Protect critical linkages around and within the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge:** San Diego County shelters approximately 200 imperiled plants and animals—more than any other county in the nation. The county's magnificent landscapes also ensure clean drinking water for residents, support farms and ranches and offer recreational opportunities. Together with our partners, TNC has protected over 40,000 acres in San Diego County. With additional funding, we will continue to protect lands that are a cornerstone of the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program and fill gaps between core preserves and protected lands.

Restore priority riparian corridors to enhance connectivity and increase resilience | \$15 million

- This includes investments in the Sierra Nevada and Tehachapi Foothill Riparian Restoration to enhance and restore priority creeks that protect habitat while maintaining grazing.

Restore key floodplains, estuaries and coastal habitat to enhance climate resilience | \$100 million

- This includes restoration of the Santa Clara River Watershed, Ormond Beach, the Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve and north coast rivers and watersheds.

Develop new strategies and technologies aimed at reducing the cost and increasing the effectiveness of adaptive management.

- Using our preserves as research and development laboratories, TNC proposes investments including: the installation of a network of weather stations across the Channel Islands to provide real-time forecasting; the installation of ecosystem instrumentation and monitoring equipment; and innovations to support the return of the natural fire cycle to benefit habitat and prevent wildfires.

