Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan

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Appendix A

California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act

Assembly Bill No. 242

CHAPTER 588

An act to add Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 1360) to Chapter 4 of Division 2 of and to add and repeal Section 1363.5 of, the Fish and Game Code, relating to oak woodlands conservation.

[Approved by Governor October 7, 2001. Filed with Secretary of State October 9, 2001.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 242, Thomson. Wildlife conservation: oak woodlands. The existing Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947 establishes the Wildlife Conservation Board, and requires the board, among other things, to determine the areas in the state that are most essential and suitable for wildlife production and preservation, as prescribed. This bill would enact the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act to provide funding for the conservation and protection of California's oak woodlands. The bill would create the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund in the State Treasury, and would authorize the expenditure of moneys in the fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of the act. The bill would require the board to administer the fund, as prescribed, and would provide that moneys in the fund shall be available to local government entities, park and open-space districts, resource conservation districts, private landowners, and nonprofit organizations for implementation and administration of the act, as provided. The bill would require each city or county planning department that receives a grant for the purposes of the act to report to the city councilor board of supervisors of the county, as appropriate, on the uses of those funds within one year from the date the grant is received. The existing Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act) provides that not less than $5,000,000 of the proceeds of bonds issued under that act be allocated, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the preservation of oak woodlands. This bill would provide for the transfer of not less than $5,000,000 and not more than $8,000,000, as determined by the Wildlife Conservation Board, to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund to be used for the purposes of the bill.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The conservation of oak woodlands enhances the natural scenic beauty for residents and visitors, increases real property values, promotes ecological balance, provides habitat for over 300 wildlife species, moderates temperature extremes, reduces soil erosion, sustains water quality, and aids with nutrient cycling, all of which affect and improve the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the state.

(b) Widespread changes in land use patterns across the landscape are fragmenting the oak woodlands wildland character over extensive areas. (c) The future viability of California's oak woodlands resources are dependent, to a large extent, on the maintenance of large scale land holdings or on smaller multiple holdings that are not divided into fragmented, nonfunctioning biological units.

(d) The growing population and expanding economy of the state have had a profound impact on the ability of the public and private sectors to conserve the biological values of oak woodlands. Many of the privately owned oak woodlands stands are in areas of rapid urban and suburban expansion.

(e) A program to encourage and make possible the long-term conservation of oak woodlands is a necessary part of the state's wildlands protection policies and programs, and it is appropriate to expend money for that purpose. An incentive program of this nature will only be effective when used in concert with local planning and zoning strategies to conserve oak woodlands.

(f) Funding is necessary to sufficiently address the needs of conserving oak woodlands resources for future generations of Californians.

(g) California voters recognized the importance of funding that is needed to sufficiently protect the state's oak woodlands by passing Proposition 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act), which included not less than five million dollars ($5,000,000) for oak woodlands conservation.

SEC. 2. Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 1360) is added to Chapter 4 of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code, to read:

Article 3.5. Oak Woodlands Conservation Act

1360. This article shall be known, and may be cited, as the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act.

1361. For purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) ‘‘Board’’ means the Wildlife Conservation Board established pursuant to Section 1320.

(b) ‘‘Conservation easement’’ means a conservation easement, as defined in Section 815.1 of the Civil Code.

(c) ‘‘Fund’’ means the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund.

(d) ‘‘Land improvement’’ means restoration or enhancement of biologically functional oak woodlands habitat.

(e) ‘‘Local government entity’’ means any city, county, city and county, district, or other local government entity, if the entity is otherwise authorized to acquire and hold title to real property.

(f) ‘‘Nonprofit organization’’ means a tax-exempt nonprofit organization that meets the requirements of subdivision (a) of Section 815.3 of the Civil Code.

(g) ‘‘Oak’’ means any species in the genus Quercus.

(h) ‘‘Oak woodlands’’ means an oak stand with a greater than 10 percent canopy cover or that may have historically supported greater than 10 percent canopy cover.

(i) ‘‘Oak woodlands management plan’’ means a plan that provides protection for oak woodlands over time and compensates private landowners for conserving oak woodlands.

(j) ‘‘Special oak woodlands habitat elements’’ means multi- and single-layered canopy, riparian zones, cavity trees, snags, and downed woody debris.

1362. It is the intent of the Legislature that this article accomplish all of the following:

(a) Support and encourage voluntary, long-term private stewardship and conservation of California’s oak woodlands by offering landowners financial incentives to protect and promote biologically functional oak woodlands over time.

(b) Provide incentives to protect and encourage farming and ranching operations that are operated in a manner that protects and promotes healthy oak woodlands.

(c) Provide incentives for the protection of oak trees providing superior wildlife values on private lands.

(d) Encourage local land use planning that is consistent with the preservation of oak woodlands, particularly special oak woodlands habitat elements.

(e) Provide guidelines for spending the funds allocated for oak woodlands pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act (Chapter 1.692 (commencing with Section 5096.300) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code)).

(f) Establish a fund for oak woodlands conservation, to which future appropriations for oak woodlands protection may be made, and specify grant making guidelines.

1363. (a) The Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury. The fund shall be administered by the board. Moneys in the fund may be expended, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of this article.

(b) Money may be deposited into the fund from gifts, donations, funds appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of this article, or from federal grants or loans or other sources, and shall be used for the purpose of implementing this article, including administrative costs. Funds from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act (Chapter 1.692 (commencing with Section 5096.300) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code)), but not including funds dedicated as matching funds for the federal Forest Legacy Program, shall be deposited in the fund.

(c) To the extent consistent with the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act (Chapter 1.692 (commencing with Section 5096.300) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code)), the board may use money designated for the preservation and restoration of oak woodlands in the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund for projects in conjunction with the California Forest Legacy Program (Div. 10.5 (commencing with Sec. 12200) of the P.R.C.)), but only for the purposes specified in this article and only if the following requirements are met:

(1) The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall make an initial recommendation to the board.

(2) The board may deny any initial recommendation to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Subsequently, if the department alters an initial proposal, in a manner that the board determines to be significant, the board may withdraw its initial approval of the recommendation at any time during the process.

(d) The purposes for which moneys in the fund may be used include all of the following:

(1) Grants for the purchase of oak woodlands conservation easements. Any entity authorized to hold a conservation easement under Section 815.3 of the Civil Code may hold a conservation easement

pursuant to this article. The holder of the conservation easement shall ensure, on an annual basis, that the conservation easement conditions have been met for that year.

(2) Grants for land improvement.

(3) Cost-sharing incentive payments to private landowners who enter into long-term conservation agreements. An agreement shall include management practices that benefit oak woodlands and promote the economic sustainability of farming and ranching operations.

(4) Public education and outreach by local government entities, park and open-space districts, resource conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations. The public education and outreach shall identify and communicate the social, economic, agricultural, and biological benefits of strategies to conserve oak woodlands habitat values, including watershed protection benefits that reduce soil erosion, increase streamflows, and increase water retention and sustainable agricultural operations.

(5) Assistance to local government entities, park and open-space districts, resource conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations for the development and implementation of oak conservation elements in local general plans.

(6) Technical assistance consistent with the purpose of preserving oak woodlands.

(e) Not more than 20 percent of all grants made by the board pursuant to this article may be used for the purposes described in paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of subdivision (d). Not less than 80 percent of funds available for grants pursuant to this article shall be expended for the purposes described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subdivision (d).

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this article governs the expenditure of funds for the preservation of oak woodlands pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 5096.350 of the Public Resources Code.

1363.5. (a) Commencing on June 30, 2003, and annually thereafter, the board shall report to the Legislature and the Governor concerning the activities and expenditures of the fund.

(b) (1) In the first report to the Legislature, the board shall provide its best estimate of the total amount, in terms of acreage, species, and coverage, of oak woodlands habitat purchased with funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund and other funds pursuant to the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 2780) of Division 3.

(2) In each subsequent annual report, the board shall update the information required by paragraph (1) to reflect additional oak woodlands habitat purchased with funds from the Habitat Conservation

Fund pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 2780) of Division 3, and any purchases made with moneys deposited in the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund.

(c) The board shall annually provide its best estimate in the report, the acreage, cover, and species of oak woodlands habitat purchased with all moneys from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund.

(d) The board shall make all information available online at its Web site.

(e) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2020, and, as of January 1, 2021, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2021, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

1364. Moneys in the fund shall be available to local government entities, park and open-space districts, resource conservation districts, private landowners, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes set forth in subdivision (d) of Section 1363.

1365. The board shall develop and adopt guidelines and criteria for awarding grants that achieve the greatest lasting conservation of oak woodlands. The board shall develop these guidelines in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Department of Food and Agriculture, the University of California's Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program, conservation groups, and farming and ranching associations. As it applies to the award of grants for the implementation of this article, the board criteria shall specify that easement acquisitions that are the most cost-effective in comparison to the actual resource value of the easement shall be given priority.

1366. (a) To qualify for a grant pursuant to this article, the county or city in which the grant money would be spent shall prepare, or demonstrate that it has already prepared, an oak woodlands management plan that includes a description of all native oak species located within the county's or city's jurisdiction.

(b) To qualify for a grant pursuant to this article, the board shall certify that any proposed easement was not, and is not, required to satisfy a condition imposed upon the landowner by any lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use issued by one or more public agencies, including, but not limited to, the mitigation of significant effects on the environment of a project pursuant to an approved environmental impact report or to mitigate a negative declaration required pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000)) of the Public Resources Code.

(c) To qualify for a grant under this article, the applicant shall demonstrate that its proposal provides protection of oak woodlands that

is more protective than the applicable provisions of law in existence on the date of the proposal.

(d) A county or city may develop an oak woodlands management plan. A nonprofit corporation, park and open-space district, resource conservation district, or other local government entity may apply to the board for funds to develop an oak woodlands management plan for a county or city, but the county or city shall maintain ultimate authority to approve the oak woodlands management plan.

(e) The process for developing an initial oak woodlands management plan, and the adoption of significant amendments to a plan, as determined by the county or city, are subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of
Title 5 of the Government Code).

(f) A proposal by a local government entity, nonprofit corporation, park and open-space district, private landowner, or resource conservation district for a grant to be expended for the purposes of this article shall be certified by the county or city as being consistent with the oak woodlands management plan of the county or city. If the land covered by the proposal is in the jurisdiction of more than one county or city, each county or city shall certify that the proposal is consistent with the oak woodlands management plan of each county or city.

(g) If two or more entities seek grant funding from the board pursuant to this article for the same jurisdiction, the county or city shall designate which entity shall lead the efforts to manage oak woodlands habitat in the area.

1367. On or before April 1, 2002, the board and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shall develop a memorandum of understanding regarding the protection of oak woodlands that does all of the following:

(a) If necessary, creates a specific process for working together to use money from the fund in conjunction with the California Forest Legacy Program Act of 2000 (Division 10.5 (commencing with Section 12200) of the Public Resources Code).

(b) Lists elements a county or city shall include in its oak woodlands management plan. Items included in the plan shall assist a county or a city to specify conservation priorities and prevent oak woodlands habitat fragmentation while minimizing the cost and administrative burden associated with developing the plan. The elements may include any or all of the following:

(1) Tree inventory mapping.

(2) Oak canopy retention standards.

(3) Oak habitat mitigation measures.

(4) A procedure to monitor the effectiveness of the plan and to modify the plan as necessary.

(c) Designates an online repository for oak woodlands management plans that will be easily accessible to the public and any other state agency involved in oak woodlands conservation efforts.

(d) Discusses the relationship between oak woodlands conservation efforts under this article and efforts by other state agencies to protect oak woodlands, including efforts to combat sudden oak death, and outlines a plan, as necessary, for coordinating with these agencies.

1368. The board may not approve a grant to a local government entity, park and open-space district, resource conservation district, or nonprofit organization if the entity requesting the grant has acquired, or proposes to acquire, an oak woodlands conservation easement through the use of eminent domain, unless the owner of the affected lands requests the owner to do so.

1369. A city or county planning department may utilize a grant awarded for the purposes of this article to consult with a citizen advisory committee and appropriate natural resource specialists in order to report publicly to the city council or the board of supervisors on the status of the city's or county's oak woodlands. Each city or county planning department that receives a grant for the purposes of this article shall report to the city council or to the board of supervisors of the county, as appropriate, on the use of those grant funds within one year from the date the grant is received.

1370. No money may be expended from the fund to adopt guidelines or to administer the fund until at least one million dollars ($1,000,000) is deposited in the fund.

1372. Nothing in this article grants any new authority to the board or any other agency, office, or department to affect local policy or land use decisionmaking.

SEC. 3. An amount not less than five million dollars ($5,000,000) and not more than eight million dollars ($8,000,000), as determined by the Wildlife Conservation Board, from moneys in the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund available for oak woodlands conservation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (a) of Section 5096.350 of the Public Resources Code shall be transferred to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund created pursuant to Section 1363 of the Fish and Game Code, to be used for the purposes of Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 1360) of Chapter 4 of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code.

BILL NUMBER: SB 1334

CHAPTERED BILL TEXT

CHAPTER 732

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INTRODUCED BY Senator Kuehl
(Coauthor: Senator Romero)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Hancock, Koretz, and Liu)

FEBRUARY 18, 2004

An act to add Section 21083.4 to the Public Resources Code, relating to oak woodlands conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1334, Kuehl. Oak woodlands conservation: Environmental quality.

(1) The Oak Woodlands Conservation Act provides funding for the conservation and protection of California's oak woodlands. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare, or cause to be prepared, and certify the completion of, an environmental impact report on a discretionary project that it proposes to carry out or approve that may have a significant effect on the environment, as defined, or to adopt a negative declaration if it finds that the project will not have that effect. CEQA also requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA provides some exemptions from its requirements for specified projects. This bill would require a county, in determining whether CEQA requires an environmental impact report, negative declaration, or mitigated negative declaration, to determine whether a project in its jurisdiction may result in a conversion of oak woodlands that will have a significant effect on the environment, and would require the county, if it determines there may be a significant effect to oak woodlands, to require one or more of specified mitigation alternatives to mitigate the significant effect of the

conversion of oak woodlands. The bill would exempt specified activities from its requirements. By imposing new duties on local governments with respect to oak woodlands mitigation, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 21083.4 is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:

21083.4. (a) For purposes of this section, "oak" means a native tree species in the genus Quercus, not designated as Group A or Group B commercial species pursuant to regulations adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to Section 4526, and that is 5 inches or more in diameter at breast height.
(b) As part of the determination made pursuant to Section 21080.1, a county shall determine whether a project within its jurisdiction may result in a conversion of oak woodlands that will have a significant effect on the environment. If a county determines that there may be a significant effect to oak woodlands, the county shall require one or more of the following oak woodlands mitigation alternatives to mitigate the significant effect of the conversion of oak woodlands:

(1) Conserve oak woodlands, through the use of conservation
easements.
(2) (A) Plant an appropriate number of trees, including maintaining plantings and replacing dead or diseased trees.
(B) The requirement to maintain trees pursuant to this paragraph terminates seven years after the trees are planted.
(C) Mitigation pursuant to this paragraph shall not fulfill more
than one-half of the mitigation requirement for the project.
(D) The requirements imposed pursuant to this
paragraph also may be used to restore former oak woodlands.
(3) Contribute funds to the Oak Woodlands
Conservation Fund, as established under subdivision (a) of Section 1363 of the Fish and Game Code, for the purpose of purchasing oak woodlands conservation easements, as specified under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of that section and the guidelines and criteria of the Wildlife Conservation Board. A project applicant that contributes funds under this paragraph shall not receive a grant from the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund as part of the mitigation for the project.
(4) Other mitigation measures developed by the county. (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (d) of Section 1363 of the Fish and Game Code, a county may use a grant awarded pursuant to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act (Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 1360) of Chapter 4 of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code) to prepare an oak conservation element for a general plan, an oak

protection ordinance, or an oak woodlands management plan, or amendments thereto, that meets the requirements of this section.

(d) The following are exempt from this section:

(1) Projects undertaken pursuant to an approved Natural Community Conservation Plan or approved subarea plan within an approved Natural Community Conservation Plan that includes oaks as a covered species or that conserves oak habitat through natural community conservation preserve designation and implementation and mitigation measures that are consistent with this section.

(2) Affordable housing projects for lower income households, as defined pursuant to Section 50079.5 of the Health and Safety Code, that are located within an urbanized area, or within a sphere of influence as defined pursuant to Section 56076 of the Government Code.

(3) Conversion of oak woodlands on agricultural land that includes land that is used to produce or process plant and animal products for commercial purposes.

(4) Projects undertaken pursuant to Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code.

(e) (1) A lead agency that adopts, and a project that incorporates, one or more of the measures specified in this section to mitigate the significant effects to oaks and oak woodlands shall be deemed to be in compliance with this division only as it applies to effects on oaks and oak woodlands. (2) The Legislature does not intend this section to modify requirements of this division, other than with regard to effects on oaks and oak woodlands.

(f) This section does not preclude the application of Section
21081 to a project.

(g) This section, and the regulations adopted pursuant to this section, shall not be construed as a limitation on the power of a public agency to comply with this division or any other provision of law.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

Appendix B

Oak Woodland Communities

Oak Woodland Vegetation Types:

a. Mixed Oak Woodland

General Distribution

Most oak woodlands in the County are mixed oak woodlands with more than one co-dominant oak species.

Dominant Plants

Mixed oak woodlands where interior live oak and blue oak are co-dominants are common east of the Napa River watershed. Other mixed oak woodlands are composed of coast live oak and valley oak in low elevations, with canyon live oak on steep slopes. The mixed oak alliance also includes stands dominated by deciduous oaks, such as California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) (see below). Other tree species found in mixed oak woodlands include big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) in wetter areas and madrone (*Arbutus menqiesii*) in drier settings. Conifers such as Douglas-fir (*Psuedotsuga menzeisii*) or Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) form minor components of this community at higher elevations, as does foothill pine at lower elevations. The understory is characterized by annual grassland species, with patches of shrub species such as hillside gooseberry (*Ribes californica*), and poison oak, vines such as hairy honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidula*), and herbaceous species such as rigid hedge nettle (*Stachys ajugoides*) and miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*) (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995). Other commonly found understory species may also include coffeeberry, toyon, manzanita, and spicebush (Sauer 2010).

Common Wildlife

Most wildlife species associated with the mixed oak habitat are also found in other oak woodlands and chaparral. However, birds such as ash-throated flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), Hutton's vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), orange-crowned warbler, lark sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*), Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), Lawrence's goldfinch (*Carduelis lawrencei*) and lesser goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) are primarily found in this type of woodland. This habitat shares many of the same mammal and herpetofauna as chaparral described above. Oak woodlands can be extremely productive for wildlife. Acorns provide an important food source for many species of birds and mammals, as do the numerous insects that feed on oaks. Mature stages of oak woodland development provide suitable or optimal breeding conditions for many wildlife species, with abundant food and large living trees used for nesting (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988).

Special-Status Species

Golden eagles forage in oak woodlands, while Lewis's woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*) is a winter resident of this community. Clara Hunt's milk-vetch (*Astragalus clarianus*) may grow in openings in oak woodlands, while Brewer's western flax (*Hesperolinon breweri*) is found on serpentine slopes in oak woodlands. Additional information and a list of special-status species associated with oak woodlands in the county can be found in the Napa County Baseline Data Report (BDR 2005-appendix B-C).

b. Evergreen Oak Woodland

General Distribution

Coast live oak woodlands are common at low elevations in the southern Napa watershed. They may be found on gentle slopes in low foothills, especially on the east side of the Napa Valley, as well as on steep southerly slopes where it is found with chaparral species. Interior live oak woodlands are found east of the Napa River watershed. Mixed broadleaf woodlands are found on mesic slopes in central and western County (Thorne et al. 2004)

Dominant Plants

Evergreen oak woodlands in the County are dominated by coast live oak and interior live oak.

Coast Live Oak Woodland

The coast live oak woodland community is characterized by an open to nearly closed canopy of coast live oak, with madrone and California bay generally under 10–15% relative cover, and a dense understory of poison oak, rigid hedge nettle, and hairy honeysuckle, in addition to perennial grasses and forbs.

Interior Live Oak Woodland

Relatively pure stands of interior live oak are rare in the County. They often include a minor component of foothill pine and coast live oak, and an understory of toyon, buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), bay, coffeberry, Indian warrior (*Pedicularis densiflora*), and Pacific pea (*Lathyrus vestitus*), in addition to perennial grasses and forbs. Shrubs in the understory may include poison oak and yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*).

Mixed Broadleaf Woodlands

Mixed broadleaf woodlands feature California bay or madrone as co-dominants with coast live oak, California black oak, and canyon oak. Douglas-fir and big-leaf maple may comprise up to 5% of the canopy. Such woodlands occur in approximately 4% of the County. The understory community is typically a mix

of hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) and oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), and vines such as poison oak, toyon, and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Grasses are a minor component here including Geyer's oniongrass (*Melica geyeri*) and Torrey's melica. Ferns and leaf litter are prominent on the forest floor.

Tanbark Oak Woodlands

This cover type is uncommon or rare as mapable stands, and it is usually in close proximity to conifers such as Douglas-fir (*Psuedotsuga menzeisii*) or Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)in mesic settings. It is more often a component of the California Bay-Madrone-Coast Live Oak NFD Super Alliance.

Common Wildlife

Many species are primarily associated with oak woodlands, including reptiles such as western skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus*) and northern alligator lizard (*Elgaria coerula*); amphibians such as ensatina (*Ensatina eschscholtzii*) and California slender salamander (*Batrachoseps attenuatus*); and birds such as Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), warbling vireo (*Vireo gilvus*), chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), black-throated gray warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) and black-headed grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*). Typical mammal species found in this habitat include those described for chaparral communities.

Special-Status Species

Lewis's woodpecker is a winter resident of this oak woodland community and golden eagles forage in oak woodlands. Clara Hunt's milk-vetch may grow in openings in oak woodlands, while Brewer's western flax is found on serpentine slopes in oak woodlands. Additional information and a list of special-status species associated with oak woodlands in the county can be found in the Napa County Baseline Data Report (BDR 2005-appendix B-C).

c. Deciduous Oak Woodlands

General Distribution

Blue oak woodlands occur primarily east of Chiles Valley to the County line (Thorne et al. 2004). California black oak woodlands are found at higher elevations, especially in the Atlas Peak region. Valley oak riparian woodlands are found along major riparian corridors, especially along the Napa River and its tributaries.

Dominant Plants

Deciduous oak woodlands in the County are dominated by blue oak. Blue oak woodlands make up approximately 9% of the County. California black oak becomes a more important component of deciduous oak woodlands at higher elevations, and valley oak is more common along riparian corridors.

Blue Oak Woodlands

Blue oak woodlands vary from closed canopies of blue oak to very open stands. In all cases, blue oak makes up at least 80–90% of relative cover (Thorne et al. 2004). The understory is characterized by annual grassland species, with patches of shrub species such as common manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*), buckeye, hillside gooseberry, and poison oak (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995). Foothill pine frequently occurs as a minor overstory tree with less than 15% relative cover.

Black Oak Woodlands

Black oak woodlands are located on gentle to moderate slopes trending in most directions except south. They typically occur at higher elevations, particularly in the Atlas Peak region, and comprise a larger component of deciduous woodlands at this elevation.

Oregon White Oak Woodlands

Uncommon as mapable stands, this type is generally a component of more mesic mixed oak stands. Several nearly pure stands were mapped on gentle slopes west of the Napa Valley and north of the city of Napa.

Valley Oak Woodlands

Valley oak riparian woodlands are characterized by one of two suites of co-dominant tree species, either California bay, coast live oak, walnut and ash, or Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and coast live oak. Valley oak woodland also occurs on the open valley floor, where it was historically quite extensive. Valley oak riparian woodlands are described in more detail under the Riparian Woodlands section below.

Common Wildlife

Wildlife communities associated with deciduous oak woodland are similar to those described in evergreen mixed oak woodland. Notable exceptions include relatively rare species including wintering Lewis's woodpecker, yellow-billed magpie (*Pica nuttalli*) and phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*).

Special-Status Species

Many special-status species occurring in evergreen oak woodlands also occur in deciduous oak woodlands (Appendix A). Some special-status species are more closely associated with deciduous oak woodlands, sometimes because they are found in the riparian areas or higher elevations where deciduous oak woodlands are found. For example, long-legged myotis *(Myotis volans*) is found in high elevation woodlands, while ringtail cat and marsh checkerbloom (*Sidalcea oregana* ssp. *hydrophila*) are found in riparian woodlands.

d. Riparian Woodland and Forest

General Distribution

Riparian woodlands and forests are an uncommon but highly valuable land cover in the County, occurring on over 11,000 acres (2%) of the total land area in the County. Over half of the County's riparian woodland is found in the Western Mountains (32% of County total) areas and Napa Valley Floor (20%). Eastern Mountains (10%) and Pope Valley (9%) areas also have significant areas of riparian woodland. They occur throughout the County along riparian and stream corridors.

Dominant Plants

There are seven types (alliances or associations) that are strongly associated with riparian and stream corridors, two of which are Valley Oak associations: Valley oak–(California bay-coast live oak-walnut-Oregon ash) riparian forest NFD association; and Valley oak–Fremont cottonwood–(coast live oak) riparian forest NFD association. The others are Coast redwood alliance, Coast redwood–Douglas-fir/ California bay NFD (not formally defined) association, White alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) (mixed willow–California bay–big leaf maple) riparian forest association, Brewer willow alliance, and Mixed willow super alliance. Several of these communities are considered sensitive by the Department of Fish and Game (DFG): Valley oak woodlands are the most common riparian woodland type in the County, followed by Coast redwood- Douglas-fir/ California bay forests. General distribution and dominant plants of the valley oak-Fremont cottonwood woodlands are discussed with other oak woodland types above.

Valley Oak Riparian Woodlands

Valley oak riparian woodlands are characterized by one of two suites of co-dominant tree species, either California bay, coast live oak, walnut and ash, or Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and coast live oak. Valley oak riparian woodlands, while constituting a small fraction of the County's overall area, are especially valuable in terms of protecting water quality and providing wildlife habitat. If valley oak riparian woodlands are not heavily grazed, they may contain riparian vegetation in the understory, such as bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Santa Barbara sedge (*Carex barbarae*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), common snowberry (*Symphoricarpus albus*), California blackberry, and wild grape (*Vitus californica*). Valley oak woodland also occurs on the open valley floor, where it was historically quite extensive. Although there is little data to help describe this vegetation type, canopy cover is thought to have been open to locally dense with valley oak the dominant tree. Blue oak, California black oak, and coast live oak were probably minor constituents of this community. The understory was similar to that described under native grassland with a mosaic of seasonal wetland interspersed.

Common Wildlife

Riparian woodlands support one of the most diverse groups of plants and animals in the County on a per area basis. Riparian woodlands are highly productive systems because they receive nutrients and water from higher elevations. High bird abundance and diversity in riparian forests and woodlands result from this productivity (Holstein 1984). Intact riparian woodlands are essential for steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus* spp.) Several species are primarily associated with this riparian habitat, including amphibians such as Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*); birds such as downy woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) and wide-ranging mammals such as those described for chaparral and oak woodlands. Many bird species associated with oak woodland habitats are also found in riparian woodlands.

Wildlife habitat is greatly enhanced by riparian vegetation, which provides shade, food, and nutrients for aquatic invertebrates that form the basis of the food chain (Riparian Habitat Joint Venture 2004). Coarse woody debris from riparian trees and shrubs is also an important feature of in-stream habitat, forming scour pools and logjams used by amphibians, insects, and fish (Riparian Habitat Joint Venture 2004). Riparian forests and woodland may be the most important habitat for California landbird species, providing breeding and over wintering grounds, migration stopover areas, and movement corridors (Riparian Habitat Joint Venture 2004). The quality of riparian wildlife habitat is enhanced by multilayered, structurally complex vegetation, including canopy trees and a shrub layer, and food sources such as berries and insects.

Special-Status Species

Of the County's 69 special-status wildlife species, 19 depend on this habitat type, while only 2 of the County's 81 special-status plant species do. Napa County's riparian forests also contain some of the last native remaining stands of Northern California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *hindsii*), located in Wooden Valley (California Natural Diversity Database 2004).

e. Chaparral/Scrub

General Distribution

While not an oak woodland community, chaparral/ scrub is included here due to the various species of shrub oaks it contains. It is also the second most common land cover in the County, covering approximately 107,000 acres or 21% of the County (BDR, 2005). This community is dominated by woody shrubs, with less than 10% cover of trees, and generally occurs in settings that are too hot, dry, rocky, and steep to support tree-dominated habitats (Holland 1986). They occur especially on south and southwest-facing slopes. The three most common chaparral/ scrub types present are chamise chaparral, leather oak–

white leaf manzanita–chamise (a serpentine chaparral), and scrub interior live oak–scrub oak (*mixed chaparral*). The mixed chaparrals and serpentine chaparrals sub-groups are discussed below.

Dominant Plants

Mixed Chaparral/Scrub

Of the five types of mixed chaparral/ scrub that are mapped, three are classified as evergreen sclerophyllous chaparral. The two remaining types are deciduous (deer brush) or microphyllous (coyote brush–California sagebrush [*Artemisia californica*]) and are both very small in extent in the County. The sclerophyllous chaparral types are dominated by various species of shrubby oaks: interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), leather oak (*Quercus durata*) and scrub oak or manzanitas, and others. Associate species are highly variable depending on type and physical site characteristics. Mixed chaparral occurs on more mesic sites than chamise-dominated chaparral. Oak dominated chaparral is found primarily in the east of the County, where it occurs in dense stands, especially along the crest of Blue Ridge, and forms a total of 2% of the total land cover of the County. This type forms 6% of the land cover in the Berryessa area, and from 2%–6% in five other evaluation areas. It transitions to interior live oak forest on more mesic sites. Manzanita-dominated chaparral occurs in a variety of settings, mostly in the western portion of the County, and also forms a total of 2% of the total land cover.

Serpentine Chaparral

Four types of serpentine chaparral are recognized on the ICE map, and together they form almost 10% of the total land cover of the County. Serpentine chaparral grows on infertile soils derived from serpentinite rock that have a unique mineral composition with high concentrations of iron and magnesium and low concentration of nutrients such as nitrogen and calcium (Kruckeberg 1984). These harsh soils support a distinctive flora, including many endemic species: Ten percent of California's endemic plants are confined to serpentine soils (Skinner and Pavlik 1994). The dominant shrubs of serpentine chaparral are usually leather oak, chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), or white leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos viscida*). Species composition is related to aspect, mineral content, and soil moisture levels, and the transition between chaparral types can be subtle. The ground layer is usually sparse. Serpentine chaparral is found mainly in the north central portion of the County, especially in the Knoxville area, where they form more than 30% of the total land cover, and also in the hills east of Pope Valley (23% land cover of the Pope Valley Evaluation Area), Central Interior Valleys (19% land cover) and Berryessa area (11% land cover). Small amounts are also found in the Eastern Mountains (4%) and the Western Mountains (2%).

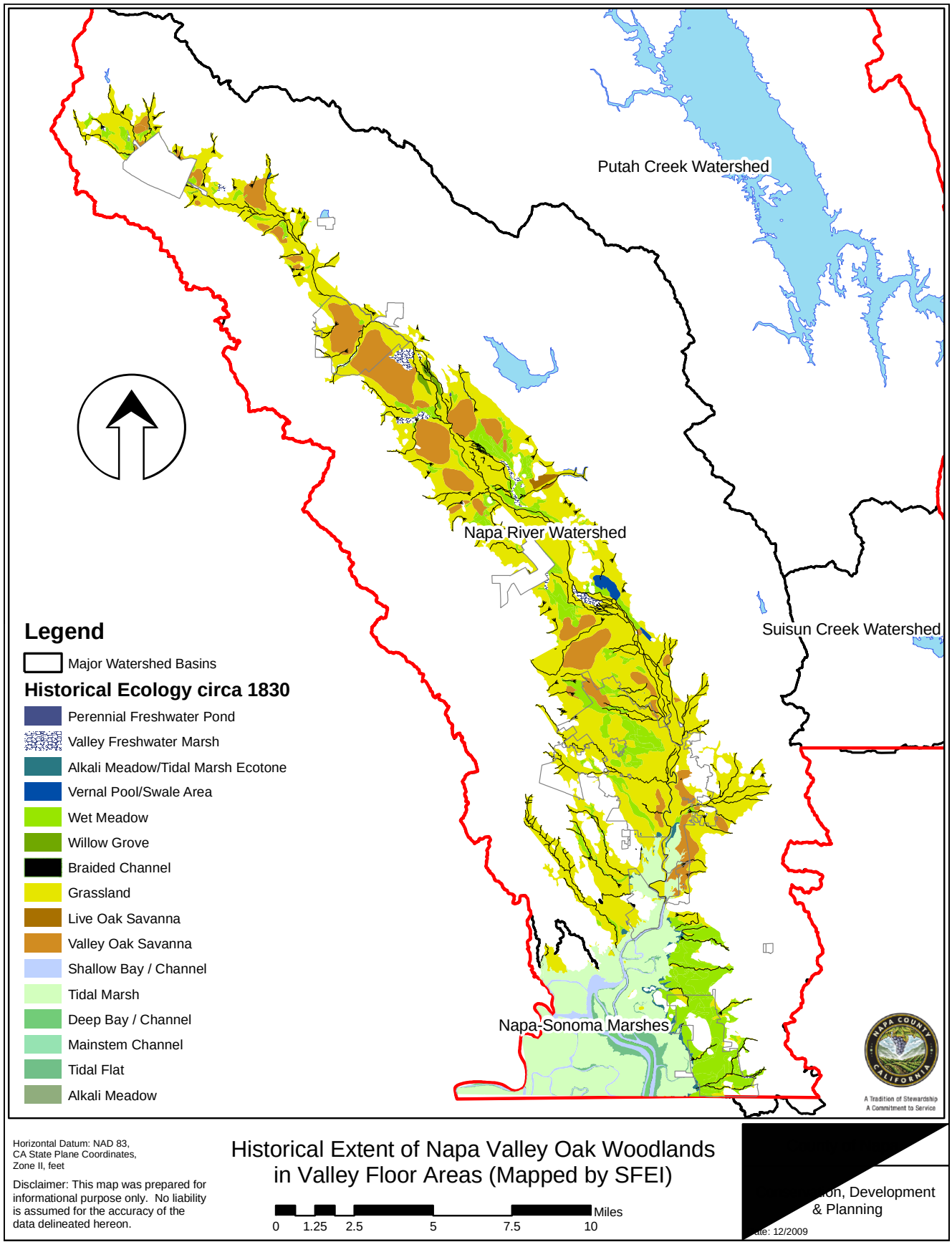
Common Wildlife

Many species are primarily associated with chaparral, including reptiles such as western rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*), California mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata*); mammals such as desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus bachmanii*) Sonoma chipmunk (*Tamias sonomae*); and birds such as wrentit (*Chamea fasciata*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*), and sage sparrow (*Amphispiza belli*). Most of these species are resident and are rarely found outside of this habitat. Other species that occur in chaparral are also found in a variety of woodlands and other habitats including many mammals.

Special-Status Species

A total of 34 special-status plants are associated with chaparral, often with micro-habitats such as openings, rocky outcrops, or swales within this habitat type. Of these, 20 are also found in serpentine chaparral.[i]

Appendix B - 1



Horizontal Datum: NAD 83,
CA State Plane Coordinates,
Zone II, feet

Disclaimer: This map was prepared for informational purpose only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data delineated hereon.

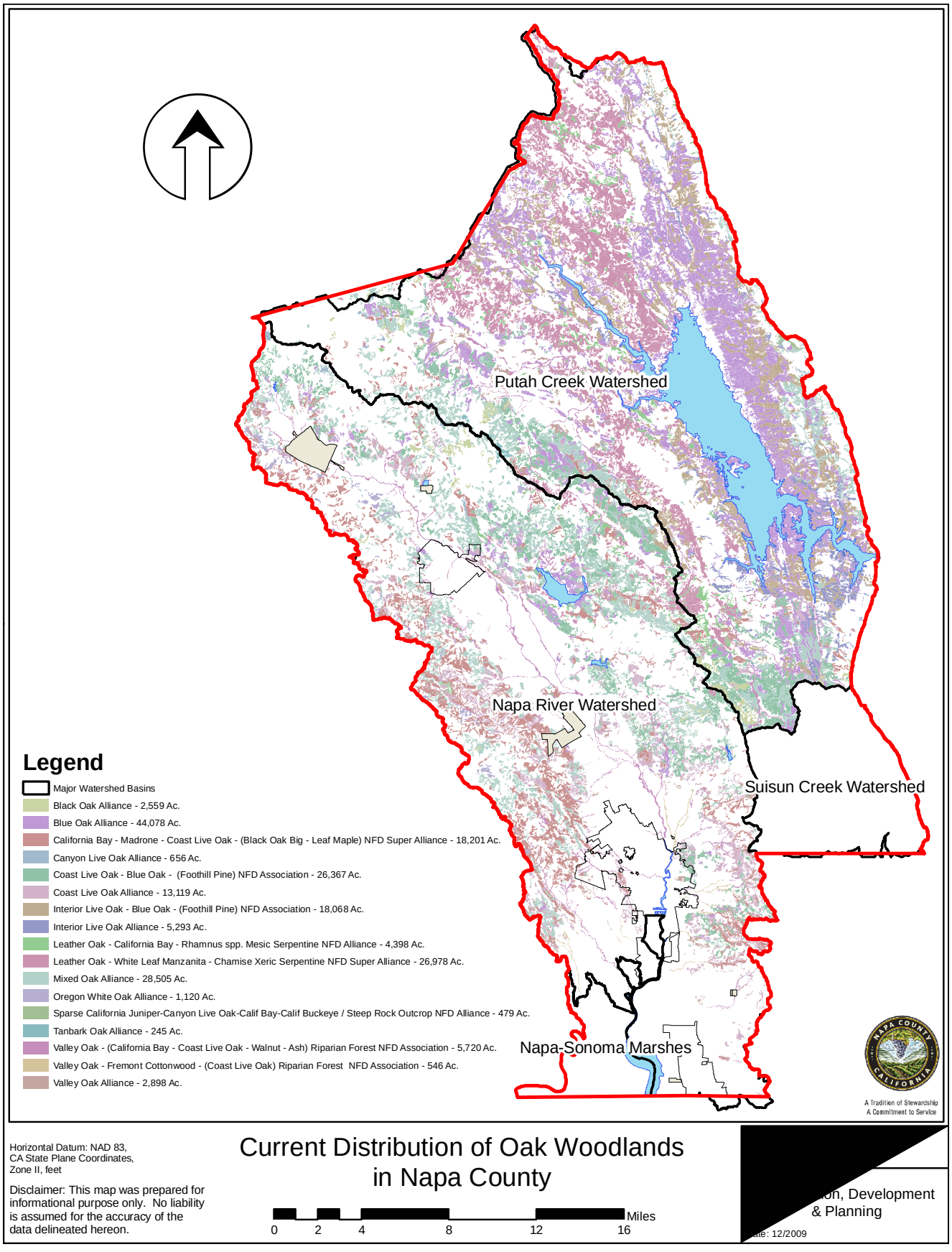
Historical Extent of Napa Valley Oak Woodlands in Valley Floor Areas (Mapped by SFEI)

0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

...ion, Development & Planning

...te: 12/2009

Appendix B - 2



Horizontal Datum: NAD 83,
CA State Plane Coordinates,
Zone II, feet

Disclaimer: This map was prepared for informational purpose only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data delineated hereon.

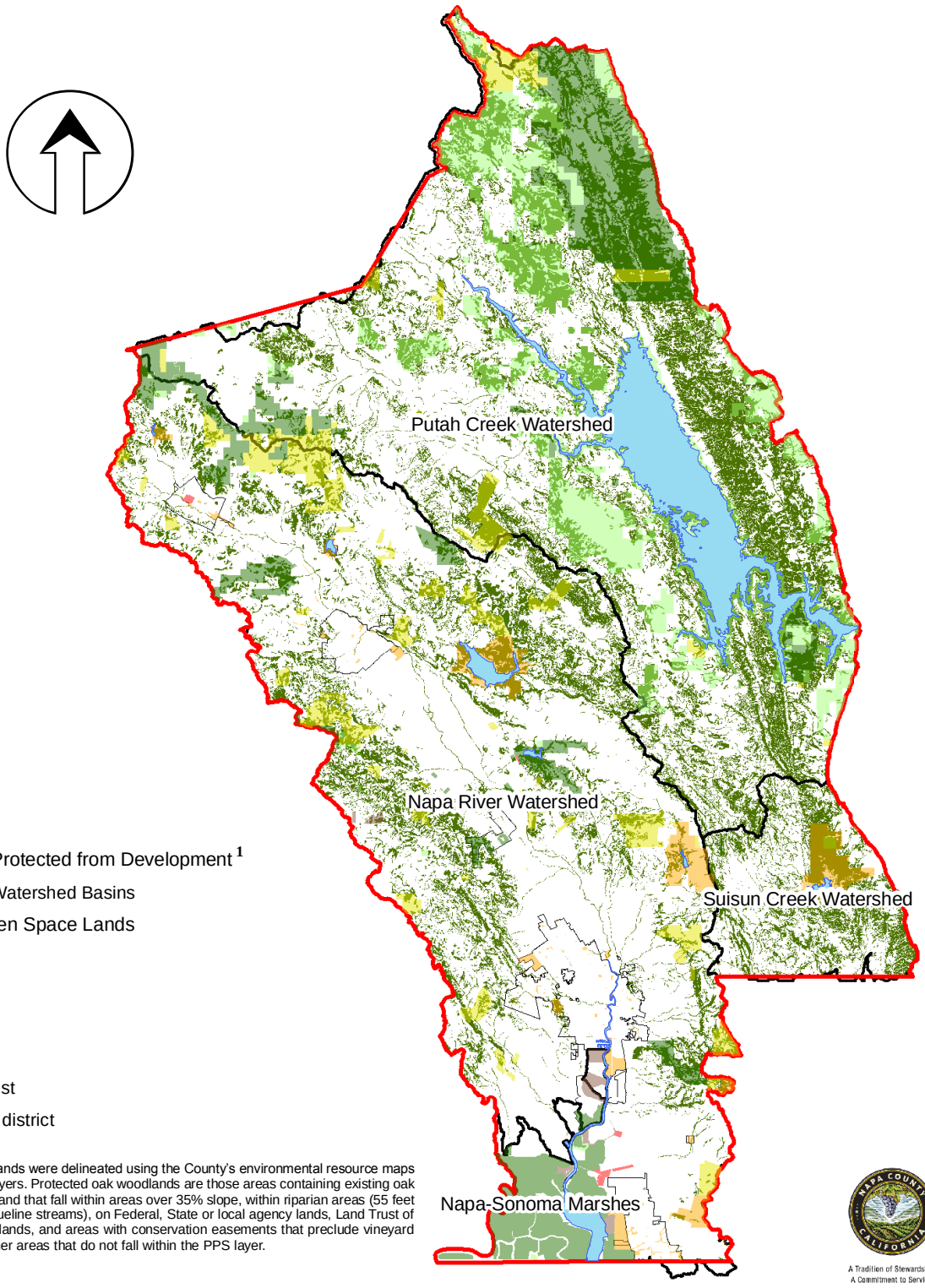
Current Distribution of Oak Woodlands in Napa County

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

...on, Development & Planning

...te: 12/2009

Appendix B - 3



Horizontal Datum: NAD 83,
CA State Plane Coordinates,
Zone II, feet

Disclaimer: This map was prepared for informational purpose only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data delineated hereon.

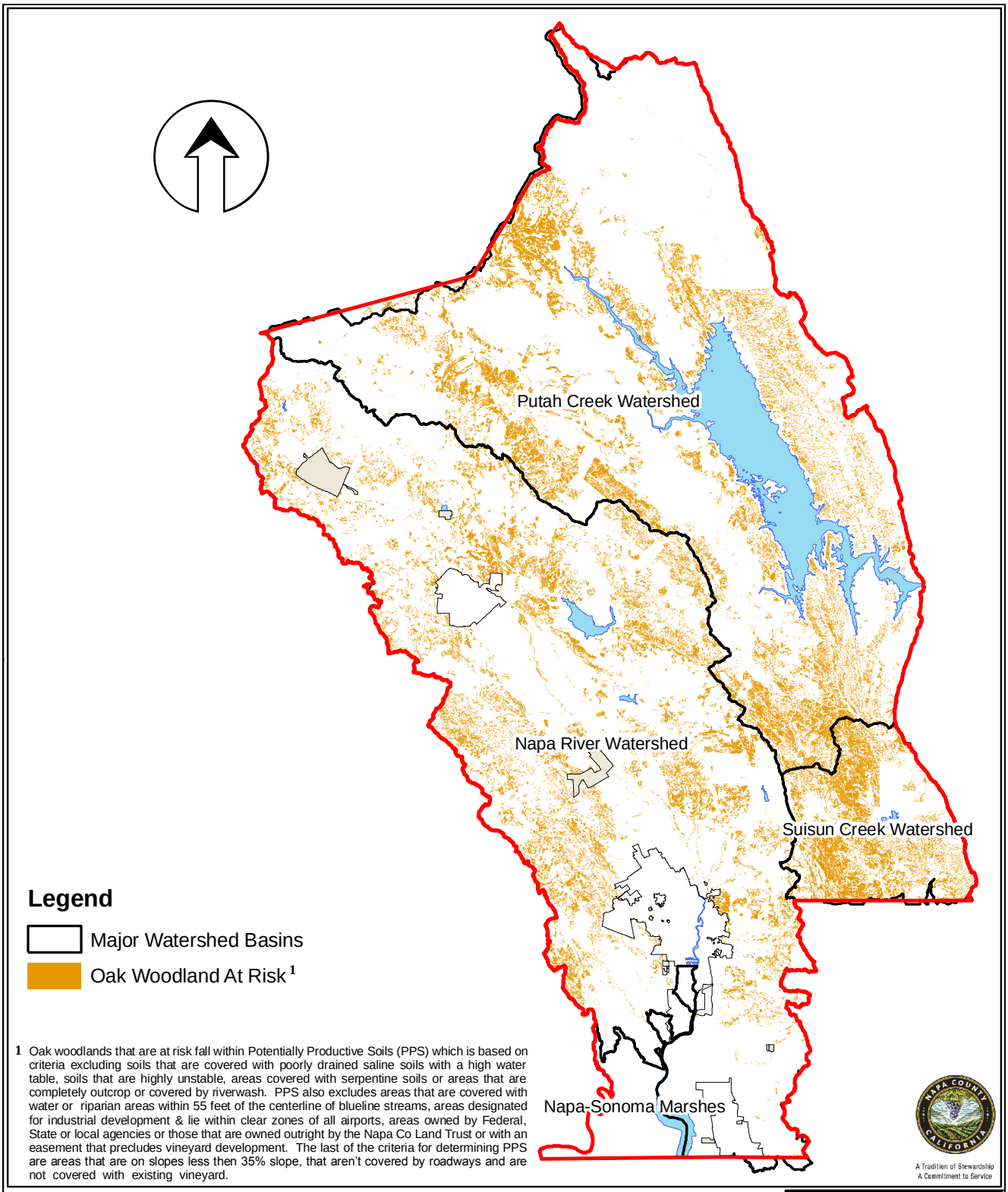
Protected Oak Woodlands in Napa County

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

...ion, Development
& Planning

...te: 12/2009

Appendix B - 4


Putah Creek Watershed
Napa River Watershed
Suisun Creek Watershed
Napa-Sonoma Marshes
Legend
Major Watershed Basins
Oak Woodland At Risk 1
1 Oak woodlands that are at risk fall within Potentially Productive Soils (PPS) which is based on criteria excluding soils that are covered with poorly drained saline soils with a high water table, soils that are highly unstable, areas covered with serpentine soils or areas that are completely outcrop or covered by riverwash. PPS also excludes areas that are covered with water or riparian areas within 55 feet of the centerline of blueline streams, areas designated for industrial development & lie within clear zones of all airports, areas owned by Federal, State or local agencies or those that are owned outright by the Napa Co Land Trust or with an easement that precludes vineyard development. The last of the criteria for determining PPS are areas that are on slopes less then 35% slope, that aren't covered by roadways and are not covered with existing vineyard.
A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service
Horizontal Datum: NAD 83,
CA State Plane Coordinates,
Zone II, feet
Disclaimer: This map was prepared for informational purpose only. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data delineated hereon.
Oak Woodlands at Risk in Napa County
0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles
& Planning
Date: 12/2009

Appendix C

Oak Woodland Conservation and Restoration Evaluation Criteria

These criteria will assist willing landowners, public agencies, nonprofit organizations and other project partners in identifying priority areas with the highest oak woodland resource values. The evaluation system uses criteria to assess a broad range of oak woodland resource values, such as stand composition and distribution, tree cover and density, plant and wildlife habitat availability (including special status species), historical and cultural significance, and recreational opportunities. In addition, the system factors in the threat of loss and potential management constraints, and complements countywide conservation and watershed planning efforts.

Priority Conservation & Restoration Criteria

The evaluation system to establish priorities uses a three (3) layered approach to assign an overall priority to a parcel which can be tailored to the specific landowner or funding source requirements. The three-layers considered in the ranking system are:

(1) **resource value** - an aggregate assessment of the natural resource values associated with a given oak woodland (most important layer in the prioritization system);
(2) **risk category** - an assessment of the likelihood that the resource will be lost or seriously degraded over various time horizons if no conservation actions are instituted; and
(3) **management constraints** – a measure reflecting the level of land management inputs needed to maintain the resource value (e.g-control invasive species, promote oak regeneration).

The evaluation system is designed to provide flexibility and can be modified over time by adding criteria or adjusting thresholds for priority rankings as needed to address changing resource needs. Specific weighting has not been assigned to the various criteria, as their relative importance may change over time based on the locations and types of conservation projects that are implemented and their effectiveness. The County's Geographic Information System (GIS) provides data on oak woodland species, density and distribution, which can be supplemented by field and other site specific information in areas where the scope and resolution of GIS data may be limited.

1. Resource Values

Conservation ranking is based on maintaining existing oak woodlands having high resource values that are already present. Enhancement ranking criteria is based on a combination of both current resource values and the potential resource values in the enhanced/restored state. Resource value criteria are grouped into four general categories:

- Stand Composition, Integrity and Functionality
- Habitat for Plant and Wildlife Species
- Landscape Function
- Human Interactions

The four categories make-up a checklist of twenty-one (21) criteria used to measure resource value. The County will use the checklist to summarize the priority ranking. Since the information available for assessing the various criteria may vary in type and quality, the sources of data used and their overall data quality should be noted in conjunction with the priority ranking. Uncertainty associated with the data should be considered in the overall effort to establish priorities and in comparisons between ranked areas or projects.

Stand Composition, Integrity, and Functionality:	Criteria 1-7
Habitat for Plant and Wildlife Species:	Criteria 8-13
Landscape Function:	Criteria 14-17
Human Interactions:	Criteria 18-21

Stand Composition, Integrity, and Functionality

Criterion 1: Stand Composition. Individual oak species vary somewhat with respect to the type of habitat they provide, the wildlife species they support, and their functions in the landscape. Conservation and enhancement efforts should seek to conserve and maintain the full diversity of oak species present in the county. In considering the oak species present at a site, both the overall rarity of the species within the county and the degree to which the species is protected or threatened will contribute to its overall species ranking. As levels of protection or threat change over time, Napa County may adjust the relative priority of a given species. The priority ranking based on species in the table below should be considered as a general guide rather than an absolute ranking order.

Priority for Conservation and Enhancement	Stand Composition (Oak Species Present)
High	**Valley oak –** This species may have experienced the greatest loss in its historical range within the county, especially on the valley floor. It has also been eliminated from much of its historic range statewide. Valley floor and riparian valley oak stands have especially high priority. **Black oak** – This species is very uncommon in the county. **Canyon live oak** – This species is relatively uncommon in the county. **Oregon White Oak –** This species is uncommon as mapable stands in the county. **Tanbark Oak –** This species is uncommon or rare as mapable stands in the county.
Moderate	**Blue Oak –** This is a more common species in the county and over much of its range in the state. **Coast Live Oak –** This is a more common species in the county **Interior live oak –** This is a more common species in the county and over much of its range in the state. **Mixed oak–** Most oak woodlands in the county are mixed oak woodland with more than one co-dominant species.
Low	**Scrub oak/Leather Oak** – These species are currently relatively common statewide and in portions of the county.

Criterion 2: Distribution of Oak Species. Oak woodlands may contain from one to several oak species. The number of species present typically reflects the variation of environmental and soil conditions at the site. Past management practices, however, can change the composition of the woodlands by selectively removing some species or selectively inhibiting regeneration. Blue oak seedlings, for example, are generally preferred by browsing animals over interior live oak seedlings. As a result, interior live oak may be overrepresented relative to blue oak in areas which were cleared and grazed heavily in the past. A higher conservation priority should be assigned to sites where the current oak distribution is closer to the likely pre-settlement distribution and has not been excessively changed by past management.

Priority for Conservation	Distribution of Oak Species
High	Oak species distribution has not been significantly influenced by past management. Oak species that should be represented on the site are present at levels likely to be representative of historic levels.
Moderate	Oak species distribution moderately influenced by past management. Oak species that should be represented on the site are present but levels appear changed from historic levels.
Low	Oak species distribution heavily influenced by past management. One or more site-appropriate oak species are rare or absent.

Sites with species distributions that have changed as a result of management practices can be appropriate targets for enhancement projects. In general, a higher enhancement rating would apply to sites where an appropriate balance of oak species can be reestablished by encouraging regeneration of species that are poorly represented

Priority for Enhancement	Distribution of Oak Species
High	A site-appropriate balance of oak species can be reestablished by encouraging regeneration of species that are present, but poorly represented, on a site.
Moderate	A site-appropriate balance of oak species can be reestablished by planting with seeds available from appropriate adjacent remnant trees, but the site currently lacks existing regeneration and trees of some site-appropriate species.
Low	Target species for restoration are lacking on the site and no appropriate local seed source is available.

Criterion 3: Tree Cover and Density. Many of the benefits and services provided by oaks woodlands are directly related to the amount of tree canopy cover on the site. Most of the benefits related to air quality (such as carbon sequestration and particulate interception), for example, are directly proportional to total canopy cover. The amount of flood protection and erosion protection provided by oak woodlands is also directly related to canopy cover. The relationship between canopy cover and wildlife habitat is more complex. Some species prefer closed canopy woodlands, whereas others are more apt to utilize openings within the woodlands or edges between woodlands and other habitat types. Hence, sites with less than 100 percent canopy cover may support greater biodiversity overall. One of the goals of the plan is to maximize the total amount of conserved oak woodland canopy cover, while recognizing the importance of including a variety of canopy cover levels within conserved and restored woodlands. Napa County will consider the level of canopy cover present on adjacent conserved lands when evaluating overall canopy cover.

Tree density (the number of trees per unit area) is related to total canopy cover, but a range of tree densities can give rise to a given level of canopy cover. At excessive tree densities (also known as overstocked stands), trees typically compete with each other for available water and light, so tree growth can be slow and tree condition may be poor. Through attrition of suppressed, the stand may eventually self-thin to a sustainable density, but this process can delay the transition of the woodlands to a desirable density. At the opposite extreme, very low density stands, characterized by individual tree canopies separated by large distances (200-300 ft or more) may not be sustainable due to low rates of regeneration, and may be appropriate targets for restoration or enhancement. Apart from these extremes, a relatively wide range of densities may be sustainable, depending on species composition and site characteristics.

For relatively common oak species, such as blue and interior live oak, the following approximate overall ranges of canopy cover can be used: high = 50 percent or more, intermediate = 20 to 50 percent, low = less than 20 percent. For relatively rare species such as valley oak, these cover levels would be inappropriate because canopy cover at most existing sites is relatively low. For species such as valley oak and oak stands that may naturally have densities more typical of oak savannas, canopy cover levels need to be considered on a basis relative to the maximum likely sustainable canopy cover level.

Priority for Conservation	Tree Cover and Density
High	Relatively high levels of tree canopy cover at stand densities that are sustainable for the site.
Moderate	Intermediate levels of tree canopy. Portions of the site may have excessively high or low stand density.
Low	Tree canopy is low or very low. Alternatively, canopy cover levels are higher, but most or all of the stand has unsustainably high tree densities.

Priority for Enhancement	Tree Cover and Density
High	Tree canopy is low or very low, but could be increased through natural or assisted regeneration. Alternatively, canopy cover levels are higher, but portions of the stand have unsustainably high tree densities that could be managed by selective thinning.
Moderate	Intermediate levels of tree canopy. Portions of the site may have low or very low stand density or may show evidence of decline of existing overstory trees.
Low	Moderate to high levels of tree canopy cover at stand densities that are sustainable for the site.

Criterion 4: Stand Size and Connectivity. An overarching goal in conserving and enhancing woodlands is to maintain oak woodlands as functional ecosystems. The functionality of the oak woodland ecosystem is related to its size, its connectivity with other oak woodlands or other native habitats, and its interface with less compatible adjacent land uses. Larger oak woodland stands are more likely to provide the scale needed to allow for ecosystem processes to function, and therefore generally have greater conservation value than smaller areas (if all other factors are equal). The overall biodiversity of a stand tends to increase with size, since a larger variety of habitat features are more likely to exist in a larger area. Also, some species that require relatively large home ranges are likely to occur only in sufficiently large habitat areas. Small stands with a limited number of trees may not have sufficient genetic variation to provide for long term stability, and are more likely to be threatened by impacts such as fire, disease, or long-term climate variation. In assessing the overall size of an oak woodland ecosystem, Napa County will consider the landscape context. Oak woodlands and habitat elements commonly do not end at parcel boundaries, so Napa County will consider the overall size of the woodland area of which a specific parcel is a part. Therefore a relatively small woodland area can have a high conservation value if it is adjacent to other conserved lands, especially if it forms a linkage between conserved habitats.

Priority for Conservation	Stand Size and Connectivity
High	The oak woodland area is relatively large, constitutes a high percentage of the resource (e.g., for species of limited distribution such as valley oak), and/or is connected with a larger network of oak woodlands and other native habitats which are or have the potential to also be conserved.
Low	The oak woodland area is too small to ensure a self-sustaining stand and is not connected with other native habitats.

Since most enhancement projects are of limited size, the overall size of a project is generally a less important consideration for assigning restoration or enhancement priority. The location of the enhancement project within the landscape and its connectivity to existing stands and habitat is a more important consideration.

Priority for Conservation	Stand Size and Connectivity
High	Restored area will help reconnect habitat areas or forms an important extension of a larger woodland into a habitat area that is degraded or no longer extant. Projects that connect with past and/or future projects that allow for a larger total restored area also have a high priority.
Low	Small restoration projects that are not connected with other native habitats.

Criterion 5: Stand Geometry. The geometric shape of a parcel is another consideration in assessing its conservation and restoration value, especially if the parcel is adjacent to lands that have been converted from native plant communities to other uses. Land uses such as residential development and intensive agriculture may adversely affect the habitat value of adjacent oak woodlands, and may also limit the options available for woodland management. Impacts generally increase as the amount of interface or edge between the woodlands and developed land uses increases.

Priority for Conservation and Enhancement	Stand or Project Area Geometry
High	Little or no interface between the stand and an incompatible adjacent land use such as urban/residential or intensive agricultural development.
Moderate	Moderate amounts of interface relative to the area of the stand or project area and/or adjacent land uses are only partially incompatible or incompatible uses are buffered at the interface.
Low	High ratio of developed interface length to the overall area of the stand. May be relatively narrow areas with incompatible land uses on both sides or areas with in-holdings of incompatible land uses.

Criterion 6: Stand Structure and Sustainability. In the pre-settlement era, most of the oak woodlands in the county probably consisted of mixed age stands. Recruitment of new trees would generally have occurred in relatively small canopy gaps that developed from mortality of individual trees or small clusters of trees. Except in chaparral areas, most fires would not have been stand-replacing events, because most of the oak species present are relatively fire resistant. No other natural phenomena are likely to have caused complete stand replacement in these oak woodlands.

With the onset of widespread clearing for agriculture and fuel, relatively large areas were cleared over short time spans. When regeneration did occur, from seedling advance regeneration and/or stump sprouts, the stands that developed typically were much more even-aged. In some areas, multiple rounds of clearing, especially if only partial, have given rise to multi-aged stands, although these stands probably have less age diversity than in the original stands. Old growth trees (more than about 150 years old) are usually rare or lacking in most second and later growth oak woodland stands.

Stands that are composed primarily of trees regenerated from stump sprouts may have a shorter potential lifespan than stands derived from trees originating from seedlings. Stump sprouts can have poor structure and frequently have decay associated with the old stump. These two factors can cause trees to fail at an earlier age than equivalent trees originating from seedlings.

Stands consisting only of old, decadent trees, especially stump re-sprouts, may not be sustainable because a high percentage of the trees in the stand could die over a relatively short time period. Furthermore, decadent trees with wood decay and cavities are more likely to be severely damaged or killed by fire. Since most oak seedlings establish best under tree canopy, rapid loss of canopy could impede natural regeneration.

A uniformly young stand has a longer potential lifespan than a decadent stand, but the lack of larger stems and larger dead or dying trees provides lower habitat value for some wildlife species. Also, a young even-aged stand will eventually become an old even-aged stand that could suffer relatively high rates of mortality and canopy loss. For long-term sustainability, a relatively mixed age stand is probably the most sustainable over the long term without requiring management inputs.

For all but very young stands, the presence of advance regeneration in adequate amounts is important for ensuring sustainability. Levels of advance regeneration may be low due to a variety of reasons related to past and current management and other factors.

Priority for Conservation	**Stand Structure and Sustainability**
High	Multi-aged stands with good levels of old-growth trees and seedling advance regeneration.
Moderate	Older even-aged stands with variable levels of advance regeneration or young even-aged stands with little or no advance regeneration.
Low	Declining even-aged stands lacking advance Regeneration.

Even-aged stands, especially those lacking adequate levels of advance regeneration can be suitable targets for restoration activities aimed at increasing regeneration. By successfully encouraging regeneration to replace dying trees, it may be possible to help re-establish a more mixed-age stand.

Priority for Enhancement	Stand Structure and Sustainability
High	Declining even-aged stands lacking advance Regeneration.
Moderate	Older even aged stands with variable levels of advance regeneration. Multi-aged stands or young even-aged stands with little or no advance regeneration.
Low	Multi-aged stands with good levels of seedling advance regeneration.

Criterion 7: Contribution to Population Genetics. Individual oak trees can live for hundreds of years, but oak woodlands have occupied most of their current range for many thousands of years. The genetic variation present within a population of oaks is shaped by thousands of years of selection pressures imposed by the underlying soils, varying climate conditions, and other site-specific factors. As a result, most forest trees show some level of adaptation to local conditions. Trees growing in a given area may have survival advantages over trees of the same species that originated in a different area and environment.

Oak pollen is disseminated by wind and oak trees generally need to be pollinated by other individuals (that is, they are primarily cross pollinated rather than self-pollinated). Movement of genetic material via wind-borne pollen tends to ensure that there is genetic variation within stands, but also provides a mechanism for the incremental spread of genetic traits between adjoining stands. The exchange of genetic material between populations arrayed across the landscape allows oak populations to adapt over time to the conditions at a site and to remain viable under changing conditions. Oaks and other native species have already been exposed to very rapid environmental changes initiated by the settlement of California. Furthermore, the loss of oak populations over the past 150 years has already narrowed the genetic diversity in the oak population. In order to maintain oak woodlands as a viable resource in the face of these current pressures and future environmental changes, it is important to maintain the full complement of genetic diversity present within the oaks' range.

To maintain the widest range of genetic diversity within the county's oak population, it is important to maintain oak stands in a variety of oak woodland sites across the range of soil and climate variation found within the county. Populations at the edges of the existing range may be especially critical in that they may represent the greatest level of genetic adaptation to extreme conditions, for example, very dry or wet conditions. In addition, very old trees constitute an important genetic resource in that they may include traits that contribute to longevity, as well as traits that may be less common in the current tree population than they were prior to clearing associated with settlement.

Populations in the main portion of a species' range also need to be conserved to provide a complete complement of genetic resources for the species. Genetic traits found in these main populations, however, are likely to be present in many individuals and may therefore be at low risk of being lost. The conservation priority ranking for this criterion is therefore lowest for these populations. The highest priority ranking for this criterion are assigned to populations that may contain unique genetic traits that are found in relatively few extant individuals and are therefore at a high risk of being lost.

Priority for Conservation	Contribution to Population Genetics
High	Viable oak populations at the edge of the existing range of the species in the county or on uncommon soil types or environmental situations (slope, aspect, proximity to water, etc.). Stands containing very old oaks.
Moderate	Marginally viable (due to poor condition or low density) populations at or near the edge of the existing range of the species in the county or on somewhat uncommon soil types or environmental situations.
Low	Oak populations within the main portion of the species' range in the county on common soil types / environmental situations.

From the standpoint of enhancement, high priority sites are those that may have unique genetic resources that are likely to be lost without intervention. Such intervention may include operations to salvage and plant seed from particular trees or groups of trees.

Priority for Enhancement	Contribution to Population Genetics
High	Individual very old oaks or unsustainably small oak populations at the edge of the existing range of the species in the county or on uncommon soil types or environmental situations (slope, aspect, proximity to water, etc.).
Moderate	Marginally viable (due to poor condition or low density) populations at or near the edge of the existing range of the species in the county or on somewhat uncommon soil types or environmental situations.
Low	Oak populations within the main portion of the species' range in the county on common soil types / environmental situations.

Habitat for Plant and Wildlife Species

The quality of habitat and the number and types of species present in oak woodlands depend on a variety of factors, including:

Oak species present. The type of habitat provided by evergreen oaks, such as interior live oak or canyon live oak, differs from that provided by deciduous oaks, such as valley, blue or California black oak. Some species, especially insects, may only be associated with a single oak species. Other species may prefer stands with a mix of oak species. Some oak species (valley, blue oak) produce acorns that mature in a single year, whereas others (interior live, California black) produce acorns that mature in the second year after flowers are produced. Since acorn production in oaks varies widely from year to year due to weather conditions that occur during flowering, having both one- and two-year acorn producers in the same stand can provide a more reliable source of food for species that consume acorns.

Oak density (trees per acre) and level of canopy cover. Wildlife species vary in the degree to which they utilize stands with varying amounts of canopy cover: some prefer more open stands, whereas others are more likely to be found in dense stands. The level of shading in the understory, which depends on both stand density and species composition, also affects which native or exotic plant species are likely to be present.

Distribution of tree sizes and ages. Various species that utilize cavities in large stems or prefer tall trees are more likely to occur in stands with larger, older trees. The presence of dead trees (snags) and large downed wood (coarse woody debris) improves habitat value for various wildlife species. This in turn is related to both the stand-age distribution and management of the stand, which affects how long downed wood remains on the ground. The presence of various plant species in the understory or in canopy gaps may also be related to soil types or features such as vernal pools or riparian areas.

Spatial distribution on the landscape. The distribution of oak woodlands across the landscape has a large influence on habitat quality. The spatial relationship between patches of woodlands and other habitats can influence which species may be found in the oak woodlands and the quality of habitat that the woodlands provide. Oaks along watercourses, for example, provide critical shaded riparian habitat important for fish and other aquatic species. Connectivity between oak woodlands to provide for wildlife movement is also important for many wildlife species. Some species may use oak woodlands for sheltering or nesting but may forage in adjacent habitats, such as agricultural fields, grasslands, or chaparral.

Disturbance. A high level of disturbance within woodlands and the presence of various exotic plant species can reduce the abundance of native species and reduce the overall habitat value of oak woodlands. Habitat quality can also be degraded by the degree to which the habitat is fragmented by residential or agricultural development, particularly if it interrupts movement corridors.

Criterion 8: Native Biodiversity. Settlement of Napa County resulted in the degradation of natural habitats. In some locations, however, areas exist that still have a relatively diverse array of native species. Even if the native species present are not rare, these areas of high native biodiversity constitute a valuable and relatively rare resource.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Native Biodiversity
High	Oak woodlands include areas with high levels of native biodiversity.
Moderate	Oak woodlands have moderate levels of native biodiversity and/or areas with high native biodiversity are adjacent to the woodland.
Low	Few native species other than oaks are present in or near the woodland.

Criterion 9: Special Status Species. In the broad sense, special status species include species listed by the federal and state government as threatened and endangered species; species that have been proposed for listing but have not yet been officially listed; as well as plant species designated as rare or endangered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Depending on their actual status and other factors, these species may be protected to varying degrees by state and/or federal regulations. Since these species as a group are rare and may be threatened with extinction, conserving their habitat is important for their survival and for maintaining the integrity of the ecosystems in which they are found. Special status species may utilize oak woodlands as an essential part of their habitat, or more commonly, they may utilize oak woodlands habitat in addition to other habitat areas. Furthermore, woodlands adjacent to a given habitat area, such as a stream, may be important for maintaining the integrity of that habitat, for example, by reducing the amount of sediment that would enter the stream via erosion.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Special Status Species
High	One or more special status species utilize a woodland or part of it as essential or preferred habitat.
Moderate	Woodland may be used somewhat by special status species and/or habitat of one or more special status species is adjacent to the woodland.
Low	No special status species utilize the woodland or its adjacent areas.

Criterion 10: Locally Rare or Uncommon Species and Associations. Some species or associations of species (certain plant communities, for example) that are not rare throughout their overall range may be locally uncommon within the county. To maintain the overall biodiversity within the county, it may be important to maintain oak woodlands that are used as habitat for these species.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Locally Rare or Uncommon Species
High	One or more locally rare or uncommon species or associations use the oak woodland or part of it as essential or preferred habitat.
Moderate	The woodland may be used somewhat by locally rare or uncommon species and/or habitat of one or more locally rare or uncommon species or associations is adjacent to the woodland.
Low	No locally rare or uncommon species or associations use the woodland or its adjacent areas.

Criterion 11: Contribution to Maintaining Native Plant and Animal Population.

Among areas that serve as habitat for various native species, some areas may be especially critical for various reasons, including:

• Areas that serve as a corridor between different patches of habitat to provide for movement;

• Areas that could serve as important corridors but do not currently serve such a function;

• Habitat patches that are especially large because they benefit species that require a relatively large home range;

• Outlying populations near the edge of the current range that may have unique genetic characteristics because of their importance for the long-term viability of the species;

• Habitat areas that support robust populations of species and are occupied for most of the year, in comparison to areas that only receive occasional use by the species; and

• Habitat used for breeding or foraging during certain seasons. Hence, in addition to considering whether species utilize a given patch of habitat, we also need to consider how that patch of habitat contributes to the overall viability of a species or group of species within the county.

Priority for Conservation and Enhancement	Contribution to Maintaining Native Plant and Animal Populations
High	Oak woodlands include areas that are critical or important for maintaining populations of one or more native plant and animal species of interest.
Low	Oak woodlands do not function significantly in maintaining populations of one or more native plant and animal species of interest.

Criterion 12: Special Habitat Features and Areas. The presence of special habitat features or elements, including those listed below, increases habitat value for various species.

• Vegetation-related features such as old growth trees, dead trees (snags), large downed wood (coarse woody debris), and trees that shade riparian areas

• Aquatic features such as riparian areas, vernal pools, and ponds

• Physical features such as serpentine soils, burrows, high water tables, rock outcrops and caverns

Other features may provide necessary unique substrates for plant growth or contribute to animal diets. In addition, transitional areas between different habitat types, also known as ecotones, may have a greater mix of species present and may include unique species.

Oak woodlands that serve as habitat for various native species noted above will typically contain a variety of these special habitat features. However, even in the absence of detailed information about species presence, an evaluation of the presence and abundance of special habitat features can provide information on habitat quality and the types of species that could potentially be found in oak woodlands.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Special Habitat Features and Areas
High	Woodland includes a wide variety of special habitat features and areas and/or uncommon types of special habitat features/areas.
Moderate	Woodland includes some special habitat features and areas, generally of relatively common types
Low	Very few or no native species special habitat features and areas are present.

Criterion 13: Invasive Species Presence and Abundance. Invasive exotic species can compete with or displace native species, reducing the overall native species biodiversity. Virtually every oak woodland habitat in Napa County is likely to contain some exotic species, especially non-native grasses and forbs in the oak understory. Oak woodlands in which exotics make up a low percentage of the overall species mix,

however, have a higher conservation value. In addition, some invasive species are especially disruptive due to their high reproductive potential, competitive abilities, effects on the overall structure of the plant community, and/or tenacity once established. For example, yellow star thistle and Harding grass are especially problematic in relatively open habitats; tamarisk and arundo are especially disruptive in riparian areas.

Exotic wildlife species can also have a detrimental impact on native species. Wild pigs, for example, negatively affect native habitats. Pigs can directly girdle and kill trees. Their rooting disturbs soil, damaging oak regeneration and making areas subject to increased erosion and invasion by exotic plants. They eat large numbers of acorns, competing with native wildlife for this food source. They also eat large numbers of native bulbs, thereby reducing populations of these slow-growing species. Hence, the presence of a single exotic species can have wide ranging effects on oak woodland habitat.

Priority for Conservation	**Presence and Abundance of Invasive Species**
High	Oak woodland has relatively low amounts of exotic species and especially disruptive exotic species are absent or very rare.
Moderate	Oak woodland has moderate amounts of exotic species and/or may have localized infestations of especially disruptive exotic species.
Low	Oak woodland is dominated by exotic species and/or may have high populations of especially disruptive exotics.

The elimination or reduction of especially disruptive exotic species is an obvious target for habitat enhancement. Given the nature of many exotic species, however, it can be difficult and often expensive to try to reduce well-established populations of exotic species. Especially if funding is limited, it may be more cost-efficient to suppress or eradicate infestations that are limited in area to prevent spread of a target exotic species into a new area

Priority for Enhancement	**Presence and Abundance of Invasive Spec**
High	Oak woodland has limited amounts of especially disruptive exotic species that could potentially be eradicated or kept at very low levels.
Moderate	Oak woodland has high populations of especially disruptive exotics, but meaningful reductions in these populations are feasible.
Low	Oak woodland is dominated by exotic species and/or has such high populations of especially disruptive exotics that it is not feasible to substantially reduce their populations. Alternatively, woodland lacks especially disruptive exotic species and exotic species present are either not at high densities or are not amenable to management.

Landscape Function

The benefits provided by an oak woodland and its associated resource value can also be influenced by where it is located on the landscape. Functions such as erosion protection, for example, are more important on steep erodible soils and along watercourses than they are on level ground. In addition, the degree to which a patch of woodland functions as habitat for various species may depend on the degree to which it is adjacent to and connected with other habitats.

Since position in the landscape can affect factors such as wildlife habitat, it is already considered in part in other criteria. However, the relationship between an oak woodland and its surroundings is sufficiently important that it warrants specific consideration. Furthermore, some of the benefits that influence overall resource value are not addressed in the criteria described above.

Criterion 14: Erosion protection. Oaks help reduce soil erosion in several ways. Tree canopy intercepts raindrops and dissipates their energy, reducing their potential to erode soil. Dead leaves and twigs that accumulate on the soil surface under oaks provide further protection against the erosive action of rainfall. Tree roots and their associated mycorrhizal fungi also help to reinforce and stabilize the bulk soil, reducing both the risk of landslides and erosion caused by running surface water (gully erosion and scour along creeks).

A number of factors other than vegetative cover also influence the risk of erosion. Erosion of surface soils is influenced by the amount of rainfall an area receives; the relative erodibility of the soil; and slope steepness, shape, and length. These factors, as well as factors related to vegetation and erosion control practices, are components of the revised universal soil loss equation (RUSLE), which is used to predict soil erosion. On uplands within the county, the erosion protection provided by oak woodlands is most critical in areas with long, steep, convex slopes that have relatively erodible soil types. Landslide risk will also be greatest on steep slopes and varies by soil characteristics. Erosion along drainages and watercourses is affected by soil type, but is also related to the amount and velocity of water flow, which in turn is affected by the geometry of the channel. Undercutting of creek banks by flowing water can cause the banks to fail, dumping large amounts of sediment into the creek. Creek bank failures also expose additional areas of soil to erosion and can lead to severe gullying.

Conservation of woodlands located in areas that are prone to erosion helps prevent the degradation in water quality and overall land resource value that would occur if the trees were removed. Restoring oaks in historically wooded areas that show accelerated erosion in the absence of tree cover can help stabilize these areas and prevent further erosion.

Priority for Conservation or Restoration	Erosion Protection
High	Site surface soils and/or creek banks have a high risk of erosion (for example, highly erodible soils, long, steep slopes, high water flows, narrow channels).
Moderate	Site surface soils and/or creek banks have a moderate risk of erosion (for example, moderately erodible soils, slopes of moderate length and/or incline, wider channels with lower water flows).
Low	Site surface soils and/or creek banks have a low to very low risk of erosion (for example, nearly level soils or erosion-resistant soils on mild slopes, broad channels that only intermittently carry water at low flow rates).

Criterion 15: Water Quality Protection. Oak woodlands on slopes and on nearly level lands near streams play an important role in protecting water quality. As described above, oak woodlands can help minimize sediment loading into creeks and streams. This is especially important in areas where soils contain toxic material, such as mercury or other heavy metals. Trees can also help remediate soil contamination by absorbing heavy metals from the soil. Similarly, oaks and other vegetation along riparian areas can absorb fertilizer nutrients or pesticides associated with agricultural or urban runoff, preventing these materials from reaching surface waters. Because oak foliage can also intercept airborne pesticide drift, oaks along creeks can reduce potential contamination of streams via this route.

Priority for Conservation or Restoration	Water Quality Protection
High	Riparian oak woodlands, especially in areas adjacent to agricultural field or adjacent to urban areas. Upland oak woodlands in areas with heavy metal contamination or other materials of concern that have the potential to run off into streams
Low	Upland oak woodlands in areas lacking toxic soil contaminants and having low risk of erosion into streams.

Criterion 16: Contribution to Flood Protection. Oak and other trees provide protection equivalent to that provided by floodwater detention basins. Trees temporarily hold rainwater on their leaf and stem surfaces during a rainstorm. This increases the amount of time that it takes for the rain to reach the ground and become runoff. By detaining peak flows for a period of time, flooding risk associated with high

rainfall events is mitigated. The greatest flood protection benefits related to tree canopy cover will be in watersheds that quickly concentrate flows and pose a risk of flash flooding and in areas where runoff conveyance is already near capacity.

Trees also deplete moisture from the soil during the growing season. Compared to annual vegetation, oaks can extract water from the soil profile to a greater depth. Consequently, soils under oak woodland canopy are able to absorb and hold greater amounts of rainfall in the soil than are equivalent soils with only annual grassland cover. This extra storage capacity further reduces the potential for flooding during the rainy season.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Contribution to Flood Protection
High	Oak woodlands in watersheds that drain into areas subject to flooding during high rainfall events of relatively short duration.
Low	Oak woodlands in watersheds draining to areas with little or no flooding risk.

Criterion 17: Location Relative to Other Woodlands and Habitats. The habitat value of an oak woodland is strongly influenced by the surrounding landscape, as discussed in the previous section *(Habitat for Plant & Wildlife Species)*. Habitat quality will be greater in oak woodlands that are adjacent to other oak woodlands that increase the overall patch size. The presence of other adjacent native habitats, such as chaparral, can also increase habitat value for some species. In contrast, habitat value for many native species is adversely affected if woodlands are adjacent to developed land uses such as intensive agriculture and urban development. The impact is generally increased as the length of the interface between the woodland and the developed land use increased. Habitat value is further decreased if the woodland habitat is broken into fragments separated by developed uses. Conversely, connections or corridors that fill gaps between woodland patches can improve habitat value.

In addition to effects on wildlife and native plant habitat, other benefits provided by oak woodlands may be affected by the type of land cover on adjacent parcels. Erosion protection and stormwater retention will generally be more effective if oak woodlands cover an entire slope or watershed than if a patch of woodland is surrounded by grasslands.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Location Relative to Other Woodlands and Habitats
High	Position of the oak woodland within the larger landscape amplifies beneficial effects such as wildlife habitat by increasing overall woodland area, minimizing fragmentation, or serving as corridors between patches.
Low	Position of the oak woodland within the larger landscape minimizes beneficial effects such as wildlife habitat because of a high amount of edge with developed land uses, high fragmentation, and lack of connection with other larger functional oak woodlands.

Human Interactions

Another basis for assessing woodland value is the relationship between people and oak woodlands. This relationship is implicit in some of the other ratings. For example, the importance of considering wildlife habitat, erosion protection, and other factors is based in large part on the value that people see in maintaining healthy ecosystems. Beyond the ecosystem services that people derive from oak woodlands, these areas may be valued for their aesthetic qualities, as a recreational resource, and for their cultural or historical significance. As with the landscape functions discussed above, these values are typically dependent on where the woodlands are located. In addition, other factors such as historical uses and events and land ownership (public or private) also influence these values.

Criterion 18: Historic and Cultural Significance. Oak stands or individual trees may have historical significance due to past events or structures that were associated with the trees, historical accounts that mention the trees, the use of specific trees as landmarks or as boundary markers, or other factors. In addition, oak trees and the acorns they provide have been and continue to be important cultural resources for many of the Native American tribes that live in California. Individual oaks or stands of oak may have cultural significance to tribes or individual families. Loss of traditionally-used trees or gathering areas may significantly impact the continuation of cultural practices that span many generations.

In general, oaks and woodlands with historical and/or cultural significance are primarily a target for conservation rather than restoration, though restoration activities that help maintain tree health and the ecological integrity of the site may be appropriate in some situations.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Historic and Cultural Significance
High	Woodlands or trees have documented historical significance and/or past or current use as a Native American cultural resource.
Moderate	Woodlands or trees have possible to likely historical significance and/or past use as a Native American cultural resource, but documentary evidence is not conclusive.
Low	Woodlands or trees have no known or suspected historical significance and/or use as a Native American cultural resource.

Criterion 19: Public Recreation. Compared with various other California counties, Napa County has a relatively small amount of oak woodland acreage that is available for low-impact public recreational activity such as hiking and equestrian use. Oak woodlands that have the potential to be acquired by public agencies or private nonprofit organizations (such as land trusts) and made available for public recreation provide a resource that is currently quite limited within the county. With adequate planning and monitoring, public access can be designed to be compatible with other conservation goals such as providing wildlife habitat. Furthermore, on public access lands using volunteers, it may be feasible to undertake restoration activities that would not be possible on private lands.

To maximize the benefits associated with public access and minimize potential conflicts with adjacent property owners, public-access parcels should be connected to the degree possible with other lands with public access or ownership. Appropriate measures should be provided to buffer public access areas from adjoining private lands.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Public Recreation
High	Oak woodlands that: -provide low-impact public recreational opportunities compatible with conservation objectives, -are connected with other parklands or public-access areas, and - pose a minimum of conflicts with adjoining land uses.
Low	Privately-owned oak woodlands that do not provide opportunities for public access and use.

Criterion 20: Buffering between Incompatible Land Uses. Oak woodlands can be used to provide a buffer between land uses that would otherwise be incompatible. For example, a band of oak woodland that separates intensive agricultural lands from a residential development can serve to provide visual

screening, noise reduction, dust abatement, and protection from pesticide drift that would reduce conflicts between these two land uses. Because uses of woodlands used as buffers would need to be limited to provide buffering capacity, such lands would typically need to be covered by a conservation easement.

Although buffers and hedgerows would primarily be targets for conservation, restoration activities, such as oak planting or invasive species management, may also be directed at these areas to enhance their function.

Priority for Conservation or Enhancement	Buffering Between Incompatible Land Uses
High	Oak woodlands that have the potential to buffer between incompatible land uses by providing physical separation, visual screening, noise reduction, air filtration, and/or other benefits.
Low	Oak woodlands located in areas where they do not serve as buffers.

Criterion 21: Visual Impact. Prominent individual oaks and oak woodlands located in areas where they are commonly seen provide a strong positive visual impact and contribute to the "sense of place" associated with an area. Such woodlands typically provide a variety of other benefits as well, but may be more appreciated by the public at large due to their aesthetic qualities. As with buffers, stands with high visual impact are typically targets for conservation, but restoration activities that improve stand sustainability or enhance other functions such as wildlife habitat may also appropriate in these stands.

Priority for Conservation or Restoration	Visual Impact
High	Oak woodlands with high visual impact, located within view of communities and major roadways.
Low	Oak woodlands located in areas where they are unlikely to be seen by most people.

2. Risk Categories

Risk categories are based on the likelihood of resource loss or degradation, either through alteration (e.g., change in land use, clearing) or management (e.g., lack of natural regeneration resulting). As illustrated in the matrix below, the Management Plan ranks risk based on both the likelihood of resource loss (high, medium, low) and the expected time frame for the loss (near, mid, long term). A given conservation opportunity/parcel may be rated in multiple categories, as shown by X's in the matrix below.

Example of Risk Categorization

	Likelihood of Loss (Absent Intervention)		
Time Frame	High	Moderate	Low
Near-term (< 5 yrs.)			X
Mid-term (5-20 yrs.)		X	
Long-term (> 20 yrs.)		X	

Current zoning, General Plan designations and urban spheres of influence will be used to help assess likelihood of loss due to urban conversion. Losses due to other activities and processes (change to intensive agriculture, alterations in historic water tables, tree mortality without regeneration) will be estimated from other available information (ie-soils, slopes, setbacks, others).

The highest overall risk is assigned to high resource value woodlands that have a high likelihood of being lost in the near term. This category would include lands that contain Sensitive Biotic Species and fall within Potentially Productive Soils.[1] Woodlands with a relatively high long-term risk but low near-term risk may be the more cost efficient targets for funding. Parcels with very low to no intrinsic risk may not be high priority even if they have a high resource value. This category would include lands with existing conservation easements (which address oaks), lands owned in public trust, and lands that are non-developable due to terrain or other factors, provided these lands are managed in a sustainable fashion. Woodlands would need to be both fully protected and permanently managed in a sustainable fashion in order to be considered at no significant risk. Reassessment of risk categorization on a regular basis would also be necessary.

[1] High Risk/High Value: Sensitive Biotic species that fall within Potentially Productive Soils. Sensitive species include Blue Oak Alliance, California Bay – Madrone – Coast Live Oak – (Black Oak Big Leaf Maple) NFD Super Alliance, Tanbark Oak Alliance, Valley Oak Alliance, Valley Oak – (California Bay – Coast Live Oak - Walnut - Ash) Riparian Forest NFD Association, Valley Oak – Fremont Cottonwood – (Coast Live Oak) Riparian Forest NFD Association, Oregon White Oak Alliance, Leather Oak – White Leaf Manzanita – Chamise Xeric Serpentine NFD Super Alliance and Leather Oak – California Bay – Rhamnus spp. Mesic Serpentine Chaparral NFD Alliance types per UC Davis' Information Center for the Environment GIS database. Potentially Productive Soils (PPS) is based on criteria excluding soils that are covered with poorly drained saline soils with a high water table, soils that are highly unstable, areas covered with serpentine soils or areas that are completely outcrop or covered by riverwash. PPS also excludes areas that are covered with water or within riparian areas within 55 ft of the centerline of blueline streams, areas designated for industrial development & lie within clear zones of all airports, areas owned by Federal, State or local agencies or those that are owned outright by the Napa Co Land Trust or with an easement that precludes vineyard development, areas that are on slopes less then 35% slope, that aren't covered by roadways and are not covered with existing vineyard (see Map/Appendix B-4)

3. Management Constraints

Woodland management constraints can be considered a factor that contributes to the risk of resource loss/degradation. In addition, management can be considered as a separate factor that interacts with the cost-effectiveness of conservation and restoration projects. Woodlands that are conserved need to be managed in a way that retains or improves their resource value if they are to continue to provide benefits and services. If properties are currently being managed in a sustainable fashion to protect or enhance resource values, no change in management will be necessary. Future management savings will be greatest for sites where sustainability is achieved through few or no major management inputs.

In contrast, lands that require a major change in management to attain sustainability may be more expensive to maintain over the long term, particularly if the necessary management changes will be expensive or difficult to implement. For example, good quality riparian oak woodlands on favorable soils typically have good rates of natural regeneration when left in a natural state with little or no active management. In contrast, a riparian oak woodland that has been heavily cleared, compacted, and colonized by invasive species would require significant changes in management, including some intensive inputs (such as eradication of invasives, restoration and near to mid-term maintenance) to attain long-term sustainability.

For lands where restoration is an objective, ease of restoration is considered a management factor for the near and/or mid-term. Sites requiring relatively small inputs to achieve restoration and those having a higher probability of success have higher priority overall. Current land uses need to be evaluated for their compatibility with the protection and enhancement of oak woodland resources. It may also be necessary to consider land uses on adjacent properties to determine if they will affect the management potential of the targeted property. For example, the need to clear vegetation for fire protection around residences may affect the management of the adjacent oak woodland. (Note: consult the Firewise Program for additional information, as oaks are a listed Firewise tree: http://www.napafirewise.org/) Activities upstream from a conserved riparian woodland, such as dredging, excessive erosion or polluted irrigation runoff, could impact the value of aquatic habitat (i.e., resource value) of the downstream woodland.

Management Constraints

Management Constraints	**Ranking**		
	High	**Moderate**	**Low**
Current management compatible with sustained resource value	yes	partially	no
Level of management inputs to attain or maintain sustainability	low		high
Influence of adjacent land uses or other external factors on management practices	little or no significant influence		significantly constrains management options

Oak Woodland Evaluation Criteria - Checklist

	Ranking			**Data***		**Notes**
Resource Values	High	Moderate	Low	Source	Quality	
Stand Composition Integrity, and Functionality						
Oak species present						
Representation of oak species at site						
Tree cover and density						
Stand size, shape, and connectivity						
Stand structure and sustainability						
Contribution to population genetics						
Habitat for Plant and Wildlife Species						
Special status species						
Locally rare or uncommon species or associations						
Overall native biodiversity						
Contribution to maintaining native plant						
and animal populations						
Special habitat features and areas						
Special habitat features						
Invasive species presence and abundance						
Landscape Function						
Erosion protection						
Water quality protection						
Contribution to flood protection						
Location relative to other woodlands and habitats						
Human Interactions						
Historic and cultural significance						
Public recreation						
Buffering between incompatible land uses						
Visual impact						
Risk Factors						
Management Constraints						
Other values not noted above (specify)						

* Indicate the source (aerial photo, GIS layer, site survey, CNDDB, etc) of data used to assign ranking and data quality (good/fair/poor).

Appendix D

Sustainable Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Oak Woodlands

The following recommendations for Best Management Practices (BMPs) are summarized from various publications on oak woodland protection, maintenance, and restoration, as well as contributions by local and other experts.

The information/guidelines for building around oaks and oaks in the home garden can be found in the Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program's (IHRMP) publication, Living Among the Oaks. Information on BMPs for disturbance around oaks and protecting trees from construction impacts can be found in the UC Cooperative Extension's (UCCE) handout, Disturbance Around Oaks (Frost, 2001) and the California Department of Forestry's(CDF) Tree Notes, Protecting Trees from Construction Impacts (Sanborn, 1989). Information on care of oak trees is also available through the California Oak Foundation.

Information on Best BMPs for the maintenance, restoration, and rehabilitation of oak woodlands are from Regenerating Rangeland Oaks in California, University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources Publication 21601 (McCreary, 2001). Additional information can be found in How to Grow California Oaks (http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp/oak04.htm) and How to Collect, Store, and Plant Acorns (http://www.californiaoaks.org/ExtAssets/HowTo Acorns'07.pdf).

Qualified professionals and interested persons are encouraged to consult these published resources and other current sources for additional information, including the local Napa County NRCS office, Napa County RCD, UCCE Advisor, the IHRMP and others.

1. **The following are general guidelines or best management practices for tree protection during construction activities, from some of the above sources:**
    - The root protection zone (RPZ) is roughly one-third larger than the drip line (or outermost edge of the foliage based on the longest branch).
    - Install high visibility fencing around the RPZ of any tree or cluster of trees with overlapping canopy that are identified on an approved grading plan as needing protection. The fencing should be four-feet high and bright orange with steel t-posts spaced 8 feet apart.
    - Do not grade, cut, fill or trench within the RPZ.
    - Do not store oil, gasoline, chemicals, construction materials, or equipment within the RPZ.
    - Do not store soil within the RPZ.
    - Do not allow concrete, plaster, or paint washout within the RPZ.
    - Do not irrigate within the RPZ or allow irrigation to filter into the RPZ.
    - Plant only drought tolerant species within the RPZ.

2. **The following are general guidelines for protecting oak trees in gardens and yards.**
    - Avoid summer irrigation.
    - The zone within six feet of the trunk of the tree should be disturbed as little as possible. The base of the tree should be kept dry.
    - Limit plantings beneath oak trees to drought-tolerant species not requiring summer irrigation.
    - Landscape beneath oak trees with non-living plant materials such as wood chips.
    - Refer to Living Among the Oaks or contact the Master Gardener Program (through the UCCE office) for more information on oaks in the home garden.

3. The following are general guidelines or best management practices for Maintenance, Restoration, and Rehabilitation of Oak Woodlands

a. Acorn Collection and Storage Procedures

- Collect acorns in the fall, several weeks after the first ones have started to drop and when those remaining on the tree can be easily dislodged from the acorn cap by a gentle twisting.
- If possible, collect acorns directly from the branches of trees, rather than the ground.
- If acorns are collected from the ground, place them in a bucket of water for several hours, and discard any floaters.
- Stratify acorns from the black oak group (e.g., black oak, interior live oak) by soaking them in water for 24 hours and then storing them in a cooler/refrigerator for 30-90 days before sowing.
- Store acorns in a cooler or refrigerator in loosely sealed plastic bags, but do not store acorns from the white oak group (e.g., valley oak, blue oak, Oregon white oak) for more than 1 or 2 months before planting to ensure greatest viability.
- If acorns start to germinate during storage, remove and plant as soon as possible.
- If mold develops during storage, and acorns and radicles are discolored/slimy, discard acorns.

b. Methods for Sowing Acorns of Rangeland Oaks in the Field

- Sow acorns in the fall/early winter, as soon as soil has been moistened several inches down.
- If possible, pregerminate acorns before planting and outplant when radicles are ¼ inch to ½ inch (1/2 cm to 1 cm) long.
- Cover acorns with ½ to 1 inch (1 to 2 ½ cm) of soil.
- If acorn depredation is suspected as a serious problem (high populations of rodents are present), plant deeper, up to 2 inches (5cm).
- If acorns begin to germinate during storage, outplant as soon as possible. Use a screwdriver/pencil to make a hole in the soil; plant with the radicle pointing down..
- If radicles become too long, tangled, and unwieldy to permit planting, clip them back to ½ inch (1 cm) and outplant.
- If acorn planting spots have above ground protection (treeshelters), and acorns have not been pre-germinated, plant two or three acorns per spot and thin to the best seedling after 1 year.
- Keep planting spots free of weeds for at least 3 years after planting.

c. Procedures for Planting Rangeland Oaks

- Plant oak seedlings early in the growing season, soon after the first fall rains have saturated the soil; do not plant after early March unless irrigation is planned.
- Make sure seedlings are not frozen, allowed to dry out, or physically damaged before, during, or after planting.
- Plant seedlings at proper depth, making sure they are not J-rooted, and eliminate air pockets in soil adjacent to seedling roots
- In hard, compacted soils, break up soil (using a shovel, auger or posthole digger) through the compacted zone prior to planting to promote deeper rooting. If planting holes are augered, make sure that the sides of the holes are not glazed.
- Select microsites for planting that afford some natural protection and provide the most favorable growing conditions.
- Plant in a natural pattern, avoiding straight, evenly spaced rows.

d. Weed Control Procedures

- Select method of weed control (herbicides, physical weed removal, or mulching) based on environmental, fiscal, and philosophical considerations.

- Maintain a weed-free circle that is 4 feet (1.2m) in diameter around individual seedlings or acorns for at least 2 to 3 years after planting; if using herbicides to control weeds, remove weeds in circle with a diameter of 6 feet (1.8m)
- Initiate annual weed control by early spring to ensure that weeds do not become established and deplete soil moisture before oak roots can penetrate downward.
- Visit planting sites at least twice annually to remove both early- and late-season weeds that may have grown through mulch.
- If using post-emergent herbicides, make sure that chemicals do not come in contact with foliage or the expanding buds of seedlings.
- After weed control is discontinued, visit plantings regularly to make sure vole populations and damage to seedlings have not increased. If increases are observed, remove thatch.

e. Methods of Protecting Trees from Animals

- Fences and large cages are effective only if livestock and deer are the only animals of concern. Fences require a large initial investment and result in fenced areas being removed from livestock production. Fences and cages must be maintained regularly.
- Screen cylinders provide adequate short-term protection against insects, rodents, and deer but are ineffective against livestock, insects, or small rodents. Shoots that grow through the sides of tubes are vulnerable to browsing.
- Tree-shelters have proven very effective in protecting rangeland oak seedlings from a wide range of animals and stimulating rapid, above-ground growth. While relatively expensive they can greatly reduce time required for seedlings to grow to sapling stage.
- Habitat modification can reduce damage from grasshoppers and some rodents, but it is ineffective for larger ranging animals, such as deer. Care must be taken to monitor the re-growth of vegetation or animals will quickly reoccupy site.

f. Procedures for Tree-shelter Installation

- Select tree-shelter size based on the browsing height of animals that are a threat.
- Install shelters so they are upright and secure them to stakes using plastic ratchet clips or wire; make sure seedlings are not damaged when shelters are secured to posts.
- When tree-shelters are used, plant in an aesthetic, “natural” arrangement rather than in regular, evenly spaced rows.
- Utilize stakes that are durable enough to last the length of time tree-shelters will be in place and drive them at least 1 foot(31 cm) into the ground before planting seedlings.
- Make sure tops of stakes are lower than tops of shelters to prevent access by rodents that can climb stakes and damage seedling shoots from rubbing against stakes.
- To prevent seedling desiccation, install shelters with the base buried in the ground.
- To prevent bird access, install plastic shelters with the base buried in the ground.
- If tree-shelters are placed in pastures grazed by livestock, secure them to metal posts using wire and thread flexible wire through the top instead of using plastic netting.

g. Tree-shelter Maintenance Procedures

- Visit shelters at least once each year to make sure they are upright, attached to the stake, buried in the ground, and functioning properly.
- Keep a 4-foot (1.2 m) diameter or larger circle around shelters free of weeds for at least 2 years after planting, and remove weeds that grow inside shelters.
- Replace flexible netting that has blown off shelter tops.
- Replace stakes that have rotted or broken.

- Leave shelters in place for at least 3 years after seedlings have grown out the tops, longer if shelters are still intact and and are effectively protecting seedlings.
- Remove shelters if they are restricting growth or abrading seedlings; to remove solid shelters, slice down the sides with a razor or knife, being careful not to damage the seedling inside.

h. Fertilization, Irrigation, and Top Pruning

- Place .74-ounce (21-g), slow release fertilizer tablets (20-10-5) 3 to 4 inches (7.5 to 10 cm) below planted acorns or seedlings.
- Irrigation is not necessary in many situations if there is timely/thorough weed control.
- If irrigation is needed for established and the terrain is steep or percolation of water through soil is slow, construct earthen irrigation basins.
- Provide irrigation in the form of infrequent, deep irrigations rather that frequent, shallow irrigations; time irrigations to extend the rainy season.
- Always control competing vegetation, even where supplemental irrigation is provided.
- Top-prune seedlings at the time of planting if they are too tall and are out of balance with root systems; prune small, liner stock back to a 6-inch (15 cm) top.

4. Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) Conservation-BMPs

The following are USDA-NRCS conservation practices which are relevant to achieving protection, enhancement, and sustainable management of oak woodlands in Napa County, especially on grazed rangelands, managed watershed lands, and along waterways. A full, detailed description of the practices and consultation on the appropriate application of land treatments are available at the Napa NRCS office. Electronic copies can also be accessed at http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/

Conservation Cover (NRCS Practice 327) Definition: Establish and maintain perennial vegetation, including native oak savannah grassland species, to protect soil and water resources.
Purposes: Reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat.

Prescribed Burning (NRCS Practice 338) Definition: Applying controlled fire to predetermined areas.
Purposes: Control undesirable vegetation, reduce wildfire hazard, improve wildlife habitat, and facilitate distribution of grazing animals.

Critical Area Planting (NRCS Practice 342) Definition: Planting vegetation, including trees, native shrubs, and herbaceous plant materials on erodible or eroding areas. Purposes: Stabilize soil, reduce damage from downstream sediment runoff, and improve wildlife habitat and visual resources.

Fence (NRCS Practice 382) Definition: Construct a barrier to livestock or wildlife.
Purposes: Control livestock or wildlife access to sensitive vegetation, eroding areas, or stream channels/banks. Create management units to optimize management of grazed lands, or to facilitate control of noxious weeds.

Fuel Break (NRCS Practice 383) Definition: A strip or block of land on which vegetation and plant debris have been reduced to diminish the risk of fire crossing the area. Purposes: Control and reduce the spread of fire.

Forest Slash Treatment (NRCS Practice 384) Definition: Treating woody residues to achieve management objectives. Purposes: Reduce hazardous fuels, insect and disease risk, increase access to grazing animals, improve soil organic matter, and improve natural or artificial plant regeneration.

Riparian Forest Buffer (NRCS Practice 391) Definition: Establish trees adjacent to and up-gradient from water bodies. Purposes: Create shade to reduce water temperature, provide riparian habitat and corridors for wildlife, reduce excess sediment or other pollutants in surface runoff, and reduce excess nutrients and other chemicals in groundwater flow.

Mulching (NRCS Practice 484) Definition: Applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the soil surface. Purposes: Reduce soil erosion, retain soil moisture near plantings, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (NRCS Practice 490) Definition: Treatment of areas to improve conditions for establishing trees or shrubs. Purposes: Encourage natural regeneration or permit artificial establishment of desired woody plants.

Prescribed Grazing/Annual Rangeland (NRCS Practice 528/528A) Definition: Controlling grazing through fencing or herding so that each grazing area receives alternating, appropriate periods of grazing and rest. Purposes: Improve or maintain the health of desired vegetation, maintain or improve water quality, reduce accelerated soil erosion. (Note: associated practices such as spring development and wells may sometimes be incorporated into grazing plans to accomplish conservation objectives).

Range Planting (NRCS Practice 550) Definition: Establish adapted perennial vegetation such as trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. Purposes: Restore the plant community similar to its historic climax or desired community, improve livestock forage, improve cover for wildlife, and improve water quality.

Tree and Shrub Establishment (NRCS Practice 612) Definition: Establish woody plants, (generally native species) by planting or seeding. Purposes: Provide woody plants for conservation purposes such as erosion control, watershed, or wildlife habitat.

Watering Facility (NRCS Practice 614) Definition: Install a tank or trough to provide livestock or wildlife access to water. Purposes: Protect and enhance vegetative cover by proper distribution of grazing, enhance erosion control, and protect streams and ponds from contamination.

Underground Outlet (NRCS Practice 620) Definition: Install an underground conduit to convey surface water to a suitable protected outlet. Purposes: To dispose of excess water to prevent erosion or flood damage. Designs should include appropriate dispersal outlets to reduce the likelihood of concentrated flows causing downstream impacts.

Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats (NRCS Practice 643) Definition: Restoring and conserving rare or declining native vegetated communities and associated wildlife. Purposes: Restore native habitats degraded by human activities, provide habitat for rare or declining wildlife species by restoring native plant communities, increase native plant community diversity, manage or conserve declining native habitats, and to control noxious invasive plant species.

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (NRCS Practice 644) Definition: Retain, develop or manage wetland habitat for wetland wildlife. Purposes: Maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for dependent or associated plants and animals.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (NRCS Practice 645) Definition: Creating, restoring, maintaining, or enhancing areas for food, cover, and water for wildlife that use upland habitat.
Purposes: Provide food, cover, and water to benefit desired wildlife species and maintain viable populations.

Forest Stand Improvement/Competing Vegetation Control (NRCS Practice 666D)
Definition: Herbicide or mechanical removal of brush competing with desired tree species. Purposes: Improve wildlife habitat and hydrologic conditions, initiate forest stand regeneration.

Appendix E

Submittal Guidelines:

Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan and WCB Oak Woodland Conservation Program

The Oak Woodlands Conservation Program is administered by the Wildlife Conservation Board(WCB) and offers landowners, conservation organizations, counties and cities the opportunity to obtain funding for projects to conserve and restore California's oak woodlands. While the program is statewide in nature, it provides opportunities to address oak woodland issues on a regional priority basis.

This voluntary state Program is designed to provide incentives for local efforts to achieve oak woodland protection. More importantly this program provides a mechanism to bring farmers, ranchers, other landowners, and conservationists together in a way that allows for both sustainable ranch and farming operations and healthy oak woodlands. The Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan provides the framework for certification of local efforts so they are eligible for submittal and funding consideration by the WCB.

Proposals developed in partnership with landowners, non-profit organizations, local, regional, and state resource specialists bring a diversity of skills, expertise, and ideas to the table, and often the ability to leverage funding that might not otherwise be available for a project.

STEP ONE (1) : Contact the Wildlife Conservation Board(WCB)

First contact the WCB for an Oak Woodland Conservation Program Application and Guidelines at: www.wcb.ca.gov/ Oaks/ index.html or call (916) 445-8448 with any questions prior to completing an application package.

STEP TWO (2) : Applications for **conservation easements** and restoration

Applications for conservation easements, restoration or other long term conservation methods should be developed with the help of an eligible participant such as a non-profit organization/ land trust. These organizations have the expertise to work with property owners to develop customized land conservation easements, and assist with the completion of the Oak Woodland Conservation and Restoration Evaluation Criteria (Appendix C) of the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan. Contact information for these groups/ agencies is available at the Napa County CDPD and at their websites.

Applications for **public outreach** and education

Applications for public education and outreach and technical assistance should be designed and implemented in partnership with local entities such as the Resource Conservation District, NRCS, non-profit organizations, farming/ ranching organizations, landowners, Napa County CDPD, and others. Contact information for these groups/ agencies is available at the Napa County CDPD and at their websites.

STEP THREE (3) : Napa County Certification

Submit the completed WCB application and Oak Woodland Conservation and Restoration Evaluation Criteria (Appendix C) of the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan to the Napa County Conservation, Development & Planning Department for review and certification by the Planning Director.

Submit applications to:

County of Napa
Director-Conservation, Development & Planning Dept.
1195 Third Street Suite 210
Napa, California 94559

STEP FOUR (4) : Application Submittal

Once an application proposal has been completed and certified by the Napa County CDPD Director, submit it to the WCB for consideration.

Mail completed applications to:

Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Board
1807 13th Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, California 95811

While applications are accepted on a year-round basis, the WCB generally meets four times a year. Typically, Board meetings are held in February, May, August and November. All applications that comply with the program requirements and meet program eligibility criteria will be scheduled for Board consideration if sufficient money exists to fund the request. Applicants will be notified as to when the project will be considered by the Board. The Board must approve any project to be funded.

Appendix F

RESOLUTION NO. _____

< SAMPLE ONLY>

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NAPA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA ADOPTING THE NAPA COUNTY VOLUNTARY OAK WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan is to encourage voluntary oak woodland conservation in Napa County and to provide a framework for the conservation of oak woodlands throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001 as enacted by State Fish and Game Code commencing with Section 1360, directed the State Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to establish and implement the Oak Woodland Conservation Program grant program;

WHEREAS, the WCB Oak Woodland Conservation Program requires that for landowners, local government entities, districts and conservation organizations to participate in the program, that the County adopt by resolution an Oak Woodlands Management Program pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 1366; and

WHEREAS, the Napa County 2008 General Plan Update provides goals and policies in support of oak woodland protection and enhancement and an implementation action item providing direction for the development and adoption of a Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County of Napa has developed a Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan consistent with the General Plan direction and California Fish and Game Code Section 1366 that will allow landowners, local government entities, districts and conservation organizations an opportunity to obtain funding from the WCB Oak Woodland Conservation program; and

WHEREAS, the County of Napa recognizes that the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan is an important step in informing landowners, farmers, ranchers, land developers, and the general public about the significance of oak woodlands and encouraging their voluntary participation and responsible stewardship in the recognition and protection of oak woodlands; and

WHEREAS, the WCB Oak Woodland Conservation Program requires, pursuant to State Fish and Game Code Section 1366(f) that the County certify that grant proposals are consistent with the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Plan prior to submittal to the State Wildlife Conservation Board for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has considered a staff report and background information and held a public hearing regarding the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodlands Management Plan and oak woodlands in the unincorporated areas of Napa County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Napa as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. Recognizes the economic value of oak woodlands to landowners and the community at large, and supports farming, ranching and grazing operations that are compatible with oak woodland conservation; and
3. Recognizes the natural resource values of oak woodlands including the critical role oak woodlands play relative to the health and function of local watersheds, soil and water retention, wildlife habitat, open space and others; and
4. Supports landowners that participate in the Wildlife Conservation Board's Voluntary Oak Woodlands Conservation Program, and agrees to certify that individual proposals are consistent with the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodlands Management Plan, pursuant to Section 1366 (f) of the California Fish and Game Code; and
5. Supports and encourages education and outreach efforts designed to demonstrate the economic, social and ecological values associated with oak woodlands; and
6. Shall review and update the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodlands Management Plan, as needed.
7. The Board hereby adopts the Napa County Voluntary Oak Woodlands Management Plan
8. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Napa, State of California, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the ____ day of _____, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS _____

_____

NOES: SUPERVISORS _____

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS _____

_____

DIANE DILLON, Chair
Napa County Board of Supervisors

_____

ATTEST: GLADYS I. COIL
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By:_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Office of County Counsel

By: _____
Deputy County Counsel

Date: ___…_____

Approved by the Napa County Board of Supervisors

Date: _____

Processed by:

_____
Deputy Clerk of the Board