



*Building Lasting Coalitions:
The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition*

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Defenders of Wildlife*

What is a Coalition?

A Coalition is a temporary alliance or partnering of groups in order to achieve a common purpose or to engage in joint activity

Why is Coalition Building Important?

- Pools Resources
- Builds Power
- Focuses Organizations on Shared Goals
- More efficient and effective
- Increases communication
- Revitalizes “tired” members of diverse groups who are going it alone

Consider Any Disadvantages

- Will this distract you from your work?
- A coalition is only as strong as its weakest link
- Are there strong differences in how groups work?
- Are you willing to live with one group/one vote or veto power from one group?
- Loss of individual organization credit

How to Build a Coalition

- Beginning Steps:
 - Think about the problem you are trying to solve. What is your goal/solution? Is a coalition a good tactic?
 - What organizations share your goals and would help you attain your goals?
 - Develop a plan to explain benefits of a coalition.
 - Involve key players.

How to Structure Your Coalition?

- Develop a shared vision and mission
- Develop feasible goals
- Create a detailed plan
- Create a sound leadership structure/organization (with no one person taking on all responsibility)
- Clearly establish a decision-making processes
- Ensure you have staff to carry out the work
- Set up a meeting structure

A Very Important Lesson

COMMUNICATE

COMMUNICATE

COMMUNICATE

An Example of Building a Lasting Coalition



California Rangeland Conservation Coalition

A unique partnership of agencies, ranchers and conservation organizations working together to preserve private ranchlands within California's Central Valley and surrounding foothills.

Ranchers & Environmentalists Come Together

- Simultaneous Communication
- Pre-Grazing Summit August 2005
- Common Terms
 - Keeping ranching lands ranching
 - Keeping common species common
 - Encouraging habitat protection on ranch lands by providing incentives and minimizing the need for regulation
 - Creating a template for future cooperation among groups



California Rangeland Resolution

- Challenges to develop
- Garnering support
- + 50 Signatories

The California Rangeland Resolution

The undersigned recognize the critical importance of California's privately owned rangelands, particularly that significant portion that encircles the Central Valley and includes the adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands, including the Sierra foothills and the interior coast ranges. These lands support important ecosystems and are the foundation for the ranching industry that owns them.

WHEREAS, these rangelands include a rich and varied landscape of grasslands, oak woodlands, vernal pools, riparian areas and wetlands, which support numerous imperiled species, many native plants once common in the Central Valley, and are home to the highest diversity and density of wintering raptors anywhere in North America;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are often located in California's fastest-growing counties and are at significant risk of conversion to development and other uses;

WHEREAS, these rangelands, and the species that rely on these habitats, largely persist today due to the positive and experienced grazing and other land stewardship practices of the ranchers that have owned and managed these lands and are committed to a healthy future for their working landscapes;

WHEREAS, these rangelands are a critical foundation of the economic and social fabric of California's ranching industry and rural communities, and will only continue to provide this important working landscape for California's plants, fish and wildlife if private rangelands remain in ranching;

THEREFORE, we declare that it is our goal to collaboratively work together to protect and enhance the rangeland landscape that encircles California's Central Valley and includes adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands by:

- Keeping common species common on private working landscapes;
- Working to recover imperiled species and enhancing habitat on rangelands while seeking to minimize regulations on private lands and streamline processes;
- Supporting the long-term viability of the ranching industry and its culture by providing economic, social and other incentives and by reducing burdens to proactive stewardship on private ranchlands;
- Increasing private, state and federal funding, technical expertise and other assistance to continue and expand the ranching community's beneficial land stewardship practices that benefit sensitive species and are fully compatible with normal ranching practices;
- Encouraging voluntary, collaborative and locally-led conservation that has proven to be very effective in maintaining and enhancing working landscapes;
- Educating the public about the benefits of grazing and ranching in these rangelands.

SIGNED BY:

Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Alameda Co. Resource Conservation District
American Land Conservancy
Audubon California
Bureau of Land Management
Butte Environmental Council
Butte County Resource Conservation District
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Cattlemen's Association
California Chapter of the International Soil and Water Conservation Society

California Department of Conservation
California Dept. of Fish and Game
California Dept. of Food and Agriculture
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Grazing Lands Coalition
California Native Grasslands Association
California Native Plant Society
California Oak Foundation
California Rangeland Trust
California Resources Agency
California Wildlife Foundation
Cal-Pac Section Society of Range Management

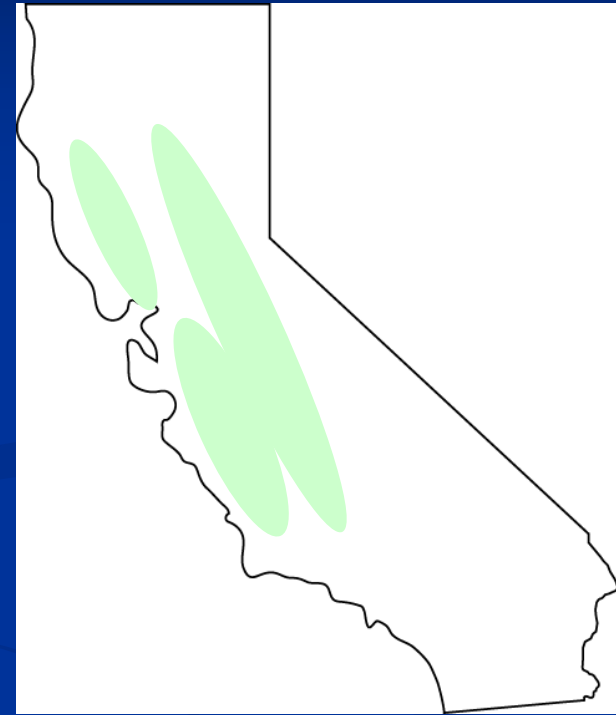
Central Valley Farmland Trust Council
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Defense
Institute for Ecological Health
Jumping Frog Research Institute
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Sacramento River Watershed Program
San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center
San Joaquin Valley Conservancy
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society
Sustainable Conservation

The Nature Conservancy
Trust for Public Land
University of California
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
VernalPools.org
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District
Wildlife Conservation Board
WildPlaces

June 23, 2006

California Rangeland Resolution

- Privately owned rangelands
- Scope:
 - Central Valley
 - Adjacent grasslands and oak woodlands
 - Sierra foothills
 - Interior coast ranges
- Supports important ecosystems
- Foundation for the ranching industry



California Rangeland Resolution

Collaboratively work together to...

- *Keep common species common*
- *Recover imperiled species*
- *Enhance habitat*
- *Reduce regulatory burdens*
- *Facilitate permit coordination*
- *Education*
- *Increase funding and resources to assist in the preservation and enhancement of rangeland*
- *Voluntary*

California Rangeland Conservation Coalition

- Representatives of signatories to the Resolution
- Structure
 - The Steering Committee
 - Legislative Committee
 - Outreach Committee
 - Interagency Permit Coordination Committee
 - Area Prioritization
- Carryout goals of the Resolution



What Have We Accomplished ?

Introduction to California Cattlemen's Association

- Annual Meeting November 2005
- Panel Discussion
 - Common Goals - Moving Beyond Past Conflicts
 - Collaboration on Issues - Next Steps Together





**Defenders
of Wildlife**



Audubon

**US Fish
and
Wildlife
Service**



**CA
Secretary
of
Resources**

Panelists

**California
Native Plant
Society**



California Cattlemen's Association



Annual Summits

- January 2006 and 2007
- Fostered Camaraderie
- Developed Action Items
- Outlined Future Activities
- Set Committees



Washington DC

- March 2006 and 2007
- Common Message
- Meet with:
 - Congressional Representatives
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Council on Environmental Quality
 - Department of Interior
- Disbelief, Surprise, Support & Enthusiasm



Coalition Achievements

- California Department of Food and Agriculture 2007 Farm Bill Perspective
- White House Cooperative Conservation Listening Sessions
- Joint Letters to Congress regarding Farm Bill Priorities
- US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Cattlemen's Association Cooperative Agreements

Where We Are Going . . .

- Defenders of Wildlife Position
- Communication Initiative
- Landowner Outreach
- Safe Harbor Agreement
- Area Prioritization
- Pilot Projects (2- 4)
 - Conservation Easement
 - Restoration and enhancement component

Conclusion

We agree on

95% of the issues & don't let the other

5% take up

100% of our time

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