

Linking Land Protection and Wildlife

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Mission/Focus

- ❖ **Wildlife, habitat, T&E Species**
- ❖ **Natural areas, natural heritage, conservation, wilderness, biodiversity**
- ❖ **Parks and recreation**
- ❖ **Historic or cultural preservation**
- ❖ **Agricultural preservation**
- ❖ **Water quality, watershed health**
- ❖ **Multi-objective**

Administration

- ❖ **Parks agencies**
- ❖ **Wildlife agencies**
- ❖ **Natural resource agencies**
- ❖ **Forestry/ag agencies**
- ❖ **Environmental protection agencies**
- ❖ **Independent boards**

Sources of Funding

- ❖ Federal grants

- ❖ Tax revenue (sales, deed stamp, realty transfer, etc.)

- ❖ Bond revenue

- ❖ Lottery

- ❖ Specialty license plate

- ❖ Etc.

Program Types/Tools

❖ **Fee acquisition**

❖ **Conservation easements**

❖ **Purchase of development rights**

❖ **Leases**

❖ **Grants**

- **Land trusts, SWCDs, other state agencies, etc.**
- **May or may not require a match**

Land protection programs vary widely!

Some examples (*and these are just a few!*)

❖ **CA's Wildlife Conservation Board**

❖ **MD's Rural Legacy**

❖ **NC's Clean Water Management Trust Fund**

	CA-WCB	MD – RLP	NC – CWMTF
Mission	Wildlife; related public recreation	Working landscapes; Counter sprawl	Water quality improvement
Admin.	Arm of CA DFG; Board	MDNR	Board
Funding Source	Bonds; Dedicated and general state funds	Taxes; bonds	Dedicated funds
Funding Amount	\$550M	\$38.8M	\$596M
Tools	Fee acquisition; Easements; Grants	Grants	Grants

Estimated State Spending on Land Protection

❖ 2005 Defenders study

❖ \$9.5B between 1992 and 2001

❖ Steadily increased over study period

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❖ **Greatest threats to biodiversity:**

Habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation



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Habitat destruction, degradation, and fragmentation

❖ **Surest way to protect biodiversity:**

Acquire and protect habitat

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❖ Strategic land protection for wildlife/biodiversity



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❖ Strategic land protection for wildlife/biodiversity

- Small patches vs. large blocks
- Spread out parcels vs. connections
- Habitat types, species
- Other environmental considerations, e.g., threats

How do land protection programs prioritize projects?

- ❖ **Quantitative assessment**
- ❖ **Qualitative scoring**
- ❖ **Ad hoc / Opportunistic**

How can land protection programs maximize wildlife benefits?

❖ 2006 ELI Study

- ❖ Strengthen wildlife/biodiversity authority
- ❖ Leverage partnerships/funding
- ❖ Utilize existing data/maps

→ State wildlife action plans



State Wildlife Action Plans

- ❖ **Contain information on habitats, species, threats**
- ❖ **Often include maps**
- ❖ **Include land protection strategies**
- ❖ **Available in every state**

Opportunities to Think About

- ❖ **The plans as a source of data/maps**
- ❖ **Leveraging funds (matching)**
- ❖ **Other common goals: outreach, fundraising, public education**

Considerations for Today

- ❖ **Programmatic needs? (i.e., limitations)**
- ❖ **How do states get started?**

**Questions?
Comments?**

