

CONSERVING THE LANDSCAPES OF NAPA COUNTY





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Purpose

The purpose of this study is to develop a strategic vision for conserving functional landscapes that maintain the composition, structure, and viability of important ecological systems in Napa County. It is intended as a conceptual blueprint for land conservation activities of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and its public and private partners. The study was built on the results of TNC's ecoregional planning and refined through a series of workshops with knowledgeable local experts. It identifies nine conservation areas that support the most important ecological systems of Napa County including valley and blue oak woodlands, native perennial grasslands, serpentine chaparral, cypress forests, riparian forests, and aquatic systems for native fish.

Initial conservation plans were designed for each of the nine areas to establish a network of core reserves with buffers and linkages. They build on existing conservation lands, link disjointed open space parcels, and protect the watersheds of many important aquatic systems. With these conservation plans, site by site conservation activities will not be isolated but part of a larger, coherent design – one that if fully implemented, would nearly double the amount of land conserved in Napa County.

Setting

Napa County is located at the convergence of three California ecoregions: the North Coast, Central Valley, and Central Coast (see Figure 1). It is a landscape of northwest trending mountains and valleys with elevations ranging from near sea level at San Francisco Bay to 4,000 feet on Mount Saint Helena. The climate of Napa County ranges from cool coastal areas to hot and dry areas inland. The dominant vegetation types include coast live oak, blue oak, annual grassland, chamise, mixed conifer, and redwood/Douglas fir. With its diverse climate and a wide variety of soil types, Napa County has an unusual diversity of flora and fauna. Species of concern include northern spotted owl, California red-legged frog, California freshwater shrimp, and steelhead.

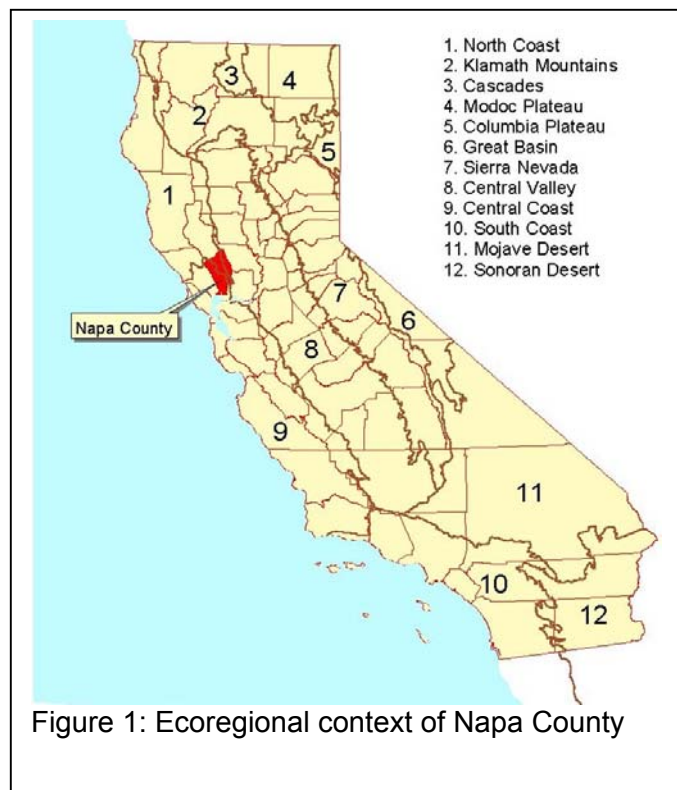


Figure 1: Ecoregional context of Napa County

Napa County is also one of the greatest wine-growing regions in the world and agriculture is the dominant land use. Currently, 14% of the land area of the county is used for intensive agriculture, 6% is urban, and 80% remains in natural habitats. Despite the relatively large amount of natural habitat remaining in the county, very little of it, less than 20%, has been set aside for conservation purposes. General principles of conservation biology suggest that there is a precipitous decline in the number of species present when less than 30% of the habitat is conserved.

Threats

Agricultural conversion and human population growth are the two greatest threats to conserving the landscapes of Napa County. According to the California Department of Conservation, 3,807 acres of non-agricultural land were converted to intensive agriculture in Napa County between 1990 and 2000 making it one of the most rapid areas of agricultural conversion in the state. Although the current pace of agricultural conversion exceeds urbanization, more and more people are attracted to Napa County for its sophisticated rural lifestyle and proximity to major urban centers of the Bay Area. The 2000 US Census estimated the population of the county at 124,279 people – an increase of 10% since 1990. Napa County will likely continue to face development pressure in the future; the California Department of Finance projects the county's population to grow to 148,800 by 2020.

Planning Process

The foundation of this report was The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional planning for the North Coast, the Central Coast, and the Central Valley. These ecoregional plans identified nine areas in Napa County important for the conservation of biological diversity (see Figure 2). Preliminary data also suggests that these conservation areas are also among the most threatened in California. Although the ecoregional plans identified these areas as high priorities, implementation of on-the-ground conservation efforts required additional site-specific information and planning.

Table 1: Conservation Areas of Napa County (listed alphabetically)

1	American Canyon
2	Atlas Peak – Mount George
3	Blue Ridge – Vaca Mountains
4	Knoxville – Cedar Roughts
5	Mount Hood Range
6	Mount Saint Helena
7	Napa River and Tributaries
8	Napa River Wetlands
9	Pope Valley

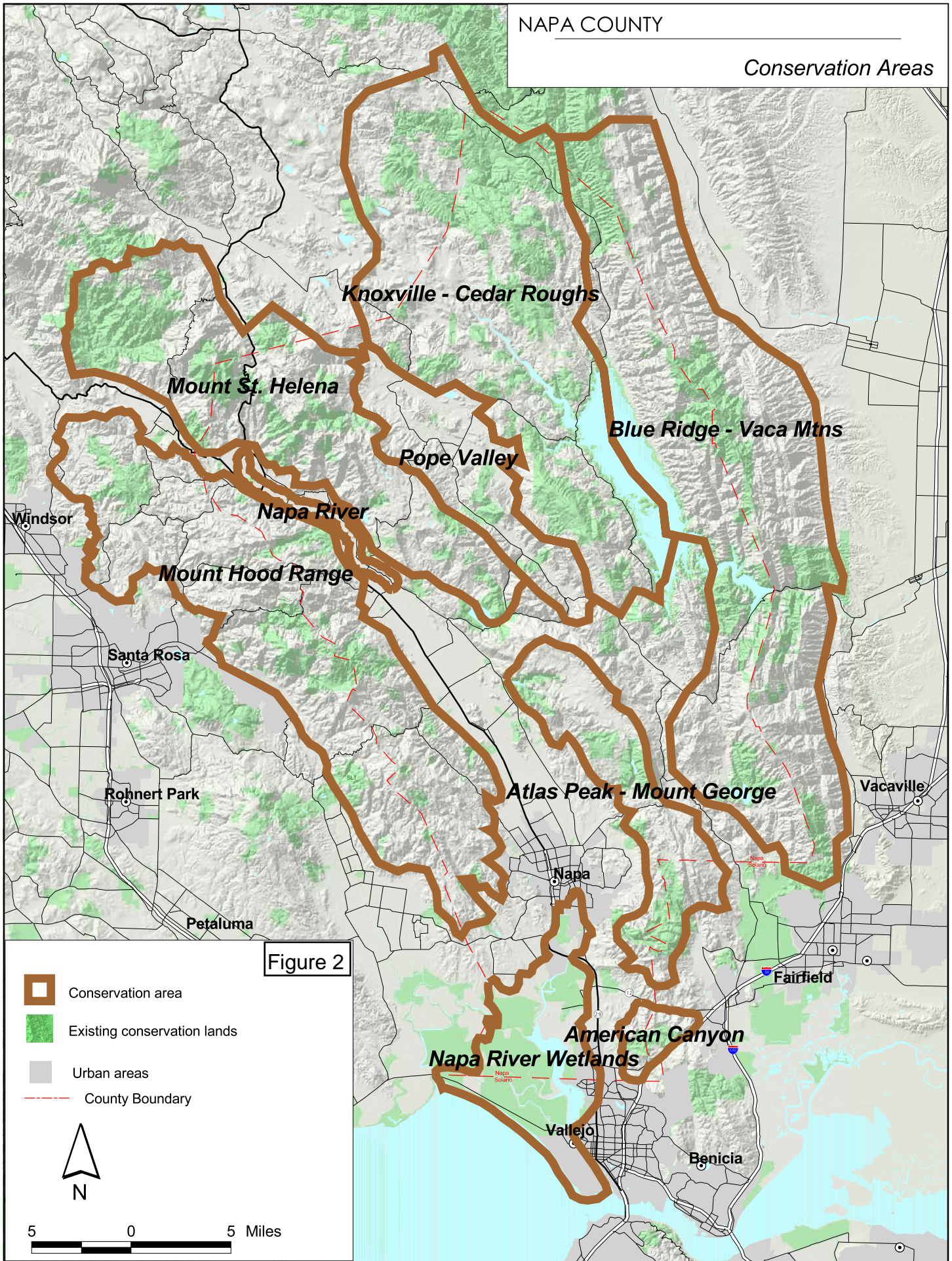


Figure 2

- Conservation area
- Existing conservation lands
- Urban areas
- County Boundary



5 0 5 Miles

In collaboration with the Land Trust of Napa County, TNC hosted a series of terrestrial and aquatic workshops with knowledgeable experts to develop initial conservation area plans for each area (See Appendix III for a list of workshop participants). Aerial photographs and maps of vegetation, rare species, and land ownership were provided for each conservation area. Participants were asked to help refine conservation area boundaries, identify conservation targets, and design core reserves, buffers and linkages.

Because it is impractical to plan for all elements of biological diversity, a subset of targets was developed for each conservation area. These targets represent outstanding examples of key ecological systems as well as endangered, threatened, or declining terrestrial and aquatic species as defined by the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Heritage Division and other experts. A list of the conservation targets is provided in each conservation area plan (see Appendix I) and a list of conservation targets for the entire county is provided in Appendix II.

Using existing protected lands as the initial framework, workshop participants helped identify large blocks of additional lands with conservation targets to design core areas or nodes. Other lands located on the periphery of core nodes with lesser amounts of conservation targets were designated as buffer lands. Lastly, participants were asked to identify potential landscape linkages across fragmented areas between core nodes.

Results

A total of 96,805 acres were recommended as additions to core conservation lands and 25,604 acres were identified as important buffer lands (See Figure 3). Numerous linkages between core areas were also identified. Detailed descriptions and maps of each conservation area are presented in Appendix I. If fully implemented, these plans would nearly double the amount of land conserved in Napa County.

Prioritizing Action

With numerous conservation areas and a multitude of potential core and buffer lands, it is essential to set priorities. To do this, each conservation area was ranked according to measures of conservation value and vulnerability. Conservation value is the number of ecological systems targeted for conservation at each area. Scores for conservation value were ranked high, medium, or low where the greater the number of target ecological systems, the greater the conservation value. Vulnerability was measured as the percentage of land in each conservation area that is not currently protected in fee or easement. Scores for vulnerability were ranked high, medium, or low, where the greater the amount of land in conservation, the lower the vulnerability to land conversion.

A 3x3 cross table was developed to sort conservation areas into three tiers based on their conservation value and vulnerability ranks (see Table 2). Tier 1 conservation areas have the greatest conservation value and the highest vulnerability to land conversion while Tier 3 areas have relatively fewer ecological systems and more land already conserved. Three conservation areas ranked Tier 1, three areas ranked Tier 2, and three areas ranked Tier 3 (see Table 3).

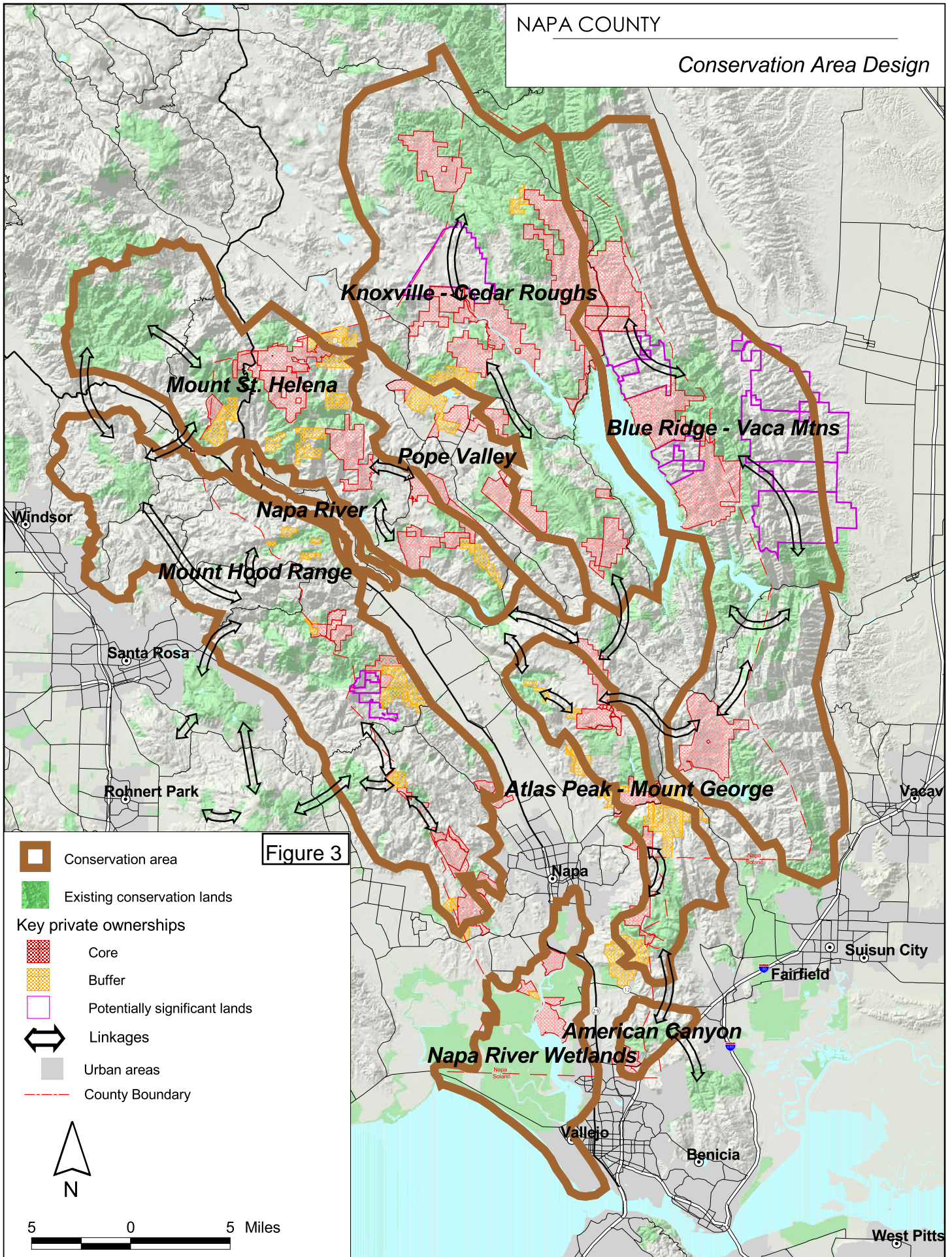


Table 2: Conservation Area Ranking Matrix

Conservation Value (Srank)	Vulnerability (Vrank)		
	High	Medium	Low
High	Tier 1	Tier 1	Tier 2
Medium	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Low	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 3

Table 3: Napa County Conservation Area Priority Ranking

Conservation Area	Systems	Srank	Total Acres	Acres Conserved	Percent Conserved	Vrank	Tier
Knoxville - Cedar Roughs	14	H	139103	39110	28	M	1
Mount Hood Range	7	M	126532	18302	14	H	1
Pope Valley	11	H	33907	2374	7	H	1
Blue Ridge - Vaca Mtns	5	M	167682	63077	38	M	2
Mount St. Helena	7	M	89713	30692	34	M	2
Napa River	3	L	4633	5.66	0	H	2
American Canyon	2	L	5766	1812	31	M	3
Atlas Peak - Mount George	2	L	37669	10906	29	M	3
Napa River Wetlands	3	L	35355	21429	61	L	3

While opportunities such as funding or willing land owners are likely to drive many conservation actions in Napa County, this prioritization scheme is useful for strategic planning purposes. It identifies those areas where investment of resources will have the greatest overall benefit to conservation in Napa County.

Conclusion

The nine conservation area plans developed in this plan present a conceptual blueprint for land conservation activities of the Nature Conservancy and its public and private partners in Napa County. While the results of this analysis are specific to Napa County, the conservation priorities were defined from a regional perspective. They fit into an overall scheme for broad-scale conservation across the ecoregions of which Napa County is a part. With these plans, site by site conservation activities will not be isolated but part of a larger, coherent design.

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION AREA GOALS

- **Knoxville – Cedar Roughs:** Maintain compatible land uses on at least 28,000 acres of land adjacent to existing conserved areas to create three core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) McLaughlin UCNR, 2) Spanish Valley, and 3) Cedar Roughs. Maintain water quality and adequate flow on Putah and Elicuera Creeks. Maintain regional habitat linkage south to the Atlas Peak – Mount George Conservation Area.
- **Mount Hood Range:** Build on existing protected areas to conserve at least 24,000 additional acres of land to create five core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) Pepperwood Reserve, 2) Bothe-Napa State Park, 3) Hood Mountain Regional Park, 4) Mt Veeder, and 5) Carneros. Maintain water quality and adequate flow for steelhead on Carneros Creek, Redwood Creek, Dry Creek, Bear Canyon, Sulphur Creek, Mill Creek, Ritchie Creek, Mark West Creek, Sonoma Creek, Calabastas Creek, and Hooker Creek. Maintain regional habitat linkages west to Sonoma Mountain Conservation Area and north to Mount Saint Helena Conservation Area.
- **Pope Valley:** Conserve at least 5,000 additional acres to protect remaining critical habitats. Maintain water quality and adequate flows in Pope Creek and Hardin Creek.
- **Blue Ridge – Vaca Mountains:** Maintain compatible land uses on at least 31,000 acres of land adjacent to existing conserved lands to protect three core habitat nodes and linkages between them: 1) Rocky Ridge, 2) Cold Canyon, and 3) Lake Curry. Maintain water quality and adequate flow on Suisun and Wooden Valley Creeks. Maintain regional habitat linkage east to the Atlas Peak – Mount George Conservation Area.
- **Mount Saint Helena:** Build on existing protected lands to conserve at least 16,000 acres of additional land to establish three core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) Audubon Mayacamas Preserve, 2) Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, and 3) Las Posadas State Forest. Maintain water quality and adequate flow on Maacama, Garnett, Dutch Henry Canyon and Moore Creeks. Maintain regional habitat linkage north to the Mayacama Range, west to Mount Hood Range, and south to Atlas Peak – Mount George.
- **Napa River:** Maintain adequate flow and water quality on mainstem to protect aquatic habitats and species.
- **American Canyon:** Conserve at least 850 additional acres to protect remaining critical habitats. Maintain regional habitat linkages east across I-80 and north across highway 12.

- **Atlas Peak – Mount George:** Build on existing protected lands to conserve an additional 6,300 acres to establish four core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) Rector Dam, 2) Miliken Reservoir, 3) Foote Botanical Reserve, and 4) Skyline Park. Maintain water quality and adequate flow for steelhead on the following creeks: Soscal, Tulocay, Sarco, and Milliken Creeks. Maintain regional habitat linkages south to American Canyon, east to Blue Ridge – Vaca Mountains, and north to Mount Saint Helena and Knoxville – Cedar Roughs Conservation Areas.
- **Napa River Wetlands:** Maintain compatible land uses on at least 2,000 acres of land adjacent to existing conserved lands to protect and restore remaining critical habitats.

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- **Partnerships and Capacity Building:** Establish a network of local and regional partners to achieve the conservation goals of this plan. Key partners include Napa County Land Trust, California State Parks, California Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, UC Natural Reserves, Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Partnership, Friends of the Napa River, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the Sonoma County Land Trust, and the Lake County Land Trust.
- **Land Protection:** Work with key partners to acquire, in fee or easements, core lands within the conservation areas.
- **Land Use Planning and Policy:** Explore opportunities to incorporate results of this conservation plan into the General Plan updates for Napa and Sonoma Counties.
- **Science, Restoration, and Monitoring:** Conduct applied research on compatible vineyard development in partnership with UC Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program, UC Davis Viticulture, Napa County RCD, and others.
- **Multi-site Initiatives:** Work to include the results of this plan into TNC multi-site initiatives such as Agriculture and Rangeland; Urban Sprawl; and Invasive Species.

APPENDIX I: NAPA COUNTY CONSERVATION AREA PLANS

KNOXVILLE – CEDAR ROUGHS

Description

This 139,000-acre conservation area is located on the west-side of Lake Berryessa in northeastern Napa County. It includes lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management, the University of California McLaughlin Natural Reserve, and part of California Department of Fish and Game's Knoxville Ranch. In total, conservation lands represent 28% of the area.



Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Annual grassland
Blue oak woodland
Montane mixed chaparral
Northern interior cypress forest
Northern mixed chaparral
Northern vernal pool
Serpentine barrens
Serpentine bunchgrass / forb meadow
Serpentine chaparral
Serpentine grassland
Serpentine wetlands
Valley oak woodland
Wildflower field

Mammals

Townsend's big-eared bat

Birds

Black shouldered kite
Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Clapper rail
Common yellowthroat
Coopers hawk
Forsters tern
Golden eagle
Horned lark
Long-eared owl
Northern harrier
Peregrine falcon
Prairie falcon
Sage sparrow
Savannah sparrow
Snowy plover
Spotted owl
Tree swallow
Warbling vireo

Yellow-headed blackbird

Fish

Reptiles and amphibians

Foothill yellow-legged frog

Northwestern pond turtle

Invertebrates

Plants

Antirrhinum virga

Arabis oregana

Asclepias solanoana

Astragalus breweri

Astragalus clariana

Astragalus clevelandii

Astragalus rattanii jepsonianus

Calamagrostis ophitidis

Calochortus uniflorus

Calyptridium quadripetalum

Collomia diversifolia

Cordylanthus tenuis ssp. brunneus

Delphinium uliginosum

Erigeron angustatus

Eriogonum lateolum var. caninum

Eriogonum nervulosum

Eriogonum tripodum

Erythronium helenae

Fritillaria pluriflora

Fritillaria purdyi

Harmonia hallii

Helianthus exilis

Hesperolinon bicarpellatum

Hesperolinon drymarioides

Hesperolinon serpentinum

Juglans californica ssp. hindsii

Layia septentrionalis

Lepidium latipes

Lomatium ciliolatum var. hooveri

Lomatium repostrum

Lomatium repostum

Malacothamnus helleri

Mimulus nudatus

Mimulus tricolor

Mimulus bolanderi

Monardella viridis ssp. viridis

Navarretia jepsonii

Navarretia rosulata

Orobanche valida ssp. howellii

Pogogyne douglasii ssp. parviflora

Ribes victoris

Senecio clevelandii var. clevelandii

Streptanthus brachiatus ssp. hoffmanii

Streptanthus morrisonii var. elatus

Thelypodium brachycarpum

Threats

- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from mining activities. Though mostly historic, some mining activity still occurs in the northern portion of the conservation area.
- Altered stream hydrology and quality resulting from mining activities.
- Habitat fragmentation and degradation resulting from off-road vehicle activities (both public and private lands in the conservation area have been heavily impacted from off-road recreation).
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from rural residential development and vineyard conversion. Largely confined to areas near Lake Berryessa and to a lesser extent, Snell Valley.

Conservation Goals

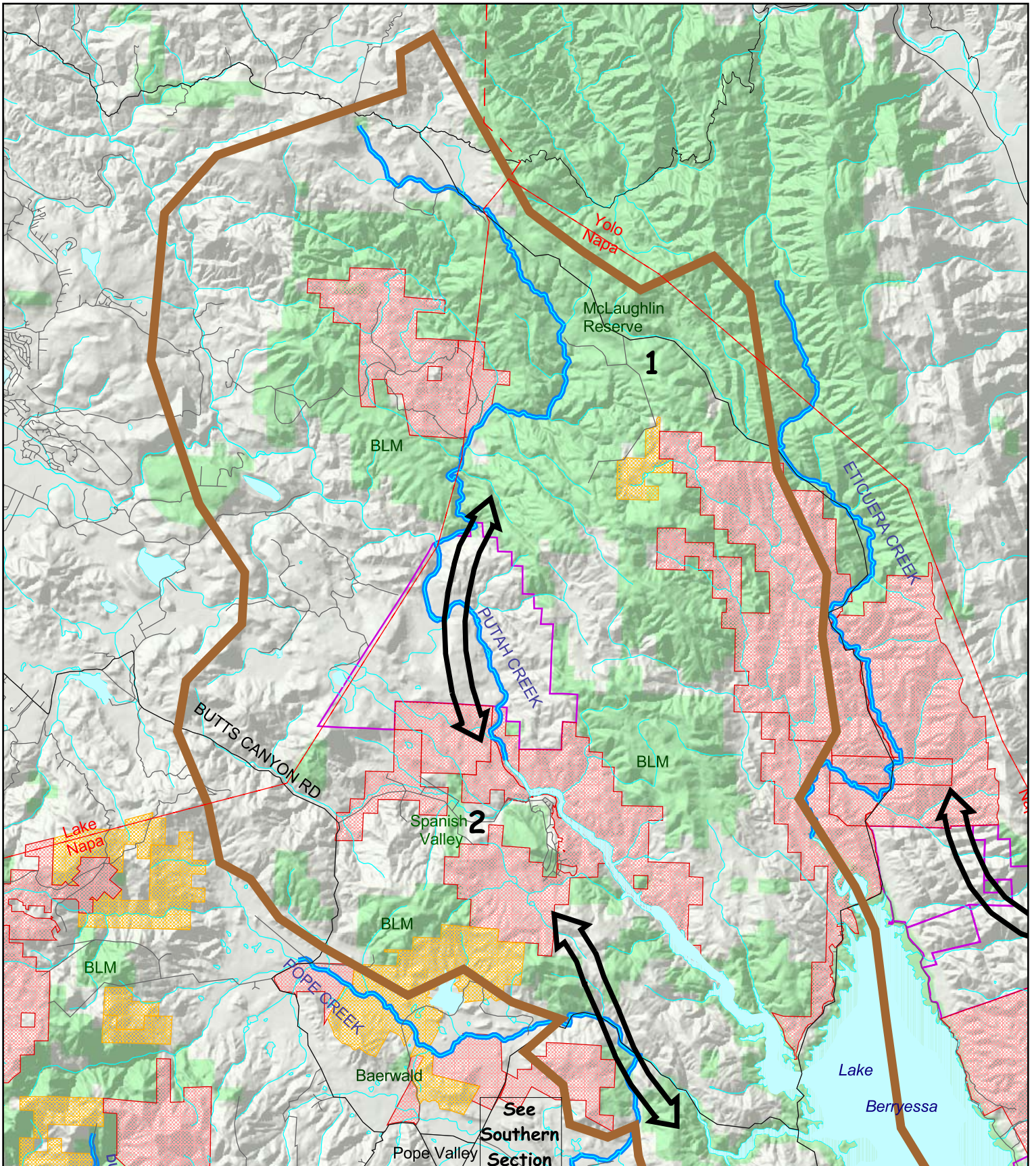
- Build on existing conserved lands to establish the following three core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) McLaughlin UCNR, 2) Spanish Valley, and 3) Cedar Roughs (see map). In total, 28,227 acres are

recommended as core and 3,693 acres as buffer for conservation resulting in an increase of conserved lands in the area to 48%.

- Maintain water quality and adequate flow on Putah Creek
- Maintain regional habitat linkage south to the Atlas Peak – Mount George Conservation Area.

Strategies

- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core and buffer properties in compatible land uses.
- Work with Bureau of Land Management to elevate protection status of key lands in the conservation area such as Cedar Roughts.
- Work with the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Partnership to coordinate land management and conservation efforts in the region.



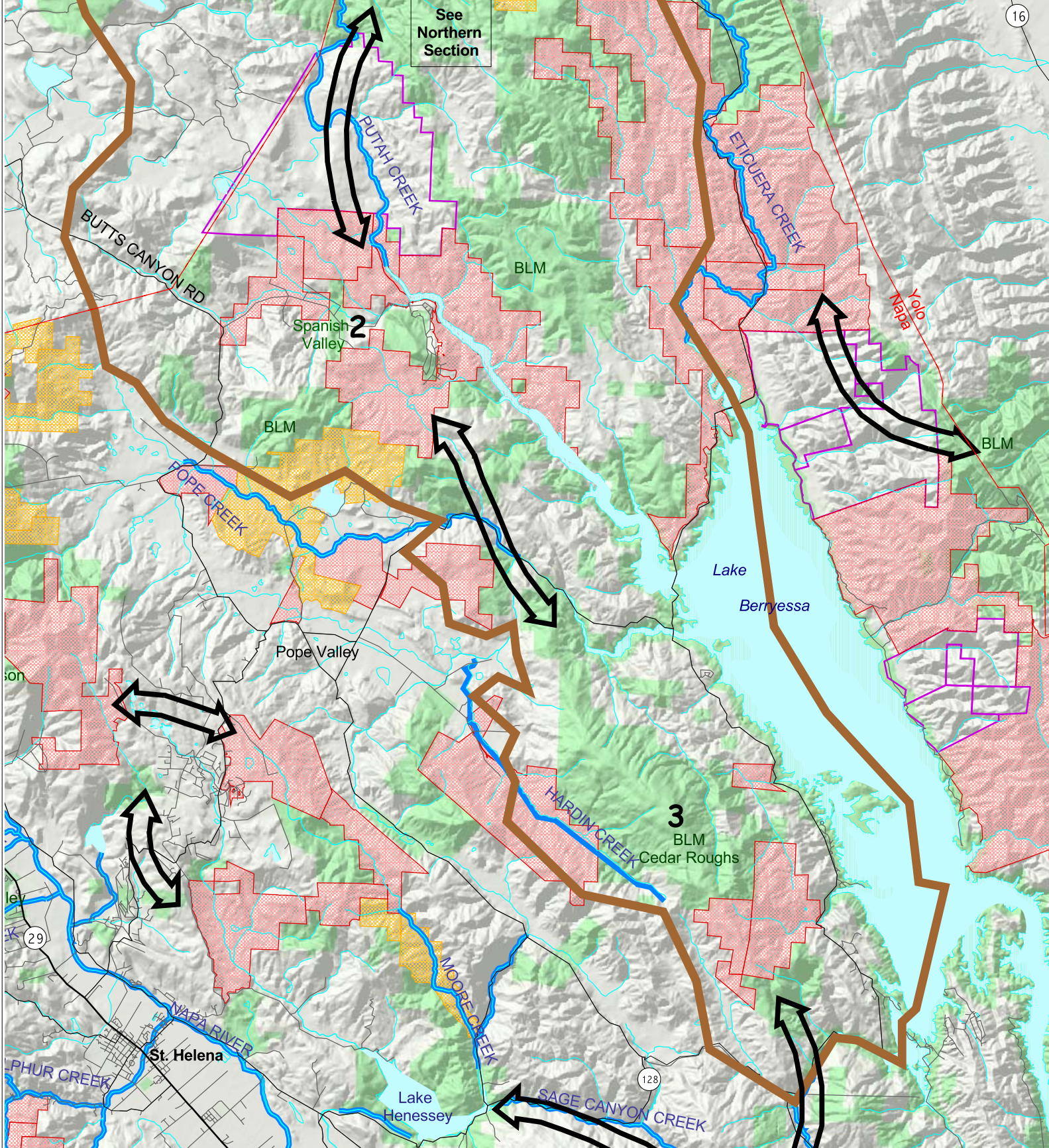
Knoxville - Cedar Roughs Conservation Area N. Section

Proposed conservation lands

- Core
- Buffer
- Other important lands
- Public or private conservation land
- Conservation area

- Key streams
- Linkages
- 1, 2, ...** Core nodes





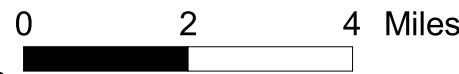
Knoxville - Cedar Roughs Conservation Area S. Section

Proposed conservation lands

- Core
- Buffer
- Other important lands

- Conservation area
- Public or private conservation land

- Key streams
- Linkages
- 1, 2, ...** Core nodes



HOOD MOUNTAIN RANGE

Description

This 126,000-acre conservation area encompasses the north-south trending mountain range that separates Napa and Sonoma Counties. Currently only 14% of the area is conserved in fee or easements including the Pepperwood Reserve, Hood Mountain Regional Park, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Bothe-Napa State Park, Audubon Bouverie Preserve, Napa Land Trust Archer-Taylor Preserve, and several properties of the Sonoma Land Trust.



Grant Johnson Photo

Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Annual grassland
Knobcone pine forest
Mixed north-slope cismontane woodland
Northern mixed chaparral
Redwood forest
Serpentines
Sonoma volcanics

Mammals

Pallid bat

Birds

Black swift
Sharp shinned hawk
Coopers hawk

Golden eagle
Band-tailed pigeon
Northern spotted owl
Tree swallow
Solitary vireo
Warbling vireo
Yellow warbler
Chipping sparrow
Song sparrow

Fish

Steelhead
Navarro roach

Reptiles and amphibians

Pacific giant salamander
Foothill yellow-legged frog

Northwestern pond turtle

Invertebrates

California freshwater shrimp

Plants

Amorpha californica var *napensis*
Antirrhinum virga
Arctostaphylos canescens ssp
sonomensis
Arctostaphylos stanfordiana ssp
decumbens
Astagalus clarianus
Brodiaea californica var. *leptandra*
Calandrinia breweri
Ceanothus confusus
Ceanothus divergens
Ceanothus sonomensis
Eriogonum lateolum var. *caninum*
Eryngium constancei
Harmonia nutans

Juglans californica ssp.*hindsii*
Layia septentrionalis?
Lilium rubescens
Lilium rubescens
Linanthus jepsonii
Lomatium repostum
Lupinus sericatus
Micropus amphibolus
Monardella viridis ssp. *viridis*
Navarretia leucocephala ssp
plieantha
Pityopus californicus
Polypodium californicum forma
lymanii
Ribes victoris
Sidalcea hickmanii ssp. *viridis*,
Streptanthus barbige
Sidalcea oregana ssp *valida*
Streptanthus tortuosus
Triteleia lugens

Threats

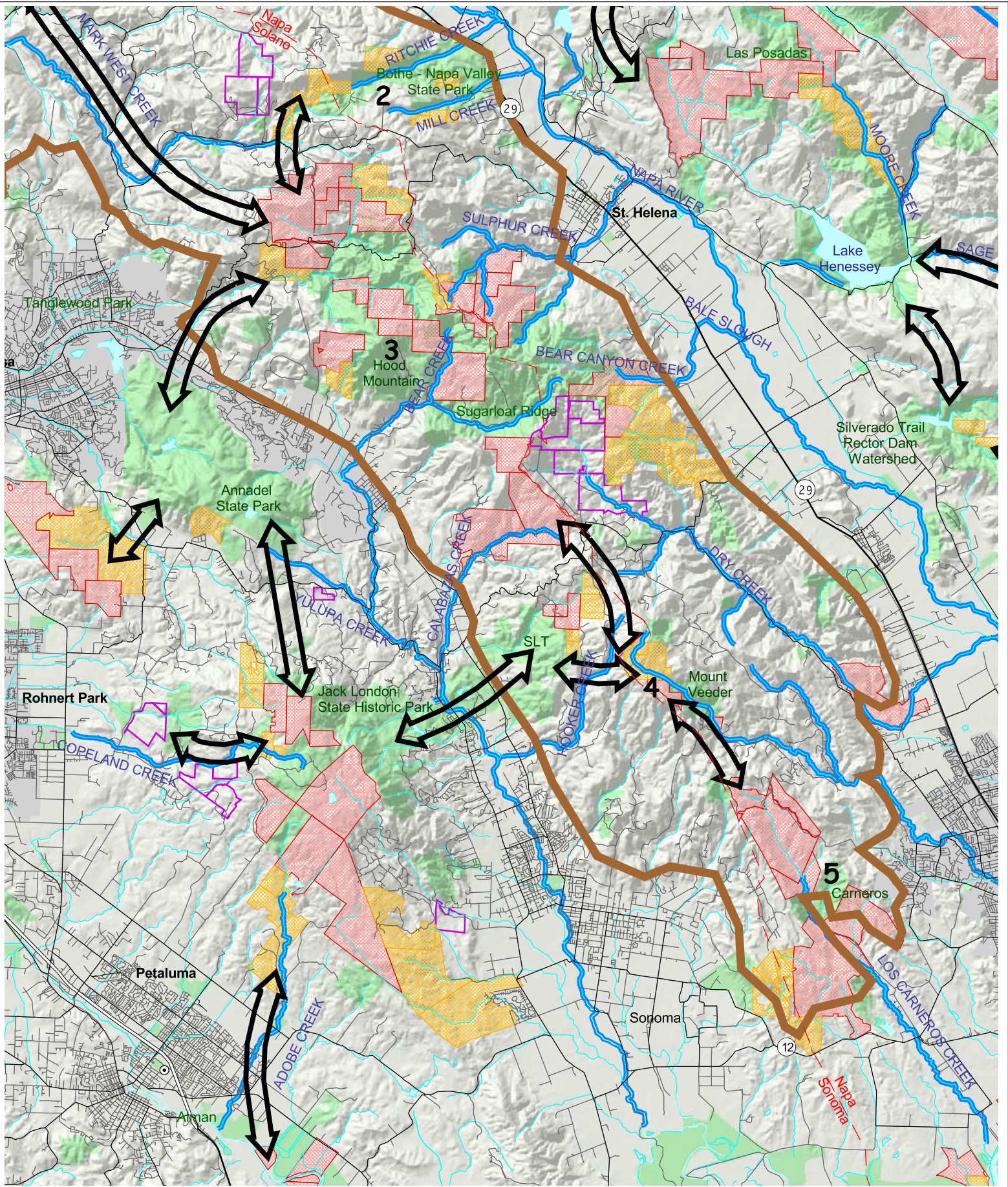
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from rural residential development and vineyard conversion
- Obstructions to regional wildlife movement resulting from rural residential development and vineyard conversion
- Altered stream hydrology as a result of vineyard conversion and road construction
- Alteration of habitat due to sudden oak death syndrome (SODS)

Conservation Goals

- Build on existing conserved lands to establish the following five core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1.) Pepperwood Reserve, 2.) Bothe-Napa State Park, 3.) Hood Mountain Regional Park, 4.) Mt Veeder, and 5.) Carneros (see map). In total, 6,725 acres of core and 3,418 acres of buffer are recommend for conservation resulting in an increase of conserved lands in the area to 22%.
- Maintain water quality and adequate flow on the following creeks of the Hood Mountain Range: Carneros Creek, Redwood Creek, Dry Creek, Bear Canyon, Sulphur Creek, Mill Creek, Ritchie Creek, Mark West Creek, Sonoma Creek, Calabasas Creek, and Hooker Creek.
- Maintain regional habitat linkages west to Sonoma Mountain Conservation Area and north to Mount Saint Helena Conservation Area.

Strategies

- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core and buffer properties in compatible uses.
- Work with county governments to establish policies that minimize conversion of key habitats to agricultural uses.
- Work with county governments and vintners to incorporate wildlife movement corridors into vineyard designs.
- Work with county governments to develop riparian protection guidelines on key streams.
- Work with vintners to promote fish friendly agriculture



Hood Mountain Range Conservation Area

Proposed conservation lands

- Core
- Buffer
- Other important lands

- Conservation area
- Public or private conservation land

- Key streams
- Linkages
- 1, 2, ... Core nodes



POPE VALLEY

Description

This 34,000-acre conservation area encompasses a large interior valley east of Angwin. Although much of the valley has been converted to vineyards over the last ten years, it still supports significant stands of valley oak woodland and vernal pools. Less than 7% of the area is conserved including the Napa Land Trust Wantrup Preserve.



Grant Johnson photo

Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Annual grassland
Blue oak woodland
Mixed north-slope woodland
Northern mixed chaparral
Northern vernal pool
Serpentine bunchgrass
Serpentine chaparral
Serpentine wetlands
Wetlands
Valley oak woodland / savannah

Mammals

Birds

Band-tailed pigeon
Black-shouldered kite
Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Solitary vireo
Song sparrow
Tree swallow
Warbling vireo

Fish

Reptiles and amphibians

California red-legged frog

Invertebrates

Plants

Antirrhinum virga
Astragalus breweri
Astragalus clevelandii
Astragalus rattanii var *jepsonianus*
Calamagrostis ophitidis?
Calochortus uniflorus
Ceanothus confusus?
Codylanthus tenuis ssp *brunneus?*
Collomia diversifolia
Delphinium uliginosum
Erythronium helenae
Helianthus exilis
Hesperolinon bicarpellatum?
Hesperolinon serpentinum
Linanthus jepsonii
Lupinus sericatus
Mimulus nudatus
Navarretia jepsonii
Navarretia leucocephala ssp *bakeri*
Navarretia rosulata
Pogogyne douglasii ssp *parviflora*
Ranunculus lobbii
Senecio clevelandii var *clevelandii*
Sidalcea oregana ssp *hydrophila?*
Streptanthus morrisonii?

Threats

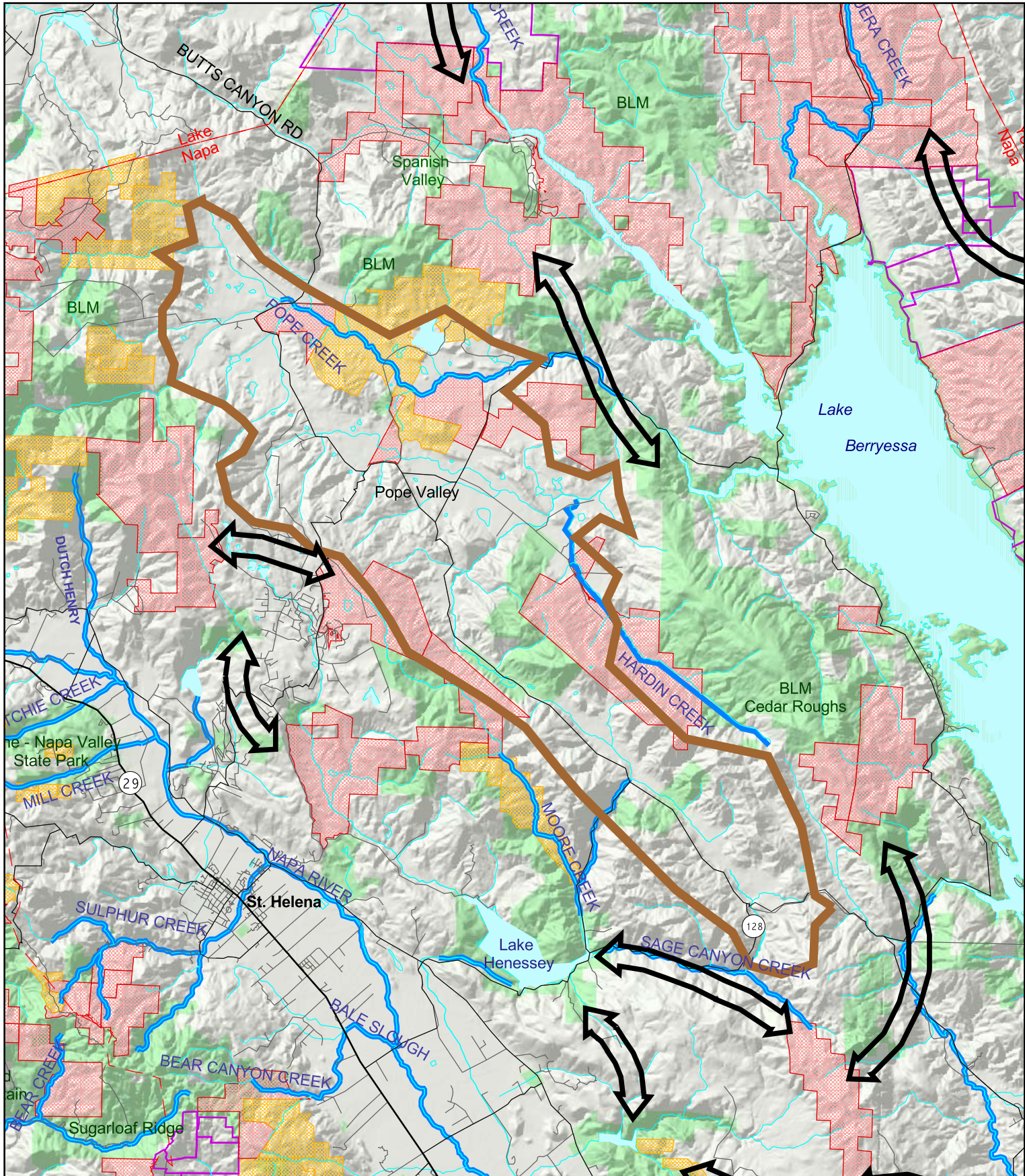
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation due to rural residential development and vineyard conversion
- Obstructions to regional wildlife movement resulting from rural residential development and vineyard conversion
- Altered stream hydrology as a result of vineyard conversion

Conservation Goals

- Build on existing conserved lands to protect critical remaining habitats in Pope Valley (see map). In total, 5,224 acres of core and 2,000 acres of buffer are recommended for conservation resulting in an increase of conserved lands in the area to 28%.
- Maintain water quality and adequate flow on the following creeks: Pope Creek and Hardin Creek.

Strategies

- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core and buffer properties in compatible uses.
- Work with county governments to establish policies that minimize conversion of key habitats to agricultural uses.
- Work with county governments and vintners to incorporate wildlife movement corridors into vineyard designs.
- Work with county governments to develop riparian protection guidelines on key streams.



Pope Valley Conservation Area

Proposed conservation lands

- Core
- Buffer
- Other important lands

- Conservation area
- Public or private conservation land

- Key streams
- Linkages



BLUE RIDGE – VACA MOUNTAINS

Description

This 168,000-acre conservation area is located in eastern Napa County and western Solano and Yolo Counties. Approximately 38% of the area is conserved including Lake Berryessa Recreation Area, Yolo Land Trust, Quail Ridge Reserve, Cold Canyon UC Natural Reserve, and City of Vallejo watershed lands at Lake Curry.



Robert Ettner Photo

Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Blue oak woodland
Foothill pine-oak woodland
Mixed north-slope woodland
Northern mixed chaparral
Valley needlegrass grassland

Mammals

Birds

Osprey
Golden eagle
Prairie falcon
Peregrine falcon
Bald eagle
Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Solitary vireo
Yellow warbler
Song sparrow

Fish

Reptiles and amphibians

Foothill yellow-legged frog
California red-legged frog
Northwestern pond turtle

Invertebrates

Valley elderberry longhorn beetle

Plants

Arabis modesta
Calandrinia breweri
Hesperolinon breweri
Juglans californica ssp.hindsii
Lepidium latipes
Lomatium repostum
Madia nutans
Malacothamnus helleri
Ribes victoris

Threats

- Habitat fragmentation and degradation resulting from recreational development. Impacts are concentrated around Lake Berryessa and below dam on Putah Creek.

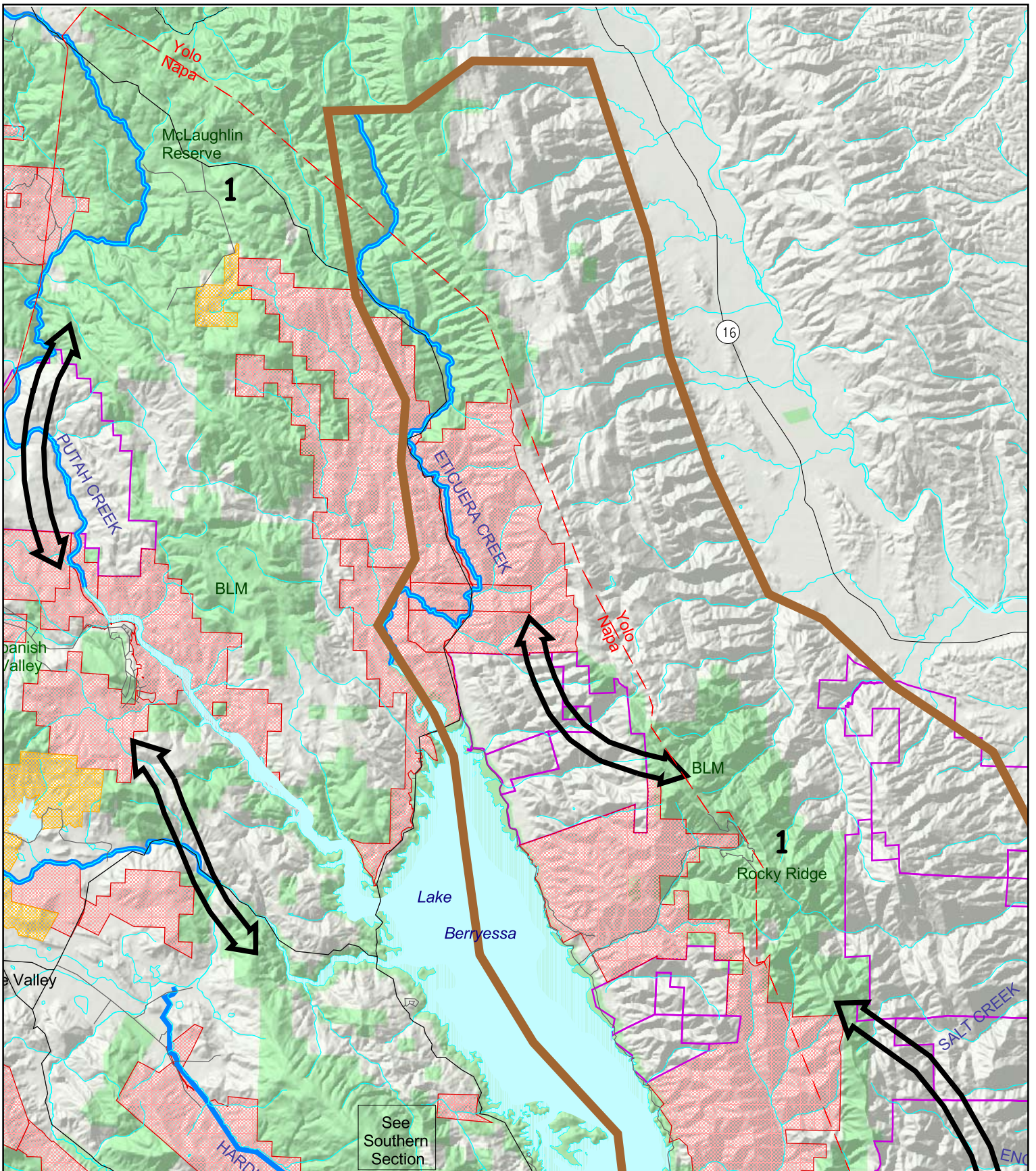
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from rural residential development and vineyard conversion. Largely confined to areas in Solano County.
- Habitat degradation as a result of overgrazing.
- Altered stream hydrology as a result of vineyard conversion and dam operations
- Potential habitat fragmentation and species mortality as a result of wind energy farms.

Conservation Goals

- Build on existing conserved lands to establish the following three core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) Rocky Ridge, 2) Cold Canyon, and 3) Lake Curry (see map). In total, 31,000 acres are recommended as core for conservation resulting in an increase of conserved lands to 56%.
- Maintain water quality and adequate flow on Eticuera Creek
- Maintain regional habitat linkage east to the Atlas Peak – Mount George Conservation Area.

Strategies

- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core lands in compatible uses.
- Work with the Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area Partnership to coordinate land management and conservation efforts in the region.



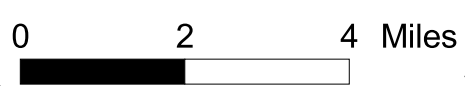
Blue Ridge - Vaca Mountains Conservation Area N. Section

Proposed conservation lands

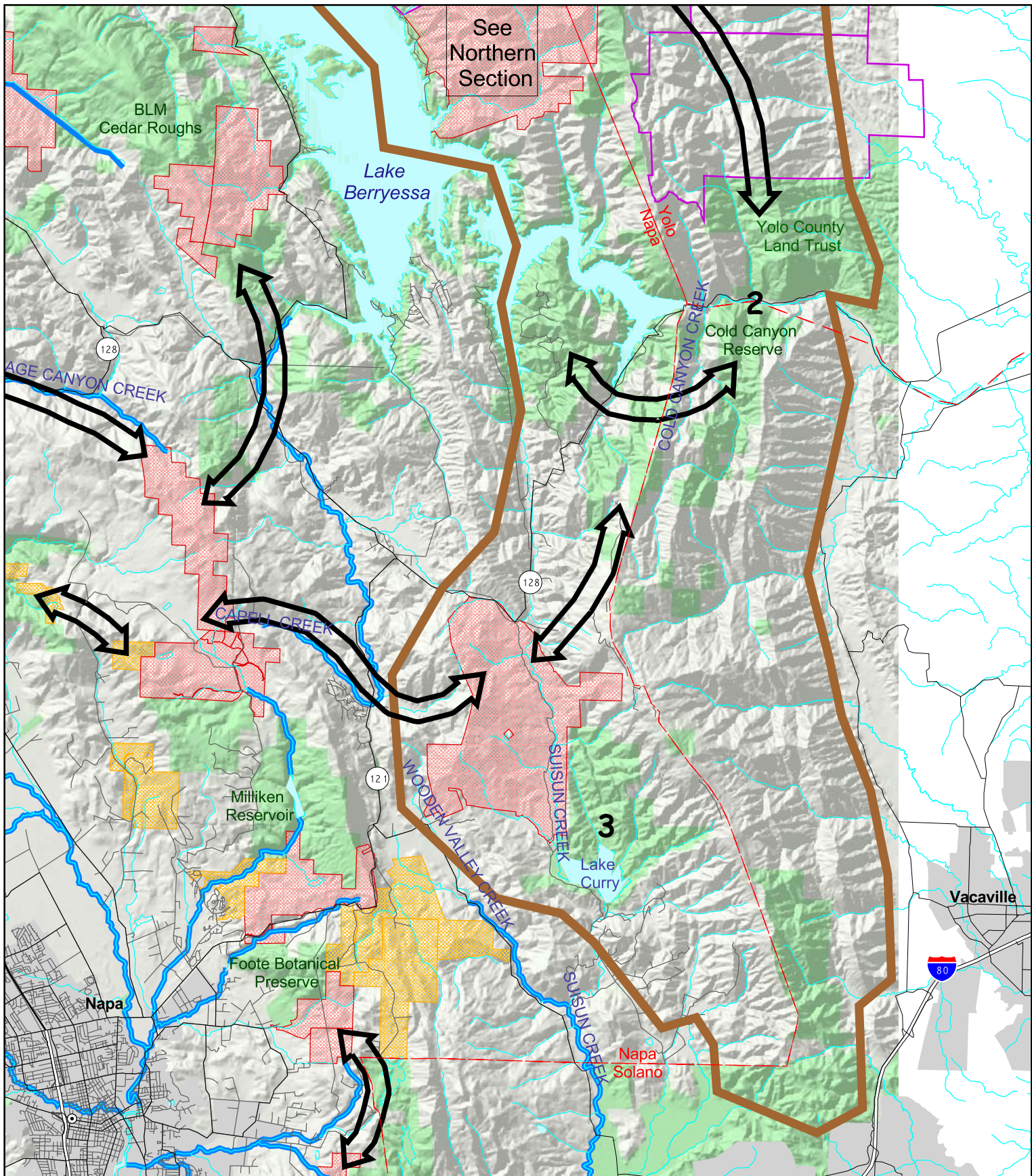
- Core
- Buffer
- Other important lands

- Conservation area
- Public or private conservation land

- Key streams
- Linkages
- 1, 2, ...** Core nodes



See Southern Section



Blue Ridge - Vaca Mountains Conservation Area S. Section

Proposed conservation lands

- Core
- Buffer
- Other important lands

- Conservation area
- Public or private conservation land

- Key streams
- Linkages
- 1, 2, ...** Core nodes



MOUNT SAINT HELENA

Description

This 90,000-acre conservation area is centered on Mount Saint Helena in Northern Napa County. The high elevation and unique geology of the area results in many diverse natural communities. Currently, 34% of the area is conserved including Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, various state lands commission properties, and Napa Land Trust easements.

Conservation Targets

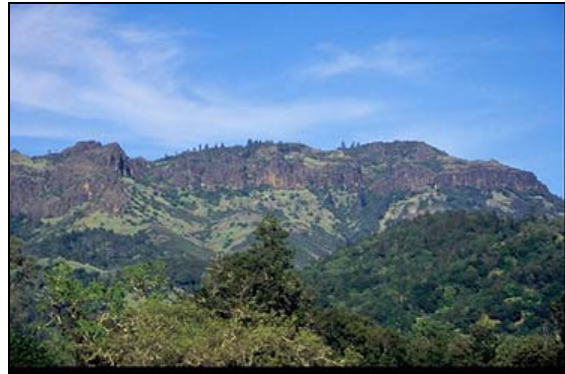
Ecological systems

Annual grassland
Mixed north-slope cismontane woodland
Northern mixed chaparral
Northern California black walnut woodland
Serpentines
Sonoma volcanics
Sierran mixed conifer forest

Mammals

Birds

Osprey
Black-shouldered kite
Northern harrier
Golden eagle
Prairie falcon
Band-tailed pigeon
Northern spotted owl
Song sparrow
Grasshopper sparrow
Sage sparrow
Chipping sparrow
Yellow-breasted chat
Olive-sided flycatcher
Purple martin
Tree swallow
Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Swainson's thrush



Grant Johnson photo

Solitary vireo

Warbling vireo

Yellow warbler
Common yellowthroat

Fish

Coho (Briggs Creek)
Steelhead

Reptiles and amphibians

Northwestern pond turtle

Plants

Allium cratericola
Antirrhinum virga
Arctostaphylos manzanita var *elegans*
Asclepias solanoana
Astragalus clevelandii
Calyptridium quadripetalum
Caslystegia collina var *oxyphylla*
Ceanothus confusus
Collomia diversifolia
Cordylanthus tenuis ssp *brunneus*
Ereogonum nervulosum?
Eriogonum lateolum var *caninum*
Erythronium helenae
Fritillaria purdyi
Harmonia hallii
Hesperolinon serpentinum

Layia septentrionalis
Lillium rubescens
Limnanthes floccosa ssp floccosa
Limnathes viniculans
Lomatium reprostrum
Lupinus sericatus
Madia nutans
Monardella viridis ssp viridis
Orobanche valida ssp howellii
Penstemon newberryi var
sonomensis

Ribes victoris
Sidalcea oregana ssp hydrophila?
Sidalcea oregana ssp valida
Streptanthus brachiatus ssp
brachiatus
Streptanthus brachiatus ssp
hoffmanii
Streptanthus morrisonii var elatus
Streptanthus tortuosus

Threats

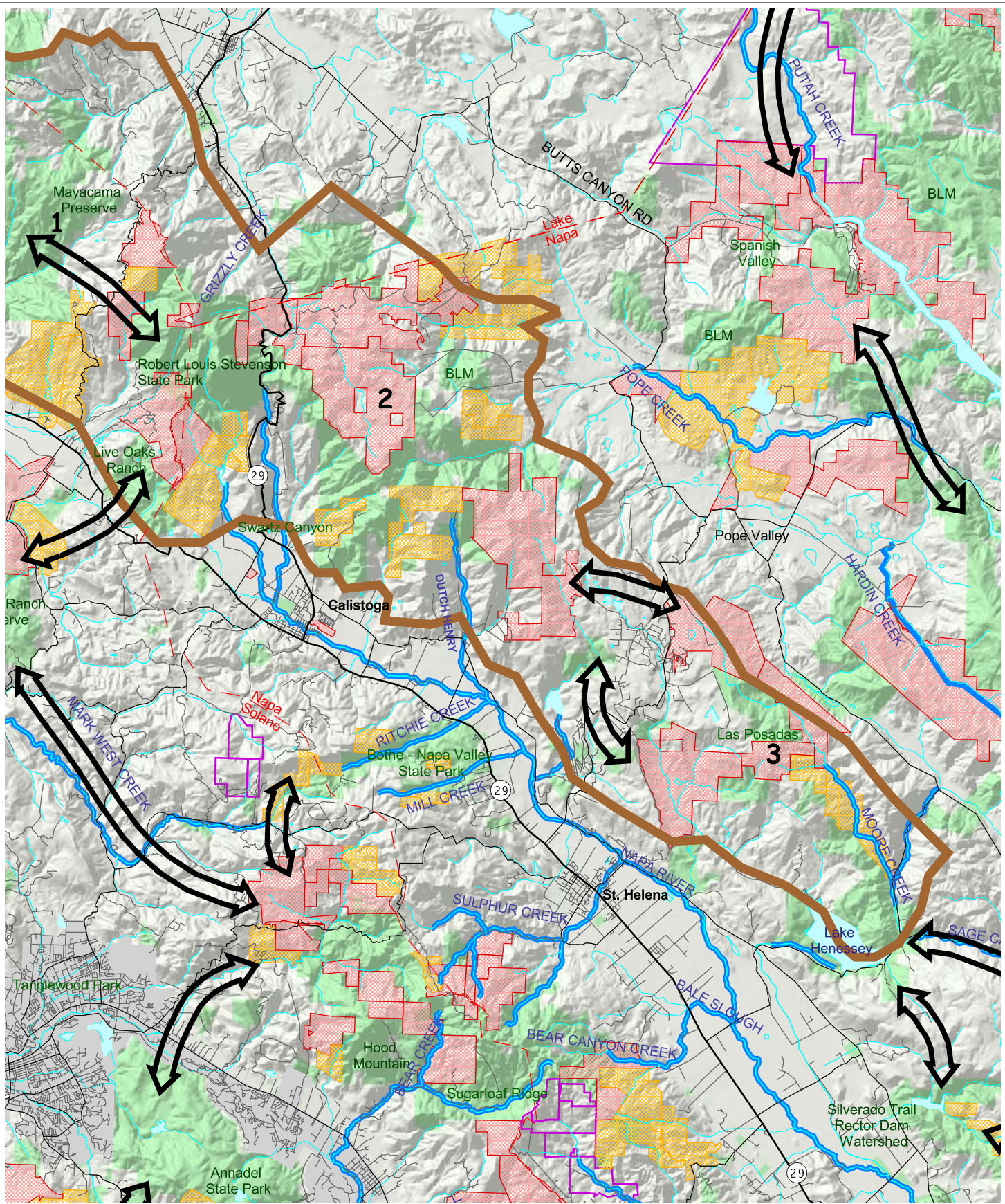
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from rural residential development and vineyard conversion.
- Altered stream hydrology as a result of vineyard conversion

Conservation Goals

- Build on existing conserved lands to establish the following three core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) Audubon Mayacamas Preserve, 2) Robert Louis Stevenson State Park, and 3) Las Posadas (see map). In total, 16,000 acres of core and 9,200 acres of buffer lands are recommended for conservation resulting in an increase of conserved lands to 62%.
- Maintain water quality and adequate flow on Maacama, Garnett, Dutch Henry Canyon and Moore Creeks.
- Maintain regional habitat linkage north to the Mayacama Range, west to Mount Hood Range, and south to Atlas Peak – Mount George.

Strategies

- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core and buffer properties in compatible uses.
- Work with county governments to establish policies that minimize conversion of key habitats to agricultural uses.
- Work with county governments and vintners to incorporate wildlife movement corridors into vineyard designs.
- Work with county governments to develop riparian protection guidelines on key streams.
- Work with vintners to promote fish friendly agriculture



Mt. Saint Helena Conservation Area

Proposed conservation lands

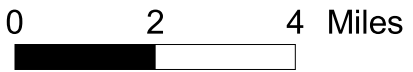
-  Core
-  Buffer
-  Other important lands
-  Conservation area
-  Public or private conservation land

 Key streams



Linkages

1, 2, ... Core nodes



NAPA RIVER

Description

This 4,600-acre conservation area is centered on the floodplain of the Napa River between Saint Helena and Calistoga. Although the entire mainstem is a significant aquatic resource, this reach of the Napa River is significant for salmon spawning and freshwater shrimp. Less than 1% of the area is conserved.



Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Coastal River, San Francisco Bay
Riparian forest and woodland
Freshwater marsh

Fish

Delta smelt
Hardhead
Pacific lamprey
Sacramento splittail
Tule perch
Hitch
Steelhead
Fall-run chinook

Reptiles and amphibians

California red-legged frog
Foothill yellow-legged frog
Northwestern pond turtle

Invertebrates

California freshwater shrimp
Macro-invertebrates

Plants

Lilaeopsis masonii
Plagiobothrys stricta
Poa napensis

Threats

- Reduced rearing habitat due to floodplain and flow alteration.
- Predation by exotic species
- Migration barriers due to low flows
- Warm water temperatures and limited food supply in tributaries

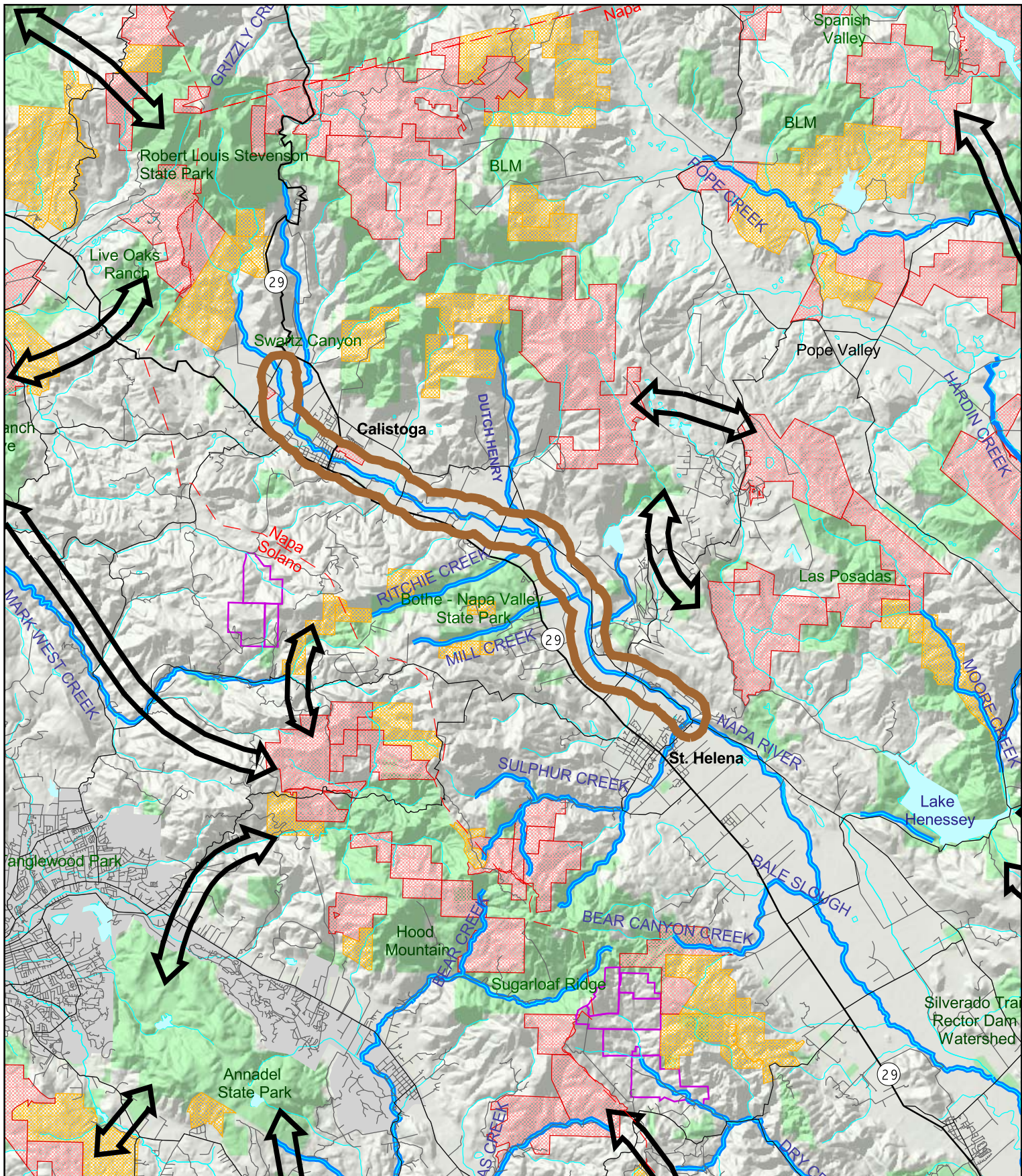
Conservation Goals

- Protect critical remaining natural habitats. A total of 62 acres of core habitat is recommended for conservation.

Strategies

- Work with county governments to develop riparian protection guidelines.
- Work with vintners to promote fish friendly agriculture


- Support partners working on Napa River Ecosystem Restoration Plan (RCD and ACOE) FONR
- Support RWQCB, University of California, and Stillwater Sciences in completing comprehensive watershed analysis by June 2003.



Napa River Conservation Area


Proposed conservation lands

 Core

 Buffer

 Other important lands

 Conservation area

 Public or private conservation land

 Key streams

 Linkages

1, 2, ... Core nodes

0 2 4 Miles



AMERICAN CANYON

Description

This 5,700-acre conservation area is located in southeastern Napa County and includes portions of Solano County. It is one of the last remaining open spaces in the area and is ringed by several freeways and edged by suburban sprawl. Recent conservation actions by the Napa Land Trust and the Solano Land Trust have helped protect 31% of the area.



Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Serpentine bunchgrass

Mammals

Birds

Burrowing owl
Peregrine falcon
Purple martin
Sharp-shinned hawk
Tree swallow

Threats

- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from urban sprawl and vineyard conversion
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from gravel mining
- Obstructions to regional wildlife movement resulting from urban sprawl and highways

Conservation Goals

- Build on existing conserved lands to protect remaining critical habitats. In total, 863 acres of core lands are recommended for conservation (see map).
- Maintain regional habitat linkages east across I-80 to King Ranch and north across highway 12 to Skyline Wilderness Park

Strategies

- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core lands in compatible uses.

Reptiles and amphibians

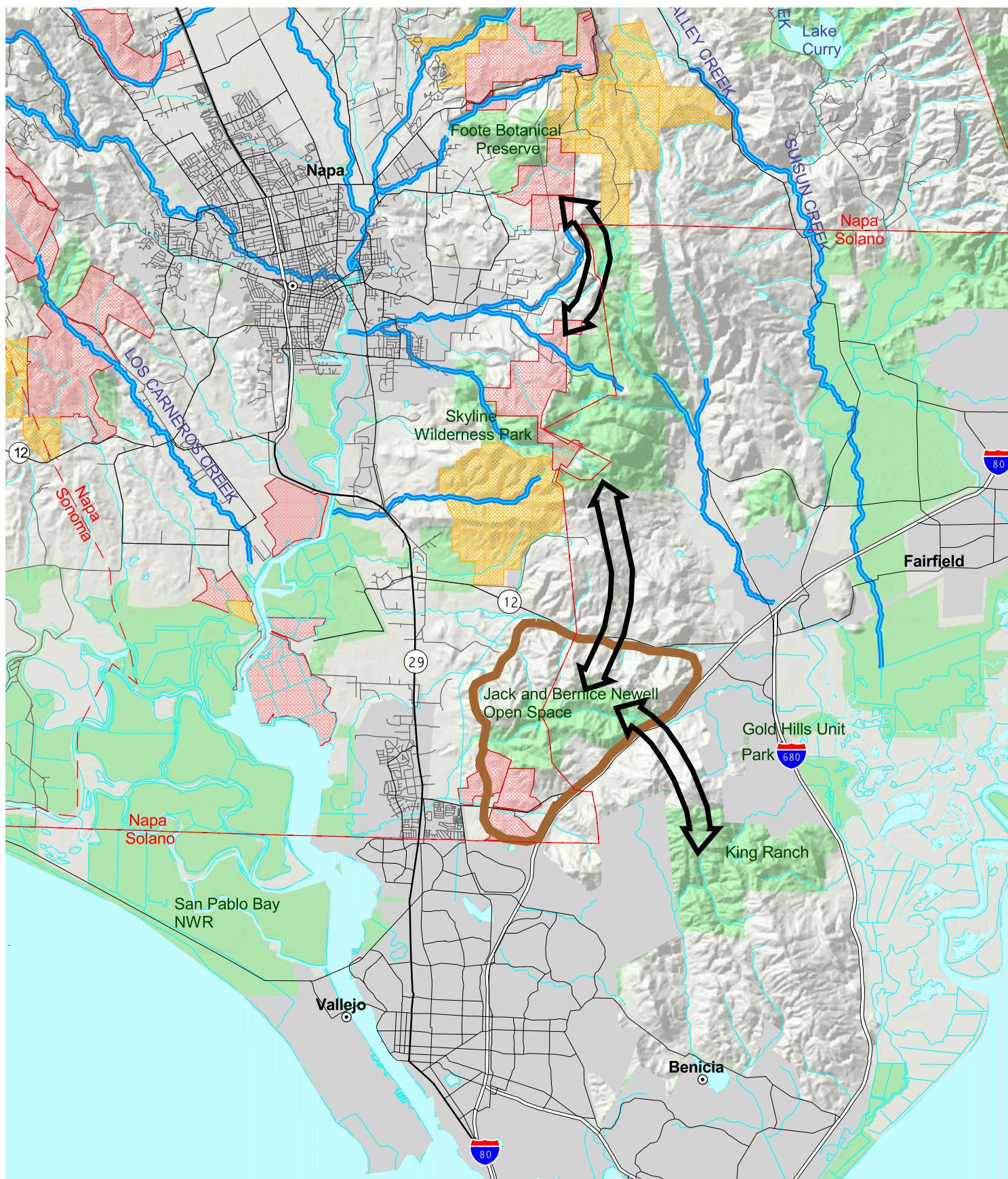
California red-legged frog

Invertebrates

Plants

Balsamorhiza macrolepis var
macrolepis
Castilleja affinis ssp *neglecta*
Eriogonum lateolum var *caninum*
Ribes victoris



- Work with county governments to establish policies that minimize conversion of key habitats to urban and agricultural uses.
- Work with county and state governments to incorporate wildlife movement corridors into highway plans.


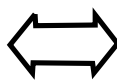


American Canyon Conservation Area

Proposed conservation lands

-  Core
-  Buffer
-  Other important lands

-  Conservation area
-  Public or private conservation land

-  Key streams
-  Linkages

0 2 4 Miles




ATLAS PEAK - MT GEORGE

Description

This 38,000-acre conservation area is located in the hills east of the city of Napa. Currently, 29% of the area is conserved through fee or easement lands including Skyline Wilderness Park, Foote Botanical Reserve, Mead Ranch, Rector Dam watershed lands, City of Napa watershed lands, and Solano County Irrigation District lands.

Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Vernal pools

Northern mixed chaparral

Mammals

Birds

Clapper rail

Golden eagle

Horned lark

Northern harrier

Peregrine falcon

Savannah sparrow

Short-eared owl

Solitary vireo

Song sparrow

Tree swallow

Warbling vireo

Yellow warbler

Fish

Steelhead

Reptiles and amphibians

Invertebrates



Marc Hoshovsky photo

Plants

Allium cratericola

Antirrhinum virga

Calandrinia breweri

Ceanothus purpureus

Cuscuta howelliana

Downingia pusilla

Erigeron angustatus

Hesperolinon serpentinum

Lasthenia conjugens

Lessingia hololeuca

Lilium rubescens

Lomatium repostum

Madia nutans

Monardella viridis ssp. *viridis*

Navarretia leucocephala ssp.

pauciflo

Penstemon newberryi var

sonomensis

Perideridia gairdneri ssp. *gairdneri*

Ranunculus lobbii

Ribes victoris

Sidalcea hicknamii ssp. *viridis*

Trichostema rubisepalum

Viburnum ellipticum

Threats

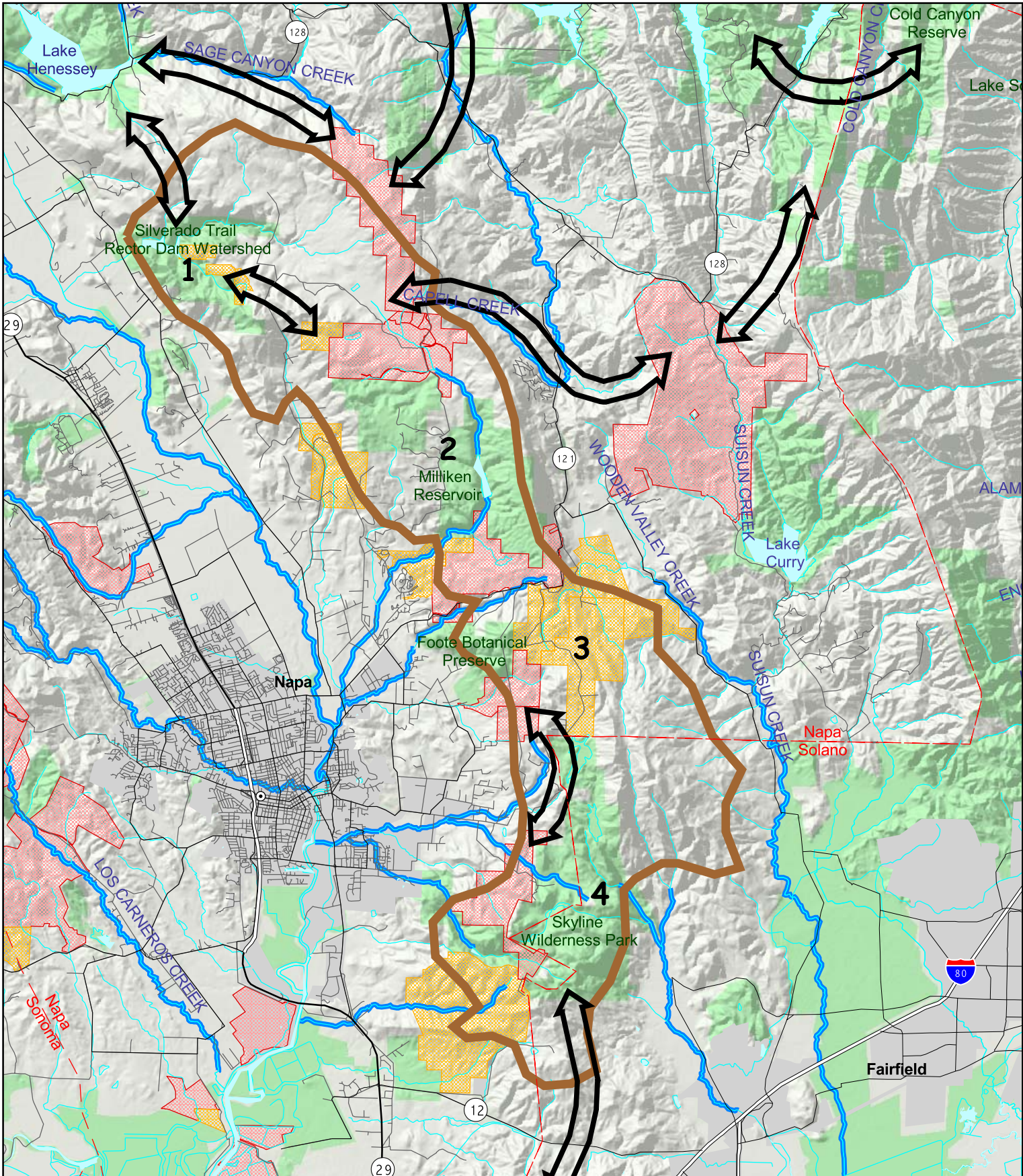
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation due to rural residential development and vineyard conversion
- Obstructions to regional wildlife movement resulting from rural residential development and vineyard conversion
- Altered habitat structure due to Sudden Oak Death Syndrome (SODS)
- Altered stream hydrology as a result of vineyard conversion and dam operations

Conservation Goals

- Build on existing conserved lands to establish the following four core habitat nodes and maintain linkages between them: 1) Rector Dam, 2) Atlas Peak, 3) Foote Botanical Reserve, and 4) Skyline Park (see map). In total, 6,307 acres of core and 7,117 acres of buffer are recommend for conservation resulting in an increase of conserved lands in the area to 65%.
- Maintain water quality and adequate flow on the following creeks: Soscal, Tulocay, Sarco, and Milliken Creeks.
- Maintain regional habitat linkages south to American Canyon, east to Blue Ridge – Vaca Mountains, and north to Mount Saint Helena and Knoxville – Cedar Roughts Conservation Areas.






Strategies

- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core and buffer properties in compatible uses.
- Work with county governments to establish policies that minimize conversion of key habitats to agricultural uses.
- Work with county governments and vintners to incorporate wildlife movement corridors into vineyard designs.
- Work with county governments to develop riparian protection guidelines on key streams.
- Work with City of Napa to ensure adequate flows on Miliken Creek
- Work with vintners to promote fish friendly agriculture



Atlas Peak - Mount George Conservation Area

Proposed conservation lands

-  Core
-  Buffer
-  Other important lands
-  Conservation area
-  Public or private conservation land

 Key streams

 Linkages

1, 2, ... Core nodes

0 2 4 Miles



NAPA RIVER WETLANDS

Description

This 35,000 acre conservation area is located south of the city of Napa where the Napa River meets San Francisco Bay. An area of extensive wetlands and salt marshes, it includes portions of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, and Fagan Slough Ecological Reserve. These lands comprise 61% of the conservation area.



Conservation Targets

Ecological systems

Coastal wetlands

Mammals

Saltmarsh harvest mouse

Suisun shrew

Birds

California black rail

California clapper rail

Caspian tern

Peregrine falcon

Purple martin

Saltmarsh common yellowthroat

San Pablo song sparrow

Tree swallow

Tricolored blackbird

Western snowy plover

Fish

Delta smelt

Sacramento splittail

Steelhead (passage)

Reptiles and amphibians

Northwestern pond turtle

Invertebrates

Vernal pool fairy shrimp

Plants

Aster lentus

Astragalus tener var tener

Atriplex joaquiniana

Cordylanthus mollis ssp mollis
Lathyrus jepsonii var jepsonii
Lilaeopsis masonii

Polygonum marinense
Trifolium amoenum

Threats

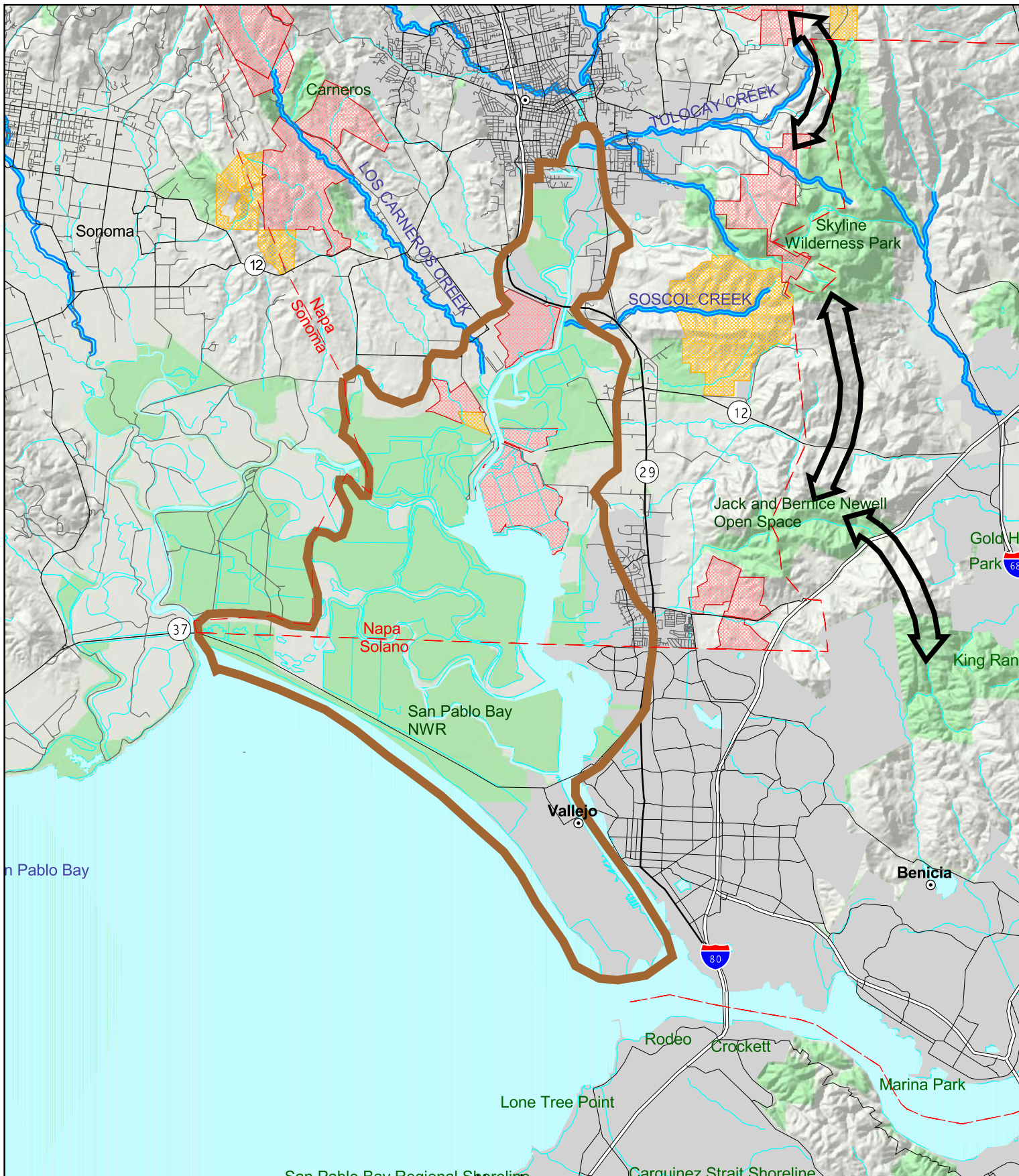
- Habitat conversion and fragmentation resulting from urban sprawl and vineyard conversion
- Alteration of hydrological regime by levee construction

Conservation Goals

- Build on existing conserved lands to protect remaining critical habitats. In total, 2,228 acres of core and 83 acres of buffer lands are recommend for conservation resulting in an increase of 67% (see map).

Strategies



- Through acquisition of fee or easements, maintain core and buffer lands in compatible uses.
- Work with county governments to establish policies that minimize conversion of key habitats to urban and agricultural uses.





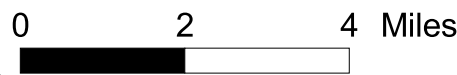
Napa River Wetlands Conservation Area

Proposed conservation lands

-  Core
-  Buffer
-  Other important lands

-  Conservation area
-  Public or private conservation land

-  Key streams
-  Linkages
- 1, 2, ...** Core nodes



APPENDIX II: CONSERVATION TARGETS FOR NAPA COUNTY

TARGET	GRANK	FEDERAL	CALIFORNIA	OTHER
ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS				
Annual grassland	G4			
Blue oak woodland	G4			
Coastal River, San Francisco Bay	G2			
Coastal wetlands	G3			
Foothill pine-oak woodland	G4			
Freshwater marsh	G4			
Knobcone pine forest	G4			
Mixed north-slope cismontane woodland	G4			
Montane mixed chaparral	G4			
California black walnut woodland	G3			
Northern interior cypress forest	G3			
Northern mixed chaparral	G4			
Northern vernal pool	G1			
Redwood forest	G4			
Riparian forest and woodland	G3			
Sepentines	G4?			
Serpentine barrens	G3?			
Serpentine chaparral	G3			
Serpentine grassland	G3?			
Serpentine wetlands	G2?			
Sierran mixed conifer forest	G4			
Sonoma volcanics	G2?			
Valley needlegrass grassland	G1			
Valley oak woodland	G4			
Vernal pools	G1			
Wildflower field	G1			
MAMMALS				
Pallid bat	G5		SC	
Saltmarsh harvest mouse	G1	FE	SE	
Suisun shrew	G5T1		SC	
Townsend's big-eared bat	G5T3		SC	
BIRDS				
Bald eagle	G5		SC	
Band-tailed pigeon				PIF
Black shouldered kite	G5			
Black swift	G4			
Blue-gray gnatcatcher				PIF
Burrowing owl	G4T2		SC	
California black rail	G4T1		ST	PIF
California clapper rail	G5T1	FE	SE	
California spotted owl	G3T3		SC	
Caspian tern	G5			
Chipping sparrow	G5			PIF
Common yellowthroat	G5T2		SC	
Coopers hawk	G4		SC	

Forsters tern	G5			
Golden eagle	G4		SC	
Grasshopper sparrow	G5			
Horned lark	G4T3		SC	
Long-eared owl	G5		SC	
Northern harrier	G5		SC	
Northern spotted owl	G3T2	FT	SC	
Olive-sided flycatcher	G5			
Osprey	G5		SC	
Peregrine falcon	G3T2		SE	
Prairie falcon	G5		SC	
Purple martin	G5		SC	
Sage sparrow	G5T2		SC	PIF
Saltmarsh common yellowthroat	G5T2		SC	
San Pablo song sparrow	G5T2		SC	
Savannah sparrow	G5T3		SE	
Sharp shinned hawk	G4		SC	
Short-eared owl	G5		SC	
Solitary vireo	G5			
Swainson's thrush	G5			
Tree swallow				
Tricolored blackbird	G2		SC	
Warbling vireo	G5			
Western snowy plover	G4T2	FT	SC	
Yellow warbler	G5T2		SC	
Yellow-breasted chat	G5		SC	
Yellow-headed blackbird	G4			PIF
FISH				
Coho	G5	SE	FT	
Delta smelt	G1	FT	ST	
Fall-run chinook	G5	FT		
Hardhead	G5T			
Hitch				
Navarro roach	G5T1		SC	
Pacific lamprey	G5			
Sacramento splittail	G2	FT		
Steelhead	G5	FT		
Tule perch	G3		SC	
REPTILES - AMPHIBIANS				
California red-legged frog	G4T2	FT	SC	
Foothill yellow-legged frog	G3		SC	
Northwestern pond turtle	G4T4		SC	
Pacific giant salamander	G4			
INVERTEBRATES				
California freshwater shrimp	G1	FE	SE	
Macro-invertebrates				
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	G2	FT		
PLANTS				
Allium cratericola				LR
Amorpha californica var napensis				

<i>Antirrhinum virga</i>				CNPS4
<i>Arabis modesta</i>				CNPS4
<i>Arabis oregana</i>				CNPS4
<i>Arctostaphylos canescens</i> ssp <i>sonomensis</i>				
<i>Arctostaphylos manzanita</i> var <i>elegans</i>				LR
<i>Arctostaphylos stanfordiana</i> ssp <i>decumbens</i>				
<i>Asclepias solanoana</i>				CNPS4
<i>Astragalus clarianus</i>				
<i>Aster lentus</i>				CNPSE
<i>Astragalus breweri</i>				CNPSE
<i>Astragalus clariana</i>		FE	ST	CNPSE
<i>Astragalus clevelandii</i>				CNPS4
<i>Astragalus rattanii jepsonianus</i>				CNPSE
<i>Astragalus tener</i> var <i>tener</i>				CNPSE
<i>Atriplex joaquiniana</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Balsamorhiza macrolepis</i> var <i>macrolepis</i>				CNPSE
<i>Brodiaea californica</i> var. <i>leptandra</i>				
<i>Calamagrostis ophitidis</i>				CNPS4
<i>Calandrinia breweri</i>				CNPS4
<i>Calochortus uniflorus</i>				LR
<i>Calyptidium quadripetalum</i>				CNPS4
<i>Caslystegia collina</i> var <i>oxyphylla</i>		SC		CNPS4
<i>Castilleja affinis</i> ssp <i>neglecta</i>				
<i>Ceanothus confusus</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Ceanothus divergens</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Ceanothus purpureus</i>				CNPS4
<i>Ceanothus sonomensis</i>				CNPS3
<i>Codylanthus tenuis</i> ssp <i>brunneus</i> ?				
<i>Collomia diversifolia</i>				CNPS4
<i>Cordylanthus mollis</i> ssp <i>mollis</i>		FE	SR	CNPSE
<i>Cordylanthus tenuis</i> ssp <i>brunneus</i>				CNPS4
<i>Cuscuta howelliana</i>				LR
<i>Delphinium uliginosum</i>				CNPS4
<i>Downingia pusilla</i>				CNPS2
<i>Erigeron angustatus</i>				CNPSE
<i>Eriogonum lateolum</i> var <i>caninum</i>				CNPS3
<i>Eriogonum nervulosum</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Eriogonum tripodum</i>				CNPS4
<i>Eryngium constancei</i>				
<i>Erythronium helenae</i>				CNPS4
<i>Fritillaria pluriflora</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Fritillaria purdyi</i>				CNPS4
<i>Harmonia hallii</i>				
<i>Harmonia nutans</i>				
<i>Helianthus exilis</i>				CNPS4
<i>Hesperolinon bicarpellatum</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Hesperolinon breweri</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Hesperolinon drymarioides</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Hesperolinon serpentinum</i>				CNPS3
<i>Juglans californica</i> ssp. <i>hindsii</i>		SC		CNPSE

<i>Lasthenia conjugens</i>		FE		CNPSE
<i>Lathyrus jepsonii</i> var <i>jepsonii</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Layia septentrionalis</i>				CNPSE
<i>Lepidium latipes</i>				LR
<i>Lessingia hololeuca</i>				CNPS3
<i>Lilaeopsis masonii</i>		SC	SR	CNPSE
<i>Lilium rubescens</i>				CNPS4
<i>Limnanthes floccosa</i> ssp <i>floccosa</i>				CNPS2
<i>Limnathes viniculans</i>		FE	SE	CNPSE
<i>Linanthus jepsonii</i>				
<i>Lomatium ciliolatum</i> var. <i>hooveri</i>				CNPS4
<i>Lomatium repostrum</i>				CNPS4
<i>Lupinus sericatus</i>				CNPSE
<i>Madia nutans</i>				CNPS4
<i>Malacothamnus helleri</i>				CNPS4
<i>Micropus amphibolus</i>				CNPS4
<i>Mimulus bolanderi</i>				
<i>Mimulus nudatus</i>				CNPS4
<i>Mimulus tricolor</i>				
<i>Monardella viridis</i> ssp <i>viridis</i>				CNPS4
<i>Navarretia jepsonii</i>				CNPS4
<i>Navarretia leucocephala</i> ssp <i>bakeri</i>				CNPSE
<i>Navarretia leucocephala</i> ssp <i>plieantha</i>				
<i>Navarretia leucocephala</i> ssp. <i>pauciflo</i>		FE	ST	CNPSE
<i>Navarretia rosulata</i>				CNPSE
<i>Orobanche valida</i> ssp <i>howellii</i>				CNPS4
<i>Penstemon newberryi</i> var <i>sonomensis</i>				CNPS3
<i>Perideridia gairdneri</i> ssp. <i>gairdneri</i>		SC		CNPS4
<i>Pityopus californicus</i>				LR
<i>Plagiobothrys stricta</i>		FE	ST	CNPSE
<i>Poa napensis</i>		FE	SE	CNPSE
<i>Pogogyne douglasii</i> ssp <i>parviflora</i>				CNPS3
<i>Polygonum marinense</i>		SC		CNPS3
<i>Polypodium californicum</i> forma <i>lymanii</i>				LR
<i>Ranunculus lobbii</i>				CNPS4
<i>Ribes victoris</i>				CNPS4
<i>Senecio clevelandii</i> var <i>clevelandii</i>				CNPS4
<i>Sidalcea hicknamii</i> ssp. <i>viridis</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Sidalcea oregana</i> ssp <i>hydrophila?</i>				CNPSE
<i>Sidalcea oregana</i> ssp <i>valida</i>				
<i>Streptanthus barbige</i>				
<i>Streptanthus brachiatus</i> ssp <i>brachiatus</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Streptanthus brachiatus</i> ssp <i>hoffmanii</i>				
<i>Streptanthus morrisonii</i>		SC		CNPSE
<i>Streptanthus morrisonii</i> var <i>elatus</i>				
<i>Streptanthus tortuosus</i>				LR
<i>Thelypodium brachycarpum</i>				CNPS4
<i>Trichostema rubisepalum</i>				CNPS4
<i>Trifolium amoenum</i>		FE		CNPSX
<i>Triteleia lugens</i>				

Viburnum ellipticum				LR
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¹GRANK

G1 = less than 6 occurrences or less than 2,000 acres

G2 = 6-20 occurrences or 2,000-10,000 acres

G3 = 21-100 occurrences or 10,000-50,000 acres

G4 = Common but restricted

G5 = Widespread

²FEDERAL

FE = Endangered

FT = Threatened

SC = Species of concern

³CALIFORNIA

SE = Endangered

ST = Threatened

SC = Species of concern

⁴OTHER

PIF = Partners in Flight

CNPS = California Native Plant Society

APPENDIX III: CONTACTS AND PARTICIPANTS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Bouril	Chip		NRCS	
Callizo	Joe	Botanist	CNPS	707-965-2225
Crain	Patrick	Fishery Biologist	UC Davis	(530) 219-3434, pkcrain@ucdavis.edu
Dewberry	Charles	Fishery Biologist	Ecotrust	cdewber@presys.com
Doran	Juanita		CNPS	
Easton	Suzanne		BOSC, BRBNA	707-226-6323; seaston@napanet.net
Emig	John	Fishery Biologist	Dept of Fish & Game Yountville	(707) 944-5564 jemig@dfg.ca.gov
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