



SCLTC Releases Sierra Cascade Foothills Area Conservation Report

A comprehensive examination of the wildlife, vegetation, and hydrology of the Sierra Cascade Foothills Area.

May 18, 2011—Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council (SCLTC) announced today the release of the Sierra Cascade Foothills Area Conservation Report. The Conservation Report is a comprehensive examination of the wildlife, vegetation, and hydrology of the Sierra Cascade Foothills Area—with identification of possible climate change considerations. Prepared for the Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council, its focus includes lands between approximately the 500–3,000 foot elevation, in a band that primarily includes five vegetation types and their corresponding habitats.

“In the past, small areas in the foothills region have been studied, but this report provides a comprehensive, landscape-scale snapshot of the wildlife, vegetation, and hydrology in the foothills, noting implications for climate change and future trends,” says Susan Kane, project manager.

The Conservation Report identifies specific water and biodiversity resources in five subregions which comprise the Foothills Area, including Shasta, Butte, Plumas, Sierra, Tehama, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Madera, Kern, and Tulare counties. Two years in development, the project has engaged more than a dozen land trusts and land conservation groups, as well as expert consultants working with the geographical Information System (GIS) and mapping support from GreenInfo Network of San Francisco.



John Hunter, Ph. D., of AECOM, a global provider of professional technical services, Edward C. Beedy, Ph.D., of Beedy Environmental Consulting, and Virginia Mahacek, of Cardno ENTRIX, contributed technical research and scholarship to the Conservation Report. Results of the Conservation Report are data synthesized from new and existing research, including 35 maps of important natural resources.

“We believe that the Conservation Report will provide the scientific justification and rationale to help land trusts and local planning bodies prioritize increased land and water conservation efforts on local and regional scales. We also envision that the Conservation Report will provide the basis for funding initiatives to focus foundation, agency, and public attention on the critical need for increased land conservation in the Sierra Cascade region,” Ms. Kane concludes.

Funding for the Conservation Report was provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the State of California, and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund.

Media Contact: Susan Kane, SCLTC Coordinator; 530.798.6595