



Agenda

- Share what CA NRCS is doing for wildlife with Farm Bill funding
- Is there interest in reforming STAC Wildlife subcommittee?



www.sagegrouseinitiative.com



ON THE GROUND IS WHAT MATTERS MOST.
Science drives effective on-the-ground solutions, and conservation takes off from there.

Science Driven ►



What's good for rangelands is good for grouse

- **Good for both**

- Large, intact landscapes
- Plant diversity
- Perennial grasses/ forbs
- Invasive species management
- Healthy springs/seeps
- Well designed grazing plan

- **Bad for both**

- Fragmented landscapes - ranchettes / oil or gas
- Overgrazing
- Water troughs without escape ramps
- Conifer Encroachment





United States Department of Agriculture

Listen to them and they will listen to you!



Tricolored Blackbirds

Resource Issue: Inadequate nesting habitat



Tricolored Blackbirds

Solution: Delayed silage harvest and colony management program



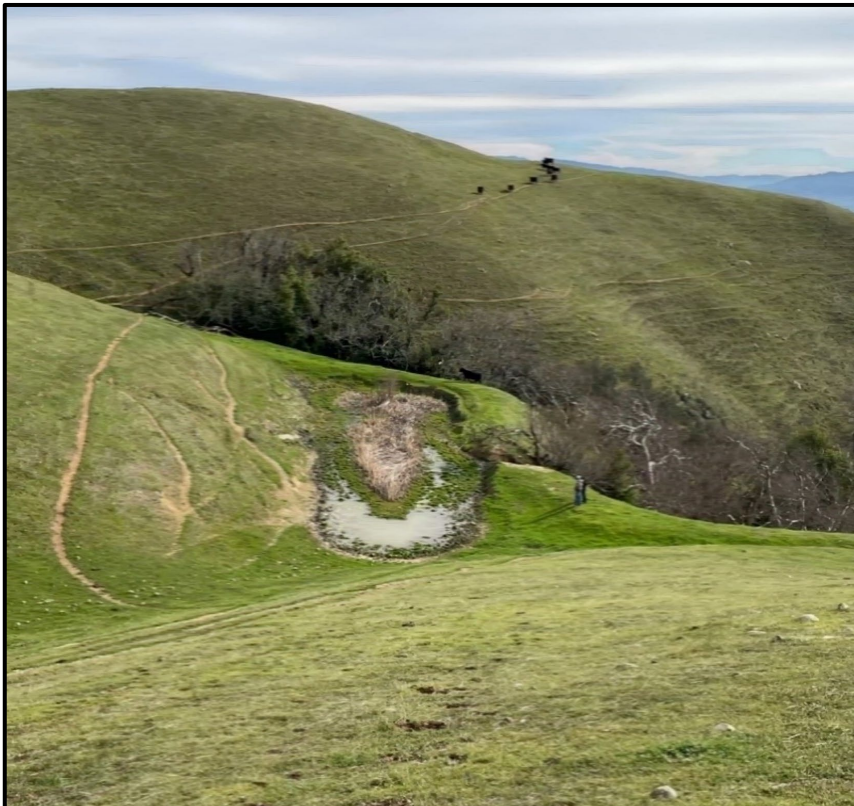
Wildlife Friendly Ponds

- Restored ~100 ponds in Alameda and Contra Costa County
- Go-To for Pond Restoration and Permitting Guidance in the State
- Benefits to CTS, CRLF, WEPT, other wildlife species, and livestock
- Strong Relationships with Regulatory Agencies, Partner Agencies, Ranchers



Project Benefits

- Enhanced stock ponds are an important livestock water source
- Wildlife friendly ponds create optimal habitat for federal and state listed, declining and even common species.



Waterbird Projects

- Managing water levels on rice checks
- Then drawing down water to provide extended periods of mudflats



**Southwestern willow
flycatcher: Inadequate habitat
- remove invasives**



Competitive Release of native woody riparian



Plant Materials Center Demonstration Hedgerow and Plantings

- Simplified prescriptions for pollinator hedgerows that work with their operations.
- Demonstrate the outcome of recommended designs for the different irrigations systems used on farms
- Test out additional recommended species that native bees select ongoing
- Incorporate forbs to provide immediate pollinator habitat while shrub species are maturing



New Incentives to Manage for Wildlife

- Managing orchards and vineyards for beneficial insects
 - Modeled after Xerces Bee Better Program
 - Using native plants researched by Dr Williams, UC Davis
- Managing ranches for the benefit all wildlife found on rangelands.
 - Cap pipes, no insecticides, access to water, leave snags & downed wood, etc
- Issue: how to encourage more ranchers to manage for bird, beneficial insects, mammals, reptiles and amphibians
- Monitoring approaches are required and inform on outcomes

Monarchs

