

Agenda Item VII C

Ranching and Agricultural Lands

Presented by:

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Sierra Rangeland



- Much of Sierra is rangeland
- They provide
 - Food
 - Clean water
 - Fiber
 - Nutrient cycling
 - Recreation
 - Natural areas for plants and animals

Forage

- Economic returns
- Profit based on:
 - Cattle weight gain
 - Cost of land and materials
 - Timing and extent of green forage is key

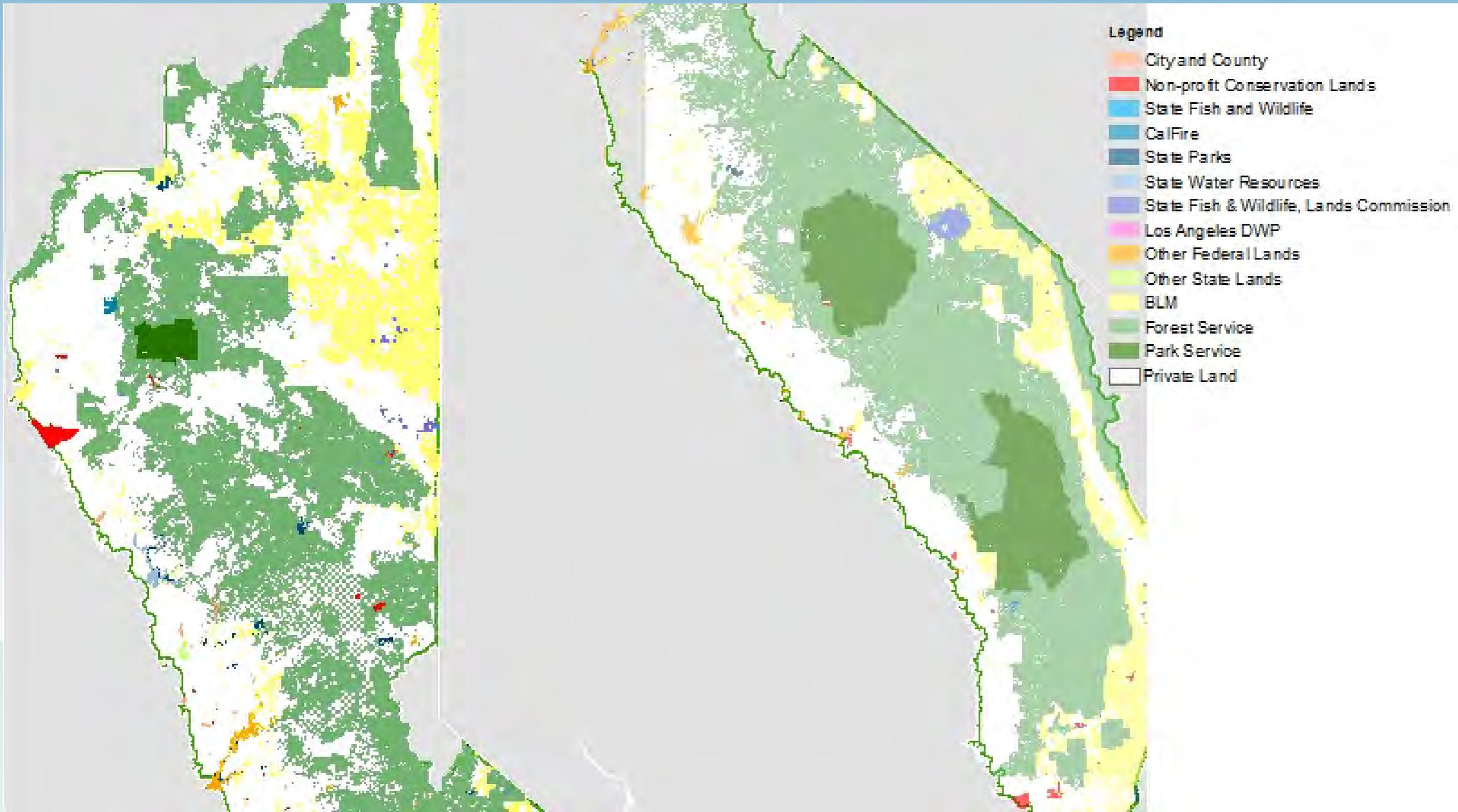


Vegetation Bands

- Lower elevation annual rangeland
 - Largely private
 - May need supplements
- Forage needs underscore importance of
 - Irrigated pastures
 - Grazing on public land



Public Lands



Rancher Perspective

- Economic Need
 - Additional forage
 - Reliable summer forage
- Cultural heritage



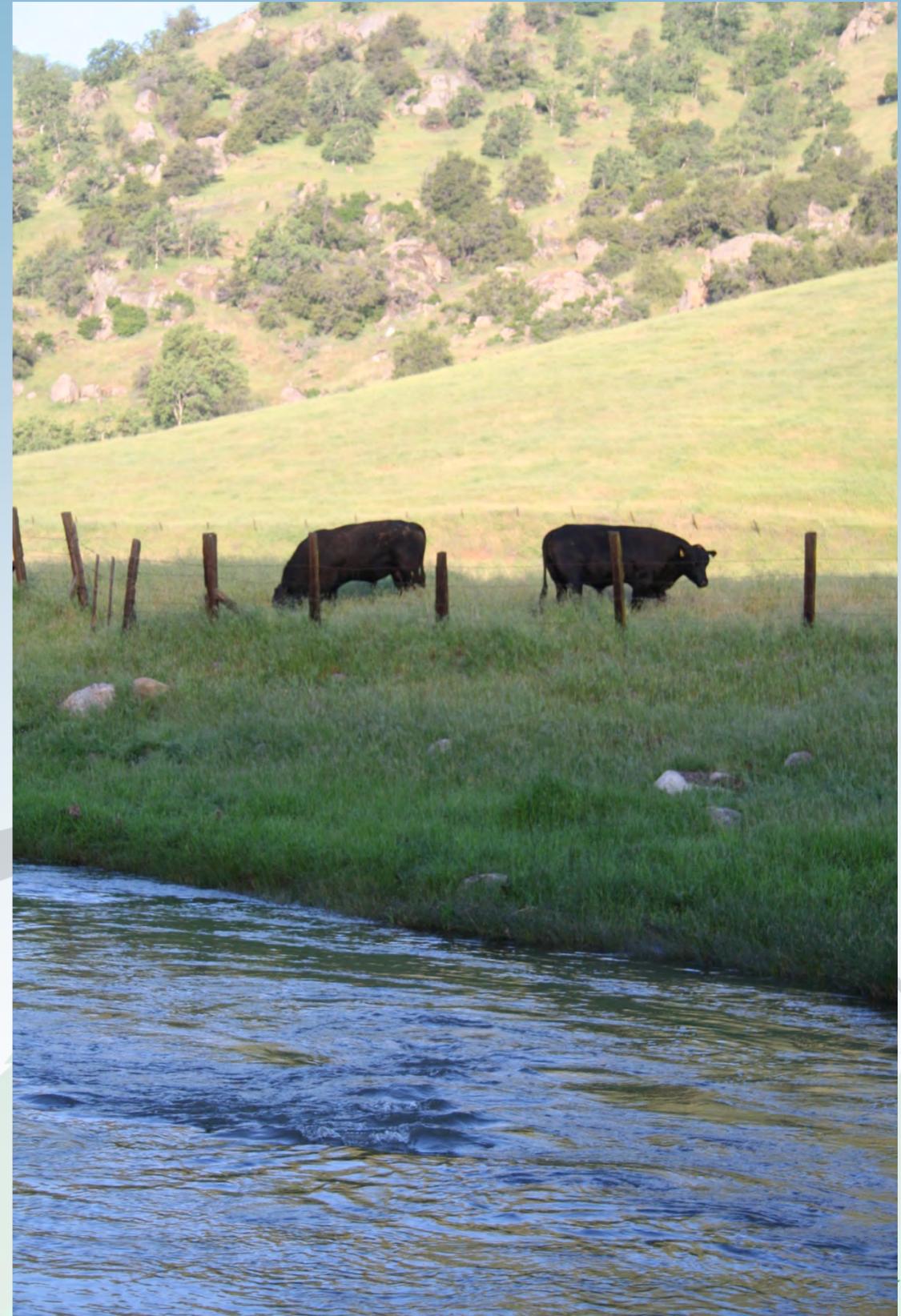
Compatible with Other Uses

- Positive native species' responses
- Grazing and recreation are compatible
 - Found bacteria levels within guidelines



Conservation Tool

- Conservation and land management tool
 - Invasive species control
 - Fuel load reduction
 - Pasture and forage improvement



Support for Grazing

- California Rangeland Conservation Coalition
 - Environmental organizations, agencies, nonprofits and landowners
- The Nature Conservancy, Land Trust Community
 - Use grazing as conservation/land management tool
 - Also generates income



Concerns

- High elevation areas
 - Most contentious
 - But most valuable for late season forage
- Timing key for consensus on benefits – what season?
- Duration also key for consensus – How long?
- Monitoring
 - Important aspect to track changes, impacts over time
 - Assist with making grazing compatible with other land uses

SNC Involvement

- Grant funding
 - Meadow restoration
 - Fencing, pasture improvement
- Planning



SNC Involvement

- CRCC work with CA State Parks
- Inyo National Forest
 - Grazing allotments
 - NEPA
 - Forest Plan update

