

CONDOR

GOLDEN  
EAGLE

WIND

Tehachapis

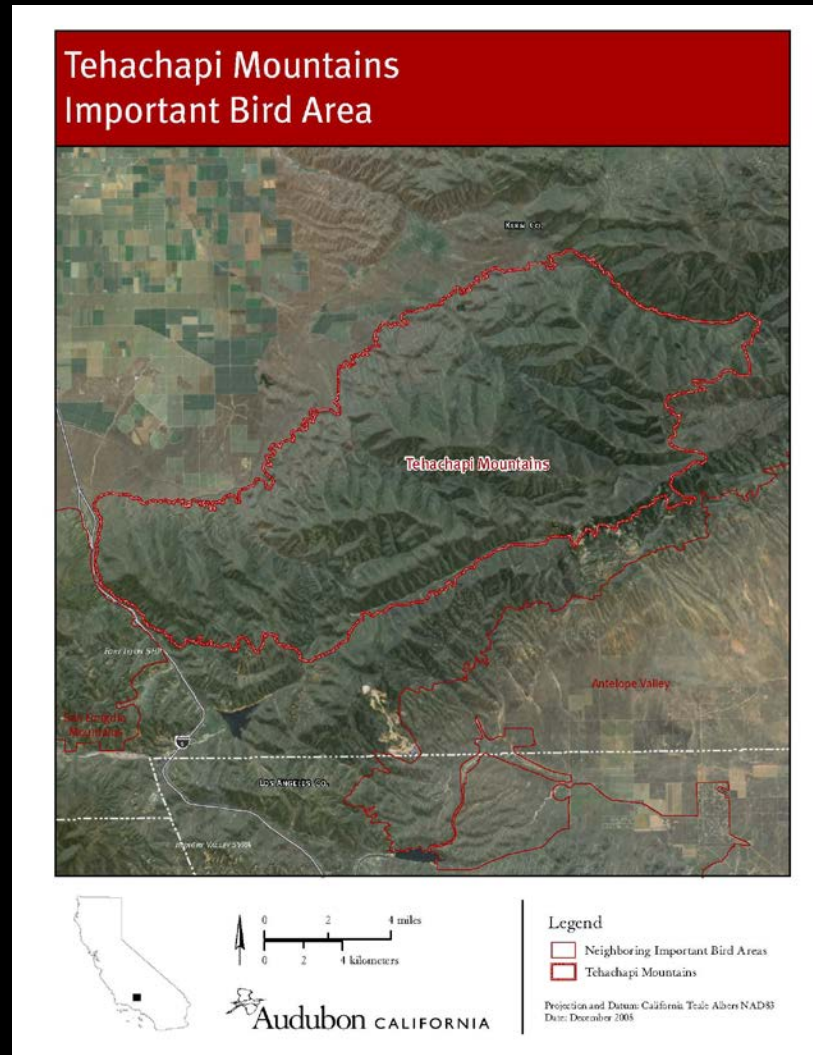
December 1, 2011

Conservation Groups

# Conservation significance

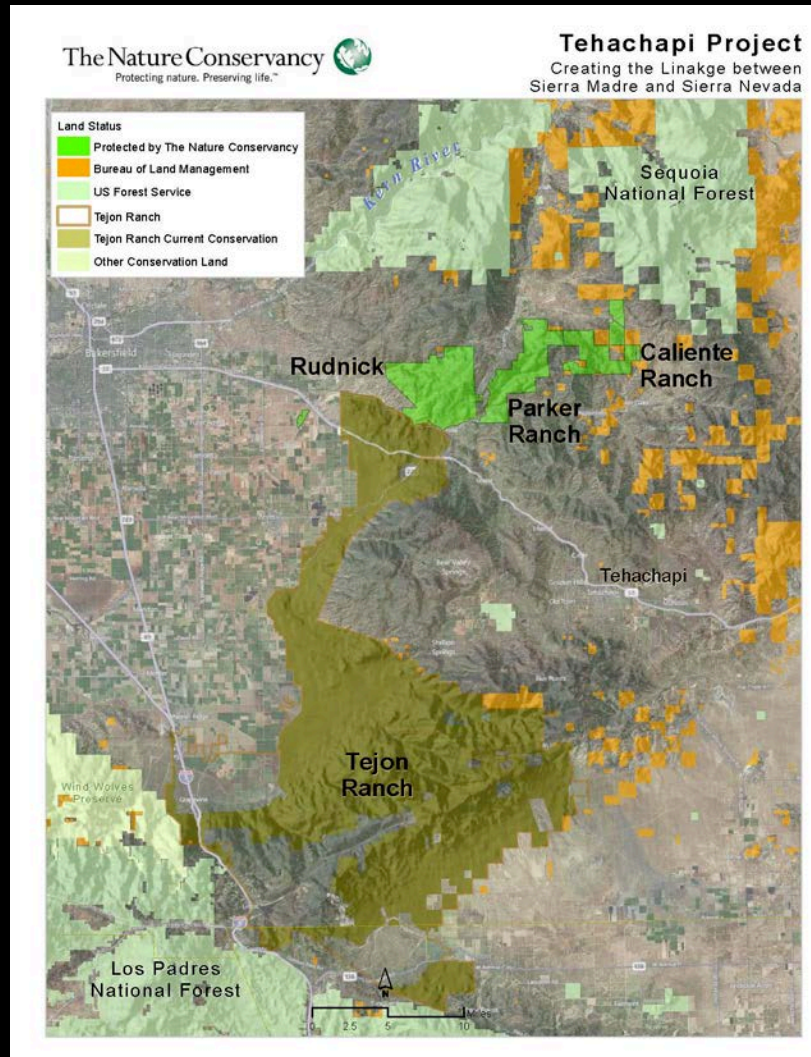


# Conservation significance



IBA of global significance for migratory birds

# Conservation efforts



Tehachapi Linkage Project – around 32,000 acres



# Conservation efforts



Tejon Ranch Agreement 2010 – 242,000 acres

# Conservation efforts



Audubon Kern River Preserve - 3,434 acres

# Conservation of Species



# California Condor

9

- 1985 – 9 individuals in California and the world

119

- 2011 - 119 individuals in California

280

- Goal – 280 in California

\$20,000,000

- Cost of recovery to taxpayers: over \$20,000,000 not including volunteer time

25 + Years

- Cost of recovery to conservation groups: 25+years of resources



# What California Condor means to conservation groups

Large, visible symbol  
Endangered Species Act  
success & species  
recovery programs

Extinction can be  
prevented

Public engagement with  
wildlife

The habitat that  
supports condors also  
protects a suite of other  
rare & common species  
i.e. umbrella species

# Conservation group efforts on threats

Loss of  
habitat

climate  
change

Lead

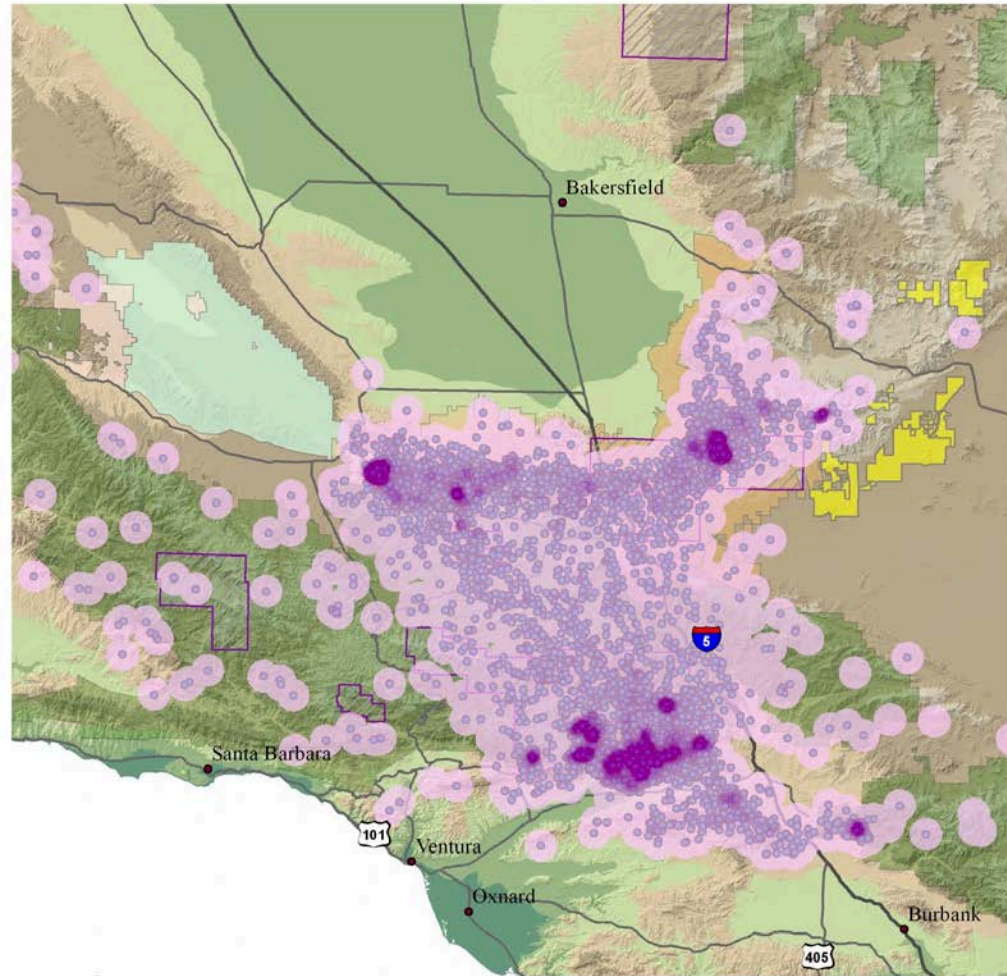
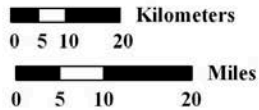
Electrocution  
from power  
lines

Ingestion of  
micro trash

wind turbine  
collision

# California Condor GPS Locations: 2009

- Legend**
- Condor Activity
    - High Density
    - Low Density
  - 2009 GPS Locations
  - Kern Wind Projects
  - Condor Critical Habitat
  - Hopper Mountain NWR
  - Bitter Creek NWR
  - Tejon Ranch
  - Wind Wolves
  - Carrizo Plain NM
  - USFS Region 5



# Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)



# What protection of Golden Eagle Means to Conservation Groups

Symbol of biological diversity and wild spaces

Visible indicator of the health of ecosystems

Success of Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

Iconic species;  
Public can relate

Umbrella species –  
protects other species



# Conservation groups also work on other threats to Golden Eagle

climate change

lead poisoning

nest  
abandonment  
from human  
recreation

loss of habitat to  
development

collision with  
wind turbines

# Migratory Birds and Flyways



# Lessons learned on wind energy in California - **Altamont**



# Lessons Learned from Altamont

6 years &  
\$600,000

- Litigation and settlement cost Citizens for Clean Renewable Energy and 5 Chapters of Audubon over 6 years and \$600,000 in resources to achieve reduction in mortality.

Metal in the  
Ground

- Once the metal is in the ground it is extremely difficult to influence operational changes

New technology

- New technology (repowering) provides opportunities for improvement

Wildlife  
Agencies

- Where were the state and federal wildlife agencies?

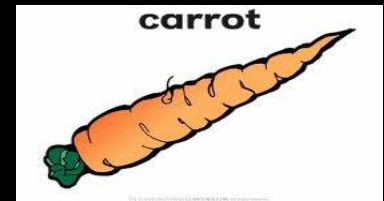
# Avoidance is Critical

Minimization  
is Next

Mitigation is  
the Last  
Resort



# 'Carrots'



Incentives for land use regs to make it easier to abandon a project due to unacceptable risk.

Standardized Thresholds – what is acceptable risk?

Regional Conservation Planning – DRECP

Early peer-reviewed biological analysis

# 'Carrots'

## Research & Development

- on Condor and Eagle avoidance mitigation. Where should \$\$\$ come from?

## Rapid regional cumulative impacts

- analysis shared publicly

## Design and Operational flexibility

- in avoidance of impacts on birds and bats as a priority not an afterthought in planning – phasing, curtailment, cut in speeds

# 'Sticks'



Enforcement  
of Laws to  
Incentivize  
Avoidance

Litigation

Public  
opinion

# Tools



**Policy Advocacy**

**Strong Science**

**Conservation Expertise**

**Public Opinion**

**Litigation as a last resort**

**THANK YOU**

Garry George, Audubon California