

California and Nevada Region (8)

Overview

The Service established Region 8, formerly the California and Nevada Operations Office, in 1998 in recognition of the unique natural resource challenges facing California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin. Many of these challenges evolve from the inherently rich biodiversity of this area, coupled with many of the fastest growing communities in the nation. Region 8 is headquartered in Sacramento, California.

Resource Facts and Figures

- 46 National Wildlife Refuges encompassing some 2.8 million acres (470,0773 acres in California, 2,351,923 acres in Nevada and 23, 822 acres in Oregon's Klamath Basin).
- 3 National Fish Hatcheries and 1 Fish Health Center.
- In 2006, more than 1.8 million people visited National Wildlife Refuges in California, spending more than \$31 million on activities ranging from observing wildlife and birding to hunting and fishing.
- 346 federally listed species occur in Region 8. (309 in California, 37 in Nevada). The region has lead management responsibility for 292 of these species.
- 19 large-scale Habitat Conservation Plans completed, 18 more in development.
- 13 completed Comprehensive Conservation Plans
- The Region has 840 FTEs

Regional Demographics

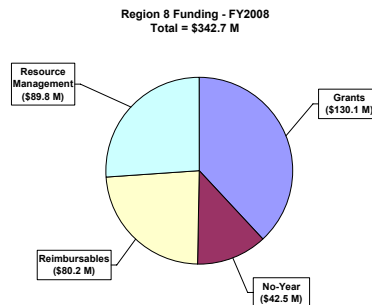
- 57 Congressional Districts Represented: California: 53, Nevada 3, Oregon 1.
- California population: 36.5 million (35.7 million urban residents, 800,000 rural.)

- Nevada population: 2.5 million (2.3 million urban residents, 200,000 rural.)
- As of 2004, 45.3 percent of California was land in federal ownership; 84.5 percent of Nevada was in federal ownership.
- Regionwide, more than 8.1 million adults fished, hunted, or watched wildlife in 2006.

Key Habitats and Ecosystems

The highly diverse California and Nevada landscape includes ecosystem types ranging from desert to temperate rainforest, from largely pristine to intensively managed, and stretching from coastline to mountain ridges.

Regional Budget



Conservation Successes and Challenges

Conservation Success – South Bay Restoration Project

In 2003, Cargill, Inc., sold 25 square miles of industrial salt ponds on San Francisco Bay to federal and state agencies, initiating the largest-ever west coast wetland restoration project. Today, the South Bay Restoration Project (9,600 acres on Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR) is creating a vital network of tidal marshes and ponds for wildlife and recreational use. Bird populations are already on the rise.

Conservation challenge – Water Water is a critical factor for wildlife in the region. The availability and distribution of water has changed over time due to natural processes and as a result of human actions. Water rights must be obtained, longer term contracts entered, or water purchased annually. The Service must compete for water with growing metropolitan areas and agricultural producers.

Current water issues include the Klamath Basin, Central Valley refuges, Nevada groundwater, San Francisco Bay-Delta.



USFWS

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Region 8

California, Nevada (excluding Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge), Oregon (Klamath River watershed only)



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