Statement of Purpose and Scope for the Working Groups

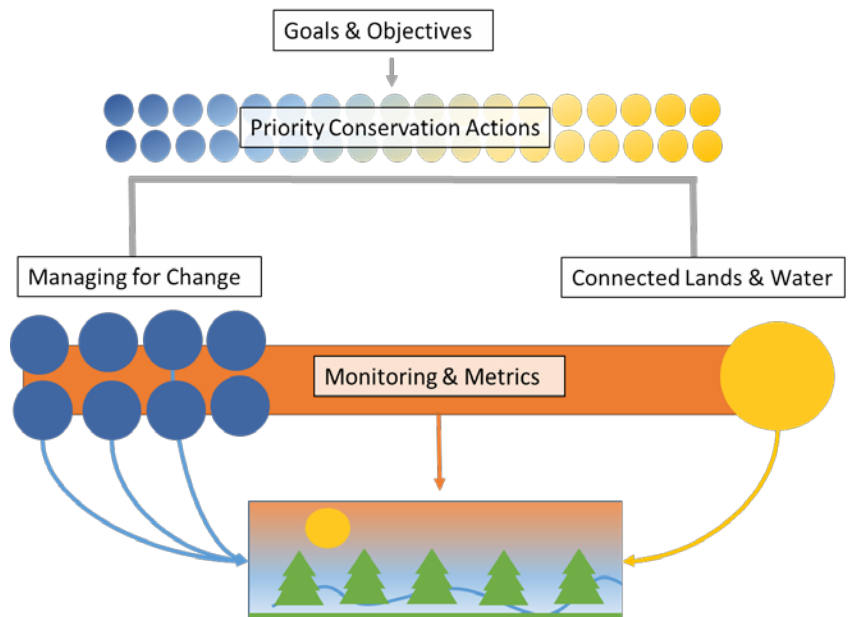*Figure 1.* The climate-smart cycle

The Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project (CVLCP), has completed the first three planning phases of the climate-smart cycle (see Figure 1), and is now moving on to the fourth phase, Implementing Adaptation Options. To foster collaboration and support among the partners, the CVLCP Leadership Team and the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) staff developed an implementation framework (Figure 2), for addressing the priority actions identified by CVLCP participants. The CA LCC staff will provide support as a convener and facilitator. .

The implementation framework illustrates how three Working Groups (WG) will interact to complete the next phase of the project. The WG "Managing for Change" will develop climate smart on-the-ground projects to implement some of the priority actions identified by the CVLCP. At the same time, the WG "Connected Lands and Waters" will identify priority areas for future conservation to protect climate refugia and enhance connectivity in the Central Valley. The WG "Monitoring and Metrics" will assess progress toward the targets and objectives identified by the other two WG. The working groups will consist of current CVLCP participants and new partners and participants with additional experience in project design and implementation. Additional sub-groups may be formed to complete sub-tasks as needed. For further details regarding the working groups purpose and tasks see below.

Figure 2. Conceptual diagram of the implementation phase for the Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project.

Working Group A: Managing for Change

Statement of Purpose and Scope

Purpose: To facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation projects

This working group will plan and implement projects to advance priority actions identified during previous workshops (see attached list). In particular, the working group will identify climate smart conservation projects that can be implemented in the near term by partners of the CVLCP. These projects will meet the climate smart concept by using novel and experimental approaches to incorporate projected changes into restoration design and can serve as models for future projects throughout the Central Valley. As appropriate, the working group will identify and address barriers to climate adaptation and develop approaches to ensuring successful application of climate smart projects. Barriers may include technical, social, and financial obstacles to climate-smart conservation.

Examples of specific Tasks:

- Identify user-needs and priorities
- Define goals of the working group and each project
- Design and implement experimental on-the-ground climate-smart projects that require a collaborative approach across jurisdictional boundaries or between multiple partners.
- Design and implement restoration and management approaches that maximize the adaptive capacity of priority species, habitats, and ecosystems.
- Synthesize, produce, or disseminate lessons learned for restoration and management projects that maximize the adaptive capacity of priority species, habitats, and ecosystems
- Develop measurable and time-bound objectives to track progress of each project

Working Group B: Connected Lands & Waters

Statement of Purpose and Scope

Purpose: To spatially prioritize places where collaborative conservation and climate-smart actions will be most effective and beneficial in enhancing ecosystem functions in the Central Valley

This working group will identify priority areas for conservation that enhance ecosystem processes and the adaptive capacity of the 35 priority natural resources. The objectives will be achieved by geographic depictions of priority places that are delivered in a manner that aligns with specific decisions that land managers must make. These depictions should include places that are important now and those that will be important under projected climate change.

Examples of Specific Tasks:
- Identify user-needs and decision-context for this spatial prioritization effort
- Identify and describe existing spatial information and spatial prioritization tools that can help to inform the specific decisions
- Make existing spatial prioritization tools available in a way that is most useful to land and resource managers
- Develop criteria for identifying priority areas where collaborative conservation and climate-smart conservation projects will be most effective to enhance connectivity and to maximize adaptive capacity of the Central Valley
- Identify gaps where additional spatial prioritization is needed
- Develop new spatial prioritization products as needed
- Define measurable goals of this work group

Statement of Purpose and Scope

Purpose: Establish a framework by which progress on individual projects can be assessed and conservation outcomes integrated across the landscape to assess progress toward the three main objectives of the Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project.

Examples of Specific Tasks:
- Work with technical team to develop an approach to track projects and project outcomes
- Work with both teams to develop measurable, time-bound objectives for the Central Valley based on existing planning efforts (e.g. SWAP, etc.)
- Develop an approach to track progress across the Central Valley to meet the measurable, time-bound objectives
- Develop a process to review lessons learned from novel, climate-smart projects in collaboration with the Managing for Change Team.