

## **Status Report: Integrating Science into Decisions: Climate Change/Land Use Change Scenarios and Outreach for Habitat Threat Assessments on California Rangelands**

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Stakeholders were introduced to the project through a workshop held at the Nature Conservancy office in Sacramento in November 2011. Attendees included researchers, ranchers, staff from state and federal agencies, members of non-profit organizations including land trusts and other conservation organizations. The first workshop introduced attendees to the project through a series of presentations followed by a discussion and an interactive activity designed to get feedback on specific geographic areas where potential land use changes may occur and what type of conversion would be realistic under each scenario. The meeting was followed with further contact with some of the attendees for clarification and additional feedback. A focus group with a group of ranchers was conducted at a ranch in Yolo County in January 2011. The goals for the focus group were : a)to introduce the project to the ranching community, b) further refine the land use change scenarios and c) gain input on rancher's decision making and what causes rangeland conversion. The project was also mentioned and discussed as an example of successful research partnership at presentations at the Biodiversity Without Boundaries 2012 conference in Portland, at a guest lecture at the American River College in Sacramento and at a meeting of the Land Focus Group lead by the Department of Water Resources that is working on an update to the California Water Plan 2013. Additional outreach activities include an (submitted and accepted) for an oral presentation that will be given at meetings of the Society for Conservation Biology to be held in Oakland July 15-18 and another abstract submitted to the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts Annual Conference to be held in San Diego November 14-17, 2012 acceptance is pending.

Future outreach activities: An additional workshop will be held in the fall of 2012 to show results from the model. Participants in the introductory workshop and the rancher focus group and others will be invited. Additional presentations at conference and meetings will be given as opportunities arise. Once the project is completed, additional workshops and meetings will be held targeting the Rangeland Coalition network in 2013.