

Bidwell Ranch Conservation and Mitigation Bank Project
City of Chico and River Partners

Management Plan Components

Grazing: Graze livestock on property during the months of December through May to help control invasive plant species and thatch and to encourage the growth of native vegetation. The land manager will implement a grazing prescription provided by the NRCS Grazing Plan.

Fencing and Gates: Fencing and gates will remain in good repair and arrangements will be made with the Grazing Lessee to handle maintenance.

Prescribed Burns: Investigate use of prescribed burns to control invasive plant species and thatch and to encourage the growth of native vegetation.

Public Access: Educational tours are encouraged for the future, however direct access to the site will be limited to designated access points.

Signage and Trails: Place educational and interpretive signage around site to inform public of site resources, conditions, and history. Provide a perimeter trail system that will redirect public access off of areas with sensitive resources and onto appropriate trails that protect resources and minimize site damage.

Mechoopda Brodiaea Collection: The Mechoopda Tribe proposes to do annual Brodiaea corm collections on a small section on the southeastern portion of the site.

Swainson's Hawk Mitigation Area: Bidwell Ranch provides seasonally ideal foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk. In order to receive mitigation credits for the Bank, an active Swainson's hawk nest, active within the past 5 years, must be within a 10-mile radius of the proposed mitigation bank.

Restoration and Enhancement: Restore and enhance vernal pools in the southwestern portion of the property, based on historic aerials of site.

BCM Introduction: Plant population of Butte County Meadowfoam (BCM) in restored wetlands in the southwestern portion of the property that have hydrology and soils similar to that of the native BCM population in the northern portion of the site.

Monitoring: Monitor, conserve, and maintain the wetlands, covered species, and covered habitat. Covered habitat includes vernal pools, vernal swales, clay flats and ephemeral drainages. Covered species includes Butte County meadowfoam, Swainson's hawk and burrowing owl. Monitor and assess the threat of invasive plant species on site, especially in and around wetlands.

Trash: Monitor, collect and remove trash regularly from site.

Reporting: Provide annual report to Interagency Review Team and any other appropriate parties describing general site condition and all management tasks.

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Land Manager and Conservation Easement Deed Holder Criteria

Land Manager

- Vested interest in community
- Managerial capacity to conduct the job requirements
- Financial capacity to conduct the job requirements
- Local organization preferred
- Experience in Preserve Management

Conservation Easement Deed Holder

- Working relationship with the City of Chico
- Ability to enforce management requirements for the Bank and hold the Land Manager accountable
- Experience in holding easements
- Examples of possible parties include: Department of Fish and Game, City of Chico, a non-profit organization that has been through the due diligence process and approved as a Conservation Easement Deed holder by DFG or a local Land Trust.