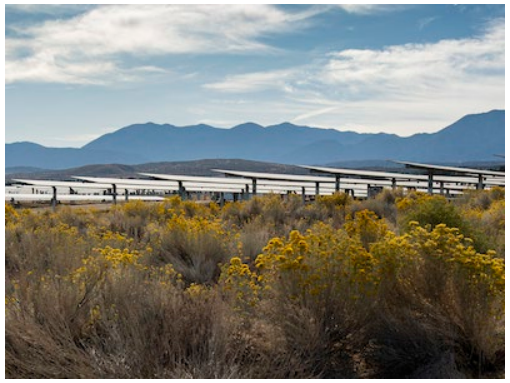
Working lands comprise over three-quarters of the Kaweah Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) area, and landowners are essential to achieving the goals of the RCIS conservation strategy. The RCIS can help connect working landowners with financial incentives for voluntarily undertaking project and management actions that support habitat and groundwater goals. The following list of options are aligned with Kaweah RCIS goals. Example funding opportunities are included for actions when applicable.

Action	Description	Example Funding Opportunities
 **Habitat Creation or Management**	Wildlife habitat and connectivity are critical to supporting the focal and non-focal species identified in the Kaweah Subbasin RCIS. Habitat projects can vary in size, duration, and purpose. If you intend to create habitat on your property, you may be able to increase habitat connectivity if you are adjacent to protected areas (click here to view a map of protected areas in California). When possible, select native plants for habitat restoration designs. Importantly, when creating habitat for endangered or at-risk species, consider providing permanent protection for that habitat.	Mitigation Credit Agreements (MCAs) are mechanisms by which landowners can sell habitat they have created or protected as MCA "credits" to entities who need to mitigate their project's negative environmental impacts. Click here to learn more about MCAs, or visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website. Conservation Stewardship Program, US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Offers annual payments for implementing tailored conservation activities (e.g., planting specific cover crops, installing stream crossings or low drift nozzles on sprayers).
 **Cover Crops**	Cover crops are plants that are not intended to be harvested, but rather planted for soil, water, or wildlife benefits; to improve crop health; or to discourage/prevent invasive species. Cover crop plantings can easily be combined with other project or management actions to provide multiple benefits and increase alignment with funding opportunities. For example, cover crop plantings could be a component of habitat for pollinators. Note, it is recommended that you remove any invasive plants before planting any cover crops.	Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program, California Department of Conservation. Funds multibenefit projects that increase groundwater sustainability and provide additional benefits, such as repurposing irrigated agricultural land, creating or improving wildlife habitat or connectivity, creating recreational space, and more. Healthy Soils Program, California Department of Food and Agriculture. Provides financial assistance for implementation of conservation management practices that improve soil health, sequester carbon, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Action	Description	Example Funding Opportunities
 **On-Farm Recharge**	On-farm groundwater recharge provides an opportunity to apply excess water to land for groundwater replenishment. On-farm recharge can provide migratory bird habitat and flood risk reduction. Note, site suitability (soil characteristics, crop type, irrigation system capabilities, etc.) is important to consider. To learn more about on-farm recharge, see the Department of Water Resources' Flood MAR website or this guide created by Audubon and The Nature Conservancy. Contact your irrigation district or local Groundwater Sustainability Agency representative for implementation support.	Groundwater Recharge Pilot Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS, with support from Sustainable Conservation, is piloting a new groundwater recharge program under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Currently, only on-farm recharge projects in the Tulare Irrigation District are eligible. However, private property owners may apply. Check the site regularly for updates on application deadlines and eligibility.
 **Integrated Pest Management**	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a cost-effective, science-backed solution to pest control that can be implemented on any land type. IPM provides a variety of benefits to soil fertility, pollinators, and more. Note that IPM may require additional education and effort upon start-up. For more information and resources on IPM, visit the University of California IPM website.	Alliance Grants Projects. California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). To promote safer, more sustainable pest management practices in California, the DPR funds Alliance projects that promote or increase the implementation, expansion, and/or adoption of effective, proven, and affordable IPM systems or practices that reduce risks to public health and the environment in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings. Note individuals and businesses are eligible to apply.

Action	Description	Example Funding Opportunities
 **Vegetation Management**	Vegetation provides critical habitat to important animals and plants. What vegetation is on your property, plus when and how it is managed, can support conservation efforts. Vegetation management includes, but is not limited to, removing invasive species, planting native plants, mechanically thinning vegetation, controlling ditch vegetation, and burning agricultural fields. If you would like specific information on implementing conservation-minded vegetation management, please contact our team to connect with a local expert.	Check back soon for funding opportunities.
 **Grazing Practices**	Grazing land can provide habitat for focal species. Best management practices that support habitat include • Grazing plans (aligned with species needs, managing invasive species, etc.). • Rotational grazing or limiting the number of grazing animals.	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, USDA. Funds conservation practices on working lands, such as prescribed grazing or sustainable irrigation methods. Conservation Stewardship Program, USDA. Offers annual payments for implementing tailored conservation activities (e.g., planting specific cover crops, or installing stream crossings or low drift nozzles on sprayers).

Action	Description	Example Funding Opportunities
 **Wildlife-Friendly Solar**	Wildlife-friendly features can be incorporated into new or existing solar facilities. Solar sites can add vegetation as buffers or as part of the project directly to increase biodiversity and habitat. Choosing native plants reduces maintenance requirements. Wetland features can also provide wildlife habitat in or near solar facilities. Some solar plans may be suitable for grazing, providing additional native plant seed dispersal. From an operations standpoint, solar facilities can shield lights at night to minimize disruption to nocturnal wildlife.	Deploying Solar with Wildlife and Ecosystem Services Benefits (SolWEB), US Department of Energy. Announced in March 2022, SolWEB will provide funding for innovative wildlife-solar projects that maximize benefits and minimize adverse impacts on wildlife, quantify ecosystem benefits from solar energy facilities, monitor wildlife-solar interactions, and more.
 **Dryland Farming**	Dryland farming is growing crops using primarily rainfall and soil water, rather than irrigation. Crops typically include forage crops (e.g., hay), small grains (such as winter wheat), and pastures. Landowners that convert irrigated farmland to crops compatible with dry-land farming practices, such as permanent pasture or grass seed/forage crop mixtures, can reduce soil erosion and improve infiltration rates while keeping working lands in production. Read more about dryland farming in the San Joaquin Valley in this PPIC report.	Environmental Quality Incentives Program, US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Funds conservation practices, such as prescribed grazing or sustainable farming, on working lands.

Action	Description	Example Funding Opportunities
 **Recharge Basin**	Groundwater recharge basins are important, multibenefit components of the Kaweah Subbasin RCIS and regional Groundwater Sustainability Plans. In addition to aquifer replenishment, recharge basins can provide water for wintering shorebirds, sustain groundwater-dependent ecosystems, and maintain agricultural productivity and domestic water use. Groundwater recharge basins can vary in size, but are typically permanent features. Creating a recharge basin involves permitting and likely also financing requirements. If you are considering a recharge basin on your property, contact your representative member from the Greater, Mid-, or East Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency. This multibenefit recharge basin guide by EDF can also support your planning efforts.	Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant. California Department of Water Resources. The Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency was granted funds to implement groundwater projects, including recharge basins, identified in the Greater Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Plan. There may be an opportunity to leverage these funds for a recharge basin on your property. Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program, California Department of Conservation. Funds multibenefit projects that increase groundwater sustainability and provide additional benefits, such as repurposing irrigated agricultural land, creating wildlife-friendly recharge basins, and more.
 **Rotational Wetland**	Rotational wetlands have two primary benefits: groundwater recharge and habitat creation. Rotational wetlands can also enhance soil fertility and tilth, reduce soil-borne crop pathogens, reduce farming inputs, and boost quality and quantity of yields after a wetland cycle. To implement a rotational wetland, a landowner sets aside a portion of their land for inundation. The wetlands may be seasonally flooded or flooded year-round for shorter cycles (i.e., 1- to 4-year) and in return, landowners can receive financial compensation. After the cycle, the land is rotated back into active cropping or grazing.	California Waterfowl Habitat Program (Presley Program). California Department of Fish and Wildlife. An incentive-based program that provides private landowners with technical assistance and financial incentives to manage wetland habitats. The program pays landowners an incentive of $60 per acre annually and has associated management plan requirements. Farmable Wetlands Program. Farm Services Agency. An incentive program to establish wetlands on agricultural lands. Landowners receive an annual rental payment for their enrolled acres. Contact your local FSA office for more information on eligibility and requirements.

Action	Description	Example Funding Opportunities
 **Temporary Fallowing**	Temporarily fallowed lands are agricultural lands that are idled for a set duration to improve water supply and soil health. The duration and required management practices vary by funding opportunity, but may include planting ground cover and managing weeds.	LandFlex Program, California Department of Water Resources. LandFlex will provide block grants to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to grant to farmers limiting agricultural use.

If you would like to learn more about the Kaweah RCIS or any of the actions listed above, visit our website at www.KaweahRCIS.org, or scan the QR code to the right with your mobile phone.

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