

Staff

- A Point Blue Affiliate Biologist, Sophia Leveque-Eichorn will be starting on Jan 8, located in Sonora at the MLRA Soil Survey Office in the Forest Service Building. This will be a huge help with bird nesting surveys, range health assessments, wildlife practice planning, and wildlife beneficial- informed implementation requirements. She will also be assisting the Mariposa NRCS field office.
- An Affiliate Forester position with the Tuolumne RCD is starting on January 15. He is expected to focus on RCPP clients in Tuolumne and potentially Calaveras Counties.
- The assistance we can get from the NRCS Auburn Office Rangeland Conservationist is limited. There is still a GS 9-11 vacancy for a Rangeland Conservationist on the staffing plan for our office.
- Current staff: District Conservationist Jennifer Wood, Engineer Bradley Soares and Forester Garrett McFall. Tamryn Zahradka is the ACRCDD Forester and an NRCS affiliate who is assisting with NRCS forestry customers.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Conservation Incentives Program (CIC)

- Administration of 50 active conservation contracts to treat over 20,000 acres is ongoing, with 3.46 million dollars obligated.
- We initiated a total of 11 FY23 contracts obligating approximately \$500,000 on approximately 3500 acres for range and forestry conservation activities.

Summary of FY23 contracts by county

FY '23 Contracts	Amador	Calaveras	Tuolumne
Range	1 EQIP, 1 CSP	1 EQIP, 2 CSP	1 CSP
Forestry	1 EQIP, 1 CSP	1 EQIP	1EQIP
Disaster			1EQIP

We will submit at least 3x this for funding in 2024 and the funding outlook looks positive.

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