Introduction

CALIFORNIA OVERVIEW

Vegetation and Ownership

California has a diverse natural landscape which ranges from conifer and hardwood forest and woodlands in the mountain and coastal areas, to shrub and herbaceous rangelands in the South Coast, North Interior and Central Valley, to desert habitats in the southeast (Figure I.1). Based on mapped vegetation data, forest and rangeland cover types occupy about 80% of California (Table I.1). Over half of the state is in public (federal, state, or local government) ownership (Figure I.2), including about 63% of the 80 million acres of forest and rangeland. Table I.1 summarizes the state's landbase by cover type across private land, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and other public ownership. Vegetation types are classified based on the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) System (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988).

Table I.1. Area of land cover type by owner group (acres in thousands)

CWHR Vegetation Type	Private	USFS	BLM	NPS	Other Public	Total[1]
Forestland						
Conifer Forest	5,947	9,477	347	1,029	733	17,534
Hardwood Forest	2,298	2,341	215	204	285	5,343
Forest and Rangeland						
Conifer Woodland	580	1,176	807	311	186	3,061
Hardwood Woodland	4,908	336	189	14	750	6,196
Rangeland[2]						
Herbaceous[3]	9,108	1,005	683	176	1,441	12,414
Desert	3,190	193	10,587	4,164	4,434	22,568
Shrub	4,124	5,331	1,883	326	1,660	13,324
Total Forest and Rangeland	**30,156**	**19,859**	**14,712**	**6,223**	**9,490**	**80,439**
Other						
Agriculture	10,629	3	12	1	268	10,915
Barren/Other	428	769	859	604	464	3,124
Urban	4,836	10	50	3	277	5,176
Water[4]	---	---	---	---	---	1,843
Total (Forest, Range, Other)[5]	**46,048**	**20,642**	**15,633**	**6,831**	**10,499**	**101,497**

Data Notes:
1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Rangeland refers to "primary" rangeland, and does not include conifer forest, which has rangeland forage potential and is often grazed by livestock.
3. Includes wetlands.
4. Areas classified as water are not assigned an ownership.
5. These acreages are based on digital map-based data, and are somewhat different than those used throughout this Assessment from the USFS Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data, which are derived using a sample-based system.

Data Sources: Vegetation, CAL FIRE (2022); Ownership, CAL FIRE (2024a).

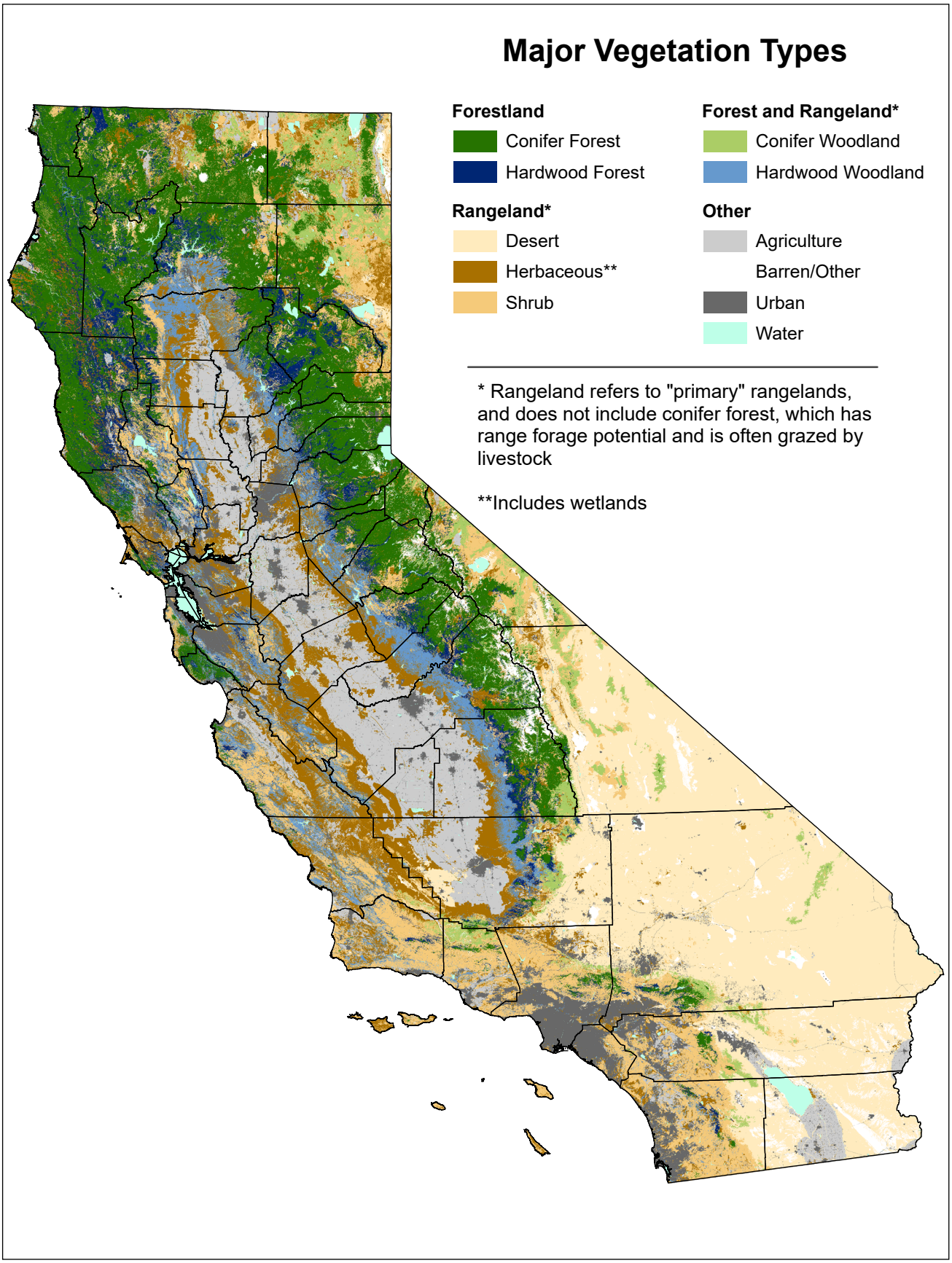


Figure I.1. Major vegetation types in California, classified using the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System. Data Source: CAL FIRE (2022).

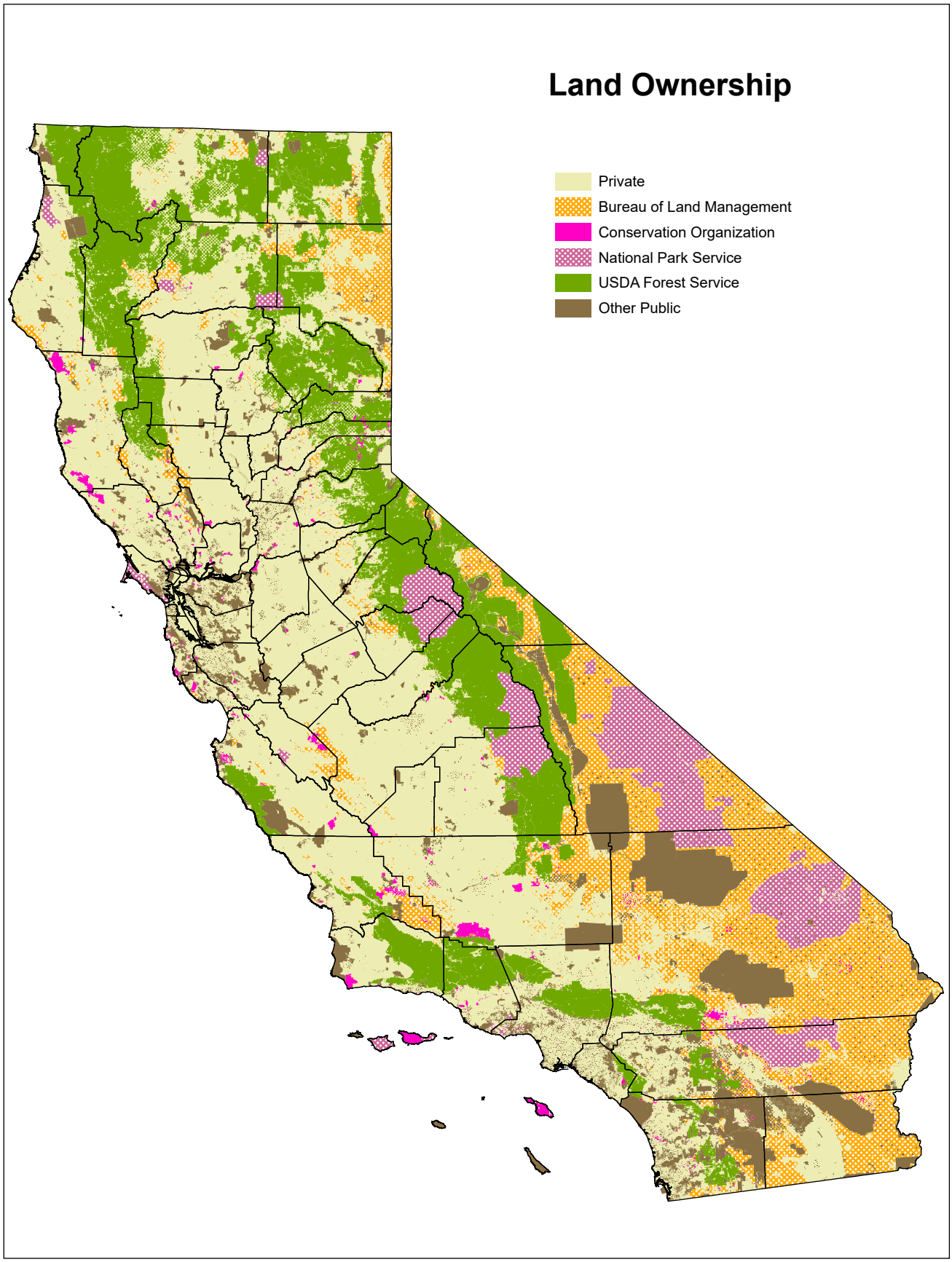


Figure I.2. California land ownership of forest and rangelands. Data Source: CAL FIRE (2024a).

The Forest and Rangeland Assessment also uses Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data from the USFS to summarize acres of forest by reserved status and productivity. Based on this data source, for the 32 million acres of forestland in the state, about 61% is publicly owned, including about 48% by the USFS (Table I.2). Forestland includes 16.3 million acres of timberland, defined by the USFS as capable of producing over 20 cubic feet/acre/year of wood with commercial value and not withdrawn from timber utilization by statute or administrative regulation. About 20% (6.5 million acres) of forestland is in reserved status (e.g., wilderness areas and parks). About 65% of rangeland is publicly owned (Table I.2). However, for herbaceous rangeland (primarily grassland, the most productive type for grazing), about 73% is privately owned (Table I.1).

Tables with area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved) by owner group are provided for each CAL FIRE ecoregion in Appendix I.1.

Table I.2. Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved) by owner group (acres in thousands)

	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	7,167	8,727	213	0	179	16,286
Other Unreserved Forestland	5,308	2,334	868	0	327	8,837
Total Unreserved Forestland	**12,475**	**11,061**	**1,080**	**0**	**507**	**25,123**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	2,741	54	958	340	4,092
Other Reserved Forestland	0	1,283	211	469	414	2,377
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**4,024**	**266**	**1,426**	**754**	**6,469**
Forestland Total	**12,475**	**15,084**	**1,346**	**1,426**	**1,261**	**31,592**
Unreserved Rangeland	16,311	4,824	8,800	2	4,049	33,986
Reserved Rangeland[2]	95	1,709	4,355	4,666	3,484	14,309
Rangeland Total[3]	**16,405**	**6,533**	**13,155**	**4,668**	**7,534**	**48,295**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: Forest Inventory Data, USFS (2024); Ownership, CAL FIRE (2024a); Rangeland Vegetation, CAL FIRE (2022); Wilderness, CAL FIRE (2024b), Protection Class, CAL FIRE (2024c), California State Parks Boundaries, CAL FIRE (2021).

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The State Mandate

By state law (PRC § 4789), CAL FIRE must periodically assess California's forest and rangeland resources. The previous effort was *California's Forests and Rangelands: 2017 Assessment*. Assessment results are used by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) to develop and update a forest policy statement for California. In 2017, the strategy report was produced by CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) as part of the Assessment process for the federally requested California Forest Action Plan and served as the policy statement.

Comparison to Previous Forest and Rangeland Assessments

The 2010 Assessment used a format developed by the USFS for state forestry assessments, in response to the 2008 Farm Bill. Each chapter included analyses of threats and assets to generate "Priority Landscapes" for more efficiently targeting potential areas for investment and treatment. The 2017 Assessment used an indicator-based approach for tracking the state's progress toward sustainability. The 2017 Assessment included 47 indicators that were established through public stakeholder meetings and an online review process. The 2025 Assessment has continued to use this indicator-based approach and updates our progress in addressing sustainability and resilience. For the 2025 Assessment we carried forward most of the indicators from 2017, with some minor adjustments resulting in a new total number of 52 indicators (see Table E.1 in the Executive Summary). An interagency advisory committee provided feedback on the set of indicators to be included in the 2025 Assessment when work was initiated in 2022.

Related Efforts and Supporting Documents

The 2025 Assessment takes into consideration various existing planning efforts; these range from local plans such as Community Wildfire Protection plans to statewide plans including the California State Wildlife Action Plan, State Water Plan, California Forest Carbon Plan, California Climate Adaption Strategy, Pathways to 30x30 California, Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy, California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force 2021 Action Plan, and Nature-Based Climate Solutions Targets. The 2025 Assessment also integrates work related to renewable energy and climate change from the California Energy Commission, the California Air Resources Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and various academic institutions. Many other reports and data sources were used in the preparation of this Assessment, including extensive use of forest inventory data from the USFS's FIA Program.

The 2025 Assessment was prepared during a very dynamic time for California's forest and rangelands and the associated land managers and institutions. Given the production time in preparing a report of this type, certain data and matters covered will not be fully up to date at the time of publication. As a means of addressing reality and to more broadly provide the public with more current information, FRAP is developing an updated Assessment website, or dashboard, that will provide more frequently updated data and other information.

Assessment Organization

The 2025 Assessment is organized into 13 chapters, each with a set of indicators. When a chapter statement is supported by an indicator, the symbol "ⓘ" is used with the chapter/indicator number. For example, (ⓘ4.2) refers to the Wildfire Hazard Potential indicator covered in Chapter 4 (Wildfire). See Table E.1 in the Executive Summary for a full list of indicators by chapter.

APPENDIX I.1 FOREST AND RANGELAND ACRES BY ECOREGION

Regional Variations

Each ecoregion in California (Figure I.3) is unique in terms of climate, topography, geology, and soils. Each ecoregion supports unique biological communities that provide different types and levels of economic outputs and ecosystem services. This Appendix provides a table for each ecoregion with acres of forestland, timberland, and rangeland, including reserved lands.

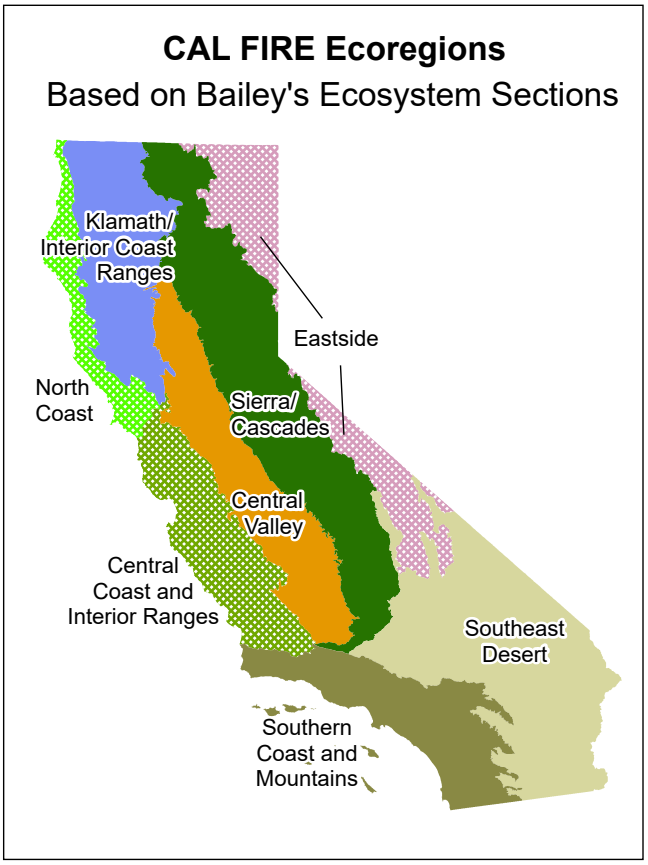


Figure I.3. CAL FIRE ecoregions. Data Source: CAL FIRE (2023).

Table I.3. Central Coast and Interior Ranges - Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved), by owner group (acres in thousands)

	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	209	1	0	0	21	231
Other Unreserved Forestland	834	78	41	0	91	1,043
Total Unreserved Forestland	**1,043**	**79**	**41**	**0**	**112**	**1,274**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	32	0	0	81	113
Other Reserved Forestland	0	125	5	14	196	340
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**157**	**5**	**14**	**277**	**453**
Forestland Total	**1,043**	**236**	**46**	**14**	**389**	**1,727**
Unreserved Rangeland	3,849	257	483	0	162	4,752
Reserved Rangeland[2]	3	326	2	28	492	849
Rangeland Total[3]	**3,852**	**582**	**485**	**28**	**654**	**5,601**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: USFS (2024); CAL FIRE (2024a).

Table I.4. Central Valley - Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved), by owner group (acres in thousands)						
	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Unreserved Forestland	88	0	0	0	4	92
Total Unreserved Forestland	**88**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**92**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Reserved Forestland	0	0	0	0	6	6
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**	**6**
Forestland Total	**88**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10**	**98**
Unreserved Rangeland	2,108	0	60	0	24	2,192
Reserved Rangeland[2]	0	0	0	0	352	352
Rangeland Total[3]	**2,108**	**0**	**60**	**0**	**376**	**2,544**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: USFS (2024); CAL FIRE (2024a).

Table I.5. Eastside - Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved), by owner group (acres in thousands)						
	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	314	630	21	0	0	965
Other Unreserved Forestland	190	746	445	0	19	1,400
Total Unreserved Forestland	**504**	**1,376**	**466**	**0**	**19**	**2,365**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	52	0	0	6	58
Other Reserved Forestland	0	114	56	78	6	253
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**166**	**56**	**78**	**12**	**311**
Forestland Total	**504**	**1,542**	**522**	**78**	**31**	**2,676**
Unreserved Rangeland	910	925	1,530	0	305	3,669
Reserved Rangeland[2]	2	137	824	878	293	2,133
Rangeland Total[3]	**912**	**1,061**	**2,354**	**878**	**598**	**5,802**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: USFS (2024); CAL FIRE (2024a).

Table I.6. Klamath/Interior Coast Ranges - Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved), by owner group (acres in thousands)						
	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	1,717	2,591	96	0	15	4,419
Other Unreserved Forestland	1,409	362	116	0	45	1,932
Total Unreserved Forestland	**3,126**	**2,953**	**212**	**0**	**60**	**6,351**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	1,367	7	63	7	1,443
Other Reserved Forestland	0	253	24	41	32	349
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**1,620**	**31**	**104**	**39**	**1,792**
Forestland Total	**3,126**	**4,573**	**243**	**104**	**99**	**8,143**
Unreserved Rangeland	1,620	627	237	0	17	2,501
Reserved Rangeland[2]	3	305	37	6	62	413
Rangeland Total[3]	**1,623**	**932**	**274**	**6**	**79**	**2,914**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: USFS (2024); CAL FIRE (2024a).

Table I.7. North Coast - Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved), by owner group (acres in thousands)						
	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	2,044	27	32	0	90	2,192
Other Unreserved Forestland	176	0	0	0	11	186
Total Unreserved Forestland	**2,220**	**27**	**32**	**0**	**101**	**2,378**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	13	36	55	160	264
Other Reserved Forestland	0	0	0	6	45	51
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**13**	**36**	**61**	**205**	**315**
Forestland Total	**2,220**	**40**	**68**	**61**	**306**	**2,693**
Unreserved Rangeland	644	1	6	0	3	655
Reserved Rangeland[2]	0	0	6	51	93	149
Rangeland Total[3]	**645**	**1**	**12**	**51**	**96**	**804**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: USFS (2024); CAL FIRE (2024a).

Table I.8. Sierra/Cascades - Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved), by owner group (acres in thousands)						
	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	2,863	5,358	64	0	53	8,339
Other Unreserved Forestland	2,361	793	224	0	120	3,498
Total Unreserved Forestland	**5,224**	**6,151**	**288**	**0**	**173**	**11,837**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	1,154	11	840	72	2,077
Other Reserved Forestland	0	605	111	244	78	1,037
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**1,759**	**122**	**1,084**	**150**	**3,114**
Forestland Total	**5,224**	**7,910**	**410**	**1,084**	**323**	**14,951**
Unreserved Rangeland	2,374	1,529	367	0	38	4,308
Reserved Rangeland[2]	3	393	119	223	209	948
Rangeland Total[3]	**2,378**	**1,922**	**486**	**223**	**247**	**5,256**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: USFS (2024); CAL FIRE (2024a).

Table I.9. South Coast Mountains and Deserts - Area of forestland, timberland, and rangeland (reserved and unreserved), by owner group (acres in thousands)						
	Ownership Group					
Land Status	**Private**	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**Other Public**	**Total**
Unreserved Forestland						
Timberland	21	120	0	0	0	141
Other Unreserved Forestland	251	355	42	0	37	685
Total Unreserved Forestland	**272**	**475**	**42**	**0**	**37**	**826**
Reserved Forestland[1]						
Reserved Productive Forestland	0	123	0	0	14	137
Other Reserved Forestland	0	187	15	86	51	339
Total Reserved Forestland	**0**	**310**	**15**	**86**	**65**	**476**
Forestland Total	**272**	**785**	**57**	**86**	**102**	**1,302**
Unreserved Rangeland	4,803	1,486	6,117	1	3,501	15,907
Reserved Rangeland[2]	84	548	3,367	3,481	1,983	9,463
Rangeland Total[3]	**4,887**	**2,034**	**9,483**	**3,483**	**5,483**	**25,371**

Data Notes:
1. Withdrawn from timber utilization through statute or administrative designation (USFS definition).
2. Lands with permanent legal protection, and typically dedicated for a specific public purpose or program.
3. Rangeland totals do not include woodlands.

Data Sources: USFS (2024); CAL FIRE (2024a).

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