

Riparian Restoration at Hain Ranch Organics

CO-EXISTENCE

Agriculture and conservation are not mutually exclusive—they exist together on this ranch, benefiting each other as part of the bigger whole.



POLLINATORS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS

Providing pollinators such as native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds with flowering native plants ensures pollination services for our food supply and much of wildlife's sustenance as well. These plants also provide for predatory and parasitic beneficial insects, such as ladybugs and lacewings. While walnuts are wind pollinated, other crops on the ranch benefit from insect pollination.



BENEFICIAL WILD ANIMALS

A riparian buffer provides food, shelter, and breeding sites for birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. The western bluebird nests in the habitat and helps control insects in the orchard. Rabbits, ground squirrels and quail that use the habitat are a prime food source for bobcats, which take pressure off the predation of the poultry operation. Gopher snakes consume rodents in the habitat and the orchard.



GENERATIONS OF CONSERVATION

Conservation has been in the Hain Family for generations. In 1908, Schuyler Hain led the effort to conserve what is now Pinnacles National Park, which is 30 miles upstream of this ranch. The California Condor, 14 species of bats and 10 percent of the country's native bee species benefit from this protected area, also providing recreation for millions of people.



WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Restoring riparian habitat along the creek provides wildlife with food and cover they need as they move from one point to another. Wildlife corridors can be crucial if food is scarce in one patch and abundant in another, if an escape route is needed for animals fleeing from predators, or if they need to move to cooler regions due to climate change.



BANK STABILIZATION AND FILTRATION

In 1998, the ranch lost 4 acres of land due to flooding. After previous stabilization practices, the current addition of trees and shrubs in the riparian area helps to hold the creek banks in place. The plants also help to filter runoff from the ranch so that clean water enters the creek, making for more optimum conditions for fish spawning in the watershed.



CLIMATE CHANGE

The creekside planting makes the ranch more resilient to climate change. It buffers hotter, drier or wetter, erratic weather that can result in floods and drought, high winds and dust, increased pest pressure, and changing habitat for wildlife. The woody biomass and root structure of the perennial plants allow for water infiltration, and sequester carbon helping to reduce the greenhouse effect.



Thanks to Boy Scout Troup 436 and the Naturalists-at-Large/Pinnacles National Park staff in helping to install and mulch the plants.