
CANNABIS FOR CONSERVATION



2023
IMPACT
REPORT

JANUARY 23, 2024

www.cannabisforconservation.org

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

CFC has continuously grown, expanded, and strengthened over the years we have been a nonprofit, and 2023 was no exception. Last year, we implemented the first of our two major grant-funded programs-- the Drought Resilience and Trinity County Licensing Programs, funded by CDFW's Cannabis Restoration Grant Program. We applied for an additional three grants, and were awarded all of them, one of which was our first federal source of funding through the EPA. I am endlessly proud of my team, their commitment to our work, and their ability to learn and succeed with new endeavors. We're coming into 2024 with intention and strength. I am eternally grateful to the agencies, private foundations, partner organizations, and farmers who have trusted our process and potential, and have supported us through to being a prominent voice and protector of our natural world.



JACKEE RICCIO

Co-founder & Executive Director
Cannabis for Conservation



IMPACT METRICS

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

\$230,000

Additional Grant Funds Raised

Awarded three new grants, totaling \$230,000



2

New Conservation Programs

Designed and acquired funding for two new conservation programs: Post Mountain Sediment Reduction Program and Wildfire Resilience on Northern CA Cannabis Farms.

82

County & DCC Licenses Completed

Completed environmental requirements to achieve County and DCC licenses

31

Wildlife & Habitat Assessments

Completed assessments for special status species and non-listed wildlife, and wrote biological mitigation pursuant to CEQA

496,000

Gallons of water storage

Designed and installed water storage systems totaling 496,000 gallons, including rain catchment, in priority watersheds

300+

Farm Partnerships

Partnered with over 300 farms on environmental conservation work through our three conservation programs and biological consulting services

600+

Environmental Consulting Hours

Provided hundreds of hours of no-cost environmental consultation to farmers

PROGRAM UPDATES

PROVISIONAL TO ANNUAL LICENSING PROGRAM

The first year of this two-year program has nearly been completed. Major milestones include the completion of CEQA for 55 cultivators, and the addition of 18 new cultivators with environmental compliance needs in priority conservation areas.

DROUGHT RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Nearly all farms under this program have had their water storage, hardened irrigation, pond expansion, or rainwater catchment installations completed, with only 2 of the 17 remaining. We aim to repeat the success of this program through Drought Resilience 2.0 in 2025.

WILDLIFE CONSCIOUS CERTIFICATION

The WCC team completed its first pilot program, implementing the certification and our biodiversity research on six farms across the County. Our research on the effects of habitat enhancements on pollinators, bats, and birds is still in process, but will be published over the next year. Two additional grants supporting WCC were secured, and we intend to have WCC fully rolled out in 2025, with accreditors and certified farms.



2023 SNAPSHOTS



The Wildlife Conscious Certification team, pilot farms, CDFW CRGP staff, and future WCC accreditors at the WCC Farm Visit, May 2023.



Left to Right: Dane Curry (Board VP), Janelle Chojnacki (Grants Manager), Jackee Riccio (Executive Director), and Vanessa Montellano (Program Coordinator) at MJBIZ Con in November 2023.




A Western Blue Bird (*Sialia mexicana*) nest in a WCC habitat enhancement at Mattole Valley Sungrown.



Post-installation site visit for our Drought Resilience Program in October 2023 at Ashram Farms. Eight 5,000 gallon water tanks were installed to provide 100% water storage needs for the farm.

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