Rangelands represent one of the most threatened habitats throughout the western United States. In addition to being threatened, these oak savannah and grassland habitats have relatively low levels of conservation management while maintaining high biodiversity values. Many grassland birds, native plants, and threatened or near-threatened species on this landscape benefit from responsible grazing practices. Intact, privately-owned rangelands face threat from increased low density, rural residential housing development in the foothills and conversion to other uses.

Out of this concern environmentalists, cattlemen and government agencies have come together to form a most unlikely conservation partnership, the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition. This map illustrates the coalition’s priority focus area for conservation and enhancement. The Rangeland Coalition works with willing private landowners to preserve ranches through conservation easements and to carry out habitat enhancement projects for common and threatened species.