

Tule Subbasin Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

Multibenefit Land Use Alternatives



Multibenefit Land Repurposing Project Options

The following multibenefit land repurposing projects require less water and create additional community and environmental benefits. Tule Subbasin could implement these projects to benefit your community. These are not the only options for projects.



Wildlife Habitat

- Improves regional biodiversity and can help recover plants and animals that are at risk of extinction.
- Can improve soil health, support pollinators like birds and butterflies, and offer recreation and education opportunities to communities.
- Should consider the distance to existing habitat to connect large areas and create more successful habitat.
- Working with wildlife agencies will ensure projects are properly permitted and that project implementers have guaranteed assurances.



Groundwater Recharge

- Helps store water for future use, can improve well reliability and water quality, and can support habitat and ecosystems.
- Diverting flood flows to dedicated areas can reduce downstream flood risks to communities and farmland.
- Can work successfully with agriculture with the right soil conditions. Crops like rice, almonds, and alfalfa can be good options if managed properly.
- Water quality should be carefully considered to avoid worsening groundwater quality in areas that support drinking water wells.



Recreational Areas & Parks

- Provide recreational opportunities for communities, such as parks, outdoor education.
- Can buffer against environmental health threats, especially near rural communities that experience poor air quality and water quality.
- Xeriscaping, a type of specialized landscaping that requires little to no irrigation, can reduce or eliminate need for applied water beyond rainfall.

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The following list provides common land repurposing project types, the community benefits they generate, and some considerations in implementing them.



Tribal Land Uses & Cultural Practices

- Traditional land uses are an important part of keeping cultural traditions alive for many tribes, and can help tribes maintain their traditional arts and lifestyle.
- Can provide other benefits, such as habitat for wildlife, flood protection, and recreational opportunities.
- Tribal rights, regulatory hurdles, and conflicting land use interests can pose challenges to restoring tribal land uses and cultural practices.



Less Water Intensive Agriculture

- This can include Dryland Agriculture and Grazing Land.
- Can provide water savings and help maintain regional crop diversity.
- Some types of less water-intensive crops can be annually fallowed during times of drought.
- Must consider market demand and specialized labor need



Low Impact Solar

- Clean energy source that helps California reduce its climate impacts.
- Creates some jobs and can complement other land uses like grazing or cover crops.
- Requires the right physical conditions and accessibility to transmission infrastructure.

The Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) funds projects that support reduced reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits. Learn more about MLRP at:

www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/Pages/Multibenefit-Land-Repurposing-Program

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