



## BLUE OAK WOODLAND FACT SHEETS

### IMPORTANCE OF BLUE OAKS TO LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE:

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- Blue oak woodland habitat is an important habitat for livestock and wildlife.
- Sixty-five percent of California livestock forage is provided within blue oak-gray pine woodlands
- A 3-year study in the central Sierra Nevada foothills showed that blue oak woodland is utilized by 92 species of birds, 60 of which nest there.
- Bird species of federal protected status inhabiting the woodland are the bald and golden eagles
- It is also inhabited by seven species of rodents, three species of lizards, four species of snakes, and the state-endangered foothill yellow-legged frog.
- Blue oak is browsed by livestock, black-tailed deer, rabbit-related species, and rodents.
- The acorns are eaten by at least a dozen species of songbirds, several upland game birds, rodents, black-tailed deer, feral and domestic pig, and all other classes of livestock.
- The acorns are a critical food source for black-tailed deer, who migrate from high-elevation dry summer ranges to blue oak woodland for fall and winter forage

### COVER VALUE:

Blue oak is the preferred nesting, foraging, and escape cover of the Nuttall's woodpecker, plain titmouse, and white-breasted nuthatch].