



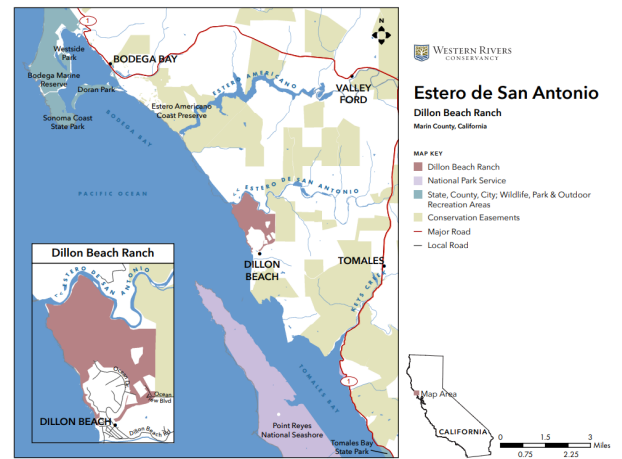
WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

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California's Dillon Beach Ranch: Conserved Fragile Bodega Bay Estuary

In a breathtaking coastal setting north of San Francisco, in August WRC conserved Dillon Beach Ranch and its outstanding estuary habitat by conveying the property to the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. The 466-acre ranch includes 1.5 miles of the Estero de San Antonio's southern shore and another 1.5 miles of rocky Pacific shoreline. WRC purchased the ranch in 2023. Now, the Graton Rancheria—which includes Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo communities—have those lands back, and the ranch will remain intact for fish and wildlife and to preserve its unique cultural heritage. Designated a State Marine Recreational Management Area, the estuary and its fragile ecosystem remain largely intact, incredibly diverse and wholly unique, and is home to several threatened and endangered species. The Graton Rancheria community plans to manage Dillon Beach Ranch for the benefit of its fish, wildlife and outstanding cultural values. *David Dines photo*



Washington's Yakima River: Permanently Protected Key Habitat and Public Access

In May, WRC, the BLM, the Yakama Nation and others gathered on the banks of the Yakima River to celebrate a landmark win for conservation and recreation: the protection of Yakima Canyon Ranch, in the heart of the scenic Yakima River Canyon. Following more than five years of work, WRC's conveyance of the property to the BLM ensured permanent conservation of one of the most coveted properties within the river's scenic 27-mile canyon stretch. Composed of 647 acres, the ranch spans 3.5 miles of both sides of the river. It includes the destination campsite and recreation gateway at Lower Umtanum, and the indispensable boating put-in and campground at Bighorn, a mainstay for those floating and fishing the canyon reach. After purchasing the property, WRC and the BLM secured funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to convey the ranch to the BLM in March of this year. Placing the property into BLM ownership ensures a more cohesive management of the area for both conservation and recreational access—a true accomplishment in such a popular area. *Tyler Roemer photo*

