

# System Indicators

## Agricultural Lands and Ranches



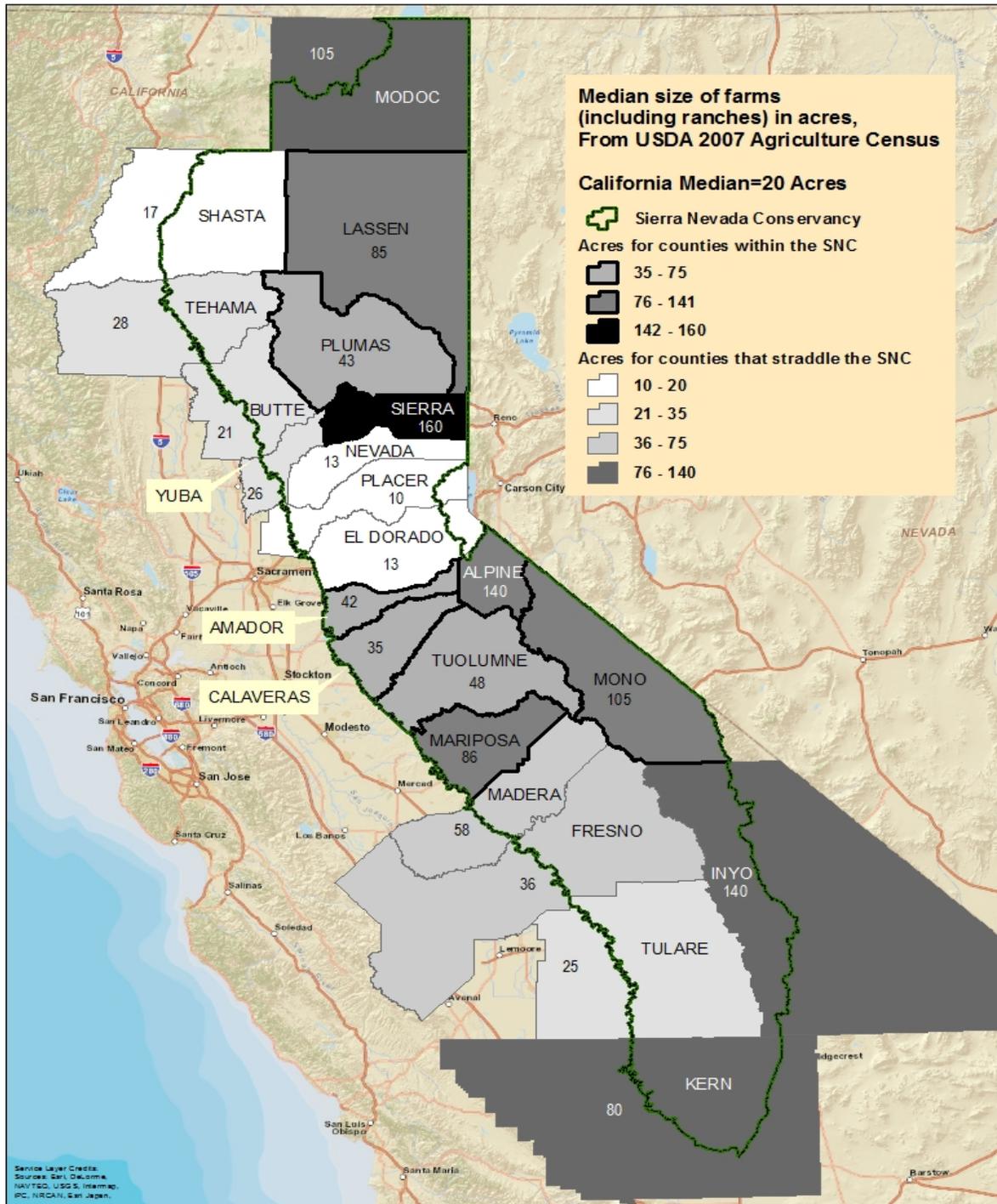
### Median Farm Size (2007)

December 2013

### Median Farm Size

As shown in Figure 3, the median farm and ranch size for counties fully within the Region varied from 35 to 160 acres and from 10 to 140 acres for counties partly within the Region. The median farm size in California in 2007<sup>6</sup> was 20-acres while the average farm size was 313 acres.

**Figure 3. Median size of farms and ranches in the Region, 2007 Census of Agriculture**



<sup>6</sup> The California Department of Food and Agriculture reported that the median farm size was 312 acres in 2011 indicating that average farm size has not changed since 2007.

Figure 3 shows that the counties north of Alpine that extend West into the Sacramento Valley all had a median farm and ranch size less than 29-acres in 2007, which was higher than the State median, yet significantly smaller than all of the counties in the Region to the south. Of particular note, Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado Counties had the smallest median farm and ranch size at 13-acres or less. These counties also had the smallest percent of private land in working landscapes. Modoc County was the exception to the smaller median farm and ranch size with a 105-acre average. This is due to the fact that ranches made up a much higher percentage of private land (46.4 percent) than farms (15 percent).

In the South Central Subregion, ranches were the more widespread working landscape; therefore the overall median farm and ranch size would be expected to be greater. However, the median farm and ranch size ranged from 36 to 86 acres from north to south due to a large number of small farms growing a variety of crop types (Amador County Agricultural Commissioner, 2007; Calaveras County Agricultural Commissioner, 2007; Tuolumne County Agricultural Commissioner, 2007; Mariposa County Agricultural Commissioner, 2007)

The median farm and ranch size in the East Subregion was the largest of any Subregion. The large median farm and ranch size in the Eastern Sierra is not unexpected, native pasture land and forage production make up the majority of total agricultural production in this subregion (California Department of Food and Agriculture, 2013).