

Voluntary agreements

Introducing a better solution for native fish.

Water, Land & Sunlight: A Bountiful Life

The combination of water, land and sunlight has proven throughout time to be the equation for proper life support and healthy population numbers for all species. California's valley floor is a perfect testament to what is possible when all three work in harmony.

Our fish populations are in trouble

Fish populations (Chinook salmon, Delta Smelt) in California are on the decline and falling to historic lows.

Efforts to reverse the troubling trend by dedicating more water within the river channels has proven futile in many cases - leaving state and federal water managers to seek a variety of solutions.

One proposal involves flushing more water (1-million-acre-feet or the size of Folsom Lake) down the river channels into the Delta, but there is a better way. This alternative approach provides a new, innovative pathway for scientists, conservationists, farmers and water districts to work together.

Trending downward

Today's dwindling numbers

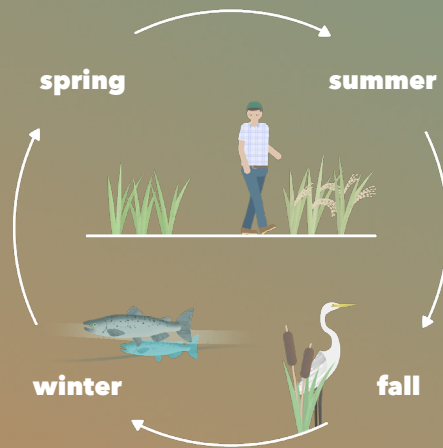


The New Way Forward A global model

The Sacramento River Basin is participating in a new collaboration featuring science-based programs balancing human and wildlife needs while setting the course for 15 years of collaboration and commitment by local, regional, state and federal agencies. This is possible **only** through voluntary agreements, and offers a variety of benefits:

-  Positively impacts entire lifecycle of native fish from spawning grounds to San Francisco Bay
-  Safe, bountiful habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds
-  Produces billions of water bugs to feed endangered fish
-  Adds water to key points along the entire river system
-  Recharges groundwater supplies
-  Improves timely flow and temperature schedules to benefit fish and wildlife
-  Enhances reservoir storage for critical times

Voluntary agreements ensure farm fields with current water allocations are used to benefit people, birds and fish year round.

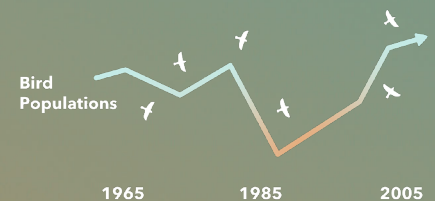


Same water. Better results.



A proven approach

Successes in the Sacramento Valley



A few decades ago, only a few hundred fish returned to Butte Creek to spawn each year. Today, that number has jumped to more than 10,000. The reason? Butte Creek water has been combined with land and sun to provide a safe and bountiful place for fish to thrive.

By flooding farm fields and historic wetlands with just a few inches of water, a safe haven for wild birds was created. Today, hundreds of thousands of waterfowl return to Northern California as part of the Pacific Flyway, the environmental success story of our generation.

