Farming and Conservation
How Conservationists are Partnering with Farmers to Help Fish and Wildlife

Conservation groups are teaming up with landowners throughout the Sacramento Valley to help boost wildlife populations on working farmlands year-round. Fields, wildlife refuges, and the bypasses that are designed for flood protection are being managed to work together for dynamic conservation efforts. Spreading out and slowing down water across the landscape mimics natural flows and provides multiple benefits year-round by allowing farmers to cultivate rice and other crops for humans during the spring and summer, habitat for wild birds, reptiles, and other fauna in the fall, and food for migratory birds and native fish species in the winter.
“By integrating a working knowledge of natural process into the management of natural resources like rivers and farm land, we are demonstrating that it is possible to balance the needs of people and wildlife, even in the middle of one of the world’s most productive agricultural landscapes.”

— Jacob Katz
California Trout

“Water, food and land are the three main ingredients that boost bird populations, and farm fields can ensure bird species continue to thrive.”

— Meghan Hertel
California Audubon

“Recent scientific discoveries have created exciting opportunities to integrate agricultural water supplies with waterfowl habitat and fish needs.”

— Jeff Volberg
California Waterfowl

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“We are heavily reliant on agricultural lands for waterfowl habitat, which means it is more critical than ever that we work in partnership with farmers to ensure a balance for crops and wildlife.”

— Virginia Getz
Ducks Unlimited

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