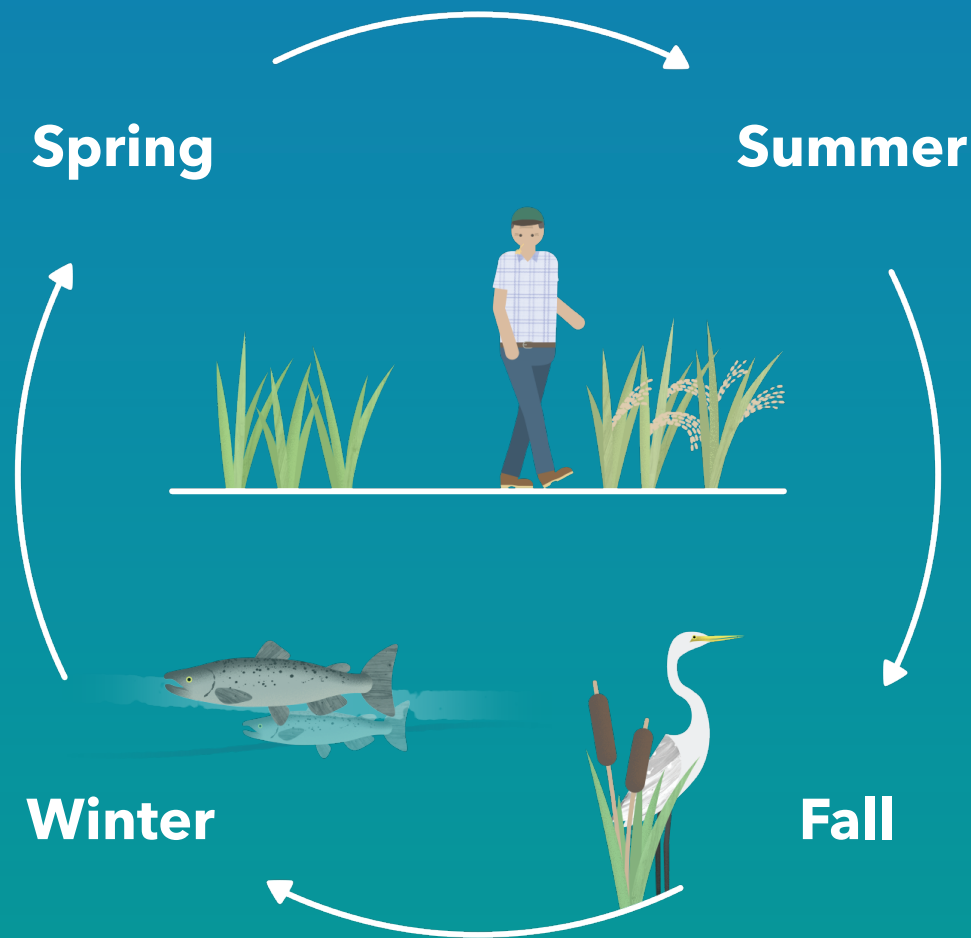


Farming, Conservation and Water Management

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.



“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*

“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*



“Figuring out smart ways to create functional habitat on working lands that result in measurable benefits for wildlife is key to developing resilient river systems that also meet human needs for drinking water and irrigation.”

— **Ann Hayden**, *Environmental Defense Fund*

“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*



“Through the SLEWS program, farmers get to see their land and resources used in a way that benefits their lands and native wildlife. It’s a win-win.”

— **Mary Kimball**, *Center for Land-Based Learning*

“If we can demonstrate strong collaboration and show the results of successful projects, we can enact change across the entire state.”

— **Julie Rentner**, *River Partners*



“When we work together with farmers, ranchers and other local interests to find a common vision, we can achieve incredible results.”

— **Amy Merrill**, *American Rivers*

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

— **Jeff Volberg**, *California Waterfowl*

