



News from the Nest

December 5, 2007

2007-49

We're on the Web!

CA.DUCKS.ORG

STATE CHAIRMAN
Lewis M. Ruddick

DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING and VOLUNTEER RELATIONS
Peter ChurchBourne

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1
Jason Rounsaville

Region 2
Frank J. Leonardi

Region 3
Jim Gregory

Region 4
Will Johnson

Region 5
Derek Swindall

Coming Events

E-mail editor

Capture E-mail addresses at your event!

Wetlands For Tomorrow

Recruit, Recognize & Retain Volunteers

Your State, Your legacy – Do Your Part!

Central Valley / Coastal California

California's Central Valley runs from Red Bluff to Bakersfield. The Central Valley is No. 2 on the 25 most important and threatened waterfowl habitats on the continent. The Coastal California region extends from Bodega Bay south to northern Mexico and includes the important San Francisco and San Diego bays. This region also includes the Salton Sea. Water is a crucial factor in the amount and quality of waterfowl habitat. There is even greater uncertainty over the reliability of water supplies to the Central Valley's privately managed wetlands. DU and its partners have made considerable headway in the Central Valley since the early 1990s, resulting in substantial increases in waterfowl habitat. About 60,000 acres of wetlands have been restored since DU's Valley/Bay CARE (Conserving Agricultural Resources and the Environment) program began. In addition, more than 56,800 acres of existing wetlands have received long-term protection.

Importance to Waterfowl

- Critical habitat for 60 percent of wintering waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway.
- Central Valley is the most important wintering area in North America for Aleutian geese, Wrangel Island snow geese and northern pintails.
- San Francisco Bay provides important wintering habitat for scaup, scoters and canvasbacks.



Central Valley / Coastal California

Habitat Issues

- Uncertain [water availability](#) for managed wetlands and agriculture.
- Agriculture claims 80 percent of water use, and projected demographic changes predict dramatically increased tensions between agriculture, urban users and conservation interests.
- Rapid urbanization threatens remaining wetlands, water supplies and waterfowl-friendly agriculture.

DU's Conservation Focus

- DU has completed or is working on more than 1,500 projects in the Central Valley and the adjacent San Francisco Bay area.
- Most of DU's work in the Central Valley focuses on migrating and wintering waterfowl, however an increasing emphasis is being placed on meeting the needs of breeding waterfowl.
- Restoration and enhancement of managed wetlands in the Central Valley and Suisun

Marsh.

- Building fish-safe water diversions to support managed wetlands and rice farms.
- Protecting rice fields in high growth areas.

State Included in the Central Valley / Coastal California Region

- [California](#)

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture

Mission

The goal of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is to protect, restore, increase and enhance all types of wetlands, riparian habitat and associated uplands throughout the San Francisco Bay region to benefit birds, fish and other wildlife.

Habitat Goals

- Protect 63,000 acres, restore 37,000 acres, enhance another 35,000 acres of San Francisco Bay's tidal flats, marshes, and lagoons to benefit waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife
- Protect 37,000 and restore and/or enhance 30,000 acres of seasonal wetlands for breeding waterfowl and migrating shorebirds
- Restore and/or enhance approximately 1000 miles of creeks and protect 40,000 acres of riparian corridors for resident and migratory songbirds

Ducks Unlimited through our WRO is an active partner in this important joint venture.

[Learn more by clicking Here](#)

Christmas Holiday



As the Christmas Holiday descends upon us you might want to think about additional giving. By that meaning giving for the Ducks! How about a Ducks Unlimited membership for that good friend who enjoys the birds you bring them, but never hunts themselves, or that friend at the coffee shop who always talks the good hunt but never goes. That young man or young lady who you took hunting once or twice. All of these folks are great candidates for a gift DU membership. Protect our sport and great natural resource by giving a valuable holiday gift!

[Membership](#)

You Can Help Guarantee Our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage

Together we can make a positive difference for our waterfowl hunting heritage. But, we all need our voices to be heard.

With two simple phone calls you can help make sure the Senate Agriculture Committee does not take a step backward on conservation.

The message is simple: **Save farm bill conservation, save waterfowl habitat.**

[Please call your Senator today](#) and tell them to support Farm Bill conservation! If not, waterfowl hunting as we know it might change forever.

Ducks Unlimited Radio Now Online [Listen to the Latest Shows](#)

Thank you for all that you do for Ducks Unlimited!