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California Waterfowl Association (CWA) Supporting Hunters, Supporting Gray Lodge

California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is the leading representative of waterfowl enthusiasts in California. Started by conservation-minded hunters, CWA has a long history of working with the California Department of Fish and Game, Ducks Unlimited and others to address habitat concerns that affect waterfowl. Programs implemented to enhance waterfowl habitat have positively affected a great diversity of species.

CWA and the Department of Fish and Game have cooperated on myriad projects for more than two decades. Below are projects specific to the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area:

- CWA has conducted pre-season waterfowl banding on Gray Lodge WA. Several thousand ducks have been captured and banded on site. Information obtained from recovery of banded birds is used to support harvest regulations (i.e., season length, bag limits, etc...)
- CWA Government Affairs staff members have worked diligently with the State Legislature to ensure Wildlife Area Operational Budgets are sufficient to manage State lands appropriately.
- CWA conducted extensive waterfowl production surveys on Gray Lodge WA during the period 1986-1988. Funds in support of these surveys were derived from the sale of State Duck Stamps (administered by DFG).

One of the most successful programs in promoting restored wildlife populations has been the California Wood Duck Program. Throughout the State, CWA, with a vast network of volunteers (including biologists, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages), annually manages thousands of wood duck nest boxes to ensure the availability of a home for every wood duck. The States largest wood duck nest box program is located at the Gray Lodge WA. WA staff work with a large group of dedicated volunteers to manage over 350 nest boxes each year. Last year a total of 2,733 ducklings jumped from nest boxes on Gray Lodge! This program is proof that people working together can make a difference in the wild.

Originally a mixture of farmland and duck clubs, Gray Lodge has been a treasure for waterfowl hunters for 75 years. We at CWA are committed to supporting the treasure that is here now so that it will be available for generations to come.

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