



CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL

Annual Report
2009-2010



Hunting for a Better California



EXECUTIVE ADDRESS



California Waterfowl
Chairman of the Board
Bill Wright



California Waterfowl
President
John Carlson, Jr.

California experienced extreme financial difficulties in 2009-2010 and, as with most nonprofit organizations, California Waterfowl was severely tested. State bond funds were frozen, halting wetland restoration projects, donations and grants were severely reduced, and even the value of our investment reserves declined. Fortunately, California Waterfowl created an investment fund to help us through these challenging times and that foresight has served us well over this past year. Difficult decisions were made, but California Waterfowl's financial resilience carried the day, and our staff made the adjustments necessary without compromising the progress of our programs. California Waterfowl has worked especially hard to maintain our financial stability and to prosper in the future regardless of when the economy rebounds. Rest assured, we upheld the high standards expected by each of our 20,000 members.

The 2009-2010 fiscal year was also a time of major restructuring for California Waterfowl. Dr. Robert McLandress stepped down as President at the end of 2009 to focus his efforts on promoting waterfowl education and traditions and share his wisdom with our dedicated staff. Transitioning into the President role is John Carlson, Jr., who joins the California Waterfowl team after an impressive 21 years working on Fish and Wildlife issues for the state of California. These changes are quite exciting, and as we transition into the next year we are focused on the future of our waterfowl, wetlands, and hunting heritage.

California Waterfowl continued to promote our hunting heritage with the inaugural season of the Hunt Program,

bringing private lands opportunities to public hunters. More than 50 hunts were donated for which we received 8,000 applications. The funds raised from the Hunt Program supported California Waterfowl's award-winning conservation programs. The 2009-2010 year continued to provide outreach and education programs to more than 13,000 youth and their families through field trips, classroom presentations, camps, clinics, and youth hunts. The Youth and Education Department successfully secured another \$750,000 grant to continue education and outreach programs through 2011.

This past year the Waterfowl and Wetlands team enhanced and restored more than 30,400 acres of waterfowl habitat with more than half of those acres benefiting public lands. The department also secured \$2.15 million in North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding, which was matched by an additional \$4 million in partner contributions, to continue wetland projects through the 2010-2011 fiscal year with six NAWCA grants running concurrently. California Waterfowl's NAWCA proposals submitted in 2009 and funded included the Mid-Valley and North Sacramento Valley Wetland Habitat Projects. These two proposals ranked nationally #1 and #2 (respectively) against nearly 70 other proposed projects!

The 2009-2010 waterfowl season kicked off with the exciting news of a two pintail bag limit. This was the first time the limit exceeded one pintail in ten years. Thanks to our continued efforts, we will have a two pintail bag limit again in 2010-2011. California Waterfowl continued their partnership with the California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (COHA), working toward state legislation and wetland policy that would benefit the hunting community. Highlights included AB 979, a bill to ban local government interference with hunting and fishing activities, and SB 1058, a measure to prevent hunting license and tag revenues from being spent on non-game and non-hunting purposes. Together with COHA, California Waterfowl also worked toward securing more

2009-10 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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water for private and public wetlands throughout the state.

The Fundraising Department definitely felt the squeeze of the economic recession during the 2009-2010 year. However, local California Waterfowl chapter dinners have remained a consistent source of strength, and our members have helped to sustain essential funding by spending their hard earned dollars at our dinners. We owe a debt of gratitude to the dinner chairs and committee members who set new goals and worked harder than ever to provide quality events to members and raise as much money for our shared mission as possible. With 10 new grassroots events planned in 2009-2010 and ready to launch in the next year, our grassroots fundraising teams are hopeful for a successful year.

After a tumultuous 2009, California Waterfowl has managed to get through the most severe of times that we've ever faced, we are financially "in the black," and we are looking forward to continuing our long and consistent history of prosperity and growth of services to the waterfowl community and wetland resources. None of it could have happened without you, our dues paying members, for supporting our passion, the ducks! We thank everyone who supported California Waterfowl's efforts this past year. We look forward to your continued support over the next year to advance our shared mission of conserving waterfowl, wetlands, and hunting heritage.

WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS

Partnering with land managers and natural resource agencies, California Waterfowl is restoring wetlands, enhancing wintering and breeding habitat, and employing public policies. Waterfowl and wetland projects include population monitoring, management assistance, and public outreach components to ensure the greatest value to the waterfowl and our members.

**30,400 Acres, 11,200 Bands, 5,200 Boxes, and
34,500 Wood Ducks Hatched**

30,400+ acres of Waterfowl Habitat Conserved

In 2009-10, California Waterfowl completed 80+ individual projects and improved more than 30,400 acres of waterfowl habitat while spending over \$6.5 million in the Grasslands, Tulare Basin, Southern California, Northern Sacramento Valley, Suisun Marsh, and Northeastern California. 2,000+ Acres of new wetland areas were created or restored and more than 600 acres of breeding habitats were improved to be managed for locally nesting waterfowl. Over 50% of acres benefited were on public hunting areas.

11,200+ Waterfowl Banded

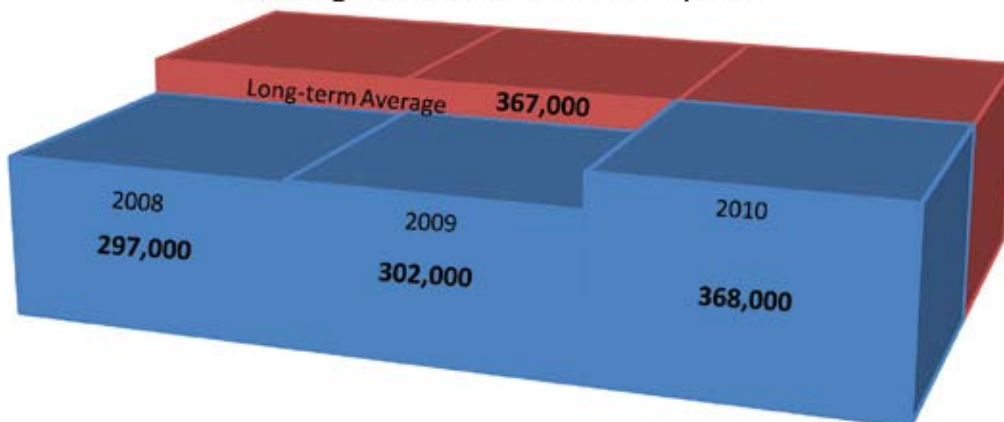
Since 1985, California Waterfowl has banded more than 183,000 waterfowl including nearly 136,000 mallards, 26,000 wood ducks, 8,000 pintail, 4,700 cinnamon teal, and 1,300 Canada geese. During the 2009 field season, more than 11,200 waterfowl were banded including 3,284 mallards, 1,283 pintails, 1,241 wood ducks, 213 American wigeon, 12 cinnamon teal, 45 gadwall, and 13 others. Egg salvage facilities banded 5,171 waterfowl.



34,500+ Wood Ducks Hatched

Since 1991, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, the California Wood Duck Program has hatched more than 542,000 wood ducks. In 2009 alone, 34,574 wood ducks were hatched from 5,244 nest boxes monitored by volunteers and California Waterfowl staff.

Annual Spring Breeding Pair Surveys
Breeding Mallards in California by Year



Annual Breeding Surveys

California's annual spring waterfowl breeding survey was conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and California Waterfowl in April (Central Valley) and May (Northeastern California) to determine the number of breeding mallard in California (see chart).

EDUCATION AND HERITAGE

California Waterfowl's education and heritage programs seek to educate both young and old and ensure a place for all in the outdoors – today and into the future. Through efficient programming and dedicated partnerships, we are able to reach youth and adults across California and spread the word about the value of waterfowl, wetlands, and our hunting heritage.

Hunt Program Established

The California Waterfowl Hunt Program was created to provide quality hunting opportunities on private lands to the general public.

- More than 50 hunts at premier duck clubs throughout the state were made available to our members.
- More than 8,000 applications were received in the first season and over 200 new members joined California Waterfowl.
- Funds raised through the program help support our award winning conservation programs.

More than 13,000 Youths and Families Reached

- The value of wildlife habitat conser-

vation and the critical role that hunters play was demonstrated to nearly 8,000 students through field trips, classroom presentations, hands-on projects, and more.

- Camps, shoots, clinics, junior hunts, and other outdoor adventures provided quality outdoor hunting and shooting experiences to more than 1,100 youths.
- Families enjoyed exciting conservation exhibits and games at festivals and outdoor expos this year, reaching nearly 4,000 people.

Training Tomorrow's Leaders

In addition to developing hunt skills, our camp program is making lifelong conservationists by modeling essential character qualities and encouraging community service.

- College hunter camp provided an exciting opportunity to UC Davis students destined to become wildlife managers who had no firsthand experience with hunting.
- College students and recent graduates are getting their start at California Waterfowl through college chapter activities and internships, several in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- The Youth Leadership Program mentored 20 teens to understand the hunter-conservation message and become teachers and community lead-



Photo by Robert Franco

ers in their own right.

- A partnership with the Center for Land Based Learning and the SLEWS Program provided habitat restoration guidance to 35 inner-city students, teaching them about the importance of conservation.

Expanding Partnerships and Funding

A new K.H. Hofmann Foundation challenge grant was secured and is expected to generate more than \$750,000 in matching funds through 2011 for youth programs, with key contributions also coming from S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation, Foothills Foundation, and Bird Haven Ranch. We are thankful to these and all of our very committed and generous supporters.

Sharing a Love for Hunting

California Waterfowl Magazine and other publications keep members up-to-date on waterfowl and hunting issues as well as California Waterfowl programs.





Photo by Bob McLandress

California Waterfowl continued its public policy efforts this year by combining biological expertise of staff with the legislative muscle of the California Outdoor Heritage Alliance (COHA, created by California Waterfowl in 2006). California Waterfowl and COHA worked together on legislative affairs and continued policy-related efforts for the conservation of waterfowl, wetlands, and hunting.

State Legislation

California Waterfowl continues to work with COHA using our expanded influence in addressing hunting and habitat-related government issues. Following were selected key state legislative actions that affect your hunting heritage:

Ban on Local Government Interference – Sponsored AB 979 to help keep cities and counties from interfering with hunting and fishing activities. The bill was introduced in response to increasing efforts by urban cities and counties to arbitrarily restrict hunting activities within their jurisdictions.

Protection of Tag/Stamp Revenue – Sponsored SB 1058, a measure that would help protect hunting license tag and stamp revenues from being inappropriately expended by DFG for non-game or non-hunting purposes. This measure also elevates hunting and fishing above other recreational uses on state wildlife areas.

Promoting Wildlife-friendly Agriculture – Supported SB 1303, to extend the sunset date for an exemption for the accidental take of candidate, threatened or endangered species that occurs during routine agricultural activities, such as winter flooding of rice for waterfowl.

Impractical Mosquito Abatement – Opposed AB 2465, a measure that would have required unrealistic, expensive, and detrimental management practices on state wetlands without accompanying funding. This bill was successfully defeated.

Right to Hunt – Supported two measures (ACA 11, AB 2427) to establish hunting as a right in the California Constitution and ensure the Fish and Game Commission as the regulatory authority for determining hunting and fishing regulations. Unfortunately, these bills did not advance this year.

Working for Wetlands

The recent drought and pumping restrictions in the Bay-Delta have emphasized the need to maintain and improve reliability of water supply for wetlands.

California Waterfowl and COHA have been active all year on water policy issues in the Central Valley and elsewhere.

Water Bond – Worked with COHA and many other partners for over 3 years to amend the water bond to include \$110 million in funding for the purchase of water rights, water conveyance infrastructure improvements, and wetlands management, for the benefit of state and federally managed wetlands under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The measure was scheduled to go before voters in November, but lack of voter support and state budget issues may cause a delay until 2012.

Farm Bill – worked with COHA and many partners to ensure adequate funding for the Wetlands Reserve Program in California.

Delta Planning – California Waterfowl is working to insure waterfowl and wetlands are considered in ongoing Delta planning processes, such as the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

Refuge Water Supply – California Waterfowl teamed with the Grasslands Water District and partners in the Central Valley Joint Venture to coordinate and increase efforts to secure legislatively-mandated Central Valley Improvement Act (CVPIA) water for private and public wetlands throughout the Valley.

NAWCA funding – California Waterfowl staff travelled to Washington DC to meet with legislators and their staffs to request continued and increased funding for North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects.

Hunting Opportunity

California Waterfowl representatives attended Pacific Flyway Council and California Fish and Game Commission meetings to ensure waterfowl hunters had a voice during the annual regulations setting process.

California Waterfowl and COHA worked with DFG to propose and imple-

(continued on AR6)

FUNDRAISING

California Waterfowl's grassroots fundraisers help build our membership and, more importantly, support our conservation, education, and heritage programs. Essentially, grassroots efforts are the foundation of our organization.

Goals

- Grow our membership in the hunting and conservation-minded communities.
- Increase funding and awareness for critical programs (waterfowl preservation, wetland enhancement, Youth & Education, Hunting Heritage, Government Affairs, and Public Policy).

Membership Highlights

- We now have 2,507 members enrolled at the Life Member or higher levels – an increase of 158 over the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
- The sponsorship of Life Member Tables at our fundraising events have shown a \$34,000 increase over the past two years.



Grassroots Fundraising Highlights

- Ten new grassroots events were planned in 2009-2010 and scheduled for 2010-2011: Ukiah, Ripon Bucks & Ducks, Sonora Bucks & Ducks, Tulare Sprig Event, Tulare, Wheatland, Coon Creek Shoot, Alamo, Celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tourney at Rolling Hills, and Merced/Atwater.
- California Waterfowl's Hunt Program offering private land duck hunts to public hunters was incredibly successful and has expanded to feature dove, turkey, and wild boar hunts as well.

Development

- Worked with key board members and staff to expand Southern California donor relations and solicit support for programs.

- Worked to expand our Corporate Partner Program with new prospective partners such as Columbia Sportswear and Les Schwab Tires.

The 2010-2011 Grassroots Fundraising fiscal year will likely be just as challenging as the last. The economic downturn has definitely impacted some of our dinner events. In preparation for the 2010/2011 fiscal year and the challenges it will bring, we have set new goals and developed new strategies so that our talented teams of staff and volunteers can continue to grow our fundraising efforts for the sake of conservation.

POLICY

(continued from page AR5)

ment an early season Canada goose hunt in the Balance of State zone to provide hunter opportunity and minimize negative impacts of increasing local goose populations.

COHA and California Waterfowl continued private-land hunts for waterfowl under the Shared Habitat Alliance for Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Pro-

gram. The SHARE program, which was implemented by California Waterfowl, COHA, and DFG staff, continued to include properties for public hunting on the north coast, in the Sacramento Valley, and in the Imperial Valley.

The 2008 Farm Bill also included funding to assist states with implementing "public access to private lands"

hunting programs nationwide. The "Open Fields" provision sets aside \$50 million in federal funds over the four year life of the bill – funding which will also be available to DFG to implement the SHARE Program over the next several years.

FINANCIAL REPORT

California Waterfowl members, volunteers, partners, and other supporters of our conservation programs will be pleased that the organization's program strength and financial health grew in fiscal year 2009-2010.

California Waterfowl's unconsolidated financial statements as of March 31, 2010, were audited by Perry-Smith, LLP and deemed to present fairly in all material respects the financial position of the association in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Assets totaled \$6,919,435, which is an increase of \$986,996 over the prior year. Liabilities totaled \$713,295, which is a decrease of \$193,449 over the prior year. Revenue raised during the year totaled \$13,962,680, including \$13,240,497 in unrestricted revenue and \$722,183 in temporarily restricted revenue. Total expenses incurred during the year totaled \$12,782,236 which included program and supporting service expenses of \$9,965,029; and \$2,817,207 for direct fundraising activities.

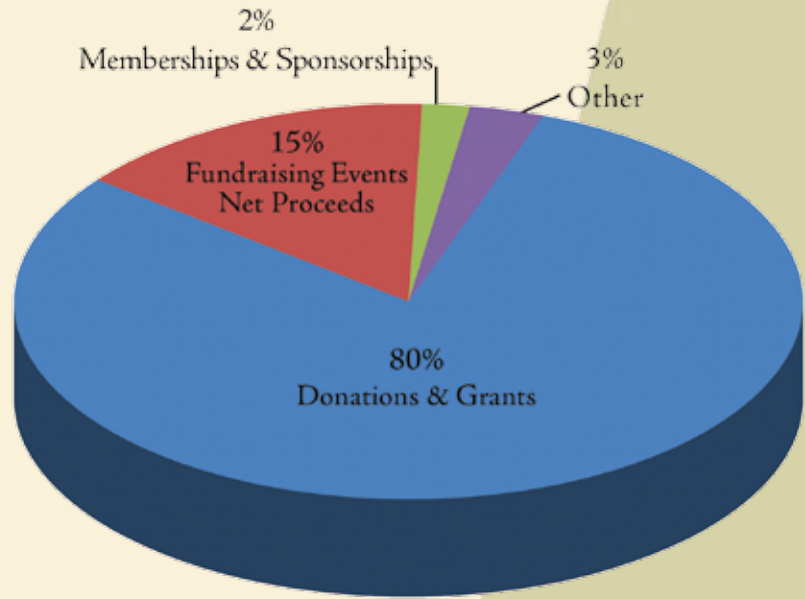
Much of this year's success in raising revenue is attributable to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of California Waterfowl's grassroots supporters, major donors, and our partnerships with federal and state agencies. Net proceeds raised as a result of local fundraising event efforts represented 15 percent of the total revenues and support. Another 80 percent was contributed through donations and grants; funds from membership and other sources accounted for another 5 percent of our revenue. The charts on this page illustrate the sources of revenues and support as well as where funds were invested to successfully meet our mission.

California Waterfowl is proud of our stewardship. A combined 87 percent of funds was designated for programs, including the Mallard Legacy, Pintail, and Wood Duck programs as well as the education and legislative efforts we conduct

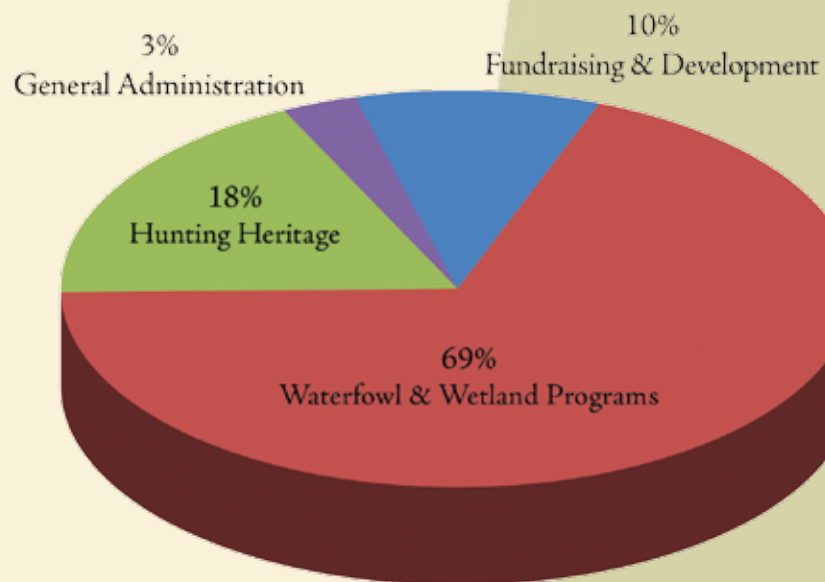
to perpetuate and promote our hunting heritage program. Supporting service expenses were held to only 13 percent and account for fundraising, membership development, and general and administrative expenses.

California Waterfowl's success has been built upon the impassioned efforts of

its volunteers, professional staff, and our board of directors. Without the support of our members, donors, and partners, we would not be able to continue with our shared mission of preserving waterfowl, wetlands, and our hunting heritage. Thank you to all who contributed to our programs in the past year.



Operation Revenues



Operation Expenses

PARTNERS AND DONORS

MAJOR DONORS

California Waterfowl's major donors provide the necessary funding to conserve waterfowl, wetlands, and our outdoor heritage in California. The following individuals, foundations, and companies provided \$10,000 or more to support California Waterfowl programs in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
Cabela's
Paul L. Davies, Jr.
Earth Share of California
The Foothills Foundation
Mike Goldman
W. Kurt Hauser
The Herbst Foundation
Ralph J. Holsclaw
Loyall Dog Food
K. H. Hofmann Foundation
National Shooting Sports Foundation
Mark R. Ottenwalter
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Dr. Michael A. Passaglia, D.D.S.
Pro Line Manufacturing
Johnny A. Ribeiro, Jr.
Saveri & Saveri, Inc.
Tanglefree
Thomas A. Seeno
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association
James A. Williams

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Lifetime Members of California Waterfowl have committed a higher level of funding to help our programs continue to grow and improve. The following lifetime members have committed \$10,000 or more to help California Waterfowl achieve its mission.

A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation
Mr. Don Allard
Mr. Harold 'Babe' Balzer
Mr. Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr.
Gary H. Bechtel
William F. Berry
Mr. John F. 'Jack' Bessolo
Paul R. Bonderson, Jr.
Mr. Harry Boyle
Darrell Bressler
Dr. Connie R. Bricca, Jr., M.D.
Mr. Ray L. Burmaster

James R. Burroughs
Larry Carter
John Chambers
Charles Schwab Foundation
Christopher S. Peacock Foundation
Dino Cortopassi
Paul L. Davies, Jr.
Paul L. 'Lew' Davies, III
Dean Witter Foundation
Kenneth P. Del Monte
Steve A. Difu
Earle E. Dix
Daniel Duckhorn
Estate of Edward A. Williams,
*

Alan L. Firenzi
Mr. Gordon Gagliasso
Mr. Silvio A. Garaventa, Jr.
Jim Ghielmetti
Mr. Frank J. Ginotti
Mr. Victor O. Gonella
Craig P. Grilione
Claude Grillo
The Harvey L. & Maud C. Sorensen Foundation
W. Kurt Hauser
Byron Hisey
Mr. Ken Hofmann
Terry H. Holberton, III
Ralph J. Holsclaw
Clifford Howe
Anthony Iaccarino
John Iacopi
The J. M. Long Foundation
Ted Jonat
Mr. George T. Kammerer, III
Mr. George L. Knoop, Jr.
Robert G. Kocher
Lalo 'Jim' Kwiat
Raymond E. Lewis
Edmund W. Littlefield, Sr.*
Cheryl & Buz Loring
Dr. M. Robert McLandress, Ph.D.

Rocque Merlo
Dwight L. Merriman, Jr.
Marvin A. Meyers
G. Willard Miller, Jr.
Mzuri Wildlife Foundation
Robert Nardi
National Shooting Sports Foundation
Ms. Judy A. Oswald
The Packard Foundation
Victor M. Parachini, Jr.
Mark and Rebecca Pine
Robert S. Plath
Gary Rasche, Sr.
Greg Reyes
Johnny A. Ribeiro, Jr.
Mr. Dennis Rippey
Kevin D. Robison
Mr. Glenn Rollins
Sherrie Russell-Meline
Saveri & Saveri, Inc.
Thomas A. Seeno
W. Gary Sitton
Wilbur H. Smith, III
Ned and Carol Spieker
Mr. Stanley A. Steindorf, Jr.
Gordon T. Steindorf

Mr. Peter D. Stent
Michael P. Sweet
Mr. Michael Tancredi
Richard T. Thieriot
Allen E. Thomas
George A. Tillotson
Richard C. Timmer
Palmer Traynham
Henry F. Trione

Angelo Tsakopoulos
Tuscany Research Institute
Mr. John R. Winther
Bill Wright
Mr. Carl T. Yamada
Mr. Shoji 'Sid' Yamada

*deceased

PARTNERS

California Waterfowl's program could not exist without the help of our valuable partners. Partnerships are vital to further our mission and help us grow. To every organization and agency that has lent helping hand – we thank you.

American Farmland Trust
Bird Haven Ranch
Birds Landing Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clays
Black Point Sports Club
Butte County Fish and Game Commission
Butte Sink Waterfowl Association
Cache Creek Nature Preserve
CALFED
California Conservation Fund
California Council of Land Trusts
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Water Resources
California Hawking Club
California Native Grasslands Association
California Regional Environmental Education Community
California Retriever Training Association
California Rice Commission
California State University, Sacramento
Cal-Ore Wetlands and Wildlife Council
CalServe
Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre
Canadian Wildlife Service
Center for Land-Based Learning
Central Valley Joint Venture
Conaway Ranch
Community Youth Center of Concord
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
Contra Costa Fish and Game Commission
Cordova Shooting Center
Coyote Valley Sporting Clays
Defenders of Wildlife
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Earth Share
Farmers Rice Cooperative
Grassland Resource Conservation District
Grassland Water District
Glenn County Resource Conservation District
Grizzly Island Ranch, LLC
Humboldt State University
Klamath Basin Water Users Association
Klamath Irrigation District
Kern County Gun Club
Lindsay Wildlife Museum
Llano Seco Ranch
Lundberg Family Farms
Mandeville Island

Mule Deer Foundation
Mystic Lake Duck Club
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
National Audubon Society – California
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Wild Turkey Federation
North Delta Conservancy
Pacific Flyway Decoy Association
Pheasants Forever
Prado Basin Duck Club
PRBO Conservation Science
Ramona Duck Club
Rancho Esquon
Red Bank Ale and Quail
Riverside County Fish and Game Commission
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Sacramento Trapshooting Club
Sacramento Valley Conservancy
Sacramento Zoo
Safari Club International – Granite Bay Chapter
Semitropic Water Storage District
Solano County Propagation Fund
Suisun Resource Conservation District
Sunrise Farms Duck Club
The Trust for Public Land
Turtle Bay Museum
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association
Tule Lake Growers Association
Tule Lake Irrigation District
Turk Station
University of California, Davis, Extension
University of California, Davis
University of Saskatchewan
Upper American Basin Conservancy
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture (Farm Services Agency)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Vendell Road Duck Club
Western Outdoor News
Wildlands, Inc.
Wildlife Conservation Board
Wildlife Mississippi
Yolo Basin Foundation
Yolo Land Trust