

CALIFORNIA WATERFOWL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

March 1, 2019

We envision a California with thriving waterfowl populations, vibrant wetland ecosystems and respected hunting communities. Here's what California Waterfowl did in 2018-19 to advance that vision.

WETLANDS

California has lost an estimated 95% of its historic wetlands. We protect and restore wetlands where we can and work to improve existing wetlands to maximize their value to millions of migratory birds and other wetland dependent species.

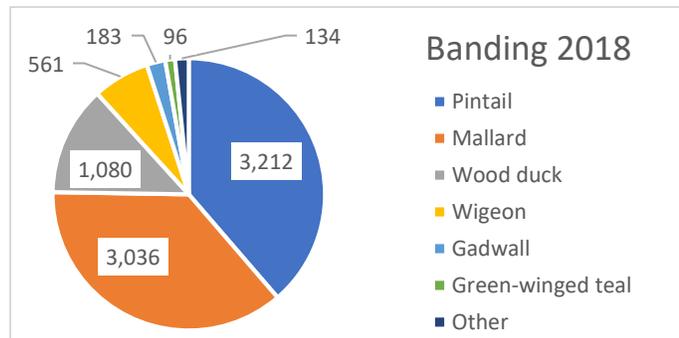
- We performed work on 20,737 acres of wetland, riparian, and grassland habitats in 2018, including:
 - Creating/restoring 561 acres of wetland areas.
 - Creating or improving 588 acres of breeding habitat.
 - Work benefitting almost 8,000 acres of public hunting areas.
- Our staff oversaw the completion of 68 individual projects.
- CWA spent \$7.9 million on habitat across California during the 2018 calendar year, including the acquisition of the 260-acre Sanborn Slough duck club in the Butte Sink in July.
- CWA's landownership grew to more than 5,000 acres allowing staff to intensively manage habitat to produce high quality food resources, waterfowl nesting and brood rearing areas, and to create educational, training and hunting opportunities for its members.
- We protected 83 acres of important wetland and upland habitats with a perpetual conservation easement, growing CWA's easement holdings to nine projects covering 9,437 acres.
- Staff made progress toward gaining National Land Trust Alliance Accreditation, which is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence. CWA plans to earn accreditation by 2023.

WATERFOWL

Quality hunting depends on healthy waterfowl populations. Our crews work up and down the state to band key waterfowl species, supporting a science-based approach to hunting regulations, while also implementing programs that produce more ducks.

Banding

- Our staff was involved in banding 8,302 waterfowl in 2018.
- Post-season rocket netting by CWA biologists resulted in an all-time high of 3,274 birds banded, including 2,656 pintail.



California Wood Duck Program

- 35,293 wood ducks hatched in CWA nest boxes in 2018 for a cumulative total of nearly 846,000 hatched since 1991.
- Nearly 600 volunteers and California Waterfowl staff monitored 5,647 nest boxes on 178 projects.

Egg Salvage Program

- CWA staff helped rescue 1,528 eggs from farm fields last year.
- 2,354 egg salvage birds were banded under CWA's banding permit.
- Over 150 volunteers participated in program activities.
- 22,500 CWA-banded egg salvage ducks have been recovered since 1986.
- 38 farmers in 8 counties have over 9,600 acres enrolled in the program.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The future of waterfowl and hunting in California depends on our next generation learning the importance of both. CWA's education programs get kids outdoors or bring the outdoors to them to build in them a lifelong affinity for waterfowl and a better understanding and appreciation for hunters and their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation.

20,000 youths and families reached

- We demonstrated the value of wildlife habitat conservation and the critical role hunters play to more than 14,000 students through field trips, presentations, hands-on projects.
- More than 4,000 people participated in programs to train and motivate the next generation of hunter-conservationists through hunter camps, shoots, clinics and other outdoor adventures.
- Families enjoyed conservation games and exhibits at festivals and outdoor expos in 2018, where we reached nearly 5,700 people.

Training tomorrow's leaders

- Fourteen UC Davis students training to become wildlife managers experienced hunting firsthand through College Camp at Bird Haven Ranch/Casa de Patos. All came from non-hunting backgrounds.
- College students and recent graduates are getting their start at California Waterfowl through college chapter activities and work experience internships, several in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Wildlife Refuge system.

R3: HUNTER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND REACTIVATION

Hunter numbers are on the decline nationally and in California. CWA is working hard to combat that trend by offering both hunter education events to teach new hunters and hunter development to keep current hunters invested in and connected to the hunting community.

Youth camps – 2018

- Nearly 200 youth learned the nuts and bolts of waterfowl hunting and conservation through our multi-day camps.
- Family camps and fun shoots brought an additional 132 participants to learn the basics of hunting or improve their techniques.

BOW – 2018-19

- Our Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program helped more than 200 women of all experience levels hunt or enjoy the outdoors in other ways in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Hunt Program – 2018-19

- The program added 571 hunting opportunities, including 412 at CWA's new Sanborn Slough duck club in the legendary Butte Sink.
- Including the all-time high of more than 2,800 hunters this year, upwards of 9,400 hunters have enjoyed hunts since the program's inception on over 55,000 acres and 46 properties, including duck hunts on premier duck clubs as well as pheasant, dove, turkey and big-game hunts.

Veteran Hunt Program – 2018-19

- With 414 participants in 2018, our Veteran Hunt Program has reached over 1,200 veterans and their families through hunts, hunter education classes, fishing trips and fun shoots since 2013.

ADVOCACY

California Waterfowl has an advocacy team that works at all levels of government. We seek science-based regulations and bipartisan solutions, while working hand in hand with partner conservation and hunting organizations to ensure regulations and policies are helpful to waterfowl, wetlands and hunters. In 2018, we:

- Sponsored AB 2697(Gallagher) to create a waterfowl and upland game bird Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program for farmers who wish to fallow a portion of their land to maintain wildlife cover, including lands involved with a water transfer (passed and signed into law)
- Helped spur an ongoing effort to revise federal regulatory frameworks to allow higher pintail bag limits, within the bounds deemed prudent by science.
- Pushed for inclusion of waterfowl-related benefits in Proposition 68, including \$10 million for the Presley Program, \$18 million for WCB work such as the SHARE Program and \$50 million for DFW lands and facilities.
- Helped defeat an aquaculture expansion project in Humboldt Bay that would have negatively affected brant habitat.
- Helped defeat bills that would have sharply curtailed firearm raffles (AB 3199), imposed additional taxes on firearms and ammunition (AB 2497) and prohibited the import of legally killed African game (SB 1487).
- Supported the passage of the Conservation Title in the federal Farm Bill that provided funding for programs beneficial to California hunters and waterfowl, including Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.
- Continued the multi-year fight for a more reliable water supply for the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.
- Helped convince the State Water Resources Control Board not to require unimpaired flows in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers, which would have decreased water supplies for wetlands and the rice fields waterfowl rely on, but to accept voluntary settlements that would provide functional, timely flows and other habitat improvements.
- Tracked the development of groundwater sustainability plans under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- Partnered with the Grassland Water District to fight plans to run high-speed rail through the Grasslands Ecological Area.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Donations directly support California Waterfowl's mission and leverage government funding for habitat projects across California.

- \$14+ million in total revenue was raised during the 2017-18 fiscal year (ending March 31, 2018).
- 80 grassroots fundraising events.
- 1,500 volunteers helped organize and oversee grassroots fundraising events.
- A total of 43 individuals have chosen to leave gifts through their estate to the Pintail Legacy Society, including 10 new donors during the 2018-19 fiscal year.
- Those who have donated more than \$10,000 crossed the century mark, with 106 total major donors.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Working together with leading outdoors and hunting companies has enabled California Waterfowl to provide high quality gear for our hunting, education and fundraising activities.

- Banded Brands, including the Avery and Greenhead Gear lines, were an integral part of our hunting and camp programs.
- SportDOG® helped our members maintain a healthy bond with their dogs.
- Federal Premium Ammunition powered our camps, clinics and veterans' hunts.
- Hoblit Motors served as CWA's official auto and truck dealership.
- California Waterfowl's corporate partners also donated cash that the organization used to work toward achieving the organization's mission and vision.

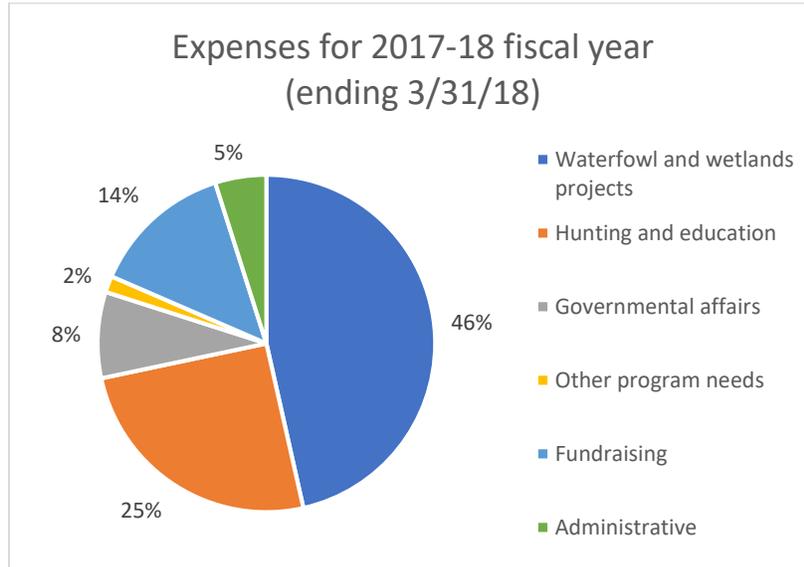
MEMBERSHIP

California Waterfowl members are part of the nation's oldest and largest state waterfowl association. Dues help fund CWA's mission to grow California's waterfowl populations, wetlands and hunter-conservationist communities.

- 20,000+ members strong
- Nearly 3,400 members have signaled a higher level of commitment with membership levels of Life Member to Life Benefactor.

FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

California Waterfowl works within a board-approved annual budget, and our audited financial statements and tax returns are available at calwaterfowl.org/audits-tax-returns.



- Waterfowl and wetlands projects: \$4.98M
- Hunting and education: \$2.70M
- Governmental affairs: \$0.89M
- Fundraising: \$1.46M
- Administrative: \$0.52M
- Other: \$0.17M