

# **LOWER KLAMATH REFUGE TASK FORCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

## **September 2020**

1. Supported Refuge well repairs that CWA staff helped secure funding for. Repairs were completed this summer and are operational. The three wells have limited production capacity but will be an essential bridge for the Refuge to combat severe drought conditions.
2. Increased critical relationships and trust with key stakeholders in the Basin that CWA staff had previously established – agriculture, tribes, California and Oregon lawmakers and agencies. These relationships are essential in the pursuit of win-win water supply solutions for the Refuge.
3. Created a brochure highlighting the history and critical role Lower Klamath Refuge plays in the Pacific Flyway.
4. Contracted with an award-winning videographer to create a short film highlighting the crisis in Lower Klamath. Primary audience is state and federal lawmakers who can take action needed to restore water supplies for refuge. This video will also be used to motivate partner conservation groups and the general public to demand corrective action from the federal government.
5. Worked closely local U.S. Rep. Doug LaMalfa to support efforts including a day in the field picking up sick and dead birds during the botulism outbreak that was greatly exacerbated by lack of water. Birds recovered include thousands of shorebirds and ducks born and raised in Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.
6. Enhanced existing partnerships with non-hunting groups such as Audubon and Nature Conservancy with a focus on gaining member support of common objectives. These partnerships have been well received and yielded support among non-hunting members.
7. Increased donations to the California Waterfowl Legislative Action Fund's Federal Political Action Committee (PAC) by more than \$25,000, with further pledges pending, which is critical to helping to educate lawmakers about the refuge's water problems. The PAC needs a minimum of \$100,000 to compete with peer groups seeking legislative support.
8. Met with the Secretary of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation leader(s) in July to ask for additional surface water deliveries to Unit 2 to reduce stranding of waterfowl broods and molting ducks.
9. Additional water was delivered by the Bureau of Reclamation to temporarily maintain water levels.
10. In coordination with CWA and refuge staff, built a portfolio of water purchase opportunities to provide temporary relief during periods of water shortages. These temporary water purchases may grow to long-term water right acquisitions ultimately funded by the federal government.
11. Through the generous donations from passionate supporters, facilitated delivery of approximately 500 acre-feet in September 2020. This water will help alleviate the Klamath Refuges' worst botulism outbreak in 40 years.
12. Developed a strategy to increase communications efforts to rally support for solving the refuge's water crisis, using print, digital and social media. The strategy includes outreach to draw attention to the crisis, education, stakeholder engagements, feedback mechanisms, personal letters, monthly newsletters. This strategy has already increased news coverage of the crisis, including in the San Francisco Chronicle.