



CALIFORNIA

2026 STATE REPORT AND FACT SHEET



PARTNERS CELEBRATE MAJOR MILESTONE AT SUTTER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Bureau of Reclamation and other partners recently celebrated the completion of the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Lift Station Project, a major improvement that will enhance water management and wetland habitat in California's Sacramento Valley.

For decades, limited infrastructure restricted the Refuge's ability to fully manage water across its 1,540 acres of wetlands. The new lift station includes four fish-screened pumps, a 700-foot pipeline and upgraded delivery infrastructure, allowing the Refuge to more reliably move water and better support the millions of migratory birds that depend on the region each year.

"This project is a testament to what can be achieved through collaboration," said Jeff McCreary, Ducks Unlimited's Western Region Director of Operations. "By working together, we've delivered a solution that will immediately improve water reliability and enhance habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds."

SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

A major restoration project in Mountain View is advancing plans to transform 275 acres of former salt ponds into tidal marsh habitat, improving wildlife habitat, shoreline resilience and public access. Supported by Google and other funding partners, the Pond A1 project is part of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, one of the largest wetland restoration efforts on the West Coast.

Ducks Unlimited is serving as the construction management partner, helping lead the restoration work that will reconnect the site to tidal flows and support the return of native marsh habitat. The project will also create new public trails, viewing areas and opportunities for environmental education.

"Conservation takes a community," said Jeff McCreary, Ducks Unlimited's Director of Western Region Operations. "Through support of DU's California Wetlands Initiative, Google is helping advance one of the largest wetland restoration efforts in our country."

Construction is expected to begin in 2026 or 2027, with long-term monitoring planned to measure carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits.



BLUE GOOSE UNIT RESTORATION PROJECT IMPROVES 500 ACRES

Ducks Unlimited recently completed a major habitat enhancement project at the Blue Goose Unit within the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in California's San Joaquin Valley, a critical stopover for millions of migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway.

The project improved more than 500 acres of wetlands and uplands by upgrading water-control infrastructure, removing outdated levees and reshaping the landscape to improve water delivery and habitat management. Excess soil was used to create nesting islands and strengthen levees, providing additional habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

As a result, summer wetland habitat in the project area is expected to more than double, creating new breeding and brood-rearing areas for nesting birds. The project also delivers broader benefits, including improved floodwater management, groundwater recharge, carbon storage and expanded public hunting opportunities, increasing the number of hunting blinds from six to nine.



WESTERN
REGION

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MEMBERSHIP

Grand Total: 24,786
Members: 23,978
 General Members: 22,113
 Greenwings: 888
 Legacy Greenwing Members: 126
 Sponsor Members: 851
Major Sponsors: 808
Feather Society Members: 100

STATE FUNDRAISING

Total event income dollars raised:
\$5,520,070
 Number of committees: **103**
 Number of fundraising events: **171**
 Local chapter volunteers: **960**

FY25 FALL FLIGHTS INVESTMENTS TO CANADIAN PROJECTS

Total Contributions: **\$13,217,851**

Location of projects: Alberta, British Columbia, Mills River Ridge, AB and AGJV in High Arctic, Flaig Conservation Easement

US CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Total Acres Conserved in the state (historically since FY1984):
841,608

Total Acres of Conservation in the state (FY2025): **16,368**

Amount spent on projects in the state: **\$480,153,065**

Amount spent on projects in PAC Flyway (through FY2025):
\$739,317,624

Primary waterfowl species:

Wood Duck; Green-Winged and Cinnamon Teal; Northern Pintail; Redhead; American Wigeon; Tundra Swan; Canada, White-Fronted, Ross and Lesser Snow Goose; Canvasback; Shoveler; Gadwall; Mallard and Scaup.

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Ducks Unlimited PROJECTS

..... ● Completed Project(s)

 Note: Project points may represent more than one project.



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WESTERN REGION

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