

Project Table

Project Name	Project Partners	Project Size	Project Goals	Status
Uslan Farms	Uslan Farm, Ducks Unlimited.	6 Acres	Uslan Farms contains 60 acres of agriculture. 4 acre brood pond and 2 acre managed seasonal wetland with associated upland habitat. This project will also be part of the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship program.	Construction August 2012
Winchester Vineyards	Ducks Unlimited, Hart Restoration, Winchester Vineyards, Winchester Lake Ski Club	6.5 Acres and 2700 linear feet	Restoration of low lying crop land not suitable for farming. Berms and a habitat island were constructed for duck habitat. Native tules were planted along waterside slope of levees forming, "Winchester Lake". This goal was to prevent levee erosion and to provide aquatic habitat.	complete
Herringer	Herringer Vineyards, Hart Restoration	13,000 linear feet	Wildrye and sedge grass were planted on the landside slope of Elk Slough levees to prevent levee erosion.	complete
Vino Farms	Vino Farms, Hart Restoration, Ducks Unlimited	7200 linear feet and 2 Acres	Restoration of irrigation ditch. Ditch was planted with native grasses to filter nutrients and reduce runoff from adjacent vineyards. Grasses also serve as valuable habitat for small birds and nesting waterfowl. Created a permanent freshwater wetland on 2 acres for migratory waterfowl use.	complete
C&M Orchards	C&M Orchards, Ducks Unlimited	3 Acres	Improve 3 acres of unfarmable land by creating low berms and vegetative buffers to trap flooded water into swale pond.	Construction will be complete summer 2012

			Pond serves as valuable waterfowl habitat in winter months and brood pond for spring.	
Generations	Generations Duck Club, Hart Restoration, Ducks Unlimited	20 Acres	Create 20 acres of managed seasonal wetlands. Currently the site is nonproductive farmland.	Construction to be complete fall 2012
Berryhill Duck Club	Berryhill Farms, Ducks Unlimited, Hart Restoration	140 Acres	Create seasonal wetland. The current farm has poorly drained soils that can be used to for seasonal flooding. Low interior and perimeter berms facilitate winter flooding capabilities for corn fields. Harvested flooded corn creates a feeding area for migratory waterfowl.	Construction will be complete fall 2012
Wilson Farms	Wilson Vineyards, Hart Restoration	5200 linear feet	Sedge and rush grasses were planted along the landside slope of Elk Slough to provide habitat.	complete
San Joaquin Delta Farms	San Joaquin Gun Club, Ducks Unlimited, DFG, USFWS	134 Acres	Creation of a seasonal wetland and brood pond to provide winter feed and nesting habitat.	complete
Amistad Ranches	Van Loben Sels Farms, Hart Restoration	3000 linear feet	Native grasses were planted along the levee of Snodgrass Slough to provide habitat. Additionally, wildrye, sedge, and rushes were planted along an irrigation ditch to filter runoff from irrigation.	complete
Kidco Project	Vino Farms, Hart Restoration, Ducks Unlimited	3100 linear feet	Provide waterside habitat for waterfowl and aquatic animals. Project worked with landowners to re-grade the levee. Area was improved through planting native grasses and vegetation. Wildlife has returned to the area.	complete

Project Results

The Delta Working Landscapes projects are demonstration projects designed to be examples that can be replicated throughout the Delta. Current projects total 311.5 acres of productive agriculture land and 34,000 linear feet (6.5 miles) of levee and waterway enhancement. There is an economy of scale associated with these projects. Generally, the larger the restoration the project is, the less expensive restoration becomes per acre.

The Delta Working Landscapes serve as pilot projects which can be duplicated on larger acreage. For successful projects there are a number of issues and criterion that need to be addressed. Successful projects occur with private landowners who have a strong interest in the environmental quality of their land. Communicating the importance of conservation on productive farmland can be achieved by demonstrating how Working Landscapes improves the quality of land and improves the environment and can be economically rewarding. For example, levee and ditch restoration projects can help landowners save money through decreasing levee erosion repair and reduce herbicide use for weed control. Outside knowledge, from environmental agencies, can create a one-on-one relationship with landowners to discuss and encourage conservation and environmental practices and show how they are economically compatible with production agriculture.

California's permitting and regulating authority is overwhelming and expensive for most landowners. Streamlining regulations and coordination among the various agencies sharing jurisdiction over land use, water quality, wildlife and flood control can improve cooperation with private landowners. Key partners from the public and private sectors are essential for encouraging other to engage in wildlife friendly agriculture.

Additionally, implementing Working Landscape projects may be a risk or hindrance for landowners maximizing agricultural production. An incentive program or easement acquisition for habitat and restoration can mitigate some of the economic concerns of land owners. The acceptance of Working Landscapes can improve habitat in the Delta, provide economic rewards to farmers and maintain the Delta as a place.

Project Proposal to Expand Working Landscapes

Amount requested \$2,000,000. \$1,000,000 to convert 1,000 acres of corn production to rice production and \$1,000,000 to expand Working Landscapes.

The objectives of the current Working Landscapes projects are to identify a template that landowners can use to engage in wildlife friendly agriculture. Potential partners are identified from both government and non government, to assist in designing and implement wildlife friendly farming practices.

A new project proposed is the growing of rice instead of traditional row crops, such as corn in the Delta. In order to grow rice in the Delta the land has to be divided into checks, requiring some degree of leveling for uniform watering. The Delta lends itself to germinating rice on bare soil, using contact herbicides rather than water borne herbicides and the flooding of fields for an extended period of time, reducing runoff. The growing of rice retards oxidation of the soils and consequently retards subsidence. Crop residue is rolled and flooded rather than cultivated into the soil, this improves feeding opportunities for migrating waterfowl and returns crop residue to rebuild peat soils.

The project contract would be a six year contract, with assistance in converting the land from row crop to rice at \$150 per acre per year for three years. Rice borders would be developed with input from wildlife biologists to construct borders that have slope and top width to support young waterfowl, rodents and raptors. The land would be required to be flooded a minimum of six months a year with a \$25 per acre per year bonus for flooding of eight months or more, during the term of the contract. The agricultural practices would have to be maintained for at least six crop years.

New funding is sought to expand on the existing program of vegetative buffers along irrigation ditch banks and hedgerow grass plantings to improve water quality by reducing runoff of pesticides and sediment, and the development of additional acreage dedicated to waterfowl nesting.

Careful monitoring of fields will be maintained throughout the course of harvest and migration periods to detect benefits to agriculture and wildlife. A summary report of the project results would serve as a guide to expand on the demonstration projects.

Attachment

San Joaquin Delta Farms

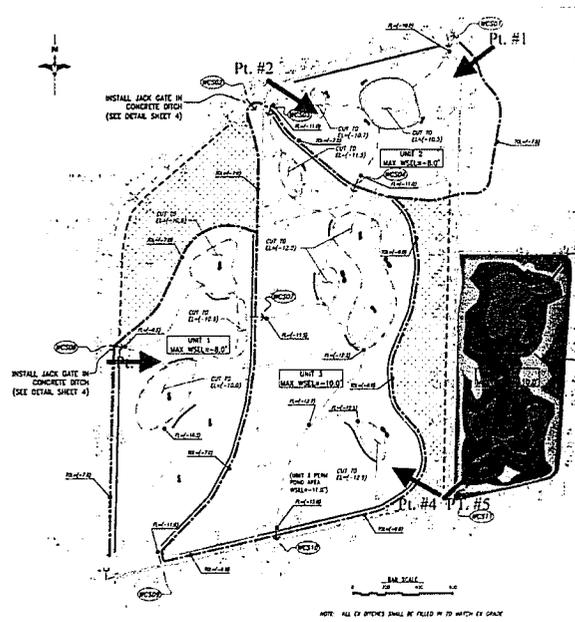
Pre Project Photo



Post Project Photo



Project Site Map



Post Project site conditions goals include a managed wetland on 134 acres that contains typical moist-soil season wetland vegetation, open water wetlands, and adjacent upland habitats. The project supports a wetland vegetation community consisting of smartweed, Japanese millet, and water grass. Migratory bird use was successful. The 2011/2012 wintering waterfowl season was irregular due to weather conditions. However, documented waterfowl use was noted and the presence of a multitude of waterfowl species was abundant.

Kidco Project

Pre Project Photo



Post Project Photo



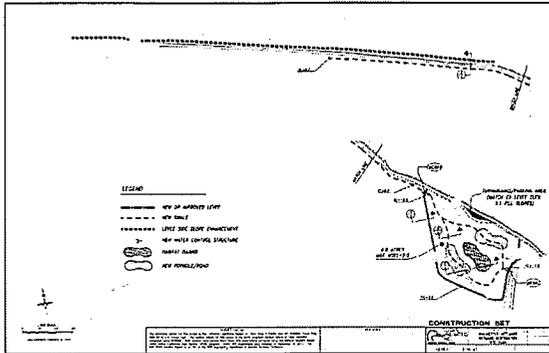
Steep banks of the tidal slough channel have been graded back to a gentler slope. The slope has been planted with a mixture of herbaceous and emergent species. The tops of the banks have been drilled seeded. The project supports a permanent tidal freshwater wetland community consisting predominately of hardstem bulrush, Santa Barbara sedge, creeping wildrye, and bent grass. Several mallard ducks of both hens and drakes were observed utilizing the slough.

Site Map



Winchester Vineyards

Project Photo



Post Project Photo



Pre Project Photo



Project acreage includes 6 acres of managed seasonal wetland as well as 2700 lineal feet of lake-fringe wetland habitat. The site contained an area with drainage and irrigation issues. Poorly drained soils left this area to follow. This project supports seasonal wetland vegetation including smartweed, Japanese millet, and watergrass.