

Conservation, water management and wildlife issues are not keeping pace with land use changes in the Tulare Basin. As a result, we risk losing many of the qualities that make this region a special place:

Family farms & ranches

Diverse & unique wildlife

Opportunities for clean water & air

Recreational & educational activities

Natural areas with native plants & animals

Fulvous Whistling-Duck

Imagine traveling through the Tulare Basin 100 years ago. Everywhere you turn, thousands of birds fill your view, flying between lakes, marshes and creeks.

Once found in flocks of hundreds, the fulvous whistling-duck is now rarely seen in the Tulare Basin. As with many wildlife species in this area, loss of habitat contributed to its decline.

In the Tulare Basin, the fulvous whistling-duck epitomizes the once plentiful waterfowl and reminds us that ducks such as this can return to the region if we plan appropriately to accommodate natural areas, community growth, agriculture and other land use needs.

The fulvous whistling-duck also symbolizes improved recreational opportunities for people, such as bird watching, hunting, photography, education and other uses of wetlands that are, like this bird, currently limited to a few wildlife refuges and duck clubs.

Today, the fulvous whistling-duck is seen as a sign of hope as it returns to the area where it was once abundant, indicating improving conditions of the land and water it needs to survive.



Last Great Landscape

The Tulare Basin offers us the chance, right now, to conserve California's last great landscape.

Located in the southern San Joaquin Valley, where the mighty Kings, Kaweah, Tule and Kern rivers flow from the Sierra Nevada into the historic Tulare Lakebed, this unique region offers habitat for wildlife, nourishment to farms, clean drinking water and recreation and education opportunities for people.

The Tulare Basin features freshwater lakes and saline wetlands set amidst desert scrub and alkali grassland, interspersed with riparian forest, oak woodlands and vernal pools. This interesting contrast of wet and dry habitats offers a safe harbor for more than 100 threatened, endangered or sensitive plant and animal species, one of the most concentrated occurrences of rare flora and fauna in North America.

Over the past century, human modifications to the Tulare Basin's land and water have put many of these species in jeopardy. Loss and degradation of wetland and upland habitats reduces the availability of food and other resources and restricts and isolates populations.

Today we risk losing many keystone species in this last great California landscape.

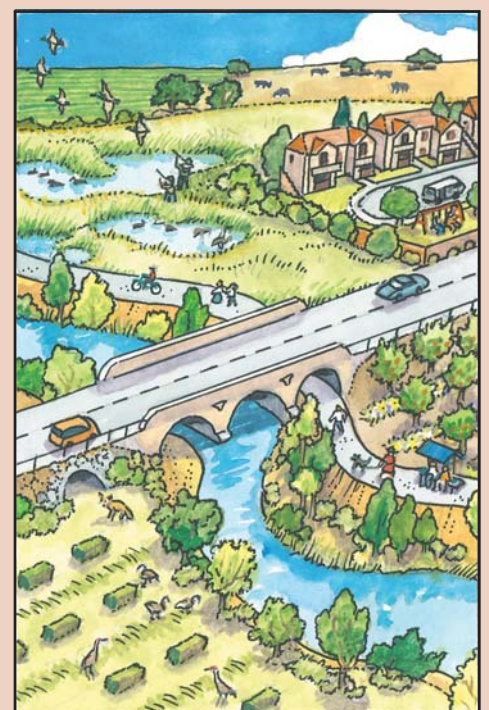
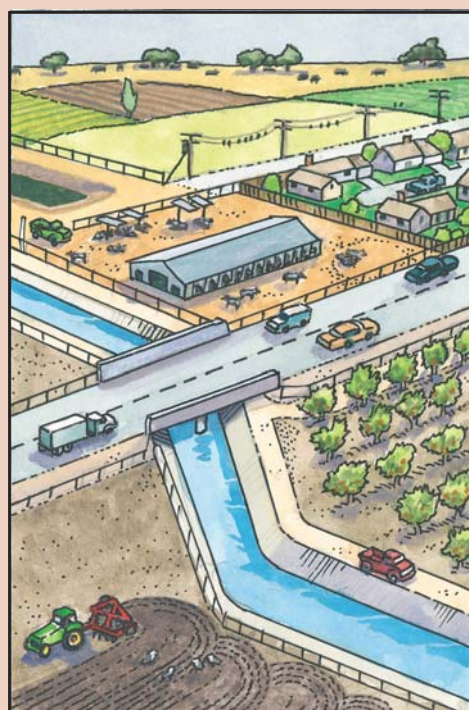
The Tulare Basin offers a conservation and restoration opportunity of superlative magnitude that requires a comprehensive public-private partnership to achieve these astonishing results:

- One of California's largest complexes of conserved and restored land (624,402 acres).
- A landscape of integrated wetlands and uplands that meets and exceeds Central Valley Joint Venture goals.
- A basin-wide Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners serves as a catalyst for creative conservation solutions in the Tulare Basin by collaborating with more than 70 partners to conserve this special place and address land and water challenges such as flooding, water quality, climate change and loss of wildlife habitat.

Win-win solutions to conserve the Tulare Basin also safeguard scenic vistas, enhance educational experiences, provide recreational venues, optimize wildlife-friendly agricultural production and encourage economic growth while providing protected natural areas.

With your contribution, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners can conserve California's last great landscape for present and future generations to enjoy.



Two hundred years ago, abundant wildlife inhabited the Tulare Basin's wetlands and uplands. Over time, humans modified the landscape to support the needs of a growing population. Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners envisions a future where wildlife habitat and human needs co-exist.

Conservation Roadmap: A Unique Approach

Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners envisions a landscape in the Tulare Basin that balances diverse places for public enjoyment with privately-owned healthy, functioning natural and agricultural lands.



Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP)

TBWP is a leadership and advocacy organization with a local focus that works to form partnerships, implement projects, educate the public and secure funding for natural areas and wildlife in the Tulare Basin.

TBWP strives to develop a regional identity where freshwater and saline wetlands and upland natural communities in the Basin can be protected, enhanced and restored as a microcosm of the historic natural richness in a way that compliments agricultural productivity and recognizes and expands the economy of the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Established in 2005, TBWP serves as a resource for the Tulare Lake Basin Working Group, an alliance of more than 70 agency, non-profit, private individual and industry partners concerned with quality of life in the Tulare Basin.



Cover photo: Steve Laymon ©2007; Inside photo: Bobby Kamansky ©2007; Illustrations: Doug Hansen ©2008; Map: Elizabeth Palmer ©2008

Your contribution will protect, enhance and restore wildlife and their habitats in the Tulare Basin. Donate Today!

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*The Tulare Basin:
California's Last Great Landscape*

