



Conservation Leadership Award

In August 2008, the Central Valley Joint Venture awarded Carole Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners executive director, its first-ever conservation leadership award. A fulvous whistling-duck, carved in butternut by Chuck Solomon, commemorates Carole's tireless efforts partnership building on behalf of the San Joaquin Valley's wildlife resources, particularly those involving wetlands and associated migratory bird habitats within the Tulare Basin.

Special thanks to the Central Valley Joint Venture from the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners for their ongoing and steadfast support of conservation in this important region of California.



Atwell Island: Restoration Benefits the Community

A new nature trail, viewing area and education opportunities will soon give residents and visitors more reasons to get out on the land at the Atwell Island Project, near Alpaugh, California. Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners is working with the Bureau of Land Management to restore 400 acres of marshes, sloughs and ponds for important wetland-dependant plants and animals, such as herons, egrets, ducks, rails and southwestern pond turtle.



An all-weather road and a canal now provide access and water to the site, which sits south of Sand Ridge, a slightly elevated landform in the Tulare Basin's historically complex wetland system. Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners served as the fiscal agent, conveying funding from Bureau of Reclamation to complete this portion of the project. Wetland levees, ponds and structures will soon replace the bare field seen today thanks to recent funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

This restoration and public access project is only a portion of a larger restoration effort spanning 8,000 acres of upland and wetland habitat managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the Tulare Basin. The Atwell Island Project serves as a model for other Tulare Basin land and water projects that benefit the local community and in 2009 will provide new recreation and education opportunities for the public.

New Website Launched

Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners recently launched an expanded website which includes detailed information on a wide-variety of topics pertinent to the Tulare Basin. To learn more, visit:

www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org