



TULARE BASIN WILDLIFE PARTNERS
Creating Opportunities for Nature and People

Tulare Basin Wetland and Riparian Water Supply Needs
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The Conservation Plans development by Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP) incorporate yet include a more comprehensive range of goals than the wetland restoration plan goals of the Central Valley Joint Venture (2006) Plan Update. Due to the wide annual variations in rainfall and snowmelt, the existing network of wetland and riparian habitats in the Tulare Basin naturally “wax and wane.” The future for wetlands in this region relies upon both habitat restoration and the continuation of the existing expanding and contracting wetland footprint and processes. Continuation of these key natural processes sustains wetland and riparian species within this portion of their historic range. The TBWP, CVJV, and other key partner organizations strive to protect and maintain key habitats and processes in perpetuity in the Tulare Basin. To this end, the TBWP Conservation Plans include, yet expand upon, the 2006 CVJV Plan Update as follows:

- Under today’s water management and recent hydrology, much of the existing wetland and riparian habitat identified in the TBWP Plans receive water only in wet years when flood events exceed storage and recharge capabilities in the watersheds. Thus, wetland and riparian habitat for wildlife is largely opportunistic. The CVJV water supply goals for this area of California are adequate to meet the needs of *managed seasonal and semi-permanent* wetlands in the region.
- TBWP Plans go further by including goals to provide *permanent wetlands* for several native species, including white pelicans (nesting) and giant garter snake (reintroduction to aid recovery efforts). Restoration and management of 6,468 acres of permanent wetlands (at 6.25 acre feet/acre) to meet these habitat and species goals require 40,425 acre feet of water above the 2006 CVJV Plan Update water goals.
- TBWP Plans include a goal of maintaining 21,289 acres of *riparian habitat* on streams flowing into the Basin and restoring and additional 10,100 acres. Additional water needs for riparian systems in the Tulare Basin are approximately 28,610 feet (at an average of 2.833 acre feet/acre) above CVJV water goals.

The TBWP approaches its conservation and restoration goals for the Tulare Basin in a comprehensive and collaborative manner with partners throughout California. Climate change, groundwater/surface water management, water reuse, flood control, water and land development projects, water exchanges and transfers, and other innovative solutions are all considered viable opportunities to help meet the habitat goals in the Tulare Basin.

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