



# Audubon

## CALIFORNIA

## Landowner Stewardship Program

### What do we do?

The Landowner Stewardship Program works with farmers and ranchers in the Putah-Cache bioregion of Yolo and Solano Counties to design and implement conservation projects. The Program provides direct technical and financial assistance to individual landowners who wish to implement one or more conservation activities. Participation by farmers and ranchers is voluntary.

### Conservation and restoration

The primary focus of the program is implementation of restoration, conservation and water quality related projects on local farms and ranches in a manner compatible with existing agricultural land use practices. Examples of projects include habitat enhancement on riparian corridors and stock ponds, rangeland enhancement through prescribed burning and native perennial grass establishment, vegetating irrigation canals with native plants, and construction of tailwater ponds and sediment traps.

### Education

Conservation work on farms and ranches is done with the help of students from local high schools through the Student Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program (SLEWS). Indeed, each year, we host approximately 50 student field days at field sites in collaboration with the Center for Land-Based Learning.

Center for Land-Based Learning and Audubon California have established a region wide Farm and Nature Center. The Center is designed to connect people with farming and nature by providing hands-on education opportunities and demonstration of the restoration work Audubon implements in the field.

### Research

Project sites on local farms and ranches offer an important opportunity for important ecological research. Research projects include examining the impacts of restoration on riparian and grassland birds, monitoring the

environmental determinants of restoration success, using remote sensing to monitor vegetation response and plant and soil responses to restored native perennial grasslands versus non-native annual grasslands.

### **Partners**

Program partners include the Center for Land-Based Learning and the Yolo County Resource Conservation District. Research partners include University of California, Davis, University of California Cooperative Extension, USDA Agricultural Research Service and Michigan State University. Funding partners include the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Board, Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

### **Contact information**

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