



Rapid Watershed Assessment Team (RWA):

Sacramento Valley Community Meeting
November 15, 2022



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

California Leadership
Development
Program Project
Team:

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Agenda

- Who is the Floodplain Forward Coalition?
- Why a Rapid Watershed Assessment?
- RWA Process
- Key Findings
- Recommendations
- Discussion

Who is the Floodplain Forward Coalition?

- American Rivers
- American West Conservation, LLC
- Audubon California
- Cal Trout
- California Rice Commission
- California Ricelands Waterbird Foundation
- California Waterfowl Association
- Conaway Ranch
- Davis Ranches
- Ducks Unlimited
- Ecosystems Partners
- Environmental Defense Fund
- Lundberg Family Farms
- Montna Farms
- Northern California Water Association
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Point Blue Conservation Science
- Rancho Llano Seco
- Reclamation District 108
- River Garden Farms
- River Partners
- Sutter Mutual Water Company
- The Ferguson Group
- The Nature Conservancy
- Yuba Water Agency

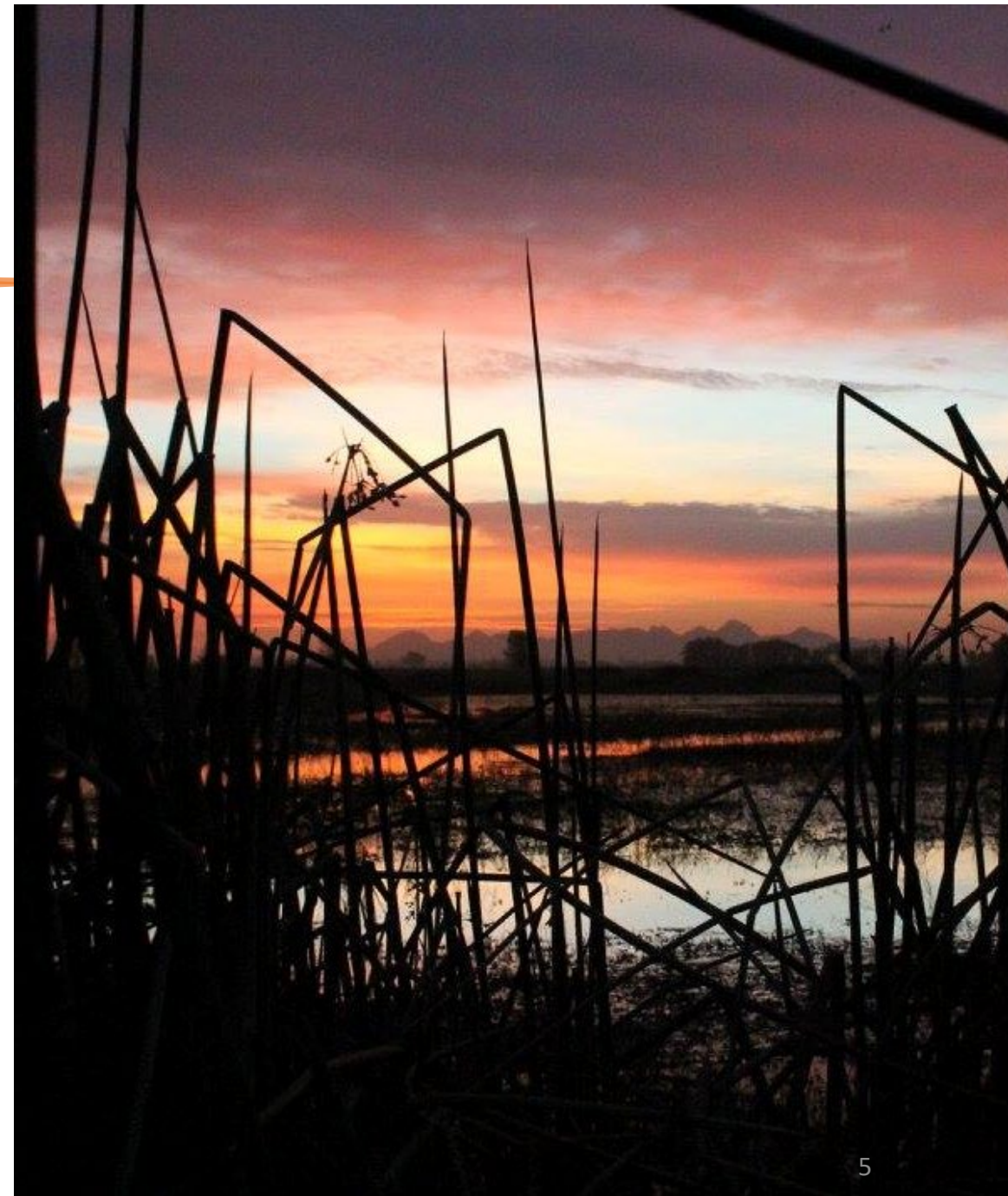
Why a Rapid Watershed Assessment (RWA)?

- Floodplain Forward Portfolio: 33 projects within the Project Footprint
- How might NRCS engage with these projects?
- NRCS engagement:
 - Which Financial Assistance programs?
 - How much financial assistance?
- Rapid Watershed Assessment is an overview



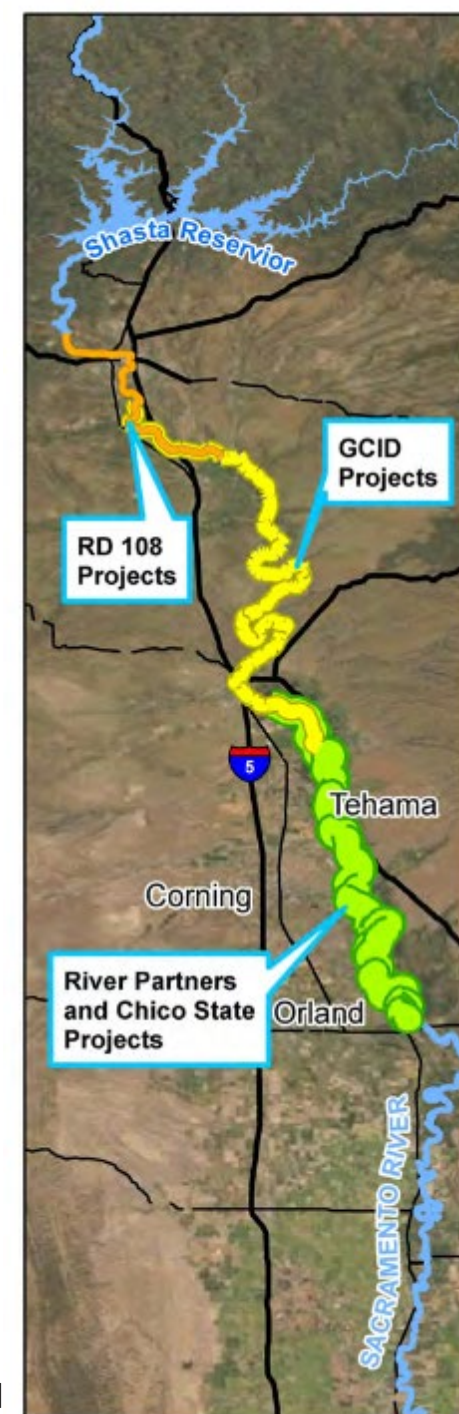
Rapid Watershed Assessment Process

- Identify Project Area
- Review existing watershed plans and landscape scale efforts
- Assess current conditions
 - Physical description
 - Land use
 - Social justice considerations
- Identify Priority Resource Concerns
- Analyze Partner Portfolio projects for NRCS assistance
 - Program eligibility
 - Financial assistance estimates



Key Findings

- 18 of the 33 Partner Projects **are eligible** for NRCS programs
- NRCS could contribute \$1.8M to the Partner Projects using EQIP or RCPP funds
 - 11 projects are potentially EQIP or RCPP
 - 3 projects are potentially WFPO*
 - 2 projects are potentially Easements*
 - 2 projects are potentially CIG*
- Ineligible projects are:
 - at the conceptual stage and need more detail
 - located on public land with no private leases
 - not the type NRCS can assist (e.g. job creation)



Estimated Financial Assistance Matrix – Wetland Flooding

Project Class	Project Name	Practice Standard Code	Practice name	Practice Scenario	Planned Contract Quantity	Units	Per Unit Rate	Total Incentive Payment	
River Connections	Tier 2	Knights Landing Outfall Gates/Juvenile Recruitment Project	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Seasonal Flooding	21,600	Ac	\$134.72	\$2,910,000
Floodplain Reactivation & Fish Food	Wet Side	Dos Rios	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Management, High Intensity	1,500	Ac	\$56.23	\$85,000
		Goose Club	578	Stream Crossing*					
		Goose Club	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Management, High Intensity	4,000	Ac	\$56.23	\$225,000
		Integrating the Needs of Managed Wetlands....	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Management, High Intensity	200,000	Ac	\$56.23	\$11,246,000
		Floodprint Project	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Level Drawdown, Low Intensity	3,200	Ac	\$17.04	\$55,000
		RD2035 Conaway Ranch	587	Structure for Water Control	Concrete Turnout Structure, Small	6	No	\$1,219.75	\$7,300.00
		RD2035 Conaway Ranch	356	Dike	Class IV A and B, Wetland	20	CuYd	\$3.93	\$100
		RD2035 Conaway Ranch	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Management, High Intensity	2,800	Ac	\$56.23	\$158,000
		RD2035 Conaway Ranch	578	Stream Crossing*					
	Dry Side	Fish Food Pilot Program	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Management, High Intensity	40,000	Ac	\$56.23	\$2,250,000
		Fish Food Pilot Program	587	Structure for Water Control	Concrete Turnout Structure, Small	1	No	\$1,219.75	\$1,300
	Other	Cal Rice - Ricelands Salmon Project	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Management, High Intensity	14,000	Ac	\$56.23	\$788,000
		Cal Rice - Ricelands Salmon Project	587	Structure for Water Control	Concrete Turnout Structure, Small	1	No	\$1,219.75	\$1,200.00
		Cal Rice - Ricelands Salmon Project	578	Stream Crossing*					
Waterbird Habitat Annual Practices		644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Water Management, High Intensity	100,000	Ac	\$56.23	\$5,623,000	

*More detail is needed to determine Resource Concerns and Practice Scenario. Structure for Water Control may be the more appropriate practice in some cases. Stream Crossing scenarios are determined by culvert diameter.

Estimated Financial Assistance Request – Wetland Flooding Type Projects, continued

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) Practice Scenario	Floodplain Forward Estimated acres	NRCS estimated participation acres	Per acre incentive rate	NRCS estimated 644 practice cost	NRCS estimated 5% additional cost for infrastructure	Total Annual estimated cost
Seasonal Flooding	21,600	1,512	\$134.72	\$204,000	\$10,000	\$214,000
Water Level Drawdown, Low Intensity	3,200	224	\$17.04	\$4,000	\$190	\$4,000
Water Management, High Intensity	362,300	25,361	\$56.23	\$1,426,000	\$71,000	\$1,497,000
Grand Total				\$1,634,000	\$812,000	\$1,715,000

Estimated Financial Assistance Request – Riparian Restoration Project



Project Class	Project Name	Practice Standard Code	Practice name	Practice Scenario	Planned Contract Quantity	Units	Per Unit Rate	Total Incentive Payment
In-River Function - Mid River	Tule Canal Riparian Restoration	490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Chemical, Ground Application	18	Ac	\$162.09	\$3,000
	Tule Canal Riparian Restoration	391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Small container, hand planted	18	Ac	\$3,165.03	\$57,600
	Tule Canal Riparian Restoration	441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Vegetation Establishment	18	Ac	\$464.57	\$8,500
							Project Total:	\$69,100

NRCS Projected Financial Contribution Assumptions

FY22 cost list used to estimate financial contributions

Many projects would be funded in 3-10 years

7% program participation rate for rice acreage

Riparian corridor project
20-foot planting width
4-mile continuous corridor funded through NRCS

Current NRCS and Partner Efforts

- Develop technical guidelines and an ICPS
- Use winter flooded rice fields to mimic natural floodplain habitat
- Help ensure the survival of Chinook salmon and other fish
- Includes an MOU with NMFS

CRC CTA Agreement



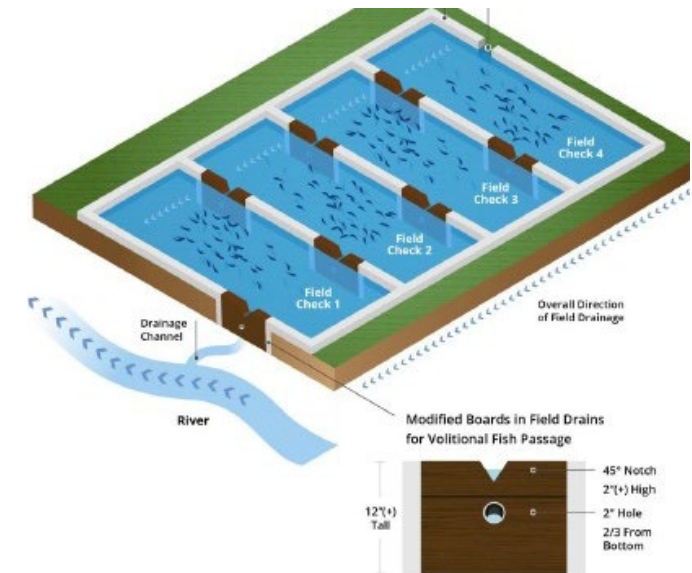
- Assist CRC in developing their ***Bid for Birds*** program
- Competitive bidding system
- Farmers flood rice fields during waterfowl migration

National CIG



Draft Report Comments from the Partners

- The Partners would like NRCS to:
 - Use a wider diversity of practice standards in the report.
 - Draft report shows the “typical” set of practices the Partners are already aware of.
 - Consider increasing the estimated participation rate above 7% based on Partner project success last year.
 - Include more financial support for aquatic invasives
 - Allow for earlier adoption of shallow flooding in 644





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Recommendations:

- Increase opportunities for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) participation
 - Flood up enhancements
- Appropriate Outreach Mechanisms
 - Help Partners understand barriers to NRCS programs to inform outreach efforts
- Streamline the application process
 - Potential to increase participation rate
- Continued engagement with NRCS Points of Contact Gayle Barry and Greg Norris.



Discussion

Thank you for your input.

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