

News Release



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Habitat restoration at national wildlife refuge in Stanislaus County is focus of popular History Channel program

A large-scale habitat restoration project at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge will be featured on the History Channel's program "Modern Marvels" scheduled to air January 24th. The segment will highlight the single largest riparian woodland restoration effort in the San Joaquin Valley. River Partners, a not-for-profit group specializing in riparian restoration, is leading this ecological work on the Refuge.

The episode, "Environmental Tech," will air on the History Channel Wednesday, January 24th at the following times (check local listings to confirm):

10:00 pm (Eastern/Pacific Times)

9:00 pm (Central Time)

8:00 pm (Mountain Time)

The episode of "Modern Marvels" will focus on environmental technologies. River Partners was approached by the show's producers to demonstrate how the habitat restoration techniques they have pioneered help protect communities during flood events such as what occurred in Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina. The episode will focus on a restoration project occurring on the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge in the San Joaquin Valley. The Refuge is owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. When completed, over a half million native trees and shrubs will be planted, resulting in 2,000 acres of restored habitat. "We're proud to work with River Partners on this project," said Kim Forrest, Wildlife Refuge Manager. "They are the premiere riparian restorationists of California, and their expertise has greatly expanded the riparian habitat of the San Joaquin Valley."

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“It’s exciting to have the issue of flood protection being linked with habitat restoration,” said John Carlon, president of River Partners, about the upcoming episode. “The success of this project benefits everyone and shows how effective our partnerships are with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Refuge and the Department of Water Resources.”

This is not the first time the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge has been in the spotlight. Successful management on the Refuge aided in the removal of Aleutian Canada geese from the Endangered Species List in 2001. Currently, endangered riparian brush rabbits are being reintroduced to the Refuge and it’s anticipated they will share a success story with the geese.

The Refuge is located 10 miles west of Modesto in Stanislaus County. Riparian woodlands are the habitats found adjacent to rivers and streams and are characterized by an overstory canopy of trees with dense shrubs, forbs, and grasses at ground level.

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River Partners, with offices in Modesto and Chico, specializes in river habitat restoration. Since 1998 it has planted over 750,000 native trees, shrubs and plants and initiated restoration on over 6,000 acres along the Sacramento, Feather, Tuolumne, Stanislaus and San Joaquin rivers. Its mission is to create wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment. For more information on River Partners’ work, visit www.RiverPartners.org

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 Fish and Wildlife Management offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands and helps foreign and Native American Tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.