



RIVER
PARTNERS



25 Years of Restoring Hope

2023 IMPACT REPORT

25 Years of Impact



18,867
Acres of protected habitat restored for endangered and threatened species.




212
River miles restored.



58
Priority wildlife species protected since 1998.



4,078,494
Native trees & vegetation planted.



1,006,787
Metric tons of CO2, CO2e, or greenhouse gases captured.



10,270,207,000
Gallons of freshwater conserved.



\$175,416,280
Channeled directly to the communities where we work.

Dear Friends,

What an honor to celebrate a quarter-century of river restoration in partnership with you! With our growing network of allies, you have helped us double the acreage of riverway forests in the Central Valley and across the state over the past 25 years.

Our achievements together include building new homes for wildlife, capturing carbon in thriving forests, and expanding cooling natural spaces for people, while safely capturing the overflow from seasonally swollen rivers and supporting groundwater recharge for a parched state. We have demonstrated through collective action that we can build green infrastructure, engineer with nature, and harness public support and resources in places that were once dismissed as beyond repair. Together we have helped shape awareness that California riverways are at the heart of our state’s water, communities, and collective future.

2023 was a humbling demonstration of the power of water and the importance of restored riverways. This year’s rivers in the sky and the extreme flooding in the San Joaquin Valley and Tulare Basin were convincing examples of the weather whiplash projected to become more severe in the coming decades. Against a backdrop of the worst drought in state history, we saw that California can have abundant water—more water than we can use, more water than we can control. As Central Valley rivers swelled this winter, we witnessed that aquatic ecosystems can be re-wetted and wildlife can thrive where they have been absent for decades. And we can reduce the suffering, damages and disruptions from drought and flood emergencies by investing in resilient floodplains and ecosystems.

In 2022 the Central Valley Flood Protection Board updated its award-winning Flood Protection Plan featuring River Partners’ historic Dos Rios Ranch Preserve on the cover. With tremendous leadership from our state legislature, administration, local partners, and friends, in 2023 we secured a \$40 million investment in multi-benefit floodplain restoration—a huge step up in scale. This historic earmark championed by our legislators and approved by our Governor will support immediate action to reconnect over 3,000 acres of San Joaquin Valley floodplains!

California’s investment is a critical first step in replumbing the valley for our new water reality. So much more work is needed to create a resilient future for ecosystems and communities in the Golden State. California conservation plans call for more than 100,000 acres of riverside and floodplain restoration—enough land to support vibrant terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, birds and bunnies, butterflies and bees, but also a small fraction of the transformation needed to bring our valley into sustainable water management.

River Partners is rapidly expanding our partnerships to scale up ecosystem restoration on the ground at a scale that matters. If you are galvanized by hope, like I am, that we can revitalize entire rivers in a timeframe we can observe, then please read this report with a keen eye for introductions you can make and contributions you can leverage to help us grow this movement and get the work done!

In gratitude,




Julie Rentner
President

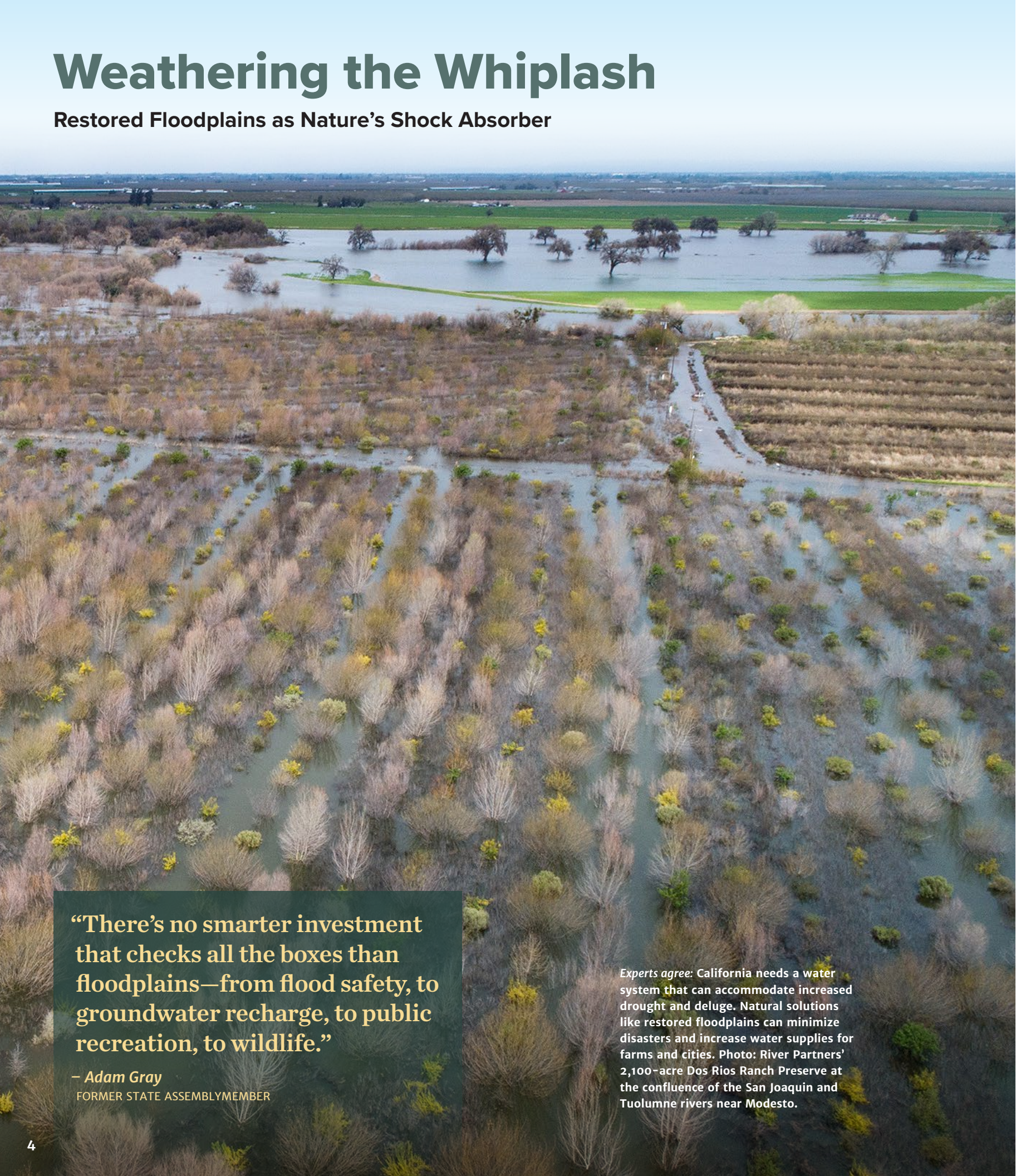
Transforming California’s Rivers and Communities

With your partnership, and at an unmatched pace and scale, we plant native forests, restore wildlife habitats, empower local communities, and ensure cleaner, healthier waterways for generations to come. Together, we are delivering game-changing solutions for drought, flood danger, and species loss that ripple beyond the river’s edge.



Weathering the Whiplash

Restored Floodplains as Nature’s Shock Absorber



“There’s no smarter investment that checks all the boxes than floodplains—from flood safety, to groundwater recharge, to public recreation, to wildlife.”

— Adam Gray
FORMER STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Experts agree: California needs a water system that can accommodate increased drought and deluge. Natural solutions like restored floodplains can minimize disasters and increase water supplies for farms and cities. Photo: River Partners’ 2,100-acre Dos Rios Ranch Preserve at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne rivers near Modesto.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MODESTO BEE.



“I believe the restoration saved our community from some drastic flooding this year.”

—John Mataka,
Grayson community member

Grayson Riverbend Preserve: Residents of the small farming community of Grayson just west of Modesto survived this winter’s flooding without major damage. River Partners restored nearly 300 acres adjacent to the riverside town and spearheaded more than two decades of investment in the region.

Catastrophic flooding is predicted to increase in the coming decades in California. Flooding’s painful companion, drought, will also persist for longer and longer periods. Dramatic swings in climate-driven weather, dubbed “weather whiplash,” means California needs to learn to live in between wet and dry extremes. However, it’s precisely the in-between part that’s becoming less frequent. So, California needs to learn to live in the extremes of drought and deluge.

Earlier this year an onslaught of over 30 atmospheric rivers reversed California’s longest recorded drought and breeched levees across the state. The storms sadly claimed lives and caused an estimated \$5 to \$7 billion in damage. The ancient Tulare Lake reemerged in the San Joaquin Valley flooding an area nearly the size of Lake Tahoe. Climate experts warn these storms are merely a warning of even larger megafloods in the coming decades.

Dams and levees, which were built for the more predictable weather of the past, can’t keep up with more volatile precipitation and more intense droughts on their own. But there’s a natural solution that’s proven to mitigate flood

risks and support a more secure water supply: floodplain restoration. By providing rivers with more room, restored floodplains act as shock absorbers for existing flood infrastructure. Expanded floodplains allow water to spread out and percolate deep underground, recharging groundwater supplies for future droughts. Replacing water-intensive crops with native habitat conserves freshwater resources and captures carbon to boost the state’s climate resilience. Moreover, these revitalized ecosystems offer refuge to both wildlife and humans, providing shady havens of cool flowing water.

This winter, California floodplains sprang into action when rivers swelled and water overtopped levees. At the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne rivers, floodwaters spread across nearly 11,000 acres of restored floodplains that River Partners helped revitalize over the last two decades. Wildlife thrived and nearby towns enjoyed the safety buffer.

North of Sacramento, residents of Hamilton City avoided major catastrophe thanks to a levee setback that provides much-needed flood protection and 1,400 acres of restored floodplain habitat.

“Hamilton City did not have to evacuate, which historically has been a major concern,” said River Partners Restoration Ecologist Jade Jacobs. “Knowing firsthand the kind of financial and emotional burden having your house flood can have, I was uplifted to know our work eased that burden for the city’s people.”

With a proven solution and track record of success, River Partners’ large-scale floodplain restoration projects like Hamilton City and Dos Rios Ranch Preserve near Modesto point the way to a climate-resilient future.

“The floodplains worked exactly as intended,” said River Partners President Julie Rentner. “Now, we must scale up.”

Billions of dollars in public investment are needed to expand river corridors from Redding to Bakersfield. In May, the Newsom Administration allocated \$40 million for critical floodplain restoration in the San Joaquin Valley—an essential downpayment on California’s future. Together, we can accommodate increased flood flows, recharge groundwater as quickly as possible, and provide refuge and hope for people and wildlife.

There’s no time to waste: Science and history tell us major floods are coming. Recent climate modeling predicts a worst-case-scenario megastorm, previously thought to occur once every 100 years, is now twice as likely to occur in any given year due to climate change. Such megastorms will produce two-to-five times more water, and commensurate greater damage, than historic storm events.



Wildlife Bounces Back

Creating a Thriving Future for Struggling Species



“We’ve moved on from this vision of life rafts for wildlife, toward restored and connected river corridors, entire regions brought back to life.”

– Julie Renter
RIVER PARTNERS PRESIDENT

PHOTO: KIM ARMSTRONG



“The habitat River Partners planted was ready and waiting for them when they needed it.”

—Fumika Takahashi, San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex Wildlife Biologist

Rescuing endangered rabbits: Extreme weather floods low-lying areas near rivers, inundating the habitat of endangered riparian brush rabbits and San Joaquin River desert cottontails (pictured). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff led a rescue effort during this historically wet winter with assistance from River Partners, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oakland Zoo to relocate the rabbits to higher, restored ground.

PHOTO: ALEJANDRO ALEGRIA, USFWS

Twenty-five years ago, River Partners’ founders were alarmed by the loss of California’s freshwater ecosystems. They began restoring riverway habitat as a life raft for wildlife, to keep them from blinking out forever.

Since then, we have restored nearly 20,000 acres, doubling the footprint of native riverway habitat in the Central Valley. We’ve seen deer, birds, and beavers return to the edge of the river where they hadn’t been seen in decades. And we helped the endangered riparian brush rabbit, once thought to be extinct, grow new populations in the San Joaquin Valley by expanding their habitat range.

We planted thousands of elderberry shrubs for an endangered beetle that many people didn’t think even existed anymore. Then one day, we saw tiny Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetles emerge from our plants.

We’ve restored floodplains and river channels for salmon and watched in awe as they immediately fed and spawned in restored pools.

“There’s something salmon understand about water that humans don’t,” says River Partners President Julie Renter. “If we can get salmon and other wildlife to move in, we’re doing something right.”

Our success is what motivates us to keep going. California has lost over 95% of its riverway habitat in the last 200 years, and more threatened and endangered species rely on freshwater ecosystems than any other type of habitat in the state.

Yet our waterways possess an incredible ability to bounce back—especially with a little bit of help.

“What we’re doing is giving native plants, and the wildlife who depend on them, a fighting chance to come back,” says River Partners Restoration Biologist Claudia Delgado. “If we were to do nothing, invasives would persist and take over easily.”

When people first see our work, they’re often shocked by how much growth we see in just months or a couple of years. “It’s surprising to see how quickly River Partners can turn a cleared site into a riparian forest,” said River Partners Restoration Scholar Rowan Keller.

“I’ve been amazed at the presence of wildlife.”

Our work supports nearly 60 imperiled species who call our restored habitat home.

“Over the last 25 years, we’ve shown what’s possible,” says Renter. “It’s not life rafts anymore, it’s entire regions brought back to life.”

(below) Reconnecting floodplains for salmon: At River Partners’ Willow Bend Preserve along the Sacramento River near the small northern California farm town of Colusa, we restored a former riverside walnut orchard into rich habitat for critically threatened salmon. Alongside our key partners including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, we developed a first-of-its-kind fish gate to allow fish access to the restored floodplain to feed this winter. “Willow Bend is part of a larger system where habitats can be connected along the river migration corridor, like rest stops along a freeway,” said Carson Jeffres, Senior Researcher at the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences.

PHOTO: ERIC HOLMES, UC DAVIS CENTER FOR WATERSHED SCIENCES

(left) Counting on us: Fewer than 2,000 Western monarch butterflies overwintered in California in 2020, a 99.9% decline since the 1980s. River Partners joined forces with scientists and conservation partners in 2021 to lead the largest monarch recovery effort in the West, planting nearly 30,000 milkweeds across the state, the only plant monarchs lay their eggs on. We’ve seen monarchs nesting on our plants, and their numbers have increased the past two winters. We’re cautiously optimistic for this beautiful pollinator, and we’ll keep planting milkweed and other pollinator-friendly habitat on all our projects.



Coming Home to the River

Reviving Communities and Cultures

“We finally have a place where we can gather, helping us hold onto our traditional culture practices.”

– Kimberly Stevenot

NORTHERN SIERRA MEWUK AND FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETWEAVERS' ASSOCIATION



“Traditional basketweaving is an important part of keeping our cultural traditions alive.”

—Kimberly Stevenot, Northern Sierra Mewuk basket weaver and founding member of the California Indian Basketweavers' Association

Restoring rivers, preserving traditions: Kimberly Stevenot shares about California native plants and their cultural uses at Dos Rios Ranch. Safe access to native plants is essential for Native Californian cultural survival and renewal.

If you’ve ever gone for a walk by the river and thought to yourself, “This is a beautiful place to live,” chances are you aren’t the first person to think so.

For millennia, Indigenous people have gathered along California’s riverbanks, trading food and medicine, gathering weaving materials, and fishing from runs of salmon fabled to be so plentiful that you could walk across rivers on their backs.

“The rivers were the guides for our ancestors to follow,” says Kimberly Stevenot, Northern Sierra Mewuk basketweaver and founding member of the California Indian Basketweavers’ Association. “Post-contact made the rivers into boundaries and Native people into bounties.”

Starting in the 1840s, the California Indian genocide threatened to destroy Native ways of life and the ecology they depend on. Oppressive laws on the books until the 1970s even forbade Native peoples access to their cultural practices, including the use of California native plants for religious purposes.

Thanks in part to these policies, it’s a common misconception that Native peoples are part of the past. Instead, they are still here, and are vital partners in the work to restore California’s riverways.

At River Partners’ historic Dos Rios Ranch Preserve near Modesto, we collaborated with local Native communities to establish a garden of native plants used explicitly for cultural purposes. River Partners San Joaquin Valley Field Manager Austin Stevenot and his mother Kimberly Stevenot designed, planned, and gathered volunteers to plant the three-acre Native Use Garden with sedge, dogbane, willow, and other culturally important plants in 2021.

The Garden is protected by a unique conservation easement from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for permanent Native use and access, shaping a new model for expanding Indigenous access to restored landscapes essential for cultural survival.

“That first interaction with the River Partners team gave me the belief that we, as the Indigenous people of this land, actually had a chance to have a place where we could gather our native plants, for weaving and medicinal use, freely,”

said Kimberly Stevenot. “I can’t tell you the relief that I felt.”

In 2022, Dos Rios Ranch Preserve was selected to become California’s newest state park. Its impact will reverberate beyond the Native community. Just across the river lies the primarily Latino farming community of Grayson, whose members see their fate tied to the health of the river.

“To see it be restored, it would essentially restore us as well,” says Grayson community member Ivan Arellano.

Humans innately love, and need, the natural world. “You need a place to come back to Earth,” says Grayson community member Rosenda Mataka. “A park gives the community an equitable chance to participate in that environment.”

As River Partners doubles its pace and scale of riverway restoration statewide during this decade, our efforts support Indigenous sovereignty and culture as well as the many communities who call California’s rivers home.

(below) Connected to the river: Grayson community member during a volunteer planting event at Grayson Riverbend Preserve west of Modesto. The restoration has become an essential place for residents to connect to nature.

(left) Tending the land: Shingle Springs Rancheria Traditional Ecological Knowledge Department visited River Partners’ Dos Rios Ranch Preserve to gather sandbar willow and dogbane from the Native Use Garden and tend the plants. Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge refers to the evolving knowledge acquired by indigenous peoples over hundreds of thousands of years through direct contact with the environment.



The Power of Native Seeds

Fueling California’s Ecological Restoration Movement



“We reverse habitat loss and give life back to local landscapes with each native seed and plant. Everything depends on healthy ecosystems, from salmon and monarch butterflies to the air we breathe and water we drink.”

– Michele Ranieri
HERITAGE GROWERS OPERATIONS MANAGER



“We can’t restore California at the scale needed with just wild collected seeds. Heritage Growers can help meet the moment with native seeds.”

—Heritage Growers Wildland Seed Collection Manager Haleigh Holgate

Where the wild things are: Haleigh inspects ripe native grass (*Hordeum brachyantherum*) before harvesting. The wild seed will be grown on the farm to increase seed volume before being returned for planting to the Willits Bypass Mitigation Project led by the Mendocino Resource Conservation District and funded by CalTrans. This is the largest public wetlands mitigation project in California’s history.

PHOTO CREDIT: JOAN BOSQUE

The movement to restore native ecosystems is spreading like a slow-burning beneficial wildfire, revitalizing every corner of California it touches.

In response to climate change and biodiversity loss, communities are reviving depleted landscapes into rich native habitats for both wildlife and people.

However, a pressing challenge has emerged: Demand for native seeds has surged, outpacing supply, creating a bottleneck in the restoration process. A 2023 report from the National Academy of Sciences starkly concluded that the national supply of native seeds falls short of supporting current restoration efforts. In fact, to reach California’s target to conserve, and in many cases restore, 30% of the state by 2030, a staggering six million acres must be preserved and restored—magnifying the urgency for native seeds.

“The need for a more robust supply of native seed to support habitat restoration has never been greater,” said East Bay Regional Parks District Wildland

Vegetation Program Manager Dina Robertson. “The production of these plant materials needs to be expanded substantially to allow for organizations such as ours to properly restore conservation lands.”

To overcome this major bottleneck, River Partners launched Heritage Growers Native Seed and Plant Supply in 2022. The seed farm, located near the farming community of Colusa in the Sacramento Valley, is growing rapidly. We expanded from 12 acres to more than 150 acres this year, offering an array of 90 native grasses and understory plants. Moreover, we fabricated a seed cleaning mill specifically for California native seeds and welcomed three new team members, including our first Wildland Seed Collection Manager.

Given the scale of efforts to restore California, procuring ample native seeds and plants directly from the wild is infeasible. On the farm, we can produce seed that is adapted to the environment being restored by collecting it in the wild and amplifying it into hundreds of pounds of restoration-appropriate seed.

“Without seed amplification, we can’t reach the capacity needed for these large-scale projects,” says Heritage Growers

Wildland Seed Collections Manager Haleigh Holgate.

The seeds and plants cultivated on our farm fuel restoration projects across the state. Notably, we’re proud to collaborate with Tribal and project leaders on the Klamath River Renewal Project, the world’s largest dam removal effort. We are supplying regionally suitable native seeds, such as the yellow chick lupine, as well over 40,000 plant starts that will help revive more than 400 river-miles of crucial salmon habitat.

(Below) Growing exponentially: Heritage Growers Native Seed and Plant Supply, a venture River Partners launched in 2022, is taking action to break the native seed bottleneck. This year, we grew our native seed farm from 12 to more than 150 acres to meet the growing demand for California native seeds and plants.

*(left) Hundreds of pounds of seeds: Yellow chick lupine (*Lupinus microcarpus densiflorus*) growing in Heritage Growers production fields, prior to harvesting and eventually planting at the Klamath River Renewal Project, the largest dam removal project in the world that will open up 400 miles of river habitat for endangered salmon.*



Thank You

To all of our partners and supporters

COLLABORATIVES

Bank Swallow Working Group
California Invasive Plant Council
California Native Plant Society
California Native Grasslands Association
Central Valley Flood Protection Plan
Conservation Strategy Advisory Committee
Central Valley Joint Venture
Central Valley Salmon Partnership
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Floodplains Forward Coalition
Greater Battle Creek Working Group
Lower Tuolumne River TAC
Monarch Joint Venture
Regional Flood Management Plan– San Joaquin, Sacramento, Feather, and Delta
Riparian Mammals Technical Group
San Diego Mitigation and Monitoring Program
San Diego Pollinator Alliance
San Joaquin River Partnership
San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program
Society for Ecological Restoration California Chapter
Sonoran Joint Venture
Water Solutions Network
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Working Group
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

RESEARCHERS

California State University, Chico
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Stanislaus
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Cramer Fish Sciences
FISHBIO
Lawrence Livermore National Lab
Public Policy Institute of California
San Francisco Estuary Institute
Santa Clara University
Stanford University
UC Davis
UC Merced
Washington State University

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

American Rivers
Altacal Audubon Society
Audubon California
Butte Environmental Council
California Indian Basketweavers' Association
CalTrout
California Waterfowl Association
Colusa County Farm Bureau
Coro Northern California
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Downey Brand

Ducks Unlimited
Earth Discovery Institute
Environmental Defense Fund
ESA Associates
FlowWest
Grayson Community Center/United Community Foundation
Great Valley Seed
Hicks Law
Kern County Farm Bureau
Kern River Corridor Endowment
Kern River Parkway Foundation
MBK Engineers
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Natural Heritage Institute
Northern California Water Association
Pacific Gas & Electric
Point Blue Conservation Science
Resources Law Group
Sacramento County Farm Bureau
Sacramento River Forum
Sacramento State University
Sacramento Valley Conservancy
San Diego Audubon
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
SIG-NAL
Sonoma Mountain Reserve
Stanislaus Community Foundation
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
The Nature Conservancy
Talone Lake Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
Tuolumne River Trust
Watershed Nursery
Western Water Strategies
Xerces Society
Youth Leadership Institute

INDIGENOUS TRIBES

Cachil Dehe Wintun
Pala Band of Mission Indians
Jamul Indian Village
Tuolumne Band of Miwuk Yurok Tribe

FEDERAL AGENCIES

National Park Service
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Bureau of Land Management
US Bureau of Reclamation
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

STATE AGENCIES

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Conservation Corps

California Coastal Conservancy
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Restoration Leaders Committee
Fisheries Restoration Program
Peer Review Committee
California Department of Parks and Recreation
California Department of Pesticide Regulation
California Department of Transportation
California Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
California Wildlife Conservation Board
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
San Joaquin River Conservancy
Water Resources Control Board

LOCAL AGENCIES

Butte County RCD
Cache Creek Conservancy
City of Bakersfield
City of Chula Vista
City of Firebaugh
City of Fresno
City of Holtville
City of Oakley
City of San Diego
Colusa County
Contra Costa RCD
Contra Costa Water District
East Merced RCD
East Stanislaus RCD
FIELD Institute
Glenn County RCD
Grasslands Water District
Greater Valley Conservation Corps
Imperial Irrigation District
Lower San Joaquin Levee District
Madera County
Modesto Irrigation District
Oakdale Irrigation District
Reclamation Districts: 108, 784, 2011, 2028, 2037, 2092, 2110, 2137, 2140
San Diego County
Solano County RCD
Sweetwater Authority
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Stanislaus County
Sierra RCD
Sutter Buttes Flood Control Agency
Tehama County RCD
Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority
Turlock Irrigation District
Urban Corps of San Diego

West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Yolo County RCD
Yuba Water Agency

IMPACT INVESTORS

Bill Bartlett and Mary McNally
Kevin Connors
Ken Grossman and Katie Gonser
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Richard Souther

SUPPORTERS*

\$100,000+
The Joseph and Vera Long Foundation
Procter & Gamble, In Partnership with Business for Water Stewardship
The Volgenau Foundation
The Water Foundation

\$25,000–\$99,999

Anonymous (2)
Cargill Global Water Challenge
Thomas and Susan Newmeyer

\$10,000–\$24,999

CFO Hub
Lynn Chiappella
The Lyons Family
Mary McNally and Bill Bartlett
Elizabeth Schwerer and Kingston Duffie

\$5,000–\$9,999

Barbara Shipley Boyle
Liz Hume and Jay Jacobs
Ben King, Pacific Gold Agriculture
PG&E
Monroe and Carol Sprague

\$1,000–\$4,499

Anonymous
F. Thomas Biglione
Christopher Bowles
Christopher Campbell
Abraham Chen
Harrison Dunning
Richard Edminster
Ken Greenberg and Clara Gerdes
Jerrod Iverson
Kathleen Jurgens
Joanne Karlton
Alex Karolyi
Dave and Sharon Koehler
Tom and Anastacia Lando
Julie Rentner and Chris Harrison
Gwyneth Stephenson
Rebecca Westerfield

2023 Forrest Legacy Award

River Partners is honored to present our annual Forrest Legacy Award to four outstanding champions of riverway renewal. The award is named in honor of Kim Forrest, retired San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager who for decades boldly led vital floodplain restoration across the San Joaquin Valley. Kim modeled core River Partners values of collaboration, determination against all odds, and partnerships built on trust to achieve big wins for California’s environment and communities for future generations.



Adam Gray
Former California State Assemblyman, River Restoration Champion

For over a decade, Adam Gray has been a tireless champion of restoring San Joaquin Valley rivers to enhance the region’s environment, communities, and future. During his 10 years in the California Legislature, Adam led bipartisan negotiations to secure tens of millions of dollars in critical floodplain investments for the Valley. Adam embodies River Partners’ collaborative approach to addressing pressing issues like more frequent and severe droughts and flooding facing California. His work has united diverse stakeholders to build tangible, lasting on-the-ground change that benefits everyone.



Kimberly Stevenot
Northern Sierra Mewuk, California Indian Basketweavers’ Association (CIBA)

As a basketweaver, gatherer, keeper of traditional Mewuk cultural arts, and co-founder of CIBA, Kimberly Stevenot leads by doing, bringing to light the fundamental connection between California Native people and land stewardship. For decades, she has painstakingly safeguarded traditional ecological knowledge through her basketweaving practice and generously shared her knowledge with others to preserve California Native culture. Her partnership to establish a Native Use Garden and provide cultural gathering sites for California Native peoples at the Dos Rios Ranch Preserve offers a critical pathway for Indigenous cultural revitalization through ecosystem restoration.



Sami Nall
Water Resources Engineer and Floodplain Leader

As a Senior Water Resources Engineer and Director of the Central Valley Tributaries Program at the California Department of Water Resources, Sami Nall steered delivery of over \$30 million to floodplain conservation. Through her visionary work to preserve California’s waterways, Sami deftly cut through green tape to accelerate acquisition of 1,700 acres that will provide flood protection and public access benefits to Sacramento Valley communities for generations to come. Sami’s determination and collaboration are essential in setting the pace and scale of floodplain restoration urgently needed to protect communities and ecosystems.



The Volgenau Foundation

The Volgenau Foundation is among River Partners’ earliest and most dedicated philanthropic partners. Committed to conservation, children, and culture, the foundation’s visionary support for cutting-edge science and on-the-ground partnerships over the last decade has been instrumental in every river restoration project. This support has enabled us to lead groundbreaking wildlife conservation initiatives, protect communities by expanding restoration for climate protection, and educate statewide and national audiences about the impact of our work. The foundation embodies the Forrest Legacy Award’s value of trusted partnership, resulting in bold action for wildlife and communities in California.

SUPPORTERS CONTINUED

\$500–\$999
Jeff and Wendy Brown
Kenneth Chapman
Miguel Garcia
Meghan and Matthew Hertel
Terrel Hutton and Tom Hicks
Mark and Diane Kimmelshue
Debbie Melmon
Melissa Ninegar
Once Upon a Farm
Irv and Nitsa Schiffman
Robert Schlising
Jeff Thomas and Tessa Van Der Meijden
Roxanne Williams,
Lucas Public Affairs

\$200–\$499
Benevity Community
Impact Fund
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Sally Bland-Boice
Robert Croeni
Tom and Jeri Fraser
Michael George
Give Lively Foundation
Elaine Gorman
Rebecca Herring Reiner
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Christopher Klein
Stefan Lorenzato
Chuck Lundgren
Ramona Mendez
Rick Neishi
Barry Nelson
Anne Petit-Christ
Ray and Jana Pingle
Suellen Rowilson
Anna Skaggs
Mary Wisnewski

Up to \$200
Anonymous
American Association of
University Women
Amazon Smile
Carol Anderson
Haylee Ayers
Ann Barnes
Kevin Benjamin
Mark Borges
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William Brent
Celeste Cantu
Joe Cech
Lisa Celeste
Connie Chrysler-Anderson
William and Adriane Cooper
Joe Countryman
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France and Alice Davis
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Jane Dolan
Frank Eldredge
Clara L. Else
Joyce England

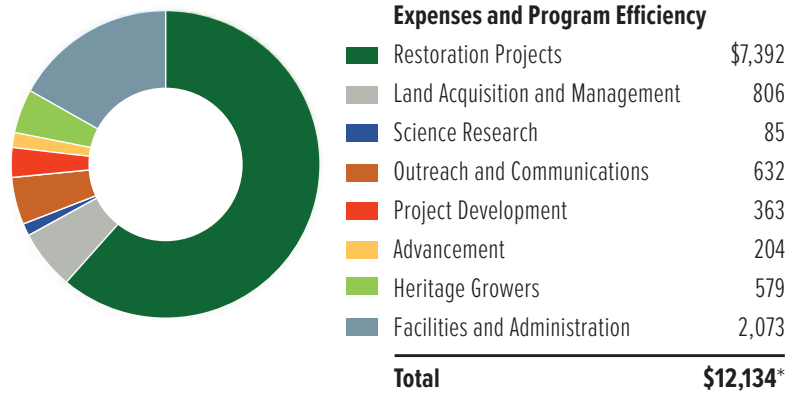
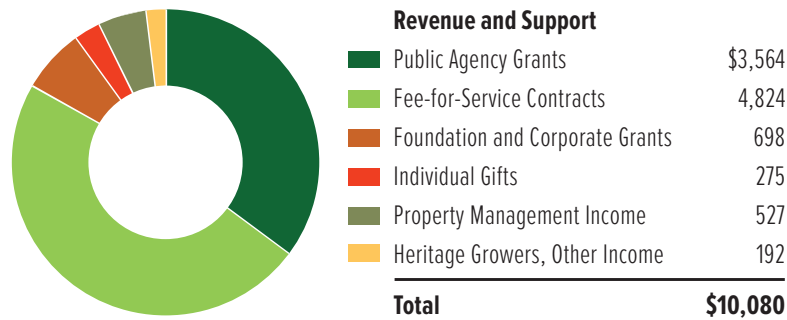
Estolano Advisors
Diane Flaherty
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Eileen Hodson
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Arlo Meyers
Michael Moran
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California Native Plant Society,
Sacramento Valley Chapter
Vickie Newlin
Cindy Noble
Kristin O’Connell
Richard O’Neil
Carol Passovoy
Linda Post
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Lily Schubert
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Larry Thibault
Steven Thompson
Lorena Valero
Satsie Veith
Albert Vogel
Lee Whitmer
Curtis and Sally Wooden
Laurel Woodson
Peter Wright
Danuta Zaroda

In Kind Gifts
Charles and Mona Dagy
Mike Dunbar

**July 1, 2022 - June 30 , 2023*

2023 Financials July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

Dollars in thousands



*99% of our budget was directed to the local communities where we work

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash and investments	\$689
Accounts receivable	\$4,279
Prepaid expenses	\$380
Inventory	\$1,091
Notes receivable	\$104
Fixed assets, net	\$26,831
Total Assets	\$33,373

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$1,833
Accrued liabilities	\$486
Unearned revenue	\$1,436
Notes payable, net	\$9,595
Total Liabilities	\$13,351

NET ASSETS

Total Net Assets	\$20,022
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$33,373

“Apprehending the imminent beauty of a successful restoration project is a transformative revelation. The clarion call effect of this experience floods my heart, presenting an actionable model of just how beautiful the future can be.”

OBI KAUFMANN

American naturalist, writer, illustrator, and author of *The California Field Atlas*, after visiting the flooded Dos Rios Ranch Preserve

Ways to Give

Your investment supports some of the most innovative and game-changing conservation efforts in the West—helping to double our pace of restoration to permanently protect our freshwater ecosystems for future generations.

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION

We match every private dollar with \$10 in public investment in on-the-ground restoration and support for local communities. Every gift builds our capacity to continue our pace of growth over the next critical decade.

ENDOW REVITALIZED RIVERS

Gifts of retirement funds, securities, estate bequests, real estate, or other assets can permanently protect and sustain imperiled wildlife, expand freshwater supplies, support productive farmland, and build strong, resilient communities.

FINANCE OUR IMPACT

River Partners finances its own work—millions of dollars worth each year. A low-interest, short-term investment can increase our pace and scale today, and improve our ecosystems and communities forever.

Please Join Us
www.riverpartners.org/give

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PHOTO TONY WESTLAKE



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Headquarters

580 Vallombrosa Ave.
Chico, CA 95926

Colusa

433 Market St.
Colusa, CA 95932

San Joaquin Valley

1720 G St.
Modesto, CA 95354

Capitol

928 2nd St., Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Southern California

2305 Historic Decatur Rd.
Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92106

riverpartners.org

Creating wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment.