



RIVER
PARTNERS



Confluence

2024 IMPACT REPORT

Confluence: 2024 Impact

“Our vision for the future is clear: California communities have access to beautiful parks like Dos Rios, healthy flowing rivers provide thriving habitat for wildlife and people, and our watersheds are managed for resilience, not by conflict. Together we can revitalize riverways as the lifeblood of California and restore 100,000 acres by 2040—an investment in our future worthy of our time, talent and funding.” – Julie Rentner



Dear Friends,
California’s riverways are vital biodiversity hotspots, and essential to our bold climate resilience plans. Yet, I was shocked to learn that some still refer to our Central Valley as an environmental “sacrifice zone.” It’s easy to forget that the Central Valley was ever one of the largest and most vibrant wetland ecosystems on Earth.

In the past 200 years, we harnessed the power of rivers to create one of the world’s most productive agricultural regions. The rivers that once supported wildlife populations of global importance and millions of Native Californians now supply the nation’s most populous and prosperous state by modern economic measurements.

And we’ve pushed our rivers to the brink. Caught in the climate crosshairs, each drought, flood, heat wave, and wildfire is teaching us how dire the consequences of our “sacrifice” are for people and wildlife.

But here’s what we know: nature is resilient. Nearly three decades of restoring California’s most threatened rivers has shown us that when given the opportunity, wildlife, ecosystems, and people rebound with remarkable strength.

This year we have reached an unprecedented confluence of milestones that give me hope:

- Dos Rios Ranch opened as California’s newest state park, showcasing the Valley’s beauty and vitality, and empowering its communities to take part in charting a hopeful future;
- We acquired nearly 3,000 acres in critical restoration areas—more land than ever before in our 26-year history—including the 1,600-acre Dos Rios Notre at the confluence of the Sacramento and Feather rivers;
- State and federal agencies awarded River Partners major funding and partnered to accelerate large-scale river recovery;

- We secured unprecedented private sector support from forward-looking individuals, corporations, and foundations;
- We deepened partnerships with Tribal nations and Native Californians to expand linkages between ecological and cultural revival;
- Heritage Growers, our native seed farm, expanded to provide essential seeds and plants for the growing restoration sector in California;
- We strengthened science partnerships, advancing cutting-edge research and collaborating with top experts to improve restoration techniques and outcomes;
- Our team has grown to over 100 passionate experts motivated by our commitment to on-the ground action to address the climate and biodiversity crises.

And we’re just getting started. River Partners is setting our sights on an ambitious growth target: 5,000 acres of multi-benefit floodplain restoration per year by 2030. This target is supported by California natural resources leaders and decades of science-driven planning.

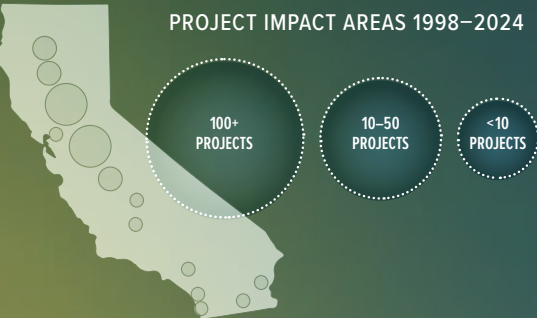
Our collective task is to harness the confluence of support, opportunity and partnerships and get the work done. We don’t just talk about change here at River Partners—we make it happen. When you invest your time and resources with us, you are joining a movement working to secure a healthier, more diverse, and more resilient future for our rivers, and the countless species who depend on them, including ourselves.

Together, we can bring about the change that’s needed. Because if not us, then who?

Julie Rentner
Julie Rentner
President

Revitalizing California’s Rivers and Communities

By 2030, River Partners aims to acquire up to 30,000 acres of riverside lands—and scale to 5,000 acres of restoration per year—to build a more resilient future.



WATERSHEDS WE REACH

BY THE NUMBERS
SINCE 1998



19,723

Acres of protected habitat restored for endangered and threatened species. 856 added in 2024.



215

River miles restored. 3 completed in 2024.



58

Priority wildlife species protected.



4,185,533

Native trees and vegetation planted. 107,039 planted in 2024.



1,101,352

Metric tons of CO2-equivalent greenhouse gases captured. 94,565 metric tons in 2024.



10.7 billion

Gallons of freshwater conserved, replenished, or repurposed. 439,830,000 gallons since 2024.



\$194,200,280

Channeled directly to the communities where we work. \$18,784,000 channeled in 2024.



A Neglected Kern River

More than a century of industrial development along the approximately 165-mile Kern River which winds through Bakersfield had taken its toll on riverside landscapes like the nearly 1,000-acre Panorama Vista Preserve north of the city. The preserve is a popular destination for the public but had suffered neglect for decades.



A River Reborn

Starting in 2008, River Partners and our allies from the Kern River Holding Company, which manages the preserve, launched a major overhaul of this once verdant oasis in the middle of the desert. Together, we planted more than 35,000 native trees and vegetation over 150 acres that not only brought the public flocking to the banks of the Kern but also rejuvenated important wildlife like the Western monarch butterfly, whose population has plummeted 99% since the 1980s.

Restoring California’s Lost River Forests

Farming Native Habitat to Rescue Imperiled Wildlife



“The pace and scale of investment into reversing extinction trends we’ve collectively put forth is not enough. We must redouble our efforts and expand habitat for imperiled species like Chinook salmon if they’re going to survive climate change. There’s no time to waste.”

—MIKE DAVIS
RIVER PARTNERS SENIOR RESTORATION SCIENCE ECOLOGIST

Four-year-old restored floodplain forests along the Tuolumne River. These fields were planted in 2020 in the final stage of restoration at Dos Rios Ranch Preserve, the largest public-private floodplain restoration project in California history.



Restoration is Better Together

At River Partners’ Hidden Valley Ranch near Modesto, our Assistant Field Manager Amanda Costa shows Google team members how to carefully tuck native plants into the ground. Restored in 2024, the ranch is adjacent to our historic, 1,600-acre Dos Rios Ranch Preserve. Together, the properties comprise one of the largest contiguous restored riverway corridors in all of California. We’re leveraging Google’s investment to revitalize the important Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers, create habitat for wildlife on the brink, increase freshwater conservation and replenishment, and give park-starved communities new outdoor-recreation opportunities that boost public health.

In the face of the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, River Partners is accelerating riverway restoration at an unprecedented pace and scale. Last year, we secured nearly 3,000 acres for habitat recovery—more than any year in our 26-year history.

Over 95% of river ecosystems statewide have vanished due to development. Gone are millions of birds that once darkened Central Valley skies, hundreds of thousands of tule elk grazing on lush grasses, and countless grizzly bears that feasted on rivers and streams overflowing with salmon. However, these ecosystems are rebounding thanks to River Partners and our allies.

We are putting hundreds of thousands of native plants into the ground up and down the state, matching distinct and varied species to their historic locations. Along the Central Valley’s major rivers, wildlife are returning to nest, burrow, spawn, and breed in areas they haven’t inhabited in a century.

The restoration of a floodplain forest at our historic 1,600-acre Dos Rios Ranch Preserve near Modesto—which in June

became California’s newest state park in over a decade—provides nesting for red-tailed hawks, habitat for migratory birds along the 4,000-mile Pacific Flyway, and a haven for pollinators like western monarch butterflies. The expanded river habitat corridor at Dos Rios also provides flood safety, groundwater recharge, natural carbon capture, and outdoor recreation for a park-starved San Joaquin Valley.

We’ve replicated this blueprint for ecosystem recovery statewide, including at the 1,000-acre Panorama Vista Preserve along the Kern River in Bakersfield, which despite being one of the most ecologically imperiled rivers in the country, this year saw wildlife like beavers, coyotes, and bobcats return.

Along the Sacramento River, River Partners, federal agencies, and the Yurok Tribe are partnering to restore historic side channel habitat for imperiled salmon at many strategic locations between Redding and Colusa. Despite critically low populations of salmon statewide, our restoration teams see fish immediately utilize restored habitat to safely feed and grow strong before heading out to sea, increasing their chances of survival.

In the San Joaquin Valley, we are providing shelter, safety, and food for the endangered riparian brush rabbit. With just 5% of their habitat remaining statewide, these rabbits have fewer places to escape floodwaters. This year, we continued planting “bunny hills” where one of California’s most endangered mammals can find refuge during flooding.

In Southern California, we’re restoring a native mesquite and cottonwood forest along the Alamo River near the Salton Sea. The area once was a mecca for birds including burrowing owls, and habitat restoration at the Imperial Wildlife Area will restore a vibrant area for wildlife and people to enjoy again.

Once degraded, our river forests are making a comeback. In restoring nearly 20,000 acres of river forest since 1998, River Partners is bringing life back to all of California and boosting ecosystems that touch and benefit life everywhere.

Wildlife Tell Us It’s Working: Experts studying River Partners’ statewide restoration over the last quarter-century since our founding have shown that our revitalized sites are a boon for wildlife. Left: Historically, upwards of one million salmon returned from the Pacific Ocean each year to spawn in Central Valley rivers and streams. Now, experts are afraid of losing entire runs of native salmon in the wild. Populations of winter-run Chinook salmon in particular have dropped by over 90% in the last 20 years. Salmon need decisive, scaled-up action to survive the next decade. River Partners is restoring critical floodplain habitat and increasing river flows to ensure their survival. Right: Last year a rare Western yellow-billed Cuckoo was found along Butte Creek in Glenn County where River Partners restored 50 acres of native habitat 20 years ago. It’s estimated the statewide population of this striking, endangered bird is fewer than 50 pairs.

Salmon photo: Carl Costas / California Department of Water Resources.



The Future We Need

In the Heart of the Central Valley, A New Park Shows the Way



“Opening Dos Rios is a game changer. It provides a new model of multi-benefit park that also reduces flood risk for local communities, provides a refuge for local residents during worsening heat waves, and restores the natural environment of the Central Valley to benefit local wildlife.”

—WADE CROWFOOT
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES SECRETARY

State Park ranger Caitlin Torres leads a public tour at the newly opened state park at River Partners’ former Dos Rios Ranch Preserve near Modesto. The San Joaquin Valley is one of the most park-starved regions of the state and the new park, the latest in over a decade, will boost public health by providing local and regional communities much-needed opportunities to recreate outdoors. This includes places to swim and cool off during summers that are predicted to get longer and hotter.

Photo: Courtesy Le Devoir



“Dos Rios is not just a park. It’s a community treasure that offers peace, adventure, and a vital connection to nature.”

—Ali Manzo, California State Parks Interpreter at Dos Rios

A Natural Sanctuary for All: Growing up in the Central Valley, Ali Manzo felt a strong connection to the land. In 2015, before Dos Rios became a state park, she volunteered with the Tuolumne River Trust and River Partners to plant saplings that would grow into the very trees that provide shade and habitat at Dos Rios today. Manzo now works as an Interpreter at Dos Rios, offering programs in Spanish and English. She is committed to ensuring the beautiful park is an accessible natural sanctuary for all.

Once a patchwork of agricultural fields in the heart of the Central Valley, the state park at Dos Rios is today a maturing native forest, home to dozens of native wildlife and plant species. In what was California’s most park-starved region, community members today can walk through restored riverside trails.

This is what California’s future can look like. River Partners has already made this vision a reality at our 1,600-acre Dos Rios Ranch Preserve located west of Modesto, which officially opened as California’s newest State Park in over a decade in June 2024.

Dos Rios provides a blueprint for future multi-benefit riverway restoration. It delivers water conservation and replenishment, wildlife habitat, flood safety, and more. At the state park dedication on Earth Day, state leaders touted River Partners’ restoration vision, work, and stewardship.

Governor Gavin Newsom shared, “This park is a key asset to fighting the climate crisis, home to the state’s largest floodplain restoration project.”

California Department of Parks and Recreation Director Armando Quintero called Dos Rios a “park of the future,” adding, “The vision for Dos Rios is a journey into the past, revealing a lush Central Valley and a local escape – adjacent to two rivers and a wildlife refuge.”

Here, at the heart of the Pacific Flyway, a global migration mega-corridor, we have seen the return of Swainson’s hawks, least Bell’s vireos, yellow warblers, sandhill cranes, and the formerly endangered Aleutian cackling goose. The riparian woodrat and riparian brush rabbit, one of California’s most endangered mammals, have also returned to their native homes. Chinook salmon and steelhead trout have been documented swimming nearby.

Over the past 5 years, we planted more than 12,000 milkweed and other pollinator-friendly plants to help slow the decline of the Western monarch butterfly—part of the largest coordinated monarch restoration effort in the West. The park also provides a place for Indigenous peoples to connect to their ancestral lands including at a special cultural-gathering area, planted in 2021 and protected in perpetuity with a one-of-a-kind cultural easement. There, Native community members have a place to gather native plants for basketweaving such as sedge, dogbane, and deergrass safely and freely.

Dos Rios shows us a future in which restoration of river corridors supports wildlife and healthy communities. This special place shows us that together, we can restore our riverways and allow nature and people to thrive.

Doesn’t that future look bright?

Dos Rios, Park of the Future: On Earth Day in April, River Partners President Julie Rentner (center) joined Governor Gavin Newsom (right) and California Department of Parks and Recreation Director Armando Quintero (left) to dedicate Dos Rios as California’s newest state park in over a decade. Dos Rios is the gold standard for statewide restoration projects to come, particularly in the Central Valley, earning it the title of a “Park of the Future.”

Photo: Austin Stevenot, River Partners Director of Tribal Engagement



SEEDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CALIFORNIA

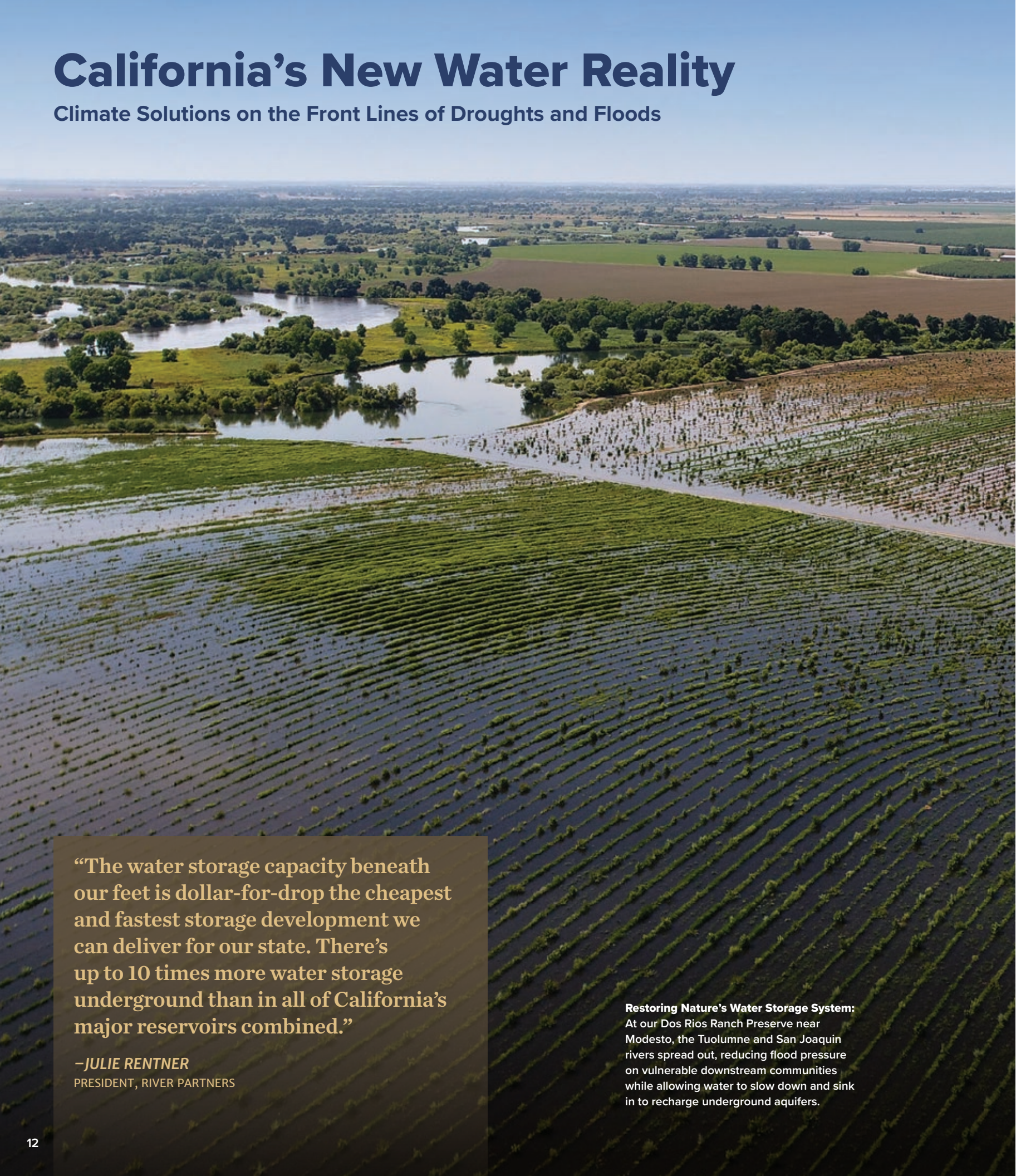
Through innovative agricultural techniques combined with ecological science, River Partners is re-introducing critical habitat in California on a scale not undertaken by any other organization. But we can't do it alone.

A Heritage Growers team member collects great valley gumplant (*Grindelia camporum*) at the nearly 27,000-acre San Luis National Wildlife Refuge in Merced County. River Partners launched Heritage Growers Native Seed and Plant Supply (heritagegrowers.org) in 2021 to address California's and the West's severe native seed shortage and help the state meet its bold biodiversity and climate goals. Collecting this locally adapted variety of gumplant supports Heritage Growers' mission of providing the most well-suited native seeds for restoring California's uniquely diverse landscapes throughout the state.

Photo: Eric Neitzel

California’s New Water Reality

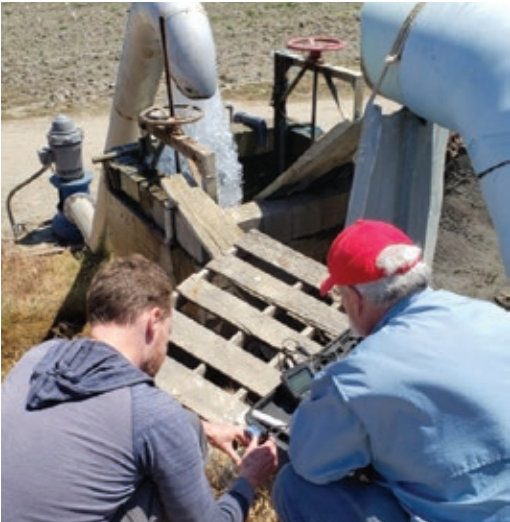
Climate Solutions on the Front Lines of Droughts and Floods



“The water storage capacity beneath our feet is dollar-for-drop the cheapest and fastest storage development we can deliver for our state. There’s up to 10 times more water storage underground than in all of California’s major reservoirs combined.”

—JULIE RENTNER
PRESIDENT, RIVER PARTNERS

Restoring Nature’s Water Storage System:
At our Dos Rios Ranch Preserve near Modesto, the Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers spread out, reducing flood pressure on vulnerable downstream communities while allowing water to slow down and sink in to recharge underground aquifers.



“People now realize what huge mistakes were made in the last 100 years. We’re trying to understand how nature works so we can move forward in a way that’s nature-centric.”

—Dr. Rosemary Knight, a professor in the Geophysics Department at Stanford conducting hydrogeophysical mapping of floodplain restoration sites.

Deepening Groundwater Recharge Science: River Partners and a coalition of science partners from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Stanford University, and CSU, Stanislaus are at the forefront of groundbreaking research looking to nature—and our rivers—to support recharging underground aquifers across California. Our joint groundwater research study will advance our understanding of how floodwaters can support groundwater storage on restored floodplains. Using geochemical isotope tracking to trace water sources Dr. Ate Visser (LLNL) and his team trace the fingerprint of water collected from groundwater samples (pictured), while the hydrophysical study of Dr. Horacio Ferriz (CSU, Stanislaus) elucidates the patterns of shallow groundwater flow adjacent to the San Joaquin River.

Driving down the I-5 corridor from Redding to Bakersfield in the summer, you might feel like you’re crossing a dry desert rather than a Mediterranean paradise.

Now, imagine this landscape as a thriving, water-rich region with networks of rivers, streams, floodplains, and wetlands.

This isn’t fantasy, but a glimpse of California’s past, and a future we can recreate for native habitat, towns, and farmland. This necessary transformation is supported by state leaders for a new vision of water management in California.

The key lies in reconnecting California rivers with their lost natural water infrastructure like floodplains, marshes, and groundwater aquifers.

“As things change, we can’t just build more dams...we already have plenty of those. With increasing hydroclimate variability, the kinds of interventions we need are things like floodplain restoration and groundwater banking,” says Dr. Daniel Swain, climate scientist at the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA.

River Partners is spearheading a unique new public-private partnership with support from nonprofit leads that include the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, California Water Action Collaborative, and California Water Resilience Initiative, as well as global brands like Proctor & Gamble, Apple, Chipotle, Google, Amazon, Pentair, and others.

Together, we are inviting private partners to join public agencies in delivering transformative projects at multiple, strategic locations in the Sacramento River basin and San Joaquin Valley. Our work of water replenishment projects is the first of its kind to leverage private investment in large-scale riverway restoration in California.

With projects implemented over the next several years, this watershed-scale restoration will replenish and repurpose critical freshwater resources,

benefit endangered native salmon and other imperiled wildlife, and deliver measurable improvements in flood safety, carbon capture, and groundwater replenishment to boost California’s climate resiliency.

Notably, in 2024 we launched a Sacramento basin companion to our flagship Dos Rios Ranch project in the San Joaquin Valley, pairing investment from Apple with support from state and federal agencies to restore and reconnect 1,600 acres of natural floodplains at the confluence of the Feather River, Sacramento River, and Butte Creek. It’s the largest river confluence in the entire Central Valley.

The project, Dos Rios Norte, will convert farmland back to native habitat, reducing water demand and encouraging flooding to recharge underground aquifers.

Following restoration, the water rights associated with the property, some of the oldest in California, will be dedicated for streamflow enhancement to benefit imperiled fish and wildlife like Chinook salmon.

Dos Rios Norte restoration planning is now underway in partnership with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge department of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians.

These important partnerships address our critical window of opportunity this decade to restore ecological health to important riverside lands statewide. By restoring rivers and floodplains, we rejuvenate natural water storage during wet years for use during dry times. We also reduce long-term irrigation demand by transitioning farmland into native habitat.

“At River Partners, we go beyond restoration to reimagine how we manage water in California for ecosystems, communities, and the state’s economy,” says River Partners President Julie Rentner. “We’re fixing the things that went wrong. We’re fixing the things that drive drought emergencies, and we’re creating places for wildlife and parks for people in the process.”

Confluence at Dos Rios Norte: With support from state and federal agencies and Apple, River Partners is restoring 1,600 acres at the largest river confluence in California’s Central Valley—the Feather River, Sacramento River, and Butte Creek—to benefit endangered salmon. Restoration at Dos Rios Norte is possible through government support from the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, CA Department of Water Resources, CA Natural Resources Agency, CA Wildlife Conservation Board, and US Bureau of Reclamation.

Photo: Mike Davis, River Partners Senior Restoration Science Ecologist



Healing Our Connection with the Land

The True Value of Restored Riverways



“We’ve lost 95% of our riparian forests in this state since colonization. Along with that, we’ve lost 95% of the native culture, of the people. My hope is by putting these things back, we can start shifting in the other direction.”

—AUSTIN STEVENOT
NORTHERN SIERRA MEWUK TRIBAL MEMBER,
RIVER PARTNERS DIRECTOR OF TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

Seeding Renewal on the Klamath River: The largest dam removal in U.S. history restored free flow to the Klamath River for the first time in 100 years, reconnecting more than 400 miles of habitat for critically imperiled salmon and other wildlife. In 2024, Heritage Growers, River Partners’ nonprofit native seed venture, proudly supported the Yurok Tribe and Klamath River Renewal Corporation in their historic effort by providing tens of thousands of native plants and millions of native seeds to help restore the river. Pictured: Yellow Chick Lupine in the footprint of the former Iron Gate Reservoir in California.

Photo: Joshua Chenoweth, Yurok Tribe Senior Riparian Ecologist



“This gathering allowed different generations of Maidu from various tribal communities to come together, reinforcing our communal bonds and reclaiming an important traditional Native staple food. By being on our traditional lands, we not only reconnected with the land but also strengthened relationships with each other.”

—Taylor Pennewell, Redbud Resource Group
Executive Director

Healing with the Land: In July, River Partners partnered with the Native-led nonprofit Redbud Resource Group to invite members of the Foothill Maidu community and other Tribes back to their ancestral homeland to gather Ja:lalu (elderberries) at a restoration site River Partners planted along the Feather River in 2020.

Climate change is driving extreme weather and flood events in California, with flooding frequency and intensity estimated to increase by up to 500% in some regions, threatening widespread damage to agriculture and communities. The economic cost of a catastrophic flood could reach as high as \$1 trillion and represent one of the costliest natural disasters in human history. The stakes couldn’t be higher, and the cost of inaction is too great to ignore.

Restoring the state’s most flood-prone riverways is a powerful, cost-effective, and proven solution to mitigate climate-driven disasters, from flooding to drought and more. However, when considering the value of riverway restoration, economics is just one part of the equation. Can you truly put a price on preventing a community from flooding, ensuring a clean water supply, or saving a species from extinction?

Take salmon for example: California’s salmon industry may be valued at \$1.4 billion, but does salmon’s worth determine their right to survive? What about monarch butterflies, snow geese, songbirds, or tule elk?

The beauty of a thriving planet transcends financial measures—it’s an essential part

of our humanity. Landscapes we restore are inspirations, sources of solace, and connections to something greater than ourselves.

For some, restoration also means reconnecting with their cultural heritage. Every piece of land River Partners touches has been home to generations of people before us. We have a duty and interest in rekindling connections to the land and water with Native peoples.

Vice Chairwoman Malissa Tayaba of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians explains, “Having access to cultural landscapes we were once removed from gives us the opportunity to help heal the land, preserve our plant and animal ancestors, and restore salmon to these waterways.” River Partners is honored to collaborate with Tayaba’s Tribe, who thrived in California’s fertile Central Valley for thousands of years before European contact. At Dos Rios Norte near Sacramento, River Partners and Shingle Springs are restoring 1,600 acres of natural floodplain at the confluence of Butte Creek and the Sacramento and Feather rivers.

The Central Valley, once a vast network of wetlands, rivers, and riparian forests stewarded by Native Californians, is now a “sacrifice zone” where habitat conditions are severely degraded. This

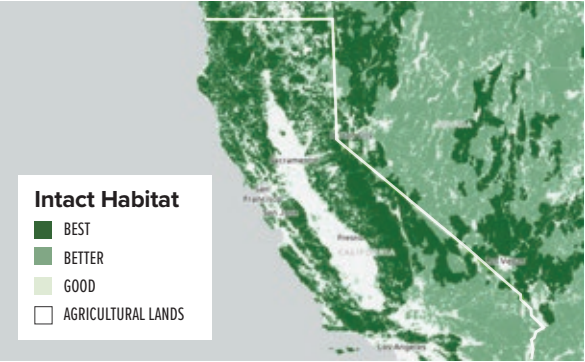
transformation has pushed California’s biodiversity to the brink, with over 600 native species, including the Central Valley Chinook salmon, riparian brush rabbit, California tiger salamander, and San Joaquin kit fox, at risk of extinction. In the last 20 years alone, California has lost more than 1 million acres of native habitat, and today the state holds the unfortunate distinction of having the most extensive—and most imperiled—biodiversity in the United States.

Our partnerships with Tribes are part of a paradigm shift in natural resources management currently underway to right historic wrongs faced by California Native American peoples. We acknowledge the importance of Indigenous practices, knowledge, and connection to the land to recover and protect fragile biodiversity. Supporting Tribal access, land stewardship, and land and water return is a key strategy for recovering wildlife populations and building climate resilience.

This year, River Partners Director of Tribal Engagement and Northern Sierra Mewuk Tribal member Austin Stevenot worked directly with Tribal partners to ensure our restoration efforts honor and benefit Indigenous communities. “For me, it’s about being able to help our culture revive itself,” says Stevenot.

The “Sacrifice Zone”: Just a couple centuries ago, rivers in the Central Valley meandered freely, creating rich habitats that supported Indigenous cultures, fish, migratory birds, and even grizzly bears. When settlers drained riverside lands and built dams, these vital ecosystems nearly collapsed. Today, we’ve lost 95% of the Central Valley’s riverside habitat, and some refer to the Central Valley as an ecological “sacrifice zone.” California’s biodiversity is in crisis—nearly 80% of California native freshwater fish face extinction in the next century if we don’t take swift, large-scale action. Partnering with Native communities to restore riverways is essential to reversing the biodiversity and climate crisis.

Map: “Intact Habitat Cores on US Native Lands” by the Native Lands Advocacy Project



Thank You

To all of our partners and supporters

COLLABORATIVES

Bank Swallow Working Group
California Native Grasslands Association
California Water Action Collaborative
California Water Resilience Initiative
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 Workgroups—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

Bakersfield College
California State University, Chico
California State University, Bakersfield
California State University, Sacramento
California State University, Stanislaus
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Conservation Metrics
Cramer Fish Sciences
eDNA Explorer
FISHBIO
Lawrence Livermore National Lab
Modesto Junior College
Public Policy Institute of California
San Francisco Estuary Institute
Santa Clara University
Stanford University
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Merced
UC Santa Cruz
Washington State University

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

American Rivers
Altacal Audubon Society
Audubon California
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Bring Back the Kern
Butte Environmental Council
California Indian Basketweavers' Association
California Invasive Plant Council
California Native Plant Society
CalTrout

California Waterfowl Association
Central Valley Community Foundation
Colusa County Farm Bureau
Coro Northern California
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Downey Brand
Ducks Unlimited
Earth Discovery Institute
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental Incentives
ESA Associates
FlowWest

Joseph Gallo Farms
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
McBain Associates / Applied River Sciences
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Natural Heritage Institute
Northern California Water Association
Pacific Gas & Electric
Point Blue Conservation Science
Redbud Resource Group
Resources Legacy Fund

Restore the Delta
Sacramento County Farm Bureau
Sacramento River Forum
Sacramento State University
Sacramento Valley Conservancy
San Diego Bird Alliance
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
Sustainable Conservation
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
Talone Lake Conservancy
Trout Unlimited
Tuolumne River Trust
Watershed Nursery
Western Water Strategies
Wood Rogers
Xerces Society
Youth Leadership Institute
Zanjero Associates

INDIGENOUS TRIBES

Berry Creek Rancheria of Tyme
Maidu Indians of California
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California
Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Rancheria
Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California
Jamul Indian Village of California
Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria
North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians

of California
Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians
Redding Rancheria
Pala Band of Mission Indians
San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Tachi Yokut Tribe
Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
United Auburn Indian Community
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Yurok Tribe

FEDERAL AGENCIES & CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

Congressmember John Garamendi
Congressmember Josh Harder
Congressmember Jay Panetta
Congressmember Doug LaMalfa
Congressmember Jared Huffman
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

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Assemblymember Heath Flora
Assemblymember Esmerelda Soria
Assemblymember James Gallagher
Senator Melissa Hurtado
Assemblymember Vince Fong
Senator Anna Caballero
Senator Roger Niello
Senator Susan Eggman
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
California Conservation Corps
California Coastal Conservancy
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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 Problem Solvers Foundation
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 Modesto
City of Oakley
City of San Diego
Colusa County
Contra Costa RCD
Contra Costa Water District
East Bay Regional Parks District
East Merced RCD
East Stanislaus RCD
FIELD Institute
Glenn County RCD
Grasslands Water District
Greater Valley Conservation Corps
Imperial County
Imperial Irrigation District
Lower San Joaquin Levee District
Madera County
Merced County
Modesto Irrigation District
Oakdale Irrigation District
Reclamation Districts: 108, 784, 2011, 2028, 2037, 2092, 2110, 2137, 2140
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
San Diego County
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
San Joaquin Area Flood Control Agency
San Joaquin County
San Joaquin River Conservancy
Solano County RCD
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

CORPORATE WATER STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS

Amazon
Apple
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Cargill Global Water Challenge
Google, in partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Pentair Foundation
Procter & Gamble, In Partnership with Business for Water Stewardship

IMPACT INVESTORS

Bill Bartlett and Mary McNally
Ken Grossman and Katie Gonser
The David & Lucile Packard Foundation

CONTINUED

2024 Forrest Legacy Award

River Partners is honored to present our annual Forrest Legacy Award to four outstanding champions of riverway and community 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.



“State Parks is committed to ensuring access for all Californians as we collaboratively craft this park alongside the public, tribal partners, and stakeholders for a healthier natural environment close to home.”

Armando Quintero

California Department of Parks & Recreation Director

River Partners is honored to collaborate with California State Parks & Recreation Director Armando Quintero and his team this year to open California's newest state park in more than a decade at Dos Rios Ranch near Modesto. Since his appointment by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2020, Director Quintero has expertly navigated partnerships and agencies to ensure that San Joaquin Valley residents, who have the fewest parks per capita of anywhere in California, have access to beautiful parks and open spaces. Under his leadership, State Parks has expanded access, promoted equity, and fostered inclusion, ensuring that underrepresented communities and Native Californians are given an honored role in the stewardship and interpretation of our natural and cultural resources. One of Director Armando's best leadership qualities is his extraordinary ability to connect to people through stories that make us laugh, cry, and remember why we need nature and each other.



The David & Lucile Packard Foundation

Conservation and Philanthropic Champion

The David & Lucile Packard Foundation is a pathbreaking partner in community-led efforts to protect and restore our natural world. As a bold early-stage investor, the Foundation enabled River Partners'

acquisition of priority lands for restoration and permanent protection along the Sacramento River. Restoration of these critical floodplains now underway will yield hundreds of times their cost in broad climate resilience, habitat, and community benefits. The Foundation has re-doubled its support to help implement California's historic \$40 million budget earmark for floodplain restoration. The Foundation's low-interest loan jump-started the state's investment, enabling River Partners to immediately initiate restoration across large swaths of priority floodplains for flood safety, water conservation, community open space and indigenous land reconnection. We are proud to partner toward the Foundation's vision to build a just and equitable world where people and nature flourish.



“I think mental health is where it all starts. Nature pays a huge part in your life: the sounds, the vegetation, the peacefulness.”

Lilia Lomeli-Gil

Grayson United Community Foundation Co-Founder

Lilia Lomeli-Gil's dedication to her small farming community of Grayson reflects the resilience of the nearby San Joaquin River—once forgotten, now coming back to life. When Lilia moved to Grayson over 20 years ago, water in the community was undrinkable and the river was severely degraded. Lilia advocated for her community to have clean water, and as Co-Founder of the United Community Foundation and Director of the Grayson Community Center, Lilia works tirelessly to ensure her neighbors are not overlooked, providing essential services like senior and after-school programs. She believes in the transformative power of nature for mental, physical, and spiritual health, often finding solace in walks along the river at the nearby Grayson Riverbend Preserve, a 285-acre site restored by River Partners in 2022. Lilia's vision is simple yet profound: Instead of seeking a better place to live, she brings people together to create a better community right where they are.



Bonneville Environmental Foundation

Driving private-sector investment in nature-based water solutions

The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is a visionary nonprofit with a long track record of working side by side with multinational companies and leading

non-governmental organizations to advance innovative solutions to pressing climate, water, energy, and other natural-resource challenges.

Over many years, BEF has served as a steadfast thought partner and advocate in driving critical corporate investment to advance River Partners' multi-benefit riverway restoration statewide. BEF is particularly effective in demonstrating how bringing life back to California rivers can help diverse industries achieve their bold commitments to long-term water stewardship. These same investments will help California meet its first-in-the-nation water, climate, biodiversity, and community health initiatives over the coming decades.

BEF continues to lead the way in demonstrating the power of public-private partnerships to achieve tangible, lasting impact for California, the West, and nation.

SUPPORTERS*

\$100,000+
The Joseph and Vera Long Foundation
Pentair Foundation
The Volgenau Foundation
The Water Foundation

\$25,000–\$99,999
Anonymous (2)
2032 Trust
Susan and Thomas Newmeyer

\$10,000–\$24,999
Elizabeth Schwerer and Kingston Duffie
Lynn Chiapella
The Lyons Family
The Eucalyptus Foundation
Liz Hume and Jay Jacobs
Monroe and Carol Sprague

\$5,000–\$9,999
Anonymous
Coleman Lannum and Christine Lannum
The Dillon Fund

\$1,000–\$4,499
Anonymous
Gerdes Greenberg Charitable Fund
In Honor of David McNally
Kim Forrest
Celeste Cantu and Barry Stampfl
Joanne Karlton
Gwyneth Stephenson
Alex and Seana Karolyi
Richard D. Edminster
Enterprise Mobility Foundation
Pam Jones
Chris Kiilsgaard
John Cain and Tracy Westphal

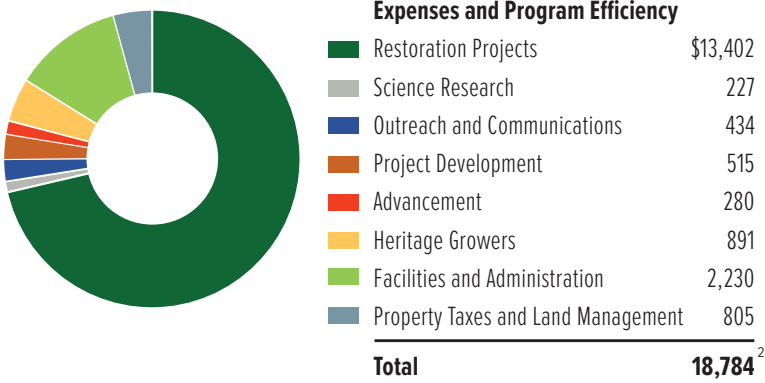
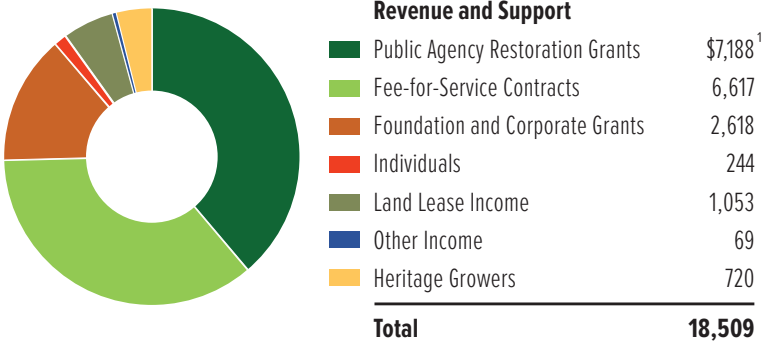
\$500–\$999
Matt and Meghan Hertel
Dixie King
Kathleen Bond
Barbara Shipley Boyle
Elena Flynn
Miguel Garcia
Tom Lando
Doug Lipton
Maria Newman
Prewoznik Foundation
Richard Schaffer
Robert A. Schlising
Gravelly Ford Family Farm
Kim Harley and Chris Fry
Bonnie Holmer-Orange
Irving and Nitsa Schiffman
Gwyneth Stephenson

Up to \$500
Anonymous
Carol Anderson
Dee Near
Haylee Ayers
Paul Belz
Joyce Bender
Alison Berry
Nicole Hastings-Bethel
Debra Bishop
Tawny Blake
Diana S. Brooks and Lauren de Boer
Edy Brookhouse
Twining Campbell
Jennifer Carey
Robert Case
Anne-Petit Christ
Aimee Chudy
Sierra Club
Heather Conrad
Robert Croeni

Larry Dacus
France and Alice Davis
Jackson Dodge
Robert Eisenstein
Frank Eldredge
Linda A Espino
Donna M Farrish
George and Jacqueline Folsom
Tom Fraser
Cynthia Gailey
PG&E Employee Giving
Arthur Godwin
Kristen Goldenberg
Robert Gould
Amy Hansen
Anne Hansen
Jennifer Harris
Kurt Harvey
Nancy Herrman
Andrew Honig
Kellie Hoover
Terrel Hutton and Tom Hicks
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Janet Kamian
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Sunhee Kim
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Carol Krok
Janna Layton
Leo Levitt
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Chuck Lundgren
Don L MacGregor
Brianna McGuire
Dan Meier
Michael Moran
Megan Moscol
Steven Most
Rick Neishi
Barry Nelson
Vickie Newlin
Edwin Orozco
Pauli Ayres In Memory of Sharon Oxwang
Stephen Peck
Ray and Jana Pingle
Gloria and Jim Purcell
Germain Boivin and Patricia Puterbaugh
David Rader
George Rawley
Stephanie Reader
Frederic Reid
Rebecca Herring Reiner
Shelley Rink
Mark Rosenthal
Suellen Rowlison
Arohi Sharma
Peter Sherman
Eric and Elaine Simmons
Priscilla Solorio
Tamara Sperber
Roxanne and Steve Storm
Lee Sue
Helen Swagerty
Michael and Erika Swimmer
Jeff Thomas and Tessa Van Der Meijden
Richard Thomas
Daniel Vorhies
Linda Waddell
Wesley Watson
Martha Weesner
Lee Whitmer
Amy Wolfberg
Mike Wright
Danuta Zaroda and Mark Whatley

2024 Financials July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 (Unaudited)

Dollars in thousands



¹ Additional public agency grants of \$38.6 million were secured for land acquisitions; 2,994 acres were acquired for restoration in FY24.
² 99% of our budget was expended in the local communities where we work.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Dollars in thousands)

ASSETS

Cash and investments	\$3,862
Accounts receivable	\$9,170
Prepaid expenses	\$473
Inventory	\$2,398
Fixed assets and real estate, net	\$28,616
Total Assets	\$44,519

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$4,003
Accrued liabilities	\$552
Unearned revenue	\$6,039
Notes payable, net	\$7,661
Total Liabilities	\$18,255

NET ASSETS

Total Net Assets	\$26,264
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$44,519

Grow Restored Riverways With Us

Your investment seeds our growth and supports some of the most game-changing conservation efforts in the West—helping double our pace of restoration in this critical decade.

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 helps us continue to scale our proven solutions.

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.



Seeding a resilient future: Thousands of pounds of locally adapted native seeds await distribution across California and beyond at the native seed and plant farm, Heritage Growers, that River Partners launched in 2021. These seeds are the foundation for scaling up ecosystem restoration, driving wins for climate, biodiversity, and community resilience.

Please Join Us
www.riverpartners.org/give

Follow us:



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Mark Borges

Jay Jacobs

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riverpartners.org

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

2024 Impact Report: Christian Burke, Terrel Hutton, Sean Murphy, Alex Karolyi, Lily Rothrock
River Partners is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization ID # 94-3302335 CA License #858059

Cover Photo: Mike Davis, River Partners Senior Restoration Science Ecologist
Back Cover Photo: Haley Mirts, River Partners Restoration Science Ecologist