



RIVER
PARTNERS

2025 IMPACT REPORT

Hope In Action



Dear Friends,

I'm saddened every day by bad news about how we are mistreating our home: vanishing biodiversity, intensifying drought, raging wildfires, devastating flooding, and growing tensions across our communities over limited resources. Yet, I hold a hope that may seem contradictory. **I believe California's future is bright.**

Every day I see proof that we can heal our landscapes, strengthen communities, boost local economies, and create a better world for generations to come. We call it restoration, but what we're really doing is *creating*—creating resilience, sustainability, and vibrant natural systems that allow people and wildlife to thrive.

California's greatest strength has always been creativity and determination. We live in one of the most water-stressed, biologically rich, and culturally diverse places on Earth. Our challenges are immense—but so is our opportunity to lead the world in bringing life

back to our rivers, and all that depend on them. Every day at River Partners, we witness renewal born of collaboration among government agencies, farmers, water districts, Tribal nations, community leaders, global corporations, and everyday people working for our shared future:

- Marginal, **flood-prone farmland transformed into thriving forests** alive with the song of an extremely rare bird missing from the Central Valley for over six decades
- Sediment-choked **waterways reopened to river flows**, welcoming back salmon that nearly blinked out due to habitat loss
- Defunct Central Valley **dairies reborn as marshes** buzzing with pollinators essential to growing one-third of California's crops
- **Lush river parks where families gather** under shade to enjoy nature and boost their well-being
- **Water seeping back into depleted aquifers** to secure supplies for the future

“We can restore our rivers, rethink how we value them, and create a thriving California leading the world in restoration.”

In 2025, River Partners surpassed a major milestone: over 20,000 acres restored across every major watershed in the state. These revitalized landscapes buffer downstream communities from floods, recharge groundwater, improve water quality, store carbon naturally, and give people from all walks of life access to the beauty in their own backyards. More durable and less expensive to build than gray infrastructure, restored floodplains harness the power of water to heal and restore our landscapes and communities.

Together with our partners, we're proving what California's restoration future can look like: one where fish and farms thrive together, where flood safety and ecosystem health go hand in hand, and where future generations will rest in the shade of the trees we plant today.

Imagine a future without partnerships like ours—one that preserves the status quo and stifles creativity. That future is bleak, and it reminds us what's at stake. But together, we can walk a different path: We can restore our rivers, rethink how we value them, and create a thriving California leading the world in restoration.

Consider this my invitation to you. Let's get to work!

Julie Rentner
Julie Rentner
 President



Reviving Rivers, Rebuilding Resilience

When rivers thrive, so does California.

Healthy rivers are the lifeblood of California's environment, communities, and economy. River Partners unites diverse allies around a shared goal: bring rivers back to life. With a growing movement of partners—farmers, flood engineers, Tribal nations, scientists, corporations, public agencies, and local communities—River Partners has doubled California's acres of restored native river habitat since our founding in 1998, the largest on-the-ground restoration footprint in the West.

IMPACT SINCE 1998



20,266 acres of habitat protected and restored

940 added in 2025



BIODIVERSITY

86

priority wildlife supported

Connected river corridors serve as habitat lifelines for imperiled species, from monarchs to salmon.



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

\$194,200,280

channeled directly to the communities where we work

\$25,825,140 in 2025

River restoration creates green jobs, expands access to nature, and uplifts Tribal and vulnerable communities.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

1,584,879

metric tons of CO²-equivalent greenhouse gases captured

130,915 added in 2025

Restored riverside landscapes capture carbon naturally and are lifelines for withstanding, adapting to, and recovering from climate-driven droughts, heatwaves, and floods.



WATER SECURITY

11.2 billion

gallons of freshwater conserved, replenished, or repurposed

451,061,151 in 2025

Revitalized rivers, wetlands, and watersheds recharge groundwater, reduce irrigation demand, and secure freshwater supplies for people and wildlife.



FLOOD SAFETY

219

river miles restored

4 added in 2025

Multi-benefit floodplain restoration is a proven, nature-based approach to increase flood safety for upstream and downstream communities.



NATIVE HABITAT

4,559,742

native trees and vegetation planted

211,568 added in 2025

Riparian forests are natural pollution filters that improve water quality, sequester carbon, and provide habitat for birds, pollinators, mammals, and fish.



What's at Stake

95%

of historic riverside habitats in the Central Valley have been lost

nearly

50%

of California's freshwater species are highly vulnerable to extinction in this century

\$1.3B

Projected annual flood damages statewide due to increases in extreme weather

River Partners has restored 20,000+ critical acres across every major California watershed since 1998



Klamath River Restoration

River Partners' native seed and plant venture, Heritage Growers, produced over 40,000 native plants and millions of seeds, helping to fuel the largest dam removal and river restoration in U.S. history, allowing salmon to return to parts of the Klamath for the first time in a century.



Rancho Breisgau

In partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, River Partners restored 150+ acres of floodplain habitat along Battle Creek, one of the last strongholds for all four runs of salmon and steelhead in the state.



Russian River Tributary, Gill Creek

River Partners is preparing to restore a former vineyard into 51 acres of new riparian forest and floodplain, supporting nearly 7 miles of steelhead-bearing streams, nesting songbirds, river otters, pollinators, and other wildlife.



Dos Rios Norte

Located at one of the largest river confluences in California's Central Valley—where the Sacramento and Feather rivers meet lower Butte Creek—River Partners will restore nearly 1,600 acres of floodplain habitat, providing critical refuge for endangered species like Chinook salmon.



Ensen Community Park at Carr Lake

River Partners is proud to partner with the Big Sur Land Trust to transform 73 acres of former farmland—once part of a historic lakebed—into a park and open space in the heart of Salinas. This restored landscape reconnects wetland and river habitats, improves water quality, enhances fish and wildlife habitat, and boosts flood safety while providing much-needed open space.



Hidden Valley Ranch

After 10 years of management, four years of planning, and five months of planting, River Partners completed the transformation of a 482-acre dairy to wildlife habitat, replenishing fresh water along the San Joaquin River and joining one of the largest contiguous restored riparian habitat corridors in California.



Crows Landing River Ranch

River Partners is restoring this 251-acre former dairy in Stanislaus County to native habitat, where tri-colored blackbirds—a threatened species once on the brink of extinction due to wetland loss—have returned in flocks.



Panorama Vista Preserve

River Partners is seeing life return to nearly 1,000 acres restored along the Kern River in Bakersfield—one of the nation's most degraded rivers and a vital urban refuge for wildlife and recreation.

Amargosa River

The American Bird Conservancy, Amargosa Conservancy, and River Partners are teaming up to address the Amargosa Basin's biggest challenges—groundwater depletion, habitat loss, and invasive species—by developing a shovel-ready plan to restore 1,000 acres along Willow Creek and the Amargosa River, creating vital habitat for imperiled wildlife like the Amargosa pupfish.



Dos Rios State Park

California's newest state park in nearly a decade and a half and the largest public-private floodplain restoration in California history is a leading example of green infrastructure that lowers flood risk and brings life back to the San Joaquin Valley. The park welcomed over 10,000 visitors in its first year and now offers 14 miles of trails, hiking, kayaking, fishing, and swimming access to support healthy communities in the most park-starved region of California.



Payómkawichum Coastal Preserve

River Partners is supporting the San Luis Rey Mission Indian Foundation to restore this 36-acre wetland in Oceanside to revitalize ancestral culture and protect endangered coastal species, including the least Bell's vireo and California gnatcatcher.



“River Partners’ restored riverside forests successfully absorbed floodwaters, demonstrating how reconnected floodplains act as natural shock absorbers while recharging groundwater and reviving vital wildlife habitat for endangered species like salmon.”

—Emma Havstad, Director of Restoration Science, River Partners

Floodplains at Work: For Salmon and Communities

For millennia, California’s lush river forests and vast wetlands wove a living tapestry that supported thriving human communities and one of the most productive salmon populations in the world.

Today, we’ve lost 95% of historic riverside habitat, and California’s native fish are in crisis. Scientists warn that 45% of salmon, steelhead, and trout could vanish within the next 50 years. Their survival is tied directly to the health of our rivers. At the same time, the Central Valley faces one of the highest flood risks in the nation—a threat that will only intensify with climate change.

The solution to both crises—the collapse of salmon fisheries and the rise of climate-fueled floods—is the same: restore natural river functions. By reconnecting floodplains and planting native forests and wetlands, River Partners is rebuilding the life-support systems salmon and other endangered species need to survive—while creating natural defenses that protect communities and recharge groundwater.

At the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park near Chico, River Partners planted more than 13,000 native trees and shrubs which are already shading waterways and creating habitat for fish and pollinators. During high flows this past winter, the young forest absorbed floodwaters and helped safeguard people and wildlife alike. To amplify this critical solution, we are partnering with the Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria to transform a historic oxbow of the mainstream of the Sacramento River into habitat for salmon.

Flooding is a natural, inevitable process. By working with water rather than against it, River Partners is helping California prepare for a future where salmon return in abundance, communities can better weather the coming storms, and floods bring renewal instead of ruin.



Last winter's high flows along the Sacramento River near Chico were absorbed by habitat River Partners restored in 2021 at the Bidwell-Sacramento River State Park, reducing flood risk to nearby communities while revitalizing soil, groundwater, and wildlife habitat.



about
90%
of bank swallow habitat
in North America is gone

about
70%
of California's remaining
bank swallow population
clings to a 100-mile stretch
of the Sacramento River
between Red Bluff and
Colusa that includes
56 miles of bank revetment

A Bank Swallow With No Bank

This year, River Partners completed one of our toughest river restoration efforts to date: removing nearly one mile of illegally dumped concrete from the San Joaquin River at Dos Rios State Park near Modesto. This milestone is the latest chapter in our decade-long transformation of the former ranch into thriving floodplain habitat, which opened to the public as California's newest state park in 2024.

This effort not only restored the river's natural banks—it also opened a new legal pathway for removing harmful rubble from rivers across California for the first time, a breakthrough that had previously seemed impossible. Until now, there was no clear process for untangling complicated permitting barriers to remove unauthorized materials from state waterways.

This work matters most for wildlife like the threatened bank swallow—small, darting birds that nest exclusively in colonies

carved into vertical cliffs of eroding riverbanks. Their scientific name, *Riparia riparia*, literally means “riverbank, riverbank.” Bank swallows are an icon of the river, represented in River Partners’ logo. Since the 1980s, bank swallow populations in California have declined by half, and they have been completely absent from the San Joaquin Valley for decades. Research shows that when rubble is removed, swallows return and recolonize the banks.

Our success at Dos Rios creates a replicable pathway to recover bank swallow habitat in other critical river reaches: roughly 70% of the remaining bank swallow population in California clings to survival in a 100-mile stretch of the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Colusa covered in 56 miles of bank revetment. While bank armoring is necessary to safeguard infrastructure and prevent flooding, not all “rip-rap” is legally authorized or beneficial.

“It felt like peeling off a Band-Aid.”

—River Partners Senior Restoration Ecologist Neil Wilson, who successfully guided the project through three years of a permitting gauntlet.

“There’s this cultural assumption that holding the river is a good idea,” says River Partners President Julie Rentner. “But that mindset is changing. The reality is, letting rivers move—in the right places—can reduce flood risk, improve water supplies, and give wildlife like salmon and bank swallows a fighting chance.”

Already, the newly freed banks at Dos Rios are beginning to transform. The river is meandering again, and native willows and cottonwoods are taking root, shading fish and creating habitat. While we may not see swallows return immediately, we’ve demonstrated a new model and legal pathway for restoring rivers and giving wildlife a fighting chance.

The river restoration community shares our excitement for our win at Dos Rios. “I’ve been at a number of meetings out in the field recently, and people have talked to me about Dos Rios rubble removal as if it’s the most important thing we’ve ever done,” says River Partners Director of Restoration Science Michael Rogner. “I tend to agree with them.”



1. Photo: Peter Wollesen



2.



3.



4.

Bringing Rare Species Back from the Brink

Across the state, restored riverways offer habitat lifelines where an incredible array of species, once pushed to the edge of extinction, are returning and thriving.

1. Bakersfield Cactus Recovery

The endangered Bakersfield cactus—one of California’s rarest plants—once carpeted parts of the Kern River Canyon and San Joaquin Valley in dense stands of bright magenta blooms. Today, fewer than 40 cactus stands remain within less than 3% of its historic habitat, fragmented by urban growth, agriculture, and invasive plants. At the 1,000-acre Panorama Vista Preserve along the Kern River in Bakersfield, River Partners is restoring and conserving habitat for the cactus, even propagating them in our nursery. The preserve is home to one of the largest remaining stands of this rare species and is critical to helping it reclaim its historic range.

2. 15 Million Milkweed for the Western Monarch Butterfly

In 2020, the Western monarch butterfly plummeted to just 2,000 butterflies, a 99% decline from the millions observed in the 1980s. To reverse this trend, River Partners is on a milkweed-planting spree. In 2022, we planted over 30,000 milkweed plants across 600 acres of priority monarch habitat statewide. Now, we’re kicking into high-gear with the ambitious goal of planting 15 million milkweed plants by 2030 in priority migration areas. Milkweed is essential for monarch recovery—caterpillars feed exclusively on its leaves, and females lay eggs only on milkweed. From Northern California to the Salton Sea, we’re restoring pollinator habitat in partnership with the Xerces Society, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other experts to lead the largest coordinated monarch recovery effort in the West.

“After these projects have been completed, you’re seeing fish utilize the habitat the next day. It’s just amazing. That’s where they want to be.”

—Michael Rogner, River Partners Director of Restoration Science

3. First Reemergence of Endangered Riparian Woodrat in Nearly a Decade

After eight years without a sighting, the endangered riparian woodrat is making a comeback in restored habitat. Biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found this elusive rodent hanging out in a forest River Partners began restoring in 2006 at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge near Modesto—marking the first time it was spotted in a restored landscape. There are only two known populations of riparian woodrats: one at the refuge and one at the nearby Caswell Memorial State Park. Now, wildlife cameras set up to learn more about woodrat behavior are delivering adorable results, and each image is a reminder of what’s possible when you give nature the boost it needs to thrive again.

4. Restoring Critical Salmon Habitat

Historically, Central Valley rivers meandered through vast floodplains that served as natural nurseries for young salmon, providing abundant food and shelter. Today, scientists project that 45% of California’s salmon runs will be extinct within 50 years. At our Willow Bend Preserve on the Sacramento River and dozens of other floodplain reconnection projects along Central Valley rivers, River Partners’ projects provide critical floodplain habitat for salmon to grow on, while restoring healthy river flows and temperatures supporting salmon migration. These restored floodplains sustain the entire web of life—birds, insects, amphibians, mammals—all interdependent with salmon.



LEFT: At Dos Rios State Park Redbud Resource Group's Restoring Right Relations cohort learn about integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into large-scale ecosystem restoration.

TOP RIGHT: Austin Stevenot, River Partners Director of Tribal Engagement peels dogbane fibers to make cordage.

BOTTOM-RIGHT: Members of the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians gather willow branches for basketweaving at Dos Rios State Park.

Centering Indigenous Leadership In Ecosystem Restoration

For thousands of years, California's Native Peoples have cared for rivers, wildlife, and landscapes with deep cultural knowledge of how to sustain these ecosystems.

Today, Native communities face systemic barriers to participating in restoration and accessing their ancestral lands. To help change this, River Partners launched our Tribal Engagement Program, led by Director of Tribal Engagement Austin Stevenot who is Northern Sierra Mewuk. The program aims to uplift Indigenous leadership, respect Tribal sovereignty, and integrate the parallel knowledge systems of Traditional Ecological Knowledge with Western science in large-scale habitat restoration.

"River Partners is working with Tribes and Native-led groups to repair ecosystems, return access to land and water, and elevate Indigenous leadership in climate resilience efforts," shares Stevenot. "Supporting Indigenous land guardianship, ultimately, benefits not just Native peoples, but all Californians by strengthening the health of our ecosystems and communities."

This year, with support from the California Wildlife Conservation Board, River Partners launched the San Joaquin and Tulare Basin Tribal Land Guardianship Project which engages tribal communities in every stage of restoration planning. Going beyond checking the box

"All of our restoration work is also cultural restoration, because our languages, our culture, everything is tied to the landscape."

—Austin Stevenot, Northern Sierra Mewuk & River Partners Director of Tribal Engagement

for minimum legal obligations for Tribal involvement, this program sets out to create a new standard for tribal engagement, focused on listening, building trust, partnership, and impact.

In partnership with Redbud Resource Group, a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to uplifting Native communities, we hosted emerging Native leaders at Dos Rios State Park in the San Joaquin Valley and along the Feather River to showcase successful examples of large-scale riverway restoration.

"Real tribal capacity can only be built this way—through relationships, respect, and reciprocity," says Taylor Pennewell, Executive Director of Redbud Resource Group.

These connections are part of a growing, statewide network of Tribal partners and Native-led organizations helping shape the future of conservation in California. From supporting land return and wetland revitalization with the San Luis Rey Mission Indian Foundation at the Payómkawichum Coastal Preserve in Oceanside, to partnering with the Yurok Construction Corporation to restore salmon habitat along the Sacramento and Klamath rivers, collaborating with Tribes and culture-bearers across California is an essential part of restoration that has been largely overlooked until recently. By working alongside Tribal communities, we have the opportunity to reimagine restoration in a way that is more holistic, more inclusive, and more powerful than ever before.



Growing the Vital Link for Resilient Landscapes

California's ambitious 30x30 initiative—to restore and protect 30% of the state's lands and waters by 2030 to support biodiversity and build climate resilience—depends on something tiny but essential: native seeds. Without a diverse and abundant seed supply, large-scale restoration simply can't happen.

That's why River Partners launched Heritage Growers Native Seed and Plant Supply in 2021, California's only large-scale

nonprofit native seed producer. At our native seed farm near Colusa, we grow more than 30,000 pounds of seed from over 200 native plant varieties—many not available for purchase anywhere else. Our teams scout, permit, and collect native seeds from the wild, and bring them back to the farm to grow and harvest. These seeds are the foundation for River Partners' statewide river revitalization efforts and dozens of partner restoration projects, including federal agencies,

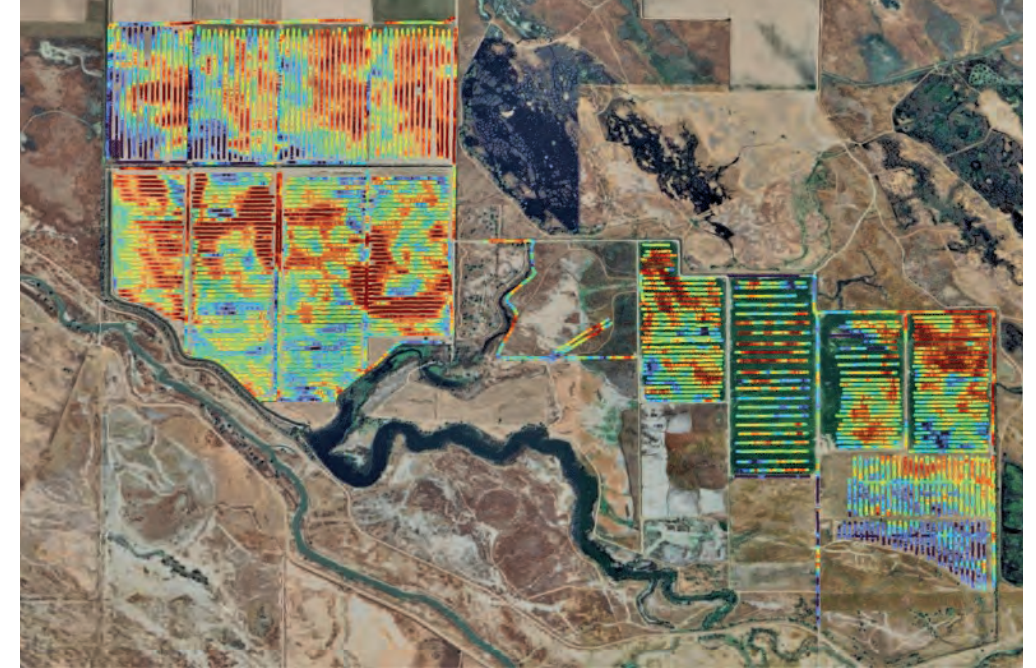
OPPOSITE PAGE: After the completion of the largest dam removal effort in U.S. history, the Klamath River flows free for the first time in over a century. *Photo: Swiftwater Films* **TOP:** Heritage Growers Native Seed and Plant Supply demonstration garden in Colusa. *Photo: Joan Bosque.* **BOTTOM-LEFT:** Yellow chick lupine carpets the former Iron Gate Reservoir in golden blooms, one of the species of native seed Heritage Growers supplied to help revitalize over 2,000 acres of reservoir footprints previously underwater along the Klamath River. *Photo: Swiftwater Films.* **BOTTOM-RIGHT:** Heritage Growers team member harvests native grass seeds at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge. *Photo: Eric Neitzel.*

Tribes, and conservation organizations working to rebuild resilient, biodiverse landscapes that can better withstand drought, flood, and fire.

Notably, Heritage Growers grew over 40,000 plants and 1,500 pounds of locally adapted seed for the largest dam removal and river renewal project in U.S. history on the Klamath River, led in part by the Yurok Tribe. September 2025 marked one year since

dam removal, and thousands of fish have already passed the former dam sites and migrated into more than 400 miles of habitat that had been blocked for a century. The returning fish are greeted by millions of native plants—seeded by helicopter and hand across the former reservoir footprints—restoring vital riverbank and floodplain habitat that will sustain salmon and breathe new life into the Klamath.

30,000+
pounds of seed produced annually from more than 200 native plant varieties to power ecosystem recovery, support biodiversity, and fuel large-scale restoration



OPPOSITE PAGE: River Partners Restoration Fellow battles dense vegetation to collect data in a restored riparian forest. **CENTER:** River Partners Associate Restoration Scientist Claudia Quintero Delgado and Restoration Ecologist Anna Talken check acoustic recording units and wildlife cameras at the Panorama Vista Preserve in Bakersfield. **TOP-RIGHT:** River Partners Associate Restoration Scientist Diego Garcia collects soil samples for environmental DNA research. **BOTTOM-RIGHT:** Data collected by Stanford University researchers show us what lies beneath the ground surface, and what areas of the Central Valley are prime for groundwater recharge.

State-of-the-Art Research Scaling Up Restoration

River Partners has grown the largest footprint of river recovery in the western U.S., tens of thousands of acres of reconnected habitat in California, a global biodiversity hotspot. For more than 25 years, we have built the field of riparian restoration from the ground up, empowering others to join us in revitalizing our riverways. Applied science is the backbone of our restoration efforts. New tools and research are rapidly expanding our living laboratories and training the next generation of conservation leaders.

This year, we launched our first large-scale deployment of acoustic recording units—our “ears on the ground”—to monitor bird diversity across restored and remnant riparian forests, helping us detect rare birds utilizing revitalized habitats. These unprecedented datasets augment ongoing in-person and

remote camera monitoring, offering an even more detailed and complete picture of how wildlife responds to restoration.

We also collected hundreds of soil samples for environmental DNA (eDNA) analysis in the San Joaquin Valley. This cutting-edge technique detects traces of rare, endangered, and hard-to-find species—past and present—and gives us insight into whole branches of the tree of life that we have not monitored before. The resulting data allows us to understand how the whole ecosystem responds to restoration.

In addition, we used mapping data from drone-based monitoring to track harmful invasive species such as *Arundo donax* across entire watersheds, improving our ability to restore heavily invaded creeks and rivers, protect wildlife habitat, boost flood safety, and mitigate wildfire risk.

“Mapping groundwater recharge is a complex task that requires cutting-edge technology and a deep understanding of the local geology. Our collaboration with River Partners is crucial in ensuring that our scientific findings translate into real-world solutions.”

—Dr. Rosemary Knight, professor of hydrogeophysics at the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability

This year we advanced groundbreaking partnerships with water researchers at Stanford University, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and CSU, Stanislaus to better understand the hidden aquifers beneath our feet. Using the towed time-domain electromagnetic (tTEM) method—essentially an MRI of the Earth—we are pinpointing the best locations in the Central Valley to divert floodwaters and allow rivers to naturally recharge groundwater across California.

River Partners’ paid Restoration Fellows program drew over 80 applicants for 12 positions this year. The program gives students and early career professionals hands-on field experience in monitoring, research, and restoration.

Many fellows have gone on to careers in conservation or joined River Partners’ staff.

By combining rigorous science, cutting-edge technology, and workforce development, River Partners is transforming how river restoration is planned, delivered, and measured—maximizing the impact of our durable, science-driven solutions for wildlife and people.



\$4M

in private sector support
deployed in 2025 unlocked:

\$59M

in public support directed to
local communities in 2025 and
for ecosystem restoration over
the next 5 years.

Leveraging the Transformative Power of Public-Private Partnerships

Since River Partners' founding nearly 30 years ago, forward-thinking public agencies have supported our statewide efforts to rebuild habitat for wildlife on the brink, boost critical water supplies, and reduce flood risk for vulnerable communities. These investments remain essential and are increasing to keep pace with worsening droughts, floods, and biodiversity loss.

Our challenges are too large to be tackled by one organization, entity, or sector alone. We all know the adage: There's strength in numbers. That is why River Partners has built an expanding, collaborative movement to finance and deliver nature-based solutions that create a water-secure future for California.

Individuals, foundations, corporations, and philanthropic lenders are increasingly powerful accelerators for restoration projects statewide, providing startup funds, activating new partnership networks, and helping finance the delivery of thousands of acres of riverway repair in this critical global "decade of restoration," declared by the United Nations to reverse the degradation of Earth's ecosystems.

Philanthropic support enables River Partners to finance start-up expenses not covered by public funding and leverage every \$1 in early stage private investments into at least \$10 in public sector support for large-scale ecosystem repair. Charitable loans likewise accelerate the pace and scale of restoration

OPPOSITE PAGE: Volunteers from Google plant native habitat at River Partners' Hidden Valley Ranch Preserve near Modesto to celebrate World Water Day. **TOP:** Former agricultural fields at Hidden Valley Ranch Preserve along the San Joaquin River prior to restoration. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A tractor prepares for native grass seed to be planted between rows of oak, sycamore, alder, rose, mugwort, mulefat, and other native vegetation at Hidden Valley Ranch.

by reducing financing costs and advancing priority restoration projects in advance of public investment.

In this moment of "all hands on deck," leading corporations are joining this movement as pivotal partners helping address California's most pressing water challenges. Private companies that depend on reliable water supplies recognize that revitalizing the state's rivers is one of the most effective—and cost-conscious—strategies available. Restored riverways replenish groundwater, improve water quality, and boost climate resilience all while delivering measurable benefits that help meet bold sustainability targets and ensure a healthier future for all Californians. These benefits ripple outward, supporting

farmers, strengthening rural economies, and improving water reliability for wildlife, communities, and businesses alike. Together, we're proving it's possible to create a water-secure future that delivers lasting benefits for people and our priceless natural resources.

Thank You *To all of our partners*

COLLABORATIVES

Bank Swallow Technical Advisory Committee
 Battle Creek Salmon Recovery Working Group
 California Bat Working Group
 California Native Grasslands Association
 California/Nevada Amphibian Task Force
 California Riparian Birds Working Group
 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
 Floodplain Forward Coalition
 Greater Battle Creek Working Group
 Lower Tuolumne River TAC
 Monarch Joint Venture
 Pacific Salmon Foundation
 Regional Flood Management Workgroups—San Joaquin, Sacramento, Feather, and Delta
 Riparian Mammals Technical Group
 Sacramento River Technical Advisory Committee
 San Diego Mitigation and Monitoring Program
 San Diego Pollinator Alliance
 San Joaquin River Partnership
 San Joaquin River Restoration Program
 San Joaquin Valley Water Collaborative Action Program
 Society for Ecological Restoration
 Sonoran Joint Venture
 Sutter Bypass Salmon Research Working Group
 Tricolored Blackbird Working Group
 Vernal Pool Recovery Implementation Team
 Water Solutions Network
 Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo Working Group
 Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

RESEARCHERS

Bakersfield College
 Bat Conservation International
 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
 Endangered Species Recovery Program

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
 University of Colorado at Boulder

NON-GOVERNMENTAL

American Rivers
 Altacal Audubon Society
 Alta Peak Chapter of California Native Plant 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
 eBird
 Environmental Defense Fund
 Environmental Incentives
 ESA Associates
 FlowWest
 iNaturalist
 Indigenous Futures Society
 Joseph Gallo Farms
 Grayson Community Center/
 United Community Foundation
 Hicks Law
 Kern County Farm Bureau
 Kern River Corridor Endowment
 Kern River Parkway Foundation
 Madera County Farm Bureau
 Mattole Restoration Council
 MBK Engineers
 McBain Associates/Applied
 River Sciences
 Merced County Farm Bureau
 National Fish and Wildlife
 Foundation
 Natural Heritage Institute
 Northern California Water
 Association
 Pacific Gas & Electric
 Point Blue Conservation Science
 Pollinator Partnership
 Redbud Resource Group
 Resources Legacy Fund

RES

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
 Sonoma Mountain Reserve
 Stanislaus Community Foundation
 Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
 Sustainable Conservation
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Trust for Public Land
 Talone Lake Conservancy
 TomKat Ranch Educational
 Foundation
 Trout Unlimited
 Tulare Basin Watershed Network
 Tulare Kings Audubon Society
 Tule River Trust
 Tuolumne River Trust
 Watershed Nursery
 Western Water Strategies
 Westervelt
 Wood Rodgers
 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
 Campo Band of Mission Indians
 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 Adam Gray
 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

STATE AGENCIES & LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

Assemblymember Esmerelda Soria
 Assemblymember James Gallagher
 Senator Melissa Hurtado
 Senator Anna Caballero
 Senator Roger Niello
 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 Hanford
 City of Holtville
 City of McFarland
 City of Modesto
 City of Oakley
 City of San Diego
 Colusa County
 Contra Costa RCD
 Contra Costa Water District
 East Bay Municipal Utilities District
 East Bay Regional Parks District
 East Merced RCD
 East Stanislaus RCD
 FIELD Institute

(continued on next page)



KIM FORREST

2025 Forrest Legacy Award

River Partners proudly presents the annual Forrest Legacy Award to four exceptional champions of river and community renewal. Named for Kim Forrest, retired San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex Manager, the award honors her decades of bold leadership in restoring San Joaquin Valley floodplains and exemplifying River Partners' core values of collaboration, perseverance, and trust to secure lasting benefits for California's environment and communities.



“We seek to create lasting change in how land, freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems are managed.”

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Championing Innovative Conservation Finance for Ecosystem Restoration

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, through the leadership of Program Officer Dan Winterson, has been a steadfast partner in advancing bold new approaches to conservation finance. By extending a low-interest impact loan to Heritage Growers—River Partners' nonprofit native seed farm—the Moore Foundation is helping break California's “native seed bottleneck” to accelerate biodiversity protection, nature-based climate solutions, and environmental conservation. Beyond working capital, Winterson and his team bring invaluable business acumen and steady encouragement, sitting side by side with farmers and nonprofit leaders to help ensure success. This spirit of deep partnership is at the heart of our shared work to create positive outcomes for future generations of people and wildlife.

“Water brings life. Putting that water back on the land will benefit everybody and everything.”



Robert Jeff, Vice Chairman, Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe

Restoring Pa'ashi (Tulare Lake) and Cultural Resilience

As Vice Chairman of the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe,

Robert Jeff has emerged as a visible and inspiring leader in efforts to restore Pa'ashi, meaning “big water” or Tulare Lake, once the largest freshwater body west of the Mississippi. With generosity, respect, vision, and courage, Jeff has championed a future where ecological renewal and cultural revitalization go hand in hand. He has been an essential ally to River Partners, lending his voice to statewide policy initiatives, sharing the story of Pa'ashi, and building momentum for the revitalization of the Kings River. Whether testifying in Sacramento or sharing songs about beaver, Jeff reminds us we are all in this together to bring life back to the landscape.



“We're trying to understand how nature works so we can move forward in a way that's nature-centric.”

Dr. Rosemary Knight, Stanford University

Advancing Innovative Science and Research for a New Water Future

Dr. Rosemary Knight, the George L. Harrington Professor of Earth Sciences at Stanford, is recognized as the founding figure of hydrogeophysics, which applies geophysical methods like ground-penetrating radar to hydrology. For nearly a decade, she and her student teams have worked with River Partners to study how restored floodplains recharge groundwater to inform sustainable water management across California. With boundless curiosity and energy, Dr. Knight has secured major research investments, led world-class teams, and applied advanced technologies to map the San Joaquin Valley's subsurface and clarify the river-groundwater connection. Her blend of scientific expertise and collaboration ensures research translates into solutions. For her, solving California's water crisis is not abstract but a local responsibility—one that requires putting rivers and nature at the center.

“I decided long ago—I'm not going to accept things I don't like in my community.”



Carolyn and Joe Belli, Kern River Corridor Endowment and Holding Company & Panorama Vista Preserve

Grassroots Champions of Kern River Restoration

When development threatened the riverside land Carolyn Belli loved to ride her horse on in Bakersfield, she mobilized, rallied partners, and raised funds to purchase it. With her husband Joe, she has stewarded the nearly 1,000-acre Panorama Vista Preserve along the Kern River, bringing new life to the region. They ensured the preserve is permanently protected, improved access with trails, and partnered with local schools to provide a living classroom for thousands of students who otherwise couldn't experience nature close to home. In partnership with River Partners, Belli helped secure millions of dollars for habitat restoration, creating vital green space amid oil fields and urban growth. A quiet but formidable leader, she listens deeply, speaks with authority, and inspires by example—leaving a legacy of resilience, access, and restored beauty. And she did it all as a volunteer while working full time.

Glenn County RCD
 Grasslands Water District
 Greater Valley Conservation Corps
 Imperial County
 Imperial Irrigation District
 Lower San Joaquin Levee District
 Madera County
 Merced County
 Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 Modesto Irrigation District
 North Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
 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

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

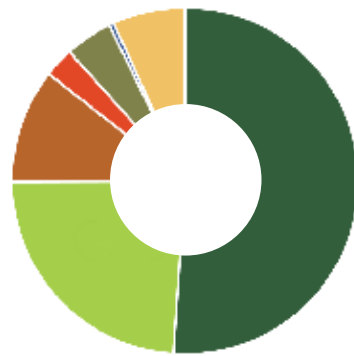
The Mary A. Crocker Trust
 The Dillon Fund
 The Eucalyptus Foundation
 The Gamble Foundation
 Holdfast Collective
 The Joseph & Vera Long Foundation
 Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
 The David & Lucile Packard Foundation
 Pentair Foundation
 Resources Legacy Fund
 Shadestone Foundation
 The Volgenau Foundation
 The Water Foundation
 Waverley Street Foundation

WATER STEWARDSHIP PARTNERS

Ag Innovations
 Amazon
 Apple
 Bonneville Environmental Foundation
 California Water Resilience Initiative
 California Water Action Collaborative
 Cargill Global Water Challenge
 Coca-Cola
 EdgeConneX
 Google
 LimnoTech
 Merck
 Meta
 Pentair Foundation
 PepsiCo
 Primo Brands
 Procter & Gamble
 Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling Company
 Pacific Institute
 Waterplan

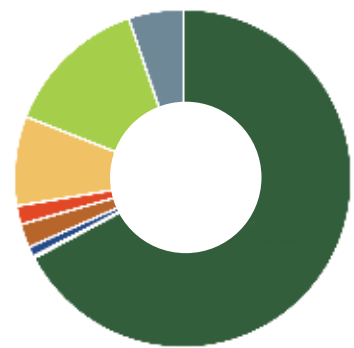
2025 Financials July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 (Unaudited)

Dollars in thousands



Revenue and Support

Public Agency Restoration Grants	\$15,094
Fee-for-Service Contracts	\$7,038
Foundation and Corporate Grants	\$3,143
Individuals	\$827
Land Lease Income	\$1,299
Other Income	\$131
Heritage Growers	\$2,004
Total	\$29,536¹



Expenses and Program Efficiency

Restoration Projects	\$17,525
Science Research	\$54
Outreach and Communications	\$243
Project Development	\$597
Advancement	\$464
Heritage Growers	\$2,231
Facilities and Administration	\$3,606
Property Taxes and Land Management	\$1,365
Total	\$26,086²

¹ Additional public agency grants of \$11.1 million secured 566 acres for restoration. Easements reduced the value of this land to \$9.14 million

² 99% of funds were expended in the local communities where we work.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY24
ASSETS		
Cash and investments	\$9,391	\$3,862
Accounts receivable	\$14,344	\$9,170
Prepaid expenses	\$1,325	\$473
Inventory	\$2,870	\$2,398
Fixed assets and real estate, net	\$33,015	\$28,616
Total Assets	\$60,945	\$44,519
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$5,381	\$4,003
Accrued liabilities	\$974	\$552
Unearned revenue	\$12,824	\$6,039
Notes payable, net	\$10,642	\$7,661
Total Liabilities	\$29,821	\$18,255
NET ASSETS		
Total Net Assets	\$31,123	\$26,264
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$60,945	\$44,519

Join Us

Ways to Give

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.

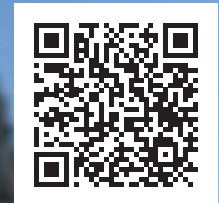
ENDOW REVITALIZED RIVERS

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.

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



Make a gift

www.riverpartners.org/give

Follow us:

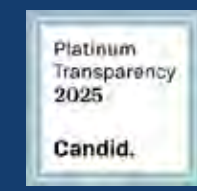


Our Story

Over two and a half decades ago, a pair of conservation-minded California farmers had a path-breaking realization: Farmers and conservationists share a common interest in the health and sustainability of natural resources like water, soil, and biodiversity. So, they should be working together to protect and revitalize nature.

Today, we're known for repairing native ecosystems in some of the state's most imperiled river corridors at a pace and scale that matters.

River Partners innovated the use of agricultural techniques combined with leading conservation science to grow the largest footprint of river restoration in the West.





RIVER PARTNERS



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Elena Flynn
Ken Grossman
Jay Jacobs
Mary McNally

Julie Rentner
Pia Sevelius
Monroe Sprague, M.D.
Charles Thieriot

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riverpartners.org

2025 Impact Report: Lily Rothrock, Terrel Hutton, Sean Murphy, Alex Karolyi, Christian Burke
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