

EcoRestore: Coordinating large-scale ecosystem restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

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EcoRestore is a multi-agency initiative launched in 2015 to restore and enhance at least 30,000 acres of critical habitat in California's Central Valley, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Suisun Marsh, and Yolo Bypass. The Delta is a crucial water and ecological resource for California. As the largest estuary on the West Coast, the Delta is historically home to thousands of native fish and wildlife. The Delta's rivers provide drinking water for nearly 27 million Californians, as well as water to millions of acres of farmland.

Efforts to restore nature habitat bring together federal, state, and local agencies, water contractors, NGOs, landowners, and others with a stake in the Delta's health. Led by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), EcoRestore pursues complex multi-benefit habitat restoration to support native fish and wildlife, and natural processes. In less than 10 years, restoration efforts have doubled protected Delta habitat lands. DWR and its partners have restored 28,000-acres to date, with an additional 10,000-acres in planning. This includes several target habitats including tidal wetlands, floodplains, and riparian.

DWR's restoration projects represent over \$500 million investment and have encouraged new partnerships and project delivery models to accelerate progress. Projects include multi-benefit features such as flood protection, public access, climate change resiliency and buffers, and groundwater recharge. Ensuring long-term functionality and adaptive management are central to DWR's efforts. DWR has embraced partnerships with local agencies and resource conservation districts to carry out a robust land stewardship, vegetation management and monitoring on restoration sites including quantifying carbon sequestration.

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