

Historic vs. Current Status of Central Valley Wetlands

**Managed Wetlands Workshop
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program**

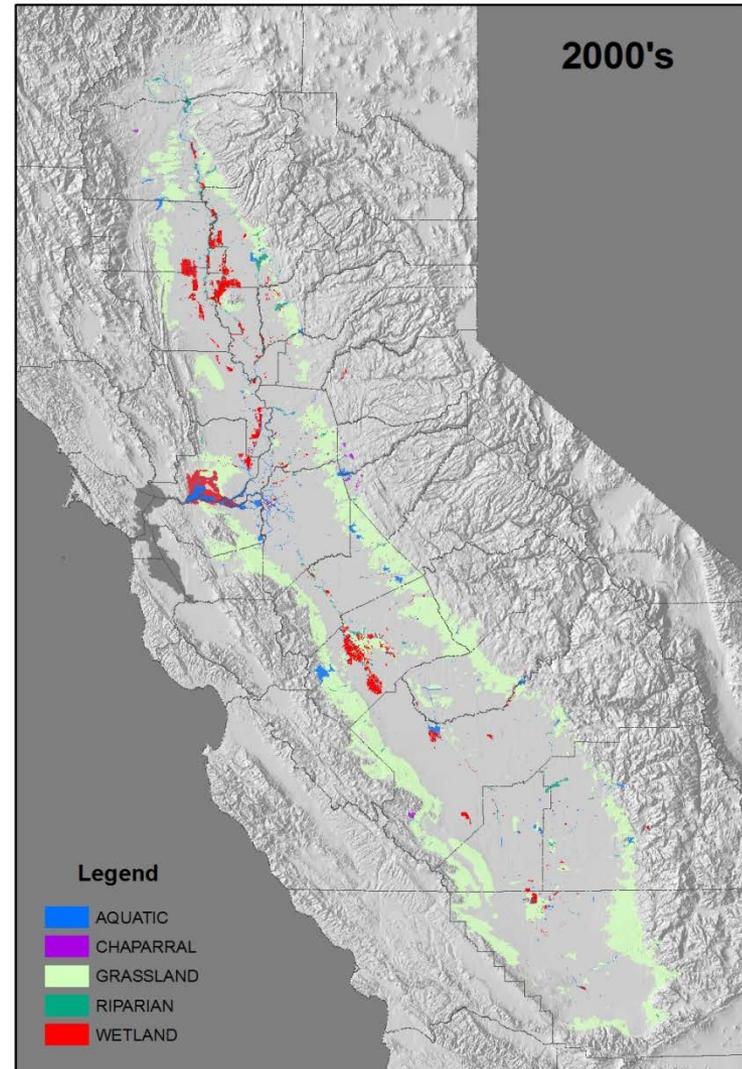
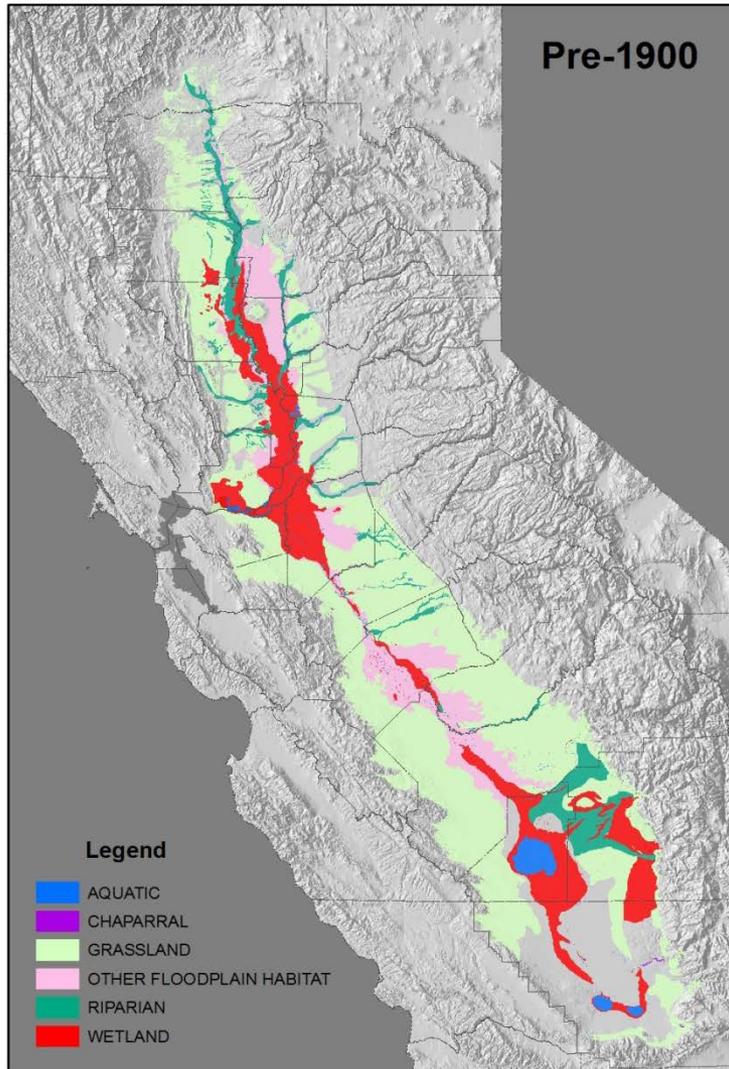
April 15, 2015

Greg Yarris

Central Valley Joint Venture



Central Valley Wetland Decline

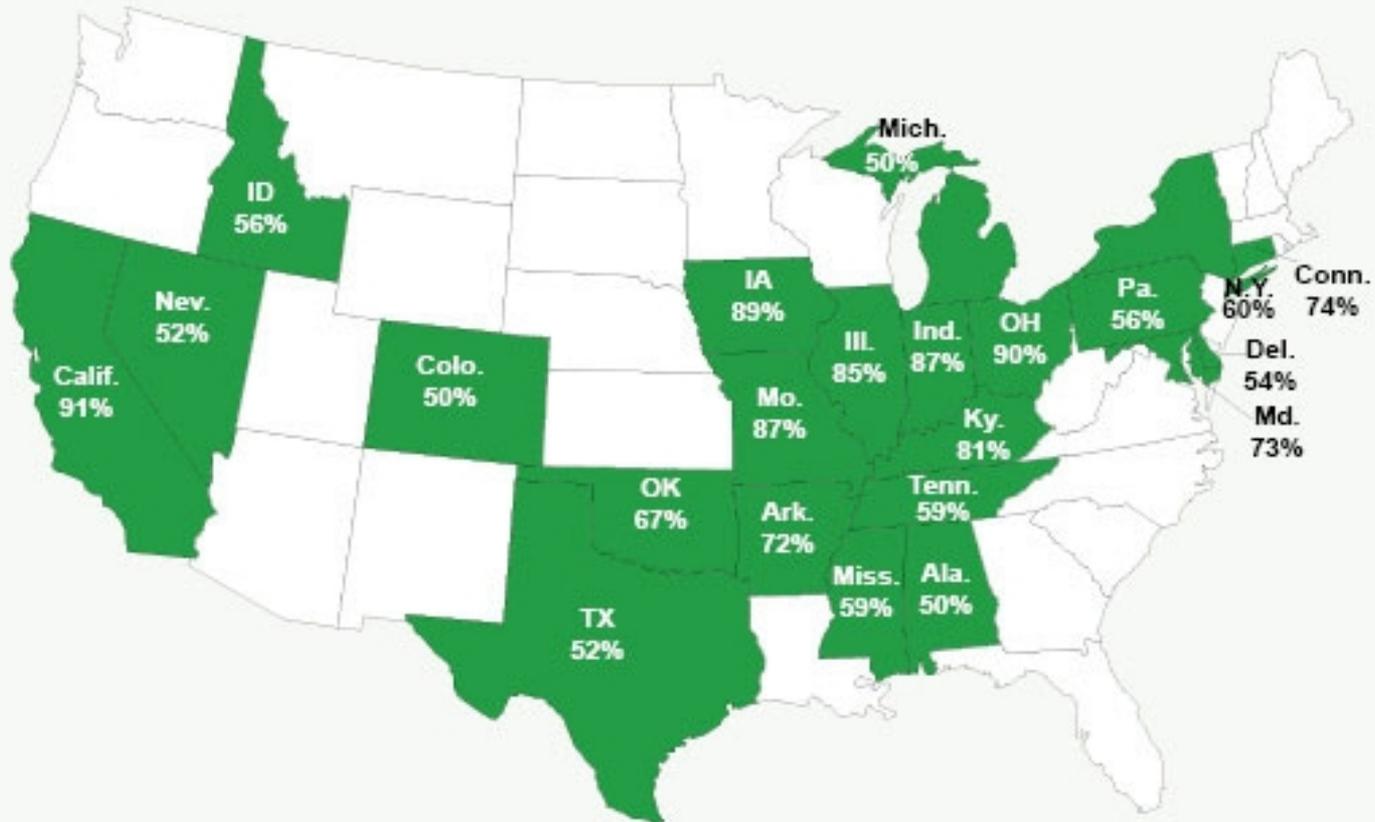


Data Sources: Central Valley Historic Mapping Project, GIC, Chico State; Modern Wetlands, Ducks Unlimited & Central Valley Joint Venture
Map Design: Ducks Unlimited, Western Regional Office

Wetland Loss – National Perspective

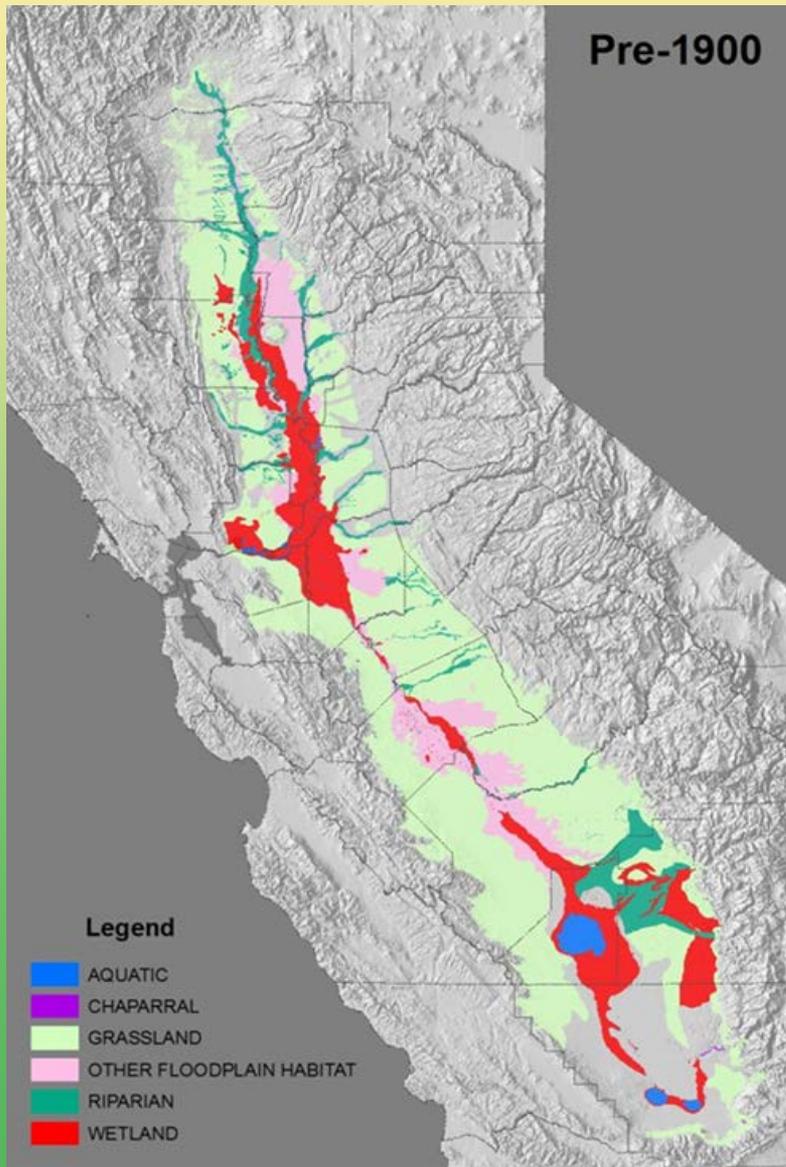
FIGURE I

States with Highest Wetland Losses (1780s — mid-1980s)



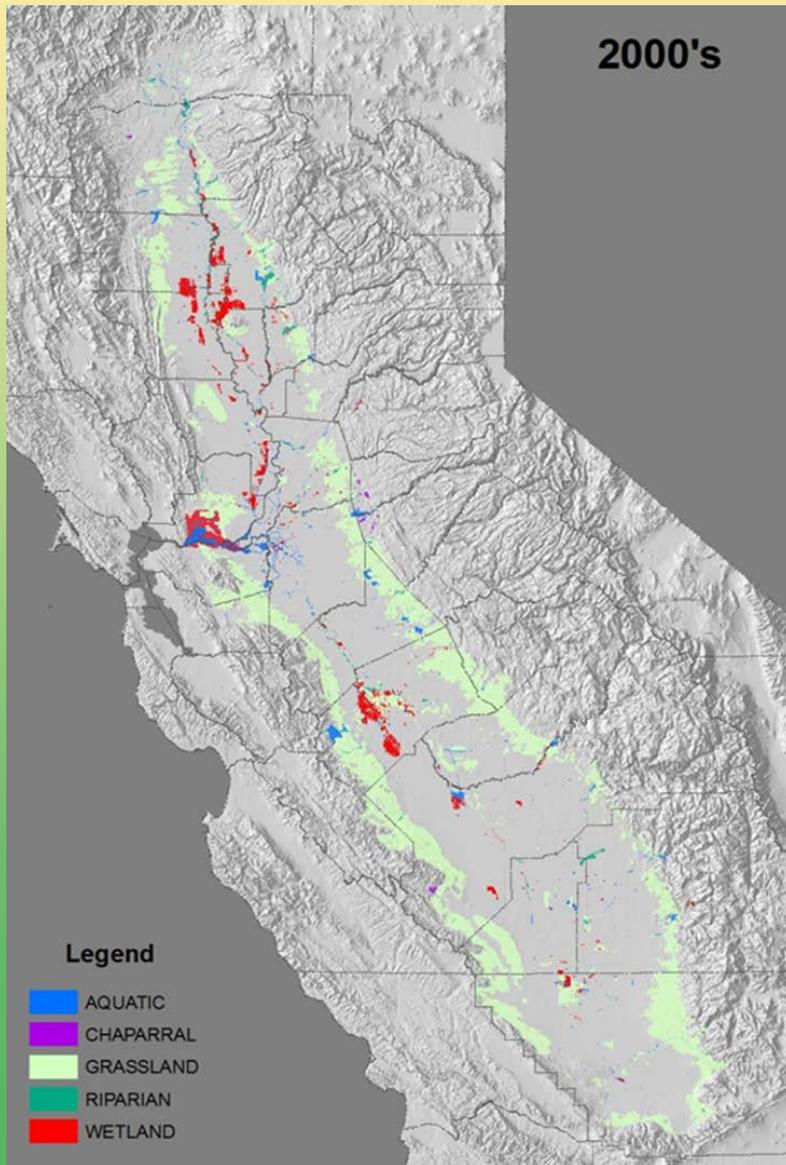
Source: Thomas E. Dahl, "Wetland Losses in the United States, 1780s to 1980s," U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990.

Central Valley Wetlands - Then



- 4-5 mil acres (est)
- Diverse Habitats
 - Rivers and adjacent basins
 - Lakes and permanent wetlands
 - Seasonal wetlands
 - Vernal pools
- Natural Hydrology
 - Winter and spring flow pulses
- Abundant Wildlife
 - 20-40 mil waterfowl
 - Native fish and other wildlife

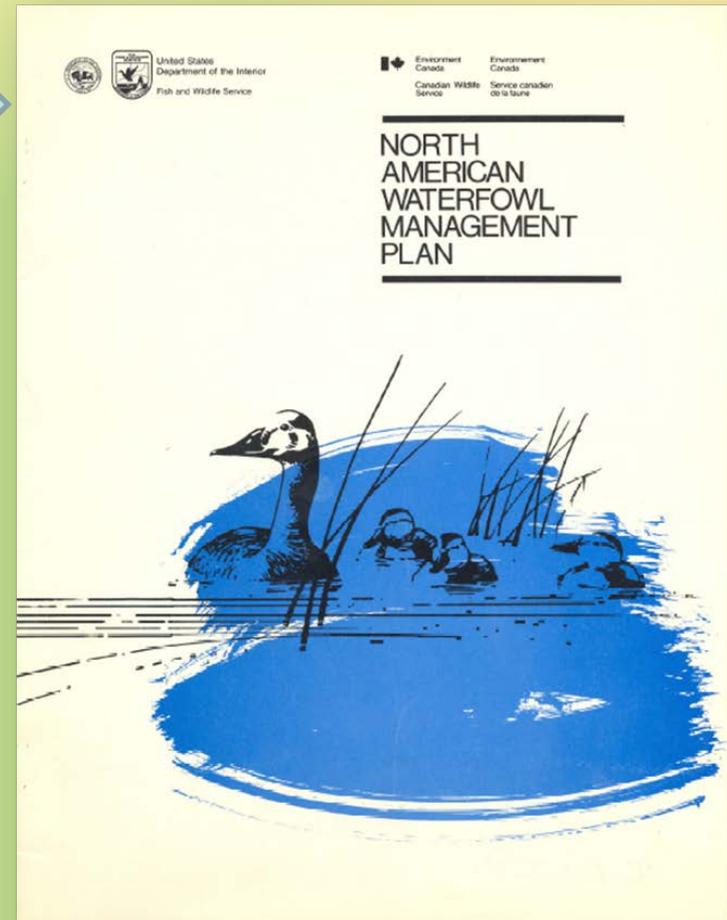
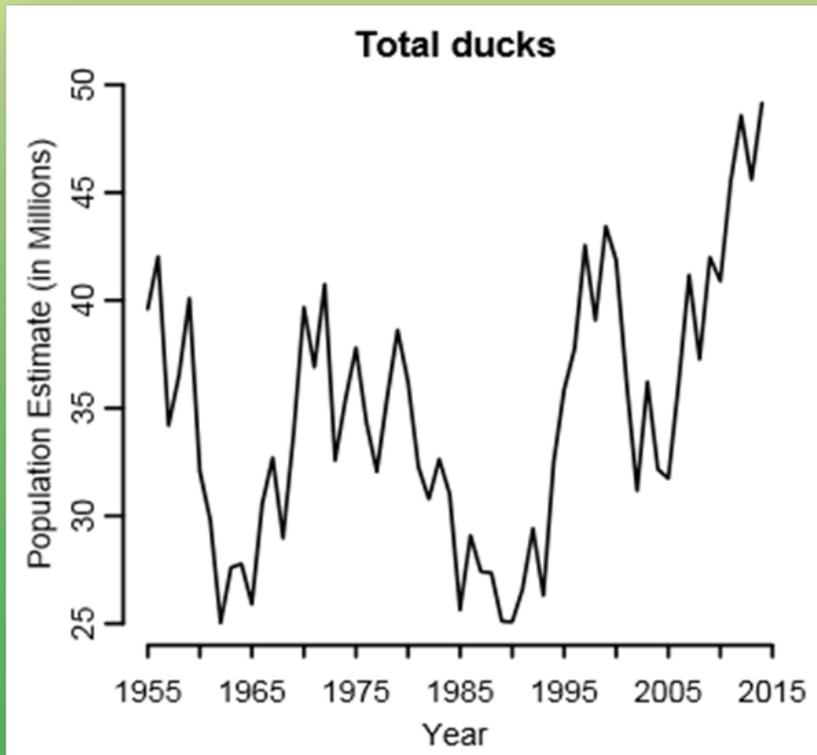
Central Valley Wetlands - Now



- 90-95% lost
- Remnant habitats
 - Isolated, geographically and functionally
 - Rivers channelized
- Artificial hydrology
 - Levees & water control
 - Maximize food productivity
 - Intensively managed (\$\$)
- Adaptable wildlife remain
 - 4-5 mil waterfowl
 - Subsidized by agriculture

Now-Wetland Values Recognized

- Improved wetland protection policies
- New conservation programs and increased funding
- 1980s drought and declining waterfowl populations

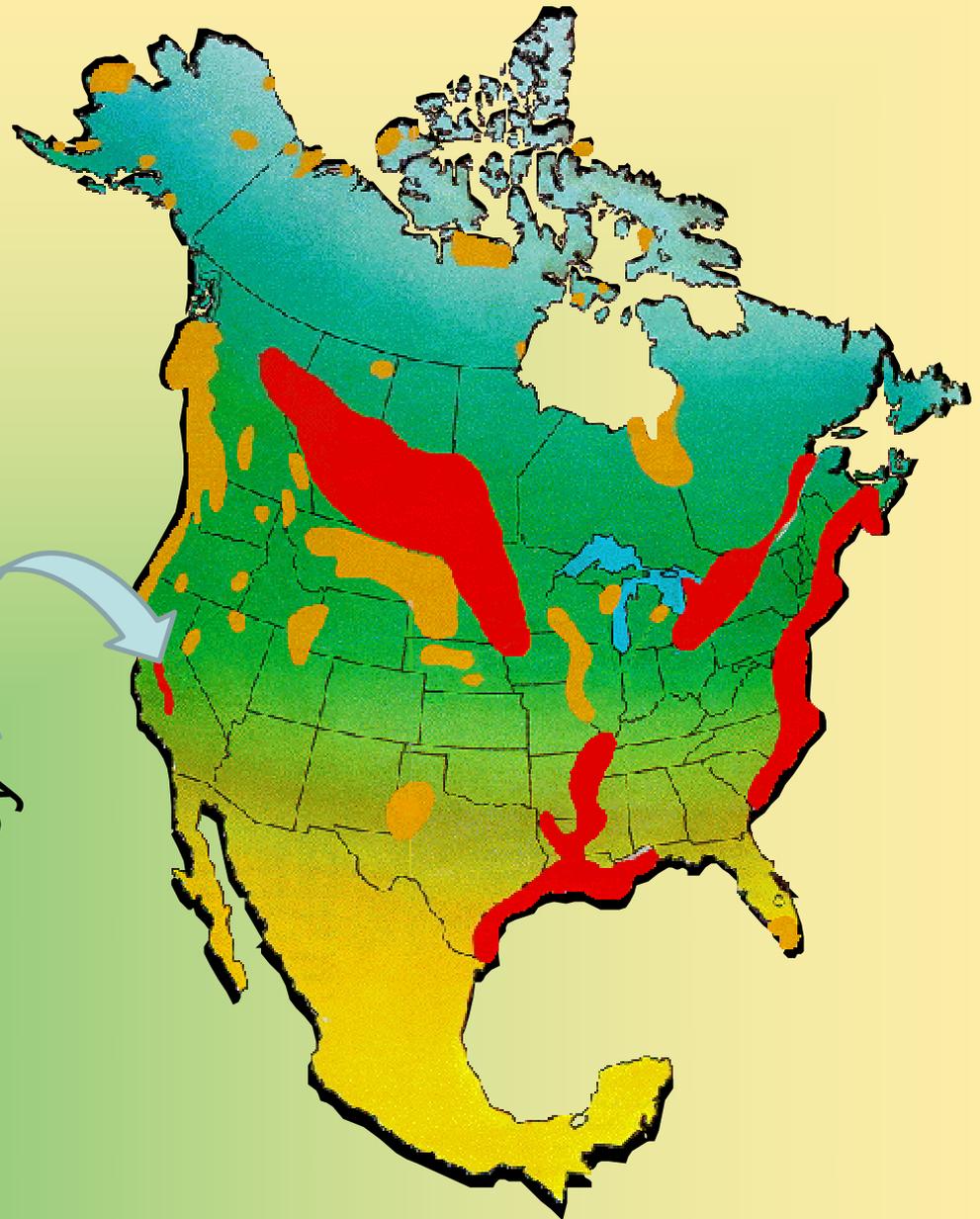


“Only a crisis - actual or perceived - produces real change” – Milton Friedman

Areas of Continental Importance to Waterfowl

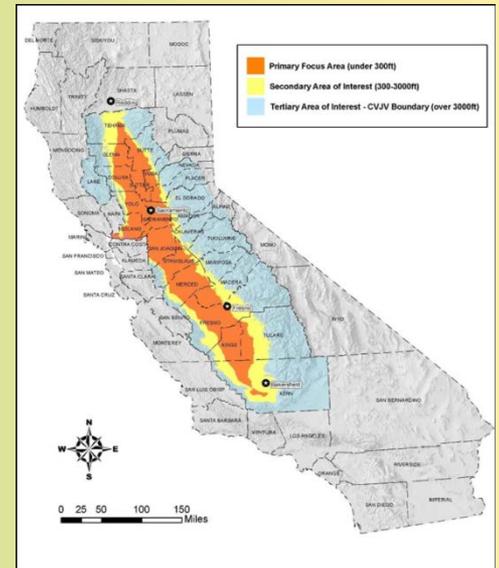
	Primary
	Secondary

Central Valley



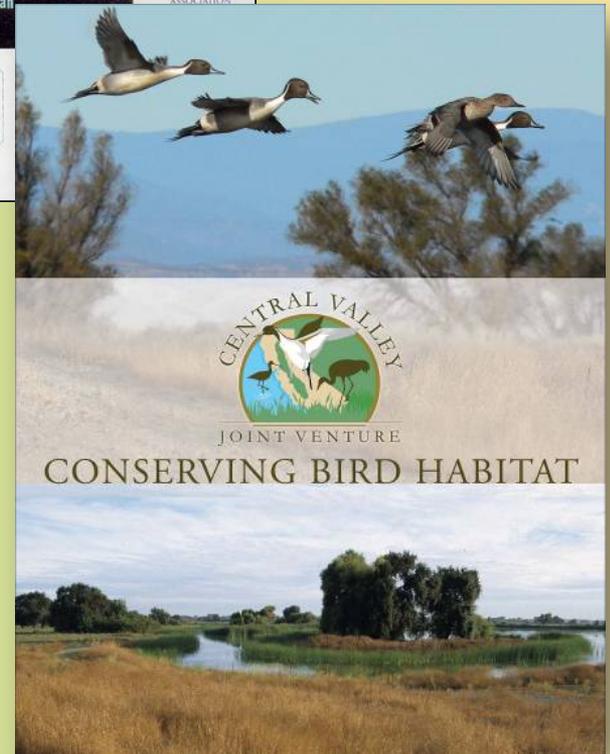
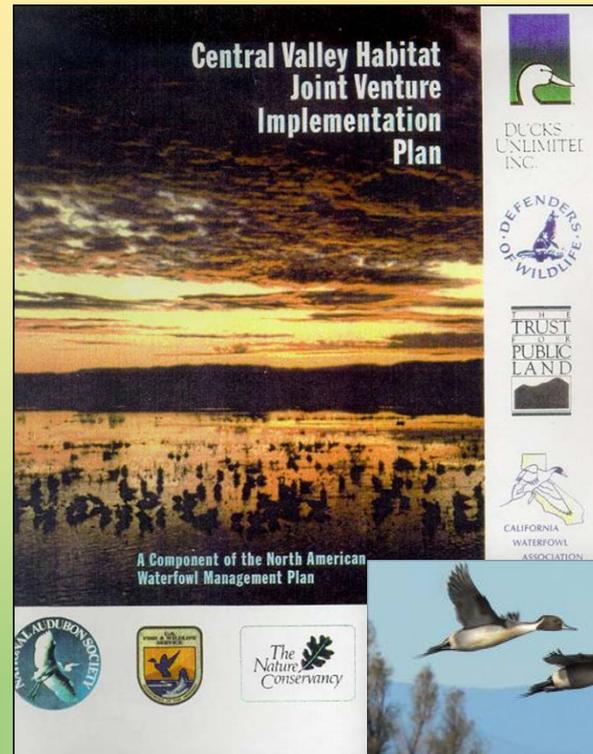
Importance of the Central Valley to Migratory Waterfowl

- Supports 5 million waterfowl annually
- 60% of Pacific Flyway population
- 20% of North American migratory waterfowl



Central Valley Joint Venture

- 1988: CVJV formed
- 1990: First Plan released
- 2006: New Plan released
- **2014: 20 partners**
- 2016 Next Plan released



CVJV Plan Objectives

Ducks:

- Winter: 6 million = NAWMP Goal (1970s popns)

Geese:

- Dark geese – 400,000
- White geese – 600,000



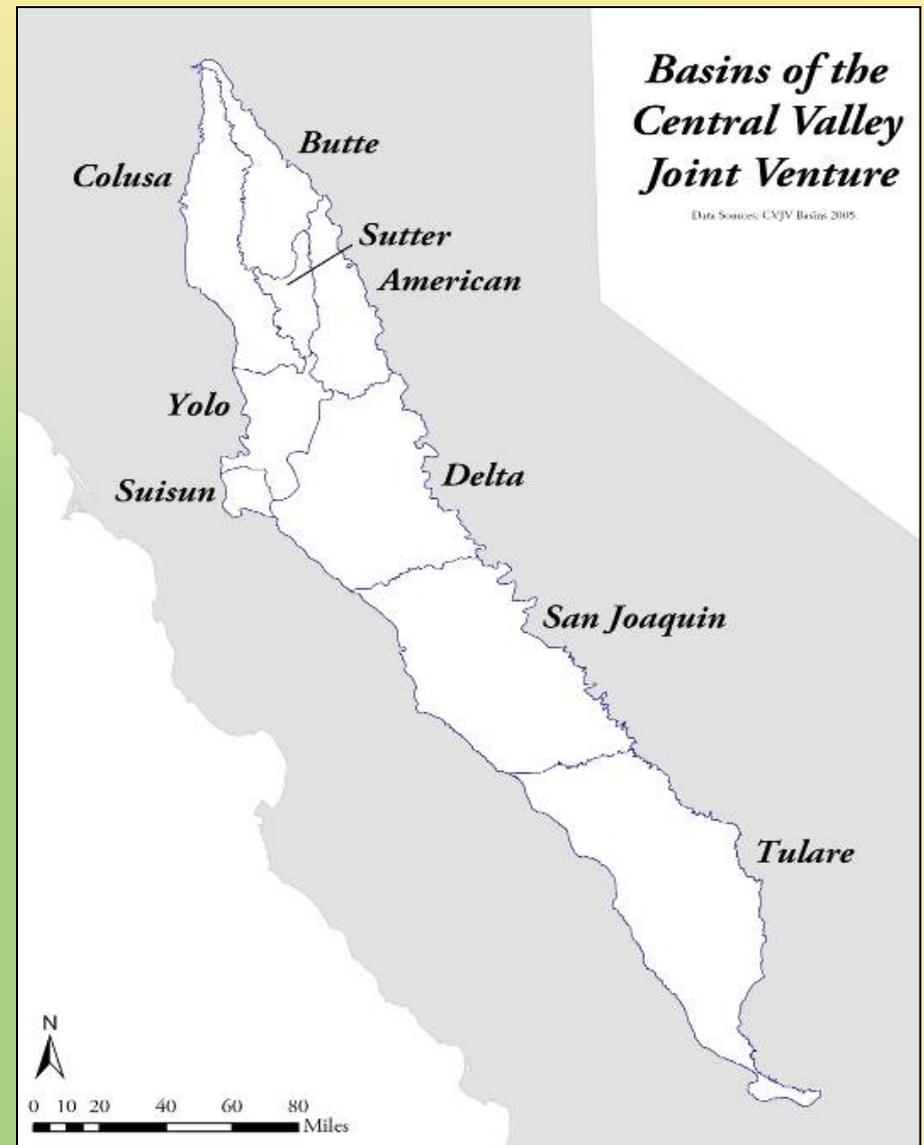
Habitat goals:

- Based on bioenergetics model
- Goal: At least 50% energy from wetlands (remainder from Ag, including 170,000 ac of flooded rice)



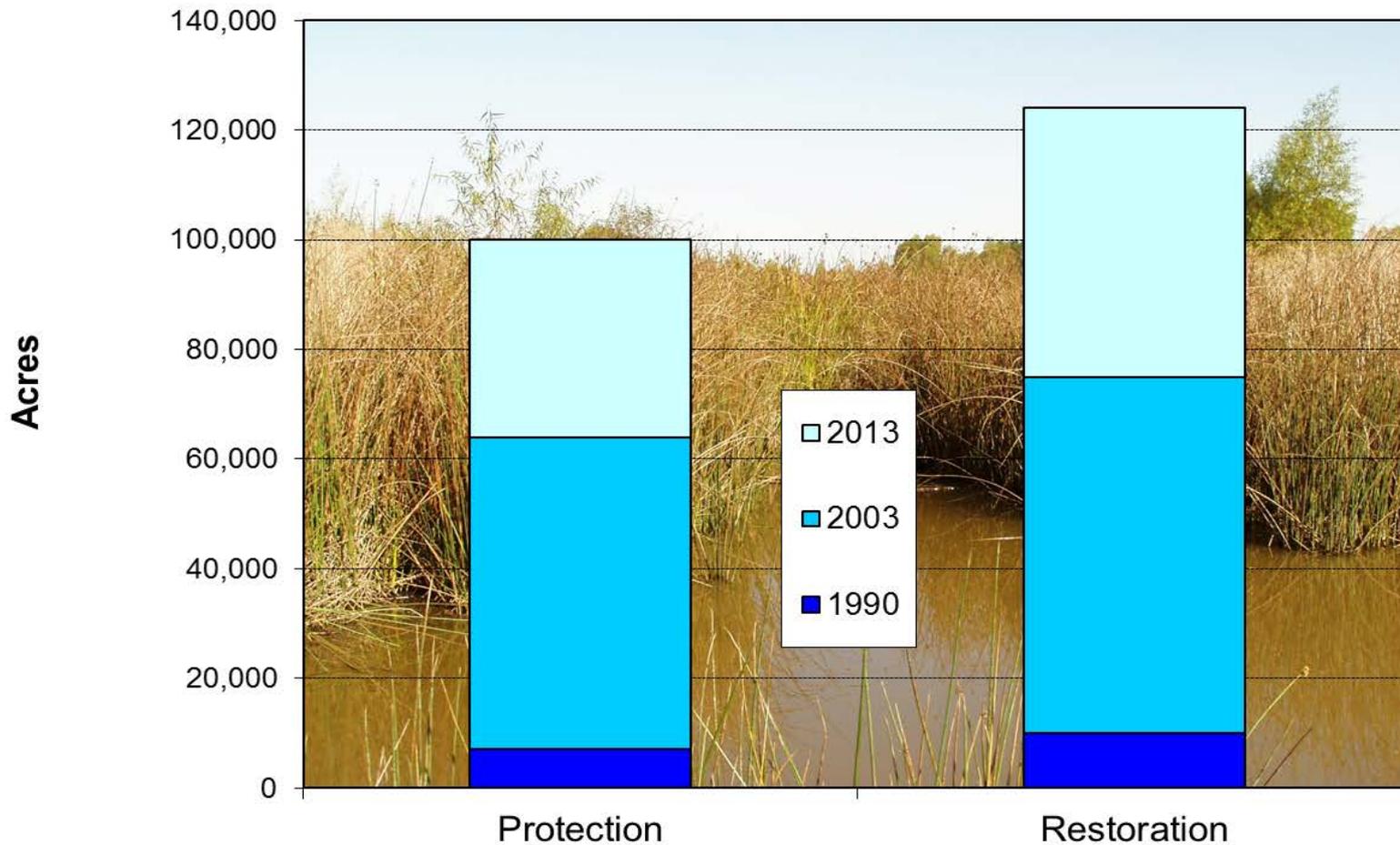
Nine Planning Basins

<i>Basin</i>	<i>2005 Population Objectives</i>
AMERICAN	9%
BUTTE	20%
COLUSA	12%
DELTA	13%
SAN JOAQUIN	25%
SUISUN	5%
SUTTER	3%
TULARE	8%
YOLO	5%





CVJV Accomplishments 1986-2013



Existing Managed Wetlands (2009)

CVJV Basins	Seasonal Wetland	Semi-permanent Wetland	Treated Wetland	Grand Total
American	4,714	984		5,698
Butte	33,078	835	61	33,974
Colusa	22,912	2,715	225	25,852
Delta	8,193	2,377	801	11,370
San Joaquin	54,939	2,490	1,617	59,046
Suisun	28,752	5,494		34,247
Sutter	3,293	314		3,607
Tulare	14,390	4,540	1,709	20,639
Yolo	9,975	1,213	468	11,656
Grand Total	180,245	20,961	4,881	206,088

Source: Ducks Unlimited

Consideration for the Future

- Considerable progress has been made by CVJV Partners
- Many existing wetlands have some level of protection
- Restoration/acquisition has slowed
 - Land and commodity prices hinder progress
- Wetlands are costly to maintain
 - Agency budgets reduced
 - 60% are privately owned

