

California Rice

Where the Wild Things Are



Did you know that California family farmers provide more than a high quality rice crop? An abundant “crop” of wildlife also reaps the benefits. In fact, if the habitat provided by rice farms were lost, it would be nearly impossible to replace.

Together, about 500,000 acres of rice and 75,000 acres of wetlands in the Sacramento Valley provide a “bed and breakfast” for hundreds of wildlife species. These include nearly half of the estimated seven million waterfowl using the Pacific Flyway and hundreds of thousands of shorebirds, herons, egrets and ibis. In fact, this unique region is the second largest specially-designated shorebird conservation area in North America!

Plentiful food in rice fields provides more than half of the nourishment required by wintering waterfowl. What’s more, the water released from rice fields is reused to flood about half of the Sacramento Valley’s wetlands.

Without adequate water flowing through rice fields, this important wildlife resource is at risk. We’ve already lost 95 percent of California’s wetlands. We can’t afford to lose any more of this essential wildlife habitat!



To learn more, visit www.calrice.org