



Giving Rivers New Life





California's Future Relies on Thriving Rivers

Our rivers sustain one of the most biologically rich regions on Earth, and are the lifeblood of California's communities and world-class economy. Yet today, 95% of the state's native riverside habitat has been lost, threatening people, wildlife, and the natural systems we all need to thrive.

RESTORATION AT SCALE

We revitalize native ecosystems at a landscape level along California's most imperiled and important riverways, leading the largest on-the-ground restoration footprint in the West. Over a quarter-century of statewide reforestation success demonstrates that we can transform degraded, flood-prone lands into thriving habitats that safeguard abundant and clean water supplies, boost climate resilience, protect communities from extreme weather, and bring back wildlife found nowhere else on Earth.

PARTNERSHIPS

We don't do this work alone. Our success is built on powerful partnerships—with farmers, federal and state agencies, NGOs, Native Americans, community groups, world-class researchers, corporations, and forward-thinking investors.

Every project serves as a living laboratory—advancing restoration science and expanding the toolkit for ecosystem recovery statewide. Bringing life back to the state's rivers and communities helps maximize the benefits of ambitious and imperative state and federal conservation initiatives.

A PROVEN MODEL

High-impact private support enables River Partners to unlock large-scale public investment in proven, nature-based solutions that are faster, cheaper, and more durable than many traditional solutions. Our collaborative approach nurtures the diverse alliances needed to create a more resilient, biodiverse, and water-secure future—today and for generations to come.

25+ YEARS OF IMPACT

 20,266 Acres of protected habitat restored for imperiled species	 86 Imperiled species protected
 4,559,742 Native trees & vegetation planted	 11.2 billion Gallons of freshwater conserved
 1,584,879 Metric tons of CO ² -equivalent greenhouse gases captured	 \$194 million Channeled directly to the communities where we work



Stacked Benefits of River Restoration

Restoring rivers is one the most powerful investments we can make—for nature and people—it is our first line of defense in a changing climate.



VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

Restored riverways strengthen communities through outdoor recreation, green jobs, and improved public health. They help farmers stay in business by reducing regulatory conflict, provide relief for communities facing flooding, offer outlets for Native cultural practices, and create meaningful career opportunities in rural regions.



CARBON CAPTURE

Floodplain restoration creates natural carbon sinks where fast-growing riparian forests absorb carbon and wetland soils lock it away for centuries—turning rivers into climate solutions.

FLOOD SAFETY

Reconnecting rivers to floodplains naturally slows and absorbs floodwaters—a cost-effective way to avoid damages and safeguard communities, farms, and wildlife. Preventing the damaging effects of flooding is far cheaper than repairing them after the fact.



WATER SECURITY

By expanding floodplains, restoring the natural process of groundwater recharge, and boosting water conservation, we help replenish aquifers and reduce water demand, improving California's long-term water sustainability and quality.

NATIVE SEED PRODUCTION

Through our native seed and plant venture, Heritage Growers, we address California's severe shortage of regionally adapted native seeds and plants, fueling restoration and resilience across the western U.S.



BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY

Restored riverways are vital lifelines for wildlife. From Chinook salmon to monarch butterflies and riparian brush rabbits, we're rebuilding lost linkages in globally important wildlife corridors that support the recovery of critically endangered species and keep common species that way.



Driving a Statewide Resilience Strategy

River Partners doesn't just give new life to rivers—we build a brighter future for California.

We take a comprehensive, strategic approach to restoring the state's riverways—carefully selecting and thoughtfully planning our statewide efforts to maximize ecological, community and economic returns on a watershed level. Our work advances a bold statewide vision: a resilient network of lands and waterways that sustains people, wildlife, and economies in a changing climate.

Our efforts support the success of ambitious local, state, and federal natural resource initiatives—including California's first-in-the-nation 30x30 initiative. We link locally led, landscape-scale ecological restoration to overlapping climate preparedness, biodiversity conservation, water reliability, economic resilience, and public health goals.

FEATURED PROJECTS

Klamath River Restoration

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



Rancho Breisgau

In partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the CA Wildlife Conservation Board, we 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.



Hamilton City

Instead of treating flood-risk management and habitat restoration as separate goals, this is the first project in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' history that uses the value of ecosystem recovery to justify the cost for public investment in flood safety for a vulnerable community.



Willow Bend Preserve

A first-of-its-kind fish passage gate reconnects an historic floodplain to the Sacramento River, providing access to optimal rearing habitat for endangered salmon and a scalable model for recovery up and down California's largest river.



Dutch Slough

Transforming nearly 1,200 acres of a former cattle ranch into thriving tidal marshland, this project in partnership with the CA Dept. of Water Resources enhances Delta ecosystems and public access, and ranks in the top 1% of sites globally for capturing and storing atmospheric carbon to help boost the state's climate resilience.



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 natural 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.



Hidden Valley Ranch

After 10 years of management, four years of planning, and five months of planting, River Partners transformed a 482-acre dairy to native wildlife habitat supporting several legally protected species. Floodplain inundation here replenishes freshwater storage along the San Joaquin River, joining one of the largest and most ambitious river corridor restorations in western North America.



Panorama Vista Preserve

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



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.



Imperial Wildlife Area

Restoring 1,500+ acres along the Alamo River, River Partners combats environmental degradation near the Salton Sea to reduce toxic dust exposure and create healthier air, improve local water systems, and build stronger ecological buffers against heat and drought.

100+ PROJECTS

10-50 PROJECTS

<10 PROJECTS



Project Spotlight: Dos Rios State Park

At the confluence of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne rivers lies Dos Rios State Park, the largest public-private floodplain restoration project in California's history, and the blueprint for how we restore rivers for both wildlife and people.

For over a decade, River Partners led the transformation of 2,100 acres of former flood-prone farmland into thriving floodplain habitat—reconnecting eight miles of river plus four miles of sloughs, removing 10,000 cubic yards of bank-hardening concrete debris from riverbanks, and planting over 350,000 native trees and vegetation. Restoration reintroduced seasonal flooding to over 1,000 acres, providing critical habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

But the benefits go far beyond biodiversity—Dos Rios is a living laboratory and gold standard for restoring floodplains, providing a model ready to be replicated throughout California and across the West as we replumb our valley and rethink water infrastructure investment.

Model for Flood Safety

The restored floodplain absorbs up to 10,000 acre-feet of floodwater during large dam releases. This natural sponge acts as a shock absorber for damaging flows, reducing flood risk, and avoiding costly damages for downstream communities like Manteca and Stockton whose annualized flood damages are expected to reach \$1.2 billion.

Big Gulps for Groundwater Replenishment

By allowing overbank flooding, Dos Rios replenishes approximately 7,000 acre-feet annually—helping recharge depleted aquifers and dedicating more water to the San Joaquin River for struggling species and ecosystem health. In collaboration with researchers from Stanford University, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Stanislaus State, we're not just advancing understanding of how floodwaters replenish groundwater regionally—we're fast-tracking it.

Protecting Streamflow

Retired irrigation practices support our first-of-its-kind petition to voluntarily dedicate more water to rivers and ecosystems under California water code—a precedent-setting move that could redesign California's water system so fish and farms can thrive together.

Revitalizing Culture

In 2021, a Native Use Garden was created with plants used in Indigenous basketry and other cultural practices. A federal conservation easement ensures Native California Peoples can access the land forever, restoring connection to traditional resources and culture.

Creating Space for People

In 2024, Dos Rios became California's newest state park in over a decade—a long-awaited green space for the most park-starved region in the state. With over 14 miles of hiking trails plus kayaking, fishing, and swimming, the park welcomed over 10,000 visitors in its first year.

BY THE NUMBERS



2,100
Acres of protected habitat restored for imperiled species



10+
Imperiled species protected



350,000
Native trees & vegetation planted



7,000+
Gallons of freshwater conserved



250
Local jobs created



\$40 million
Channeled directly to a severely disadvantaged community



Dos Rios in 2018 before restoration. It was a dairy and cattle operation that also produced almonds, tomatoes, grains, and forage mixes. The property was vulnerable to frequent flooding, and between 1983-2007 the ranch flooded six times—about once every 4 years.



Dos Rios in 2022 after restoration. River Partners restored 2,100 acres of riverside habitat, planting over 350,000 native trees and other wildlife-friendly vegetation, and reintroducing seasonal flooding on over 1,000 acres. Wildlife including Chinook salmon, Swainson's hawks, monarch butterflies, neo-tropical migratory songbirds and other birds migrating along the 10,000-mile Pacific Flyway, and critically endangered riparian brush rabbits and San Joaquin woodrats all benefit from the restored habitat.

“River Partners multi-benefit conservation model can be used to introduce dozens more river parks throughout the Central Valley, transforming the landscape of outdoor accessibility and building a connected corridor of habitat sanctuary for wildlife.”



ARMANDO QUINTERO
California Department of Parks and Recreation Director



SEEDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

River Partners launched Heritage Growers Native Seed & Plant Supply in 2021 to address California's and the West's severe native seed and plant shortage and help the state meet its bold biodiversity and climate goals.

Today, Heritage Growers produces over 40,000 pounds of seed and over 200 plant varieties to support restoration throughout the West with partners like the National Parks Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, East Bay Regional Parks District, Xerces Society, and many others. We are the only non-profit organization in California growing locally adapted, restoration-appropriate native seed and starts at scale.

All profits generated from Heritage Growers are put straight back into funding River Partners' restoration efforts, accelerating large-scale restoration statewide.

[Learn more at heritagegrowers.com](https://heritagegrowers.com)



“River Partners’ approach, that it demonstrates so effectively, is the future of conservation in California.”

WADE CROWFOOT
California Natural Resources Agency Secretary



RECOGNITION

We've received numerous honors and distinction for our innovation and impact, including visibility in:



PARTNERS

Our innovative efforts to give new life to California rivers and communities is supported by leading state and national resource agencies, NGOs, foundations, and global brands, including:



Connect with us at riverpartners.org



River Partners is a 501c3 organization, ID #93-3302335