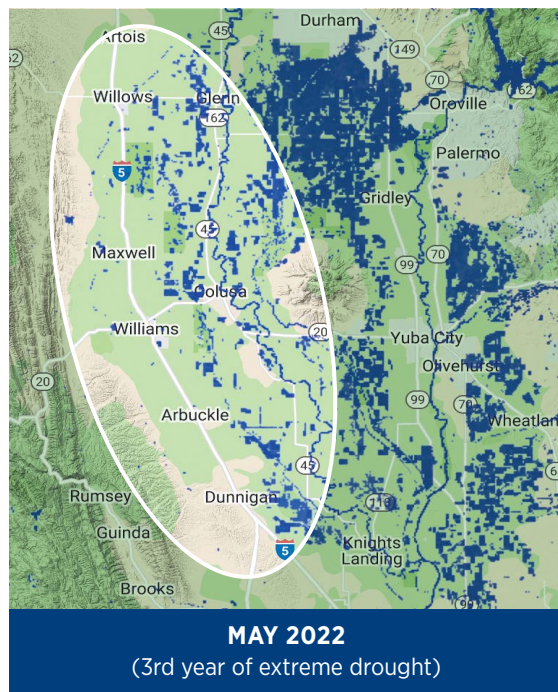
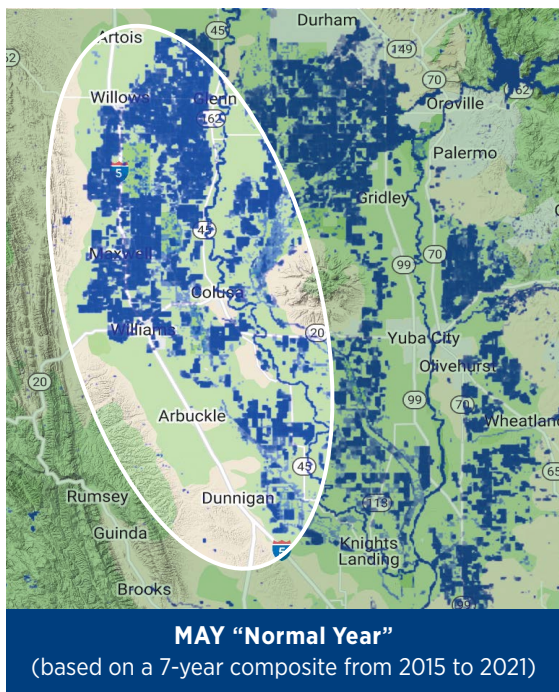


Rice & Wildlife Habitat Loss

California rice fields are uniquely connected to the environment, with 230 wildlife species, millions of birds that travel to the Sacramento Valley along the Pacific Flyway, and the Threatened Giant Gartersnake – all depending on working Ricelands for their survival.

Habitat Conditions Differ Between “Normal” or Dry Conditions



These maps show an area of the Sacramento Valley, north of Sacramento and south of Chico.



Source: Wetland Evaluation Tool (WET) for Surface Water Monitoring

Donnelly, J. P., et al. 2022. Functional Wetland Loss Drives Emerging Risks to Waterbird Migration Networks. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*

Extreme drought has drastically altered habitat conditions and now threatens wildlife throughout the Sacramento Valley.

“ During this severe drought, the significant drop in flooded wetland and rice acres in the Sacramento Valley threatens waterbirds that rely on the region to rest and refuel along their migratory journeys.



Audubon | CALIFORNIA

“ Winter-flooded rice provides half of all food available to ducks in the Central Valley, and severe reductions in the amount of rice planted west of the Sacramento River will substantially reduce the number of ducks that can be supported.



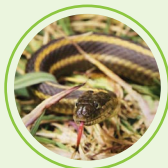
DUCKS UNLIMITED

“ With the loss of wetlands in the Sacramento Valley, flooded rice fields now provide the vast majority of habitat and food for migratory wetland birds. The loss of these flooded acres during severe drought is making the challenge that much greater for the birds and other wildlife that now depend on this critical habitat, while many are already experiencing steep declines.



The Nature Conservancy

“ The survival of the state and federally threatened Giant Gartersnake is linked to the amount of rice in the surrounding landscape. Because of historic wetland loss, this species is reliant on rice agriculture and its infrastructure of canals for their persistence. The drought’s forced reduction in rice acreage will likely further stress remaining Giant Gartersnake populations.



USGS

California Rice is vital to the future of our wildlife.

