



Land of the West Wind

Volume 11, Issue 3

September 2010

Waterfowl Season 2010-2011 Balance of State Zone

Ducks: October 23, 2010 thru January 30, 2011. 7 ducks in the bag, 7 may be mallards (2 hens), 2 pintail (both can be hens), 3 scaup (November 6, 2010 thru January 30, 2011), 2 redheads, and 1 canvasback. Possession: double the daily bag limit.

Geese: Concurrent with duck season. 8 geese in daily bag. Bag may include 6 small Canada geese, 6 white geese, 6 large Canada geese, or 4 white-fronts.

**Early Resident Canada Goose Season: Oct. 2nd through the 6th. Daily Bag is 6 large Canada geese.

Possession: double the daily bag limit.

Changes from 2009-2010 season:

-Early season Canada goose hunt

-Junior hunt will be February 5 and 6, 2011

These are the general regulations for the Balance of State zone. Please see special management zone regulations for any specific area you may be hunting.

2010 Fall Flood Program

For the 2010 Fall Flood Program the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) will continue their 50% cost share for required mosquito abatement treatment. The SRCDD is appreciative of SCMAD's continued partnership and desire to reduce mosquito abatement costs to the landowner and provide critical waterfowl habitat.

Because late summer conditions in California are generally dry, the SRCDD encourages those landowners with adequate water control to consider flooding selected areas earlier than October 1, 2010. The goal of this action is to provide habitat for early migrating waterfowl and waterfowl displaced from wetland areas outside the Marsh. This desire to benefit waterfowl is in direct conflict with SCMAD policy encouraging landowners to delay flooding as long as possible so that shorter days with cooler temperatures can help minimize mosquito production and potential conflict with citizens in adjacent communities. If you wish to flood your property earlier than October 1, you will still be eligible for the cost share program provided that you get prior approval to flood from your SCMAD technician. If your property produces mosquitoes, and must be chemically treated (and you have followed the procedures outlined below), the following assistance ratio will apply:

SCMAD – Will pay 50% of the Total Cost of Treatment

Landowner – Will pay 50% of the Total Cost of Treatment

The overall success of this program is dependent upon cooperation between landowners, SCMAD, and SRCDD. It is important that you follow the steps listed below in order to qualify for cost-sharing assistance:

1. Landowners must be current with SRCDD Maintenance Permit and Program support fees.
2. You must sign the 2010 waiver form and return it to SCMAD prior to initiation of flood-up.
3. SRCDD and SCMAD must both be contacted at least 24 hours prior to opening any floodgates. If you do not notify both SRCDD and SCMAD, you will be ineligible to participate.

Landowners that do not take the steps above to help eliminate or reduce mosquito production **will be responsible for 100% of the cost of mosquito abatement on their property.** If you have followed the procedures above and still produce mosquitoes, you will receive an invoice

(*Fall Flood* cont. on pg. 4)

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Quarterly newsletter of the Suisun
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(*deceased)

**SRCD's public meetings are held at
2 PM on the second
Wednesday of each month at the
Solano County Supervisors Chambers
675 Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533**

SRCD represents private landowners of the Suisun Marsh at the Federal, State, and local levels. Its historic goal has been to achieve a water supply of adequate quality so that preferred wetland habitat values will be retained through appropriate management practices. Through cooperation with landowners and various agencies, SRCD seeks to develop new programs aimed at protecting and improving the Suisun Marsh for future generations.

Editorial

By Tony Arnold, SRCD Associate Director

Beating the Old Man with the Scythe

Most of us like to think of closing out our lives with a sudden, lethal heart attack while sitting in a blind. That's all very well as an ideal (I've even known gunners who have done just that), but it's a bit self-serving. Most of us are between a little overweight and much more of the same, requiring considerable effort by several colleagues to be derricked out of whatever blind has become his deathbed. Even if you are not quite past the finish line, you still may cause lots of trouble, just because first aid will be either slow in arriving or inexperienced in application. It is much easier on everyone if you keel over in the clubhouse, not in the field.

And statistically, that is where you are most likely being stricken with a heart attack or stroke anyway. But even that can be pretty inconvenient for all concerned. Clubhouses are generally a long way from anywhere, a lot of them are behind locked gates, and directions on how to reach them are not always easy to describe, even (or probably especially) by those who know the way so well they could drive it blindfolded. Minutes often count in a medical emergency, so best to have clear, precise directions posted where anyone calling for help can read them off to any waiting rescue squad. Be sure to include distances and obvious landmarks (remember it's likely to be night time) along the route. Don't count on helicopter help unless you have an existing landing pad. For setting in or take-off they require at least a 100'x100' free clearance that likely would isolate them out in the surrounding wetland.

Even assuming that the club can reach emergency help, however, it will still probably be a long wait before the meat wagon appears outside. What can be done in the meantime? One very good safety precaution is to be sure at least one club member has a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) ticket. A four-hour course provides instruction and hands-on practice for everything from arterial bleeding to heart failure to the Heimlich maneuver for that piece of steak that went down the wrong way. Your ticket is only good for one year, after which you must take a brief refresher course to remain current. A great side benefit is the "Good Samaritan" protection that renders a ticket holder immune from any possible lawsuit from an ungrateful patient's complaint about malpractice.

CPR courses are occasionally given by fire stations (my wife and I took one together some years ago at the Cordelia station), and the Red Cross also provides such instruction. Above and beyond other considerations, it is a very good idea to have established personal relations with the hard-working emergency crews who could spell the difference between life and death for you and your guests if disaster should strike. Ask the emergency service that serves your part of the marsh when and where such courses might be offered.



CALIFORNIA OUTDOOR HERITAGE ALLIANCE

Water Bond Vote Likely Delayed Until 2012

In early August, both Houses of the State Legislature passed legislation (AB 1260) to effectively delay a vote on an \$11.14 billion water bond package until November 2012. AB 1260 is now headed to the Governor, who is expected to sign it.

The bond, entitled “The Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act”, was originally slated to go before the California electorate on the November 2010 ballot. Last month, Legislative leadership, the Governor’s office and the bond’s sponsors all agreed that -- in light of the serious budget crisis currently facing our state -- placing the massive funding measure on the ballot this fall was not advisable. If approved, AB 1260 also would prohibit a joint powers authority that receives public funding under the Water Bond for a surface water storage project from including for-profit entities among its members. The Governor is expected to sign the bill.

AB 2465 (Yamada) - Mosquito Abatement Mandates for Public Lands –OPPOSE

AB 2465 (Yamada) would have required state agencies that acquire lands after January 1, 2011 to adopt and implement specified mosquito control best management practices (BMPs).

COHA opposed the measure because it would have had a detrimental impact on wetlands and certain wildlife species, such as migratory waterfowl, which depend on that habitat. Several of the BMPs required under AB 2465, such as removing all surface water within 96 hours and controlling plant growth, were largely incompatible with the conservation of wetlands.

In addition, many of the land holding state agencies that would have been affected by the bill had no expertise in wetland management or applying mosquito control BMPs in an ecologically sensitive manner. Under AB 2465's provisions, there would have been no required consultation with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG).

The bill would have also imposed an unfunded mandate on cash-poor state agencies such as DFG because it fails to provide any funding to implement its requirements – putting more pressure on DFG to use hunter-generated monies for mosquito abatement purposes.

SB 1058 (Harman) - Protection of Big Game Tag and Upland Game Bird Stamp Revenues - *SUPPORT*

This bill would prevent big game tag and upland bird stamp monies from being misused for non-game or non-hunting purposes. SB 1058 would mandate that all deer, elk, wild pig, antelope, bighorn sheep and bear tag revenues and upland game bird stamp monies be used to benefit those particular species, their habitats, and the users that generate them. It would also provide much-needed opportunity for sportsman’s groups to review and provide comment on proposed expenditures of the funds.

Beginning in the 1980s, a portion of hunting license tag/stamp monies were redirected away from game species conservation to other purposes. Loopholes in state law also currently allow for a significant portion of deer tag monies and all bear tag monies to be used for non-game purposes, while a large percentage of pig tag funds have also remained unspent or been redirected in recent years.

SB 1058 passed out of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in mid-June on the “Consent Calendar”. The measure will next be considered on the Assembly Floor. The pro-hunting/pro-wildlife measure has yet to suffer a “no” vote.

The Suisun Marsh Plan (EIR/EIS) - Finally Becoming A Reality?

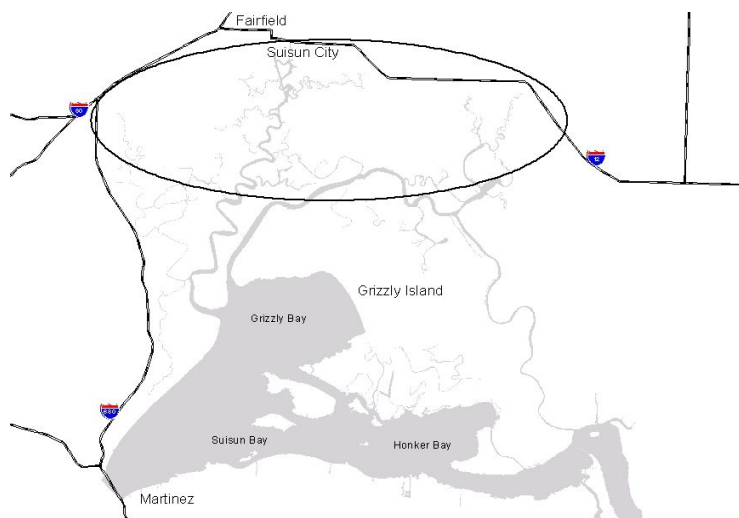
In November and December of 2003, three public scoping meetings were held in the Suisun Marsh area to solicit comments from the public to help determine the scope of the proposed Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh (Suisun Marsh Plan) Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Since that time, readers of this newsletter and individuals attending the SRCD Annual Landowner Workshop have received regular progress reports on the content and development of the Draft Suisun Marsh Plan Draft EIR/EIS.

After ten years of hard work, SRCD is pleased to announce that the Suisun Marsh Plan Draft EIR/EIS will be available for public review and comments this fall. Public meeting dates and times are still being finalized. The Draft EIR/EIS is being prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and by the State of California Department of Fish and Game in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act as lead agencies. Other agencies involved in preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS include SRCD, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the State of California Department of Water Resources. The Draft EIR/EIS is expected to be released in October 2010, with a 60 day public comment period. SRCD would like to encourage Suisun Marsh landowners to participate in this public review process and become familiar with the Suisun Marsh Plan. A tentative date is being set for two local public meetings, both held on **Wednesday November 3rd, 2010**. One meeting will be scheduled in the afternoon and a second meeting will be held that evening.

The Suisun Marsh Plan has many aspects and activities that may influence and benefit landowners in the Marsh. Please keep Wednesday, November 3, 2010 open on your calendars and look for additional information as it becomes available.

Property Needed

The DFG in coordination with the SRCD is looking for up to 500 acres of property to purchase in the northern portion of the Suisun Marsh. The property will be used to offset features of the Suisun Marsh Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan. Serious sellers with property in the mapped area (*right*) please contact the SRCD office (707) 425-9302 or Lauren Barthman-Thompson at (209) 948-7706.



(**Fall Flood** from pg. 1)

from SRCD for 50% of the total cost of abatement which must be paid to SRCD within 25 days of abatement. If you do not pay the invoiced amount within 25 days, SCMD will hold you responsible for 100% of the cost of the spraying.

Here are the contact numbers of the SCMD technicians and the SRCD Water Managers:

Greg Williams (707) 695-8101
SCMD Gary Dula (707) 695-8103
Mike Gray (707) 695-8102
SCMD main office (707) 437-1116

SRCD Tim Edmunds (707) 639-6689
Orlando Rocha (707) 631-0819
Jeff Taylor (707) 639-6690
SRCD Main Office (707) 425-9302
Water Mangers Office (707) 426-2431

New Invasive Weed in Suisun

By: Sarah Estrella

Associate Wildlife Biologist, California Department
of Fish and Game Bay Delta Region (Region 3)

A new weed, *Salsola soda* (oppositeleaf Russian thistle or glasswort), is making an appearance in Suisun Marsh. *S. soda* is an annual plant, native to the Mediterranean. It was first discovered in the San Francisco Bay region in 1968. Initially, it invaded the South Bay, and later became common in the North Bay. It was widespread in Mare Island dredge disposal ponds by the late 1990s. *S. soda* is related to the familiar *Salsola tragus* (Russian thistle or tumbleweed) and the mature plants look similar, especially when they uproot and tumble around. *S. soda* is spread by floating seeds and by windblown tumbling mature plants, a double-whammy for Suisun. The seeds then germinate, sometimes in mass quantities, in high marsh, on high tide drift lines, slough and ditch edges, and mouths of pipes. Plants can also be found on levee tops, as seeds may be transported by tires. Typical species displaced include pickleweed, fat hen, and saltgrass, but upland grasses can be affected as well.



Image of *S. soda* as a seedling.

The Department of Fish and Game observed and removed single plants on the Hill Slough Wildlife Area, just south of Highway 12, about five years ago. In 2008, a levee breach at the junction of Hill and Suisun sloughs apparently transported seeds onto DFG's Hill Slough West restoration site (on the west side of Grizzly Island Road, south of Highway 12, across from the Jack in the Box). More recently, this weed appeared on Grizzly Island Wildlife Area's Pond 3. DFG hosted several weed-removal events, one which the US Fish and Wildlife Service attended. In June this year, before fruits matured, plants that had invaded the pickleweed-dominated marsh were hand-pulled and left on site in dry areas, where they were unlikely to reestablish. DFG then applied herbicide to 10 acres of grassland.

Unlike many other weeds, *S. soda* can be effectively controlled by hand-pulling. It uproots easily and if the patch is small, this process can go quickly. A good time of year is June, when larger plants have out-competed their neighbors but seeds have not yet formed. Also effective may be any mechanical disturbance, such as disking (though DFG has not tried this method). Herbicides are effective as well. DFG has applied both glyphosate and chlorsulfuron (Telar[®]) with good results. Telar[®] is preferred, since it has little effect on grasses and pickleweed. Though Telar[®] is an unrestricted herbicide (anyone should be able to buy and use it), some landowners have reported difficulty purchasing it. Fortunately, since *S. soda* is an annual plant, one simply needs to prevent it from fruiting, so complete kill or removal is not necessary. Unfortunately, this plant is very effective at spreading thousands of seeds by wind and water, and large infestations can appear rather suddenly. Please keep on eye out and control it if it appears on your property.



Image of *S. soda* as a tumbleweed capable of seed dispersion.

7th Annual SCF Shoot and Fundraiser Another Big Success

On August 6th, 80 shooters flocked to Birds Landing in support of the Suisun Conservation Fund's (SCF) 7th Annual Fun Shoot and Social. After blowing the cob webs out of the shotgun barrels with a round of 50 sporting clays, 100 attendees were treated to a rib-eye steak lunch, raffle, and auction. Although times are tough the shoot still netted roughly \$18,000 to support SRCD and future marsh programs. Many thanks go to Bill Brush & Bud Tonnesen, for helping to organize the event, Gerry Shedden, Carol-Ann Dowling and the Wetland Construction staff for sponsoring and preparing the delicious lunch, and all the volunteers who helped make the day go smoothly. Our sincere thanks go to the generous donors (listed below) and Suisun Marsh landowners who are the life blood of this tremendously successful event.

Al Firenzi – Franciscan Marshview DC, Al Renker – Bent Barrel DC, Bent Barrel DC, Bill Brush – Greenhead DC, Bud Tonnesen – Joice Island Mallard Farms, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance, California Waterfowl Association, Carol-Ann Dowling, Central Valley Joint Venture, Dan and Rick Cirillo – Birds Landing Sporting Clays, Darrell May – Marsh Rat Tractor and Hauling, Dave Widell – Grasslands Water District, Donald Parry – Joice Island Mallard Farms, Fritz Reid – Ducks Unlimited, Foothill Foundation, George's Feed and Pet Supply, Gerry Shedden – Wetland Construction, Guns, Fishing, & Other Stuff, Jeff Kerry, Jim and Robert Bozek – Bay Cities Warehouse, Jim Waters-Rich Island, John Draper – Wingnuts DC, John Galletti – Sunrise Island DC, Ken Border – Habitat Technologies Inc. John Paulsen – Joice Island Mallard Farms, Ken Del Monte – Wild Turkey DC, Ken Keeler – Pintail Ranch, Larry Petrie – Arnold Ranch, Matt Connelly – Island Club, Mike Lewis, Mike Souza – Rich Island, Pete Smith – F.P. Smith Equipment Company, Waste Connection-Potrero Hills Landfill, Ralph and Judy Mori – Tux of Class, Ron and Jeff Mezzetta – Mezzetta Foods, Scott Bohannon – David Bohannon Organization, Steve Doughty – Point Reyes Vineyards, Skip Chadbourne – Suisun Marsh Hunting Preserve, Steve and Hayden Markstein – Markstein Beverage Company, Somach, Simmons, and Dunn, Sprigsville Ranch, Steven Chappell, Tanglefree, Wooden Valley Winery.

Suisun Marsh Burn Season Update

The Suisun Marsh fall burn season is from September 1 through October 15. The SRCD would like to remind you to follow these existing procedures:

1. Submit smoke management plan (SMP) to DFG at Grizzly Island. After DFG certification your SMP will be forwarded to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).
2. Wait for notice of approval of your SMP by BAAQMD.
3. Obtain a burn permit from your local fire protection district.
4. Notify BAAQMD by noon the day before an intended burn.
5. Call BAAQMD on the morning of the burn to request final approval and a burn allocation.
6. Notify Solano Dispatch of your intent to burn.
7. Report the actual amount of acres burned to BAAQMD by the following day.



Controlled burn of phragmites patch in Suisun Marsh

(COHA from pg. 3)

AB 1810 (Feuer) - Firearms Registration

—OPPOSED

AB 1810 (Feuer/D-Los Angeles) proposes to expand the current handgun registration law to long guns by requiring the Attorney General to permanently maintain a registry of all firearms purchasers. Under the provisions of AB 1810 (Feuer), those who purchase or transfer a shotgun or rifle will be required to register that firearm by submitting their name, address, place of birth, phone number and occupation to the California Department of Justice.

After moving swiftly through the Assembly, AB 1810 was brought up for vote on the Assembly Floor in early June. After a lengthy debate which featured passionate opposition from Assembly Members Bill Berryhill and Jim Nielsen and quotes from the California Outdoor Heritage Alliance's opposition letter, AB 1810 passed off of the Assembly Floor by a vote of 42-29. On the Senate side, the measure continued to move quickly, passing out of the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 12th and moving to the Senate Floor where it will likely come up for vote the week of August 16th.

AB 979 - Ban on Local Government Interference With Hunting/Fishing Activities **- SUPPORT**

AB 979, COHA-sponsored legislation authored by Assembly Member Tom Berryhill (R-Modesto), would help keep cities and counties from interfering with hunting and fishing activities. The bill is being sponsored by COHA in response to increasing efforts by urban cities and counties to arbitrarily restrict hunting activities within their jurisdictions, mostly due to local anti-hunting sentiment. This has occurred most recently with the Cities of Hercules and Mountain View in the Bay Area, as well as with the City of Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County. The bill would preempt local government ordinances that do not have a legitimate public safety purpose and reaffirm the California Fish and Game Commission's primary authority over the regulation of fish and game.

AB 979 is currently on the Senate Floor, and will be voted on in mid-August.

AB 1254 (Berryhill) –Miscellaneous Fish and Game— SUPPORT

AB 1254, California Outdoor Heritage Alliance sponsored legislation introduced by Assembly Member Tom Berryhill (R-Modesto) continues to move swiftly through the Legislature. This measure would, among other things: 1) allow the California Fish and Game Commission to adjust its meeting schedule to address funding shortfalls; 2) authorize the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to offer special hunting opportunities to qualified hunter education instructors for recruitment and retention purposes; and 3) allow the DFG to suspend or seek reimbursement of F&G fine revenue improperly expended by county governments.

AB 1254 passed out of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee 9-0. It is currently on the Senate Floor where it will be voted upon in late-August.

AB 2186 (De Leon) - Loaded Firearms Violations/Loss of Firearms for 10 Year Period **—OPPOSED**

Assembly Member Kevin De Leon (D-Los Angeles) introduced AB 2186 to prohibit a person from owning, purchasing or possessing a firearm for 10 years for violating the state's "loaded firearms" laws. Current law generally prohibits the possession of a loaded firearm not only in a vehicle on a public road, but also on one's person in many public places—including restricted areas of unincorporated lands.

Loaded firearm violations are one of the most common hunting-related violations. According to 2008 data from the Department of Fish and Game, there were 274 loaded firearm violations statewide, representing the 3rd most common type of hunting violation.

AB 2186 was heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee in mid-April, and passed on a party-line vote. However, due to concerns by COHA, the author amended the bill to remove the loaded firearms penalties and instead focus AB 2186 only on increased penalties for misdemeanor concealed carry violations. In June, AB 2186 was placed on the Inactive File on the Assembly Floor, and is dead for this year.

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Address Correction Requested

Solano County Grant Programs Update

This past spring the Solano County Parks and Recreation Commission appropriated \$200,000 from the Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund (FWPF) Kinder Morgan grant program for fiscal year 2010/2011. Landowners and other agencies were able to apply for funding until May 10th, 2010 for projects anywhere in Solano County. Twenty-two grant applications were submitted to the three-member ad hoc review committee appointed by the Commission. Among the twenty-two applications were twelve private lands projects (including two by SRCD for landowner program funding). The requested funding in twenty-two applications for the FWPF was \$439,811. Of the twenty-two applications, eleven were selected for funding with only two of those proposals not receiving the full funding requested. SRCD, CWA and private landowner applications accounted for nearly 80% of the funding awarded with nearly \$155,000 staying within the Marsh. This was very encouraging news to hear from the County wide grant program. The Solano County Board of Supervisors approved the Solano County Parks Kinder Morgan grant recommendations on August 3, 2010.

The Suisun Marsh Specific Fund was announced in the beginning of September, 2010 allotting \$200,000 for next year. SRCD would like to encourage landowners who were unsuccessful in acquiring funding, as well as other properties within the Suisun Marsh with new habitat projects in mind to apply for this next round of funding. Tentative dates have been released as follows:

Week of Sept. 13: Release Procedural Guide

Early October: Applicant Question/Answer workshop

Week of Nov. 1: Applications due

Nov. 11: Parks and Rec. Commission meeting, applicants make presentations.

Jan. 13, 2011: Park and Rec. Commission recommends grant awards

Feb. 2011: Board of Supervisors to award grants.