



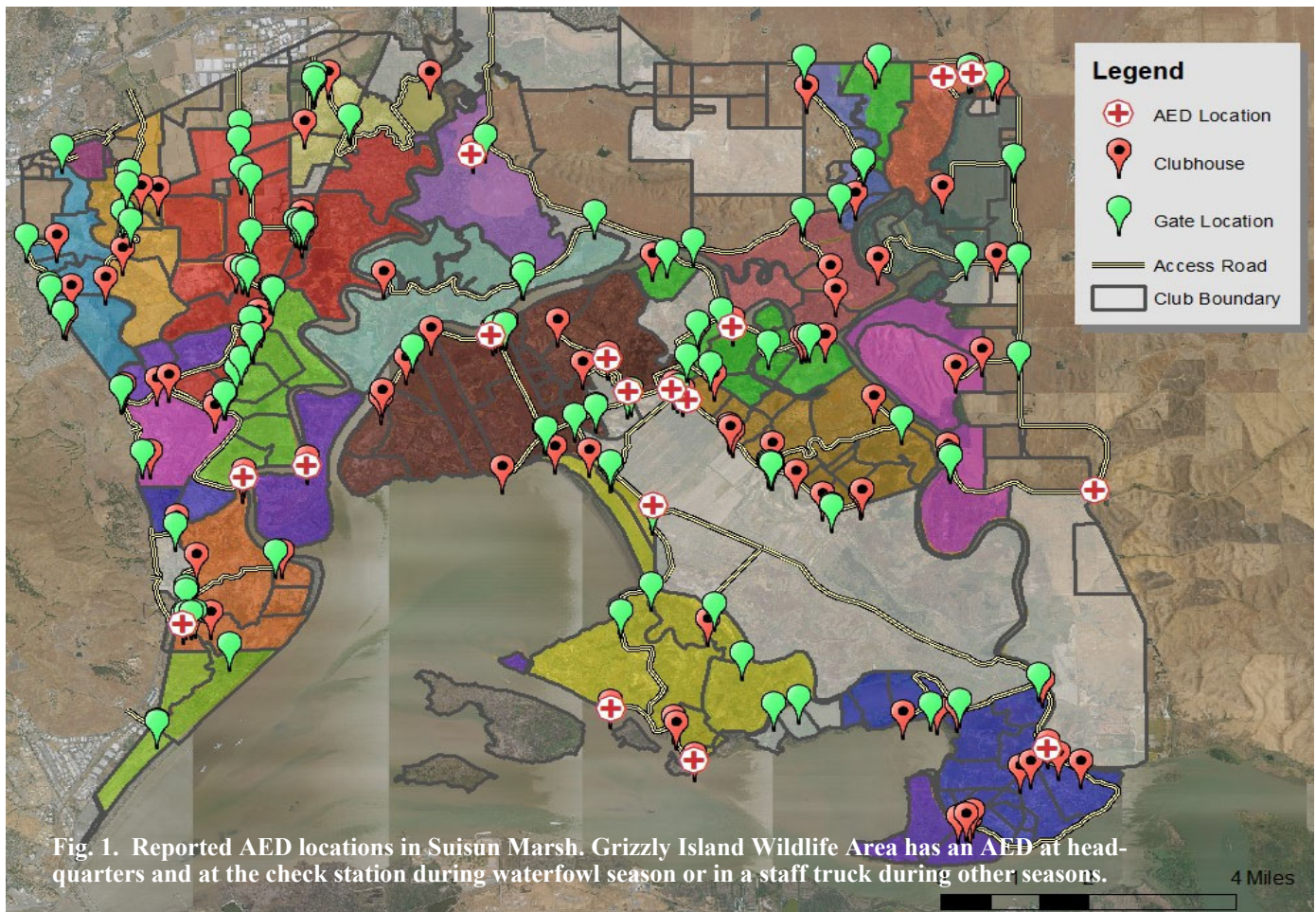
Land of the West Wind

January 2024

Volume 23 Issue IV

Emergency Response in Suisun Marsh and Availability of AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators)

By Jesirae Collins, SRCD staff



Suisun Marsh landowners are supported by Solano County for emergencies including disasters (Emergency Services), fire (Montezuma, Suisun, and Cordelia Fire Protection Districts), medical (Emergency Medical Services), and public safety (Solano County Sheriff). Average 911 response times are 8-12 minutes in urban areas, but the unincorporated properties of Suisun Marsh often lack street numbers and are on rural road networks with gated sections that makes rapid emergency response challenging. In 2019, SRCD staff worked with Suisun FPD to develop a Google Earth map (Fig. 1) shared with Solano County Dispatch showing clubhouses, gates, and access routes to most properties. Although the map improved available information, many properties remain far from major roads and are difficult to access quickly.

Suisun Marsh landowners and visitors comprise an older demographic, and a common medical emergency is cardiac arrest that requires a quick response for a successful outcome. Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly stops pumping and stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. Cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the U. S. with 350,000 people reported annually, and half of the cases occur to

[Emergency Response and AEDs, Cont. on Pg. 2]

Land of the West Wind

Quarterly Newsletter
Suisun Resource Conservation District
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Suisun, CA 94585

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**SRCD's public meetings are every
second Wednesday of each month at
2PM 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. It's 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. With cooperation from landowners and various agencies, SRCD develops new programs aimed at protecting and improving the Suisun Marsh for future generations.



Changing of the Guard — Terry Connolly, 1944-2023

Terry Connolly, a Member of the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors passed away on December 15th, 2023 in Vallejo after a brief illness. He served as a SRCD Director for 21 years starting in December 2002, and he was the chair of the Finance Committee and trustee of the Suisun Conservation Fund.

Terry was born in San Mateo in 1944 but moved to Vallejo where he attended elementary through high school and graduated in 1962. He attended Vallejo Junior College and San Jose State where he obtained a degree in accounting in 1966, and he received an MBA from Golden Gate University in 1985. Terry worked as a CPA and was a Finance Director for the City of Benicia, President of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, and finally managing partner at Anderson & Associates until he retired at age 50.



Terry and Vickie Bentley, his companion of 37 years, traveled the world together, and Terry made several hunting trips to Canada and Mexico. He was a partner in the Sprigsville Ranch Duck Club on Grizzly Island for 35 years and spent endless days there hunting, fishing, and enjoying the company of his life-long friends, Rob Smith and Jim Cogburn. He was a director of the Frost Lake Reclamation District for 20 years. In addition, Terry was an active member of the Green Valley Country Club, Twin Creeks HOA, Vallejo Elks Lodge, Vallejo Rowing Club, and California Waterfowl Association. He was an avid reader of history and remarkably knowledgeable about world affairs.

Terry was predeceased by his parents Tom and Zella, sister Marilyn Connolly Kelly, and his faithful canine partners, Tuxedo and Bear. He is survived by his life companion, Vickie Bentley, nephew Kyle Kelly, and cousins Guy Kilburn, Adam Kilburn, and Wyatt Kilburn. There will be a celebration of Terry's life on January 27th from 1-4 PM at Green Valley Country Club, 35 Country Club Drive, Fairfield. Donations in his memory may be made to the California Waterfowl Association, 1346 Blue Oaks Blvd., Roseville, CA 95678 or online at <https://www.calwaterfowl.org/donate-online>. He will be missed.

[Emergency Response & AEDS, Cont. from Pg. 1]

people who didn't know they had a heart problem. Ninety percent of people who have a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital die – often within minutes with survival reduced 10% for each minute of delay.



Recent development of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) has greatly improved outcomes, where AED use after cardiac arrest outside of a hospital has nearly doubled survival (Weisfeldt et al. 2010). AEDs are easy-to-use medical devices that analyze the heart's rhythm and deliver an electrical shock to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. SRCD recently sent an email to landowners requesting locations of AEDs in Suisun Marsh, and the resulting map of the known AED locations is provided to show the general distribution and identify areas where AEDs may be lacking (Fig. 1: circles). We will continue to update this map as we learn about other AEDs in the region, and we will post it on the SRCD website.

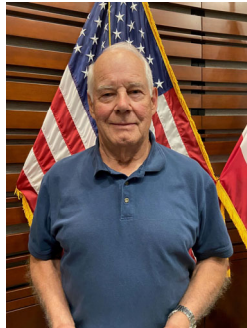
[Emergency Resp & AEDS, Cont. on Pg. 3]

Welcome to New SRCD Board Director Kent Hansen

Kent Hansen recently joined the Suisun Resource Conservation District Board of Directors in May 2023 following the retirement of long-time Director Arnold Lenk. Kent was born and raised in the small town (3,500) of Richfield, Utah where he attended elementary through high school and started duck hunting on wetlands along the Sevier River starting at age 12. He attended Utah State in Logan where he majored in Finance and Economics, spent a year on the football team, and anchored third base on the baseball team for 3 years.

After graduation, Kent joined the 82nd Airborne as an Army Ranger officer and helped to keep the peace in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Africa. Kent obtained his MBA at George Washington University, and from the mid 1970s-1980s, he was a health care administrator in Phoenix and then the Bay Area. He later managed a law firm, and then he developed several small businesses including in health care technology and construction.

Kent's hobbies include hunting for deer and elk, pheasant, and waterfowl. He also served as Chairman for Outward Bound education programs challenging youth to explore their potential in remote outdoor adventures. Kent was introduced to Suisun Marsh after moving to Danville in 1974 by his neighbor, Jim Bozek Sr. and his sons (Bob and Jim) who were members at Cygnus Gun Club. He spent 10 years as a shooting member at Cygnus before becoming a landowner at Goodyear Land Company in 1994.



With his farming and ranching background, Kent has a strong interest in wetland habitat management and the role of SRCD. In the early 2000s, he helped the late Bill Brush (Greenhead Duck Club) with the Suisun Conservation Fund Fun Shoot, and he became an Associate Director. Recently, he has been very active in invasive species control of *Phragmites* and Russian Thistle at his club. A warm welcome to Kent!

SRCD Biologist Analyst — Kristin Brandon

Kristin joined SRCD in November with a BS in Zoology from Oregon State and a Master's in ecology from Rice University. Her graduate research used geospatial and quantitative data analysis to understand macroscale patterns of biodiversity in primate communities. Kristin also collaborated on research projects exploring cellular processes associated with coral-algal imbalances, tracking marine mammal migration patterns, and modeling effects of road network expansion on Brazilian maned wolves. In addition, Kristin has an extensive background in educational outreach and has advocated for initiatives enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in educational settings.



Change at the Helm of the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District

By Bret Barner, SCMAD biologist

In December 2023, after 39 years of service to Solano County, Richard Snyder has retired as District Manager of the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD).



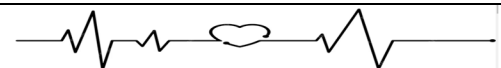
Richard started working at SCMAD in 1985 as a field technician, working his way up to Supervisor and ultimately becoming Manager in 2015. He plans to enjoy his well-deserved retirement with his wife and family, including his six grandchildren, after diligently working to protect public health and quality of life for those living in Solano County.

SCMAD is excited to welcome our new District Manager, Miguel Cardenas, to our agency. Miguel has 17 years of experience in mosquito control, including 13 years of field work. He is excited to work with Suisun Resource Conservation District and all property owners within the Suisun Marsh. SCMAD will continue to work with SRCD in the same capacity in regards to fall flood-ups, encouraging all duck club and property owners to communicate their intentions of flooding prior to the start of duck season.

[Emergency Resp & AEDS, Cont. from Pg. 2]

AED Locations in Suisun Marsh

Delta King Ranch	clubhouse
Denverton (CWA)	3836 Denverton Rd
Denverton dog training (CRTA)	3836 Denverton Rd - on post 300 yards from entrance
Fire Station 52	2151 Collinsville Rd
Four G Ranch	in R. Grillat's truck
GIWA Check Station	inside station
Grizzly Island WA HQ	2548 Grizzly Island Rd
Grizzly Ranch (CWA)	clubhouse, 4179 Van Sickle Rd.
Grizzly Ranch dog training (CRTA)	4179 Van Sickle Rd - behind kiosk
Gum Tree Farms	lower floor bathroom
Lower Joice Island	clubhouse
Mallard Haven	2634 Morrow Lane, Benicia
Miramonte Duck Club	clubhouse
Rich Island Gun Club	Main clubhouse mud room
Rush Ranch Kit House	3521 Grizzly Island Rd.
SRCD Office	2544 Grizzly Island Rd.
Wheeler Island	clubhouse dining room



2023 State Legislative Session Shuttters What Looms in 2024

By Bill Gaines, Gaines & Associates

Late in the evening of September 14th, a lightning fast 2023 California State Legislative Session gaveled to a close. While some bills of interest perished in 2023 and some were signed into law, others were tabled for possible further consideration in the 2024 Session. Below is a summary of what took place on the bills of greatest interest to the hunting community in 2023, followed by some notes on what awaits us in 2024.

2023 State Legislative Session

AB 28 (Gabriel) – Firearms and Ammunition: Excise Tax - SIGNED

Throughout the 2021 Legislative Session, the conservation community battled AB 1223 – legislation by Assembly Member Marc Levine (D-San Rafael) which proposed to place an extensive excise tax on firearms and ammunition – finally defeating the “two-year” bill in late January 2022. Four months later, Assembly Member Levine punched back by gutting the original language out of his AB 1227 and replacing it with the language of AB 1223. For much of the remainder of 2022, we fought AB 1227 – killing the proposal just moments before midnight on the final day of the 2022 Session.



Levine’s last Session in the Legislature was in 2022, but in December, Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel (D-Woodland Hills) introduced AB 28, legislation which proposed to impose an 11% excise tax on the sale of all firearms, firearm parts, and ammunition. Like AB 1223 and AB 1227, AB 28 would require the revenues collected to be deposited in the Gun Violence Prevention, Healing, and Recovery Fund used to fund gun violence prevention, education, research, response, and investigation programs. Despite active opposition of many in the conservation community, AB 28 easily passed through the Assembly and off the Assembly Floor – narrowly gathering the requisite 2/3^{rds} Floor vote necessary to pass a “tax.” Maintaining its momentum on the Senate side – AB 28 quickly passed through three committees by mid-August and on to the Senate Floor, where it would again require a 2/3^{rds} majority.

Knowing the bill could be brought up for a Floor vote at any time, we kept a close eye on the daily Floor action while we worked to secure the necessary 14 Senate Floor votes to kill the bill. After a long wait, AB 28 was finally brought up for a vote on the Senate Floor in early September 2023. Following a lengthy Floor debate, the Speaker called the roll, and the bill passed off the Senate Floor with the bare minimum of the necessary 27 of the 40 Senate votes. Governor Newsom signed AB 28 into law on September 26th. AB 28 will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

What Can We Expect in 2024?

In addition to monitoring the introduction of any new legislation of concern during the upcoming 2024 Session, we will be closely tracking the activity on the “two-year” bills listed below.

SB 8 (Blakespear/Skinner) – Civil Law: Firearms Liability and Insurance

As amended in March 2023, SB 8 by Senator Catherine Blakespear (D-Laguna Hills) and Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Oakland), would require gun owners to obtain a gun liability insurance policy which specifically would cover losses or damages resulting from any negligent or accidental use of that firearm, including death, injury, or property damage.

SB 8 was heard in the Senate policy committee in late April 2023, with testimony taken from Gaines & Associates and others in the hunting and shooting community. However, no vote was taken, and the bill was held in committee – making SB 8 a “two-year” bill which could not be given further consideration until the 2024 Session. SB 8 must be heard and passed out of Senate policy committee by January 12, 2024, to meet legislative deadline. SB 8 was originally set to be heard in committee on January 10th, but that hearing was postponed in late December. As of December 29th, SB 8 has yet to be scheduled again for hearing in early 2024.

SB 772 (Dahle) – Junior Hunting Licenses: Age of Eligibility

California law currently requires that residents be 15 years of age and under to be eligible for a junior hunting license. SB 772 by Senator Brian Dahle (R-Redding) would extend the age eligibility for a California junior hunting license from 15 and under to 17 and under. The price of a 2023 resident adult hunting license is set at \$55.58, while the cost of a 2023 junior hunting license is set at only \$15.38. Additionally, junior license holders are exempt from purchasing an upland game bird validation, a state duck stamp, and wildlife area hunting passes. The significant difference in the cost of an adult hunting license and associated permits relative to a youth hunting license and any necessary permits has proven to be a notable barrier to many who would otherwise take part in the hunting opportunity California has to offer.

There has been a 65% decrease in the number of hunting licenses purchased in California since 1970. SB 772 would help reverse this decline by allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to continue to have access to special youth hunting activities at an affordable price – increasing the likelihood that they will become life-long hunters and conservationists. SB 772 was heard in the Senate policy committee in April 2023, passing out to the Senate fiscal committee on a unanimous vote. However, SB 772 was then held in Senate fiscal committee – becoming a “two-year” bill. SB 772 must be heard and passed out of Senate fiscal committee and to the Senate Floor by January 19, 2024, to meet legislative deadline.

With Legislators set to reconvene to begin the 2024 State Legislative Session on January 3rd, activity at our State Capitol will get off to a quick start. Although we are aware of the “two-year” bills of interest that are pending, we must wait for the February 16th deadline for the introduction of new legislation to see what other challenges the conservation community will face in 2024.

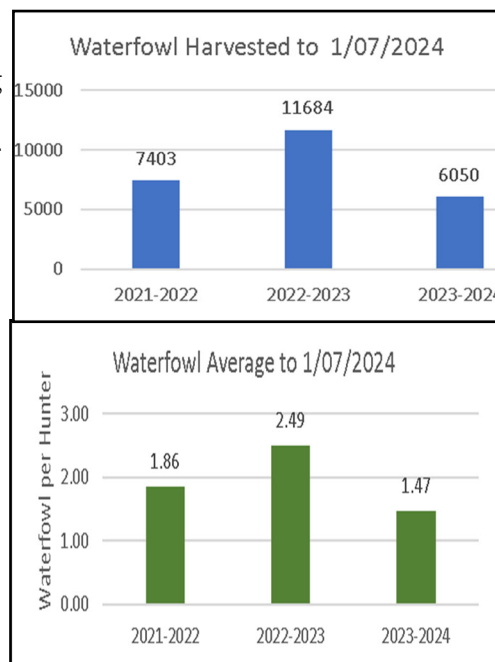
Grizzly Island Wildlife Area Waterfowl Season

By Orlando Rocha, Grizzly Island Wildlife Area

The 2023-2024 waterfowl season at Grizzly Island Wildlife Area has reached the midpoint. The top 5 ducks were similar to last year including northern shoveler (NSHO), American green-winged teal (AGWT), American wigeon (AMWI), and mallard (MALL), but with northern pintail (NOPI) replacing bufflehead (BUFF).

Rank	2022-2023	2023-2024
1	4376 NSHO	1975 NSHO
2	3050 AMWI	1449 AGWT
3	1587 AGWT	977 AMWI
4	537 MALL	616 MALL
5	461 BUFF	330 NOPI

The total harvest (6050) and average per hunter (1.47) have been lower than the highly successful 2022-2023 season but were similar to the 2021-2022 season results. January storms may increase the final numbers.



Early Detection and Rapid Response to Russian Thistle

By Tim Edmunds, SRCD staff

Over the past few years, we have seen the rapidly advancing invasion of Russian Thistle (*Salsola soda*) in the Suisun Marsh. This invasive weed grows very fast, and each plant may produce tens of thousands of seed-like embryos. These embryos will grow into little plants, and once rooted in the soil, they will start growing rapidly in the early spring or as soon as the water is off the soil (Fig. 1). The embryos are spread by wind and can survive in water which makes water another dispersal method for this plant. You may first see the seedlings emerge on pond edges and levees as the water comes off the pond bottoms, but you may see germination on the pond bottoms as well. The seedlings will grow over the summer and start developing a new crop of embryos in late summer to early fall (August-October) and the whole process will start again.

Waterfowl Season	Pond Management						
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Seed dispersal	Seedling			Plant Growth			
	Spray						
Inundation							
		Burn					
				Disking			
				Mowing			
				Hand Pulling			

Fig. 1. Growth and seed production of Russian Thistle relative to timing of wetland management and control options in Suisun Marsh.

The SRCD and DFW are working on finalizing a draft adaptive management plan for the control of Russian Thistle. We will be distributing this plan at the Suisun Marsh Spring Landowner Workshop in April. In the meantime, managers should be on the lookout for this invasive weed on their property. The best time to treat it with herbicide is in the early development seedling stage. It also seems that prolonged hydroperiods may stop growth and expansion of this plant, and the wet conditions in 2023 probably helped to reduce its spread. However, burning may lead to a major infestation due to its fast spread and lack of competition from other plant species.

Also, if conditions are drier this year, the spread of the invasion may resume. So, as duck season ends and we start into the new year, wetland managers should start looking for Russian Thistle on their properties and map the extent to track its spread and focus control efforts. Also, if you have been trying different methods to control Russian Thistle on your property with varying levels of success, please let us know so we can get that information into the adaptive management plan.



GET PAID TO FLOOD YOUR WETLANDS!

Enhance the habitat potential of your wetlands

BirdReturns Wetland Incentive Program pays private wetland owners to provide habitat for shorebirds and other waterbirds by flooding outside of the hunting season. By adjusting the management of water depth and timing, private wetlands can meet habitat needs for a greater diversity of waterbird species!



SPRING

Drawdown water in April to provide migratory shorebird habitat



SUMMER

Provide nesting and brood-rearing habitat for shorebirds and waterfowl



FALL

Provide early flooded habitat for migrating shorebirds and molting waterfowl

BirdReturns
Creating flexible bird habitat
in California's Central Valley

LEARN MORE (415) 644 - 4608 www.birdreturns.org

GET PAID TO FLOOD YOUR WETLANDS BirdReturns Wetland Program

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Wetland operators within the Central Valley, Suisun, Delta, Tulare, and San Joaquin region. Requirements may vary for each program.

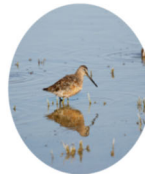
WHAT IS REQUIRED?

To apply, submit an easy 1 page application at birdreturns.org. Enrolled wetlands must meet specific flooding practices and allow for monitoring.

UPCOMING APPLICATIONS

SPRING

Application Period: January 12th - February 2nd, 2024



Flooding Practice:

- Soils must remain flooded or fully saturated from the end of the hunting season until the drawdown period
- Conduct a gradual drawdown to reach 50% mudflats by the end of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd week of April

SUMMER

Application Period: January 12th - February 2nd, 2024



Flooding Practice:

- Enrolled units must be fully flooded from April 1st - July 15th (minimum 12-24 inches)
- Select from Standard Drawdown (50% mudflats on August 1st) or Delayed Drawdown (remain fully flooded until at least October 1st)

Full details, including payment rates, available on the website

APPLY AT WWW.BIRDRETURNS.ORG/WETLANDS (415) 644 - 4608

SRCD is the liaison for the BirdReturns Wetland Program in Suisun Marsh. Please contact your water manager if you have any questions or would like to discuss submitting an application.



- Canvasback ducks are the largest bay diving duck species in North America. They weigh an average of 2.6 pounds and grow to 21" in length with a wingspan of 35".
- They take flight by running across the surface of the water and are among the fastest flying ducks. They often flock with other diving ducks including Scaup and Redheads.
- Most Canvasbacks breed in the Prairie Pothole Region, and their nests are often parasitized by Redhead ducks. They form social flocks with other species in the winter.
- Known as the King of Ducks for their culinary value, Canvasbacks preferred food includes submergent aquatic plant tubers and especially wild celery winter buds.

Land Of The West Wind
SRCD Newsletter

2544 Grizzly Island Road
Suisun CA 94585

Address Correction Requested



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Spring Reminders

Water Diversion Reports Due February 1st! Diversion reporting for the past water year from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 are due on February 1st. All landowners who have diversions should have received a letter with diversion numbers and passwords to login and enter reports on the State Water Resources Control Board Report Management System (RMS) website at rms.waterboards.ca.gov. Contact your water manager if you have questions.

Winter-run Chinook Salmon Intake Gate Restrictions are in effect from November 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. Spring Run Chinook Salmon Intake Gate Restrictions will be in effect from February 21, 2024 to March 31, 2024. Intake gates along closure areas will be monitored by SRCD staff.

The 2024 USACE RGP#3 work application has been mailed out to landowners and posted on the SRCD website. The 2024 Preservation Act Agreement (PAI) grant program application will be sent out by the beginning of February.

The Suisun Marsh Spring Landowner's Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 17th at Pete Smith Equipment Warehouse, 3190 Ramsey Road, Fairfield. Suggestions for workshop topics are welcome.