



yolo basin foundation

Dedicated to the appreciation and stewardship of wetlands and wildlife through education and innovative partnerships

Yolo Basin Foundation was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the 3,700-acre Yolo Wildlife Area (also known as the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area). Through the Foundation's continued efforts the Wildlife Area, now owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game, was expanded to a total of 16,000 acres in 2001. The Yolo Basin Foundation is universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that created the Wildlife Area. The Foundation continues as the communication link between the many people and organizations involved in land management issues in the Yolo Bypass. The board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community.

Each year, through the *Discover the Flyway* school program, the Foundation trains hundreds of teachers and hosts over 4,000 K-12 students and parents from Sacramento, Solano, Yolo, Placer and El Dorado counties. Since the program began in 1997 almost 24,000 students have had the opportunity to visit the Wildlife Area. Yolo Basin Foundation staff, interns and volunteers assist students in hands-on learning activities at the Yolo Demonstration Wetlands and lead students on exploratory Wildlife Area walks where they have an opportunity to learn first hand about the wonders of wetlands.

Unique education programs like Marsh Madness, which targets underserved schools, and Nature Bowl are also offered along with workshops for teachers like Project WET and Project Water Science. In cooperation with the California Waterfowl Association the Foundation brings wetlands education into the classroom with the Wild About Wetlands hands-on teaching kits. They also provide community education programs such as the Flyway Nights speaker series, which features experts in natural history topics relevant to the region. Regular docent-led tours are given at the Wildlife Area (highlighting vernal pools, waterfowl and bats, depending on the season). Yolo Basin Foundation is the sponsoring non-profit organization for California Duck Days, an annual wetlands festival popular throughout northern California.

In 1998 the Foundation founded the Yolo Bypass Working Group, an ad hoc organization of landowners, farmers, hunters, and local, state, and federal agency staff that meets bi-monthly. Working Group meetings provide a

focused opportunity for participants to discuss issues related to the Yolo Bypass including farming in the floodplain, improvements to the flood control system, habitat restoration projects, mosquito control, and public access.

The Pacific Flyway Center is another exciting project being coordinated by the Foundation. The California Department of Fish and Game and the Wildlife Conservation Board are working in partnership with the Foundation to create this unique visitor and education center to be located on a 69-acre site in the Yolo Wildlife Area. This facility, a dream for so many years, will allow the Foundation's educational programs to expand to meet the needs of future generations.

For more information on the Yolo Basin Foundation, please visit the website (www.yolobasin.org) or contact:

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