

**ANNOUNCING THE AGRICULTURAL
WATERFOWL INCENTIVE
PROGRAM**



November 5, 1996

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, announced today that proposals are now being accepted from landowners interested in participating in the Agricultural Waterfowl Habitat Incentive Program. The program, authorized under section 3406(b)(22) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), provides incentives for farmers to flood their fields during appropriate time periods for the purpose of creating habitat for wintering and breeding waterfowl and for enhancing Central Valley Project (CVP) water supplies.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- The program is open to lands within the Central Valley Project service area.
- Landowners must have irrigated and harvested a crop on the offered field(s) sometime during the past five years.
- Agriculture operations that would qualify include small grains, irrigated pasture, alfalfa, and annual row crops.

Two options are available to landowners:

FALL/WINTER flooding to provide a minimum of 80 acres of habitat for migrating waterfowl.

SPRING/SUMMER flooding to provide a minimum of 3 acres of breeding habitat for resident waterfowl.

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS SHOULD CONTAIN:

- A detailed written legal description of the location and acreage of the agricultural fields offered for flooding, including an area map of the proximity to the nearest town and major road.
- The crop being grown, or to be grown on the field(s) and the recent cropping history of the offered field(s) and adjacent fields.
- The field condition at the time of proposed flooding (harvested, not harvested, fallow, burned, etc.).
- The water supply to be utilized (water district supply, water rights, ground water, etc.) including the point of diversion and source.
- The estimated quantity of water required and the estimated cost of providing waterfowl habitat.
- The proposed dates for flooding and draining the offered fields.
- The type and amount of incentive requested.

Proposals will be accepted on a year-round basis.

Those wishing to receive more detailed information or wish to submit proposals should contact Dale Garrison, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist and Program Manager for the Agricultural Waterfowl Incentive Program, at 2233 Watt Avenue, Suite 375, Sacramento, California 95825. PHONE: (916) 979-2085, FAX: (916) 979-2092.