



San Joaquin River Blueway

A Vision for Public Enjoyment and Stewardship of the San Joaquin River



Vision for a San Joaquin River Blueway

The San Joaquin River Blueway is a mosaic of parks, wildlife refuges, and other publicly accessible places that provides the public an opportunity to explore and enjoy the San Joaquin River from its headwaters to the Delta. The Blueway connects San Joaquin Valley residents to our shared natural and cultural heritage, to recreational opportunities, and to each other. A regional and statewide asset, the San Joaquin River Blueway fosters health, strengthens community ties, enhances learning, reflects our pride of place, and supports restoration and conservation efforts along the river.

An Invitation to Participate

Today, the San Joaquin River hosts a sparse, but vital, network of places where Valley families and Californians can experience and enjoy the San Joaquin River. The San Joaquin River Blueway will expand this network of places up and down the river corridor to benefit our Valley communities and our state as a whole. This idea builds upon the efforts of many others to restore, enhance, and make accessible the remarkable natural, cultural, and recreational values of the San Joaquin. Our mission is to share this vision and together go about creating the San Joaquin River Blueway. We invite you to join us.

“There are a lot of people from my area [Laos] that fish along the San Joaquin, not only Laotian but Hmong, Cambodians, and Vietnamese ... I love to catch fish, yet we have to protect them. The fish are not only for us, we have to save them for our children and our grandchildren.”

— Lue Yang, native of Laos and now executive director of the Fresno Center for New Americans



Photos: © San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust

Benefits of a San Joaquin River Blueway

- Places to recreate along the river's course
- Better health for Valley residents
- Cleaner air
- Economic activity in local communities
- Appreciation for an agricultural way of life
- Education about the river's natural and cultural heritage
- Enhanced natural areas and an abundance of wildlife
- Improved flood protection
- Clean and reliable water supplies

The Opportunity

The San Joaquin is California's second-longest river, stretching 330 miles from its headwaters in the Sierra Nevada to its mouth at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast of North America. Its watershed comprises 38,000 square miles—nearly a fifth of the State of California. Its major tributaries—the Merced, the Tuolumne, and the Stanislaus—bring snowmelt, a precious water supply, from the Sierra Nevada to both Central Valley and coastal communities. Communities, farms, and wildlife rely upon the vital water supplies that the river delivers.

A nationally significant restoration program is underway that will re-establish water flows in sections of the San Joaquin River that have been dry for more than 60 years. Here is an unprecedented opportunity to enhance our community connection to and enjoyment of the San Joaquin River now and into the future.

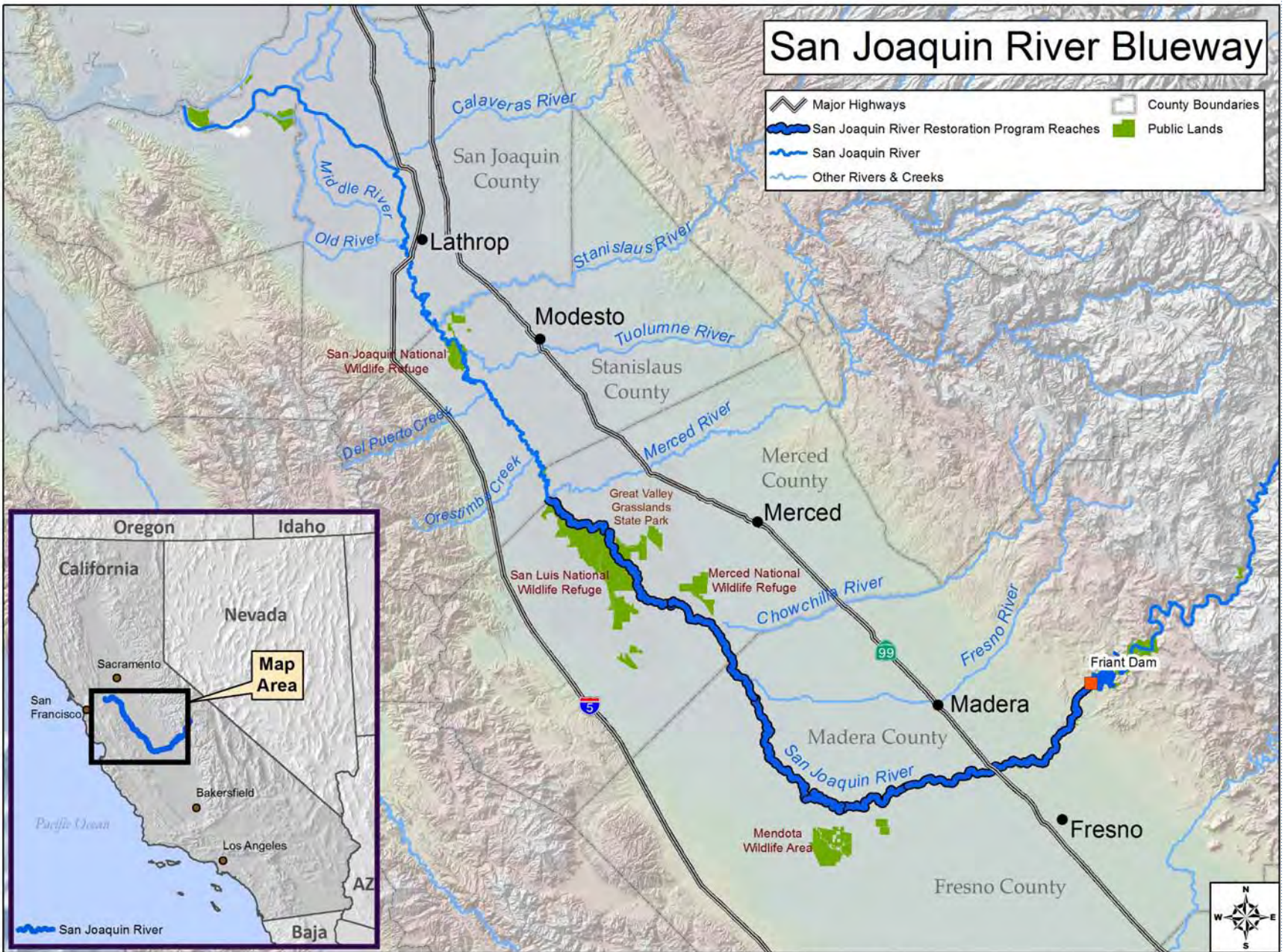
The San Joaquin River Blueway will allow families and individuals who live in the San Joaquin Valley and Californians from across the state to visit and enjoy our river. Blueways weave together natural spaces surrounding bodies of water to create a corridor of recreational access and to preserve important landscapes. Blueways offer many benefits and they can be tailored to meet the needs of communities and landowners. As the San Joaquin River Blueway evolves over decades into a system of recreational and natural areas, linked by the river itself, it will offer many opportunities to enhance our quality of life. The Blueway will provide spots to go fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, biking, wildlife-watching, hunting or picnicking; places for families, neighbors, friends, church groups, youth groups, and others to gather near the river together; and outdoor classrooms where children and adults can learn about their natural, historical, and cultural river heritage.

Rivers are particularly important sanctuaries for our natural world of plants and animals, especially in dry climates. At the same time, rivers have been extremely important to the development of our country. They have invited exploration, attracted settlement, provided transportation, made electricity, supplied building materials, irrigated crops, and watered range animals. Over the past thirty years, communities across the nation have increasingly turned to their rivers as a focus for community revitalization, realizing that improvements to the health and accessibility of these waterways beautifies the built environment and strengthens the community's social and economic fabric.

The San Joaquin River Blueway has the potential to become a nationally significant public asset, one which taps into Valley heritage and community pride to create a lasting legacy for future generations.

San Joaquin River Blueway

- Major Highways
- San Joaquin River Restoration Program Reaches
- San Joaquin River
- Other Rivers & Creeks
- County Boundaries
- Public Lands



0 2 4 6 8 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150 Miles



The River Past and Present

The San Joaquin River is a symbol of our history and our communities today. Native American tribes – Yokut and Miwok – long inhabited the San Joaquin and depended upon its natural resources. It is estimated that, in the 18th century, nearly 70,000 indigenous people lived in the Valley, one of the greatest population concentrations in North America. In the 1830s, smallpox decimated these populations. Today, visitors may come upon the acorn grinding stones and middens, or refuse mounds, that remain from these early human settlements.

In the late 1700s, Spanish explorers marked the first Europeans to visit the Valley. In 1826, when American fur trappers arrived, the Valley was sparsely populated and used primarily for cattle ranching. That changed in 1849, when the cataclysmic population boom of the gold rush transformed California physically and socially. During this time, the San Joaquin River, a vital link between San Francisco and the gold country, became a key water highway where riverboats plied the 250 miles between the Delta and Fresno.

In addition to this rich cultural legacy, the San Joaquin is home to an impressive natural history. Before the construction of Friant Dam, completed in 1944, the San Joaquin River spilled over the Valley floor, attracting unimaginably dense flocks of wintering migratory birds. Forty-pound Chinook salmon and sturgeon twice the size of a man swam these waters. The last salmon run in the San Joaquin came in the late 1940s, when sections of the river ran dry. Gradually, beginning in the 1860s with the introduction of irrigation, much of the Valley converted to farmland, cities, and towns, and the abundance of birds and other wildlife disappeared.

The vast working farms in the San Joaquin Valley reflect our agricultural heritage. For some 200 miles on the Valley floor the river is flanked on both sides by fields that grow nearly half of the nuts, fruits, and vegetables in the nation. Work related to agriculture accounts for over 30 percent of all employment in the Valley. The San Joaquin River Blueway will link Valley communities to this rich heritage, providing opportunities for farmland preservation as well as education about the importance of farming to our region.

Today, a landmark restoration project – one that will balance the agricultural legacy of the Valley with the river’s importance to wildlife – is underway on the San Joaquin. In March 2009 Congress authorized the San Joaquin Restoration Project (SJRRP) as a cooperative federal and state program to restore the river from Friant Dam to its confluence with the Merced River. The restoration program has two main goals: to restore river flows for self-sustaining salmon populations, and to provide water supply for a vibrant agricultural

“When I was a kid, we went to Lost Lake all the time--we’d have barbecues there on Sundays ... And it’s what a lot of Latinos still do every weekend ... I like to look at the valley’s history, how the waves of migration have shaped our history and created what we are today. This valley is named after a saint because of Moraga, the Spanish explorer who came through the Central Valley and named many of the California rivers. He named this river too. They think that it’s because he crossed this river with his band of explorers on the feast day of Saint Joaquin, the father of the Virgin Mary. I don’t think many people know that.”

— Kristina Orteiz

economy. As a result of this restoration, parts of the river that were de-watered when the dam was built will flow once again, bringing renewed natural life to this hard-working and hugely productive landscape. The San Joaquin River Blueway will complement the SJRRP, as well as other planning and policy frameworks for the San Joaquin Valley.

Efforts to expand public access along the river will require careful consideration of potential impacts to adjacent private property. Additionally, location and design of publicly accessible spaces, particularly in the restoration reaches, will need to avoid impacts to wildlife and habitat. Realization of a vision for a San Joaquin River Blueway will mean restoring balance between public access, wildlife protection, and agricultural sustainability, all vital to the quality of life in our region and our state.

Planning and Policy Frameworks in the San Joaquin Valley

- **California's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**—Completed in 2008, this plan provides a comprehensive strategy for statewide outdoor leadership and action to meet the state's identified outdoor recreation needs. It reflects the current and projected changes in California's population, trends, and economy.
- **Central Valley Vision**—In 2009, the California State Parks Department completed the Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan, which focuses on helping to meet the public's recreation needs in the Central Valley. It outlines specific initiatives to build economic and volunteer partnerships, acquire new park lands, and develop new and improved recreation opportunities.
- **Central Valley Flood Management Plan**—The California Department of Water Resources is in the process of developing a sustainable, integrated flood management plan for areas protected by facilities of the State-Federal flood protection system in the Central Valley. This planning process could include floodplain protection and restoration components that will protect key resources from flooding while enhancing natural areas along the San Joaquin River.
- **San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Expansion**—The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is initiating the planning process for the proposed expansion of the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. The proposed expansion presents a unique conservation opportunity to restore a major migratory corridor through the center of California to benefit the birds of the Pacific Flyway and numerous other species of wildlife. If the refuge is expanded, additional lands along the San Joaquin River could be made available to the public to enjoy wildlife viewing, hunting, and other activities compatible with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's mission.



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Recreation

Compared to other parts of California, the San Joaquin Valley has very few public places for children, adults, and families to enjoy the outdoors. In fact, the Central Valley region has the state's lowest ratio of parkland to population. Along much of the river land is privately owned. Public recreation is generally unavailable in these stretches, as are scenic views of the river from the road.

In its 2009 Central Valley Vision Implementation Plan, the California State Parks Department pointed to the Central Valley's absence of a well-developed regional park system, noting residents must travel 50 minutes on average to reach a recreation area, twice the distance that Southern California and Bay Area residents must travel. The plan further spotlighted the Central Valley as a region with particularly few state parks to serve its growing population. Since the handful of public parks along the San Joaquin River cannot meet the growing need for outdoor space, overcrowding has forced park managers to turn away large numbers of people on hot summer days.

Outdoor gathering spaces encourage families, neighbors, and other community members to come together to relax, to play, to celebrate, and to reflect. Park creation, revitalization, and upkeep can build community ties, ownership, and pride. As a mosaic of parks and natural areas, the San Joaquin River Blueway will over time significantly expand the availability of outdoor recreation for our Valley communities.



Photos: © San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust

Recreational Opportunities Offered by the San Joaquin River Blueway

- Boating
- Swimming
- Picnicking
- Walking and jogging
- Cycling
- Hiking
- Interpretive trails
- Wildlife viewing
- Bird watching
- Fishing
- Hunting



Health

Rates of childhood diabetes and obesity are soaring in the United States. It is now well understood that time outdoors is critical to a person's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being, and access to natural areas and outdoor recreation is increasingly recommended by medical professionals as one solution to our national health crisis.

Studies show that people with access to parks exercise more and have lower rates of obesity and diabetes. In addition to promoting physical health, exposure to the outdoors can improve mental and social health, helping children develop and neighborhoods bond. The San Joaquin River Blueway will promote better health for Valley residents and open up access to previously underserved communities.

“ I was eight years old when we came here [from Mexico]. My dad worked for the Rank family; he broke horses for them ... I remember just throwing a line in the river and jigging it, just one quick jiggle and we'd catch fish all day long ... One of the best things about living here as kids was that we could come home and swim ... I think back on it, how fortunate we were. God, what a life. Of all the places in the world, we ended up right here. ”

— Bernie Salado, a native of Mexico



Photos: © San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust



Clean Air

Increasingly, Valley urban areas face severe air quality issues with serious health consequences, such as higher incidences of asthma. “Urban heat islands” created by extensive pavement and other impermeable surfaces cause air temperatures to rise. People then consume more energy with air conditioning, and ozone and air pollution levels also rise. Vegetation helps reduce the impacts of heat islands through shading and evapotranspiration, the process by which water stored in the leaves of plants evaporates and drops the temperature of the surrounding air. With its canopy of trees and other plants, the San Joaquin River Blueway will help improve our air quality and help our region adapt to a warming climate.

“My grandfather came out here in his late teens after the Civil War ... My grandparents had sheep and cattle and they did some dry farming ... My father came back after the First World War and took over the management of the ranch ... once they built the [Friant] Dam and got irrigation into this valley, he switched totally from dry farming to alfalfa and robust cotton. I'd ride my horse across the land between here and the river, just green open land all the way from here to there, and then I'd ride down into the river. There was a lot of water and wonderful vegetation along the banks. The sycamore trees..oh, they were beautiful!”

— Brooke Wissler, Mordecai Ranch Madera County



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Flood Protection

The San Joaquin River Blueway and its system of parks, wildlife areas, and open space will act as a first line of defense against floods and heavy rainfall, making the river safer for near-by communities. Costly flood damage to riverside communities and farms can be reduced by restoring some areas along the San Joaquin to marshes and stream-side forests, or riparian areas. These natural areas help to decrease flood intensity and provide floodwaters a place to go. Planting native trees, shrubs, and grasses can help to stem erosion and loss of valuable topsoil.

Clean Water

Marshes, forests, rivers, and streams are nature's tools for cleaning water, yet only five percent of these types of natural areas remain within the San Joaquin Basin. Protecting and restoring these natural areas is one component of the San Joaquin River Blueway, and will help protect our water for the future. Vegetation along the river channel will help clean water run-off from adjacent land by slowing it down and allowing sediment to drop out before it enters the river, effectively capturing extra nutrients from the water that are harmful to aquatic life. The creation of the Blueway will restore the San Joaquin River and the lands along it, enhancing the river's natural processes and improving water quality.



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Economic Benefits

An investment in the San Joaquin River Blueway is an investment in the economic well-being of our Valley communities. As the country urbanizes, access to close-to-home outdoor recreation facilities and natural areas significantly increases the attractiveness of communities as places to live and do business. Increasingly, natural areas are considered an important component of community economic vitality, leading to higher property values.

Developing the San Joaquin River Blueway will also create jobs and attract increased tourism dollars to the area. Creating a system of parks, boat launches, trailheads, visitor information centers, and restored habitat will employ local construction companies and work crews with skills in grading, building, planting, and maintenance. With places to go along the San Joaquin River, visitors will contribute to local economies by spending money on food, transportation, lodging, admission fees, sporting goods, souvenirs, clothing, and more.



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Agricultural Legacy

The San Joaquin Valley's agricultural legacy highlights the river's vital role in shaping our cultural past and future. The Blueway will be sensitive to the concerns of the agricultural community, and it will enhance the water resources that help make San Joaquin Valley farmland an important part of regional, national, and global economies.

The economic stability of the San Joaquin Valley depends upon agriculture. The San Joaquin River irrigates one million acres of farmland that produces \$2 billion in crops every year, accounting for over 30 percent of all employment in the Valley. The San Joaquin River Blueway will link Valley communities to this rich agricultural heritage and highlight farming's critical role in the future. Implementation of the Blueway will support working farms and ranches by encouraging schools and communities to emphasize the preservation and interpretation of the Valley's agricultural heritage, and by providing opportunities for growers and entrepreneurs to highlight local foods and crop production.

“Before coming to live here, I was like a square in a round world. I'm American born, second generation, but both of my parents came from Japan. I grew up in San Diego, but I had never felt like I fit with life in the city. When I married into the Takahashi family and my husband, Ted, started a farm here by the river, it was the life I needed. We started farming on the San Joaquin River in the early 1970's... River bottom soil is rich, very rich.”

— Irene Takahashi, San Joaquin Valley farmer



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Education

Critical learning often takes place outside. Both school children and adults make important intellectual and emotional connections to their environment through experiences and “teachable moments” when they are exploring, playing, or even relaxing in natural settings and places of historic and social significance. The San Joaquin River Blueway will open up access to the outdoors, providing educational opportunities for our region.

Valley residents and their visitors can become more engaged with the unique natural and cultural heritage of our region through interpretive opportunities such as class field trips, research projects, casual river visits, and guided tours. Along the banks of the San Joaquin, visitors might learn about Native American culture; the intriguing stories of California’s development; the natural life of the river environment; the importance of the San Joaquin in the State’s complicated water system; how farming in the area has supports a hungry nation and factors into the worldwide agricultural economy; and the challenges and rewards of the unfolding restoration program.

“I spent all my childhood summers by the river ... it would be so hot in the summer that all the Indians would go down to the river to camp, right above where the dam [Friant Dam] is now. There were lots of willows and oaks and it was cooler there. We’d start camping by the river in June, through all of July and August, until the grape harvest started. We’d go back home to Table Mountain in September ... It was great for the kids; we really had fun. I remember seeing the salmon swim up the river, they were bright pink. And I learned to swim in the San Joaquin too.”

— Emily Sample, Native American who grew up on tribal land at Table Mountain Rancheria



Photos: © San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust



Wildlife and Natural Areas

In centuries past, flocks of migratory birds darkened the skies over the San Joaquin River each winter, and in the spring countless Chinook salmon swam over 200 miles up the river to spawn. Natural areas along the San Joaquin River are now a fraction of their former extent – 95 percent have been lost. As a result, wildlife populations have dwindled, and Chinook salmon runs have disappeared from the main stem of the river.

Nevertheless, the San Joaquin Valley remains an important stopping point for birds traveling the Pacific Flyway between Canada and Alaska to places as far south as South America. Nestled in a vast working landscape, the San Luis and San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuges provide some of the best remaining habitat in the San Joaquin Valley for migratory birds and other rare and disappearing animal species. San Joaquin kit fox and riparian brush rabbit can still be found here, and restoration will soon return salmon to the river. In addition to rare plants and animals, numerous common animals make their homes along the San Joaquin, and they are frequently spotted by people visiting the river. The San Joaquin River Blueway will provide an essential backbone in rebuilding a corridor of natural areas where native plants and animals can live.

Common Animals Found Along the San Joaquin River

- Bobcat
- Muskrat
- Beaver
- Skunk
- Raccoon
- Possum
- Tule elk
- River otter
- Turtles
- Snakes
- Herons
- Egrets
- Osprey
- White pelicans
- King fishers
- Ducks
- Geese
- Yellow warblers
- Yellow-billed magpie



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Progress to Date

To better understand the enabling conditions for the San Joaquin River Blueway, the Partnership undertook a collaborative effort with the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service and several other partners to assemble an inventory of sites that currently provide public access to the river, as well as areas that seemed to have promise or potential for providing future access. Our work helped us identify the corridor's significant gaps in river access. This information is shown on the maps on the following pages.

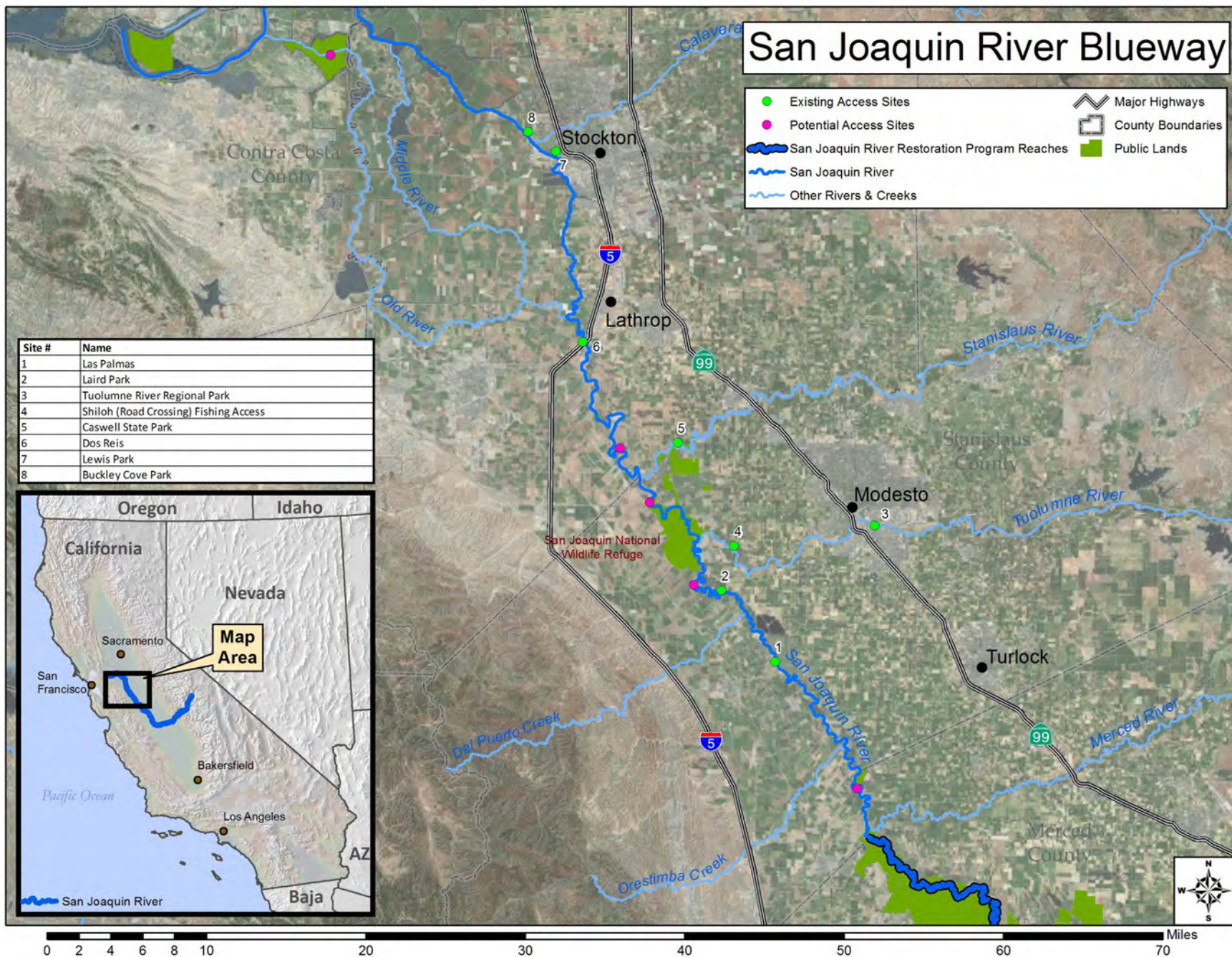
These general observations from our initial inventory provide a starting point for establishing the San Joaquin River Blueway, and a basis upon which to build during the next, more detailed planning phase.

Lower San Joaquin River: Confluence with the Merced River to the Delta

This stretch of the river includes significant sections of private lands protected by conservation and floodplain agreements, but very limited and intermittent public access. The eastern tributaries provide some of the most developed access along this stretch of the river, such as the Caswell State Park on the Stanislaus River. In addition to county- and city-managed parks and boat launch sites, this stretch of the river is home to the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge.

“When the salmon were rolling in the rocks and laying their eggs in the river, you could hear them clanging and banging on the cobblestones.”

— Clayton Vander Dussen,
landowner near the San Joaquin River





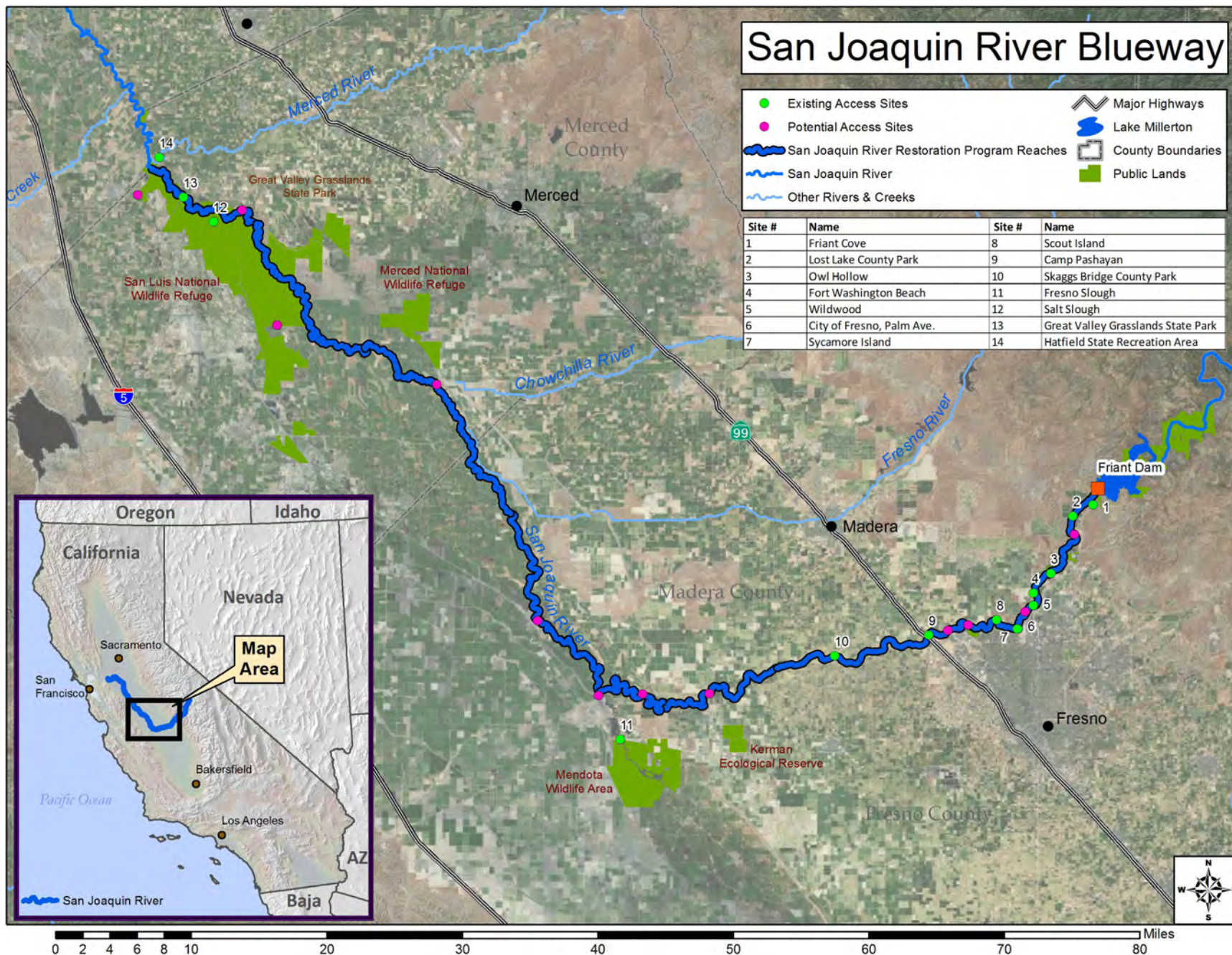
Upper San Joaquin River: Friant Dam to the Confluence with the Merced River

The upper San Joaquin River includes clusters of restored and protected natural areas, as well as long stretches of river that until recently did not have any water in them at all. Current public access is largely confined to the southern-most and northern-most portions of this segment, by the San Joaquin River Parkway and the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, respectively. The nearly 100 river miles that were previously de-watered do not have any direct, on-river access. The restoration program will address this entire stretch, providing the chance to significantly expand recreational use in line with restoration goals.

The San Joaquin River Parkway stretches 23 miles starting immediately before Friant Dam and is the best-developed area along the river on the Valley floor for all types of river recreation. Other access includes the Andrew Firebaugh Historical Park, the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Great Valley Grasslands State Park, North Grasslands Wildlife Area, Grasslands Ecological Area, and Hatfield State Recreation Area.

Headwaters Stretch: Above Friant Dam

The segment of the river above Friant Dam is markedly different from the rest of the river due to the mountainous terrain and the river's steep and narrow channel. The headwaters stretch offers public access, including Millerton State Recreation Area, the San Joaquin River Trail, San Joaquin River Gorge, Sierra National Forest, and Devil's Postpile National Monument. The San Joaquin River Trail and River Gorge provide opportunities for hiking and advanced whitewater boating, respectively.



A San Joaquin River Water Trail

We envision a water trail as a component and early phase of the San Joaquin River Blueway. The concept of water trails, routes for going from one place to another by water, is not new. Historically, water trails were a mainstay of transportation and commerce—from Native American canoe routes, to steamboat lines, to lock-engineered canals, to the modern shipping corridors that carry vast quantities of cargo worldwide.

Today, communities across the country are developing recreational water trails to enhance their water-related recreational experiences. Canoes, kayaks, skiffs, or other small watercraft can travel these water trails to and from a series of designated launch and land sites—docks, piers, rafts, ramps or beaches—which are often enhanced by picnic areas, nature trails, restrooms, and other amenities and support facilities. Water trails are taking shape on urban and rural rivers both small and mighty, and in lakes, bays, and coastal waters across the nation.

In the short term, the San Joaquin River Water Trail would link sites that already provide public access, such as those located near Fresno along the San Joaquin River Parkway. Potential for enhanced recreational access in the National Wildlife Refuge boundaries provides the possibility for establishing a second, downstream water trail segment in the near future. Over time, the water trail could be extended down-river toward the Delta, and up the lower reaches of the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers to enhance access from the Modesto and Stockton areas. Eventually, in the longer term, the water trail could travel through the restoration program reaches between the San Joaquin River Parkway and the National Wildlife Refuges, and become a backbone of the San Joaquin River Blueway.

Water Trails in the United States

- Lake Tahoe—California
- Petaluma River—California
- Lower Columbia River—Washington, Oregon
- Puget Sound—Washington
- Lake Superior Water Trail—Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan
- Lower Rio Grande—Texas
- Upper Chattahoochee River—Georgia
- Chesapeake Bay—New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia
- Quinebaug River—Connecticut, Massachusetts



Goals and Next Steps

The Partnership offers the following key goals to realize the San Joaquin River Blueway vision. These goals encourage integrated, participative planning; call for responsible public agencies at all levels to implement the San Joaquin River Blueway; and underscore the importance of education and stewardship to its success.

Goal 1: Build a Coalition of Stakeholders. Reach out to community members, agencies, local land use jurisdictions, landowners, and key organizations with interest in the river's environmental, educational, cultural, and recreational values to discuss a vision for a San Joaquin River Blueway, and find common ground and support for the way forward. Develop partnerships and pursue funding to plan and design the San Joaquin River Blueway in a manner that is compatible with and informed by the needs of local communities.

Goal 2: Integrate the Blueway into Planning and Policy Efforts. Work with agencies and other partners to facilitate implementation of the San Joaquin River Blueway through ongoing local, regional, and state planning efforts and policy development, and through SJRRP river restoration projects as appropriate. Work with stakeholders to identify and advance Blueway projects that will improve access to the river in the near term.

Goal 3: Develop Educational and Outreach Resources. Underpin development of the San Joaquin River Blueway with a stewardship ethic by providing user guidance, developing educational and interpretive materials, seeking responsible management approaches, and working directly with visitors through programs and other means to promote respect for private property, appreciation and care for sensitive environmental resources, and understanding of the historic legacy of the San Joaquin. Create and publicize a map and guide with information about existing public access sites on the river, including a boating guide for key reaches.

The realization of this vision for a San Joaquin River Blueway is work we will need to do together. We encourage you to help make this vision a reality for our community today and for generations to come.



Photos: © San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust



The San Joaquin River Partnership with assistance from the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service, and with other agency support, developed this vision for a San Joaquin River Blueway.

The San Joaquin River Partnership is a collaboration of 13 private, non-profit organizations committed to seeing the river restored—from its headwaters to the Delta—for future generations. The Partnership's mission is to restore a working river to the Valley to benefit its human and natural communities. The Partnership supports the return of flows to the river to demonstrate that a healthy river can sustain vibrant local economies, provide recreational opportunities to valley residents, and support a major migratory route for birds, salmon, and other native species.

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service works with local partners to support their close-to-home conservation and recreation goals. At the invitation of its community-based partners, the Rivers and Trails Program provides planning and technical assistance in resource assessment, concept and master plan development, interpretation, public participation, inter-jurisdictional coordination, organizational development, and identification of potential funding sources.



Other Agency Support

Staff from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California State Parks, and California State Lands Commission contributed time and effort to field work as well as ideas and information for this report. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are responsible for the successful implementation of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, which will restore salmon to the upper San Joaquin River. With their assistance, the San Joaquin River Blueway will be integrated into the restoration program. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also manages the San Joaquin River and San Luis National Wildlife Refuges, both of which are comprised of public lands managed as wildlife habitat and open for wildlife viewing and hunting. California State Parks operates three parks located along the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. Refuge land and State Parks offer some of the best opportunities for public access to the San Joaquin River. The California State Lands Commission administers public trust lands, which includes the San Joaquin River bottom up to the river's historic high water mark.



Front cover photos: © San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust

River Quotes from Valley People

All quotes taken from oral stories recorded by Joell Hallowell and Coke Hallowell for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust. They appear in the book "Take Me to the River: Fishing, Swimming, and Dreaming on the San Joaquin" published by Heyday, 2010



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SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARTNERSHIP

In Support of A Living River and A Vibrant Central Valley

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