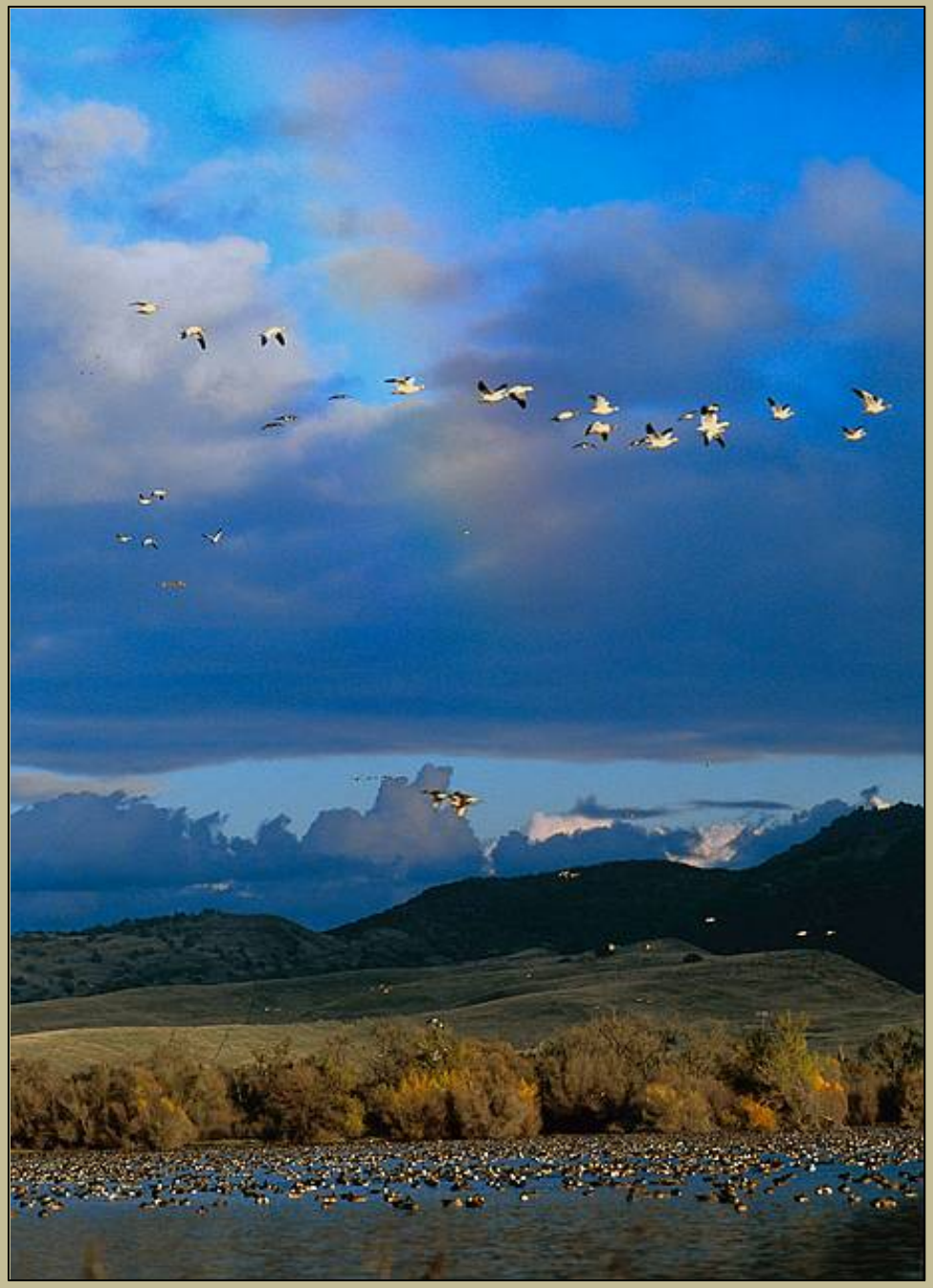
BUTTE SINK WMA

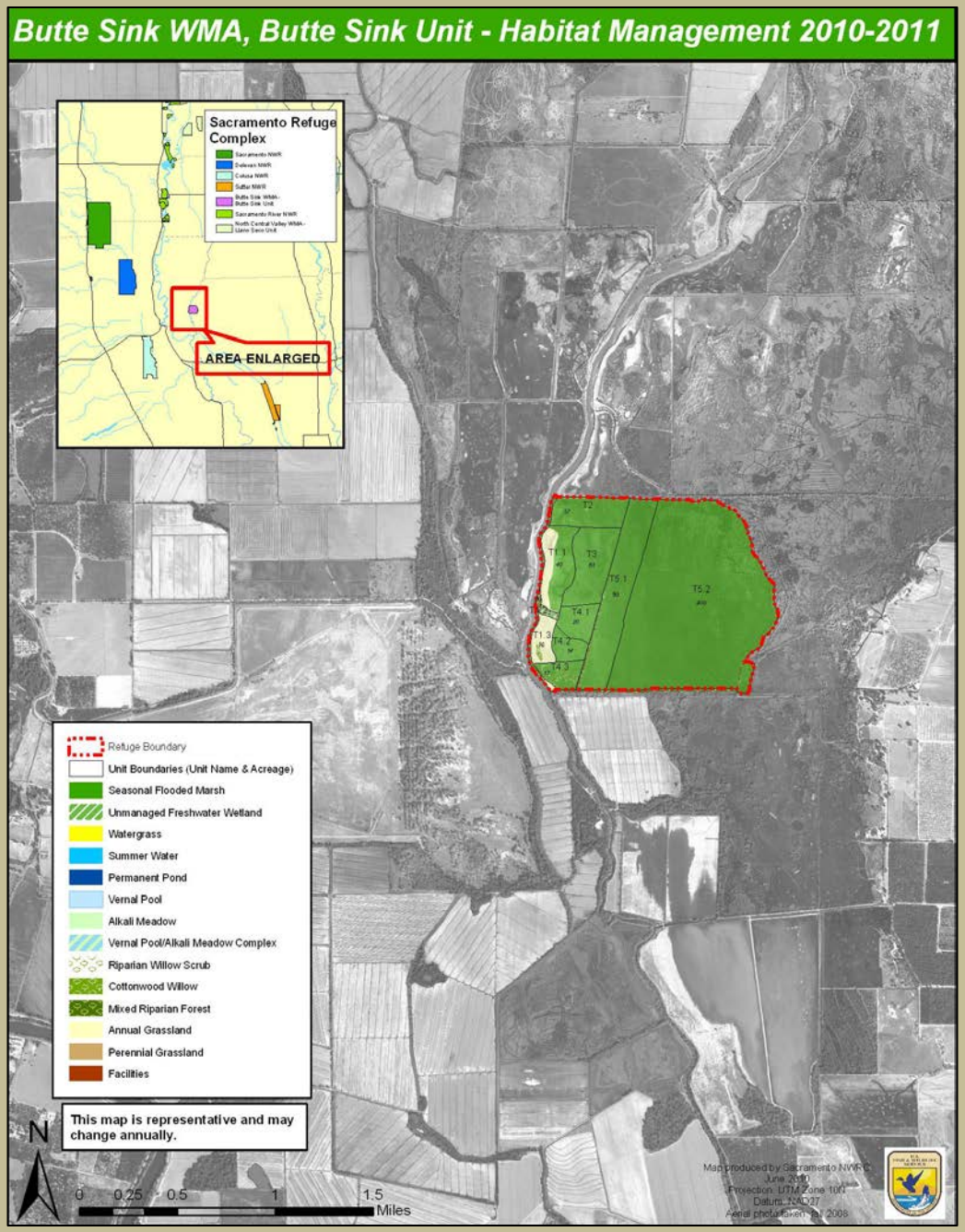
VIRTUAL TOUR



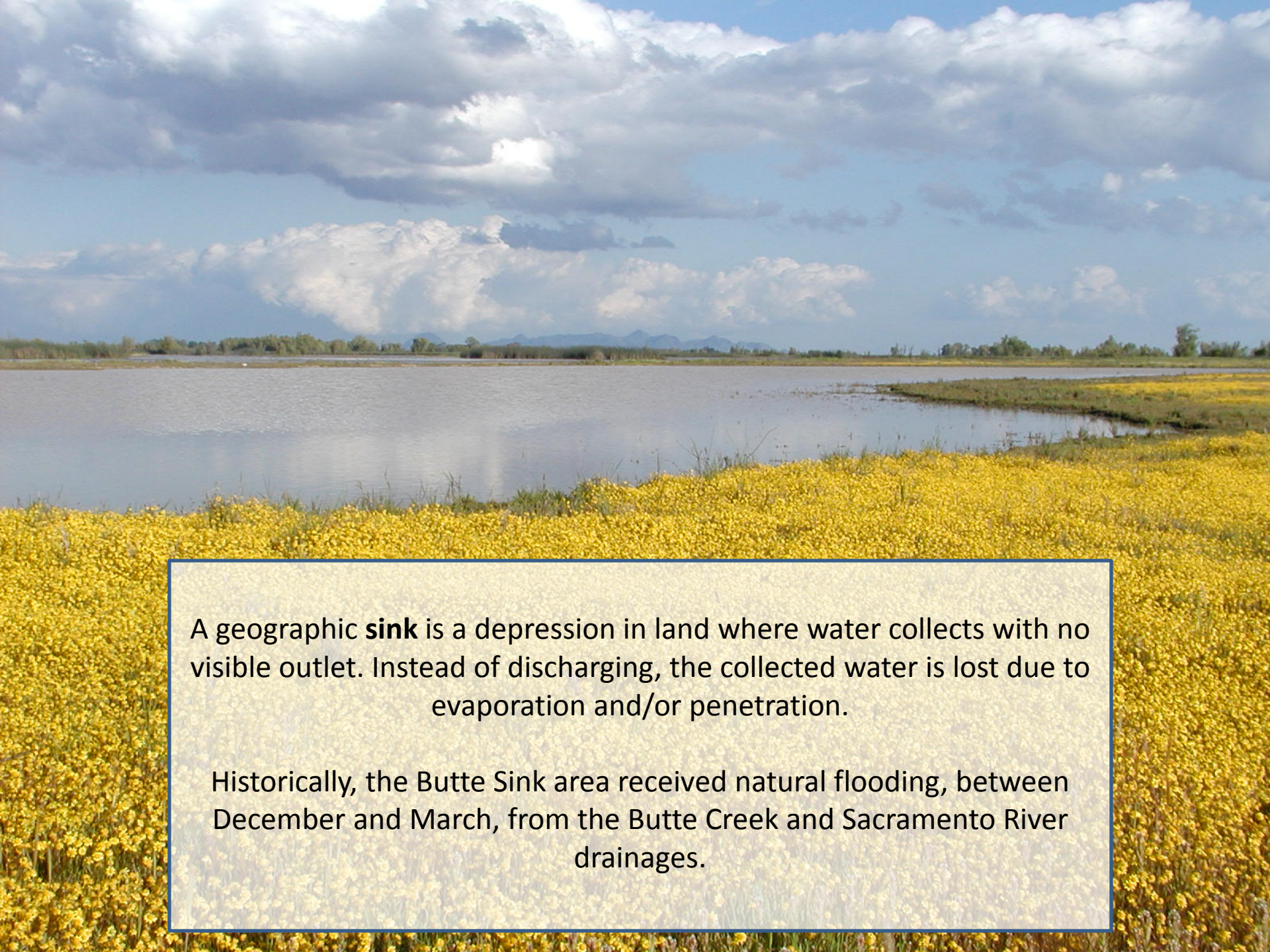
***The Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area is home to the* largest concentration of waterfowl per acre in the world.**

The Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was established primarily to protect wintering habitat for waterfowl as a result of cooperation between the Service owned Butte Sink Unit and privately owned land easements.

The Butte Sink WMA lands are not open for public access.

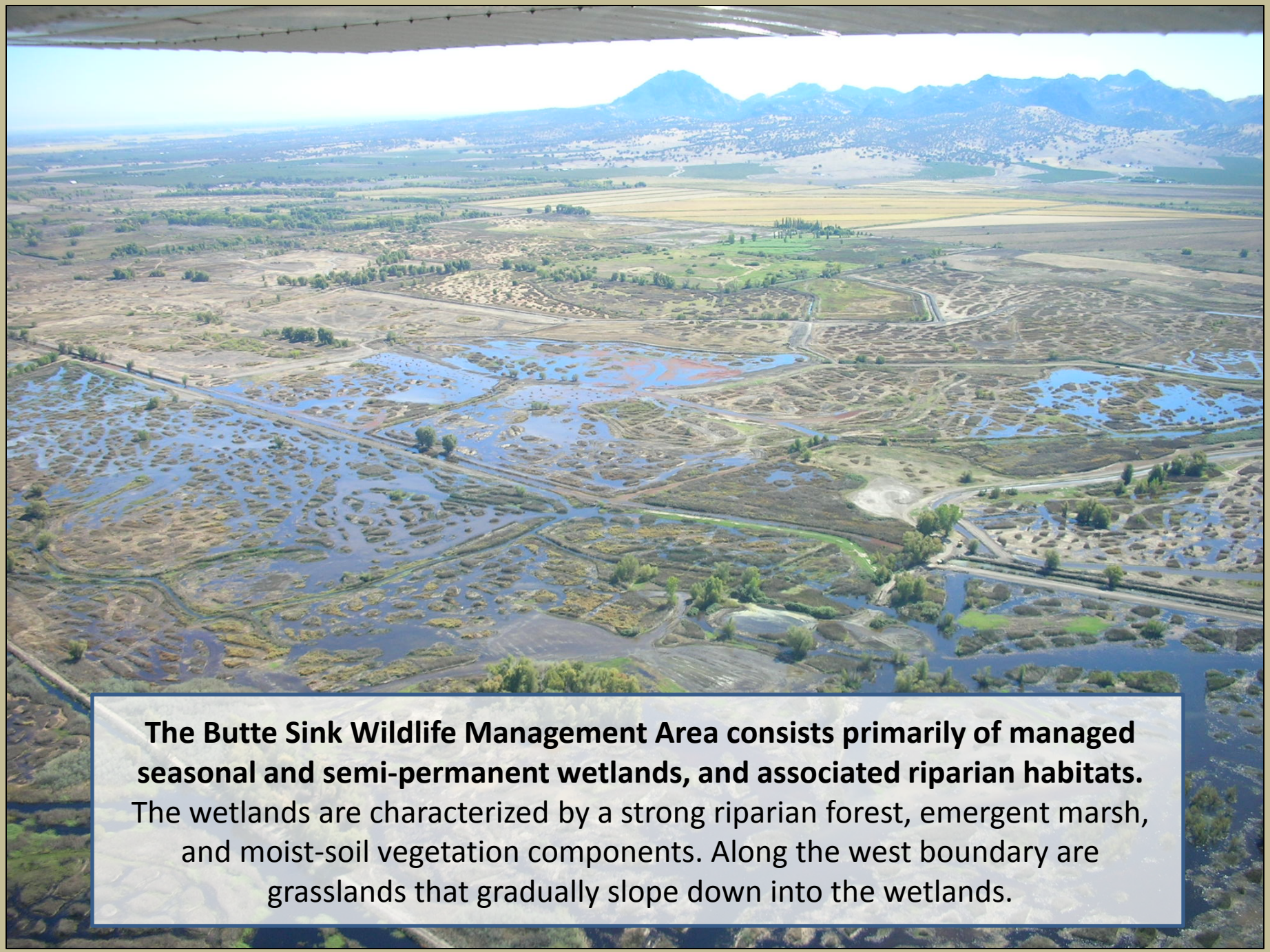


Established in 1979, located in the center of the Sacramento Valley, the Butte Sink WMA, Butte Sink Unit is West of the Sutter Buttes and East of the Sacramento River.



A geographic **sink** is a depression in land where water collects with no visible outlet. Instead of discharging, the collected water is lost due to evaporation and/or penetration.

Historically, the Butte Sink area received natural flooding, between December and March, from the Butte Creek and Sacramento River drainages.



The Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area consists primarily of managed seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands, and associated riparian habitats. The wetlands are characterized by a strong riparian forest, emergent marsh, and moist-soil vegetation components. Along the west boundary are grasslands that gradually slope down into the wetlands.

The perimeter of the Butte Sink Unit is characterized by a band of riparian forest. A mixture of trees, shrubs and vines such as black willow, cottonwood, sandbar willow, Oregon ash, valley oak, box elder, wild grape, poison oak, and wild rose can be found in these more densely vegetated areas.

Butte Sink WMA represents the **largest contiguous block of wetlands in the Sacramento Valley** and typically supports up to **2 million wintering waterfowl**. These wetlands also support large numbers of Greater Sandhill Cranes, Aleutian Cackling geese, and breeding waterbirds.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the Butte Sink WMA.