



Willow Creek – Lurline
Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

What is a Wildlife Management Area (WMA)?

Wildlife Management Areas consist mainly of privately owned land protected by conservation easements and some federally owned land.

Both private land and federally owned land provide wetland, upland, and riparian habitats for a wide variety of wildlife.



What is a conservation easement?

A conservation easement is a piece of land that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wants to protect as habitat, but is privately owned.

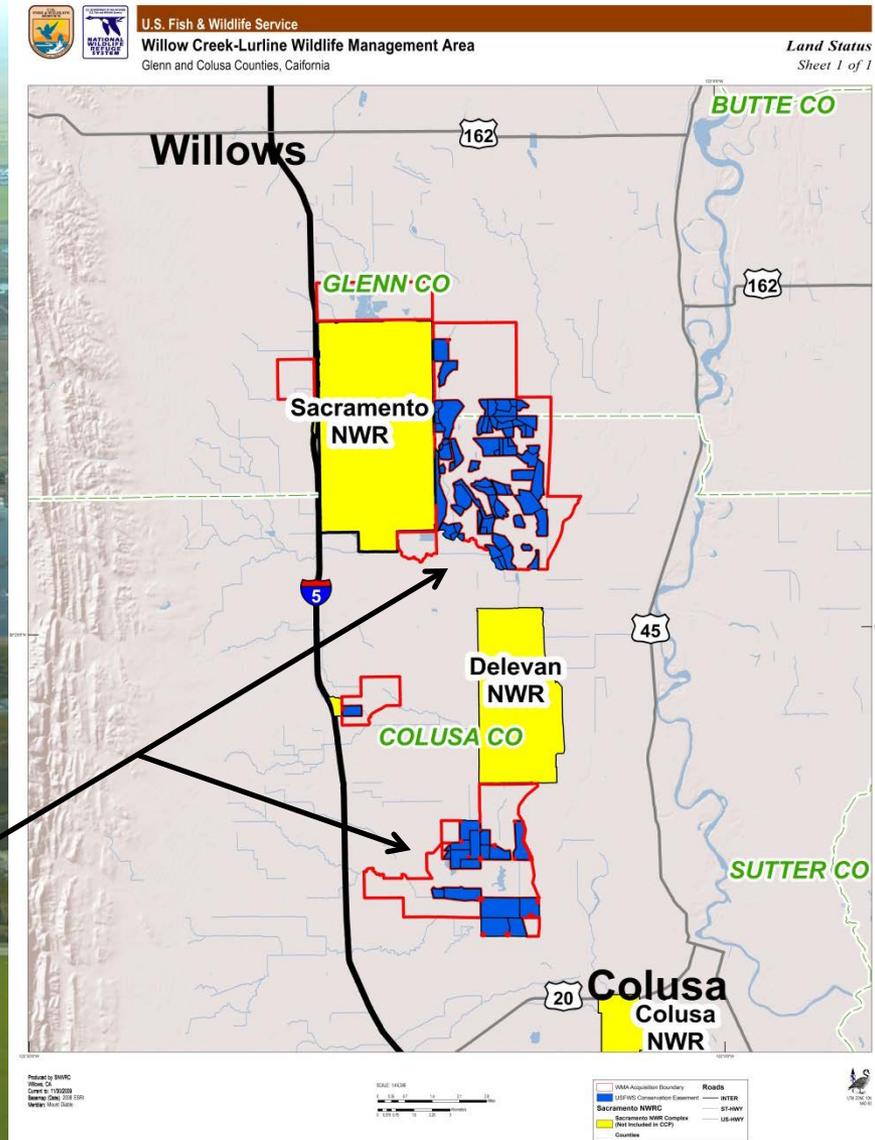
The Service and the landowner sign an agreement granting the Service farming and development rights to the land.

The landowner retains rights to hunting, trespass, grazing, and other recreational activities on the land. The Service is allowed to flood the easement to provide habitat.

The Willow Creek-Lurline WMA was established in 1985 and is managed as part of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

It currently consists of 84 conservation easements on approximately 5,795 acres. This WMA is continuing to grow as more easements are acquired. The maximum size of this WMA is 8,000 acres.

WMA easements shown in blue, red line shows future acquisition boundary



The Willow Creek-Lurline WMA is composed primarily of seasonal wetland habitat. There is also native grassland, upland, and riparian habitat.



The high alkalinity of the soils within the WMA results in more open wetlands with less vegetation. Hard-stemmed bulrush, cattails, and swamp timothy are common around the WMA.



Swamp Timothy



Hard-stemmed Bulrush



Cattails



Seasonal wetland habitat plays a vital role for California's migratory birds. Each year, the Sacramento Valley is home to millions of ducks, geese, and swans. With over 95% loss of historic wetland habitat in California, the remaining wetlands are crucial for their survival.



A large flock of birds, likely waterfowl, is seen flying across a bright sky. Below them, a wetland landscape features a body of water with many birds on the surface. The foreground is dominated by tall, green and brown reeds. In the background, there is a line of trees and a hazy horizon.

**Thank you for taking the virtual tour of
Willow Creek-Lurline Wildlife Management Area!**