



California Rice

May 9, 2017

Subject: Conservation Program Opportunities—**Workshop Notice**

Dear CRC Member:

We are writing to inform you of the opportunity to enroll in one of two conservation programs—(1) RCPP Waterbird Habitat Enhancement Program (WHEP) or (2) BirdReturns. Selection and implementation of BirdReturns' contracts are different from the process for RCPP-WHEP, however the two programs are complementary and work synergistically to create habitat on the landscape. Both of these opportunities are delivered in close coordination with the California Rice Commission (CRC) and our conservation partners.

CRC will host a combined workshop on both opportunities on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 where key program managers will be present to explain program elements. Lunch is included for registered participants who RSVP by Wednesday, May 31, 2017. Raffle prizes will be presented at the end of each presentation.

Workshop Information	
WHEN: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	
WHERE: Colusa Casino Community Room, 3770 State Hwy 45, Colusa, CA	
AGENDA:	
10:30 -11:30 a.m.	RCPP Presentation and questions
11:30 - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch <i>for Registered Participants*</i>
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	BirdReturns Presentation and questions
* <u>Register for the workshop</u> by mailing back the return postcard (enclosed). If you do not have the postcard, please call (916) 387-2264, or email me at pbuttner@calrice.org .	

What is the RCPP-WHEP?

The RCPP-WHEP assists growers with the implementation of waterbird-friendly practices. We strongly encourage new growers/landowners who have not enrolled in WHEP or RCPP in the past to attend. New applicants will be preferentially ranked for acceptance into the program. However, we anticipate that quality proposals from past WHEP/RCPP participants will also be considered for funding. The RCPP-WHEP suite of available practices includes:

- Two weeks of continuous shallow flooding between July and October
- Variable drawdown of winter-flooded fields in February/March

- Cover crops left unaltered through July for nesting waterfowl and pheasant
- Nesting islands
- Bird-friendly straw management

Please visit your local NRCS Service Center in participating counties (below) by Friday, June 23 to learn more about the program and begin the application process.

Local NRCS Service Centers		
County	Address	Phone
Butte	150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville	(530) 534-0112
Colusa	100 Sunrise Blvd, Suite D, Colusa	(530) 458-2931
Glenn	132 N. Enright Ave, Suite B, Willows	(530) 934-4601
Placer	251 Auburn Ravine Rd, Suite 107, Auburn	(530) 885-6505
Sacramento	9701 Dino Drive #170, Elk Grove	(916) 714-1104
Sutter/Yuba	1511 Butte House Road, Suite B, Yuba City	(530) 674-1461
Yolo	221 W. Court Street, Suite 1, Woodland	(530) 662-2037

What is BirdReturns?

BirdReturns, a program offered by The Nature Conservancy, provides incentives to growers for implementing shorebird habitat practices. Since 2014, over 100 growers have enrolled in this program. Contracts for BirdReturns are awarded in a competitive bidding manner. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) solicits bids from growers, and then selects bids that provide the greatest habitat value when birds need it most.

BirdReturns is offering 4-week programs in early fall. More information about the program can be found at <http://www.birdreturns.org>.

Program Highlights for Fall 2017

- 1) Bid deadline: 9:00 a.m. on June 19
- 2) Four weeks of continuous shallow flooding in early fall (August-October) with less than four inches of water on fields

More information about the program can be found at <http://www.birdreturns.org>.

CRC will continue to inform its members about opportunities to participate in conservation programs. For more information, we welcome you to visit our website (CalRiceNews.org) and click on Conservation. Also, please free to contact me at (916) 206-5340 or pbuttner@calrice.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul Buttner
Manager of Environmental Affairs