



GET PAID TO HELP SANDHILL CRANES!

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Transform your fields into habitat!

The BirdReturns-Sandhill Crane program compensates growers for providing roosting or foraging habitat for sandhill cranes that overwinter in the Central Valley. By leaving crop residue in your field, you can provide critical foraging habitat. With post-harvest flooding, you can create nighttime sanctuaries for sandhill cranes and other waterfowl that rely on surrogate wetland habitat on farm fields in the Central Valley.



WHY THE SANDHILL CRANE PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT?

Worldwide, cranes are one of the most vulnerable groups of birds. The greater sandhill crane has especially struggled in California, making its place onto the state's threatened species list. They can no longer return to their historic roosting and foraging sites due to permanent crops replacing wildlife-friendly seasonal crops and increasing flooded habitat loss. Fortunately, sandhill cranes respond well to simple farm management practices that are both easy for farmers and beneficial to birds.

Connection with our ag lands

Over the past 10 years, BirdReturns has built strong partnerships with farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Sacramento Valley to provide migratory bird habitat and help farmers diversify their revenue and support long-term viability of annual crops.

Visit our website at
BirdReturns.org



BirdReturns is managed by the Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership in partnership with the Delta Conservancy, with funding and support from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



The Nature Conservancy



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY
A California State Agency

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BirdReturns-Sandhill Crane Program 2024-2025

Applications NOW OPEN! July 30 - August 20, 2024

Apply at [BirdReturns.org/program/sandhillcranes/](https://birdreturns.org/program/sandhillcranes/)



Flooding Requirements:

*Participants may apply to provide **roost habitat, forage habitat OR a combination of both**. Please see below. For more detail on habitat prep, visit birdreturns.org

Roosting Habitat

- Flooding Acreage: **Minimum of 30 acres**
- Flooding window: Provide habitat for eight continuous weeks between October 1- March 15
- Enrolled acreage must be fully flooded by the program start date.
 - Weeks 1-6: Shallow flooding of up to 9 inches.
 - Weeks 7-8: Evaporative drawdown

Foraging Habitat

- Harvested farm field with no tillage: **Minimum of 50 acres**
- Rice, corn, or other grain fields (e.g., barley, wheat, oats, etc.)
- Provide habitat for eight weeks between October 1-March 15
- Enrolled acreage may begin a slow flood up during the sixth week.
 - Weeks 1-5: Harvested, not tilled
 - *Optional:* Weeks 6-8: Slow flood up but depth to remain at 2 inches or less.

Full details, including payment rates, available on our website.

Who is Eligible?

- Farmers located in the Sacramento Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta regions.

Learn more at the **Conservation Programs Workshop**, hosted by the **California Rice Commission**

August 13, 2024 from 1-3 pm @ The Hillcrest: 210 Julie Dr, Yuba City, CA 95991



QUESTIONS? VISIT birdreturns.org OR CONTACT US:

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