

Conservation Programs on California Ricelands



California Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program CWRHIP

Provides financial assistance for flooding harvested rice fields for 70 continuous days during the winter months. Funding for this program in 2024 is still TBD, but may be limited. Updates available at calricewaterbirds.org/cwrhip

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP and RCPP

Provides financial assistance to implement a diversity of conservation practices, including flooding for habitat, cover cropping and habitat enhancements to provide environmental benefits. Payment rates vary annually and details are available at local NRCS County offices.

California Ricelands Waterbird Foundation (CRWF) Bid4Birds

Provides financial assistance for rice farmers, mostly through competitive auctions, to create habitat with targeted seasonal flooding in the Spring and Fall for migratory birds. More details available at calricewaterbirds.org

California Trout (Cal Trout) Fish Food Program

Provides financial assistance for pulsed flooding of rice fields to produce food for fish (aquatic bugs) and export floodwater back to the rivers where fish can access this important resource. Concurrent enrollment with EQIP, RCPP and CWRHIP is allowed. More details available at calricewaterbirds.org/fish-food

BirdReturns (The Nature Conservancy, Audubon)

This program is funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. More details are available at birdreturns.org

BirdReturns - Farmlands: Provides financial assistance for farmers of various wildlife-friendly crops in the Delta and Sacramento Valley regions to create shallow-flooded habitat for migratory waterbirds during the late summer/fall and spring shoulder seasons. Rice growers are eligible but encouraged to apply to Bid4Birds.

BirdReturns - Sandhill Cranes: Provides financial assistance for farmers who have both flooded and non-flooded rice to create a mosaic of habitats to support Sandhill Cranes in the winter (Oct to March).

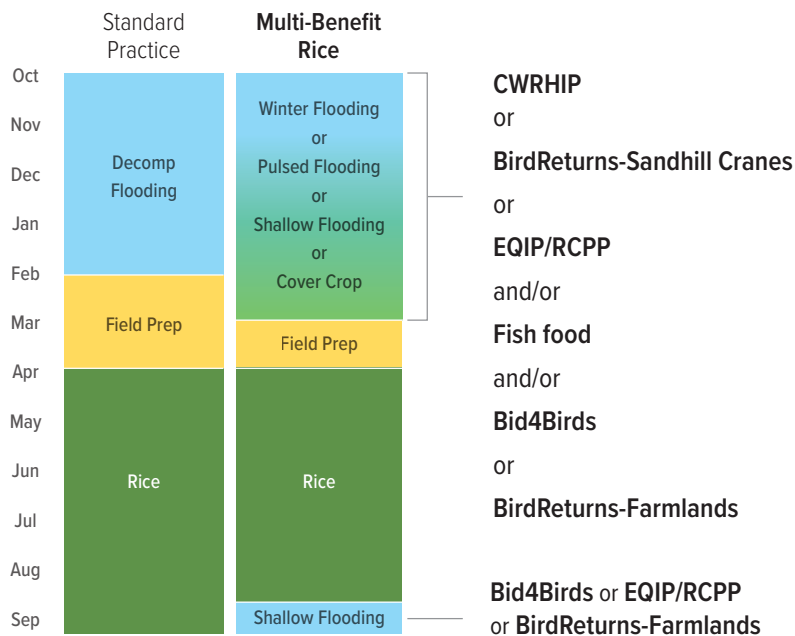
BirdReturns - Wetlands: Provides financial assistance for private wetland managers in the entire Central Valley to provide flooded habitat for migratory waterbirds in late spring and early fall, and nesting and brood-rearing habitat in summer.

Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive Program NBHIP (California Waterfowl Association; CWA)

Provides financial assistance for farmers willing to leave nesting cover undisturbed until July 15th. This program includes the Delayed Cereal Harvest Program, Fallow Ag and Cover Crop Program, and the Rice Levee Program. Payment rates vary. This program is funded by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. More details can be found at <https://calwaterfowl.org/nesting-bird-habitat-incentive-program>

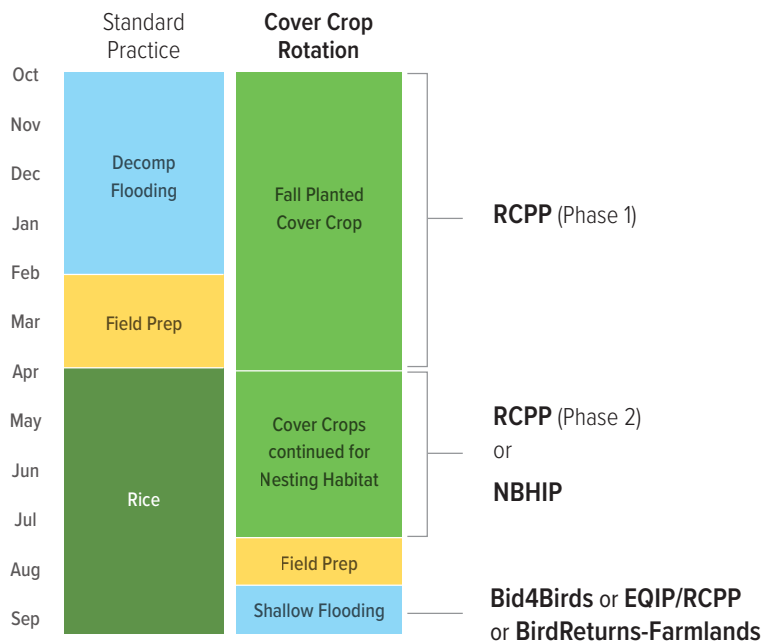
Name	Admin	\$/Acre	Practices	Requirements	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CA Winter Rice Habitat Incentive Program	CRC	Varies	Flooding	Water depth: 2 – 10"	■	■	■							■	■	■
EQIP/RCPP	NRCS	Varies	Flooding	Water depth: 4 – 12" and gradual drawdown after Feb 10th	■	■	■							■	■	■
Fish Food Program	Cal Trout	Bid	Pulsed fld	3 week flood and drawdown with multiple cycles possible	■	■	■	■						■	■	■
Bid4Birds - Spring; BirdReturns-Farmlands	CRWF; TNC	Bid	Shallow fld	Water depth: 1 – 4"		■	■	■								
EQIP/RCPP	NRCS	\$159	Shallow fld	Water depth: 1 – 4"							■	■	■			
Bid4Birds - Fall; BirdReturns-Farmlands	CRWF; TNC	Bid	Shallow fld	Water depth: 1 – 4"							■	■	■			
BirdReturns-Wetlands	Audubon	Bid	Flooding	Gradual drawdown or flood-up				■	■	■	■	■	■			
EQIP/RCPP *	NRCS	\$61-\$110	Cover Crop	Plant cover crops	■	■	■									■
RCPP; NBHIP *	NRCS; CWA	\$24; \$30-100	Cover Crop	Leave cover crops/vegetation on unplanted rice fields for nesting birds			■	■	■	■	■					

* Incentives for planting Cover Crops can be stacked with Incentives for retaining those cover crops or volunteer vegetation into the breeding season. These programs are compatible with both prevented planting insurance and water transfers.



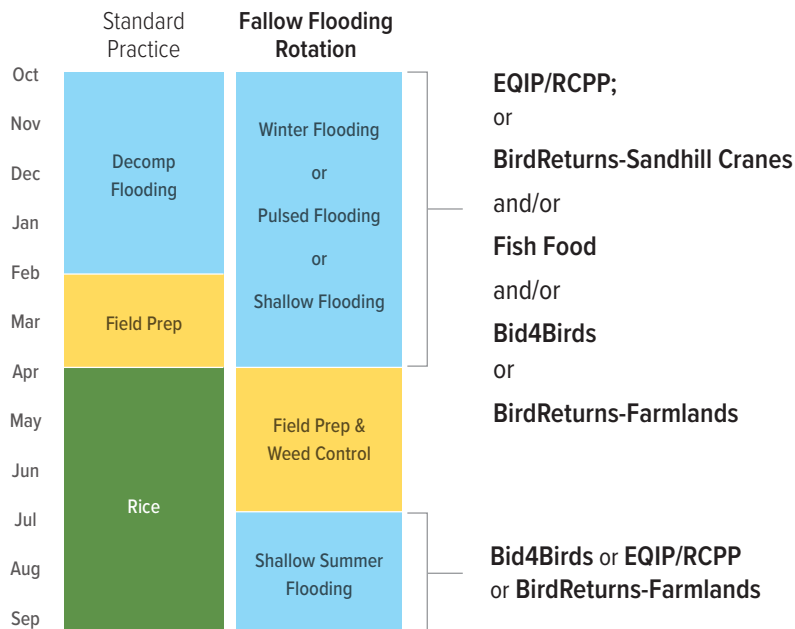
Multi-Benefit Rice Benefits

- Soil carbon improvements
- Weed control and reduced herbicide use/costs
- Groundwater Recharge
- Diversified migratory bird habitat for species in decline
- Fish food production for migratory salmon
- Incentive payments



Cover Crop Rotation Benefits

- Soil carbon improvements
- Weed control and reduced herbicide use/costs
- Key upland nesting habitat for local breeding birds in decline
- Diversified migratory bird habitat for species in decline
- Incentive payments
- Compatible with Prevented Planting Insurance and Water Transfers



Fallow Flooding Rotation Benefits

- Soil carbon improvements
- Weed control and reduced herbicide use/costs
- Groundwater Recharge
- Diversified migratory bird habitat for species in decline
- Fish food production for migratory salmon
- Incentive payments