



© Becky Matsubara

# SEEKING FARMERS

## GET PAID TO PROVIDE HABITAT FOR CRANES!

### APPLY BY October 16, 2023

#### Create short-term habitat for the BirdReturns-Sandhill Crane Program

The BirdReturns Program creates short-term habitat that migratory birds, including sandhill cranes, desperately need by paying farmers to flood their fields. Since 2014, BirdReturns has generated over \$10 million in direct payments to farmers and created over 120,000 acres of seasonal wetland habitat.

**APPLY AT [BIRDRETURNS.ORG](http://BIRDRETURNS.ORG) BY OCTOBER 16, 2023!**

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Farmers who can manage both flooded and unflooded fields in the Delta and Sacramento Valley (*see map on page 2*).

#### WHAT IS REQUIRED?

The Program requires post-harvest management and two habitat types:

- At least 50 acres of flooded habitat for a minimum of eight weeks
- At least 150 acres on harvested small grains fields must remain unflooded for at least six weeks

#### HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY?

Submit a 1-page online bid form at [BirdReturns.org](http://BirdReturns.org) with the field location, preferred timing and flooding duration (8 weeks +), crop type, and your best price per flooded acre. **Application Period opens Monday, Sept. 18, 2023 and closes Monday, October 16, 2023, at 12 noon at [birdreturns.org](http://birdreturns.org).**

#### WHY IS THIS PROGRAM IMPORTANT TO FARMERS?

- Thousands of cranes, and millions of other waterbirds, depend on wetland habitat in the Central Valley. With post-harvest flooding, privately owned farmlands create surrogate wetland habitat that over-wintering sandhill cranes depend on for roosting and foraging sites.
- With nearly all of the Central Valley's wetlands being converted to farmlands, and rice being converted to other, non-bird friendly crop types, what crane habitat is left is rapidly disappearing.
- Farmers will be compensated for providing much needed habitat for cranes!
- Without our help, sandhill cranes and other waterbirds that overwinter in the Central Valley are likely to continue to decline.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [BIRDRETURNS.ORG](http://BIRDRETURNS.ORG) OR CONTACT US:

- **Jerred Dixon** at 916-516-4011 [jerred.dixon@cfrstaten.com](mailto:jerred.dixon@cfrstaten.com)
- **Billy Abbott** at 530-228-1862 [william.abbott@tnc.org](mailto:william.abbott@tnc.org)
- **Julia Barfield** at 916-449-2852 [jbarfield@tnc.org](mailto:jbarfield@tnc.org)



© Billy Abbott



The Nature Conservancy



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
A California State Agency

Audubon  
CALIFORNIA

Point Blue  
Conservation  
Science



© Billy Abbott

Imagine traveling thousands of miles without food or rest.

Overwintering cranes are in dire need of safe habitat to rest and refuel before embarking on their spring migration north.

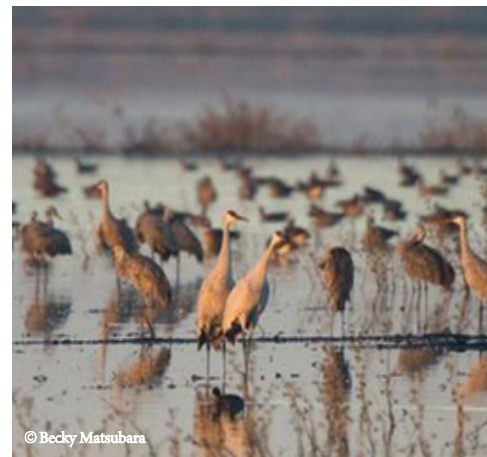
Flooded fields provide roosting habitat while dry agricultural fields offer foraging opportunities.

## MAKE CRANE HABITAT YOUR SECOND CROP

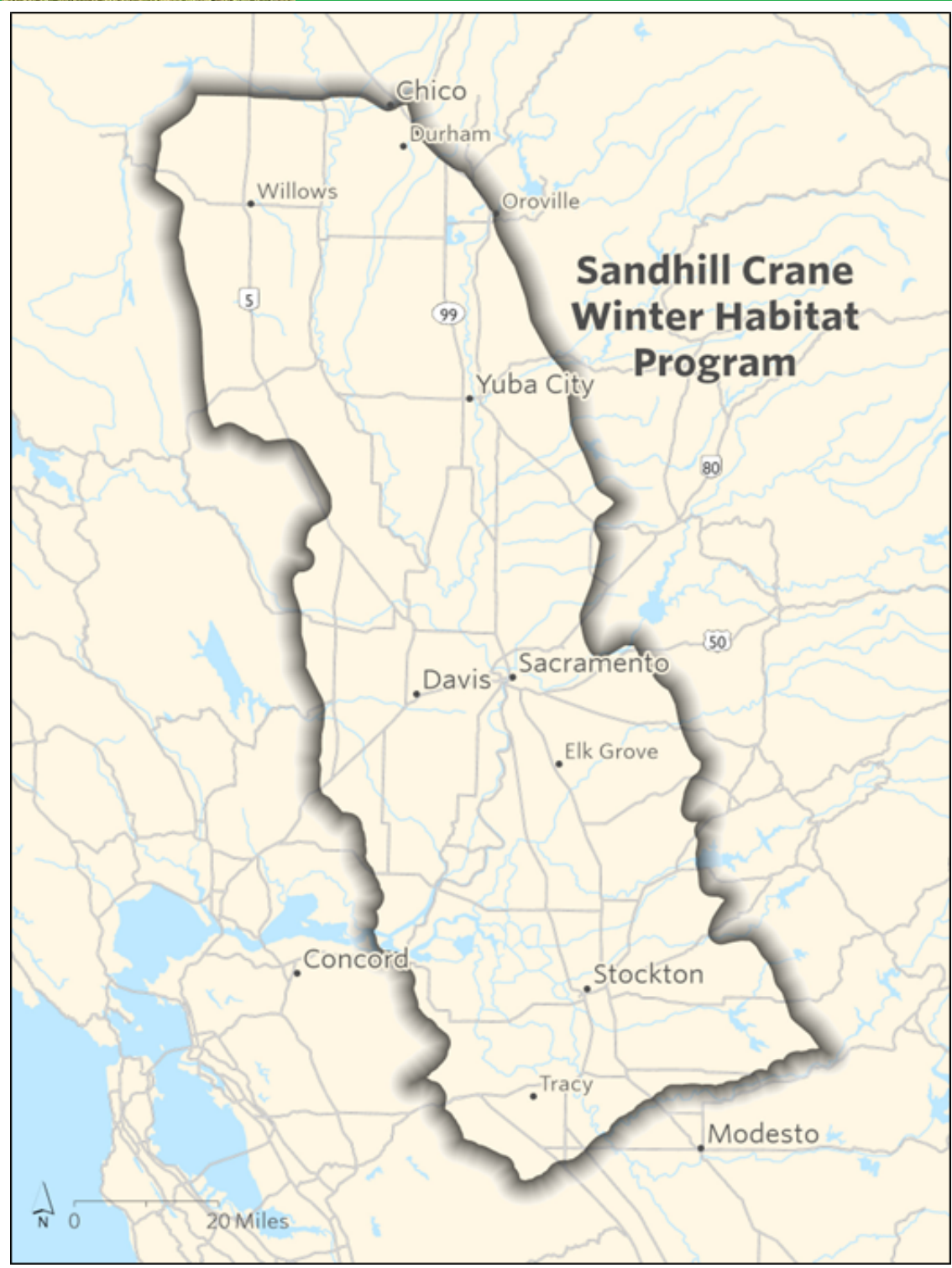
Winter post-harvest flooding of roost fields helps decompose crop residue, aids salt management, and offers pre-irrigation benefits if extended into the spring. Flooding in the Delta also helps combat subsidence.

Make helping cranes and other waterbirds part of your annual cropping cycle by providing habitat with BirdReturns!

Apply at [BirdReturns.org](http://BirdReturns.org)



© Becky Matsubara



The Nature Conservancy



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN  
**DELTA CONSERVANCY**  
A California State Agency

