

# San Joaquin - Middle/Chowchilla - Lower Watersheds

Engaging the public in protecting and preserving the San Joaquin River

Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, and Stanislaus Counties; State Senate District 14, State Assembly District 29

## SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY AND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.



The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. forms an important bridge between agencies and the public. Its Watershed Coordinator provided multiple opportunities for local residents to participate in the long-term restoration of the San Joaquin River.

The 'River Steward' volunteer days were designed to engage the public in hands-on, work-related river restoration. Between 2009 and 2011, 1,685 volunteers donated 4,746 hours to improve riparian habitat by helping with restoration projects, clean-ups, and invasive weed removal. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator mapped 278 acres of invasive weeds, including *Arundo* and *Sesbania*, along the San Joaquin River Parkway from Friant Dam to Road 31 in Madera. These maps are instrumental in the planning and coordination of invasive weed removal.

In collaboration with the East Fresno Kiwanis, the Watershed Coordinator organized the construction of the Hidden Homes Nature Trail at the River Center. The one mile loop trail is designed as an educational resource for teaching children concepts in river ecology.

For more information visit the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. website at <http://www.riverparkway.org>



- Implemented habitat restoration projects on over 560 acres
- Coordinated the planting of more than 5,330 native trees, shrubs, and grasses for restoration projects
- Removed 3,319 pounds of trash from the river system
- Completed the reclamation of a 28 acre former gravel mine
- Obtained \$875,912.80 in additional funding for habitat restoration on the San Joaquin River Parkway.
- Obtained \$2 million in additional funding to remove invasive weeds along the San Joaquin River
- Hosted the San Joaquin River Conference in 2010 and 2012

***"Funding from the Watershed Coordinator grant allowed us to provide meaningful opportunities for local residents to participate in the long-term restoration of the San Joaquin River."***

***- Lina Valenzuela, Project Manager***

**PARTNERS INCLUDED:** San Joaquin River Conservancy • San Joaquin River Partnership • River Partners • The Nature Conservancy • HandsOn Central California • United States Bureau of Reclamation • East Fresno Kiwanis • Ducks Unlimited • California Department of Water Resources • Friends of Lost Lake Park • California Waterfowl Association • Sonoma Ecology Center