

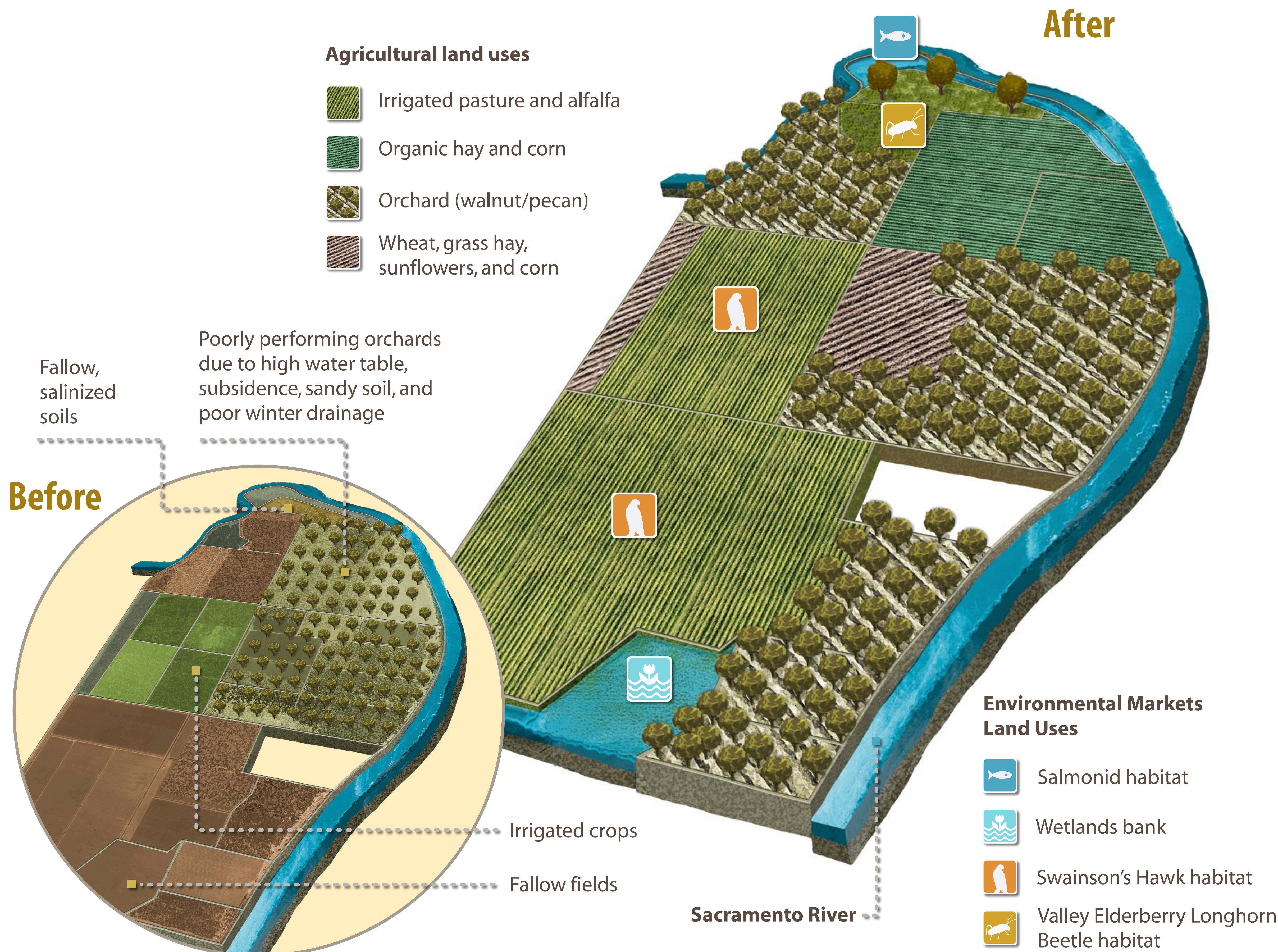
Sacramento River Ranch

Sacramento River Ranch in Northern California integrates habitat banking for threatened and endangered species within a diversified agricultural landscape. State and Federal legislation under the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act provides a framework for developers to offset the destruction of critical habitat by buying credits from private sellers who create and maintain threatened habitat in perpetuity.



Sacramento River Delta

Sacramento River Ranch is located in the Sacramento River Delta Region, which in 2009 was declared by American Rivers to be the nation's most endangered waterway due to water shortages and water quality issues caused by overuse and aging flood control systems. More than 50% of Yolo County is dedicated to agricultural usage, presenting an opportunity to improve water quality and biodiversity through surface water filtration, wetlands creation, and species banking.



River Ranch cultivates more than a thousand acres of cropland including wheat, grass hay, alfalfa, sunflowers, and corn. 1,000 acres of walnut orchards and 672 acres of organic hay crops are farmed. An on-site nursery for native plants is also used in restoration.



119 acres of wetlands at the southern end of River Ranch were created to be maintained as a wetlands bank, which filters irrigation water and provides wildlife habitat. Developers within the Sacramento River Watershed can buy wetlands credits to offset development activities.



838 acres of irrigated pasture and field crops on the property support foraging by Swainson's Hawk. This area generates revenue through agricultural sales and habitat credits sold to developers.



The northern part of the property is managed as 234 acres of riparian habitat for the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. Credits for endangered species habitat are released for sale in intervals over a five-year period subject to plant survival rates.



River Ranch manages a two mile stretch (96 acres) of naturally occurring floodplain along the Sacramento River as the first Federally approved conservation bank for endangered and threatened salmon and steelhead.

Farm Revenue Sources (Gross), Average 2008-2009

Source	Revenue	Customer
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle credits	40%	Public and private local area developers
Salmonid habitat credits	7%	Private developers, Army Corps of Engineers
Swainson's Hawk habitat	6%	Developers for habitat destruction mitigation
Annual crops and pasture	9%	Various
Nut orchards	21%	Nut shellers
Surface water rights	5%	Farmers or cities south of the Delta
Other (rental income)	12%	Local farmers

Revenue calculations and all financial information provided by the landowner.



Farm of the Future posters were produced by EcoAgriculture Partners with support from the USDA Office of Environmental Markets. Funding was provided through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



For more information, please contact Wayne White of Wildlands Inc. at wwhite@wildlandsinc.com, the USDA at oem@usda.gov, or EcoAgriculture Partners at info@ecoagriculture.org