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San Joaquin River Parkway  
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The Bay Institute

The Nature Conservancy

The Trust for Public Land

Tuolumne River Trust

U.S. Forest Service  
California Department of  
Fish and Game

## NEWS RELEASE...

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# San Joaquin River Blueway Vision Published

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**San Joaquin Valley, Fresno, California** – Today, the San Joaquin River Partnership has published the *San Joaquin River Blueway: A Vision for Public Enjoyment and Stewardship of the San Joaquin River*. The 29-page color booklet outlines the vision for the San Joaquin River Blueway as a mosaic of parks, wildlife refuges, and other public access areas that create recreational opportunities on land and the river itself. The Blueway is expected to become a regional and statewide asset that fosters health, strengthens community ties, enhances learning, and supports restoration and conservation efforts along the river.

“The Blueway is about connecting individuals and families to their rich natural and cultural heritage,” said Dave Koehler, Coordinator of the San Joaquin River Partnership. The vision document was developed by the thirteen member non-profit collaborative working together with several natural resource agencies, and with assistance from the Rivers and Trails program of the National Parks Service. The effort emerged from the opportunities being created by the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, a river restoration effort of national importance dedicated to restoring large areas of depleted habitat and reinstating salmon runs in the watershed while avoiding impacts on water supply. The San Joaquin River Blueway vision document can be downloaded from the Partnership’s website.

The San Joaquin River is California’s second-longest river, stretching 330 miles from its headwaters in the Sierra and meandering through the Central Valley’s rich agricultural legacy to its mouth at the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast of North America. The river irrigates more than one million acres of farmland, supports our local economy, and the people, fish, and wildlife that depend on it.

The San Joaquin River Blueway is a long-term vision for a vital public resource, both as a symbol of our history and an important part of our community today. The Blueway supports working farms and ranches by encouraging stewardship of a nationally scenic landscape, promoting education of the Valley's agricultural heritage, and increasing awareness of local foods and crop production.

Today, the San Joaquin River hosts a sparse, but vital, network of places where Valley families and Californians can experience and enjoy the San Joaquin River. "Growing-up in a South West Fresno Community, an escape to the San Joaquin River was always a joy; it's the place where I developed a love for canoeing, an excitement for the outdoor trails, a passion for mother earth's beautiful creation-- and all while being able to share conversations and laughter on the river beds fishing with family," said Eric Payne, chief of programs for the Center for Multicultural Cooperation (CMC), in Fresno. Payne directs CMC's youth leadership project, promoting policies to make the river more accessible and the recently completed a video project of recorded river stories as told by Valley people.

Linda Stonier, of the National Park Service said "NPS is honored to support this inspired vision of the San Joaquin as a natural, cultural, recreational and economic treasure for the region and beyond."

Last week in a news release, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar highlighted the San Joaquin River Blueway as a key project of the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative. The San Joaquin River Blueway and restoration effort was also featured as a case study in Secretary Salazar's AGO 2011 Progress Report to the nation.

The San Joaquin River Blueway vision document can be downloaded from the Partnership's website, [www.sanjoaquinriverpartnership.org](http://www.sanjoaquinriverpartnership.org), click on the "Blueway Vision" tab.

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