

Groundwater Recharge

SALC Strategy Goals



What is Groundwater Recharge?

Groundwater recharge is the process of surface water infiltrating into the soil to replenish underground aquifers. These underground aquifers rely on a give-and-take system to be sustainable: as water is pumped from the aquifers it must also be replaced by recharge. Protecting and enhancing recharge areas will ensure a healthy future for our agricultural lands.

How Can We Improve Groundwater Recharge?

Butte County SALC Strategy

- ◆ State programs provide financial incentives to farmers who switch to sustainable practices that enhance groundwater recharge
- ◆ Butte County's SALC Clearinghouse connects farmers with information on these sustainable practices and their matching incentive programs.
- ◆ Butte County wants to protect and conserve groundwater while supporting farmers and ranchers.

Understanding & Enhancing Recharge

- ◆ UC Davis, Sustainable Conservation, and the Almond Board of California are studying opportunities to enhance recharge on agricultural land by field flooding.
- ◆ Researchers developed the Soil Agricultural Groundwater Banking Index (SAGBI) to rate potential suitability for groundwater recharge on ag land. View their interactive map: <https://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/sagbi/>
- ◆ Local studies such as the Stable Isotope Recharge Study are helping Butte County understand recharge sources and processes.

Practices suggested in SALC documents may not be appropriate for all agricultural operations. Interested land owners and managers are encouraged to evaluate the practices described in this brochure to determine whether they are feasible and appropriate for their property and operation.



BUTTE COUNTY

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Strategy



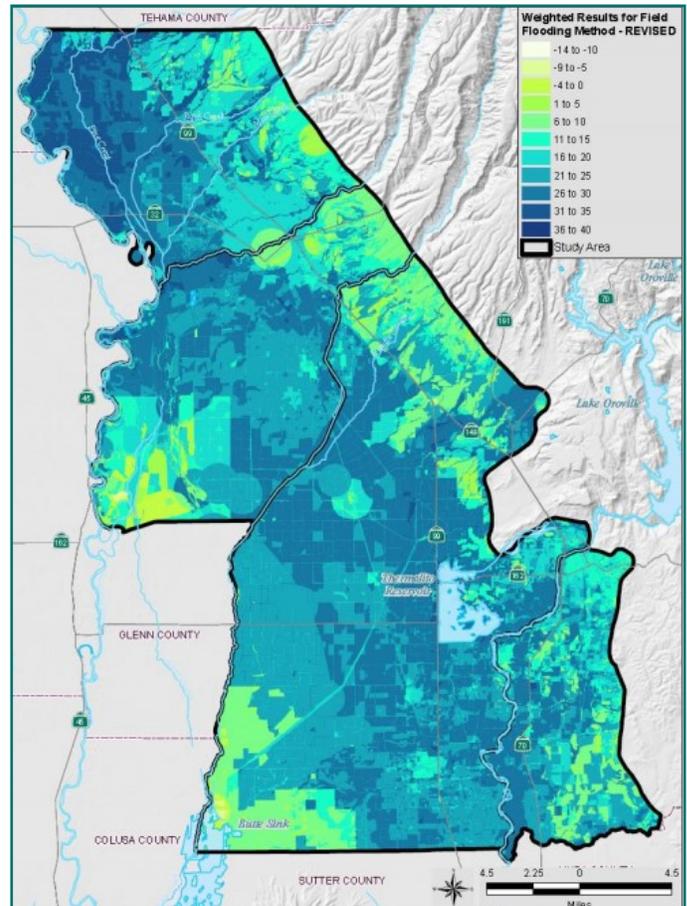
Conserving Recharge Areas

Groundwater Recharge In Butte County's Groundwater Basins

Butte County Department of Water & Resource Conservation (DWRC) Recharge Study

- ◆ Identified 4 techniques for recharging groundwater in Butte County
 - Recharge Ponds
 - Field Flooding
 - Injection wells
 - In-Lieu Recharge
- ◆ In-Lieu recharge means using surface water when available instead of pumping groundwater
- ◆ Promoting in-lieu recharge was found to be the most promising recharge method.
- ◆ Dual source irrigation systems, which can use groundwater or surface water, may be a possible solution to balancing groundwater and surface water use.

Areas Suitable for Field Flooding (Draft)



How Can I Participate In Groundwater Recharge Practices?

- ◆ Learn more about Butte County DWRC's recharge study, and dual source irrigation systems, at their website:
<https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/SpecialProjects/RechargeProject.aspx>

For More Information...

- ◆ *Butte County Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation (SALC) Strategy* <https://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning/Grants/SALC.aspx>
- ◆ *SALC Mapper* <http://gis.buttecounty.net/public/index.html?viewer=salc>

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SALC Strategy

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