



Yolo Habitat Conservancy

County of Yolo • City of Davis • City of Winters • City of West Sacramento
City of Woodland • University of California, Davis

Tauzer Site **Candidate Site Recommendation Summary**

Recommendation: Yolo Habitat Conservancy staff recommend approval of the Tauzer Site as a candidate Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat mitigation site and candidate Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system site to allow for the protection and management of the grassland and wildlife friendly cultivated agricultural habitat present on an approximately 46-acre portion of the site. Enrollment of the site would expand the extent of protected Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat in the immediate area by protecting foraging habitat located adjacent to the existing 1,000-acre Conaway Ranch Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat conservation easement. The proposed easement would also require that the landowner maintain at least five suitable nest trees on the overall property, thereby ensuring the availability of nest tree sites within an area where nesting habitat is limited. An occupied Swainson’s hawk nest was observed on the site during the 2025 Plan-wide nest survey, which upon enrollment in the reserve system, would count towards the HCP/NCCP nest occupancy commitments for Swainson’s hawk. While the easement is being established specifically to protect Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat, enrollment of the site in the Yolo HCP/NCCP reserve system would contribute to a variety of HCP/NCCP enrollment goals and objectives, including: enroll 8,000 acres of pre-permit reserve lands into the reserve system (L1.1), maintain crop types that support Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat (SH1.1), protect and maintain at least 20 unprotected Swainson’s hawk nest trees within the reserve system (SH1.2), protect grassland natural community and non-rice cultivated land modeled as western burrowing owl habitat (WBO1.1, WBO1.2), and enroll tricolored blackbird foraging habitat on baseline public and easement lands into the reserve system as pre-permit reserve lands (TRBL1.2).

Site Name: Tauzer Site

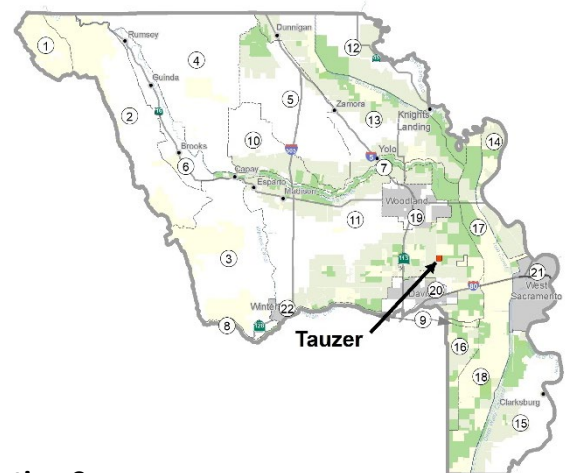
Area being considered for enrollment: 46 acres specific to Swainson’s hawk foraging habitat with conditions that prohibit rodenticide use, prohibit windmills, and require that a minimum of 5 suitable nest trees be maintained on the entire (~160-acre) property.

Planning Unit: 11 (Willow Slough Basin)

Priority Land Acquisition Area: Priority 1

Proposed Enrollment Type: Pre-permit land

Primary Land Cover Types: grassland, cultivated land



Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Chair Evaluation Summary:

HCP/NCCP covered species habitat observed at the time of the STAC site visit conducted on April 5, 2024:

- **Swainson’s hawk:** natural lands foraging habitat
- **Burrowing owl:** nesting and natural lands foraging habitat
- **Swainson’s hawk:** natural lands foraging habitat
- **White-tailed kite:** natural lands foraging habitat
- **Tricolored blackbird:** natural lands foraging habitat

The STAC has made the following recommendation:

The proposed conservation easement area is within the core Swainson's hawk nesting area of Yolo County. There are several traditionally active nests near the site, including one on the Tauzer parcel, and numerous traditionally active territories in the surrounding vicinity that have been monitored for over 35 years. Although the acreage specific to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat is relatively small on the proposed conservation easement site, the Tauzer property is located immediately south of the existing ~1,000-acre Swainson's hawk foraging habitat conservation easement located on Conaway Ranch, and thereby would expand the extent of protected foraging habitat within the active territory. As a condition of accepting this site as a Swainson's hawk foraging habitat mitigation site, the STAC chair recommends that the easement require the protection of at least five mature trees that provide suitable Swainson's hawk nest habitat.

