

## Interior Secretary Visits Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland toured Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Elk Grove in late September. Refuge staff briefed the Secretary on the significance of Stone Lakes Refuge and the critical wetland habitat the refuge provides for migrating birds. The Secretary also learned about important restoration efforts by local area schools, partners and volunteers that helped create the wetland habitat around the trails.

During the tour, Bart McDermott, Refuge Manager, and Amy Hopperstad, Visitor Services Manager, provided an up-close view of the Blue Heron Trail and South Stone Lake and some of the species that rely on the local habitat. The team also highlighted the overall importance of the region's refuges due to their intentional placement along the Pacific Flyway.

The refuge is located in the upper reaches of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and is part of a vast network of seasonally flooded agricultural land. One of the goals of the refuge is to maintain wetlands and agricultural lands that support wintering waterfowl, sandhill cranes, shorebirds and other waterbirds.



Submitted to The Elk Grove Citizen by  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**Secretary Deb Haaland**

@SecDebHaaland

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Urban wildlife refuges offer unmatched access to nature for folks living in and near cities.

[@StoneLakes](#) outside Sacramento is a shining example of how refuges ensure equitable access to the outdoors and protect habitat for countless critters.