



News Release

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Water District Deal Keeps Tule Elk State Nature Reserve Open for Three Years

An expanded agreement between the Buena Vista Water Storage District and California State Parks will benefit Tule Elk State Nature Reserve. In exchange for allowing expanded storage of water in the reserve, State Parks will receive fees that will ensure the reserve stays open to the public for at least three more years.

The additional water is beneficial to the riparian habitat as well as the Tule elk that live there. Tule Elk State Natural Reserve is home to a formerly endangered species of elk which once roamed the center valley by the thousands.

“I am very pleased with this partnership agreement,” said Tehachapi District Superintendent Kathy Weatherman. Our park visitors can enjoy Tule Elk for three more years and the park gets much needed water for the habitat and for the Elk. Buena Vista Water Storage has once again stepped up to be great partners with the Department”.

The District and State Parks initially entered into a Joint Development Agreement in 2009 to store water in the reserve. Buena Vista Water Storage District stores and conveys agricultural water to farms and ranches in Kern County near Buttonwillow.