

**Julie Renter** is President of River Partners. This nonprofit organization has, for over 20 years, successfully worked with farmers and other partners to restore 18,000 acres of flood plains in order to prevent flooding, rebuild natural habitat, store carbon, increase groundwater recharge, and support productive farmland.

She received her Bachelor of Science in forestry from UC Berkeley in 2002 and a Master's Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from the University of Hawaii in 2005.

She joined River Partners in 2008 as the Central Valley Regional Director, working at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge near Modesto.

Julie got her feet wet working at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge near Modesto in her first seasons with River Partners. Tomato and alfalfa fields adjacent to the refuge had fallen victim to levee breaks over many years which led to a buildup of debris and salt, rendering the land almost useless to farmers. Instead of simply fallowing the land, a multi-stakeholder alliance came together to put the land to work for the environment. Farmers were able to relocate to more suitable growing lands nearby, and the current site along the San Joaquin River became a refuge for recovering fish and other wildlife. The win-win solution helped Julie build a case study for future opportunities.

“You’re not just restoring a piece of ground, your bringing life back to a river system,” said Julie. “When you do that, you can make generational change.”

Julie took over as President of River Partners in 2020.