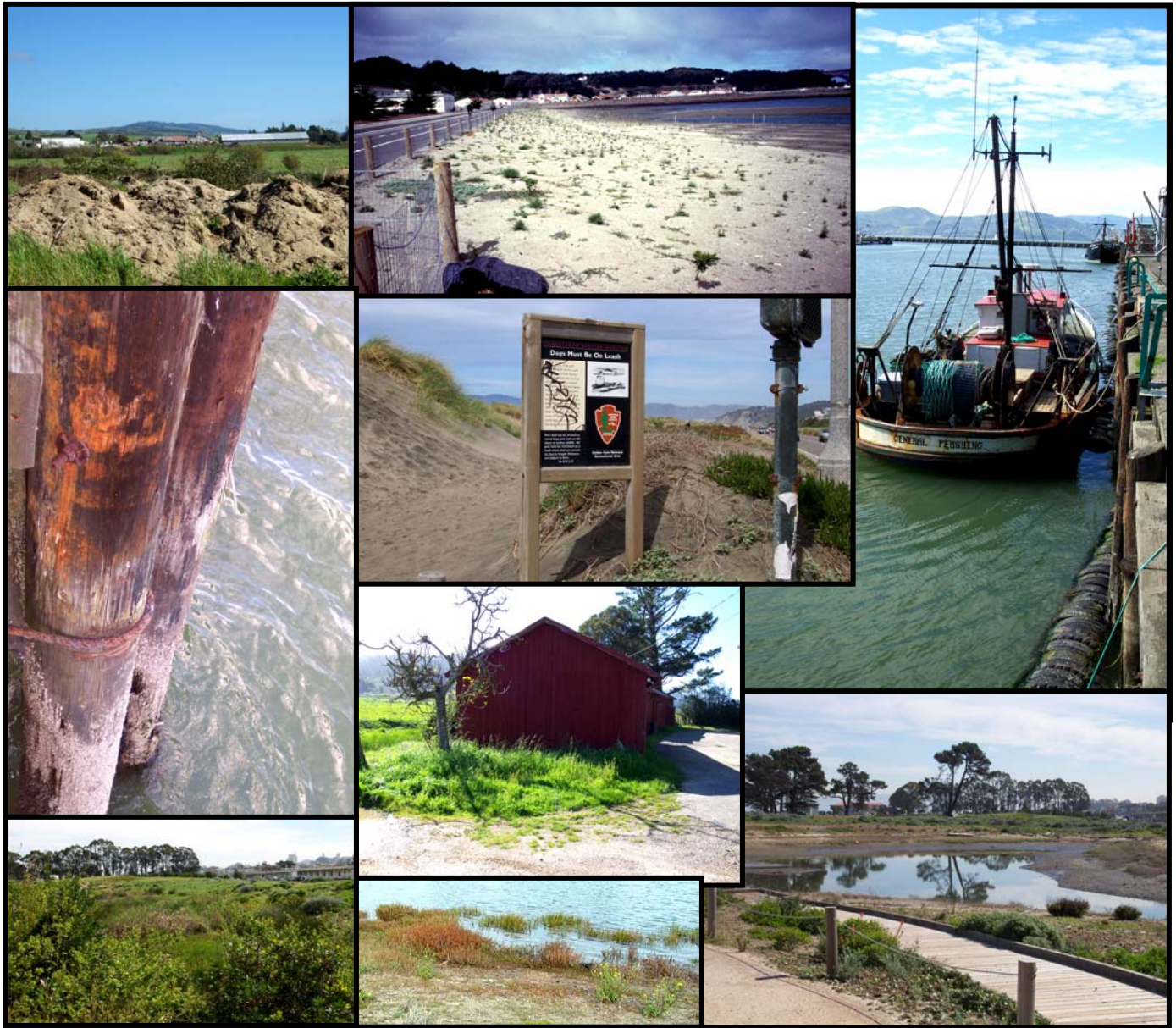


Cape Mohican Restoration Projects Biannual Report



May 2006

Cape Mohican Restoration Projects

Biannual Report

Background

On October 28, 1996, the *SS Cape Mohican* discharged approximately 96,000 gallons of heavy bunker fuel oil into a floating dry dock at the San Francisco Drydock Shipyard. Approximately 40,000 gallons spilled into San Francisco Bay. Oil spread from Pier 70 south to Hunter's Point and north into the central Bay; Richmond-San Rafael Bridge; and Alcatraz, Yerba Buena, Treasure, and Angel islands. The Tiburon Peninsula and San Francisco waterfront were also oiled. Oil traveled outside of the Golden Gate into the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), oiling beaches as far north as Drakes Beach in the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) and as far south as Pillar Point.

The Cape Mohican Trustee Council selected 13 projects to mitigate or restore the injured natural resources. This report summarizes the status of each of these projects as of April 2004.

Bird Restoration:

- Shorebird Habitat Protection at GGNRA
- California Least Tern Habitat Enhancement at Alameda Point
- Restoration of Shorebird Foraging Habitat through Control of Exotic Cordgrass in San Francisco Bay Wetlands
- Farallon Seabird Restoration: Exotic Vegetation Control in Nesting Areas

Fisheries and Water Quality:

- Pacific Herring Spawning Habitat Enhancement in San Francisco Bay
- Wetland Restoration at Pier 98, India Basin, San Francisco
- Steelhead Stream Habitat Enhancement at San Francisquito Creek

Wetlands and Mudflats:

- Giacomini Coastal Wetlands Restoration

Sandy Beach and Rocky Intertidal Habitat Projects:

- Sandy Beach Habitat Restoration at PRNS
- Protection of Duxbury Reef through Education

Human Use:

- Angel Island Foot Trail Enhancement
- Crissy Field Habitat Stewardship Program

Bird Restoration Projects

Shorebird Habitat Protection at Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$7,000
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$8,000
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$0
Funds spent to date:	\$0



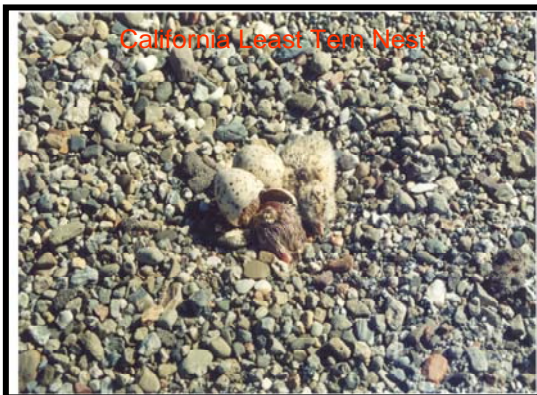
Overview of Project (Lead Agency: NPS)

The GGNRA previously installed 12 interpretive and regulatory signs at major beach entrances to inform the public of the presence of Western Snowy Plovers and other shorebirds, and their vulnerability to disturbance by humans and recreational activities. An interpretive bulletin on protecting Western Snowy Plovers, shorebirds, and sandy beach habitat was previously published for distribution to the public. This project will allow updating and replacement of damaged or missing signs and updating and re-printing of interpretive bulletins for up to 10 years.

Project Status

GGNRA has initiated review of the current signs and is working in collaboration with a larger park-wide project to design and replace interpretive and resource-protection signs. Funds would be used to develop new shorebird and snowy plover protection signs for beaches throughout the park using the same design guidelines as the parkwide project. Funds would be used to supplement the park-wide project to enhance protection of shorebird habitat. There are some complications with the Shorebird Habitat Protection project at GGNRA related to a court decision on dog management in the park. Consequently, no funds have been spent to date.

California Least Tern Habitat Enhancement at Alameda Point



Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$88,000
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$19,000
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$17,000
Funds spent to date:	\$84,854

Overview of Project (Lead Agency: USFWS)

This project will create new nesting habitat at Alameda Point for the endangered California Least Tern (CALT). The current 4-acre (estimated) site will be enlarged to 6 to 7 (estimated) acres, which will allow for approximately 150 additional pairs of terns. A 3- to 4-foot-high fence will be installed to minimize predator access to nesting terns. Maintenance of the newly created habitat will consist of removing undesirable vegetation and adding pea gravel where needed.

Project Status

The nesting area was enlarged from 6 acres to 9.7 acres (acreage changed from project proposal based on actual GPS measurement and GIS plot). The original non-functioning electrical fence was replaced with a chain link fence in spring 2004. Fence posts and the chain link fence were angled outward to prevent mammalian ingress. To prevent avian predators from perching on the fence, the tops of the fence posts are below the top of the chain link fence, and points of the chain links are exposed. A new plastic chick fence with small rounded openings was added to the bottom of the fence, replacing the old metal hardware cloth that had caused injury and death to several terns. The perimeter fence was shifted north to avoid a storm water drain and a highly vegetated portion of the original tern colony. The fence boundary was also designed to have rounded corners to allow better movement of chicks along the fence. Two walk-in gates and one drive-through gate were installed to provide controlled access in the colony. Nesting substrate (a mixture of sand, small pebbles, and shell fragments) was spread over most of the new nesting area. The monitoring grid was reestablished in the new area. After the terns had left for the season in August 2004, the remaining nesting substrate was added to the periphery of the colony. Oyster shells, driftwood, and wooden A-frames were also added to the colony to finish the beach appearance.

Breeding Season 2005

The second of three seasons of monitoring took place this year. The least terns continued to use the new area. This year roughly 120 nests (22%) were found in the new substrate. This is a 121% increase from the 21 nests found in the new substrate in 2004. Estimated nesting pairs in the colony increased from 301 in 2003 to 379 in 2004. The number of breeding pairs for 2005 has been estimated to be 424, which represents a 12% increase. Fence construction helped prevent mammalian predation in the colony.

Breeding Season 2006

Monitoring for the 2006 breeding season will begin in April. Herbicide application had been conducted using Cape Mohican funds, similar to 2004 and 2005. Herbicide was used to reduce overall vegetation within the site and to prevent the establishment of weeds in the new portion of the colony. Mechanical removal of tall vegetation within the colony and vegetation within the buffer area was also performed using Cape Mohican Funds. These funds were also used to hire an intern to assist monitoring this year, as well as to purchase equipment for this new position.

Restoration of Shorebird Foraging Habitat through Control of Exotic Cordgrass in San Francisco Bay Wetlands

Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$50,000
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$110,000
Funds spent to date:	\$49,940

Overview of Project (Lead Agency: USFWS)

This project involves the eradication of the invasive smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) from mudflats and tidal salt marshes in the central and south portions of the Bay and between the Bay Bridge and the Dumbarton Bridge. Removal of smooth cordgrass from tidal marshes and tidal sloughs will allow native plants to reestablish on the tidal marsh plain and restore shorebird foraging and fish nursery habitat in the tidal sloughs.

Project Status

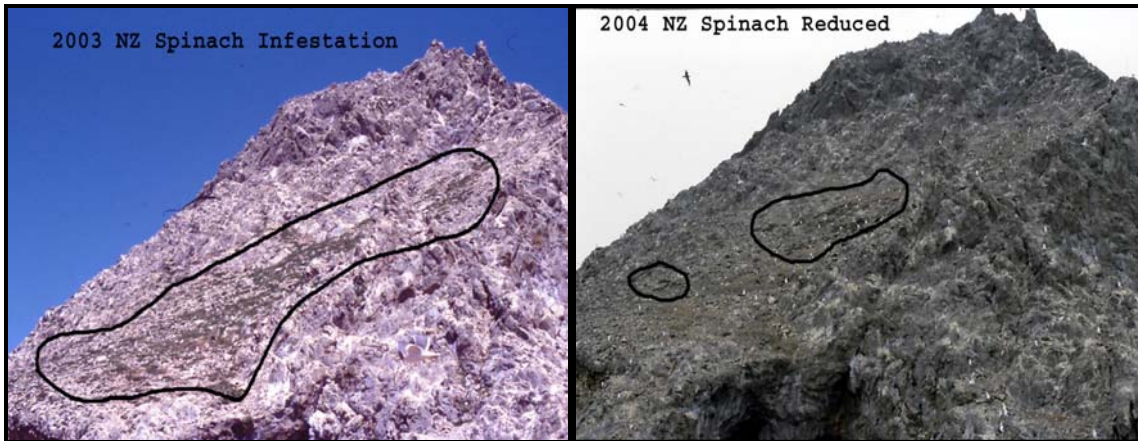
In May 2005, the Refuge and California Coastal Conservancy completed Site-Specific Control Plans for each site targeted for control in 2005-2007. The Site-Specific Plans describe methods to be used at each site and summarize impacts and mitigation measures to be used during control. Information contained in the Site-Specific Plans was used to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the implementation of the Site Specific Plans, which tiered off the Programmatic EIR/EIS. An Internal Formal Section 7 consultation was also conducted with the USFWS, resulting in issuance of a Biological Opinion with a non-jeopardy determination for listed species in the project area.

In September and October 2005, follow-up control work was conducted in the Southeast San Francisco Sub Areas, totaling 8.2 acres of non-native *Spartina* treatment. In addition, treatment was conducted at two new sites, West San Francisco Bay (Site 19) and Alameda/San Leandro Bay (Site 20), where a total of about 275 acres was treated. A third site proposed for treatment in 2005, Colma Creek/San Bruno Complex (Site 18), was not treated this year due to time constraints. Habitat[®] herbicide, with the active ingredient imazapyr, was used for most control work this year. This herbicide was registered for aquatic use in California in early September 2005.

In 2006, follow-up control work will be conducted in all previously treated marshes under the scope of this project. In addition, initial treatment will be conducted in Colma Creek/San Bruno Complex (Site 18). In the 2006 control season, we plan to begin control work in marshes unoccupied by clapper rails as early as July 1, conduct aerial helicopter control beginning July 15, and then perform ground control work in marshes occupied by clapper rails beginning September 1.

In spring 2006, the Refuge will purchase additional equipment, materials, and contract labor needed to conduct the control work in targeted control areas for 2006. Any equipment and materials purchased with funds allocated to this project will be stored at either the Coastal Conservancy or the Refuge for future use on this project. Coastal Conservancy or Refuge personnel will train land managers who conduct control work and will monitor effectiveness of control.

Farallon Seabird Restoration: Exotic Vegetation Control in Nesting Areas



Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002: \$25,000
Funds allocated in FY 2003: \$0
Funds allocated in FY 2004: \$25,000
Funds allocated in FY 2005: \$37,296
Funds allocated in FY 2006: \$37,296
Funds spent to date: \$105,835

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: USFWS)

This project will restore burrow nest habitat for Cassin's auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*), ash storm-petrels (*Oceanodroma homochroa*), and rhinoceros auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) by controlling exotic vegetation, especially New Zealand Spinach (*Tetragonia tetragonoides*) and Cheeseweed (*Malva* spp.). A combination of chemical and mechanical methods will be used to control exotic vegetation. Seeds will be collected from native Farallon weeds and used to re-seed bare soil areas created when large amounts of exotic plants are removed.



Project Status

A Farallon Refuge Operations Specialist (ROS), hired in May 2003, continues to implement the weed management plan, which was prepared in early 2004. Activities in 2003 through 2005 focused on an intense weed-pulling effort each spring just prior to the seabird nesting season, and herbicide treatment in late summer and fall after the colonial seabird nesting seabird nesting seasons is over. A combination of hand-pulling and herbicide treatment occurs during the winter, as determined by weather and plant phenology. Chemical treatment is not possible in most areas after the native plants begin to grow with the annual rains.

A re-seeding component was added in 2005, when 11 boxfuls of native *Lasthenia* plants were collected after seed set. In January 2006, these were seeded into three areas that had been heavily infested with *Malva* in 2005. Two of the three responded with dense carpets of *Lasthenia*, while the third remained mostly barren. Seed collection and out-planting will continue in 2006 to moderate the regrowth of non-native weed species.

The above average rainfall and unusual late season rains in 2005 produced a bumper crop of weeds during 2005. To prepare for a repetition in 2006, the Farallon ROS initiated an increased volunteer program to combat invasive plants. He recruited, trained and supervised the volunteers, and then provided logistical support for their trips. Funding from the USFWS Coastal Program provided transportation and per diem for volunteer weed pullers. We were able to increase our volunteer force from the one or two per year to six in spring 2006. These six volunteers pulled weeds for a total of 340 hours over 2 months.

The extra effort this spring was clearly a success. Spinach and *Malva* were the less abundant heading into the 2006 seabird breeding season than in any of the previous three springs. Reduced cover of non-native, mat-forming plants means more habitat is available for burrowing seabirds.

Fisheries and Water Quality Projects

Pacific Herring Spawning Habitat Enhancement in San Francisco Bay

Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$408,500
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$16,000
Funds spent to date:	\$350,145

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: CDFG)

This project, at the Port of San Francisco's Pier 45, will enhance water quality by removing creosote-covered pilings and replacing them with polymer-coated wood piles, which will provide a non-toxic surface for encrusting organisms to attach to and for the spawning of herring.

Project Status

Installation of polymer-coated chemically-treated wood piles, for which the Port of San Francisco is assuming all labor and incidental equipment and materials expenses, began in March 2004. Pile replacement by Port crews is continuing, and is now approximately 60% complete.

A balance of \$29,760 remains in the funding available for monitoring. This balance is to fund \$14,880/year for two years of monitoring establishment of piling fouling community organisms on the new piles relative to the creosote-treated wood piles. Due to administrative constraints on Port contracting and other delays, the Port has not yet initiated monitoring to evaluate biological effects of pile replacement. The Port is in the process of developing an agreement with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) under which SFEI will monitor the colonization by benthic organisms and the success of herring spawn (as available) on different substrates (creosote vs. polymer coating) at Pier 45 over a five-year period in accordance with the Port's original project proposal and scope of work for this contract with NFWF. However, monitoring may not begin within the current contract term, and we anticipate requesting that the monitoring be conducted and reimbursed under a subsequent contract with NFWF.

The Port has reached an agreement with the San Francisco Estuary Institute on the scope of work and fees for monitoring the biological effects of pile replacement, which SFEI will do under an existing funding mechanism with the Port. Monitoring work has not begun, and the Port will request an extension of time on the existing contract with NFWF.

Wetland Restoration at Pier 98 (Heron's Head Park), India Basin, San Francisco

Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$96,072
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$0
Funds spent to date:	\$0

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: CDFG)

This project, at the Port of San Francisco's Heron's Head Park near Pier 98 at India Basin, will enhance a new saltmarsh with the propagation and planting of rare transition-zone native plant species. Successful revegetation will require materials and labor for at least five years to promote establishment of native transition-zone species and to remove non-native plant species.

Project Status

The Port has not yet initiated any work proposed under this contract. However, Rather than assigning the funding to another entity, as considered in the last progress report, the Port now proposes to include the saltmarsh species propagation and planting as part of a larger contract for related services at Heron's Head Park. This would not involve any change in the scope of work or cost, but would allow for greater administrative efficiency in the contracting process. The Port anticipates issuing a request for bids for the proposed work in June or July in to meet a contract start date of October 1, 2006.

Steelhead Stream Habitat Enhancement at San Francisquito Creek

Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$40,000
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$0
Funds spent to date:	\$31,892

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: CDFG)

This project will increase the size and quality of habitat available for steelhead trout spawning in the Bay Area by rehabilitating steelhead spawning habitat in the San Francisquito Creek watershed. This will be accomplished through fish barrier removal and native plant revegetation.

Project Status

The projects that make up the “Steelhead Stream Habitat Enhancement at San Francisquito Creek” project include conducting volunteer-based habitat restoration workdays and completing designs, permits, and environmental review for fish passage improvement projects at two sites. The Watershed Council holds about 15 habitat restoration workdays per year and conducts visual monitoring and site maintenance (weeding and watering as needed) year-round. The funds from this DFG-OSPR grant were part of the total funding needed to operate this program. Other funding sources currently include the NOAA Community-based Restoration Fund, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the Nature Restoration Trust.

The Watershed Council is also working on completing designs, permitting, and environmental review at four barriers to steelhead. Funding from this grant is partially supporting the work on two of these barriers (culvert replacement at McGarvey Gulch and installation of baffles in a box culvert on Los Trancos Creek). Other funds supporting the Watershed Council’s overall fish passage improvement work include the San Francisco Bay Salmonid Habitat Restoration Fund, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the Bella Vista Foundation.

Task I: Fish Migration Barrier Modifications

Activities performed between October 1, 2005, and March 31, 2006, are summarized below.

McGarvey Gulch: 75%-level designs have now been completed, and a design review meeting was held. Stakeholders have provided the Watershed Council Restoration Projects Manager with comments that have now been conveyed to the design engineers. The 95% designs should be completed shortly. On this project, the Watershed Council is responsible for completion of designs, and the County of San Mateo will take the project through permitting, environmental review, and implementation. Depending on the permitting process, the County anticipates implementation in either the fall of 2006 or 2007. All work on this project during this reporting period was funded by other grants.

Los Trancos Creek Box Culvert: The design engineers are working toward completion of the 50%-level designs. When those designs are finished, the Watershed Council will hold a stakeholder review meeting to provide feedback to the engineers. All work on this project during this reporting period was funded by other grants.

Task II: Riparian Vegetation Restoration Projects

This task has been completed.

Wetlands and Mudflats Projects

Giacomini Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project



Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$435,000
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$0
Funds spent to date:	\$90,808

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: NPS)

This project proposes to restore the tidal connection and hydrologic function to 563 acres of former coastal salt marsh site in Tomales Bay, which was diked in the 1940s to provide pasture for dairy cattle. Technical studies and numerous internal, agency, and public workshops have been completed to develop restoration alternatives for evaluation through the NEPA/CEQA process, and the draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) is expected to be released in summer 2006. Cape Mohican funds are being used in conjunction with funds from other sources to finalize planning, prepare construction specifications and final design, and implement the alternative selected through the environmental review process. The first phase of restoration is expected to begin in late fall 2006.

Project Status

Public and agency scoping for the EIS/EIR was held in winter 2002/2003. After a series of internal and external alternative development workshops and technical studies to further analyze public access options, NPS finalized the alternatives that are being analyzed in the environmental document and has selected a preferred alternative through a Value Analysis workshop. Production of the environmental document is underway, and the draft EIS/EIR is expected to be released for public review in summer 2006. In anticipation of habitat enhancement actions expected in late fall 2006, plant materials such as seeds and divisions have been or are being collected for propagation and outplanting in November-December 2006.

Sandy Beach and Rocky Intertidal Habitat Projects

Sandy Beach Habitat Restoration at Point Reyes National Seashore

Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002:	\$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003:	\$60,000
Funds allocated in FY 2004:	\$80,000
Funds allocated in FY 2005:	\$190,000
Funds allocated in FY 2006:	\$0
Funds spent to date:	\$301,705



Overview of the Project (Lead

Agency: NPS)

This project will increase nesting habitat and reproductive success of shorebirds, especially Western Snowy Plover, at Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS). This objective will be accomplished by increasing habitat for shorebird foraging and nesting through the removal of non-native European beachgrass and iceplant.

Project Status

Under Cape Mohican funding, PRNS committed to restoring 25 acres using a combination of mechanical and hand removal methods. To date, approximately 22 acres have been cleared using heavy equipment, and an additional 25 acres have been treated for resprouts using volunteers and hand crews. These 25 acres had been treated using park-funded hand crews in 2000 through 2002; additional funds from Cape Mohican were critical to completing this work. Already, the dunes are recolonizing with native species including sand verbena, beach morning glory, and beach bursage. A total of nine species of native plants appeared within the restored areas just one-year after removal. The two Federally Endangered plants *Lupinus tidestromii* and *Layia carnosa* continue to naturally recolonize these sites.

In late March 2004, Federally Threatened snowy plovers were seen moving into the restoration site looking for suitable nesting areas. In 2005, plovers actively used the restoration area for breeding and chick-rearing activities. Of the 17 chicks fledged, 11 were hatched and reared in the restoration sites. In addition, males were seen moving 3-day-old chicks as far as one mile to be reared in the restoration area—an excellent measure of the immediate success of this project. As plovers continue to breed along the Great Beach of Point Reyes, restored sites will become increasingly important for the successful fledging of chicks. Although shorebirds along the west coast struggled to breed through the summer, plovers at Point Reyes had a marked increase in fledge rates, from 22% to over 50%. While we cannot know if this is directly related to providing plovers with improved habitat for feeding and hiding (they are difficult to see in open sandy plains), we believe it has certainly made a positive contribution. This information is provided by the Point Reyes Bird Observatory western snowy plover recovery team through a contract with the Seashore. Plover monitoring for 2006 started on March 15. This breeding season, biologists will continue to monitor restored areas and document use by both nesting pairs and chicks.

In November through December 2005, the park completed the final mechanical removal of almost 3 acres of heavily infested beachgrass dunes. Follow-up resprout removal throughout the entire 50-acres of the project was completed in late February 2006 (100 person hours). Resprouts were minimal in the mechanically treated areas, and the site shows excellent progress towards becoming “weed-free.” Work for the remainder of 2006 consists of (1) continued monitoring of vegetation, dune formation profiles, snowy plover breeding; and (2) final follow-up treatment of approximately 50 acres to remove any remaining beachgrass resprouts (scheduled for late September 2006). PRNS will compile data for a final report and present and/or publish data at appropriate venues.

Protection of Duxbury Reef Through Education

Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002: \$0
Funds allocated in FY 2003: \$90,000
Funds allocated in FY 2004: \$90,000
Funds allocated in FY 2005: \$0
Funds allocated in FY 2006: \$90,000
Funds spent to date: \$149,838

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: NOAA)

This project will help prevent further injury to, and facilitate the natural recovery of intertidal rocky habitat at Duxbury Reef Marine Reserve. This will be achieved through an environmental education and stewardship program aimed at increasing public awareness of this sensitive habitat and controlling the large number of visitors to the area.

Project Status

Tenera has conducted a second round of surveys and established long-term monitoring transects throughout the Reef. A second season of visitor use surveys have been scheduled, are currently being conducted, and will continue throughout the spring and summer. A total of 10-12 visitor surveys are anticipated by the end of August.

The study plan includes the following actions:

- Determine the visitor spatial and temporal patterns, including a map, designated high, moderate and low use areas, and a census of visitors.
- Determine baseline species diversity and abundance through the establishment of stratified random quadrats placed along 8 to 12 transects. Transects are sampled two times each year. The most recent sampling took place during March 2006. The next scheduled surveys are August 2006.
- Review the LIPETS program and determine how this high school/volunteer monitoring program can be revised to incorporate sampling protocols for the restoration project. This task is currently under and being considered by GFNMS science and education staff.
- Determine extent of impacts to reef.

- Document, determine and quantify damages via percent cover, density and species richness protocols. Also target damages caused from trampling impacts and impacts from hydrocarbons (primarily diesel fuel), targeted counts and individual plant measurements are collected for *Fucus* as a key indicator species.
- Development and placement of visitor pathways. Two possible corridors are under considerations and will be reviewed by GFNMS and NOAA Restoration Center staff.
- Assess effectiveness of pathways.
- An aerial mapping effort has been postponed due to weather and will be scheduled for summer low tides. Maps will include:
 - Habitat zonation and characterization, algal zones and major taxa groups
 - Extent of fresh water influences
 - Location of mean zero tide level along the *Phyllospadix* line
 - Transect locations
 - Other research activities being conducted on the reef
 - Species diversity and abundance
 - Ridge and entrance trails
 - Outflow pipes
 - Major beds and areas of *Anthopleura elegantissima*, *Fucus sp.*, mussel, tide pools, benches, red algal groups
 - Jurisdictional boundaries

Human Use Projects

Angel Island Foot Trail Enhancement



Funding

Funds allocated in FY 2002: \$180,000
Funds allocated in FY 2003: \$0
Funds allocated in FY 2004: \$0
Funds allocated in FY 2005: \$0
Funds allocated in FY 2006: \$0
Funds spent to date: \$162,536

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: CDPR)

This project involves the construction of stairways, walkways, and trail improvements to enhance public access to beaches on Angel Island that were closed to the public because of the oil spill. If the cost of this project exceeds the funds allocated by the Trustee Council (based on the settlement), funding will be supplemented by CDPR.



Project Status

Perle’s Beach and Quarry Beach Access are nearly complete. The stairway portion at Perle’s Beach and the ADA ramp at Quarry Beach are in; however, additional work is needed on access paths. Harsh winter storms have delayed completion.

Crissy Field Habitat Stewardship Program



Funding

Funds allocated in FY02	\$200,653
Funds allocated in FY03	\$215,330
Funds allocated in FY04	\$213,143
Funds allocated in FY05	\$220,874
Funds allocated in FY06	\$0
Funds spent to date:	\$840,214

Overview of the Project (Lead Agency: NPS)

This project consists of developing and operating a 4-year public stewardship and biological monitoring program whereby staff and participants will visually and quantitatively measure the biological and physical changes of the newly restored habitats and participate in a variety of habitat restoration activities. Specifically, the Cape Mohican funds will support an Ecologist, as the Stewardship and Monitoring Program Coordinator, a Restoration and Public Programs Coordinator, a Field Monitoring Coordinator, and career development internships.

Project Status

Cape Mohican funds that had been used to support a four-year stewardship and monitoring program at Crissy Field have been nearly expended. Remaining funds are being used to support one career development internship at Crissy Field. This position shares responsibility (with GGNRA staff) for maintaining the community stewardship program at Crissy Field. Stewardship activities included volunteer coordination, exotic plant removal, seed collection, additional planting and seeding to enhance restored areas, fence repair, trash and debris removal from restored marsh, and coordination with NPS maintenance staff on issues affecting Crissy Field (e.g., irrigation and mowing schedules in adjacent areas, removal of debris). In the second half of FY06, remaining funds will be used to support this position.