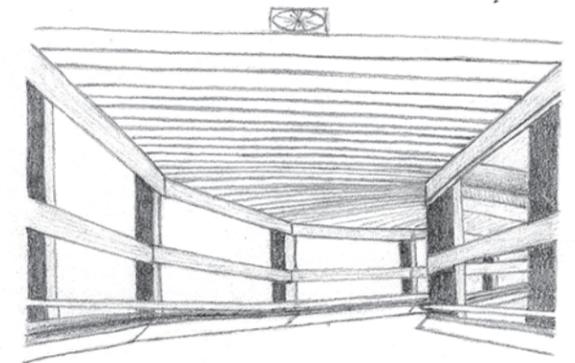


Awaiting you up ahead? A mysterious scene:
Why is this refuge a place "in between"?
 Seek hidden connections between land and sea.
 In front of you there is a mystery:
 The rumble of ocean--to the West--sounds so sweet
 The mountains--to the East--your eyes greet



*1. From the front desk, turn around
 And out through the door you should bound.
 Turn left, to where wood and concrete meet.
 The compass rose will be right at your feet.*

Your clues:

A Quest "In Between" at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge



Overview:

Between the tall trees of Tompkins Hill and Table Bluff and the cold waters of Humboldt Bay lies a special place "in between", Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Once a vast salt marsh estuary, then a working cattle ranch, now a home for wildlife, Humboldt Bay NWR has seen many changes over the centuries. Today, managers strive to restore some of the historic salt marsh and manage for a mixture of habitats: freshwater wetlands, brackish sloughs, pasture lands and riparian habitat (trees along a waterway). Many species both large and small call the habitats of the refuge home at this special place "in between".

How to Quest:

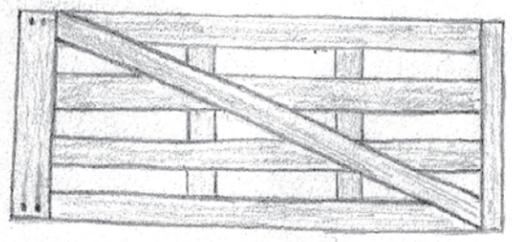
The clues in italics? These tell you where to go.
 The clues in plain font? That's what we want to show.
 Make sure you stop here and read slow.
And in bold are the clues that will challenge you.

Before this old gate kept cattle in their place,
 it was a redwood tree growing in the hills with great grace.
 Gaze down at the water to the slough below,
 it also has a gate to control how the grasses grow.
 In the dry summertime cattle nibble on this grass,
 but in the wet wintertime it's a geese meal first class.



With your eyes scan around, go to the white arrow you just found.

At the bottom what do you hear? Are some sounds far and others near?



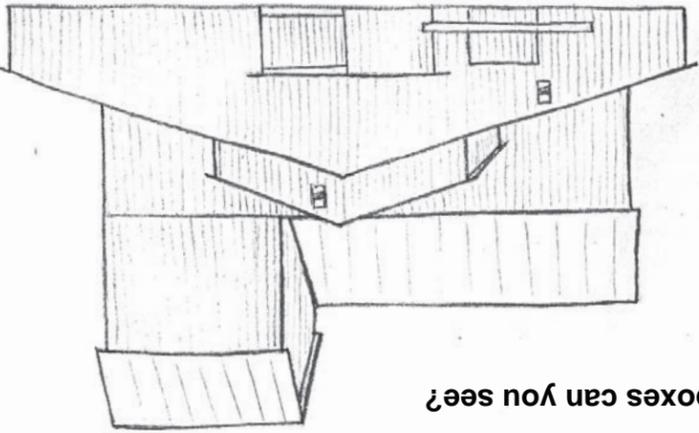
*2. Let your feet flow down the decline,
 And don't worry about leaving the highway behind.
 The meandering path of the wooden bridge below,
 Copies the shape of the Refuge's tidal flow*



Place Your Stamp Here

The Quest "In Between" was created during an enjoyable and collaborative community workshop held at Humboldt Bay NWR and led by Steve Glazer of Valley Quest (www.vitalcommunities.org). Many thanks to the community participants from the Friends of Humboldt Bay NWR, Tolowa Dunes Stewards, Arcata Community Recycling Center, Jacoby Creek Land Trust, Northcoast Regional Land Trust, Pacific View Charter School, City of Arcata, AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards, Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Research Stations, Redwood Sciences Lab, Redwood National and State Parks, McKinleyville Middle School, Arcata School District, and Loleta Elementary School. We hope that you enjoy the second in a series of quests linking the special places that are shared between the many communities throughout the north coast of California. Special thanks to workshop participant, Alisha Clompus for artwork and graphic design.

We appreciate any feedback on our Quest, "In Between".
 Log on to: www.fws.gov/humboldtby/comments.html



How many bat boxes can you see?

Before the days of ranching, look east and you will see
 Willow used for centuries in Wiyot basketry.
 Long ago this barn was built of old growth redwood slats
 Instead of cows, now it is home to owls; and notice boxes for the bats.



*3. Seasons bring different grazers to this special land.
 Travel forward to a sign that will help you understand.
 Turn yourself right to face the salty sea
 Now, walk along the slough to marker number 3.
 Continue between the willows just 40 paces more
 To find a relic in the form that was once here before.*

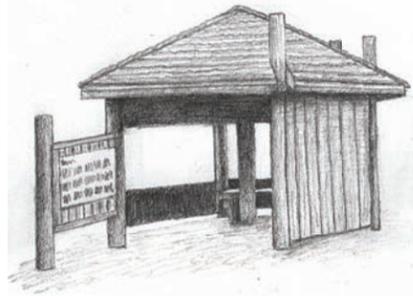


Salmon Creek Unit of Humboldt Bay NWR © Gary Todoroff

4. *Alongside the ditch, continue your stroll
Watch for a fence and water where otters might roll.
At the end of the wood rail, hidden from you,
Is a picture perfect place that frames a view.
Go left to the kiosk, spy birds inside and out
The scene from the bench holds a secret mystery no doubt!*

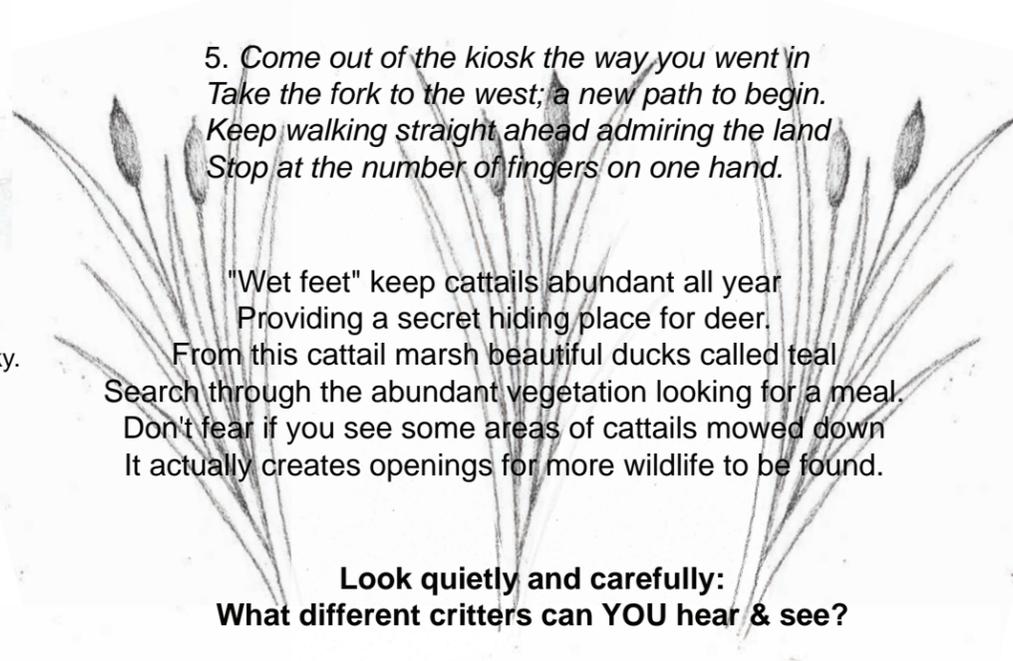


Off in the distance, under the trees, lies Salmon Creek
Named for the fish the Wiyot Tribe did seek.
From Headwaters to tidewaters, be it mist, wet or dry
This stream flows sinuously and continuously linking sea, earth, and sky.



**Can you see the forested horizon?
And in front a flat open space?
Can you find "in between" the riparian
corridor cutting across this place?**

5. *Come out of the kiosk the way you went in
Take the fork to the west; a new path to begin.
Keep walking straight ahead admiring the land
Stop at the number of fingers on one hand.*

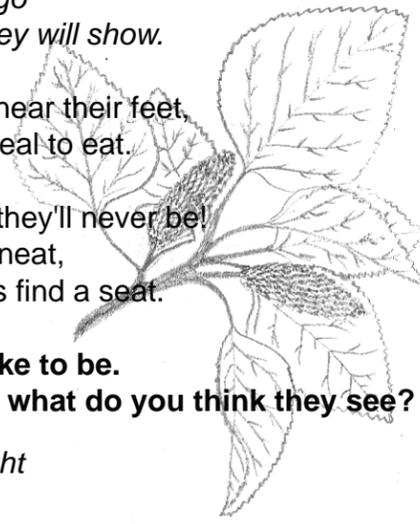


"Wet feet" keep cattails abundant all year
Providing a secret hiding place for deer.
From this cattail marsh beautiful ducks called teal
Search through the abundant vegetation looking for a meal.
Don't fear if you see some areas of cattails mowed down
It actually creates openings for more wildlife to be found.

**Look quietly and carefully:
What different critters can YOU hear & see?**

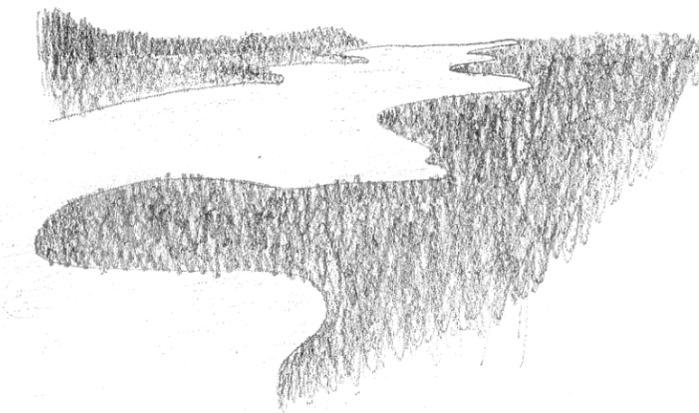
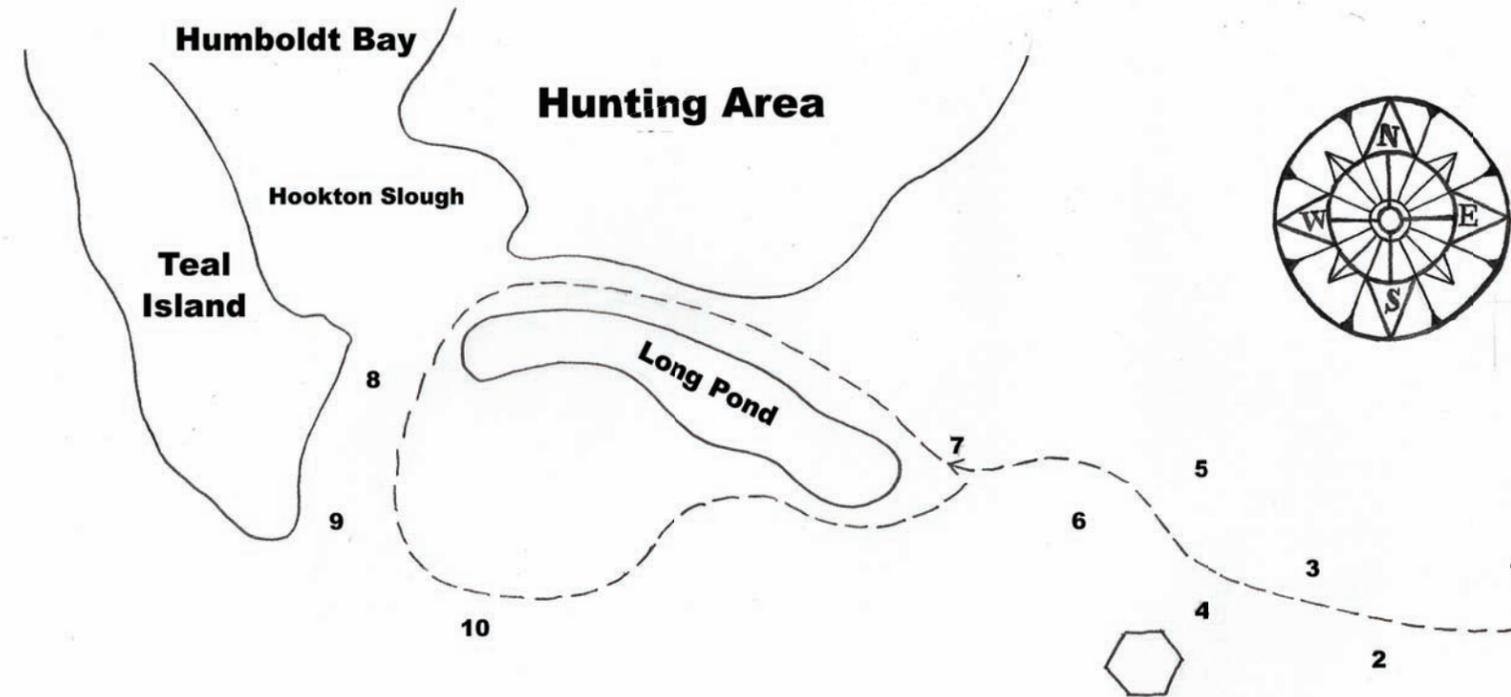
6. *Stay on the road past post seven you go
To the line of trees; white spotted bark they will show.*

These trees are called alders with water near their feet,
A perching place for birds looking for a meal to eat.
If you look close tiny cones you may see,
With their broad green leaves pine trees they'll never be!
Wind from the ocean trim their branches neat,
But on their sheltered side flowing lichens find a seat.



**Look for dead branches where birds like to be.
When they look across this landscape what do you think they see?**

7. *From the cattails move ahead, turn right
Then Long Pond will be in sight.
As you walk toward the bay
Listen for the waves along the way.*



Fresh and salt together make this brackish water
A wonderful home for the local otter.
Wet winter south winds make the ripples grow,
In summer, north breezes move water slow.

Please give a close inspection: What is today's wind direction?

11. *It is amazing each and every day in this place in between
water, birds, tides and people come and go through this scene.*

Our Quest treasure box is in a place quite fitting,
directly underneath the place you are now sitting!

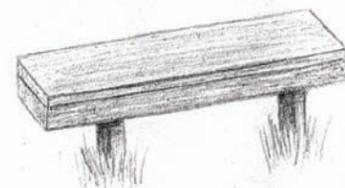


Credit: Shannon Smith, FWS

**Sign in. Tell us what you've seen and that you've been here.
And please come again and visit every season, year after year.**

10. *Leave the rusty bucket behind to continue it's decay
Find a brown redwood bench, we're near the end of our play.
Here at this bench gaze across Hookton Slough.
There's a grove of tall trees right in front of you.*

In spring and summer you are likely to see
the tell-tale white dots of a rookery.
Egrets and herons nesting way up high
have seen many a change beneath this sky



**You've reached our destination.
What is your role in habitat restoration?**

9. *With Long Pond on your left,
Hookton Slough on your right,
Your next stop is almost in sight.
Cross over the bridge and you shall see
A "bucket" where it ought not to be*

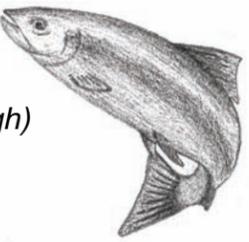
The dredge Jupiter's bucket remains of human's plan
To turn salt marshes into grazing land.
Now the dikes decay; Teal Island's a ghost.
Nature restored - a balanced host.

Look this way and that. How many people modified this habitat?



Credit: Sean Brophy, FWS

8. *Pause by the slough
(a gate for water to pass through)
And take in the lovely view.*



Winter, spring, summer or fall
Many lives gather here, both large & small.
Here in this estuary named Hookton Slough
You may see salmon running through.
Up Salmon Creek adults heading home
The other way through, fry have a chance to roam.

**Here the tides ebb and flow.
Tell me now, is it high or low?
And how do you know?**