Valley View Ranch Assessment

North Coast Regional Land Trust

Other Partners: The California Coastal Conservancy and County of Humboldt.

The 1500 acre Valley View Ranch is located on the northern California coast along the Mattole River. Funds will support botanical, fish, and wildlife surveys needed as a precursor to establishment of a conservation easement on this privately owned ranch. The ranch includes a diversity of habitats along with populations of several threatened species including coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, and northern spotted owl. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also working with the land trust, state agencies, and the landowner to develop a conservation plan for the property.

Photo Credit: North Coast Regional Land Trust

Vegetation Classification of Wetlands on Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Other Partners: Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District

Palustrine and estuarine wetland vegetation on 3500 acres of Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge-South Bay Units will be quantitatively classified and mapped. The information will provide a baseline inventory of unique wetland vegetation types that have never been quantified. The data will be correlated with specific soil variables such as salinity and moisture. Project work will provide baseline information to monitor changes resulting from restoration and future management practices. The effort will be generally applicable to other locations around Humboldt Bay and will be available as a model for monitoring vegetation changes at other restoration project sites. Many sensitive plant and animal species are associated with these wetlands.

Photo Credit: P. Golightly

Little River State Beach Assessment and Restoration Plan

California Department of Parks and Recreation

Other Partners: County of Humboldt

California State Parks will develop a habitat restoration and enhancement plan for approximately 200 acres of rare coastal dune habitat just north of Humboldt Bay at Little River State Beach and Clam Beach County Park. The coastal dune ecosystem on the north coast has been significantly degraded by invasive plant species including European beach grass. The planning process will include development of specific habitat restoration projects needed to help recover threatened and sensitive plant and animal species. These include, the western snowy plover, beach layia, Humboldt Bay wallflower and pink-sand verbena. This restoration plan will compliment other ongoing coastal dune restoration work on the Lamphere Dunes Unit of Humboldt Bay NWR, the Ma'lel Dunes and Manila Community Services District properties.

Photo Credit: P. Golightly

Indian Island Rookery Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Plan

The Wiyot Tribe-Table Bluff Reservation

Other Partners: City of Eureka

Indian Island on Humboldt Bay is recognized by ornithologists, Tribes, agencies, and bird enthusiasts as critically important nesting habitat for several species of herons and egrets and is considered the largest known multi-species heron rookery in northwestern California. The Wiyot Tribe considers the rookery to be tied to their people because Indian Island was used and inhabited by the Tribe for centuries. The rookery is infested with English Ivy and other invasive plant species. These species are contributing to degradation of rookery habitat which threatens the future existence of this important nesting area. Project work will include biological and archaelogical surveys, and development of a restoration and monitoring plan. The restoration plan will include removal of invasive plants and planting of native tree and shrub species.

Photo Credit: P. Golightly

Rocky Gulch Restoration Project

McBain and Trush

Other Partners: California Department of Fish and Game and private landowners.

Funds were provided to support restoration of Rocky Gulch, a tributary stream to Humboldt Bay located on private agricultural lands. The goal of the project is to improve habitat for federally listed coho salmon and steelhead. Over 1 mile of channelized stream will be improved by restoring meanders and floodplain characteristics, placement of large wood in the stream, planting of native trees, limiting livestock access to the stream channel using fencing, providing fish passage for salmonids though installation of a functional tide gate, and improving salt marsh and estuarine areas of Rocky Gulch. The project will also improve habitat for other estuarine fishes, migratory birds, and amphibians.

Photo Credit: R. Bosch

Remote Monitoring of Seabirds at Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge

Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge

Other Partners: Humboldt State University

Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge hosts the second largest number of breeding seabirds in California and is one of the most important seabird nesting sites in the California Current System. Funds will be used to purchase and install a remote camera system that will allow the gathering of critical information on seabirds including relative abundance, burrow use, breeding behavior and other parameters. The project represents the first phase in gathering this type of baseline information for seabirds on Castle Rock. Benefits of this effort will be knowledge of population change, potential guidance of restoration in the event of impacts such as oil spills, and other data useful in assessments prior to anticipated environmental change. Video products from the camera will provide opportunities for outreach and education to local communities, and to train natural resource students at Humboldt State University.

Photo Credit: P. Golightly

Ma-le'l Dunes Area Restoration Project

Bureau of Land Management-Arcata Field Office (BLM)

Other Partners: California Conservation Corps

The Humboldt Bay beaches and dunes are the largest continuous dune system in northern California. Stretching along a 34 mile section of the coast, and less than a mile wide, this unique area encompasses a variety of wildlife habitats. Much of this rare dune habitat has been degraded by non-native invasive plant species. Funds will be used to remove and eradicate European beachgrass from 50 acres of foredunes on the Ma-le'l Dunes parcel managed by BLM. This work will benefit federal and state listed plant species and may lead to habitat becoming suitable for the federally listed western snowy plover. This project is in concert with ongoing collaborative efforts to remove European beachgrass from adjacent dune habitat managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Manila Community Services District. These agencies along with BLM manage 10 miles of dune habitat along the north spit of Humboldt Bay.

Photo Credit: P. Golightly

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service-The Coastal Program at Humboldt Bay 2005 Project List

Project Name	**Funding Recipient**	**Funding Amount**	**Cost-Share/In-Kind Amount**
Valley View Ranch Assessment	North Coast Regional Land Trust	$ 15,000	$ 40,000
Vegetation Classification of Wetlands	Humboldt Bay NWR	$ 25,428	$ 57,700
Little River State Beach Assessment and Restoration Plan	CA Dept of Parks and Recreation	$ 25,000	$ 40,000
Indian Island Rookery Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Plan	The Wiyot Tribe-Table Bluff Reservation	$ 25,000	$ 9,670
Rocky Gulch Restoration Project	McBain and Trush	$ 25,000	$250,100
Remote Monitoring of Seabirds at Castle Rock NWR	Castle Rock NWR	$ 35,000	$109,154
Ma-le'l Dunes Restoration Project	Bureau of Land Management	$ 24,068	$ 22,000
Total		$174,496.00	$528,624.00

Note: Cost share ratio = 1:3