



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Pacific Southwest Region

## 2016-17 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON



Melisa Amato, Wildlife Refuge Specialist  
Don Brubaker, Manager



# Overview

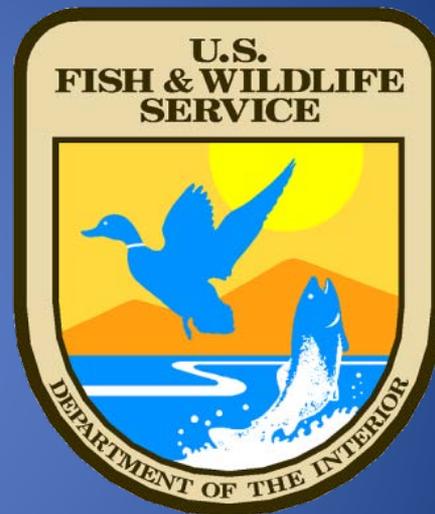
- Who are we?
- Refuge Overview
- Refuge History
- Current Hunting Opportunities
- 2016-17 Hunting Regulations
- Future Hunting Opportunities
- Upcoming Events

# Who are we?



Yep. We're the Federal Government







## Who are we?

*USFWS ...conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.*



## National Wildlife Refuge System

- *World's largest collection of lands managed primarily for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats*
- *Consists of more than 550 refuges (>150 million acres)*

# San Pablo Bay Staff



Don Brubaker

Manager, Antioch Dunes, Marin Islands & San Pablo Bay NWRs

Louis Terrazas

Wildlife Refuge Specialist, Antioch Dunes NWR

Melisa Amato

Wildlife Refuge Specialist, San Pablo Bay NWR

Meg Marriott

Biologist, Marin Islands & San Pablo Bay NWRs

Jim Griffith

Maintenance (really...the *most* important one)



# San Pablo Bay NWR Office





# Refuge Overview

- Located along the north shore of San Pablo Bay in Sonoma, Napa, & Solano Counties
- Approximately 19,200 acres
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> largest refuge in the San Francisco Bay NWR Complex
- Includes tidal marsh, mud flats, and seasonal and managed wetlands
- And...



# San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

*Supports habitat for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway...*

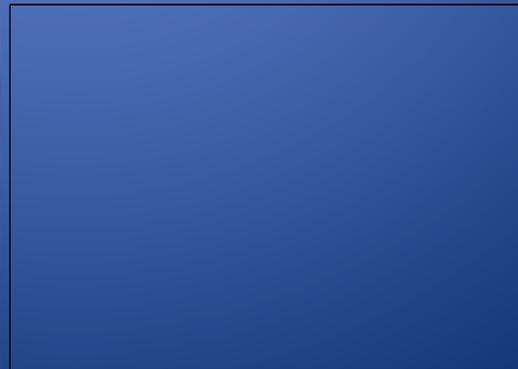


*...and endangered species!*

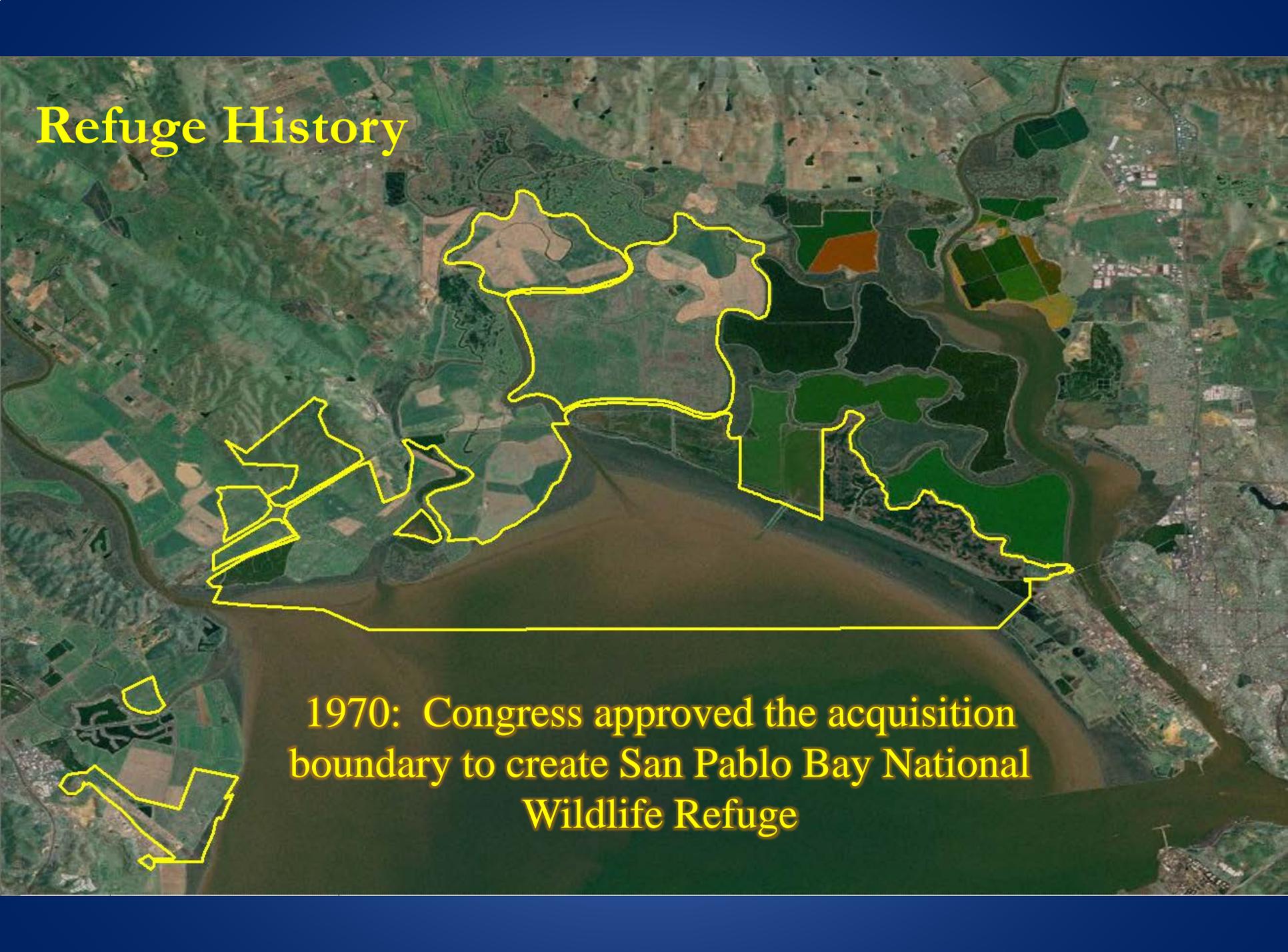
*salt marsh  
harvest mouse*



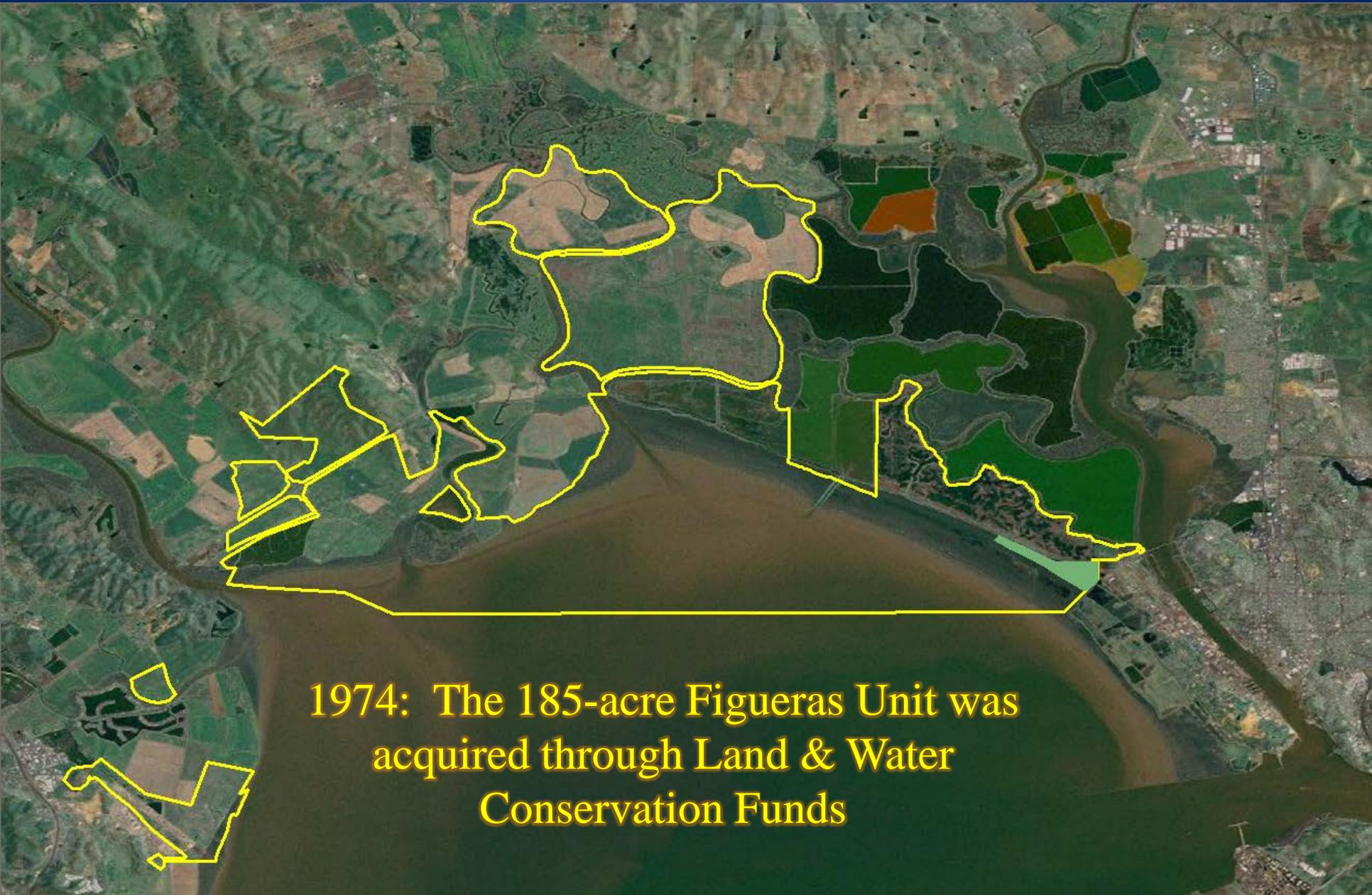
*Ridgway's rail*



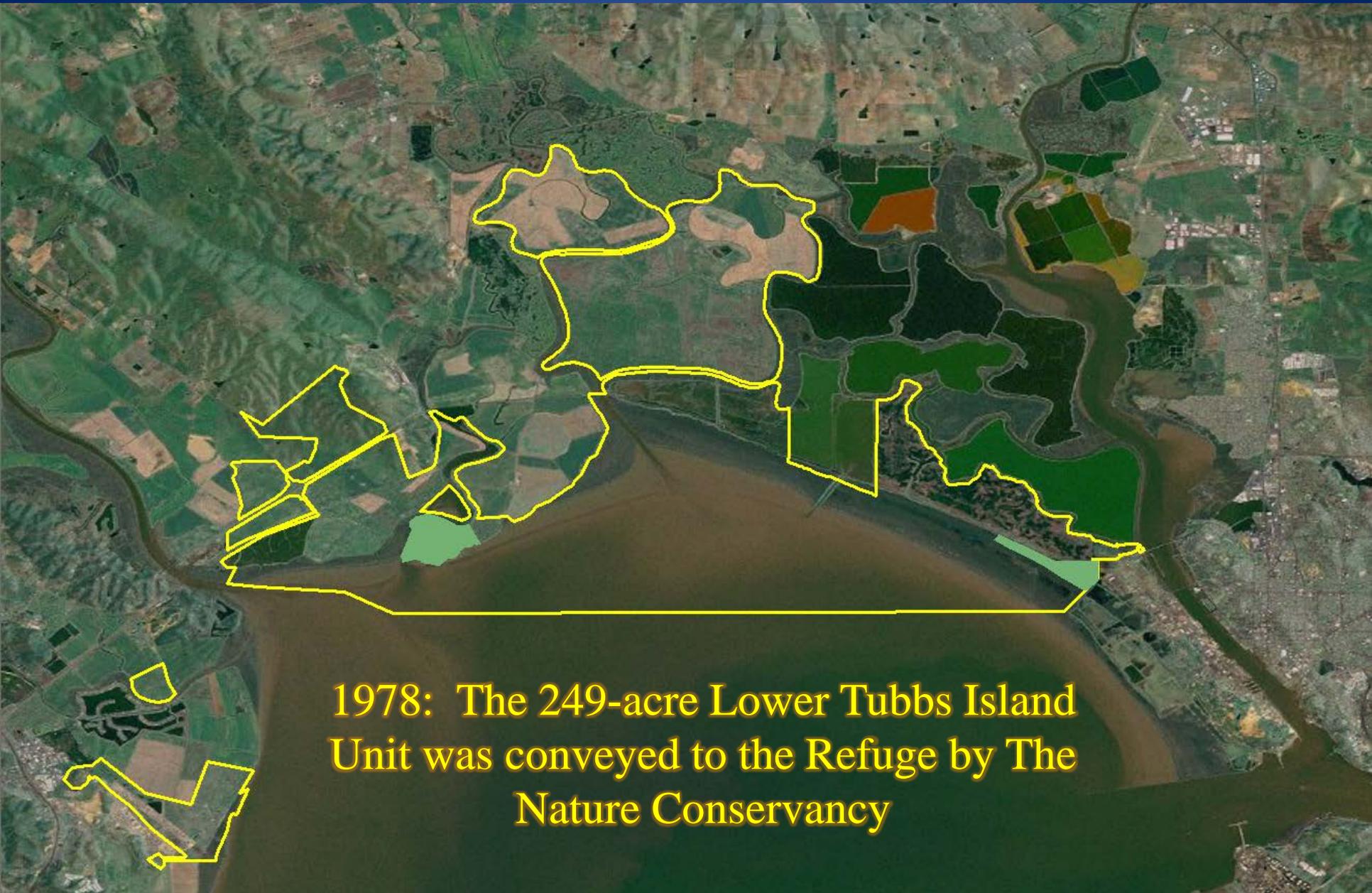
# Refuge History

An aerial photograph of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. A yellow line outlines the acquisition boundary. The map shows various land uses: green for agricultural fields, brown for bare earth or marsh, and dark green for dense vegetation. A large body of water, the bay, is visible at the bottom. In the bottom left corner, there is a small inset map showing the location of the refuge within the state of California.

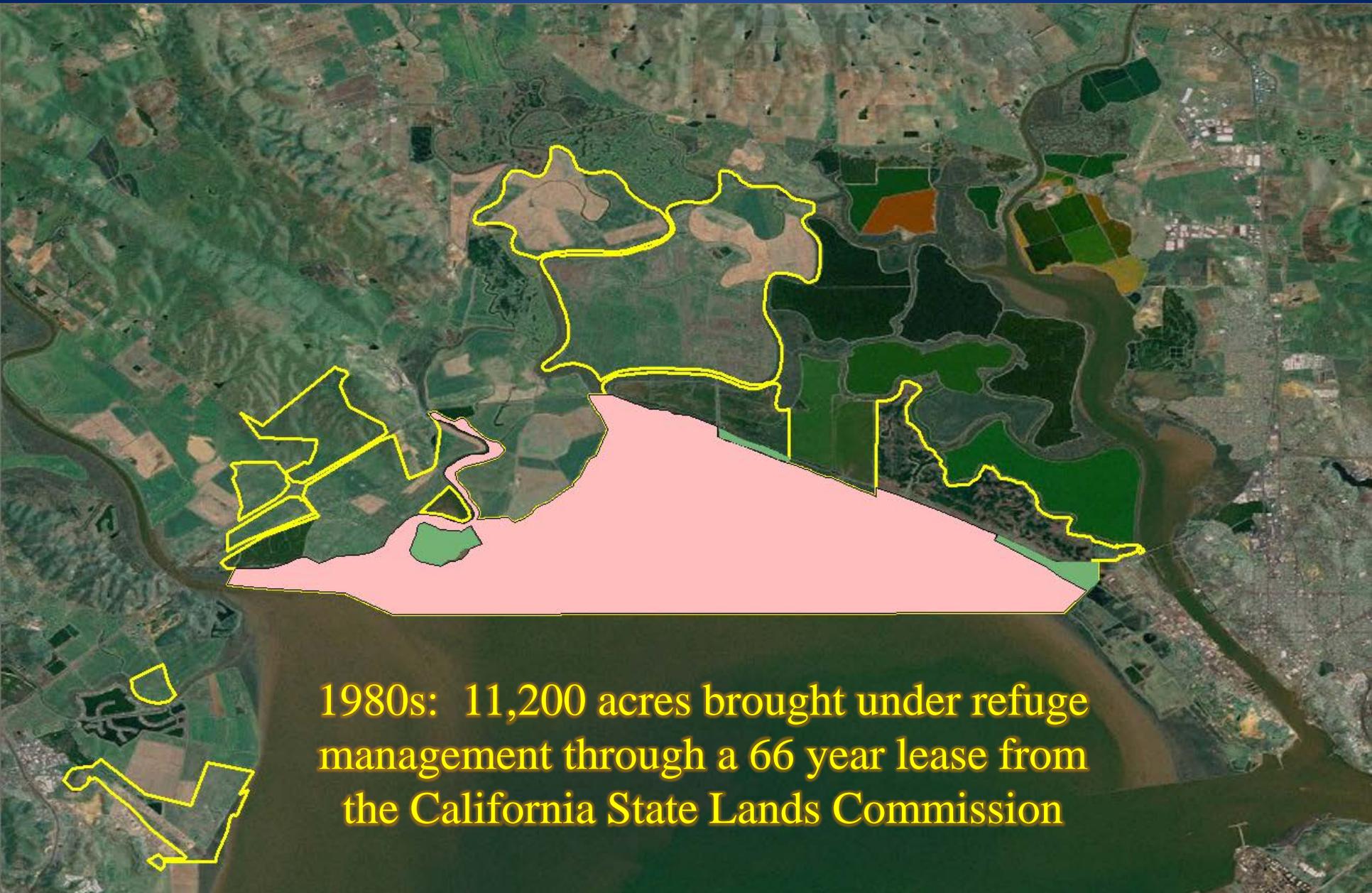
1970: Congress approved the acquisition boundary to create San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge



1974: The 185-acre Figueras Unit was acquired through Land & Water Conservation Funds



1978: The 249-acre Lower Tubbs Island Unit was conveyed to the Refuge by The Nature Conservancy

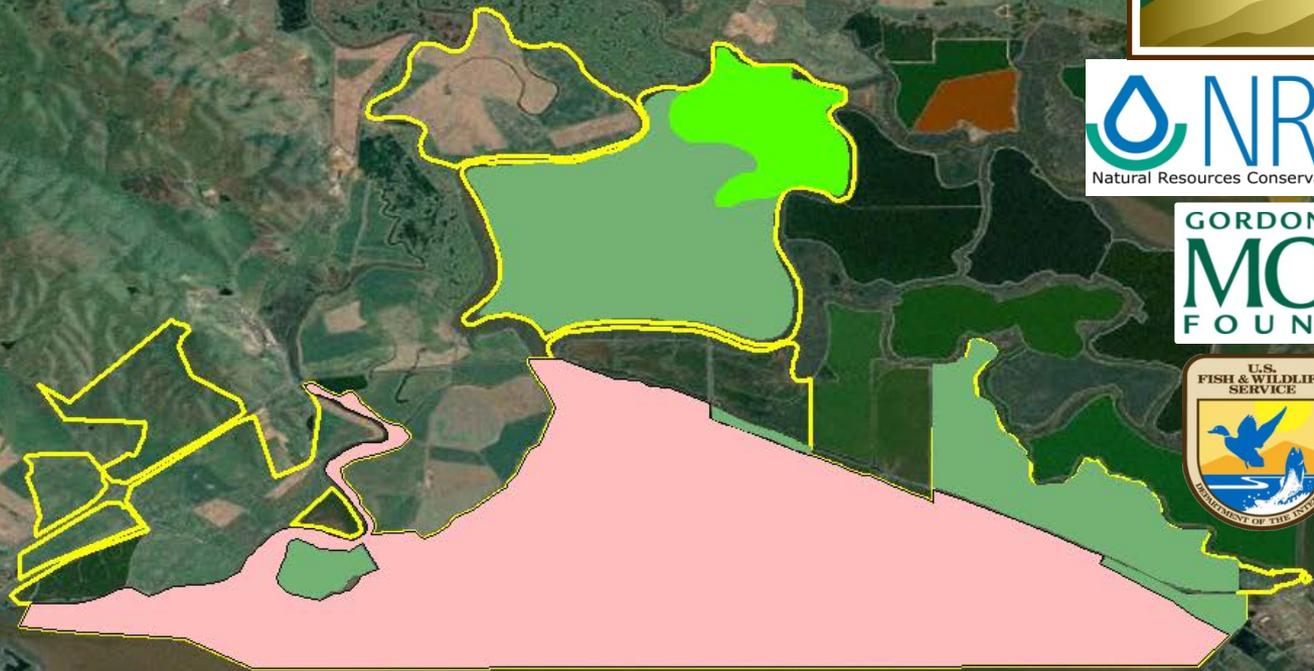


1980s: 11,200 acres brought under refuge management through a 66 year lease from the California State Lands Commission



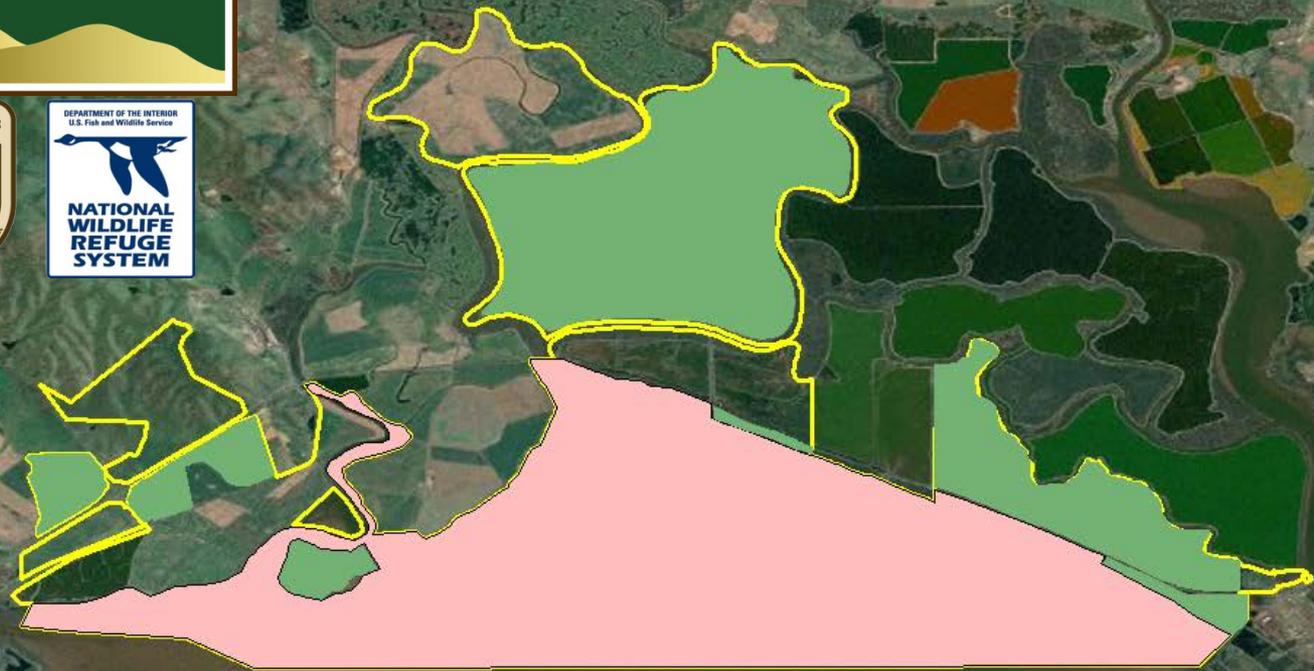
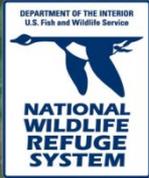


2010: Through a long effort involving Congress and negotiations, the 3,300-acre Navy portion of Skaggs Island was transferred to the refuge

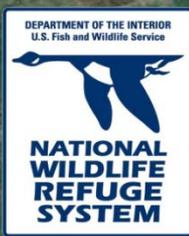


2013: Through efforts spearheaded by Sonoma Land Trust, the 1,080-acre Haire Ranch completed the Skaggs Island acquisition





2014: Working with Sonoma Land Trust, the North Parcel and Sears Point Units added 651 acres to the refuge



2016: Through continued partnering, the refuge added the 960-acre Dickson Ranch, and efforts continue to add the 53-acre Guadalcanal



# Priority Public Uses



Hunting



Fishing



Wildlife Observation



Photography

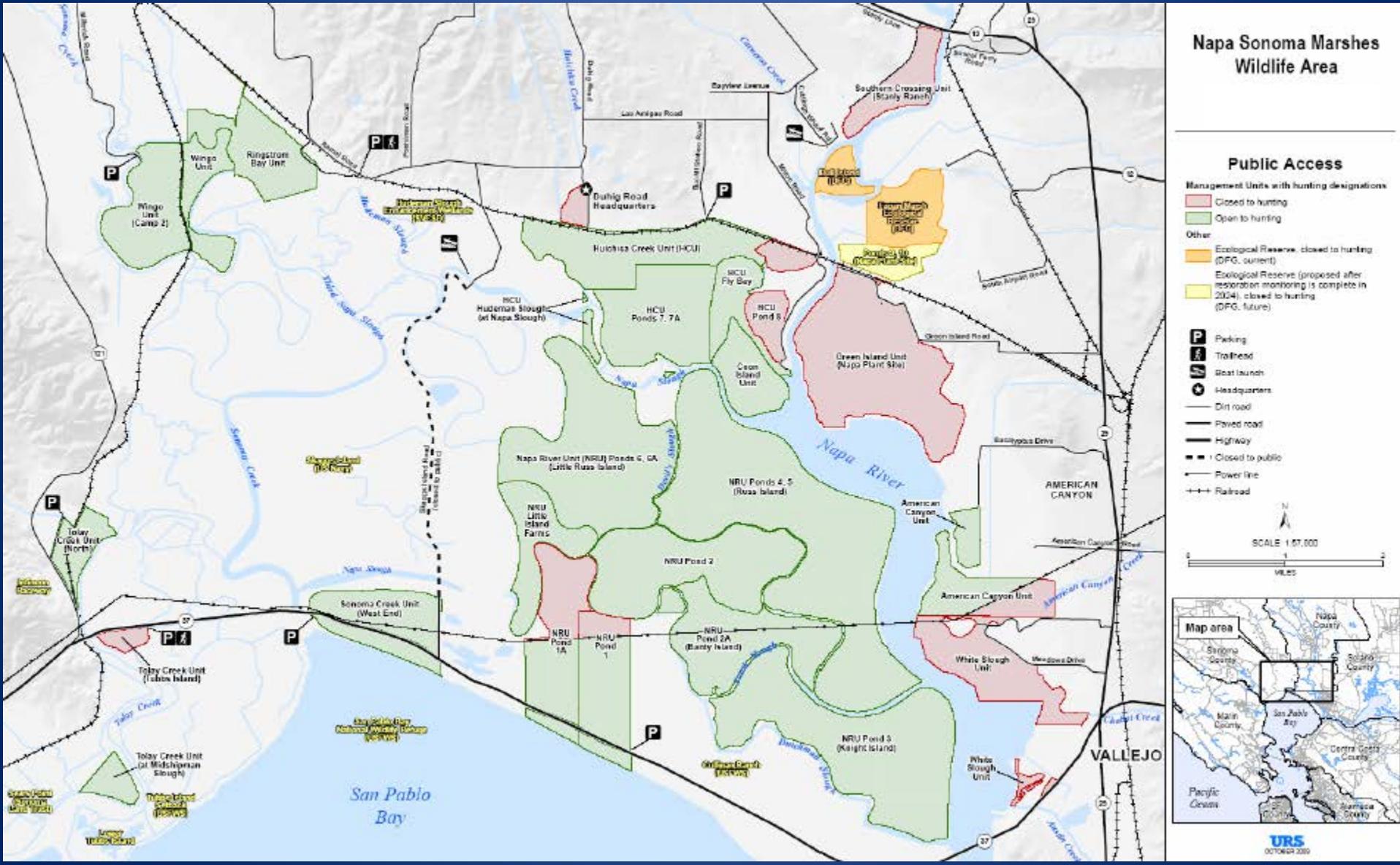


Environmental Education

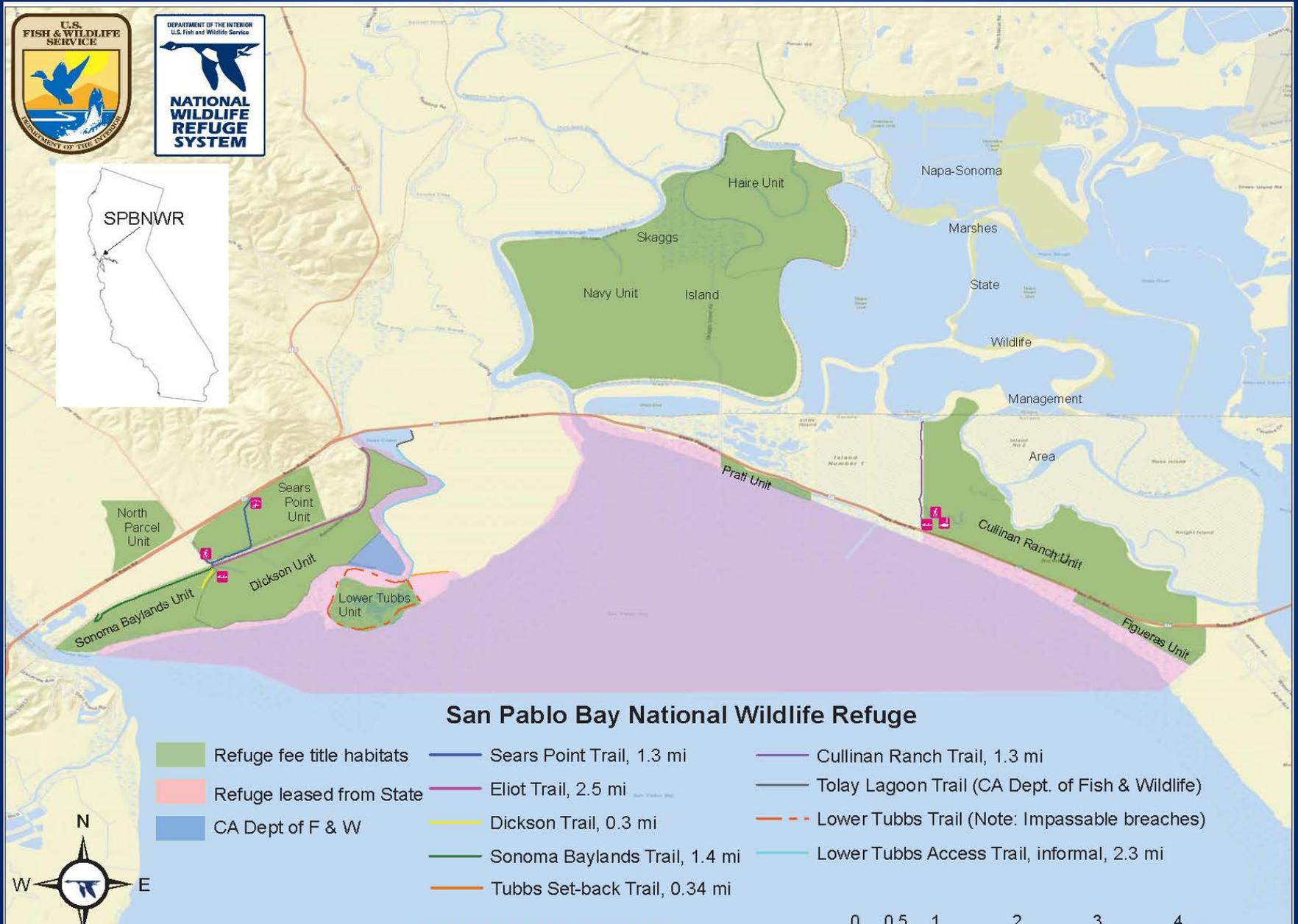


Interpretation

# Current Hunting Opportunities in the North Bay



# Current Hunting Opportunities on the Refuge



## Hunting on the Refuge

- Hunting from a boat only in navigable sloughs and the open bay
- No hunting from levees
- No Refuge permit is needed
- No check stations
- Retrieval dogs OK on the Refuge

## 2016-17 Waterfowl Season Dates

Early Season - large Canada geese only: **October 1-5**

Regular Season – ducks, geese, & coots: **October 22 – January 29**

Scaup: **November 5 – January 29**

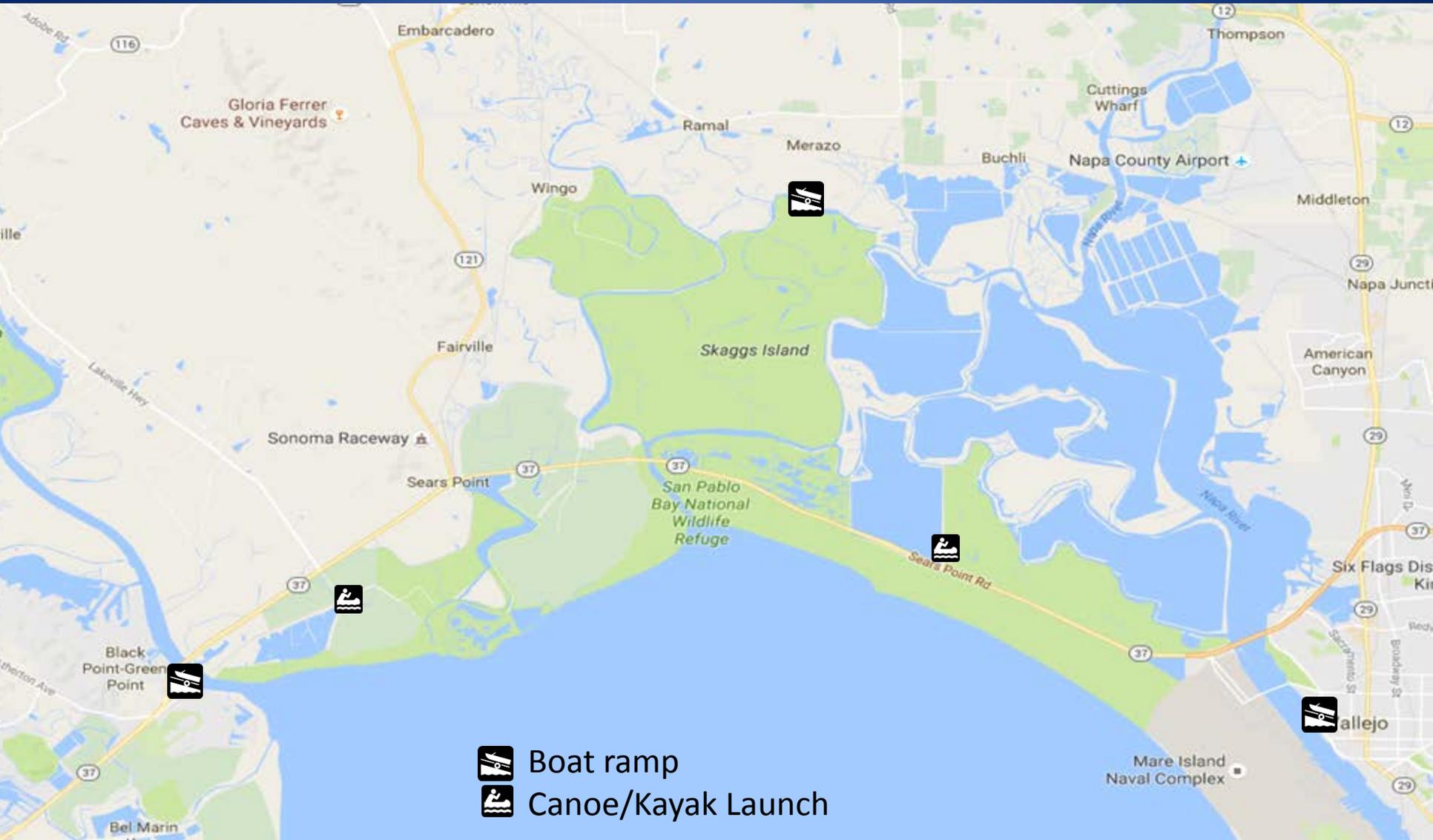
Youth Hunt\*: **February 4 – February 5**

\*15 years of age or younger and must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult.

## 2016-17 CA Waterfowl Hunting Regulations

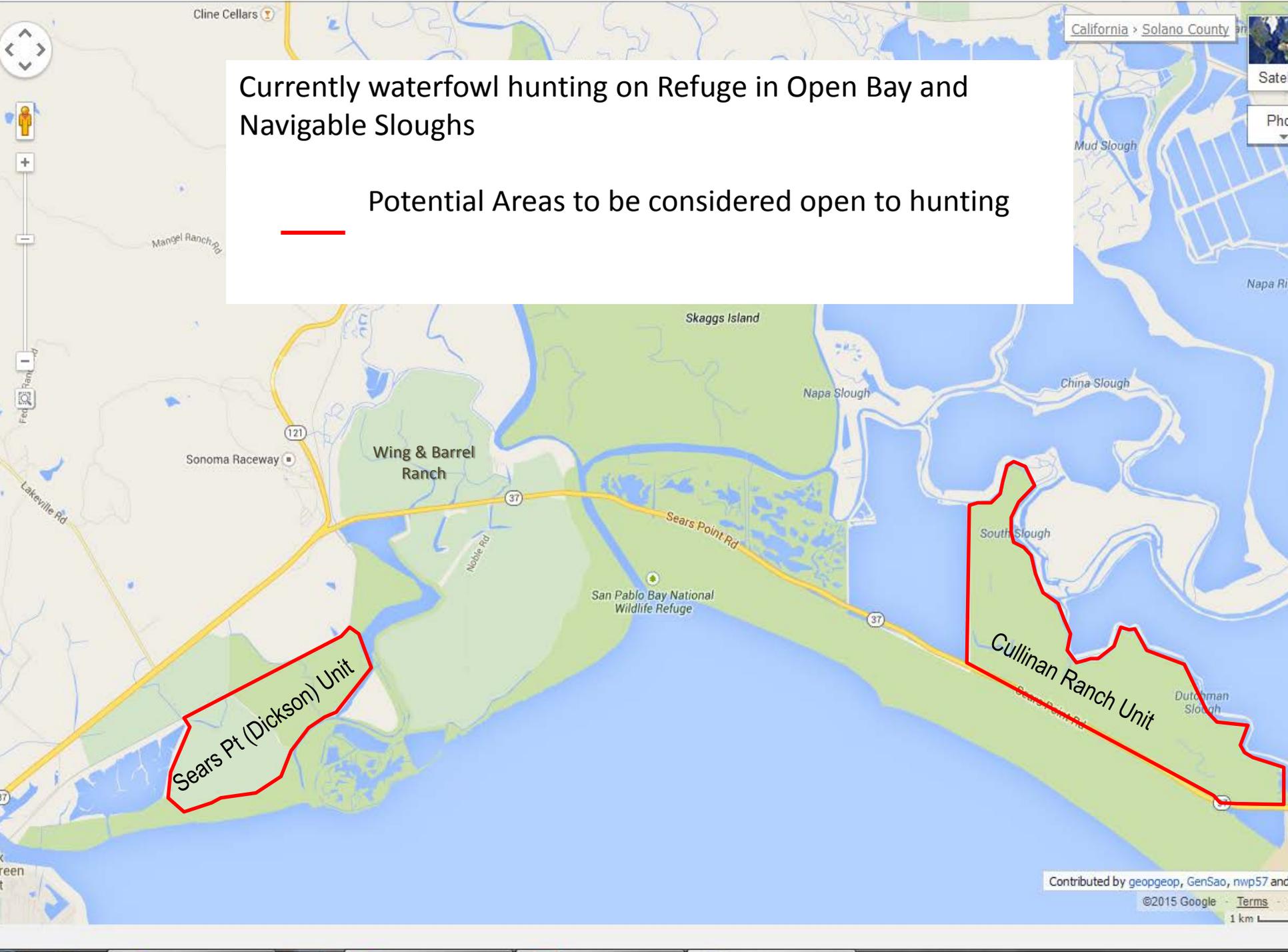
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Hunting/Waterfowl>

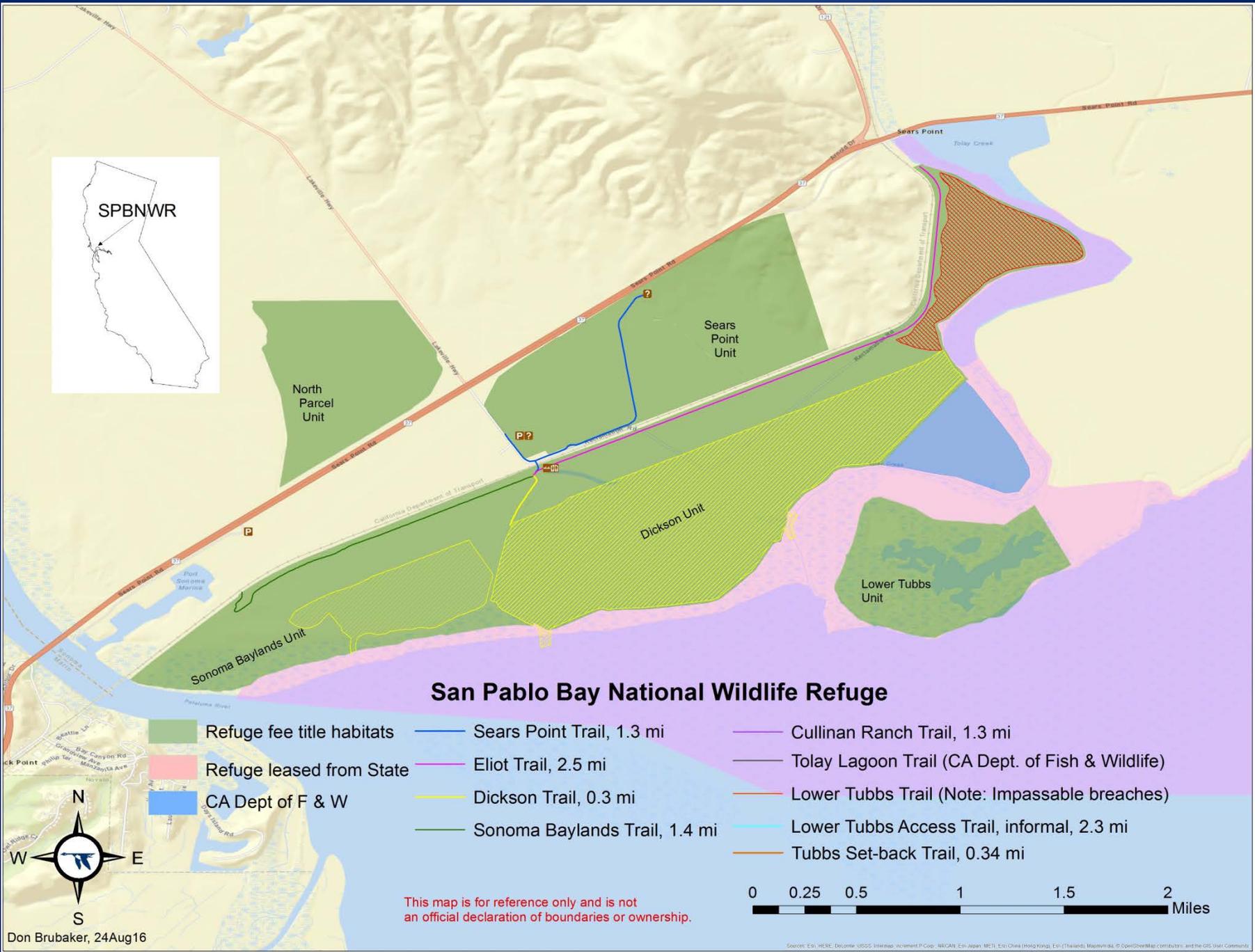
# Boat Launches



Currently waterfowl hunting on Refuge in Open Bay and Navigable Sloughs

Potential Areas to be considered open to hunting





### San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

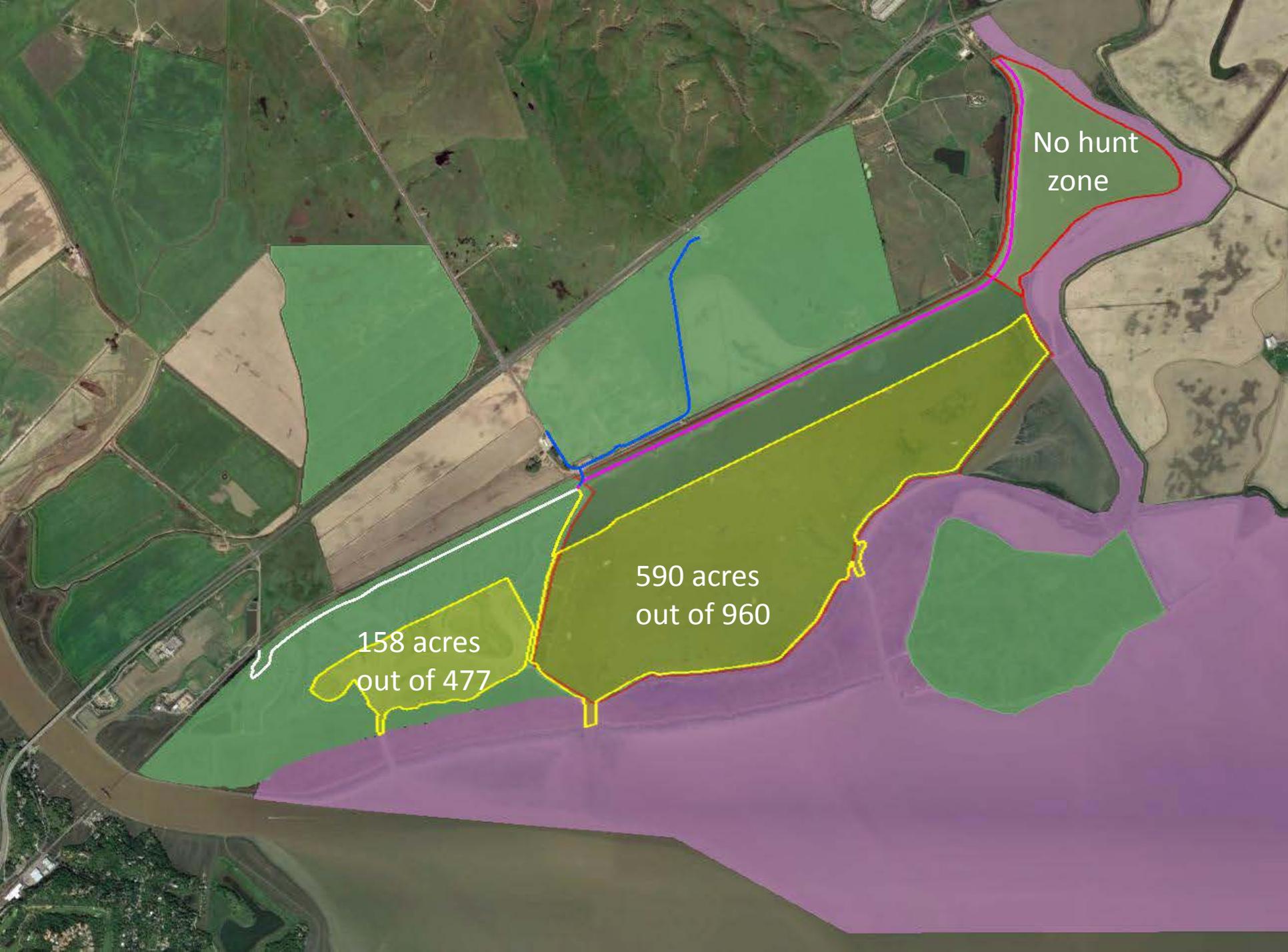
- Refuge fee title habitats
- Refuge leased from State
- CA Dept of F & W
- Sears Point Trail, 1.3 mi
- Eliot Trail, 2.5 mi
- Dickson Trail, 0.3 mi
- Sonoma Baylands Trail, 1.4 mi
- Cullinan Ranch Trail, 1.3 mi
- Tolay Lagoon Trail (CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife)
- Lower Tubbs Trail (Note: Impassable breaches)
- Lower Tubbs Access Trail, informal, 2.3 mi
- Tubbs Set-back Trail, 0.34 mi

This map is for reference only and is not an official declaration of boundaries or ownership.



Don Brubaker, 24Aug16

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, Esri, Japan, METI, Esri, China (Hong Kong), Esri, Thailand, Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



158 acres  
out of 477

590 acres  
out of 960

No hunt  
zone



~840 acres  
out of 1,200

Cullinan  
Ranch  
Unit

Beneficial  
dredge  
site

September 2010



August 2016



Dickson Unit  
August 2016



