

## **Factors Guiding the Restoration Planning and Management of California Department of Fish and Game Lands**



- **The Mission of the Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.**
- **The Department maintains native fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to people. This includes habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all species and natural communities. The department is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife including recreational, commercial, scientific and educational uses.**



## **Factors Guiding the Restoration Planning and Management of CA Department of Fish and Game Lands**

**The state's portion of the South Bay Salt Ponds has been designated an "Ecological Reserve" by the Fish and Game Commission. Ecological Reserves are areas that provide critical habitat for threatened or endangered species or species of special concern. Planning and management of Ecological Reserves is guided by the purpose for which the lands were acquired :**

**California Fish and Game Code (Section 1580 et. Sec.);**

**California Code of Regulations, Title 14 (Public Resources)  
Section 630; and**

**the policies of the Fish and Game Commission and the  
Department.**

## Purpose of Acquisition

---



To protect and provide for the restoration and enhancement of wetland habitat for the benefit of threatened and endangered species and wetland associated wildlife and to provide public access opportunities compatible with fish and wildlife management and protection.

## Department of Fish and Game Commission Policies

---

Wetlands: ... provide for the protection, preservation, restoration, enhancement and expansion of wetland habitat in California.

Use of Department Lands: Department lands may be made available to the public for fishing, hunting, or other forms of compatible wildlife dependent recreational use...whenever such uses will not unduly interfere with the primary purpose for which lands were acquired.

## Relevant Fish and Game Codes

**Section 1580:** "...to protect threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, or aquatic organisms or specialized habitat types...through the establishment of ecological reserves." "The Fish and Game Commission may adopt regulations for ... utilization, operation, protection, enhancement, maintenance, and administration.."

**Section 1584:** "...for the benefit of the general public to observe native flora an fauna and for scientific study or research."

**Section 1585:** "...department may construct facilities and conduct programs...to provide natural history education and recreation if those facilities and programs are compatible with the protection of the biological resources of the reserve."

## Other Code Sections – cont.

### *Conservation of Wildlife Resources (Fish and Game Code 1800)*

... perpetuate all species of wildlife for their intrinsic and ecological values

... Provide for beneficial use and enjoyment of wildlife by all citizens

... provide for aesthetic, educational, and non-appropriative uses of wildlife

... maintain diversified recreational uses of wildlife, including hunting, subject to regulations consistent with the maintenance of healthy, viable wildlife resources, the public safety, and a quality outdoor experience.

## Other Code Sections Affecting Management:

---

### California Endangered Species Act

#### (Fish and Game Code 2055)

“...all state agencies, boards and commissions shall seek to conserve, endangered species and threatened species and shall utilize their authority in furtherance of (this) purpose.”

## California Code of Regulations Title 14

---

SECTION 630: “Ecological Reserves are ... to provide protection for rare, threatened or endangered native plants, wildlife, aquatic organisms and specialized terrestrial or aquatic habitat types.”

Public Entry: Public entry and use shall be compatible with the primary purposes of such reserves...and... may be restricted at discretion of the department to protect wildlife or habitat.

Hunting and Fishing: As provided for in individual regulations for specific areas when compatible with protection of wildlife or habitat.

Trails: Department may establish trails in designated areas, consistent with resource protection.

## Management Objectives for Eden Landing Ecological Reserve

- **Restore and enhance salt marsh and managed saline ponds for threatened and endangered species and species of concern, including shorebirds and waterfowl.**
- **Protect habitat for several sensitive species, including some which are listed under the California Endangered Species Act or are designated fully-protected species.**
- **Provide for limited, high quality, public recreation and hunting opportunities.**
- **Provide landscape-level linkage of baylands administered by the DFG and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**

## Specific Regulations for Eden Landing Ecological Reserve



### Title 14, CCR, Section 630 (b)(42):

- **No person shall enter this reserve except on designated trails without written permission or by posted notice by the regional manager.**
- **No person shall walk, or ride horses or bicycles on roads except on designated trails.**
- **Dogs are restricted to designated trails, and designated hunting areas during the waterfowl season. Dogs must be on a leash at all times other than dogs used for hunting in designated hunting areas...and must be under voice control at all times.**
- **Waterfowl hunting shall be permitted, but only at such times and in specific areas as designated by the department. Waterfowl shall be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations.**

## **Specific Regulations for Eden Landing Ecological Reserve (Cont.)**

- **No plinking, firearms practice or target shooting is allowed within the ecological reserve.**
- **Fishing shall be permitted from boats and from shore, but only at such times and in specific areas as designated by the department.**
- **Commercial bait fishing for brine shrimp may occur only at such times and in specific areas as designated by the department.**
- **The department may issue permits to conduct biological research or monitoring compatible with the primary purposes of the reserve.**

## **What does the future hold?**

- **The Stakeholder Forum will provide recommendations for public access opportunities based on input from the working groups and the public to the Project Management Team.**
- **Those recommendations will be considered by the decision-makers as part of the overall restoration plan.**
- **The Eden Landing Ecological Reserve, as part of the area encompassing the restoration plan, will provide the public with wildlife-oriented public access opportunities.**