

Summary of Initial Stewardship Activities and Outcomes January 2006

The following bullet points provide an overview of Initial Stewardship Plan activities and outcomes over the past two years. To find more information about some of the topics listed below, please check previous ISP update postings to this page.

Summary for US Fish & Wildlife Service Properties (Ravenswood and Alviso)

Implementation of ISP continues:

- All the ponds between Charleston Slough in Mountain View and Coyote Creek in Alviso are operating in accordance with the ISP.
- Phase 2 was completed in 2005 and provides circulation of waters through controls structures in Ponds A9 through A17.
- Phase 3 will be started in spring of 2006 with breaching Ponds A19, 20, and 21 levees allowing tidal marsh restoration.
- All phases are being monitored to gain information that can be applied to future restoration activities.

Implementation of the ISP has had some unanticipated outcomes:

- Water circulation resulted in a rapid decrease in pond salinity resulting in a positive response by migratory birds - bird use increased 133%!
- Low dissolved oxygen in the ponds and slough channels continued this past summer. As a result of management experiments, DO levels improved over the first year and expect to do even better next year.
- No negative impacts to the aquatic environment have been detected from the low dissolved oxygen.

Public Access:

- Public access to the ponds behind Moffett Field and in Alviso expanded by opening over 2,000 acres to waterfowl hunting.
- Over 400 hunters used the ponds accounting for 700 user days and 1500 ducks taken.
- No accidents, no safety problems and no complaints reported to the Refuge.

Flood Protection:

- Maintenance of the ponds' levees continued to provide at least the same level of flood protection as Cargill had in years past.
- Maintenance is much more expensive than predicted; approximately \$1 million more a year required.
- Source of additional funds is not known at this time.

CA Department of Fish & Game Properties (Eden Landing)

- In Feb 2005, work for levee maintenance operations and other associated improvements to the Pond 2 and 2c systems was initiated and completed in October.
- In April 2005, DFG began operating the 2c system (~950-ac) discharging to Alameda Creek Flood Control Channel.
- April 29, 2005, the first breach for North Creek to Old Alameda Creek was implemented. This allowed operation of the pond 8A system.
- Pond 8A system began operation in May 2005.
- The final phase of the existing Eden Landing restoration project will include construction of the new water control structure for Pond 10, thereby allowing full operation of the Pond 11 system with the SF Bay breach for Mt. Eden Creek.
- In Fall 2005, DFG completed construction of the pond 6A water control structure into Old Alameda Creek, which will allow operation of the pond 6A system.