

Square Pegs and Round Holes: Adventures in Finding Restoration Projects with a Nexus to the Injury

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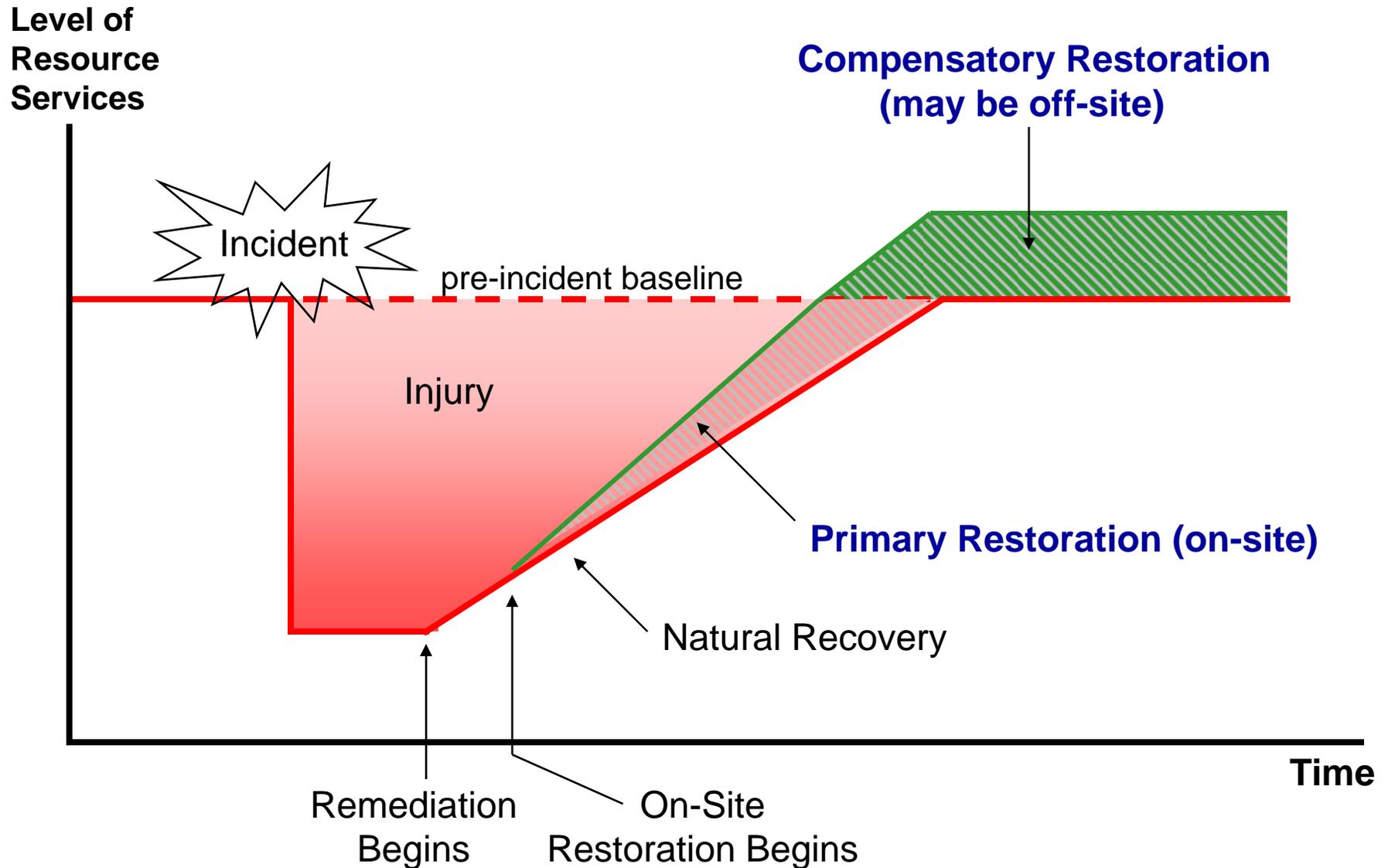
The Mission of NRDA

“to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire the equivalent of the injured resources” ~43 CFR 11.82



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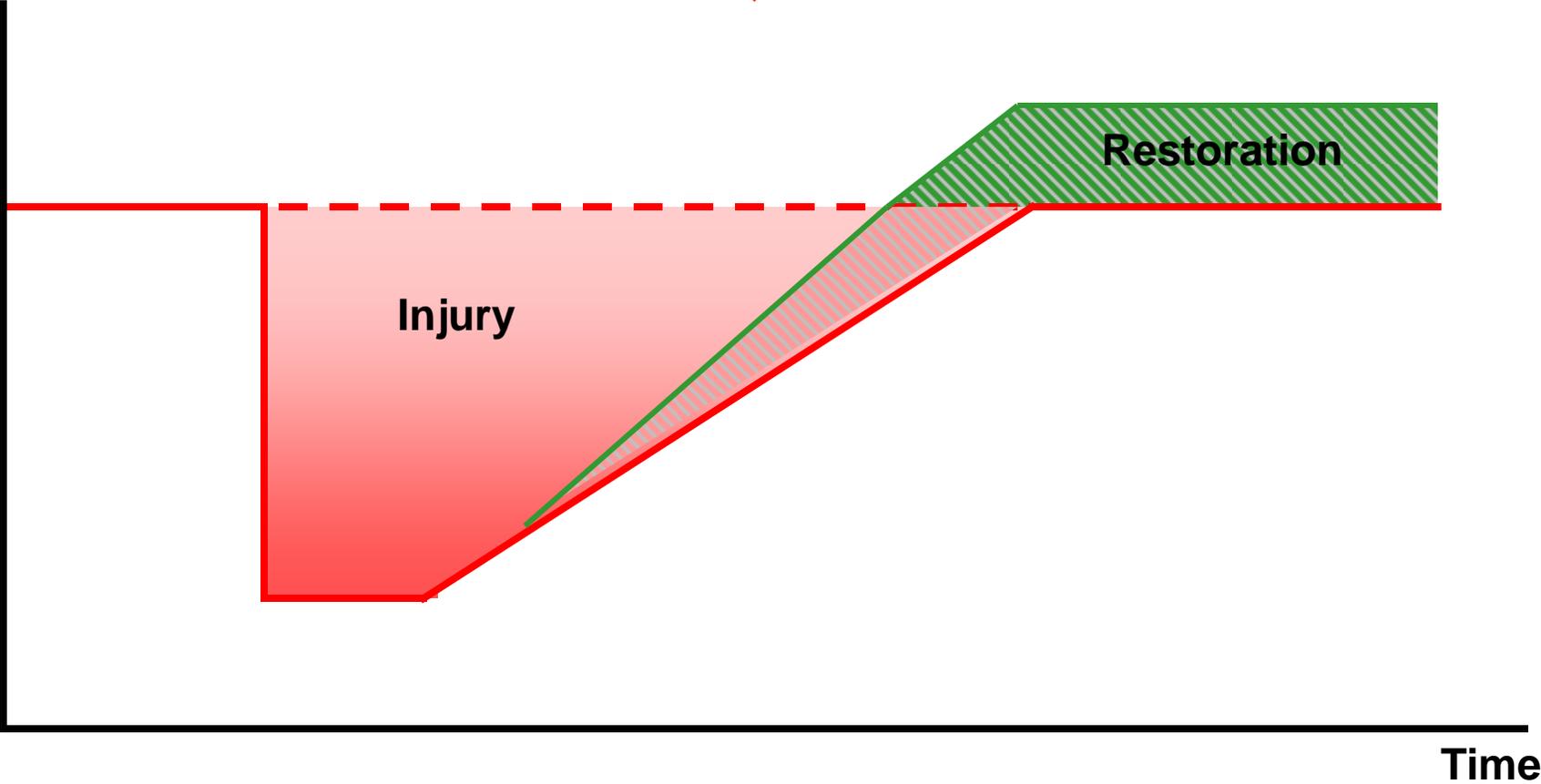
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Services: Our Unit of Currency

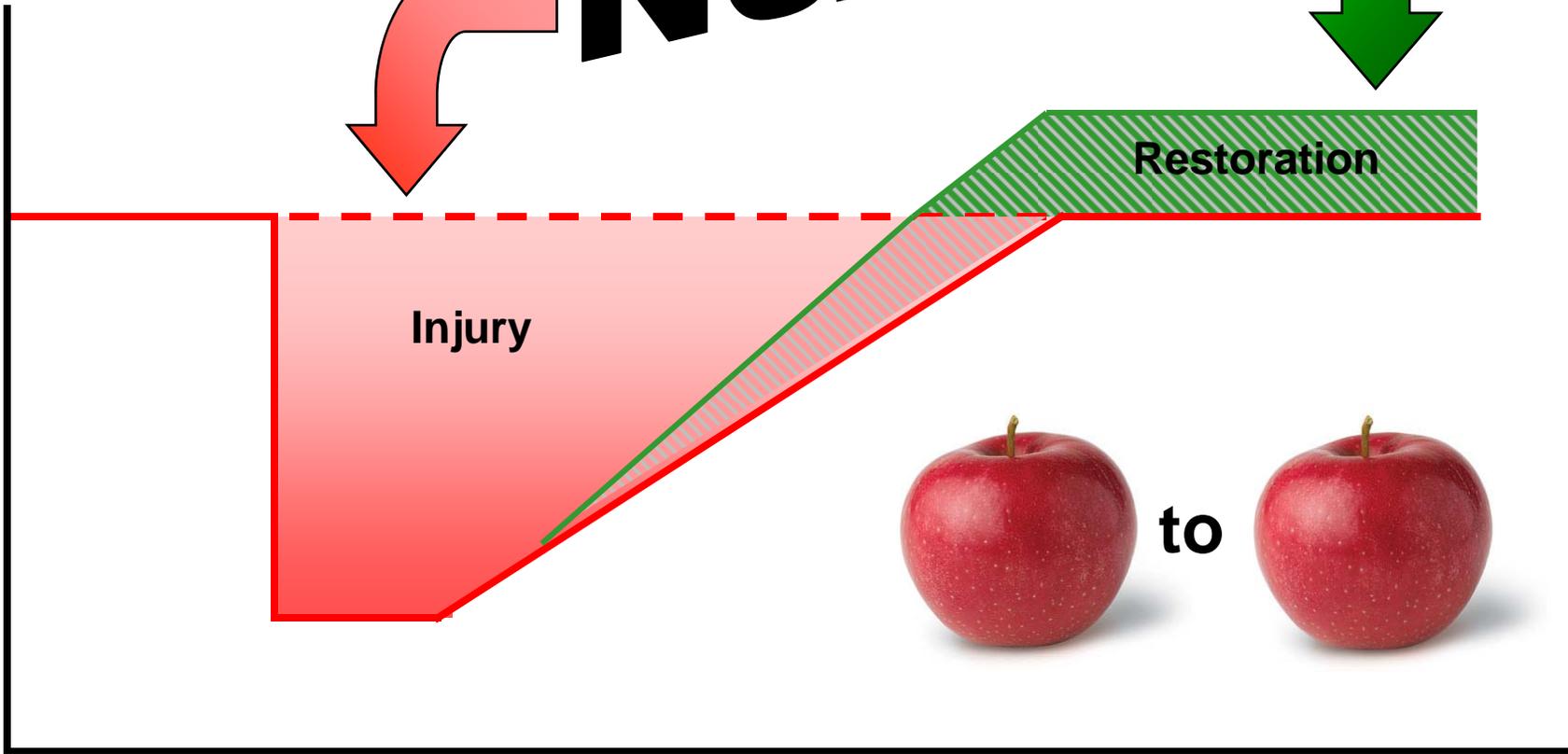
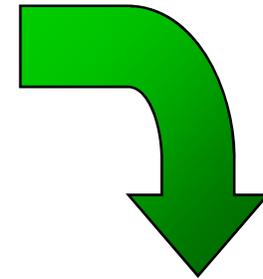
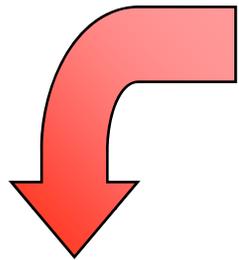
Habitat/Resource Equivalency Analysis

~~(value)~~ x (resource services injured) = ~~(value)~~ x (resource services restored)



Level of Resource Services

Nexus



Injury

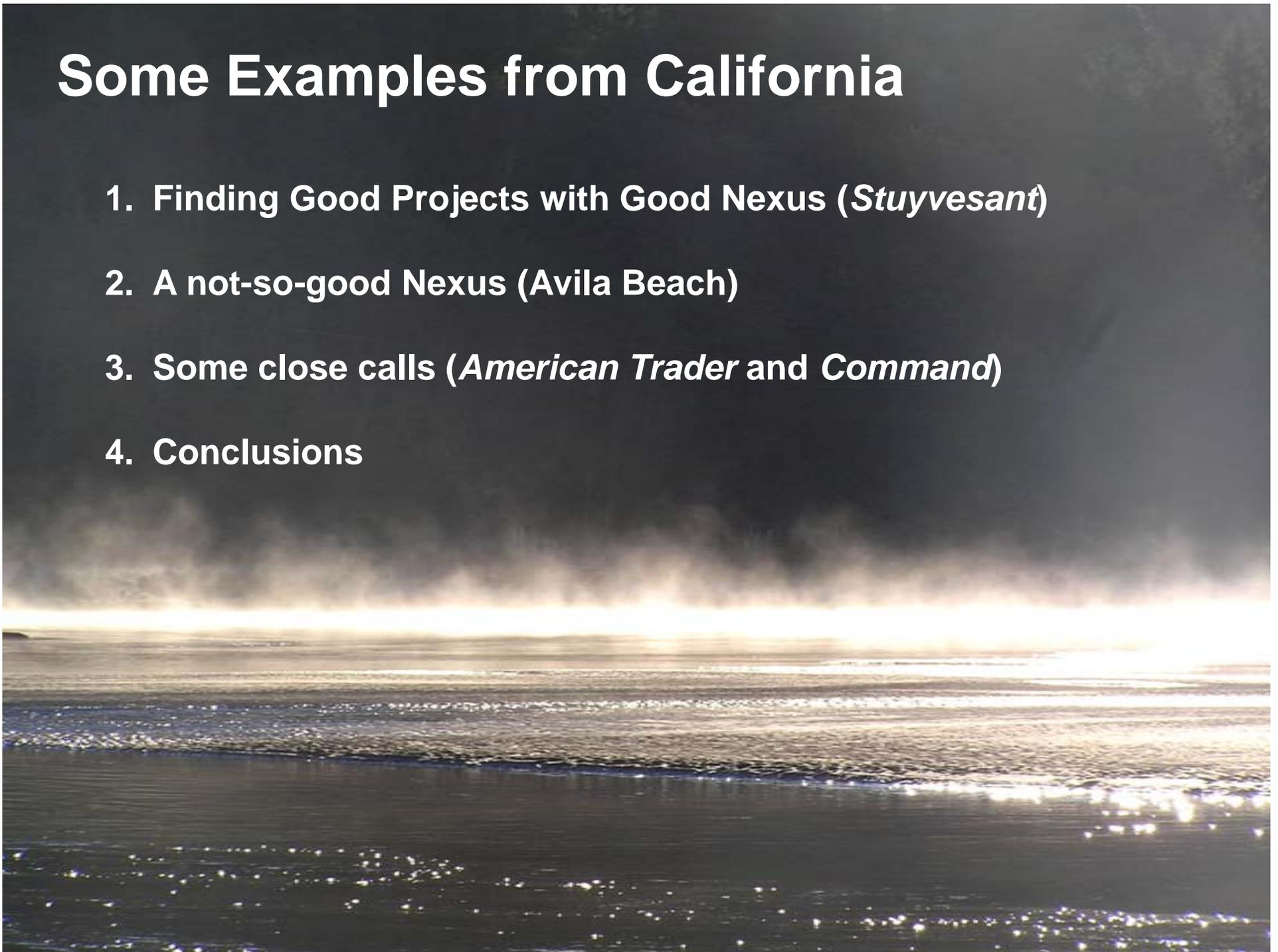
Restoration

to

Time

Some Examples from California

1. Finding Good Projects with Good Nexus (*Stuyvesant*)
2. A not-so-good Nexus (*Avila Beach*)
3. Some close calls (*American Trader* and *Command*)
4. Conclusions



***Stuyvesant* Oil Spill: From Injury to Restoration**

Injury Categories

1. Grebes & Loons
2. Pelicans, Cormorants, & Gulls
3. Rocky Seabirds*
4. Marbled Murrelets
5. Wetland Birds**
6. Water Column
7. Rocky Intertidal Habitat
8. Sandy Beach Habitat
9. Human Recreational Use

Restoration Categories

1. Grebe/Loon Nesting Habitat
2. Cormorant/Pelican Nesting/Roosting Habitat
3. Common Murre Project
4. Marbled Murrelet Projects
5. Wetlands Projects
6. Dune/Snowy Plover Projects
7. Recreational Use Projects

* Alcids (except Marbled Murrelet) and Procellarids

** Medium and Small Gulls, Terns, Scoters, Coot, Egret, Geese, Phalaropes

Category: Grebe/Loon Nesting Habitat
Project: Protection of Western/Clark's Grebes Nesting Colonies at
Northern California Lakes



**Note: Bird rehab
often does not meet
restoration criteria.**

**ATTENTION
BOATERS AND FISHERMEN**

This lake provides vital nesting areas for Western and Clark's Grebes from
➤➤➤ MARCH to SEPTEMBER ◀◀◀
We need **your** help to protect Grebe nesting colonies!

Please...

- Avoid nesting areas. (found in tule and bulrush beds)
- Stay 300 feet away from colonies.
- Minimize boat wakes. (which can swamp nests)
- Avoid boat strikes: watch for grebes in open water.
- Respect speed limits and buoy markers.
- Clean up fishing line and other trash.
- Educate others about protecting grebes.

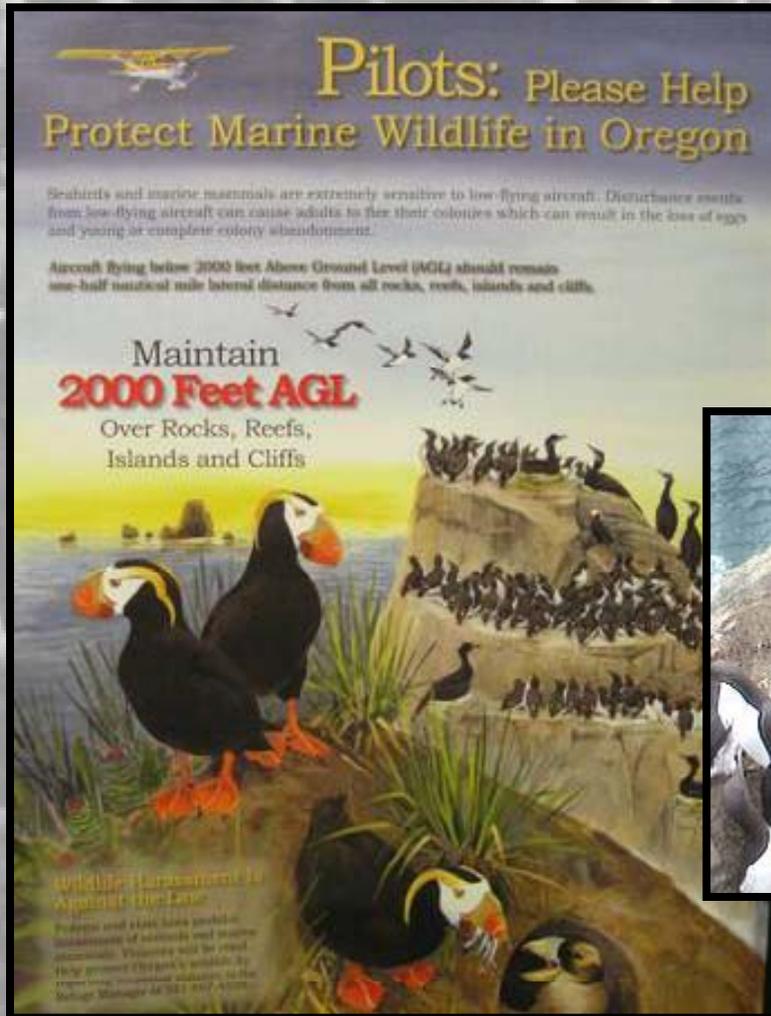
Please help these shy, elegant birds to recover their numbers after years of pollution and persecution. Thank you.

An illustration of a grebe and its chick. The grebe is shown in profile, facing right, with a black cap and a white neck. The chick is smaller and is positioned in front of the grebe. The background shows reeds and water.

**Public education and protective
buffers around nesting colonies,
for 10 years**

Category: Rocky Seabirds

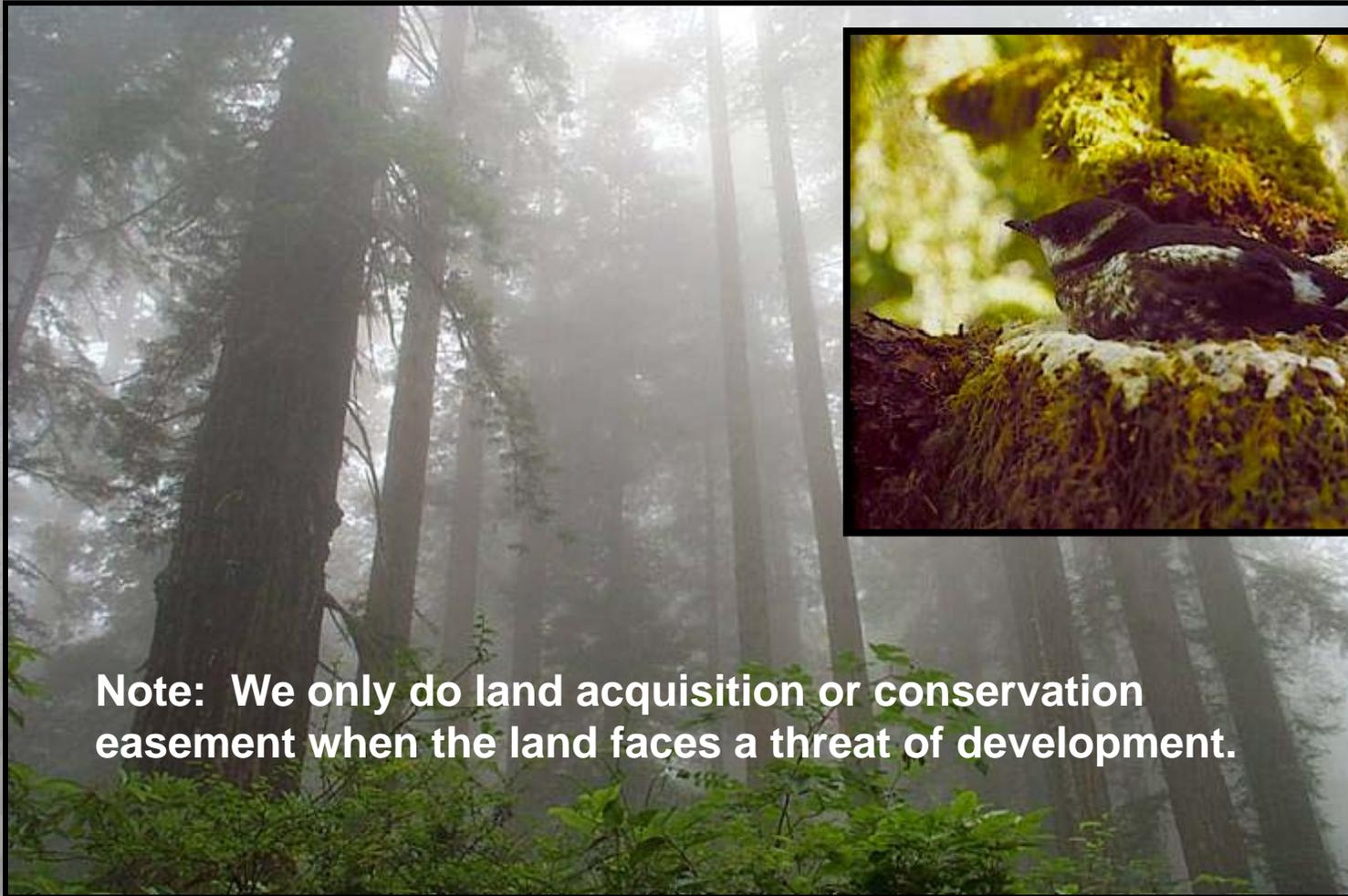
Project: Redding Rock Murre Colony Restoration



Education, enforcement, social attraction and disturbance protection at a vulnerable Common Murre colony.

Category: Marbled Murrelets

Project: Marbled Murrelet Breeding Habitat Protection



Note: We only do land acquisition or conservation easement when the land faces a threat of development.

Acquire and protect old growth murrelet nesting habitat.

Category: Marbled Murrelets
Project: Corvid Management Project



Education, enforcement, garbage control, and targeted raven removal.

Category: Wetlands/Human Use

Project: McDaniel Slough Restoration Project



Restoration of former saltmarsh to tidal action, including trails for human recreation.



Category: Dunes/Snowy Plovers

Project: Dune Restoration and Snowy Plover Protection



Dune vegetation restoration to improve habitat for nesting Snowy Plovers.



Avila Beach: From Disaster to Politics

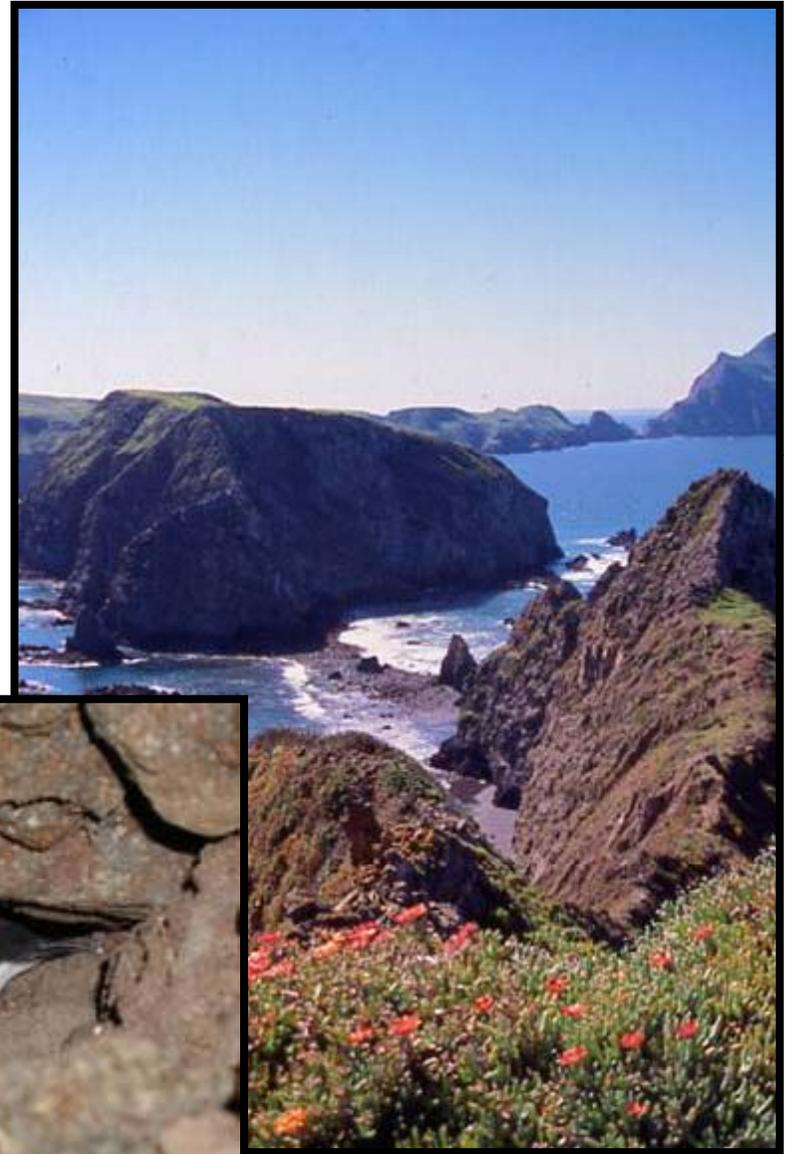
Lesson: A solo Trustee is vulnerable to political intervention.



Once digging began, the beach vanished under a beehive of equipment, stockpiled material, and destroyed buildings. Even the Avila Grocery (right), the only building left downtown, would soon be moved.



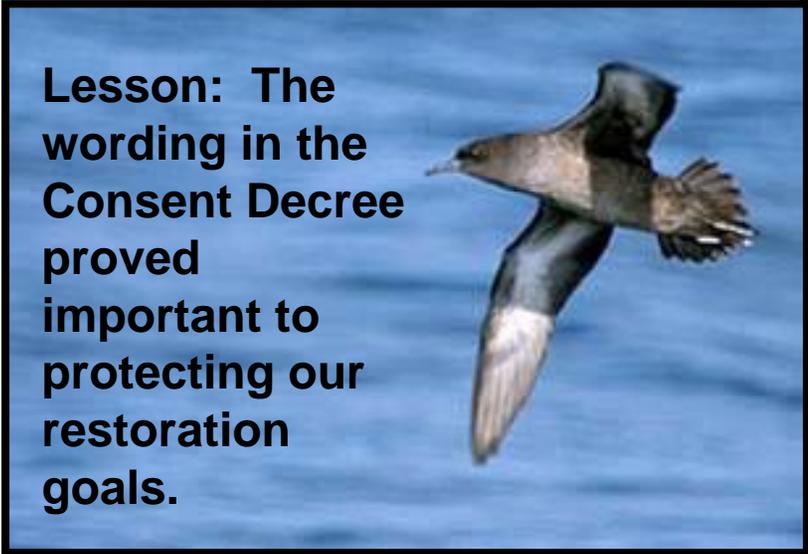
American Trader: Birds to Mud



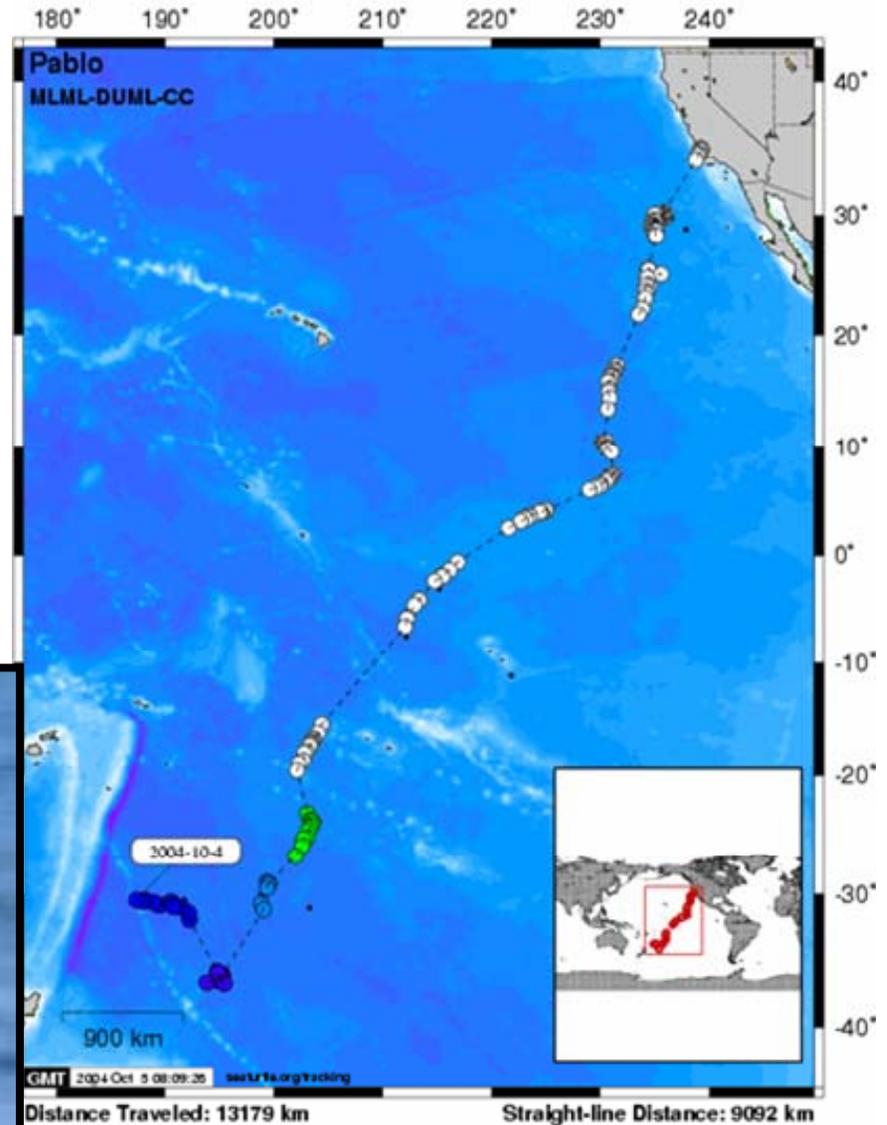
**Lesson: Having a
Trustee Council
with multiple
trustees
protected the
funds.**



Command: Sewage Treatment and Birds



Lesson: The wording in the Consent Decree proved important to protecting our restoration goals.



***Command:* Using Plan B**



Lesson: Describing back-up projects in the Restoration Plan made our lives a lot easier 10 years later.

Restore native vegetation to Ano Nuevo Island's marine terrace; contribution by constructing a "sea lion wall".

Conclusions

1. Finding good projects with a good nexus fulfills our mission and is a requirement of Habitat/Resource Equivalency Analysis.
2. Finding good projects takes creativity and a willingness to be adventurous.
3. Trustee teamwork and good legal support (e.g. in Consent Decrees and Restoration Plans) will help protect our mission.

