

Background

The Command Trustee Council is made up of five natural resource trustee agencies that have the responsibility of implementing restoration projects to compensate for the 1998 oil spill caused by the *M/V Command* off the San Mateo County coast. A settlement from the spill allocated \$3.9 million for restoration projects to benefit birds and human recreational uses along the San Mateo County coast. Since then the council has spent 99% of the funds (which totaled \$4.8 million including earned interest) to implement nine restoration projects.

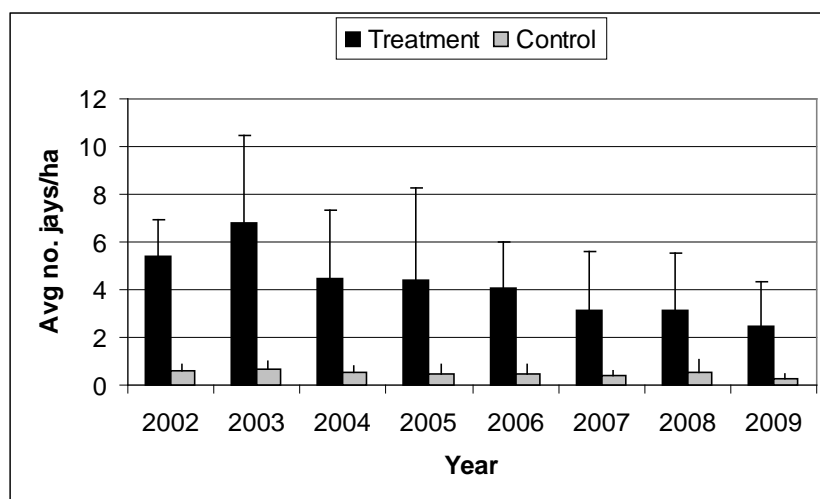
Natural Resource Trustee Agencies

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- CA Department of Fish and Game
- CA State Parks
- CA State Lands Commission

Restoration Project Updates

Marbled Murrelet Restoration in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Corvid Management: This project was designed to manage raven and jay populations around campgrounds and picnic areas, in order to protect Marbled Murrelet eggs and chicks. Efforts included new food lockers, improved garbage facilities, selected raven removal, and widespread education efforts at Big Basin, Butano, and Portola State Parks, and Memorial County Park. Monitoring has shown a steady decline in corvid numbers in the campground “treatment” areas (see graph at right). This project is continuing



with funds from the Luckenbach Trustee Council.

A final component of this project was a study to examine the potential to train jays and ravens, through the placement of bad-tasting eggs, to avoid murrelet eggs. The results were promising and State Parks is planning implementation of this technique in the coming year. A [final report](#) is available online.

Habitat Protection: Surveys at the Girl Scout Creek parcel, acquired in 2006 and now part of Butano State Park, have found Marbled Murrelets in each year (2007 thru 2009), with possible nesting in 2007.

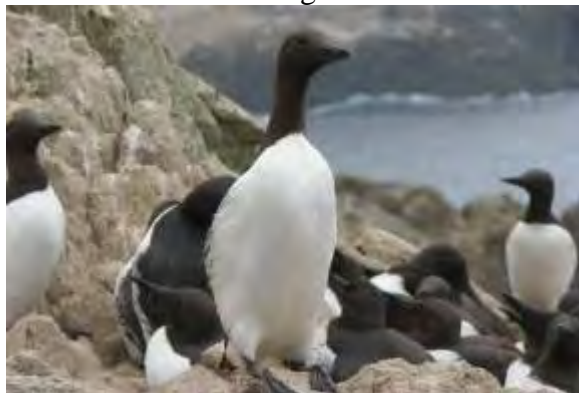
Seabird Colony Protection Program

This project established the region-wide [Seabird Protection Network](#) to protect murre and cormorant colonies from human disturbance. With education and outreach led by Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and monitoring and surveillance by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, this project has educated thousands of pilots, boaters, kayakers, and other general ocean users about how to avoid sensitive seabird colonies and view them without disturbance. This project is continuing with funds from the Luckenbach Trustee Council.



Common Murre Nesting Ledge

The Common Murre Nesting Ledge on Southeast Farallon Island continues to enhance the murre colony, which has seen a 17% increase since ledge was built.



Shearwater Restoration



The Sooty Shearwater Restoration Project, which removed rats from four nesting islands off New Zealand, continues to be successful. There are no new signs of rats and education efforts and quarantine procedures to keep the islands rat-free are in place. Satellite tags on Sooty Shearwaters have recently tracked birds leaving these islands and coming to California. Monitoring of shearwater recovery will continue thru 2013.

Recreational Use Projects

- Mirada Surf Coastal Trail connection – opened in September 2009.
- Seal Cove Stairway near Pillar Point – opened in October 2010.
- Half Moon Bay Stairs – currently in the planning phase.

Año Nuevo Island Restoration

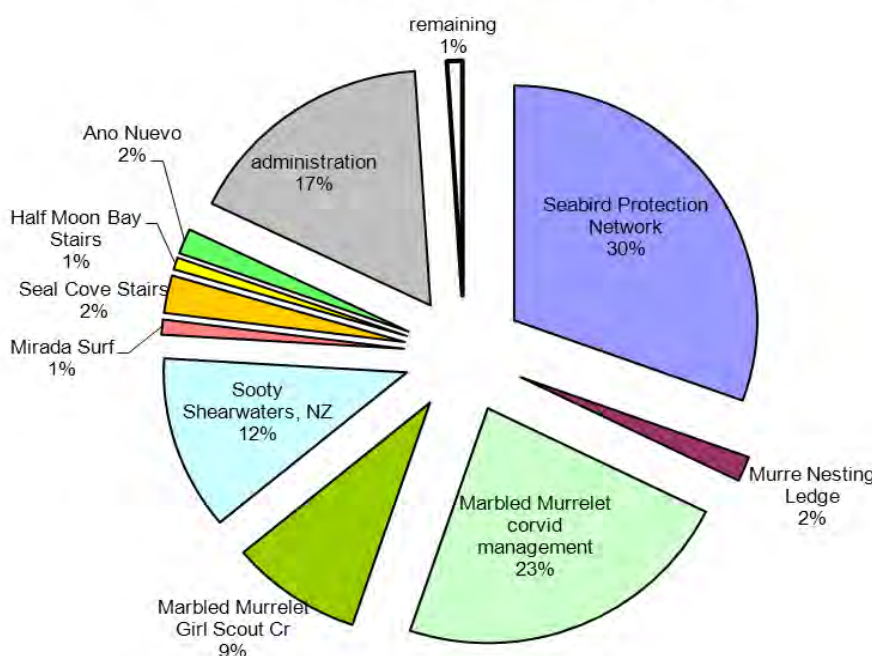


With funds available from interest and cost savings, the Trustee Council assisted native vegetation restoration efforts at Año Nuevo Island. Funds were provided toward a habitat barrier to prevent sea lions from disrupting the re-vegetation efforts. This aerial photo shows the vegetation returning.



Summary of Command Trustee Council Budget

Allocations from Total Available Funds



Original Settlement	\$3,973,159
Total Interest Expected	845,479
Total Amount Available	\$4,818,638

Seabird Protection Network	\$1,471,718
Common Murre Nesting Ledge	83,249
Murrelets—Corvid Management	1,104,205
Murrelets—Girl Scout Creek Parcel	423,000
Sooty Shearwater Restoration	577,539
Mirada Surf Coastal Trail	50,000
Seal Cove Stairs	125,000
Half Moon Bay Stairs	40,000
Año Nuevo Island Restoration	84,000
Total Project Allocations	\$3,958,711

Total Admin. Allocations	\$810,360
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Total Funds Allocated	\$4,769,071
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Total Amount Remaining	\$49,567
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