

Background

In September, 1998, the oil tanker *Command* departed San Francisco bound for Panama, where repairs were needed for a damaged tank. It began discharging an estimated 3,000 gallons of Intermediate Bunker Fuel over the side of the vessel. The spilled oil was traced to the vessel, which was apprehended by the US Coast Guard off the coast of Guatemala. After that, natural resource trustee agencies obtained \$3.9 million for restoration projects to compensate for injuries to birds and impacts to human recreational uses along the San Mateo County coast. Since then, the trustee agencies created the Command Trustee Council, which has now spent 94% of the funds (which totaled \$4.9 million including earned interest) to implement eight 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

Seabird Colony Protection Program

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. Highlights:

- Created a wide variety of outreach materials, including maps for flightbooks for pilots and tidebooks for boaters.
 - Presented information at several pilot associations, military installations, kayaker group meetings, and air and boat shows.
 - Strengthened partnership with the Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration to protect sensitive sites.
 - Educated stakeholders during the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, which resulted in the adoption of seven no-go zones around seabird colonies.
 - Began an enforcement component to the project.
 - Worked with other trustee agencies in northern and southern California to start similar projects in those areas.
- The project is currently making plans to install 27 buoys around the special closure areas.



Common Murre Nesting Ledge

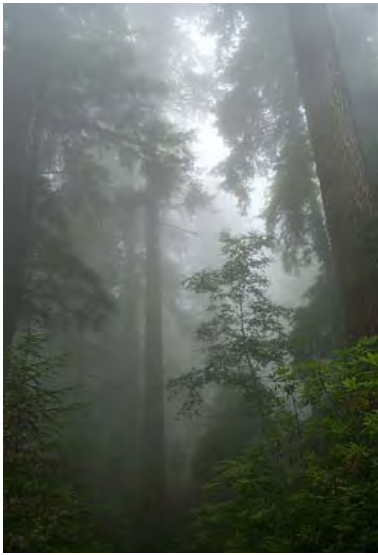
The Common Murre Nesting Ledge on Southeast Farallon Island is working as intended, shielding a colony of birds from disturbance from a foot path. This has led to a 12% increase in nests. The majority of the birds (376 out of 415) are in areas where the wall shields them from the foot path.



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, heading toward Chile, then to Japan, Alaska, and California before returning to their colonies in New Zealand.

Marbled Murrelet Restoration in the Santa Cruz Mountains



Corvid Management: Efforts to manage raven and jay populations around campgrounds and picnic areas, in order to protect Marbled Murrelet eggs and chicks, are continuing. The latest efforts have included new food lockers, improved garbage facilities, and additional education efforts, at Big Basin, Butano, and Portola State Parks, and Memorial County Park. Monitoring has included audio-visual and at-sea murrelet surveys, jay and raven surveys, and raven monitoring at the Dimeo Lane Landfill. While the project has been successful in reducing jay and raven numbers, and two murrelet juveniles were detected in summer 2009, a gathering of murrelet experts convened by the Command Trustee Council concluded the species may still be facing local extinction. Thus, additional efforts are being contemplated. A study is planned to examine the potential to train jays and ravens, through the placement of bad-tasting eggs, to avoid murrelet eggs.

Habitat Protection: Surveys at the Girl Scout Creek parcel, acquired in 2006 and now part of Butano State Park, continue to find Marbled Murrelets.

Mirada Surf Coastal Trail



The Mirada Surf Coastal Trail, with a contribution from the Command Trustee Council, opened in September. This trail and bike path connects Magellan Ave and Coronado St in El Granada.

Seal Cove Stairs

This project, to construct a stairway down to the beach at Seal Cove near Pillar Point, is now fully funded and will begin in 2010.

Año Nuevo Island Restoration

With additional funds available from interest and cost savings, the Trustee Council made a contribution to vegetation restoration efforts at Año Nuevo Island. Funds were provided toward a habitat barrier to prevent sea lions from disrupting the re-vegetation efforts.

Summary of Command Trustee Council Budget

Original Settlement	\$3,973,159
Total Interest Accrued	898,455
Total Amount Available	\$4,871,614
Seabird Protection Network	\$1,471,718
Common Murre Nesting Ledge	76,249
Murrelets—Corvid Management	1,023,418
Murrelets—Girl Scout Creek Parcel	423,000
Sooty Shearwater Restoration	511,962
Mirada Surf Coastal Trail	50,000
Seal Cove Stairs	125,000
Año Nuevo Island Restoration	84,000
Total Project Allocations	\$3,765,347
Total Admin. Allocations	\$794,860
Total Funds Allocated	\$4,560,207
Total Amount Remaining	\$311,407

Allocations from Total Available Funds

