

THE VALUE OF PRESERVING AND RESTORING MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT

To Residents of the Pacific Flyway

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Research Question

What is the value of conserving land along the Pacific Flyway (in the United States) to help increase migratory bird biodiversity and related ecosystem services?

Research Design

Mixed Methods

Quantitative - Stated Preference Survey
Qualitative - Focus Groups

Logistics

Location: Contiguous U.S. States of the Pacific Flyway (WA, OR, CA)

Survey: 2000 residents via Stratified Qualtrics Panel

Focus Groups: 70 participants in 10 locations along the Pacific Flyway

Survey Goals

- Derive economic value for habitat and associated ecosystem services
- Determine residents' priorities for conservation
- Inform the Forest Service's Migratory Bird Initiative Goals

Focus Group Goals

- Understand residents' sociological value for their environment - "Sense of Place"
- Understand residents' relationship with conservation and management agency
- Inform the survey so to better support residents' needs

THE SURVEY

Key Concept

To present trade-offs between different habitat conservation options:

1. Purchase "poor" quality habitat and restore to "good" quality
- OR
2. Purchase and maintain "good" quality habitat

The Details

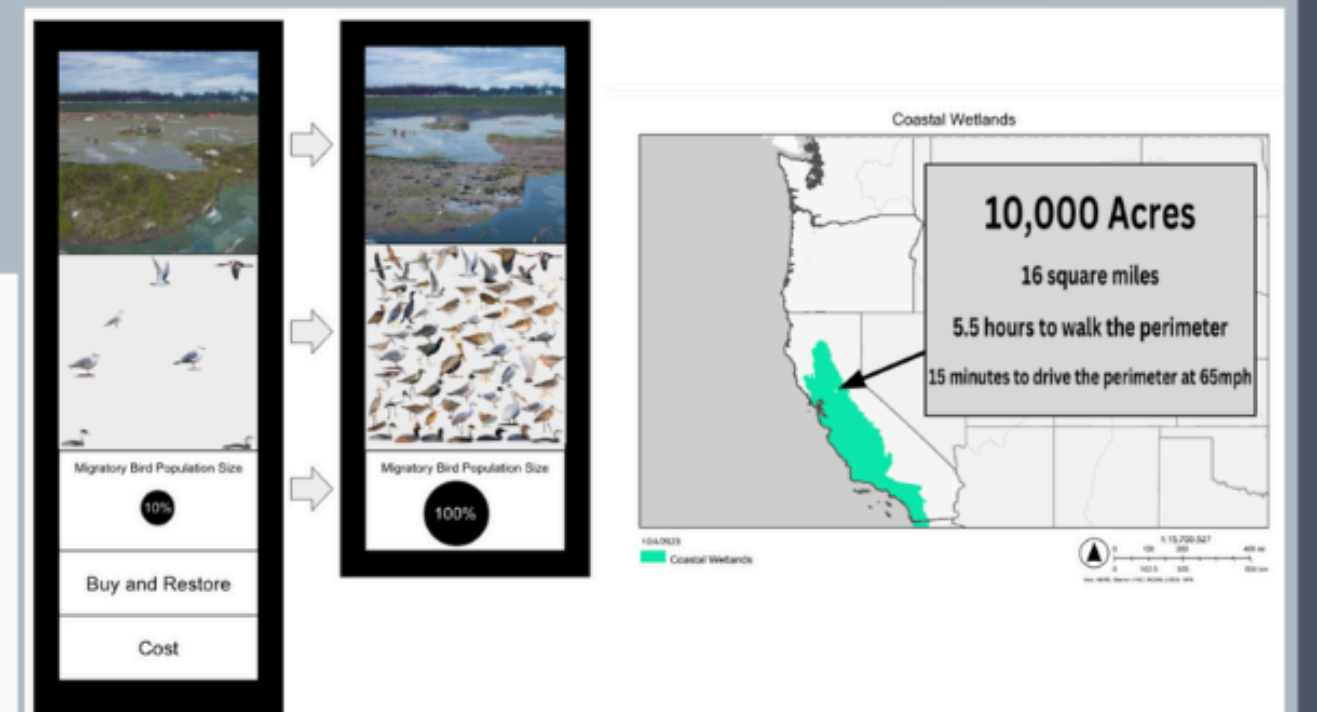
A resource management agency has the opportunity to purchase 10,000 acres of "poor" quality Coastal Wetland along the Pacific Flyway and restore it to "good."

These 10,000 acres could be located anywhere within the green on the map. A reference point of 10,000 acres is provided so that you can understand the size.

Purchasing this land would be funded through an increase in your federal, state, and local taxes. The increase would be set up so that households cannot avoid payment or alter the amount they are supposed to pay. The tax increases would last for five years and would end after that time.

To be sure that the funds are used only for their intended purpose, the funds will be administered like the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669-669i; 50 Stat. 917) which provides funding for wildlife habitat and legislatively dictates that the funds cannot be diverted to other uses. The funds would be used to maintain improvements even after the tax ends in five years.

To purchase and restore these 10,000 acres of "poor" quality Coastal Wetland, an advisory referendum would need to pass to increase taxes. The increase in taxes to your household would be \$100. This increase would last for 5 years, starting in 2024 and ending in 2029.

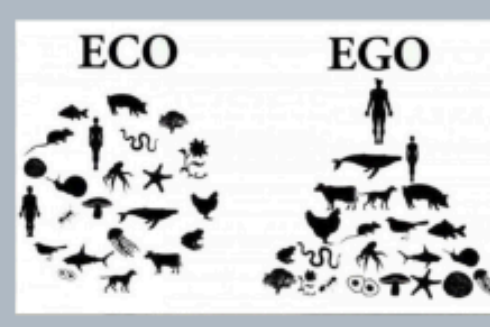


Your taxes would increase by \$100 per year, for the next 5 years, to fund this purchase of 10,000 acres of "poor" quality habitat type and restore it to "good." How do you vote?

- I vote "No"
- I vote "Yes"

THE FOCUS GROUPS

Key Questions



Main Takeaway

On the whole, people view the environment as part of their home. They resent limitations to their access, feeling that current approaches to conservation remove humans from the ecosystem.



Perspective from Initial Survey Development



Perspective after Focus Groups

Communities are embedded in and a part of their ecosystem →
Community Institutions exist within the ecosystem →
Values come from relationships within the ecosystem →
Nature's contributions to people are a give and take between different members of the ecosystem →
Management decisions (at their core) are about relationships not resources

How do we shift our management to reflect relationships?

