

# Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

## The Nexus Factor in Selection of Restoration Actions

Janet Whitlock Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office August 3, 2011

#### Law Provides for

Clean-Up



# Restoration (NRDA)





#### Northern California NRDA

Stuyvesant Kure

K.M. Suisun Marsh

Luckenbach
Cape Mohican
Cosco Busan
Castro Cove
Command
Apex Houston
New Almaden Mine

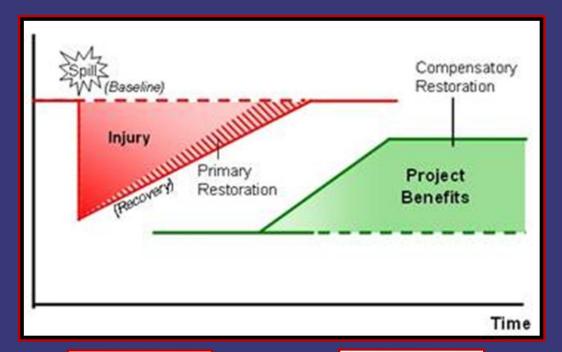


Cantara Loop
Iron Mtn Mine

>\$80 Million for Restoration

#### **Goal of NRDA:**

"restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire the equivalent" 43 CFR 11.82









#### **Common Injury Categories**

- Birds
- Fish
- Marine Mammals
- Listed Species
- Aquatic Resources
- Recreational Use
- Habitats
  - marshes
  - beaches
  - rocky intertidal
  - tidal flats
  - wetlands
  - riparian





#### Types of Restoration Actions

- Land acquisition and Easements
- Wetland restoration
- Invasives removal
- Habitat enhancement (nesting)
- Reintroduction of Species
- Recreation/Human use



#### Apex Houston

One of First Cases in California

High Mortality to Common Murres: Thousands

Dead

Mortality to Marbled Murrelets

Restoration to Benefit Both



#### Restoration at Devil's Slide

Rock:

Nexus Factor: High





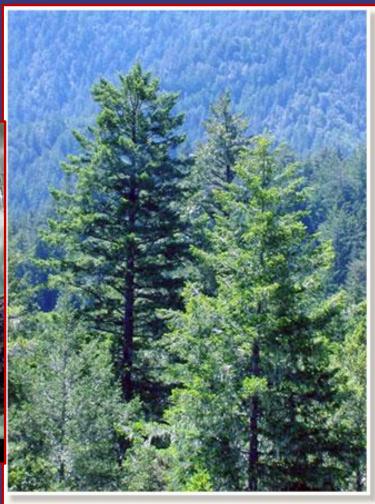




#### Marbled Murrelet

- Gazos Creek Redwood Habitat
- 120 acres





### Acquisition/Conservation Easements of Redwood Forest

- Protection of over 800 acres
  - Command 80 acres: Girl Scout Creek
  - Apex Houston 120 acres: Gazos Creek:
  - Stuyvesant 357 acres: Miracle Mile
  - Kure 285 acres: Big Mynott/E.F.
     Hunter
  - Luckenbach (soon) 80 acres:
     Santa Cruz Mountains
  - Cosco Busan: future



#### Stuyvesant Oil Spill

Restoration **Injury** 1. Grebe/Loon Nesting Habitat 1. Grebes and Loons 2. Pelicans, Cormorants, and Gull -> 2. Cormorant/Pelican **Roosting Habitat** 3. Common Murre Project 3. Rocky Seabirds 4. Marbled Murrelet Project 4. Marbled Murrelets -**Wetlands Project** 5. Wetland birds (McDaniel Slough) 6. Water Column 7. Rocky Intertidal Habitat 6. Palmer's Point 8. Human Recreational Use **Dune/Snowy Plover Project** (Little River State Beach) 9. Sandy Beach Habitat

#### McDaniel Slough

212 Acres Returned to Tidal/Brackish Marsh





#### **Command Case**

- Oil Spill in San Francisco Bay Area
- Injury Through Oiling to a Variety of Birds and Human Uses:
  - Common Murre: Seabird Protection
  - MAMU: Old Growth Acquisition
  - Sooty Shearwaters: Restoration in New Zealand

REALLY??

#### Yes! New Zealand

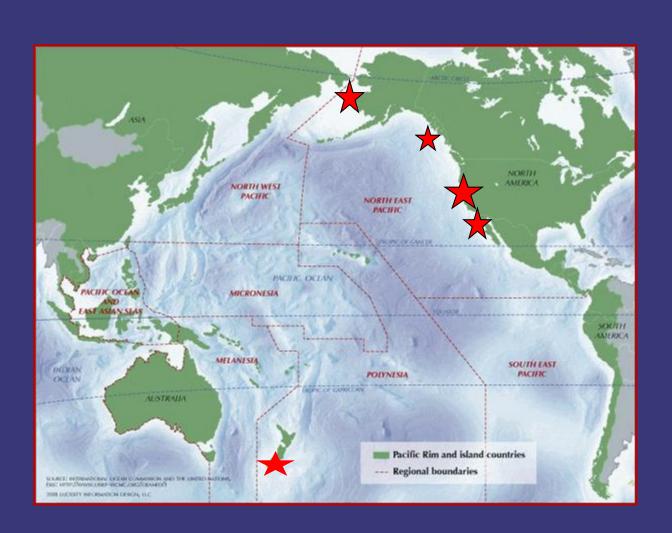
- 12 Sooty shearwaters collected in Spill
- Banded shearwater from New Zealand
- Nesting ground in New Zealand

Ground nesting degraded due to non-

native rats



Shaffer et al. 2006, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 103



#### **Nexus Factor**

- Measureable Benefit to Injured Resource
- Consider Proximity: Particularly for Habitats
- Consider Species Life History
  - wintering/breeding grounds
  - species do not recognize political boundaries
  - species may spend different life stages in different habitats
- Research without Action on the Ground is not Restoration.

