



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge

*Planning Update 3 - Fall 2005*

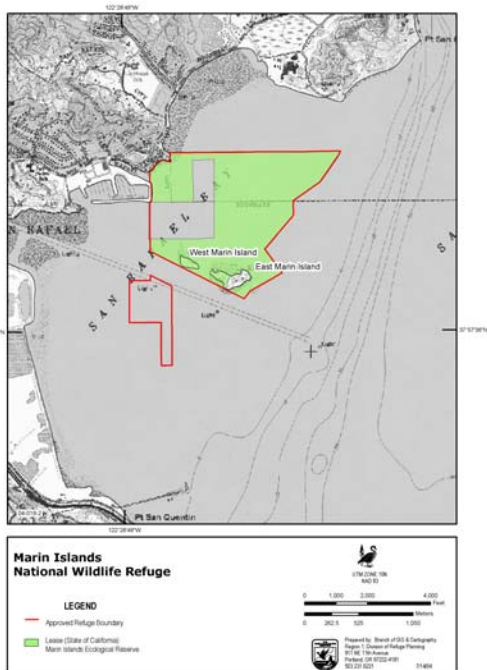
## Greetings from the Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge!

This is the third update on the Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) process. These updates are sent out periodically to local residents, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and others who have requested to be included in the Refuge's mailing list.

Since the last update, Refuge management has developed alternatives and a preferred alternative for managing the Refuge based on comments received during the public comment process, as well as the Refuge's purpose and mission. These alternatives are generally described in this update. A draft CCP and EA are expected to be available on \_\_\_\_\_. Please check for availability of the document by contacting us or by accessing the website: \_\_\_\_\_.

We expect that comment period for the draft CCP/EA will last 60 days. We have greatly appreciated your comments. We continue to welcome your suggestions, comments and questions. Our contact information is located on the last page of this update. Thank you very much for your continued interest in this process!

Christy Smith  
Refuge Manager



## Table of Contents

An Update on the Refuge's CCP Process	3
Draft Alternatives	3
Contact Us	4

## The Planning Process

- ☒ Identify Public and Agency Issues
- ☒ Gather Data
- ☒ Develop Goals and Objectives
- ☒ Develop Management Strategies
- ☒ Evaluate Environmental Impacts
- ☒ Prepare Draft CCP/EA
- ☐ Public Review of Draft EA
- ☐ Public Notice of Decision



## Marin Islands History

The Marin Islands has had an unusual history filled with stories of intrigue and potential for high gain. The Islands and the surrounding area are thought to be named after Chief Marin of the local Native American Hukueko tribe. It is suggested that he used the Islands, but not necessarily inhabited them. The little known islands were also referenced as a hideout site in Jack London's Tale of the Fish Patrol.

After Mexican ownership of California, the Islands later were ceded to the California when it entered statehood in 1850. In the early 1900s, the state had auctioned several parcels of land, including the Islands. Harbor Tug and Barge Company saw the Islands as a logical investment choice with the potential to act as a natural footing for the then construction of the Richmond Bridge. However, that potential never came to fruition. Structures were later built by the private owners to provide facilities during their visits to the East Island. The Islands were later sold and purchased by a number of donors to be established as a National Wildlife Refuge and State Ecological Reserve.



View of the quarry on East Marin Island.



Heron and egret colony during the Spring nesting season.

## Update on the CCP Process

Since developing the vision statement and goals, alternatives were created including a preferred alternative. A draft CCP has been completed as well as an Environmental Assessment to analyze the alternatives. The alternatives were developed with varying degrees of consideration balancing resource protection, public access and public education. A general summary of the alternatives is provided in the following page. A more detailed description of the objectives and strategies for achieving the alternatives is provided in the draft.

Once published, the CCP/EA draft will be available for public comment for 60 days. Comments will then be reviewed and changes will be considered for the draft. The final CCP/EA will then be published and made available to the public.



Young flowering buckeye.

## General Summary of Alternatives.

	Alternative A: Continue Current Management	Alternative B: Improve and expand Resource Management and prohibit Public Use (pre-industrial conditions)	Alternative C: Expand and Improve Resource Management and Public Use (proposed action)
<p><b>GOAL 1:</b> Expand and maintain various native San Francisco Bay plant and wildlife communities on the Refuge, including biological and physical features that provide optimal habitat for the heron and egret colonies as well as other coastal wildlife.</p>	<p>Current management would coordinate with local non-profit groups to continue regular plant restoration and removal of non-native vegetation on East Marin Island.</p> <p>Continue monitoring of heron and egret colony through non-profit research groups.</p>	<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Within 2 years, map extent of invasive plants and prioritize threats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use database system to inventory plants</li> <li>• Identify greatest threats to the habitat</li> <li>• Continue monitoring heron and egret colony</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Over the next 15 years, restore and maintain coastal scrub and oak woodland plant communities to 75 percent of land cover on East Marin Island to enhance and maintain optimal native nesting habitat for herons, egrets and other migratory birds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove invasive vegetation</li> <li>• Restore native vegetation</li> <li>• Assess restoration progress annually</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective 3:</b> Within 1 year of plan approval, reduce unauthorized trespassing on Refuge to limit vandalism, wildlife disturbance, and increase safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install signage prohibiting access</li> <li>• Develop outreach materials</li> <li>• Increase law enforcement</li> <li>• Study human disturbance impacts to the colony</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective 4:</b> Monitor raven predation of egrets and herons and implement predator management strategies if necessary to reduce predation to below productivity rate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor nest predation</li> <li>• If necessary, conduct removal of problem individuals</li> </ul>	<p>Same as Alternative B</p>

<p><b>GOAL 2:</b> Provide visitors and the local community with wildlife-dependent recreational and educational opportunities to foster an understanding and appreciation of the San Francisco Bay wildlife.</p>	<p>Current management does not provide recreational opportunities and is closed to the public. Non-profit organizations currently conduct approved plant removal and restoration opportunities to their members in order to promote environmental outreach. Fishing and boating activities currently occur in the submerged portions of the Refuge.</p>	<p>No public access and outreach opportunities are prescribed under this alternative. Plant removal and restoration activities by non-profit groups would continue. Fishing and boating activities would continue in submerged portions of the Refuge.</p>	<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Within 1 year of plan approval, establish wildlife education, interpretation and recreation opportunities for visitors and the local community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guided tour interpretation</li> <li>• Install interpretive displays</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Within 5 years of the plan's approval, more than 50 percent of residents within a 1 mile radius will be familiar with the Refuge's purpose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open waters to fishing and provide fishing information</li> <li>• Develop outreach program</li> <li>• Install web cam heron and egret colony as environmental education tool</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b> Provide interpretation to instill public appreciation within the community and visitors for the cultural resources and history on the Refuge.</p>	<p>Current management has not conducted any cultural outreach or cultural resource inventory.</p>	<p>No cultural outreach or cultural resource inventory is prescribed under this alternative.</p>	<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Within 5 years of plan approval, conduct an inventory and review of the Refuge's cultural resources and history for the purpose of developing outreach materials and to comply with NAGRPA requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory cultural resources</li> <li>• Provide interpretation of these resources</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Within 3 years of plan approval, take measures to secure and protect cultural resources on the Refuge through an inventory and coordination with affiliated Native American tribal representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect cultural resources through education, law enforcement and necessary technology</li> </ul>



## Help Us Plan the Future

We continue to invite comments concerning the future of the Refuge. We will be sending these planning updates periodically to interested individuals and organizations. You will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment. We anticipate that the draft will be available in November 2005.

## Please feel free to contact us

We are available to provide additional information regarding the Refuge and the planning process. Feel free to call, write, or e-mail at [sfbaynwrc@fws.gov](mailto:sfbaynwrc@fws.gov).

If you did not receive this update through the mail and would like to be on our mailing list, or if you would like to be removed from the list, please contact us.

Winnie Chan, Refuge Planner  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 524  
Newark, CA 94560  
Phone: (510) 792-0222

Christy Smith, Refuge Manager  
Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 524  
Newark, CA 94560  
Phone: (707) 562-3000

Mendel Stewart, Project Leader  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 524  
Newark, CA 94560  
Phone: (510) 792-0222



IRMA



CAOV



AECA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
Fish and Wildlife Service

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
P.O. Box 524  
Newark, California 94560-0524  
*Address correction requested*

