

Welcome!

Land Management Plan Public Engagement Meeting
Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve



Introductions

Agenda



“What is a Land Management Plan”



Breakout Group Instructions



BREAK



Breakout Groups (3 Rounds)



Wrap Up and Next Steps



LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING

What is it?

What to expect?

How to engage?



What is a Land Management Plan?



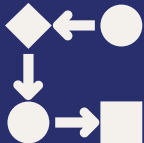
Long term planning document

- Intended lifespan 20-30 years



Multi-year planning process

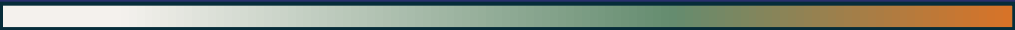
- Interdisciplinary and collaborative
- Bring together diverse internal and external perspectives



Comprehensive Approach

- Infrastructure and Public Use
- Cultural Resources
- Physical and Natural Resources





A Land Management Plan:

- A guidance document
- Defines a property's primary purpose(s)
- Outlines the management issues and opportunities
- Identifies goals and strategies for comprehensively managing the property.



What are CDFW Lands?

Our Mission

To manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public.



Type of Lands

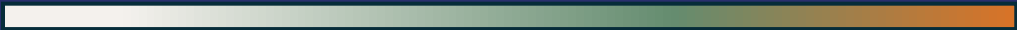
- Wildlife Area
- • Ecological Reserve
- Fish Hatchery
- Public Access
- Undesignated
- Conservation Easements

What is an Ecological Reserve?

- Designated by the California Fish and Game Commission
- Described in Title 14 FGC 630
 - All ecological reserves are maintained for the primary purpose of developing a statewide program for protection of rare, threatened, or endangered native plants, wildlife, aquatic organisms, and specialized terrestrial or aquatic habitat types.
 - Many not open to public use
 - Additional property-specific language
- Additional Codes
 - FGC 550 General Regulations for Public Use...



What is the LMP Process?



There are three components:



Resource
Inventory

1 – 1.5 years



The Land
Management Plan
Document

1 – 2 years



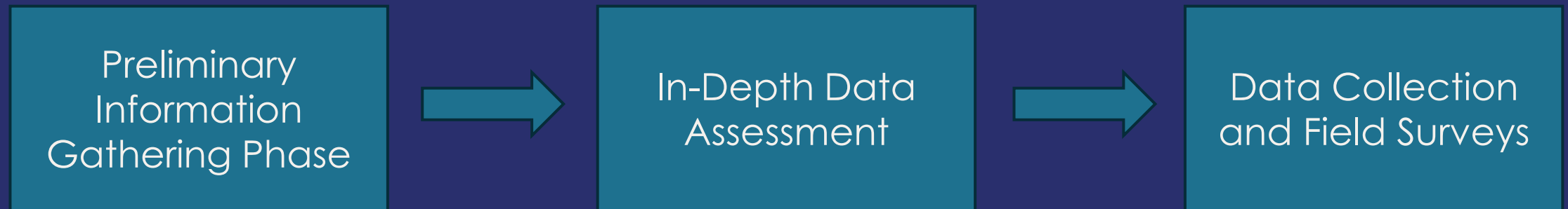
California
Environmental
Quality Act (CEQA)

0.5 – 1+ years



Resource Inventory

- Internal process that creates an inventory of resources present on, or in the vicinity of, the property.
 - Includes the physical, cultural, infrastructure, and public use resources in addition to the biological resources
- Highlights data gaps that need to be filled to better inform the management needs of the property.



Resource Inventory Actions

- Review existing reports, e.g.:
 - Biota of the Ballona Region (Schrieber 1981)
 - Baseline Assessment Report (Johnston et al. 2012)
- Review existing data, e.g.:
 - California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)
 - CDFW Files
- Collect new data, e.g.:
 - Cultural resources
 - Acoustic recorders (birds and bats)
 - Bird surveys
 - Camera trapping



Contents of a Land Management Plan

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Environmental Setting and Management Considerations

Chapter 3: Management Plan



Chapter 1: Introduction

Provides an overview of the property and the planning process

- Where is this property located?
- Why was this property acquired?
- What is the purpose of the Management Plan?
- Are there any relationships to other existing plans?
- Who did we consult with during the planning process?



Introduction

- 577 acres
- Acquired to protect and restore one of the last undeveloped, and restorable, wetlands in Los Angeles County
- Mostly surrounded by urban development

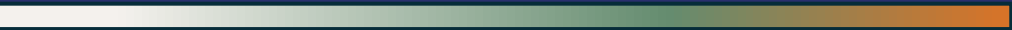


Chapter 2: Environmental Setting and Management Considerations

Provides an overview of resources present on the property followed by management issues and opportunities

- How do factors such as topography and hydrology affect management?
- What sensitive species exist on the property?
- How was the area used in the past? Currently?





Environmental Setting and Management Considerations

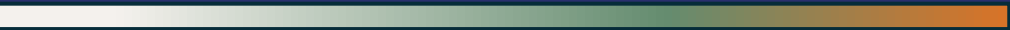
- Mediterranean climate
- Santa Monica Bay watershed
- Long human history
 - Fishing and hunting
 - Ranching, farming, recreational boating, oil exploration, etc.
 - Transportation, utility, and flood control infrastructure
 - Nature viewing, volunteerism, youth baseball
- Habitats
 - Aquatic, wetland, shrub, invasive-dominated, non-native trees
- Special status plants and animals
- Culturally significant plants and animals

Chapter 3: Management Plan

Builds upon the background information from Chapter 1 and the analysis in Chapter 2 to create Goals and Strategies

- What are the identified issues and opportunities?
- What are some management actions we can take to address them?





Example: Community Science and Research

Goal

- Promote community science and education through engagement with educational institutions and outreach.

Strategies

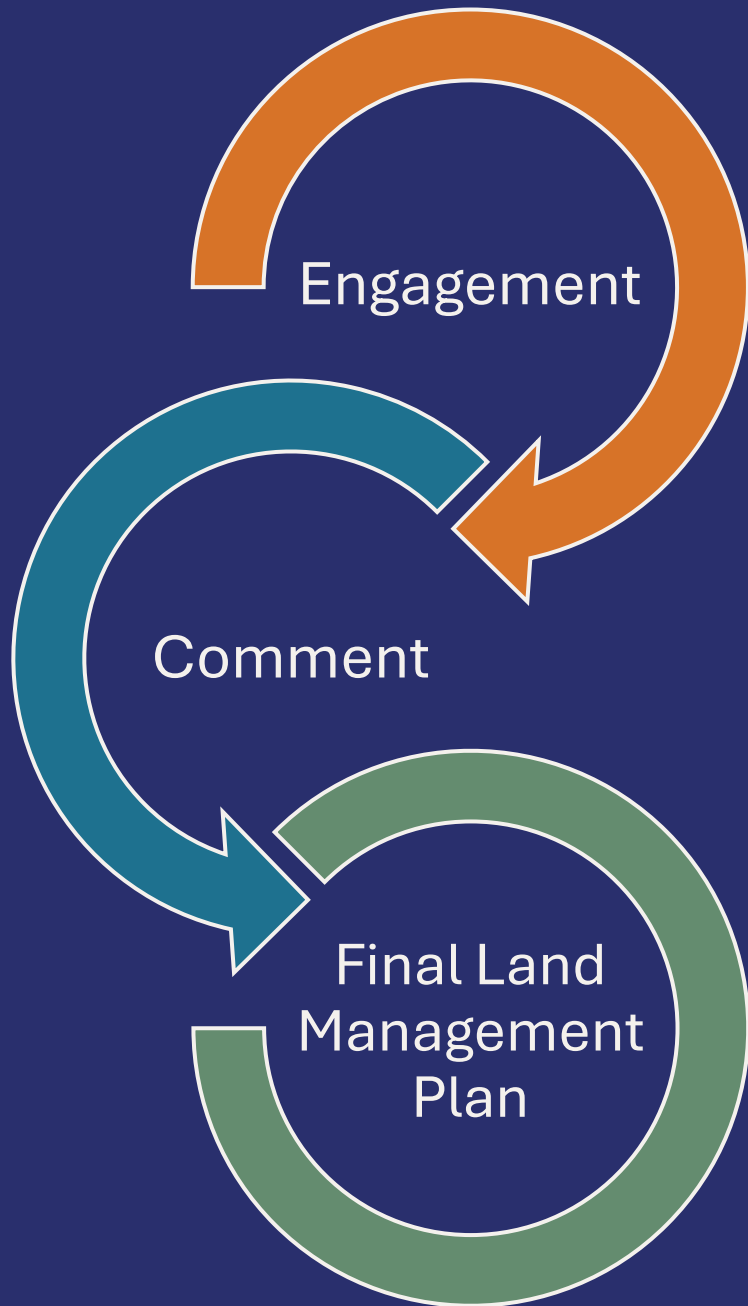
- Promote community science reporting using tools such as iNaturalist and eBird.
- Provide opportunities for community engagement such as Biodiversity Day events and volunteer restoration activities.
- Encourage local schools to participate in monitoring using visits to the Reserve and computers in the classroom.
- Develop partnerships with educational institutions to conduct research that will benefit students while helping the Department achieve its resource protection and management goals.

California Environmental Quality Act

- The LMP is a project under CEQA
- CEQA requires public entities to:
 - Disclose and evaluate the potential significant environmental impacts
 - Adopt all feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate those impacts
- Specific document yet to be determined
- If you want to learn more, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation:
<https://lci.ca.gov/ceqa/getting-started/>



How Can I Get Involved?



Plan Development

- Join the email notification list
- Actively participate in workshop
- Submit ideas

Draft Document

- Review the Draft Document
- Submit written comments

Final Document

- Available on the Property Webpage
- Enjoy the property!

Breakout Groups

- Three Rounds
- About 15 minutes each station
- Choose your station
- If a station is crowded, please choose another station for that round
- You will not be able to visit all stations
- Some overlap in topics
- Can also provide feedback through the comment cards or emailing LandMgmtPlanning@wildlife.ca.gov



Workshop Stations

Help us Design a
Balanced Future

What does
“protect” and
“restore” mean
to you?

Sense of Place
and Community
Engagement

Vision for
Volunteer
Opportunities

Complete the
Public Survey

Best Practices



Respect differing
opinions



Listen as well as
speak



Be respectful of
time



BREAK

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What does
“protect” and
“restore” mean
to you?

Sense of Place
and Community
Engagement

Vision for
Volunteer
Opportunities

Complete the
Public Survey



Next Steps

- Welcome additional thoughts via email
 - LandMgmtPlanning@wildlife.ca.gov
- CDFW evaluation of engagement feedback and incorporation of ideas
- CDFW completion of Draft Land Management Plan
 - CEQA process
 - Tribal, focus groups, and public comment

