

Guadalupe Natural Resources Restoration Trust Restoration Subcommittee Final Report October 2025

Summarizing Restoration Planning Efforts and Projects Implemented



Prepared by:
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response
California Coastal Conservancy



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Surfer's Environmental Alliance	Mark Massara
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center	Liz Scott-Graham
Nature Conservancy	Kara Smith
Center for Natural Land Management	Sherry Teresa
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County	Ray Belknap
Agencies	Individual
Cachuma Resource Conservation District	Gerald Czarnecki
California State Parks Department	Dennis Doberneck
City of Guadalupe	Sam Arca
City of San Luis Obispo	Allen Settle
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Dunes Collaborative Member Organizations

State and Federal Agencies: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge*

California State Parks, San Luis Obispo Coast District*

California State Parks, Oceano Dunes District*

Local Agencies: San Luis Obispo County*

Santa Barbara County*

The City of Guadalupe

Organizations (Non-Gov't.) The Center for Natural Lands Management*

The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County*

* Entity with landowning or land-managing responsibility within the dunes system

CONTENTS

Overview.....	7
Guadalupe Oil Field History, Contamination, Remediation & Natural Resource Injuries.....	9
Guadalupe Trust Administration, the Guadalupe Fund Committee & the Restoration Subcommittee.....	18
Restoration Planning, Public Advisory Committee & the Dunes Collaborative.....	20
Guadalupe Trust Agreement Amendments.....	24
Summary of Projects Implemented.....	26
Endowment Projects.....	26
Long-Term Projects.....	56
Interim Projects.....	58
Non-Guadalupe Projects.....	66
Miscellaneous Administrative-Related Projects.....	76
Future Restoration Efforts with California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 4 and with the California Coastal Conservancy.....	77
Conclusion.....	79
Financial Summary.....	80
References.....	81

Figure 1. Regional map of Guadalupe Oil Field Location.



Figure 2. General vicinity map and aerial photo of Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes.



Photo 1. Beach fronting the Guadalupe Oil Field.



Overview

This Guadalupe Oil Field Restoration Subcommittee Final Report summarizes the restoration planning process and the restoration projects implemented with settlement funds designed to mitigate natural resource injuries from petroleum contamination at the Guadalupe Oil Field (GOF) in southern San Luis Obispo County California (Figures 1 and 2).

In July 1998, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (then known as the California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG]), Office of Spill Prevention and Response (CDFW-OSPR), the California State Coastal Conservancy (Coastal Conservancy), the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) executed the Guadalupe Natural Resources Restoration Trust (Guadalupe Trust) and appointed NFWF as its Trustee (People of the State of California, CDFG, et. al vs Union Oil Company [Unocal], Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement and Judgement, 1998). The Guadalupe Trust was established to comply with the terms of a Settlement Agreement and Judgement between CDFW-OSPR, DTSC, the Coastal Conservancy, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region (RWQCB), and Union Oil Company of California (referred to as Unocal), filed July 22, 1998 (People of the State of California, CDFG, et al., v. Union Oil Company [Unocal], Settlement Agreement and Judgement, 1998), as a result of petroleum contamination at the GOF. As part of the Settlement Agreement, \$9,000,000 was allocated to the Guadalupe Trust for restoration of natural resources and \$200,000 was deposited into the Guadalupe Trust to fund Supplemental Environmental Projects designated by DTSC. Additionally, \$15,000,000 was allocated for water quality projects to be selected by the RWQCB and these funds were placed into a separate Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement Water Quality Project Trust.

Also, as part of the Settlement Agreement, CDFW-OSPR, the Coastal Conservancy, DTSC, and the RWQCB executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relating to the Unocal/Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement, dated July 20, 1998 (CDFG-OSPR, RWQCB, Conservancy, and DTSC, 1998), regarding use of the funds for natural resource restoration and water quality projects. Pursuant to the MOU, the Guadalupe Fund Committee was established, comprised of CDFW-OSPR, the Coastal Conservancy, and the RWQCB (MOU, Section V.A. 1998). Also, as part of the initial restoration planning effort, the Restoration Subcommittee, as part of the Guadalupe Fund Committee, was formed, comprised of the CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy, to administer the Guadalupe Trust.

Because no federal agency was a party to this Settlement Agreement, the restoration planning organization is not referred to as a Trustee Council and instead is referred to as the Restoration Subcommittee for the natural resource restoration efforts.

The 1998 Settlement Agreement was related to a March 23, 1994, lawsuit filed by California State Attorney General Daniel Lungren and the CDFW-OSPR, the RWQCB, DTSC, and the Coastal Conservancy (the state plaintiffs) against Union Oil Company of California (referred to as Unocal). This action arose out of the discharges of diluent (a petroleum product, similar to a diesel-kerosene mix), onto the land, environment, and waters of the State at the GOF, which is approximately 3,000 acres in size. Unocal acquired a 49 percent interest in the oil field in 1951 and their oil production operations continued until March 1990, with 215 producing wells and field-wide oil production rates of approximately 4,500 barrels per day.¹ As many as 23 wells remained in operation until April 1994, using steam injection for enhanced recovery, when Unocal began abandoning the oil wells.

The State plaintiffs alleged in this action that on numerous occasions since Unocal began using diluent at the GOF, diluent had leaked from the pipelines and storage tanks at several locations into the waters of the State, including groundwater, surface water and marine water, directly and indirectly.² CDFW-OSPR and the RWQCB documented that as much as 12 million gallons of diluent was released into the dunes and groundwater beneath the GOF.

Pursuant to the 1998 Settlement Agreement and MOU, the disbursement of funds from the Guadalupe Trust for natural resource restoration projects were approved by the Restoration Subcommittee, which again includes CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy. The Restoration Subcommittee approved funding from the Guadalupe Trust for ninety projects over 26 years including restoration activities, land acquisition, research, public education, and visitor serving projects. And approved funding for three other miscellaneous administrative related expenditures/projects. DTSC approved the funding allocated for Supplemental Environmental Projects from the Guadalupe Trust. In addition to the ninety projects, the Restoration Subcommittee transferred funds from the Guadalupe Trust to two accounts managed by CDFW Region 4 Central Coast Region, to continue the restoration management and maintenance activities within the dunes for the long-term; and transferred the remaining Guadalupe Trust funds to the Coastal Conservancy to implement a future project(s). After being successfully implemented, the MOU was terminated on 04/21/2025 and Guadalupe Trust was closed out on 10/16/2025.

This Final Report describes natural resource restoration and visitor serving projects that were implemented to restore natural resources injured as a result the

¹ Guadalupe Oil Field Remediation and Abandonment Project Final Environmental Impact Report March 1998

² The State plaintiffs alleged claims under Water Code subsections 13350(a)(2) and 13350(a)(3); Fish and Game Code sections 5650, 5650.1, 12015, 12016, and 12014; Government Code sections 8670.25.5, 8670.00(a)(4), 8670.66(a)(3), 8670.56.5, and 12607; Harbors and Navigation Code section 151; Health and Safety Code sections 25249.5, 25249.6, 25189.2(c), 25189(d), 25189(d), 25189(b), and 25143.10; Business and Professions Code section 17200; Civil Code sections 3479, 3480, and 3481; as well as claims for common law natural resource damages and negligence.

Settlement Agreement entered into due to the numerous diluent discharges to soil, groundwater, surface waters including the Santa Maria River and estuary, and the Pacific Ocean at the GOF.

The CDFW is the State Trustee for fish, wildlife, and their habitat pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1802. Additionally, the CDFW has authority to assess natural resource damages and implement restoration under the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act, Government Code § 8670.1 et seq. The Coastal Conservancy is authorized pursuant to Division 21 of the Public Resources Code § 31000 et seq., to implement a program of agricultural protection, area restoration, and resource enhancement in the coastal zone and areas affecting the coastal zone; to acquire land for park, recreation, fish, and wildlife habitat in the coastal zone; and to implement public access to the coast.

This Final Report does not address the long-term site remediation of the GOF which is still ongoing, nor does this report address the mitigation required per various agency permits for impacts resulting from the on-going remediation activities at the GOF required by the settlement per the RWQCB's Clean Up and Abatement Order (CAO) No. 98-38. The CAO was issued to Unocal, for the cleanup of the unauthorized discharges of petroleum and its chemical constituents to waters of the state. The CAO included a requirement for various remedial actions such as the excavation of specified sources and sumps at the former GOF.

This report also does not include a summary of projects implemented by the RWQCB since they had exclusive authority to disburse the \$15 million allocated for water quality projects per their established Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement Water Quality Project Trust.

The restoration actions described in this Final Report resulted from the work of many people who gathered information on the effects of the contamination, worked to achieve settlement, served on the many committees, subcommittees, and workgroups, and worked on restoration efforts in the field to help the Restoration Subcommittee complete its mission.

Guadalupe Oil Field History & Summary of Petroleum Contamination, Remediation, and Natural Resource Injuries

The former GOF, in southern San Luis Obispo County, is within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex, one of the largest dune systems — approximately 18,000 acres — along California's coast. The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex is part of the Nipomo Dunes – Point Sal Coastal Area National Natural Landmark, established in 1974 by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, because of its extensive sand dunes, dune uplands, lakes, and wetlands.

The former GOF is bounded on two sides by surface waters: the Pacific Ocean on the western side and the Santa Maria River and estuary/lagoon system on the southern side. Agricultural land is located to the east; and the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve (including the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge established in 2000 [formerly known as the Mobil Coastal Preserve], Oso Flaco, and the Dunes Lake, etc.) are located to the north. Freshwater ponds and marshes are also present within the oil field and surrounding area.

Photo 2. GOF including dune wetlands and the Santa Maria River Estuary.



Oil exploration and production began in the area with the Sand Dune Oil Company in October 1947. The Oil Company was purchased in 1948 by the Continental Oil Company, which completed the first commercial well. Continental completed five additional wells and shut down the field in October 1949.

By July 1950, a 28-well field expansion had begun. Unocal Corporation acquired a 49 percent interest in the field in 1951. By March 1953, field production was up to 2,000 barrels per day (bpd) from 34 wells. Unocal purchased the remaining 51 percent ownership of the field in June 1953.

Unocal oil production operations continued until March 1990 throughout the approximate 3,000-acre oil field, with gradual field expansion up to 215 potential producing wells in 1988 and field-wide oil production rates of approximately 4,500 barrels per day.³ As many as 23 wells remained in operation until April 1994, using steam injection for enhanced recovery, when Unocal began abandoning the oil wells.

In addition to the oil wells and associated pipelines, typical oil field infrastructure was constructed over the approximate 3,000-acre site. The infrastructure included tank batteries, surface impoundments, steam generators, weigh meter stations, roads, and electric power distribution equipment. The use of most of these facilities has been discontinued and the oil field infrastructure has now mostly been abandoned.

The crude oil produced from this oil field was extremely viscous, with a density that causes the crude oil to behave like asphalt at ambient conditions. To enhance the flow characteristics of the crude, two main methods were used at the GOF: diluent mixing and steam injection. Diluent, a semi-refined petroleum product, is like kerosene/diesel mixture and contains low levels of volatile compounds (e.g., benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and total xylenes [BTEX]) that are frequently associated with petroleum products. The diluent was distributed to well casings to facilitate production of the viscous crude oil present at the site. Over time, the distribution system (primarily pipelines) used to deliver the diluent to more than 200 oil well pads throughout the GOF developed leaks, which released diluent to the soil. As a result, sediment, surface water, and groundwater were secondarily contaminated with diluent. In addition to diluent, other chemicals, such as those found in crude oil (e.g., polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs]) and polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs], metals, and other inorganics are present at the site. Unocal records indicate that diluent was used at the oil field from about 1955 to 1990.

As noted in the Overview Section, state agencies documented as much as 12 million gallons of diluent were released into the environment and groundwater beneath the oil field over many years. January 1988 was the first documented occurrence of diluent being smelled and/or observed in beach sands and the surf, just offshore what is known as the "5X plume" area and in 1990 Unocal installed diluent recovery wells at the 5X plume and groundwater monitoring activities were initiated. From 1990 to 1994 multiple environmental site assessments were completed. In January and April 1994, hydrocarbon releases were observed in surf zone at the 5X site. In April 1994 U.S. Coast Guard issued Unocal an Administrative/Directive Order to remove pollution threat per the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. In September 1994 the western-most portion of the 5X plume was excavated and 250,000 gallons of diluent were recovered. 1999 and 2001 two additional excavations (5X West and 5X East) were completed.

³ Guadalupe Oil Field Remediation and Abandonment Project Final Environmental Impact Report March 1998

A number of other past remedial actions have been conducted, many under emergency permits in order to protect the Santa Maria River and ocean water quality.

Photo 3. 1994 photo of 5X oil well on the beach fronting the Guadalupe Oil Field.



Photo 4. 1994 excavation of the 5X plume.



Photo 5. 5X East plume excavation.



Photo 6. 2006 old, buried sump material along the supratidal zone.



The 1998 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by Arthur D. Little (ADL, 1998) evaluated Unocal's proposed remediation and abandonment project for the GOF and analyzed the anticipated significant impacts of the proposed project and range of alternatives. Figure 3 (following page), from the 1998 EIR, indicated the areas within the GOF site where contamination had been identified and mapped at that time. At the water table in the dune sand aquifer (about 10 to 130 feet below ground surface), diluent had accumulated in plumes at more than 80 different locations throughout the oil field⁴. The contamination consists of both "separate-phase" and "dissolved-phase" diluent plumes. Since diluent is lighter than water and has a low solubility, most of the diluent spilled to the shallow dune aquifer remains as separate phase (or "free product") that "floats" on top of the water. Separate-phase diluent is also present in the soil column above the ground water (the vadose zone).

As the ground water passes through these areas, some of the diluent dissolves into the water ("dissolved phase") and moves downstream with the ground water flow, generally from east to west. This has resulted in ground water contamination beneath much of the oil field. In several areas, diluent has entered surface water bodies in and adjacent to the site, including the ocean. In addition to the dissolved-phase contamination present in the ground water, separate-phase diluent has accumulated on the surface of the ground water in many plumes throughout the GOF.

Additionally, the RWQCB issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO), No. 98-38 on April 3, 1998, which was amended on July 13, 1998, and incorporated into the settlement. The CAO required Unocal to implement a phased approach to regulating site cleanup. This CAO established requirements for Phase 1 and required Unocal to remediate priority sites (e.g. eliminating discharges of diluent to surface waters [river, ocean, and wetlands]) while performing field-scale pilot tests to identify other technologies to remediate the rest of the contamination throughout the GOF.

⁴ Levine Fricke Recon. 1997. Data Gap Analysis for the Dune Sand Aquifer, Surface Stains, and Sumps, Guadalupe Oil Field, California. April 15, 1997. Prepared for Unocal Corporation, Santa Maria by Levine Fricke Recon, Inc.

Photo 7. Excavation of the A6 Site.



Photo 8. 2007 B-12 site excavation.



As part of the injury determination, numerous soil and water investigations were conducted throughout the oil field beginning in 1990. Agency consultants conducted aquifer tests, a vadose zone infiltration study, a water level study, investigated contaminant migration, ran groundwater models, and conducted geophysical investigations.

Additionally, as part of the injury determination, CDFW-OSPR staff and consultants conducted numerous studies including:

- Evaluating toxicity of contaminated sediments
- Evaluating toxicity from contaminated groundwater discharging to surface water
- Conducting geophysical investigations
- Evaluating the degree of exposure of barred surfperch to diluent
- Evaluating recreational impacts from the contamination & cleanup

These studies indicated:

- Surface waters were being exposed to diluent at concentrations that may reduce survival, growth, and/or reproduction of aquatic organisms
- Diluent is toxic to sand crabs
- Sunlight increased the toxicity of diluent to certain species
- Surfperch were being exposed to diluent by eating contaminated sand crabs
- Beach use was reduced including loss of fishing opportunities

Different types of diluents were used at the GOF. As such, different plumes on site have different chemical compositions and differ in the degree of weathering. This adds to the complexity of diluent toxicity at the GOF. Regarding the toxicity of the diluent to fish and wildlife, the CDFW-OSPR conducted toxicity tests that concluded that the exceedances of injury thresholds (acute lethality, photo-enhanced lethality, and sublethal injury) occurred in the majority of aquatic habitats sampled at the site.⁵ These aquatic habitat types included Scirpus Marsh Ponds (Ponds A, B, and C), the Santa Maria River and estuary, Dune Slacks, and the intertidal area. Further, the results of that analysis also indicated that sublethal injuries may occur at concentrations below the detection limit of 0.05 ppm total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Therefore, the absence of detectable TPH (at a reporting limit of 0.05 ppm) may not indicate the absence of chronic, sublethal injuries at the site.

⁵ Hagler Bailly, Inc. 1997. Guadalupe Oil Field NRDA: Preliminary Aquatic Injury Thresholds and Comparison to Site Exposure Data. Prepared for California Department of Fish and Game Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response by Hagler Bailly, Inc.

Additionally, CDFW-OSPR documented distributions and habitat use by a variety of threatened or endangered species overlapped with areas of contamination that exceed injury threshold concentrations. These special status species include California red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake, tidewater goby, brown pelican, California least tern, peregrine falcon, and western snowy plover. Comparisons of CDFW-OSPR laboratory toxicity data and site contaminant concentrations, coupled with the geographic distributions of biota utilizing contaminated habitats, supported the conclusion that organisms in the vicinity of the GOF have been exposed to diluent at concentrations that cause lethal and sub-lethal injuries.⁶

Guadalupe Trust Administration - the Guadalupe Fund Committee and the Restoration Subcommittee

As noted in the Overview section, The Guadalupe Trust was established to comply with the terms of a Settlement Agreement and Judgement between CDFW-OSPR, DTSC, the Coastal Conservancy, the RWQCB, and Unocal, filed July 22, 1998 (People of the State of California, CDFG, et al., v. Union Oil Company [Unocal], Settlement Agreement and Judgement, 1998). As part of the Settlement Agreement, as summarized in Table 1 (following page), of the \$43.8 million, \$9,000,000 was allocated to the Guadalupe Trust for restoration of natural resources and \$200,000 was deposited into the Guadalupe Trust to fund Supplemental Environmental Projects designated by DTSC. Additionally, \$15,000,000 was allocated for water quality projects to be selected by the RWQCB and these funds were placed into a separate Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement Water Quality Project Trust.

Also, as part of the Settlement Agreement, CDFW-OSPR, the Coastal Conservancy, DTSC, and the RWQCB executed a MOU Relating to the Unocal/Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement, dated July 20, 1998 (CDFG-OSPR, RWQCB, Conservancy, and DTSC, 1998), regarding use of the funds for natural resource restoration and water quality projects.

Pursuant to the MOU, the Guadalupe Fund Committee was established, comprised of CDFW-OSPR, the Coastal Conservancy, and the RWQCB (MOU, Section V.A. 1998); and the Restoration Subcommittee, as part of the Guadalupe Fund Committee, was formed, comprised of the CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy, to administer the Guadalupe Trust.

The Restoration Subcommittee was responsible for evaluation of potential projects and the approval to disburse the \$9 million from the Guadalupe Trust to fund projects to restore, replace, rehabilitate and/or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources and related services that were injured, lost, or destroyed by

⁶ Hagler Bailly, Inc. 1997. Guadalupe Oil Field NRDA: Preliminary Aquatic Injury Thresholds and Comparison to Site Exposure Data. Prepared for California Department of Fish and Game Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response by Hagler Bailly, Inc.

the diluent releases at the oil field (People of the State of California, CDFG, et al., v. Union Oil Company dba Unocal, 1998). The \$9 million allocated to the Guadalupe Trust was based on resource injury assessments and studies summarized in the previous section of this report.

Per the MOU, each agency had one primary representative on the Guadalupe Fund Committee, and each agency had one vote and all decisions regarding the administration of the funds were to be by consensus.

Table 1	Summary Table Detailing the \$43,800,000 Settlement Agreement.
\$1,300,000	A credit Unocal previously paid to San Luis Obispo County
\$9,000,000	As natural resource damages, established the Guadalupe Natural Resources Restoration Trust; summarized in this Final Report
\$15,000,000	Dedicated for water quality projects, established the Guadalupe Oil Field Settlement Water Quality Project Trust
\$500,000	Civil penalties to the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account
\$160,000	To Attorney General for costs incurred
\$11,100,000	To CDFW for Fish and Wildlife Pollution Account for inland resource protection and pollution response
\$375,000	Civil penalties to the Environmental Enhancement Fund
\$125,000	To CDFW for the Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund
\$4,840,000	To CDFW for costs incurred
\$700,000; includes \$200,000 to fund Supplemental Environmental Projects	To DTSC
\$700,000	To the Attorney General

As part of the restoration planning effort, the Restoration Subcommittee worked with a consultant and prepared the 2001 Final Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Restoration Plan (Restoration Plan, Interactive Planning and Management, 2001) as the framework to determine how to best compensate for natural resource injuries through restoration projects (more details below). The Restoration Subcommittee also worked with NFWF regarding managing the settlement funds in the Guadalupe Trust for restoration, and invested the funding not immediately needed for restoration.

The MOU also stated that restoration projects were to be located in the geographical area of San Luis Obispo County and/or Santa Barbara County, as near as possible to the Guadalupe Oil Field. The MOU also noted the Guadalupe Fund Committee may arrange for the establishment of an endowment fund for the management and operation of property acquired for wildlife habitat and/or public use and enjoyment.

Restoration Planning, Public Advisory Committee, and the Dunes Collaborative

As part of the restoration planning, the CDFW and Coastal Conservancy used the following project evaluation criteria to screen and prioritize the proposed projects:

Geographic Nexus (projects shall be in the geographic area of San Luis Obispo County and/or Santa Barbara County, as near as possible to the Guadalupe Oil Field); **Threshold Criteria** (a) technical feasibility of the alternative, (b) consistency with the restoration goals, (c) compliance with laws, (d) public health and safety; and the following **Additional Criteria** (a) relationship to injured resources and services, (b) avoidance of injury, (c) likelihood of success, (d) multiple benefits, (e) time to provide benefits, (f) duration of benefits, (g) protection of alternative, (h) opportunities for collaboration, (i) benefits relative to costs, and (j) total cost and accuracy of estimate.

The MOU also required the establishment of a Guadalupe Fund Public Advisory Committee (PAC) to advise the CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy regarding the selection and management of the natural resource restoration projects. The Restoration Subcommittee asked members of the PAC to propose projects and to assist with community outreach and evaluation of projects. Over the years the PAC formed into what was known as the Dunes Collaborative, formerly known as the Dunes Stewardship Collaborative. Over the years the Dunes Collaborative included the Visitor Serving Task Force and the Restoration Task Force to develop partnerships and maximize resources to assist with the restoration planning and implementation efforts.

The PAC was comprised of the following organizations and agency representatives:

Organization	Individual
Audubon Society, Morro Coast Chapter	John Perkins
Surfer's Environmental Alliance	Mark Massara
Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center	Liz Scott-Graham
Nature Conservancy	Kara Smith
Center for Natural Land Management	Sherry Teresa
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Dennis Doberneck
City of Guadalupe	Sam Arca
City of San Luis Obispo	Allen Settle
County of San Luis Obispo, Planning Dept.	John Nall
Guadalupe Dunes National Wildlife Refuge	Chris Barr
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Gerhardt Hubner
San Luis Obispo Coast District, State Parks	Joe Mette
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors	Katcho Achadjian
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County	Ray Belknap
Santa Barbara County Parks Department	Steve Strachan
Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Department	Luis Perez
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	Diane Noda

Dunes Collaborative primary members included these organizations:

- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- County of Santa Barbara, Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve

Dunes Collaborative participants included:

- Nipomo Native Garden
- County of San Luis Obispo
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Chevron Corporation
- Cachuma Resource Conservation District
- Other interested parties

Initial project proposals were requested from the PAC and submitted to the Restoration Subcommittee between February and March 2000. A total of 23 initial proposals were submitted consisting of specific proposals (both interim and long-term projects) and endowment requests.

In April of 2000, the Restoration Subcommittee prepared a Draft Scoping Document for initial review and comment by the PAC. Within the Scoping Document, proposals were described, consolidated, and classified into most and least preferred and as endowment-based versus project specific.

The PAC was then convened in May 2000 and provided feedback to the Restoration Subcommittee on the projects and the system of classification. The Restoration Subcommittee also proposed that the various endowment requests submitted by the PAC be combined to fund projects in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes, and the PAC concurred. The Restoration Subcommittee then prepared a revised Scoping Document titled, Potential Restoration Projects for Natural Resources Impacted by the Guadalupe Oil Field Diluent Releases: A Public Scoping Document (CDFW-OSPR and Coastal Conservancy, 2000), which was then circulated to members of the public who had expressed an interest in the dune restoration process.

The revised Scoping Document served as the focus of a June 21, 2000, public scoping meeting at which time, interested members of the public, governmental agencies, and other interested organizations were provided with an opportunity to comment on and submit additional restoration project proposals or to refine the ones that had originally been submitted. Approximately 50 individuals attended the meeting, many of whom made comments and further refined proposals already submitted or submitted additional proposals.

In May 2001, a Draft Restoration Plan was published for public review. And, in August 2001, the CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy published the Final Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Restoration Plan (Interactive Planning and Management, 2001) with input from members of the PAC and the public. The Final Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Restoration Plan (Restoration Plan) includes restoration projects in the vicinity of the Guadalupe Oil Field and a permanent endowment to implement and maintain restoration efforts in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes.

As part of the restoration planning effort, the Restoration Subcommittee and the Dunes Collaborative prepared an initial restoration project implementation framework and projects were initially divided into 2 major categories: Dunes Collaborative projects and non-Guadalupe Projects (projects geographically located outside of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dune Complex). Dunes Collaborative projects were then divided into sub-categories: Interim projects, Long-Term projects, and Endowment projects. Additionally, we developed a process for management of the endowment to be set aside for ongoing restoration and maintenance activities. The project categories and initial projects selected for funding are listed below and further detailed in the Projects Implemented section of this report.

- Interim Projects (\$560,000) - began restoration and established a track record
 - Exotic plant species removal
 - Access improvements at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Beach
 - GIS development, setting priorities for restoration
 - Snowy plover education guardian program
 - Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center (Dunes Center) exhibit space planning
 - Dunes Collaborative administration
- Long-Term Projects (\$640,000)
 - Snowy plover monitoring and management on USFWS Refuge
 - Information repository at Dunes Center
 - Terrestrial and aquatic biological resources survey and report
 - Snowy plover monitoring at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Beach
 - Dunes Collaborative administration
- Non-Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Projects (\$2,077,200)
 - Morro Bay Wildlife Rehabilitation facility
 - Nipomo Native Garden
 - Nipomo Creek watershed restoration
 - Santa Maria River restoration
 - Dunes Collaborative administration
- Endowment (\$7.5 million)
 - Consolidates four endowment requests into one (Dunes Center, San Luis Obispo County, Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM), & Dunes Collaborative)
 - Consolidates endowment requests as either natural resource restoration projects or beach access/recreation projects
 - Helps ensure long-term success of restoration efforts

- Collaborative members will work to secure additional matching funds
- Annual interest proceeds will fund priority projects
- Interest allocation per year is estimated at \$375,000 (assuming 5% rate of return on 7,500,000). Of the annual interest, proposed allocations are 2/3 (\$250,000) to natural resource restoration and 1/3 (\$125,000) to visitor serving projects.

Guadalupe Trust Agreement Amendments

On July 7, 2005, the NFWF Guadalupe Trust Agreement was amended (CDFW-OSPR, Coastal Conservancy, DTSC, and NFWF, 2005), and the Restoration Subcommittee directed NFWF to: (1) establish a segregated account called the Guadalupe Natural Resources Restoration Endowment Account ("Guadalupe Endowment Account") with \$8,000,000 of the monies in the Guadalupe Trust (to maintain the principal and spend interest for project implementation to preserve funds for future restoration and project maintenance); and (2) divide the remaining funds in the Guadalupe Trust into two separate subaccounts – the Guadalupe SEP Sub-Sub-Account (to track DTSC funds separately), and the Guadalupe Non-Endowment Sub-Account.

On June 6, 2007, DTSC in coordination with CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy, directed NFWF to obligate \$200,000 in the Guadalupe SEP Sub-Account to fund the 2007-2008 Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring Endowment project implemented by The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (Land Conservancy, see page 46 for project details). Investment earnings accrued to the Guadalupe SEP Sub-Account prior to disbursement of the \$200,000; and as a result, \$26,234.20 remained unobligated in the Guadalupe SEP Sub-Account. DTSC in coordination with CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy authorized disbursement of the remaining interest funds of \$26,234 to the 2018 Oceano Dunes District Oso Flaco Boardwalk Update/Expansion Endowment Project (see page 30 for project details); and the SEP account was closed in September 2022.

On July 16, 2008, CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy directed NFWF to segregate the Guadalupe Endowment Account into the following two distinguishable Sub-Accounts: (1) \$3,000,000 for the Dunes Center Mission Expansion and Capacity Building project ("Dunes Center Sub-Account"); and (2) the remainder amount as of July 16, 2008, of \$4,574,651.53 to fund other restoration projects and activities in the Guadalupe Dunes ("Dunes Sub-Account"). Then on April 2, 2013, CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy directed NFWF to (1) de-obligate the remaining funds from the Dunes Center Sub-Account and transfer the remaining funds to the Guadalupe Endowment Account; and (2) merge the Dunes Center Sub-Account and the Dunes Sub-Account back into the Guadalupe Endowment Account.

In October 2018, the Guadalupe Trust was amended a second time (CDFW-OSPR, Coastal Conservancy, DTSC, and NFWF, 2018) and CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy directed NFWF to invest \$2,000,000 of the funds remaining in the Guadalupe Trust Endowment Account into a new Guadalupe Trust “Dune Protected Area Long Term Management Sub-Account” in accordance with NFWF’s Investment Policy Statement for Long-Term and “Quasi-Endowment” Land Management, Maintenance and Monitoring Funds Accounts held by NFWF. As approved and managed by the Restoration Subcommittee, this was established to fund the long-term management and maintenance activities identified in the Long-Term Work Plan developed under the Conservation Strategy Management Plan (a 2014 Endowment Project implemented by the Land Conservancy). Since this Dune Protected Area Long-Term Management Sub-Account was established in the Guadalupe Trust, remaining funds in the amount of \$62,558.15 (\$31,127.08 on November 6, 2019, plus \$31,431.07 on December 20, 2019) from other projects were reallocated to this Sub-Account (and prior to that, remaining project funds were reallocated back to their associated Sub-Account’s).

On October 7, 2022 the Guadalupe Trust was amended a third time (CDFW-OSPR, Coastal Conservancy, and NFWF, 2022) at the request of CDFW-OSPR and the Coastal Conservancy to transfer funds from the Guadalupe Trust accounts to two new accounts established by NFWF with CDFW Region 4, pursuant to a 2019 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between CDFW Region 4 and NFWF, for long-term management of endowment funds (CDFW-Region 4 and NFWF, 2019). Pursuant to this third amendment to the Guadalupe Trust, on January 6, 2023, NFWF transferred funds in the amount of \$410,599.97 from the Guadalupe Trust Endowment Account to the new CDFW Region 4 Initial and Capital Sub-Account titled “Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Short-Term Management Sub-Account” (Region 4 Short-Term Sub-Account) to fund short-term land management and maintenance activities. Additionally, pursuant to Section 2 of the third amendment of the Guadalupe Trust, on February 8, 2023, NFWF transferred all remaining funds in the amount of \$2,612,973.00, from the Guadalupe Trust Dune Protected Area Long-Term Management Sub-Account to the CDFW Region 4 new Endowment Sub-Account titled “Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Long-Term Management Sub-Account” (Region 4 Long-Term Sub-Account). This Region 4 Long-Term Management Sub-Account was established under the MOA to fund long-term management and maintenance activities within the dunes; and annual reports will continue to be prepared for CDFW Region 4.

The Guadalupe Trust closed out on 10/16/2025.

Summary of Implemented Projects

As noted above, in addition to these specific implemented projects listed below, the Restoration Subcommittee transferred funds from the Guadalupe Trust to two accounts managed by CDFW Region 4, to continue the restoration management and maintenance activities within the dunes for the long-term; and transferred the remaining Guadalupe Trust that funds to the Coastal Conservancy to implement a final future project(s). The specific projects were implemented as part of the Guadalupe Trust and managed by the Restoration Subcommittee were divided into 2 major categories: Dunes Collaborative projects and non-Guadalupe Projects (projects geographically located outside of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dune Complex). Dunes Collaborative projects were then divided into sub-categories: Endowment, Long-Term, and Interim projects, described below. Note projects below highlighted in green (□) are biological restoration projects, projects highlighted in blue (○) are visitor serving projects, and projects highlighted in yellow (Δ) are other/administrative projects.

Dunes Collaborative Endowment Projects

2023 Endowment Project

- 1) Title: Revitalization of Dunes Center Visitor Experiences ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$50,881.55; spent \$50,881.35
Summary: This project was completed December 2023. The Dunes Center Native Plant Garden was enhanced and expanded. Native plants were replaced, and new species added; plant identification signs were installed; an educational booklet was created describing how the Chumash used native plants (also incorporated into course curriculum); restored the pond and repaired the filtration system; garden pathways were revitalized with decomposed granite and borders; mulch was added to the garden beds; and a new entrance sign and bench was installed. The project also included creating a new website to display the Growing Roots Exhibit inside the Dunes Center (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2024, Final Report).

Photo 9. Enhanced and Expanded Dunes Center Native Plant Garden



Photo 10. Repaired and Expanded Dunes Center Native Plant Garden Pond



2020 Endowment Projects

- 2) Title: **Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge and Dune Complex Interpretive Video Project** ○
- Grantee: **Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center**
- Budget: **\$63,808.80; spent \$37,161.20**
- Summary: This project was completed July 31, 2021. The Dunes Center, with support from the USFWS Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge, worked with a production company to shoot footage on the Dune Complex lands and Refuge; held interviews with selected scientists, educators, conservationists, and visitors. Footage was compiled and edited with sound, music, and graphics into a 10–12-minute film, along with three shorter (three-minute) versions appropriate for website viewing (included a Spanish language version). The purpose of the film was to increase awareness and understanding of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex and the National Wildlife Refuge and promote access to the Refuge and other public Dune Complex lands. Half the funds allocated to pre-production were spent; most of the funds allocated to production and post-production were spent; half the funds allocated to administration and oversight were spent; and zero of the funds budgeted for contingencies were spent.
- Link to Dunes Center YouTube site (where all the other videos can be accessed): <https://www.youtube.com/@1dunescenter>
- Link to Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge and Dune Complex Interpretive video: <https://youtu.be/YNIA9b5Ko9o>
- Link to Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve video: <https://youtu.be/tifTLNtyFOs>

2019 Endowment Projects

- 3) Title: **Evaluating Effectiveness of Nipomo Lupine Recovery Management Within Phillips 66 Refinery and State Parks Lease Occurrences Project** □
- Grantee: **Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County**
- Budget: **\$39,521.00; spent all**
- Summary: This project, completed November 30, 2021, monitored subpopulations of federally endangered Nipomo lupine (*Lupinus nipomensis*) to evaluate current management methods. Occurrences within the Phillips 66 property (including those within the State Parks leased portion) were evaluated by their current management strategies. Current management methods provide unique habitat qualities which were measured to provide insight into the preferred habitat needs of the Nipomo lupine. Results from this project led to crucial information for the adaptive management framework for future management of the species. Monitoring plots were surveyed biweekly noting number of individuals, phenological stage, topographical

conditions, and associated species composition (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2019a, Year 1 Update Evaluating Effectiveness of Nipomo Lupine Recovery Management).

- 4) Title: Nipomo Lupine Dune Protected Area Restoration Project □
Grantee: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
Budget: \$486,465.77; spent \$486,364.99
Summary: This project was completed June 30, 2022, and included habitat restoration in a portion of the Nipomo Lupine Dune Protected Area (DPA) to maintain intact (viable) landscapes; reverse species and ecological process declines; recover threatened species and ecological communities; and control emerging threats. Work included perennial veldtgrass control using aerial (helicopter) and ground spray herbicide applications; protection and enhancement of the habitat; and monitoring and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2020a & 2022a, Nipomo Lupine DPA Monitoring Reports).
- 5) Title: Big Coreopsis Hill Dune Protected Area Restoration Project □
Grantee: Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
Budget: \$100,320.00; spent \$100,291.10
Summary: This project was completed March 21, 2022, and the primary purpose of this project was to perform habitat restoration in the Coreopsis Hill Dune Protected Area (DPA) to maintain intact (viable) landscapes; reverse species and ecological process declines; recover threatened species and ecological communities; and control emerging threats. Key work included perennial veldtgrass control using aerial (using a helicopter) and ground spray herbicide applications; iceplant treatment with ground spray herbicide treatment; a data gaps investigation within the DPA; and monitoring and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2020b & 2022b, Coreopsis Hill DPA Monitoring Reports).

2018 Endowment Projects

- 6) Title: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center Educational & Public Programs Coordinator Position ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$172,676.63; spent \$172,666.13
Summary: This project was completed November 30, 2020, and included funding for a full-time Educational & Public Programs Coordinator at the Dunes Center. This position coordinated in-school, afterschool, field trip and community programming. In class programs included information about mammals, birds, dune habitats and included field trips to Oso Flaco Lake and an advanced walk focusing on biodiversity, the scientific method and data collection. Public Conservation and Cultural Events included Guadalupe Walk & Talk community walk/ dune hikes, native garden beautification, bird

house workshops, book club, Latino community concerts in partnership with Viva el Arte, native plant restoration, and the removal of invasive species. This project also included online educational programs.

- 7) Title: Evaluating Effectiveness of Nipomo Lupine Recovery Management □
- Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- Budget: \$11,421.00; spent \$9,256.75
- Summary: This project was completed December 31, 2018, and evaluated the effectiveness of restoration efforts to provide appropriate habitat for the Nipomo lupine within two selected Dune Protected Areas (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2018e, 2018 Nipomo Lupine Monitoring Report, Evaluating Effectiveness of Nipomo Lupine Recovery Management). This project focused on the creation of 10 monitoring plots which were examined biweekly noting topographical conditions, associated species composition and management strategies comparisons. The monitoring plots evaluated if current methods are effective and provide crucial information to implement adaptive management framework when recovering this conservation target. Occupancy modeling was conducted, using PRESENCE statistical software, to estimate the occupancy and detection probability of Nipomo lupine at two sites. The PRESENCE occupancy modelling suggested that all management areas are occupied with Nipomo lupine, but field detections are low in the State Parks lease area.
- The field monitoring resulted in the following observations about how management strategy affects the Nipomo lupine:
- Disturbance is an important element for germination. Germination was high in areas where there was disturbance prior to fall rains.
 - Disturbance after germination resulted in higher loss of individuals before fruiting. Disturbance year round did result in the lowest percentage of individuals fruiting. Disturbance included grazing, major herbivory, and digging activity.
 - Where there was high percent cover of veldtgrass, there was lower germination.
 - High percent of open sand was often correlated with successful germination.

- 8) Title: Oceano Dunes District Oso Flaco Boardwalk Update/Expansion Project ○
- Grantee: Central Coast State Parks Association
- Budget: \$117,200.00 (\$90,966 from Endowment plus \$26,234 in interest earned from DTSC SEP Sub-Account); spent \$86,072.92 (\$59,838.72 from Endowment and all \$26,234.20 from SEP)
- Summary: This project was completed September 30, 2019 and included updating the Oso Flaco Lake Boardwalk with bilingual interpretive paneling

and expanded the boardwalk picnic table area to allow for park users to enjoy their unique experience in the dunes. The project provides for greater access for park visitors including families, fishermen, clubs, guided hikes and school groups to have a larger area to congregate. This project added another two picnic tables to make the area large enough to accommodate up to 35 people. The picnic area update was Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant to continue the ADA accessibility for the boardwalk trail.

- 9) Title: Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve Public Access Revitalization Project ○
Grantee: Santa Barbara County Parks Division
Budget: \$230,000.00; spent \$198,568.93
Summary: This project was completed October 31, 2019. The purpose of this project was to maintain and improve ADA-compliant visitor services at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve through public access improvements. A new prefabricated waterless restroom facility was installed; and a new kiosk at the parking area was installed to consolidate and improve informational and park entry signage and fencing. New benches along the concrete walkway at the parking area were also installed. And interpretive panels were placed along the existing concrete walkway to provide detailed flora and fauna information to the public about the diverse dunes complex.
- 10) Title: Dune Protected Area Black Lake Restoration □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$422,967.42; spent \$237,875.18
Summary: This project was completed August 1, 2022. The primary purpose of this project was to perform habitat restoration in the Black Lake Ecological Area Dune Protected Area to maintain intact (viable) landscapes; reverse species and ecological process declines; recover threatened species and ecological communities; and control emerging threats. Key work at the site included veldtgrass and European beachgrass control as well as protection of reintroduced populations of the Nipomo lupine (only spent half allocated to this task). This project included manual removal of veldtgrass in areas with small infestations and dense infestations were treated with a broadcast application of a grass specific herbicide. Previously untreated areas of veldtgrass were treated with an aerial application of herbicide, following up using ground-based applications. European beachgrass was also manually controlled using mechanical and herbicide treatments. After three years of control, areas not successfully recolonized through the native seedbank were augmented with additional native seed applications. All management activities were monitored and tracked and monitoring included baseline monitoring (only spent one quarter allocated to this task). Black Lake DPA monitoring reports summarizing the

findings were also prepared (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2019b, 2021a, 2022c).

- 11) Title: Dune Protected Area Point Sal Restoration □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$173,775.78; spent \$32,745.08
Summary: This project was completed in June 2022 but not all funds were spent due to some property access not being granted. The primary purpose of this project was to perform habitat restoration in the Point Sal Dune Protected Area to maintain intact (viable) landscapes; reverse species and ecological process declines; recover threatened species and ecological communities; and control emerging threats. Key work included jubatagrass (*Cortaderia jubata*) eradication using ground spray herbicide treatment (spent less than half allocated to this task); a trail assessment and implementation of trail improvements (erosion control); and monitoring and reporting (spent half allocated to this task), (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2019c, 2021b, 2022d, Pt. Sal DPA monitoring reports).
- 12) Title: Dune Protected Area Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge Restoration □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$400,750.58; spent \$316,403.54
Summary: This project was completed in June 2022. The project included habitat restoration in the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge/ Chevron Successional Dune, Dune Protected Area (NWR/CSD DPA) to maintain intact (viable) landscapes; reverse species and ecological process declines; recover threatened species and ecological communities; and control emerging threats. Key work included European beachgrass and iceplant removal by mechanical removal and herbicide spraying; feral pig control (spent half allocated to this task), as well as habitat enhancement at Myrtle Pond (primarily invasive plant species removal; spent one third allocated to this task); and included monitoring and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2019d, 2021c, 2022e).

2017 Endowment Project

- 13) Title: 2017 Educational Programs Project ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$125,000; spent \$124,997.15
Summary: This project was completed in July 2018. The project included funding for 1 year for the Dunes Center Educational and Public Programs Coordinator and funds for the Executive Director position to provide the public with educational programs including, but not limited to, school day in-class programming for elementary school students, afterschool programs held

in collaboration with partner locations between Lompoc and San Luis Obispo, field trips to Oso Flaco Lake, hands-on educational events at the Dunes Center, and walks around Guadalupe and the Dunes Complex.

Photo 11. Field trip to the dunes.



Photo 12. Outreach Coordinator at Earth Day event teaching about local mammals.



2016 Endowment Project

- 14) Title: 2016 Invasive Species Removal & Nipomo Lupine Monitoring □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$132,870.92; spent \$132,867.78
Summary: This project was completed in May 2017. The project included veldtgrass removal using mechanical and chemical treatments to promote native revegetation at The Land Conservancy's Black Lake property and critical Nipomo lupine areas at State Park managed property. The project also included Nipomo lupine monitoring and census (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2017).

Photo 13. Nipomo Lupine found during survey.



2015 Endowment Projects

- 15) Title: Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve Public Maintenance Access ○
Grantee: Santa Barbara County Parks Division, Community Services Department
Budget: \$60,000; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in August 2016 and included helping to fund the purchase of a new Caterpillar AA 259D tracked loader/skid-steer and trailer for the county park for road maintenance for regular sand removal on the only access road entering the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve to ensure public access to the park and beach (Santa Barbara County, Community Services Department, 2016).
- 16) Title: Dunes Center Exhibit ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$121,700; spent \$121,691.36
Summary: This project was completed in December 2017 and included funding to complete Phase III and IV of the Dunes Center's Exhibit Plan. The purpose of the project was to preserve, restore, and exhibit local cultural heritage, while orienting locals and visitors to the nearby coastline. The exhibit included many natural objects in its collection relating to the flora and fauna of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Exhibits included a large-scale photograph of the movie set, as well as excavations that recovered what was left in the dunes, including the sphinx body, from the filming of the 1923 Cecil B. DeMille Ten Commandments movie. The project focused on collection of data including exhibit-related research, and collection of community stories needed for the exhibits; exhibit fabrication; and exhibit installation.

Photo 14. Dunes Center.



Photo 15. Part of the Ten Commandments exhibit.



- 17) Title: Kathleen's Canyon Overlook, Interpretive Opportunities and Visitor Serving Amenities ○
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$502,381.55; spent all
Summary: The project was completed in December 2019. Kathleen's Canyon Overlook (KCO) is part of the Land Conservancy's Lower Black Lake Canyon Wetland Preserve. The park now provides free public access to a unique education area to benefit the underserved communities of southern San Luis Obispo County and the Santa Maria River Valley. The KCO offers interactive education about this special ecosystem within the world-class Guadalupe- Nipomo Dunes through an interpretive viewing platform; an ADA accessible boardwalk and parking spaces; a looped walking trail enhanced by an innovative multi-lingual audio cell phone tour; rest areas for educational talks; a raptor pole; native plant restoration areas; a picnic area with tables and benches; and a children's playground. The final project also included custom built-in educational signage interpreting the key ecosystem features on-site and in view.

Photos 16 and 17. Kathleen Canyon Overlook signage and play area.



- 18) Title: 2015-2016 Dunes Center Education, Outreach, and Volunteer Program ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$166,557; spent \$164,341.41
Summary: This project was completed in August 2016. The project included funding for educational programming for schools helping to fund the Education Coordinator position, outreach activities, and volunteer coordination by helping to fund a Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator. The Dunes Center worked with over 16,000 elementary school children and members of the public in 2015 and nearly 9,000 year-to-date with quality hands-on learning experiences. After school programming topics included botany, geology, ornithology, and water quality. Their volunteers contributed

nearly 9,600 hours for projects including beach cleanups, invasive plant removal, and native garden maintenance. The Dunes Center continued to make inroads with the local Latino community by participating in outreach events; and for adults and children led lectures and hikes.

- 19) Title: 2015 Invasive Species Removal Project □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$115,387; spent \$51,830.43
Summary: This project was completed in December 2015 and included obtaining permits (spent one third allocated to this task); herbicide treatment of veldtgrass at Black Lake Ecological Area (spent two thirds the amount allocated to this task); invasive species removal at the Phillips 66 site; Nipomo Lupine monitoring; and general monitoring and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2015).

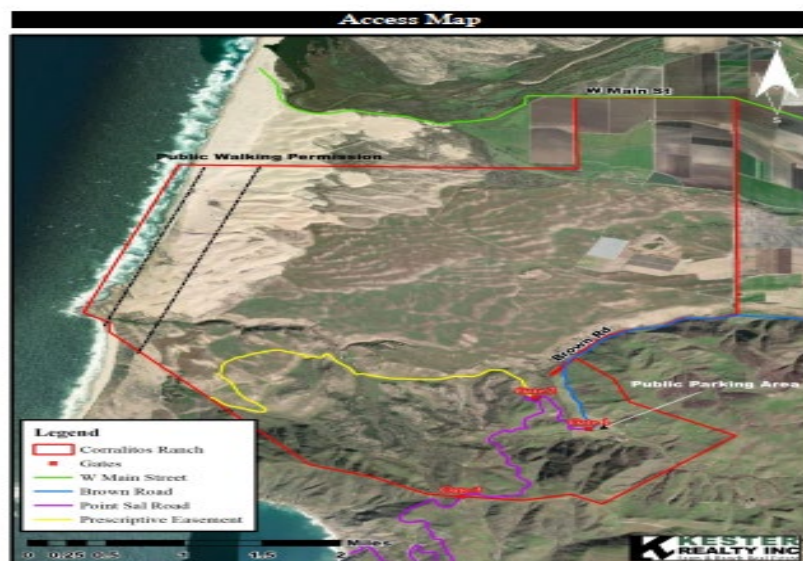
Photo 18. Invasive plant species treatment.



- 20) Title: 2015 Title Mussel Rock Dunes, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex Land Acquisition; 2021 Amended Scope of Work and Title: Mussel Rock Dunes Land Acquisition Project: Pt. Sal Ridge Access Easement ○
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$500,000; Spent \$40,217.50
Summary: This project was closed out December 2022. The initial approved project in 2015 was for land acquisition of the Mussel Rock Dune property. The purchase of the Mussel Rock Dune property never came to fruition after many years of negotiating with the landowners. In 2021, the Land Conservancy suggested amending the Mussel Rock project to focus on the

trail easement on the Corralitos Ranch; and to no longer include the acquisition of Mussel Rock property. The Land Conservancy estimated it would cost \$300,000-500,000 to complete the Corralitos Ranch easement assessment, appraisal and purchase. The Restoration Subcommittee agreed and amended the Mussel Rock Dunes Land Acquisition Project NFWF Agreement and Scope of Work, which was finalized Sept. 22, 2021. The project name was updated to Mussel Rock Dunes Land Acquisition Project: Pt. Sal Ridge Access Easement; and a Completion date of June 30, 2022, was added. A second NFWF Agreement amendment finalized Aug. 16, 2022, extended the Completion Date to Oct. 31, 2022. The amended scope of this project was to purchase a trail easement(s) across the privately held Corralitos Ranch which would allow people to legally access Pt. Sal and the surrounding public lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management and the County of Santa Barbara via the Pt. Sal Ridge Trail, accessed off Brown Road near the town of Guadalupe. Once purchased the trail easement(s) was to be transferred to Santa Barbara County for their long-term use and management. A survey was completed in May 2022 and the appraisal was completed December 2, 2022. Per the appraisal, the overall value of a trail easement was determined to be \$5000.00 or \$6.88 per square foot based on the survey and described alignment. As of the writing of this Final Report, the landowner has not approved an acquisition purchase for the Pt. Sal Ridge Trail access easement, but we are hopeful Santa Barbara County will utilize the appraisal and survey reports and continue to pursue the acquisition of this trail easement to provide legal, deeded access to those otherwise landlocked parcels, in turn opening new and exciting recreational opportunities. In December 2022 the remaining \$459,782.50 was de-obligated back into the Endowment Guadalupe Trust Endowment Account for future recreational projects.

Photo 19. Pt. Sal Ridge Access Easement project, access Map from Appraisal Report



2014 Endowment Projects

- 21) Title: Invasive Species Removal for 2014 □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$127,750; spent \$74,106.34
Summary: This project was completed in December 2014 and included invasive species removal of veldtgrass in the dunes using herbicides and mechanical methods (they spent approximately half the amount that was allocated to this task). The project also included obtaining permits and Nipomo lupine monitoring and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2014).
- 22) Title: 2014-2015 Educational and Volunteer Coordination Program, March 1, 2014, to February 28, 2015 ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$149,160; spent \$116,279.99
Summary: This project was completed June 30, 2015. The project included funding for one year for an Education Coordinator to provide in-class programming to elementary schools, afterschool, and summer educational programs, and talks, lectures, and hikes teaching about the local flora and fauna. The project also included funding for a Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator to recruit and train docents that led hikes.

Photo 20. Megan Kropf Education Intern teaches geology.



Photo 21. Mark Skinner on fieldtrip teaching about native plants.



- 23) Title: Dunes Collaborative Conservation Strategy Management Plan Development □
- Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- Budget: \$323,596; spent \$323,589.50
- Summary: This Project was completed in 2018. The primary purpose of this project was to develop a comprehensive Conservation Strategy/Management Plan for the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex as directed by the Restoration Task Force and included extensive data collection, data compilation, and coordination over a 3-year period. The Conservation Strategy is comprised of three overlapping components: Dune Protected Area (DPA) Network Work Plan, Monitoring Plan, and Restoration Plan (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2018a, b, and c). The Work Plan titled "Dune Protected Areas Network 1.0 Creating a Blueprint for Restoration in the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Complex Work Plan 2018" provides details as to how the Conservation Strategy will be implemented and includes objectives, actions, methods, and cost estimates for restoration actions in each DPA. The Work Plan includes a ranking system that was developed to prioritize the DPAs that was based on the "Green Infrastructure Network" concept used in urban environments to protect natural habitats and pathways. The Restoration Plan outlined the concept and design of the Conservation Strategy and includes a vision for future conservation, goals, and strategies to accomplish those goals. Also included in the Restoration Plan is a site assessment that identifies existing resources, threats to those resources and identification of opportunities for conservation and restoration. The Monitoring Plan, as it is implemented, will provide data to monitor progress of restoration efforts and inform subsequent needs/actions for future restoration needs for the short-term and long-term. Phase 1, being managed by CDFW Region 4 (2023 – 2025) will include continuing to implement restoration efforts in the short-term and Phase 2 under CDFW Region 4 management, will include spending interest from the endowment for annual maintenance of selected restoration projects for the long-term. A summary document was also prepared titled "Dune Protected Area Network 1.0 Work Plan Creating a Blueprint for Restoration in the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Complex 2018 Workplan Summary and Recommendations" (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2018d).
- 24) Title: Dunes Collaborative Outreach, Preservation, and Visitor Serving Task Force Collaboration ○
- Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
- Budget: \$78,964; spent \$78,962.43
- Summary: This project was completed June 2015 and included community outreach (advertising, brochure design and printing), artifact collections preservation and enhancement (collections inventory, new cases for exhibits, improved climate control at the Dunes Center), collaboration, and Visitor Serving Task Force coordination.

January 2012 - February 2013 Endowment Projects

- 25) Title: Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring ^o
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$255,904.00; spent \$254,642.86
Summary: This project was completed in December 2013. The project included chemical and mechanical treatment of invasive veldtgrass and native revegetation in the Dunes Complex according to priorities established through the Restoration Task Force; Nipomo lupine monitoring; and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2013).
- 26) Title: Paradise Beach, Tognazzini Property Land Acquisition Project [□]
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$200,000 (\$128,000 towards land acquisition and \$72,000 towards restoration); spent \$169,108.22
Summary: This project was completed in March 2018. The project involved purchasing 171 acres known as the Tognazzini Property or Paradise Beach, Point Sal Reserve Management Area, Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes complex, Santa Barbara County, State of California, and included site restoration activities on the acquired property. The stated use for the property was passive recreation and educational uses only, in accordance with the Point Sal Reserve Management Plan and Santa Barbara County Parks policy. The Project was a partnership effort between the Land Conservancy and the County of Santa Barbara, with numerous matching fund partners. Total cost of purchasing the Tognazzinni property was \$3,430,000. There are significant biological, historic, and cultural resources on the property; and this was the last unprotected parcel in the Point Sal Reserve Management Area under single family ownership since homestead era (1870s). \$128,000 was for Tognazzinni Property Land Acquisition and \$72,000 was for restoration for invasive species removal and fencing (however the invasive species removal task was not completed due to property accessibility issues, so the full project budget was not spent). Additional requirements included the Land Conservancy to submit to escrow a signed and acknowledged Grant Deed conveying the property to the County of Santa Barbara.

Figure 4. Location of Tognazzini property.



- 27) Title: iPad and App Development (for education and outreach) ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$19,948; spent \$8,533.37
Summary: This project was completed in December 2013 and included funds for new technology for students and visitors. The Dunes Center purchased five iPads and created an application (app) that was uploaded to iTunes, to give visitors guided tours of various aspects of the Dunes Complex (providing information on native flora and fauna), as well as the Guadalupe Native Garden. Users were able to checkout iPads from the Dunes Center, travel to various sites, and receive the same personalized information they would normally receive from a docent. The marketing and audio technology elements for the app tasks were not completed.
- 28) Title: Education and Outreach ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$63,024; spent \$60,894
Summary: This project was completed in December 2013. The project included providing funding for the Education Coordinator and Project Manager to host environmental formal classroom and field-based education programs to school children and adults with an emphasis on underserved community members. The project also included training and supervising unpaid volunteers and interns supporting these programs; and included development of a professional website that is easy to navigate by many

different demographics and efficient to update to save staff time.

Photo 22. Educational field trip to Oso Flaco.



2011 Endowment Projects

- 29) Title: Restoration Task Force Coordination 2011 □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$9,700; spent \$6,837.16
Summary: This project was completed December 2011 and included coordinating the Restoration Task Force meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes. The project also included identifying priority invasive species removal and seeding locations and GIS mapping and reporting preparing recommendations on work to be undertaken in the following quarter (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2011a).
- 30) Title: Invasive Species Removal, Monitoring, and Seeding □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$110,950; spent \$101,042.19
Summary: This project was completed in July 2011 and included treating priority invasive species (veldtgrass, European beach grass, jubata grass, and common and slender-leaved iceplant), and encouraging native recruitment through active recovery efforts such as seeding in the dunes. This project also included Nipomo lupine monitoring and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2011c).

2010 Endowment Projects

- 31) Title: Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$245,180.00; spent \$244,390.56
Summary: This project was completed in January 2011 and included treating priority invasive species (veldtgrass and European beach grass) and encouraging native recruitment through active recovery efforts such as seeding in the dunes. This project also included Nipomo lupine monitoring and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2010a).
- 32) Title: Restoration Task Force Coordination 2010 □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$9,700.00; spent \$6,412.38
Summary: This project was completed October 2010 and included coordinating the Restoration Task Force meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes. The project also included identifying priority invasive species removal and seeding locations and recommendations on work to be undertaken in the following quarter (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2010b).
- 33) Title: Dunes Reassessment/Remote Sensing □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$4,960; spent all
Summary: This 2010-2011 2-year project was completed in July 2011 and included a Dunes Reassessment because priority treatment areas were originally determined in 2003. The purpose of this project was to identify priority needs by conducting remote sensing (to minimize on-the-ground data collection and to generate imagery of the dune complex), data analysis, and included recommendations for priority future actions. The 2011 Restoration Task Force Coordination and Priority ID Dunes Reassessment Summary Report was prepared along with the Dunes Reassessment Remote Sensing Summary Report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2011a, b).
- 34) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$18,860; spent all
Summary: This project was completed December 2010 and included administration of the Dunes Collaborative and included administrative and financial oversight of the 2010 Endowment Projects.

2009 Endowment Projects

- 35) Title: Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$283,450.00; spent \$281,527.99
Summary: This project was completed in December 2009 and included treating priority invasive species (veldtgrass, European beach grass, Jubata grass); and encouraging native recruitment through active recovery efforts such as seeding in the dunes; and preparation of the project Final Report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2009a).

Figure 5. Areas treated in 2009.



- 36) Title: Restoration Task Force Coordination □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$9,800.00; spent \$9,765.20
Summary: This project was completed December 2009 and included coordinating the Restoration Task Force meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes. The project also included identifying priority invasive species removal and seeding locations and recommendations on work to be undertaken in the following quarter (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2009b).
- 37) Title: Interpretive Trailer Improvement ○
Grantee: Center for Natural Lands Management
Budget: \$5,224.00; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in October 2009. The project included installing and repairing the existing interpretive panels into the new

Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Interpretive Trailer and trailer maintenance (periodic detailing of exterior, interior/exterior cleaning, and rust management). The trailer was utilized for interpretation at both at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve and offsite at Dunes Collaborative events (CNLM, 2009).

Photo 23. Children exploring the interpretive trailer.



Photo 24. Western snowy plover students created.



- 38) Title: Olivier Fourier Research Library ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$6,600.00; spent \$6,570
Summary: This project was completed in December 2009 and The Olivier Fourie Research Library was designed to enhance the understanding and conservation of the Guadalupe-Nipomo dunes ecosystem by providing access to library and research services. It provides access to historical documents and reports on the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex, and it provides a collection of resources on the natural and cultural history and modern ecological techniques used to restore and study the ecosystem, and it is a resource for Dunes Collaborative members and affiliate researchers and serves as the central repository for technical reports and final project summaries. The library now houses over 600 different books, documents, photographs, maps, letters, and 300 Dunes Collaborative documents that are historically relevant to the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex using modern library search protocols including an online search engine to the Dunes Center's library. Efforts were also made in accessioning significant quantities of Dunes Collaborative Documents housed at the Dunes Center (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2009a).

- 39) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$29,847.00; spent all
Summary: This project was completed February 2010 and included administration of the Dunes Collaborative and administrative/financial oversight of the 2009 Endowment Projects (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2009b).

January 2007 – December 2008 Endowment Projects

- 40) Title: Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$973,500.00; spent \$949,220.20 (included \$749,220.20 from Endowment Account and \$200,000 from DTSC SEP Sub-Account for supplemental environmental projects, [did not include interest earned from the DTSC SEP Sub-Account])
Summary: This project was completed in February 2009. The project included permits, invasive species removal, and monitoring. Task 4 of the project was the development of a Dune Scrub Enhancement Plan which focused on methods to manage long-term weed control and prevent non-native recolonization of the treated areas by actively enhancing native recruitment by broadcasting locally collected native seeds. The project also included implementation of test plots and full-scale restoration following invasive species treatment, all summarized in the 2007-08 Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring Final Report, Consolidated Tasks (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2008a).
- 41) Title: Rare Plants Recovery Program Implementation □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County,
Budget: \$34,490.50; spent \$20,555
Summary: This project was completed in February 2009 and the main purpose was to preserve, cultivate, and re-introduce rare, threatened and endangered plant species within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex. Tasks included Rare Plants Task Force Coordination; Marsh Sandwort and Gambell's Watercress Technical Advisory Committee Coordination (although no work was completed on the Technical Advisory Committee task); Protection and Recovery of Marsh Sandwort; Protection and Recovery of Gambel's Watercress; Plant Survey and Habitat Assessment, summarized in the 2008 Rare Plant Recovery Project Task 5 Survey Marsh Sandwort and Gambel's Watercress Final Report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2008b).

- 42) Title: Restoration Task Force Coordination □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$21,040.00; spent \$21,038.80
Summary: This project was completed in February 2009 and included coordinating the Restoration Task Force meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes. The project also included identifying priority invasive species removal and seeding locations and recommendations on work to be undertaken in the following quarter, summarized in the 2008 Restoration Task Force Administration and Priority ID report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2008c).
- 43) Title: Research Library Support ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$13,970.00; spent \$7,425.06
Summary: This project was completed February 2009. The project included purchasing and maintaining library search engine software; accessioning the Dunes Collaborative materials including approximately 300 Dunes Collaborative items, in 36 boxes (spent one quarter the amount allocated to this task); posting Dunes Collaborative documents to the Research Library Website (spent half the amount allocated to this task); created a Dunes Collaborative clipping file; and they were to evaluate the load capacity of Dunes Center second floor to expand library, but no funds were spent on this task.
- 44) Title: Visitor Serving Task Force (VSTF) Coordination ○
Grantee: Center for Natural Lands Management
Budget: \$7,000.00; spent \$6,200
Summary: This project was completed February 2009 and included overseeing the VSTF, general coordinating; organizing, facilitating, VSTF meetings; and coordinating with the Dunes Collaborative and Restoration Subcommittee.
- 45) Title: Public Education and Outreach Coordinator ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$25,000; spent all
Summary: This project was completed February 2009 and funded the third and fourth years of the Public Education and Outreach Coordinator. The project included increasing awareness and appreciation for the dunes; increasing participation in volunteer programs, restoration, and interpretation efforts; increasing visitation to the dunes; participating on planning teams for special events (e.g., DuneQuest 2006, Winter Solstice, and Guadalupe Beach Festival); and translating into Spanish existing and future Collaborative outreach materials, including Dunes Collaborative website pages.

- 46) Title: Dunes Complex Interpretive Training ^o
Grantee: California Department of Parks & Recreation Oceano Dunes District
Budget: \$21,000.00; spent \$13,304.59
Summary: This project was completed in September 2008 and included two two-day introductory courses on topics relevant to public education and outreach from within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex. They were able to gather and work with, provide information to, and inform approximately 120 individuals each year (over 240 participants over 2 years)—exceeding expectations for attendance— (participants ranged from docents, rangers, State Park staff persons, interested community members, to students from high schools and colleges) at each training. The outreach engaged the professional community working within the Dunes Complex and included the Dunes Collaborative as experts and presenters. They also assisted with DuneQuest; and helped initiate field trips to Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area. All summarized in the Guadalupe Dunes Interpretive Training Project Final Report (California Department of Parks & Recreation, Oceano Dunes District, 2008).
- 47) Title: Dunes Complex Outreach Support ^o
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$23,980.00; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in December 2008. The project included addressing the need to enhance partnerships and further develop relationships with agencies, individuals and groups not currently participating regularly in the Dunes Collaborative. The project also expanded partnerships among Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, City of Guadalupe, South County Historical Society, Save the Mesa, Friends of Dana Adobe, Nipomo Native Garden, UC Santa Barbara and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; provided outreach at special events; and assisted with the planning and implementation of DuneQuest, summarized in the Guadalupe Dunes Complex Outreach Support Project Final Report (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2008a).
- 48) Title: Interpretive Trailer Repair & Renovation at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes ^o
Grantee: Center for Natural Lands Management
Budget: \$8,000.00; spent all
Summary: This project was completed November 2008 and included making repairs to the exterior of the interpretive trailer to make it safe to transport to and from events and renovated some of the interior exhibits.
- 49) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative ^Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$111,320.00; spent all

Summary: This project was completed February 2009 and included administration of the Dunes Collaborative, as well as administrative and financial oversight of the 2007-2008 Endowment Projects.

Separate 2008-2011 Endowment Project

- 50) Title: Mission Expansion and Capacity Building Project (3-year project 2008-2011 with separate Endowment Sub-Account) ○
- Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
- Budget: year 1 \$150,000: spent \$148,943.63; year 2 \$139,340: spent all; year 3 \$47,920: spent all; total 3-year budget \$337,260; total spent \$336,203.63

Summary: This 3-year project was completed in October 2011. The primary purpose of the project was to increase and expand the Dunes Center's capacity to engage the Central Coast community in programs and activities that enhance public understanding and appreciation of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex by fundraising and increasing membership. In addition, the project was designed to strengthen and expand the volunteer base for the Dunes Center and increase their educational services. These core components were developed through development and then updating the Dunes Center Strategic Plan (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center 2009-2012, and 2011-2013) implemented by the Dunes Center staff and Board of Directors. The Education and Outreach Program included creating a Volunteer and Docent Manual (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2009d), operating the visitor center and library, public hikes led by docents, provided formal classroom lectures and field trips; provided an after-school program during the school year; and included summer educational programs (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center 2009c, 2010, 2011).

Photo 25. Summary chart of Dunes Center education and outreach programs

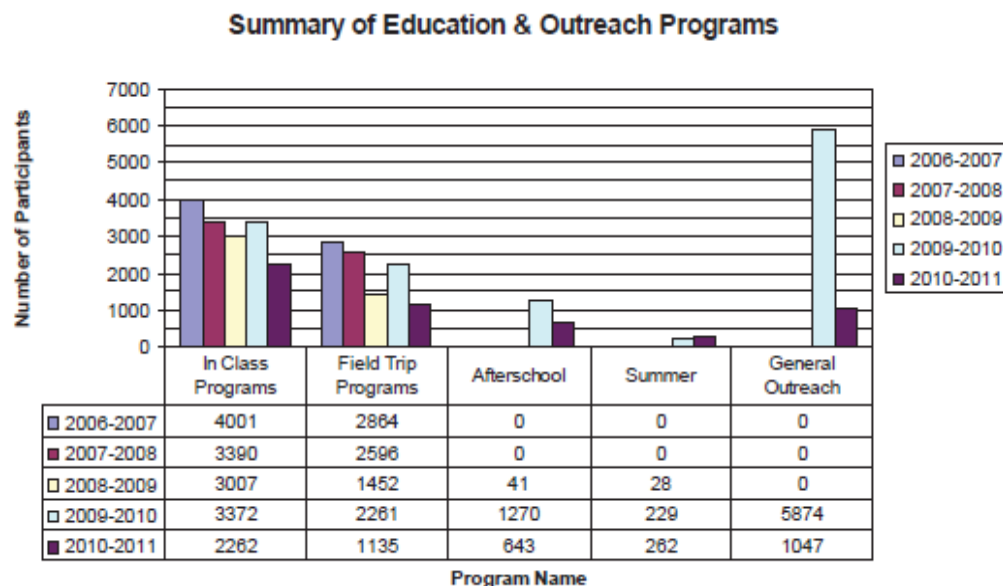


Photo 26. Dunes Center field trips.



2006 Endowment Projects

- 51) Title: Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$160,958; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in February 2007 and included permits, invasive species removal, monitoring, and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2006).
- 52) Title: Restoration Task Force Coordination □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$7,517; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in February 2007 and included coordinating the Restoration Task Force meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes. The project also included identifying priority invasive species removal and seeding locations and recommendations on work to be undertaken in the following quarter.
- 53) Title: Visitor Serving Task Force Coordination ○
Grantee: Center for Natural Lands Management
Budget: \$2,888; spent all
Summary: This project was completed December 2006 and included overseeing the VSTF, general coordinating; organizing, facilitating, VSTF meetings; and coordinated with the Dunes Collaborative and Restoration Subcommittee (Center for Natural Lands Management, 2006).
- 54) Title: Public Education and Outreach Coordinator ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$24,792; spent all
Summary: This project was completed March 2008 and funded the Public Education and Outreach Coordinator for a second year. The project included increasing awareness and appreciation for the dunes; increasing participation in volunteer programs, restoration, and interpretation efforts;

increasing visitation to the dunes; participating on planning teams for special events such as DuneQuest; and preparing Spanish translations of outreach materials (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2006a).

- 55) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$37,144; spent all
Summary: This project was completed December 2006 and included administration of the Dunes Collaborative as well as administrative and financial oversight of the 2006 Dunes Collaborative Endowment Projects. This project also included creating a number of outreach materials including in Spanish (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2006b).

Note: A GIS data management, assessment and sharing task to maintain ArcIMS sites was selected for funding but was never implemented by Terra Solutions, \$11,691.

2005 Endowment Projects (Note: 2005 Endowment project Restoration Messaging and Walkway for Dunes Interpretive Center for \$37,498 to fund interpretive panels and construction at Interpretive Center was never implemented by Dunes Center).

- 56) Title: Invasive Plant Species Removal □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$141,296; spent all
Summary: This project was completed January 2006 and included permits, identified priority areas, invasive species removal in the dunes including Veldtgrass, Beach grass and Pampas grass, monitoring, and reporting (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2005a).
- 57) Title: Interpretive Master Plan Phase 2 ○
Grantee: CNLM
Budget: \$12,400; spent all
Summary: This project was completed December 2006 and included updating the Phase 1 2004 Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) developed by The Acorn Group that included data from their research, input from Collaborative partners, field observations, and included strategies for enhancing visitor services and refining interpretive development throughout the dunes complex. Phase 2 of the IMP was expanded to include State Park lands and Black Lake Canyon owned by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County which were not identified in the initial plan. Additionally, Phase 2 included development of a recreational brochure for the dunes complex. This brochure targeted tourists and first-time dunes visitors and included a detailed map and information regarding recreational opportunities. A limited number of first run brochures were developed for distribution and testing (Acorn Group, 2006 and Center for Natural Lands Management, 2005a).

- 58) Title: Public Education and Outreach Coordinator ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$21,410; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in March 2006 and funded the Public Education and Outreach Coordinator. Duties of the Coordinator included increasing awareness and appreciation for the dunes; increasing participation in volunteer programs, restoration, and interpretation efforts; increasing visitation to the dunes; participating on planning teams for special events (e.g., Winter Solstice, Guadalupe Beach Festival); and Spanish translations of outreach materials (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2005a).
- 59) Title: Development of Adaptive Management Protocols □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$12,480; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in March 2006. The project included updating existing adaptive management tools including updating the 2000 database used as the basis for restoration prioritization; and updating priorities assigned to landscape management units (LMUs). LMUs were analyzed to determine what additional management protocols were needed for a more holistic ecosystem management approach, outlined in the project Summary Report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2005b).
- 60) Title: GIS Data Management – for restoration and snowy plover monitoring □
Grantee: USFWS
Budget: \$10,000; spent \$8,989.24
Summary: This project was completed December 2006. The project included data assessment and data sharing, specifically, taking an inventory of current Collaborative GIS data and other GIS data sets for the dunes and compiled resources and wrote up summary of existing data. The project also included developing next steps/recommendations/procedures for database management; and creating ArcIMS sites for data sharing, summarized in the project's final report. (Terra Solutions for USFWS, 2005).
- 61) Title: Visitor Contact Stations – kiosk and interpretive panel for Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park & Dunes Center ○
Grantee: USFWS, Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Refuge
Budget: \$6,500; spent all
Summary: This project was completed December 2006 and included designing, constructing, and installing two visitor contact kiosks one at the Dunes Center and one at the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park. The three-panel kiosk included an orientation map, brochure box, visitor use information and an interchangeable panel for seasonal information.

- 62) Title: Restoration Task Force Coordination □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$3,840; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in December 2006 and included coordinating the Restoration Task Force meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes. The project also included identifying priority invasive species removal and seeding locations and recommendations on work to be undertaken in the following quarter (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2005c).
- 63) Title: Visitor Serving Task Force (VSTF) Coordination ○
Grantee: CNLM
Budget: \$2,550; spent \$2,295
Summary: This project was completed December 2006 and included overseeing the VSTF, general coordinating; organizing, facilitating, VSTF meetings; and coordinated with the Dunes Collaborative and Restoration Subcommittee (Center for Natural Lands Management, 2005b).
- 64) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$32,070; spent all
Summary: This project was completed December 2005 and included administration of the Dunes Collaborative, as well as administrative and financial oversight of the 2005 Collaborative Endowment Projects (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2005b).

2004 Endowment Projects

- 65) Title: Exotic Species Removal and Restoration □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$219,444; spent \$217,621.38
Summary: This project was completed June 2005 and included permits, identified priority areas, invasive species removal including Veldtgrass, Beach grass and Pampas grass, monitoring, and reporting. This project also included Restoration Task Force administration; and included developing an updated ecosystem management plan, summarized in the 2004 Exotic Species Removal and Restoration Project Final Report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2004a).
- 66) Title: Greenhouse Operations □
Grantee: State Parks
Budget: \$45,000; spent \$43,174.90
Summary: This project was completed December 2004 and included funding for one year for a restoration lead worker/greenhouse manager at the State Parks greenhouse and duties included training staff,

collecting/cleaning/storing seeds; and implemented habitat improvements to snowy plover habitat.

- 67) Title: Interpretive Plan Phase II and Interpretive Products ○
Grantee: CNLM
Budget: \$49,800; spent \$4,059.23
Summary: This project was completed June 2005 and was to include a refinement of the Phase I Interpretive Plan with an end product, Phase II Interpretive Plan to help guide the Visitor Serving Taks Force as to the implementation of visitor services material to improve awareness, access, and use in the dunes complex. Due to issues with the subcontractor, progress was not made on Phase II and only a draft Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Interpretive Master Plan Workplan was prepared (Center for Natural Lands Management, 2004).
- 68) Title: Kiosk Public Service Staffing ○
Grantee: CNLM
Budget: \$26,591; spent \$20,676.60
Summary: This project was completed in June 2005 and included funding for two positions to staff two primary access points at the Dunes Complex: The Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve County Park kiosk and the Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area kiosk.
- 69) Title: Visitor Access Improvements ○
Grantee: CNLM
Budget: \$15,638; spent \$1,486
Summary: This project was completed June 2005 and funded accumulated sand removal on the access road to Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve County Park. Santa Barbara County provided the funds for speed bump installation and the parking lot resurfacing task of the original project ended up not being needed.
- 70) Title: Dune Quest Symposium ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$15,000; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in August 2004 and included the planning and implementation of Dune Quest which was a 2-day event with lectures, panel discussions, and field trips regarding the dunes.
- 71) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative and Endowment Projects Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$38,360; spent all
Summary: This project was completed in March 2005 and included administration of the Dunes Collaborative and the 2004 Collaborative

Endowment Projects. The project also included “capacity building” to expand external communications, media relations, engagement with elected and appointed officials, and community organizations within the region to support the Dunes Collaborative. It also included an expanded public outreach component regarding the value of the dunes ecosystem, success stories in restoration and responsible public access to the dunes.

2003 Endowment Projects

- 72) Title: Visitor Services Interpretive Plan Development and Implementation ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$62,170; spent \$39,333.50
Summary: This project was completed December 2003 and included hiring Acorn Group to develop a first draft of an interpretive master plan/framework for the dunes complex to set visitor services project priorities and to begin developing visitor orientation information products including a dune complex access map. The project also included preparing other outreach materials.
- 73) Title: Restoration Task Force/Invasive Species Removal and Monitoring □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$250,000 spent \$197,054.98
Summary: This project was completed December 2003 and included invasive species removal, development and implementation of a monitoring program and protocol, data compilation, restoration planning, and Restoration Task Force administration, all summarized in the project's consolidated Final Report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2003a).
- 74) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative and Endowment Projects Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$35,960; spent \$35,773.76
Summary: This project was completed December 2003 and included administration of the Dunes Collaborative and included administrative and financial oversight of the 2003 Collaborative Endowment Projects, also included capacity building, and development of outreach materials.

Non-Endowment Projects

Long-Term Projects (Non-Endowment Sub-Account)

- 75) Title: Western Snowy Plover Monitoring & Management □
Grantee: USFWS
Budget: \$130,000; spent all
Summary: This Long-Term Project began in 2003 and was completed December 2007 under the lead of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. The project included enhancing the cooperative Western snowy plover monitoring and management programs within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes through facilitating, coordinating, and enhancing existing monitoring efforts on Oso Flaco Natural Area with State Parks, Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Rancho Guadalupe Dunes County Park with Santa Barbara County, and several private properties within the dunes. Tasks included annual plover monitoring via permitted contractor on the Refuge property; plover monitor training; Work Group coordination; and development of web-based plover database contracted with Terra-Solutions. The combined nest total for the monitoring on the Refuge property during this period was 226 nests, 91 nests hatched producing 247 chicks (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2005, 2006, 2007, Annual Reports).
- 76) Title: Information Repository ○
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$40,000; spent \$17,511.04
Summary: The Dunes Center serves as a centralized repository for information about the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes. Research, restoration data, reports and books on the dunes ecosystems are housed at the Dunes Center. This Long-Term Project was completed December 2008 and included the Dunes Center compiling and archiving documents, books, photographs, maps, and records regarding the dunes including data from restoration and monitoring efforts; and securely and permanently archived the documents and information to foster continuing research and collaboration. The project also included a repository for Geographic Information System (GIS) data for Collaborative members and others participating in restoration activities within the dunes and included making available GIS data at work stations at the Dunes Center. Due to technical difficulties with open-source software for the on-line library, that project task was not completed (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2008b).
- 77) Title: Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes – Survey and Report □
Grantee: Jim Blecha
Budget: \$42,545; spent all
Summary: This Long-Term Project was completed December 2008 and included combining two proposals, 1) Inventory and management

recommendations for terrestrial biological resources, exclusive of plants, within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes complex and 2) Preliminary survey of Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes wetlands and dune swales into one project, Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. The Terrestrial Faunal Resources tasks included data collection (contacting species experts and literature review); and report preparation. The Aquatic/Wetland Resources tasks included field surveys to locate the dune wetlands and determine their general condition and summarize data in a report; and prepare/provide a georectified GIS layer of dune wetlands and swales. All dune wetlands, including dune swales, between the mouths of the Santa Maria River and Arroyo Grande Creek and inland to the extent access was feasible were surveyed and the perimeter of each wetland unit was defined using a GPS unit. A general biological description was made, and the condition of each wetland/swale assessed. A database for each wetland unit surveyed included the geographical location and extent of the unit, and major botanical resources (Blecha, 2007 and 2008).

- 78) Title: Western Snowy Plover Monitoring □
 Grantee: CNLM
 Budget: \$20,000; spent all
 Summary: The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) manages the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve for Santa Barbara County. CNLM contracted out snowy plover monitoring for the 600-acre County Park for one year. This Long-Term Project was completed in 2004. Nests were surveyed and tracked on foot. In 2003, there were 14 nests that hatched one or more eggs (CNLM, 2005c).
- 79) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative Long-Term Projects Δ
 Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
 Budget: \$56,150; spent \$48,968.52
 Summary: In administering the Dunes Stewardship Collaborative Long-Term Projects, the Dunes Center provided the 501(c)(3) status for the distribution of funds (billing to the Restoration Subcommittee and distribution of funds to grantees) and administrative oversight of the Collaborative. The Long-term projects which the Dunes Center provided financial and project administration included Western Snowy Plover Monitoring and Management (USFWS); Western Snowy Plover Monitoring (CNLM); Information Repository (Dunes Center); and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources Surveys (Blecha), (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, 2008c).

Note: The Long-Term project titled Restoration Exhibit Design for \$25,000 to be implemented by Dunes Center was not completed due to failed capital campaign and project was canceled; Dunes Center spent \$616 of the \$25,000 for initial planning.

Interim Projects (Non-Endowment Sub-Account)

- 80) Title: Exotic Plant Species Removal □
Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
Budget: \$177,994; spent \$177,557.11
Summary: This Interim Project was completed May 2003 and included 4 tasks: Establishment of a Steering Committee with landowners and land managers that helped prioritize work and evaluated completed work; established priorities for exotic species removal and restoration and developed a map and database used to set priorities; implemented the priority projects which included treatment of exotic weed species; and published quarterly reports and a final report. A total of 140 acres were treated for beachgrass, veldtgrass, pampas grass and iceplant.

Photo 27. Veldtgrass mowing.



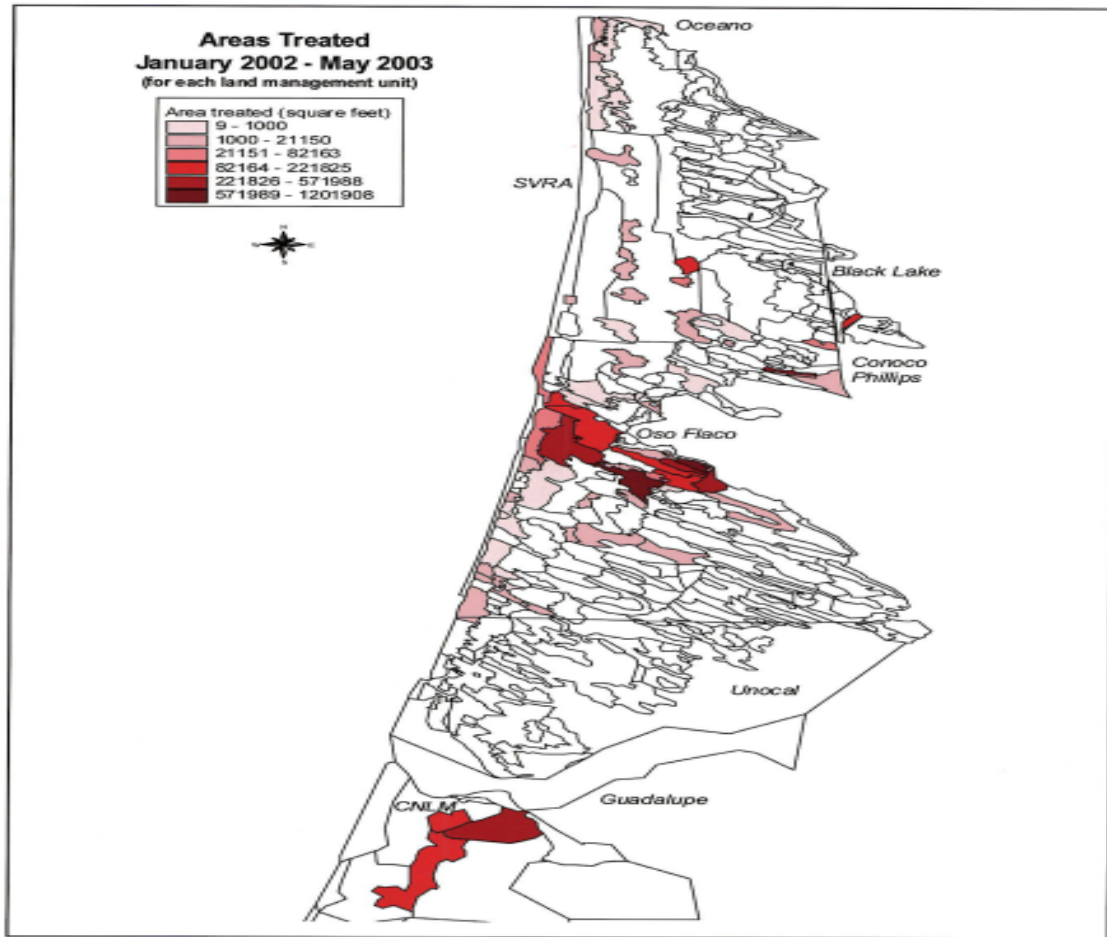
**Veldt Grass mowing in unit 2118
April 10, 2003**

Photo 28. Veldtgrass manual removal



**Veldt Grass manual removal in unit 2037
April 10, 2003**

Figure 6. Areas treated under the Exotic Plant Species Removal Interim Project.



- 81) Title: Access Improvements at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Beach ○
 Grantee: CNLM
 Budget: \$100,589; spent \$100,552.30

Summary: This Interim Project was completed January 2004 and included four main tasks: (1) species recovery actions, including signage and installed symbolic fencing, a video camera and spotting scope purchase, plover monitoring to establish baseline data, an installed educational bulletin board, installed predator proof trash bins, and kiosk facility enhancements; (2) habitat restoration, including veldtgrass treatment, exotic species removal, and native species revegetation; (3) educational programs and visitor services, including interpretive trailer improvements, the purchase and installation of additional picnic tables, installation of two new interpretive panels at the parking area, and improved access signage and messaging; and (4) site construction at the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve Santa Barbara County Park, including improvements to the parking lot and entrance gate improvements.

Photo 29. CNLM Bulletin Board.



Photo 30. CNLM Interpretive trailer improvements.



Photo 31. CNLM Interpretive panels Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve.



Photo 32 and Photo 33. CNLM Kiosk improvements at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve Park entrance.



Photo 34. Native species revegetation at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve.



- 82) Title: Geographic Information System (GIS) Development – Setting Priorities for Restoration □
- Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- Budget: \$74,200; spent all
- Summary: This Interim Project was completed March 2003 and included 5 tasks: (1) aerial photography – scanned and geo-rectified existing air photos to use as a base layer in the GIS program; consolidated existing GIS data from several sources; (2) digitized Land Management Units (LMUs), (3) a database of LMUs of the entire Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex for use in prioritizing restoration activities; (4) confirmation of LMUs and verified the digitized LMU boundaries in the field; (5) installation of a GIS system at the Dunes Center with data from this project; and completion of a final report titled Dunes GIS Project: Setting Priorities for Restoration (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2003c)

Figure 7. Index to Landscape Unit Maps (Figure A-2 from Final Report).

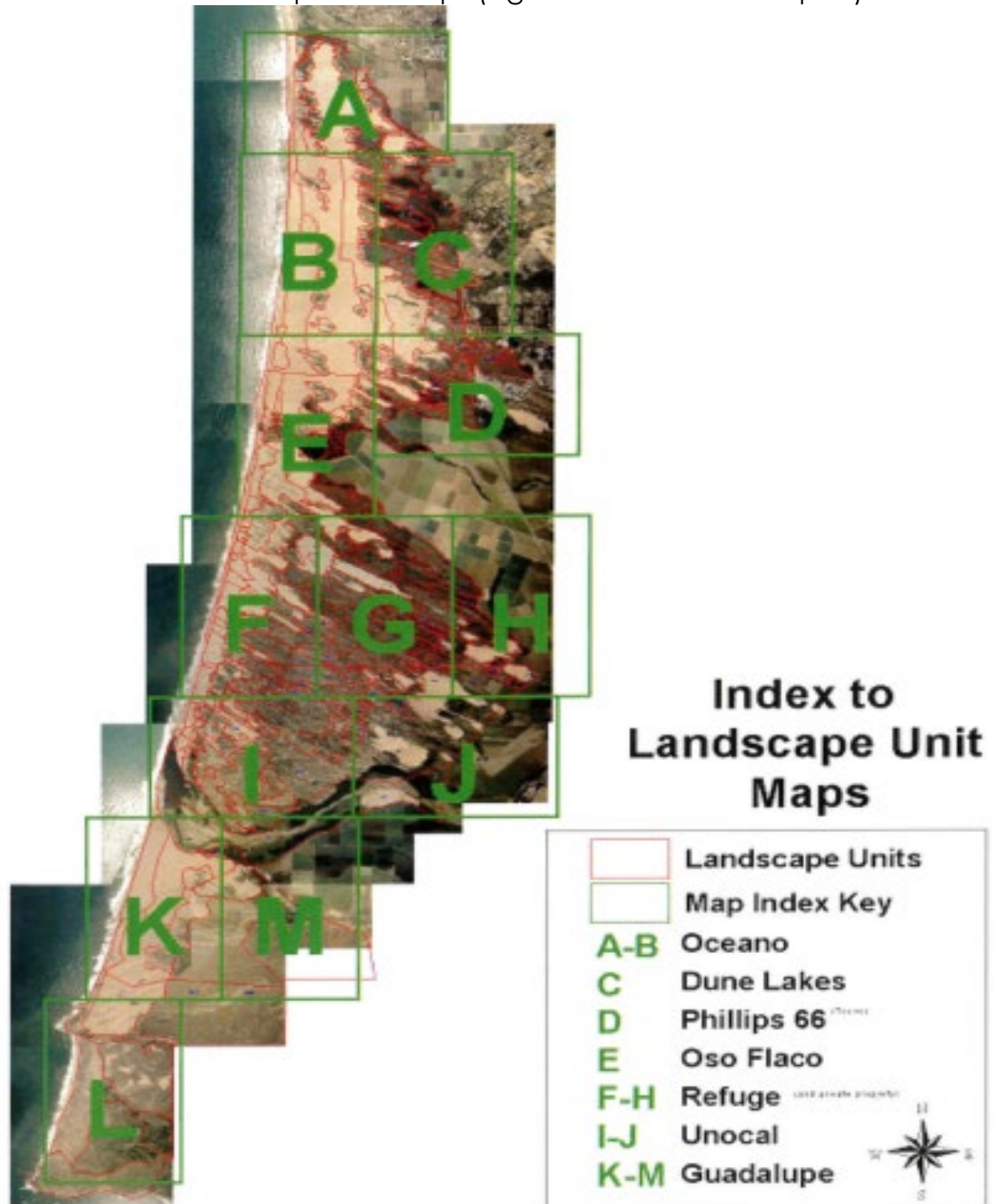
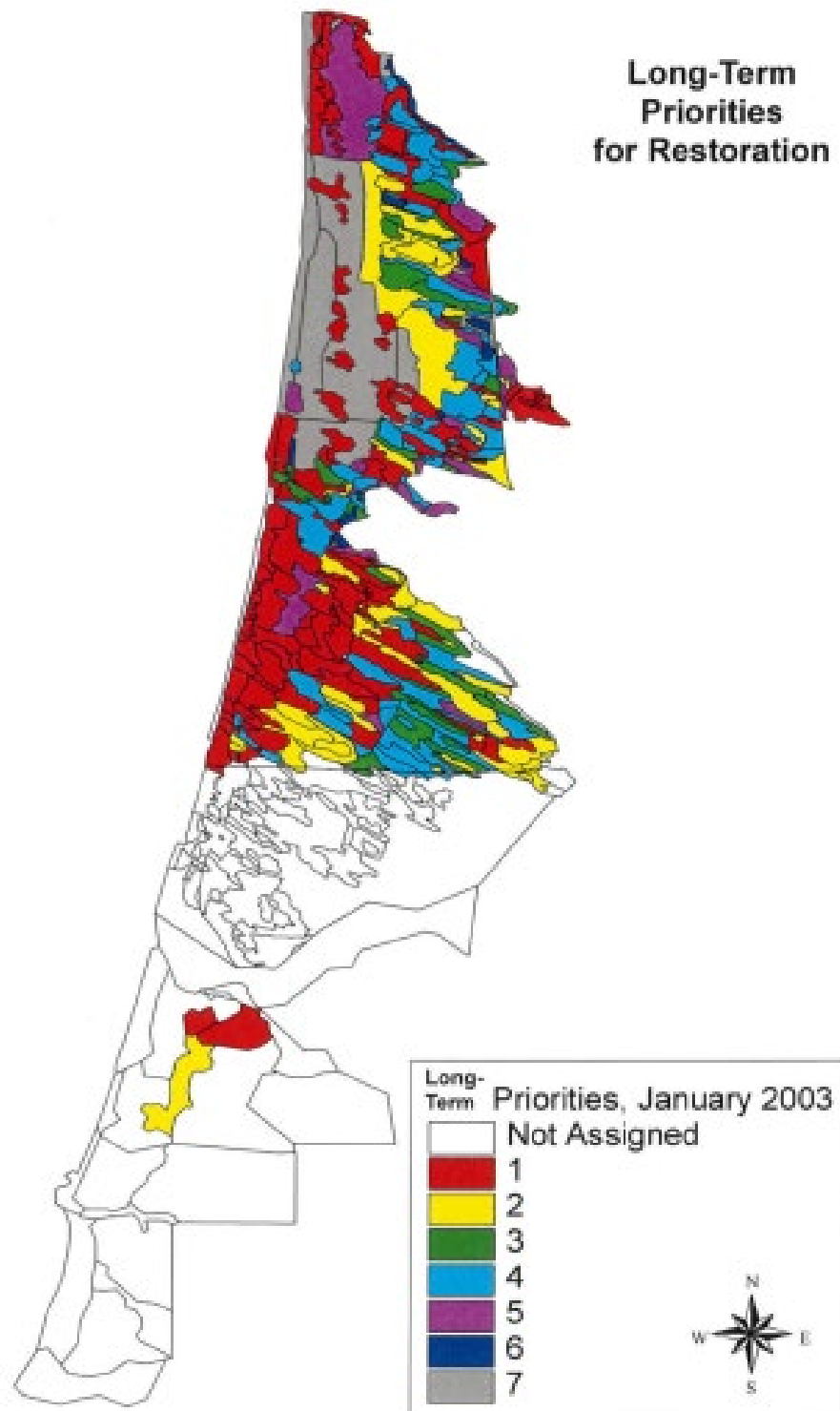


Figure 8. Long-Term Restoration Priorities for Restoration (Figure C-2 from Final Report).



- 83) Title: Western Snowy Plover Education Guardian Program □
 Grantee: USFWS,
 Budget: \$90,088; spent \$80,950.26
 Summary: This Interim Project was completed in October 2003 and included developing a hands-on education program for the western snowy plover (USFWS, 2003c, Final Report). The project included creating a Western Snowy Plover Docent Program School Activity Guide (USFWS, 2002), a Western Snowy Plover Docent Manual (USFWS, 2003a) and associated support materials including a Western Snowy Plover Educational Kit (USFWS, 2003b) with focused outreach products to enhance land manager's and educational partner's ability to communicate with visitors regarding actions taken to help recover plovers. Outreach materials included 2 videos (links below), Life of the Snowy Plover, Part 1 and Part 2, a photo flip book, bookmarks, press pack, hotel rack card, and a table tent informational card.



Figure 9. Bookmark front and back.

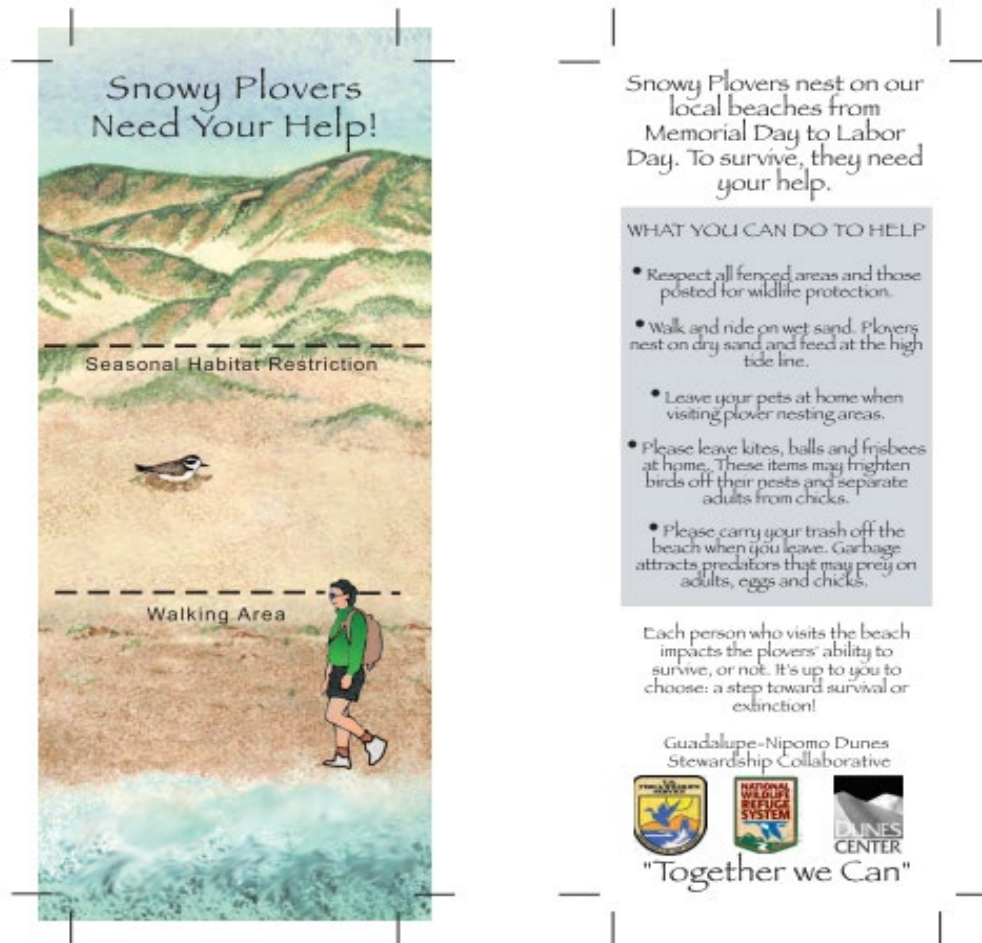
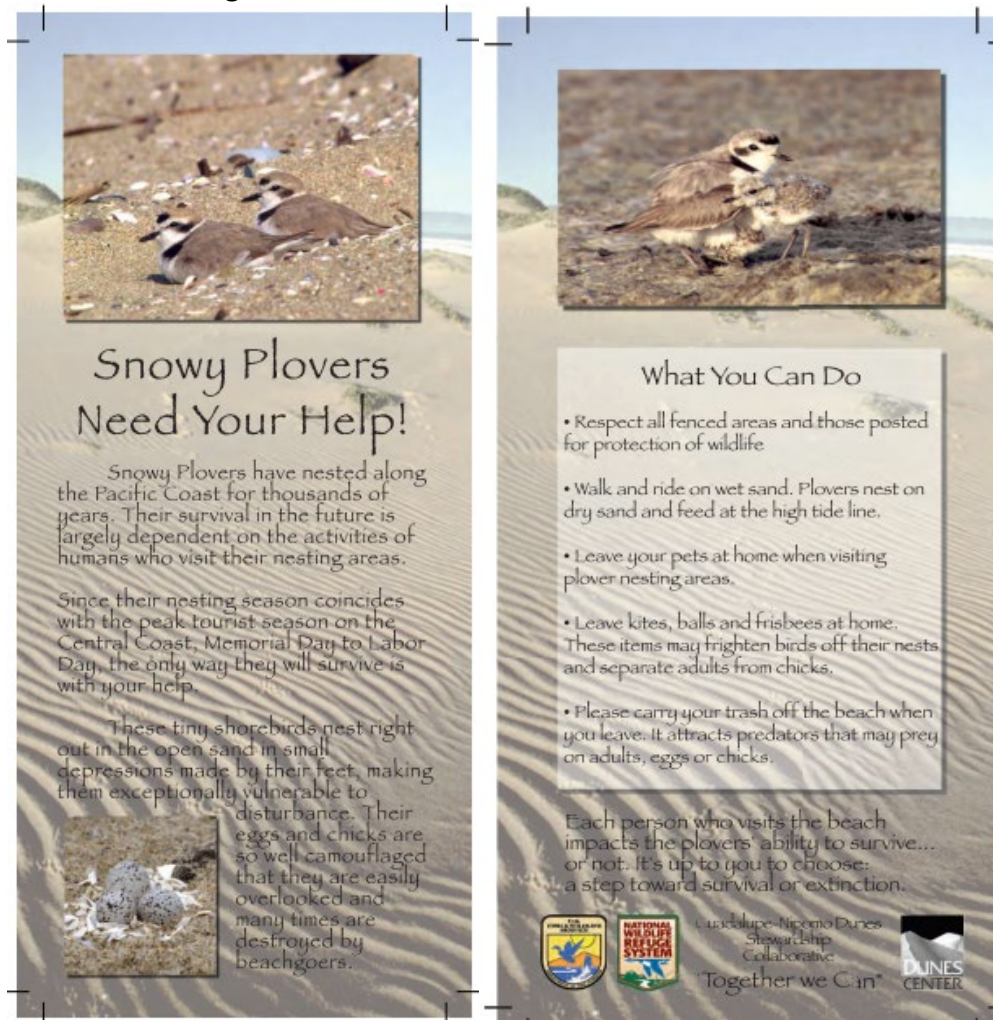


Figure 10. Hotel rack front and back.



- 84) Title: Dunes Center Restoration Interpretation Exhibit Space Planning
 Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
 Budget: \$122,264; spent all
 Summary: This Interim Project was completed June 2003 and included the formation of a Steering Committee consisting of landowners, land managers and Dunes Center staff that worked with Split Rock Studios on Dunes Center exhibit messaging and design. Topics of the exhibit included the story of restoration efforts in the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes, the impact invasive plants can have on native habitats, and the level of planning, investigation and work entailed in implementing a restoration project. The finished product included a technically detailed exhibit design that was submitted to an exhibit fabricator. The exhibit represents approximately 10% of the total exhibit space in the Dunes Visitor Center, approximately 150 square feet of permanent exhibit space.

- 85) Title: Administration of Dunes Stewardship Collaborative (and outreach & capacity building) Δ
Grantee: Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center
Budget: \$118,862; spent all
Summary: This Interim Project was completed June 2003. The project included Dunes Collaborative administration, administration and oversight of the Interim Projects, meeting facilitation, and a workshop. The project also involved developing press kits, helping develop public education kits, performing public outreach, and working on Long-Term projects scopes of work with partners.

Non-Guadalupe Projects (Non-Endowment Sub-Account)

In addition to the Dunes Stewardship Collaborative projects, the Restoration Subcommittee funded the following Non-Guadalupe projects which were projects geographically located outside of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dune Complex; and these projects were not funded under the Endowment Fund:

- 86) Title: Morro Bay Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility □
Grantee: Pacific Wildlife Care
Budget: \$300,000; spent all
Summary: This Non-Guadalupe, Non-Endowment project was completed April 2010 and included funding for the Morro Bay Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility with Pacific Wildlife Care (PWC), a non-profit organization. In addition to the \$300,000 grant, the Restoration Subcommittee also approved a loan in the amount of \$55,400 which PWC paid in full. PWC also obtained \$230,000 in matching funds for the project. The Project was constructed on a portion of the real property commonly known as the Morro Bay Power Plant, owned at the time by Duke Energy Morro Bay LLC ("Duke Energy"), Licensor. Duke Energy entered into a Nonexclusive License Agreement with The Marine Mammal Center (MMC), dated June 1, 2001, to construct and operate a facility for the care and stabilization of marine mammals and other wildlife. MMC entered into a Sub-License Agreement with PWC which allows PWC to operate an emergency response and rehabilitation Facility for birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians on a portion of the Morro Bay Power Plant. PWC rescues and administers treatment and rehabilitative care to injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife in San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties. The facility allows PWC to provide a higher level of standardized care for both oiled and non-oiled wildlife. The PWC facility has the capability to accommodate up to 150 seabirds during a spill event. A site plan was developed, a modular building from Advanced Modular Space, Inc. was designed, building permits were obtained, the site was prepped, and the modular building was installed.

The PWC facility components included the modular building, outdoor caging, a storage trailer, outdoor pools, and the Mobile Oiled Bird Cleaning and

Rehabilitation Trailer (MOBCART). The design for the Wildlife Center included a 2,160 square foot modular building from Advanced Modular Space, Inc. and the building design included a separate room for animal treatment, two animal care rooms, and an isolation/necropsy room. Additional floor space within the facility is dedicated to the intake room, kitchen, storage, and restrooms. The animal intake room is a multi-functional room that includes an area for an office as well as space for meetings and training. The 2,736 square foot design for the center allows PWC to incorporate all functions into one facility and be in compliance with their Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) contract to accommodate 150 seabirds in the event of an oil spill. The project is summarized in the Final Report (Pacific Wildlife Care, 2010).

Photo 35. Site preparation for the PWC Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility, Dr. Mike Ziccardi with OWCN, and Steve Sawyer and Melissa Boggs with OSPR.



Photo 36. Site preparation with the modular trailer installed at PWC.



Photo 37. Outside of completed modular at PWC.



Photo 38. Inside one room of the completed PWC facility.



Photo 39. Inside one room of the completed PWC facility.



Photo 40. One of the outdoor pools at the PWC facility.



- 87) Title: Nipomo Native Gardens □
Grantee: Nipomo Native Garden
Budget: \$164,200; spent \$164,001.06

Summary: This Non-Guadalupe, Non-Endowment project, The Nipomo Native Garden (NNG) was designed during a planning effort in 1993 and the garden itself was completed in December 2010. The NNG is a registered 501 C.3 non-profit organization that is managed and maintained by a group of local volunteers, who planned the NNG, obtained the funding, built the garden, created the website at www.nipomonativegarden.org, and keep the garden maintained. The NNG is a twelve-acre site located within the San Luis Obispo County Nipomo Regional Park in the community of Nipomo just east of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. It is a native botanical garden that features plant communities endemic to the Nipomo Mesa and Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. There are trails throughout the garden, and information kiosks were built to inform visitors about the garden and a Garden Map and Brochure was created (Nipomo Native Gardens, 2011b). A children's area was created to allow children a place to play in nature. The NNG's specific goal is to feature the plant communities that are native to the Nipomo mesa dune complex: oak woodland, maritime chaparral, manzanita, coastal sage scrub, coastal dune scrub, riparian/wetland, and grassland. A number of grants were obtained over the years to pay for the development of the garden, the largest was from the Guadalupe Natural Resources Restoration Trust which funded most of the garden hardscape (fencing around the perimeter, paths, information kiosks, parking lot, irrigation). Maintenance expenses are paid for through yearly membership dues and their annual

plant sale. The garden continues to be managed by a small board of directors and all work was done by dedicated volunteers and is summarized in their Grant Taks Final Status Report (Nipomo Native Garden, 2011a).

Photo 41. 1997 Development of the Wetlands.



Photo 42. Pathways installed with help from California Conservation Corps.



Photo 43. Volunteers adding plants.



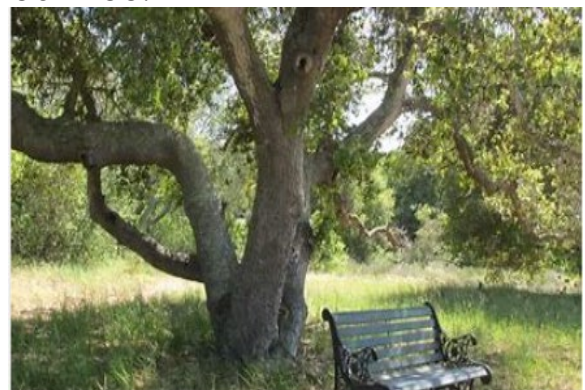
Photo 44. One of three information Kiosks designed and built by volunteers.



Photo 45. NNG completed.



Photo 46. NNG beautiful spot under oak tree.



- 88) Title: Nipomo Creek Watershed Restoration Project (Phase 1 Outreach, Phase 2 Implementation) □
 Grantee: Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
 Budget: Phase 2 budget \$709,543; spent \$697,964 and Phase 1 budget/spent \$161,118.29
 Total budget Phase 1 & 2 \$870,661.29 and total spent \$859,082.29

Summary: This Non-Guadalupe, Non-Endowment project started in 2002 and was completed in May 2019. Phase 1 included the Land Conservancy in partnership with Central Coast Salmon Enhancement (CCSE) to establish the Nipomo Creek Watershed Steering Committee. The Committee addressed watershed restoration planning and implemented a water quality monitoring program throughout the watershed. The water quality program included monitoring by trained volunteers, and a biological inventory was prepared in the Nipomo Creek Watershed Characterization Report (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2003b). A riparian habitat assessment of the watershed was performed and included active landowner outreach with the goal of locating restoration projects that provided benefits to the watershed system. The Nipomo Creek watershed was included in the Santa Maria River Estuary Enhancement and Management Plan, Phase 1 Report that was prepared (Science Applications International Corporation and Moffatt & Nichol Engineers. 2002). A Final Report of Concept Recommendations for Short-Term Project Implementation was also prepared (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2004b). The Steering Committee also helped develop the Nipomo Creek Watershed Management Plan (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County and Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, 2005c). All of these planning efforts from Phase 1 were used to proceed to Phase 2 of this project which was the implementation of specific restoration efforts in the Nipomo Creek Watershed.

Initially, the Phase 2 implementation of restoration projects included four sub-projects, but Sub-Project 1, Nipomo Creek Debris Removal and Riparian Restoration. This project included streambank stabilization and revegetation along approximately 150 feet of Nipomo Creek. The project was started, and \$1,619.38 was spent prior 2012, but the project turned out to not be viable due to landowner issues. Additionally, Sub-Project 4, the Lower Nipomo Creek Wetland Restoration project to enhance and protect a large portion of the floodplain of Nipomo Creek just upstream of the confluence of the Santa Maria River, was started and \$3,269.03 was spent prior to 2009. However, this project also turned out to not be viable due to landowner issues.

Sub-Project 2, Dana Adobe Riparian Restoration, was completed and included repairing two eroding banks in the main stem of Nipomo Creek as well as revegetating approximately 3,500 linear feet or 7.68 total acres of riparian corridor. Construction included onsite biological monitoring; bank stabilization with environmentally sensitive techniques; riparian fencing; and

revegetation with 1,750 native trees, over 10,000 shrubs, and seeded grasses and forbs. Long-term monitoring and maintenance was also performed to promote successful establishment and long-term health of the riparian corridor. A conservation easement was obtained by the Land Conservancy to place limitations on use of the property and included conditions to protect the riparian corridor such as livestock exclusion. The project resulted in the stabilization and revegetation of approximately 3,500 linear feet of riparian corridor. The Nipomo Creek DANA Adobe Riparian Restoration Project Final Report was completed (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2019e).

Sub-Project 3, the Stock Pond Improvement and Habitat Creation project was completed and included dredging of a 3-acre registered stock pond, creating wetland habitat, repairing, and reconfiguring an eroded spillway, adding riparian fencing to isolate the pond from impacts related to cattle access, revegetating with native plants, stabilizing of 50 feet of streambank; establishing wetland plants and planting a buffer strip of native vegetation around the pond. In addition, a long-term management plan was developed to sustain pond function and included long-term maintenance and monitoring. The Land Conservancy and the landowner entered into a ten-year license agreement to provide access to the site and protection of the restoration area following construction. The Nipomo Creek Stock Pond Improvement Project Final Report was completed (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2019f).

Photos 47 and 48. Nipomo Creek Watershed, Sub-Project 3, Stock Pond Improvement and Habitat Creation project - cement wall constructed to stabilize stock pond to avoid further erosion in creek below.



Photos 49 and 50 Nipomo Creek Watershed, Sub-Project 2, Dana Adobe Riparian Restoration - revegetation by hydro mulch (left) and native container planting (right).



Photos 51 and 52. Nipomo Creek Watershed, Sub-Project 2, Dana Adobe Riparian Restoration – Carillo Creek (tributary to Nipomo Creek) in March 2009 (left) and in March 2019 (right).



- 89) Title: Santa Maria River Riparian Habitat Restoration □
Grantee: Cachuma Resource Conservation District
Budget: \$393,500; spent all

Summary: This Non-Guadalupe, Non-Endowment Project started in November 2002 and was completed December 2006. There were two principal components of this project: (1) repair and enhance the riparian corridor within the levee system of the Santa Maria River, and (2) prepare a geomorphologic report for a reach of river that was not contained by levees (completed January - March 2003). The purpose of the geomorphologic report was to document areas of concern and make recommendations for future improvements in the reach of river just upstream from where the repair and enhancement work took place. The repair and enhancement included degraded sections of the Santa Maria River from the confluence of the Sisquoc and Cuyama Rivers to Highway 1 near Guadalupe; and also helped provide a buffer to protect the riverbanks and levees from erosion. Over an approximate three-year period, approximately 105,500 lineal feet of riparian habitat averaging 50 feet in width was enhanced resulting in a total of approximately 120 acres of prime habitat improvement. The enhancement included linear planting, parallel to the levees, of native tree cuttings that were propagated from cuttings harvested from stock endemic to the area, except several low priority sites that were seeded. A decision on the irrigation water source was made at the time of planting and appropriate delivery systems were installed. Planting was performed during winter and early spring, and the planting areas extended from the toe of the levees out to a distance of 50 feet. Plantings included propagation of willows and cottonwoods from cuttings obtained within the watershed and seeding with mulefat. The principal species used were Red Willow (*Salix laevigata*), Arroyo Willow (*S. lasiolepis*), Sandbar Willow (*S. hindsiana*), and Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*). The Santa Maria River Riparian Habitat Restoration Project Progress Report was prepared (Cachuma Resource Conservation District, 2006).

Photo 53. CCC digging holes for willow plantings.



Photo 54. Willow pegs planted in Santa Maria River.



- 90) Title: Dunes Stewardship Collaborative Facilitation and Project Management Services Δ
 Grantee: Interactive Planning and Management, Mr. John Jostes
 Budget: \$360,500; spent \$360,490.59
 Summary: This Non-Guadalupe, Non-Endowment Project started August 2002 and was completed April 2013. The project included having a contractor assist the Restoration Subcommittee with implementing the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Final Restoration Plan. Tasks involved project proposal reviews, project refinement, and project administration. For example, the contractor provided meeting facilitation and support; workshop development; development of the Dunes Collaborative Work Plan and Operating Procedures; and support for the Visitor Serving and Restoration Task Forces. The contractor also provided support to Dunes Center Executive Director, and assisted with Dunes Center strategic planning, Dune Center audits, and with the Dunes Center Mission Expansion project administration.

Several projects the Restoration Subcommittee proposed to fund were delayed for a number of reasons and ultimately not implemented. These projects included the School Lake Wetland restoration project with the City of Guadalupe (\$190,000), and Mahoney wetland project with Santa Barbara County (\$699,610). Finally, the \$100,000 that was committed to the Nipomo Native Gardens Visitor Center was withdrawn due to lacking matching funds.

Other Miscellaneous Administrative-Related Expenditures (Non-Endowment Sub-Account)

- 91) Title: Capacity building assistance for the 2004 Endowment Projects Δ
 Grantee: Groundwork Strategies, Nancy Hale
 Budget: \$21,863.60, spent all
 Summary: Assisted Dunes Stewardship Collaborative members in fundraising efforts, researched potential funding sources and foundations, and assisted Collaborative members in developing project proposals and grant applications.
- 92) Title: Services to Guadalupe Fund Committee (facilitation and Restoration Plan development) Δ
 Grantee: Interactive Planning and Management, Mr. John Jostes
 Budget: \$178,509.95 spent all
 Summary: This effort started in 2000 and the contract was completed in June 2002. The contractor assisted with organizing and facilitating the Public Advisory Committee meeting and follow-ups. The contractor also assisted with the preparation of the Potential Restoration Projects for Natural Resources Impacted by the Guadalupe Oil Field Diluent Releases: A Public Scoping Document (CDFW-OSPR, Coastal Conservancy, 2000); helped plan

and facilitate the Public Forum meeting and follow ups; and with the Restoration Subcommittee, prepared the August 2001 Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Restoration Plan (Interactive Planning and Management, 2001).

- 93) Miscellaneous expenses (i.e., room rentals, travel expenses, ads, permits): \$10,073.90 total spent.

Future Restoration Efforts with California Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 4 and with the California Coastal Conservancy

Pursuant to the third amendment to the Guadalupe Trust, (CDFW-OSPR, Coastal Conservancy, and NFWF, 2022), the Restoration Subcommittee requested NFWF to transfer funds from accounts under the Guadalupe Trust to new accounts established by NFWF, to be overseen by CDFW Region 4 staff, and managed pursuant to the 2019 Amended and Restated Master Mitigation Account Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered by and between CDFW Region 4 and NFWF (CDFW-Region 4 and NFWF, 2019).

As such, on January 6, 2023 NFWF transferred funds in the amount of \$410,599.97 from the Guadalupe Trust Endowment Account to the new CDFW Region 4 Initial and Capital Sub-Account titled “Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Short-Term Management Sub-Account” (Region 4 Short-Term Sub-Account) to fund short-term land management and maintenance activities identified in the Land Conservancy’s short-term work plan, titled “Dune Protected Areas Network: Short-term Work Plan,” dated December 2022, (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2022f) developed with CDFW Region 4 pursuant to the Conservation Strategy for the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2018a-d).

Additionally, pursuant to Section 2 of the third amendment to the Guadalupe Trust, on February 8, 2023, NFWF transferred all remaining funds in the amount of \$2,612,973.00, from the Guadalupe Trust Dune Protected Area Long-Term Management Sub-Account to the CDFW Region 4 Endowment Sub-Account titled “Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Long-Term Management Sub-Account” (Region 4 Long-Term Sub-Account). This Region 4 Long-Term Management Sub-Account was established under the MOA to fund long-term management and maintenance activities identified in the Long-Term Work Plan, titled “Dune Protected Areas Network 1.0 Creating a Blueprint for Restoration in the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Complex, 2018, Long-Term Work Plan, December 2022 (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2022g) developed with CDFW Region 4 pursuant to the Conservation Strategy for the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex (Land Conservancy, 2018a-d). The 2022 Long-Term Work Plan will be implemented after three years of funding at \$125,000 per year from the Region 4 Short-Term Sub-Account to implement the Short-Term Work Plan.

Restoration efforts within the dunes will continue into the future, managed by the CDFW Region 4 staff working with The Land Conservancy as the grantee. CDFW Region 4, NFWF, and The Land Conservancy entered into a Recipient Agreement effective May 3, 2023, titled "Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Long-Term Land Management Funding Recipient Agreement." Per the Recipient Agreement, the Land Conservancy will provide for the protection and management for conservation purposes in perpetuity of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex; and will be implementing short-term and long-term management and maintenance activities identified in Dune Protected Areas Network Short-term Work Plan and the Dune Protected Areas Network 1.0 Creating a Blueprint for Restoration in the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Complex, 2018, Long-term Work Plan, (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County , 2022f and g).

In addition to the \$125,000 per year for the first three years of funding to implement the Short-Term Work Plan from the Region 4 Short-Term Sub-Account, per the Endowment Payment Schedule associated with the Recipient Agreement, \$70,111 (and all disbursements will be adjusted for inflation) per year will be disbursed to the Land Conservancy from the CDFW Region 4 NFWF Long-Term Management Sub-Account starting in 2026 for long-term management activities. This "Endowment Assessment Amount" was calculated as the amount of money necessary to provide a source of perpetual funding for the Land Management Activities.

The Land Conservancy will continue to maintain restoration efforts following their Dune Protected Areas Network Short-Term Work Plan and the Dune Protected Areas Network 1.0 Creating a Blueprint for Restoration in the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Complex, 2018, Long-Term Work Plan, (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2022f and g).

Per the Recipient Agreement, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo will also be required to submit annual reports to NFWF every January detailing land management activities performed the preceding year; and they are to detail expenses and any budget discrepancies. Then NFWF will submit the annual reports and annual accounting summaries to CDFW Region 4 every March.

Additionally, in 2023 the Restoration Subcommittee decided to transfer the remaining Guadalupe Trust funds to the Coastal Conservancy to implement the final project(s), still to be determined. These remaining Endowment funds were from the 2015 Mussel Rock acquisition Endowment project, titled Mussel Rock Dunes Land Acquisition Project: Point Sal Ridge Trail Access Easement. In December 2022, the remaining funds from this Mussel Rock/Point Sal Ridge project were de-obligated back into the Guadalupe Trust Endowment Account and on 08/15/2025, these funds were transferred to the Coastal Conservancy's Guadalupe Trust Sub-Fund, and the Coastal Conservancy will be responsible for overseeing the disbursement of these final funds in the future.

Conclusion

The restoration efforts undertaken by the Dunes Collaborative members and other project grantees, overseen by the Restoration Subcommittee (CDFW-OSPR and the California Coastal Conservancy) have restored many acres within the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dune Complex. Matching funds allocated by the Restoration Subcommittee provided for the 171-acre acquisition of the Tognazzini Property (Paradise Beach), Point Sal Reserve Management Area, Santa Barbara County, for passive recreation. Additionally, access improvements have been made over the years at the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve, Oso Flaco Boardwalk, and Kathleen's Canyon Overlook. As of 2023, the Dunes Center is still operating in the town of Guadalupe and continues to provide educational experiences about the dunes to the public. The Dunes Center maintains exhibit and learning space in the facility and provides classroom learning and educational field trips into the dunes. Additionally, a few other projects that were physically outside of the Dunes Complex were implemented that continue today to provide benefits to natural resources and the public including the Pacific Wildlife Care wildlife rehabilitation facility in Morro Bay, the Nipomo Native Gardens, and restoration efforts in the Nipomo Creek watershed and in the lower Santa Maria River. The establishment of the Guadalupe Dunes Long-Term Management Sub-Account with NFWF and CDFW Region 4 from the transfer of \$2,612,973.00 from the Guadalupe Trust account will support long-term maintenance for restoration projects in perpetuity by following the Conservation Strategy Management Plan (Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, 2018a, b, c, d); and the Land Conservancy will be required to submit annual reports to NFWF and CDFW Region 4 detailing how the annual disbursements were spent. And the other remaining funds from the Guadalupe Trust that were/will be transferred to Coastal Conservancy will be used in the future to implement additional project(s) still to be determined. After being successfully implanted, the MOU was terminated on 04/21/2025 and the Guadalupe Trust was closed on 10/16/2025.

In 2018, the CDFW-OSPR Public Information Officer created a video summarizing the GOF site and highlighting two of the restoration projects funded by the Guadalupe Trust; the Exhibit Designs at the Dunes Center and the Nipomo Native Garden; the link to video is here: <https://youtu.be/4peJi9uNgYo>.

WHERE REFERENCE MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTS ARE DEPOSITED / AVAILABLE

Upon request, documents pertaining to this Final Report, or the Guadalupe Restoration Subcommittee Administrative Record may be reviewed at CDFW-OSPR Headquarters, 1010 Riverside Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95605; or by contacting CDFW-OSPR at mailing address P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or (916) 375-8580.

Financial Summary

Income:

Guadalupe Trust Natural Resource Damages Settlement Funds	\$9,000,000
DTSC Supplemental Environmental Projects Settlement Funds	\$200,000
Total Settlement Funding Available	\$9,200,000

Expenditures:

Projects	
Endowment Projects	\$7,017,953.43
DTSC SEP Funds (Endowment Projects, includes DTSC interest)	\$226,234.20
Long-Term Projects	\$259,024.56
Interim Projects	\$674,385.67
Non-Guadalupe Projects	\$2,077,073.94
Restoration Subcommittee Oversight (CDFW-OSPR project management)	\$348,037.51
Miscellaneous expenditures	\$211,104.77
Endowment Funds transferred to CDFW Region 4 Initial and Capital (Short Term Management) Sub-Account Jan. 6, 2023	\$410,599.97
Endowment Funds transferred to CDFW Region 4 DPA Long-Term Management Sub-Account February 8, 2023	\$2,612,973.00
Remaining Funds transferred to California Coastal Conservancy	\$573,067.98
Total Expenditures:	14,410,455.03

Note the Restoration Subcommittee was able to spend significantly more on projects than was originally allocated per the Settlement Agreement due to interest earned over the 26 years the Guadalupe Trust was active. The first 5 years of NFWF accounting statements and the initial escrow documents were not available to support the preparation of this report, and as such we are not able to provide the total amount of fees incurred and interest earned.

References

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Blecha. 2007. Fauna of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. Unpublished final report submitted to the Dunes Stewardship Collaborative and the Guadalupe Trust Restoration Subcommittee (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response and the California Coastal Conservancy).

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Cachuma Resource Conservation District. 2006. Santa Maria River Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project Progress Report. Unpublished final report submitted to the Guadalupe Trust Restoration Subcommittee (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response and the California Coastal Conservancy).

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