

Background

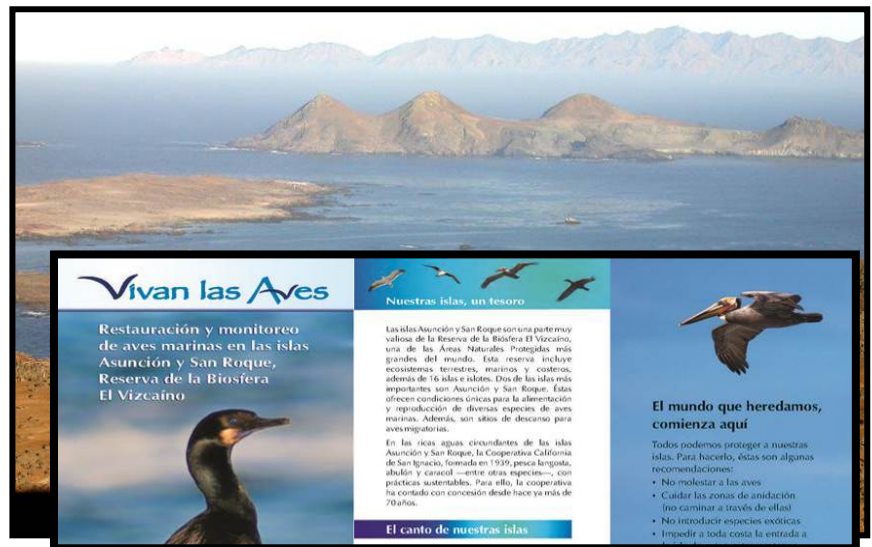
The natural resource Trustees were awarded \$22.7 million to implement 14 restoration projects. The funds come from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund managed by the US Coast Guard. The projects are intended to compensate for injuries caused by oil leaks from the *S.S. Jacob Luckenbach*, a vessel that sank off the coast of San Francisco in 1953. Most of the projects are underway.



Restoration Project Highlights

Seabird Colony Restoration in Baja California

This project, focusing on several islands off the coast of Baja, began last year. Key highlights so far have been: 1) planning and design for a boardwalk at San Jerónimo Island, to protect nest burrows from fishermen that walk across the island; 2) installation of artificial nest boxes on many islands; and 3) education and community outreach near Asunción and San Roque Islands (see poster at right). This project will benefit Cassin's Auklets and Brown Pelicans, as well as Brandt's and Double-crested Cormorants. These species breed in Baja and spend much of the year along the northern California coast.



Corvid Management at Point Reyes National Seashore

At Point Reyes National Seashore, ravens are attracted to cattle feed and dairy operations that are near Common Murre colonies along the park's coastline. The population



of ravens is unnaturally inflated, and ravens are known to travel between the ranches and the murre colonies, where they eat murre eggs and chicks. Efforts to control the raven population to reduce predation on murre are underway. Activities include:



- Monitoring of the ravens and their behavior at the ranches and murre colonies.
- Installation of new calf huts that exclude ravens from calf feed buckets.
- Installation and testing of a covered cattle feed bin, to exclude ravens.
- Fencing to exclude cattle from riparian areas.
- Removal of several ravens that target the murre colonies.
- Removal of debris piles that attract prey for ravens.

At one ranch, the average raven count was reduced 82% due to these measures.

Sea Otter Education and Outreach

This project is designed to educate the public about risks to sea otters from human actions, especially the ways that land-based pollution can impact otters in the ocean. An exhibit on this and other conservation issues is expected to open at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center in Santa Cruz in early 2014. The website seaotters.com continues to provide updates on a variety of sea otter conservation issues.



Updates on Other Projects in Progress

- Grebe Colony Protection at Northern California Lakes – This project is on-going (see Jan 2011 Update).
- Mouse Eradication on the Farallon Islands – The USFWS is reviewing public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. For the results of a similar project in California at Anacapa Island, see this four-minute video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG4mLKN6LT0>
- Shearwater Protection at Taiaroa Head, New Zealand – This project is complete (see Jan 2013 update).
- Dune Restoration at Point Reyes National Seashore – This project is largely complete (see Jan 2012 update).
- Common Murre Colonies and Seabird Protection Network – This project is on-going (see Jan 2013 update).
- Old Growth Forest Acquisition and Protection – The parcel has been identified and long term protection and management plans are being developed.
- Rat Eradication on Haida Gwaii, Canada – This project is largely complete (see Jan 2012 update).
- Nesting Habitat Restoration on Año Nuevo Island – This project is largely complete (see Jan 2012 update).

Luckenbach Trustee Council Budget

Amount Received **\$22,677,231**

Allocations

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Kokechik Flats Protection | \$83,503 |
| Grebe Colony Protection | \$606,044 |
| Farallon Islands Mouse Eradication | \$805,980 |
| Taiaroa Head Shearwater Colony | \$55,649 |
| Baja Islands Seabird Enhancement | \$1,246,146 |
| Point Reyes Dunes | \$370,835 |
| Seabird Protection Network | \$2,948,878 |
| Point Reyes Corvid Management | \$400,000 |
| Common Murre Reading Rock Colony | 0 |
| Murrelets—Habitat Protection | 0 |
| Murrelets—Corvid Management | \$694,006 |
| Haida Gwaii Rat Eradication | \$193,439 |
| Año Nuevo Island Restoration | \$961,902 |
| Sea Otter Pathogens Education | \$121,155 |

Agency Oversight \$750,105

Total **\$9,237,641**

Total Amount Remaining **\$13,439,590**

Natural Resource Trustee Agencies

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
California Department of Fish and Wildlife



<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/Science/Luckenbach.aspx>

Monitoring reports for many restoration projects can be found at

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/NRDA/restore_monitor_reports.aspx