ARIC CRABB - BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

RESTORATION PROGRESS TOWARD REGIONAL GOALS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAYLANDS

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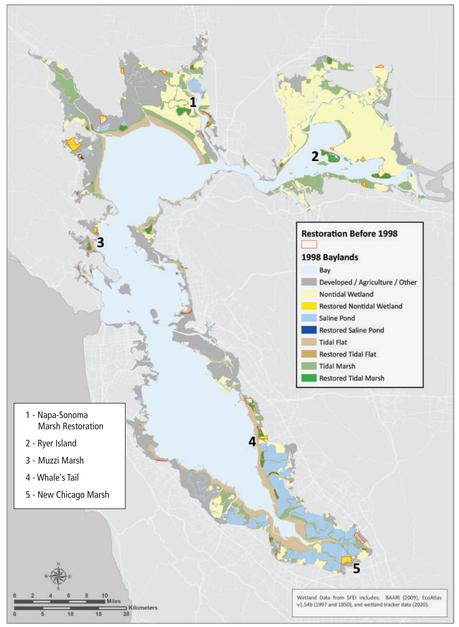
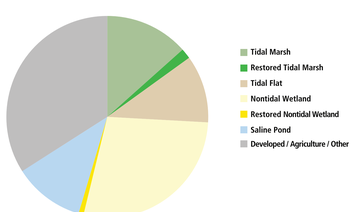
This work was performed as part of the Bayland Ecological Habitat Goals Update (BEHGU) effort. Thanks to the State Coastal Conservancy and Bay Area restoration experts for their local knowledge, advice and guidance.

Our Restoration Progress

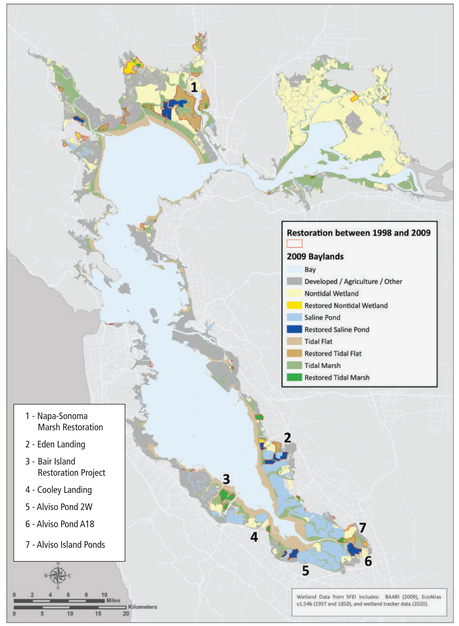
Before 1998



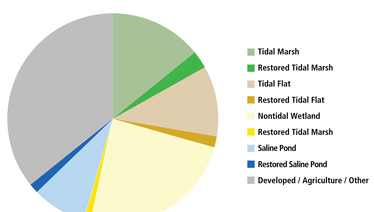
- By 1998, the Baylands had seen a loss of 150,000 acres (79%) of historical tidal marsh and 20,000 acres (40%) of historical tidal flat. Goals to restore bayland habitat were set in 1999 at 60,000 acres to reach a total of 100,000 acres.
- In late 1980's through the 1990's, the restoration community began to turn the tide on the extensive tidal habitat loss through the completion of some early projects.
- Notable projects include Napa-Sonoma Pond 2A, Ryer Island in Suisun Bay, Muzzi Marsh in Marin County, Cogswell Marsh and Whale's Tail on the East Bay Shoreline, and New Chicago Marsh in the South Bay.
- Restoration projects completed by the year 1998 added 4,000 acres of tidal marsh and 2,000 acres of non-tidal wetlands.



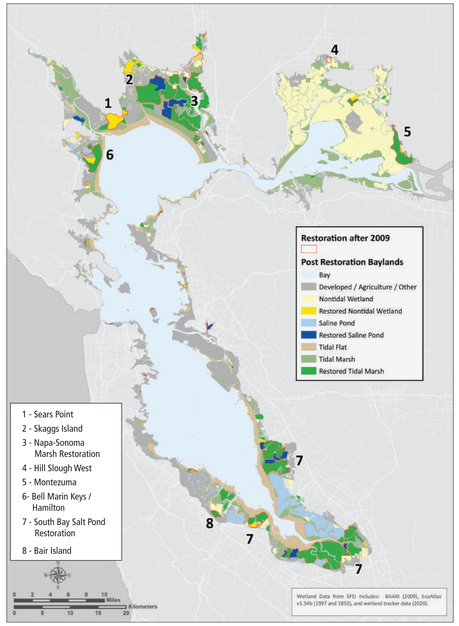
Between 1998 and 2009



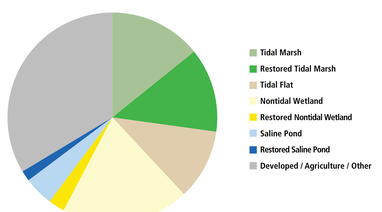
- Restoration projects completed from 1998 to 2009 restored another 13,000 acres of the Baylands.
- Most restoration projects at this time focused on breaching diked habitat, allowing tidal waters to return non-tidal wetlands and ponds to tidal marsh and tidal flat.
- The two largest efforts included Napa-Sonoma and South Bay Salt Ponds
- Projects completed by 2009 increased tidal marsh by 3,000 acres and tidal flat by 5,000 acres despite continued conversion of tidal habitats during this time.
- A total of 5,000 acres of non-tidal wetlands and managed ponds were also created or enhanced.
- A sample of restoration projects completed during this period are listed on the map.



After 2009



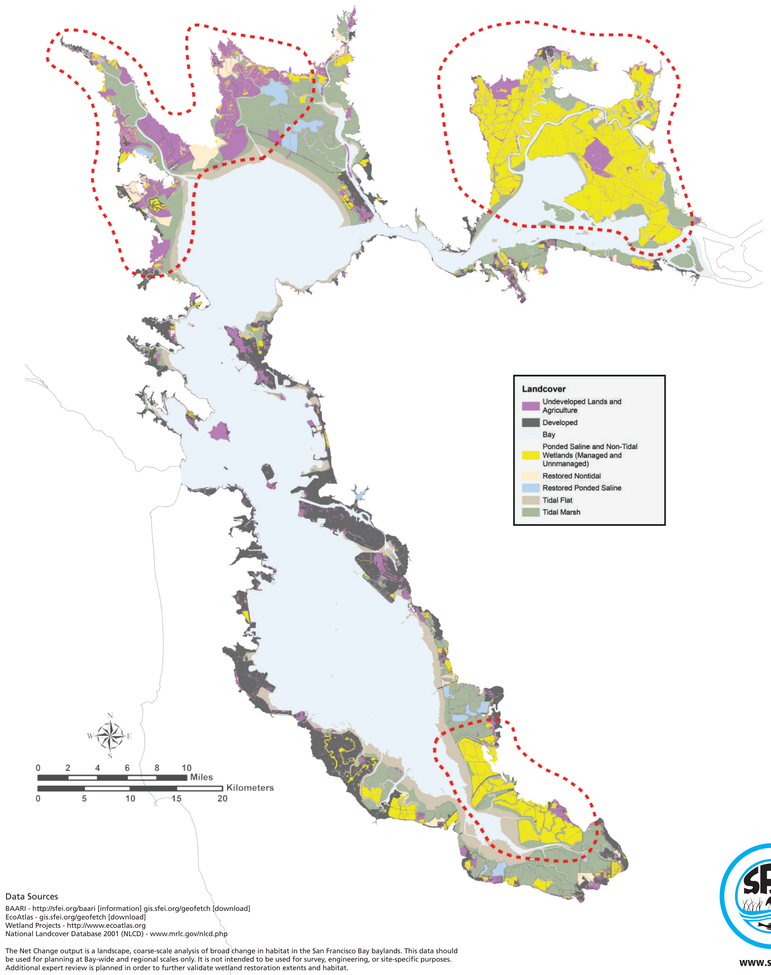
- This "future" Bayland scenario accounts for projects beginning after 2009 and additional projects slated for restoration
- Planned future projects will add around 30,000 acres of tidal marsh and 1,000 acres of tidal flat.
- Although 4,000 acres of managed ponds are planned for restoration or enhancement, the overall extent of managed pond will be reduced by 9,000 acres due to conversion to tidal habitat.
- Similarly, 5,000 acres of non-tidal wetlands are to be created or enhanced, while overall non-tidal wetland extent will decrease by 10,000 acres.
- The largest contributions to the future increase in tidal wetlands are from the Napa-Sonoma Marsh and South Bay Salt Pond Restoration projects.



Expanding the Baylands --Where to Next?

Accounting for the existing and future restoration projects, the Baylands will achieve greater than 50% of the target goal set in 1999 (60,000 acres). In addition, today's Baylands include non-tidal wetlands and ponds managed for wildlife. These habitats were not historically found in the Baylands, but they provide important wildlife habitat that is now an integral part of the ecosystem.

Opportunities to meet the remaining ~30,000 acres of tidal marsh can be found in pockets around the Bay. The largest expanse of undeveloped Baylands can be found in **Suisun Bay** which has 43,000 acres of non-tidal wetlands. The **North Bay** has large plots of agricultural areas that could also be considered for restoration. Less opportunity exists in **Central Bay**, where the Baylands are constrained by steep slopes (narrower Bay margin) and extensive urbanization, but smaller projects could be the focus there. In **South Bay** commercial salt ponds total 13,000 acres that, if restored, could link the Alviso and Eden Landing portions of the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration project.



Data Sources

BAARI - http://sfei.org/baari [information] gis.sfei.org/geofetch [download]
EcoAtlas - gis.sfei.org/geofetch [download]
Wetland Projects - http://www.ecoatlas.org
National Landcover Database 2001 (NLCD) - www.mrlc.gov/nlcd.php

The Net Change output is a landscape, coarse-scale analysis of broad change in habitat in the San Francisco Bay baylands. This data should be used for planning at Bay-wide and regional scales only. It is not intended to be used for survey, engineering, or site-specific purposes. Additional expert review is planned in order to further validate wetland restoration extents and habitat.

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