

Moon Glow

Moro Cojo Restoration Project

Previous Restoration: 1996-1999, 2002-2003

Partners Involved: Coastal Conservation and Research, Moon Glow Dairy

Previous Work Performed

The first restoration work was done in 1996 with most of the area being fenced off from cattle from the Moon Glow dairy. The wetland was in extremely poor condition, mainly serving as a mud wallow for the cows. The restoration area was fully fenced when the southeast corner was added 1997. The fencing prevented cattle from grazing and trampling the wetland and allowed for the native seedbank present in the soil to come back to life. In 2002-2003, planting of native species began. Hundreds of trees, perennial shrubs, herbaceous plants and grasses were planted.



Upper Moon Glow marsh



Aerial of Moon Glow enhancement plan

Enhancement Performed

Due to historical soil disturbance at this site, there are extensive amounts of weeds, especially in the upland areas. Weed management occurred over the entire site using weed wacking, and hand pulling methods. In the corners of the site we planted additional native wetland and upland species. This assists with weed management and in general increases the habitat value of the site for wetland fauna and acts as a filter of the dairy operations on the surrounding hillsides.

Plants

Non-native plants identified for removal:

Bristly Ox Tongue	<i>Picris echioides</i>
Curly Dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
Mustard	<i>Brassica campestris</i>
Radish	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>

Species Planted:

California Sage	<i>Artemisia californica</i>
Coyote Bush	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>
Santa Barbara Sedge	<i>Carex barbarae</i>
Salt Grass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>
Lizard Tail	<i>Eriophyllum staechadifolium</i>
Gum Plant	<i>Grindelia stricta</i>
Irishleaf Rush	<i>Juncus xiphioides</i>
Creeping Wild Rye	<i>Leymus tritichoides</i>
Bush Lupine	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>
Common Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
Cottonwood	<i>Populus balsamifera</i>
Black Sage	<i>Salvia mellifera</i>
California Lilac	<i>Ceanothus</i>
Willow	<i>Salix</i>

Individuals Planted:

2009-2010: 391
 2010-2011: 315
 2011-2012: 675
Total: 1381 plants

Restoration Success

2009



2012



CRAM Scores

The California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM) was used to assess the condition of health at Moon Glow during 2009 and 2012. In 2009 The CRAM Index Score was 59 and in 2012 it increased to 64. The Biotic Structure score, an attribute of CRAM increased from 63 in 2009 to 85 in 2012.

