



What's Next for the Giacomini Wetland Restoration Project?

1. Implement Public Access Component

This was on our list last year as a fund-raising action item. The Seashore was able to raise additional funds as part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) to construct the approved public access elements in 2010, including 1) the trail and viewing area at the Dairy Mesa off C Street in Point Reyes Station; 2) ADA-compliant access at White House Pool County park; 3) viewing areas and educational exhibits at the northern portion of the West Pasture and Tomales Bay Trail; and 4) repair and realignment of the Tomales Bay Trail north of Point Reyes Station along State Route 1. Additional funds are being sought to develop a landscaping plan for the Dairy Mesa access component.



3. Conduct Long-Term Monitoring to Evaluate Success of Project in Improving Conditions and Functions in the Giacomini Ranch, Olema Marsh, and Tomales Bay

It is important not only to restore wetlands, but to document the success of restoration efforts in achieving project objectives, including restoration of natural process and function. This is why the Seashore and its partners will continue to try and raise funds to implement the park's innovative long-term monitoring program. Through monitoring, the Seashore will follow evolution of the Giacomini Wetlands and determine how well they function relative to natural tidal marshes. This analysis will be aided by 5 to 7 years of pre-restoration monitoring data. The information from this monitoring will be invaluable in not only assessing the success of this project, but guiding other restoration efforts in Tomales Bay and other watersheds.



2. Continue or Expand Restoration Efforts or Continue Adaptive Restoration

While most of the restoration will be completed in 2008, the Seashore and PRNSA intend to continue fundraising efforts to expand or continue restoration in the Giacomini Ranch and Olema Marsh

2a. Continue Invasives Removal and Revegetation: *Successful eradication of invasive non-native species usually requires several treatments to reduce potential recolonization. Many areas were subject to invasives removal in 2008 and 2009, but will require subsequent re-treatment to ensure eradication. Also, once weeds are controlled, revegetation would be performed to help jumpstart a native plant community characteristic of the target habitat.*



2b. Expand Restoration in Giacomini: *The southern portion of the East Pasture has increased considerably in elevation since the 1800s due to filling and sediment deposition during floods. The Park Service and PRNSA are interested in conducting additional excavation in the southern portion of the East Pasture to lower more areas to hydrologically interactive marshplain and floodplain elevations.*

2c. Continue Adaptive Restoration of Olema Marsh: *Some restoration of Olema Marsh was conducted last year on a relatively small scale. The restoration plan for Olema Marsh calls for adaptive restoration such that change will be effected slowly with a gradual increase in the extent of hydrologic alteration. Future actions include complete removal of a berm that currently constrains outflow of Bear Valley Creek through Olema Marsh; shallow excavation of the current creek flowpath; and, eventually, possible replacement of the Levee Road culvert.*

