

Designing Wildlife Avoidance Into Invasive Species Control Projects: A Case Study

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Disturbed Habitat



Native Habitat



Conventional Wisdom

Almaden Lake Island Arundo Removal Project

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Almaden Island Project Area



Aerial View of
Island



The Challenge: Avian Population

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Endangered Species Act
- National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Fisheries
- CA Department of Fish and Game
 - Listed Species (state)
 - International Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Species recognized as Game or Fur-bearing

Regulations

Aerial Herbicide Application



Biomass Removal by Hand



Control Options



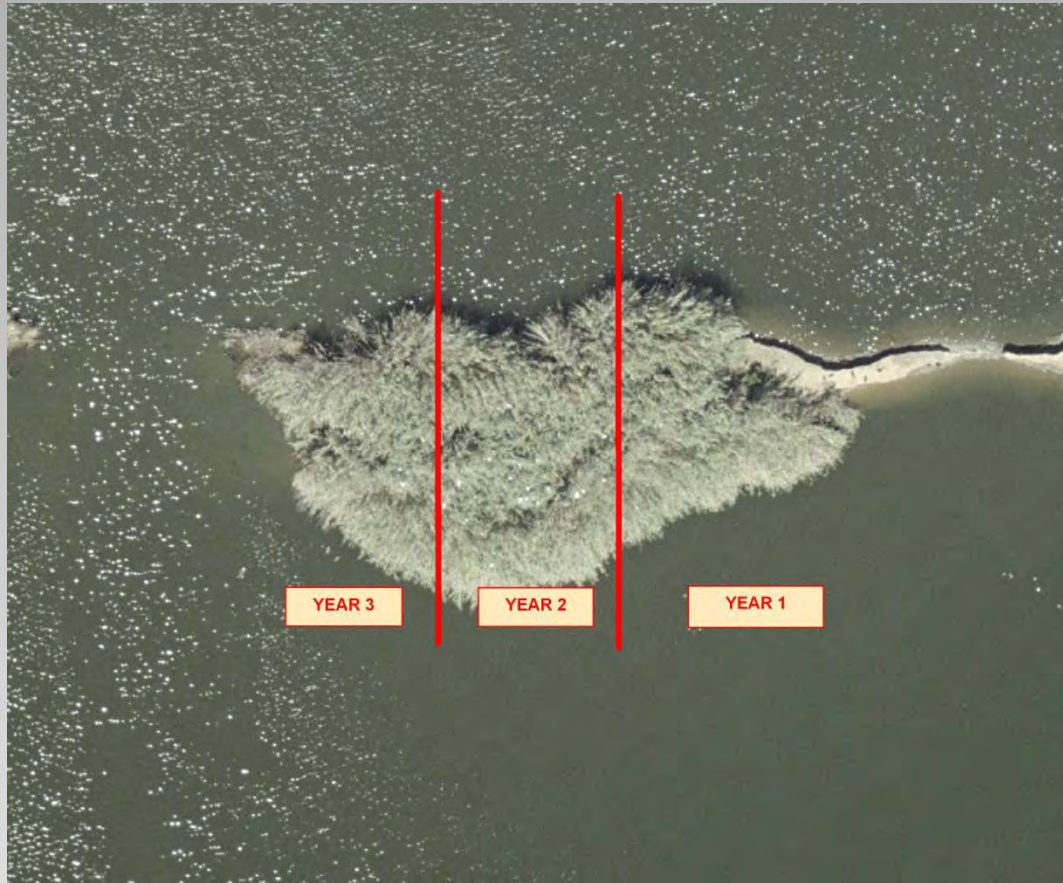
- Project Site is an Island.
- Site located in Public Park.
- Island Covered with Arundo. No Staging Area. Little Room to Work.
- Island Unstable. Safety Issues.

Logistical Challenges

Control Plan submitted to CA Dept. of Fish and Game

- Biological Surveys
- Phased Control
- Methods
- Avoidance Measures
- Revegetation
- Adaptive Management

The Plan



Phased Implementation

- Herons and Egrets tend to nest later and longer than many other birds.
- Project launch for late summer/early fall to avoid nesting and disturbance.



Timing



Revegetation



Implementation



Wildlife Use



- Planted vegetation being used by resident wildlife.
- Arundo remains the dominant cover and has the highest bird populations.

Wildlife Use

- Most wildlife is regulated in some manner.
- Wildlife will be present in control projects so planning is critical.
- Cost/benefit analysis must be done to determine if required modifications are realistic and affordable.
- The presence of wildlife on a control project is a liability rather than a benefit.

Lessons Learned

- **Does It Really Matter?**
- Wildlife Are There.
- Plan or Pay for It.
- What It Means For The Future.
- What We Can Do.



Summary

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