

# Maintaining Mitigation Sites: The Then and Now of Creating Self Sustaining Habitat



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# Delta Levees Program

**Habitat mitigation sites established by Reclamation Districts with funding from DWR beginning in the mid 1990's.**

**Largely riparian forest and scrub-shrub habitats.**

**Designed to meet performance standards.**

**Habitat Maintenance was thought of as "if needed"**





# 2011 Program Mitigation Site Evaluation

Two mitigation sites (“4 acre” and “8 acre”) established in 1996 and 1999 on Twitchell Island. How was the “if needed” approach working?













# Himalayan Blackberry Control

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- Multi-Year Approach
1. Remove the Biomass
  2. Repeated Herbicide Application
  3. Replant Site



# California Conservation Corps





# Biomass Shredded on Site

















8 acre site





# 4 acre site





# Prepare for Planting in Fall 2015



- Johnson's Grass established within the sites
- Use mowing to control biomass and a combination of grazing and spraying to control





Create a site that facilitates habitat  
maintenance and is dominated by  
“native” plants





A photograph of a natural landscape. The foreground is filled with tall, green grass, some of which is slightly dry and yellowed at the tips. The grass is growing in a field. In the background, there is a dense line of trees with green leaves. The sky is visible through the trees, showing a blue color. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting.

New Paradigm  
Coequal goals – Ecological Value and Cost  
Effective Habitat Maintenance



# Thank You!

