San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project

Delta Science Program
Adaptive Management Forum
2/3/21

Marilyn Latta, Project Manager

State of California
Coastal Conservancy

Balancing Invasive Species & Endangered Species

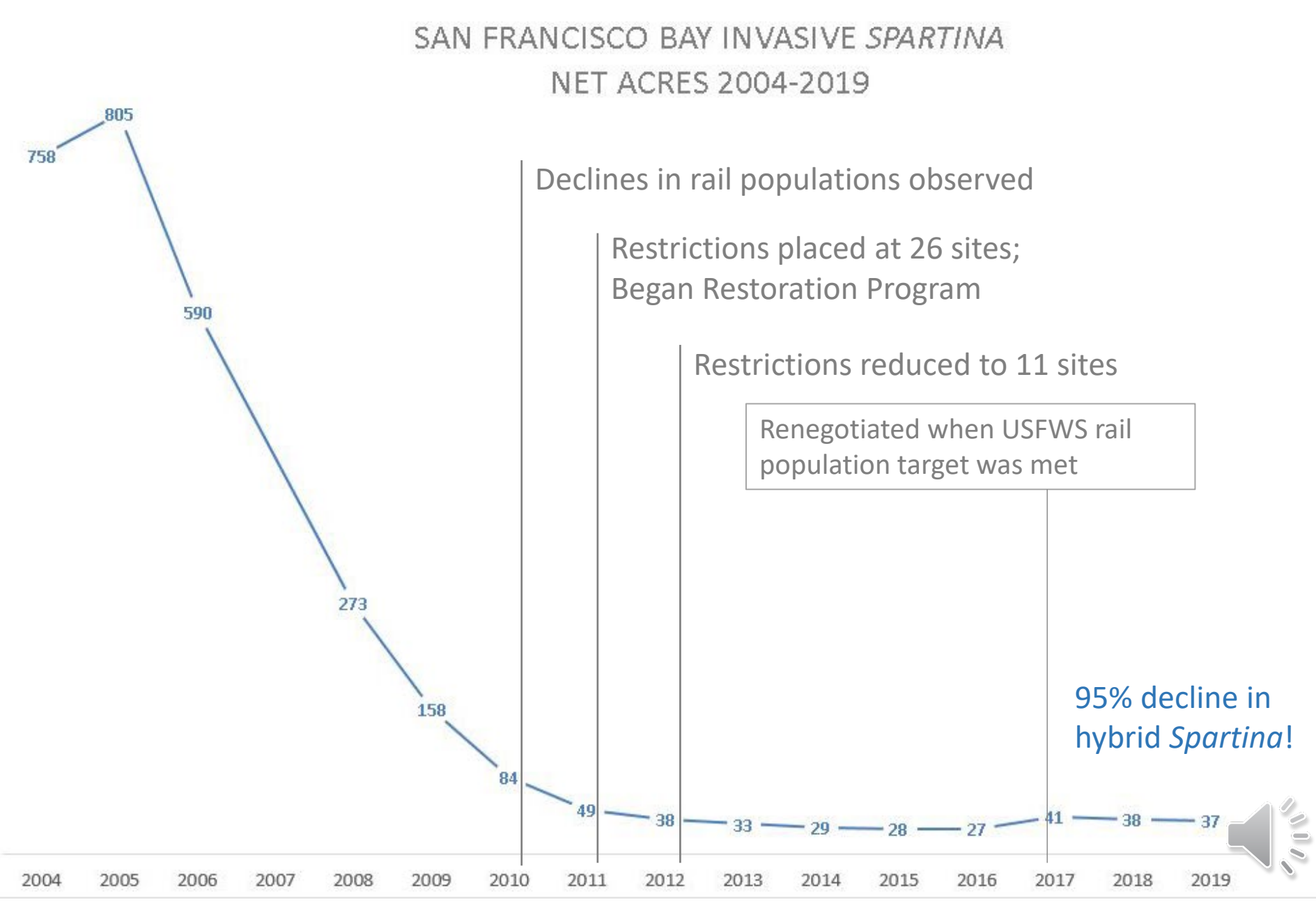

Hybrid *Spartina* invading a mudflat over 3 years
Alameda Flood Control Channel 2003 -- 2005

Hybrid *Spartina*

Benefits to Ridgway's rails:

- Created novel habitat where there was none before and
- Provided cover at high tide

But, after invasion no native habitat remained at some sites!


SAN FRANCISCO BAY INVASIVE *SPARTINA*
NET ACRES 2004-2019
758
805
590
273
158
84
49
38
33
29
28
27
41
38
37
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
Declines in rail populations observed
Restrictions placed at 26 sites;
Began Restoration Program
Restrictions reduced to 11 sites
Renegotiated when USFWS rail population target was met
95% decline in hybrid *Spartina*!

2011-2021 ISP Restoration Program

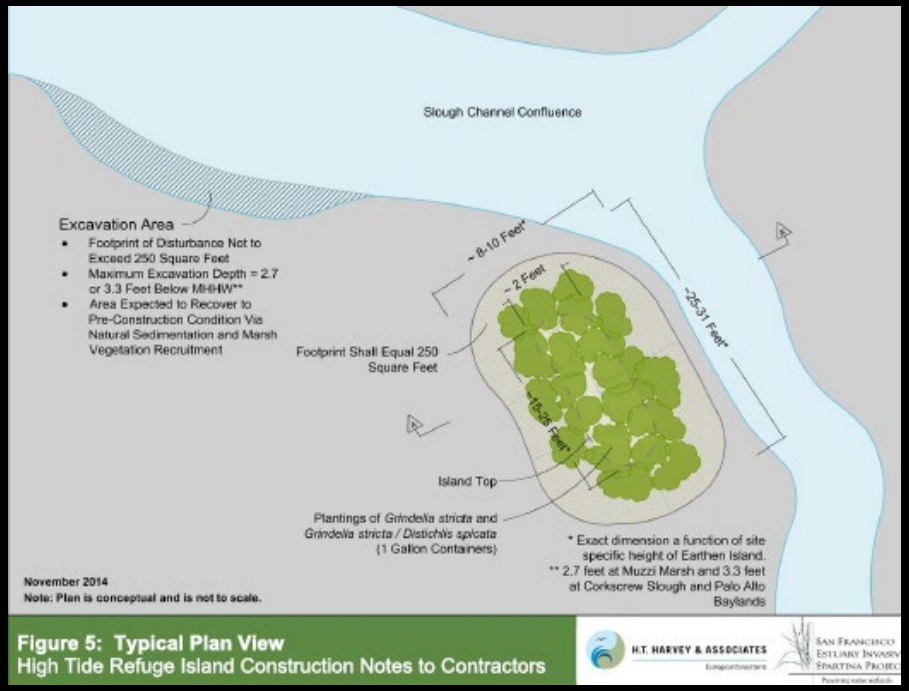
500,000+ seedlings planted to date at 40+ sites

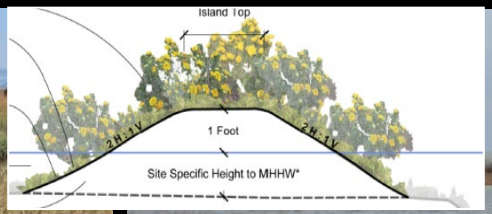
Pacific Cordgrass
(*Spartina foliosa*)

Marsh Gumplant
(*Grindelia stricta*)

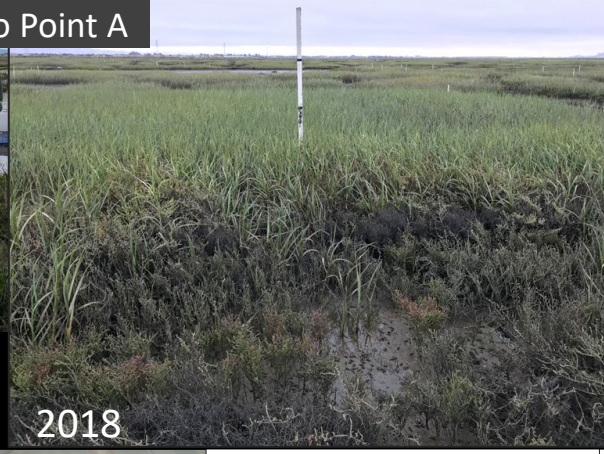
High Tide Refuge Islands

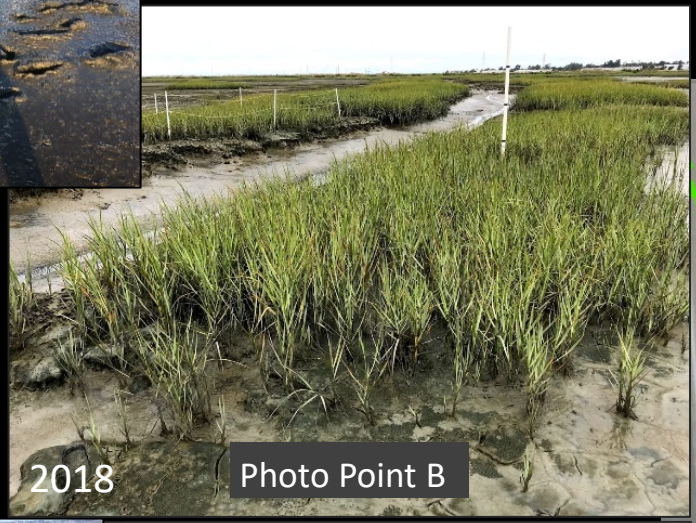
82 constructed at 16 sites

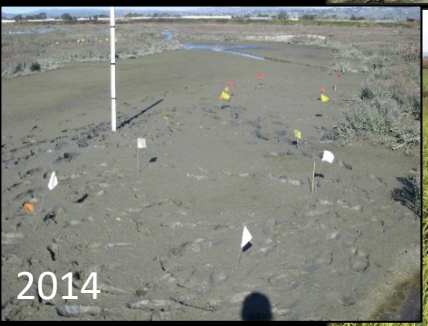


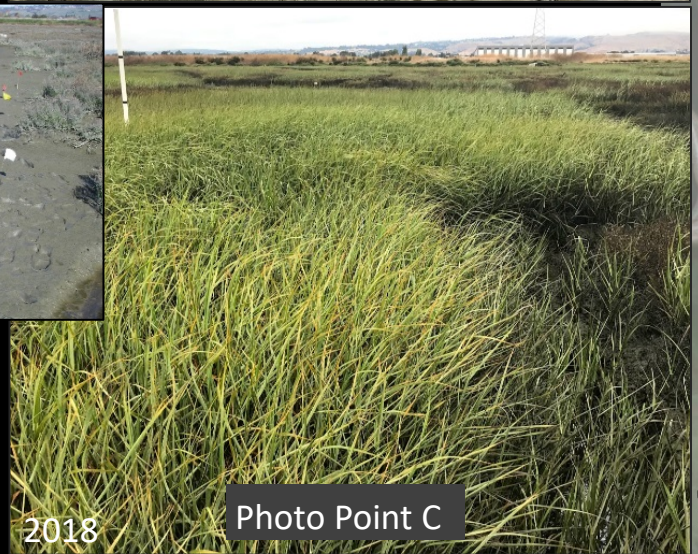


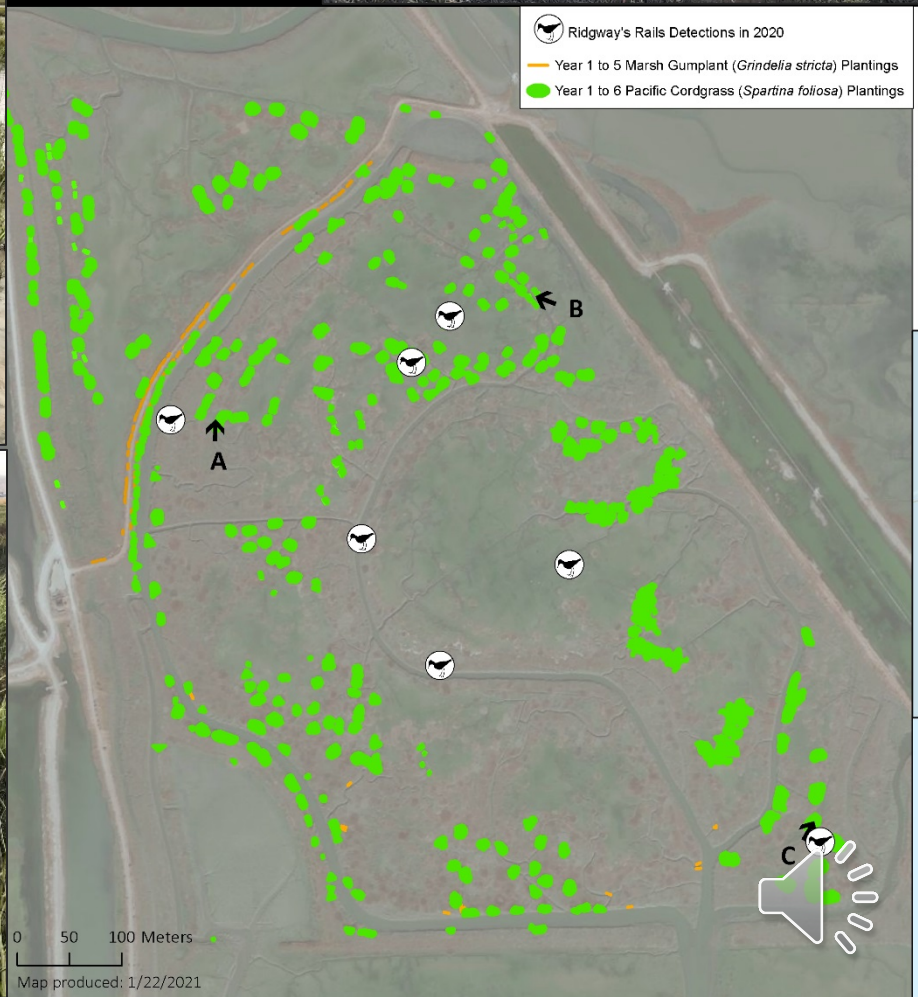
Eden Landing Ecological Reserve: North Creek Marsh











Successful *Spartina foliosa* plantings at Eden Landing in Hayward has converted this former salt pond into a marsh that now supports at least 8 RIRA, with more detected each year

Forward momentum with non-native *Spartina* removal

Restoration

Increasing rail populations

Ultimate Goal: Native marshes that support Ridgway's rails