



Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project

Advancing ecosystem health. Connecting communities with nature.



Summer 2015 Newsletter

Restoration Update

The Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (CA State) and Environmental Impact Statement (Federal) is still on [schedule](#) for a Winter 2015 public release of the document. At this time, the Administrative Draft is being reviewed by the lead agencies. As the Ballona Reserve is a large and complex set of habitats with a diverse group of stakeholders, we encourage the public to get involved and to become familiar with the [Alternatives](#) and the [technical background information](#) before the release of the Draft document.

Additionally, stay tuned for upcoming volunteer opportunities.



CDFW & Partners Clean Up the Reserve

[California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW) continues to remove debris left by the homeless and illegal construction dumping. Since January 2015, CDFW has removed approximately 30 tons of debris from the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.



The photos below are a small example of the problems faced

throughout the Reserve.



(Photos courtesy of CDFW)

Nine Wetland Restoration Principles

Over 95% of coastal wetlands have been lost to development and infill in Los Angeles County. Of those that remain, many have been impaired, lost functions, and are badly in need of restoration. Recently, a diverse group of environmental organizations including Heal the Bay, Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Surfrider



Foundation, Friends of the Los Angeles River, and many others endorsed a set of Nine Wetland Restoration Principles that all successful projects should follow.

To restore natural processes and functions to an impaired wetland, a project must have clear goals; thorough knowledge of the site's history, its current conditions, and how climate change and sea-level rise will impact its future; detailed baseline monitoring; public access that is compatible with restoration goals; and involvement with interested stakeholders. The Ballona Restoration Project is a great local example of the implementation of these principles.

For a complete list of the Nine Principles, please click the link below.

Projects that incorporate the nine fundamental principles of wetland restoration are supported by the following organizations:



[Nine Principles \(PDF\)](#)

El Segundo Blue Butterflies Dazzle Ballona Wetlands Visitors!

On a sunny Saturday in coastal Los Angeles County's Ballona Reserve, flurries of tiny, blue butterflies were out and about dazzling observers with their courtship displays. Local nonprofit environmental organization Friends of Ballona Wetlands facilitated this opportunity by hosting some of their constituents at the "We've Got the Blues" event celebrating the comeback of



(Photo: LMU | CUREs)

the El Segundo Blue butterflies (ESBB). These insects, usually less than 1-inch across with their wings open, thrive in their blooming coastal buckwheat habitat. However, the Ballona Reserve population of Blues wasn't always this abundant and active; they are a federally listed endangered species that, until recent restoration efforts paved the way, were thought to have been extirpated from the area.

In addition to the ESBB, there are several other federally or state listed threatened and endangered species living in or around the Reserve, such as the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, or species who periodically pop in to rest, such as the California Gnatcatcher. All of these special status species will get a full evaluation as part of each restoration alternative to assess potential impacts and long-term benefits.

FULL STORY

LMU ACCESS Students Visit the Wetlands

Under The Bay Foundation's access permit, new freshmen science and engineering students from LMU visited the Ballona Reserve on August 6th to learn about the value of coastal wetlands in general, and specifically about the Ballona ecosystem. These students, primarily first generation university students, are participants of a unique summer program (ACCESS--A Community Committed to Excellence in Scientific Scholarship) designed to hone their critical thinking, modeling, computer, and presentation skills through projects, field trips, and short assignments over a three week period. On the Ballona Reserve trip, they learned about important ecosystem services associated with wetlands, unique aspects of the Reserve, how wetland



(Top) LMU Prof. John Dorsey demonstrates water quality techniques; (bottom) ACCESS student takes water sample for testing.
(Photo: LMU/John Dorsey)

processes purify water, and how to collect water quality measurements using various instruments.

Malibu Lagoon on Track to Meet Project Goals!

Based on the first two years of a five-year monitoring program, the Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project shows that it is on track to meet or exceed the documented criteria for success. The project has been watched carefully by many for its potential to be a test case for giving life back to a local wetland. The Project's core goals included improving the ecological health of the lagoon's system by enhancing habitats for native wildlife, creating several acres of new wetlands, and increasing tidal flushing and water circulation to improve water quality and eliminate the "dead zones" and oxygen-deprived areas.



(Photo: TBF)

Also, see KCET's [coverage](#).

[Full Malibu Report \(PDF\)](#)

Bird-Watching for Beginners

At the corner of Jefferson and Lincoln Boulevards, the [Ballona Freshwater Marsh](#) is a bird watcher's dream -- over 240 species of birds have been seen. Each second and fourth Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 11 AM, the [Audubon Society](#) leads a tour pointing out birds and native plants. Listed in Los Angeles Magazine's 2015 "Best of LA".



Snowy Egret (Photo: TBF/Rod Abbott)

[More Information](#)

[Bird Checklist](#)

[Directions](#)

See what's happening on our social sites

Like us on **Facebook** 

Follow us on **twitter**

[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**[™]

This email was sent to rodneycarrollabbott@gmail.com by rabbott@santamonicabay.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)[™] | [About our service provider](#).



The Bay Foundation | P.O. Box 13336 | Los Angeles | CA | 90013