

Future of Humboldt Bottomlands



May 4, 2017

Wharfinger Building, Eureka, CA

photo: Aldaron Laird

Joe Tyburczy, PhD

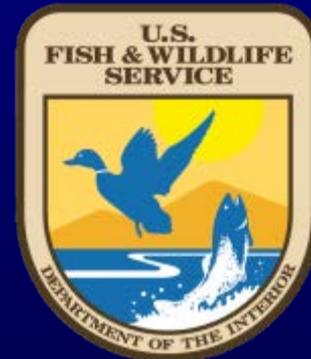
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Project Overview

- Bottom-up, stakeholder-driven collaboration between:
 - agricultural stakeholders
 - natural resource scientists and managers to seek win-win strategies
- Region-wide (Eel River Basin & Humboldt Bay)
- Complements other previous and ongoing efforts



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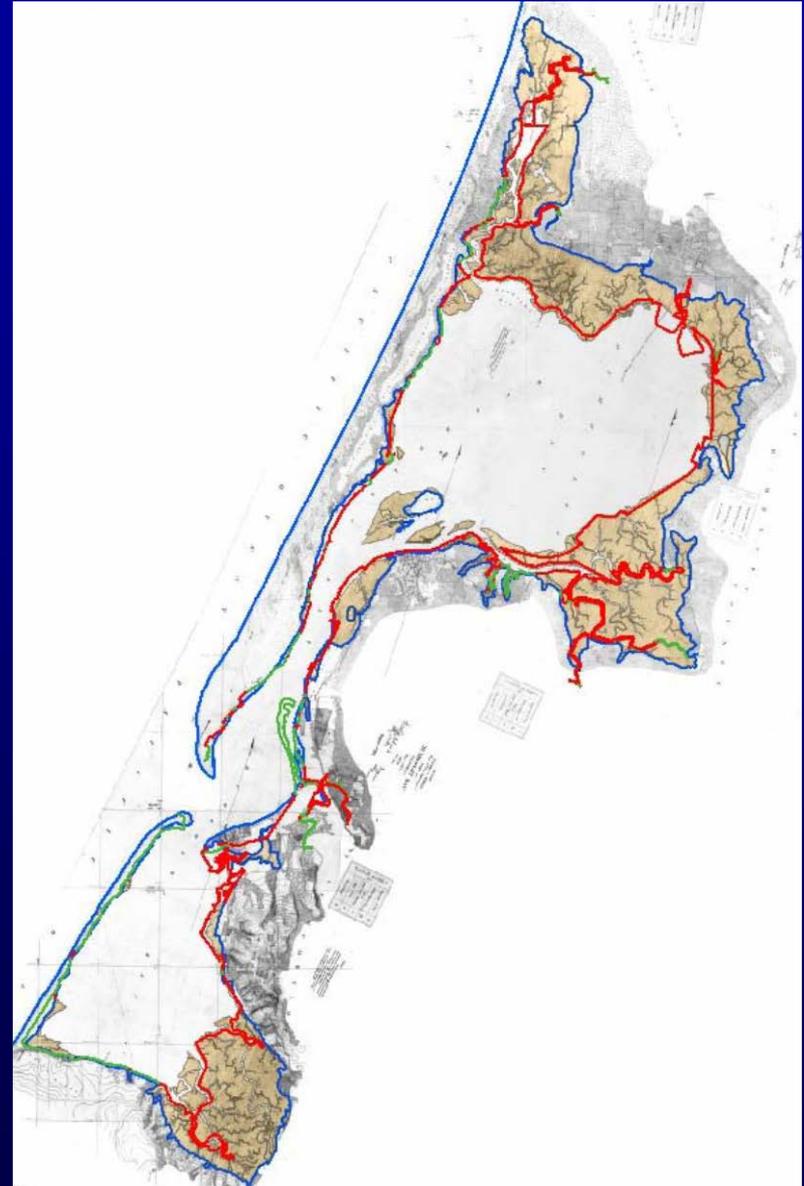


Recent & Ongoing Efforts

- Humboldt Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Project
 - Phase I (2010-13) Shoreline Inventory, Mapping, and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment
 - Phase II (2013-15): Sea Level Rise Inundation Vulnerability Modeling, Mapping, and Adaptation Planning
- Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation Planning
 - City of Eureka
 - City of Arcata
 - Humboldt County
- Pilot on Eureka-Fay Slough hydrologic subunit

Need/Rationale

- Vulnerability assessment completed for Humboldt Bay (but not Eel R. Basin)
- Lots of agricultural land is vulnerable
- Other projects focused on:
 - Infrastructure
 - Local pilot projects including ag land
- Our goal: work with land-owners throughout Humboldt Bay & Eel River Basin



Leadership Team

Steering Committee

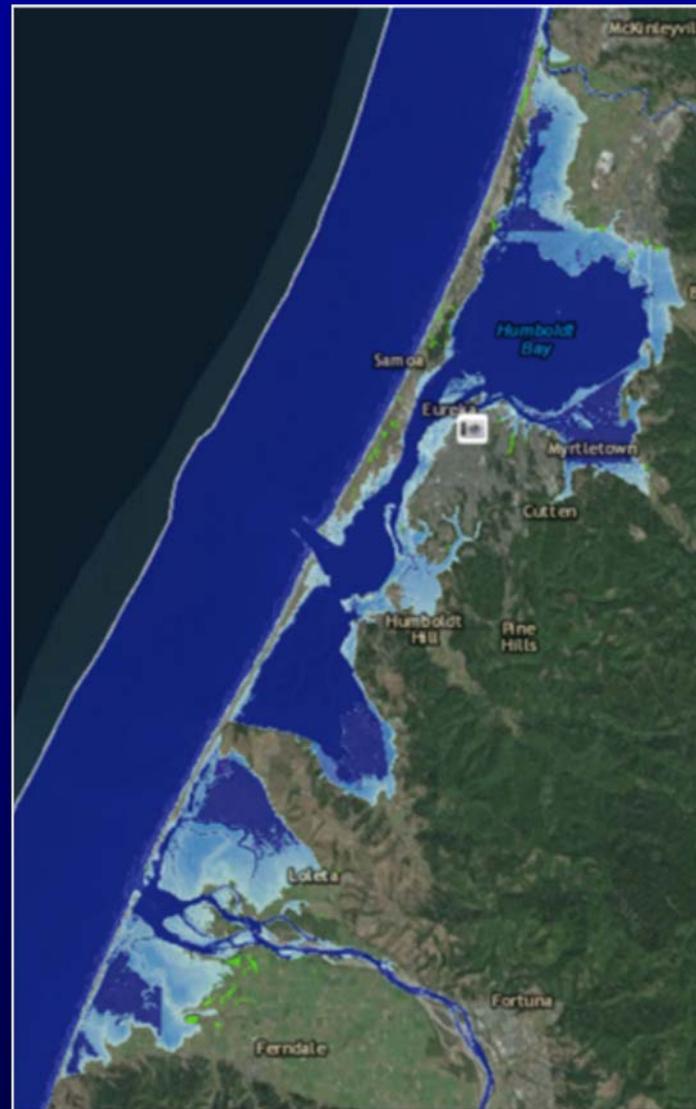
- Jill Demers (Humboldt County Resource Conservation District)
- Joel Gerwein (California Coastal Conservancy)
- Sharon Kahara (Humboldt State University)
- Liisa Schmoele (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
- Jon Shultz (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- Jeff Stackhouse (UC Cooperative Extension)
- Joe Tyburczy (California Sea Grant Extension)

Previous Members

- Paula Golightly (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
- Dina Moore (Landowner, Yager/Van Duzen Environmental Stewards)

Approach

- Proactive work toward common, region-wide vision & strategies for meeting shared challenges.
- Engage ag stakeholders extensively from the outset (along with managers & scientists).
- Focus on tangible, existing impacts (not abstract concepts)
 - Aging, failing dikes & tide gates
 - Subsidence
 - Drainage problems



Work Plan & Timeline

Completed:

- Assemble Steering Committee
- Develop project work plan (still flexible)
- Select & invite members of Natural Resources Working Group (pending)

Next Steps:

- Develop survey to capture agricultural stakeholder perspectives (complete by Sept. 2017)
- Select and survey members of Agricultural Stakeholder Working Group (starting Sept. 2017)

Work Plan & Timeline

Next Steps (cont'd):

- Write summary report on ag stakeholder survey (by Nov. 2017)
- Share report with and get approval of ag stakeholders before sharing with anyone else (Dec. 2017)
- Prepare symposium informed by survey to identify win-win strategies to meet ag & natural resource goals (Jan-March 2018)
- Hold symposium with ag stakeholders, natural resource managers, scientists (April 2018)
- Report on symposium outcome and future directions

Acknowledgements

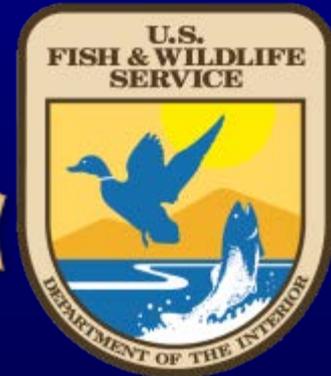
Workshop Hosts

- California Coastal Commission
- Humboldt County



Funding

- North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

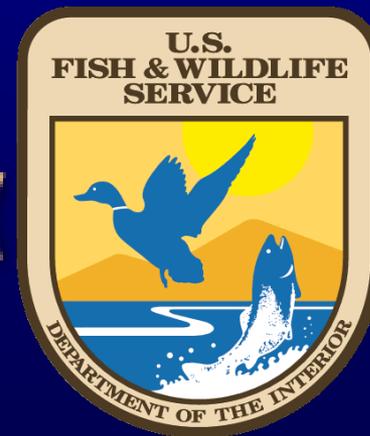


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Questions about 'Future of Humboldt Bottomlands'?



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