

Coastal Adaptation with the U.S. Navy at Point Mugu



A Vision for Point Mugu

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the United States Navy partnered together to prepare for the impacts of climate change on Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC), Point Mugu in California. NBVC is a critical and strategic asset of the U.S. Navy. It is also home to Mugu Lagoon, the largest and most intact saltmarsh in Southern California, supporting high biodiversity including many imperiled species. Protecting and enhancing Mugu Lagoon's coastal habitats is critical to NBVC resilience, absorbing flood waters and buffering the base from sea level rise and coastal flooding and erosion. Without action, this amazing natural resource and military assets are both vulnerable to loss.

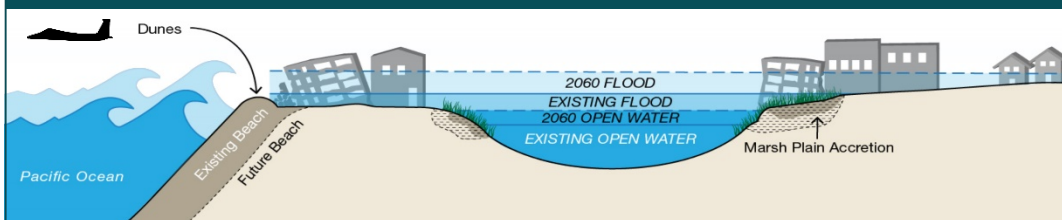
NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY



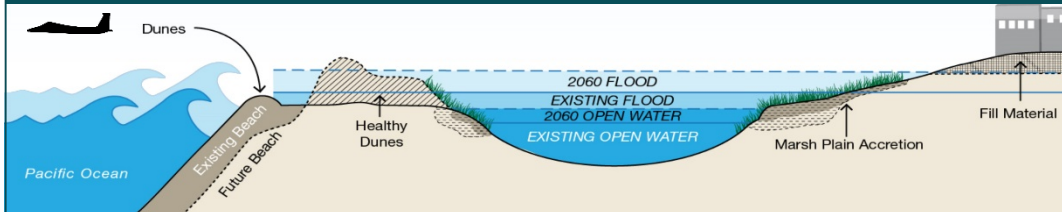
CRITICAL ASSET OF THE U.S. NAVY

- Supports over 80 tenant commands, a base population of 19,000 personnel, three warfare centers, and home to deployable units
- Strategically located on the coast of Southern California and largely surrounded by open space
- Critical economic driver for the regional economy (\$2 billion annual impact)
- Largest employer in Ventura County and supports a large indirect workforce
- Home to Mugu Lagoon, the largest and most intact saltmarsh in Southern California
- Provides important habitat for several imperiled species

POTENTIAL IMPACTS (WITHOUT ADAPTATION)



ADAPTATION VISION SCENARIO



A Pathway to Resilience

The U.S. Navy-TNC collaboration on resilience launched in 2016, marking the first time the Department of Defense (DoD) partnered with an NGO to protect a military installation from sea level rise and climate change. DoD considers climate change a major threat to America's national security, especially for coastal military installations. DoD, an important coastal landowner, manages over 200,000 acres in coastal CA alone. Goals of the partnership are to evaluate vulnerabilities to sea level rise and coastal hazards at Point Mugu and develop a vision for adaptation to achieve long-term resilience and support the military mission. Using a strong foundation of science, TNC, the Navy, and partners identified strategies and pathways to improve the resilience and function of both built infrastructure and natural ecosystems.



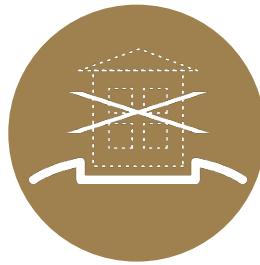
DEFEND

key assets in place



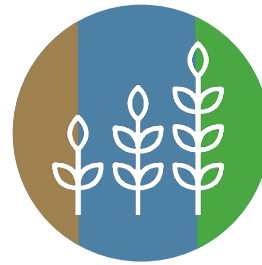
RELOCATE

vulnerable assets to higher ground



REMOVE

assets no longer needed



RESTORE & ENHANCE

habitats & natural infrastructure



CONTINUE EVALUATION

of adaptation pathways and triggers

Major Takeaways

1. Restoring natural coastal processes maintains ecosystem function and base asset resilience.
2. Large opportunity for nature – adds 500+ acres for coastal habitat migration and restoration
3. Relocation with restoration is the only option that meets mission and ecological goals
4. Consideration of hybrid solutions critical – necessity to defend assets in certain circumstances
5. Multi-benefit resilience strategies to support military mission and ecological needs
6. Powerful partner with large potential impact

CONTACT



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