

### 3.10.2.2 Fishing

Fishing is a popular activity throughout the sloughs, Sonoma Creek, Napa River, and ponds within the NSMWA (Wyckoff 2000). Most of NSMWA falls within the Ocean and San Francisco Bay District and is regulated by the Sport Fishing Regulations.

Although the NSMWA has no improved facilities on-site, facilities for public fishing are found at Hudeman Slough Launch Ramp, and Cutting's Wharf fishing access in Napa (Jones & Stokes 2004a). Facilities include parking, launching ramps, docks, and restrooms at some locations. Where bank or levee access is available, fishing takes place along the rivers, creeks, sloughs, and southern Ponds 1 and 1A.

### 3.10.2.3 Wildlife Viewing

The NSMWA is recognized as one of the better places in the North Bay to observe wildlife because of the variety of habitats and species present. Bird watching and hiking are allowed throughout the site. Many species of birds and mammals may be observed in the NSMWA. Visitor may see a multitude of birds of prey, shorebirds, waterfowl and other migratory birds with over 160 known species have been identified within the area. Mammals that can be seen in NSMWA include river otters, beavers, raccoons, coyotes, deer, squirrels, and rabbits.



**Wildlife viewing blind**

A wildlife viewing blind was constructed in the Huichica Creek Unit with funding from Acacia Winery. The blind is a cozy, roofed hut overlooking a fresh-water pond that shorebirds, ducks, and geese increasingly use.

### 3.10.2.4 Environmental Education and Interpretative Programs

The NSMWA Field Headquarters has some facilities for work groups, but there is no regular use (Taylor 2008a). DFG has developed an outdoor amphitheater area with a fire pit and barbecue that can be used for school groups, educational events, etc. Additionally, the DFG has set up a native plant nursery on-site.



**A school group led by Americorps plant oaks along Huichica Creek (photo by: Tom Huffman, DFG)**

For the past several years, Acorn Soupe, a local school, has been doing restoration projects in the Huichica Creek Unit (Taylor 2008a). They obtain access permission from the DFG every year.

### 3.10.2.5 Research and Scientific Studies

Several studies have been conducted in the NSMWA. Currently, there is no centralized library or database for tracking this information. A brief description of the major research studies is provided below.

The Integrated Regional Wetland Monitoring (IRWM) Pilot Project is a CALFED-funded interdisciplinary research effort to examine wetland restoration outcomes in the North Bay and Delta and to aid in developing effective and informative monitoring strategies through a comprehensive and real-time approach. Field sites for this project include Coon Island, Pond 2A, and Pond 3 of the NSMWA.

An interdisciplinary research study was conducted by USGS scientists and scientists from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO), UC Davis, and Humboldt State University to provide science support for the Napa-Sonoma Marsh Restoration Project (Takekawa et al. 2000; Takekawa et al. 2005).

Warner (2000) conducted a research study in the Napa-Sonoma Marsh complex to determine the physical processes that control the circulation patterns of water and suspend sediment in the tidal slough network.

Coon Island Unit was used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the DFG for preliminary data gathering to identify marsh vegetation by remote sensing (CDFG 1975).

### 3.10.3 Proposed Recreational and Public Access Facilities

The Napa Plant Site Restoration (NPSR) Project at the Green Island Unit would utilize upland areas for site access, public access facilities (**Appendix E**), and DFG personnel housing (URS 2006a). The site access road has been realigned and raised. Gates on the site access road would be used to restrict public vehicle access to daylight hours. A DFG employee would reside in the existing residential housing on Green Island. The DFG warden and Napa County sheriffs would patrol the site on a regular basis. Public access and recreation facilities, including a primary staging area for parking, picnicking, restrooms, and boat launching centered on the barge channel, would be constructed at the Napa Plant Site (**Appendix E**). Hand launching of non-motorized watercraft (e.g., canoes, kayaks) would be possible at the existing boat ramp to the barge channel. Connections to bicycle access trails on Green Island Road and future connections to other outlying areas would be facilitated. A perimeter trail would be developed to support both pedestrians and cycling. The trail has the potential to connect with a regional trail network. The NPSR project team is working with the City of American Canyon to coordinate trail connection opportunities near the end of Eucalyptus Road (**Appendix A**). Smaller nature trails with interpretive signage would also be developed. In the long term, DFG is considering creating an environmental interpretive center on the property. The site access road and upland staging area presents a unique opportunity for locating an interpretive center adjacent to the Napa River and its wetlands.