

# Rail Rescue Rangers

Amidst tall cordgrass swaying in the breeze, erupts the courtship clatter of romancing rails. Within a remnant of this once expansive tidal marsh environment, a pair of federally and state endangered California clapper rails attempt to establish a nesting territory. The California clapper rail is a unique hen-like marsh bird found along the shoreline marshes of the San Francisco Bay. Currently, only 10% of this type of marshland habitat remains, and the rail's population have dwindled too roughly 1,000 birds making "Rail Rescue Rangers" restoration efforts vital!



*Dwindling tidal marshes threaten rails survival.*

People of all ages are working to remove invasive weeds, pick-up trash, clear debris-clogged channels and plant "marsh daisies" (grindelia aka marsh gum plant) to improve rail retreats in the upland areas of Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary part of Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach in Alameda. These restoration efforts are enhancing habitat for rails and other wildlife by providing the native plants they need for food and shelter.

Thanks to the vision and financial support of the East Bay Regional Park District, Regional Parks Foundation, ChevronTexaco, and RINA Accountancy Corporation we are continuing our "Rail Rescue Rangers" efforts. But even with this great support, there is still a giant need for more dedicated, passionate people like you who are willing to volunteer and help the rails on their road to recovery from the endangered species list.



*Volunteers planting native vegetation to improve rail habitat.*