DEVELOPING RESILIENCE FOR A COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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RESILIENCE

• What do we mean?
  – Long-term
  – Benefit communities
  – Benefit economy
  – Looking forward with partners

• Why bother?
WHAT’S THE SITUATION AT E.B. FORSYTHE REFUGE?

• We know:
  – Historical alterations
Salt hay farming
Parallel grid-ditching
Open marsh water management
WHAT’S THE SITUATION AT E.B. FORSYTHE REFUGE?

• We know:
  – Historical alterations
  – Sea level is rising
Atlantic City, NJ  3.99 +/- 0.18 mm/yr

Source: NOAA
WHAT'S THE SITUATION AT E.B. FORSYTHE REFUGE?

• We know:
  – Historical alterations
  – Sea level is rising
  – Sediment starved system
  • 2/3 of our marshes
WHAT’S THE SITUATION AT E.B. FORSYTHE REFUGE?

• We know:
  – Historical alterations
  – Sea level is rising
  – Sediment starved system
  – Marsh accretion rates are low
SO WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

- Large-scale marsh integrity work
- Get funding!
- Identify needs
- Work with partners to identify projects
- Develop restoration plans at key locations
- Implement projects to benefit marsh
Restoration of former salt hay farms

Thin layer deposition using clean dredged material

3,814 acres identified for potential restoration
Thin Layer Deposition
Restore tidal flow to marshes where hydrology has been restricted by roads, dikes or filling.

~225 acres identified for hydrologic restoration.
IMPOUNDMENT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT
CHALLENGES

- Funding *(that lasts long enough)*
- Coordination
- Administration
- Monitoring
Thank you....Questions?