# SAN DIEGO REGION RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Thomas Oberbauer
Formerly County of San Diego
Now AECOM

#### Biodiverse

San Diego County one of the most biologically diverse Counties in US.

For Example Botanically 1573 native 26 endemic many near endemics. New native species ongoing. More than all New England

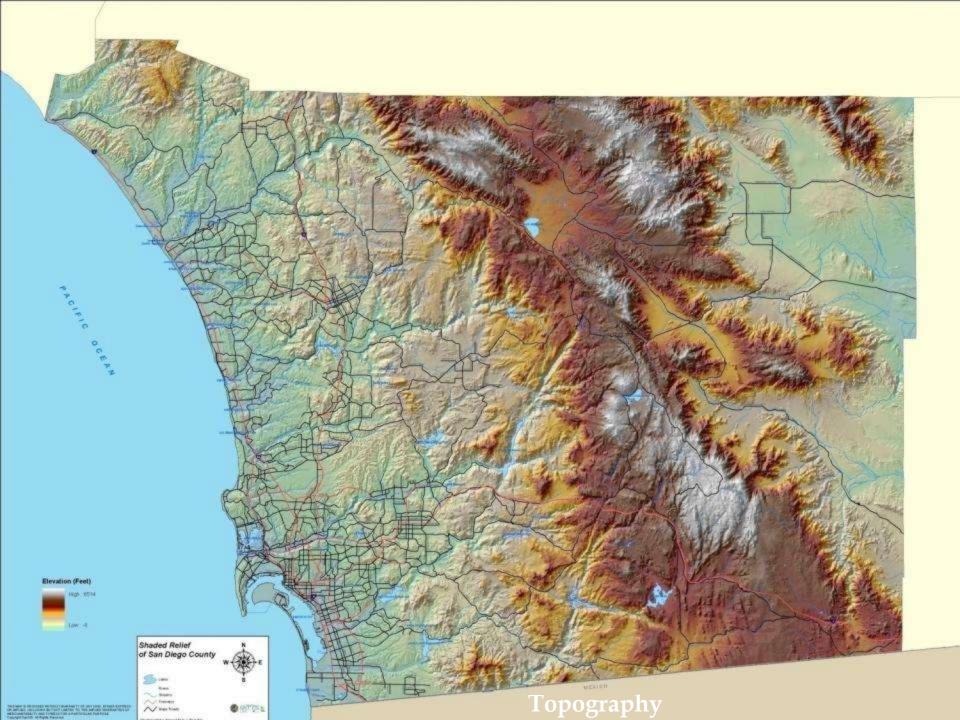
More bats than any county, 23 species half species in entire country

More land mollusks

Size of Connecticut More people than 19 states including Iowa

#### Outline

- Physical features of San Diego County
- Unique vegetation and some associated species
- Fire events from last 12 years
- Multiple Species Conservation Program successes
- General photographs of interesting areas
- Baja California mainland and islands



#### Geologic History

Cretaceous Andes Style Mountains 15-19,000 feet high

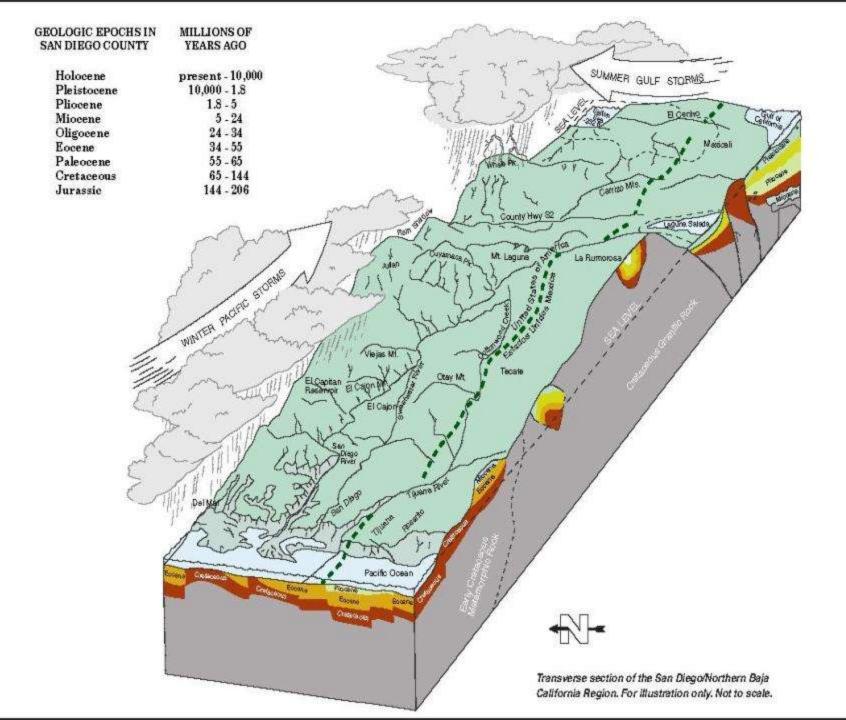
Otay, Black and San Miguel Mountains remnants Metavolcanic metamorphosed by heating from batholith

Coastal terraces composed of Sonoran River rock and sediments that have been uplifted.

Granitic Mountains rose 2 million years ago

## Paleogeologic History

- Mio-Pleistocene- Woodrat middens and based on current species distribution
- Montane Coniferous forest through the area
- Sierra San Pedro Mártir forest in the higher elevations
  - Quaking Aspen and Douglas tree squirrels
  - Lodgepole Pine at higher elevations
- Piñon Pines down to desert edge
- Closed Cone forest on mesas



## Precipitation

- Cabrillo Monument
  - Upper 12 in (30cm)
  - Lower 6 in (15.24cm)
- San Diego 10.2 in (26 cm)
- Ramona 15.8 in (40.1)
- Cuyamaca Lake 34 in (86 cm)
- Palomar Mountain 40 in (101 cm)

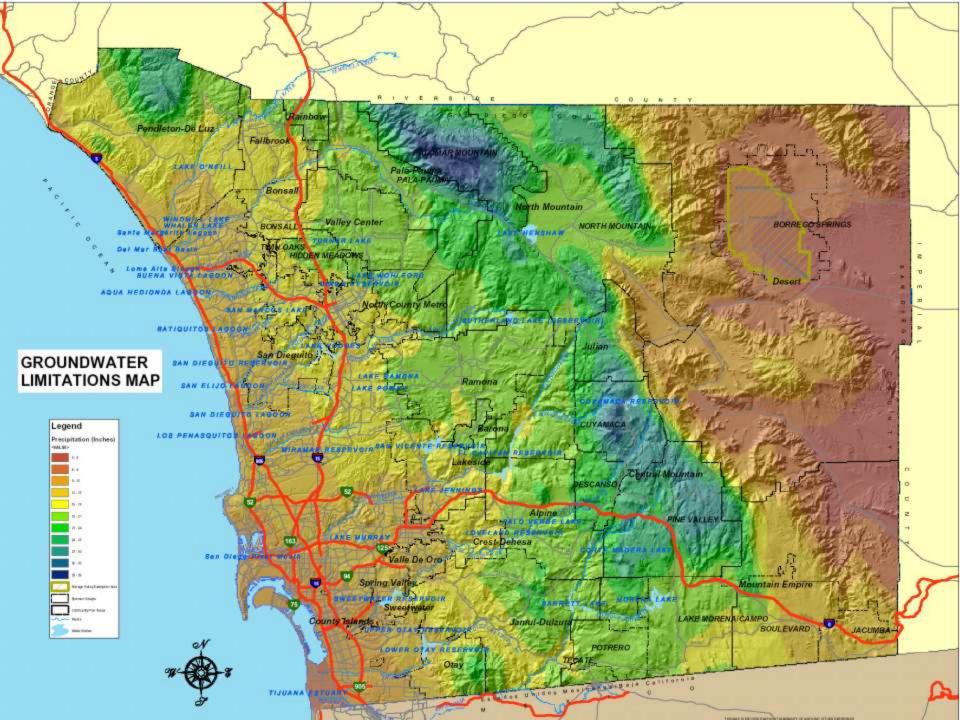
- Pine Valley 21 in (53cm)
- Mount Laguna 25 in (63 cm),
- Campo 17 in (43cm),
- Jacumba 9 in (23 cm)
- Ocotillo 2.5 in (6.3 cm)

#### Climatic Variation

- Campo one day temp can range from below freezing to 100 degrees F.
- Summer thunderstorms can be severe. In 1880's Campo received 11.5 in (29.2 cm) of rain in 80 minutes one August afternoon
- Aug 1992 6.5 in (16.5 cm) Palomar Mountain in 90 min.
- 1976 Hurricane Kathleen dropped torrential rains in the area, Desert areas up to 6-7 in (15-17 cm), Mt. Laguna 10 in (25 cm) in 12 hours

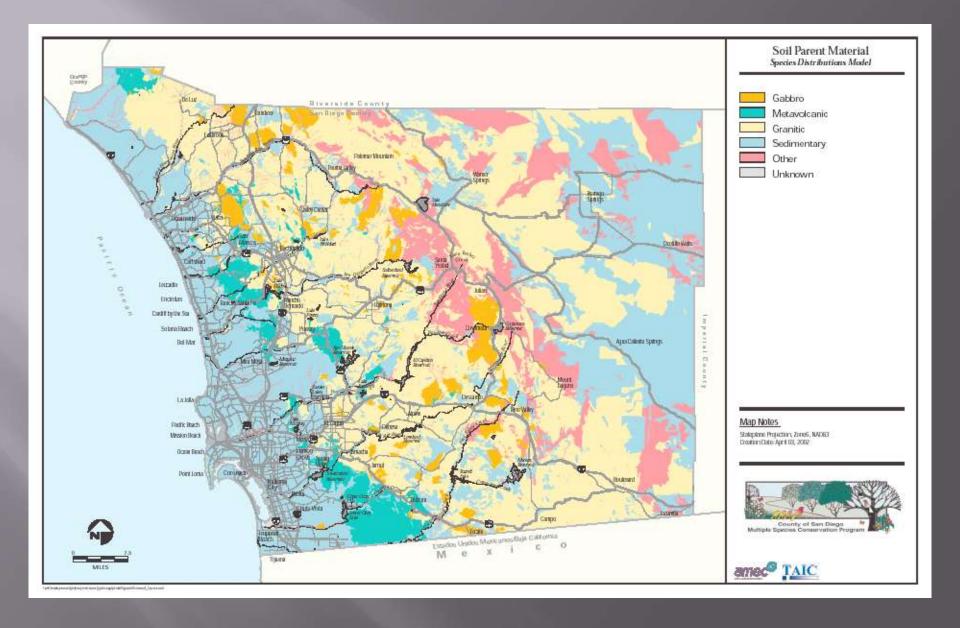
#### Climatic Variation

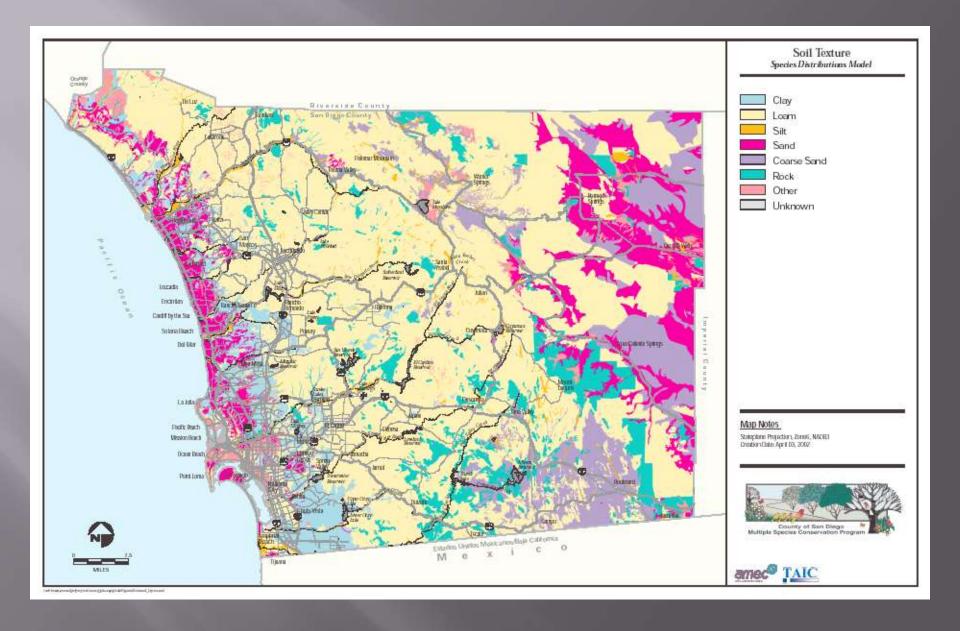
- 1993 Palomar Mountain 97 in (246 cm)
- 1880s Cuyamaca 100+ in (254cm) flooded mines
- 1891 Descanso 33 in (84cm) in 60 hours
- August 4, 2011 Oceanside Harbor 66, San Diego 73, Ramona 94, Campo 100 with low of 52, Mt. Laguna 81 and Borrego Springs 114. 48 degree temp range.
- August 24, 2011 Oceanside Harbor tied record lowest high for date at 67, but Borrego Springs broke record high for date of 116. 49 degree range
- September day in 2011, Lindbergh Field .13 in. and 97 deg.
- October 12, 2015 3 PM, Oceanside 81, Campo 88, Lindbergh 94,
   Brown Field 97, Borrego 95 and Mount Laguna 66.
- Sept day 2013 car thermometer Earthquake Valley 99 and raining, Ocotillo 107 and Mount Laguna 65 and raining.



#### Drought

- 2001-2002 Season San Diego 3.02 inches
  - Cuyamaca 10.8 inches
- Driest in 150 years of recordings
- 2006-2007 also very dry
- Only 2 years above normal rainfall in last 17



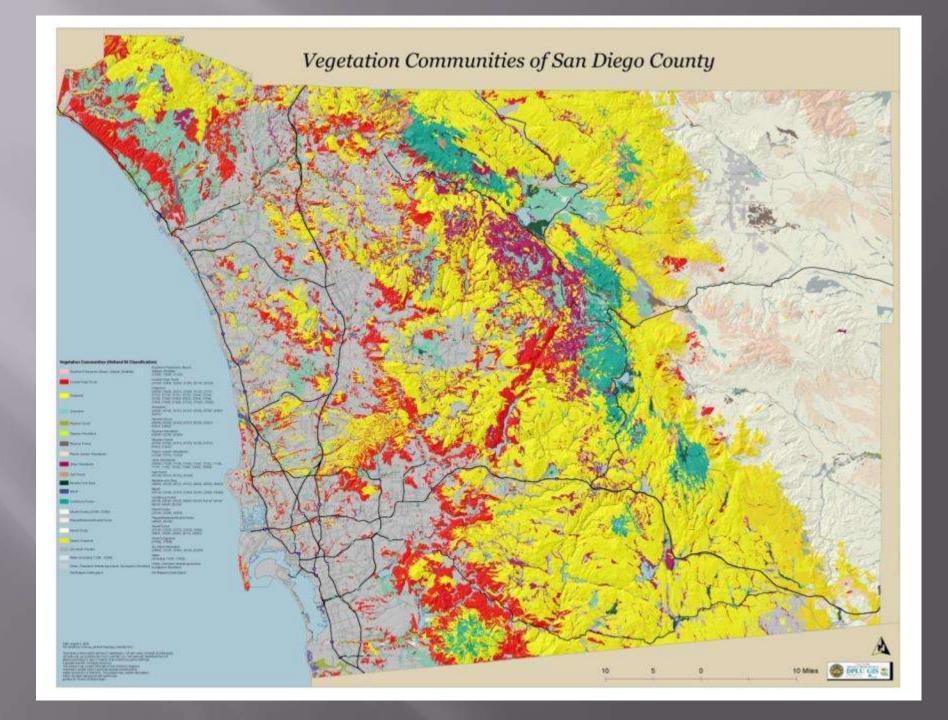


#### Vegetation

- Large number of Holland vegetation communities
  - Coastal sage scrub
  - Coastal dune
  - Coastal salt marsh
  - Vernal Pools
- Various forms of chaparral
  - Southern mixed chaparral
  - Desert transition chaparral
  - Redshank chaparral
  - Chamise chaparral

#### Vegetation

- Oak Woodland
- Riparian Woodland
- Sierran Coniferous Forest
- Pinyon Juniper Forest
- Montane Meadow
- Grassland
- Great Basin Sagebrush
- Cypress Woodland
- Many more under San Diego Manual using CNPS Manual



## Coastal sage scrub 75% loss



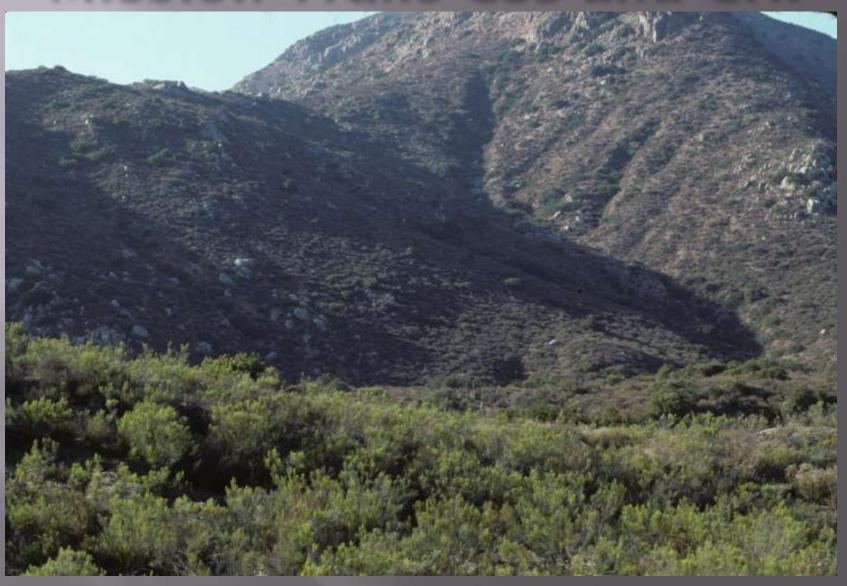
Artemisia californica-Eriogonum fasciculatum-Opuntia littoralis Association

## Bahiopsis laciniata Diegan CSS



Bahiopsis laciniata-Artemisia californica-Eriogonum fasciculatum Association Salvia munzii

# Mission Trails CSS and CHP



Baccharis sarothroides Association in foreground

#### Encelia californica Point Loma CSS



#### Inland: Variety of Vegetation



Coastal Sage Scrub
Adjacent to
Woodland

Chaparral and Oak
Woodlands

# Riparian Vegetation Chaparral slopes

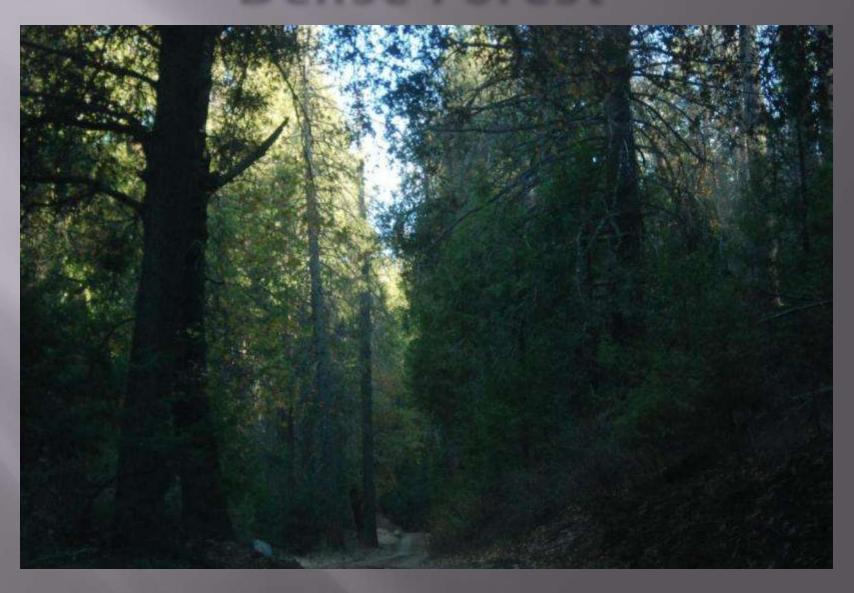


# Chaparral and Oaks



Quercus berberidifolia-Adenostoma fasciculatum Alliance and Quercus kelloggii Association

#### Dense Forest



#### Deserts: Desert Scrub



#### Desert Scrub



#### Plant Soil Affinities

#### Gabbros

- Nolina interrata
- Packera ganderi
- Carex obispoensis serpentine disjunct

#### Metavolcanics

- Fremontodendron mexicana
- Lepechinia ganderi

#### Gabbros or Metavolcanics

- Calochortus dunnii
- Hesperocyparis forbesii
- •Satureja chandleri
- Tetracoccus dioicus

#### Plant Soil Affinities

Clay Soil
Acanthomintha ilicifolia
Bloomeria clevelandii
Convolvulus simulans

Sandy soils
Chorizanthe orcuttiana
Dudleya blochmanii brevifolia
Acmespon nuttalliana
Pinus torreyana
Chaenactis glabriuscula orcuttiana

#### Calochortus dunnii Dunn's Mariposa Lily Gabbro and Metavolcanic





Lepechinia ganderi

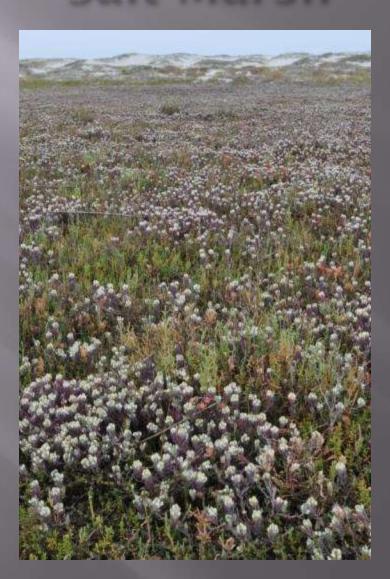


Nolina interrata Gabbro endemic

# Coastal Plants: Chaenactis glabriuscula orcuttiana Sandy soils



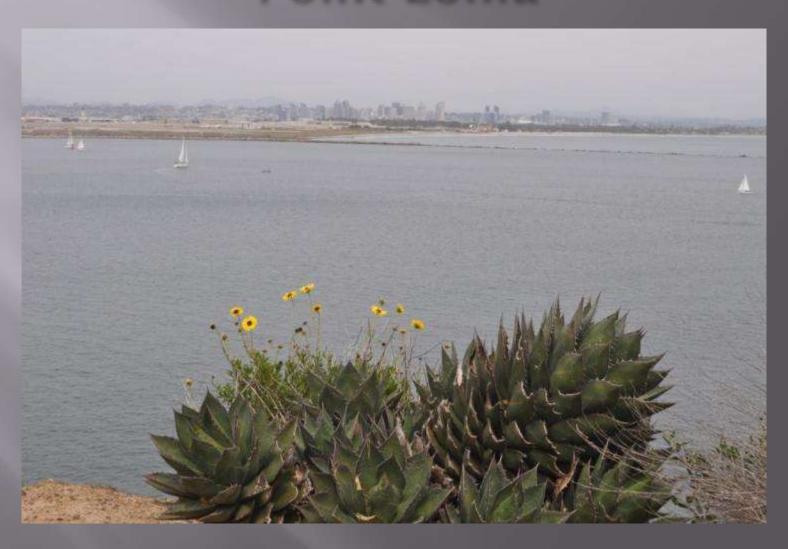
## Coast: *Chloropyron maritima* Salt Marsh



#### Pinus torreyana Torrey Pines State Park



#### Agave shawii Point Loma



# Glebionis coronaria



Came late 1970's OriginallyTidy Tips and Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia

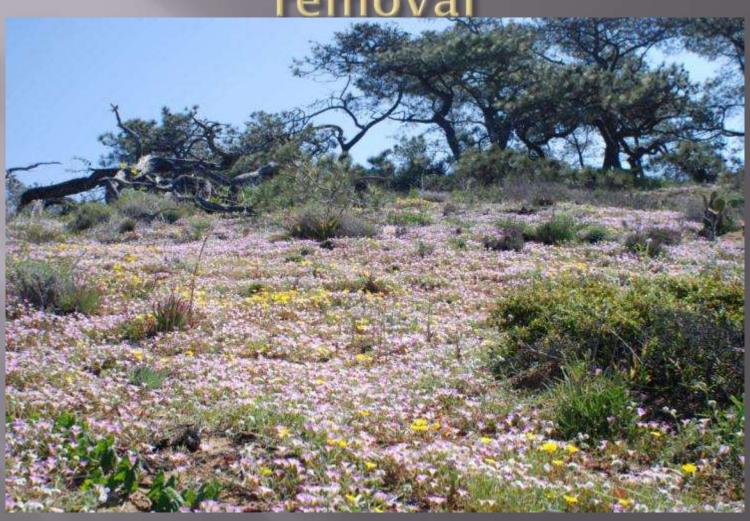
# Leptosyne maritima Point Loma



# Linanthus dianthiflorus Torrey Pine State Park



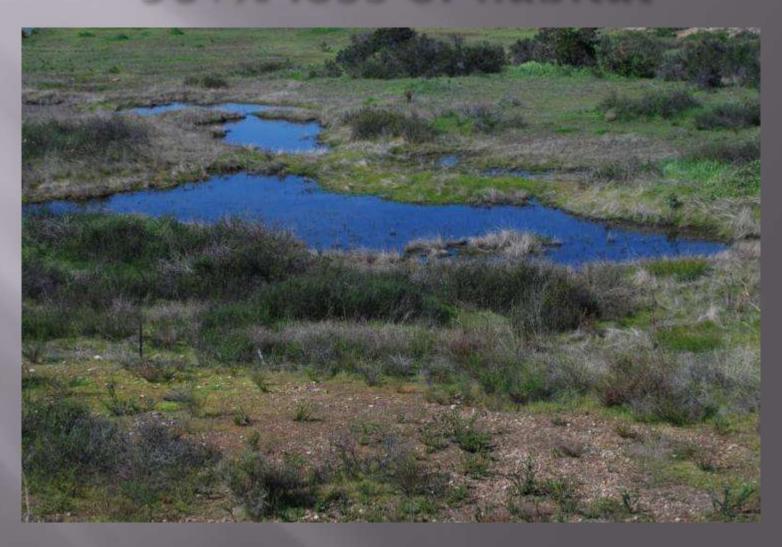
# Linanthus dianthiflorus Torrey Pines, Veldt Grass removal



# Dudleya brevifolia Del Mar



# Vernal pool with water 96+% loss of habitat



# Vernal Pool Spring



# Pogogyne nudiuscula



# Brodiaea orcuttii



# Poway post fire 2008



# Del Dios post fire 2008 Sage Scrub



# Otay Mountain



3,500 foot peak with Chaparral and Tecate cypress, metavolcanic rock

### Rare Plants San Diego County Otay Mountain

- Acanthomintha ilicifolia
- Arctostaphylos otayensis
- Artemisia palmeri
- Astragalus deanei
- Brodiaea orcuttii
- Calandrinia breweri
- Calochortus dunnii
- Caulanthus stenocarpus
- Chamaebatia australis
- Chorizanthe leptotheca
- Chorizanthe polygonoides longispina
- Chorizanthe procumbens
- Clarkia delicata
- Comarostaphylos diversifolia diversifolia
- Hesperocyparis forbesii

- Dichondra occidentalis
- Dudleya variegata
- Ericameria palmeri palmeri
- Fremontodendron mexicanum
- Galium californicum californicum
- Gilia caruifolia
- Harpagonella palmeri
- Deinandra floribunda
- Horkelia truncata
- Juglans californica
- Juncus acutus leopoldii
- Lathyrus splendens
- Lepechinia ganderi
- Lilium humboldtii ocellatum
- Hosackia crassifolia otayensis



Lathyrus splendens, Chaparral

# San Diego County Mountains



**Upper Palomar Mountain** 

### Rare Plants San Diego County Mountains

- Androsace elongata acuta
- Astragalus douglasii perstrictus
- Astragalus oocarpus
- Berberis fremontii
- Berberis nevinii
- Boechera hirshberiae
- Boykinia rotundifolia
- Brodiaea orcuttii
- Calochortus dunnii
- Caulanthus simulans
- Chaenactis parishii
- Chorizanthe leptotheca
- Chorizanthe polygonoides longispina
- Clarkia delicata
- Hesperocyparis forbesii
- Hesperocyparis stephensonii
- Deinandra floribunda

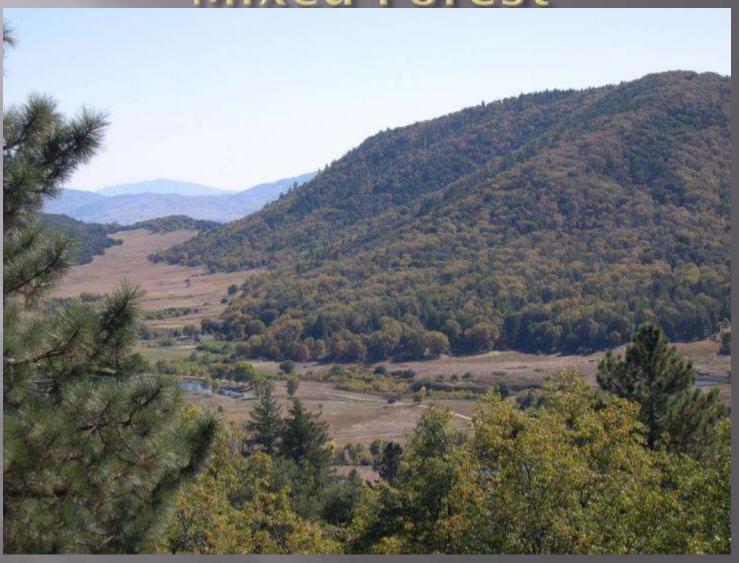
- Deinandra mohavensis
- Delphinium hesperium cuyamacae
- Delphinium parishii subglobosum
- Downingia concolor brevior
- Ericameria cuneata macrocephala
- Eriogonum foliosum
- Galium johnstonii
- Galium angustifolium jacinticum
- Geraea viscida
- Gilia caruifolia
- Grindelia hirsutula hallii
- Heterotheca sessilifolia sanjacintensis
- Heuchera brevistaminea
- Heuchera rubescens versicolor
- Hulsea californica
- Hulsea mexicana
- Hulsea vestita callicarpha

### San Diego County Mountains Rare Plants

- Hymenothrix wrightii
- 🗉 🏻 Lathyrus splendens
- Lessingia glandulifera tomentosa
- Lewisia brachycalyx
- Lilium humboldtii ocellatum
- Lilium parryi
- Limnanthes gracilis parishii
- Linanthus bellus
- Linanthus orcuttii
- Machaeranthera asteroides lagunensis
- Malacothamnus aboriginum
- Mimulus clevelandii
- Mimulus diffusus
- Monardella macrantha hallii
- Monardella nana leptosiphon
- Navarretia peninsularis
- Penstemon clevelandii connatus

- Pentachaeta aurea
- Perideridia gairdneri gairdneri uncertain
- Poa atropurpurea
- Quercus engelmannii
- Ribes canthariforme
- Rubus glaucifolius ganderi
- Rupertia rigida
- Scutellaria bolanderi austromontana
- Selaginella asprella
- Packera ganderi
- Streptanthus bernardinus
- Streptanthus campestris
- ☐ Thermopsis californica semota
- Viola aurea

# **Mixed Forest**



Mendenhall Valley

# Conifer and Meadow



French Valley

Lilium humboldtii ssp.

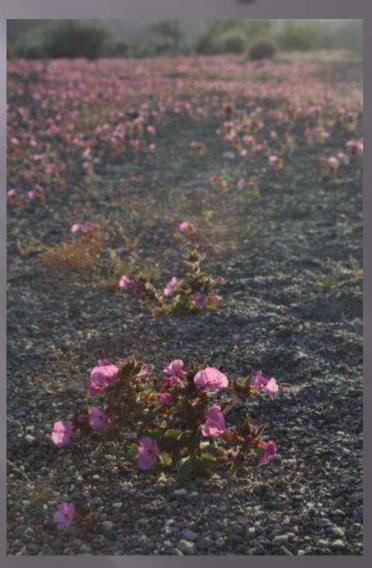






Linanthus bellus east edge of mountains

# Desert Plants Mimulus bigelovii



Oenothera deltoides, Abronia villosa, Geraea canescens, Sahara mustard removal





# Xylorhiza orcuttiana



# Mohavia conferta



# Disjuncts

### Disjuncts from North

Ceanothus foliosus Holy Jim Canyon 9 2009? SLO

Salvia sonomensis LAC possibly ornamental helipad SGabriel mtns. Santa Barbara next records

Vaccinium ovatum to Santa Barbara

Cornus nuttallii not in Santa Barbara or SLO down the Sierras

Rhododendron occidentale skips LA, SLO, SB, OC up the Sierran SB and Riverside county paths

Lewisia brachycalyx SB LA Plumas and Arizona and Utah N Baja

### Disjunct from South

*Viguiera purisimae* Camp Pendleton 300 miles north of nearest location found in 1997.

# Banana slug



## Negative Disjuncts

- Hesperochiron californicum SB, Ventura mt pinos Sierras and Sierra Juarez with Lewisia brachycalyx
- Penstemon californicus Riverside OC and Sierra Juarez, near San Diego County line
- Pinus contorta murrayana San Jacinto Mtns and Sierra San Pedro Martir
- Populus tremuloides San Bernardino Mtns
- Sarcodes sanguinea San Jacinto and Sierra San Pedro Martir

# Southern Limits



# Drought killed trees 2003





# From internet





Loss of Big trees and loss of nearly 20,000 acres of conifers with 9,000 in Cuyamaca alone Note density of dead trees



Burned forest on Middle Peak, Cayamaca Mountains. All phongraphs by the author unless otherwise specified,

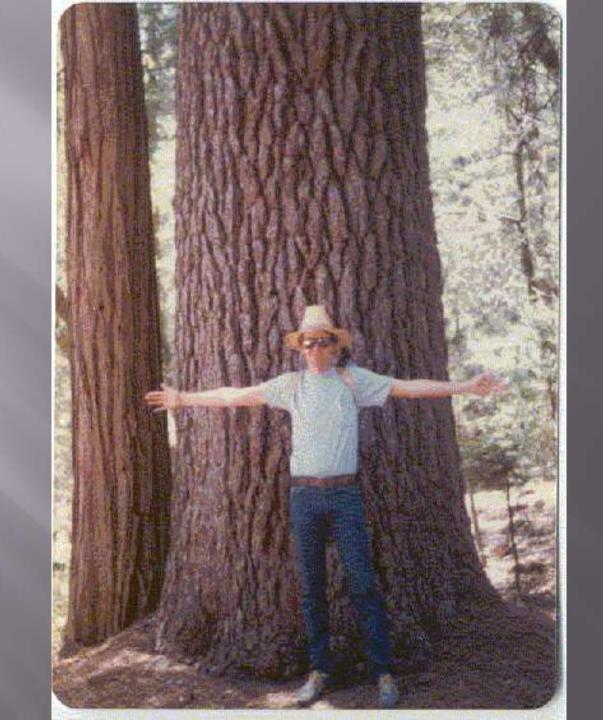
#### LOSS OF 500-YEAR-OLD SUGAR PINES DURING OCTOBER 2003 FIRE STORMS

by Thomas Oberbauer

Sugar pine. Pinus lambertiana, is known for extreme size: It is the largest growing member of the pine genus, and supports one of the largest cones of any pine. The cones up to a foot-and-a-half (45 cm) long, daugling from the branch tips are familiar to anyone who has visited Yosemite or Sequota National Parks. I recall a park ranger stating that unopened cones heavy with sap have been

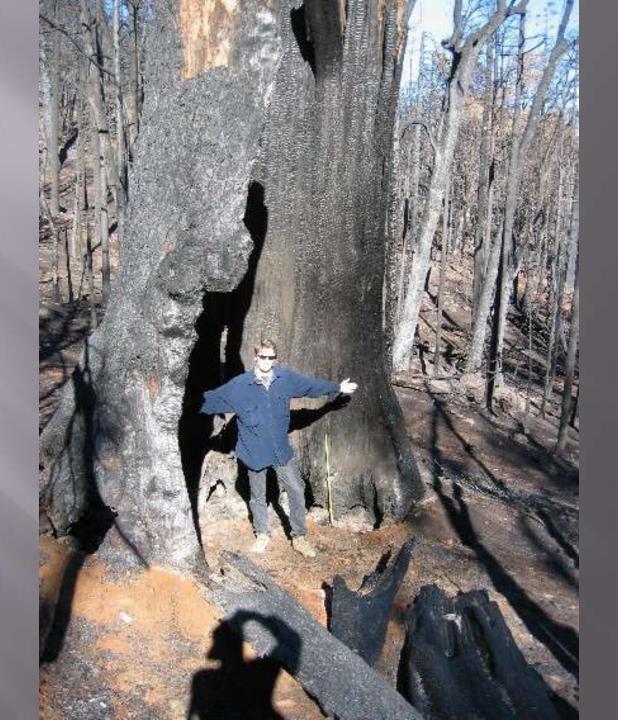
known to shatter car windshields. This live-needle member of the white pine group has relatives in Asia and a long Jossil history (Critchfield, 1986). But when I first studied this tree in college, at San Diego State University, I had never seen one in San Diego County.

That changed quickly, as my project was to draw a detailed map of the species' distribution, use an increment horer to measure age, create growth charts, and measure the height of the trees by triangulation. In San Diego County, Griffin and Critchfield (1970) generally supped a population on the Cuyamaca Mountains in central San Diego County, including Cuyamaca Peak, Middle Peak, and some near Japacha Peak, as well as Hot Springs Mountain above Warner Springs in the northeastern portion of the county. Their maps were the basis for my



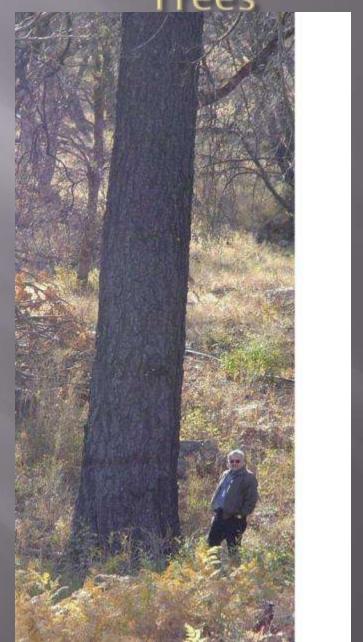


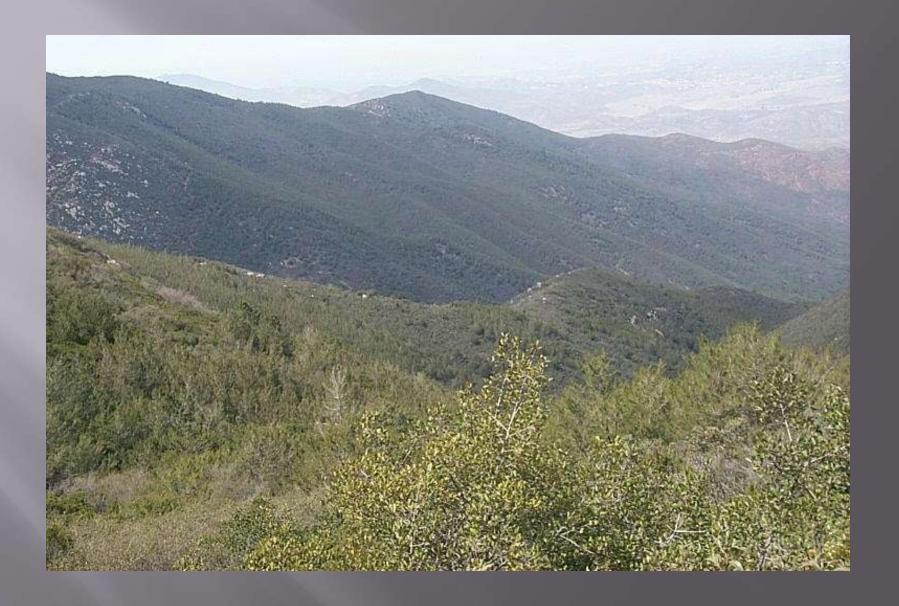






World's Largest Coulter Pine Register Big Trees





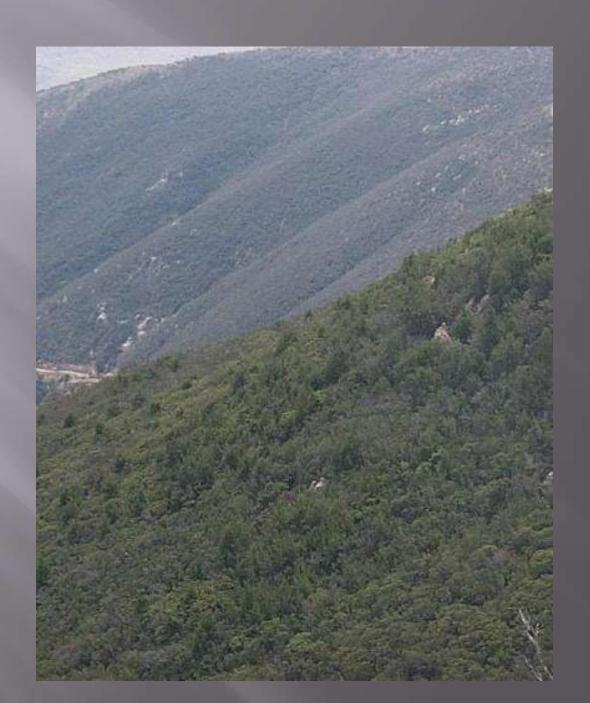


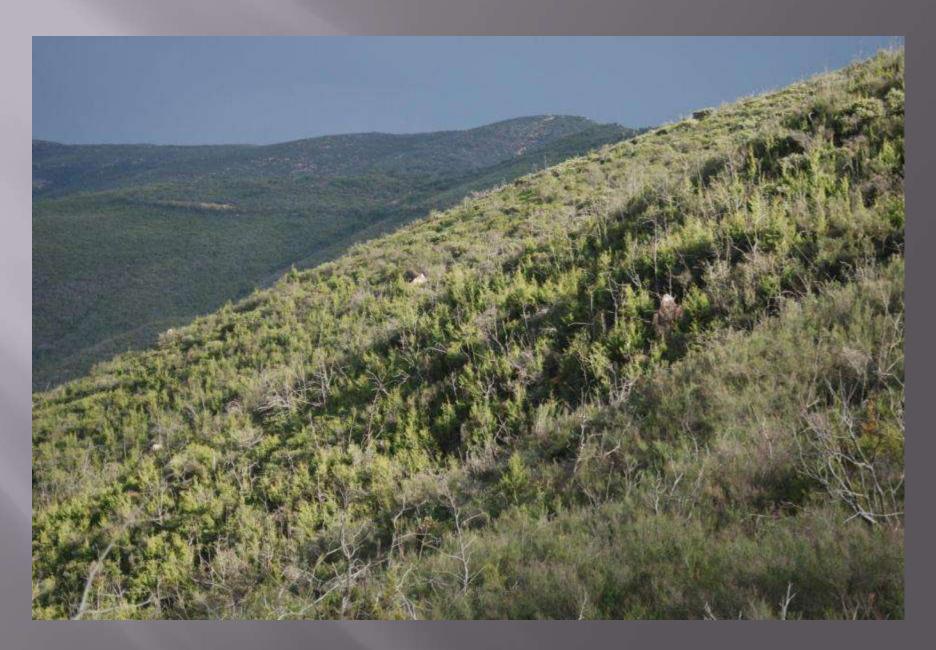


Photo from Web

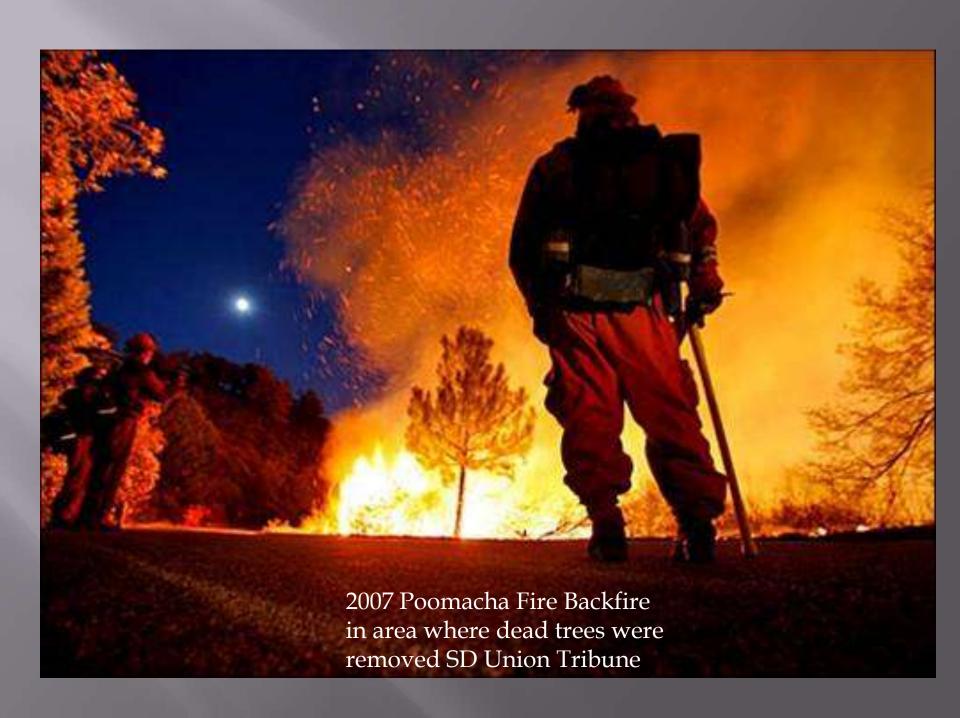








Cypress saplings Otay Mountain





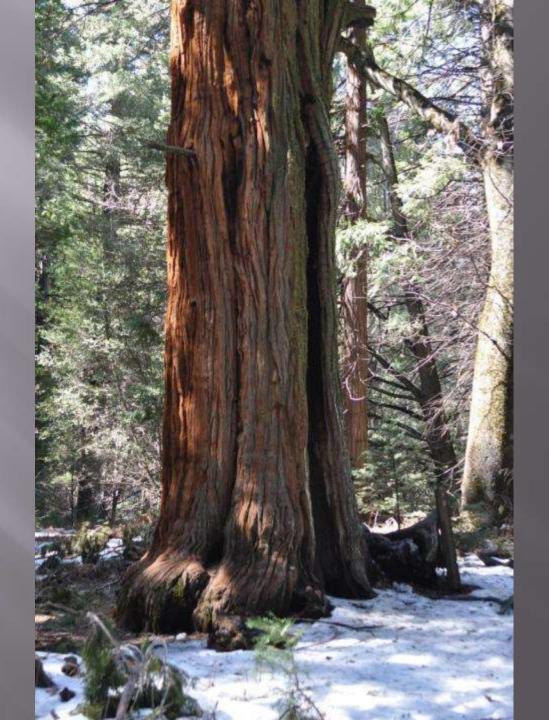




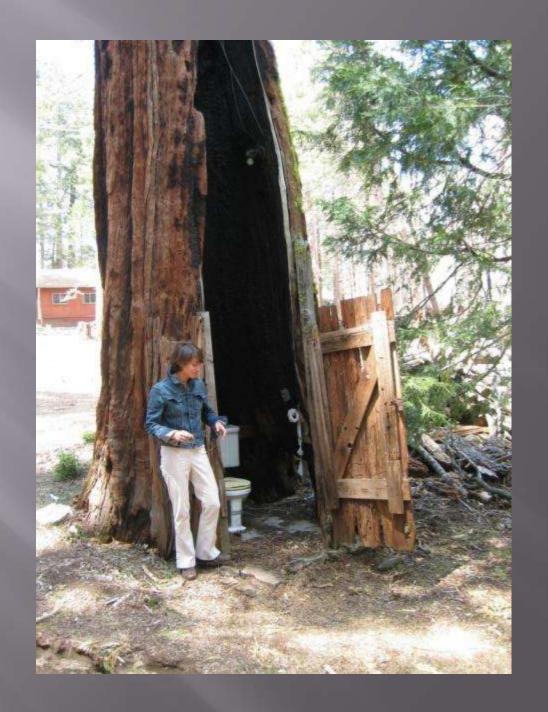


Dead Dying Diseased Tree removal created Defensible Space for backfires









## Cuyamaca Peak Remnant conifers from Cedar Fire



## palmeri



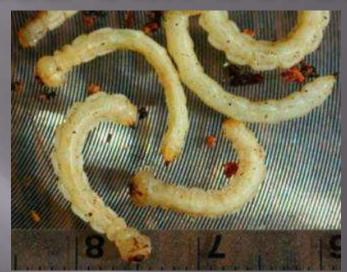
### Chamise Chaparral I-8 Overlook burned 3 times in last 15 years



## Gold spotted oak borer



Photos from Internet





### GSOB

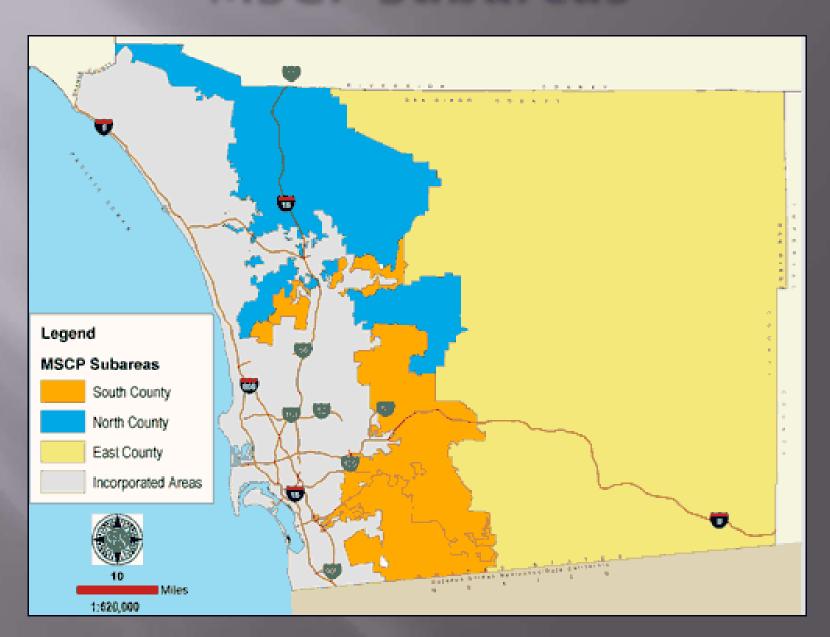


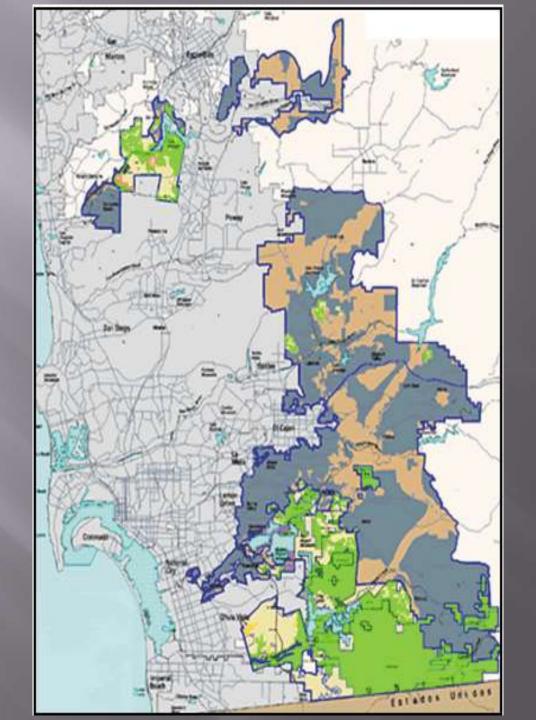
### Feral Pigs

- Introduced in 2006
- 200-300 animals
- Working on plans to eradicate them
- Eat acorns

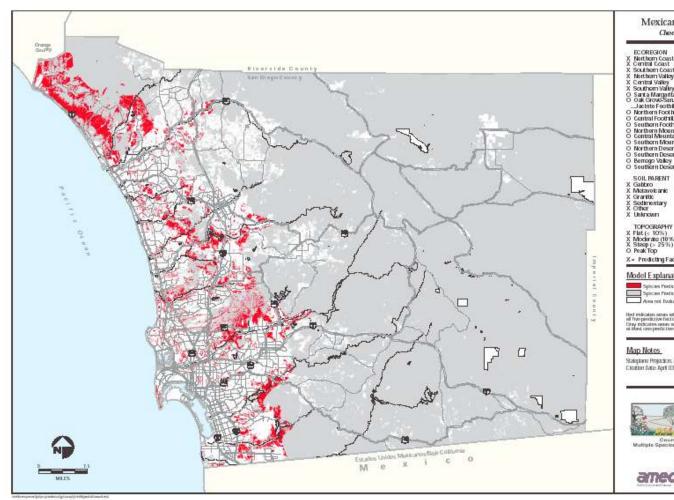
- Turkeys introduced 1990s eat acorns
- Combine with GSOB dim future for oaks

### **MSCP Subareas**





#### Output of County Species Distribution Model



#### Mexican long-tongued bat Choeronycteris mexicana

Southern Coast X. Northern Valley Central Valley X. Southern Valley O Santa Margarita O Oak Grove-San. Jacinto Foothills O Northern Foothills O Southern Foothtils O Northern Mountains O Central Mountains O Southern Mountains

O Northern Descrit Slopes O Southern Desert Slopes O Borrego Valley O Southern Desert Valley SOIL PARENT

X Gabbro X Motavolcanic X Grantile X Sedimentary X Other

TOPOGRAPHY X Flat (< 10%) X Moderate (10%-25%)

Coastal Sage Scrub Mixed Chape and 0 Grassland O Riparian Oak Woodland

O Charnise Chapartal
O Mixed Confor
O Close Cone Forest Pinon-Juniper
 Freshwater Marsh Desert Serub Dosort Whish

Salt or Alkali Mersh Vernal Pools Montane Meadow O Coastal or Desert Dune O Lakes and Bays

500-1000 Feet O 1000-3000 Feet O Above 3000 Feet

SOIL TEXTURE X Clay X Loam X Silt X Sand Coarse Sand

Rock

X = Predicting Factor O = Excluding Factor

#### Model Explanation

Species Field and to Court (190,125) as seed Spices Federal retus Occar
Assa not Instituted (Dev. Ag. or no Vegetation Deta)

Hed andicates seem where a predicting factor (X) is marked in all five pendictive factor categories. Chay redicates nature when an ord-taking factor (C) is marked in at liked, one pendictive factor category.

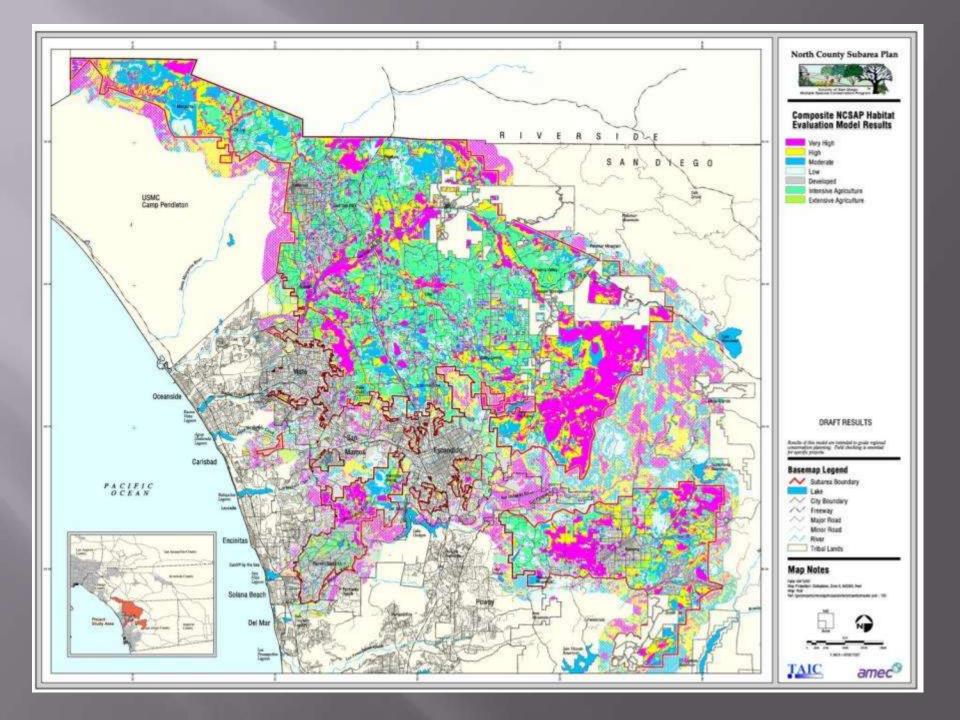
#### Map Notes

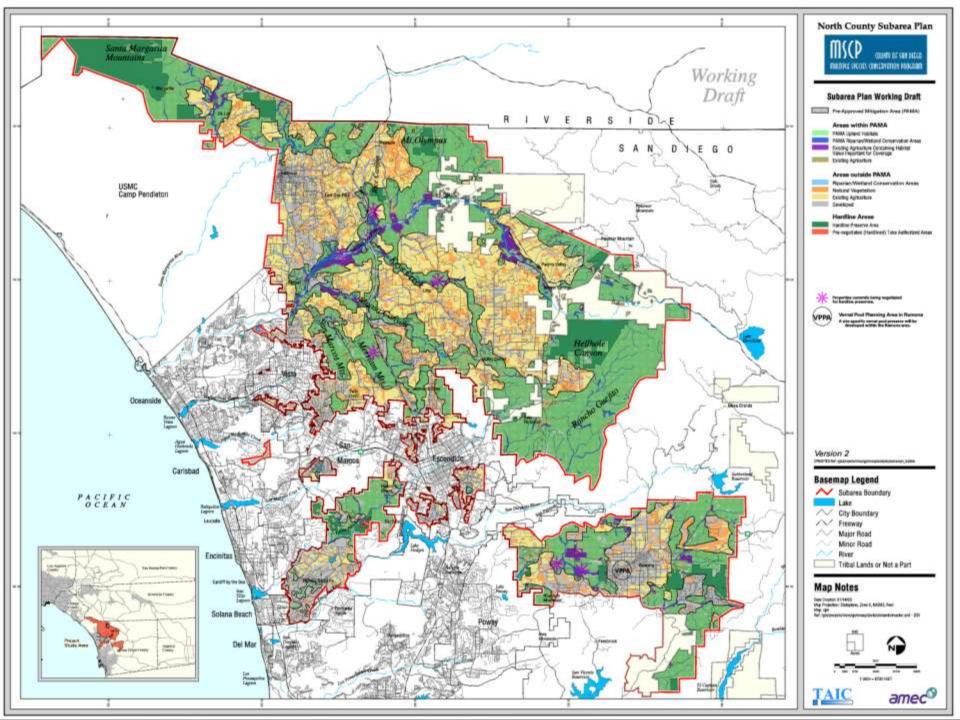
Statestante Protection, Zursch. MADES Catalian Date: April 183, 2002







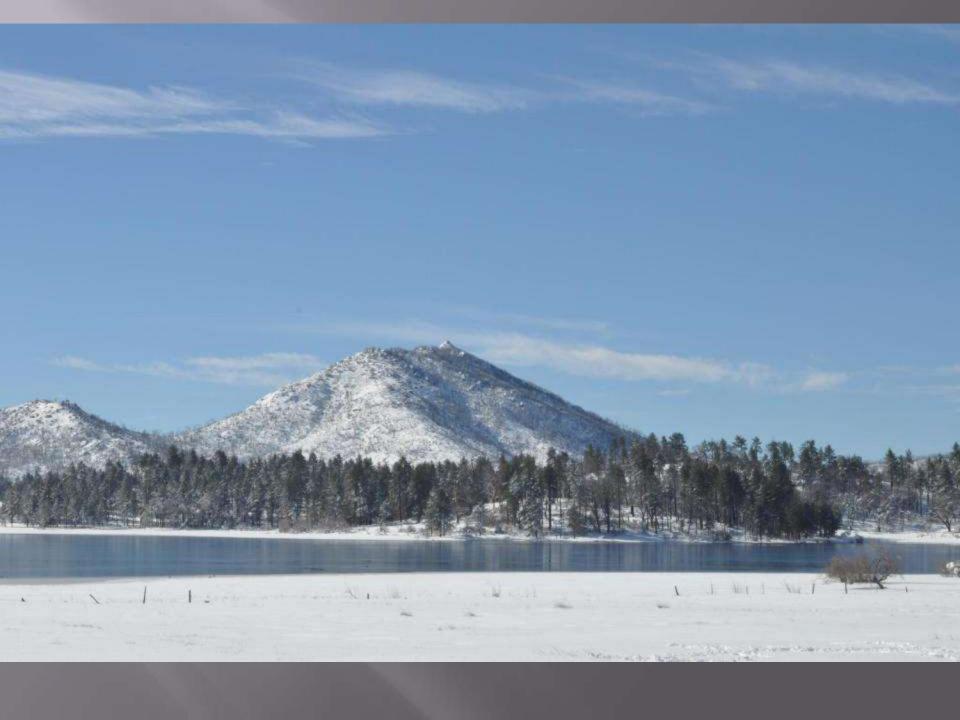




# Work with Stakeholders and public officials

- Wildlife Agencies both US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game
- Builders
- Environmental groups
- Agricultural groups
- Decision Makers
- Partners nearly 40,000 acres in MSCP plus tens of thousands more outside MSCP spillover







## Cuyamaca Lake

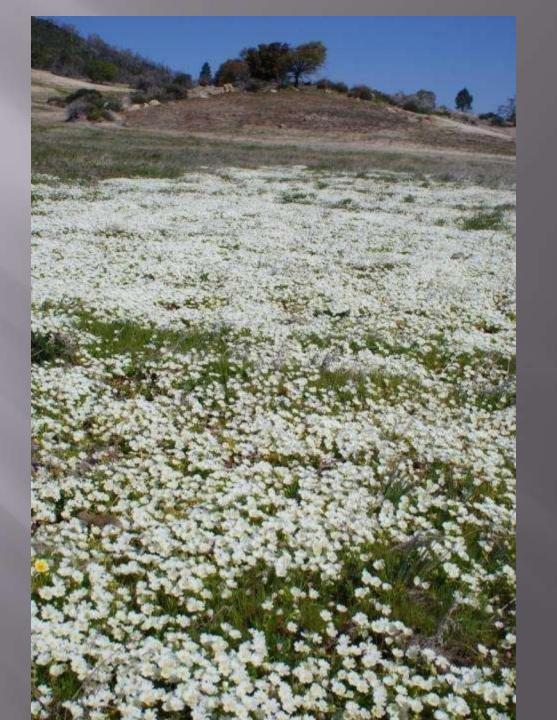




Castilleja densiflora, Lasthenia gracilis, Lupinus bicolor, Layia platyglossa



Limnanthes gracilis var. parishii





Downingia concolor var. brevior









Lupinus excubitus

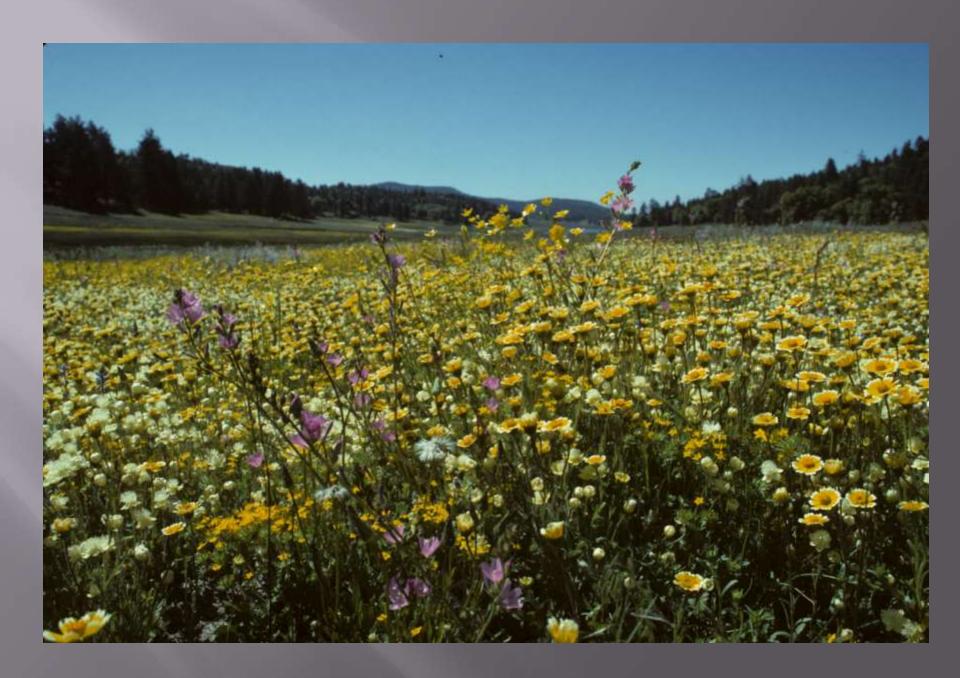


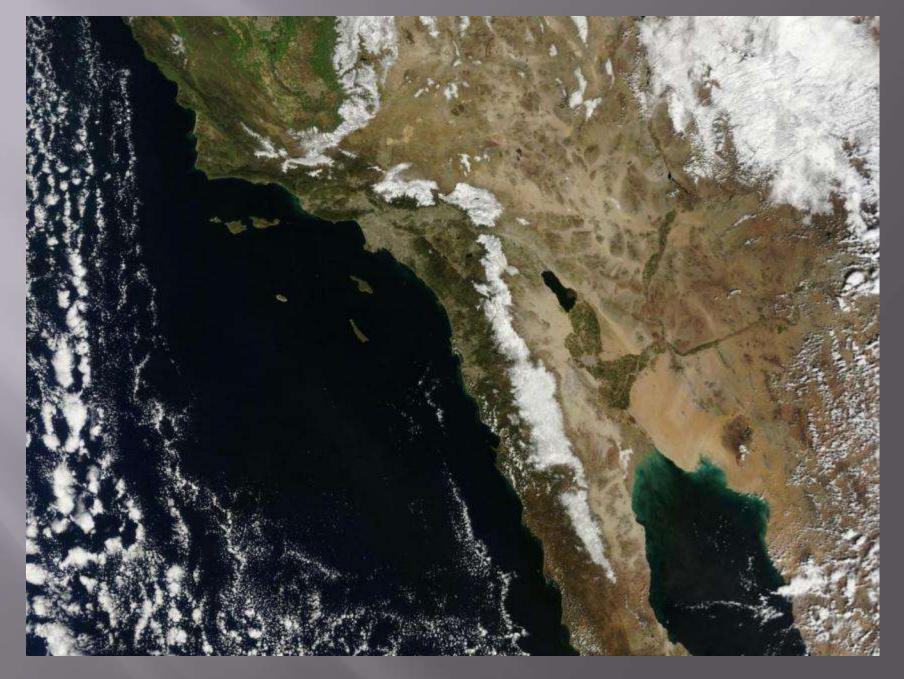
# Laguna Meadow winter





Laguna Meadow Spring





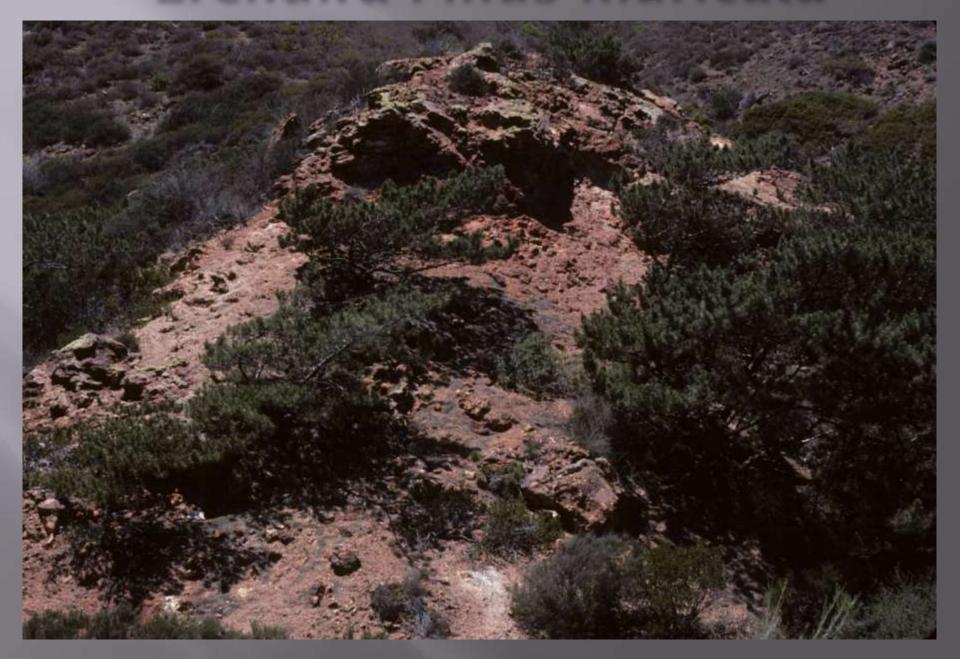
Sierra Juarez is Large Area



Laguna Hanson



## Erendira Pinus muricata



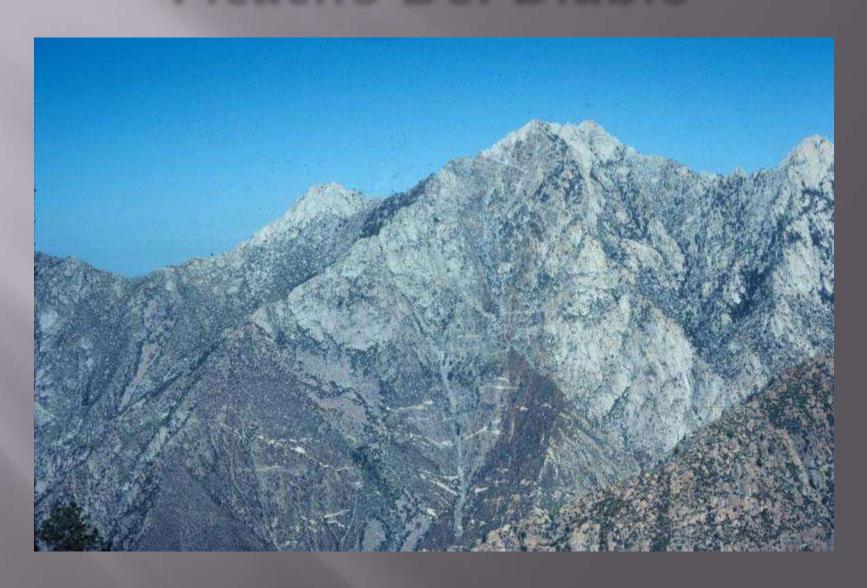
## Cedros Island



## Senecio palmeri



## Picacho Del Diablo



## Sierra San Pedro Martir



### Vizcaino Desert

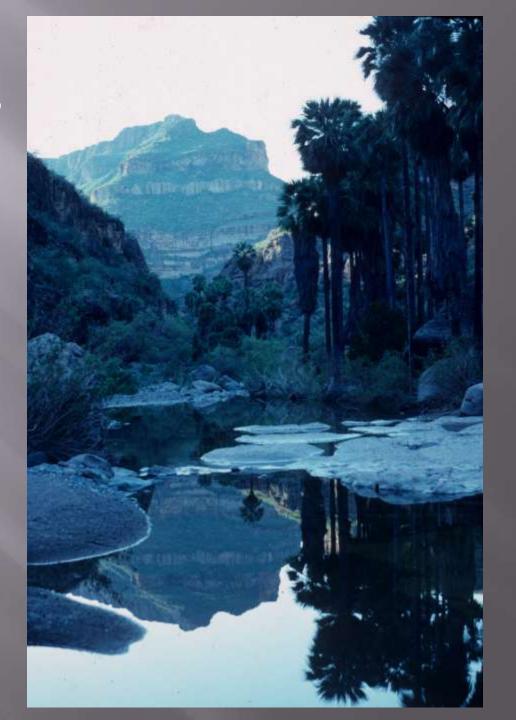
Abronia villosa , Pachycereus, Yucca valida



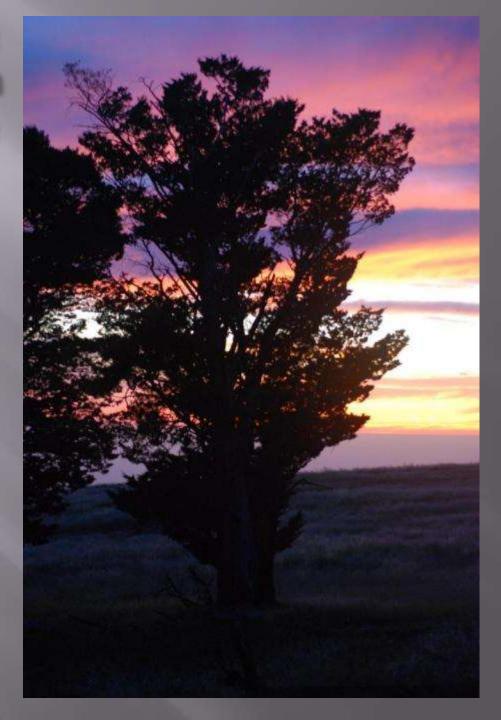
## South of El Rosario

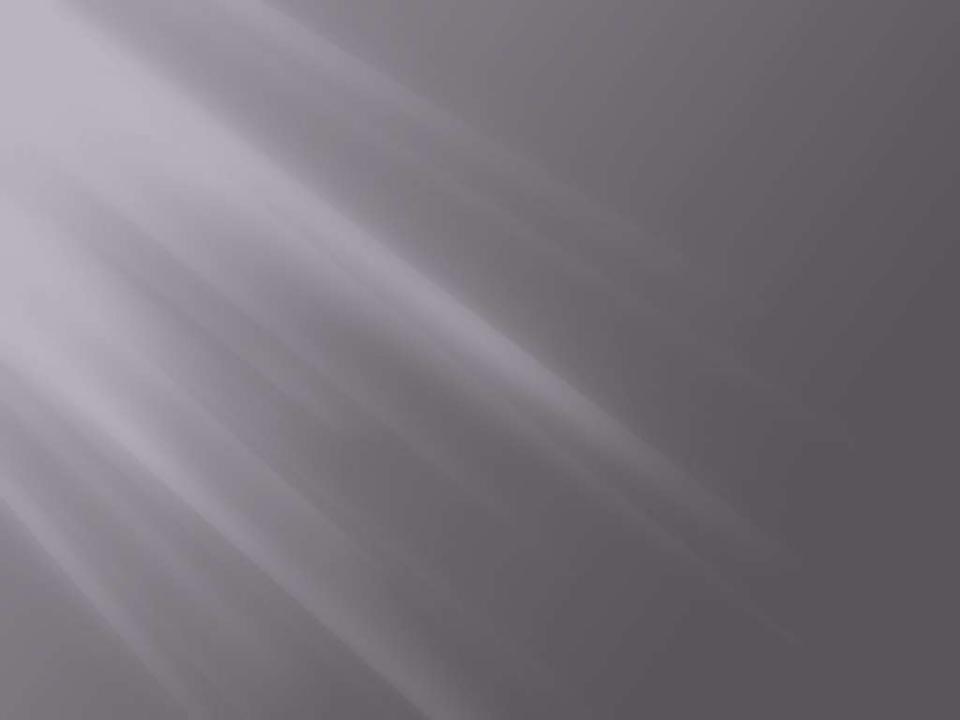


Arroyo San Pablo Sierra San Francisco



Guadalupe Cypress on Guadalupe Island





# Coastal sage scrub 75+% loss of habitat



Artemisia californica-Eriogonum fasciculatum-Malosma laurina Association



#### **Cuyamaca Burning**



#### **Cuyamaca Burned**





Palomar North Side

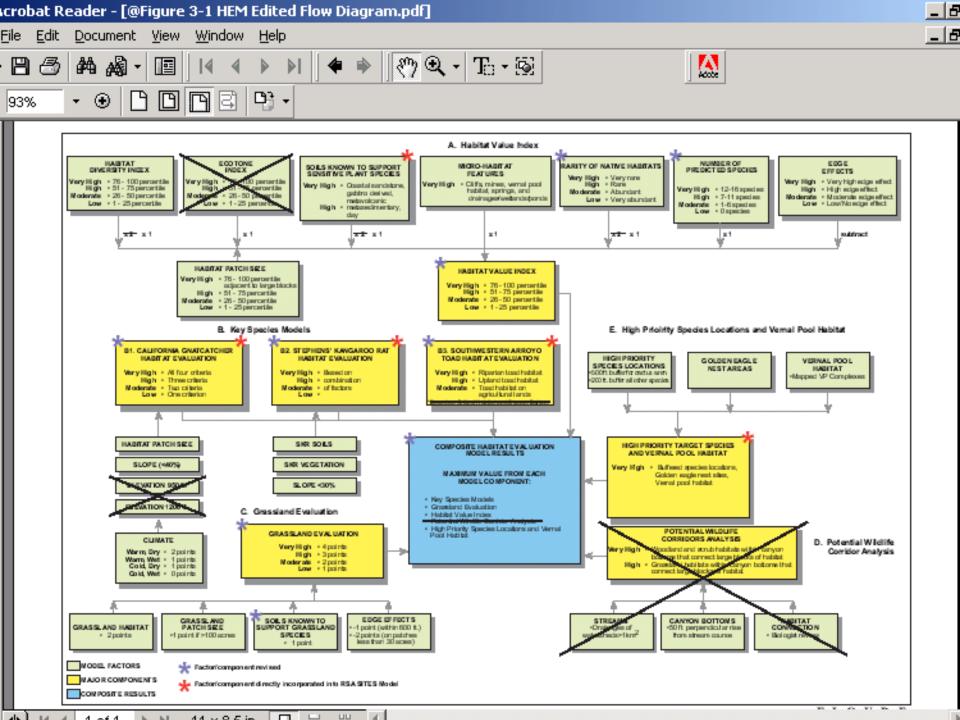
## Modeling

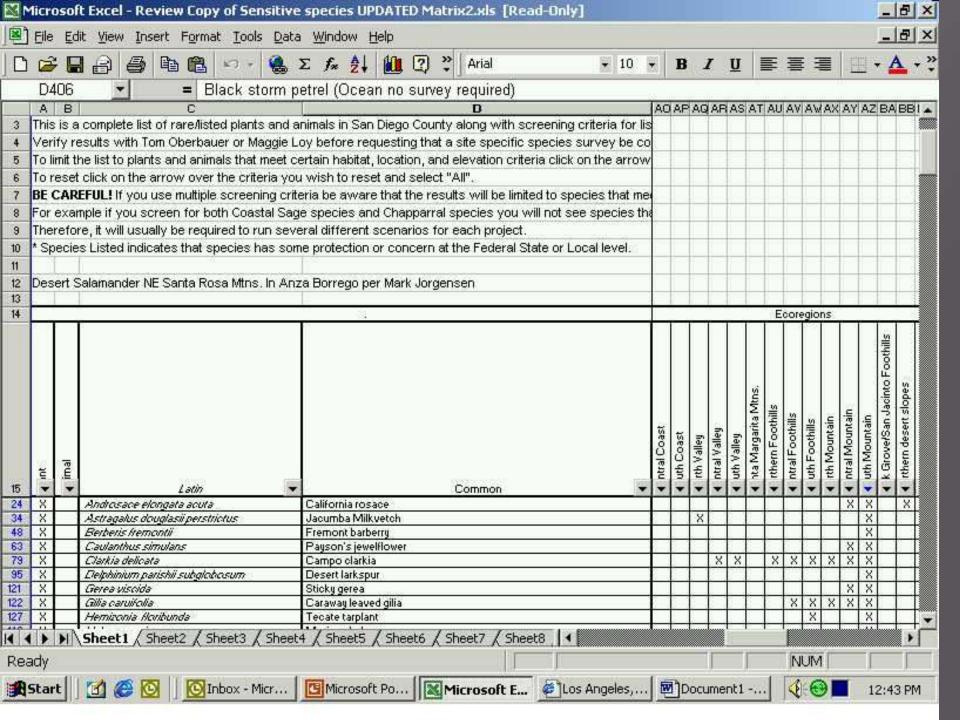
## CREATION OF A PLAN IS DEPENDENT ON SOUND BIOLOGICAL AND MODELING PRINCIPLES

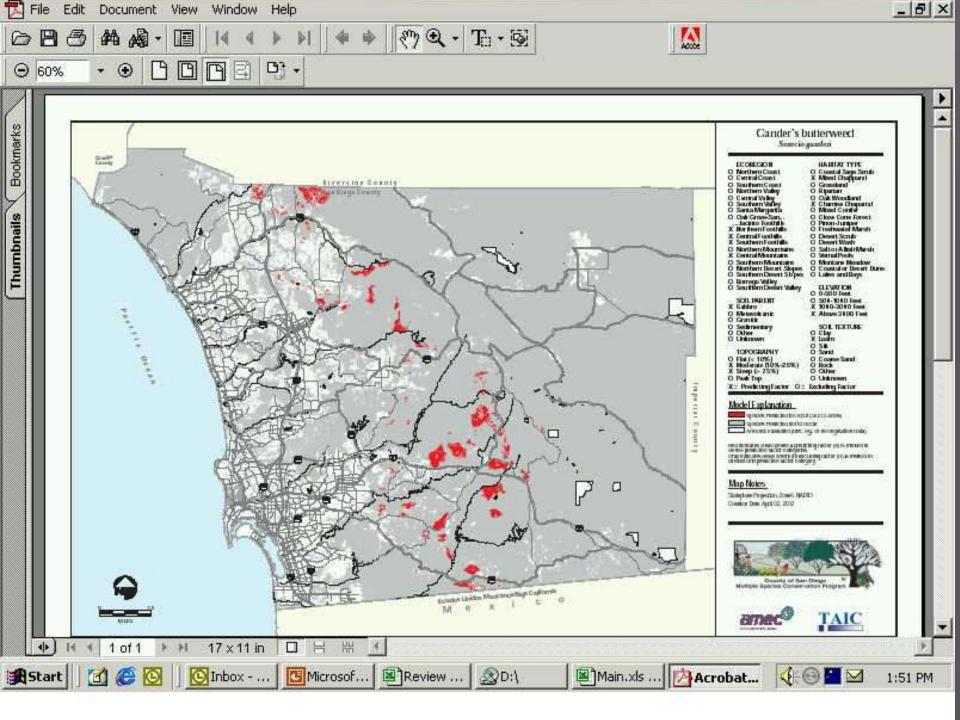
- Lack of access to properties to perform surveys
- Need to evaluate relative values of habitat
- Large number of species to be considered together to obtain coverage











#### SITES Model

- Referred to as a Reserve Selection Algorithm
- Mechanically evaluate the trade-offs associated with drawing preserve area boundaries
- Optimum conservation area boundaries with the least acreage necessary to meet assigned goals
- Quantification of how many goals are reached
- Objective, repeatable

#### NCSAP Preserve Planning Process

Preserve Design Criteria and Conservation Planning Goals

• How will the preserve be designed to meet the goals?

Habitat Modeling and Analysis

- What areas have high biological resource value?
- Where are the most important habitats for endangered species?

Gap Analysis

- What areas are already protected?
- Where are the linkages to other surrounding preserve areas?

Reserve Selection Algorithm (SITES) Modeling

"Creating the Preserve"

 Systematic approach to define preserve boundaries and meet biological goals based on sound biological science and planning



Public and Stakeholder Input

Identification of Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA)

Boundaries

- Coordinated drawing of preserve area boundaries (PAMA) with Wildlife Agencies
- Connectivity Analysis

  Incorporate critical wildlife corridors into planning

**Conservation Analysis** 

• Can the preserve configuration meet the project goals (level of conservation, land use planning) and protect the species for which coverage is sought?

**NCCP Plan Development and Implementing Agreements** 

Document production and permit processing

# Value of Multiple Species Planning

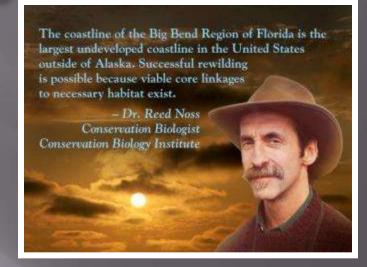
- Focuses attention on conserving highly sensitive areas
- Partnership with conservation and development. Need to work together to succeed. If not, environment usually loses. Very Difficult. Creating plans is easier than gaining support.

# Value of Multiple Species Planning

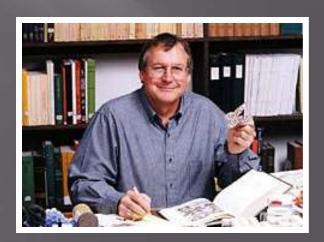
- Attracts Federal and State Funds.
- Conservation moves more smoothly rather than confrontation for each project.
- South County MSCP Permit 1998. More than 40,000 acres conserved that would not have been.
- Federal Wildlife Refuge.

# Independent Science Advisors

- Provide independent peer review to scientific process
- Provide a basis for identification of important biological areas















Sidalcea malviflora

# Laguna Meadow winter



### Mountains: Palomar Mendenhall Valley



## Palomar Doane Valley



# Cuyamaca Lake



### Mount Laguna













Tetracoccus dioicus Gabbro endemic