

Containing and Reducing the Spread of Volutaria Across California: Lessons Learned

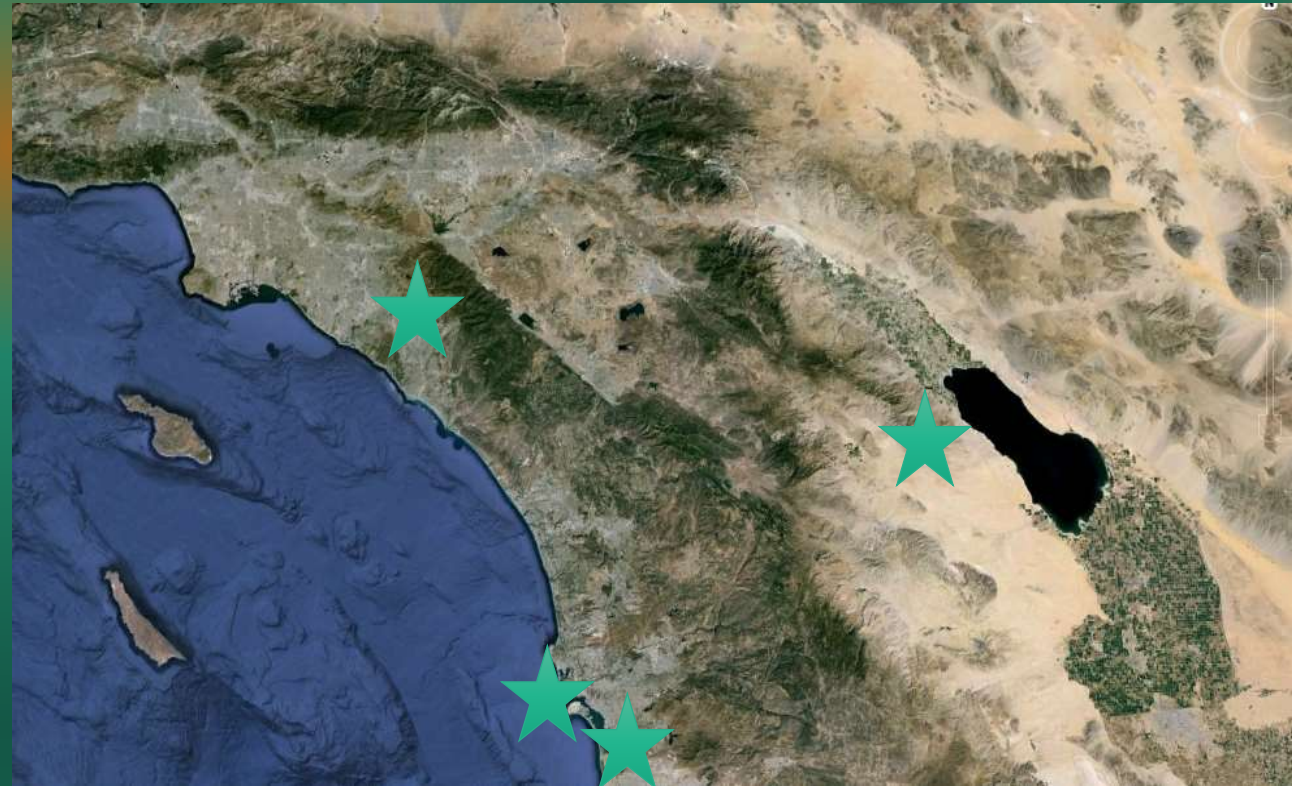
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Amanda Swanson, Jason Giessow

Lessons Learned

- We found Volutaria in 2011
- It is native to North Africa and the Mediterranean
- It is found in 4 sites in Southern California
 - 1 site has been extirpated
- What did we learn?



Lesson #1: Identification

Get an ID of a species you are unsure of, especially if there are several to many of them at your site



Lesson #2: Don't trust the experts

- Photos were sent to Dr. Gerhard Wagenitz (RIP 2017)
- ID came back as *Volutaria canariensis*
- A Canary Island endemic, with no history of spreading

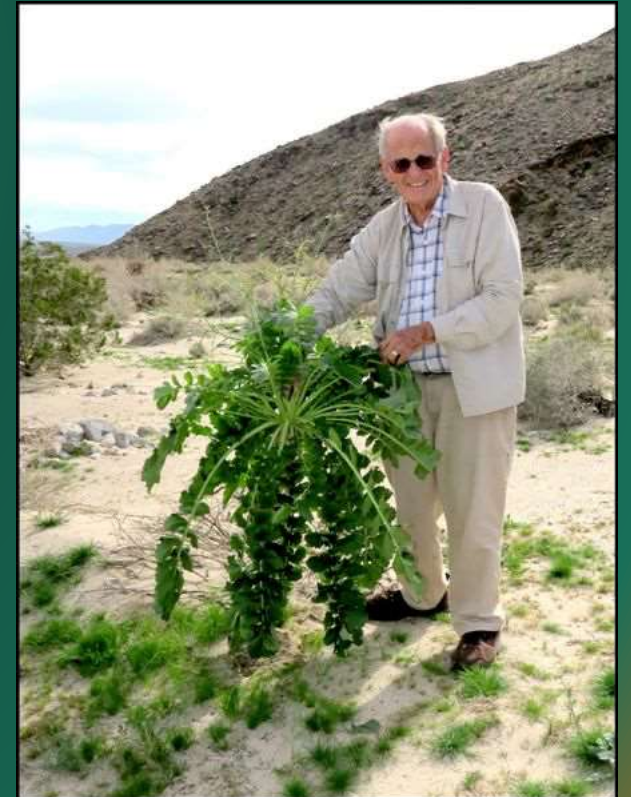


The real lesson is you are going to make mistakes, learn from ours, learn from yours



Lesson #3 Attend Meetings

- You'll meet some great people at meetings
- If you can't find a meeting to attend, create your own meetings



Lesson #4: Find Frank

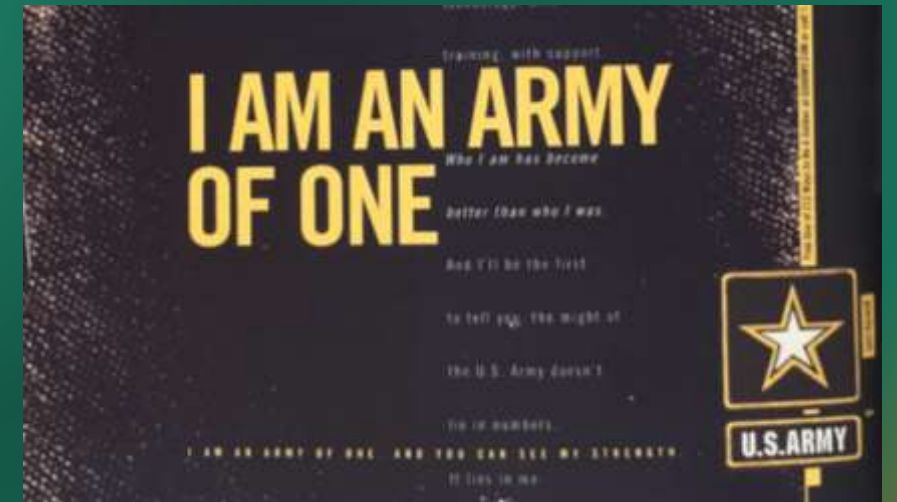
- When you are attending meetings, and show in interest in the meeting, people may talk to you about their problems
- Find Frank! Listen to Frank!
- His problems might be the same as your problems
i.e. weeds, lots of them

Lesson #5: Be a part of a team



- Find a team of interested people who want to help kill the weeds
- If you can't find a team then make your own team
- You might even have a team of one = You

Also, don't be afraid to merge teams, or admit that someone else's team might be better. Just find a way to be on the best team, or on separate teams to get different jobs done



Lesson #5: Be a part of a team

- Find a team of interested people who want to help kill your weeds



Volutaria tubuliflora in the Canary Islands



V. tubuliflora in US



V. tubuliflora in Chile

Lesson #5: Be a part of a team

- Teams learn more than you can
- First known Borrego contact:
- In February 2010 two botanists on a hike notice an unusual plant growing in Alcoholic Pass in ABDSP
- Returning later in the season the plant was missing
 - RT Hawke, Tom Chester



Lesson #5: Be a part of a team

- Teams can do more than you can



Lesson #5: Be a part of a team

- Teams learn more than you can
- First known California contact:
- In May 1987 Robert De Ruff took a photo of a plant *Centaurea muricata* (mis-ID'd)
- It's *Volutaria*!
- Ron Vanderhoff found Robert's webpage and cracked the case wide open!



Lesson #6: Learn Something



Oh, you are going to have to learn so many things!



Possibly like, how to kill your weed



Where does it come from?



Who else has this weed?



How fast is it spreading?



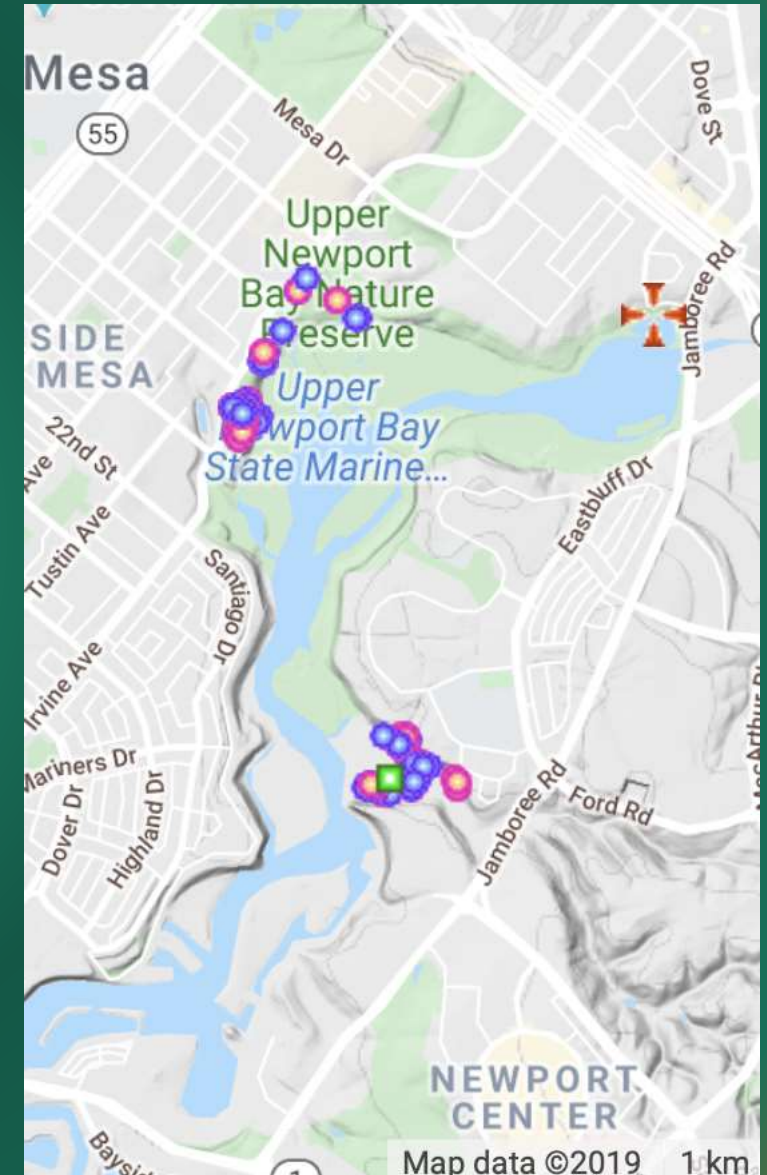
How long does the seed live?



What types of habitats is it found in?

Lesson #6: Learn Something

- Once we learned the Newport population had been there for 30 years, we immediately realized its spreading slowly along the coast and faster in the desert



Lesson #7: Become the expert

- There is a chance no one else in your part of the world has seen this weed
- If you are learning something you are gaining expertise
- If you have more expertise with this species than everyone else around you, you are now an expert



Lesson #8: Think Big

This was the extent of the
known populations in 2013

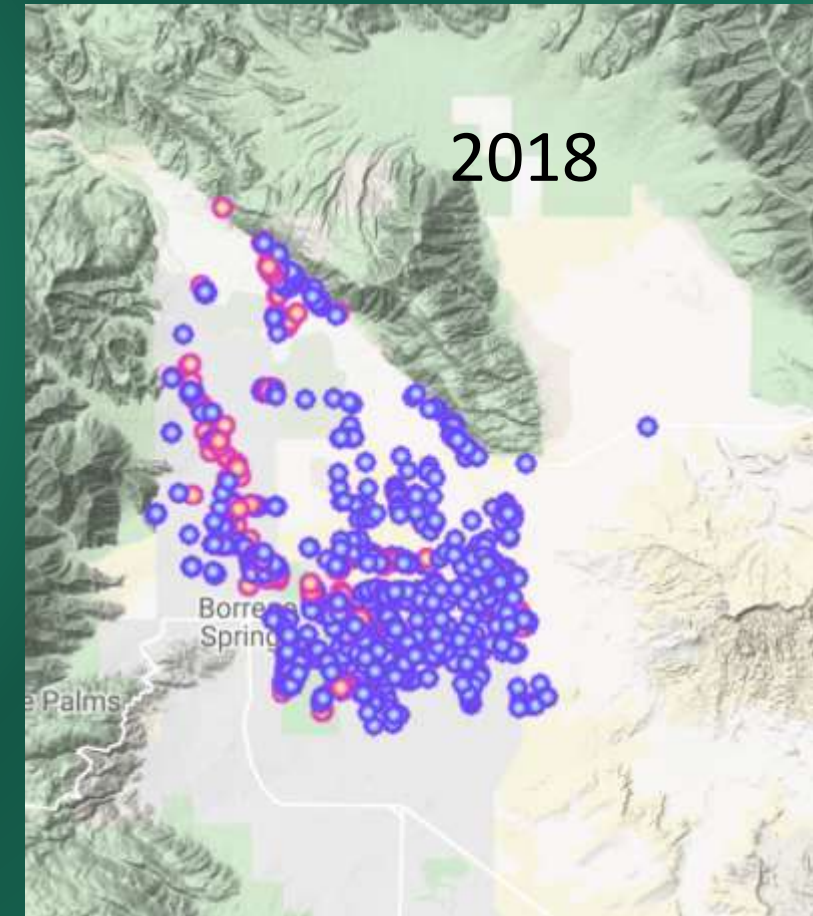
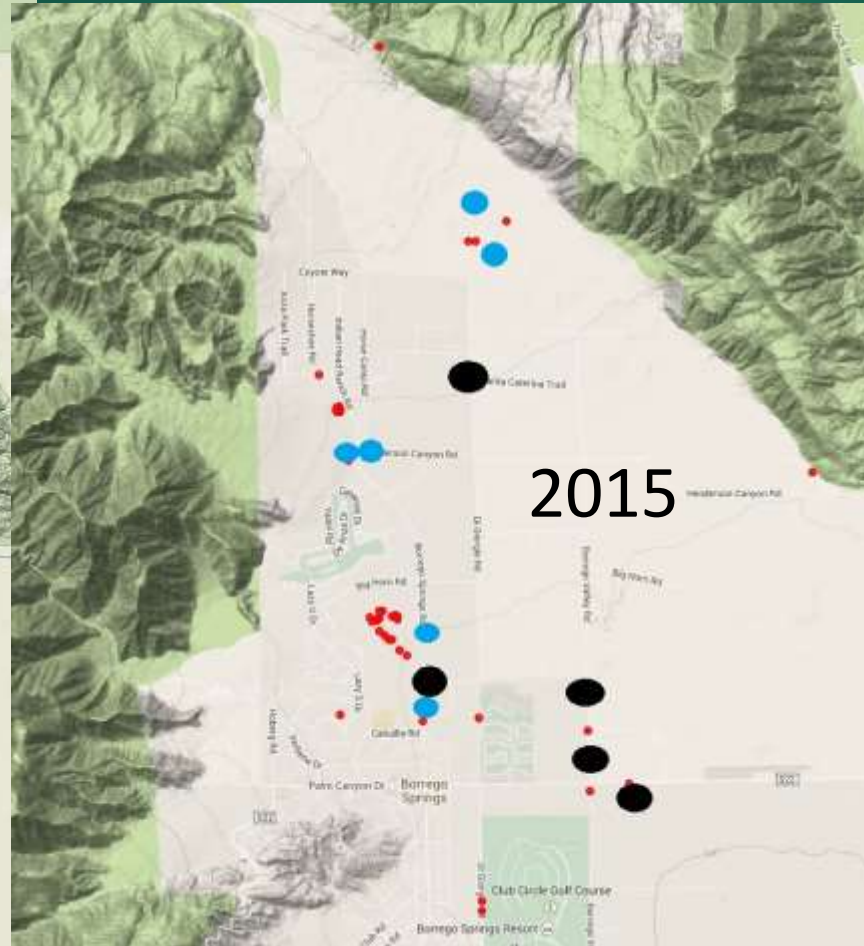
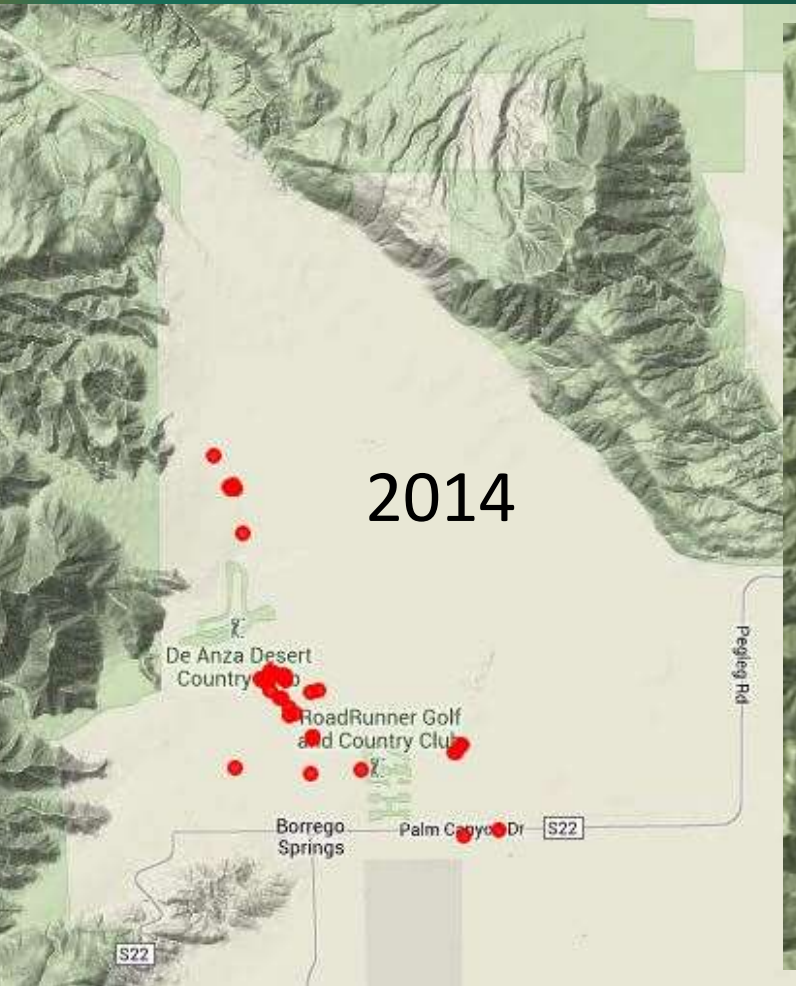
We hadn't even gone digital
yet!

I hadn't found Frank or Ron yet!


We didn't know about the
Newport population yet!



Lesson #8: Think Big



Lesson #9: Get Digital

 Calflora Observation Hotline

MAPTOOLS

Chris McDonaldEDIT - SIGN OUT

Scientific Name
Volutaria tubuliflora

Native Status
any

Start Date

End Date

Observer

OTHER SOURCES
CCH, iNaturalist

Columns
custom

Common Name

include surveys/checklists

Location Description

☒ anywhere
☐ in map area

POLYGON

Photos
any

County
any
Alameda
Alpine
Amador
Butte
Calaveras
Contra Costa
Colusa

SEARCH

Showing the first 2000 records.

MapSatellite

LAYERS

Sheephole Valley Wilderness

Joshua Tree National Park

San Bernardino National Forest

Cleveland National Forest

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Salton Sea

San Diego

Chula Vista

Tijuana

Imperial

El Centro

Calixico

Mexicali

La Rumorosa

Tecate

Carlsbad

Vista

Temecula

Irvine

Anaheim

Riverside

San Bernardino

Indio

La Quinta

Brawley

Imperial

El Centro

Calixico

Mexicali

La Rumorosa

Tecate

Chula Vista

Tijuana

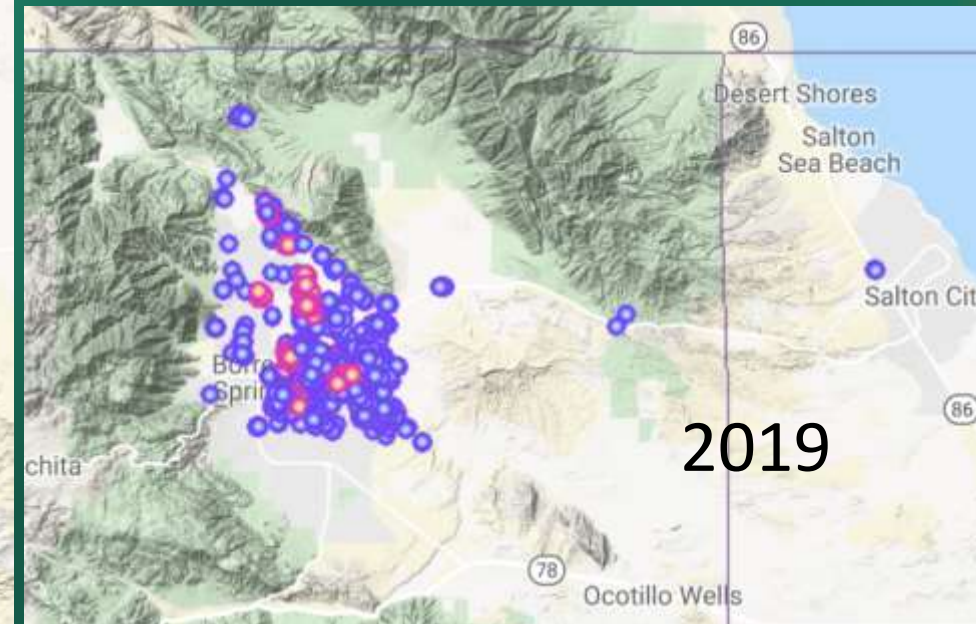
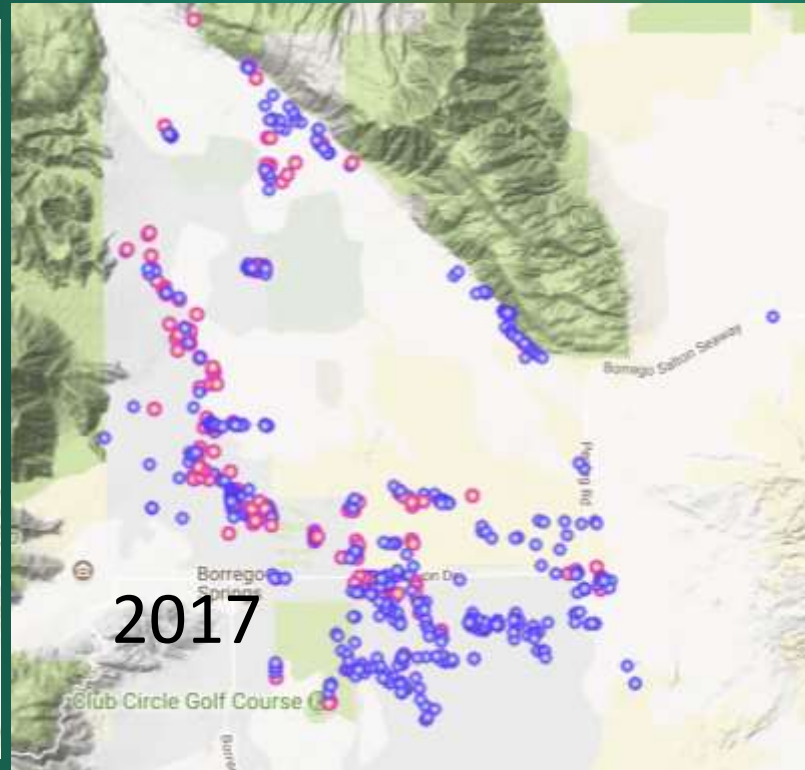
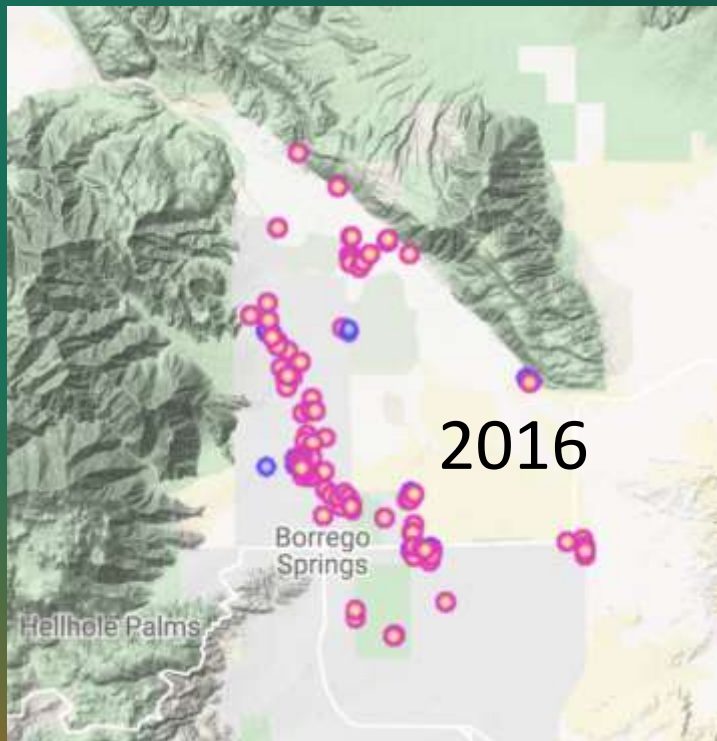
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Lesson #10: Scale UP



- Cal-IPC received a grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, San Diego County has grants from CDFA and WMA funding to monitor and manage Volutaria in Southern California

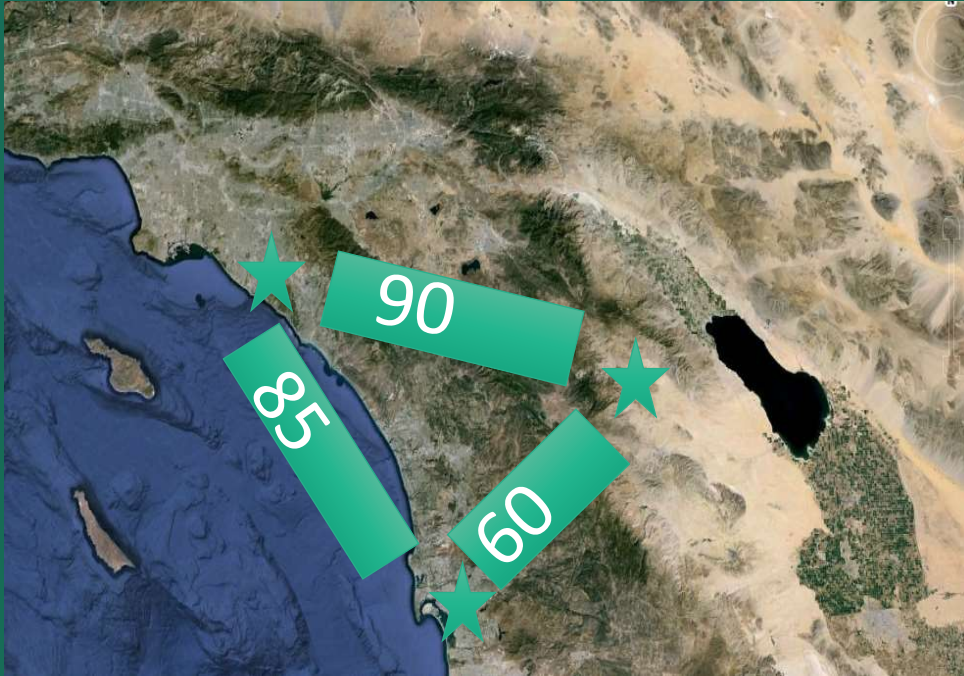


Lesson #11: Predict the future

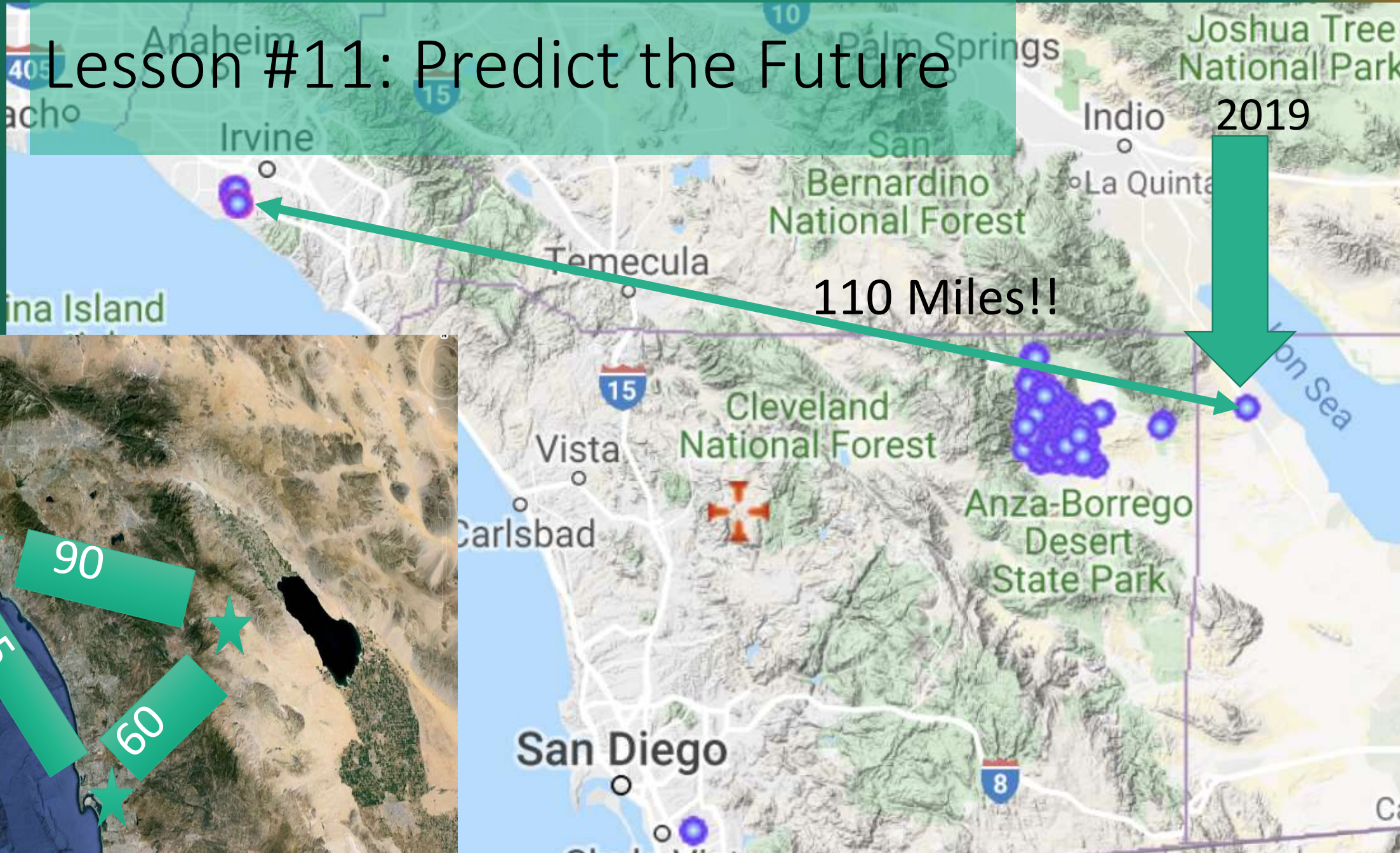
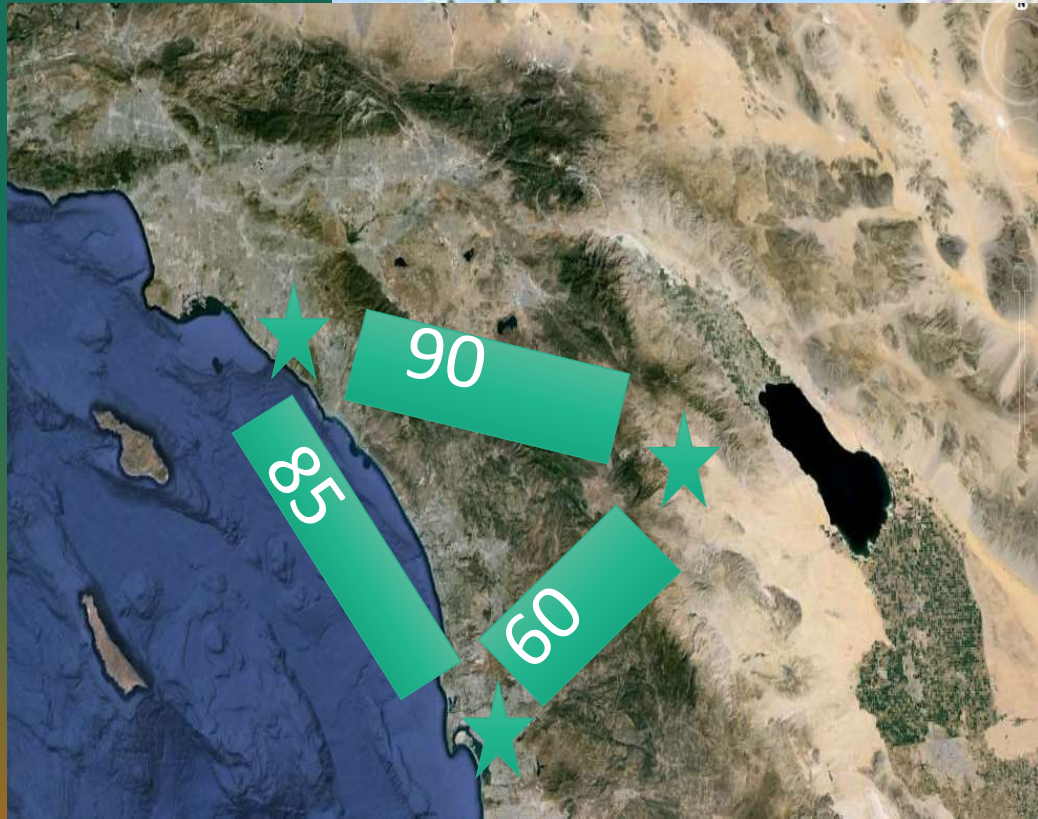


Lesson #11: Predict the future

• 2027

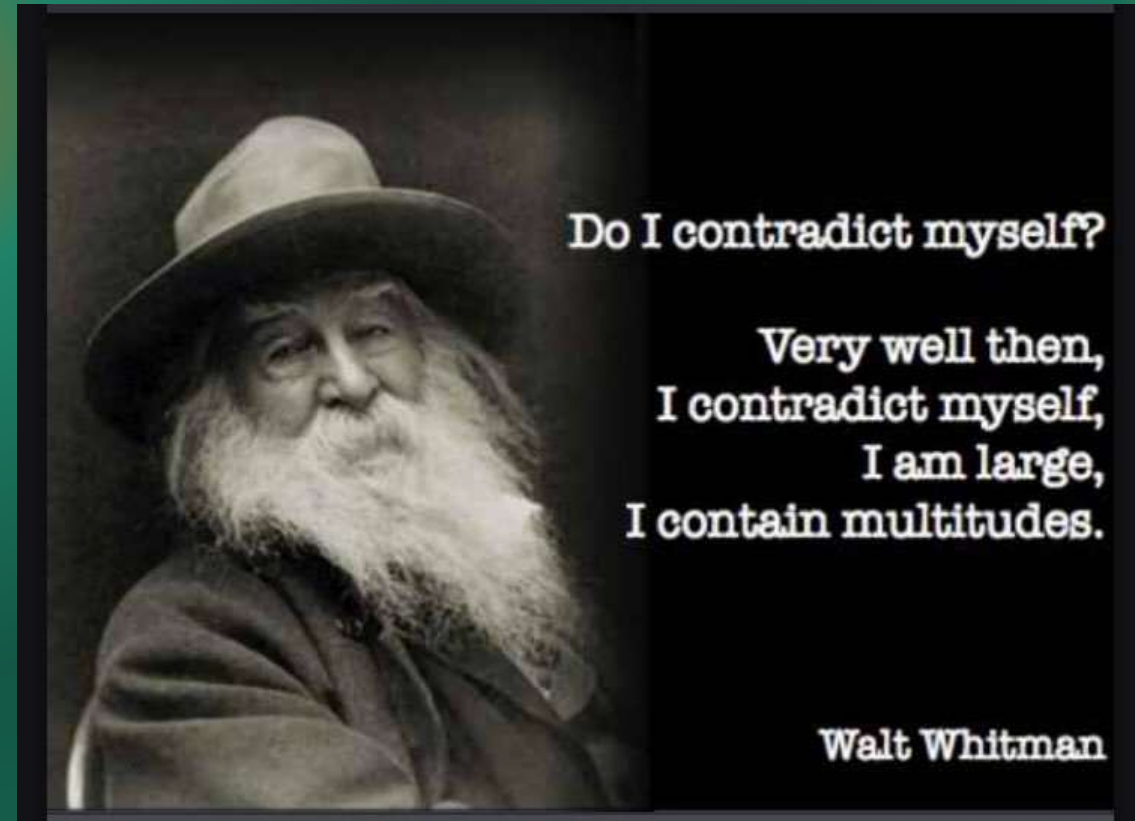


Lesson #11: Predict the Future



Lesson #12: Trust the experts

- In the beginning there was a lot to learn, we knew so little, we made mistakes!
- We now know just enough to manage this species
- Learning is not a straightforward path
- Life does not follow the straight and narrow path



Questions?

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