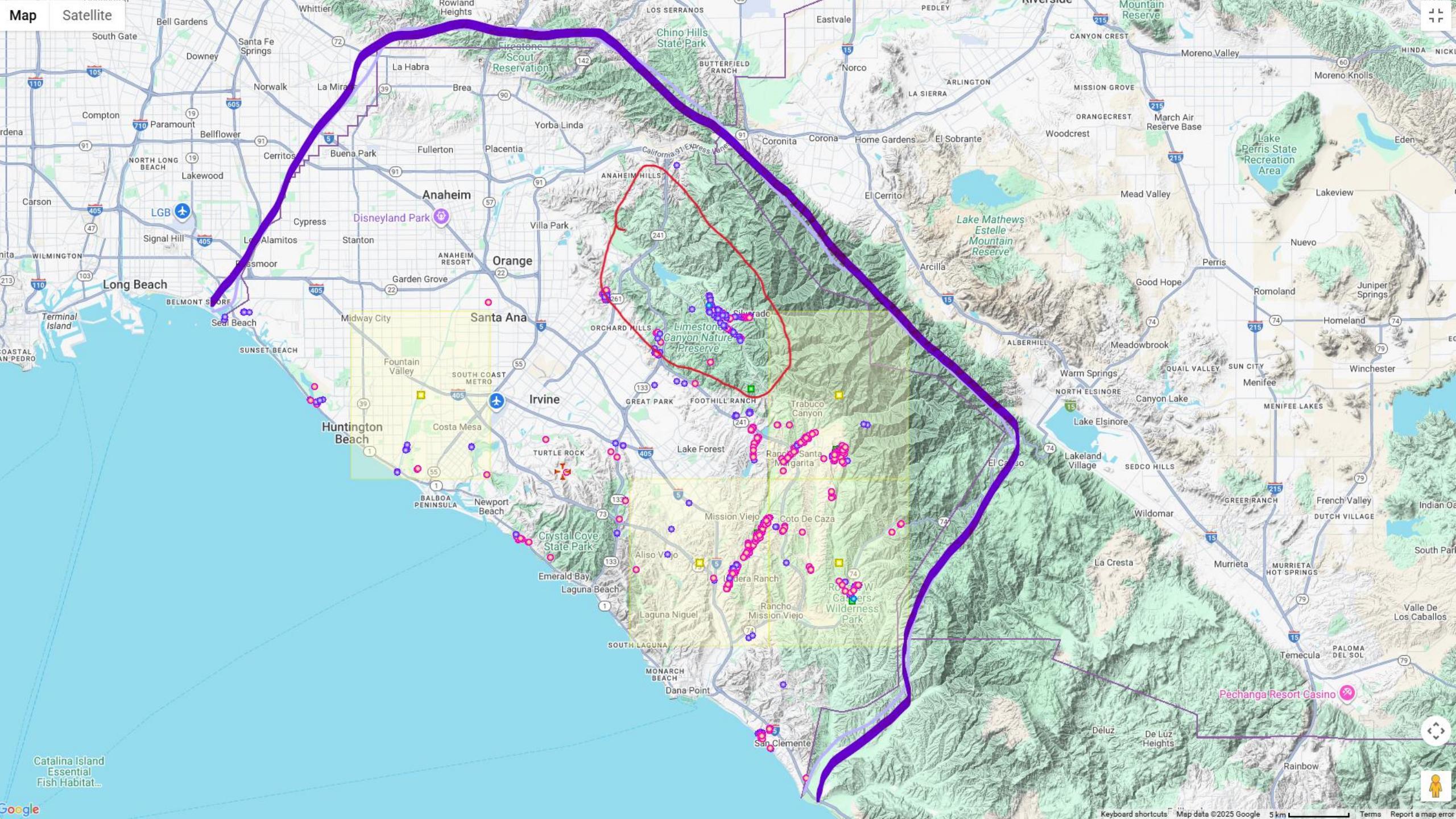
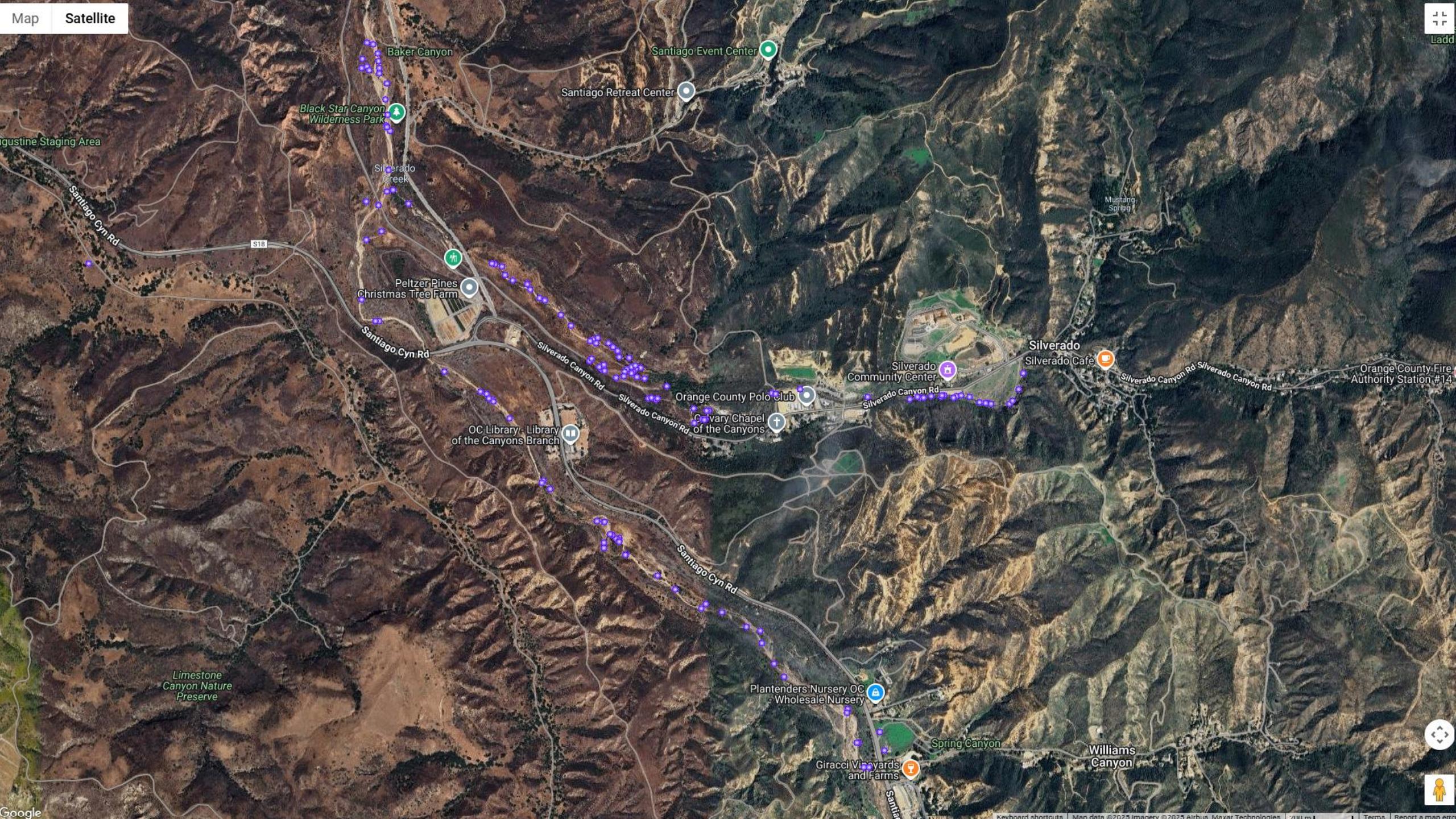


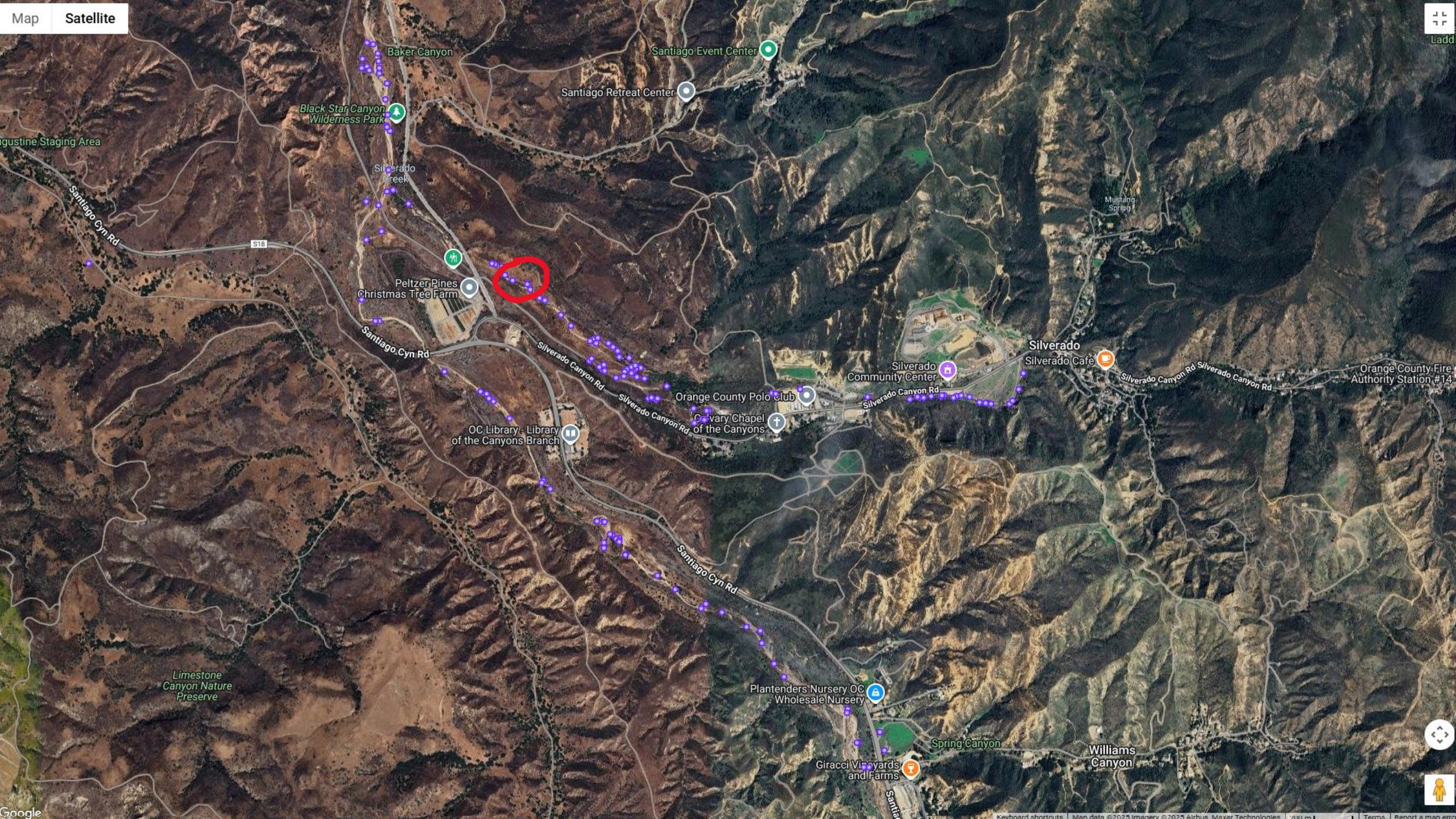


# Stinkwort in Santiago Creek – an EDRR success story

Isaac Ostmann- Program Manager – Irvine Ranch Conservancy











# Stinkwort- *Dittrichea graveolens*



- Summer/fall annual
- High priority species
- 1-3 ft tall
- Aster family
- Small flowers
- Strong aromatic- Vicks Vapor Rub
- Sticky leaves
- Conical shape –Christmas tree
- Look alikes – *Conyza spp*'s or Spanish sunflower *Pulicaria*





# Timeline

- 2023 (August)- first plant discovered in Silverado creek
- 2023 (Fall) - mapped extent of populations and handpulled all plants found. No resurveys conducted
- 2024 summer – survey/treat all populations within the 6 miles of creeks. Repeated at least once.
- Dense sites got ~3 visits
- 2025 summer/fall – survey/ treat all know populations. Checked all populations at least 3 times between July-October



# Challenges

- Not very conspicuous and looks like other weeds
- Can hide in plain sight
- Lots of opportunities to take hold- road/trailside, creeks, degraded areas
- Can creep in when you aren't paying attention "off-season"
- Can easily disperse- wind , water, soil, fur, clothing vehicles, etc



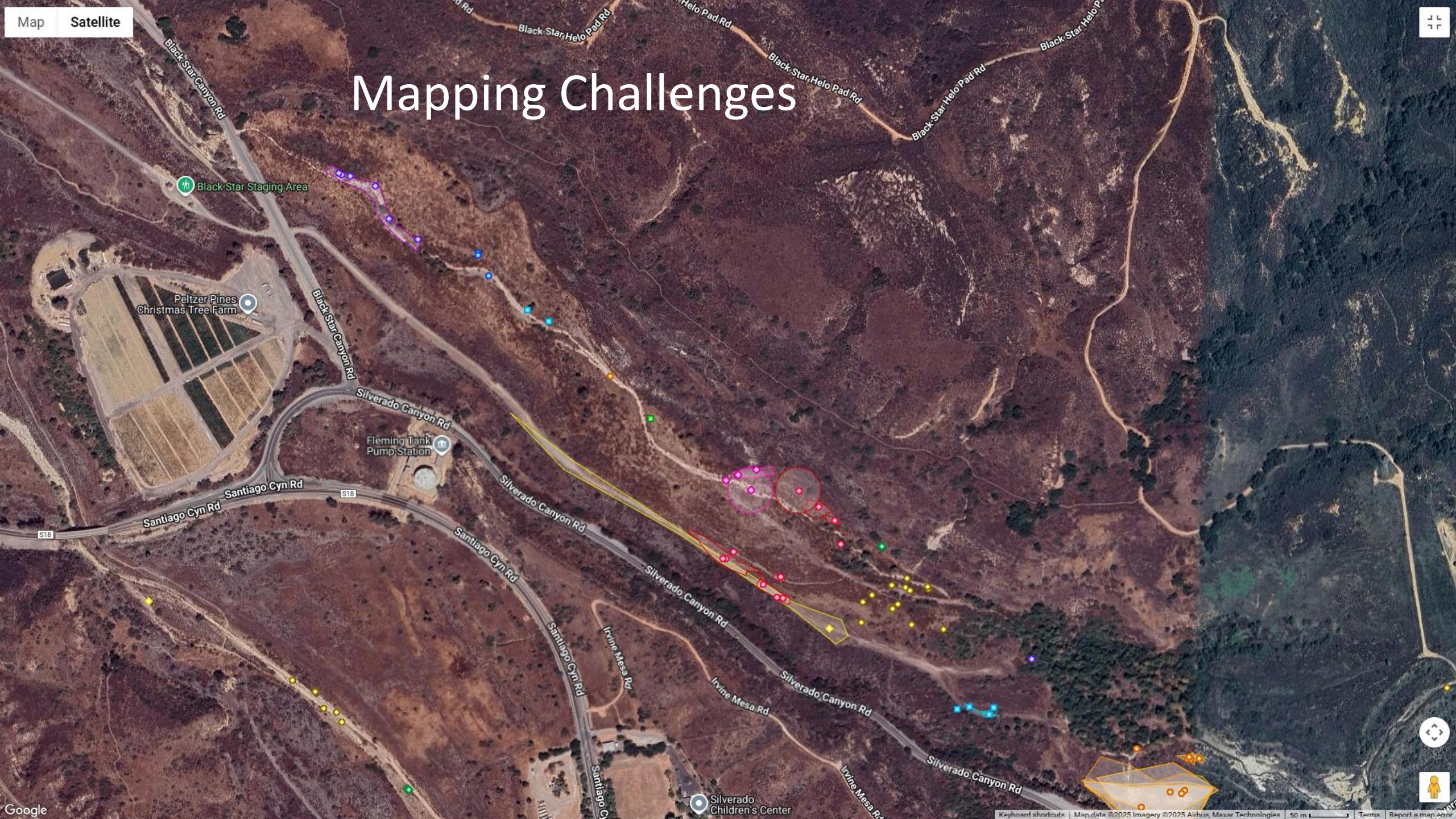
# Can Feel Like...



# Challenges continued...

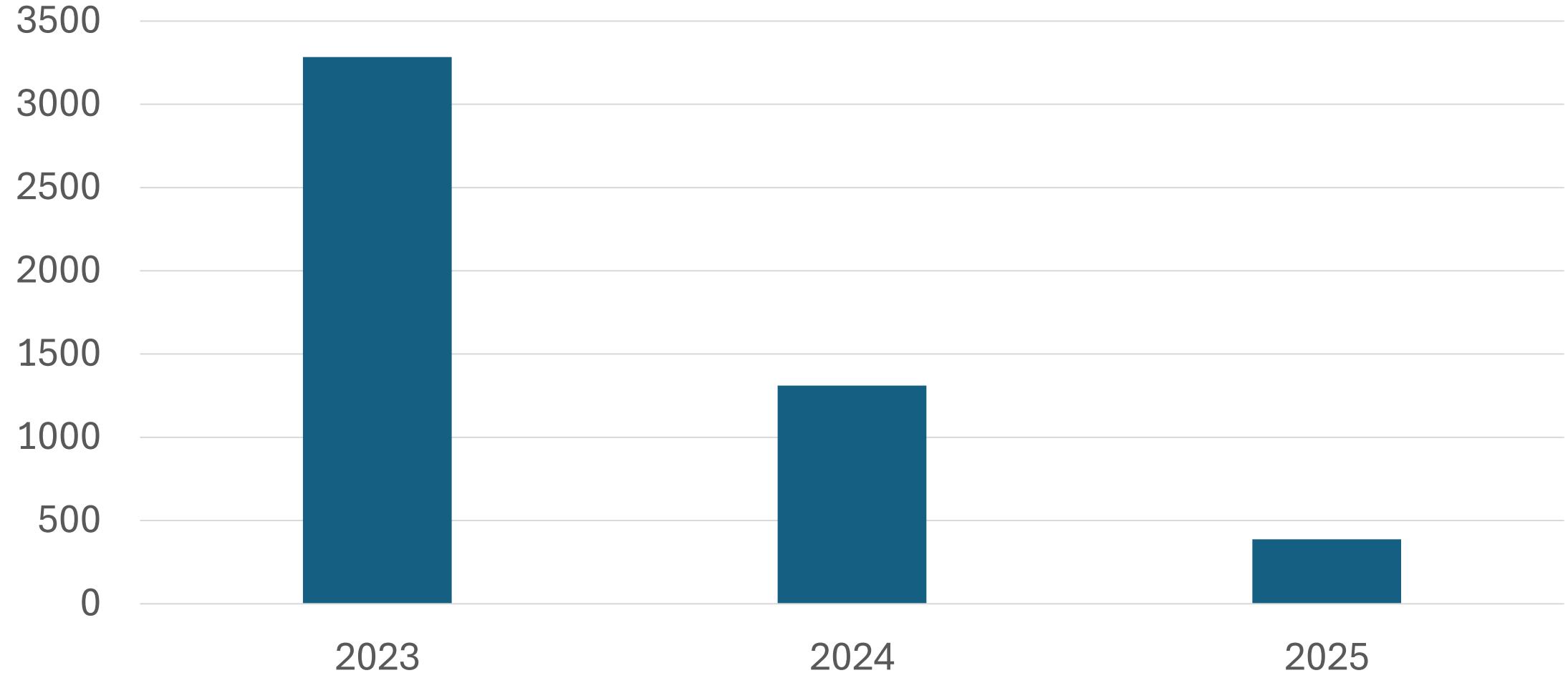
- Large footprint- plants found along 6 miles of creek.
- Weeds know no boundaries
- Unmanaged or private lands might harbor your source population
- Multiple sweeps are necessary but take time, effort and resources. Lots of searching!

# Mapping Challenges



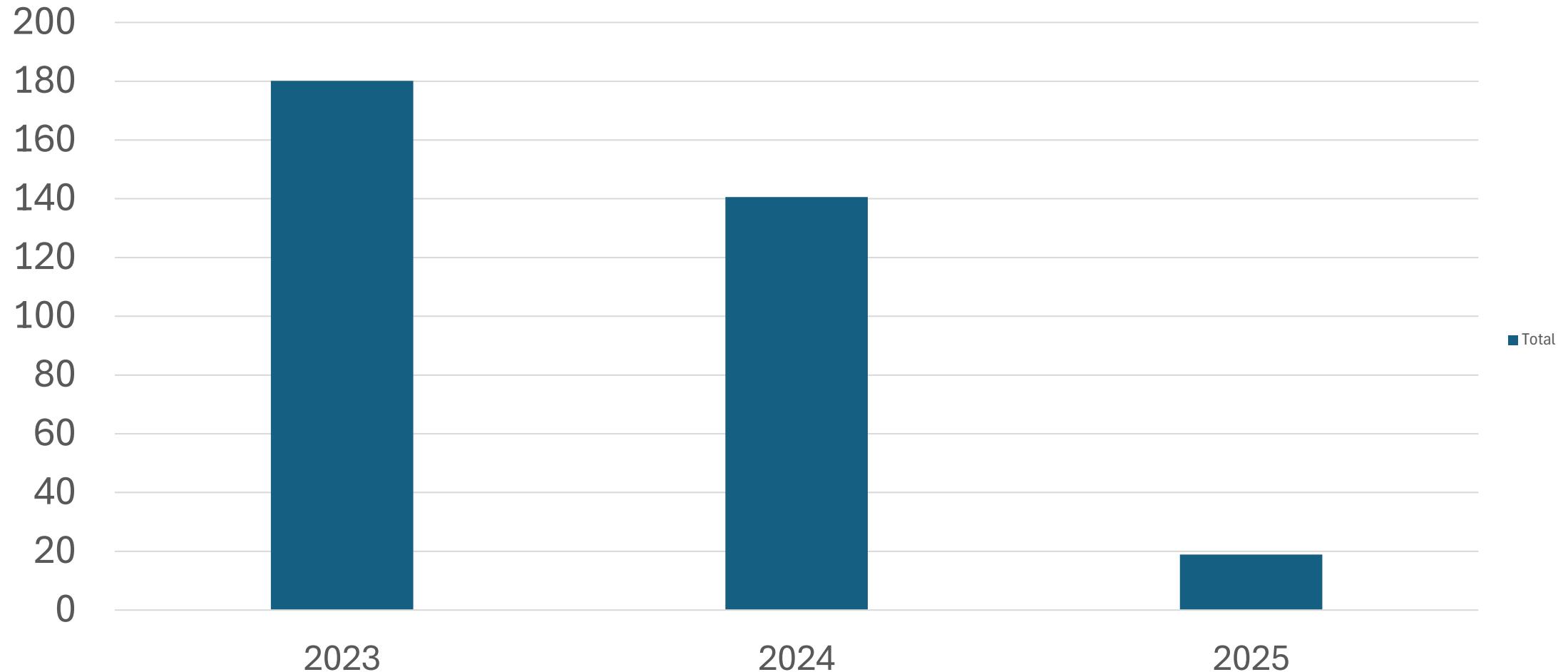


# Number of Plants



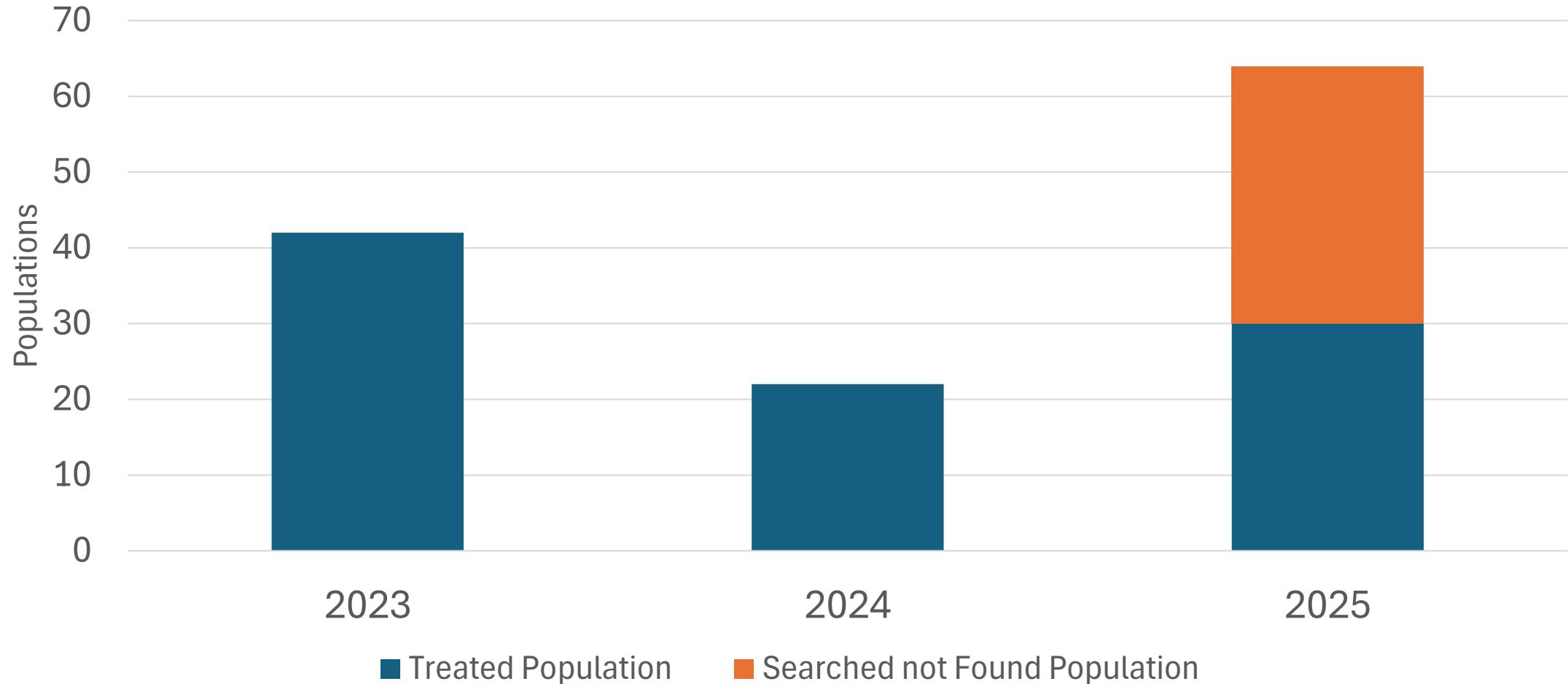


# Net Area (m<sup>2</sup>)





# Number of Populations



# Keys To Success

- ❖ A little bit of luck and good timing. Caught it early!
- ❖ Have eyes on the land for detection.
- ❖ Do EDRR **off** roads and trails too
- ❖ Multiple sweeps of your sites



# Other factors that helped with success

- Stinkwort growing when most weeds aren't (at least in SoCal)
- Compared to other annuals it has **fairly large window of opportunity for control**  
(June-November)
- Mostly confined to disturbed or degraded sites. This can include creeks/washes. Knew where to look.









# Takeways

- ❖ Get outside- you'll probably find something !
- ❖ Revisit your sites
- ❖ No news is good news!
- ❖ Use “*Search But Not Found*” feature in CalFlora to track success.
- ❖ Hit it early to avoid bagging of seed
- ❖ Use volunteers
- ❖ Don't need lots of \$ or tech to be successful



# Thank You !

Orange County Parks Natural Resources Staff

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