

# SWFL – NRCS Funds for Riparian Restoration

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**California NRCS**

2024



*Helping People Help the Land*  
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



# Objectives

- Introduction to NRCS
- Increased awareness of **WLFW fund pool**
  - Typical riparian restoration practices
  - Eligibility requirements (land uses)
- History of the program in SoCal
- How to apply

# Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

- **Our Mission:** We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.
- Provide technical & financial assistance to address natural resource concerns
- Partnering with private landowners

# WLFW



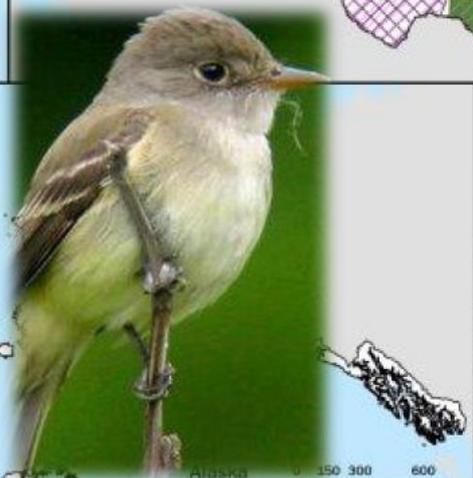
## Balancing Sustainable Agriculture & Species Conservation

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# Working Lands for Wildlife Initiatives 2022



0 100 200 400  
Kilometers  
Albers Equal Area Projection



Savanna/Grasslands Project  
for Bobwhite

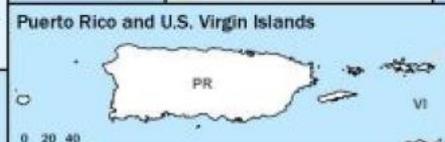
Map ID: m14812\_RIAD

Data Source:  
FY 2022 Working Lands for Wildlife  
U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

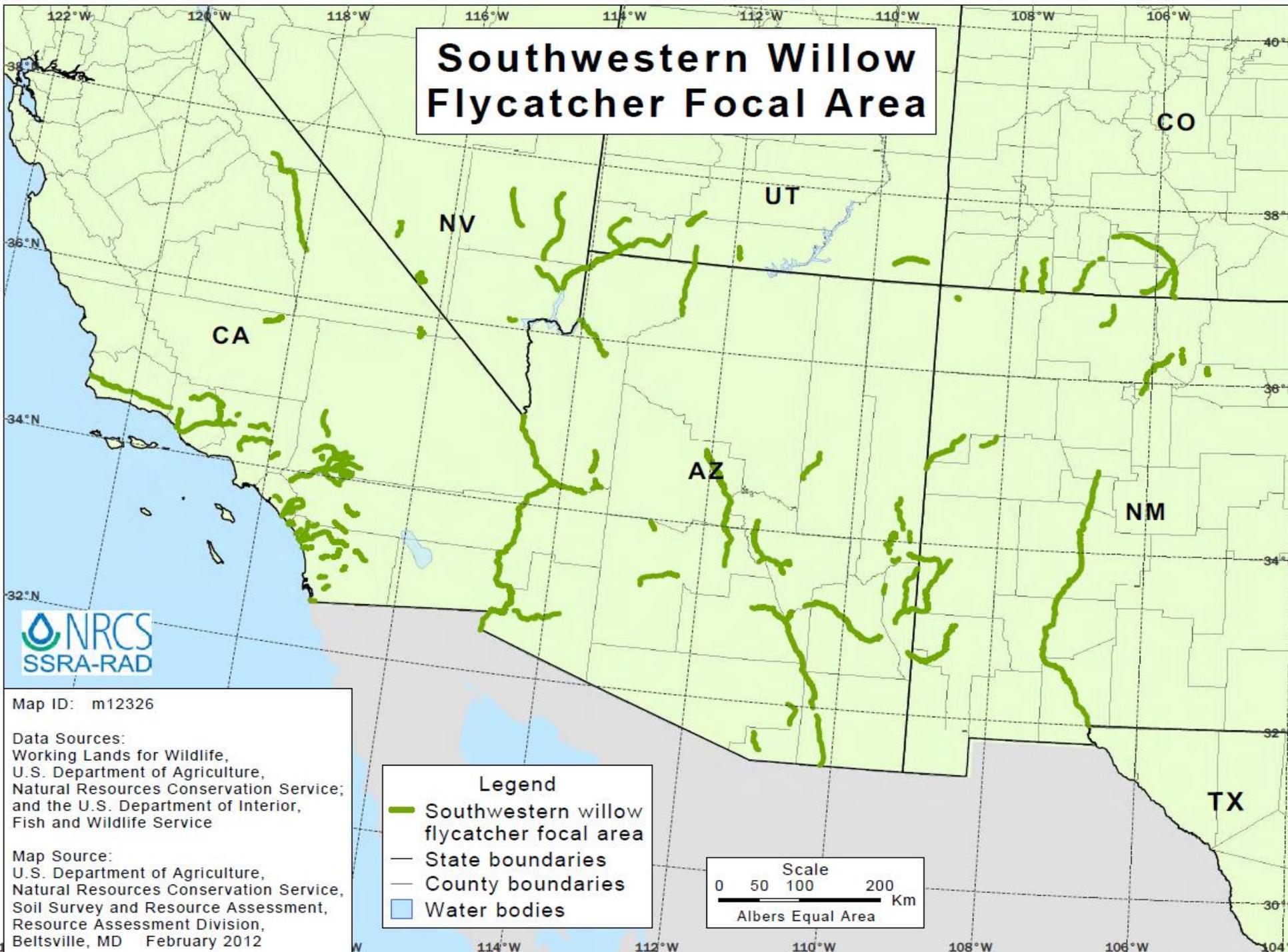
Map Source:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Soil Survey and Resource Assessment (SSRA)

- WLFW National Initiative**
- Golden-Winged Warbler
  - Gopher Tortoise
  - Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative
  - Monarch Butterfly
  - Sage-Grouse Initiative, Greater Sage-Grouse
  - Sage-Grouse Initiative, Gunnison Sage-Grouse
  - Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

- WLFW State Initiatives**
- American Black Duck
  - Blanding's Turtle
  - Bog Turtle
  - Colorado River Aquatic Species
  - Conasauga River Aquatic Species
  - Eastern Hellbender
  - Kenai Peninsula Salmon
  - Louisiana Pinesnake
  - Louisiana Wetlands Shorebirds
  - Nene
  - Northeast Turtles
  - Northern Bobwhite
  - Northern Plains Grassland
  - Sandhills
  - Yuzoo Darter



# Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Focal Area



Map ID: m12326

Data Sources:  
Working Lands for Wildlife,  
U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service;  
and the U.S. Department of Interior,  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Map Source:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
Soil Survey and Resource Assessment,  
Resource Assessment Division,  
Beltsville, MD February 2012

**Legend**

- Southwestern willow flycatcher focal area
- State boundaries
- - - County boundaries
- Water bodies

**Scale**

0 50 100 200 Km

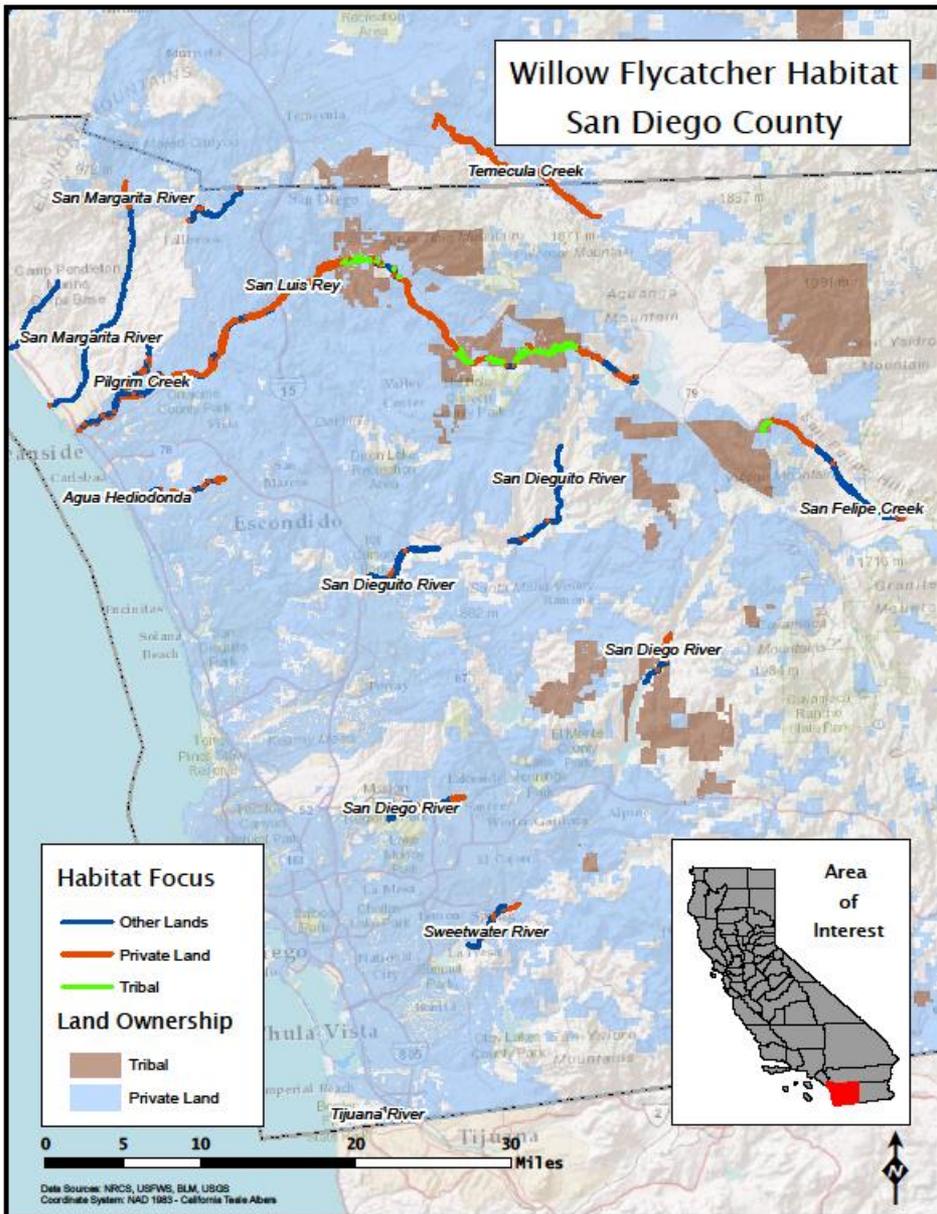
Albers Equal Area

# Standard restoration practices

- Invasive species removal –
  - Arundo, Caster bean, Eucalyptus, Tamarisk
- Active revegetation of woody and herbaceous natives
- Passive revegetation w/ monitoring and management
- Simple wildlife monitoring
- Working Lands Management practices
  - Exclusion fencing for cattle, or off stream watering sources

# Eligible Land

- Private Lands, Easements or leases of Public land to private entities, tribal lands **AND Working Lands**
- Forest Land and other land use designations (ag, crop, range)



# Project Selection

- Highest Prioritization
  - Conservation Practices are supported by NRCS approved SWFL Habitat Management Plan
  - Treatment area within the SWFL Focal Area where core practice applied on all treated acres
- Medium Prioritization
  - Treatment area is outside SWFL Focal Area

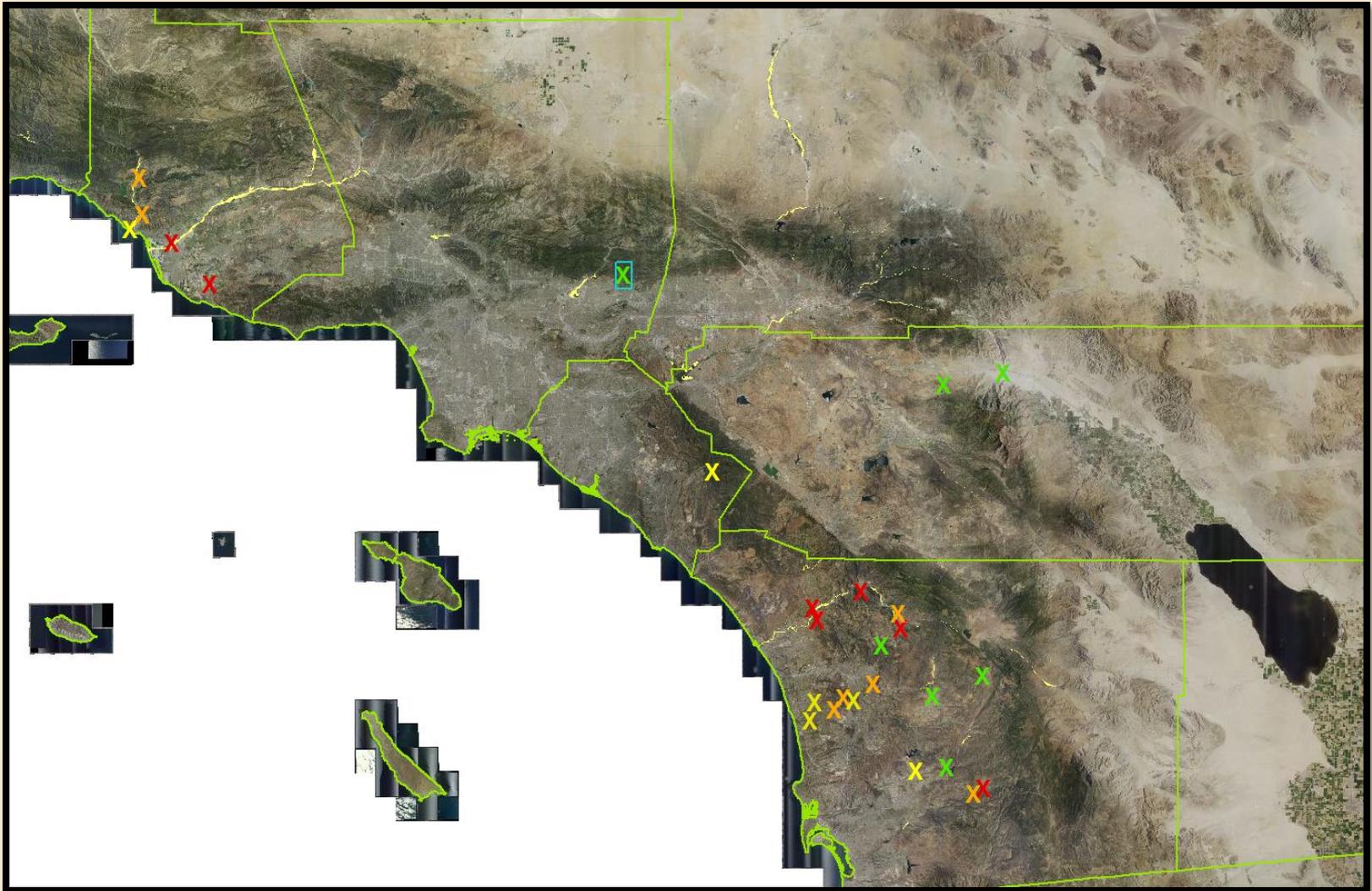
# Ranking Criteria– Species Presence

- Is there credible verification of species occurrence (for example: photos, Heritage Database, USFWS, NRCS or State fish and wildlife agency documentation)
- Based upon available species occurrence data and information, can the target species reasonably be assumed to occur within the offered area?

# Local Ranking Criteria

- *Grazing* in riparian zone
- *Hydrology* is functional with nesting habitat and can naturally develop once stressors removed
  - Or hydrology is impaired but can be improved with nesting habitat restoration
- Floodplain widths - >300' is optimal
- Riparian quality and quantity

# Southern California Projects



**X** – 2013 **X** – 2014 **X** – 2015 **X** – 2016

# Project examples

**San Diego Co/San Diego River Tributary**



**Ventura Co/Santa Clara River**



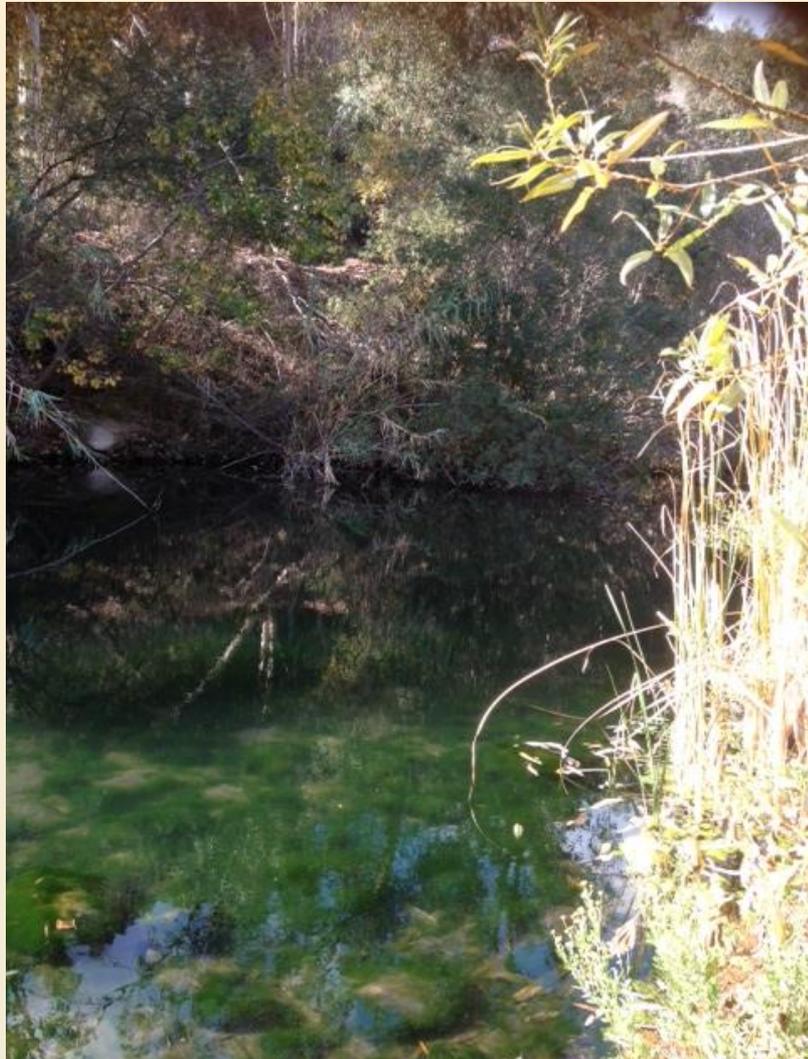
**Ventura Co/Santa Clara River**



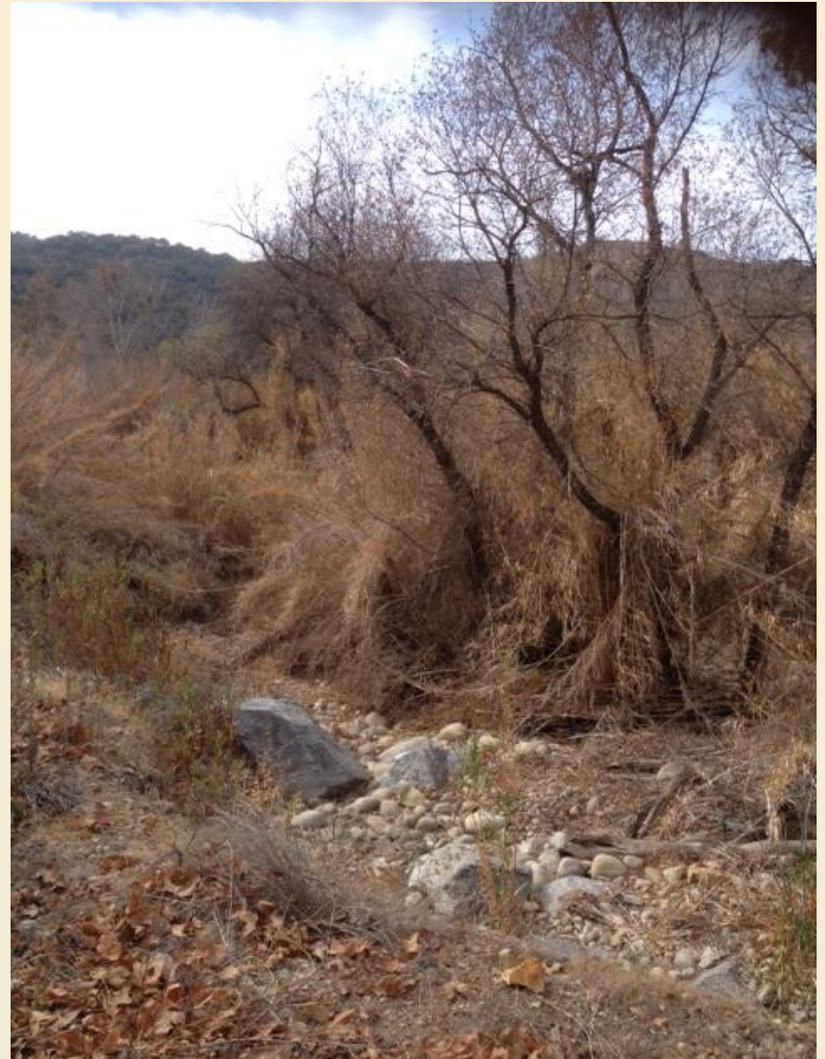
**Ventura Co/Ventura River**



**Ventura Co/Ventura River**



**Ventura Co/Ventura River**



**San Diego Co/San Dieguito River**



**San Diego Co/San Diego River**



# Native Conversion

## Del Dios Gorge



Eucalyptus



Lemon Twist Fruit Stand

Oak

Jan 2008

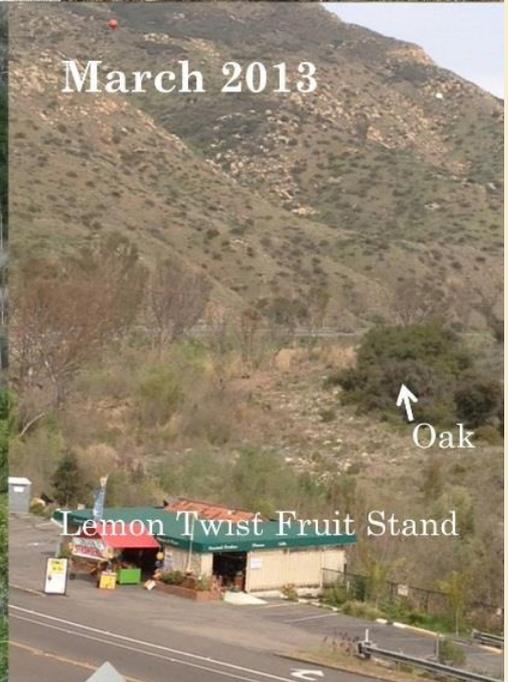


Willow

Oak

Lemon Twist Fruit Stand

Sept 2015



March 2013

Oak

Lemon Twist Fruit Stand

# Oak Woodland Fire Fuel Reduction Project

Del  
Dios  
Park

Jan 2007



Same  
Oak  
Tree



# Del Dios Community

## San Diego Co/San Dieguito River

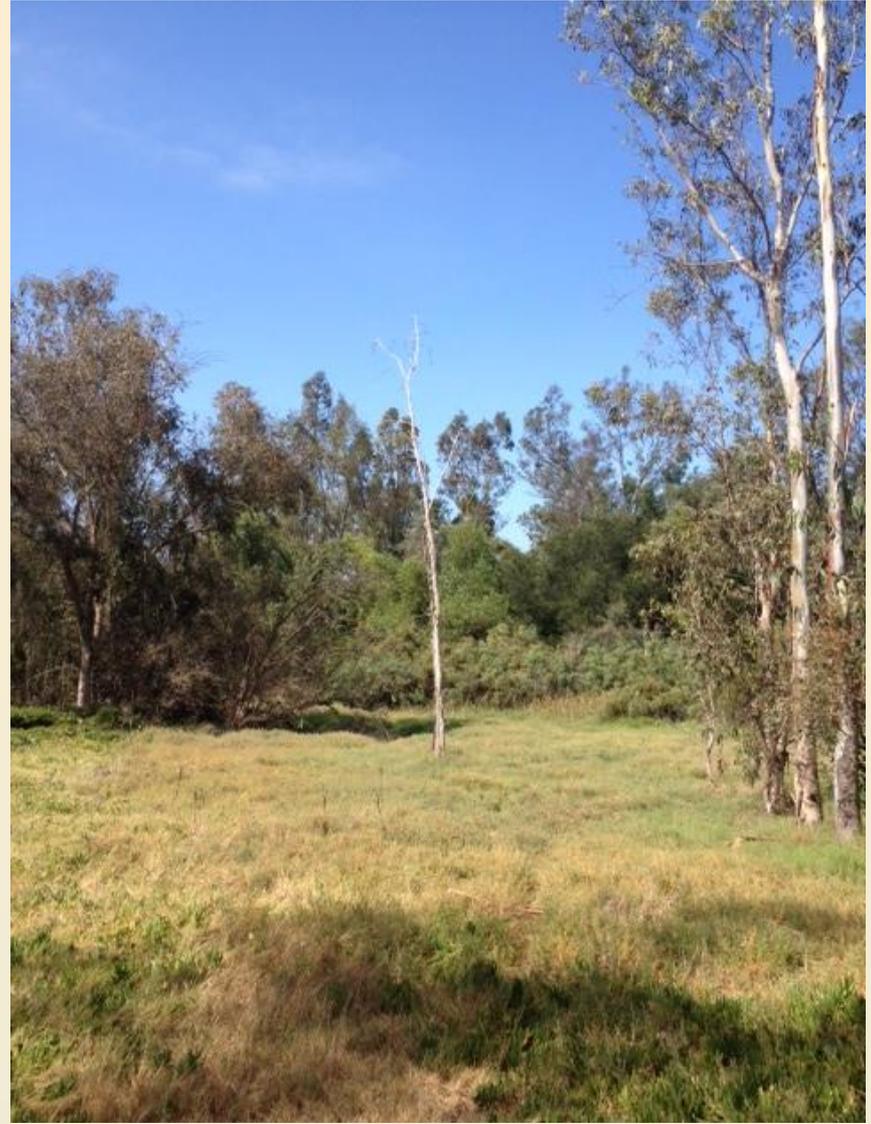
### River



# San Diego Co/Copper Creek-Tributary into Escondido Creek



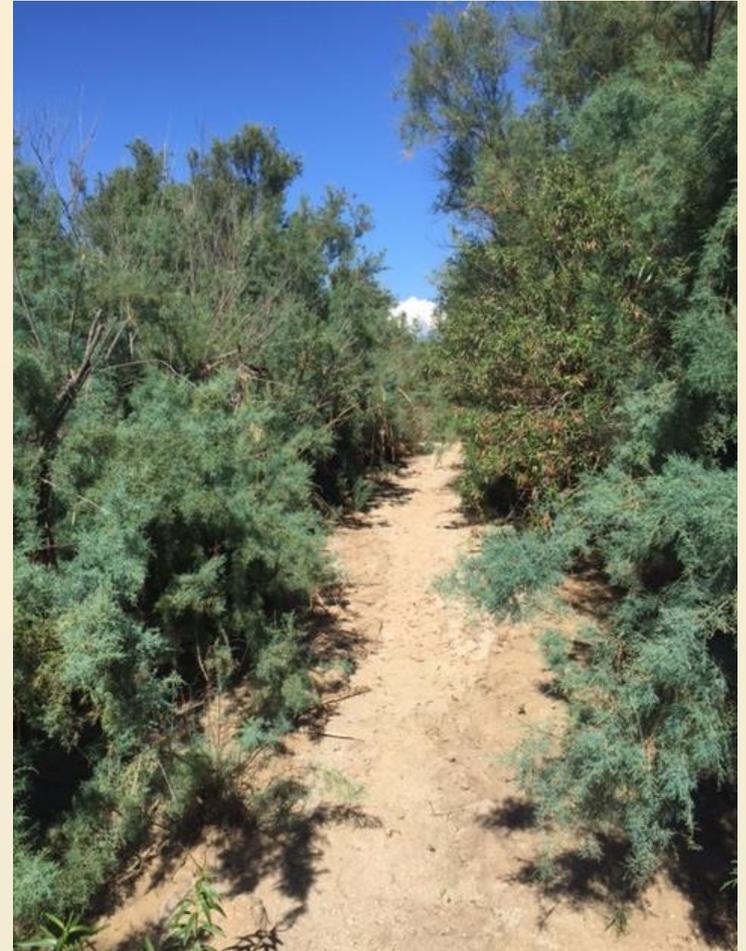
# San Diego Co/Escondido Creek



**San Diego Co/Tributary into San Diego River**



**San Diego Co/Santa Maria Creek Tributary to San Diego River**



# Steps to applying

1. Connecting Landowners interested in restoring and enhancing riparian wildlife habitat w/Shea or Sam
2. NRCS site visit(s)
3. Conservation Planning
4. Applying for SWFL funds

# Steps to applying



## How to Get Assistance

**Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease?**

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

 [Print this information](#)



Step 1: Make a Plan



Step 2: Start an Application



Step 3: Check your eligibility



Step 4: Rank your application



Step 5: Implement your plan



# Key Takeaways

- Who is NRCS?
- “SWFL” – the NRCS Fund Pool for Riparian Restoration
  - Other NRCS wildlife funds: Declining species, Monarch
- NRCS Land eligibility
- Ranking
- Common practices and past projects

## Next steps

- Reach out – [srapp@pointblue.org](mailto:srapp@pointblue.org) or [shea.okeefe@usda.gov](mailto:shea.okeefe@usda.gov)
- Get projects planned early!

Questions?



Photo by Suzanne Langridge, USGS