

## **Habitat Restoration Summary 2010**

### **1. Lake Hodges/Bernardo Mountain - Located in the City of San Diego and County of San Diego**

**Funding:** San Diego Foundation, SANDAG, and SDRVC.

**Species of focus:** California Gnatcatcher and Coastal Cactus Wren

75 acres of weed control occurred in 2010. 8 acres was added to the 2009 restoration project including three additional active restoration sites where SDRP installed 4725 nursery grown container plants and an additional 250 plants grown at park offices. 426 pounds of seed was collected and distributed.

Through extensive weed control efforts, native seedlings that naturally occur, native seedlings sprouted from seed scattered by SDRP rangers, and container plants installed in 2008 and 2009 and 2010 have flourished. The project has provided benefits to the species of focus and, in 2010, California Gnatcatcher have been observed in the newly created habitat

### **2. San Pasqual Valley - Located in the City of San Diego**

**Funding:** SANDAG, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Species of focus:** California Gnatcatcher and Coastal Cactus Wren

**50** acres of weed control occurred in 2010. SDRP installed 5500 nursery grown container plants and an additional 75 plants grown at park offices. 216 pounds of seed was collected and distributed.

There was an extremely low mortality rate for the container plants. The plants were installed at a perfect time and therefore have required minimal watering. The site has responded very well to the weed control efforts. Of the 50 acre site, approximately 20 acres were actively restored with container plants but we expect that the majority of the site will convert from non-native grasses to native habitat because of ongoing and comprehensive weed control efforts. In 2011, this area will be ideal for wildlife that utilizes coastal sage scrub and we expect a dramatic increase in the amount of wildlife in this area.

### **3. Santa Ysabel Gorge – Located in the County of San Diego**

**Funding:** SANDAG, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Species of focus:** Migratory waterfowl in general, California Tree Frog, Pacific Tree Frog, Arroyo Toad

$\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of pond bank and 2 acres was restored. 1600 container plants were installed and 11 pounds of seed was collected and distributed. Although the fluctuating pond levels have presented challenges to establishing the young trees, the three ponds are vegetated around all of the edges. This is providing cover for tree frogs, toads, and waterfowl. Tree frogs have a difficult existence here due to the large population of predatory and non-native American bullfrogs. The vegetation has provided the smaller

native frogs a place to hide and forage. Because the site is isolated, waterfowl is easily spooked and as the trees mature there will be a natural barrier between access roads and the waterfowl.

#### **4. Cloverdale Creek- San Pasqual Valley Located in the City of San Diego**

**Funding: SANDAG, Natural Resources Conservation Service.**

**Wetland creation and Enhancement Project.**

Maintenance occurred on the project. 125 plants were installed in order to fill in open areas. Comprehensive weed control over the 14 acre site. Watering occurred during the summer months. The project is very successful and has resulted in over ½ miles of new and high quality riparian habitat. The project is mitigation for the Lake Hodges Bridge and is being considered for early sign off, therefore saving the park money that would be spent on maintenance, monitoring and reporting.

#### **5. Santa Maria Creek – San Pasqual Valley - Located in the City of San Diego**

**Funding: Santa Maria Creek Habitat Management Plan**

**Species of focus: Coastal Cactus Wren and Coast live oak.**

Over 200 cacti were installed in an effort to create habitat for Coastal Cactus wren. 35 Coast live oak, that were grown at Park offices for two years, were installed along with 90 mule fat. Total plants installed 325. 80 pounds of seed was collected and distributed. Comprehensive weed control occurred.

#### **6. East Del Dios Gorge - Located County of San Diego**

**Funding: East Gorge Habitat Management Plan**

**Riparian Wetland Enhancement**

866 invasive Eucalyptus and 2 palms were eliminated. 16 pounds of willow seed was collected and distributed.

#### **7. Monthly Volunteer Habitat Restoration - Located in the City of San Diego**

**Species of Focus: California Gnatcatcher, Coastal Cactus Wren**

1 acre of habitat was created in San Pasqual Valley. Volunteers were also utilized to maintain other restoration projects.