

Feral Pigs in San Diego County



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Background

- Feral pigs believed to be introduced to San Diego River drainage in 2006
- Since then they have spread rapidly
- Developed Inter-Governmental Group to address feral pig impacts (meeting since 2010)
- Participation in collaborative effort

Members of Inter-governmental Group

- California Department of Fish and Game
- Helix Water District
- Viejas Band of Indians
- US Forest Service
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
- Barona
- Vista Irrigation District
- California State Parks
- City of San Diego Water...

Goals

- **Protect:**
 - Human health
 - Agricultural and livestock resources
 - Domestic water supplies
 - Natural landscapes
 - Environmental resources & biodiversity
- **Focus on San Diego County as a pilot for early intervention as the population expands**

Actions to Date

- Formation of Inter-Governmental group and subcommittees
- Population and Distribution Survey
- NEPA/CEQA
- Website
- Developing plans for public outreach
- Researched effective methods for management

Pig Biology

- Habitat preference
 - Need standing water
 - Sufficient food sources
 - Cover
- Reproduction
 - 2 litters/year with 4-10/litter
- Behavior
 - Mostly nocturnal
 - Elusive and smart

Current Known Impacts

- Polluting water sources
- Destruction of native habitats
- Direct and indirect impacts to endangered species
- Agriculture
- Cultural resources

Potential for disease transmission

- Livestock:
 - foot and mouth
 - cholera
 - trichinosis
 - swine fever
 - pseudorabies....
- Humans:
 - brucellosis spp.
 - campylobacter spp.
 - e. coli spp.
 - salmonella spp.



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Impacts to the land...

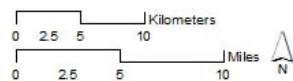
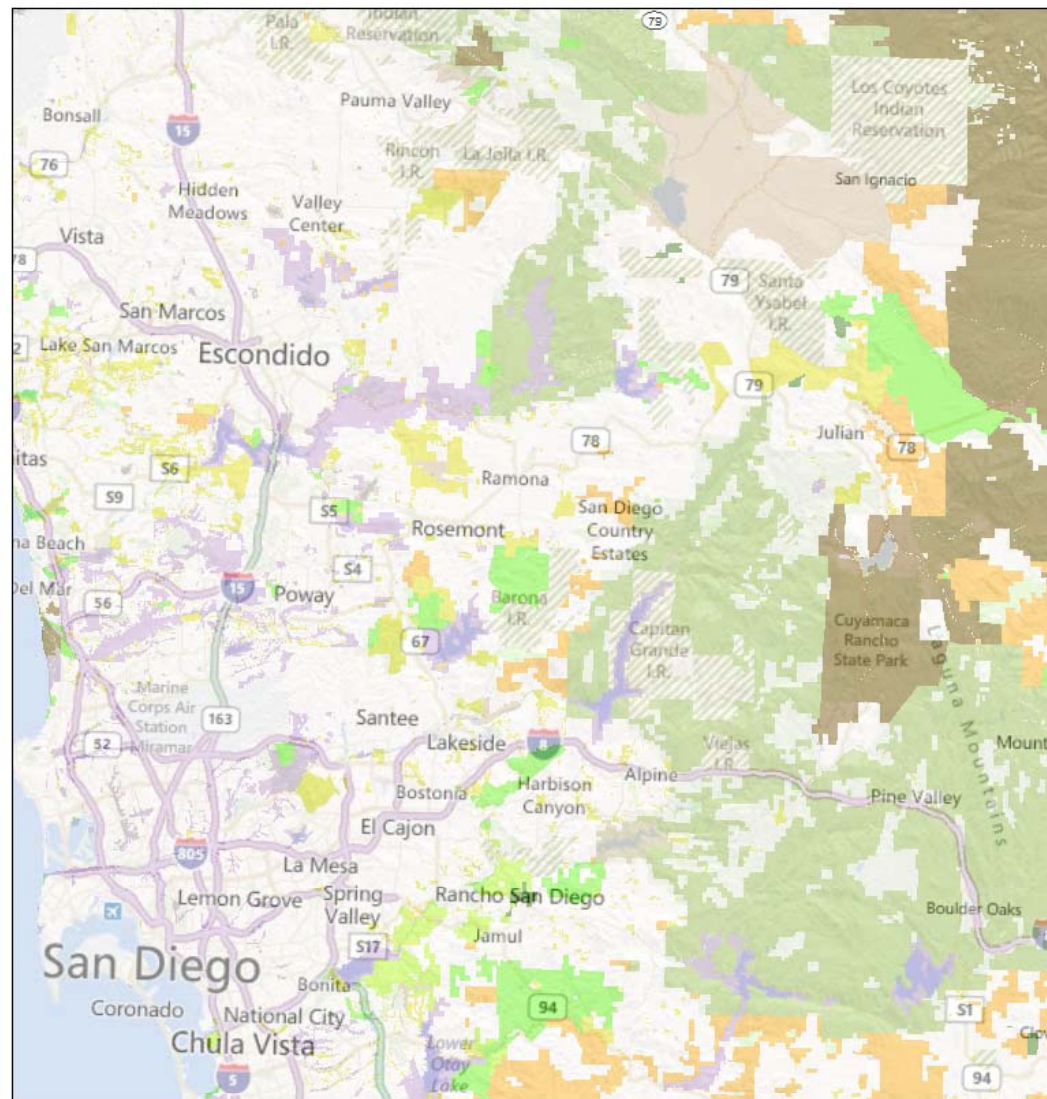








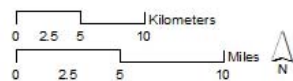
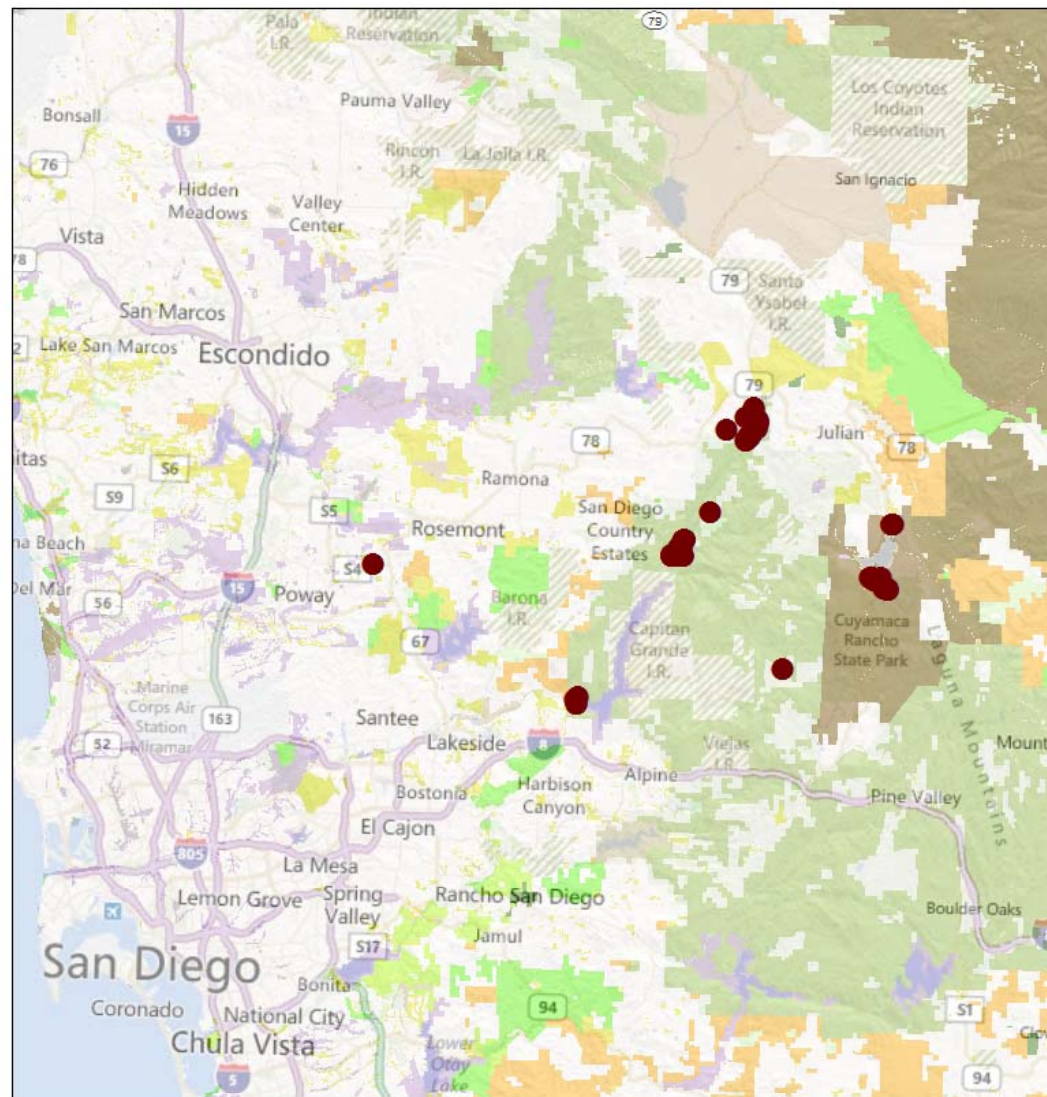
Surveyed locations of pig sign and other observations Dec 2009 - Dec 2011



Survey Data provided by
Scott Tremor, SDNHM, Jan 13, 2010 and others (2010 - 2011).

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Nature Conservancy | US Forest Service | City |
| Other NGO | Bureau of Land Management | Water District |
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Surveyed locations of pig sign and other observations Dec 2009 - Dec 2011



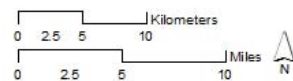
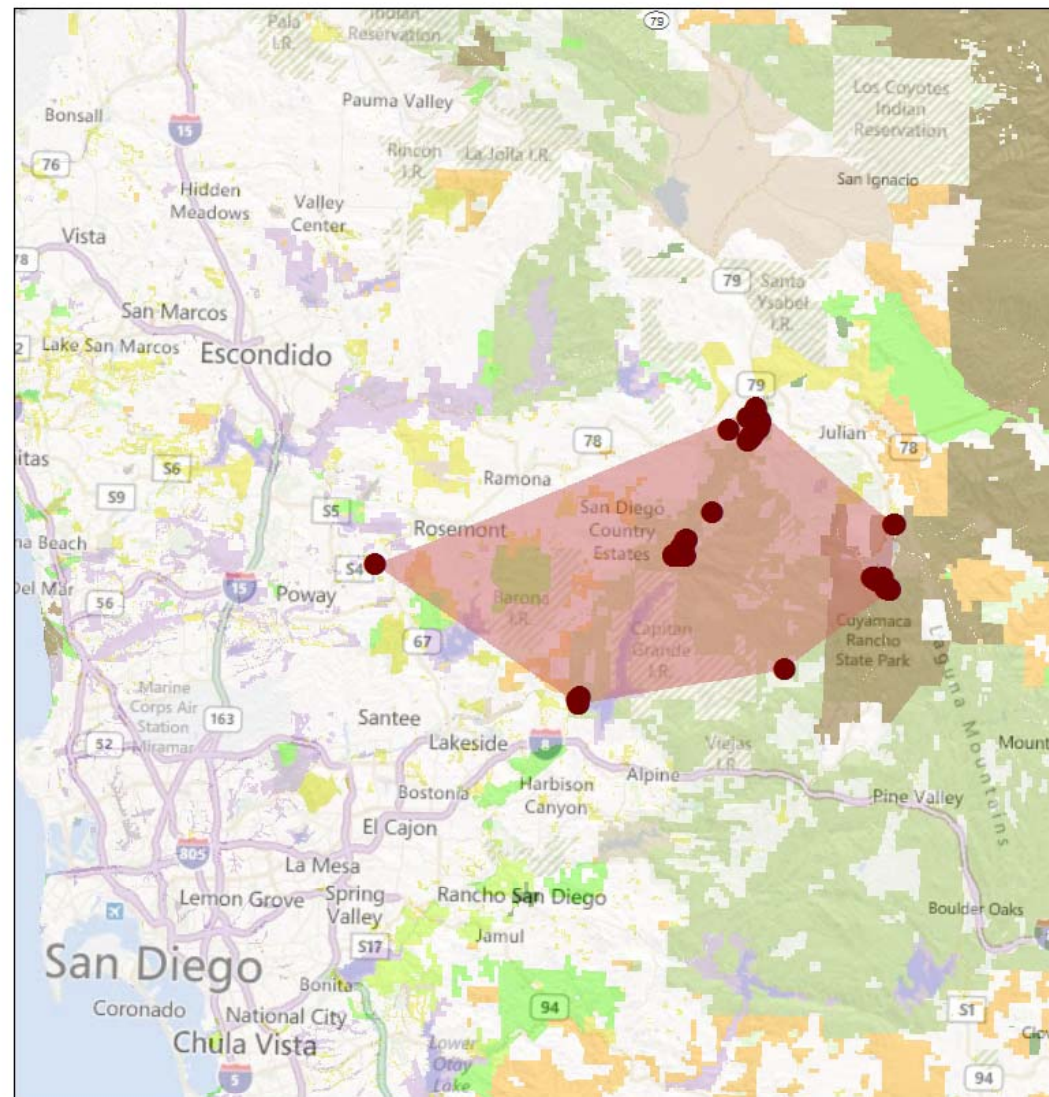
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2009 Pig Sign

**Surveyed locations of pig sign and other observations
Dec 2009 - Dec 2011**

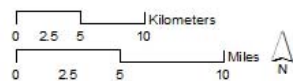
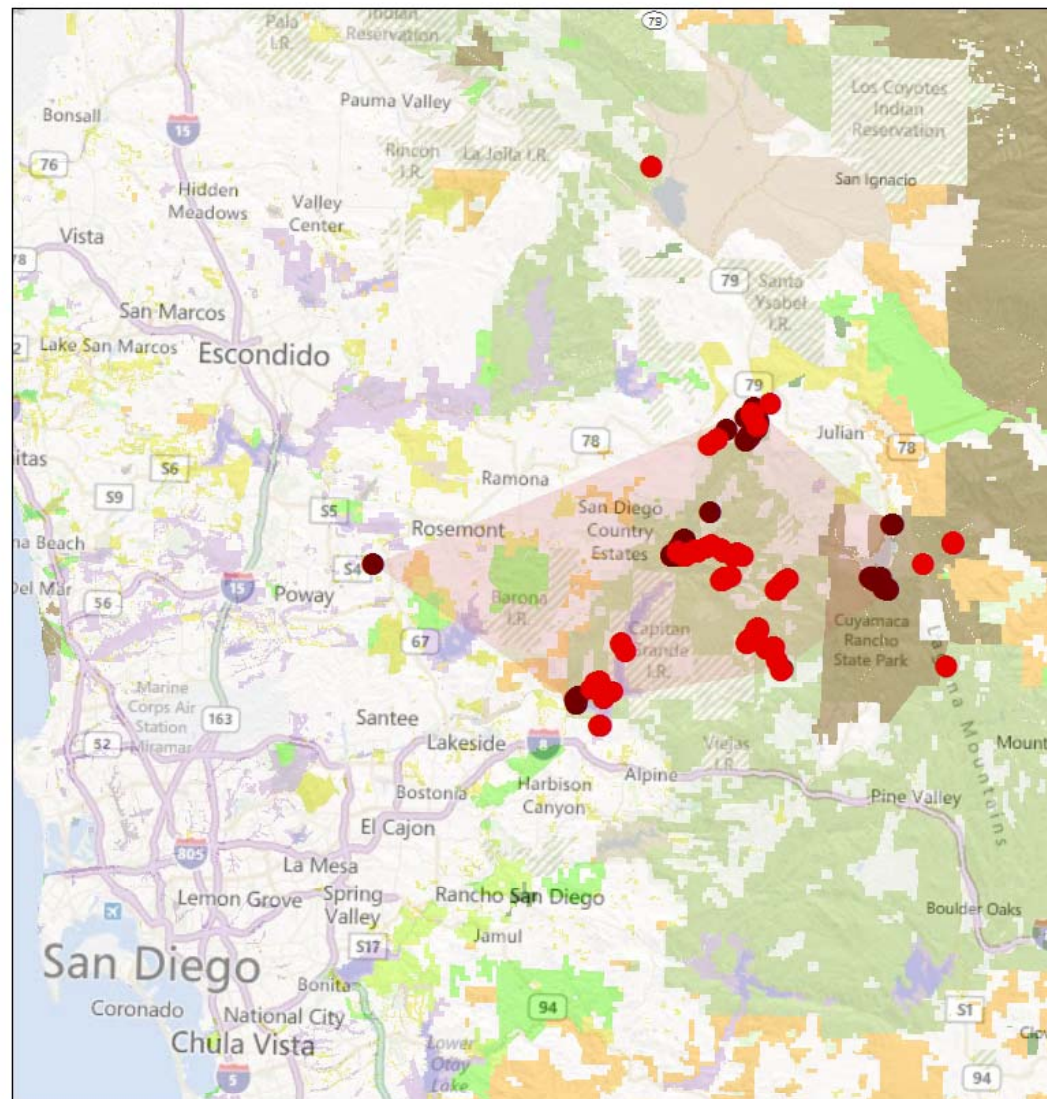
2009 Area



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- | | | | | | |
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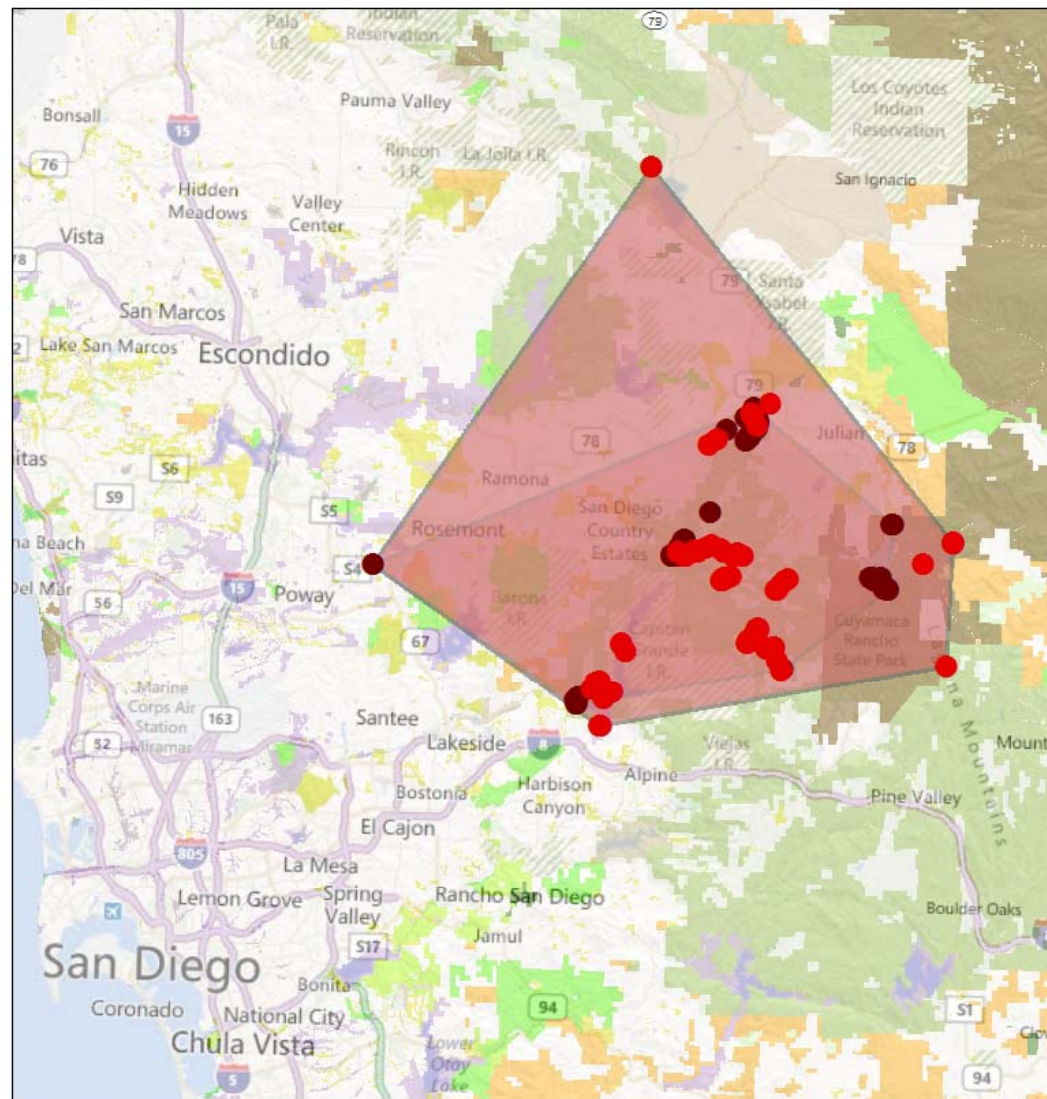


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2010 Pig Sign

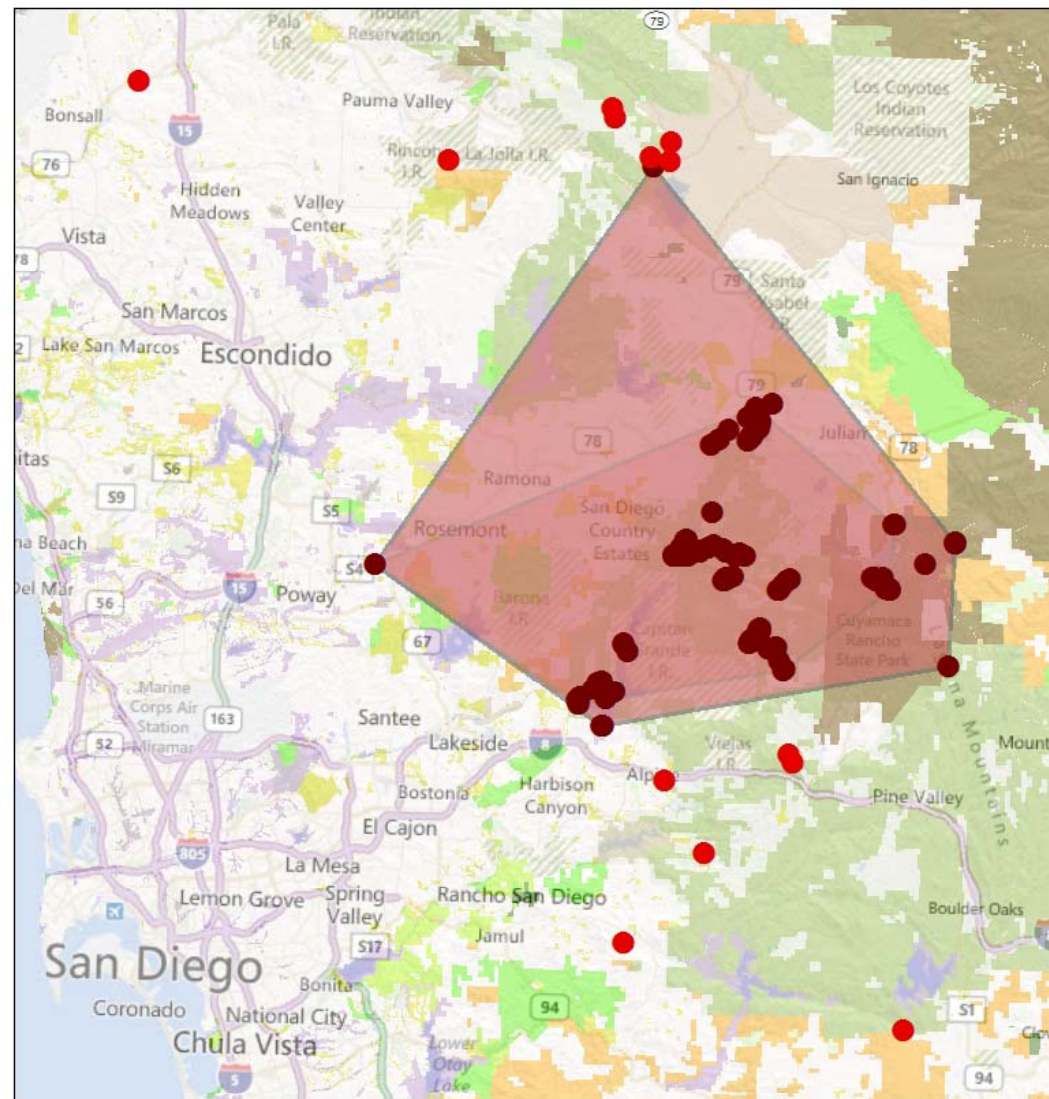
Surveyed locations of pig sign and other observations Dec 2009 - Dec 2011



2010 Area



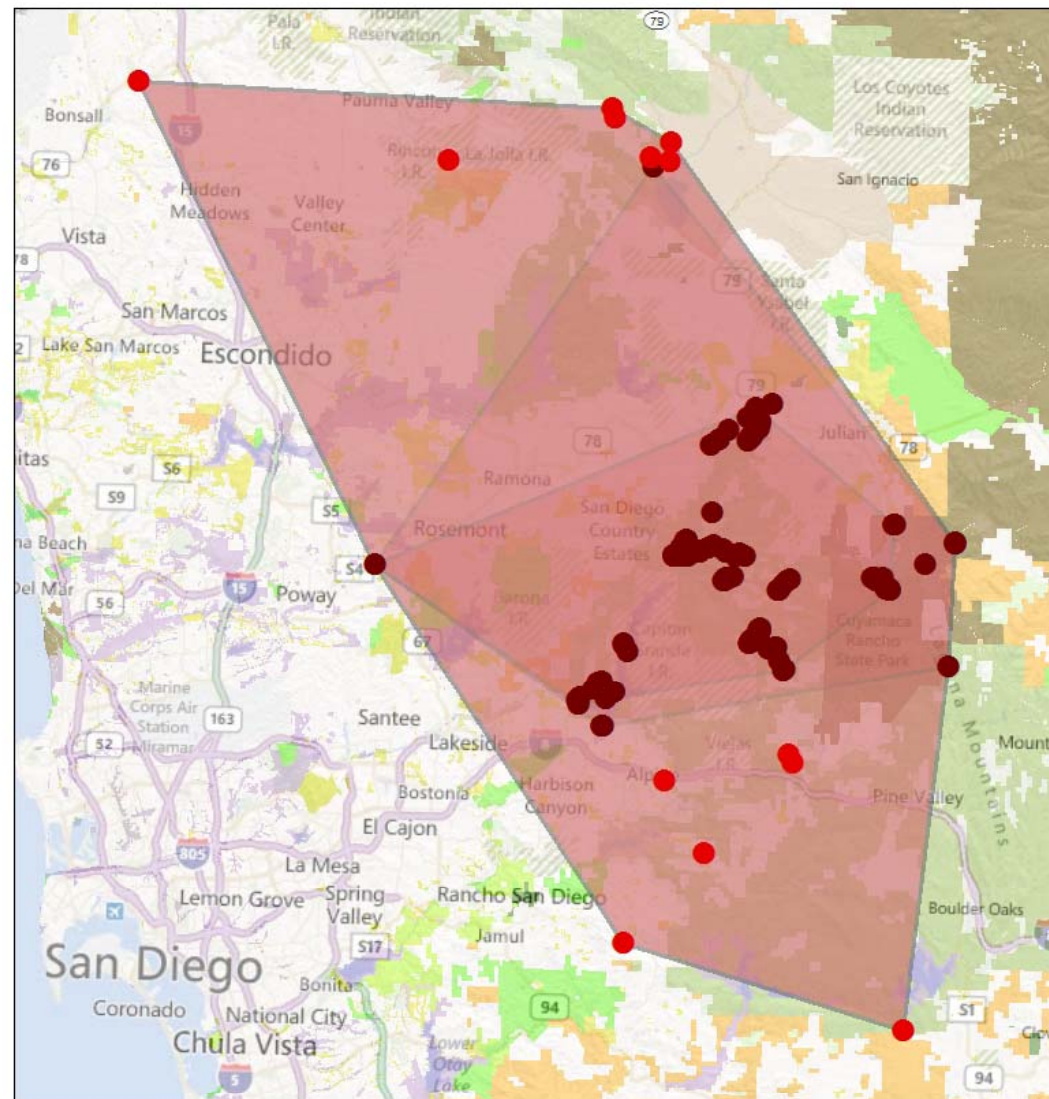
**Surveyed locations of pig sign and other observations
Dec 2009 - Dec 2011**



2011 Pig Sign



**Surveyed locations of pig sign and other observations
Dec 2009 - Dec 2011**



2011 Area

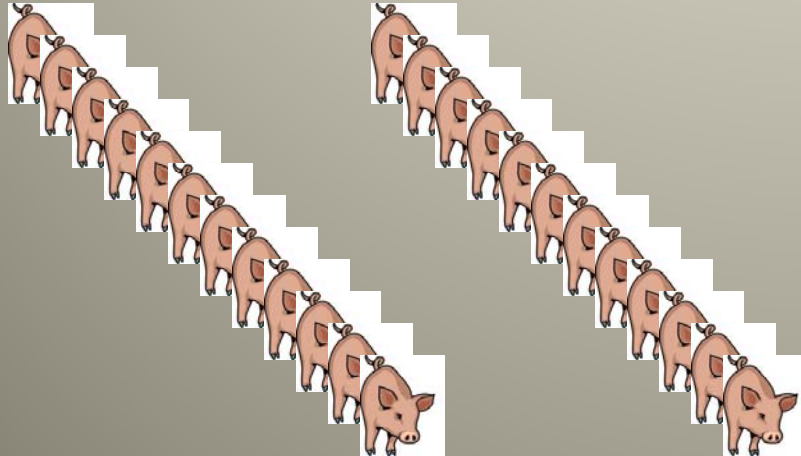
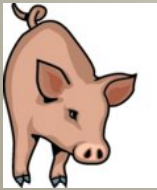


Management Alternatives

~~A.~~
~~Do nothing~~

B.
Control

C.
Eradicate



Goal? *Sustained* control

Goal: Suppress abundance to “acceptable” level.

Costs: In perpetuity

Opportunity costs: Ongoing.

Risks: Even low abundance leads to unacceptable impacts
Pigs become educated, adapt
Populations rebound quickly.
Infestation spreads.

Management Alternatives

A.
Do nothing.



B.
Control.



C.
Eradicate

Goal? Eradication

Goal: Remove **every** pig.

Benefits: Fewer pigs ultimately dispatched.
Short term effort; less vulnerable

Costs: High over short term.

Opportunity costs: Short term.

Risks: May not succeed.
Pigs may re-invade

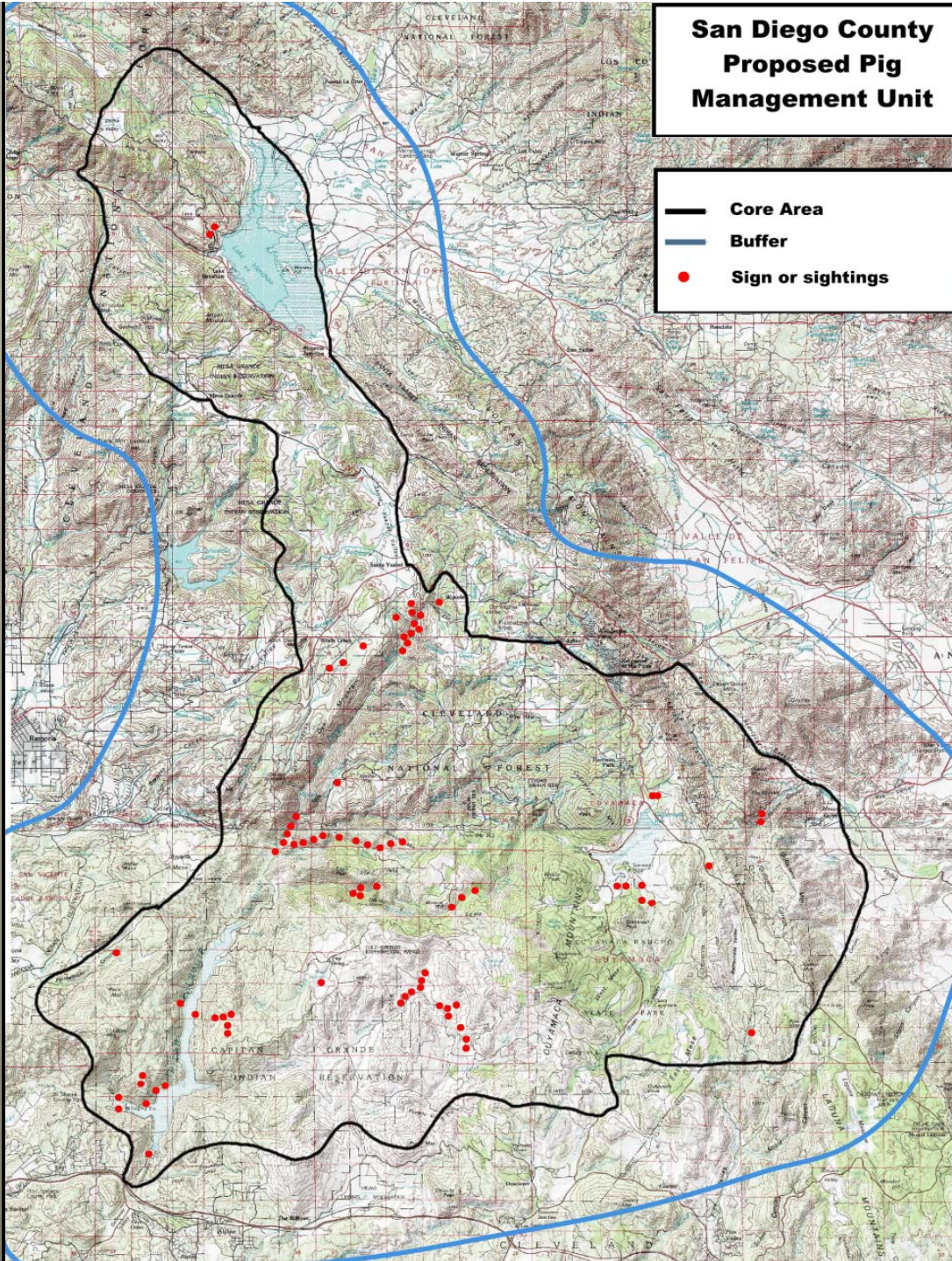
Strategy

- Stakeholders control pigs on their own lands in an **uncoordinated** manner.
- Stakeholders control pigs on their own land in a **coordinated** manner
- Stakeholders collaborate to conduct **unified, systematic campaign** over entire infestation area.

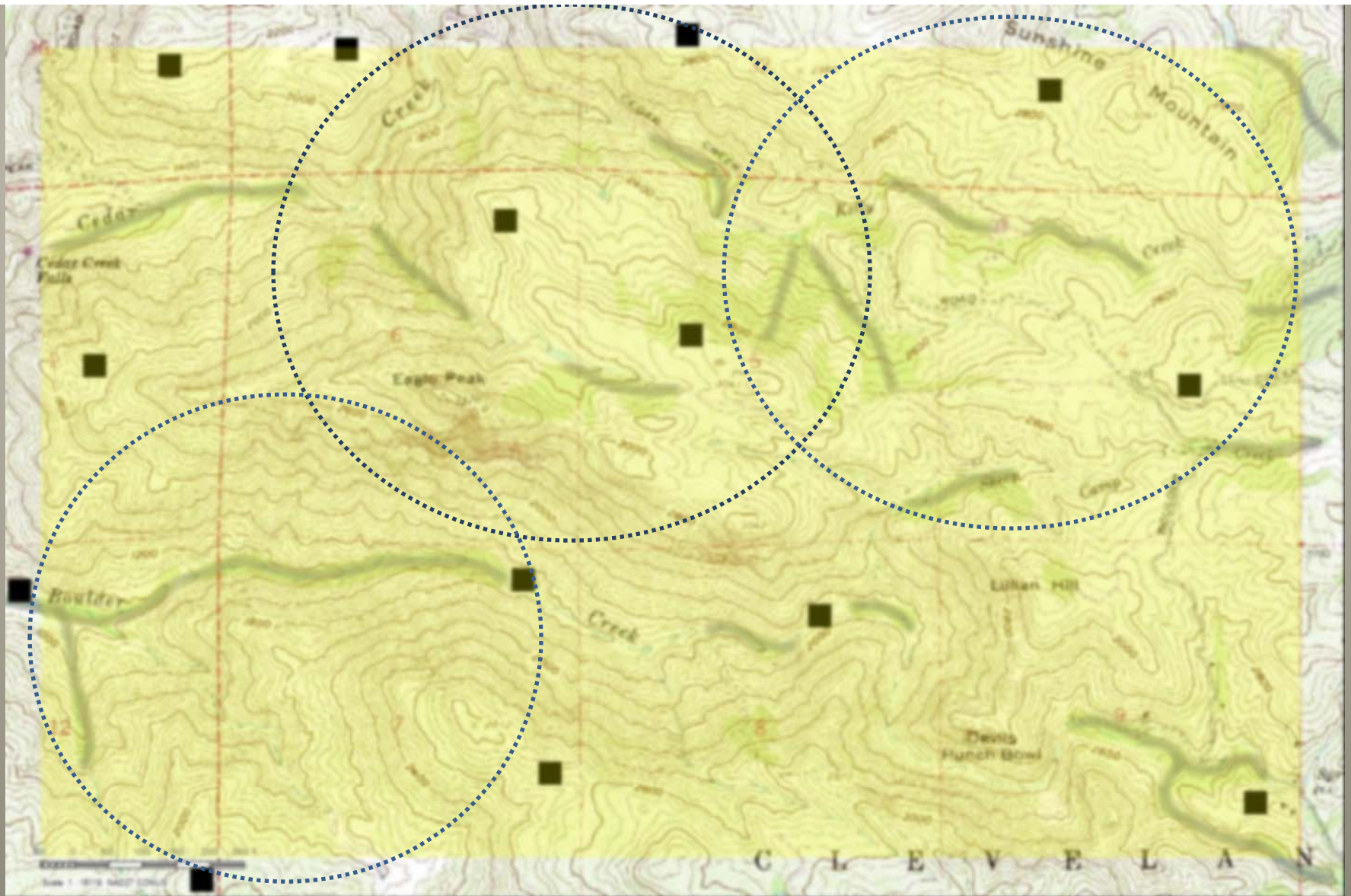


**San Diego County
Proposed Pig
Management Unit**

- Core Area
- Buffer
- Sign or sightings

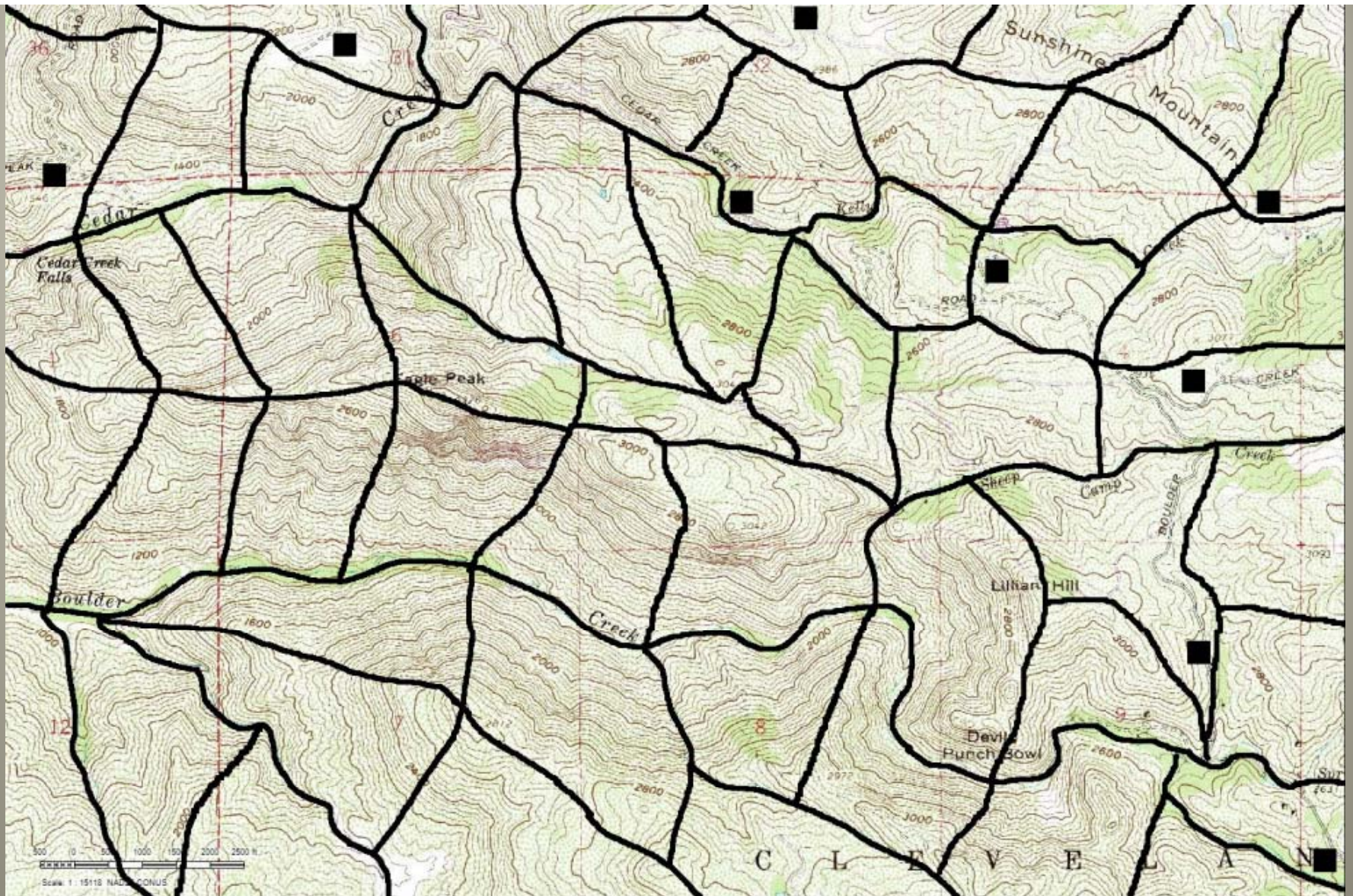


Core Area
~ 198,000 acres



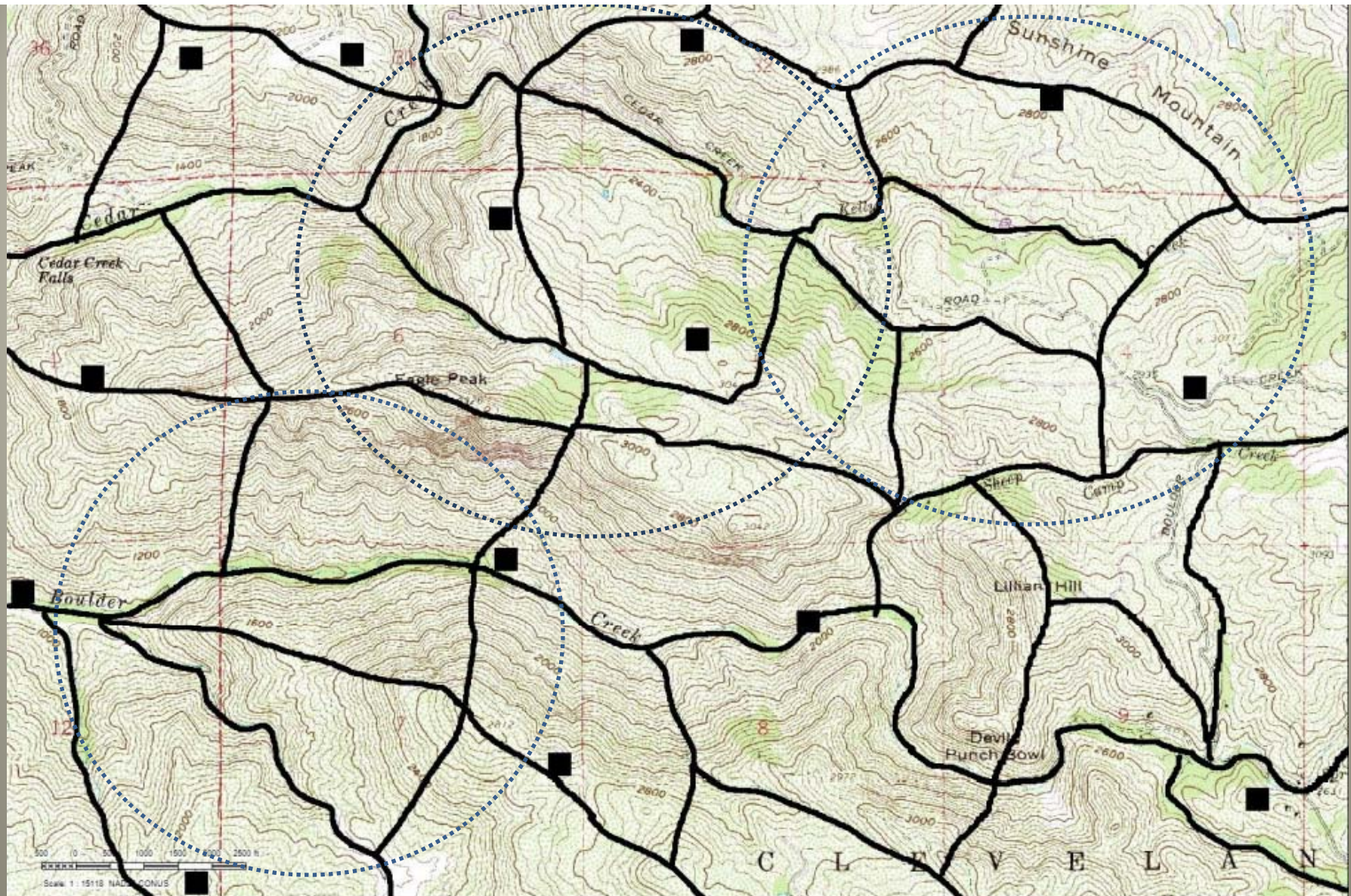
OPTION 1

Sample map showing traps, coverage of aerial shooting, ground hunting & Judas Pigs



OPTION 3

Sample map showing traps & ground hunting units



OPTION 2

Sample map showing traps, ground hunting units
& coverage of Judas Pigs

So.....

What are we going to do about it?



In the meantime.....

DO

Prohibit the release of feral pigs anywhere in San Diego County.

Limit sport hunting for feral pigs, e.g. by establishing a hunting season & bag limits.

DON'T

Encourage sport hunters to hunt feral pigs in San Diego County.

Encourage individual agencies to trap feral pigs. If trapping is necessary, bait traps with doors locked open for several days before setting them to capture pigs.

Ingredients of success?

1. Collaboration among landowners.
2. Commitment to goal.
3. Staff and resources allocated sufficiently.
4. Comprehensive planning.
5. Hiring of professionals/specialists.
6. Commitment to an “eradication mindset”
7. Adherence to the principles of eradication.



Conditions for eradication

- o All pigs must be able to be put at risk.
- o Removal must outpace replacement.
- o Reinvasion must be prevented.
- o Effort must be intensive and systematic.
- o Team must be skilled and disciplined so as not to educate remaining pigs.

