



Management & Monitoring Strategic Plan (MSP) Land Managers Meeting
July 17, 2018, 10:00 am – 12:00
San Diego Natural History Museum

General Announcements

- About 35 people attended the May 31st Shot-hole Borer Workshop at the San Elijo Lagoon Nature Center. Dr. Eskalen's presentation is available on his lab's [website](#).
- Michael Beck is working with SDSU on their option for Qualcomm, and they are looking for bird-safe windows, so if anyone has knowledge on this, please contact Michael (beckehl@icloud.com)

Land Manager Updates

County of San Diego, DPR (Jennifer Price)

- 700 acres acquired near Santa Ysabel East
- Resource Management Plans
 - Finalized Sage Hill and Potrero/Mason Preserves
 - Still working to finalize Bottle Peak Preserve
 - Updated Santa Ysabel Preserve to include the new "Connector Property" acquisition, and it will be finalized soon
 - Will be updating Boulder Oaks Preserve to include the new northern property and Sycamore Canyon Preserve/ Goodan Ranch Preserve to include new properties in northern portion of Preserve
- Starting biological and cultural resources surveys at Keys Creek and Dictionary Hill Preserves
- Continuing to monitor per the DPR Targeted Monitoring Plan using volunteers- anyone interested in volunteering can contact either Jennifer Price (Jennifer.Price@sdcounty.ca.gov) or Beth Principe (Bethany.Principe@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Endangered Habitats League/Conservancy (Michael Beck)

- EHC assembling properties in the City of Santee west of Lakeside Downs. Occupied by CAGN and there is historic Hermes copper and Quino checkerspot butterfly habitat.
 - About a half dozen acquisitions, 6 acres so far
- Caltrans *Ambrosia* mitigation site- translocated some ambrosia to the Hanson site at El Monte
- Mountain lion at Crestridge (found tracks)
- Crestridge post-fire plant assessment from the Jennings fire
 - No new invasives found
 - Interesting fire-followers found

CNPS (Robert Byrnes)

- Lusardi Creek – 4th year restoration site after Bernardo Fire
 - Gnatcatcher, black-tailed jack rabbit, a doe and her two fawns, and a lot of herons present
 - Likely due to their restoration efforts

UFWS (John Martin)

- Bonita Meadows (about a couple hundred acres) was transferred from Caltrans to USFWS. Caltrans conducted weed control, FWS needs to stay on top of it
- 2 pair of Least Bell's vireo were found in a narrow riparian forest on the property, created by urban runoff

City of San Diego, Dept. of Parks and Recreation (Sara Allen)

- Completed MCSP Rare Plant IMG monitoring at 82 occurrences
- Completed monitoring for VPHCP covered vegetation species
- Field work for Western Otay Valley Regional Park Management Plan is ongoing and includes: vegetation mapping, rare plant species mapping, invasive plant species mapping, and monthly bird surveys
 - Least Bell's vireo, Ridgeway's rail, and California gnatcatcher have been detected during the monthly bird surveys.

City of SD PUD (John Barone)

- Monitoring rare plants
- Continuing restoration of the 100 acre site in San Pasqual Valley
 - Using the agricultural method
 - Planted thousands of plants and installed irrigation
 - Received a TransNet Land Management Grant for cactus wren restoration. Will bring cactus wren from the east to the west.
 - Trying to minimize discing to minimize the disturbance to herptofauna and goldenbush
 - Working to control pepperweed and are figuring out the best methods for doing so

USGS (Chris Brown)

- Continuing to remove invasives for pond turtle restoration, moving northward
 - Removing bull frogs
 - Found a hatchling just south of Scholder Creek (working with FWS partners program)
- Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve
 - The pond turtles from the translocation efforts are moving up and down the creek and moving into adjacent creeks
 - CDFW crews are spot treating to remove invasives
 - A lot of open space to nest

Conservation Biology Institute (Jessie Vinje)

- Finished Rare Plant IMG monitoring of 125 sites, AECOM completed 35
 - Everyone should submit their data to Emily Perkins (eperkins@usgs.gov) by October 1st
 - There will be a wrap up meeting on November 1st, and they are looking for speakers if anyone is interested

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Elyse Levy and Kyle Rice)

- Elyse is leaving and moving to Canada in 2 weeks

- With the help of the San Diego Zoo's Institute for Conservation Research, 5 pairs of burrowing owl were translocated from Brown Field to Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve
 - There is now a total of 22 owls in 3 separate family groups [17 chicks]
- Flew a drone across the burrowing owl management area
 - Will use this imagery to survey for California ground squirrel dispersal (depressions in the ground)

Audubon (Megan Flaherty)

- Least terns at Mission Bay had a short nesting season that was pretty much wrapped up by June
 - This was also seen in other places in southern California
 - Possibly due to a lack of food which may be due to warmer waters off of the coast
- Working to support Nuttall's lotus and had successful translocations to Stoney Point

The San Diego Natural History Museum (Kevin Clark)

- Yellow-billed cuckoos are arriving, so be on the lookout for them

The San Diego Natural History Museum (Lauren Marino Perez)

- If you have any unmet citizen science needs, contact her (LMPerez@sdnhm.org)
 - San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy has a watershed-wide citizen science program
 - They provide topical training
 - They were thinking of a shared-web based calendar system to organize sign-ups for an on-site coordinator/overseer of the volunteers-maybe something that SDMMP can host
 - Comment from Jonathan Applebaum - when he was with the SDRVC, they received help from the SDNHM to bring in volunteers and conduct science training (via Jon Rebman and others). iNaturalist used but not required.

UC Natural Reserve System (Isabelle Kay)

- California Naturalist program is a 10 week class, she's been through 3 iterations of training
 - Trained volunteers, used them on Preserve Calavera project (with Paige DeCino support)
 - Comment from Jonathan Applebaum – He was a CA Naturalist Instructor, Adina Merenlander is current director
- Kendall-Frost Marsh
 - Ridgeway's rail numbers are down, even with help from the City-sponsored predator control
 - The marsh is likely too small, raccoons a problem

Fallbrook Land Conservancy (Karla Standridge)

- If anyone has great ideas for projects in North County, contact Karla (karlas.flc@gmail.com)
- The Conservancy owns Monserate Mountain Preserve (open to the public) and Margarita Peak (closed to the public)

Mission Resource Conservation District (Paul Keane)

- Taking over for Karla now that she's with Fallbrook LC, working on their weed management area which includes Arundo treatment, permitting, and education

Presentations

Invasive Non-native Plants EDRR Program (Presentation by Jessie Vinje; slides by Jason Giessow)

- Regional project funded by SANDAG, 13 spp at 35 sites
- The EDRR efforts are focused on plants where eradication and containment are possible
- The Invasive Plants Strategic Plan is on the SDMMP Web Portal.
- Plant Assessment Forms (PAFs) for non-natives
 - Assessed based on ecological impacts, invasiveness, and distribution and abundance.
- This is an effort spearheaded by Jason Giessow (Dendra, Inc.) and Mark Martinez (County of San Diego Agriculture, Weights, and Measures)
- Algerian sea lavender found at Lusardi Creek and a sample was sent to the County for confirmation
- Santa Maria feverfew is in Orange county, but not yet in San Diego County, so land managers should be on the lookout in case it spreads south
- Reporting invasives
 - Email Jason, report it to CalFlora, send a sample to the County Department of Agricultural, send a sample to the Natural History Museum for Jon Rebman to confirm, or report it on iNaturalist
- Ward's weed:
 - Gabrielle Barsotti (Gulf South Research Corporation): don't give up on Ward's weed. They pulled and treated with a pre-emergent and are close to eradicating it on Camp Pendleton
 - Sarah Godfrey (CNLM) applied Gallery this year and it was very successful. Will conduct individual follow-ups.

SDMMP EDRR Invasive Plant Database (Chris Brown –USGS)

- Will eventually be used for reporting invasive animals as well
- The goal is to make it easy to report species and track any management efforts
- When the application is in Beta format, there will be a workshop to train any interested users
- How precise of a location can you get using a phone?
 - You can tweak the GPS accuracy on phones to give you precision within 1-3 m accuracy
 - For small populations, you may want to take pictures and use a handheld GPS to locate

Collection Methods for Invasive Animals (Chris Brown –USGS)

- With long-term invasive removal, like that at Sycuan Peak, you can see a complete turnaround
 - There is a huge benefit to removing invasive aquatics
- USGS is putting together an invasive species protocol
 - Will include trapping crayfish, visual encounter surveys for bullfrogs, seining, etc.
- Isabelle Kay asked if there was a protocol for moving between sites
 - On the [Rare Plant IMG](#) site there is a BMP from Cal-IPC
 - CDFW also has an invasive animals protocol

Closing Remarks

- The next MSP Land Mangers Meeting will be in November and a Doodle poll will be sent out to determine the day that works best. If you have any topics that you would like to discuss with the group, please let us know so we can add it to the agenda.