

1.26 Chaparral Nolina (*Nolina cismontana*) – Category SL

Management Units with Known Occurrences

Chaparral nolina occurs in coastal sage scrub and open chaparral habitats in foothills from Ventura County south to San Diego County (Reiser 1994; Hess and Dice 1995; CNPS 2011). In the MSPA, the only known occurrence on Conserved Lands in the MSPA is in MU5 at Hellhole Canyon Preserve (see Occurrence Table or online map: <http://arcg.is/2kFKRpZ>); however, another occurrence was found in 2001 in MU4 on Conserved Lands in Cleveland National Forest (CNF), though its status is currently unknown (SANBIOS 2015). The occurrence on CNF lands burned in 2003 and 2007 and may no longer be extant. It was detected in 2005 following the 2003 fire; however, it was not observed during surveys in 2008 after the 2007 fire. Outside the MSPA, 3 occurrences were found on U.S. Forest Service lands at Viejas Mountain (CCH 2013; SDNHM 2013). Three more occurrences were found in MU8 on private, unconserved lands in the Pala area (SANBIOS 2013; SDNHM 2013). In 2015, 1 occurrence was found on military lands (CCH 2017; SDNHM 2017).

Management Categorization Rationale

Chaparral nolina should be managed as a Species Management Focus Category SL Species due to a high risk of loss from Conserved Lands in the MSPA and because managing chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats alone will not ensure its persistence (see Vol. 1, Table 2-4). Chaparral nolina is at high risk of loss from the MSPA as there are only 1 to 2 recent occurrences on Conserved Lands. The conserved occurrences are vulnerable to loss of genetic diversity and extirpation due to environmental and demographic stochasticity and catastrophic disturbance, such as another major wildfire. An altered fire regime (too frequent fire) may have already impacted the CNF occurrence as it may no longer be extant after the 2003 and 2007 wildfires.

Management and Monitoring Approach

The overarching goal for chaparral nolina is to maintain or enhance existing occurrence(s) and establish new occurrences, as needed, so there are multiple, self-sustaining populations on Conserved Lands to increase resilience to environmental and demographic stochasticity, maintain genetic diversity, and improve chances of persistence over the long term (>100 years) in chaparral and coastal sage scrub vegetation communities.

For the 2017–2021 planning cycle, the management and monitoring approach is to inspect chaparral nolina occurrence(s) on Conserved Lands (see Table of Occurrences) using the regional IMG monitoring protocol to record abundance and collect habitat and threat covariate data to determine management needs. Any necessary routine management actions should be conducted depending on what was identified through the 2016 and subsequent IMG monitoring and using BMPs with precautions to do no harm.

For details and the most up-to-date goals, objectives, and actions, go to the MSP Portal Chaparral Nolina summary page: https://portal.sdmmp.com/view_species.php?taxaid=507567

Chaparral Nolina References

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