

Otay Ranch Preserve City of Chula Vista-County of San Diego

Prioritizing Survey, Monitoring, and Maintenance Tasks

SDMMP Monitoring and Management Coordination
Meeting

January 26, 2011





RECON

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FIGURE 1
Regional Location of Conveyed
Otay Ranch Preserve Land

Management and Monitoring of the Preserve follows the Guidelines and Requirements of the Otay Ranch Resource Management Plans and the MSCP



Salt Creek and San Ysidro Preserves



Conveyed Otay Ranch Preserve Land

FIGURE 2

Salt Creek and San Ysidro Preserve Locations

RECON

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Previously Conveyed Preserve Lands

Approximately 1,300 acres



Salt Creek Parcel



San Ysidro Parcel





FIGURE 3
Location of Conveyed Otay Ranch Preserve Land on Aerial Map

Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan

The purpose of the RMP is to establish:

“a permanent preserve within Otay Ranch to protect and enhance biological, paleontological, cultural, and scenic resources; maintain biological diversity; and promote the survival and recovery of native species and habitats”
(County of San Diego 2007).



RMP Phases 1 and 2

- The Phase 1 RMP (1993) identifies an open space system as a permanent 11,375-acre Preserve dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the multiple resources present on Otay Ranch .
- The Phase 1 RMP (1996 revised 2002) is to be implemented through the Phase 2 RMP. Unlike the Phase 1 RMP, the Otay Ranch Phase 2 RMP is a process rather than a single plan or document



RMP Phase 2 Implementation

- A comprehensive monitoring program for the Preserve is to be developed in conjunction with the Phase 2 RMP.
- In addition, an annual monitoring program is to be developed and designed to detect changes in quality and quantity of on-site biological resources, such as sensitive wildlife and plant species, and habitat also considered to be sensitive.



RMP Phase 2 Implementation

- Tasks that require a continuing commitment to implementation include, but are not limited to, ongoing studies for the coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN, *Polioptila californica californica*) and coastal cactus wren (CACW, *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*).



Preserve Owner Manager (POM)

- In 1996, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of a POM (County 2010). The City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego form the POM.
- The POM is responsible for a number of tasks including management of resources, restoration of habitat, and enforcement of open space restrictions for the Preserve.



Previous Baseline Surveys

Baseline Surveys for Salt Creek and San Ysidro were conducted by Dudek in 2009. The surveys included:

- Vegetation Mapping
- Avian Point Counts
- Focused Surveys for CAGN and Quino Checkerspot
- Rare Plants
- Mapping Exotics



Preserve Steward/Biologist Tasks

- RECON was hired by the City and County in 2009.
- Oversee and coordinate Otay Ranch preserve management, monitoring, and reporting with the Wildlife Agencies, the POM, Otay Ranch land owners who may convey lands within the Preserve, regional monitoring entities, interested public groups, and the general public.
- Provide science-based technical recommendations to POM staff and any contractors retained to conduct specific management tasks, monitoring, data collection and analysis, and adaptive management programs.

Workplan 2009-10 Identified the Following Tasks to be Performed

- Exotics Control
- Assessment of Access-Trespass Issues
- Trash Removal
- Establish Photo Points for Detecting Long-term Changes
- General Avian Point Count Surveys
- Focus Surveys Rare Plants, CAGN and Cactus Wren
- QCB Habitat Threats Assessment



Prioritizing Weed Control Efforts: We can't weed the whole world!

Priority for treating invasive species are based on several criteria:

- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) ratings
- Feasibility of successful control
- Early Detection Rapid Response-Control small populations when first detected (Bay Area Early Detection Network 2010)
- Threat to sensitive species.

All four of these factors are taken into consideration when determining treatment priority for invasive species.



Prioritizing Weed Control Efforts

Species Observed and Cal-Ipc Rating

- Tamarisk-**High**
- Giant Reed-**High**
- Pampas Grass-**High**
- Sweet Fennel-**High**
- Blue Gum-**Moderate**
- Tree Tobacco-**Moderate**
- Mexican Fan Palm-**Moderate**
- Stinkwort-**Moderate**
- Peruvian Pepper-**Limited**

Salt Creek-Control Priority

High: stinkwort

Medium: pampas grass, tree tobacco

Low: tamarisk, giant reed, wild fennel, Peruvian pepper tree, blue gum, Mexican fan palm

San Ysidro

High: stinkwort

Medium: tamarisk, pampas grass



RECON Crews Sprayed Stinkwort and then Biologists Hand Pulled Remaining Plants During Regular Site Visits



Access Issues

Salt Creek

- Multiple Uncontrolled Access Points (South and West sides of Otay Valley)
- Fence Repair
- Gate Installation
- Additional Signage

San Ysidro

- Primary Access Controlled by Locked Gate
- Access issues are mostly related to the on-going Border Patrol Mission



Identifying Fence Repair Areas and Locations for Additional Signage



Existing Sign at Salt Creek



Southern Boundary Fence at Salt Creek

Fence Repair Assessment

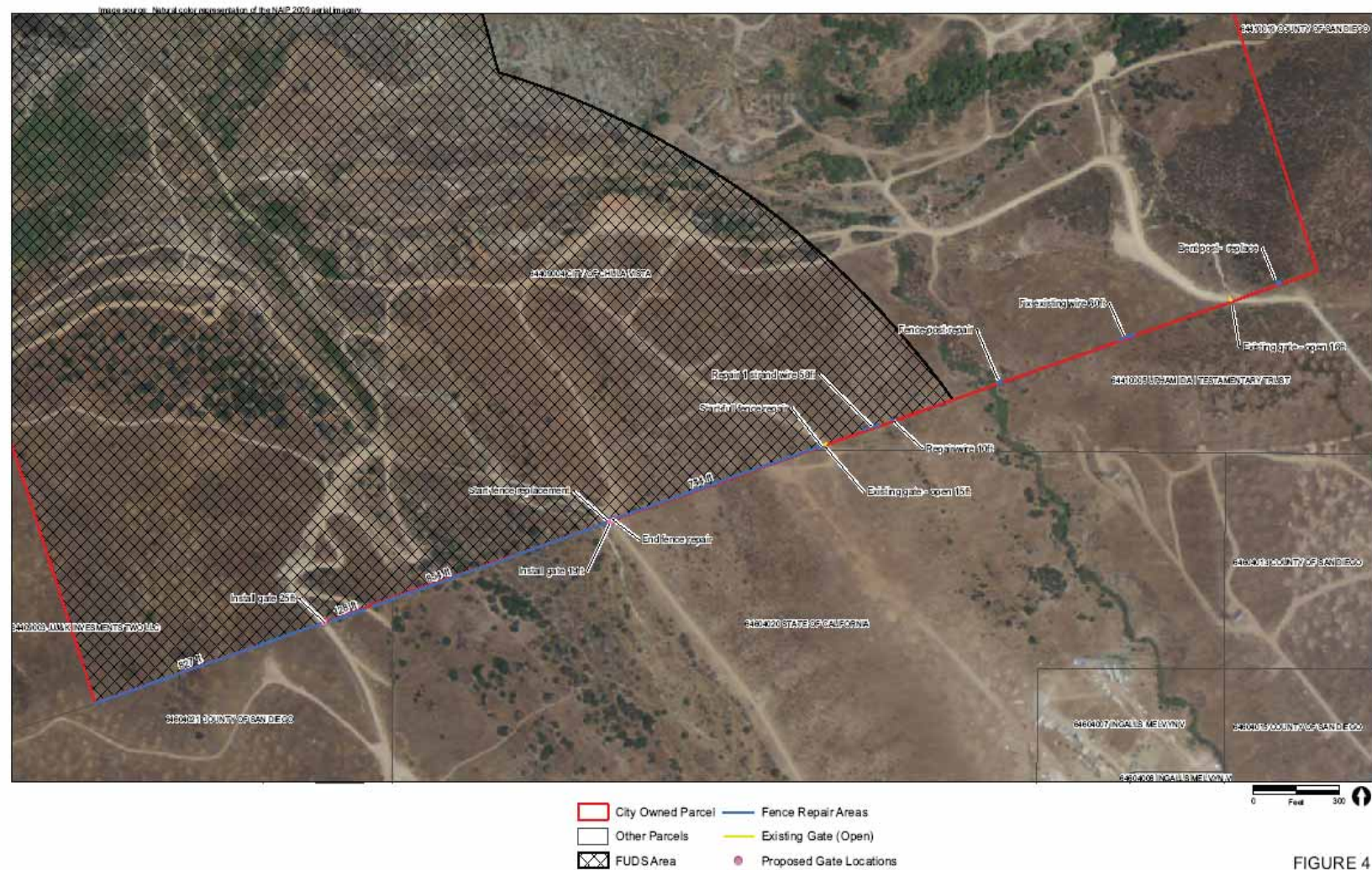


FIGURE 4

Southern Fence Detail at Salt Creek

Repeat Photographs For Detecting Long-term Changes in Vegetation

Photo Points Monitoring Locations-Salt Creek



Spring and Late Season Repeat Photos



April 2010 at San Ysidro



September 2010 same location



Rare Plant Surveys



Snake Cholla at Salt Creek
MSCP NE and CNPS 1B.1



Variegated Dudleya at Salt Creek
MSCP NE and CNPS 1B.1



Dunn's Mariposa Lily at San Ysidro
MSCP NE and CNPS 1B.2

Rare Plant Surveys



Otay Mountain Lotus at San Ysidro
CNPS 1B.1



Small-Flowered Morning Glory San Ysidro-CNPS 4.2



Jennifer's Monardella at San Ysidro
CNPS 1B.2

Rare Plants



Otay Lilac
CNPS 1B.2

San Diego Goldenstar
MSCP and CNPS 1B.1



Orcutt's Brodiaea
MSCP NE CNPS 1B.1

Faunal Surveys



Coastal California Gnatcatcher
FT, MSCP, CSC



QCB Habitat Threats Assessment



Coastal Cactus Wren Nest
MSCP, CSC

Incidental Observations



Two-striped Garter Snake
CDFG CSC



Roadrunner



Coastal Rosy Boa
FSC

Incidental Observations



Bullock's Oriole



Lark Sparrow



Red Tailed Hawk

Incidental Observations



Western Mule Deer
MSCP



California Horned Lark
CDFG CSC



Killdeer Salt Creek

All 3 Species of Rattlesnake at San Ysidro



Red Diamond Rattlesnake
CDFG CSC



Southern Pacific Rattlesnake



Speckled Rattlesnake

Newly Conveyed Lands



FIGURE 3

Location of Conveyed Otay Ranch Preserve Land on Aerial Map

Newly Conveyed Lands

Baseline Surveys to be Conducted on Approximately 1,500 acres in Spring 2011

Reprioritized tasks so that new lands can be surveyed.
Need to know what we have before we can manage it effectively.

Surveys Include: Vegetation Mapping, general floral and faunal surveys and reporting

Data will be provided to **SanBIOS**

SanBIOS is used to organize a catalog of species observations that have been recorded by professional biologists from the County of San Diego as well as from various other agencies and private firms.



Thank You!

