# San Diego's Pig Eradication Program

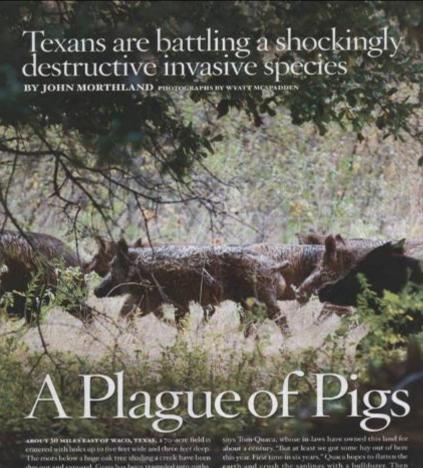
Megan Jennings, Ph.D. Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management San Diego State University





## **Status of Pigs**

- In 39 states in the U.S.
- Game animals in some states, invasive in others
- Present in 56 57 of California's 58 counties
- Introduced to SD County ~15 years ago



dag out and exposed. Grass has been trampled into paths. Where the grass has been stripped, saplings crowd out the wildlife. A farmer wanting to cut his hay could barely run a tractor through here. There's no mistaking what has happened-this field has gone to the hogs

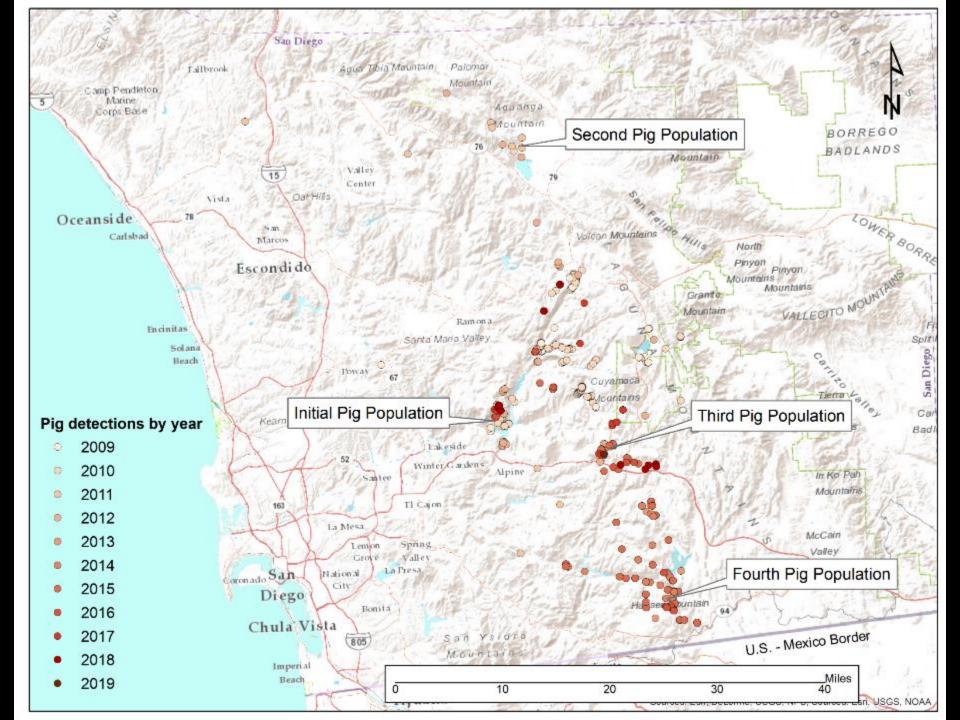
"I've trapped fit of 'em down here in the last month,"

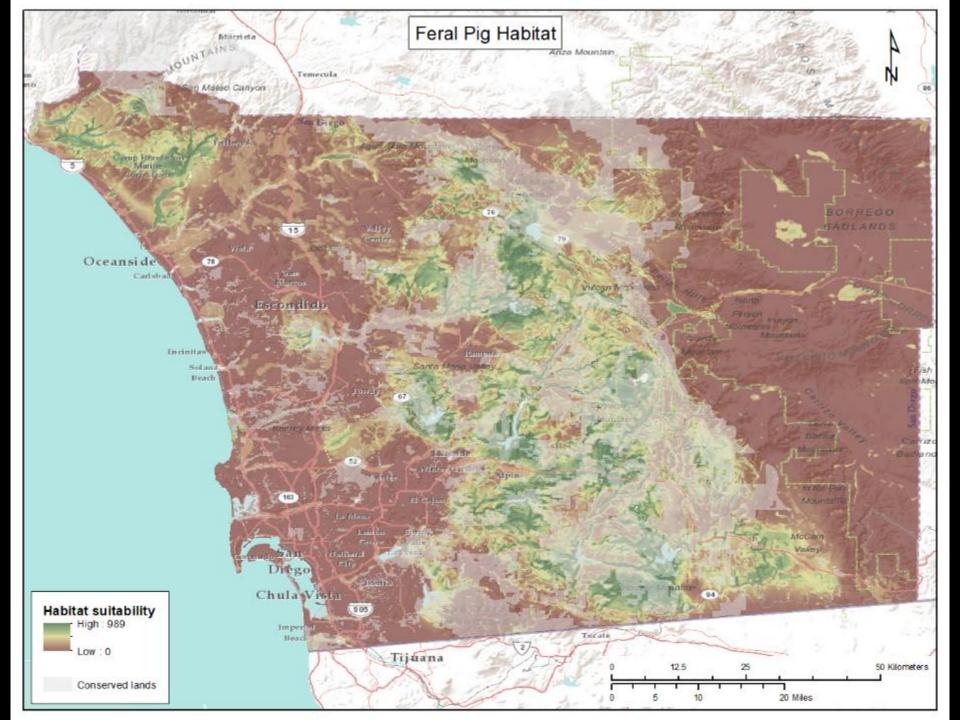
maybe-maybe-the hogs will move onto adjacent hand ing grounds and he can once again use his family's land.

Wild hogs are among the most destructive invasive species in the United States today. Two million to six mil fion of the animals are wreaking havne in at least 30 states and four Canadian provinces; half are in Texas, where they

# Why are pigs a problem?









## Inter-governmental Group

- Barona Band of Mission Indians
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California State Parks
- City of San Diego Public Utilities Water
- County of San Diego Parks and Recreation
- Helix Water District
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Wildlife Services
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
- Vista Irrigation District
- Others (DoD, other tribes, water districts)

## Approaches

### Removal

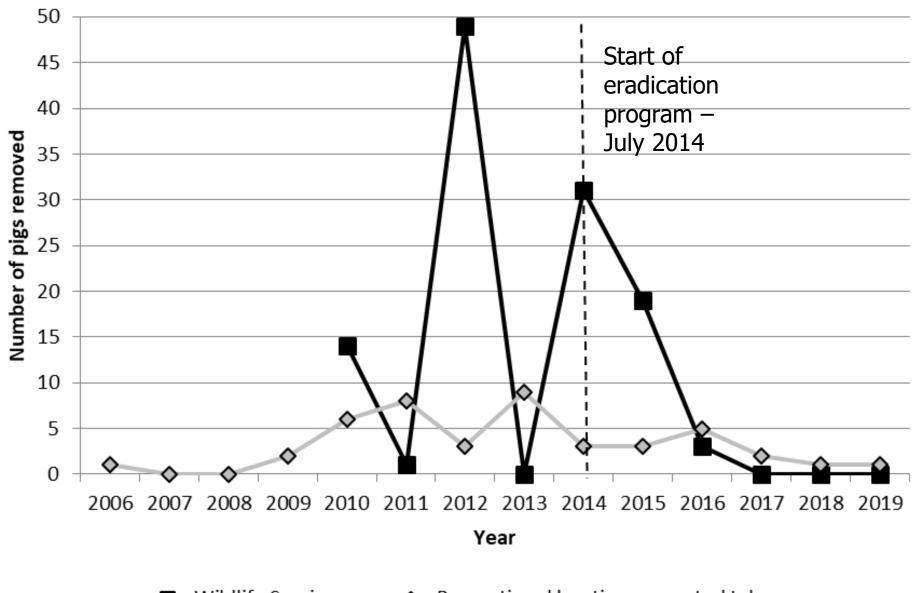
- Corral traps
- Cage traps
- Hounds
- Foot snare
- Night vision
- Shooting



### Monitoring

- Cameras
- Sign surveys
- Aerial surveys (WS)
- Detector dogs (WS)
- eDNA (WS)





Wildlife Services — Recreational hunting - reported take

n = 117

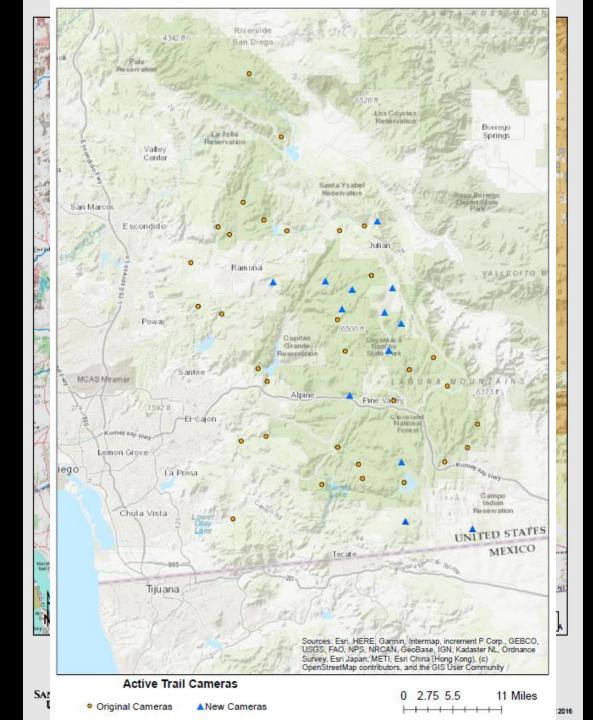
n = 44

Jennings and McCreary 2017

## Have we been successful?

- Few known animals remaining
  - BUT detection and population estimation is challenging
- Negative survey data
- Certification of eradication

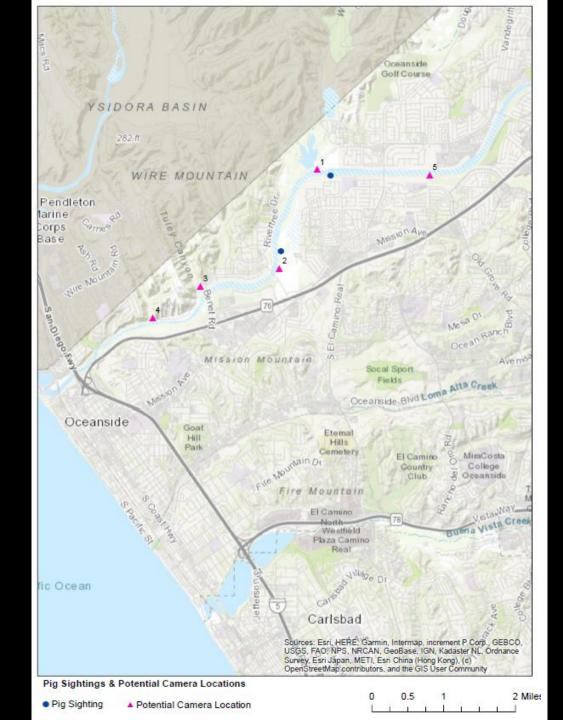




## What Next?

- Early detection and rapid response protocol
- Continued/expanded monitoring
- Confirm eradication through 2-3 years of negative survey data







## WANTED: REPORTS OF FERAL PIG SIGNS

### SIGNS OF FERAL PIGS

**Tracks:** Pig tracks show a two-toed hoof and often dewclaws that are slightly wider than the hoof. In comparison with a deer track, pig tracks will be more round in shape with blunted toes and wide dewclaw marks, if the dewclaw registers.

**Scat:** Feral pig scat is tubular and may look like the droppings of a horse or domestic dog. Shape and consistency can be highly variable, but vegetation can often be found in the scat.

**Rooting:** When feeding, pigs disturb the ground by digging and rooting with their snouts for insects, roots, tubers, and water. A single pig can overturn an acre or more of vegetation in a night.

**Wallows:** In moist areas near streams and creeks, pigs may create wallow where they will lay in the mud and water to cool off.

### Deer or Hog?

Learn to spot the differences between the two tracks.

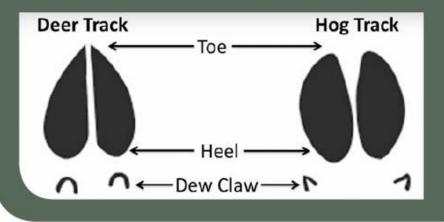




Photo courtesy San Diego Natural History Museum



Photoby Gary Reece



Photo courtesy San Diego Natural History Museum



Photo courtesy San Diego Natural History Museum



### HOW TO REPORT

CDFW San Diego Office:askR5@wildlife.ca.gov San Diego State University: mjennings@sdsu.edu For more information, call the CDFW office at 858-467-4201. When reporting, please provide the following information regardir

When reporting, please provide the following information regarding your sighting: 1. Date/time 2. Location (preferably latitude/longitude or UTM coordinates)2. Type of sign and extent observed 3.Photographs 4. Estimation of the age of the sign

https://arcg.is/0nrvKm

#### San Diego Pig Sighting Reports

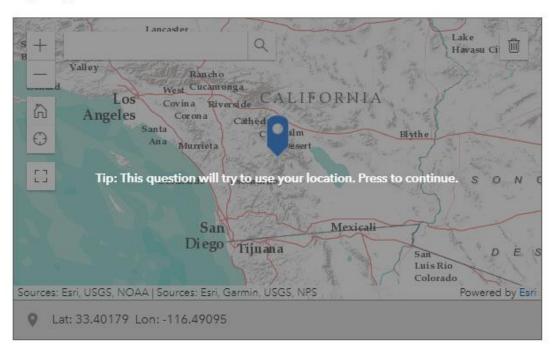
The San Diego Intergovernmental Feral Pig Working Group would like to leverage the boots on the ground in the County to help us track and monitor the success of the feral pig eradication program in San Diego. This form is intended to facilitate reporting and through the network of land managers in the region for early detection and rapid response if pigs are sighted in San Diego County.

#### Sighting observation date/time\*

m/d/yyyy

() hh:mm

#### Sighting location\*



### Observation type\*

Check all that apply

Pig Track Scat	Rooting
Wallow	
Other	

#### Confidence in species identification

Rate how certain you are that the sign recorded was a pig



#### If pigs were observed, how many?

12<sup>3</sup>

### Photo documentation

Please provide a photo of the sign you observed, if at all possible

Press here to choose image file. (<10MB)



\_\_\_\_\_

### Observer\*

Please enter your contact information

 $\square$ 

### Any additional details to note?

Submit