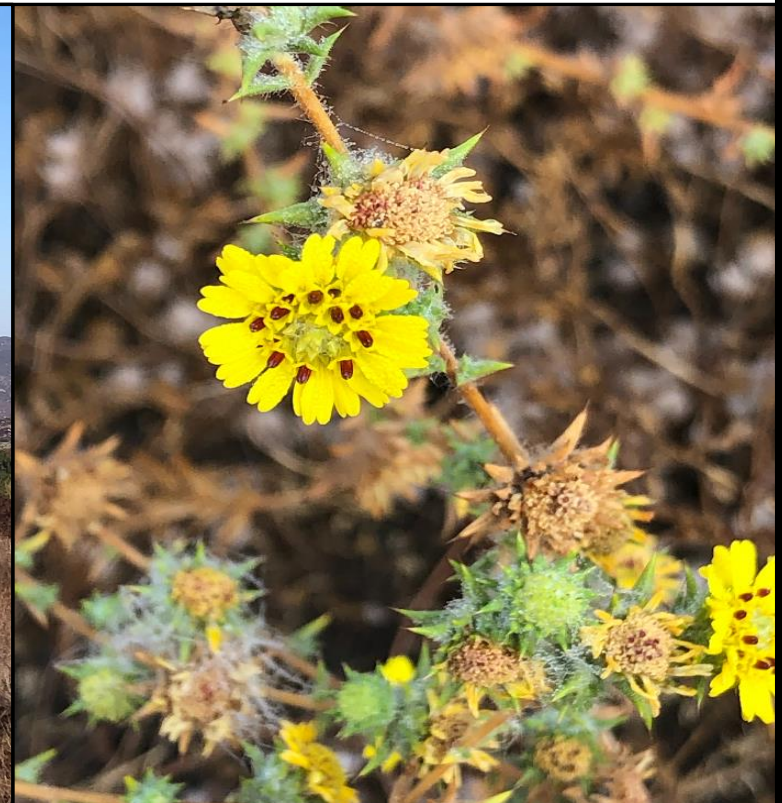


The Montecito Ranch Preserve Framework Resource Management Plan (F-RMP)

Conservation Biology Institute, Dr. Michael White, Endangered Habitats Conservancy,
ECORP Consulting, & San Diego Management and Monitoring Program in
collaboration with United States Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of
Fish and Wildlife, & United States Department of Defense



MONTECITO RANCH

PRIVATE GATED COMMUNITY

417 LOTS

PHASE I - 72 FINISHED LOTS

RAMONA, CALIFORNIA



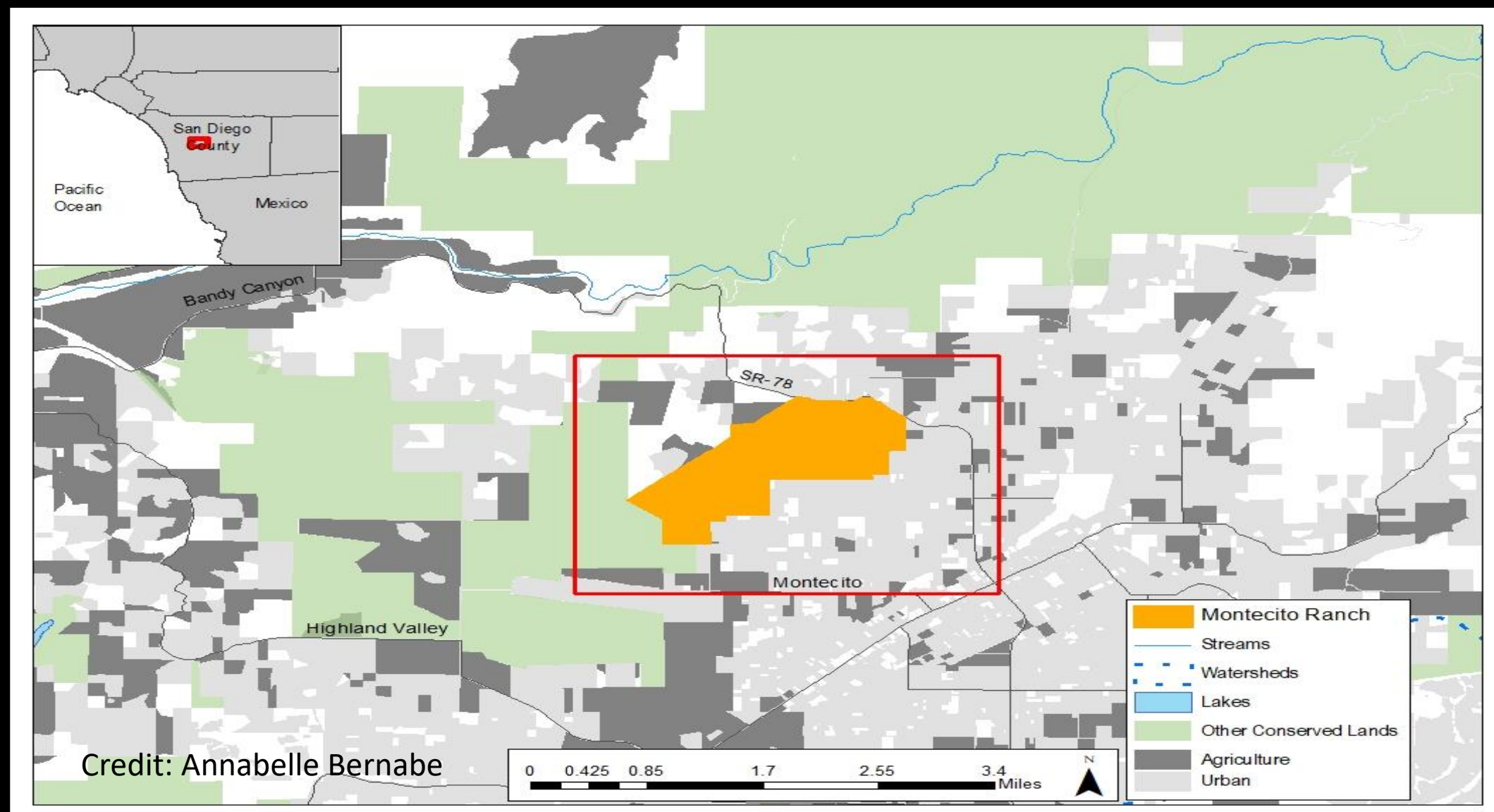
What: 955-acre Preserve owned and managed by the Endangered Habitats Conservancy (EHC).

When: Acquired June 10, 2020.

Where: Ramona; northern extent of the Ramona Grasslands (~6,000 acres).

Who and How: EHC acquired the Preserve with funding from Section 6 of the Federal ESA, California Wildlife Conservation Board, and the Department of Defense, through its Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program.

Why: Preserve the Ranch in perpetuity to benefit species and natural habitats & USMC funding contributes to the conservation of listed and sensitive species to offset future reductions in military training restrictions on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.



Stephens' Kangaroo Rat & Grassland



Credit: Steve Montgomery



San Diego Fairy Shrimp & Vernal Pools



Credit: Jim Asmus



Credit: Artemis Environmental, Inc.

Engelmann Oak Woodlands



Coastal California Gnatcatcher & Coastal Sage Scrub



F-RMP History and Key Features

- Greater Crestridge Ecological Reserve Complex Framework Resource Management Plan.
- Funded by SANDAG in 2014, to develop “real life” preserve management plans that incorporate the salient elements of the Management Strategic Plan for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County (“MSP”) and related regional plans.
- Align preserve-level management and monitoring with the MSP goals and objectives.
- *Standardize the development of resource management plans.*
- Fulfill land manager requirements to develop Area Specific Management Directives (ASMD’s) per regional subarea plans.
- ASMDs (goals, objectives, and implementation tasks) follow guidelines in Adamcik et al. 2004, Deutschman *et al.* 2012, Lewison and Deutschman 2014, and USFWS (Adamcik *et al.* 2004) and objectives are ‘SMART’.
- Coordinated closely with San Diego Management and Monitoring Program and United States Geological Survey with oversight from the wildlife agencies.
- Steps include: Rapid assessment surveys, database and literature review, ASMDs, Preserve budget(s)/Property Analysis Record (PAR) budget(s).

Linking MSP Goals to Montecito Ranch Preserve Goals

Southern Tarplant Example

MSP Southern Tarplant Goal: Maintain, enhance and restore alkali playa vegetation communities on Conserved Lands in the MSPA that supports or has the potential to support VF species (i.e., Coulter's saltbush, Parish's brittle-scale, southern tarplant) so that the vegetation community has high ecological integrity, and these species are resilient to environmental stochasticity, catastrophic disturbances and threats, such as very large wildfires, invasive plants and prolonged drought, and will be likely to persist over the long term (>100 years).

Montecito Ranch Southern Tarplant Goal: Maintain, enhance, and restore southern tarplant populations to increase resilience to environmental and demographic stochasticity, maintain genetic diversity, and ensure persistence over the long-term (>100 years) within the Preserve.



Linking MSP Objectives to Montecito Ranch Preserve Objectives

Southern Tarplant Example

MSP Southern Tarplant Objective. In 2018, inspect occurrences of alkali playa MSP VF plant species (i.e., Coulter's saltbush, Parish's brittle-scale, southern tarplant) on Conserved Lands using the regional IMG monitoring protocol to record abundance and collect habitat and threat covariate data to determine management needs.

Montecito Ranch Southern Tarplant Monitoring Objective. Monitor southern tarplant as specified below and in Table 12 to assess status and threats, and prioritize and implement management actions.

Species	Year	Monitoring Frequency	Responsibility	Contingency Monitoring
Centromadia parryi ssp. australis (Southern tarplant)	2021	Biannual	Local	None

Montecito Ranch Southern Tarplant Monitoring Task. Establish one monitoring plot in a vernal pool that supports southern tarplant, and assess status every 2 years in late summer through fall, beginning in 2021, by photographing, inspecting, surveying, mapping, and documenting populations, identifying threats, and recommending management actions using the SDMMP IMG monitoring protocol. Modify southern tarplant monitoring based on SDMMP IMG frequency. Submit qualitative and quantitative data including monitoring plot- and occurrence-specific data, photographs, and spatial layers to SDMMP.

Next Steps:

1. Finalize the F-RMP and PAR budgets.
2. Receive endowment funding.
3. Begin management of threats to benefit rare plants, animals, and associated habitats.

Vegetation Management



Access Control



Invasive Species Control



Erosion Control



Questions?

