

## WHAT IS THE CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT?

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The Center for Natural Lands Management is a non-profit organization that manages lands throughout California. We protect sensitive biological resources through professional, science-based land stewardship.

## HOW CAN I HELP?

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Be a good neighbor and remember that:

- Off-road vehicles damage native vegetation and destroy kangaroo rat burrows
- Dumping garbage, including yard waste, creates new weed problems and increases the risk of wildfire
- For the protection of wildlife and your pets, please ensure that your cats and dogs are properly restrained

Please help us continue to study and protect our natural landscapes by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Center for Natural Lands Management. Visit our website for more information at: [www.cnlm.org](http://www.cnlm.org).

760-731-7790  
[www.cnlm.org](http://www.cnlm.org)

Rise early, stay late, and take care of the land.



**Center for Natural Lands Management**  
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# MARCH STEPHENS' KANGAROO RAT PRESERVE



Stephens' kangaroo rat  
Photo courtesy of Mark Chappell

## WHAT IS THE STEPHENS' KANGAROO RAT?

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Stephens' kangaroo rat is a small endangered mammal that lives only in western Riverside and northern San Diego Counties. It has long hind legs that allow it to get around by hopping like a kangaroo. This shy animal lives in underground burrows in grasslands that have abundant patches of bare ground and few shrubs. They forage for small seeds at night. Stevens' kangaroo rat doesn't need to drink water. They get most of their water from food and conserve moisture by leaving their burrows at night, when the humidity is highest. This kangaroo rat is endangered because of conversion of much of its habitat to other uses including agriculture, new houses, businesses, and roads. In 1987 the federal government listed Stephens' kangaroo rat as an endangered species.

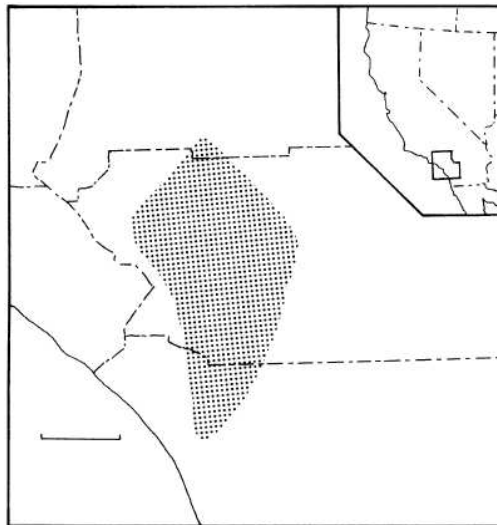


Stephens' kangaroo rat  
Photo courtesy of Mark Chappell

## WHAT IS BEING DONE?

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Only 5% of Stephens' kangaroo rat habitat remains. There are currently over 12,000 acres in seven preserves that are being protected to help ensure the long-term survival of this kangaroo rat and other species. About 1100 acres of the former March Air Force Base in Riverside is part of this preserve system. Active management and research are continually needed at the March Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Preserve to manage non-native plants and to monitor the habitat. Active management includes grazing, mowing, managed prescribed fire, and construction of fire breaks. This management will help to ensure that the preserved land continues to provide appropriate habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat.



Stephens' kangaroo rat distribution  
(Bleich 1977)



March Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Preserve 2007

## WHAT IS THE MARCH STEPHENS' KANGAROO RAT PRESERVE?

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The March Stephens' Kangaroo Rat Preserve was created in 1991. In 1997 management of the March Preserve was transferred from the Nature Conservancy to the Center for Natural Lands Management. The March Preserve is not only home to Stephens' kangaroo rat but also a wide variety of other animals and plants. As restoration of the preserve continues, we are seeing the return of native flowers, birds, and snakes. We have even seen the return of the endangered least Bell's vireo, a small woodland bird.