

WHAT IS THE CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT?

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



Peter Knapp ©2008

Coyote

HOW CAN I HELP?

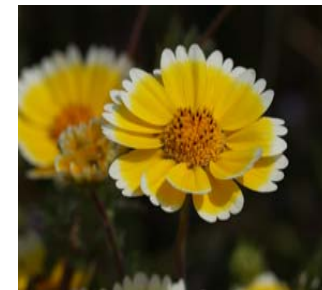
- Do not clear native vegetation unless in consultation with CNLM. Plants provide homes for the animals that we are working to protect.
- Do not litter or dump garbage, including yard waste, in the HCA. This spreads weeds and increases the risk of wildfires.
- Please keep all pets on a leash.
- Please access the HCA on foot only. Off-road vehicles, bicycles, and horses are strictly prohibited as they damage native vegetation and destroy natural habitat for threatened and endangered species.
- Please stay on designated trails; short cuts cause erosion damage and encourages weeds.
- Please don't camp or start fires in the HCA.

Rise early, stay late, and take care of the land.
760-731-7790 www.cnlm.org



Center for Natural Lands Management
215 W Ash Street
Fallbrook, CA 92028

SUMMERHILL HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA



Center for Natural
Lands Management

WHAT IS THE SUMMERHILL HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA?

The Summerhill Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) consists of 113 acres in the City of Lake Elsinore, CA. The HCA or preserve is covered almost exclusively in sage scrub. This is the preferred habitat of the California gnatcatcher and other rare birds.



California gnatcatcher (female)

THE CONSERVATION PURPOSE

The HCA was created to mitigate for impacts to the federally threatened California gnatcatcher. Five to six pairs of California gnatcatchers nest on the preserve, as do populations of other declining species such as Bell's sage sparrow, rufous-crowned sparrow, and loggerhead shrike.

Although the preserve is small in size, it is particularly important as a stepping stone for wildlife moving between larger protected areas to the north and east and the Cleveland National Forest to the west, especially as the surrounding open space is developed.

WHAT IS SAGE SCRUB?

The plant community of the preserve is predominately made up of Mediterranean climate-type shrubs. California buckwheat, coastal sagebrush, black and white sages, and chamise are just a few examples of sage scrub plants.

The California gnatcatcher will rarely use shrubs that are not native to California for their nesting sites, illustrating the importance of preserving their natural habitat. The shrubs also provide habitat areas for other kinds of wildlife.

During the spring, the hills within the HCA are blanketed with beautiful wildflowers. The wildflowers include poppies, goldfields, pin cushions, lupines, bluebells, popcorn flowers, and tidy tips, to name just a few.



California sun cup, a native wildflower



Native sage scrub habitat in the spring

MANAGEMENT

The primary goal on the Summerhill Habitat Conservation Area is to maintain nesting pairs of the California gnatcatcher. To accomplish this, the existing healthy sage scrub community must be maintained.

Our management program includes:

1. Habitat and species monitoring
2. Controlling invasive weeds
3. Erosion control
4. Public Interaction
5. Trash removal
6. Patrolling and protecting boundaries

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