

Conservation Context of the Mather Preserve

The approximately 1,342-acre Mather Preserve was established according to the 2012 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Biological Opinion for the Disposal of Mather Air Force Base for the purpose of protecting, in perpetuity, sensitive and high-value vernal pool habitat and associated listed species. The protection of these conservation values is further ensured through the use of protective legal instruments and management by a professional conservation organization. A Wetland Management Plan for this property was drafted and completed in 2014 with comments from and with approval by USFWS, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Army Corps of Engineers through a process that also included the County of Sacramento expert review, and public input.

In October 2015, CNLM was selected to manage the Mather Preserve by a committee including state and federal regulatory agencies and several Sacramento County departments. After a contract in April 2016 to provide some specific management tasks, CNLM entered into a longer-term management contract with the County of Sacramento in February 2017.

The Center for Natural Lands

Management (CNLM) is a private, non-profit organization that owns and manages conservation lands throughout California and in the State of Washington. We protect sensitive biological resources, including endangered species, through professional, science-based stewardship. Founded in 1990, CNLM currently manages over 70 preserves in California and Washington, possessing diverse habitats and over 60 federal and/or state-listed species.

CNLM was officially awarded accreditation in March 2010 and renewed accreditation in July 2015 by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the national Land Trust Alliance. Accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation. It recognizes an organization for meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust, and ensuring that conservation efforts are permanent.

For further information, to report any issues, or to contribute to the protection and management of this Preserve, please contact the
Center for Natural Lands Management
Voice: (760) 731-7790
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Mather (Vernal Pool) Preserve

Owned By:
County of Sacramento

Managed by:
Center for Natural
Lands Management





Center for Natural
Lands Management

Mather (Vernal Pool) Preserve

Initial Management Actions

Since commencing management under the (2017 five-year management contract), CNLM's activities have included:

- * Researching and discussing with weed control experts appropriate means of testing and implementing long-term vegetation management within the context of sensitive species and abiotic resources and multiple uses of the Preserve
- Providing control of significant occurrences of exotic invasives through appropriate herbicide treatments, applied for maximum efficacy and minimal risk to nontarget species
- Initiating grazing and prescribed burn pilot projects as part of an Integrated Pest Management Program that will help achieve conservation objectives and offer alternatives to reliance on pesticides

Pilot Grazing Study



- Developing a protocol for researchers and post-secondary educators to request access to the Preserve and for CNLM and County to review these requests for risk management, conservation value protection, and coordination purposes
- * Collecting data on invertebrate species—including rare and listed species—from a strategically selected subset of 21 vernal pools within the Preserve to serve as immediate reflections of vernal pool biodiversity and to inform longer-term trend data
- * Establishing protocols for and collecting data on vegetation community composition, rare plant presence, and residual dry matter (RDM)
- * Improving protection of the Preserve from trespass and related detrimental activities by regular patrols and coordination with County staff
- * Documenting wildlife presence, use, and mortality within the Preserve for a better understanding of the Preserve's biodiversity and to manage against loss



Conservation Values

The Preserve provides habitat for species such as federally threatened vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), California state species of concern western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), (introduced) federal-endangered Sacramento Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia viscida*), California state-endangered Boggs Lake hedge hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepela*), and California Native Plant Society Rank 1B plant species Ahart's dwarf rush (*Juncus leisosperus* var. *ahartii*) and legenere (*Legenere limosa*).

