Igniting connections for natural and cultural resource protection before and during wildland fires in Southern California

Program Overview

The USGS Western Ecological Research Center, San Diego Field Station, is creating a partnership with local fire managers, land managers, and conservation scientists to create proactive solutions by connecting local experts with fire managers to identify resource concerns for active wildfire management. This is a collaboration of local agencies including the BLM, San Diego Management and Monitoring Program, USFWS, NPS, CalFire, the County of San Diego, and NGOs. This program has two foci: 1. The creation of two databases and interactive maps. One is a database of infrastructure on conservation lands to aid in fire managers' suppression activities (below). The second is a database of ecological and cultural resource avoidance areas. Together, these two databases aid fire managers during suppression activities as well as suppression repair to avoid ecological and cultural resource damage across a mosaic landscape of landowners and habitat types. 2. A local cohort of wildland fire resource advisors (READs) to provide local expertise and assistance on ecologically sound fire suppression decisions and suppression repair tactics to best protect natural and cultural resources. In order to aid these READs we are also developing a series of flashcards to hand out on active incidents to provide basic knowledge and preferred protection prescriptions of sensitive biological resources. The cohort of READs will utilize the two databases and flashcards to help protect natural and cultural resources during active incidents.

Flash Cards for Sensitive Resources

3x5in laminated flashcards that have important information on species and habitats that are highly sensitive to impacts from suppression activities. These cards show the best identifying features for each resource, a brief description, a simple map, and suppression tactic limitations and recommendations. A larger version will also be printed in the Resource section of the Incident Action Plan associated with each fire.

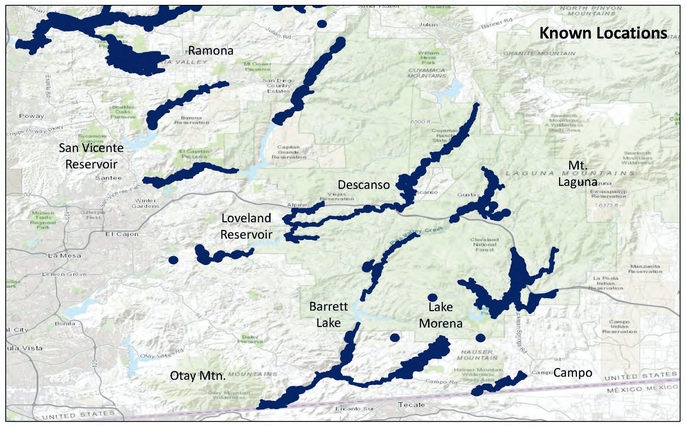
Endangered Species:
Arroyo toad
(*Anaxyrus californicus*)

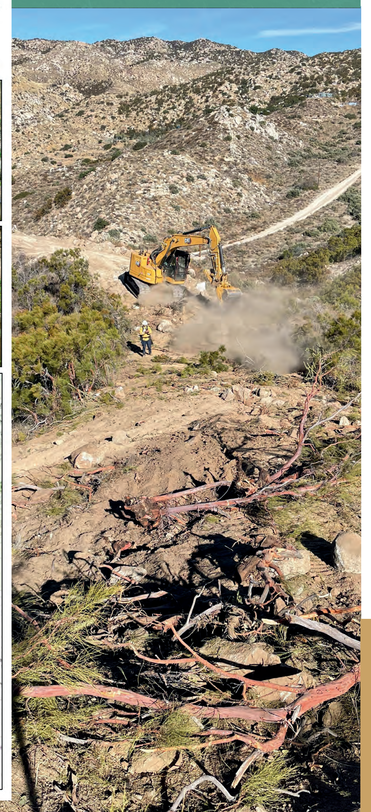
Description: A small toad (~3 inches long), brownish-tan to greenish-brown body with dark- and yellow-colored spots. NO white stripe down its back (unlike western toads). Adults active at night; juveniles can be active during the day.

Habitat: Slow moving streams with shallow pools, sandbars, stream terraces, sandy creek beds & wetland vegetation.

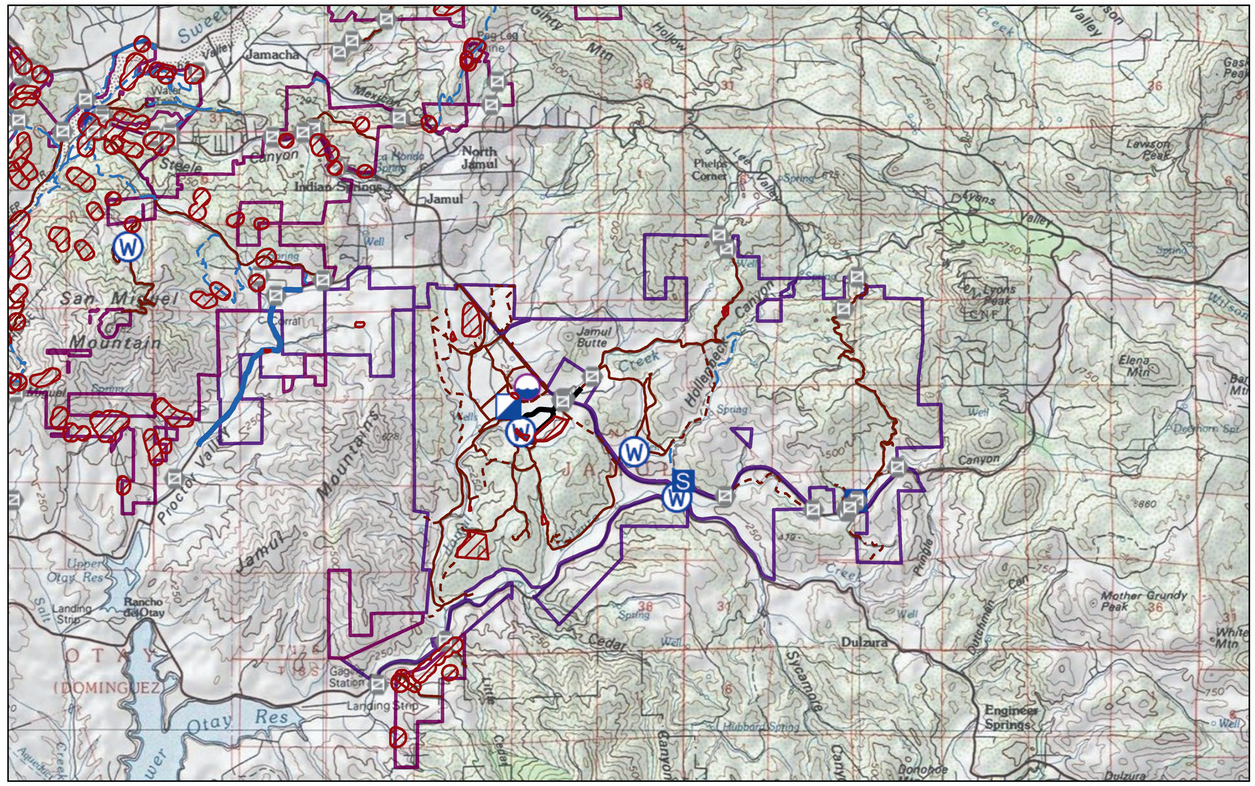
Protection: Arroyo toads are rarely visible, but they are present. Avoid disturbance in habitats listed above year-round.







Fire Infrastructure and Suppression Repair Support



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SDMMP San Diego Management & Monitoring Program