

Figure 1.1. The Southern California Mountains and Foothills Assessment area boundary (dashed black line) and the distribution of public lands in and around it.

Map Date: July, 1998
 Data Sources: USDA Forest Service, Teale Data Center

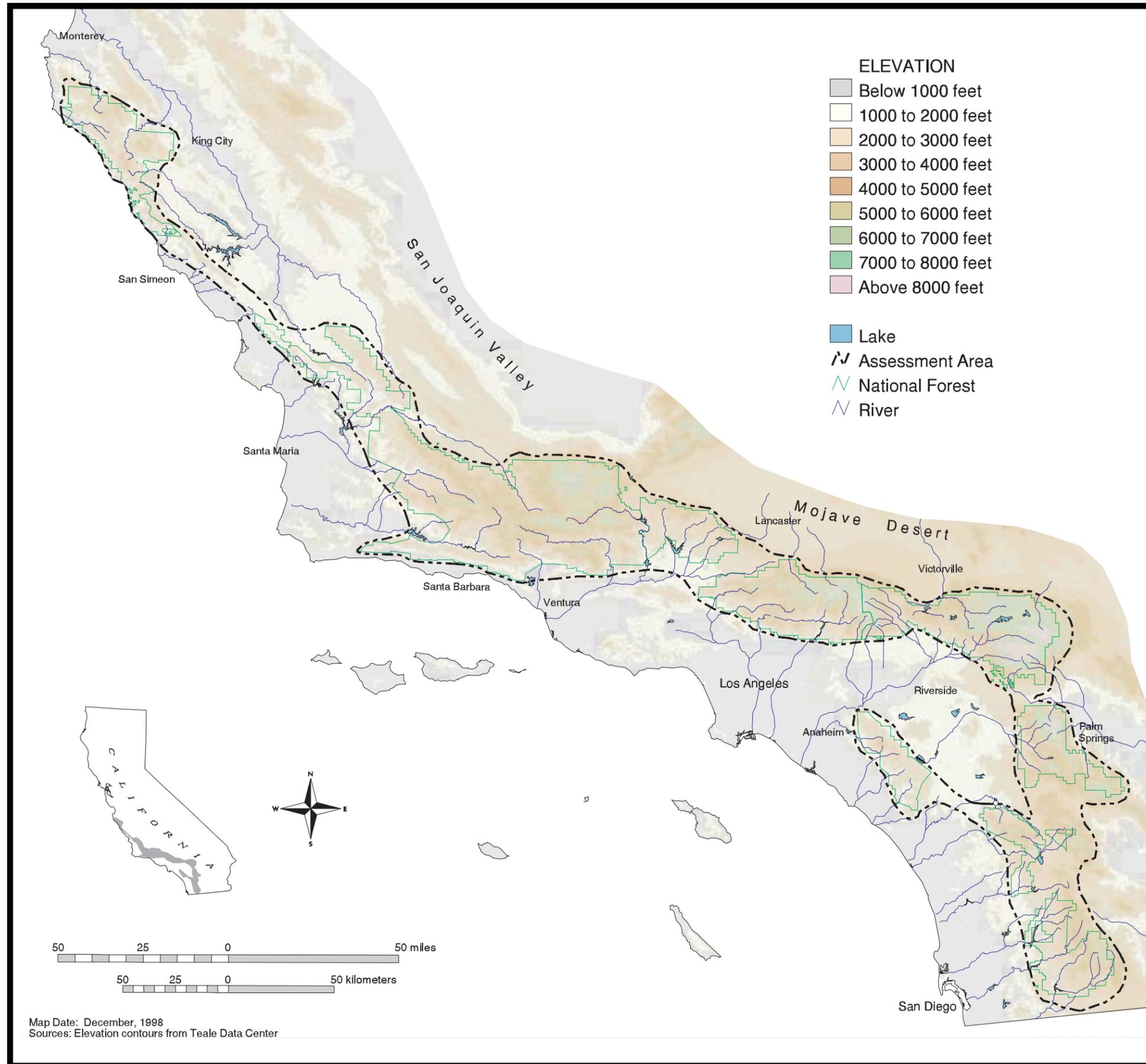


Figure 1.3. Elevation patterns across the assessment area and surrounding lands. Note how widely elevations vary across the region, resulting in a tremendous amount of habitat diversity.

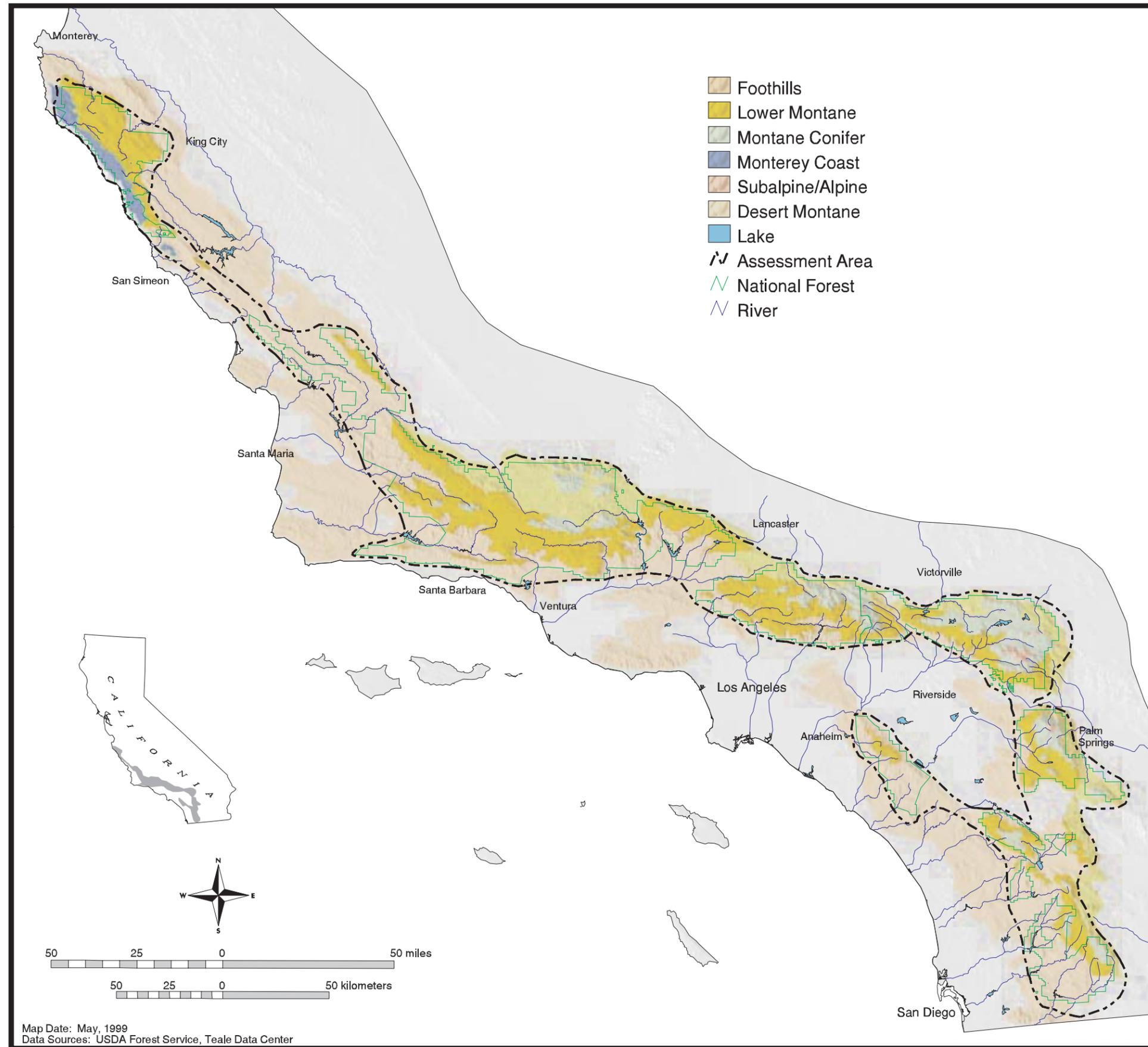


Figure 2.3. Large-scale vegetation patterns in the southern California mountains.

The coastal foothills (approximately 800 to 3,000 feet) are dominated by chaparral and coastal scrub, but also contain oak woodlands and riparian hardwood forests.

The lower montane landscape (approximately 3,000 to 5,000 feet) contains patches of conifer/live oak forest in an otherwise chaparral-dominated landscape. In the lower montane are two forest types endemic to southern California: bigcone Douglas-fir forest and Coulter pine forest.

The montane conifer landscape (approximately 5,000 to 8,500 feet) is dominated by pine and fir forests.

Subalpine/alpine plant communities of lodgepole and limber pine and above-treeline cushion plants occur at the very top of the highest mountains (above 8,500 feet).

The desert montane region (approximately 3,000 to 7,000 feet) is dominated by open pinyon pine woodlands, desert scrub, and sagebrush flats.

The Monterey coast landscape encompasses the southernmost extension of coastal redwood forest.

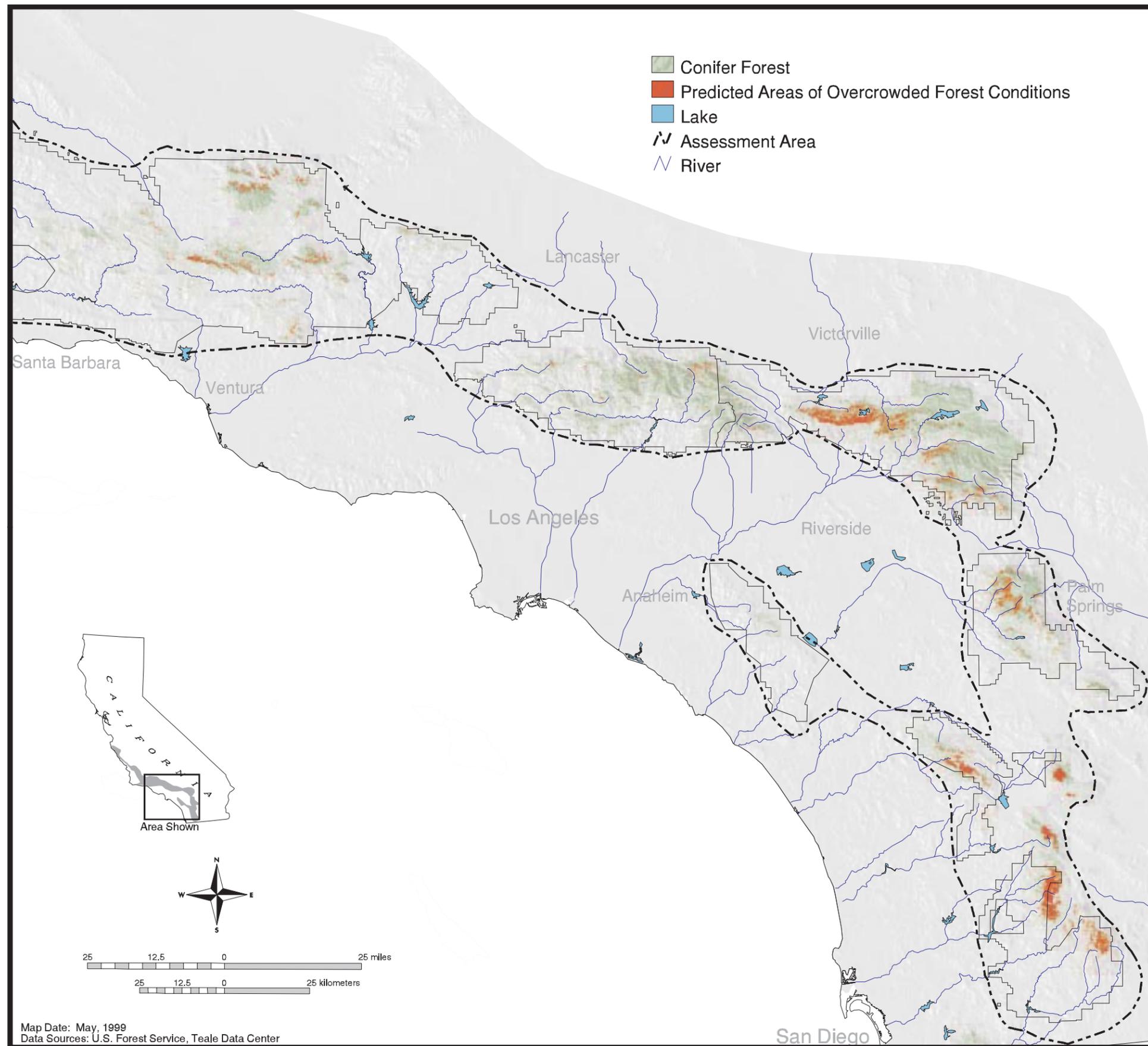


Figure 2.17. Areas shown in red are montane conifer forests predicted to be experiencing high understory densification due to the long-term absence of low- to moderate-intensity fires. Conifer forests not likely to be experiencing this problem are shown in green. The densified stands are at increased risk to loss from stand-replacing crown fire or insect and disease outbreaks.