

Habitat Improvement

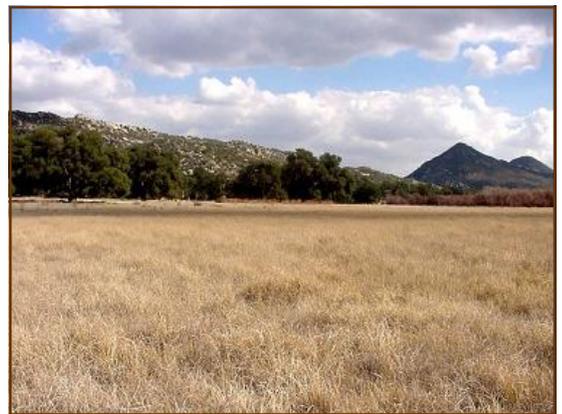
Forest removed non-native aquatic species from 2 miles of San Mateo Creek to improve habitat for native fish and wildlife. ■ Cowbirds were removed from approximately 150 acres to enhance nest success of native birds. ■ The Forest continues to collect data to study the effect of wildfire on bird species in the burned area from the 2002 Pines fire. The Forest initiated a study of the Golden Eagle populations on the Forest in partnership with Wildlife Research Institute. ■ In addition to ongoing monitoring activities, the Forest initiated a study of the effect of the 2003 Cedar Fire on mammal populations within the forest, through partnership with San Diego Natural History Museum. ■ The Cleveland National Forest was one of several San Diego organizations and agencies that received the 2003 Taking Wings Award for the development of the San Diego Bird Atlas and Checklists. The San Diego Bird Atlas and Cleveland National Forest checklists were established to update field data to assess changes in the environment, and monitor bird distribution.

Forest Planning

The four southern California national forests continue to work on the revision of their forest plans. In 2004, the Forest released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Forest Plan. The Forest held public meetings to introduce the public to the proposed plan and collected comments. Comments were accepted through August 11, 2004. In Summer 2005 the southern California National Forests will host public meetings to release the final environmental impact analysis and the four Forest plans. The Forests will meet with interested user groups and individuals to discuss the final plans.

Land Adjustment and Special Uses

The Forest acquired 236 acres of riparian lands in the Cottonwood Valley just north of the Lake Morena Village. The most notable public benefits from the property, formerly known as the "Hook Ranch", include the addition of rights-of-way for the Pacific Crest Trail, valuable habitat for plant and wildlife species including the endangered Arroyo toad, retention of valuable scenery & a wildlife corridor, and the elimination of several miles of National Forest property boundary lines. The Forest completed its third year of a five year emphasis on improving special use administration. The 2004 program involved approximately 700 special use authorizations occupying nearly 5000 acres of National Forest System land.



Hook Ranch