

Buck Gully Reserve Resource and Recreation Management Plan

Figure 4 illustrates the areas of high, medium, and low biological value and sensitive species distribution as defined within the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP that occur within the BGR. More recently, Chambers Group (2006) and Dudek (2005a, 2005c) have conducted sensitive plant and wildlife surveys within the BGR. Figure 5 displays the recorded observations from 2004, 2005, and 2007 surveys within the BGR. Resources and manuals used in the field evaluations include Cal-IPC (2006), CDFG (2003), the California Fish and Game Code, the federal Clean Water Act, McAuley (1996), Munz (1974), and Wachtell (1974).

The BGR is within a designated habitat linkage of the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP Reserve system. Figure 3 illustrates the Reserve System. Coyote Canyon extends northward from Buck Gully providing linkage to a narrow southeast-northwest corridor through the San Joaquin foothills that links Upper Newport Bay and the main body of the Coastal Reserve. Upper Buck Gully is connected to Crystal Cove State park and the main body of the Coastal Reserve via the Pelican Hill Golf Course Special Linkage Area that extends to the southeast. Permitted uses within the Reserve System include necessary public and quasi-public infrastructure facilities and related operation and maintenance activities (County of Orange 1996). Storm drains and flood control facilities are listed among those public infrastructure facilities necessary for public health and safety (County of Orange 1996).

Local jurisdictions contribute to the management of the Reserve system by adopting General Plan, zoning, fuel modification, and other ordinances consistent with the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP, reviewing project proposals in cooperation with the Reserve owner/manager to assure consistency with the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP, verifying that mitigation fees are collected, recording CSS losses and mitigation, and ensuring that minimization and mitigation measures are enforced (County of Orange 1996).

The Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP allowed take authorization for (i.e., impacts to) CSS within the Reserve System and provided impact minimization policies. At the time the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP was adopted, Buck Gully was owned by TIC. In 1999, ownership of Buck Gully was transferred to the County of Orange. Incidental take permits for the loss of a total of 512 acres of CSS habitat within the Reserve System were allocated by the Central-Coastal NCCP/HCP, including 30 acres to the County. In July 2005, ownership of Buck Gully in the Coastal Reserve was transferred from the County to the City of Newport Beach. The County retained its take allocation for infrastructure-related projects when it transferred ownership of Buck Gully for future anticipated projects. Although the City was a signatory to the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP, there is limited acreage of CSS habitat within City-managed lands and consequently the City received no authorization for take of CSS habitat within BGR.

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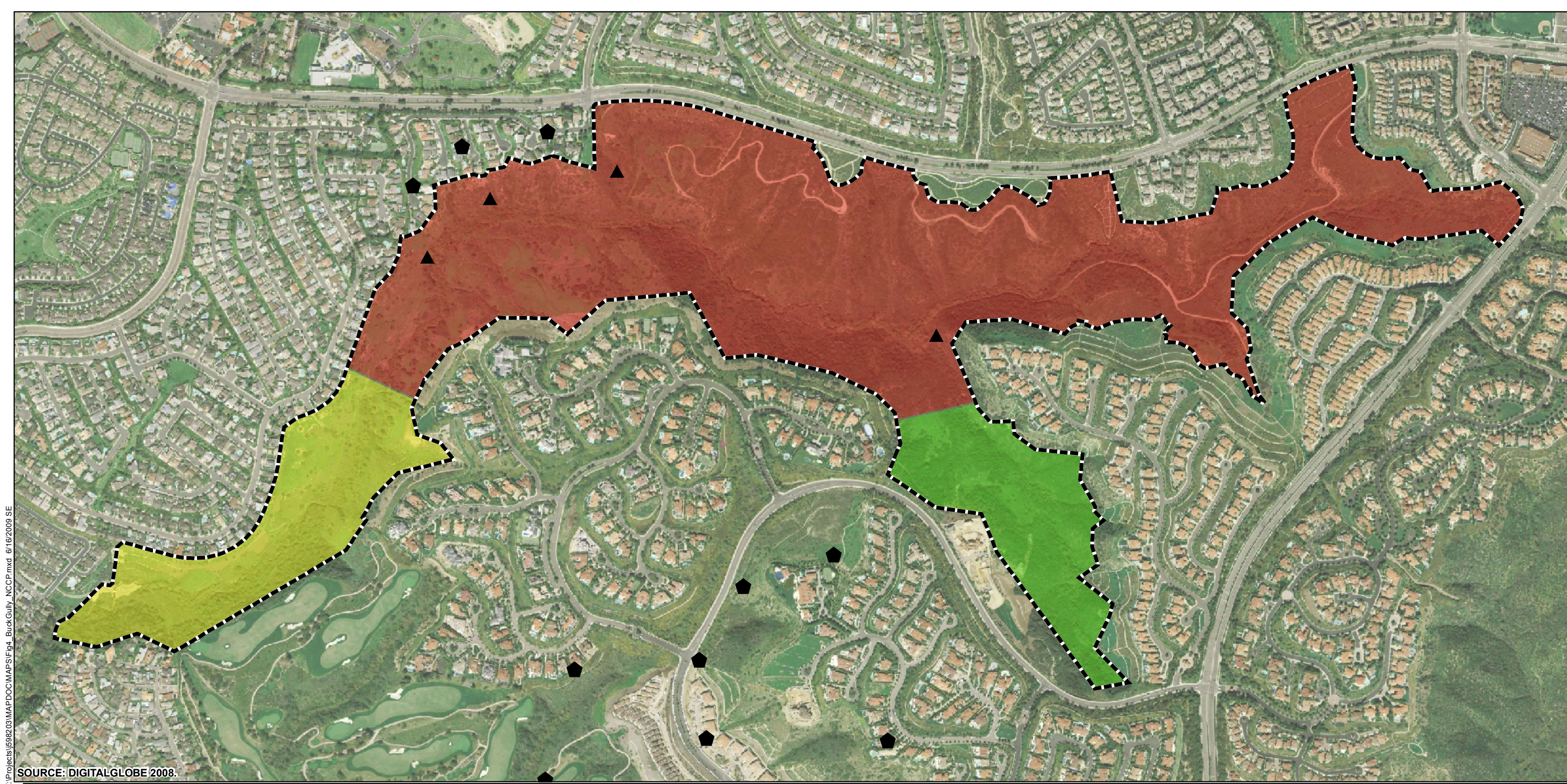
Implementation of the RRMP is not anticipated to result in significant impacts to Identified Species or Covered Habitats. Potential impacts are addressed in the context of the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP instead of a separate permitting process (e.g., federal section 7 or state 2081). Incidental take beyond that already specifically permitted at the time of adoption of the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP would require additional mitigation and may include coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), CDFG, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and/or the USFWS (County of Orange 1996).

1.3.4 Nature Reserve of Orange County (NROC)

The NROC encompasses 38,738 acres of permanently protected open space within the Central-Coastal NCCP/HCP. The NROC protects more than 18,800 acres of coastal sage; 7,300 acres of chaparral; 6,100 acres of grassland; 1,800 acres of riparian; 950 acres of woodland; 200 acres of forest habitat; and significant portions of six other habitats that currently exist in the subregion.







The acronym also refers to the non-profit corporation that was created with the establishment of the 38,738-acre Reserve System. The NROC is managed by a Board of Directors that includes a combination of private and public landowners, resource agencies, local governments, and community representatives:

- USFWS
- CDFG
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- County of Orange
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Metropolitan Water District
- Southern California Edison
- Santiago County Water District
- University of California at Irvine
- TCAs
- City of Irvine
- The Irvine Company
- Headlands Reserve LLC
- California Department of Forestry
- CGA
- Orange County Fire Authority.



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SOURCE: DIGITALGLOBE 2008.

 Buck Gully Boundary	NCCP Species Locations (1996)	NCCP Conservation Value
	 Cactus Wren	 Low
	 California Gnatcatcher	 Medium
		 High

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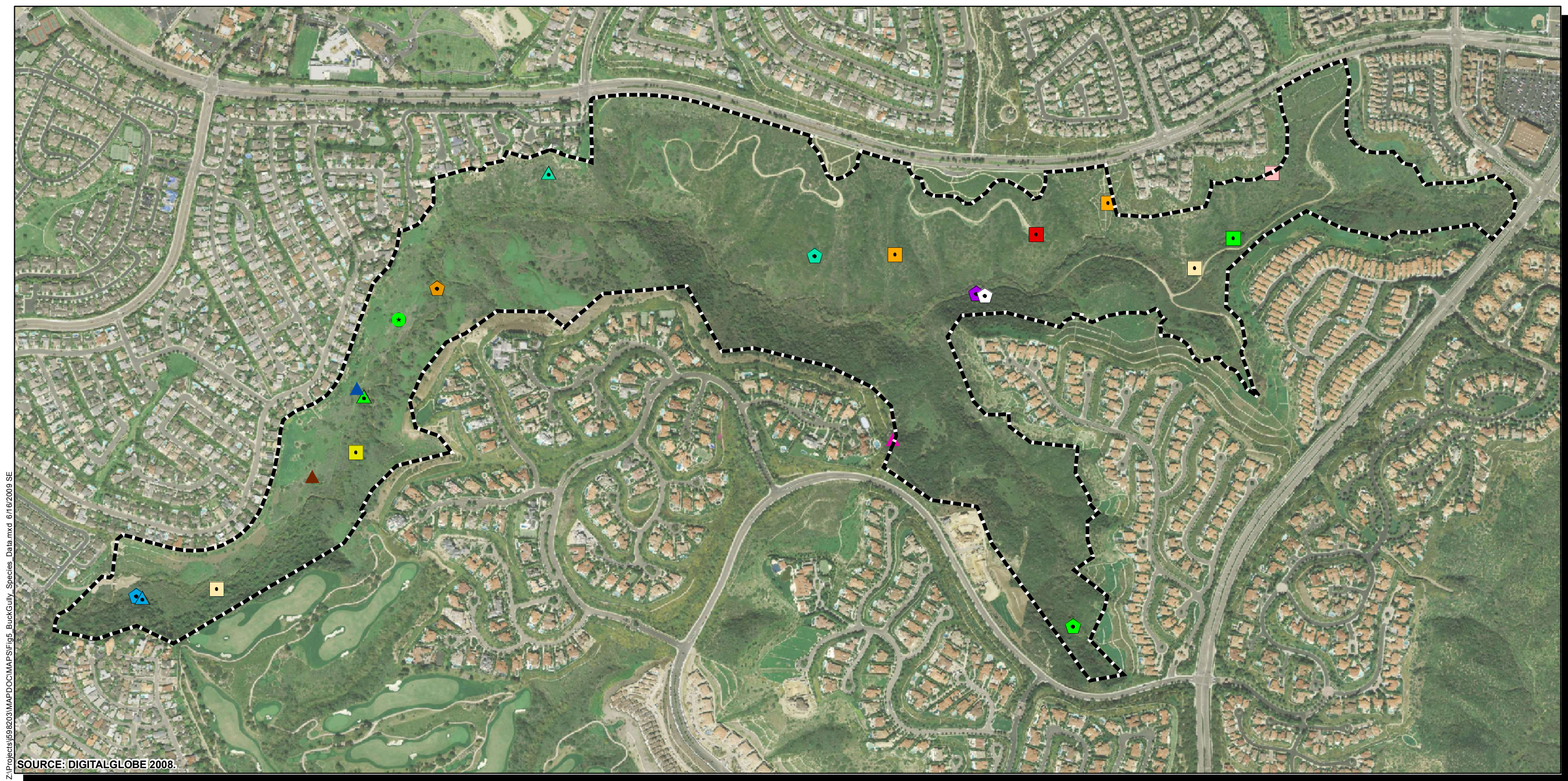
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Buck Gully Reserve - Resource & Recreation Management Plan
Sensitive Species Map NCCP Data

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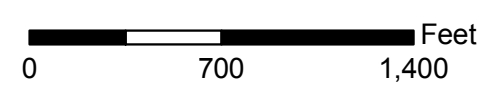


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SOURCE: DIGITALGLOBE 2008.

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Buck Gully Boundary | 2005 Species Data (Chambers) | 2004 Species Data (Dudek) | 2007 Species Data (Dudek) | Turkey Vulture | 1971-2002 Species Data (CNDDDB) | Coulter's Saltbush |
| | California Gnatcatcher | California Gnatcatcher | California Gnatcatcher | Willow Flycatcher | Coastal California Gnatcatcher | Mesa Horkelia |
| | Cooper's Hawk | Euphorbia misera | Red-Shouldered Hawk | Yellow Warbler | Coastal Cactus wren | Nuttall's Scrub Oak |
| | | Isocoma menziesii var. decumbens | Red-Tailed Hawk | Yellow-Breasted Chat | Coulter's Goldfields | Pacific Pocket Mouse |
| | | Least Bell's Vireo | Quercus dumosa (2008) | | | |

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Buck Gully Reserve - Resource & Recreation Management Plan
Sensitive Species Map

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Buck Gully Reserve Resource and Recreation Management Plan

The NROC serves numerous roles, including (1) coordinating participating land owners/managers activities to ensure consistency with the Central-Coastal NCCP/HCP, (2) receiving and distributing funds to Reserve owners/managers, (3) preparing annual reports for the wildlife agencies, (4) developing Reserve System management programs to implement the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP policies (Fire Management, Grazing, Recreation, and Restoration/Enhancement), (5) conducting and/or managing habitat/wildlife monitoring and invasive plant removal projects, (6) hiring staff to implement adaptive management activities, and (7) facilitating technical advisory committees comprised of NCCP/HCP participants and scientific experts.

NCCP/HCP Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan

As a requirement of the NCCP/HCP for the County Central-Coastal Subregion, a Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Plan (HREP) was prepared for NROC to guide ongoing and future management practices throughout the Reserve (LSA 2003). The HREP provides the programmatic framework for implementing the following:

- Identify range of conditions at potential restoration/enhancement areas
- Provide information on the most cost-effective methods of restoration/enhancement
- Estimate potential restoration opportunities by habitat type within the NROC
- Recommend resource allocation priorities for future restoration/enhancement
- Prepare guidelines for site-specific plans to maximize success, while minimizing costs of individual restoration/enhancement efforts
- Identify and prioritize areas for weed management within the Reserve.

The HREP focuses on habitat restoration and enhancement opportunities, priorities, and techniques for CSS vegetation communities. All activities are coordinated through NROC to ensure compliance with the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP program.

The plan identifies black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*), and garland chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*) as the primary exotic plants of concern within the HREP for Buck Gully. Other exotic species prioritized for Buck Gully include pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), wild fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), and myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*).

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NCCP/HCP Wildland Fire Management Plan

Buck Gully is designated as Fire Management Unit (FMU) 3.05 in the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP Wildland Fire Management Plan (NROC 2002). This area is recommended as an FMU in need of fuel treatment to protect life and property. Currently, fuel treatment associated with this FMU is restricted to hand cutting and chipping along the periphery in areas where residential development abuts the Reserve. Some hand-cutting encroachment onto NROC land is anticipated (NROC 2002). While the Central-Coastal Subregion NCCP/HCP Wildland Fire Management Plan (NROC 2002) recommends hand cutting and chipping or piling, mechanical (crushing), prescribed fire, or a combination of all three treatments as options for fuel reduction efforts, prescribed fire is not recommended in Buck Gully. Peripheral fuel treatment for this FMU is outlined by Sections 318 and 320 of the City of Newport Beach Fire Code, each of which are discussed in greater detail in the following sections.

1.3.5 City of Newport Beach Urban Wildland Interface Code



Section 318 of the City of Newport Beach Fire Code outlines requirements for the maintenance of defensible space for structures within City-defined Special Fire Protection Zones and is consistent with the guidelines set forth in California Public Resource Code 4291. Fuel treatment under this code is conducted within the area that extends 100 feet from the property line of residences along the northern and small portion of the southern edge of the BGR (Figure 6), known as the hazard reduction zone (HRZ). The City has recently installed T-posts along the outward edge of the HRZ in order to delineate its extent and minimize further encroachment into the BGR. The HRZ includes approximately 14.7 acres of the BGR and is subject to annual treatment by the City. Currently, the Newport Beach Fire Department (NBFD) manages a City maintenance contractor to annually treat vegetation in the HRZ that consists of manual trimming, mowing, and dead plant material removal. HRZ treatment takes place in summer months after the nesting season of resident bird species. Individual property owners are responsible for managing fuels on their property immediately adjacent to the HRZ.

1.3.6 City of Newport Beach Fuel Modification Zone Standard

Section 320 of the City Fire Code and Section 701A.4 of the City of Newport Beach Building Code outline fuel modification requirements for residential developments adjacent to the southern and eastern portions of the BGR, associated with the Newport Coast development. This standard requires fuel modification to extend from the exposed edge of structures outward to a horizontal distance of 170 feet and is consistent with the guidelines set forth in California Senate Bill 1595. Currently, all fuel modification zones (FMZ) for the Newport Coast area of the City lie outside the BGR boundary, thus, no encroachment into the BGR is anticipated.

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-  NBFD 100 Foot Hazard Reduction Area
-  Buck Gully Boundary

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Buck Gully Reserve - Resource & Recreation Management Plan
NBFD 100 Foot Hazard Reduction Zone

FIGURE
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