



Center for Natural
Lands Management

News from ...

Dana Point Preserve

Spring 2009

Preserve Facts

- 29.4 Acres
- Federally threatened and endangered species:
 - Coastal California Gnatcatcher; and
 - Pacific Pocket Mouse
- 89 Animal species
- 146 Plant species

Preserve Manager

Lee Ann Carranza
phone: 949 218-1145
Cell: 949-690-1118
P.O. Box 2162
Capistrano Beach, CA
92624
lcarranza@cnlm.org



About Our Organization ...

The Center for Natural Lands Management was founded in 1990 to protect sensitive biological resources through professional, science-based stewardship of mitigation and conservation lands in perpetuity.

Background on the Dana Point Preserve

This is the second newsletter prepared by the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) for those interested in learning more about the Dana Point Preserve (Preserve). CNLM is a non-profit organization that owns and manages the Preserve. CNLM manages more than 70 other properties throughout California.

The Preserve encompasses 29.4 acres of natural vegetation on the headlands

promontory, the old Marguerita Road revegetation area, and the area between the Marguerita Road and the new road (area outlined in red in Figure 1 on Page 4).

Through the generous donation of 15 million dollars by the Harry and Grace Steele Foundation, the Dana Point Preserve was purchased by CNLM. These funds also provided for an endowment to manage the Preserve in perpetuity.

Public Use of the Preserve

The Preserve will be open for pedestrian use once the nature interpretive center (currently under construction) is open.

The Preserve will have an entrance/exit gate at Scenic Drive and Dana Strand Road. The trail is a 0.5 mile dirt trail with an elevation change of 100 feet and steps in one section. There are 5 overlooks along the trail which will each have a bench.

The Preserve will be open daily from 7 a.m. to sunset. The gates will be locked 30 minutes after official sunset. The following rules of Preserve use will be enforced:

- NO WALKING OR HIKING OFF DESIGNATED TRAILS
- NO DOGS, HORSES OR PETS (except service guide dogs)
- NO BICYCLES OR SKATEBOARDS
- NO DUMPING OR LITTERING
- NO REMOVAL OR COLLECTING OF NATURAL MATERIALS
- NO ALCOHOL OR GLASS CONTAINERS
- NO CAMPING OR FIRES
- NO SMOKING

No pets, including dogs, even if they are on a leash are allowed. This is not only because of pet waste, but more importantly because native birds perceive dogs as predators and

expend energy and show other predator responses, which can result in harm to the birds, eggs, and chicks. Studies have shown that birds exhibit this response to four-legged animals such as dogs and horses, but do not exhibit the same level of predatory response to pedestrians.

We would appreciate your cooperation in helping to educate the public about the allowed activities on the Preserve.

A Preserve Manager will be on-site periodically once the trail is open to the public. However, if you need additional information or have a non-emergency issue, you can contact the Preserve Manager, Lee Ann Carranza, at 949-218-1145, or by cell phone at 949-690-1118.

At any time, if you notice any illegal activity, please contact the local Police Department at 949-770-6011. Dial 911 if it is an emergency.



Results of CNLM Activities in 2008



Pacific pocket mouse

The 2008 field season was busy and productive on the Preserve.

A botanical inventory was completed on the Preserve which resulted in identification of 147 species of plants. Of the 147 species, 51 were introduced non-native species and 10 were rare or sensitive. Two of the rare plant species were not known to occur on the Preserve previously.

A total of four federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher pairs were observed. All four pairs produced from three to four fledglings each.

Thirty unique individual federally endangered Pacific pocket mice (PPM) were captured on the Preserve.

Nearly half an acre of PPM habitat was enhanced by removal of leaf litter/branches in open sand areas that could be used by PPM.

Predator monitoring revealed the following mammalian species on-site: bobcat, raccoon, skunk, domestic dog, coyote and opossum.

No cats were observed within the Preserve.

CNLM Activities Planned for 2009

The 2009 field season for biological monitoring on the Preserve has begun. The CNLM Preserve Manager is conducting coastal California gnatcatcher surveys and predator monitoring. Vegetation and rare plant monitoring will be conducted by CNLM staff in the spring. The Preserve Manager will continue to patrol the Preserve and trail, pick up trash within the Preserve, and address trespass issues.

CNLM will again be contracting expert biologists to monitor pacific pocket mice (PPM). Please remember that PPM monitoring is conducted in the evening hours. Typically, traps are set around 5:00 p.m., checked around midnight, and dismantled around 5:00 a.m.

The coastal California gnatcatcher and PPM monitoring is overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). All the biologists conducting such activities possess the necessary Federal and State permits to conduct such activities.

If cats are identified within the Preserve, the Preserve Manager will remove the cats using humane live traps and take them to the San Clemente/Dana Point Animal Shelter at 221 Avenida Fabricante in San Clemente. Please ensure your pet cat is not outside at night and has identification.

You may also see contractors employed by Headlands Reserve, LLC removing non-native plant species within the Preserve.



Male coastal California gnatcatcher



Gnatcatcher nest with four eggs

How You Can Help

You can help ensure the continued beauty of the Preserve and the safety of its native species in the following ways:

- Keep cats indoors, particularly at night
- Report feral cats to City and/or Preserve Manager
- Do not feed stray or wild animals
- Secure all outdoor trash receptacles
- When possible, discourage littering and trespass by visitors to the Preserve
- Contact the Preserve Manager with any concerns.

CNLM is a 501(c)(3) organization that is able to accept charitable contributions. In October, 2007, Jacqueline Cain, a Dana Point resident and active advocate for preservation of the Dana Point Headlands, died. A memorial gathering was held on the Preserve. Jacqueline Cain's family asked, that in lieu of flowers, money be donated to CNLM for the Preserve. Some of the donated funds were used to purchase two infrared wildlife cameras and associated supplies. The cameras have become invaluable tools for monitoring wildlife on the Preserve.



Photo of coyote from remote wildlife camera

Coordination with the City of Dana Point

The CNLM Dana Point Preserve is not the only natural open space associated with the Headlands Development Project. The City of Dana Point (City) will also be responsible for three natural open space preserves: 1) Hilltop Park; 2) Harbor View Park; and 3) South Strand Open Space. CNLM and the City will coordinate our respective management activities to benefit the sensitive species found on our collective properties.

A public trail system, over three miles in length, links all the parks and open space areas of the Headlands. The system includes pedestrian trails, coastal and beach access, scenic overlooks, and a Nature Interpretive Center. The trails maximize public coastal access and ocean view opportunities. These trails provide a comprehensive system that reinforces the relationship between the Headlands, the beaches, the Harbor, and the Pacific Ocean.

The parks and trails can be reached either off of Green Lantern or at Dana Strand Road. Limited parking is available along these streets or at the Nature Interpretive Center parking lot.

The City trails are expected to have the same hours as the CNLM Dana Point Preserve: 7:00 a.m. to sunset daily.



Nature Interpretive Center/Docent Program

A small Nature Interpretive Center will be located adjacent to the Preserve, at the terminus of Street of the Green Lantern.

The facility will include educational, management and operational space designed as a visitor center for the open space parks.

The Nature Interpretive Center will be operated by the City of Dana Point (City) and will serve as operational headquarters for both CNLM and City staff.

The City hired a Natural Resources Protection Officer, Jeff Rosaler, to help coordinate and manage the Interpretive Center, the City-owned parks and trails, and the adjacent Marine Protected Areas.

The City is currently seeking qualified and enthusiastic volunteers to help facilitate the Nature Interpretive Center experience and lead tours along the trail system of the open space parks. If interested, please contact the Natural Resources Protection Officer, Jeff Rosaler, at jrosaler@danapoint.org.





**Center for Natural
Lands Management**

For more information
or to contribute,
contact us at:
215 West Ash Street
Fallbrook, CA 92028

PHONE
760 731-7790

FAX
760 731-7791

E-MAIL
info@cnlm.org

WEB
www.CNLM.org

More Preserve details
may be found on our
website:

WWW.CNLM.ORG

Click on PRESERVES
and watch the video

*"Rise Early, Stay Late,
and Take Care of the
Land."*

How to Stay Informed

The best way to ensure you receive future issues of this newsletter is to contact the Preserve Manager, Lee Ann Carranza, with your specific contact information (name, address, phone, and e-mail address). Please indicate whether you would prefer to receive future newsletters electronically.

This newsletter and future issues will be available on our website at www.CNLM.org by selecting 'Preserves' and then 'Dana Point'.



Figure 1: Area outlined in red is the Dana Point Preserve, owned and managed by the Center for Natural Lands Management. The green line represents the future pedestrian trail.



Lee Ann Carranza, Preserve Manager
Center for Natural Lands Management
P.O. Box 2162
Capistrano Beach, CA 92624