

Western Ecological Research Center <http://www.werc.usgs.gov>

San Diego Field Station

The San Diego Field Station, created in 1992, is located in southern California, a region characterized by both unparalleled natural biodiversity and an enormous human population whose continued growth and expansion threaten many native species and habitats. This region has more endangered and threatened species than any other area in the continental United States, and once extensive natural communities have been reduced to mere remnants. It is thus essential to manage biodiversity in remaining habitats while providing opportunities for other appropriate uses of the land.

Scientists at the San Diego Field Station conduct research on the ecology and management of sensitive vertebrate species in southern California and Mexico, in riparian, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and desert habitats. In so doing, the field station supports the information needs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, and other clients in the region to develop sound management and monitoring plans, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies in preserving regional biodiversity. San Diego Field Station offices are located in facilities at San Diego State University's Coastal Waters Laboratory, with satellite offices in Irvine (located with the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve Trust) and in Carlsbad (located with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Ongoing research at the station includes population and life-history studies of native birds, reptiles, and



C. Brown, USGS

amphibians with an emphasis on endangered species; the effectiveness of riparian restoration in providing suitable habitat for wildlife; behavioral responses of carnivores to habitat fragmentation and human activity; identifying landscape connectivity for wide-ranging species; the effect of exotic vegetation on native habitats and wildlife; and the impact of reserve design on vertebrate diversity. Community-level studies address the effects of wildfire on animal populations and habitats, and monitor their recovery. Researchers at the station also lead projects developing regional and national databases providing centralized storage and retrieval of data on species of concern.

See **Lead Scientists** on reverse side of this sheet.



B. Kus, M. Mendelsohn, L. Lyren, USGS





Lead Scientists

Erin Boydston, Ph.D., Research Ecologist

- Carnivore ecology
- Animal behavior
- Wildlife conservation

Robert N. Fisher, Ph.D., Research Zoologist, Research Professor of Biology, San Diego State University (SDSU)

- Herpetology, including declining species
- Conservation biology
- Monitoring program design for vertebrates
- Reserve design

Barbara E. Kus, Ph.D., Research Ecologist, Research Professor of Biology, SDSU

- Avian ecology
- Endangered species management and conservation
- Community ecology of riparian birds
- Riparian habitat restoration

For more information, contact:

USGS WERC San Diego Field Station
4165 Spruance Road, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: 619-225-6420 Fax: 619-225-6436

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