

Regional Conservation Authority

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF MSHCP
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

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Background:

Attached is Semi-Annual Report of MSHCP Management Activities (#08-01) prepared for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority by the Natural Resources Management Division, Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District, January 2009.

This report covers the first six month period of Fiscal Year 2008-09. It describes management activities directed and funded by the RCA and performed by Park District staff dedicated to MSHCP reserve maintenance under the Reserve Management Services Contract dated January 31, 2006. The report illustrates costs for labor, equipment and incidental expenses, such as trash/dumping fees, services and supplies, and presents a narrative of typical Reserve Management activities. Table 2 of the Report lists, by property name and ownership, 27,176 acres of MSHCP properties managed by the District. Currently twenty six (26) properties (6,424 acres) are owned by the County. Fourteen of these properties (2,773 acres) are in the process of title transfer to the RCA, but it is anticipated that 3,651 acres will remain in County ownership.

Executive Committee and Staff Recommendation:

That the RCA Board of Directors receive and file the Semi-Annual Report of MSHCP Management Activities.

Attachment:

- 1) Semi-Annual Report of MSHCP Management Activities
- 2) Habitat Management Units Map

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.2

Attachment 1 Semi-Annual Report of MSHCP Management Activities

**Semi-Annual Report
of
MSHCP Management Activities
(#08-01)**

**Prepared for the
Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority**



Prepared by:

**Natural Resources Management Division
Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District**

January, 2009

This report represents the first semi-annual report for the fiscal year 2008-2009 (FY) concerning the management of properties acquired by the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) and the County of Riverside (County) that are managed by the Riverside County Regional Park & Open Space District (District or Management) under the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). It covers the time period of July to December, 2008. Authority for this management is pursuant to the Reserve Management Services Contract, dated January 31, 2006. It covers only those lands managed by the District, and not other RCA and County lands managed by other entities.

New Personnel and Equipment: At the end of the reporting period, the District maintains 8.75 F.T.E. personnel assigned to the MSHCP program. The positions are:

Table 1. Summary of Management Positions

POSITION	NAME	F.T.E.
Natural Resources Manager	Ronald J. Baxter	0.75
Natural Resources Specialist	Dustin McLean	1.00
Park Ranger Supervisor	Ruben Rodriguez	1.00
Park Ranger II	Johnny Garcia	1.00
Park Ranger II	Robert Williams	1.00
Park Ranger I	Jeffrey Gorman	1.00
Park Maintenance Worker	Richard Chagolla	1.00
Park Maintenance Worker	Jeffrey Burke	1.00
Park Maintenance Worker	Alfredo Salazar	1.00

Two new personnel were added during the reporting period (Gorman – October 8th, Salazar – September 8th). Both these positions were not filled during the previous fiscal year, and were rolled over to the current reporting period. Of particular note, Robert Williams completed his mandatory requirements, and has been promoted to Ranger II during this time period.

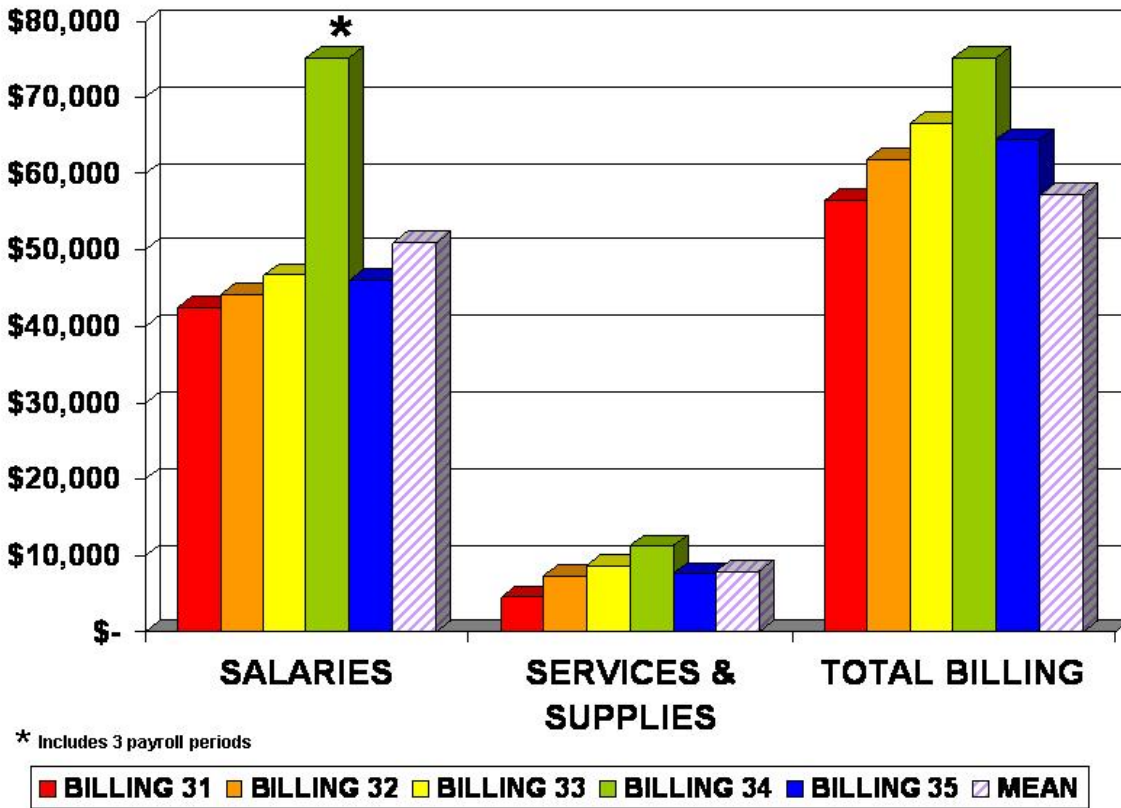
Few pieces of major equipment were purchased during the period. Some notable exceptions were the acquisition of a second pneumatic T-post driver, a cable swaging tool, a bench-top cut-off tool, and an electric motor to re-furbish an existing drill press.

All MSHCP vehicles have now had County-frequency radios installed. Additionally, a base station radio was purchased and installed at the Natural Resources Management (NRM) office.

Two new vehicles (Ford Ranger pick-up, Ford F-250 club cab pick-up) have been ordered, but have yet to be delivered.

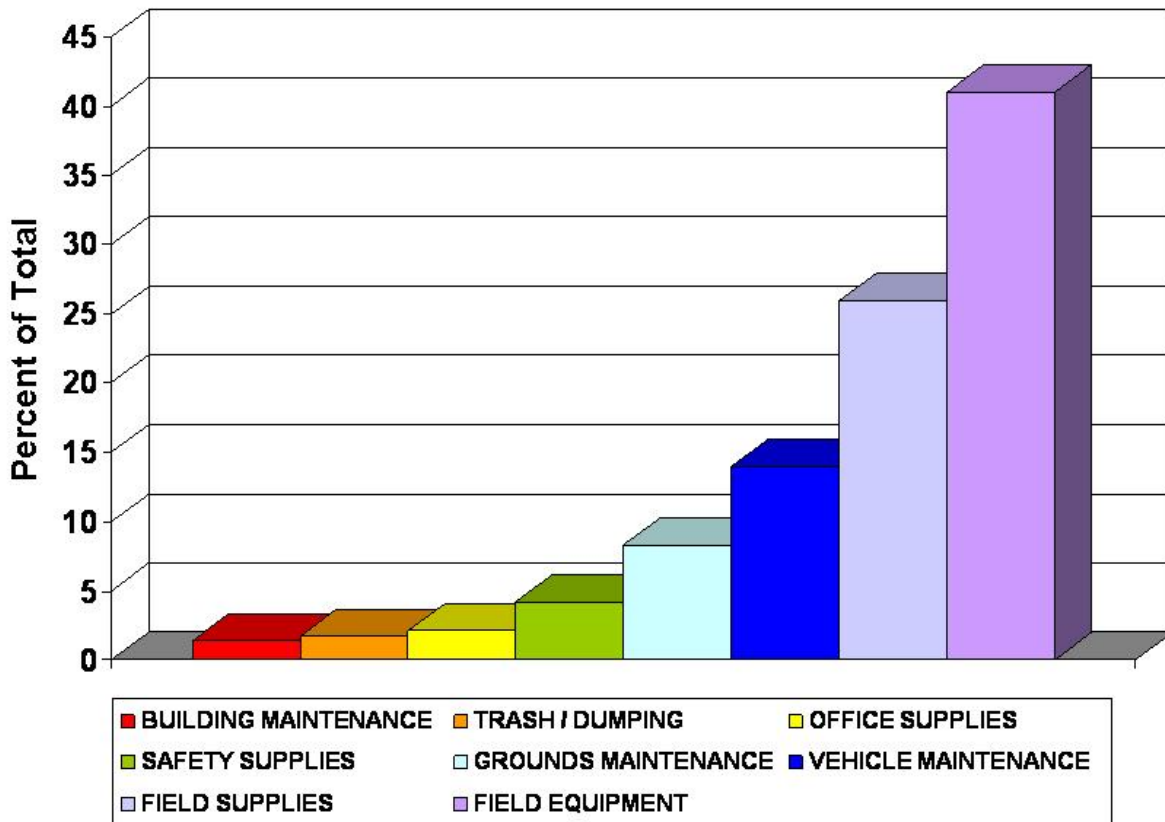
Figure 1 shows the costs associated with both person-hours and direct costs for each of the billing periods available as of this writing. Note that costs were as of yet encountered for the two new vehicles on order.

Figure 1. Monthly Labor - Services & Supplies – Total Billings



Costs show a slight, steady increase during the reporting period as new properties are added and new personnel come on-board. Costs dropped for the last billing some as acquisitions slowed and new personnel were, by that time, in the system. Salaries seemed to have averaged around \$50,000 per billing period, while direct costs seemed to have stabilized around \$10,000 per billing period.

Figure 2. Summary of Direct Costs



Direct costs are primarily associated with the purchase of field supplies and equipment. These categories include many of the fencing supplies, signs, cement, and metal stock and welding supplies for the construction of gates.

Acquisitions: Currently the District manages well over 450 individual parcels at 124 distinct sites. Total area managed is 27,175 acres of which 19.59 acres are owned by the Economic Development Department, 38.48 Acres are owned by the District, 3,003.52 acres are owned by the County, and 20,752.10 acres have been purchased by the RCA. Table 2 (below) lists the sites and their respective reserves, *en toto*, that are managed by the District as of this writing. New properties are added monthly to the inventory, and steps are underway to transfer the title of the County parcels to the RCA. Figure 3 graphically shows the relative acres per HMU.

Table 2. Summary of Properties Managed

	NAME	HMU	RESERVE	ACRES	OWNER
1	ALLEN	Menifee	MEN2	9.50	RCA
2	ARCHER	Menifee	MEN1	36.34	RCA
3	BAEZ	Cactus Valley	CAC1	20.72	RCA
4	BELL	Sage	SAG1	109.04	RCA
5	BENTON 36 / YOO	Menifee	MEN2	36.63	RCA
6	BERGMAN	Sage	SAG3	156.91	RCA
7	BETTS	Sage	SAG1	5.02	RCA
8	BFW CORONA	Gavilan	GAV2	3.01	RCA
9	BIGGERSTAFF	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	21.31	RCA
10	BOLTON	Gavilan	GAV1	58.87	RCA
11	BORCHARD	Menifee	MEN1	109.07	RCA
12	BUTCHART	Gavilan	GAV2	39.56	COUNTY
13	BUTTON, JEFF	Sage	SAG2	19.85	RCA
14	CAMPION	Gavilan	GAV4	5.21	RCA
15	CASA MODELO	Menifee	MEN1	71.41	RCA
16	CLARK	Menifee	MEN1	44.42	RCA
17	CORDES	Cactus Valley	CAC1	104.21	RCA
18	CORDOVA	Sage	SAG2	2,406.03	RCA
19	CORONA CANYON DONATION	Gavilan	GAV2	2.20	RCA
20	CUCCIA/VOGEL	San Timoteo	TIM2	666.36	RCA
21	DAMIETTA RANCH	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	11.35	RCA
22	DAMIETTA RANCH / ELDAHMY	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	10.37	RCA
23	DE JESUS	Sage	SAG3	19.39	RCA
24	DEETZ	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM1	77.66	RCA
25	DINH	Sage	SAG1	38.64	RCA
26	DORFNER	Sage	SAG2	19.19	RCA
27	EL SOL VINEYARD HILL DONATION	Menifee	MEN3	397.94	RCA
28	ELSINORE LAKEVIEW ESTATES	Menifee	MEN1	31.02	RCA
29	ELSINORE LAKEVIEW VILLAS	Menifee	MEN1	76.66	RCA
30	ENDRES / LARSON	Menifee	MEN2	40.66	COUNTY
31	FETHKE	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	26.77	RCA
32	FRANCIS	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	63.97	RCA
33	GABRYCH	Sage	SAG2	641.21	RCA
34	GELLER	Sage	SAG2	233.47	RCA
35	GELLER-GAMBILL	Sage	SAG2	163.29	COUNTY
36	GENTRY	Menifee	MEN2	29.49	COUNTY
37	GOODHART	Cactus Valley	CAC1	909.02	RCA
38	GREER	Menifee	MEN4	21.36	RCA
39	GRITTON	Gavilan	GAV3	147.71	COUNTY
40	GSKM	San Timoteo	TIM4	77.96	RCA
41	HALL	Menifee	MEN2	10.39	RCA
42	HARITON	Gavilan	GAV2	74.72	RCA
43	HIGGINS	San Jacinto	JAC2	131.85	RCA
44	HOLDEN	Menifee	MEN2	5.31	RCA

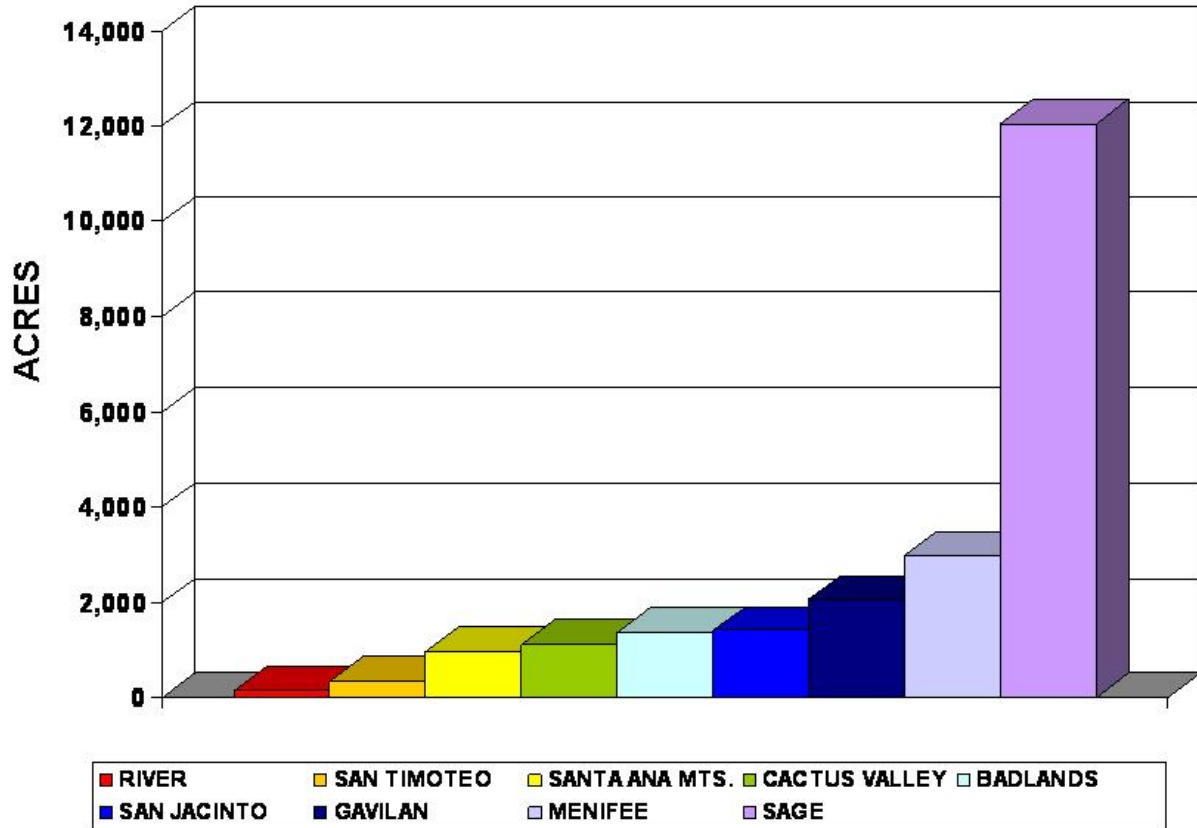
45	JAGLOWSKI	Menifee	MEN2	6.27	RCA
46	JALEM	Sage	SAG2	1,156.04	RCA
47	JENNINGS	Sage	SAG3	19.55	RCA
48	JOHNSON	Gavilan	GAV3	21.38	RCA
49	JPR, INC	Sage	SAG3	887.68	COUNTY
50	JPR, INC (6)	Sage	SAG3	321.60	RCA
51	KARAM	Sage	SAG1	83.29	RCA
52	KELLY	Sage	SAG3	16.00	RCA
53	KIANG	Sage	SAG3	20.10	RCA
54	KIRCHNER	Sage	SAG3	152.69	RCA
55	KOBASHI	Menifee	MEN2	5.90	RCA
56	KRAMER	San Timoteo	TIM4	154.33	RCA
57	LAKE SKINNER INVESTORS	Menifee	MEN3	293.10	COUNTY
58	LANCINA	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	20.31	RCA
59	LEB, (LILIEDAHL)	Sage	SAG2	18.67	RCA
60	LEDBETTER	Menifee	MEN3	41.19	COUNTY
61	LICATA	Sage	SAG1	18.31	RCA
62	LIFE SPRINGS	Cactus Valley	CAC1	55.54	RCA
63	LONG BEACH EQUITIES	Gavilan	GAV2	300.59	COUNTY
64	MAUGER	Gavilan	GAV2	32.99	RCA
65	MC ELINNEY / STIMMEL	Menifee	MEN2	365.91	COUNTY
66	McLAUGHLIN	Menifee	MEN2	9.44	RCA
67	MILLER / TURRELL (POWELL FIN.)	Cactus Valley	CAC1	19.53	RCA
68	MMI / BDI	San Timoteo	TIM1	132.43	RCA
69	MORRING	San Timoteo	TIM3	359.78	RCA
70	MURRIETA, AUSTIN	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	60.62	RCA
71	NORTH PEAK #1	Gavilan	GAV3	79.51	RCA
72	NORTH PEAK #2	Gavilan	GAV3	334.43	COUNTY
73	NORTH PEAK #3	Gavilan	GAV3	193.12	COUNTY
74	NORTH PEAK #4	Gavilan	GAV3	166.80	COUNTY
75	OAK VALLEY PARTNERS	San Timoteo	TIM3	756.73	RCA
76	ODEGAARD	Sage	SAG2	111.42	RCA
77	OLDAR	Sage	SAG2	76.65	RCA
78	PAUL	Gavilan	GAV2	438.81	COUNTY
79	PECUNIARY	San Timoteo	TIM2	179.89	RCA
80	PICO THOMPSON RANCH (+CALVARY)	San Jacinto	JAC2	1,272.67	RCA
81	RECHE CANYON DONATION	San Timoteo	TIM2	38.48	RIVCO PARKS
82	REYNOLDS PHASE I	Gavilan	GAV2	123.16	RCA
83	RICHMOND AMERICAN	Menifee	MEN2	8.46	RCA
84	RIVERSIDE CLARK	San Timoteo	TIM3	724.19	RCA
85	RIVERSIDE LAND CONSERVANCY	San Timoteo	TIM3	117.08	COUNTY
86	RLC/EL CASCO	San Timoteo	TIM3	6.87	COUNTY
87	ROTH	Sage	SAG2	82.78	COUNTY
88	ROTH, JOHN AND EMMA	Gavilan	GAV4	27.77	RCA
89	RULLO	Menifee	MEN2	80.42	RCA

90	RUNNELLS	Sage	SAG1	15.04	RCA
91	SANDERS / SV 101 / HAMMACK	Sage	SAG2	166.45	RCA
92	SANTOS	Sage	SAG3	77.04	RCA
93	SCHEER	Menifee	MEN2	6.32	RCA
94	SCHLEUNIGER	Menifee	MEN1	58.55	RCA
95	SCHMELING	Badlands	BAD1	308.94	COUNTY
96	SDI	Sage	SAG2	162.63	RCA
97	SHIANG	Menifee	MEN2	25.25	RCA
98	SMITH	Sage	SAG2	18.37	RCA
99	SOLIS	Sage	SAG1	20.33	COUNTY
100	SOUTHSHORE TTM 32013 DONATION	Menifee	MEN1	22.81	RCA
101	SPRINGBROOK	San Timoteo	TIM1	15.73	RCA
102	SSR		Varies	1,261.29	RCA
103	STOCKDALE	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	35.00	RCA
104	TAX SALE #5		Varies	91.84	COUNTY
105	TAX SALE AGRMT# 4289		Varies	19.59	EDA
106	TELEDYNE	River	RIV1	144.30	RCA
107	THOMPSON	Sage	SAG3	150.76	RCA
108	TRAN/CLARKE	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM3	40.58	RCA
109	TRI VALLEY	Santa Ana Mts.	SAM1	590.88	COUNTY
110	UNITED FIVE STAR	Sage	SAG2	1,266.43	RCA
111	VOGEL	San Timoteo	TIM2	160.44	RCA
112	WALKER	Sage	SAG3	92.61	RCA
113	WALLIS/MULLINGS	Sage	SAG1	19.69	RCA
114	WEIGEL	Sage	SAG1	94.48	RCA
115	WHITE ROCK	Menifee	MEN1	677.68	COUNTY
116	WILLIAMS	Sage	SAG3	111.87	RCA
117	WILSON CREEK	Sage	SAG2	987.11	COUNTY
118	WILSON CREEK (MULDER)	Sage	SAG1	359.86	RCA
119	WILSON CREEK CB (SDI COMM.)	Sage	SAG2	463.16	RCA
120	WINCHESTER 700 (ANZA)	Sage	SAG3	395.61	RCA
121	WINCHESTER 700 (MURRIETA)	Menifee	MEN2	454.43	RCA
122	WINCHESTER 700 (SAGE)	Sage	SAG2	1,191.43	RCA
123	WOLFSKILL / DRISCOLL	Badlands	BAD1	1,051.96	RCA
124	WON YOO LAND EXCHANGE	Sage	SAG2	39.68	COUNTY
			TOTAL:	27,175.70	

NOTE: Ownership determined from Assessor's Parcel GIS layer

The vast majority of the properties reside within the Sage Habitat Management Unit (HMU). New acquisitions there have focused on the Wilson Valley / Billy Goat Mountain area and the Beauty Peak / Silverado area. Other significant acquisitions have been in the Menifee HMU, especially around the "hogback" of Warm Spring Creek, and the areas surrounding the Goodhart property in the Cactus Valley HMU.

Figure 3. Acres by Habitat Management Unit (HMU)



During this reporting period, a total of 3,853.77 acres of newly acquired property was inspected for gross impacts. Also during this time, 17 Initial Management and Evaluation Reports (IMER) were completed. These included:

- Bolton
- Wallis Mullings
- DeJesus
- Southshore
- Bergman
- Elsinore Lakeview Estates

- Wilson Creek
- Kiang
- El Sol
- BFW Corona
- SSR Investments
- Baez
- Licata
- Borchard
- Corona Canyon
- Button
- Greet

Enforcement and Maintenance Efforts: Enforcement and maintenance during the reporting period continued to focus on three principle tasks; access controls, interdiction, education.

To help fight raising costs, and to comply with County edicts regarding budget cuts, Management has taken on a much greater share of fencing “in house.” As a result, no contract fencing was completed during this reporting period. Bids were solicited for a 1,225-foot fencing and gate job on the Winchester 700 sites at Anza and Sage. This project is slated to being in February or March, 2009.

In contrast, 0.71-mile of fencing was installed this period by Management Staff. This fencing is shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Summary of In-House Fencing Projects

SITE	LINEAR FEET
El Toro Cut-Off	600
United Five Star	1.600
Silverado	100
Bell / Weigel	200
Kramer Extension	200
Teledyne Extension	200

Winchester 700 (Reed Valley)	400
Borchard Extension	200
Campion	150
Roth	150

Enforcement efforts continued to focus on the interdiction of off-road vehicles (OHV). Continuous repair of vandalized gates and fences, along with patrolling were the norms of activity. Unfortunately, some specific problem sites prevented Rangers from establishing a regular schedule. These high activity areas included; Pecuniary, Oak Valley, Teledyne, Bar Higgins, North Peak #1, Southshore TTM, Elsinore Lakeview Estates, Wolfskill-Driscoll, Gabrych, Winchester 700, SDI, Cordova, and Silverado Ranch. Vandalism of gates, signs, and fences is very common at these sites.

Other significant routine activities included confrontations with target shooters, paintballers, and hunters. For the most part, individuals encountered were grudgingly cooperative, but it should be noted that most passed posted signs to get to where they were intercepted.

Some of the more serious encounters included the coming across of car thieves stripping at car on RCA land, frequent bathes of rocks and dirt as OHV motorcyclists spin-out and kick rocks at the vehicles (in one case cracking a windshield), and a ranger being pinned between his vehicle door and frame as an OHV rider slammed into to it to escape.

Other tasks of interest include the working with Boy Scouts to complete the construction of an informational kiosk at the El Sol property, and the fencing and gating of a parking area there. To date, it has not been opened to the public. We also coordinated activity with the Riverside County Code Enforcement and the RCHCA for a joint clean-up effort at Lake Street (Butchart and Long Beach properties). Finally, an organized mountain bike event was re-routed off the Teledyne property when it was discovered that they never had received permission from the City of Fontana to cross DSFLF critical habitat.

Figure 4. Relative Activity per Habitat Management Unit (HMU)

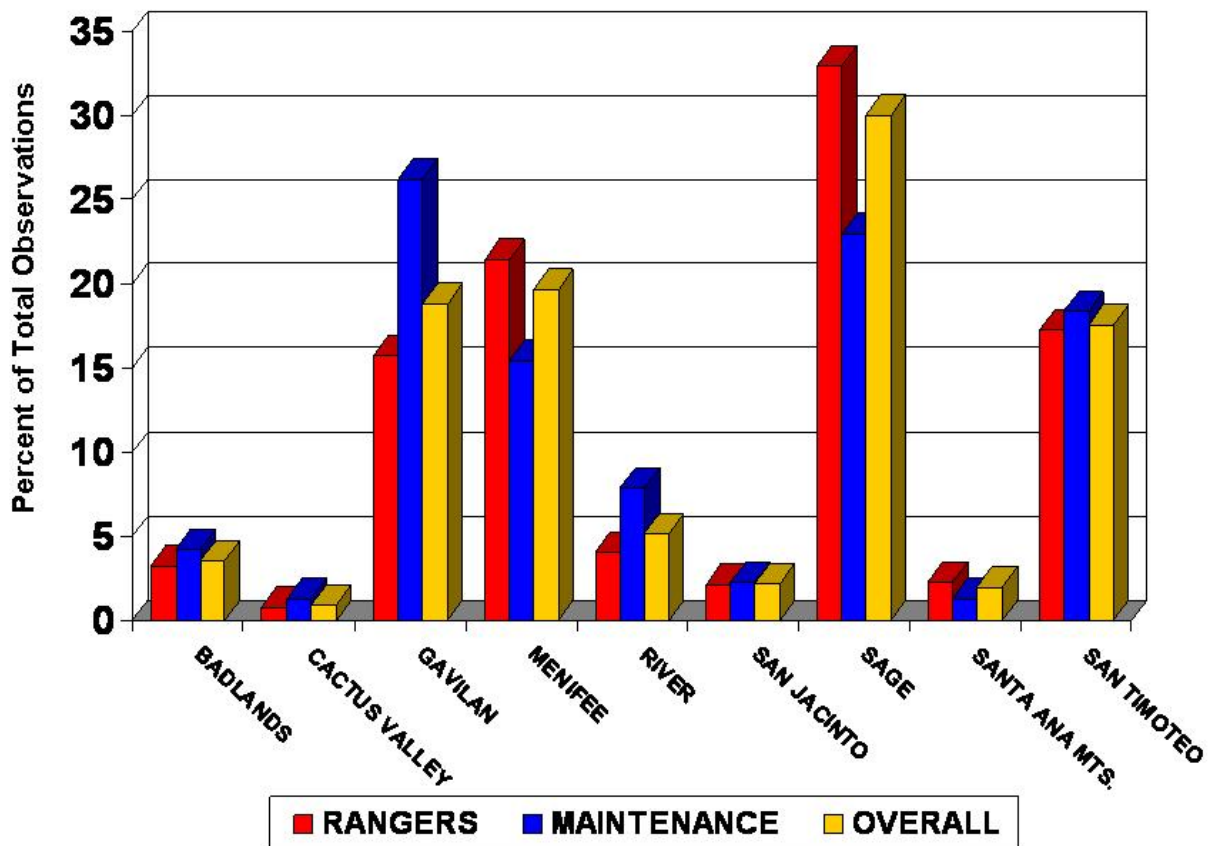
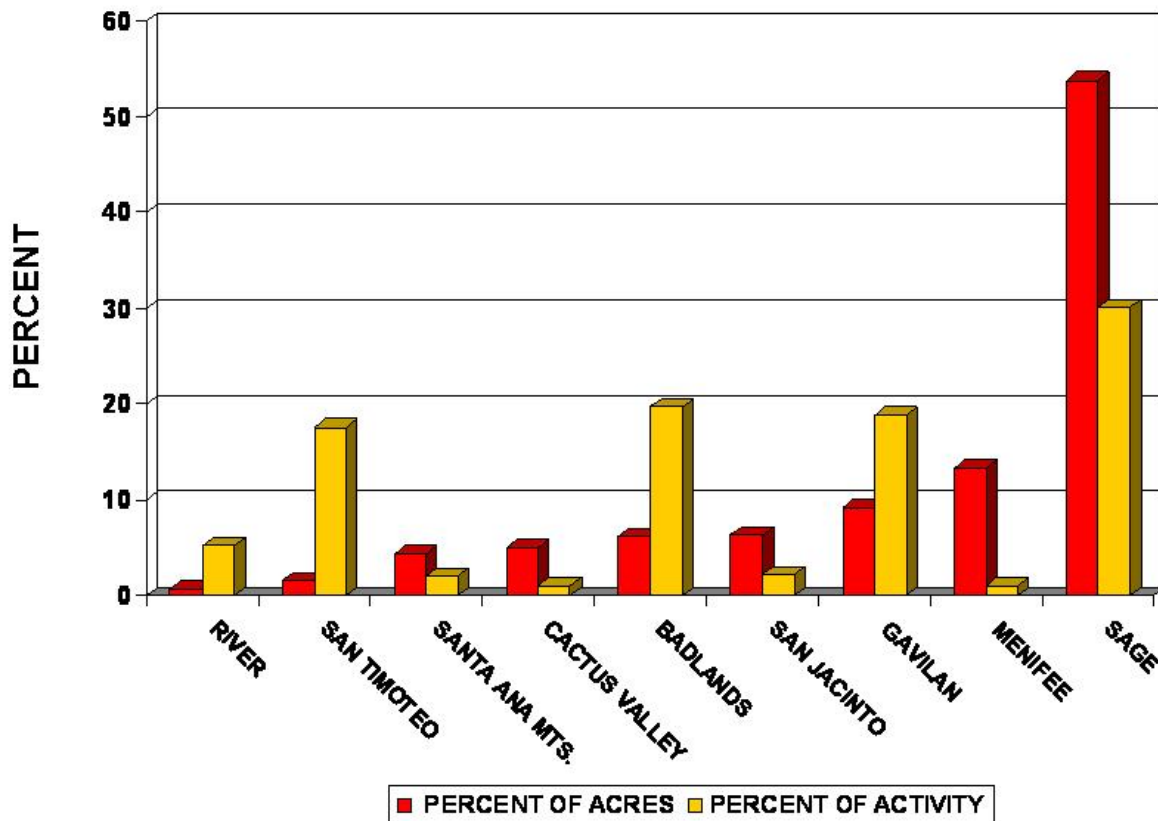


Figure 4 shows the relative frequency of patrol and maintenance events per HMU. As expected, Sage HMU accounts for the majority of time. This is followed by a relative consistent effort at Gavilan, Menifee and San Timoteo. This is to be expected because these areas support the most contentious of sites in terms of enforcement.

Figure 5 shows the percent of the frequency of events in relation to the relative percent of acres in each HMU. Patterns are hard to discern. As expected the HMU with the most acres supports the most activity, however, not proportionately so. Conversely, some HMUs with relatively few acres (i.e., San Timoteo, Badlands and Gavilan) seem to support more activity than their relative acreage would intuitively predict. This points out the important effects that individual parcels, along with their surrounding and historical uses, can have on management costs. That is, even smaller acreages may require a disproportionate amount of effort depending if they are, for instance, historically and continually used for OHV use, and/or are adjacent to development (i.e., their relative isolation). Thus predictions of management costs on a per acre basis may be suspect.

Figure 5. Percent Acres vs. Percent Activity



Habitat Enhancement: This was the first reporting period where significant habitat enhancement activities were undertaken. Although still not accomplished to the extent we would wish, several projects were completed.

- At least 36 invasive tamarisk trees were cut, treated and removed from the ponds at the Bolton property. This is to enhance the habitat for western pond turtles found in some abundance there.
- Also at Bolton, Management coordinated and assisted in the removal of literally tons of scrap metal and junk cars (25) and old tires (>65) which had been piled up in an eddy of Cajalco Creek.
- El Sol burrowing owl habitat management has been ongoing. Management assisted a local Boy Scout troop in the creation of 13 artificial burrows at the site. Manual thinning of the vegetation at the artificial and natural burrows occurred. Maintenance of the artificial burrows was conducted twice during the reporting period, and an annual inspection of the burrows was completed in December, 2008. Finally, cattle were allowed to graze on the site as an experiment to determine their effects on non-native grass density.

- At Shiang, a large stand of the invasive exotic grass, *Arundo donax*, or giant reed, was cut, removed and treated to prevent its reoccurrence. This *Arundo* was blocking the only wildlife movement structure (culverts) which pass under Interstate 215.
- Management has been working to integrate monitoring of the golden-spotted oak boring beetle (GSOB) and will soon be placing sampling traps at several of the site in the Santa Ana Mountains HMU.
- Post-fire photo-documentation at Kramer has continued to help visually assess the re-establishment of vegetation there.
- Efforts are ongoing to produce a generalized fire response plan for the RCA lands. A draft plan has been created, and is currently under edit by the RCA and the RCA's fire consultant.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7.2

Attachment 2

Habitat Management Units Map

