

## G. Infrastructure & Administration

The CPNA is jointly administered by the BLM, TNC and the DFG. These managing partners have routine, (generally monthly) coordination meetings to discuss issues that affect the CPNA and its management. Because of logistics, (funding, lack of utilities and existing suitable office space) a proposed joint administrative site hasn't been developed. At this time, all managing partners have separate administrative headquarters on the CPNA.

### 1. Infrastructure



Existing developments, facilities and structures, such as houses, barns, wells, pumps, generators, roads, fences, corrals and so forth, are present in varying levels of utility and quantity. Many of the buildings, barns and fences throughout the CPNA are in poor repair, while others needed for current operations are being repaired as budgets allow. Facilities owned by third parties (such as utility lines, ROW easements, pipelines and so forth) are the individual owners' responsibility. A description of these items are listed in the Technical Appendix.

Nineteen wells are functioning or serviceable on the CPNA: 13 are currently used for livestock and wildlife water and 6 are for human consumption; 10 of these have water storage tanks available for fire fighting. The wells range from 150 to 400 feet in depth. Water levels are monitored by SLO County officials periodically. The recharge rate for the wells varies considerably by well location and time of year. Recharge rate estimates have not been calculated on all the wells at this time. Water quality is tested, as needed, to assure potability. Some wells in the area have been documented to have high levels of uranium, sulphur, or arsenic. Most of the wells are pumped by submersible pumps either powered by generators or commercial power. Galvanized water tanks ranging in size from 2,000 - 40,000 gallons are usually located at the well site for water storage.

The Goodwin Education Center is a CPNA facility, built and owned by TNC but operated by the managing partners. It's generally open December 1 through May 31, and is staffed by a cooperatively funded position, trained volunteers and docents. It has a relatively large display area, with exhibits, paintings, and a diorama. This facility has commercial power and phone service.

The BLM, DFG, and TNC manage a variety of facilities on their individual properties. The next section describes these facilities by land owner.

BLM: The MU Ranch, located at the southern end of the CPNA, has many developments and features that are valuable to the managing partners. These include a house, triple-wide mobile home, water well, variety of sheds and outbuildings and corrals. Most significantly, it has commercial power and telephone service. It may function as a temporary or permanent administrative location to house employees, researchers and volunteers conducting work on the CPNA. The Hanline Ranch, a few miles north of the MU facility, is the primary water source for the MU as well as the rest of the southern end of the MU Ranch. It has two 40,000 gallon water tanks, a well, corrals and commercial power. The water tanks have been incorporated into the fire protection plan for the CPNA. The Washburn Ranch, currently the main BLM administrative site, has a large residence that functions as an office, staff quarters and a fire station. Ancillary structures and improvements include a non-potable domestic water system with a 5,000 gallon tank, two propane-powered generators with a 10,000 gallon propane tank, radio phone, three areas that are designated for additional housing, barns, outbuildings and corrals. The biggest drawback to the full utilization of the Washburn site is the lack of commercial power, telephone service and potable water.

TNC: The Goodwin Ranch, on the northern edge of the CPNA, has served as the primary residence and administrative site for TNC. It has a permanent residence, supplied with propane, telephone, solar power, and includes several barns and outbuildings. There is a non-potable water system including two 5,000 gallon water tanks. A proposed transfer of the Goodwin Ranch from TNC to the California Poly Foundation in San Luis Obispo may be consummated in late 1997. It will then be operated as a field research station, with research direction to be identified in coordination with the CPNA managing partners. The Painted Rock Ranch serves as a bunkhouse for a full-time caretaker, the Education Center coordinator and volunteers, interns and researchers, as the need arises. It's the only site north of the MU Ranch that has both commercial power, telephone and potable water. The Painted Rock Ranch will be transferred by TNC to DFG to use as their primary head-quarters to house their staff, with space occasionally available for re-searchers and the Education Center Coordinator. The Education Center serves as a focal point for visitor contacts, education and public outreach. This facility was built in the early 1990's and is in good condition. The Education Center will be transferred to the BLM, but will still be managed as a cooperative facility by all of the managing partners. The Saucito Ranch, located west of the Painted Rock Ranch, is the oldest permanent building in the CPNA and has tremendous historic significance. At this time plans are to transfer it to the BLM, and restoration opportunities are being explored.

DFG: The American Ranch is on the west side of the CPNA near the Painted Rock Ranch. All of the buildings are dilapidated and unserviceable except for storage. There are two windmill driven wells, three water storage tanks ranging from 3,000 to 7,500 gallon capacity and several water troughs. There are no utilities to the site, but phone and commercial power service is approximately ½ mile from the proposed headquarters. The Panorama Unit, located on the east side astride the San Andreas Fault, has a large steel barn (60 x 120 feet), a well and new domestic water system and a 5,000 gallon water tank placed to provide drinking water for wildlife on the northern end of the CPNA. It hasn't been connected to the water system because of the presence of abundant T&E species that precluded installation of the connecting water line. The Elkhorn Plain Ecological Reserve has no development except for a perimeter fence (erected in 1986) and a gallinaceous guzzler installed to provide drinking water for wildlife. The Painter Rock Ranch will serve as the primary administrative site for DFG once it is transferred from TNC.

## **2. Administration/Coordination**

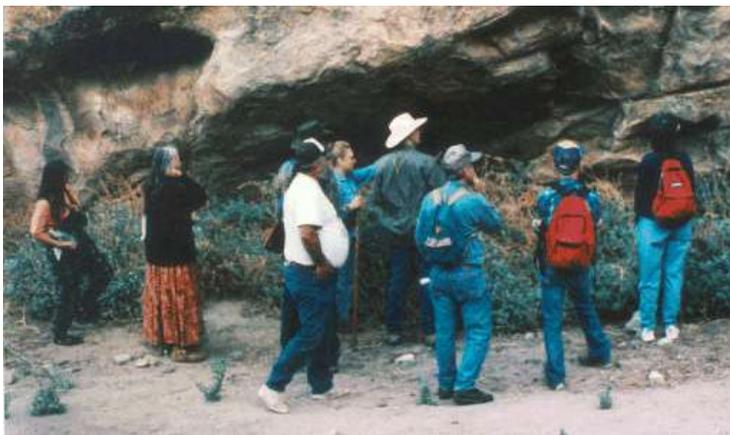
Several permanent resource personnel are assigned to the CPNA. The Education Center Coordinator is a cooperatively funded position responsible for coordinating the daily Education Center operations and outreach programs. The current BLM staff consists of the project manager, a heavy equipment

operator (maintenance), a computer specialist, a law enforcement ranger, and a biological technician. Specialists from the Caliente Resource Area spend much of their time involved in a variety of projects in the CPNA. TNC provides support personnel at their San Francisco Office. At the present time, DFG has one Wildlife Biologist assigned to the CPNA as part of other assigned duties, a Fish and Wildlife Assistant II and a Scientific Aid assigned to management of all DFG lands in SLO County (including the CPNA). There is also support from other specialists, such as Plant Ecologists and a species specialists. Staff positions for all the managing partners are supplemented by Student Conservation Association volunteers, other volunteers, and seasonal positions as funding permits.

Funding for various programs, often difficult to attain, has been largely provided to the area by the managing partners with significant assistance in certain areas. Federal Real Estate acquisitions, for example, have been dependent upon Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF), and DFG acquisitions have been funded entirely by the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The SLO County Fish and Game Fines Commission has partially funded staffing for the Goodwin Education Center.

Outreach activities such as school visitation and field trips have been conducted separately by each managing partner with a minimum of coordination until the Goodwin Education Center opened in 1993. The Goodwin Education Center and its staff serve as a central contact for the dissemination of information, development and implementation of education programs, and coordination of field trips, volunteer workdays, and other public functions. In this regard, the Education Center functions as a vital link to the communities surrounding the CPNA.

Activities on the CPNA often have direct impact on or are of great interest to outside organizations. For instance, the existence of the CPNA has been a key factor in locating a California condor release site in the nearby Lion Canyon. Staff from the Condor Recovery team occasionally participate in CPNA management meetings to discuss issues concerning condor recovery on the Carrizo. Native



Americans are also frequently consulted when planned activities may impact cultural sites. Up to the present time, researchers wanting to work on the CPNA have been forced to contact different agencies and/or organizations to plan and implement research. With the expected increase in research on the CPNA, this has the potential to result in projects that are inconsistent with management goals, in duplication of effort and interference between research projects.

Public Safety and Law Enforcement activities are handled by specialists within the BLM, DFG and other law enforcement agencies. The Carrizo Fire Station at the Washburn ranch is staffed by permanent resident fire personnel and seasonal firefighters during fire season. The CPNA is also covered under Mutual Aid agreements with surrounding agencies for medical and fire protection. The DFG has Wildlife Protection personnel assigned to southeastern SLO County to provide wildlife law enforcement. Additionally, the California Highway Patrol conducts aerial patrols, and the SLO County Sheriff's Office provides general law enforcement capabilities.

The managing partners and the County of SLO maintains several roads within and adjacent to the CPNA. Most of the roads within the CPNA are improved (graded hard packed) dirt with some

portions of Soda Lake road paved. There are approximately 81 miles of dirt road and 44 miles of paved road that are frequently maintained by the County. In order to facilitate necessary maintenance on these roads, and to ensure that it doesn't adversely affect sensitive resources, the managing partners have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County of San Luis Obispo. This MOU details the responsibilities of each agency, and mandates coordination between the signatory parties to ensure that requirements of NEPA and CEQA are met. The CPNA plan addresses NEPA/CEQA, and Federal and California Endangered Species Act compliance for the managing partners, and compliance of the endangered species acts for the SLO County as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU outlines the maintenance of existing roads including cleaning drainage ditches, grading back and front slopes of the roads, resurfacing, mowing, spraying herbicides, cleaning culverts and cattleguards.

Maintenance activities vary according to the type of road (dirt or paved). Since most of these activities are maintaining existing roads little additional impact is expected. The County is authorized to use gravel out of the existing pit at the Panorama Unit for road base. This MOU requires an annual operating plan that quantifies the gravel used and incorporates the managing partners' maintenance needs on a yearly basis

The Fish and Game Commission has regulatory control over all fish and wildlife resources within the State. Included in the broad definition of wildlife are the listed botanical resources. A major coordination effort will be required if the ESA and the CESA are to be melded together so that all listed species receive proper management and consideration during this plan's operation. The Commission also has sole authority to regulate take of wildlife resources, through either recreational hunting or scientific collecting.

### **3. Fire Suppression Administration**

All wildfire suppression within the CPNA is the responsibility of the BLM. Fire suppression efforts include the use of cooperators from Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, the state of California, and the U.S. Forest Service. Formal agreements exist with these agencies to share suppression and funding responsibilities. Meetings are held annually to identify acquired lands and special suppression considerations.

A qualified BLM Incident Commander and an environmental specialist are dispatched to all incidents occurring within or adjacent to the CPNA. All suppression strategies and tactics provide for protection of life and property first; protection of natural resources is a lower priority. Acreage burned is not a constraint in strategy development unless the fire escapes to private land, endangers structures or increases the potential for natural resource loss or high damage. Suppression tactics are discussed in the Biotic Communities section.

### **4. Withdrawals and Special Designations**

Two major withdrawals exist on the BLM lands within the Temblor and Caliente Mountain Ranges. These are the Temblor and the Caliente National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Conservation Areas. BLM lands within these areas were set aside by Public Land Orders in 1961 for retention in Federal ownership and for "the development, conservation, utilization, and maintenance of their natural resources, including their recreational and wildlife resources". These lands were to be managed by BLM in cooperation with DFG and USFWS.

The DFG maintains the Elkhorn Plain Ecological Reserve and the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve, both of which are integral parts of the CPNA. BLM maintains 2 ACECs: the Soda Lake and the Elkhorn Plain.



## **5. Third-Party Rights**

Various third-party rights exist on the acquired lands, such as road and utility easements and mineral rights. These rights are infrequently exercised, but must be allowed since the managing partners acquired the lands subject to these rights. BLM maintains a list of these third-party rights that affect its lands in the Technical Appendix. The other managing partners maintain separate records of third-party rights that affect their respective properties.

Four electric utility lines cross the CPNA on an east-west alignment, ranging in size from 70KV to 500KV. One major underground communication cable runs the length of the CPNA generally paralleling Soda Lake Road. The managing partners must allow access to these facilities for routine maintenance and inspection. Because of the limited number of such facilities, they do not present a major management problem at this time. Almost all of the mineral rights on the acquired lands are privately owned, allowing for potential mineral production in the future. Such development could seriously conflict with the goals of the CPNA, but it is highly unlikely that any development would occur in the future due to the lack of recoverable minerals and lack of legal access to the parcels.

## **6. Use Authorizations**

A few land use authorizations are currently in effect, primarily grazing leases on BLM and TNC lands. Several oil and gas leases exist on the original BLM lands. There are no existing land use authorizations on DFG lands.