

## San Diego Field Station

Southern California is a region characterized by both unparalleled natural biodiversity and an enormous human population whose continued growth and expansion threaten many native species and habitats. As a result, 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.

The San Diego Field Station conducts research on the ecology and management of sensitive vertebrate species in southern California and Mexico, in riparian, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and desert habitats. Several projects are underway investigating the impact roads and highways have on vertebrate populations and testing methods, such as barrier fences and passageways, to reduce those impacts. Scientists also study the biological impacts of efforts to restore the Salton Sea to more healthy conditions and the potential positive effects grazing may have on endangered plants and animals in the Central Valley. 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, the Salton Sea Authority, and other clients in the region to develop sound management and monitoring plans, and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies in preserving regional biodiversity.

The San Diego Field Station is working on the following: population and life-history studies of native birds, reptiles, and amphibians with an emphasis on endangered species; the effectiveness of riparian restoration in providing suitable habitat for wildlife; the impact of reserve design on vertebrate diversity; and effect of subsidized predators on animal populations.

### Lead Scientists

**William I. Boarman, Ph.D.**, Research Wildlife Biologist, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of



C. Brown

Biology, University of California, Riverside

- Behavioral ecology and conservation biology
- Ecology of subsidized predators
- Ecological impacts of roads
- Ornithology

**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:

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