

" Endangered Species Research in the San Joaquin Valley: Trying to Save All the Parts"



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Science 2, room 109

For further information:

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The San Joaquin Valley (SJV) of California is rich with endemic species, but also is one of the most threatened ecosystems in the United States. In addition to abundant biotic endemism, the SJV also is one of the most productive agricultural and energy rich regions in the world. Consequently, extensive conversion of natural habitats for anthropogenic uses imperils numerous species, many of which have been listed as Federal or State endangered. In 1992, the Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP) was formed as a unit within the Biology Department at the California State University-Stanislaus. The goal of ESRP is to conduct research, monitoring, and planning projects that contribute to the conservation and recovery of listed species and their habitats. ESRP staff have worked with numerous animal and plant species in the SJV. Current projects include work with San Joaquin kit foxes, giant kangaroo rats, San Joaquin kangaroo rats, San Joaquin antelope squirrels, Mojave ground squirrels, riparian brush rabbits, Buena Vista Lake shrews, blunt-nosed leopard lizards, Bakersfield cactus, California jewelflower, and Kern mallow. A particular emphasis of recent research has been assessing the response of species to anthropogenic activities to assess potential opportunities for compatibility and coexistence. I will provide an overview of current research and conservation projects, preliminary results, some novel conservation strategies, and future needs.