

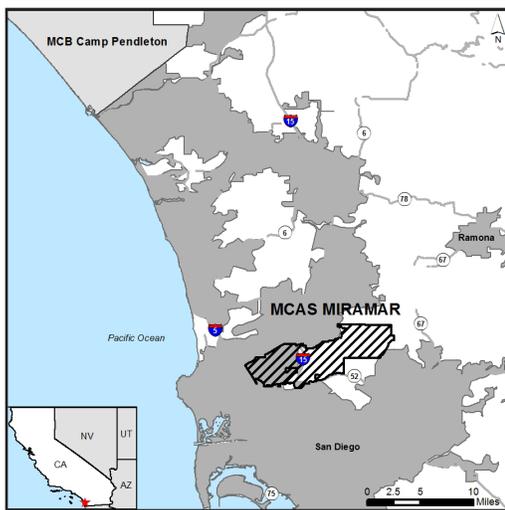


U.S. MARINE CORPS :

MCAS MIRAMAR : CALIFORNIA



Located only about 10 miles north of downtown San Diego, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar is the Marine Corps’ master air station on the West Coast, home to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, which is the aviation element of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. MCAS Miramar also has ground training areas and ranges for small arms firing and training for explosive ordnance disposal technicians. The grassland and shrubland habitat on these ranges are also important to numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species.



The presence of these species and the dwindling habitat in the heavily developed Southern California region present challenges to the Marine Corps’ mission. To achieve species recovery goals, MCAS Miramar is working to preserve rare habitats, such as coastal sage scrub, within regionally important habitat linkages and refuges from catastrophic regional wildfire.

Protecting such habitats off-installation will help alleviate restrictions on some of MCAS Miramar’s 4,700 acres of ground training areas, reduce risks to sensitive species from catastrophic wildfire, and ensure compatible land use under the airspace used by Marine Corps aviators. A key aspect of this project is a crediting methodology being developed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to alleviate restrictions associated with species conservation at Marine Corps installations in the region, further supporting regional training and conservation goals.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Provides habitat and connects wildlife corridors for threatened and endangered species
- Enhances existing regional conservation planning efforts
- Preserves open space

MILITARY

- Reduces restrictions on ground training
- Protects an approach corridor for fixed-wing aircraft
- Supports multiple Services training at the installation



Ground training areas on MCAS Miramar are used for field exercises like simulated cargo lift and transport (top). To reduce restrictions on training and mitigate habitat damage MCAS Miramar is protecting coastal scrub habitat for the California gnatcatcher (bottom) (Photo credit: Mr. Kevin Clark).

KEY PARTNERS

- California Department of Transportation
- Endangered Habitats Conservancy
- San Diego Association of Governments

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

- » Acres preserved: **410**
- » Transactions conducted: **1**
- » Total funds expended: **\$8 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

Community Plans and Liaison Office
(858) 577-6603