



CONSERVATION AREA AND TRAIL SYSTEM

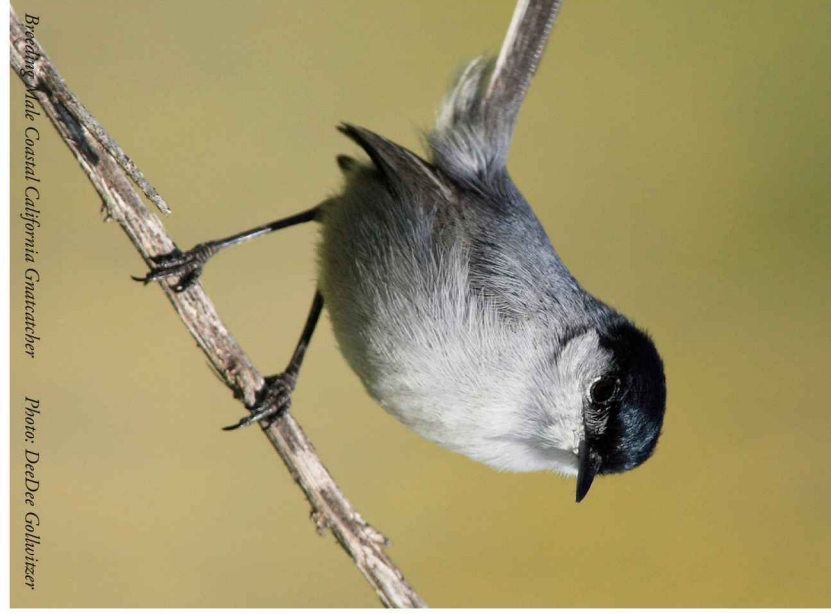


Photo: DeDee Gollitzer

Birding Mile Coastal California Gnatcatcher



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Center for Natural Lands Management

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(760) 731-7790 / info@cnlm.org / www.cnlm.org

Dana Point Nature Interpretive Center
34558 Scenic Drive, Dana Point, California 92629
(949) 248-3527



CNLM Dana Point Preserve trail open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8AM-4PM.

7AM-Sunset.

Trail Hours

City trails and parking/restrooms at the Nature Interpretive Center are open daily

• No littering

- No bicycles or skateboards
- No dogs or pets because their presence can harm endangered species on-site

- No camping or fires
- No smoking

Trail Rules of Use

- No hiking off designated trails
- No dogs or pets because their presence can harm endangered species on-site

- No alcohol or glass
- No removal or collecting of natural materials

If you are interested in docent or volunteer work please contact the Center:

The Nature Center is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday

10 am – 4 pm. (closed on Monday)

Docent-guided tours are offered regularly and school programs and docent guided tours are available upon request.

The Nature Center is an educational, management, and operational facility run by the City of Dana Point. It provides information about the local habitat—terrestrial and marine—and the history of Dana Point in an informal visitor center setting.

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City of Dana Point NATURE INTERPRETIVE CENTER



Photo: Julie Kondor

The Dana Point Headlands

The Dana Point Headlands Conservation Area

The Dana Point Headlands is a coastal promontory rising from the Pacific Ocean, with Dana Point Harbor to the south and Strand Beach to the north. The combination of the mild southern California climate, ocean influence, unique geology, coastal sage, and coastal bluff scrub plant communities creates a unique habitat that is home to rare and endangered plants and animals.

The Dana Point Headlands Conservation Area encompasses approximately 60 acres and is comprised of:

- Harbor Point Conservation Park, with a trail that overlooks the Dana Point Harbor and includes the Nature Interpretive Center
- Hilltop Conservation Park, south of Pacific Coast Highway, providing trails with scenic panoramas of the City of Dana Point
- South Strand Conservation Park, with a trail winding down the hillside overlooking the Strand Beach & Pacific Ocean
- CNLM Dana Point Preserve, 29.4 acres of preserved native habitat owned and managed by the Center for Natural Lands Management for the protection of rare and endangered species



Dana Point Headlands



CNLM Dana Point Preserve



Harbor Point Conservation Park



Photo: USFWS

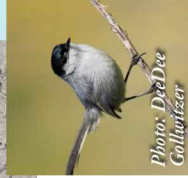


Photo: DeDee Gollitzer

Protecting What Remains

The plant communities at the Dana Point Headlands provide examples of native southern California wilderness. The coastal sage scrub plant community is sometimes referred to as soft chaparral because the plants are mostly low growing, flexible, and have soft leaves. Coastal sage scrub plants are adapted to cool wet winters and warm dry summers, thrive on the ocean influence (fog/humidity) and support a diverse number of organisms. Dominant plants of this community are the Coastal Sagebrush and Flat Topped Buckwheat.

A second plant community found on-site is coastal bluff scrub. This community is located along the unstable slopes of the cliffs, often found on vertical substrate and taking advantage of the rich marine influence. Dominant plants of this community are Cliff Spurge and California Boxthorn.



To date the habitat has been identified to support:

- Approximately 110 native plants species

– Fifteen plant species are on the California Native Plant Society rare plant inventory

- Over 175 animals species

– Two animal species are on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Threatened and Endangered Species List

Plant Identification Walk AT HARBOR POINT PARK (Plants images are inside foldout)

1. Coastal Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*)
2. Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
3. Coastal Prickly Pear (*Opuntia littoralis*)
4. Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
5. Chalk Dudleya (*Dudleya pulcherrima*)
6. Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)
7. Bush Sunflower (*Encelia californica*)
8. Flat-Topped Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
9. Lance-leaf Dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*)
10. California Boxthorn (*Lycium californicum*)



Center for Natural Lands Management

The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that manages more than 60 natural areas in California. It owns the 29.4 acre CNLM Dana Point Preserve thanks to a generous donation by the Harry and Grace Steele Foundation, which also provided an endowment to manage the property in perpetuity. CNLM manages these funds and gratefully accepts tax deductible donations.

The Center for Natural Lands Management:

- Conducts biological monitoring and maintenance activities
- Ensures the conservation values of the 29.4 acre CNLM Dana Point Preserve are not degraded
- Works with the City of Dana Point to ensure that the public enjoys the trails while understanding the importance of conserving rare habitat

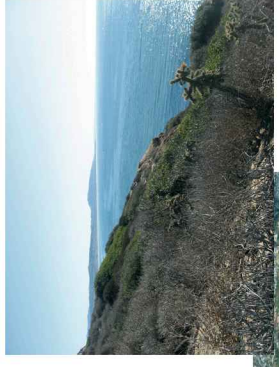


Photo: Joel Weintraub

Timeline:

1542	1769	1776	1822	1824	1834	1835	1837	1848	1864	1864	1870s	1884	1924	1925	1926	1939	1957	1958	1983	1998	2004	2005	2010
Headlands Promontory reference in Juan Cabrillo	Pomona passes through Capistrano Valley	Mission San Juan Capistrano founded, Dana Point Headlands part of Mission land	Mexican independence from Spain	Large ranchos founded	R.H. Dana visits California and the cliffs of San Juan	Church was ordered to give up mission lands by Mexican government including Dana Point	Alta California becomes US territory	President Lincoln returns to church, Dana Point homesteaded by US government, for \$1.25 an acre	Hubbard Goff (one of the first homesteaders of Laguna Beach) purchased Headlands for \$17.5 per acre	Judge Egan gave promontory name of "Dana Point" on US Coast Survey	Anna Walters builds garbho lantern, Anna Walters, names streets for colored Dana Point lots	Anna Walters builds garbho lantern, Anna Walters, names streets for colored Dana Point lots	Sydney Woodruff continues development of Dana Point	Lots in Dana Point available at auction, starting at \$25	Los in Dana Point available at auction, starting at \$25	Sherman and Chandler acquire much of Headlands area	Chandler family opens Strands mobile home park	Pacific pocket mouse rediscovered on-site (previously thought to be extinct)	Chandler family sells Headlands area to Reserve LLC	Chandler Commission approves plans for Headlands development	Harry and Grace Steele Foundation donate money for CNLM to purchase the Dana Point Preserve	City of Dana Point acquires parks and trail system	2010

Birds



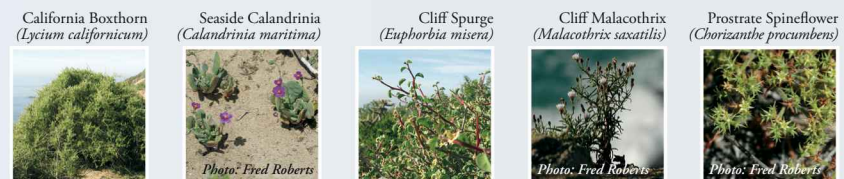
Pacific Pocket Mouse

The **Pacific Pocket Mouse** (*Paragnathus longimembris pacificus*) was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered at the Dana Point Headlands in 1993. It is now Federally Endangered and known to have three other populations that reside at Marine Corp Base Camp Pendleton. It is one of the smallest rodents in North America and is active only at night. It eats seeds and stores them in its furry external cheek pouches (pockets). Pocket mice burrow and hibernate most of the winter.

Native Plants



Rare Plants



Coastal California Gnatcatcher

The **Coastal California Gnatcatcher** (*Poliopitila californica californica*) is a federally threatened songbird found only in coastal sage scrub vegetation from Ventura County to Baja California, Mexico. Its call is similar to a kitten's mew. Nesting season for this species occurs between February 15 – August 31. Ten to Thirteen breeding pairs occur in the Headlands Conservation Area native habitat.

Reptiles



Mammals



LEGEND



NO DOGS ALLOWED IN or ON:

- Conservation Parks
- CNLM Dana Point Preserve
- Strand Beach
- Strand Revetment Trail

