



# CONSERVATION AREA AND TRAIL SYSTEM

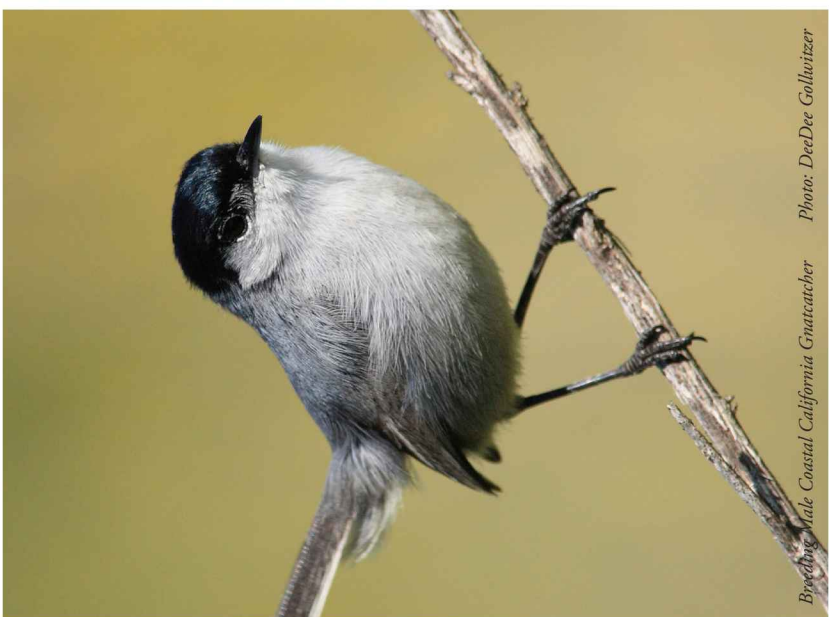


Photo: DeeDee Gollitzer

Photo: Mike Coastal California Gnatcatcher

## Conservation Area

## The Dana Point Headlands

## The Dana Point Headlands

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 sages, 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:

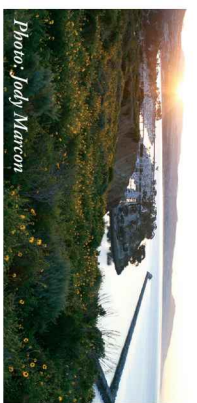
- Harbor Point Conservation Park, with a trail that overlooks the Dana Point Harbor and includes the Nature Interpretive Center
- Hilltop Conservation Park, south of Pacific Coast Highway, providing trails with scenic panoramas of the City of Dana Point
- South Strand Conservation Park, with a trail winding down the hillside overlooking the Strand Beach & Pacific Ocean
- 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



Hilltop Conservation Park Trail

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



**Center for Natural Lands Management**  
27258 Via Industria Suite B, Temecula, CA 92590  
(760) 731-7790 / info@cnlm.org / www.cnlm.org



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City trails, restrooms, and parking at the Nature Interpretive Center open 7AM-Sunset.  
CNLM Dana Point Preserve trail open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8AM-4PM.

### Trail Rules of Use

- No alcohol or glass
- No removal or collecting of natural materials
- No camping or fires
- No smoking
- No radio or remotely controlled aircrafts
- No hiking off designated trails
- No dogs or pets because their presence can harm endangered species on-site
- No bicycles or skateboards
- No littering

*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.

## City of Dana Point NATURE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The Nature Interpretive 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.



Photo: Julie Komdor

## 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.

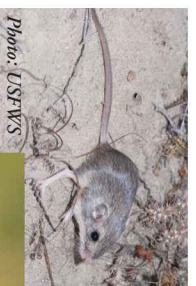


Photo: USFWS



Photo: DeeDee Gollitzer

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

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

- Over 175 animals species

The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that owns, manages, or protects more than 100 natural areas in California and Washington. Within the Headlands area, it owns and manages the 29.4-acre Dana Point Preserve—an area that is home to the endangered Pacific pocket mouse and threatened coastal California gnatcatcher. A generous donation by the Harry and Grace Steele Foundation made possible the purchase of this property and the establishment of a management endowment. CNLM appreciates tax-deductible donations to allow for better protection of the rich but sensitive biological assemblage on this Preserve.

## Center for Natural Lands Management



- Monitors the endangered and sensitive species
- Manages the vegetation on the Preserve for the benefit of native species
- Monitors for threats and takes appropriate protective actions
- Conducts research and collaborates with other scientists to improve management
- Works with the City of Dana Point to ensure that Preserve visitors have a safe and enjoyable trail experience while not impacting the endangered species and sensitive habitat

### At its Dana Point Preserve, CNLM:

## HARBOR POINT TRAIL

### DANA POINT HARBOR



## 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 puberulenta*)
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*)

1542	1789	1776	1822	1824	1834	1835	1848	1864	1870s	1884	1924	1925	1926	1939	1940	1957	1993	1998	2004	2005	2010
Headlands Promontory reference in ship's log of Juan Caballo	Porola pass through Capistrano Valley	Mission San Juan Capistrano founded. Dana Point Headlands part of Mission land	Mexican independence from Spain	Large ranches 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 mission lands to church. Dana Point homesteaded by US government. \$1.25 an acre per acre	Hilltop of the first homesteaders of Laguna Beach purchased Headlands for \$175	Judge Fean gives promon- tory name of "Dana Point" on US Coast Survey	Laguna Beach Real Estate entrepreneurs, including Anna Walters, buy much of modern day Dana Point	Anna Walters builds garbho and blue lantern fountain, runs street for colored Dana Point lunch	Snyder Woodruff continues development of Dana Point \$25	Love 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 to Reserve LLC	Coastal Commission approves plans for Headlands development	CNLM acquires ownership- and manage- ment of Dana Point Preserve	City of Dana Point acquires parks and trail system

### Timeline:



Photo: Jodi Weintraub

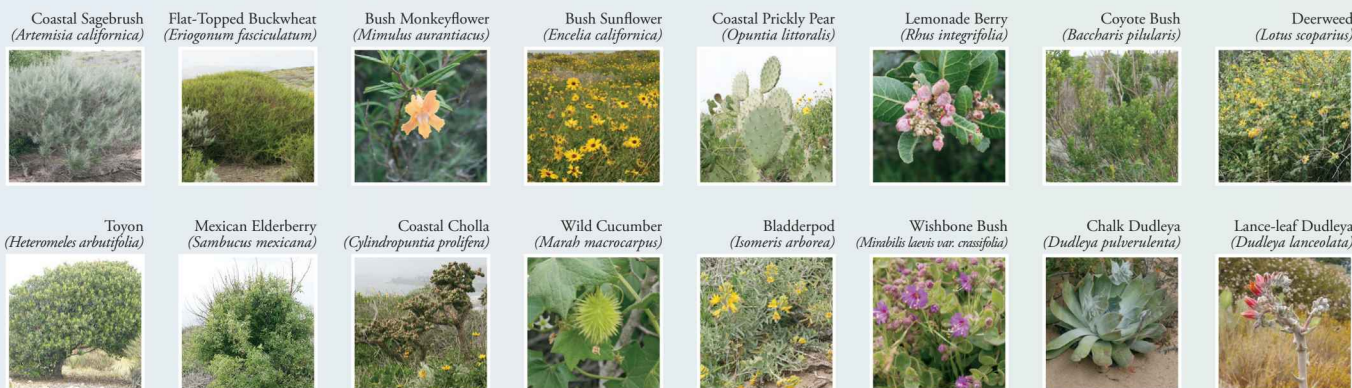
## Birds



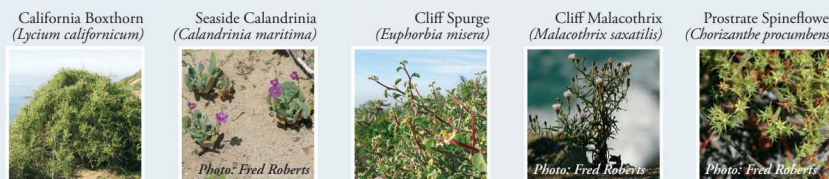
## Pacific Pocket Mouse

The **Pacific Pocket Mouse** (*Perognathus longimembris pacificus*) once thought extinct until rediscovery in 1993 is listed as Federally Endangered. Extant wild populations of the Pacific Pocket Mouse are known to be at Dana Point and Marine Corps 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.

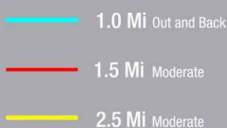
## Reptiles



## Mammals



## LEGEND



## NO DOGS ALLOWED IN or ON:

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

