

Pechanga Tribal Wildlife Grant

Audie Murphy: Restoration of culturally sensitive land and species

USFWS Tribal Coordination Meeting

May 18, 2022

Pechanga Vernal Pool Project

- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Grant
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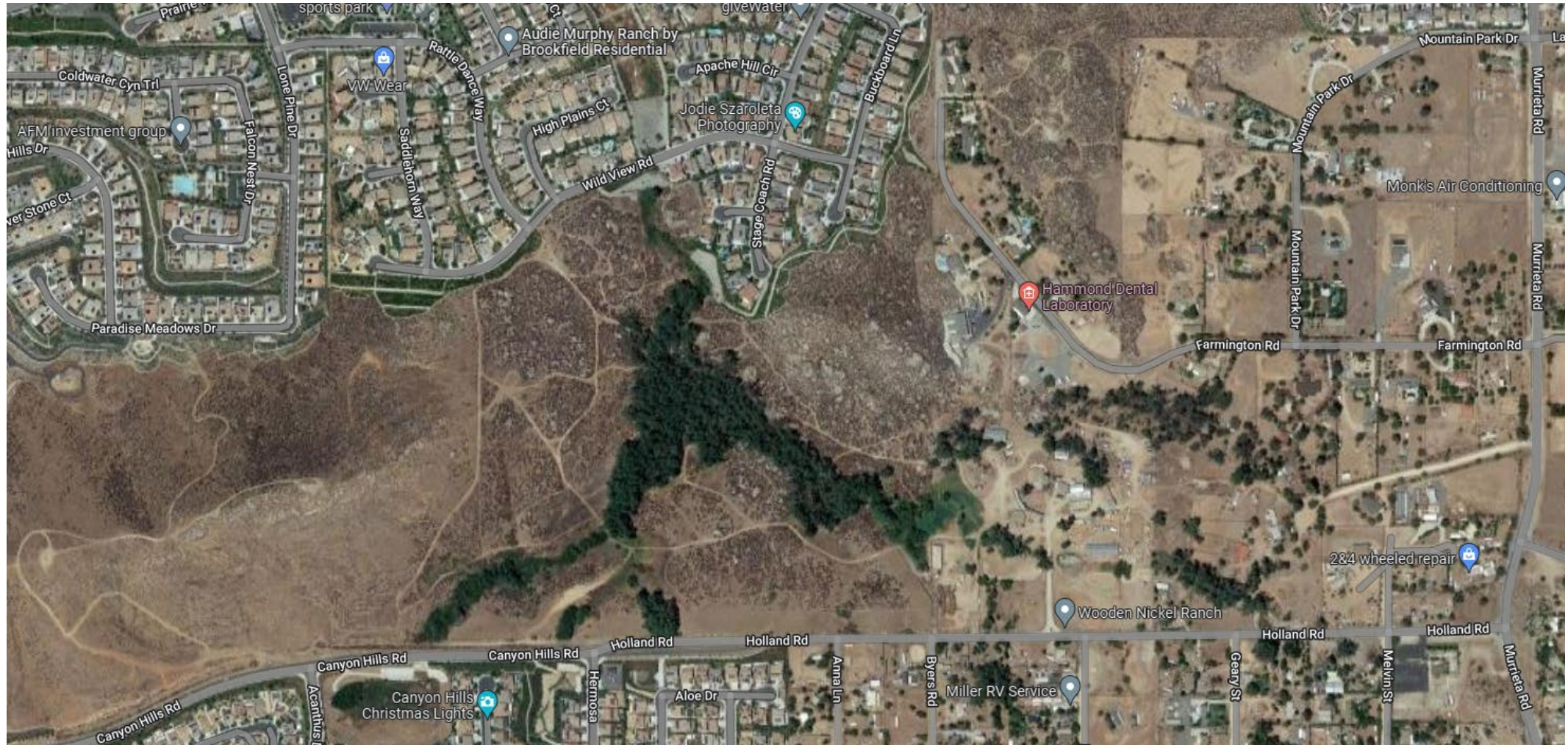
Vegetation Reduction



Pechanga Vernal Pool 2022



Audie Murphy Project



Audie Murphy

- Significant cultural resources
- Pond turtle
- Owl

“Our Creation story tells us that all beings were brought to life on the earth at the same time. Animals are considered to be relatives of the Luiseño People. They present themselves to us and allow us to obtain them for food and other uses. It is an agreement, or part of our relationship.”

- All quotes and cultural information are taken from the publicly facing Pechanga Tribal Government website: [Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians - Pechanga Band \(pechanga-nsn.gov\)](http://PechangaBandofLuiseñoIndians-PechangaBand.pechanga-nsn.gov)

Audie Murphy

- “Drums were never used by Luiseño Indians. Our beautiful songs are accompanied by a rattle, never a drum. The use of rattles is a very personal matter for the Pechanga people and all Luiseño Indians. Used to maintain cadence in songs, a rattle issues commands telling a dancer when to dance or a singer when to change the words and move to a refrain.”
- “Rattles connect us profoundly to ourselves, and our culture as a whole. Each rattle has its own purpose. One type of rattle is used for singing the deceased into the next world while another rattle is used to celebrate life. Some rattles are used to usher in powerful medicines and promote healing.”
- Turtle shell (paa'ayat)
- The turtle-shell rattle is much more complicated and has several variations. The variations are determined by the maker and the influence of the family or clan. The western pond turtle (paa'ila) is normally used for this type of rattle but with the decline in its populations and habitat other turtle shells are now accepted substitutes.



Audie Murphy

From our proposal:

The Tribe considers the burrowing owl to be a species of cultural importance. *Kukúulmal* (burrowing owl) is one of the *Káamalam*, the First People in the Luiseno Oral History. Therefore, conservation and persistence of this species is highly important. Not only does the burrowing owl perform an ecological function, but it is a living and breathing cultural resource to the Tribe.



Image credit: Otay Water District

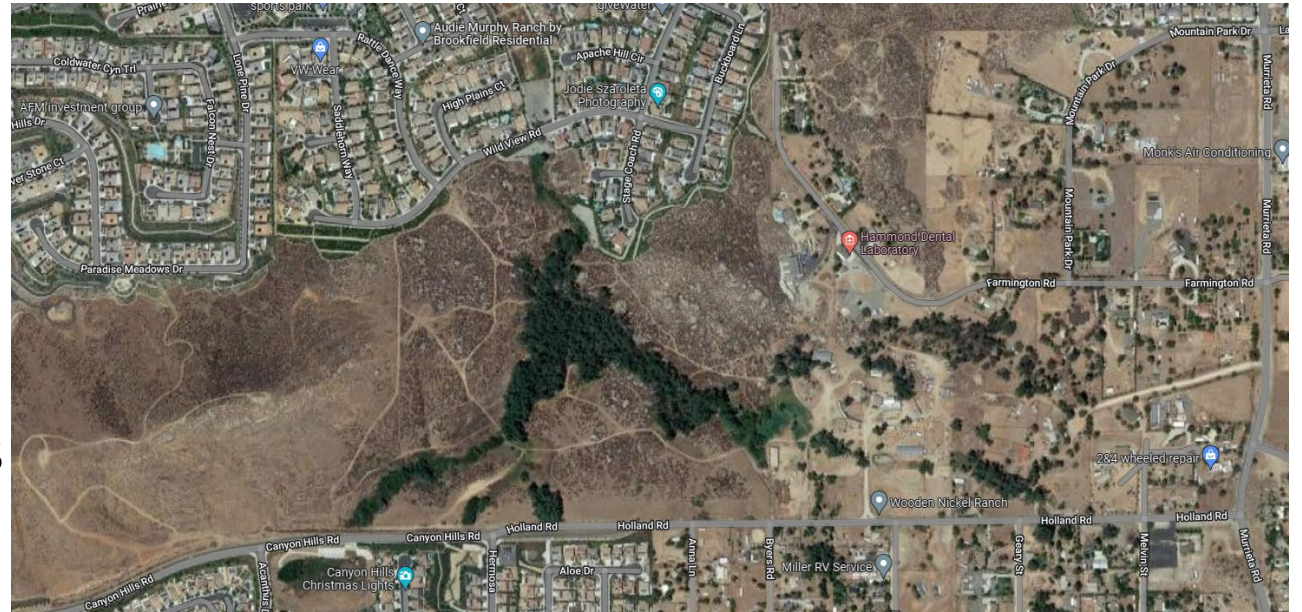
Audie Murphy

- Challenges
 - Aligning ecological and cultural conservation goals and objectives
 - Identifying areas in need of unique solutions
 - For example—burrow creation for BUOW and reducing or eliminating ground disturbing activities to preserve cultural resources

Activity	Anticipated Start Date	Anticipated End Date
Habitat mapping	March 2022	April 2022
Field surveys and baseline population assessment	May 2022	June 2022
Development of Species and Habitat Management Plan	July 2022	September 2022
Habitat Restoration and Control/removal of invasive species	October 2022	December 2022
Habitat Restoration: Planting and/or seeding of native plants	February 2023	May 2023
Public education	April 2022	September 2023

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- Management challenges
- Trespass and the surrounding community
 - Benign intent: walking dogs, hiking, bike riding
 - Destructive intent: graffiti, illegal dumping, drinking/partying, fires



Audie Murphy

- How to manage a sensitive environment in an urbanized landscape?
- Working with Riverside County Parks
 - Education
 - Regular presence/patrols
- Working with Cultural Department
 - Educational videos and online content (such as ARC GIS story maps)



Scope of Project

- Long-term
- Multi-faceted
- Focused on adaptive management



Questions? Comments?

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