

Pechanga Tribal Wildlife Grant

**Audie Murphy: Restoration Project
Update**

**USFWS Tribal Coordination Meeting
November 8, 2022**

Audie Murphy Project Site

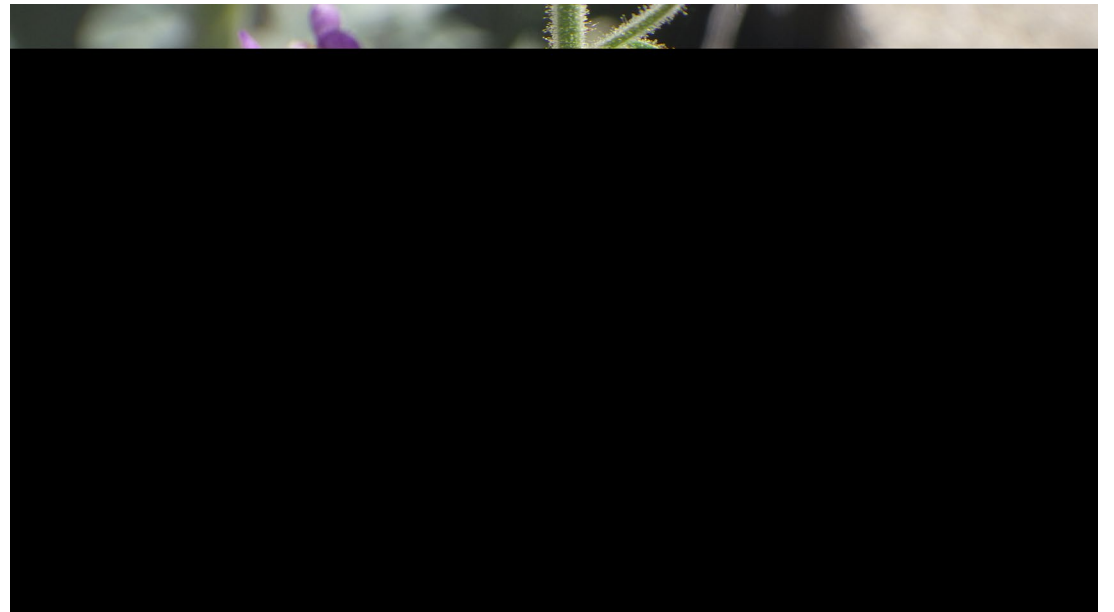


Audie Murphy

- 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://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

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

- All about partnerships!
 - USFWS
 - Riverside County Parks
 - Cal Fish and Wildlife
 - Community
- Progress to date...
 - Turtles
 - Eucalyptus removal
 - Trash clean up
 - Trespass reduction

Turtle

- Chose a contractor
- Positive initial assessment
- Recommendations from County Parks, USFWS
- Impacts to eucalyptus removal
- Baseline water quality testing
 - Not necessarily part of the USFWS grant



Eucalyptus Removal

- Only partial removal for this project
 - Preserve habitat for birds
 - Limited funding
 - Preserve habitat for aquatic animals
- Challenges
 - Removal with limited ground disturbance (due to cultural resources concerns)
 - Removal with specialized route of removal



Trash Clean-up

- Difficult to remove given cultural sensitivity of the area
- Broken glass
- Food wrappers, cups, plastic bags, etc.
- Roadside dumping common (e.g. hydroponics materials, old furniture, etc.)

Trespass Reduction



- This signage will target the benign trespassers
- Relying on increased presence during eucalyptus removal and other activities to reduce other trespass
- Increased visibility and activities on the property should also decrease illicit activity
- Will need to work with the City and Tribal Rangers on a long-term plan to reduce trespass

Questions? Comments?

- Kelcey Stricker
- Environmental Director
- Pechanga Environmental Department
- 951-770-6153
- kstricker@Pechanga-nsn.gov