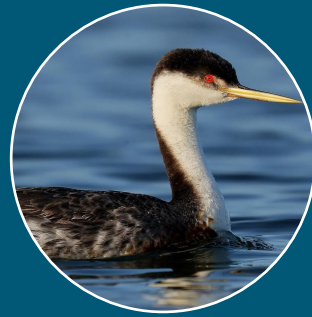




BIODIVERSITY ON THE SANTA LUCIA PRESERVE

Ponds and wetlands are extremely productive habitats featuring rushes, sedges, and tules. The soil is saturated ultra-rich in organic matter and anaerobic. These habitats store carbon, filter water, provide flood protection, recharge groundwater, and support countless wildlife species, especially birds, insects, and amphibians. California has lost more than 90% of its historic wetlands, primarily to crop irrigation and other diversions.

Western Grebe



Duckweed



Chorus Frog



Tule

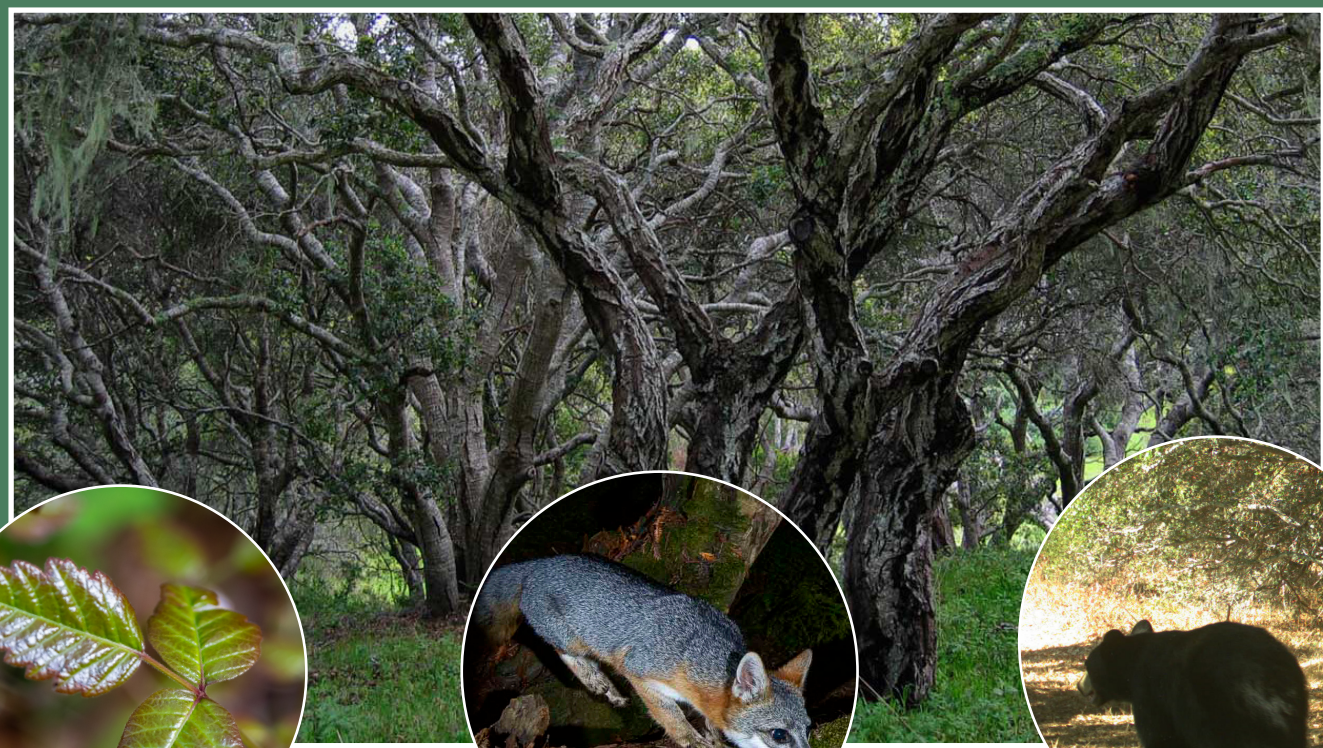


Tricolored Blackbird



WETLANDS & PONDS

OAK WOODLAND



Poison Oak



Gray Fox



Black Bear



Lace Lichen



Quail



Black-tailed Deer



Anna's Hummingbird



Mayfly



White Alder



Steelhead Trout



Willow



Monterey Ensatina



STREAMS & RIPARIAN ZONES



GRASSLANDS & OAK SAVANNA



Bobcat



California Poppy



Ground Squirrel



Coyote



American Kestrel



The semi-arid grassland and oak savanna habitats are habitats in transition, found in the margins between woodlands and chaparral. Dominated by bunch grasses, wildflowers, and forbs and studded with oaks, these habitats are crucial for grassland nesting birds, rodents, predatory mammals, and birds of prey. Savannas and grasslands in California are disappearing rapidly as crops and weeds replace native vegetation and residential development causes fragmentation.

Burrowing Owl



Acorn Woodpecker



Sedge



Miner's Lettuce



Slender Salamander



Mushroom



Spotted Owl



Banana Slug



Mountain Lion



REDWOOD FOREST



MARITIME CHAPARRAL



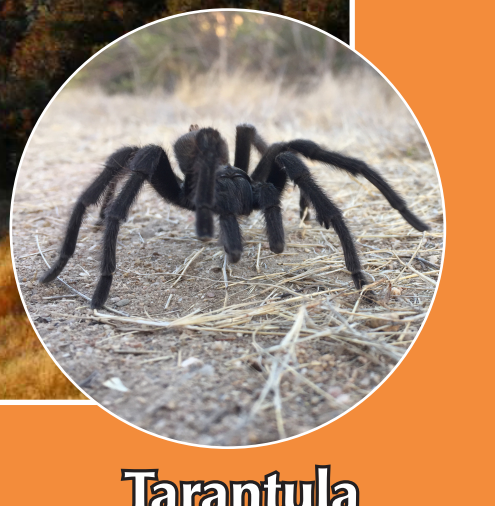
Manzanita



Coast Horned Lizard



Tarantula



Scrub Jay



Rattlesnake



The driest habitat on The Preserve, chaparral is home to hardy, drought-tolerant plants with long taproots and thick, waxy leaves that allow them to access water deep underground and retain it during the dry season. This shrubby habitat is excellent for reptiles, arachnids and insects, as well as a range of flycatchers and other birds that feed on native berries and pollinate wildflowers. While chaparral is expanding in California, it is threatened by invasive weeds.

Ceanothus



Madrone

