

The following is a synopsis of the petition we submitted on February 28, 2006 in connection with CDFG's processing of the land management plan (LMP) and CEQA Initial Study for the **San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area** - in representation of the recreational interests for the SDCWF's constituents. The subsequent processing and finalization of the plan was explained to us, as follows: "Public review documents will be published and a formal public review period will begin in July. The public review process will include a public hearing; a specific date has not yet been selected, but the public hearing will likely be in early August. Final revisions to the plan would occur after the public comment period. Approval of the plan would occur in September or October." **Note:** In hindsight, I guess we should have asked: "what year?"

However, be that as it may, we certainly expected this process to be completed sometime within 2006. Suffice to say, this schedule was not maintained. **And**, although we have made frequent inquiries, to date no publicly announced revised schedule has yet been provided to define completion of this process.

Our recommendations and related comments focused on the following:

We believe that the LMP should be guided by the basic philosophical concept that, absent auditable contradictory scientific or safety-based data, the public has an inalienable right to recreate on public lands.

Further, active public use of our open space is not incompatible with environmentally oriented conservation, and that there are recreational needs which are currently underserved, or not met in San Diego County. We believe that our lands can be managed to provide a balance between public access and the protection of our unique natural habitats.

The following items should definitely be allowed for in the LMP (even though the exact method of providing them may not be currently identified):

- **Water.** The LMP should allow for drilling, installation and maintenance of Deep Well Pump(s) sufficient to restore/maintain year around wetlands and agriculture including ponds, irrigation ditches, bubblers and facilities plumbing. The LMP should allow for grading and construction of the irrigation ditches/canals/sloughs/agricultural areas, etc., as recommended by species specific wildlife biologists (ex: Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation and/or California Waterfowl Association, etc.) and the plumbing for the bubblers and potable water at access facilities and dog training areas. The LMP should also allow for the planting of native and non-native fish in the

ponds and wetlands (ex: mosquito fish, panfish, bass, catfish, trout etc.)

- **Food.** The LMP should allow for multiple 1-10 acre areas for agriculture (as recommended by species specific wildlife biologists) and allow all related activities such as: planting, cultivation, irrigation, fertilization, herbicides and harvesting. The agriculture should be for a diverse source of food (some of which are non-native and cultivated annually, ex: corn, sorghum, millet, sunflower, mast/high production acorn oaks, clover, chufa, various broadleaf, etc.) Food should be targeted for game mammals and game birds including but not limited to: Deer, Dove, Quail, Pheasant, Turkey, Waterfowl and other species.
- **Cover Management.** The LMP should allow for diverse strategic species specific management of cover and topography for mammal and game bird breeding, nesting, brood safety, roosting, escape, etc., as well as maintaining several open lawn type clearings, oak savannas and dense shelterbelts (including species specific grading, clearing and planting of clovers, grasses, shrubs, trees, crops, etc., as necessary.) The LMP should also allow for the removal (herbicidal if necessary) of harmful non-native botanicals such as foxtails, etc.
- **Access.** The LMP should allow for maximum managed seasonal access to SFVWA for fishing and the hunting of all species by all means (bow, muzzleloader, rim fire, center fire and shotgun) during their respective seasons (and special Heritage hunts). The area should be accessible for dog training and related SFVWA projects and maintenance, with the possibility of keeping strategic key areas closed during nesting and birthing seasons. A coalition of organizations should be allowed for/included/recruited as a management council for the SFVWA. In addition, public access points/facilities should be allowed at strategic locations on the edges of the SFVWA (and throughout the area on special occasions for scheduled equestrian events and for law enforcement or management needs) to mitigate and manage impact from ingress /egress and parking on the property. Furthermore, a small nature center/conference facility with rest rooms and potable water (drinking fountains and/or a tap) should be allowed near these access points.

Finally, before you conclude the public input process, you should contact *at least* the following organizations, asking for an opportunity to attend one of their meetings to solicit their input on the LMP. (Means of contacting them can be obtained at the web-site of San Diego County Wildlife Federation <http://www.sdcwf.org/sdcwf/join.asp>) It would be better if you'd contact them early so that they may have time to appoint a committee to come up with ideas to present to you at the meetings you attend. We'd be

happy to provide you with contacts to: California Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, Escondido Fish and Game Association, German Shorthair Pointer Club, Lemon Grove Rod & Gun Club, National Predator Callers Association, National Wild Turkey Federation – San Diego Chapter, North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Palomar Sportsman's Club, Pheasants Forever – SoCal Chapter, Project 2000 Range (San Diego Fish and Game Association), Quail Unlimited – San Diego Chapter, Safari Club International – San Diego Chapter, San Diego County Wildlife Federation, San Diego Fly Fishers, San Diego Hunting Retriever Club, San Diego Retrievers & Field Trial Club, San Diego Sporting Dog Club, San Diego Trout, South Bay Rod & Gun Club.

These clubs and more are members of the San Diego County Wildlife Federation. We should be contacted as well c/o Pres. Jack Bransford ([denajack@cox.net](mailto:denajack@cox.net)). Please; we cannot stress enough that you give the public (through these organizations) the opportunity to develop suggestions and to present their wishes. Remember that these are volunteers so give them enough notice and time to respond and your patience will certainly be rewarded."



## SAN FELIPE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA

**LOCATION:** Approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Julian between State Highways 78 and 79. County Highway S-2 bisects the length of the wildlife area and provides public access. Current boundaries, restricted areas, and regulations are displayed at the information kiosk located on the southwest side of S-2, approximately 11.4 miles east of the junction of Highways S-2 and 79.

**ACREAGE:** Current Wildlife Area consists of 14,100 acres; portions of the wildlife area temporarily closed or seasonally restricted (refer to map in kiosk).

**ACCESS:** Off the road along Highway S-2. Enter wildlife area on foot only.

**WILDLIFE AREA TYPE:** Type C - Not staffed; passive lands management.

**HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES:** Daily during open seasons for all legal species from September 1 through January 31 and during the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted.

**DOG TRAINING:** Dog training can only be conducted in the designated training area (refer to map in kiosk) from September through February.

**SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS:** For deer fawning area protection, public access from *June 1-July 31* is restricted to the north side of Hwy S-2 and on established roads within the south central portion of the wildlife area between the yellow gates (refer to map in kiosk)

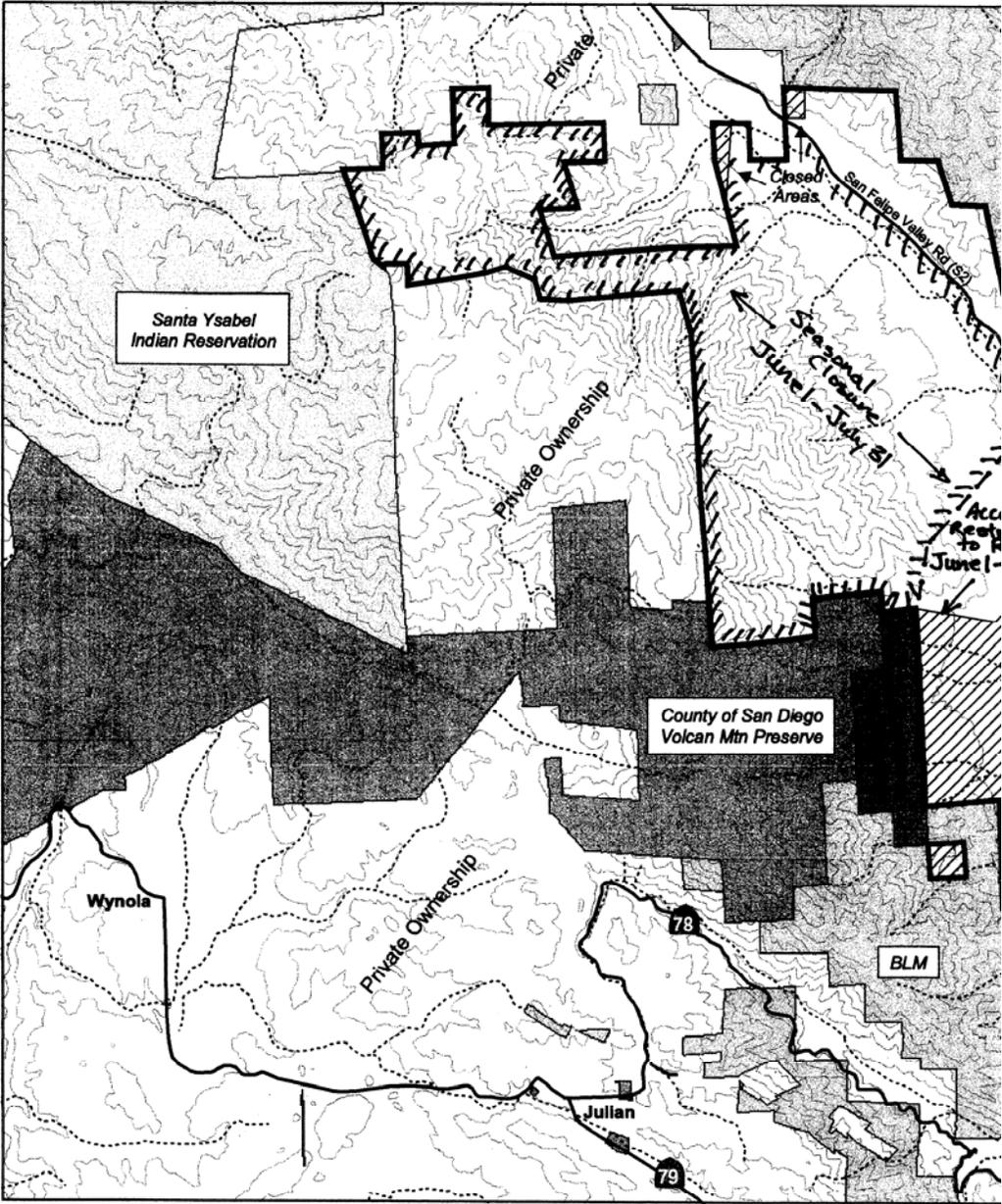
**OTHER PROHIBITIONS:** D16 General Deer Zone Tags may not be used west of Highway S-2. No target, trap, or skeet shooting. No camping, fires, or littering. No removal of vegetation, minerals, or artifacts. Motorized traffic of any kind is prohibited. Designated trails currently do not exist for horse or bicycle use.

*(For complete regulations regarding wildlife areas, refer to Title 14, Section 550)*



Revised June 9, 2005

# San Felipe V



Map prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game's South Coast Region (C. Miller).  
Map projection: Teale Albers, Scale: 1:55,000; Elevation Contours: 200 feet.  
Revised 8/3/2004.

# Iley Wildlife Area

