



SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Burrowing Owl

Athene cunicularia hypugaea

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Burrowing owl

- State Species of Special Concern
- Small (7-10 inches) brown and white raptor
- Large yellow eyes
- Wingspan: 20-22 inches
- Some individuals are migratory
- Adult lifespan: 9 years
- Prey includes small mammals, invertebrates, reptiles, and amphibians
- Nests underground in burrows



Burrowing owl

- Current range: Washington south to Baja California, across the Midwest to Louisiana and Florida, and down into Central Mexico
- Mitigatory owls may migrate as far as El Salvador
- Owls are sparsely located within open lowlands
- Breeding owls may be year-round residents
- Some individuals may only winter in the MSHCP area



Burrowing owl

- Semi-colonial
- Active during the day with hunting often occurring at dawn and dusk
- Breeding occurs March thru August
- Lay 6-11 eggs
- Young can fly around 4 weeks after hatching
- Threats to the species include conversion of grassland to development, rodent control, corvids, and prolonged drought



Habitat

- Grassland, playas and vernal pools, some agricultural land, and sparsely vegetated coastal sage scrub
- Prefer low vegetation
- Often associated with California ground squirrel
- Require large open spaces to forage for prey
- Require the use burrows for protection, roosting (sleep, rest), and nesting cover



Species Objectives

- 49,590 acres of suitable habitat
- 5 Core Areas and interconnecting linkages
 - Support breeding populations of approximately 120 burrowing owls with at least five pairs in each Core area.
- Include within the MSHCP Conservation Area the known nesting locations of the burrowing owl.



Species Objectives

- Surveys
- Pre-construction presence/absence surveys will be performed prior to ground disturbance.
- Translocation sites



Preparing for a Translocation

- Assessment of the birds to be moved
- Artificial burrows
- Hacking cage



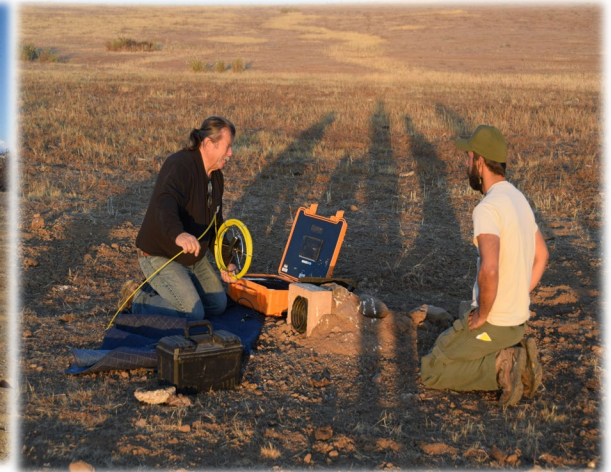
Translocations

- Collaboration
- Increased success
- Management tools



Management

- Monitoring
 - Remote cameras
 - Peeper scopes
- Management
 - Burrow repairs, cleaning
 - Habitat – grazing, mowing





THANK YOU!

