

List of Scientific Experts for Ecological Resources in the SCAG Region (April 2014)

This table provides a list of scientific experts with knowledge in fields relevant to habitat assessment and conservation planning in the SCAG region. Their expertise includes general and regionally specific knowledge of ecology and the principles and practice of conservation biology; the natural communities and wildlife, plant, fish, and invertebrate species in the region including species protected under federal and state endangered species regulations; fire ecology; habitat conservation planning including involvement with the development of habitat conservation plans (HCP) and natural community conservation plans (NCCP); statistical analysis and spatial analysis using geographic information systems (GIS); and the effects on human activities on species and natural communities. These individuals have served on independent science advisory and review committees and panels for HCPs and NCCPs in the SCAG region including the Coachella Valley Multi-Species HCP, Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, Southern Orange County NCCP, and Orange County Transportation Agency HCP/NCCP. These scientific experts come from academic institutions, federal and state resource and research agencies, non-profit environmental organizations, and private companies. Many other experts could be named, but this list provides names of individuals specifically experienced working as science advisors to large regional conservation plans.

Name (last, first)	Affiliation	Area of Expertise
Abella, Scott	University of Nevada Las Vegas	Plant ecology, restoration ecology, fire ecology, especially in arid environments
Allen, Edith	University of California, Riverside	Plant ecology, with emphasis on restoration ecology, soil ecology, and invasive species ecology; primarily in California shrublands, grasslands, and deserts
Ballmer, Greg	University of California Cooperative Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources	Integrated pest management in field crops; entomology, sampling surveys; sweet potato whitefly; systematics of insects
Bedford, David	Energy and Geophysics Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey	Interactions between surficial and ecological processes throughout the western U.S.; geomorphology, hydrology, and ecohydrology
Beedy, Ted	Beedy Environmental Consulting	Avian ecology, California bird species, endangered bird species, wildlife surveys, impact analyses
Berry, Kirstin	U.S. Geological Survey, Riverside, California	Wildlife biology; arid lands ecology; desert plants; desert tortoise; animal communities in the Mojave and western Sonoran deserts
Bowler, Peter	University of California, Irvine	Restoration Ecology/Ecological Restoration, Conservation Biology, Freshwater Biology, Environmental Ethics

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DeFalco, Lesley	U. S. Geological Survey	Arid ecosystem function, primarily in the Mojave Desert; climate controls on the function of desert plant communities and the responses of arid lands to human disturbances
Dennis Murphy	University of Nevada, Reno	Ecology, conservation biology, conservation planning, adaptive management plans, butterfly ecology, HCPs and NCCPs
DiGennaro, Bruce	Essex Partnership	Facilitation, strategic planning, regulatory issues, and resource management
Fred Roberts	Independent Botanical Survey Consultant	Botany; rare plant ecology; rare plant surveys
Jim Dice	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Botany; desert plants; plant biogeography
Jonathan Atwood	Antioch University of New England	Ornithology, conservation biology; research includes behavioral studies of rare and endangered bird species, specifically California Gnatcatcher and ecology and conservation of beach-nesting shorebirds (esp. Least Tern)
Katzner, Todd	West Virginia University	Wildlife conservation ecology and the interaction between wildlife and human-dominated ecosystems; avian ecology; wind turbine affects on raptors
Noss, Reed	University of Central Florida; President, Florida Institute for Conservation Science	Conservation biology, conservation planning, ecology. Research involving the application of science to species-level and ecosystem conservation planning, restoration, and management.
Nussear, Ken	U. S. Geological Survey Western Ecological Research Center, Henderson, NV	Application of physiological principles toward understanding the ecological limitations to species distributions at local, regional and landscape scales
O'Connell, Michael	The Irvine Ranch Conservancy	Land conservation and management, conservation biology, ecology
Paul Zedler	University of Wisconsin – Madison	Plant community and population ecology; Mediterranean-climate shrub communities (chaparral, coastal sage scrub, cypress woodland); grasslands and vernal pools; fire ecology

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Peter Bloom	Bloom Biological, Inc	Avian ecology, raptor biology and conservation
Preston, Kristine	University of California, Riverside	Ecology, avian ecology, behavioral ecology, climate change effects
Rahn, Matt	San Diego State University	Ecology, conservation, sustainability, land use, ecosystem management, and conservation planning issues.
Robert Fisher	USGS, Western Ecological Research Center	Ecology of reptiles and amphibians, mammalogy, conservation biology, monitoring programs
Robin Wills	National Park Service Pacific West Region	Fire ecology
Schwarzbach, Steven	U.S. Geological Survey Western Ecological Research Center	Ornithology; avian diseases; toxicology including studies of birds and mercury, organochlorides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); bioaccumulation and ecotoxicological risk
Soule, Michael	University of California, Santa Cruz (Emeritus)	Conservation biology, conservation planning, ecology, evolutionary biology, fluctuating asymmetry, population genetics, island biogeography, environmental studies, biodiversity policy, nature conservation; ecological studies of insects, lizards, birds, and mammals in Africa, Mexico, the Adriatic, the West Indies, and in California and Colorado
Spencer, Wayne	Conservation Biology Institute, San Diego	Facilitation, conservation planning; endangered species recovery; rare and endangered mammal species, including Stephens' kangaroo rat and Pacific pocket mouse; forest carnivores, including the Pacific fisher and Pacific marten
Stoms, David	California Energy Commission	Integrating conservation planning, landscape ecology, and geospatial techniques
Strittholt, James	Conservation Biology Institute	Computer mapping technologies to address ecological assessments and conservation planning projects; nature reserve designs, conservation planning, forest and watershed assessments, ecological modeling, web tool development, and remote sensing applications in conservation

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Tracy, Richard	University of Nevada, Reno	Physiological ecology, biophysical ecology, animal behavior, population biology, evolutionary biology, theoretical ecology, and conservation biology.
Trish Smith	The Nature Conservancy	Ecology, land management, ecosystem management
Webb, Robert	U. S. Geological Survey	Desert ecology and soils, effects of grazing and off-road vehicle use, hydrology of desert streams
Weller, Theodore	U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station	Bat ecology; bat survey methods, population monitoring, and assemblage characterization, effects of wind turbines on bats
Yee, Julie	U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center	Statistics with emphasis in Biostatistics; design the collection and analysis of survey, radio-telemetry, and habitat data