
Memorandum

To: Joanna Callenbach, YCS

From: Tanner Harris
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CC:

Date: December 8, 2014

Subject: Young Ranch Biological Resources Assessment Update

This memorandum provides an update to the Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) prepared by WRA in December 2011 for the proposed development and preserve at Young Ranch, located in Santa Clara County, California. WRA documented biological resources at Young Ranch during a number of site visits conducted between 2008 and 2011. Observations and data collected during these site visits were used to document the types, distribution, extent, and health of biological communities at the site, document plant and wildlife diversity at the site, and make an assessment of the potential for special-status species to occur at the site. After the preparation of the 2011 BRA, WRA refined the mapping of some biological community types based on observations made during subsequent site visits between 2011 and 2014. In addition, WRA conducted additional focused rare plant surveys, increasing the number of special-status plant species known to occur at the site.

Biological communities were originally mapped using a combination of field measurements with handheld GPS equipment with sub-meter accuracy and mapping by hand on current high-resolution aerial imagery. Refinements to the 2011 mapping were achieved through a combination of additional field-based GPS measurements and the acquisition of improved aerial photography used for digitizing the extent of biological communities. For example, the area mapped as serpentine bunchgrass grassland was increased by approximately 20 acres and a corresponding reduction of acreage in other communities occurred, including a reduction of approximately 16 acres of non-native annual grassland, 3 acres of sage scrub, 1 acre of oak woodland, 1 acre of riparian woodland, and 1 acre of seasonal wetlands. In addition, WRA revised the biological community mapping to reflect the biological communities (i.e., landcover types) recognized by the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan (ICF International 2012). These changes included sub-dividing what WRA had previously classified as “waters” into what the SCVHP classified as “coastal and valley freshwater marsh”, “ponds”, and “riverine” (i.e., streams). In addition, WRA changed the name of some other community types to reflect the SCVHP names; this included redefining “riparian” habitat as “mixed riparian woodland,” and redefining “mixed scrub” as “Diablan sage scrub,” in addition to other minor community name changes (e.g., changing “non-native annual grassland” to “California non-native annual

grassland”). The *revised* Table 1, below, and *revised* Figure 2, attached, reflect these revisions and supersede the original Table 1 and Figure 2 included in the December 2011 BRA.

It should be noted that the acreage of wetlands (i.e., seasonal wetlands, coastal and valley freshwater marsh) and non-wetland waters (i.e., streams and ponds) shown on the figures included in the 2011 BRA and the figures included with this 2014 update is greater than shown on the Preliminary Section 404 Delineation and Update prepared for the Project by WRA (2011, 2014). This is because the Study Area for the BRA covered a larger portion of the Young Ranch site than did the Study Areas for the Section 404 Delineation and Update. The wetlands, streams, and ponds shown in these different documents were mapped following similar methods (e.g., identification of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology for wetlands and identification of the ordinary high water mark for streams and ponds); however, wetlands and non-wetland waters occurring outside of the Section 404 Delineation and Update Study Areas were not documented to the same level of detail (e.g., using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data forms) as were the wetlands and non-wetland waters within the Section 404 Study Area.

Table 1 (revised). Biological community acreages at Young Ranch

BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY	ACRES (ROUNDED)	PERCENT OF TOTAL
California Non-Native Annual Grassland	1,273	59
Serpentine Bunchgrass Grassland	675	31
Diablan Sage Scrub	98	5
Mixed Oak Woodland	55	2
Mixed Riparian Woodland	22	1
Seasonal Wetlands	18	1
Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh	1	<1
Riverine	2	<1
Pond	1	<1
Developed	5	<1
TOTAL	2,150	100

During additional focused rare plant surveys conducted at the site between 2011 and 2014, WRA increased the number of occurrences on the site for Mt. Hamilton thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*), Hall’s bush mallow (*Malacothamnus hallii*), and Metcalf Canyon jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus* ssp. *albidus* [*S. albidus* ssp. *albidus*]) and documented the presence of woodland monolopia (*Monolopia gracilens*), a rare plant with a CNPS California Rare Plant Rank of 1B.2. Woodland monolopia was identified at the site during the surveys conducted for the 2011 BRA; however, it had not been listed by the CNPS at the time and its full distribution was not mapped. Following production of the 2011 BRA, woodland monolopia was listed by the

CNPS and WRA conducted additional focused rare plant surveys to document its distribution at the site. See the Focused Rare Plant Survey Report and Addendum (WRA 2012, 2013) for more details on rare plant species documented at the site. A summary is provided below in the revised Table 2, which supersedes the original Table 2 included in the December 2011 BRA.

Table 1 (revised). Special-status plant species observed on Young Ranch. Plant names follow Baldwin et al. (2012) with relevant synonyms provided in brackets.

Species	Conservation Status*	Numbers of Individuals Observed	Acreage of Occupied Habitat Observed*
<i>Cirsium fontinale</i> var. <i>campylon</i> Mt. Hamilton thistle	CNPS 1B.2	8,826	3.4
<i>Dudleya abramsii</i> ssp. <i>setchellii</i> [<i>D. setchellii</i>] Santa Clara Valley dudleya	FE CNPS 1B.1	18,266	40.9
<i>Fritillaria liliacea</i> Fragrant fritillary	CNPS 1B.2	956	2.3
<i>Lessingia micradenia</i> var. <i>glabrata</i> Smooth lesingia	CNPS 1B.2	23,330	80.2
<i>Malacothamnus hallii</i> Hall's bush mallow	CNPS 1B.2	2,630	19.2
<i>Monolopia gracilens</i> Woodland monolopia	CNPS 1B.2	2,390	0.5
<i>Streptanthus glandulosus</i> ssp. <i>albidus</i> [<i>S. albidus</i> ssp. <i>albidus</i>] Metcalf Canyon jewel flower	FE CNPS 1B.1	31,711	40.6
<i>Streptanthus glandulosus</i> ssp. <i>glandulosus</i> [<i>S. albidus</i> ssp. <i>peramoenus</i>] Most beautiful jewel flower	CNPS 1B.2	6	0

*Key to conservation status codes:

FE Federal Endangered
CNPS 1.B California Native Plant Society California Rare Plant Rank 1.B

References

Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken (eds.). 2012. The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition. University of California Press, Berkeley, California.

ICF International. 2012. Final Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan. Report prepared for the City of Gilroy, City of Morgan Hill, City of San Jose, County of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and Santa Clara Valley Water District.

WRA, Inc. 2011. Preliminary Section 404 Delineation, Young Ranch, Santa Clara County, California. Prepared for YCS Investments, San Francisco, California.

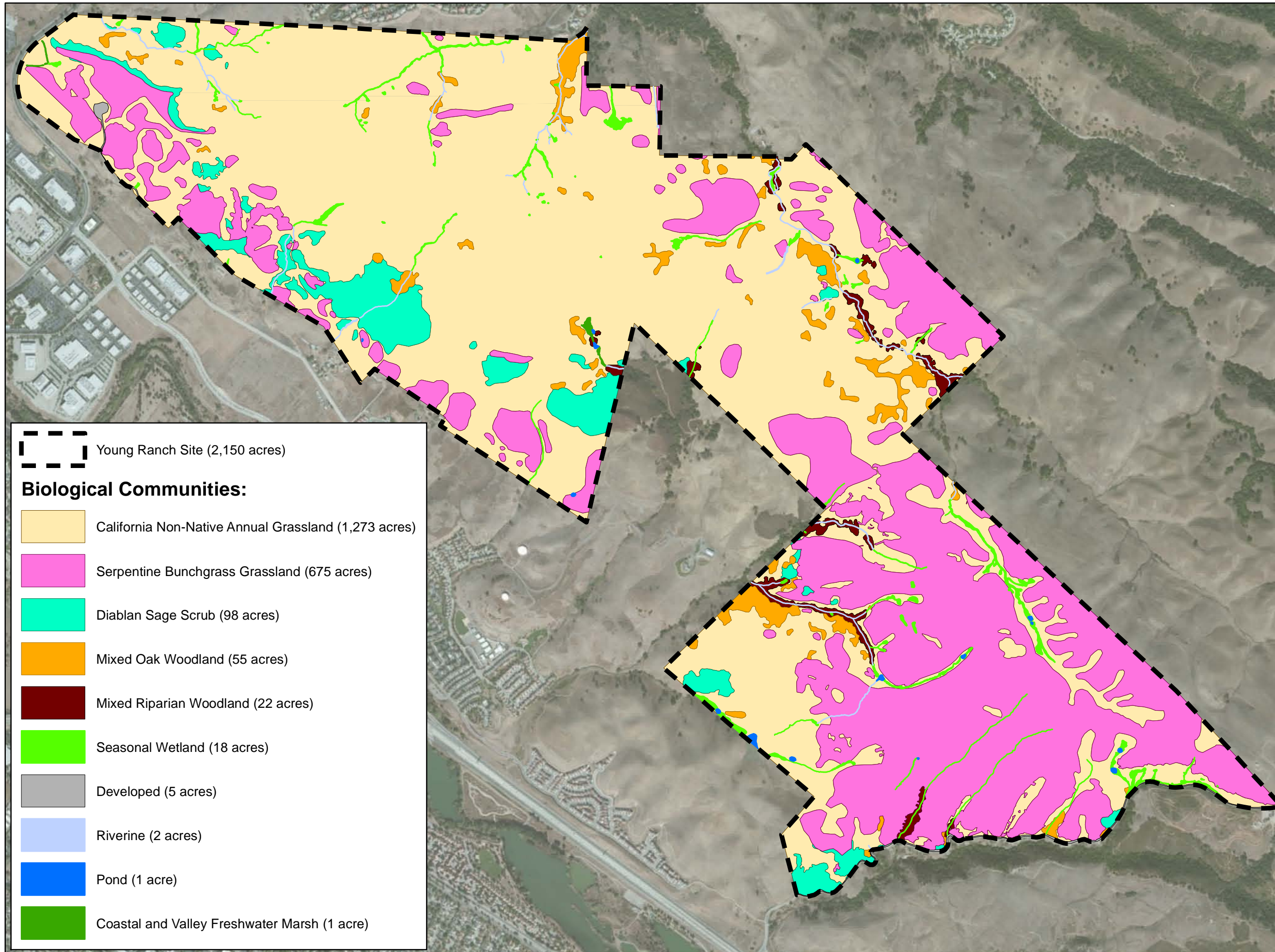
WRA, Inc. 2012. Focused Rare Plant Survey Report, Young Ranch, Santa Clara County, California. Prepared for YCS Investments, San Francisco, California.


WRA, Inc. 2013. Rare Plant Survey Addendum, Young Ranch, Santa Clara County, California. Prepared for YCS Investments, San Francisco, California.

WRA, Inc. 2014. Young Ranch Preliminary Section 404 Delineation Report Update. Prepared for YCS Investments, San Francisco, California.











Young Ranch
Santa Clara County,
California

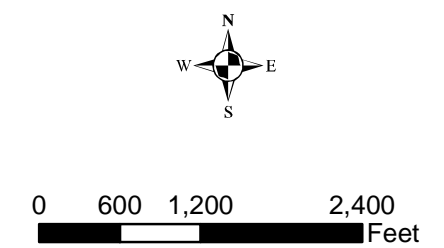
Figure 2 (revised).
Biological Communities
within the Site



 Young Ranch Site (2,150 acres)

Biological Communities:

-  California Non-Native Annual Grassland (1,273 acres)
-  Serpentine Bunchgrass Grassland (675 acres)
-  Diablan Sage Scrub (98 acres)
-  Mixed Oak Woodland (55 acres)
-  Mixed Riparian Woodland (22 acres)
-  Seasonal Wetland (18 acres)
-  Developed (5 acres)
-  Riverine (2 acres)
-  Pond (1 acre)
-  Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh (1 acre)



Date: October 2014
Map by: Michael Rochelle
Aerial: ESRI Imagery