

5.3.30 Pajaro Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pajaroensis*)



Pajaro Manzanita

Photo Credit: Joe Broberg

Status

- California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1

Ecological Requirements

- RCIS Regions: Pajaro River, Gabilan Range and Pinnacles National Monument, Monterey Bay Coastline, Outer Coast Range, Inner Coast Range, Salinas Valley (CDFW 2020)
- RCIS Natural Communities: Mixed Chaparral (CDFW 2020; CNPS 2019b)
- Fire-adapted found in sandy soils at edges and openings of chaparral (CDFW 2020; CNPS 2019b)
- Full species account available: *Arctostaphylos Pajaroensis* Fact Sheet (Coastal Training Program 2020b)
- RCIS Conservation Target: High (non-listed, limited range, represents near-endemic to RCIS area, unique habitat [sandy chaparral])

Associated Non-Focal Species

- Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Table 5-48 summarizes the climate change exposure, spatial distribution, and vulnerability of natural communities associated with Pajaro manzanita (PM). Mixed chaparral communities statewide could experience a 0 to 75 percent reduction in habitat suitability.

Table 5-48. Pajaro Manzanita Natural Communities Climate Vulnerability Ranking

Natural Communities	Climate Exposure and Disruption Rank High Emissions (RCP8.5) Warm and Wet	Climate Exposure and Disruption Rank High Emissions (RCP8.5) Hot and Dry	Combined Vulnerability Rank High Emissions (RCP8.5)
Mixed Chaparral	Low to Moderate	Moderate to Mid-High	Moderate to Mid-High

Source: Thorne et al. 2016

The goals, objectives, and actions shown in Table 5-49 aim to protect, enhance, and restore present day suitable habitats for Pajaro manzanita, as well as habitats that may become suitable in the future because of projected climate changes. Actions also address population stability, such as prescribed burns, which may allow individuals to move to newly suitable habitats in the future.

Figure 5-26 shows the range and modeled habitat for Pajaro manzanita.

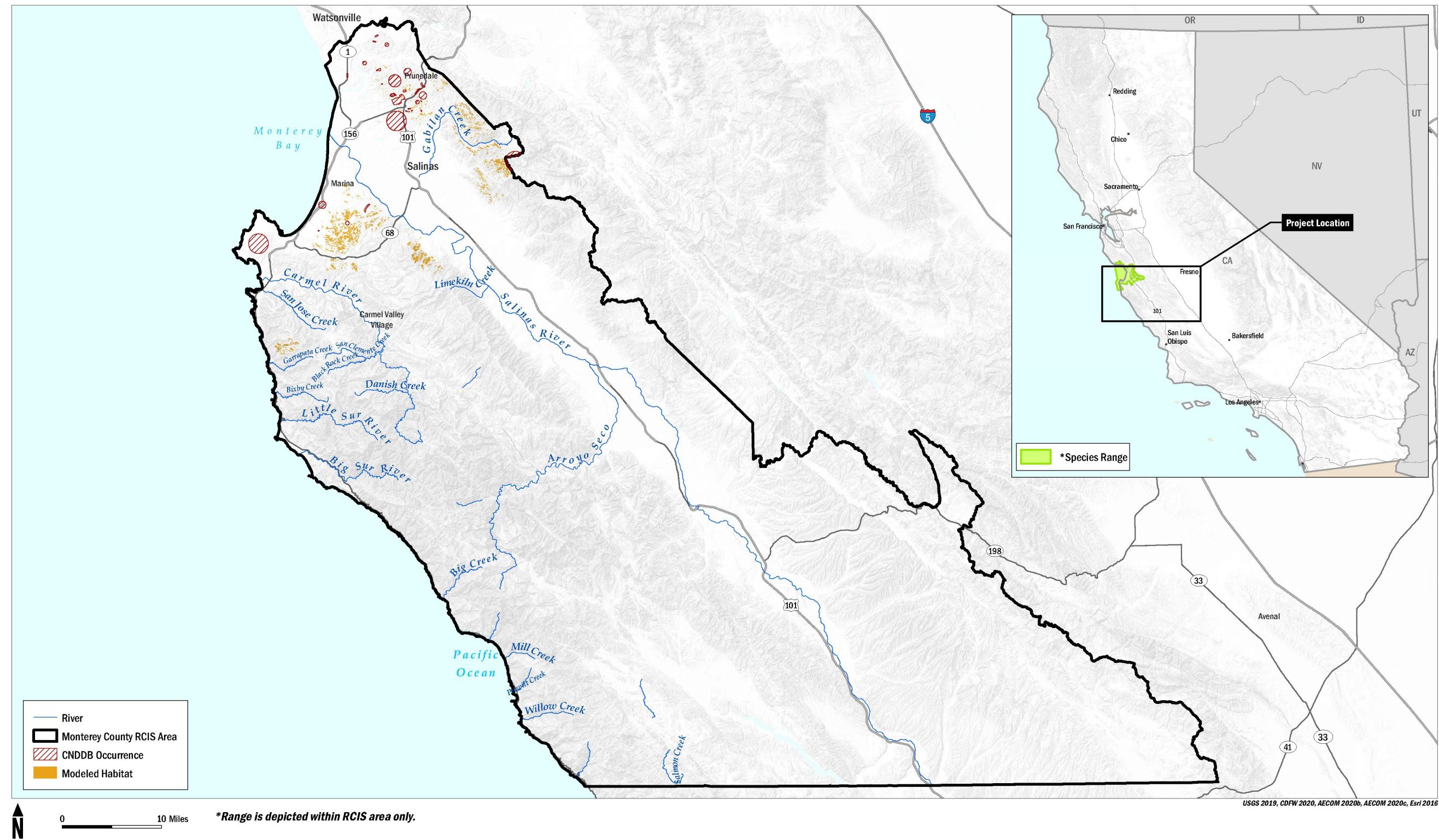


Figure 5-26. Pajaro Manzanita Range and Modeled Habitat

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Pajaro Manzanita Conservation Priorities, Goals, Objectives, and Actions

RC Goal 1 and all Plant goals, objectives, and actions apply to Pajaro manzanita. Table 5-49 summarizes the goals, objectives, and actions for the species.

Conservation Priorities

- Acquire and protect suitable habitat surrounding known occurrences in the Prunedale Hills area, Gabilan Range, and known occurrences along the Monterey Peninsula (RC Objective 1.1).
- Enhance suitable or potentially suitable habitat in Monterey County through planting, non-native species control, or seed germination through prescribed burns (Plant Goal 1).

Table 5-49. Pajaro Manzanita Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goal	Objective	Threats	Co-Benefits	Action
PM Goal 1. Promote persistence of Pajaro manzanita populations in the RCIS area through protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat.	PM Objective 1.1: Protect known occurrences and allow expansion by protecting 2,000 acres of suitable habitat. Measure progress toward achieving this objective by the number of known occurrences, acres of suitable or potentially suitable habitat, and adjacent/equivalent acres protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Other focal species/non-focal species • Climate change resilience 	RC Objective 1.1 (Protection) actions

Goal	Objective	Threats	Co-Benefits	Action
PM Goal 1.	PM Objective 1.2: Enhance occupied and suitable Pajaro manzanita habitat. Measure progress toward achieving this objective by acres of habitat and adjacent/equivalent acres enhanced and occupied by Pajaro manzanita.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire suppression • Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire management • Biodiversity • Other focal/non-focal species • Climate change resilience 	PM 1.2.1: Use prescribed burns to promote plant establishment, in coordination with scientific advisors, land managers, universities, and/or regulatory agencies to inform the location and frequency of potential burn areas.
PM Goal 1.	PM Objective 1.2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC Objective 1.1 (Enhancement) threats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Other focal/non-focal species • Climate change resilience 	RC Objective 1.1 (Enhancement) actions
PM Goal 1.	PM Objective 1.3: Restore Pajaro manzanita habitat. Measure progress toward achieving this objective by acres of habitat and adjacent/equivalent acres enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Objective (Restoration) 1.1 threats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire management • Biodiversity • Other focal/non-focal species 	Plant Objective (Restoration) 1.1 actions

Sources: CDFW 2015, 2020; CNPS 2019b