

5.3.31 Seaside Bird's-Beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*)



Seaside bird's beak

Status

- State Endangered
- California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1

Ecological Requirements

- RCIS Regions: Monterey Bay Coastline, Outer Coast Range (CDFW 2020)
- RCIS Natural Communities: Mixed Chaparral, Coastal Dune (CDFW 2020; CNPS 2019b)
- Hemiparasitic, often found in sandy soils at disturbed sites (CDFW 2020; CNPS 2019b)
- Threats include non-native species and mammalian/Lepidoptera herbivory (Watts et al. 2010)
- Full species account available: *Cordylanthus Rigidus subsp. Littoralis* Fact Sheet (Coastal Training Program 2020c).
- RCIS Conservation Target: High (State listed, near-endemic to RCIS area)

Associated Non-Focal Species

- Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)
- Sandmat manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pumila*)
- Woolly-leaf manzanita shrubland (*Arctostaphylos tomentosa* Alliance)

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Table 5-50 summarizes the climate change exposure, spatial distribution, and vulnerability of natural communities associated with seaside bird’s-beak (SBB) coastal dune communities statewide, which could experience a 25 to 75 percent reduction in habitat suitability, and some mixed chaparral communities statewide could experience a 0 to 25 percent reduction in habitat suitability.

Table 5-50. Seaside Bird’s-Beak 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)
Coastal Dune	Moderate	Mid-High	Mid-High
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 5-51 aim to protect, enhance, and restore present day suitable habitats for seaside bird’s-beak, as well as habitats that may become suitable in the future because of projected climate changes. Actions also address population stability, such as seed storage, which may allow individuals to move to newly suitable habitats in the future.

Figure 5-27 shows the range and modeled habitat for the seaside bird’s-beak.

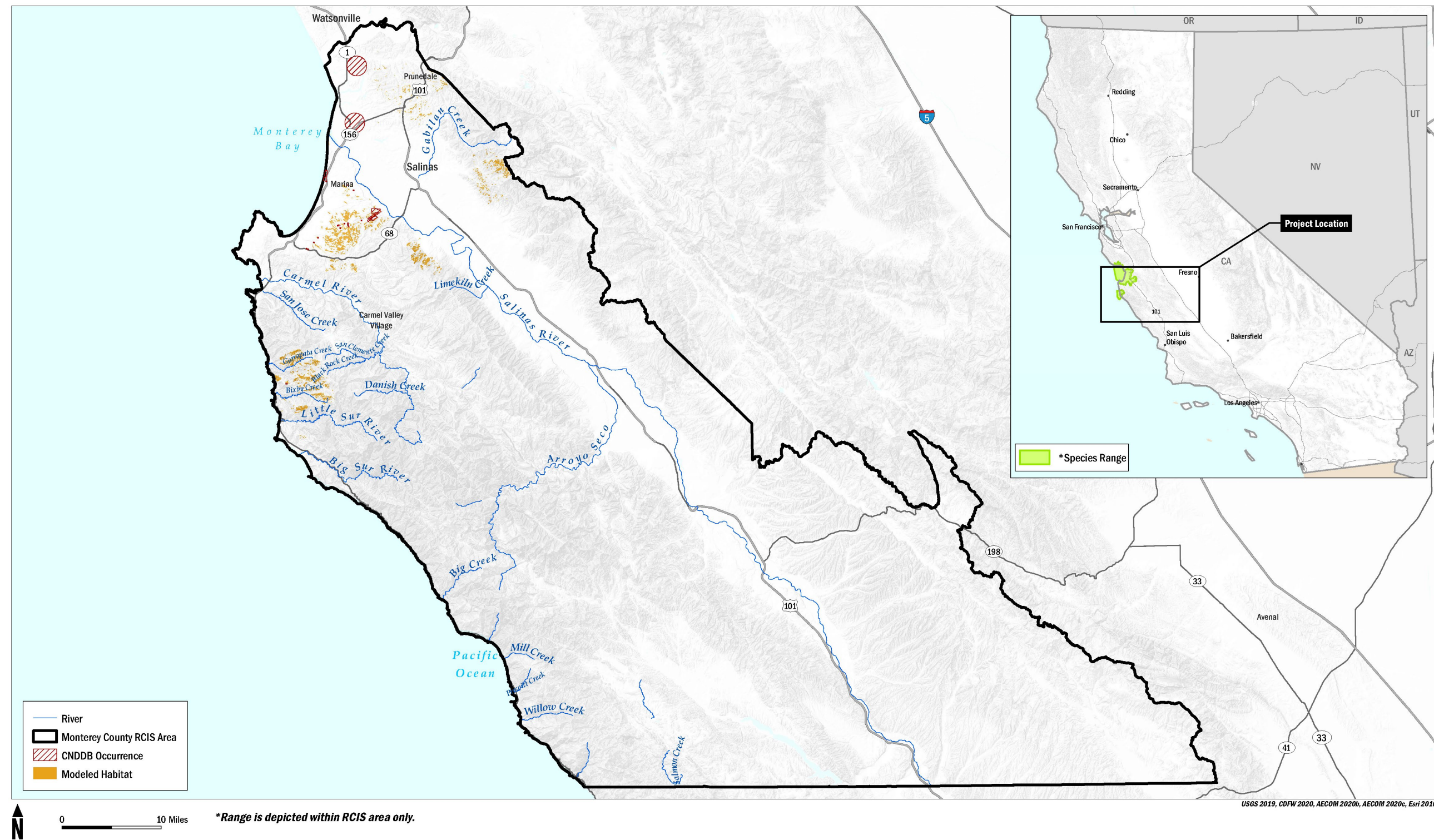


FIGURE 5-27
Seaside Bird's-beak

Figure 5-27. Seaside Bird's-beak Range and Modeled Habitat

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Seaside Bird's-beak Conservation Priorities, Goals, Objectives, and Actions

RC Goal 1 and all Plant goals, objectives, and actions apply to seaside bird's-beak. Table 5-51 summarizes the goals, objectives, and actions for the species.

Conservation Priorities

- Acquire and protect suitable habitat surrounding known occurrences in the Monterey Bay–Fort Ord region and known occurrences in the Big Sur region (RC Objective 1.1)

Table 5-51. Seaside Bird's-beak Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goal	Objective	Threats	Co-Benefits	Action
SBB Goal 1. Promote persistence of seaside bird's-beak populations in the RCIS area through protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitat.	SBB Objective 1.1: Protect known occurrences and allow expansion by protecting 1,800 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
SBB Goal 1.	SBB Objective 1.2: Enhance seaside bird's-beak habitat. Measure progress toward achieving this objective by acres of habitat and adjacent/equivalent acres enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RC Objective 1.2 (Enhancement) threats – Habitat loss, degradation, fragmentation, Non-native invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other focal/ non-focal species • Biodiversity • Climate change resilience 	RC Objective (Enhancement) 1.2 actions
SBB Goal 1.	SBB Objective 1.2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive herbivory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other focal/ non-focal species • Biodiversity 	SBB 1.2.2: Control excessive herbivory (mammalian and Lepidoptera) (Watts et al. 2010).
SBB Goal 1.	SBB Objective 1.3: Restore seaside bird's-beak 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