

GEOG 442 Field Trip to Sepulveda Dam Basin, Sunday, 3 March 2019, Dr. C.M. Rodrigue

Where/when we meet: Sepulveda Dam Basin Wildlife Reserve at 9:45 a.m.

- *(paperwork needs to be in or you can't go along)*

Meet the bus between 8:30 and 9 a.m. In Lot G7/G8/G9 (the huge lot formerly known as Lot 14): west of Merriam Way, south of Atherton St. If you don't have a campus parking permit, arrange to get a temporary one from the campus police before the weekend or, better, arrange to carpool with someone else. The bus leaves at 9 a.m.

Those of you who have made arrangements with me to drive separately (due to work schedules): Drive north on I-405 through the Westside and up over the Sepulveda Pass into the San Fernando Valley (~40 mi.). Drive past the 101/Ventura Freeway at the bottom of the grade to Burbank Blvd. and exit there. Make a left (west) over the freeway and then a right onto Woodley Ave. I'll be parked along there about a quarter to half a mile up, near Woodley Park (white coupe). Parking is free on Woodley, but you need to re-park after 4 hours. There is a parking lot in Woodley Park (municipal park), which doesn't have signs limiting you to 4 hours, so I'll move my car there after you get there.

Some of what we'll see and do:

- Identify California sage scrub (CSS) vegetation, oak woodland, riparian forest, riparian scrub, and exotic-dominated California prairie
- Identify and discuss introduced exotic and invasive species that are all over the Basin and their effects
- Learn to identify native plant species gaining a toehold in exotic prairie, along Haskell Creek and along Burbank
- Practice doing transect sampling along or near the trails along Haskell Creek and maybe the South Reserve
- Do quadrat sampling along the trails on the north and east side of the Basin
- Maybe census species growing under *Baccharis pilularis* in the grassland
- Collecting soil samples
- Taking soil pH and compaction readings

What you need to bring:

- Field notebook, pencil or pen, smartphone (if you have one, so you can access the PV key at <http://www.csulb.edu/depts/geography/PV/> and the species checklist at <http://web.csulb.edu/~rodrigue/geog330/SepulvedaDamSpecies.html> and its links to Calflora)
- Solid, covered, comfortable shoes and socks (*e.g.*, hiking boots, sneakers)
- Long pants (small possibility of ticks)
- Hat and sunglasses (and SPF sun lotion)
- Clothes you can layer for protection against light rain and cooler temperatures: t-shirt or tank top, overshirt, sweatshirt or jacket, hoodie or hat or scarf to keep your head dry, stuff you don't mind getting pretty grubby!
- Water (about 1 liter should do it, perhaps in two plastic half-liter bottles or a canteen, if you have one)
- Snack food (power bars, trail mix, crackers, cookies, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, apples, bananas, peaches or plums) that does not need refrigeration (mayonnaise will get you sick, cheese may get gross, candy may melt) or the use of plates and flatware
- Paper or plastic bag to portage your garbage to a trash can (of which there are several)
- Something to carry your gear in (*e.g.*, backpack, cloth grocery bag)
- Please don't smoke: Bring your nicotine gum if you know you'll be miserable and distracted not smoking for a few hours

Data gathering goals:

- Collecting biodiversity data with transects and quadrats, which we'll process in class
- Identifying native species that are colonizing exotic-dominated grasslands
- Collecting soil and exotic weed data from the five agricultural fields that once occupied the North Reserve
- Developing field skills for your group projects later on...

Sepulveda Dam Basin Trails: <http://sepulvedabasinwildlife.org/images/local%20trail%20map.jpg>

Monday, 4 March, will be a field work “comp” day (no class!!!)

Nearest emergency-receiving hospital:

- Valley Presbyterian Hospital (15107 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys. Drive north on Woodley to Vanowen St., make a right, go under the 405 freeway to Sepulveda Blvd. – it is visible from the intersection and the entrance is on Vanowen east of Sepulveda). Their telephone is (818) 782-6600 or (877) 237-9522. Just in case.

Map:

