



The Conservation and Ecology of California's Coastal Prairie



Sponsored by:
Coastal Training Program
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
May 1st, 2003
9 – 5pm

Purpose

The purpose of this workshop is to inform land managers and planners about the basic ecology, identification, and conservation of California's coastal prairie.

Agenda

9:00 a.m. Morning session

Presentation: Mark Stromberg is resident director of the Hastings Natural History Reservation in Carmel Valley. He co-authored (with Vern Yadon and Paul Kephart) a recent paper indicating that coastal terrace prairie may be the most diverse grassland community in the United States. Mark will describe the floristics and patterns of species diversity of coastal prairie, and present research that defines coastal prairie and differentiates it from inland California grasslands and other North American grasslands.

Presentation: Deborah Hillyard is a Conservation Planner for the California Department of Fish and Game. She has published research on coastal prairie and coastal scrub plant community restoration. Deborah will explain how the rarity of coastal prairie fits in with some of California's environmental regulations and the association of coastal prairie with rare and listed species. She will also address threats, and give some examples of the kinds of activities that are now being done or planned to address the loss of prairie, such as conservation planning, acquisitions, management, education, and regulation.

Presentation: Dr. Grey Hayes conducted his graduate dissertation research on coastal prairie restoration and is now Coastal Training Program Coordinator. He will present information about the statewide extent of coastal prairie along with his research on responses of the coastal prairie wildflowers to different management practices.

~12:30 p.m. **Lunch** *Provided by the workshop.*

Afternoon session

Panel Discussion: A facilitated discussion between the attendees and the presenters.

Field Trip: We will visit the Porter Ranch, one of California's best examples of coastal prairie. The site has the Endangered Santa Cruz tarplant and the rare artist's popcornflower. This is also one of Grey Hayes' research sites.