

Dustin Mathew McLain
(951) 955-4102
dmclain@rivco.org

Bureau Chief – Parks and Resources
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

Dustin McLain is a wildlife and regulatory biologist whose main species of interest includes the California red-legged frog, coho salmon and steelhead trout of the California coast range. U.S. Forest Service work allowed Mr. McLain to study, survey and monitor avian and amphibian species in the Eldorado National Forest; which included the northern goshawk, California spotted owl, willow flycatcher, red- legged frog and the mountain yellow-legged frog. As a biologist for ECORP Consulting, Inc., Mr. McLain conducted special-status species surveys, wetland delineations, monitoring of wildlife and was heavily involved in the regulatory permitting process which included authoring many 404/401/1600 permit application reports. Currently, as a Chief - Parks and Resources for Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District, Mr. McLain is in charge of the Operations of 7 Regional Parks, oversees the day to day acquisition and adaptive management activities associated with the Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) for the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) and the Riverside County Parks Open-Space Habitat Program; which encompasses ±50,000 acres and 146 covered species. Daily activities include managing 2 Area Managers, 2 Natural Resources Managers and 6 Supervising Park Rangers making sure safe and enjoyable operations for guests using our regional parks and successful implementation of seasonal species surveys, planning, organizing, and implementing Reserve Management plans for covered species while working closely with the RCA, RCA Monitoring Division, USFWS and CDFW.

Education

B.S., Biology - Organismal and Conservation, San Jose State University, 2004. Major emphasis: fisheries management, aquatic ecology/limnology, plant ecology, plant physiology.

Relevant Professional History

County of Riverside – Chief of Parks and Resources (October 2017 – Present)
County of Riverside – Natural Resource Manager (December 2009 – October 2017)
County of Riverside – Natural Resource Specialist (July 2006 – December 2009)
Ecorp. Consulting Inc. – Biologist/Regulatory Specialist (June 2004 – July 2006)
Essex Environmental – Biological Monitor (Temp: April 2005 – June 2005)
U.S. Forest Service – Biological Technician (Seasonal: May 2004 – September 2004)
Santa Clara County Parks – Park Ranger I EH (Seasonal: March 2003 – August 2003)

Professional Experience

- Currently oversee the day to day management activities and natural resource protection for the WRC-MSHCP Reserve system developing strategies for reserve management and monitoring while administrating and directing subordinate reserve workers that deal with the enforcement of permitted uses and habitat management on RCA owned land. The WRC-MSHCP currently encompasses over 45,000-acres and has 146 covered species.

- **Currently oversees day to day management and public safety protection of the Open-Space Reserve system, which encompasses 14, 000-acres in size.**
- **Currently oversees the operation of 7 Regional Parks and 2 cultural sites.**
- **Currently oversees the Arundo Removal Program in the Santa Ana River where crews actively remove non-native plants that outcompete native riparian plants in the Santa Ana River. Within a 766-acre treatment area, crews remove salt-cedar (*Arundo donax*), *Tamarisk spp.* and castor bean (*Ricinus communis*) within the Santa Ana River channel. Staff used light, medium and heavy equipment to remove vegetation and the apply herbicide to cut vegetation and allow for native reintroduction of plants (passive restoration). Currently the section of the river under management by Riverside County Regional Parks and Open-Space District consists of less than 10% salt-cedar coverage overall.**
- **Conducted Tamarisk removal project on the Regional Conservation Authority's Reynolds Reserve. Under cooperative agreement with the USFWS and a under grant from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (USFWS Agreement # 81430AJ018) crews removed 4.5-acres of tamarisk and actively restored site with willow and mule fat to create conducive habitat for least Bell's vireo. Project is subject to USFWS inspection and requires 10 years of management and success criteria.**
- **Conducted 4 separate burrowing owl translocation efforts in 2013, 2014 and 2015, which included the trapping, banding, transportation, hacking and release of 11 adult burrowing owls. 30 day feeding, monitoring and report writing was also completed as required for each translocation effort.**
- **Completed various reports for the RCA used in presentations to the RCA board which included authoring the majority of the Initial Management Evaluation Reports (IMER) and participating in the production of the RCA Semi-Annual/ Annual Management Reports.**
- **Conducted all of the GIS related work for the Management section activities, which include map making, border delineations, wetland delineations, post-fire delineations, and property surveys. Extremely proficient in GIS mapping techniques and procedures.**
- **Conducted all initial property inspections during the acquisition process of lands for the MSHCP assuring the success of the escrow closing process on real property.**
- **Currently conducting radio-telemetry of western pond turtles on RCA properties to better understand population dynamics, habitat use and dispersal area.**
- **Currently managing burrowing owl population activity on RCA owned property, which includes installation of artificial burrows, habitat management, record keeping of current population numbers and banding of owls.**
- **Participates in a cooperative working group with the monitoring program that develops strategies for reserve management by gathering and analyzing data to better understand project goals and direction.**
- **Forest Service Region 5 California Spotted Owl inventory and monitoring, Northern Goshawk surveys, Red legged frog stream surveys, Yellow Legged frog surveys and Willow Flycatcher surveys. Field techniques included plotting call point transects onto topographic maps, laying transects in the field, surveying transects at night, conducting follow-up visits and data collection. Responsible for compiling and producing Geographic/Global Information Systems (GIS) maps of the district spotted owl data for the year for incorporation into the Forest database.**

- **Aspen restoration project. Member of habitat restoration crew to preserve mature aspen trees on the Placerville Ranger District. Work involved coordinating with 26 Americorps volunteers. Project involved the removal of conifer trees to enable mature aspen to survive and fencing in three areas to enable a multi-layer of aspen to exist. Fencing was monitored and repaired throughout the season to prevent cattle and deer damage.**
- **Conducted multiple years of steelhead and coho surveys and weir trapping along the Santa Cruz watershed.**
- **Performed field and office work that pertains to the permitting process of sections 401, 404 and 1600 regulatory documents. Authored over 50 section 404, 401, 1600 regulatory documents**

Professional Affiliations

**Society for Conservation Biology
Western Section of The Wildlife Society
American Fisheries Society
California Park and Recreation Society
National Recreation and Park Association**