

Biological Resources of Topanga Creek Watershed

Biodiversity in Topanga is quite high with many species common here that are uncommon in other areas of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Vegetation coverage (courtesy of NPS) according to a modified Holland classification system includes:

<u>Acres</u>	<u>Plant Community</u>
900	Coast Live Oak Woodland
318	Riparian Woodland
10	Walnut Woodland
1700	Coastal Sage Scrub
7600	Northern Mixed Chaparral
300	Chamise Chaparral
169	Non-native Grassland
43	Rock Outcrops
20	Coastal Strand (sand)
8	Water

Sensitive Plants species found in Topanga thusfar include:

<i>Astragalus brawntonii</i>	Braunton's milkvetch
<i>Dudleya cymosa ssp. ovatifolia</i>	Santa Monica Mountains Dudleya
<i>Hemizonia minthornii</i>	Santa Susana Tarplant
<i>Juglans californica</i>	California Walnut

Critter Count:

- Insects - over 600 species reported
- Arthropods - 50 species
- Fish - 3 species (Steelhead Trout, Arroyo Chub, Tidewater goby)
- Amphibians - 7 species (historic location for Red Legged frog)
- Reptiles - 15 species
- Birds - over 111 noted, 35 confirmed breeders
- Mammals - over 50 species (including at least 4 bat species)

Sensitive Animal Species (state or federally listed, or locally uncommon) documented as of 2004 in Topanga include:

Invertebrates:

<i>Aphonopelmus eutylum</i>	Tarantula
<i>Zerene eurydice</i>	CA Dogface Butterfly
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch Butterfly

Fish:

<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead Trout
<i>Gila orcutti</i>	Arroyo Chub
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	Tidewater Goby

Amphibians:

<i>Taricha torosa</i>	CA Newt
<i>Aneides lugubris</i>	Arboreal Salamander

Reptiles:

<i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	Southwestern Pond Turtle
<i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei</i>	San Diego Horned Lizard
<i>Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus</i>	Coastal Whiptail
<i>Lampropeltis zonata pulchra</i>	San Diego Mountain Kingsnake
<i>Masticophis flagellum piceus</i>	Red Coachwhip
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i>	Coast Patchnose Snake
<i>Thamnophis hammondi hammondi</i>	Two-striped Garter Snake

Birds:

<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's Hawk
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier
<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Sharp-shinned Hawk
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk
<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Black Shouldered Kite
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red shouldered Hawk
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow Flycatcher
<i>Lanis ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow breasted Chat
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black Crowned Night Heron
<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Western Bluebird

Mammals:

<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid Bat
<i>Eumops perotis</i>	Western Mastiff Bat
<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>	Ringtail cat
<i>Felis concolor</i>	Mountain Lion
<i>Felis rufus</i>	Bobcat
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	American Badger

Other sensitive species that are potentially present in Topanga but not currently documented include:

Invertebrates:

Neduba longipennis

Trimerotropis occidentaloide

Satyrium auretorum fumosoum

Santa Monica Sheildback Katydid

Santa Monica Mountain Grasshopper

Santa Monica Mts Hairstreak Butterfly

Amphibians:

Bufo microscaphus californicus

Rana aurora draytonii

Arroyo Toad

CA Red-legged Frog