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## Sunset Cliffs

When our group visited Sunset Cliffs in San Diego, we noticed the area had a temperate climate. The ocean provided a cool breeze which helped lower the temperature of the coast. The photos we took show a variety of plant life. Many of the plant life we observed seemed to be deciduous trees. Most of the leaves from the trees in the area resided on the forest floor. In addition, there was an area blocked off in order to regrow vegetation in the area. Although there are plants that are thriving in the area, we hypothesized that the lack of water to most of the plants which were not deciduous trees is most likely causing them to dry up.

I can infer that the condition of the forest is fairly stable. Most of the plant life is surviving despite of the lack of water. However, there are a handful of plants that we observed that are on the brink of death. This is most likely due to the lack of water provided in this area. The soil quality of the forest is suspect. Because this area is located on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, the soil is very dry, and it is mostly sand on the surface. Overall, we can come to the conclusion that the forest's condition is fairly stable regardless of the fact that a handful of the plant life in the area is in desperate need of nutrients.

The Global forest watch actually doesn't tell us much about Sunset Cliffs. After the area was selected it turned out that there hasn't been much habitat loss, in the sense of trees and other plants. According to GFW there has been a .08 habitat gain from 2001-2016 and a .08 gain, so the area for the most part has remained the same over the last 15 years.

After looking at other sources, specifically *Friends of Famosa Sloughs* we learn of several plans for preserving the environment. The Master Plan is as stated, "A major goal of the master plan is the development of a comprehensive drainage plan which will reduce unnecessary erosion and the loss of irreplaceable parkland." This is important for keeping the cliffs sturdy and beautiful and in doing so saves space for more plant life to grow. They want to make sure seeing the cliffs now will be the same as it was in the past, they want to "Create a Park where people can enjoy San Diego's natural coastal environment as it once was, free from the effects of man and intended to inspire the user to reflect on the grandeur of the sea, and the beauty of the cliffs that are Point Loma."

Overall, Sunset Cliffs Natural Park has been degraded by heavy human traffic and drought, but it is still a fairly stable environment and through careful management it is slowly recovering. After a heavy rain season in 2016, 2017 has seen minimal rain so the area is extremely dry. There are protected areas where native plants and trees have been

planted to help rejuvenate the landscape, and hopefully in the future Sunset Cliffs will be back to full strength.



