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AP Environmental Sciences

November 4, 2017



Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Story

Our photos show minor deforestation, other forms of physical human interference with the natural environment such as litter, invasive species, and the rotting of trees and leaves. The condition of the forest is degraded due to extensive human interaction and drought. One can see upon investigation that the supply of water has been limited because the forest is located in a desert-like biome. The effects of pollution and habitat fragmenting are immediately apparent, as trash is scattered about on the ground and bright orange fences separate parts of the forest from each other.

Global Forest Watch says that there is no change via deforestation or new tree cover in this area. In addition, the land cover statistic shows that the area this forest is in is a settlement area. This makes sense because it was in a residential location and in many places the houses were encroaching upon the environment. The land use statistic shows that there are no managed forests, mining, oil palm, or wood fiber within a very large radius of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. This is good because we know that those facets of environments can lead to degradation and pollution. One more notable part of the Global Forest Watch data is that this forest is in a BirdLife Endemic Bird Area.

Other sources, such as drought.gov and plantmaps.com, show that this area of California has abnormally dry conditions, which corroborates the data we found on site. The climate of San Diego is classified as a semi-arid Mediterranean climate, according to climate map. One can make the conclusion that this forest is experiencing drought conditions. This conclusion is reinforced by the fact that we saw many plants typical of environments with low rainfall.

Bibliography

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3. "January - December Weather in San Diego." *Average Monthly Weather for San Diego Lindbergh Field*, www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx/climate/san-san-month.htm.