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APES

Mrs.Hanscom

For my Global Forest Watch project, I decided to go explore Chollas Reservoir/Park in the Lemon Grove/College Grove area of San Diego County. The path I explored was cool and shaded by towering eucalyptus trees on both sides. The trail filled itself with walkers, runners, and dog-walkers, but it still managed to provide a feeling of quiet peacefulness. While I was there, I took 5 photos that consisted mainly of trees but had surrounding nature such as bushes, branches, and logs on the ground. From what my pictures tell me, I see that the condition of the Chollas Park is fair. Throughout the area, I saw a mixture of mainly deciduous trees that were either standing tall and strong or lying on the ground with no life whatsoever. For the trees that I documented which were standing, the branches looked like they were decaying and were losing some of their outer layer. I believe this indicates the old age of the trees and how long they have survived in this area. I couldn't find any significant insect damage to the trees, although there are ants who have occupied the outer layer of the branches. I did not see any lichens or any organisms that grew on tree or contributed to their physical state. Sources such as [sandiego.gov](http://sandiego.gov) and the maintenance people in the forest gave me information on the health of Chollas Park/forest and whether there were any small or significant fires at or near the area. One thing I didn't know about the Eucalyptus trees in the area was that they can suffer from a root disease called Phytophthora. Phytophthora is a fungal disease that affects a huge number of woody plants, including eucalyptus. It can attack all parts of the tree and is often evidenced by wilted, yellowing foliage, stunted growth, and reddish, orange or brown cankers on the trunk and stems or under the bark. Also, there is another problem called heart root, which is a group of several types of fungi that causes decay in the centers of limbs and trunks. It truly saddens me how these

beautiful trees suffer from such horrific diseases. Despite managing to discover many things about Chollas Park, there is barely any information about it on national forest sites in California. When I went on the Global Forest Watch's interactive map, I could not find any data which showed tree growth/decline in the area that I explored and documented with my photos. I even used the help of my environmental science teacher, Mrs. Hanscom, but we still could not find any information on tree loss in Chollas Lake. Maybe I will be one of the pioneering forces that literally and figuratively puts Chollas Park/Reservoir on the map!