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When we visited Mission Trails Park in San Diego, we observed many trees and were able to see what affects environmental factors have had on the park. After taking pictures and walking around the park, we hypothesized that there had been evidence of a fire within the past couple of years and that the area had not received much rainfall. When our team started to take photos, we noticed a lot about the life of the forest. We knew from living in the same area as the forest that it had been a very hot and dry year and our pictures show that. We were able to see a serious lack of green and an abundance of brown. This helped us infer that there had not been very much rain this year. These trees and plants were extremely dehydrated. One thing we found interesting was that a cement road built by humans runs about a mile through the forest. We had destroyed over a mile of vegetation and forest just to make it more convenient for visitors. After visiting the Global Forest Watch website, a lot of our predetermined information was confirmed. The forest we decided to cover showed a large amount of tree cover loss over recent years. Commercially, it is a state park which means it is constantly being hiked by San Diegans year round. While we hiked around the forest we noticed a Grand Opening of apartment complexes just on the outside of the forest. This aided our thoughts about how the population density is slowly growing around Mission Trails Regional park and it is negatively affecting the park. After visiting the park's website, we learned that the forest had once been used by Native Americans

as a dam to store water. Obviously, from our pictures and our visit to the forest, most to all of that water is gone. Doing some further research, our team came across an article in The Union-Tribune that described a 50 unit condo complex that would soon be arriving in Mission Trails. This is just one of the many examples of deforestation and pollution that humans are doing to the many ecosystems in our world. It was very interesting to see first-hand examples of this being done in our forest and we believe it gave our team an eye opening experience into what is truly going on in our world.

1. <http://www.globalforestwatch.org/>
2. <http://www.mtrp.org/>
3. <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/>