# NETWORKING FIELD STATIONS, RESERVES AND NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS: AN OUTDOOR DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP IN THE AGE OF BIG DATA.

THEFT

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## BERKELEY NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS





Natural Reserve System

Field Station Data



Wieslander Vegetation Map

Project (VTM)





University Museum of

resno loam

University and Jepson

Pollen Core Data

Herbaria

Paleontology







Climate Data

#### Soil Database



Essig Museum of

Entomology

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

#### Joseph Grinnell and Annie Alexander saw rapid change in the land use of CA in the early 1900's and the Collection and the various museums date back to 1880 -1920, and continue to grow today.

Grinnell documented and collected mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles in >700 locations across CA

- >100,000 specimens,
- 74,000 pages of field notes
- Standardized bird count data and habitat descriptions
- 10,000 images



# Natural Reserve System

Ken Norris, Bill Mayhew, and Mildred Mathias also saw rapid land use change in the late 1940's, the loss of study sites and loss of teaching locations in (southern CA)

Founded the NRS 1965 with 7 reserves

#### 53 years later:

- 39 (soon to be 41) reserves
- Hastings Reservation: 81 yrs
- Merced Vernal Pools: ~15yrs
- 9 UC campuses
- >756,000 acres
- All major CA ecosystems
- Broad range of partners; state agencies, federal agencies, non-profits, foundations, and private donors







39

natural reserves all major state ecosystems



students & researchers visit each year



world's largest university reserve system



miles of protected coastal shoreline

## ARCHIVE COLLECTIONS AND ONGOING LISTS

- ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
- PLANT SPECIES LIST
- VERTEBRATE SPECIES LIST
- INVERT SPECIES LIST
- INSECT SPECIES LIST
- BIRD SURVEYS
- SOIL SAMPLES
- MICROSCOPE SLIDE
  COLLECTIONS
- POLLEN SPECIMENS

- GENOMIC SPECIMENS
- AGENCY REPORTS
- OLD GROWTH FOREST MONITORING
- ARCHEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
- LAND USE HISTORIES
- FIRE HISTORIES
- SOUNDSCAPE
- CLIMATE MONITORING
  NETWORK

- VEGETATION MAPS
- GEOLOGY MAPS
- TOPOGRAPHY DATA
- LIDAR MAPS
- STREAM GAUGE
- VIDEO DATA
- PHENOLOGY IMAGES
- AERIAL PHOTOS
- PUBLICATIONS

#### DIGITIZATION AND SHARING CREATES BENEFITS

- Increase in scope and scale of research
- Novel combinations of models and data create new knowledge
- New modeling approaches to predict future scenarios
- Technological improvements to foster collaboration



Kelly et al., 2017. "Geospatial Informatics Key to Recovering and Sharing Historical Ecological Data for Modern Use." *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing* 

### **GRINNELL RESURVEYS**



- Partnership between Berkeley Natural History Museum, San Diego Natural History Museum, University of New Mexico, UC Berkeley & UC Santa Cruz
- Initial resurveys on Sierra Nevada Sites to examine distribution changes in relation to climate change
- Bird resurveys throughout coastal ranges of central and northern CA
- Current focus is resurveys of the CA deserts & the central valley

## **GRINNELL RESURVEYS**

- >700 locations across CA
- >100,000 specimens
- 74,000 pages of field notes
- Standardization of bird count data and habitat descriptions
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# WEISLANDER VEGETATION TYPE MAPS

1920's and 1930's survey information:

- Detailed maps
- Specimen collection
- Vegetation samples
- Photographs
- 3,500 landscape photos now georeferenced
- Vegetation map polygons for dominant vegetation type in small areas
- 18,000 plot data from tree and brush inventories
- 23,000 digitized herbarium specimens



Thorne, James H., and Thuy N'goc Le. 2016. "California's Historic Legacy For Landscape Change, the Wieslander Vegetation Type Maps." *Madroño* 

# Using VTM Data

These are all examples of peer reviewed papers using the VTM data

Use of VTM data in publications





Kelly, et al. 2016. Rescuing and sharing historical vegetation data for ecological analysis: The California Vegetation Type Mapping project. Biodiversity Informatics



Easterday et al. In Review at Frontiers in Environmental Informatics

#### CURRENT AND FUTURE METADATA



## CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH DATA



#### Dendra

A cloud-based, multi-organizational system aggregating and storing time series environmental data



#### Reserve Mapper Discover natural history observations, specimens, and photos associated with reserves, parks, and special districts.



### CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH DATA



## THE FUTURE?



Digital portal and online exploration tool for environmental and natural history information

- Providing access to environmental and conservation information for research, government, and the public
- Supporting all protected lands in CA
- Communicating the environmental state of the state