

Vernal Pool Geography and Soils

These articles address the distribution of vernal pool landscapes in the Great Valley and the substrates of a vernal pool landscape in the Chico region.

Robert Holland's article documents the geography of vernal pool landscapes in Central California. This is an interesting continuation of the article that estimated the potential extent of Great Valley vernal pool landscapes before the arrival of the Spanish [Holland, R. F. and A. D. Hollander. 2007. Hogwallow biogeography before Gracias. Pages 29-50 in R. A. Schlising and D. G. Alexander (Editors), Vernal Pool Landscapes. Studies from the Herbarium, Number 14. California State University, Chico, CA.].

In the present volume, Holland compares the 2005 acreage of vernal pool landscapes with his estimates of vernal pool landscapes from 1997 and earlier. This paper is important because it documents, county by county, the correlation between the extent of vernal pool landscape loss and the land-uses that replace these areas. This paper illustrates the importance of considering specific counties when discussing the loss of vernal pool landscapes (as opposed to using statewide averages). Holland's analysis techniques are upgraded with modern GIS technology. The editors are proud to include his foldout map of vernal pool distribution in California, as well as his perspective of a much larger area, using satellite images, on the back cover.

The editors, with the help of Barbara Castro, are including a summary of Andrew Conlin's oral presentations describing a soil survey in the Chico area, with comments on the substrate characteristics of a specific vernal pool region covered in the survey. Our presentation also lists major landscape units that support vernal pools in the Butte County area.

Research and Recovery in Vernal Pool Landscapes