

Native Plants and Healthy Ecosystems

Presented by Sherry Ashbaugh and Justin Daniel



Photo: Caroline Harrod

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) brings together science, education, conservation, and gardening...to save native plants and places.



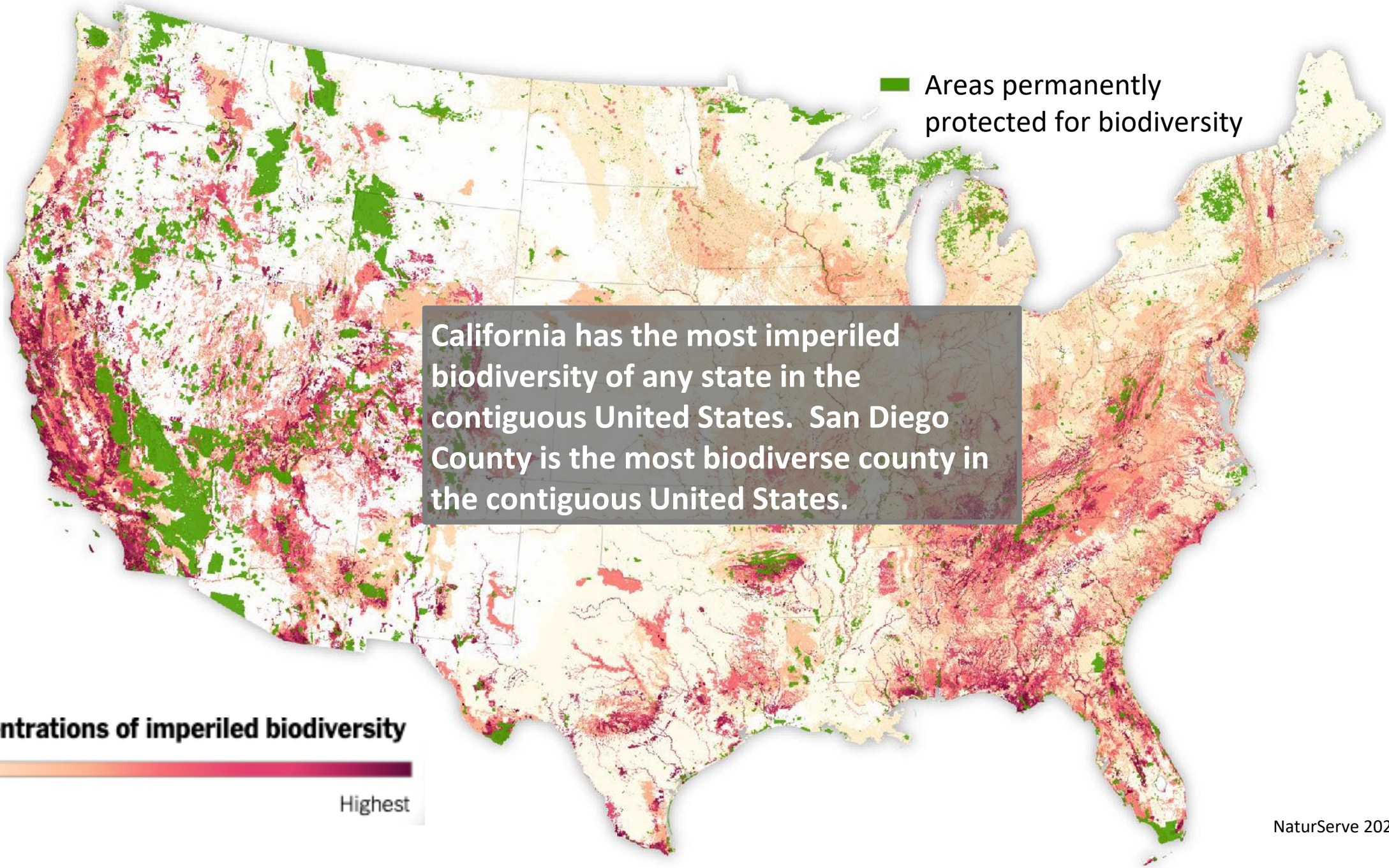
CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY

The San Diego Chapter's mission is to conserve San Diego and Imperial County native plants and their natural habitats, and to increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.



A native plant...

- ✓ **Co-evolved** with animals, fungi, and microbes to form complex networks and relationships
- ✓ **Adapted to our climate; the true drought tolerants.**
- ✓ **Foundation of native ecosystems**
- ✓ **Ecosystems provide “ecosystem services”**
 - air purification
 - water filtration
 - soil health
 - climate stabilization



**US Geological Service
Projected Land-Change
2001-2100**

2100

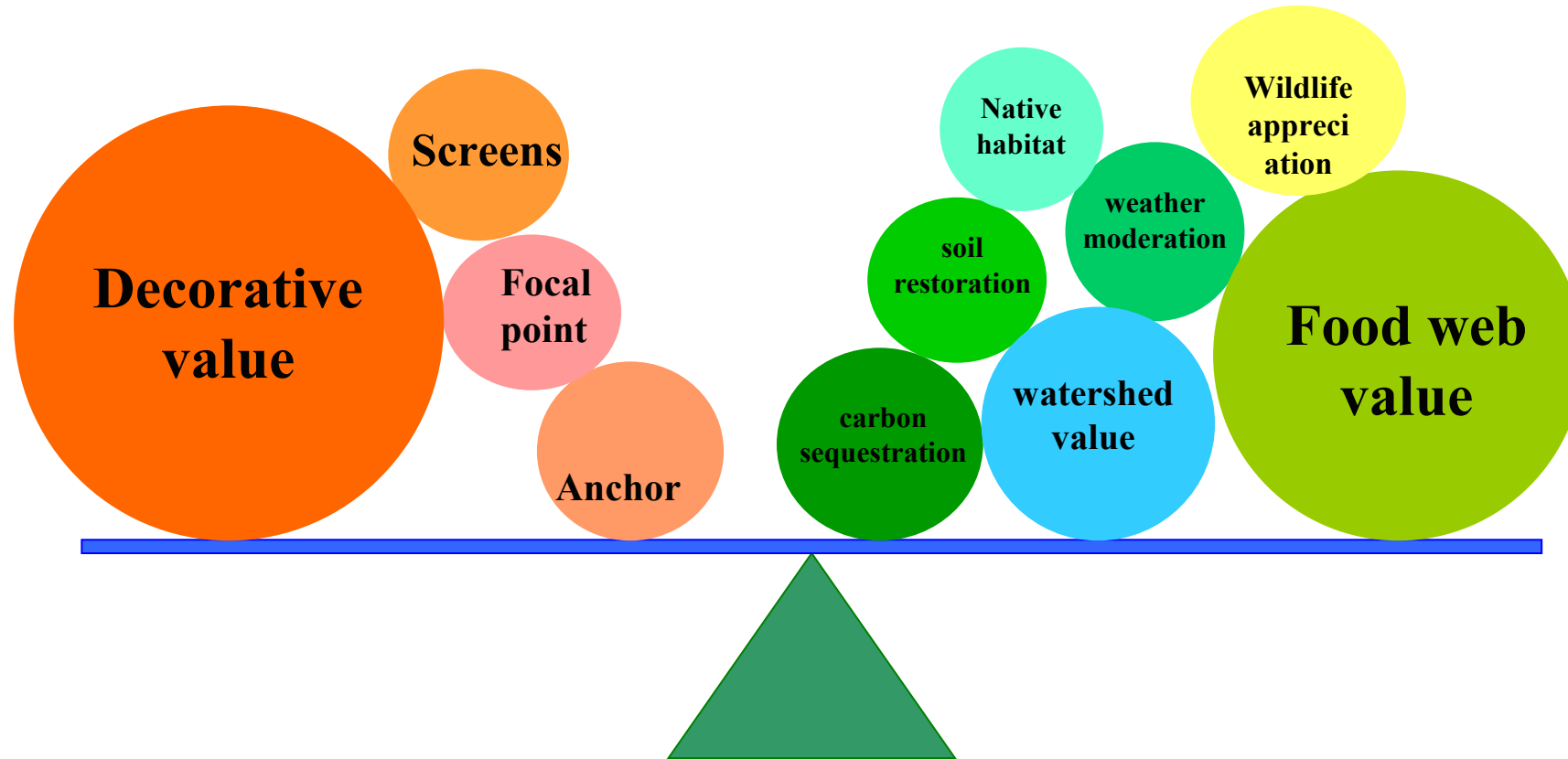
- Water
- Snow/Ice
- Wetland
- Barren
- Forest
- Grassland
- Shrubland
- Developed
- Transportation
- Agriculture (Annual)
- Agriculture (Perennial)

California's natural habitat is being rapidly destroyed by development

We can mitigate this by restoring pieces of nature in developed lands



New criteria for choosing our landscapes





Native landscaping has many benefits:

- ✓ 83% less water
- ✓ 56% less green waste
- ✓ 68% less maintenance
- ✓ No pesticides or fertilizers are required
- ✓ Supports wildlife by providing quality habitat

When planned well and cared for properly, native landscapes can achieve these savings and benefits.

And, they are beautiful and reconnect people to nature.

A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dirt path winds through a field of yellow wildflowers and green shrubs. A tall, thin plant with a cluster of yellow flowers stands prominently in the middle ground. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a blue sky with light clouds. The text "Seeds are the databank of genetic information" is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent dark grey banner at the top of the image.

Seeds are the databank of genetic information

Seed collection is important so can learn how native plants might adjust to changes in our climate.

It also provides the 'raw materials' for propagation programs that can serve various needs.



Habitat Restoration

- **Must start with removal of invasive plants** – native plants can then re-establish naturally.
- **Restoration helps regain what has been lost** – opportunities for ongoing management should be analyzed.