



# Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team



Brett Mills - Santa Ana Sucker  
@ SunnySlope



## Benefits of Membership

**Membership:** Membership in the Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team (Team) can support implementation of projects that protect or improve the federally threatened fish's habitat **now**.

**Project Implementation:** The Team is able to implement many of the conservation actions recommended in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Draft Recovery Plan for the Santa Ana sucker to produce results now and reduce habitat degradation, thus helping ensure your project's development through the regulatory process.



Trichostema SAG © SunnySlope / 04\_09\_12

**History of Success:** Since 1998, the Team has conducted numerous habitat and population surveys to support the Santa Ana sucker while working closely with regulatory agencies. Participation has included downstream stakeholders such as Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District, as well as the non-government agencies such as the Santa Ana Watershed Association.

**State of the Sucker:** Your water resource projects and maintenance activities that undergo permit consultation and approval by the natural resource agencies are affected by the fish's population and status. Dramatic declines in its population or habitat could bring your project's development to a standstill due to permitting requirements which are often tied to consultation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who analyze project impacts against the status of the population. This could result in serious delay and/or significant conservation requirements in your permits.

### Habitat Creation – Optimal Feeding/Spawning Conditions

The Team in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing a project to place gabions, rock filled structures that create scour and provide an anchor for vegetation, in the mainstem to create additional habitat. The scouring will expose cobble and gravel that the Santa Ana sucker depend on for foraging and spawning. Based on the Riverwalk survey, conducted annually by the Team since 2006, the river channel's substrate is predominantly sand.



Your funding could go toward the cost of implementing projects that create habitat along the Santa Ana River and its tributaries, and would cover the costs associated with the gabion structures, rock moving equipment and acquiring necessary permits through the resource agencies.

### Habitat Protection – Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use

Vehicle trespassing takes place within prime habitat in the mainstem of the Santa Ana River and assistance by the Team to local authorities can reduce activities that are damaging the fish's habitat.

Your funding could go towards implementing additional OHV patrols and creation of a citizen science platform that will include marketing of web-based applications used by law enforcement, trail/road signage, and education.

