

47. Jawbone Ridge (Fiedler 1986)

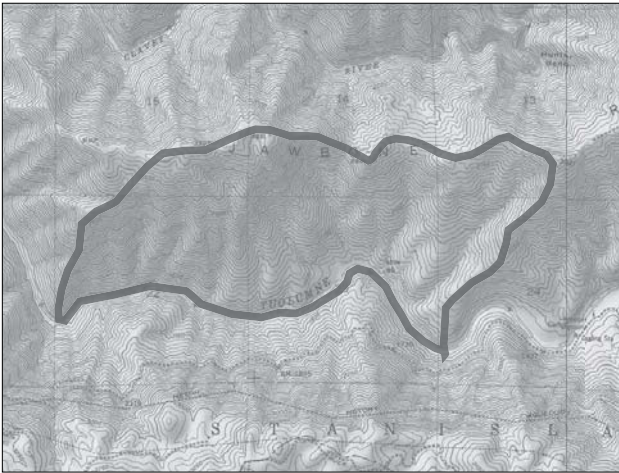


Figure 97—
Jawbone
Ridge ecological survey
area

Location

This site, dropped from RNA consideration in 1987, is in S. Tuolumne County on the Stanislaus National Forest. It lies about 6.5 miles E. of Groveland and occupies portions of sects. 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, and 24 T1S, R17E MDBM (37°50'N., 120°6'W.), USGS Jawbone Ridge quad (fig. 97). Ecological subsection – Upper Foothills Metamorphic Belt (M261Eg).

Target Element

Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) Chaparral

Distinctive Features

Rare Plants: A list including 16 rare plant species believed to occur in the area is included. However, because no actual fieldwork was conducted in the study area and this list encompasses the entire lower elevation area of the Stanislaus National Forest, it is not accurate for the area.

Rare Land Snails: Two candidates for Federal listing of endangered species (*Monodenia circumcarinata* and *M. tuolumneana*) endemic to the Tuolumne River Canyon may occur in the area.

Rare Birds: The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), which are considered by the Federal government to be endangered species, may occur in the area.

Jawbone Deer Herd: This study area and adjacent Jawbone Lava Flat are critical wintering ranges for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus californicus*).

Physical Characteristics

The area is rugged and remote, covering about 1442 acres (584 ha). Elevations range from 1250 ft (381 m) along the Tuolumne River to four summits atop Jawbone Ridge between 2841 and 3397 ft (866-1035 m). The S.-facing slopes of the Tuolumne River Canyon vary from 30 to 110 percent.

Rocks consist of two formations. The most extensive is the Paleozoic Calaveras formation composed of argillite, limestone, quartzite, and mica schist. The E. portion of the area is underlain by the late Cretaceous Chico formation. This formation is characterized by sandstone, shale, and conglomerate. Four soil mapping units occur: Dystric Lithic Xerochrepts/Rock Outcrop/Josephine family, Dystric Lithic Xerochrepts/Rock Outcrop/Typic Xerumbrepts, Fiddletown family/Lithic Xerumbrepts complex, and Ultic Haploxeralfs/Red Bluff family. The first unit is the most extensive. Mean annual temperature is estimated to be 59 °F (15 °C), mean December low 46 °F (7.8 °C), and mean July high 77 °F (25 °C). Precipitation estimates are 0.02 inch (0.5 mm) in August to 6.01 inches (153 mm) in January with a mean annual total of about 32 inches (813 mm).

Association Types

No sampling was conducted, and sizes of associations are not given.

Chamise Chaparral (37200, 37110): Typically this association has 20-100 percent cover composed of *Adenostoma fasciculatum* with less than 20 percent of remaining vegetation composed of herbs, grasses, or other shrub species. In some areas *Arctostaphylos manzanita*, *A. mewukka*, *Ceanothus cuneatus*, *C.*

diversifolius, and *C. integerrimus* may exceed 20 percent cover. Occasional emergent foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) is also present. Other species include *Lonicera* sp., *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*, *Eriodictyon californicum*, *Quercus chrysolepis*, *Castilleja* spp., and *Chamaebatia foliolosa*.

Chaparral covers the W. third of the area on S.- and W.-facing slopes, forming a distinct border with the pine/oak vegetation type (fig. 98).

Grassland and Savanna (42200, 71140, 71310): This association is composed of 10-100 percent cover by grasses and herbs. Foothill pine, blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), and California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) comprise less than 10 percent cover. The most common herbs include *Avena* spp., *Bromus* spp., *Elymus* spp., *Poa* spp., *Festuca* spp., *Aira caryophyllea*, and several members of *Polemoniaceae*, *Liliaceae*, *Scrophulariaceae*, and *Apiaceae*.

This association occurs in the W. corner of the area throughout the entire elevational range of the area. Slopes are very steep with rock outcrops and talus throughout.

Oak Woodland (71140, 71410, 81320): This type occupies the smallest acreage of the area, occurring in upper draws and along the river. Dominant species include canyon live oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*), blue oak, and foothill pine. Species of lesser importance include *Fraxinus dipetala*, *Umbellularia californica*, and *Cercocarpus betuloides*. Oak species cover 20-100 percent of the community. This is probably the most species-rich community in the area.

Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)/Oak Forest (71310, 71322): *Editor's note:* Despite the name, ponderosa pine is not likely to occur here except rarely. The typical pine species is foothill pine. Aspect is largely ESE. From photos in the report, foothill pine appears to dominate the canopy; the subcanopy is dominated by oaks of varying density. These are primarily canyon live oak, interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), and blue oak.

Plant Diversity

The plant list included in the ecological survey is adopted from a survey made in the Clavy-Wards Ferry Area, a much larger area than the study site. It is, thus, inaccurate for the specific study area.

Conflicting Impacts

Because of the inaccessible nature of the area, this ecological survey bears the distinction as being the only one not actually visited by the author. This inaccessibility as well as the steep slopes within the area greatly reduces the area's usefulness as a research area; consequently, the candidate has been dropped from further consideration.



Figure 98—Jawbone Ridge,
chamise chaparral and yellow
pine/oak forest in the southeast
section of the Jawbone Ridge study
area. (1984)