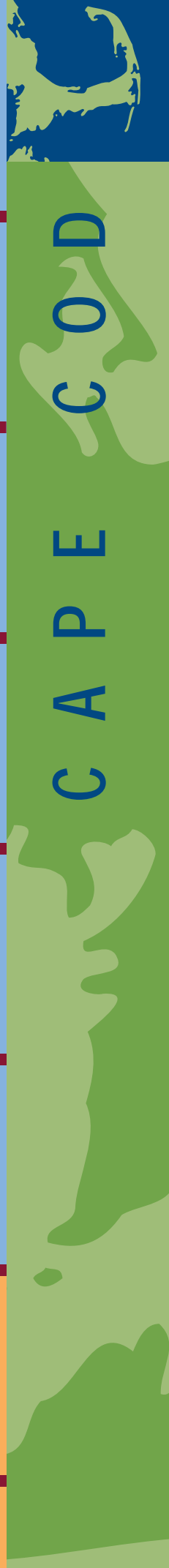


Land and People

Finding a Balance



C A P E C O D



At Cape Cod's Wellfleet Wildlife Sanctuary, nature has a quiet moment.



Cape Cod's population is constantly growing. During the summer, vacationers increase the population from about 200,000 to more than 500,000.



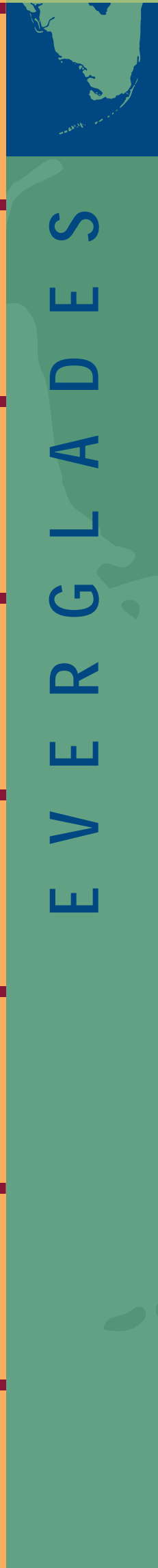
Sandy Neck Dune Bog, Cape Cod. A bog is a wet spongy area that consists of decaying vegetation. Bogs form in low-lying coastal areas where melting ice masses created depressions (kettle holes) that filled with water and eventually formed bogs.



Dunes and beaches attract hundreds of thousands of vacationers to Cape Cod each summer.



Leaking landfills in towns on Cape Cod contain everything from pesticides to household waste. These landfills have been contaminating Cape Cod's groundwater for decades.



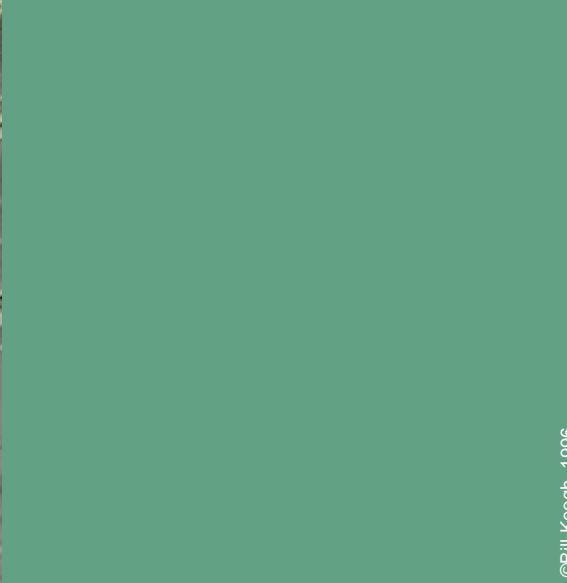
E V E R G L A D E S



The Everglades' complex ecosystem includes "air plants," that take their nourishment directly from the air. These air plants (epiphytes) sprout on rooted plants.



Mangrove trees drop their roots from their trunks and branches into mud. There they grow a tangle of "stilts" and new trunks. Thus the mangrove helps protect shorelines from erosion and helps build new land. In the Everglades, mangroves are threatened by cattails that thrive on water polluted by agricultural runoff.



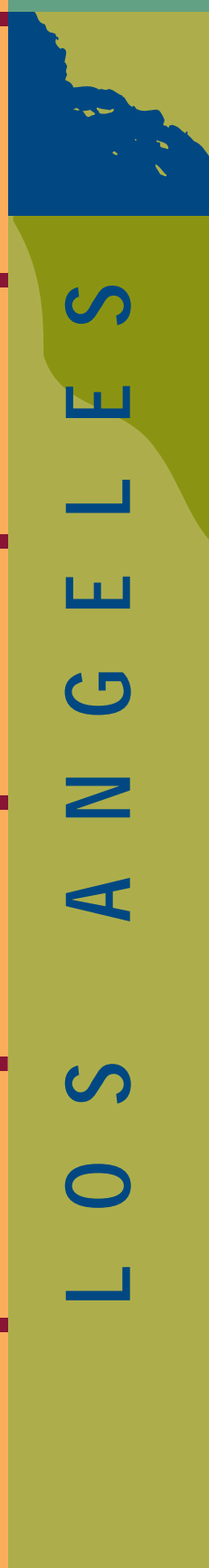
Today, water that once sustained the Everglades is controlled through hundreds of miles of canals and levees. Even the twisting Kissimmee River was "straightened out." The 103-mile-long river often overflowed its banks, until engineers dug a 56-mile-long straight path for it to take.



Slash pines like these grow on "hammocks," or small, raised areas in the generally flat Everglades.



Alligators—another of the Everglades' threatened species—dig deep holes for their nests. Other animals use these holes, which often fill with water, to sustain themselves during dry spells.



L O S A N G E L E S



Only the control of water—by damming it, storing it, and moving it over hundreds of miles—makes the California desert habitable.



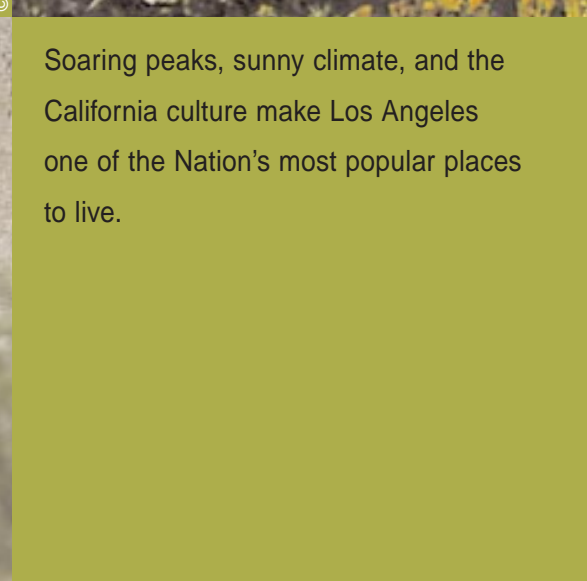
Erosion caused by wind or water is a natural process, but human land use choices, such as clearing off vegetation or regrading a slope, can increase the rate of erosion and make its effects more harmful.



In the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains, suburban development intrudes on the mountain lion's habitat.



Soaring peaks, sunny climate, and the California culture make Los Angeles one of the Nation's most popular places to live.



If you build it in California, it might slide. Los Angeles County experiences extreme geologic hazards, including rain- and earthquake-induced landslides.