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Lauren Kershek is a Senior Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (CFWO). Lauren began her career with the CFWO as a student intern in 2006 while completing her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology at UCLA. Lauren continued her internship while completing a Masters of Science in Biological Sciences at CSU San Marcos. She has a long-standing record of managing high-volume, time-sensitive, and complex workloads across marine, coastal, riparian, and upland habitats. Her expertise includes Endangered Species Act implementation under Section 7 and Section 10, large-scale regional conservation planning, and partnerships with federal agencies, local jurisdictions, and regional partners. She has served for over a decade as the CFWO's partnership liaison with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), completing Section 7 consultations and supporting project implementation across a broad range of transportation and habitat restoration projects. She has also spent years in partnership with multiple Caltrans districts throughout Southern California. She has led several large-scale consultations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration. She has recently taken over implementation of three Habitat Conservation Plans in Orange County: the Central-Coastal HCP, the Southern Subregion HCP, and the OCTA Measure M2 HCP.

In addition to Section 7 and Section 10 implementation, Lauren is the lead CFWO biologist for recovery and conservation of the federally endangered light-footed Ridgway's rail. This year, Lauren has been leading and implementing a new range-wide population monitoring protocol that will help inform recovery progress and conservation priorities for the species range-wide. She is also a lead biologist for the LFRR captive breeding program in partnership with the Living Coast Discovery Center, SeaWorld San Diego, and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.