

# Hills For Everyone

Friends of the  
Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor



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## Linking Lands Requires Linking People



Melanie Schlotterbeck

Working in collaboration with other organizations and agencies allows important natural lands to be protected in perpetuity.

Protecting land across the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor requires engagement at many levels. Did you know the Wildlife Corridor spans four counties, 12 cities and 31 miles? In order to connect the land for wildlife, we need to connect people. Here is how we facilitate those connections:

In partnering with the Puente Hills Habitat Authority we receive grants on their behalf. These grants allow children to take field trips into the hills and support adults who volunteer with clean up and trail work.

As a member of the Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council in Brea and Chino Hills, we are helping restore Carbon Creek, freeing it from the water guzzling and highly flammable non-native giant reed *Arundo donax*. Removing this plant allows other native plants to return to the stream. These in turn provide important wildlife habitat.

We help the Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association spread the word on their events and efforts to bring children from low income schools to the State Park Discovery Center.

Famed photographer, Ansel Adams, once said, "It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment." But that is often the case. When resources allow, in partnership with local residents, we provide comments on development or other damaging

proposals in multiple cities to preserve land adjacent to existing protected lands.

Sometimes local governments actually try to protect the hills. In 1994, four cities and three state agencies created the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority to protect our hills. The Authority was instrumental in saving Coal Canyon which permanently connects our hillside system to the Santa Ana Mountain range. Nearly 10 years later another cooperative effort evolved. The Hillside Open Space Education Coalition is composed of the cities of Whittier, Brea, La Habra, and La Habra Heights and the unincorporated communities of Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights. All of these are working together toward saving the 3,000 acre Shell-Aera land in the Missing Middle. The only pathway to eventual success is continued cooperation.

### Madrona Victory Appealed

We won the lawsuit against the City of Brea and the bankrupt Idaho landowner. The judge sided with us on California Environmental Quality Act issues as well as violations of state land use law. Your continued support is necessary since the landowner has appealed this decision. The City of Brea, however, declined to appeal. A final decision could take up to 18 more months.



# Wildlife Wonders

We admit it. We have had a few wonky years of fighting land use battles in our hills. Yet land use policy is where conservation starts. We start indoors to save the outdoors. Let's not forget why we do what we do. Humans have long contemplated whether or not we are alone in the universe. Clearly we are not alone here on Earth. And our hills are especially rich in providing habitat for a wide variety of lifeforms. This spring the hills are open for business—the business of having fun, relaxing, appreciating, and exercising. Come out and see what we have!



Melanie Schlotterbeck

# Our Ecological Challenges

## Grazing

When cattle grazing has reduced the grass cover too much, rodents no longer have adequate cover and their population plummets. The loss of rodents has a cascading impact for the rodents' predators, like owls and raptors that depend on them for food.

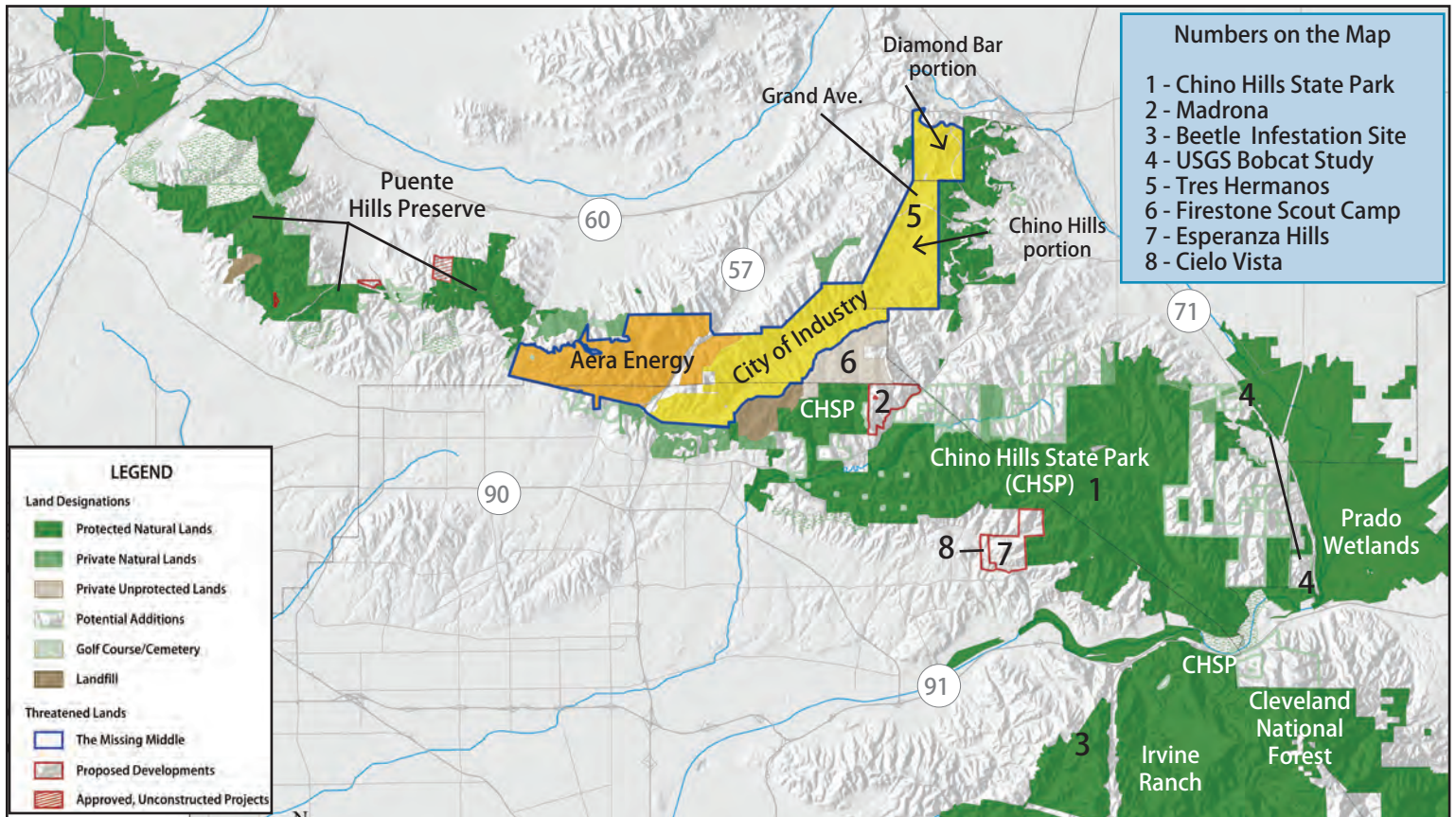
## Poisoning

When wildlife that we consider pests (e.g. rats) eat poison that we put out to "control" them, they indeed die. But, did you know that if those poisoned animals are then eaten by a bobcat or an owl, they ingest the poison as well. When enough poison accumulates in their bodies, they will also die. Be careful. Follow directions. Never put "indoor" poisons "outdoors."

## Imported Fire Wood

The gold spotted oak borer is a tiny bug that is effectively killing giant old oaks. It has made its way to OC parkland just south of the 91 freeway. The only way a tiny bug can make its way from the infected areas in the San Gorgonio Mountains is to be carried in firewood by humans. Do not import firewood. Buy it locally or we could lose our beloved oak trees to this deadly insect.

# Mapping the Corridor Projects





# Meet Your Neighbors

## Bobcats: A Wise Mom

USGS has performed a study of bobcat crossings under the 71 freeway in Chino Hills. They were able to capture a photograph of a pair mating. Scientists could then identify this female when she reappeared with two kittens. They then also photographed this same feline mother teaching her twins where the under crossings were located so they could safely cross between the Prado Basin and the Chino Hills.



Dr. Jeff Hansen

## Coyotes—More Wily Than You Think

Many cities are instituting measures to hunt and kill urban coyotes. Biologists tell us it is not only costly, but also ineffective in the long term. For one thing, it “selects” for the dumber coyotes that get caught and therefore enhances the reproductive capabilities of the smarter coyotes that don’t get caught. In addition, if there is an effective depletion of a local population, there is a natural response mechanism within the remaining population to have more babies.

## Mesmerizing Serpent Dance

While this looks a bit like a snake dance, it is more likely an elegant territorial battle between two male snakes in Powder Canyon according to a Habitat Authority biologist. It is highly likely that a lady rattler was nearby.



Terry Tuttle

## Cute, But Not Cuddly

Tarantulas are black, hairy and large arachnids (spider) that can live up to 35 years. This “parade” of baby tarantulas has been spotted nearly every year in Telegraph Canyon. Be careful where you step.



Claudia and Jim Whited

## Dinosaur Descendants

Amazingly, we have our very own dinosaur descendants (aka raptors). One measure of the remaining wildness of our region is the ongoing presence of golden eagles (as photographed below in Yorba Linda). These big and beautiful birds still travel above our hills with their magnificent six foot wing span.

Because we have maintained the hills in their natural formations with their attendant winds, we have been told that the condors that persist in Baja could maybe someday use the drafts of our hills to make their way up from the Santa Ana Mountains to the San Gabriel Mountains and thereby help repopulate their territory in California.

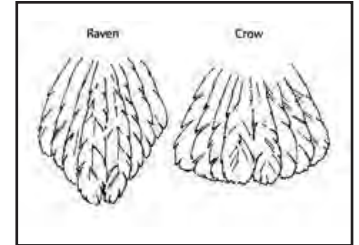


Sue Cox

## Identifying Wildlife

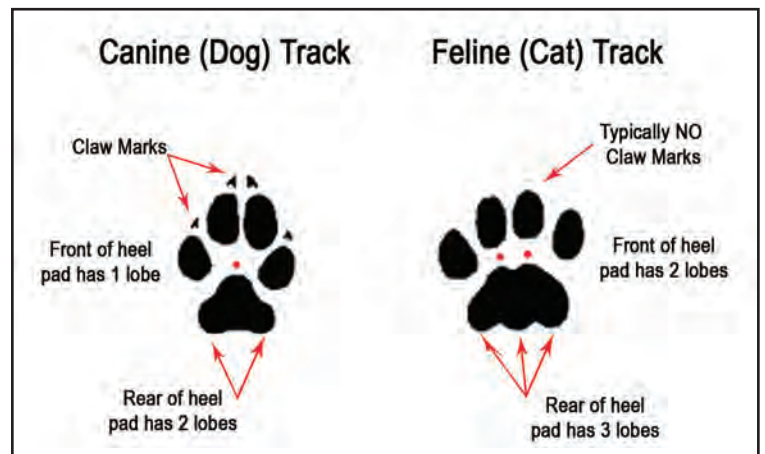
### Ravens vs. Crows

Is that big black bird a raven or a crow? Check out the tail in flight. Rounded tails means it is a raven, a square tail means it is a crow. Round raven, square crow.



### Identifying Tracks

On a hike and wondering if that track is a coyote or bobcat footprint? Here are helpful tips to identify it. Think about your own dog or cat. Cats have retractable claws, dogs don't.



## Email Updates

If you have not heard from us lately via email please be sure we have your correct email address by contacting us at: [info@HillsForEveryone.org](mailto:info@HillsForEveryone.org).



Hills For Everyone  
P.O. Box 9835  
Brea, CA 92822-1835  
[www.HillsForEveryone.org](http://www.HillsForEveryone.org)

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## Corridor Project Updates

### Tres Hermanos (Diamond Bar & Chino Hills)

It appears that the City of Industry is angling to hold on to the Tres Hermanos property along Grand Avenue in order to maintain its hopes of building a massive series of reservoirs throughout Tonner Canyon. This requires bulldozing the canyon. Industry is also buying the last 800 acres of the Firestone Scout Reservation in Middle Tonner Canyon.



### Esperanza Hills

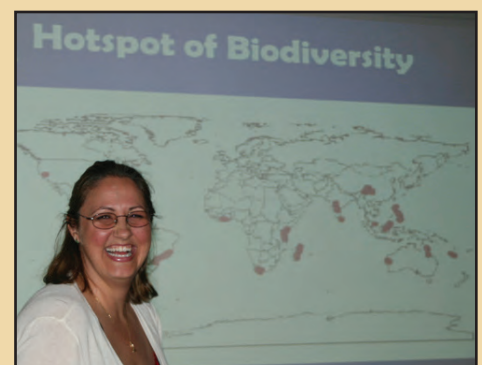
The initial brief has been filed in the resident's lawsuit against the County of Orange. Oral arguments are scheduled for late April. At this point the City of Yorba Linda has opted to not allow the access road to the project through city parkland, so residents won that battle.

### Cielo Vista

This developer has reduced the density of the project down to 83. It is in Orange County, but within Yorba Linda's Sphere of Influence. On March 9th the OC Planning Commission hears the project.

## PowerPoints Available

Hills For Everyone representatives provide interesting presentations to local groups, clubs, and organizations. Topics may include biodiversity, achievements, threats or possibilities, the State Park's history, and/or the fire history of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. Schedule a presentation by emailing us at: [info@HillsForEveryone.org](mailto:info@HillsForEveryone.org).



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