



A Message From Our Executive Director



Those special places on Earth which still support exceptional natural beauty and biodiversity often do so because of the decisions made by generations of people who love the land.

Together, this is the enduring legacy we are creating here at The Santa Lucia Preserve.

In choosing to settle this land gently, the families who live here are rewarded with majestic scenery, abundant birdsong, exceptional wildlife experiences, and an opportunity to share this wild yet intimate landscape with friends and family.

From the beginning, the Santa Lucia Conservancy has served as an integral part of this unique community working side-by-side with landowners, neighbors, and staff to support and sustain this extraordinary model of private lands conservation.

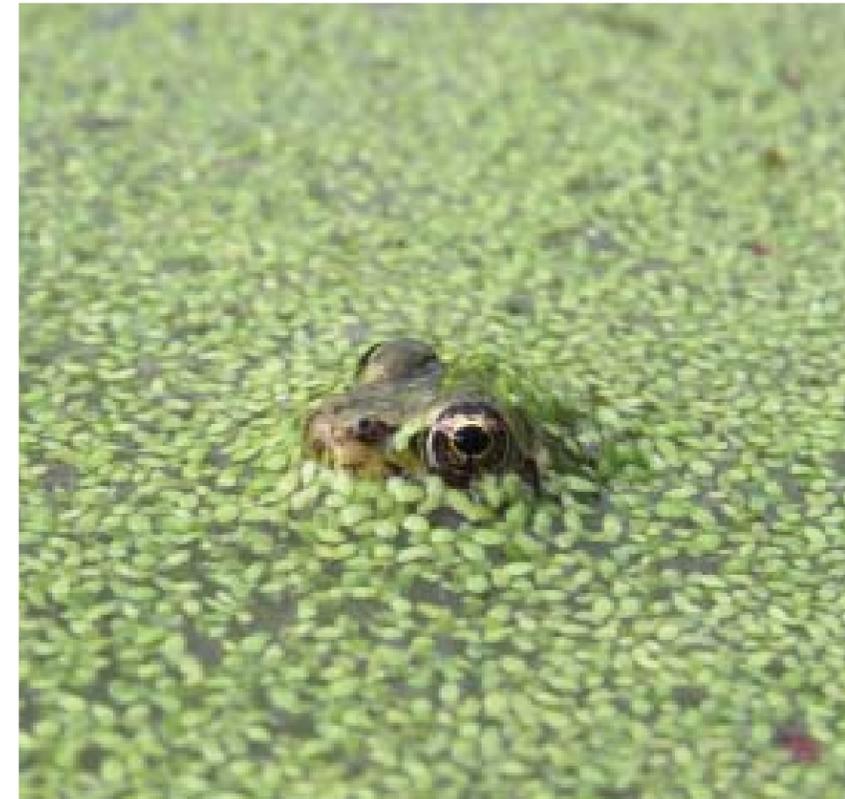


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Our Vision

We envision a place of enduring wild beauty and resilient biodiversity, actively cared for and protected by a thriving community of people for the benefit of all.

Through land stewardship, research, and education, the Conservancy partners with 300 families on the Santa Lucia Preserve to care for over 18,000 acres of protected lands. Together, we nurture redwood, oak and pine forests, grasslands and coastal prairies, streams and wetlands, and a diverse array of wildlife who also call this place home.

Our Mission

The Santa Lucia Conservancy is dedicated to the stewardship of the unique natural resources of the Santa Lucia Preserve and to promote human settlements that are ecologically sensitive. It is our goal to advance understanding of the interfaces between human residences and natural environments to benefit our community and society at large. Using the vast natural laboratory of our 20,000 acre Preserve, we work collaboratively on resource management, education and research to support and test this model of environmentally compatible settlement.



Living on The Preserve

What makes The Preserve special is personal to each of us who have fallen under its spell. A timeless beauty and the peace the landscape evokes is comparable to fine art.

As you sweep up the hill from the Gatehouse, you don't need anyone to tell you The Preserve is unique. Each graceful curve of the road brings a new view into focus: majestic vistas framed by redwoods; headwater streams cradling native trout; intimate glimpses of sun-dappled glens and softly waving grasslands greet you along your journey.

The Preserve lies at the heart of one of the world's great 'biodiversity hotspots,' home to an exquisitely diverse ecology and globally recognized as a place of exceptional value. Numerous rare and amazing plants and animals grace this land.

The Preserve Design

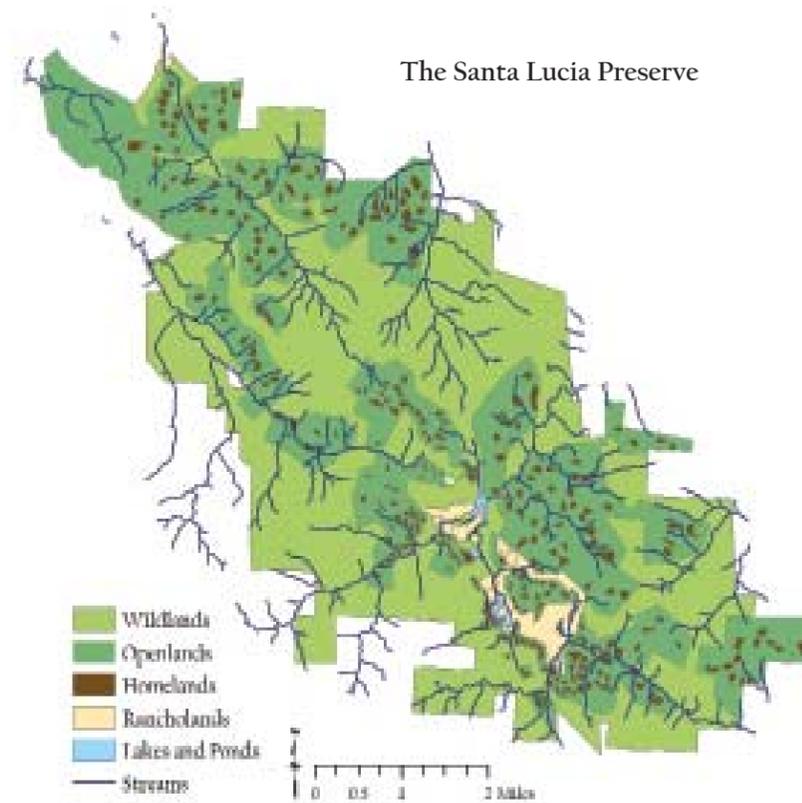
Through the investments of early buyers, over 90% of The Preserve, formerly Rancho San Carlos, is permanently dedicated to nature. Gently woven into this protected landscape are homes, recreational facilities, and a vibrant community of people who treasure the health and beauty of this special place. As envisioned by Tom and Alayna Gray and the other original designers, the 300 families who live on this land are actively engaged in its preservation.

This same vision created the Santa Lucia Conservancy and endowed it with resources to care for this unique land. Roughly 10,000 acres are owned and managed by the Conservancy as 'Wildlands.' An additional 8,000 acres represent portions of residential land where the Conservancy holds conservation easements, called 'Openlands.' These Openlands are permanently protected and managed in collaboration with landowners to preserve the natural character and wildlife habitat values.

Each residential lot also includes a building envelope, designated the 'Homeland,' with ample space for individual expression in homes, landscaping, and outdoor living spaces.



The Santa Lucia Preserve



The Homeland-Openlands Concept

The most powerful element of the Preserve's rich design is partnership. The shared responsibilities of the landowner and the Conservancy within the Openlands offer a unique opportunity for each owner to be an active steward of the land, while the Conservancy serves as a guide and resource for living with wildlife, habitat restoration, fuel and weed management.

The Conservancy also partners with the Golf and Ranch Clubs in recreational areas called the 'Rancholands.' The Homelands and Rancholands comprise about 2,000 acres within The Preserve and create the 'Settled Lands.' The remaining -18,000 acres, a combination of the Openlands and Wildlands, are known as the 'Preserve Lands' and reflect the extraordinary accomplishment of the Preserve design—20,000 acres and 300 families, combined to create one Preserve.

It is this highly integrated design that sustains the rich mosaic of The Preserve's iconic landscape.

Strategic Framework

Caring for such a broad, rugged and fragile place requires a talented multidisciplinary team with clear strategic priorities.

The Conservancy practices cutting-edge science through a pragmatic, humanistic approach. We work with landowners and design teams to achieve development goals, while undertaking ecological research and restoration activities to adaptively manage wildlife habitats and sustain the health and beauty of the Preserve Lands.

Inspiring and engaging The Preserve community to assist the Conservancy in these efforts is central to our mission. Sharing lessons learned and best practices outside The Preserve's gates helps inform and foster conservation far beyond our boundaries.



How We Work

The Preserve is a model of a Private Protected Area, as defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and offers unique opportunities for a holistic conservation approach. The Conservancy's role in this effort is centered around three goals:

Steward: Conservancy staff, partners, and volunteers guide and implement projects that promote ecological health and celebrate the historic and cultural legacies of The Preserve.

Engage: We collaborate with Preserve landowners to build and sustain a human community in harmony with nature.

Inspire: We are leaders in biodiversity science and conservation. We develop and share best practices in community-based natural lands management, research and restoration, and education programs.



Designing with Nature

The Preserve approach to home design reflects a belief that the true value of the 20,000 acres lies in the beauty, vastness, and richness of the land.

Our dynamic and responsive community is focused on creating a legacy for future generations. The timeless and irreplaceable natural qualities of the land are cherished and interpreted into the home design by each owner and their design team. The landscape itself inspires the design of the home and reflects the unique characteristics of each individual lot from oak savannah to grasslands and to the redwood forest.



Fuel Management

In California's fire prone regions, managing fire while preserving biodiversity is a challenge. The Conservancy's pioneering fuel management standards protect the beauty and biodiversity of the land while mitigating fire risk.

The Conservancy works closely with fire experts to implement fuel management practices that meet state standards. Additionally, our conservation grazing and weed management efforts promote ecological health and reduce wildfire risk.

The Preserve's proactive infrastructure design offers a third line of defense against fire. It was this combined effort that was critical to containing the 2016 Soberanes fire to the western flank of the Preserve. Pictured left, the Conservancy's Executive Director Christy Fischer walks a fuel break with Cal Fire during the Soberanes fire.

Wildlife and Biodiversity

Alongside a thriving human community, the Santa Lucia Preserve is home to an abundance of wildlife, including several rare and protected species. Conservancy ecologists monitor wildlife populations and restore habitat to ensure our wild neighbors survive and flourish.

Preserve-wide participation in our flagship citizen science program, Where the Wildlife Wander, has provided an opportunity to capture intimate glimpses of even the most elusive wildlife through more than 65 remote cameras. This multi-year effort seeks to better understand how our private lands conservation model is affecting biodiversity and wildlife behavior around The Preserve.

Preserve owners and their guests are rewarded for their participation with intimate wildlife viewing opportunities, spectacular images to share with friends, and a deeper connection to the wilderness right outside their door.



Conservation Grazing

Throughout history, grazing practices have shaped California's ecology.

Here on The Preserve, our innovative conservation grazing program continues to use the transformational power of grazing to further restore grassland health. Using portable fencing and water troughs to move livestock gently across the land, we mimic important natural disturbances, such as historic populations of Tule elk which once roamed here. Our goal: vibrant sweeping grasslands alive with birdsong and wildflowers, native pollinators, and other grassland-dependent species.

Our pioneering program addresses the challenges posed by invasive weeds and the accumulation of dead 'thatch' across thousands of acres of grasslands and oak savannas, improving wildlife habitat and scenic vistas, while reducing the risk of uncontrolled wildfire.

Outreach and Education

Educating the future stewards of our land is one of the pillars of the Santa Lucia Conservancy. Our free educational programs serve over 3,000 students each year, ranging from preschoolers to young adults in college. Monterey County public, private, home, and charter schools bring their classes to learn about natural and cultural history, biodiversity, and leadership on The Preserve. The outdoor programs are free of charge and support California's Next Generation Science Standards.

Our two education sites, one along Potrero Creek and the other along the Carmel River, offer diverse opportunities to inspire students and provide hands-on learning about plants, wildlife, and California's history.



Academic and Research Partnerships

Providing field experience to college students interested in conservation science, policy and research through internships and volunteering has a profound impact on professional development. Abundant academic talent throughout California supports the Conservancy's research and science programs. We are honored to host undergraduate and graduate interns from California State University Monterey Bay, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Stanford University and other academic institutions.

Additionally, we collaborate with universities on a variety of research projects by contributing data that will help us to better understand the complex ecosystems and rare animals on The Preserve: from endangered tricolored blackbirds and tiger salamanders, to steelhead trout breeding streams, and sudden oak death disease within coastal forests.

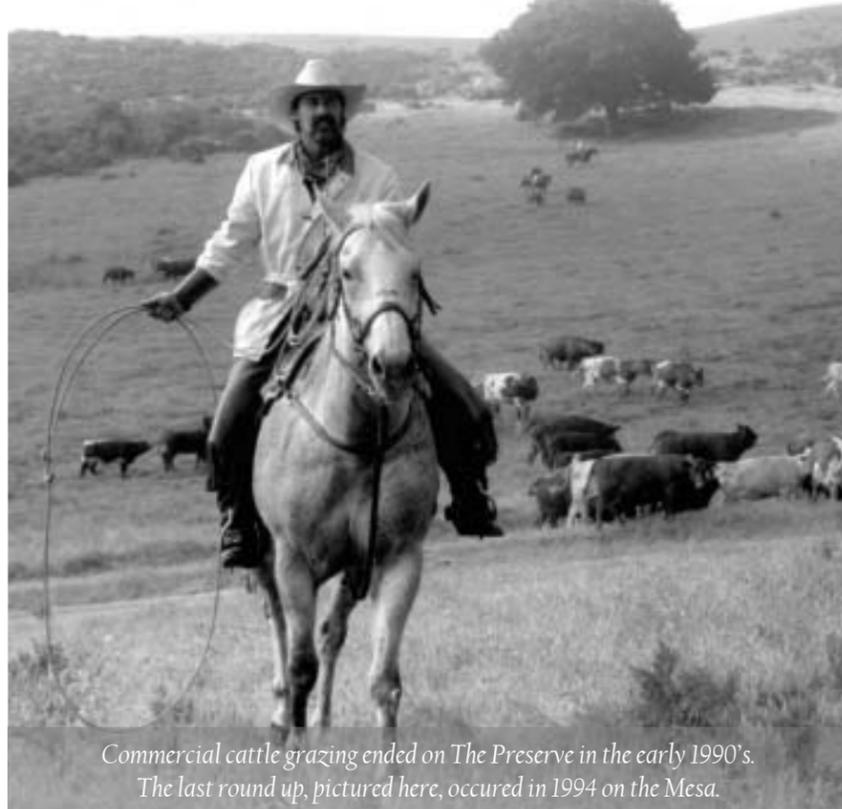
Pictured left, Dr. Jeffrey Langholz, chairman of the Santa Lucia Conservancy Board of Governors, and the Conservancy's Senior Ecologist, Dr. Christy Wyckoff, share the work of the Conservancy as a case study for conservation and land management with Middlebury graduate students.

Historic Rancho San Carlos

In 1771, the Mission San Carlos Borromeo was established by Father Junipero Serra just three miles from what is now the Santa Lucia Preserve. The grasslands of The Preserve were important grazing areas for the Mission community. In 1821 the Mission Lands were secularized and the Santa Lucia Preserve's 20,000 acres were distributed as two Mexican land grants. The first, El Potrero de San Carlos, was given to Fructuoso del Real, a Mission Indian. The second grant, San Francisquito, was made in 1835 to Doña Catalina Manzanellide Muñas.

These two land grants were then acquired by the Sargent brothers in 1857 for cattle ranching. George Gordon Moore purchased the property in 1924, renaming it Rancho San Carlos. Under Moore's ownership, the ranch was a playground for celebrities and businessmen. Sold in 1939 to Arthur Oppenheimer, the land again became a working cattle ranch, pictured here.

In 1990, excited at the discovery of this remarkably preserved 18th century iconic Californian landscape, the Preserve founders pioneered a community model to ensure the permanent protection of the land's rich cultural and natural heritage.



*Commercial cattle grazing ended on The Preserve in the early 1990's.
The last round up, pictured here, occurred in 1994 on the Mesa.*



Celebrating Native Heritage

Long before the Spanish missionaries arrived, indigenous communities thrived in California. For at least twelve centuries, the Rumsen Ohlone tribe called Carmel Valley their home. One of their villages, Echilat, was located at the heart of what is now the Santa Lucia Preserve.

Today, Rumsen people are revitalizing their cultural practices. Descendants occasionally visit ancestral sites on The Preserve to gather acorn and harvest native plant materials for weaving traditional baskets. Generously sharing their songs and stories with The Preserve community, they connect us to their rich cultural legacy grounded in love and respect for the land.

The Conservancy stewards native history and culture through managing archaeological easements, sustaining culturally sensitive plants, and partnering with historians and Native American elders. One of our Rumsen Ohlone partners, Linda Yamane, is pictured here holding a ceremonial basket she made using traditional methods and materials.

Santa Lucia Conservancy Staff



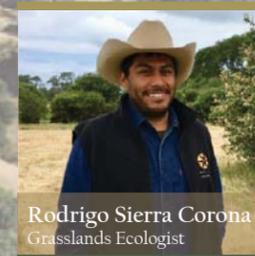
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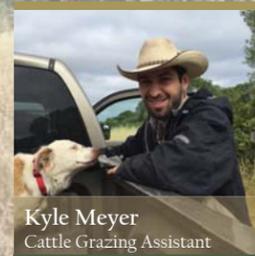
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Kyle Meyer
Cattle Grazing Assistant



Diana Johr
Office Manager



Members of the Conservancy's Board of Governors, pictured back row from left: Tom McHenry, Mike Sutton, Jeffrey Langholz, Bill Grabe; front row from left: Rick Rayburn, Bill Shaw, Karen Hargrove, Rick Werner, Ron Eastman.

Santa Lucia Conservancy Board of Governors

Jeffrey Langholz, *Chair*
Tom Gray, *Vice Chair*
Sue Sirkus, *Secretary*
Mike McCourt, *Treasurer*
Barton Thompson, *Sonoran Institute*
Ron Eastman
Bill Grabe
Karen Hargrove
Tom McHenry
Rick Rayburn
Bill Shaw
Kathy Siegel
Mike Sutton
Terry Watt
Rick Werner

Illustrations/Photos:
Allen Kennedy (front cover image, inside front cover, 2), William Guion (background image 15), Christy Wyckoff (table of contents, 5, 6, 8, back cover image), Joann Dost (1), Historic Archive (3, 13), Lindsay Cope (4), Paul Dyer (7) Santa Lucia Conservancy Wildlife Camera (9), Christy Fischer (10, 11, 12, 14, 16).



The Santa Lucia Conservancy Logo

The Conservancy's logo was designed by Michael Cronin in the early days of The Preserve and adapted with his permission by Jessica Gray. The six intertwined poppies represent the different aspects of Preserve life, reflected today in the Ranch Club, Golf Club, Community Services District, Santa Lucia Preserve Association, Preserve Company Board, and the Santa Lucia Conservancy.

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