If you live in Sonoma Valley or the surrounding hills, then you know how lucky we are to live in this spectacular natural landscape, with pastoral Sonoma Mountain on the west and the rugged, forested Mayacamas in the east. And we also have the good fortune of having great neighbors: deer browsing at dawn, coyotes loping by at dusk, acorn woodpeckers storing acorns in tall trees and hawks soaring overhead. Some property values are hard to quantify; having the wild beauty and wildlife of Sonoma County at our doorstep is one of those values.

**PROTECT THE SONOMA VALLEY WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**

**SINCE 1976, SONOMA LAND TRUST HAS PROTECTED NEARLY 50,000 ACRES OF BEAUTIFUL, PRODUCTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT LAND IN AND AROUND SONOMA COUNTY.**

**DID YOU KNOW THAT** there are some easy things that you, as a resident of this valley, can do to support the native wildlife that live and travel through this beautiful region?

**SONOMA VALLEY WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**

**HELPING SONOMA VALLEY’S WILDLIFE THRIVE**

822 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404, sonomalandtrust.org

This publication is funded in part by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.
It is not by chance that the Sonoma Valley area is popular with wild animals. The site’s unique location as a “wild corridor” is the result of a balance between human activity and nature. The Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor stretches from Sonoma Mountain, east across the valley floor, to the crest of the Mayacamas Mountains. This corridor links the large block of high-quality habitat on the Willamette Coast to the expanse of wildlife in the Blue Ridge–Berryessa region of eastern Napa County.

Large animals, like bear, mountain lion and deer, need wildlife corridors to trave, as do smaller creatures, such as fox, coyotes and raccoons. They give smaller species the space they need to find food, water, shelter and mates, and successfully raise their young. These corridors are so important in the face of climate change. They provide safety with the room they need to adapt and change their diet, temperature, vegetation and water availability.

Large areas of vegetation that are narrowed to just three-quarters of a mile wide. While many wildlife species are still able to move through these areas, many other species are not. The corridor is so narrow that it severely restricts the movement of wildlife through the corridor, so the construction of new roads should be minimized. Busy public roads should incorporate crossing structures and salt-free de-icing materials.

LIMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS. Roads and driveways pave over habitat and impede wildlife movement through the corridor, so the construction of new roads should be minimized. Busy public roads should incorporate crossing structures and salt-free de-icing materials. All fences should be well maintained and any abandoned fencing removed.

STRIKING A BALANCE

SONOMA VALLEY WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

WHAT DEVIATES, CORRIDORS DECREASE EFFECTIVELY?

High-quality habitat: sufficient food, water and cover for wildlife.

- Variety of habitats, including forests, shrubland and grassland, wetland and riparian flooding streams.
- Native vegetation, which reduces the number of non-native species.
- Sufficient length and width to accommodate the wide range of species in the region.

It’s up to all of us who live and play in the beautiful, biologically rich Sonoma Valley to heavily used trails. The good news is that there are several easy things we all can do to “keep the road open. "It’s up to all of us who live and play in the beautiful, biologically rich Sonoma Valley to heavily use our trails.

Even seemingly minor human activities can have profound effects on wild animals. For example, fences often block the movement of wildlife. These fences should be designed and maintained to avoid animal entanglement.

LIMIT FENCING AND USE WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY FENCE DESIGNS. Fencing can injure and even kill wild animals by blocking them out of their habitats and trapping them in places where they are unsafe. Remove unnecessary fencing, especially near waterways and riparian forested areas. All fences should be well maintained and any abandoned fencing removed.

Larger animals, like bear, mountain lion and deer, need wildlife corridors to survive, as do smaller species, such as fox, coyotes and raccoons. They give smaller species the space they need to find food, water, shelter and mates, and successfully raise their young. These corridors are so important in the face of climate change. They provide safety with the room they need to adapt and change their diet, temperature, vegetation and water availability.

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