

LTSCV Newsletter

February 2025

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Property Profile: Coyote Ridge

Imagine a place of sweeping vistas, singing grasses, wildflowers, eagles, falcons, coyotes, and few people-- all within view of one of the largest metropolitan areas in America. Just off Highway 101 and only 10 miles southeast of the heart of San José, the preserve protects the largest continuous serpentine grassland in the southern Bay Area and, in all, is home to 13 threatened and endangered species. There is also a meandering herd of tule elk, deer, coyotes, raptors, mountain lions, and bobcats. Coyote Ridge is a block of serpentine fifteen miles long and two miles wide just east of US 101. In the spring it is a mass of wildflowers, right down to the highway.

At other times of the year the brown hills may go unnoticed. But if you look up, you will see outcroppings of the rare serpentine rock. Nestled in among these outcroppings lie rare and endangered plants. Within the dried foliage, the larvae of the rare Bay checkerspot butterfly listed federally as a threatened species. LTSCV owns and manages just under 100 acres on Coyote Ridge, and biologists monitor the property year-round. This helps inform management decisions and understand how endangered species populations react to environmental changes.

A Critical Link

The ridge is contiguous with public and undeveloped lands to the east in the Diablo Range. It is part of a corridor of connectivity through which wildlife such as mountain lions, bobcats, elk, and amphibians can pass from the coastal ranges of the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Central Valley.



Tule Elk are only found in California and use Coyote Ridge and its surrounding hills for habitat. At one point, elk were nearly extinct from California- thanks to several reintroduction efforts, the population now exceeds 6000 individuals.

Upcoming Events

3/22- Hike with Saved By Nature @ Tulare Hill

3/23- BioBlitz with Talon Ecological Group @ Tulare Hill

4/5- Wildflower Hike @ Tulare Hill

Interested in joining any of these events? Shoot us an email at alyssa@landtrustscv.org

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