

Ventana Wildlife Society

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 1, 2014 - MARCH 31, 2015



MISSION:

Conserve native wildlife and their habitats through science, education and collaboration.

OUR VISION:

California Condors will be self-sustaining in Central California, no longer needing day-to-day assistance from people to survive. This success will serve as a model and catalyst for new wildlife recovery projects developing worldwide. We will also see the positive role of the marketplace on wildlife conservation through financial incentives, rather than penalties, for landowners to maintain habitat for species. Access to meaningful outdoor education opportunities for youth will remain critically important to our conservation approach, and we will expand our education programs through collaboration. Ventana Wildlife Society will help to drive a better community as a whole where wildlife coexists with people and both thrive.

Ventana Wildlife Society

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*Photos by Kari Bauer, Mike Clark,
Education Program parents ,
Tim Huntington, Cheryl Kampe,
and VWS Staff.*

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VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Conserving Native Wildlife and their Habitats

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March 31, 2015

Dear Friends,

This past year, we've had much success in growing our education and outreach program, largely thanks to a contribution from Sean and Alexandra Parker, and we are very excited to share these results with you. In this annual report you'll find news about our education program first due to all of the exciting new opportunities our staff now offers to the community. In 2014, we provided meaningful outdoor youth programming to 675 students (approximately 16,000 contact hours) and we're on track to reaching 800 youth in the coming years.



Next, you'll find results for our California Condor Recovery Program along with highlights from other conservation projects such as our work with Snowy Plovers, Tricolored Blackbirds, and Bald Eagles. The condor population rebounded with fewer birds dying from lead poisoning in 2014 and early 2015. By spring 2015, we had eight condor nests in central California, our highest single-season total since we started the project. We attribute these promising results to a combination of having expanded the infrastructure to provide clean, lead-free, food for condors at more locations along the coast from Carmel to San Simeon and providing non-lead ammunition to hunters and ranchers in key condor areas. And just to be clear, all funds used to purchase non-lead ammunition came from restricted sources and not membership.

Finally, you will find topics such as conservation within our community, how to stay involved, our annual fundraising event Feathers in Flight, and of course financial information as well as a complete list of annual and legacy donors. We're proud of our accomplishments and recognize that none of these would have been possible without your generosity. On behalf of the board of directors and staff, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support.

Sincerely,

William Kampe

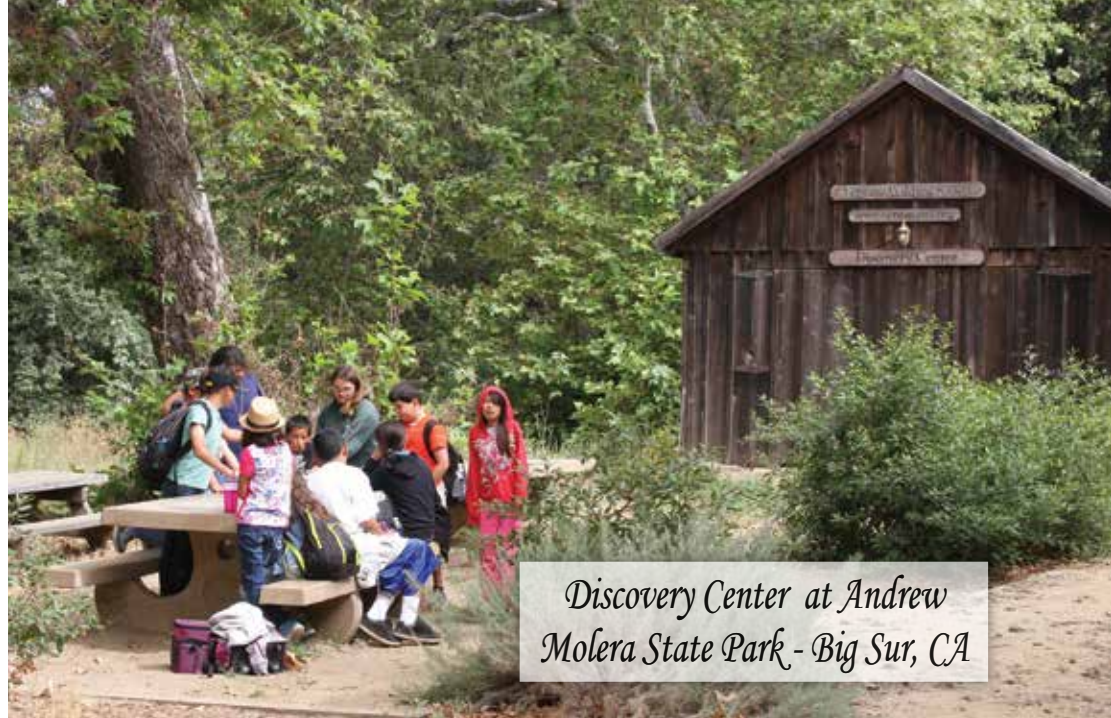
William Kampe, Board of Directors Chair

Kelly Sorenson

Kelly Sorenson, Executive Director



*80-acre Bald Eagle Sanctuary
Nacimiento Lake, CA*



*Discovery Center at Andrew
Molera State Park - Big Sur, CA*

Our Facilities



Administration Office - Salinas, CA



80-acre Condor Sanctuary - Big Sur, CA



GOAL:

Instill a conservation ethic and inspire youth to take action by fully integrating innovative scientific and ecological education



Education and Outreach Manager Alena Porte has developed and improved a diverse curriculum for all ages in her 12 years of work with Ventana Wildlife Society.



Education Programs

Ventana Wildlife Society's outdoor education programs are set for unprecedented growth, thanks to a four-year \$250,000 grant from Sean and Alexandra Parker. This grant was awarded as part of a 1.5 million dollar charitable contribution divided among eight schools and non-profit organizations for coastal-related projects in the local community. This contribution was made by the Parkers on top of a settlement with the California Coastal Commission, which helped resolve a Coastal Act violation. "Alexandra and I are proud to support organizations that promote education, access to and the conservation of the Big Sur coast," says Parker.

The Parker grant will allow us to provide 300 more youth per year with meaningful outdoor experiences in Big Sur, a 50%

increase over previous annual enrollment of underserved youth. Already exceeding our strategic plan goal of providing outdoor education experiences for 500 youth per year, this increase will allow us to reach our goal of expanding to at least 800 youth well ahead of schedule. Education and Outreach Manager Alena Porte has developed and improved a diverse curriculum for all ages in her 12 years of work with Ventana Wildlife Society. This year, she expanded our education capacity by purchasing another passenger van, hiring an additional staff member (fulfilling another strategic goal ahead of schedule) and adding partnerships with Monterey County Free Libraries, Hollister Youth Alliance, Gilroy Youth Center, Marina Youth Center, and Silver Star Resource Center.

Opposite page (top-left) Alena Porte and her Natural Science Awareness class at the Carmel River State Beach. Center, Jennifer Updyke and Alena Porte pose with a homeschool class at Veterans Memorial Park. Bottom (left) Hudson Facchini teaches about macroinvertebrates and (right) Charlotte Updyke-Brunet shares her crayfish find.





TOTAL ENROLLMENT: 675 STUDENTS, 185 MORE THAN PREVIOUS YEAR, 44% WERE STUDENTS FROM UNDERSERVED FAMILIES

Natural Science Discovery Camp (ages 8-12)	Single-Day Adventures (ages 8-17)	Wee Ones in The Woods (ages 4-7)	Condor Wilderness Camp (ages 13-17)	Natural Science Awareness Program (ages 8-12)
<p>SUMMER TIME</p>				<p>SCHOOL YEAR</p>
Program Enrollment: 166 Change from previous year: +13 % Underserved: 58%	133 +85 53%	116 +70 1%	29 +19 20%	231 -2 57%



JOIN THE FUN!

ENROLL AT WWW.VENTANAWS.ORG





Species Recovery

Location is important when we talk about California Condor survival. The threat of lead poisoning, still the greatest source of condor mortality, is relatively lower on the coast, where condors can scavenge a regular supply of marine mammal carcasses. When condors move east across the Salinas Valley, lead exposure from spent ammunition increases as they scavenge ground squirrels and other land mammals among the scattered private ranches.

Condor 664 was an example of how survival can be affected by the choice of where to live. Originally a Big

Sur resident, 664 fledged from a redwood tree nest in a canyon along the coast. She was one of the heaviest chicks on record, taking full advantage of a coincidental whale carcass that washed ashore near her territory and the unique gift of having three parents to deliver the meat. After 664 narrowly missed a power line during one of her first flights, PG&E worked with Ventana Wildlife Society to retrofit the line, thereby mitigating a collision threat. But 664 would face a greater threat when she dispersed away from the coast. Before 2014, she was rarely seen away from the coast; after March, crews detected her east of the Salinas Valley on more than twice as many days as on

GOAL:

To recover self-sustaining, free-flying populations of condors in coastal areas and to serve as a nationally recognized model of success





the coast. Condor 664 became ill in December and died in the arms of a Pinnacles National Park crew member on the way to a treatment facility on New Year's Eve. The pathologist confirmed the cause of death as lead poisoning.

We do not know for sure exactly where 664 was poisoned, but our GPS studies have taught us enough about lead exposure patterns to develop a coastal strategy for

fulfilling our strategic plan goal of recovering a self-sustaining condor population in central California. We have seen how condors flourish when free from lead exposure and the coast is where the lead poisoning risk is lowest.

So as we redouble lead outreach in collaboration with Pinnacles National Park and herald the full implementation of the statewide lead ban by 2019, we are facilitating increased

Our hopes of a sustainable population were also boosted by the establishment of several new breeding pairs, resulting in eight active nests (six along the coast) at the beginning of the 2015 breeding season



condor distribution along the coast in these next few critical years. We met several objectives last year by conducting relocations of condors to a coastal feeding station in San Luis Obispo County and establishing satellite coastal feeding sites near Carmel Highlands and Lucia. These efforts have increased condor distribution along the central coast, which should improve survival. In our 2014 fall trap-up sessions, only three of 21 condors tested showed blood lead levels high enough to warrant treatment. Including 664, we lost five birds in 2014, one of them being the lead-caused death of 444, the first wild-fledged condor in the central California population. Nevertheless, survival rebounded after a difficult 2013. Our hopes of a sustainable population were also boosted by the establishment of several new breeding pairs, resulting in eight active nests (six along the coast) at the beginning of the 2015 breeding season, our largest breeding effort yet. Building on our success here, we assisted the Yurok Tribe in spring 2015 with the preparation of a scoping document for the development of a new condor release site in favorable coastal habitats of Northern California.

While we mourned the death of 664 in December, we received a wonderful surprise that same month. An untagged juvenile condor appeared at our sanctuary, having fledged from a remote nest that we had been unable to monitor. This bird gave us a glimpse of the future: condors fledging from nests without management support, one condor replacing the loss of another, and condors soaring over the Ventana Wilderness without numbered wing tags. We are getting closer to that future.



The threat of lead poisoning is relatively lower on the coast, where condors can scavenge a regular supply of marine mammal carcasses.

Conservation Projects

Collaboration is an important part of conserving native wildlife. Although Ventana Wildlife Society has been a leader in species recovery projects, we also provide a variety of ecological services that promote the collaborations so important to high-impact conservation. Here is a sample of our accomplishments in 2014.

GOAL:

Collaborate with other stakeholders on high impact wildlife recovery and conservation, education, and outreach



Having recovered a self-sustaining breeding population in central California, we continue to document consistent annual growth.

We finalized an Eagle Conservation Plan for the California Army National Guard at Camp Roberts.

We assisted Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc. with Bald Eagle surveys in Tuolumne County.



We continue to co-manage the central California population with Pinnacles National Park and offer consultation services to assist others to better protect condors in central California.





Our predator management specialists identified and translocated avian predators of nesting Snowy Plovers and Least Terns. These efforts in collaboration with California Department of Parks and Recreation helped improve fledging success for these sensitive species on beaches in Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties.



We represented Monterey County as a coordinator for the 2014 Statewide Survey, an effort that documented continuing rapid declines for the species.

Conserving native wildlife and their habitats



We conducted grassland bird surveys for Santa Lucia Conservancy in Carmel Valley.

We conducted riparian bird surveys for Monterey Peninsula Water Management District along the Carmel River.



Conservation Within Our Community

CONDOR TOURS

We increased the capacity and number of coastal condor tours in Big Sur, serving 17 guests on 190 tours in 2014. The tours provided guests with a memorable experience, perhaps prompting some to promote greater condor awareness and advocacy in the community.



COPPER AMMUNITION DRAWINGS

We provided hunters and ranchers with more than 700 boxes of free copper ammunition during drawings and giveaways in 2014. We are working cooperatively with hunters and ranchers in resolving the lead problem for condors and other scavengers.



PRESENTATIONS AND OUTREACH

We provided presentations or table displays at over 20 venues in 2014. We also welcomed 1,307 visitors to our Discovery Center, meeting our strategic goals for visitation.



TRASH PICK-UP

Volunteers joined us on 6 trash pick-up events at Highway 1 pullouts in Big Sur. In addition to cleaning up our community, these events protect condors by removing some of the microtrash that threatens chick survival when it is brought to the nest.

Stay Involved

LIVE STREAMING Condor Cameras!



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Become a member
- Planned gift or bequest
- Attend our annual fundraiser - *Feathers in Flight*
- Your company's Matching Gift Program
- Subscribe to our e-newsletter
- Visit our Discovery Center
- Shop our online store
- Sign up for a condor tour
- Forward this report to a friend
- Volunteer
- Hunt with copper ammunition

FIND US ONLINE

- www.ventanaws.org
- www.mycondor.org
- www.condorspotter.com





The condor crew geared up for a busy nest-monitoring season as 8 nests were active by April 2015 in central California... a hopeful sign as we move closer to a self-sustaining population.



Donor Appreciation Reception

Every year in February, we honor our donors with an elegant evening filled with food, wine, great conversation and breathtaking views. The night is highlighted by the presentation of four special awards and an appearance by Alan Igarashi and his Peregrine Falcon. We hope to include you in February 2016.



Board Members Elizabeth Panetta, Sandy Decker, Bill Kampe, and Melissa Walker with Kelly Sorenson center.



A night in your honor



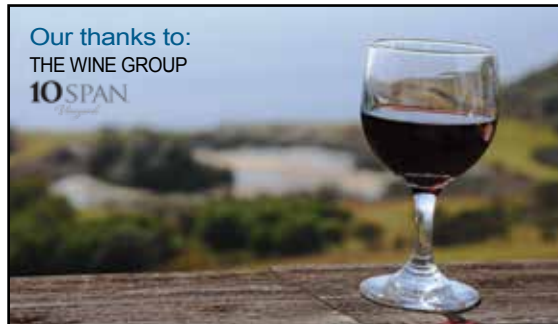
2015 Award Recipients (left to right): The Volunteer of the Year Award - Devon Pryor on behalf of The Santa Barbara Zoo; The Environmental Excellence Award - Dan Baldwin on behalf of the Community Foundation for Monterey County; The Outstanding Philanthropist Award - Frank and Barbara Strehlitz; The Frank J Lichtanski Award - Rafael Payan, PhD on behalf of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District.



Feathers In Flight

We held our third annual Feathers in Flight fundraising event on September 6, 2014. Rancho Grande in Big Sur provided a scenic backdrop for guests to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a display of live raptors, while raising money for California Condor recovery. During a spirited auction featuring local broadcaster Hunter Finnell, guests bid on the opportunity to release a condor into the wild, along with a variety of restaurant, spa, and entertainment packages donated by local businesses.

Mingling with the crowd was Dolly (right), a live non-releasable California Condor who survived an injury in the wild and now resides at the Los Angeles Zoo. Thanks to her handlers Mike Clark and Jenny Theule, Dolly provided an extraordinary meet and greet opportunity, making Feathers in Flight a true celebration of condors. We thank our guests for helping us exceed our financial goal by netting \$33,572, with all funds going directly to condor recovery efforts in central California.





Thank You For Supporting Ventana Wildlife Society

Members and contributors are essential to our success. Together we support the survival of a rich diversity of wildlife species and habitats. We are grateful! Every gift, at every level, is so important...please support our work in any way you can. If your name is misspelled, does not appear on this donor list, is in an inappropriate location, or if you prefer to be listed anonymously, please accept our apologies and let us know.

Over \$200,000

Sean and Alexandra Parker

\$100,000-\$199,999

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Margaret and William Hearst III

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous
The Fenton Family Fund
Monterey Peninsula Foundation,
host of the ATT Pebble Beach
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The Wine Group

\$10,000-\$24,999

2014 MCGives! Campaign at
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Monterey County
Anonymous
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Santa Barbara Museum of
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Leadership Circle

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Steward

\$1,000-\$4,999

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 Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
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In Memory Of

Patricia Lee Brown aka
 Ranger Pat
 Wendy Buck
 Steve Clayton
 Condor 444, *Ventana*
 Condors 400 and 401

Phyllis Dietz
 Howard and Elva Elliott
 Austin Ellison
 Ernst Ewoldsen
 Carl and Carolyn Furniss
 Victor A Hamilton
 Francis Hartman-Kok
 Mark Henze
 Greg Hind
 Glenys Huntington
 Frank Lichtanski
 John and Phyllis Richer
 Betsy Sandstrom
 Mabel Sarmento
 Loretta Sorenson
 Dede Teeler
 Mike Tyner
 Carl Young

In Honor Of

Condor 251
 Virdette Brumm, PhD
 Lukas Buchwald
 Sandy and Karen Decker
 Rachelle Onishi
 Kit and Bill Owen
 Irene Shin and Guy Stilson

In-Kind

Alan Igarashi
 Alaska Wildland Adventures
 Alison Gay Cook
 Anonymous (3)
 Asilomar Conference Grounds
 Monterey Peninsula Foundation,
 host of the AT&T Pebble Beach
 National Pro-AM
 Antonio Balestren
 Bargetto Winery
 Bay Area Discovery Center
 Bayonet/Blackhorse Golf Club
 Big Sur River Inn
 Black Bear Diner
 Blue Ocean Whale Watch
 Jack Borok
 Boulder Creek Golf and
 Country Club
 California Hawking Club Members

California International Airshow
 California Pizza Kitchen
 Cannery Row Company
 Cantinetta Luca
 Carmel Valley Ranch
 Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers
 Children's Discovery Museum
 Christopher's Restaurant
 Cima Collina
 Daniel Bianchetta
 Decker Studios
 Deb and Robert Dixon
 Deetjen's Big Sur Inn
 Eagle Optics
 Earthbound Farm
 EcoChic Designs
 Elkhorn Slough Safari
 Wildlife Tours
 Fandango Restaurant
 Fashion Streaks
 Galante Vineyards
 Gilroy Gardens
 Graniterock
 Grasing's
 Green's Camera World
 Happy Hollow Park and Zoo
 Hunter Finnell Media
 Tim Huntington
 The Jade Shack
 Katy's Place
 Kayak Connection
 Mike Keeran Golf Instrukon
 Kennan Ward Photography
 Mary Katherine Kramer
 KUSP
 Layers Sensational Cakes
 L&G, LLP Attorneys at Law
 Little Napoli
 Sal and Ada Lucido
 Lula's Chocolates
 M.A.S.T. Restaurant Management
 Main Event Transportation
 Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca
 McShane's Nursery and
 Landscape Supply
 Monterey Bay Sailing
 Monterey Bay Whale Watch
 Monterey Pines Golf Club



Monterey Signs
 Monterey Symphony
 Monterey Youth Museum
 Morgan Winery
 Nepenthe
 Newman's Own Organics, The
 Second Generation
 Nickelodeon Theatres
 Oakland Zoo
 Old Fisherman's Grotto
 Oregon Shakespeare Festival
 Passionfish
 Patagonia, Santa Cruz
 Patisserie Boissiere
 The Pebble Beach Company
 Pepe's Little Napoli/ Vesuvio
 Pier 39
 Point Sur State Historic Park
 and Lighthouse
 Portobellos
 Portola Hotel and Spa at
 Monterey Bay
 Princess Monterey
 Whale Watching
 Quail Lodge Resort and Golf Club
 Rahni Somen
 Rio Grill / Downtown Dining
 Roaring Camp Railroads
 San Francisco Ballet
 San Juan Oaks Golf Club
 Santa Barbara Zoo
 The Sardine Factory
 Sierra Hot Springs
 Stone Creek Kitchen
 Sunset Cultural Center, Inc
 Duane Titus
 Uncommon Café
 Village Corner Restaurant
 Kennan and Karen Ward
 The Western Stage
 Webnectar

Match Programs

Many companies have matching gift programs through which they will "match" the charitable contributions made by their employees/retirees. Check with your company's HR office to see if they offer gift matching. Many VWS members take advantage of this opportunity through their employers:

AmazonSmile
 The Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Bank of America
 The Boeing Company
 Chevron Corporation
 Google
 Hewlett-Packard
 IBM Corporation
 Johnson and Johnson
 JP Morgan Chase and Company
 JustGive.org
 Lexis Nexis
 Macy's
 McGraw-Hill
 Medtronic
 Nvidia
 Microsoft
 Pacific Gas and Electric Company
 Palm Foundation
 Piper Jaffray Charitable Giving Campaign
 Power Integrations, Inc
 REI
 Shell Oil Company Foundation
 Wells Fargo

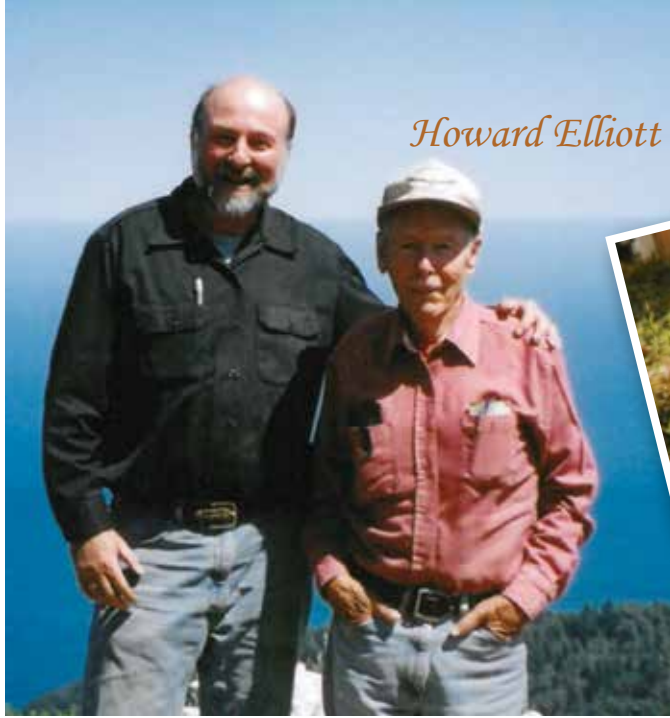
Legacy Society

We appreciate those who have remembered Ventana Wildlife Society through bequests or by naming VWS as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy or IRA:

*Barbara Baldock and Phillip N Butler
 Virdette L Brumm, PhD and
 Robertson Parkman, PhD
 Sandy Decker and Karen Mortillaro
 Nancy Filippi
 Carla and David Garnham
 Kathryn Hannay
 Jeanne Holmquist
 Sheri Howe
 Sal and Ada Lucido
 Margaret Maas
 Shirley Nootbaar
 Mark Rush
 Janet Shing
 Dianne Simmons
 Jerry and Cheryl Stidham
 Frank and Barbara Strehlitz
 John Tindal
 Kris Trottingwolf
 Nancy Tyner*

If you would like to speak to someone about ways you can make a gift or to let us know that you have already designated VWS in your estate, use the enclosed envelope, email kellysorenson@ventanaws.org, go to www.ventanaws.org, or call 831-800-7420.

Ventana Wildlife Society is extremely grateful to Valerie Borton whose gift has recently matured. We honor her commitment, foresight, and generosity.



Howard Elliott built the infrastructure that enabled Ventana Wildlife Society and the recovery of endangered species to prosper



Just three days after his discharge from the Army, he married Elva Marie Hawes in Washoe County, Nevada. The couple moved to Stockton, California, where Howard worked for the Continental Canning Company. They eventually moved to the Monterey Peninsula, where they owned and operated a motel and apartment complex in Pacific Grove.

Howard served on the Ventana Wildlife Society board from 1985 through 1992, and then the advisory board for another 15 years. Howard created and funded our first "Facilities and Contingency Fund." During that time, Howard and Elva were frequent volunteers at the Big Sur sanctuary used by Ventana Wildlife Society and owned by Sal and Ada Lucido. Howard put his practical ingenuity to work for us by building the water system at the sanctuary, and the Bald Eagle release tower that played a key role in the recovery of that species in central California. He was also responsible for the first remodel of our Discovery Center at Andrew Molera State Park. As ingenious as he was generous, Howard Elliott built the infrastructure that has enabled Ventana Wildlife Society and the recovery of endangered species to prosper.

Howard and Elva left a sizable estate, for which over the next 20 years the income will be shared equally between the Big Sur Land Trust and Ventana Wildlife Society. After 20 years, the remaining principal will go to The Nature Conservancy. After Elva passed away in 2002, Howard intended for a portion of the estate to be used for the purchase of the Lucido property. Lucido, who remembers Howard as a mentor and trusted friend, expedited that vision himself by generously donating the 80 acres to Ventana Wildlife Society through a bargain sale. This exchange allowed the Elliott trust to be used to benefit the organization in other ways, thereby continuing his legacy of providing infrastructure improvements. This legacy will propel our mission of conserving the wildlife and habitats he loved. Thank you dear friend!

Co-founder Sal Lucido (left) and his mentor, Howard Elliott. At right, Elva (above) and Howard Elliott in 1965 and Howard (below) helping out in 1985.

Remembering a Friend - a Teacher - a Mentor

We lost a very dear member of the Ventana family recently. Former board member, long-time supporter and friend Howard Elliott passed away on March 7, 2015.

Howard lived a long and rich life, and we are fortunate that he shared so much of it with us. Trained as an airplane mechanic and possessing a pilot's license since he was 16, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. With the rank of Technical Sergeant in the 841st Air Engineer Squadron, Howard repaired mechanical and electrical instruments in England and France. By the time he was honorably discharged in 1945, his decorations included numerous campaign, service, and good conduct medals.

Financials APRIL 1, 2014 - MARCH 31, 2015

Ventana Wildlife Society enjoyed an operating surplus of \$185K, largely due to a four-year grant in the amount of \$250K from Sean and Alexandra Parker. Total assets rose slightly to \$2M, primarily reflecting ownership of two wildlife sanctuaries in central California. The following financial statements were audited by Grace & Associates.



ASSETS

Cash and Equivalents	\$178,653
Board Designated Cash Reserves	\$115,212
Grants Receivable	\$35,313
Deposits & Prepaid Expenses	\$10,657
Restricted Cash	\$178,880
Property and Equipment (net)	\$1,524,651
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,043,366

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$6,161
Accrued Liabilities	\$25,842
Deposits	\$2,805
Total Liabilities	\$34,808

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$85,271
Board Designated Cash Reserve	\$115,212
Board Designated Land Purchase	\$390,500
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$590,983

Temporarily Restricted	\$370,575
Permanently Restricted	\$1,047,000
Total Net Assets	\$2,008,558

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$2,043,366

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VENTANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY
19045 PORTOLA DR STE F1
SALINAS, CALIFORNIA 93908

Ventana Wildlife Society is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization tax ID 94-2795935. Complete financials are available online at www.ventanaws.org

Total Income			Total Expense		
Grants	\$699,652	64%	Species Recovery	\$326,569	36%
<i>Unrestricted \$182,732</i>			Education and Outreach	\$284,364	32%
<i>Temporarily Restricted \$516,920</i>			Ecological Services	\$133,498	15%
Service Fees	\$220,834	20%	Administrative	\$111,469	12%
Contributions	\$104,760	10%	Fundraising	\$39,865	5%
Special Events (net)	\$33,572	3%	TOTAL	\$895,765	
In-Kind Contributions	\$16,647	2%			
Other	\$4,956	1%			
TOTAL	\$1,080,421		NET DIFFERENCE	\$184,656	



Ventana Wildlife Society

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Identify individual condors by their ID tags - www.condorspotter.com