

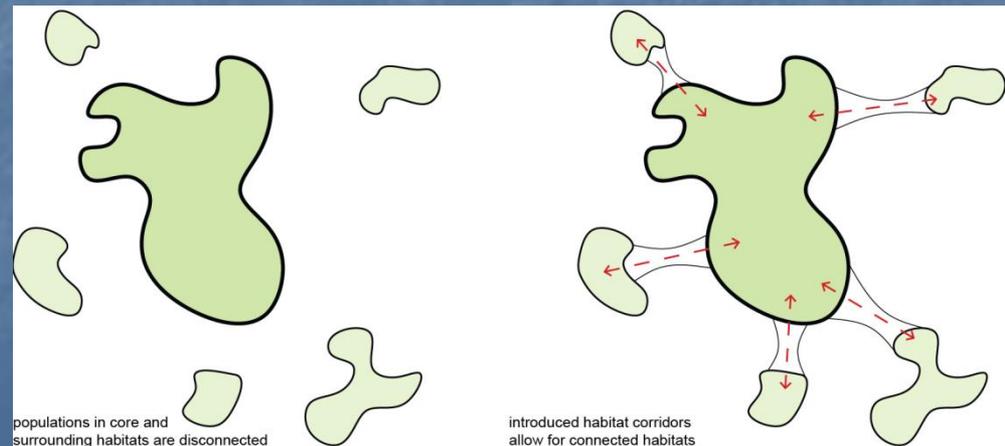
The Roads Less Traveled – Wildlife corridors and crossing opportunities in the Santa Clarita Valley



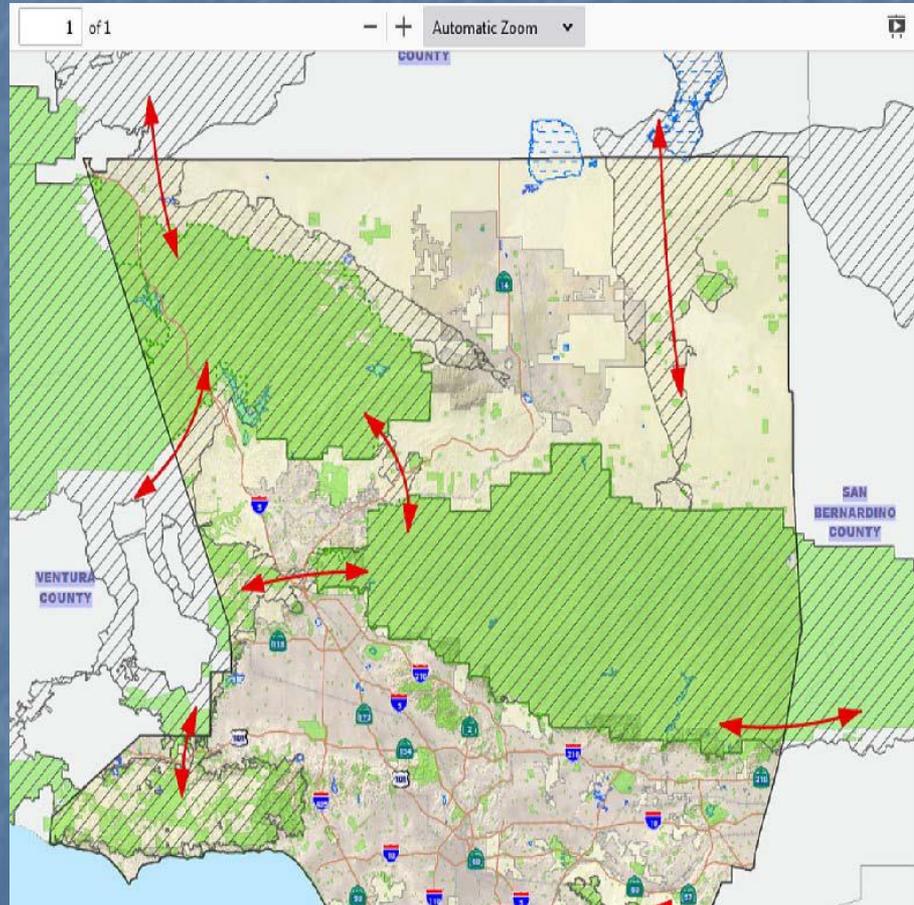
Presented by Lynne Plambeck,
Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment (SCOPE)
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What is Habitat Connectivity?

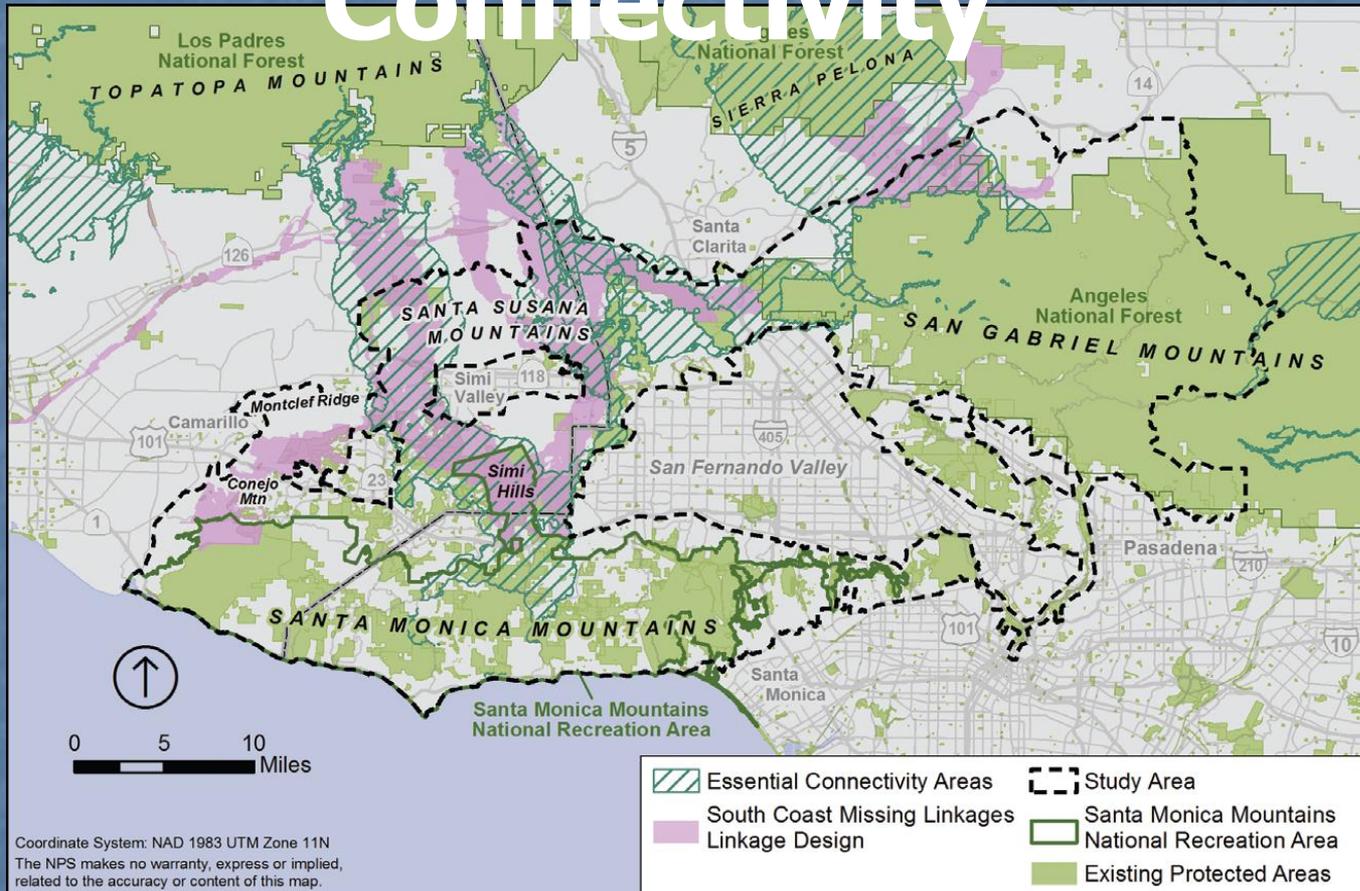
- Habitat connectivity is the degree to which separate patches of habitat are connected. Greater habitat connectivity means animals are able to travel between these patches



Connectivity In Los Angeles County (map from the Los Angeles County General Plan)



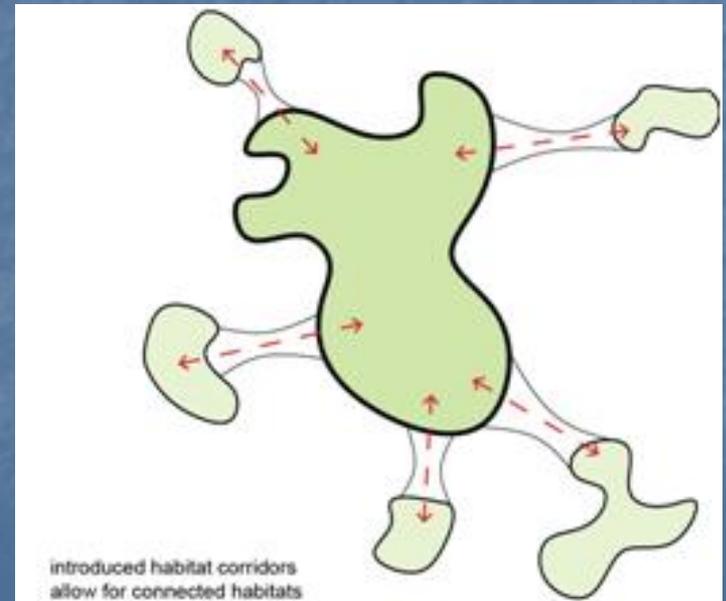
Rim of the Valley Corridor Connectivity



This project was first proposed by CSUN student, Marge Feinburg, in 1974 for her Master's thesis. It subsequently received study funds from the US Forest Service and State funding for open space acquisition.

What is a Wildlife Corridor –

A wildlife corridor is an area of connecting wildlife populations separated by human activities or structures (such as roads, development, or logging).

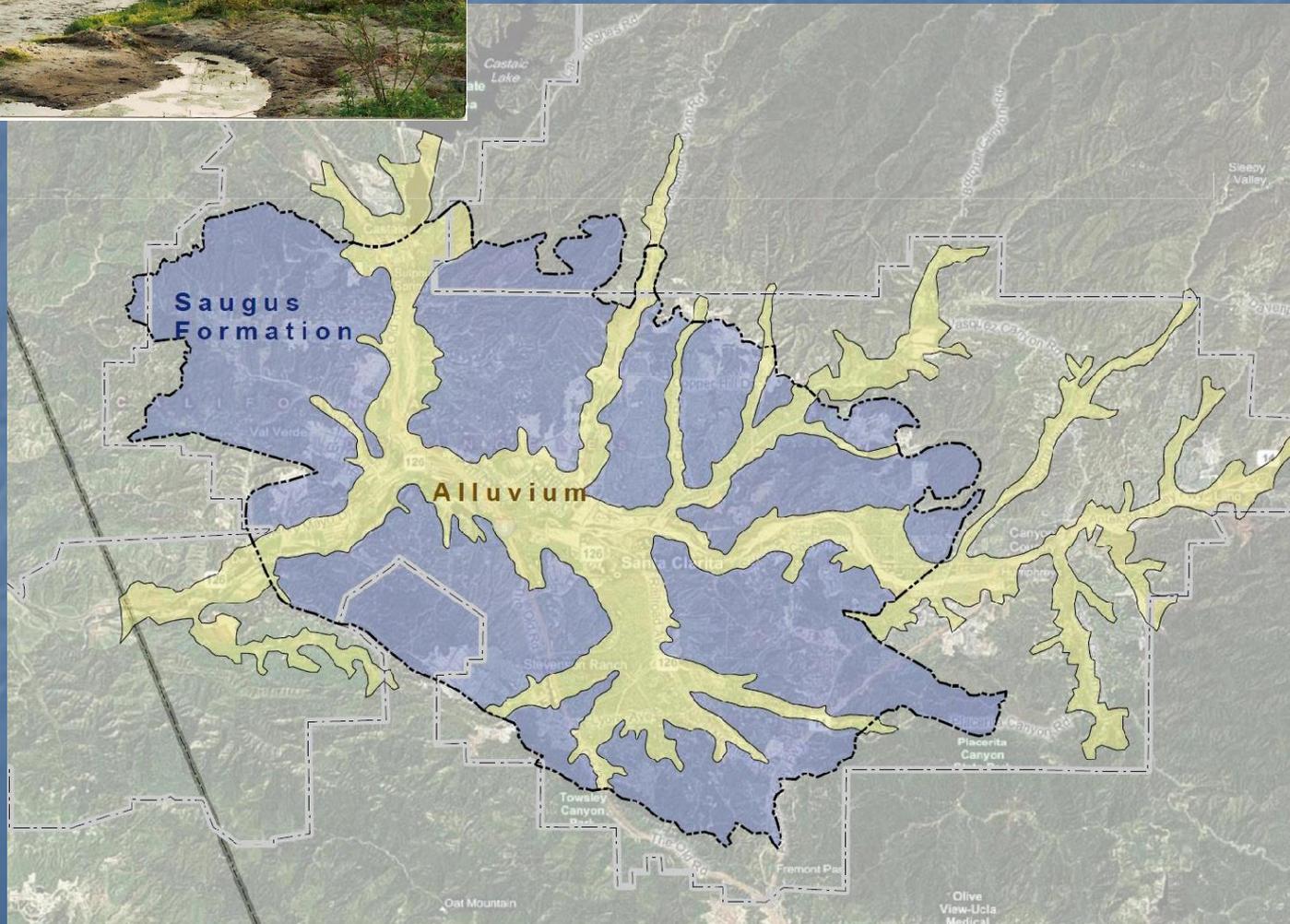




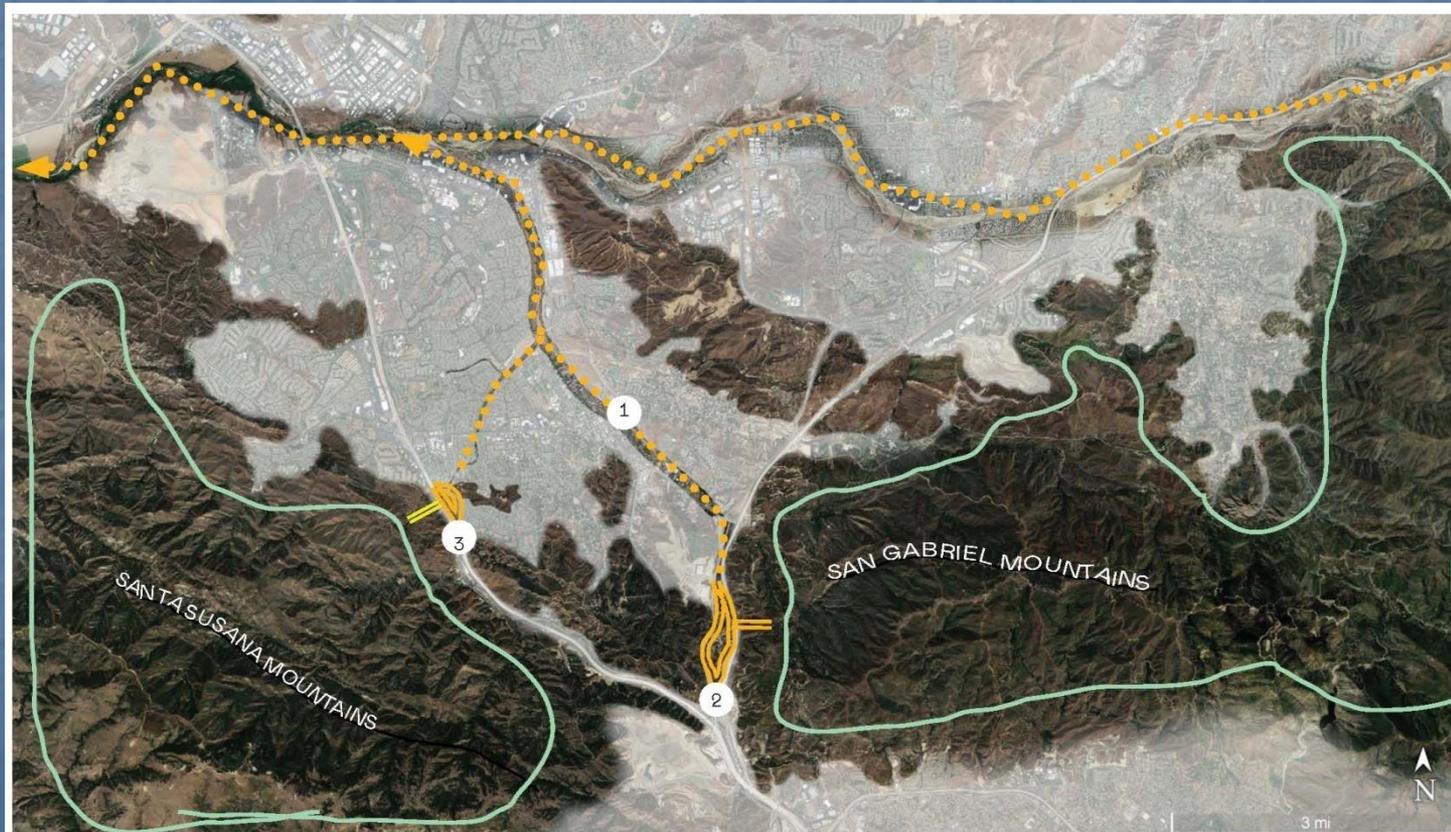
Why are Wildlife Corridors Important ?

- They allow an exchange of individuals between populations, which helps prevent negative effects of inbreeding and reduced genetic diversity that often occur within isolated populations.
- They help facilitate the re-establishment of populations that have been reduced or eliminated due to events such as fires or disease.
- They moderate some of the worst effects of habitat fragmentation where urbanization has split up habitat areas, causing animals to lose both their natural habitat and the ability to move between regions to use all of the resources they need to survive.

Wildlife corridors in the SCV – Many animals use the Santa Clara River and its tributaries to move between mountain ranges



Connectivity between the San Gabriel Mountain and the Santa Susanna Mountains In the Southern part of the Santa Clarita Valley



Roads are Major Obstacles for Wildlife Movement -

Wildlife Movement -

How can we get the animals safely across the road?
You can build an expensive bridge!



Proposed wildlife bridge over 101 freeway in Ventura County to save mountain lions (cost - \$87 million)



2019 Wildlife bridge over I-80 near Park City Utah to save elk, moose and other animals (cost - \$5 million)

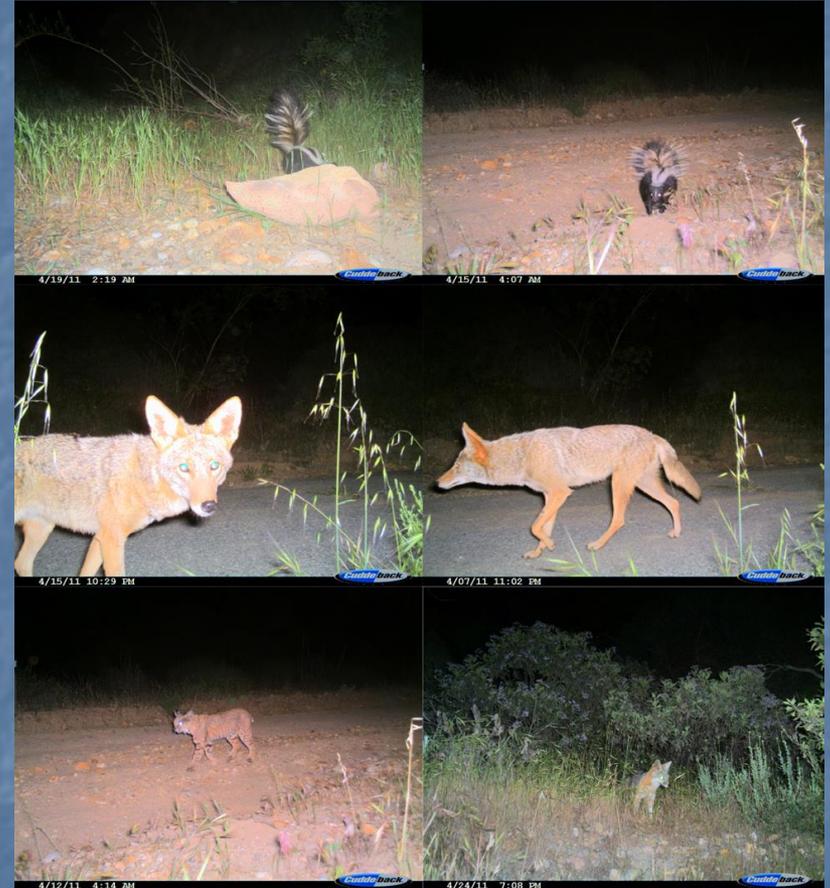
OR
you can preserve an existing
undercrossing



Los Pinetos Undercrossing – the link to connecting the Southern SCV wildlife corridor



Wildlife Camera Pictures of Animals Currently Using the Los Pinetos Undercrossing from a 2018 UCLA Study





What can you do protect your watershed?

- **Be Aware**
(Monitor your local agencies)
- **Know how to be engaged**
(attend public hearings, read and comment on EIRs)
- **Take action**
Organize rallies and educational events