



*Photo courtesy of National Park Service*

## **P-55 Crosses 101, 118 Freeways and Lives!**

Finally some good news on the mountain lion front! P-55, who is collared and being tracked by the National Park Service (NPS), was recently documented as crossing the 101 and 118 freeways. As reported in the Daily News "The uncowardly lion had a busy weekend in late July, first being caught on camera in a backyard in Newbury Park, then cutting across the 101 Freeway in the early hours on July 30."

According to Seth Riley, a wildlife ecologist with Santa Monica Mountains Natural Recreation Area, "The overwhelming pattern we've observed through GPS tracking is lions coming up to the edge of a freeway and turning around."

To read the entire Daily News article click [here](#).

This bodes well for both P-41 isolated in the Verdugo Mountains, and P-22 trapped in Griffith Park. AFC is working on ways to establish passage through choke points around, over and under the freeways isolating these big cats. To read more about

## ***NPS/SMMNRA Partner with AFC***

The National Park Service has one of the largest urban national park units right here in Southern California. How familiar are you with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area?

SMMNRA was designated in 1978 and is operated through partnerships between the NPS, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California State Parks and other agencies. It comprises approximately 153,000 acres, 23,000 of which are owned and managed by the National Park Service. Congressman Adam Schiff has been working for years to augment the SMMNRA with a ring of land around the L.A. valleys, that includes the Arroyo Seco, called the Rim of the Valley Corridor.

When SMMNRA's Superintendent David Szymanski learned that our Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor overlays a sizable portion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, he suggested our two staffs meet. On a hot afternoon in September, we met with David and NPS staffers responsible for science, land management (including wildlife corridors), programs and outreach, in the cool of Cottonwood Canyon under its canopy of native trees. We each shared that our most consequential challenge is the same - to enhance healthy biodiversity by connecting our urban islands of natural habitat. As climate changes, more wildlife will need to move to new foraging, breeding and sheltering locations. If the Rim of the Valley Corridor is adopted, NPS will be able to work directly with us in our region.

By sharing our programs and goals, we each learned how we can begin to help each other. One example is our program to set up cameras throughout the Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor to better understand the needs of wildlife and humans. The NPS is also setting up a camera transect but in a different region of Los Angeles which will give us a stronger foundation on which to build a new and important partnership. In fact, as part of our partnership with the NPS, AFC received a technical assistance grant to help us with the Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor for 2 years through their Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

And oh, by the way, they loved Cottonwood Canyon!



## Did you know...

Autumn is the season for employer Workplace Giving Campaigns! If your company participates in workplace giving, it can be an easy and efficient way for you to make a tax-deductible contribution to AFC.

If AFC is not listed among the charitable choices, you can write-in your designation with the following information: **Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy --- Fed Tax I.D. #95-4790045, P.O. Box 1, Pasadena, CA 91102, 626/796-0782.**

Also, find out if your employer offers a Matching Gift Program so that you can leverage your gift to AFC. However you choose to donate - directly, via a workplace giving, a matching gift, or all of these ways - AFC is grateful for your support - Thank You!

## Volunteer Spotlight Rachel-Ann Arias & Annika Near-Ansari



*Annika & Rachel-Ann with AFC  
Advisor Mickey Long*

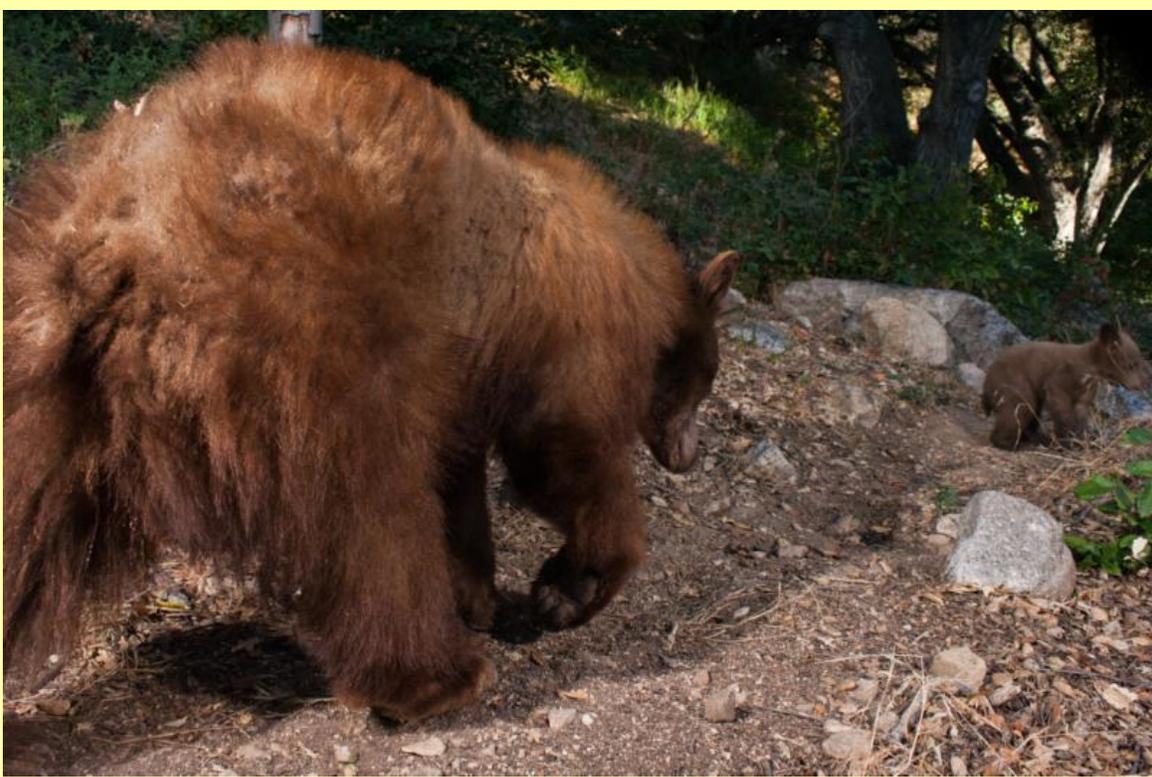
Special AFC thanks to Rachel-Ann Arias and Annika Near-Ansari. Both from Girl Scout troop 1711, the two girls created invasive plant and wildlife guides for the Rosemont Preserve as their Girl Scout silver award project and are eager to share them with you!

The girls will debut their new wildlife guides on **October 28th, 9:00am at the Rosemont Preserve**. They will lead a hike through the preserve and demonstrate how to use their guides to learn about invasive plants and the types that live in the area, as well as how to identify signs of local wildlife that comes through the preserve by looking at scat and tracks.

Rachel-Ann enjoys studying wildlife and used her camera trap (motion activated camera) to capture wildlife in the preserve. She has participated in several nature tracking / citizen science projects through the Los Angeles Natural History Museum, served as a Citizen Science Ambassador through Cornell University and volunteers in the zoology and marine biology laboratory at Occidental College. Both girls are in 8th grade, Rachel-Ann at Rosemont Middle School, and Annika at California School of the Arts in the Musical Theater conservatory. Annika first became interested in learning about invasive plant species as a young child while starting a non-invasive garden with her grandparents. She has helped select new plants every year since.

**Thanks to Rachel-Ann & Annika!!  
You've made a positive impact in your community  
and we know you will go on to do great things!!**

**Secure your trash...it's bear season!**



Johanna Turner caught this image of mama and cub a few months ago in Millard Canyon. This is the time of year to be extra careful with your trash. Despite what you might have heard about the drought being over, it is very dry out there and animals are out looking for food and water. Help them look in the right places by securing your trash so they don't come to rely on unhealthy food sources.

## **Events & Volunteer Opportunities with AFC!**

### **Rosemont Preserve**

#### **Habitat Restoration Days**

2nd Saturday every month, 9:00-11:00am

Join us in removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives.

#### **Open Gate Days**

1st and 3rd Sunday, 9-11am every month until the end of the year (except for October 15th which will be 2-4pm)



Come visit the Preserve at your leisure, take a stroll...Count the deer and enjoy this beautiful open space in your backyard.

#### **Introduction to the Rosemont Preserve with Paul Rabinov**

Saturday, September 23, 9-11am

Have you ever wondered where the Rosemont Preserve is? Or what goes on there? Paul Rabinov, long-time La Crescenta resident and co-chair of Friends

of the Rosemont Preserve will lead a tour recounting the history of the Preserve, how it came about and how it has been transformed into a valuable asset to the community. Learn about the plants and animals who inhabit the Preserve, as well as how to deal with wildlife where you live.

### **Girl Scout Guided Tour of Rosemont Native Plants & Animals**

Saturday, October 28, 9-11am

Rachel-Ann and Annika will lead a guided tour of the Rosemont Preserve to debut the new interactive guides they each made as part of their Girl Scout Silver Project. Rachel-Ann's guide focuses on wildlife and how to identify them by looking for scat and tracks; Annika's guide will teach us about invasive plants on the Preserve and how to identify and remove them.

### **Spend a Holiday morning with AFC co-founder and Conservation Director Nancy Steele**

Saturday, December 23rd, 9-11am

What's better than a winter's day at Rosemont? Join AFC's Conservation Director and AFC co-founder Nancy Steele for some holiday cheer and a short hike at the Rosemont Preserve. Refreshments and hands-on activities will be provided!

### **Rubio Canyon**

#### **Volunteer Day**

Sunday, October 1st, 9-11am

Help us restore habitat, clear brush, and improve the historic Rubio Canyon trail. Meet at the intersection of Rubio Vista Road and Pleasant Ridge Drive in Altadena, CA. The trail begins between the two houses (1351 and 1342) on the corner.

#### **Docent-led Tour**

Sunday, October 29th, 9-11am

Join Program Administrator Tim Martinez for a hike through the Preserve. Learn plant uses, history and survival skills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Meet at the intersection of Rubio Vista Road and Pleasant Ridge Drive in Altadena, CA. The trail begins between the two houses (1351 and 1342) on the corner.

### **Old Marengo Park**

#### **Volunteer Day**

Saturday, September 30th, 9-11am

Join us as we beautify Old Marengo Park! Help neighbors and friends bring nature back into the city. Old Marengo Park is located at the intersection of Marengo Ave and Woodbury Rd in Altadena, CA.

#### **Volunteer Day**

Saturday, October 28th, 9-11am

## **Volunteer Day**

Saturday, December 2nd, 9-11am

## **Cottonwood Canyon**

### **Guided Meditation**

Upcoming dates TBA

## **P-22 Day and Urban Wildlife Festival**

Sunday, October 22, 11am-4pm

Griffith Park, Crystal Springs Drive (across from Visitor Center)

Don't miss this fun community event celebrating LA's resident and world famous mountain lion. You can pose with P-22 in a photobooth, try out a virtual reality experience of a wildlife crossing and the LA River, learn from experts on how to coexist with wildlife, view an urban wildlife garden installation, join in with the California Conservation Corps for a Bioblitz Dance, go on a ranger led walk, take a workshop on how to set up a wildlife camera, listen to live music, enjoy delicious food, and visit us at the AFC booth!

If you would like to volunteer with AFC [click here](#).



### **Legacies & Bequests**

You can create a legacy that commemorates your commitment to AFC's mission. By making a gift through your estate or naming AFC as a beneficiary of your retirement or insurance plan, you will ensure that our

work of protecting the land and the wildlife on it will continue. If you would like to learn more, please contact us at 626.796.0782.

### **Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy**

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