



## Ready for some good news?

We've got some for you! Welcome to AFC's Summer Newsletter: from protected status for cougars to an adorable litter of cubs born in the Santa Monica Mountains, our favorite apex predators are having a good summer.

And so are we! Sacred Heart has taken a big conservation step, and our summer interns (undaunted but socially distant) are hard at work.

And finally - we've got one more way to make you smile, so make sure to read all the way to the end to catch it. Happy Fourth of July from all of us

## AFC SUMMER NEWSLETTER

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Cougars move closer to Threatened Species status*
- *Three mountain lion cubs born in Santa Monica Mountains*
- *Conservation at Sacred Heart*
- *Summer interns jump in with both feet*
- *Big smile!*
- *Upcoming events at AFC properties*

### GREAT NEWS FOR CALIFORNIA COUGARS



### Southern California mountain lions granted temporary threatened species status

In April, the CA Fish and Game Commission granted mountain lions in six regions from San Francisco to San Diego “candidate status” for listing as

threatened species in as soon as a year, including two right here: the San Gabriel/San Bernardino Mountains and the Santa Monica Mountains.

Following a meeting where more than 40 people testified by phone, commissioners agreed with a petition from environmental groups that lions in those six regions have diminished so dramatically due to habitat loss from development, being struck and killed on highways and being shot under state permits by landowners that they could face extinction in each region.

This vote gives state biologists one year to conduct a detailed scientific review with a final vote to follow. During that year the lions are receiving the same protections as if listed as threatened under the state Endangered Species Act, which prohibits their killing.

This is great news for our area cougar population, and a major step towards saving these wonderful animals.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



[MEET OUR SMALLEST NEW MOUNTAIN LIONS](#)



## Three Cubs Born to P54 in the Santa Monica Mountains

FULL STORY AT THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

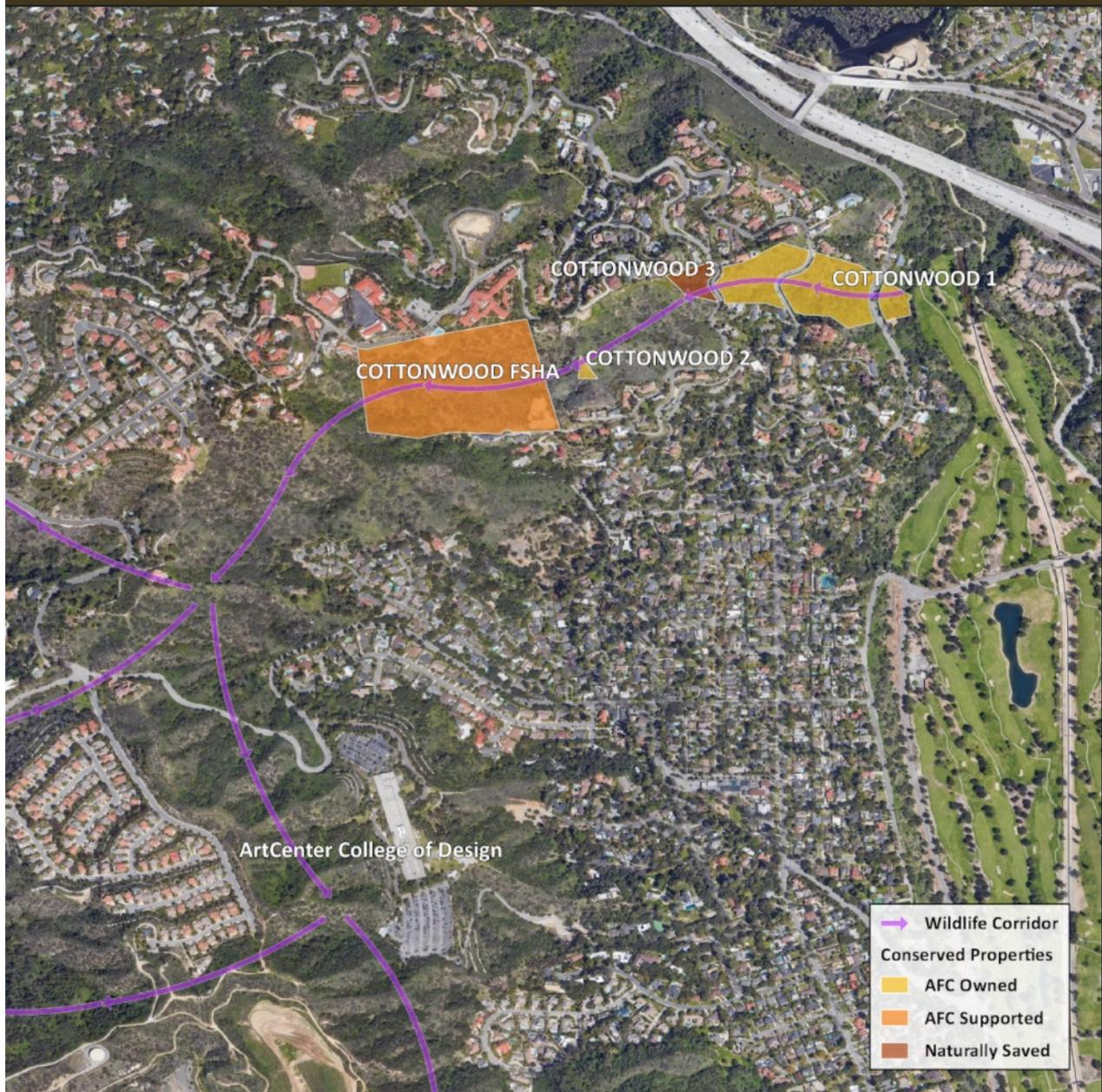
Three adorable mountain lion cubs born recently suggest there is hope for genetic diversity in our Southern California mountain lion population. The range where the kittens were born is a habitat island, bordered on the south by the Pacific Ocean, and on the three remaining sides by freeways and development, making it very difficult for non-local mountain lions to get in.

But one did! Presumptive father P-63 hails from the northern side of the 101 Freeway, where greater genetic diversity exists among a larger mountain lion population. P-63 has crossed the freeway three times since he was captured and outfitted with a GPS collar in February 2018.

[READ THE FULL STORY IN THE LA TIMES](#)



## COTTONWOOD CANYON PARCEL NOW IN THE SAVED COLUMN



### Sacred Heart Academy helps the Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor

#### BIG PROGRESS IN A CRITICAL AREA

Cottonwood Canyon runs from the Arroyo Seco to well past Art Center. We saved two properties and have several more to go before the canyon is secure forever for wildlife passage.

Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy owns a parcel halfway up Cottonwood Canyon. It's larger than AFC's 11-acre purchase straddling Linda Vista. Now we can mark it in the "saved" column.

Sacred Heart was doing a new master plan for the entire campus and wanted to consolidate its Cottonwood Canyon parcel (labelled *Cottonwood FSHA* on the map you see above) into the rest of the campus, located in La Cañada Flintridge. Pasadena said "Yes, if it won't be developed."

La Cañada said the same to Sacred Heart, and Sacred Heart said that they wanted that, too. So now Sacred Heart's Cottonwood Canyon property cannot be sold separate from the rest of the campus or developed without La Cañada amending its specific plan.

Although it is not iron-clad to remain natural open space forever, we're working on that too. Since AFC is in the "forever" business, we are also seeking a conservation easement so we never have to worry about it.

Hurrah to the conservation-minded Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy and to the cities of Pasadena and La Cañada Flintridge!

## AFC INTERNS READY FOR ACTION



## AFC's Summer Internship Program Moves Ahead

### **SOCIALLY DISTANCED AND SAFE CONSERVATION WORK UNDERWAY**

Our 2020 Summer Internship Program is moving ahead! Six local high school and college students have completed their second week working on trails, removing invasive plants, and learning about the biodiversity of Southern California - all while socially distancing and wearing

masks.

Modifying our summer internship program has been both a challenge and an opportunity to think creatively, and we look forward to what these young people will accomplish this summer!



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That sure would put a smile on our faces!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AT ROSEMONT:

- July 11th : Restoration event, 8am-11am
- July 18th: Open Gate, 9am-11am
- July 25th: Wildlife tracking & photography with Rachel-Ann Arias, 9am-11am
  
- August 8th: Restoration event, 8am-11am
- August 15th: Open Gate, 9am-11am
- August 22nd: Docent led tour, time TBA



*Securing, protecting, & stewarding our precious open spaces.*



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