



**SAN BERNARDINO  
MOUNTAINS  
LAND TRUST**

# Forest View

Autumn 2013

*Dedicated to acquisition of forest open space & wildlife habitat on private land in the San Bernardino National Forest to ensure lasting public benefit of the natural mountain environment*

## Coyote Rock Property Acquired

### 150 Acres of prime forest habitat near Running Springs



Hiker stands near base of Coyote Rock

### ECF Boeing Grant for Coyote Rock trail system

Located next to the Children's Forest Visitor Center on State Highway 18, the Coyote Rock property is a perfect gateway into one of the best and most scenic hiking areas found in all of the San Bernardino National Forest.

The Land Trust is most grateful to the Employees Community Fund of Boeing California for a \$4000 grant to start construction on a trail system through the Coyote Rock area. It will be similar to the Castle Rock trail in Big Bear, one of the most popular trails in our National Forest.

U.S. Forest Service fire crews at the Deer Lick Station often use a rough provisional trail for their training and conditioning exercise. The prominent rock outcrop at the summit is also a popular destination for rock climbers.

SBMLT plans to begin its initial trail construction early this autumn. Email [info@sbmlt.net](mailto:info@sbmlt.net) if you would like to volunteer.

The **SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST** (SBMLT) was greatly pleased to make a successful purchase in April of the 150-acre Coyote Rock property adjacent to the National Children's Forest at Keller Peak and to the Rimwood area of Running Springs.

The site lends added protection to the important wildlife lands of the Keller peak area, providing prime habitat for the southern rubber boa, the San Bernardino flying squirrel and the California spotted owl as some of the more rare and threatened species that depend on forest space for survival.

*Coyote Rock photos by Scott Seccombe*



*Atop Coyote Rock, Walter Ford, real estate consultant for the Land Trust, and Kevin Kellems, SBMLT Projects Manager, survey the panoramic view of the surrounding forest. The Land Trust acquired the 150-acre site April 15.*

"We've had our eye on this parcel for 15 years," said SBMLT Projects Manager Kevin Kellems, "it is one of the most impressive properties we've been able to protect so far." The site gets its name for the prominent rock formation perched atop the mountain ridge above the Running Springs area. Hikers, who are willing to endure a moderate climb, are rewarded with a commanding view from the summit.



Junco in winter. Photo by David Ficke for SBMLT 2014 Calendar

## ***San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust***

*is a community-based charitable nonprofit corporation  
dedicated to buying threatened forest land for greater  
conservation and long term protection of the  
San Bernardino Mountains.*



For more information visit the Land Trust's  
new website at  
**WWW.SBMLT.NET**

## **SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST**

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#### **SBMLT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Phone the Executive Director at  
909-867-3536 OR  
E-mail: [info@SBMLT.net](mailto:info@SBMLT.net)  
WEBSITE: [www.sbmlt.net](http://www.sbmlt.net)

### **Help support**

## **The SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST**

Use this form to mail your contribution

**- or - visit our informational website to make an online gift at [www.sbmlt.net](http://www.sbmlt.net)**

## **Your Membership Is Essential To Success!**

The Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible.

My contribution is:

☐ Forest Supporter (\$35)  
☐ Mountain Guardian (\$50)  
☐ Mountain Sponsor (\$100)  
☐ Forest Protector (\$500)  
☐ Other Donation (\$ )

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**Join *the* LAND TRUST (or renew your support) with a generous contribution today**

**San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust** PO Box 103 Fawnskin, CA 92333 **-or-**  
 PO Box 490 Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352



# WHAT'S NEW at ARROWHEAD RIDGE

## NEW NAME

What was formerly known as Eagle Ridge has been re-named ARROWHEAD RIDGE. The change highlights the transition from the site's prior identity as an intended subdivision project to the current plan for the site to become a wildland nature park. The ridge is the tallest point in Lake Arrowhead outside of Strawberry Peak.

\* \* \*



The SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST hosted an open-house style event July 20 to share its future plans for Arrowhead Ridge. The *Walk-The-Ridge* event gave the community an opportunity to learn about 7 projects that are necessary for rehabilitating impacted areas of the site and how much these projects may cost. Over 300 people attended.

Much work and lots of public support is still required before Arrowhead Ridge can be fully restored as a wildland nature park and transferred to the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District for management.

Arrowhead Ridge is the best opportunity to conserve a last remaining piece of the inspirational forest that once surrounded Lake Arrowhead and made it so popular and famous.

## GATE HOUSE GONE

Along with the name change, the poorly constructed gate house for the onetime planned condominium complex has been removed as well.



Before



After



July 20th Walk-the-Ridge event introduces the public to the beauty of the site, inviting support for 7 restoration projects

## Stone Marker Placed at Entrance



Stone carver, Marcel Mächler, at work on entry marker

Famous stone carver & sculptor Macel Mächler has donated his talent and expertise in fashioning an impressive rock monument at the entrance of the Arrowhead Ridge site.

## 7 RESTORATION PROJECTS PLANNED

There are seven primary projects on SBMLT's conceptual plan for restoring Arrowhead Ridge. These include:

1. Grading work to fill ditches, re-contour slopes and level disturbed areas;
2. Reshape the entryway with retaining wall borders;
3. Construct a small parking lot area;
4. Re-establish natural drainage courses (bio-swales);
5. Convert upper roads to trails;
6. Plant trees and re-vegetate landscape areas; and
7. Overlay a tall retaining wall with engraved flagstones.

It is estimated some projects will be in the \$10,000 range, while others upwards of \$75,000 or more, depending on potential volunteer and in-kind help.





# SBMLT meets with ELECTED OFFICIALS



*Arnie Bean poses for a photo behind the Capitol Building during a walk from the House of Representatives Offices on the south side to the Senate Offices on the north.*

## LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Arnie Bean and Peter Jorris traveled to Washington DC in March to contact the offices of local congressional representatives for our mountain area. Congress oversees the LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF), a program that helps National Parks and Forests to re-purchase missing sections of land inside their boundaries.

It is very important to remind elected officials how vital this program is to the San Bernardino National Forest. Success in protecting 12,000 acres of critical land over the past 20 years was made possible by the LWCF.

LWCF funding does not come from taxpayers, but derives from a percentage of our U.S. Government's royalties collected from off-shore oil leases. Each year \$900 million goes into the LWCF Trust Fund. However, only a small fraction actually goes to its intended purpose, since Congress siphons off the rest in exchange for empty IOUs.



*Arnie Bean is greeted by Senator Dianne Feinstein*

## Letters

Letters from people who care about our local forest strongly help in reminding elected officials how much LWCF's help is needed by the San Bernardino National Forest.

Our forest has a higher percentage of private land inholdings (i.e. ownership gaps) inside its boundaries than any other national

forest in the country. At the same time our forest is one of the most heavily used of any public lands, having a huge population of 24 million people in Southern California –all within a 2-hour drive of our mountains.

## Meetings with Key Representatives

Arnie and Peter delivered the Land Trust's message about critical land acquisition needs to the offices of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer as well as Congressman Paul Cook, Congressman Gary Miller, Congressman Ken Calvert, Congressman Raul Ruiz and several others on important committees that deal with the distribution of LWCF funds.

## A Voice for the FOREST

Forest Service officials are prohibited by law from asking Congress directly for LWCF help except through very limited bureaucratic channels. This greatly restricts our local SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST from articulating its important acquisition needs to decision-makers. Without SBMLT's help thousands of acres would be lost.



*Peter Jorris and Arnie Bean after a long day of meetings with congressional staff members on the issue of greater LWCF funding for the San Bernardino National Forest*

## Your Help makes a Difference

The Land & Water Conservation Fund is an example where ordinary citizens can play a significant role in the future of our local Forest. Supporting the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust is the first step, because it creates a strong advocacy group that is highly knowledgeable on both the issues and the process. We take the message about critical forest needs to both the general public and Congress. That way the basic financial support from our members enables us to unlock funds that have been unfairly tied-up by Congress. Every dollar we collect in donor support is gradually multiplied into the larger sums necessary to protect the many acres of land that are still at risk.

# SBMLT AUTUMN DINNER PARTY and AUCTION

The SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST will host an autumn Dinner Party & Auction **Sunday October 20** to help raise funds to complete key restoration projects at the popular Arrowhead Ridge Property. This event will be held at the Lake Arrowhead Resort & Spa and will include both a silent and live auction.



*Old retention basins and unsightly walls remaining at the site are two examples of 7 rehabilitation projects that need funding in order to be fixed*

This is a great opportunity to join with the growing community support for establishing a wildland nature park at this remarkable site, which will feature a beautiful natural forest, scenic walking trails and vista points.

Arrowhead Ridge is the last remaining patch of native forest in the heart of Lake Arrowhead. SBMLT's 78 acres is one of the most diversified stands of trees in our mountain range. According to longtime forester, James Asher, it is the best example of a southern sierran montane forest to be found south of the High Sierra. Come to the dinner and support the Arrowhead Ridge nature park.

**Doors open 5:00 PM for Silent Auction and cocktails  
Dinner and Live Auction at 6:00 PM**

Dinner tickets are \$55 each or you can reserve a group table of ten for \$500. Bring friends, enjoy a fine meal and bid on great auction items to help improve our mountain community.

**To purchase tickets, visit [www.sbmlt.net](http://www.sbmlt.net). RSVP by October 15**

## 2014 SBMLT CALENDAR Available

### SBMLT Photo Contest Winners

This year's SBMLT Photo Contest Winners include:

**First Place --David Ficke**, Dark-eyed Junco in Winter (this photo is featured on page 2 of the newsletter)

**Second Place --Joe Whyte**, Winter Tree Scene

Other prize winners are:

Joe Whyte, Coyote in Tall Grass;  
Ed Wallace, Joshua Tree Bloom;  
Ed Wallace, Heron at Lake's Edge  
Sharon Skonetski, Rocks in Big Bear  
Ed Wallace, Painted Lady Butterfly  
Ed Wallace, Sawmill Pebble Plain  
Michelle Macri, Bobcat  
Sharon Skonetski, Fall Leaves  
Michelle Marci, Big Horn Sheep  
Joe Whyte, Fall Tree with Clouds

SBMLT's Calendar highlights the beauty and uniqueness of the San Bernardino National Forest and helps support the Land Trust. -- Order from [www.sbmlt.net](http://www.sbmlt.net) --

The 2014 Calendar marks ten years of publication under the expert and dedicated direction of Ellie Lytle.



*2014 SBMLT Calendar photo by Michelle Macri. The Bighorn Sheep is the mascot symbol for the SBNF*

### POWERPOINT PROGRAM --How does the Land Trust work?

Not everybody knows what a land trust is (or what it actually does). To illustrate the kind of forest protection that SBMLT provides, we have a special PowerPoint presentation that is available for community groups. The visual program gives you greater insight into our forest's unique scenic and wildlife assets as well as the threats it faces. Any interested group or organization is welcome to call or contact us at [info@sbmlt.net](mailto:info@sbmlt.net) to schedule a showing.





Land Trust members look over the edge of Coyote Rock in Running Springs

Photo by Scott Seccombe



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