

May 2007 Newsletter for Transition Habitat Conservancy

for more details visit our newly updated web site www.TransitionHabitat.org

Transition Habitat Conservancy is dedicated to preserving open space and natural wildlife habitats along the San Gabriel Mountain / Mojave Desert boundary through land acquisition and conservation easements.

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Board of Directors:

Jill Bays
Roberta Dewey
Tara Matthews
Robert Plank

***Please donate to Transition Habitat Conservancy.
Your donations are Tax Deductible***



Milestones:

In May 2007 **Transition Habitat Conservancy received a Community Foundation Grant from the Desert Legacy Fund for \$4,400.** This grant will be used to fund our community outreach program to introduce ourselves to the community, to educate residence about our organization and the habitat we are trying to preserve as well as the importance of natural areas and open space parks in our communities.

In 2007 Transition Habitat Conservancy continues to partner with the **National Park Services' Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)- the Community Assistance Arm of the National Park Service.** Anne Dove, Our RTCA Consultant has been helping us develop our Strategic Plan and introduce us to other Conservancy Organizations that can mentor us. Anne has held 2 workshops in Pinon Hills at our headquarters and we are really learning as much as we can from this consulting donation from National Park Service.

In February our President, **Jill Bays, attended the Land Trust Alliance's Land Preservation toolbox school in Birmingham Alabama.** This was paid for in part by a \$440 scholarship provided by the Land Trust Alliance. The week long course included 35 participants from the Land Conservation Community both here in the US and from Canada. The class included the detailed discussion of land preservation options like acquisition, conservation donations, conservation easements, remainder

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interests, income tax incentives for conservation donations, and the nuts and bolts of land stewardship and preservation.

Received a donation of 2 computers from Edison to be used for our outreach program. One laptop and one desktop computer were donated.

Transition Habitat Conservancy continues to work towards the education and limitation of OHV use on sensitive wildlife habitat as many of these creatures live underground in burrows, or are dependant on the animals that live underground in burrows, and are crushed by motorcycle and quad travel in their habitat. Please ride responsibly, in areas designated for OHV use. Please stay on hard packed trails where you have minimal damage to burrowing animals. Please leave sensitive undeveloped private land as habitat for the creatures that live here in our communities. The horned and leopard lizards are especially impacted by habitat destruction.

What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement (or conservation restriction) is a legal agreement between a willing landowner and a conservancy, land trust, or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve it. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs. Conservation easements can be purchased or donated.

Congress has just passed a significant expansion of the tax incentive for conservation easement donations. The expanded tax incentive will enable many more Americans, especially family landowners and ranchers, to protect the land they love through voluntary conservation agreements with conservancies and local land trusts.

Please donate to Transition Habitat Conservancy; Your donations are Tax Deductible

We are dedicated to preserving wildlife habitat and passive recreational open space for future generations along the Mojave Desert/San Gabriel Mountain boundary. 2007 will be an exciting year as we learn and do more about land preservation. Transition Habitat Conservancy, PO Box 720026, Pinon Hills, CA 92372
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Baby quail chicks huddle together when a hawk flies overhead.