



STATE OF CALIFORNIA COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

Protecting Landscapes, Connecting Communities



*Shelley Westall - Bighorn Sheep Jumping Over Creek
CVMC 2025 Photo Contest Winner*

Our Mission

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy's mission is to protect our natural and cultural resources. We acquire, fund and steward conservation land while providing for the public's enjoyment of, and access to, the region's extraordinary desert landscapes. The Conservancy safeguards the mountainous lands surrounding the Coachella Valley from north of Palm Springs down to the Salton Sea, ensuring these places remain resilient, accessible, and protected for generations to come.

Our Place

The mountains, canyons, and desert ecosystems of the Coachella Valley support rare and endangered species, hold deep cultural significance, and offer opportunities for recreation, learning, and renewal. The Conservancy works to preserve the biological, scenic, cultural, and recreational resources that make this region unique .

Our Approach

The Conservancy advances its mission through collaboration. By partnering with local governments, state and federal agencies, Tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and community members, the Conservancy delivers conservation outcomes that reflect shared values and local needs. Guided by a 20-member board representing Coachella Valley cities, Riverside County, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, state agencies, and public appointees, the Conservancy brings diverse voices together to protect land, connect people to nature, and steward the desert landscapes we all depend on.

Director's Message

2025 was another milestone year for the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. Over the past year, the Conservancy actively managed 30 projects across the Valley, positively impacting more than 1,000 residents in disadvantaged communities. We also continued our legacy of investment, contributing to over \$70 million directed toward conservation and community benefits throughout the region.

Many substantial milestones come to mind from 2025. 2025 saw the completion of a significant land return to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, bringing total land returned over the past two years to more than 1,200 acres. A Conservancy grant awarded to the Southern California Mountains Foundation supported Urban Conservation Corps youth in developing hands-on skills restoring sensitive habitat in Palm Canyon. The Conservancy added 347 acres to our partners' conserved lands portfolio, bringing the total to more than 106,000 acres. These efforts demonstrate the power of partnership in the Valley and mark important progress in completing critical wildlife corridors that support fragile endangered species such as the fringe toed lizards that are found nowhere else in the world.



Elizabeth M. King
Executive Director

Looking ahead to 2026, the Conservancy is poised to expand its impact even further. With new funding opportunities made possible by California's climate bond, we are advancing transformative projects such as converting a golf course into wildlife habitat, establishing a wildlife crossing over Highway 62 to reconnect mountain lion and bighorn sheep populations, and creating pollinator pathways that support migration routes spanning from Canada to Mexico.

While we remain a small team, our impact continues to grow exponentially through strong partnerships, deep expertise, and an enduring commitment to this region. Together, we are ensuring that future generations can experience and enjoy these extraordinary landscapes. We are stronger together, and together, we will continue to prioritize what is good for California, good for people, good for animals, good for the planet, and good for the Coachella Valley.

The best is yet to come.

Elizabeth M. King

Connecting people to nature.

Protecting our Valley forever.

Board Leadership

The Conservancy Board is proud to advance conservation, expand access to the outdoors, and strengthen the long-term resilience of our desert ecosystems.



“As a City Councilmember for La Quinta, I see firsthand that conservation is not only vital to preserving our environment, but also to sustaining the very experiences that define our region. Outdoor recreation is the number one draw for residents and visitors alike, and the Conservancy plays an essential role in protecting our natural landscapes, expanding public access, and strengthening our Valley’s appeal as a destination.”

**Debora McGarrey, Chair
City of La Quinta**



“As a City Councilmember for Cathedral City, I deeply value the Conservancy’s commitment to protecting critical endangered bighorn sheep habitat that exists alongside our communities. Balancing the preservation of sensitive species with public access is no small task, yet the Conservancy rises to this challenge with both determination and thoughtfulness, serving our residents and environment with grit and grace.”

**Rita Lamb, Vice-Chair
City of Cathedral City**

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Board

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

Savana Saubel, Secretary Treasurer
Margaret Park, Chief Planning Officer (Alternate)

CA State Assembly Appointee

Beatriz Gonzalez, Private Citizen

CA Governor Appointee

Joan Taylor, Private Citizen

CA Senate Appointee

Ellen Lloyd Trover, Private Citizen

CA Department of Fish & Wildlife

Richard Kim, Environmental Scientist

CA State Parks

Enrique Arroyo, District Superintendent, Ocotillo Wells District

CA Department of Finance

Joe Stephenshaw, Director

CA Natural Resources Agency

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Andrea Scharffer, Deputy Assistant Secretary (Alternate)

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Mark Carnevale, Council Member (Alternate)

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Frank Figueroa, Council Member (Alternate)

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Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Council Member (Alternate)

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Evan Trubee, Mayor Pro Tem
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Steve Downs, Council Member
Eve Fromberg Edelstein, Council Member (Alternate)

County of Riverside, District 4

V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County Supervisor
Patricia Cooper, Riverside County Deputy Chief of Staff (Alternate)

University of California

Christopher Tracy, Director—Deep Canyon Desert Research Center

Wildlife Conservation Board

Jennifer Norris, Executive Director
John Walsh, Deputy Executive Director, Land Acquisition (Alternate)



Max Ochoa - CVMC Board Members

The Team Behind the Work

The work of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy is carried out by a dedicated team committed to protecting the Valley's natural landscapes and supporting conservation efforts throughout the region. While small in number, the Conservancy's staff collaborates closely with partners, communities, and Tribal governments to advance conservation, stewardship, and public access across the Coachella Valley.



Elizabeth M. King
Executive Director



Diana Rosas
Associate Director



Abriana Elms
Administrative Coordinator



Maximiliano F. Ochoa
Project Coordinator

A small but dedicated team working to protect the landscapes of the Coachella Valley

Impact at a Glance



In 2025, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy continued to protect desert landscapes, support community partnerships, and invest in conservation projects across the Coachella Valley.

\$7.38 Million

Active Investment Supporting Conservation and Community Access

347 Acres

Land Conserved Across the Coachella Valley

656 Acres

Land Transferred to Tribal Stewardship

30 Projects

Active Conservation and Community Projects Across the Region

106,000+

Acres of Land Conserved and Managed by the Conservancy and Partners

Advancing California's Conservation Priorities

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy helps translate California's statewide conservation, climate, and access priorities into meaningful local action through land protection, grant funding, and partnerships across the region.

California's 30x30 Initiative

Land conservation in the Coachella Valley contributes directly to California's goal of conserving 30 percent of the state's lands and coastal waters by 2030, strengthening wildlife corridors, desert ecosystems, and regional biodiversity.

California Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Conservancy's work aligns with California's Climate Adaptation Strategy by advancing land conservation, community engagement, Tribal partnerships, and grant investments that build resilience to climate impacts across one of the state's most heat-vulnerable regions.

California Nature-Based Solutions

Conserved lands in the Coachella Valley support carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, and natural cooling, contributing directly to California's nature-based solutions climate targets and the goal of healthy, resilient natural systems.

California Extreme Heat Action Plan

The Conservancy contributes to California's 2026 Extreme Heat Action Plan through community education, interpretive signage, youth engagement, and land conservation efforts recognized by the state as advancing regional heat resilience.

Outdoors for All

Through grants and local partnerships, the Conservancy expands equitable access to parks, trails, and open spaces for communities throughout the Coachella Valley, particularly underserved residents.

Environmental Justice and Climate Resilience

Conservancy-funded projects prioritize disadvantaged communities, protecting natural resources, improving air and water quality, and expanding access to nature across the region.

Tribal Partnership and Stewardship

The Conservancy works closely with Tribal governments through consultation, partnerships, and land stewardship initiatives that respect cultural resources and support Tribal conservation priorities.

Conservancy Grant Programs

The Conservancy administers several state-funded programs supporting conservation, climate resilience, and community access, including Proposition 1, Proposition 68, Proposition 84, the Climate Resilience and Community Access Program, and Proposition 4, California's Climate Bond.

Connecting Communities to the Outdoors

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy works with communities across the region to expand access to nature, support environmental education, and encourage stewardship of the Valley's unique desert landscapes. Through outreach events, youth engagement, and partnerships with local organizations, the Conservancy helps connect residents with the lands and natural resources that define the Coachella Valley.

Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival

In March 2025, the Conservancy participated in the annual Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival hosted by Friends of the Desert Mountains in Palm Desert. The event brought together residents, families, and partner organizations to celebrate the region's unique desert ecosystem. The Conservancy also highlighted the work of the Southern California Mountains Foundation Urban Conservation Corps (UCC), whose members support conservation projects across the Valley through trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and litter removal.



CVMC - Wildflower Festival

Palm Desert High School Ecology Club

The Conservancy's Executive Director Elizabeth King and Associate Director Diana Rosas joined students from the Palm Desert High School Ecology Club to discuss conservation careers and environmental stewardship in the Coachella Valley. Students engaged in thoughtful discussions about protecting the Valley's natural resources and exploring future opportunities in environmental fields. The Conservancy also highlighted Rachel Sanford, co-president of the Ecology Club, as a young leader helping inspire environmental awareness among her peers.



CVMC - PDHS Ecology Club Visit

Composting at Indio High School

Through a Climate Resilience and Community Access grant from the Conservancy, Desert Compost partnered with Indio High School's Environmental Club and Agricultural Pathways Program to establish a composting site on campus. Students compost food scraps and use the nutrient-rich soil to support new garden beds. Desert Compost now supports 16 school composting sites across the Coachella Valley, helping students, educators, and community members learn about sustainable practices and climate resilience.



Desert Compost - Indio High School

Bighorn Sheep Education Pop-Up

The Conservancy, with regional conservation partners, hosted a Bighorn Sheep Education Pop-Up at a popular trailhead in Rancho Mirage, providing hikers and community members with information about desert bighorn sheep and their habitat. The outreach effort helped raise awareness about the importance of protecting wildlife corridors and conserving desert ecosystems throughout the region.



CVMC - Bighorn Sheep Pop-Up

Youth Stewardship at Shumway Ranch

Students from COFEM's Nuestro Desierto program visited Shumway Ranch in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument to learn about native plants, desert ecosystems, and endangered species such as the Peninsular bighorn sheep. Experiences like these help foster curiosity, stewardship, and a deeper appreciation for the natural and cultural landscapes of the Coachella Valley.



COFEM - Shumway Ranch

Conserving the Landscapes of the Coachella Valley

Through land acquisitions, partnerships, and grant investments, the Conservancy helps protect key conservation areas that support biodiversity, climate resilience, and public access to nature. Since its establishment in 1991, the Conservancy and its partners have helped place more than 106,000 acres of land into conservation across the Coachella Valley region. Together, these protected lands form a connected landscape that supports wildlife movement, protects natural resources, and preserves the scenic desert environment that defines the Coachella Valley.



Upper Mission Creek / Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area

157.69 acres were protected within a significant ecological corridor that supports wildlife movement and habitat connectivity for the burrowing owl, LeConte's thrasher, desert tortoise, little San Bernadino linathus and other conserved species.



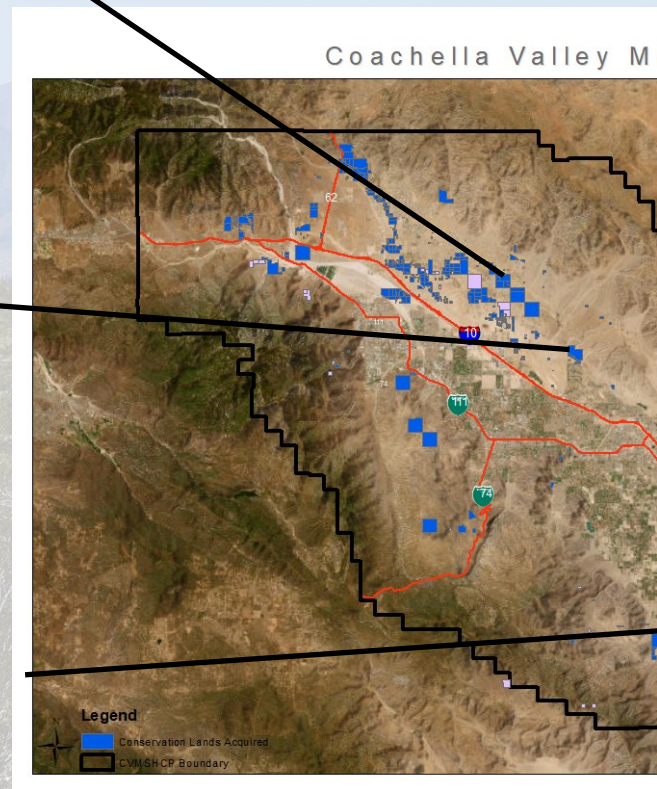
Thousand Palms Conservation Area

13 acres were conserved within an important wildlife corridor and desert ecosystem that benefits the Coachella Valley Fringe-toed lizard. This Conservation Area constitutes the largest unfragmented habitat area on the Coachella Valley floor.



Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Delta Conservation Area

12.55 acres were protected within a key floodplain area that supports habitat and natural water flow systems.



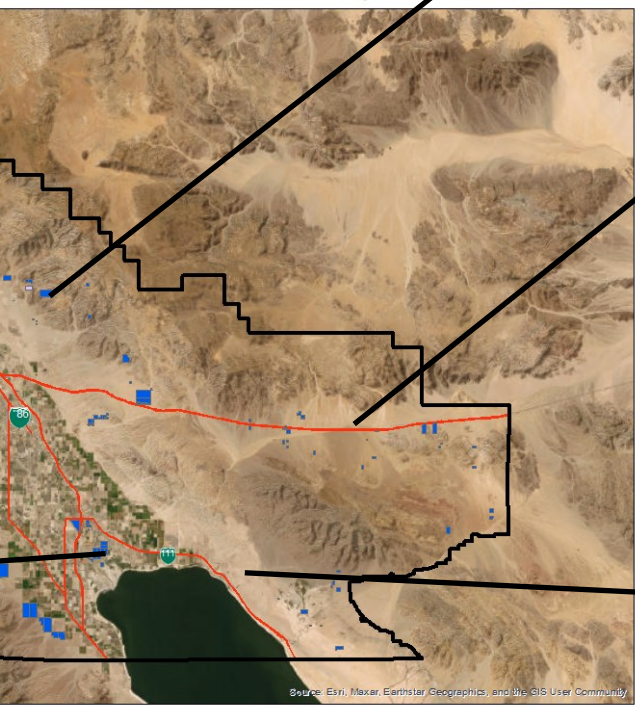
Land Conservation in 2025

Protecting land is at the core of the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy's mission. Through strategic acquisitions and partnerships, the Conservancy works to safeguard wildlife corridors, preserve desert ecosystems, and strengthen long-term conservation across the Coachella Valley.

In 2025, a total of 347 acres were acquired for conservation in perpetuity, expanding the network of protected lands that surround the Valley and support biodiversity, climate resilience, and public access to nature.

These acquisitions help protect important habitat for native species, maintain wildlife connectivity between protected landscapes, and contribute to California's broader conservation goals.

Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy



Indio Hills / Joshua Tree National Park Linkage Conservation Area

5 acres of critical habitat for the federally designated desert tortoise were conserved, strengthening connectivity between protected desert landscapes and wildlife corridors.



Desert Tortoise and Linkage Conservation Area

60 acres were protected to support critical habitat connectivity for desert wildlife, providing corridors and linkages focused on the large I-10 underpasses which may be used by coyotes, bobcats, and other mammals to link the Mecca Hills and Orocochia Mountains Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park, as well as to the Little San Bernardino Mountains.



Dos Palmas Conservation Area

100 acres were conserved within an ecologically significant area supporting desert wetland and riparian habitat.



Tribal Engagement and Collaboration

The Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy works closely with Tribal governments to support conservation efforts that respect cultural resources, strengthen Tribal stewardship, and protect lands of cultural and ecological importance. Through government-to-government consultation and collaboration, the Conservancy seeks to ensure that conservation initiatives reflect the values and priorities of Tribal communities.

Tribal Consultation and Collaboration

In 2025, the Conservancy continued its commitment to Tribal consultation during the development of the Proposition 4 Grant Program Guidelines, helping ensure that Tribal perspectives and priorities were incorporated into the program. Tribal consultation also continues to guide projects supported through Proposition 1 and Proposition 68, helping protect cultural resources while advancing conservation goals.

The Conservancy also participated in the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Speaker Series at the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum, highlighting the importance of collaboration and Indigenous stewardship in protecting the Coachella Valley's natural and cultural landscapes.



Diana Rosas - Elizabeth M. King and Margaret Park at the ACBCI Speaker Series - Land Stewardship

Land Returned and Tribal Stewardship

In November 2025, the Conservancy Board approved the transfer of 656 acres of conserved land in Upper Palm Canyon to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, in coordination with Friends of the Desert Mountains. Originally conserved in 2018 with funding from the Conservancy, the rugged parcel protects critical habitat for the Peninsular Ranges desert bighorn sheep and supports important watershed functions that help replenish the Coachella Valley aquifer.

The transfer strengthens Tribal stewardship of ancestral lands while continuing to protect the region's ecological and cultural resources. The property lies within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains conservation area, a landscape long stewarded by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians.

This land return represents a meaningful step toward strengthening partnerships between Tribal governments, conservation organizations, and the State of California while advancing California's 30x30 conservation goals.

Between 2023 and 2025, a series of coordinated land transfers between Friends of the Desert Mountains, the Conservancy, and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians returned more than 1,200 acres of ancestral lands to Tribal stewardship.



Max Ochoa - CVMC November 2025 Board Meeting/Land Transfer

Investing in Conservation Projects

In addition to protecting land, the Conservancy supports conservation and community access through grant programs that fund projects across the Coachella Valley.

These investments enable local partners to carry out projects that restore habitat, improve outdoor access, strengthen climate resilience, and expand environmental education throughout the region.

2025 Project Portfolio

During 2025, the Conservancy supported 30 active projects across the Coachella Valley.

These projects represent a diverse portfolio supporting research, restoration, outdoor recreation, climate resilience, and community engagement.

Funding Supporting Active Projects

Active projects represent \$7.38 million in conservation investments across the Coachella Valley.

Funding Sources include:

- Proposition 1—\$3,667,734
- Proposition 68—\$426,979
- Climate Resilience and Community Access Program—\$3,278,698

Together, these investments support projects that protect natural resources, strengthen climate resilience, and expand opportunities for communities to experience the outdoors.

Active Projects

Capacity Projects (11)

Support organizations conducting research, conservation, and education programs.

Infrastructure Projects (8)

Invest in park infrastructure, trailheads, restoration, and habitat improvements.

Planning and Design Projects (3)

Support environmental review and planning efforts for future conservation and recreation projects.

Restoration Projects (2)

Enhance habitat restoration efforts in critical habitat areas.



FODM - East Valley Capacity Building Project



NALC - Surface artifact at Willow Hole



TLD - Native Garden Planning

2025 Grant Awards

In 2025, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy continued to invest in projects that protect habitat, strengthen biodiversity, and expand community access to nature. Through its Proposition 68 Grant Program, the Conservancy awarded funding to projects that reflect these priorities and support long-term stewardship of the Coachella Valley's natural landscapes.

Proposition 68 Grant Award: \$71,801

Oswit Land Trust: Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project

The Conservancy awarded a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to Oswit Land Trust for its Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project in Indio Hills. The project will install boulder barriers and bilingual interpretive and regulatory signage along the perimeter of the 640-acre Happy Valley property to prevent unauthorized off-road vehicle access, reduce illegal dumping, and protect sensitive desert habitat. Community cleanup events and outdoor education programming will further support stewardship, ecological awareness, and long-term protection of the site.



Oswit Land Trust - Happy Valley Restoration and Preservation Project

Proposition 68 Grant Award: \$526,997

The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens: Central Coachella Valley Pollinator Pathway Project

The Conservancy awarded a Proposition 68 Local Assistance Grant to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens for its Central Coachella Valley Pollinator Pathway Project. The project will restore more than 55 acres of habitat and establish up to 20 community pollinator gardens across the central Coachella Valley. Using locally propagated native plants, the project will enhance habitat connectivity for pollinators, support biodiversity, and provide bilingual educational opportunities that promote water conservation, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship in underserved communities.

Together, these projects demonstrate how Conservancy investments advance habitat protection, climate resilience, community engagement, and equitable access to nature across the Coachella Valley.



The Living Desert - Pollinator Pathway Project

Featured Conservation Projects

Southern California Mountains Foundation: Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration

The Palm Canyon Watershed Restoration Project focuses on restoring sensitive desert watershed areas within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains. Restoration efforts include removing invasive vegetation, stabilizing eroded areas, and improving habitat conditions for native plants and wildlife. These activities help protect critical watershed functions while supporting the long-term health of desert ecosystems and the wildlife species that depend on them.



SCMF - Invasive Species Removal



Desert Compost - Food Compost at Indio High School

Desert Compost: Composting for Climate resilience

Through a Climate Resilience and Community Access grant from the Conservancy, Desert Compost expands community-based composting programs across the Coachella Valley. The project supports composting initiatives at schools and Tribal communities, diverting organic waste from landfills while improving soil health and supporting local food production. The program engages students and community members in hands-on environmental education while advancing climate resilience through regenerative land practices.

The Living Desert Zoo Native American Conservation Workforce Development Program

The Native American Conservation Workforce Development Program provides paid training and professional development opportunities for Tribal members interested in conservation careers. Participants receive hands-on experience in habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring, GIS mapping, and native plant propagation. The program strengthens Tribal capacity in conservation while creating pathways for future careers in environmental stewardship and land management.



TLD - Invasive plants removal at Mission Creek

Land Management and Stewardship

Protecting land is only the beginning. Stewardship ensures that conserved landscapes remain healthy, resilient, and accessible for future generations. Throughout 2025, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy and its partners continued on-the-ground efforts to care for conserved lands, monitor habitat conditions, and address ongoing management challenges across the region.

Box Canyon Tire Clean Up

In April 2025, Conservancy staff joined COFEM, the Bureau of Land Management, the Urban Conservation Corps, and Nuestro Desierto students for a cleanup effort in the Box Canyon area of Chuckwalla National Monument. The event focused on removing illegally dumped tires and other debris, helping protect the ecological health and scenic character of this important desert landscape.

COFEM - Box Canyon Tire Clean Up



Fan Palm Oasis Monitoring

In December 2025, Conservancy staff joined the UC Riverside Center for Conservation Biology for field monitoring at one of the Coachella Valley's iconic California fan palm oases. Monitoring efforts examined vegetation health, signs of drought stress, past fire impacts, and native species presence, helping inform long-term stewardship of these rare desert ecosystems.

CVMC - Fan Palm Oasis Monitoring

Wildlife Monitoring

Wildlife cameras placed on Conservancy lands continued to document the diversity of species that depend on protected habitat in the Coachella Valley. Images captured in 2025 included hawks, bobcats, rabbits, coyotes, and owls, offering a glimpse into the wildlife supported by these conserved landscapes.

CVMC/CVCC - Coyote at Mission Creek



Ongoing Stewardship Needs

Land management challenges across the Coachella Valley include illegal dumping, unauthorized off-highway vehicle use, and the creation of social trails that damage habitat and fragment sensitive landscapes. Addressing these issues requires sustained stewardship, partnerships, and public awareness.

NALC - Willow Hole Clean Up

Looking Ahead: Ranger Program Initiative

To strengthen long-term care of conserved lands, the Conservancy continues to explore and fund a Ranger Program Initiative to help address on-the-ground land management needs, improve public education, and support the protection of natural and cultural resources across the region.

CVMC/CVCC - Wildcat at Mission Creek



Partners, Milestones, and Engagement

The Conservancy's work is made possible through collaboration. In 2025, CVMC joined with nonprofit organizations, Tribal partners, public agencies, schools, and community leaders to celebrate milestones, recognize partners, and strengthen conservation efforts across the Coachella Valley.

World Desert Day

The Conservancy participated in World Desert Day at The Living Desert, joining partners and community members in celebrating desert ecosystems and conservation awareness.

Designation of Chuckwalla National Monument

The designation of Chuckwalla National Monument marked an important conservation milestone for the region and reflected years of advocacy, partnership, and stewardship across the California desert.

Living Desert Conservation Greenhouse Opening

Supported through Conservancy funding, the greenhouse will help grow thousands of native desert plants for restoration and pollinator projects across the Valley.

Uplifting Indigenous Women Event

The Conservancy was proud to support and celebrate the Native American Land Conservancy's Uplifting Indigenous Women event, which highlighted Indigenous leadership, stewardship, and cultural knowledge.

Trails Champion Award

CVMC proudly nominated Tammy Martin, Executive Director of Friends of the Desert Mountains, for the California State Parks Trails Champion Award for her decades of leadership and stewardship.

Desert Recreation District Partnership

The Conservancy recognized the long-standing partnership of the Desert Recreation District and honored the retirement of General Manager Kevin Kalman, whose leadership supported years of outdoor education and recreation programming benefiting local youth and families.

New Office and Open House

The Conservancy celebrated moving into its new office space at the Berger Foundation building with conservation partners.

Desert Discovery Day

CVMC joined the Joshua Tree National Park Association and partner organizations for Desert Discovery Day, a family-friendly event celebrating desert science, conservation, and environmental education.

Healthy Desert, Healthy You Summit

The Conservancy participated in the Healthy Desert, Healthy You Summit hosted by the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation, engaging in discussions about climate, air quality, environmental health, and equity in the Coachella Valley.

Regional and State Engagement

Conservancy staff engaged with city, regional, and statewide partners on conservation, climate resilience, and access to the outdoors.



TLD - Greenhouse Ribbon Cutting



Max Ochoa - CVMC Open House



Abri Elms - Diana Rosas Presenting at Visit Greater Palm Springs



CVMC at Healthy Desert, Healthy You Conference

Elizabeth M. King - Andreas Canyon

2025 Photo Contest

The Conservancy's 2025 Photo Contest celebrated the beauty, wildlife, and sense of place that define the Coachella Valley. Through photography, community members shared their perspectives on the desert landscapes, native species, and outdoor experiences that make this region unique.

The contest highlighted the important connection between people and place while showcasing the lands and habitats the Conservancy works to protect. Winning and featured entries captured the diversity of the Coachella Valley from sweeping desert vistas and rugged mountain landscapes to intimate moments with wildlife in their natural habitat.

The Conservancy is grateful to all who participated and helped tell the story of the Coachella Valley through photography.



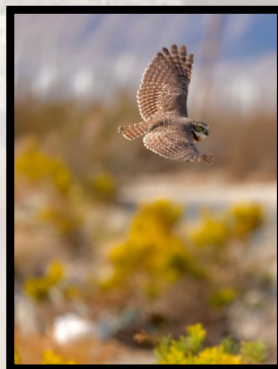
1st Place
Bighorn Ram Jumping over a Creek
Photographer: Shelley Westall
Location: Andreas Canyon



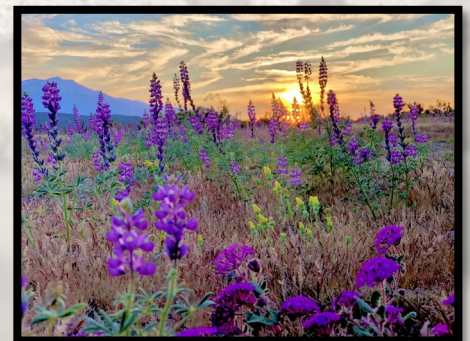
2nd Place
Calm Water Reflection
Photographer: Erika Diaz Lakey
Location: Whitewater Preserve



3rd Place
A Bighorn Ram Overlooks his Mountains Terrain at Sunrise Above the City
Photographer: Scott Collins
Location: Palm Springs



Honorable Mention
Burrowing Owl in Flight
Photographer: Will Steichen
Location: Upper Mission Creek



Honorable Mention
Lupine and Yellow Thistle
Photographer: Shannon Dean
Location: Sky Valley

Conservation Work Beyond 2025

As the Conservancy looks ahead, new opportunities and continued partnerships will help shape the next chapter of conservation in the Coachella Valley. Building on the accomplishments of 2025, the Conservancy remains committed to protecting natural and cultural resources, supporting climate resilience, and expanding access to the outdoors for communities across the region.

A key priority moving forward will be the implementation of new funding opportunities through Proposition 4, California’s Climate Bond, which will support projects that advance conservation, habitat protection, and community resilience. The Conservancy will also continue strengthening stewardship of conserved lands, exploring on-the-ground land management tools and working with partners to address ongoing challenges including habitat degradation, illegal dumping, and unauthorized vehicle access.

At the same time, the Conservancy will continue investing in projects that support environmental education, outdoor access, Tribal stewardship, and biodiversity across the Coachella Valley. Through collaboration with Tribal governments, nonprofit partners, public agencies, schools, and community members, the Conservancy will carry forward its mission to protect the desert landscapes that define the Valley.

The work ahead is both practical and aspirational: conserving land, strengthening stewardship, and ensuring that future generations continue to benefit from the cultural, ecological, and recreational values of the Coachella Valley’s extraordinary landscapes.



Learn more about our work



CALIFORNIA
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