

TOWNSEND'S BIG-EARED BAT



Sensitive species found at Bishop Peak Natural Reserve

David Bunnell

With the update of the **Bishop Peak Natural Reserve Conservation Plan**, Terra Verde Environmental was hired to complete an updated botanical and wildlife survey. One of the pieces of equipment they brought out for the survey was a SonoBat echolocation survey device. It recorded the high frequency chirps emitted from eight bat species as they were foraging at night. The device picked up a Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), which are easy to identify since their ears can be half as long as their body.

Townsend's big-eared bats roost in caves and abandoned mines, with females and their pups forming colonies of 12 to 200 individuals. The males are loners. They are about 4" long, with an 11" wingspan. They hibernate in winter, bulking up beforehand on insects – especially moths – and live an average of 16 years.

Townsend's big-eared bats are susceptible to human disturbance, and are protected under the California Endangered Species Act. Adding protective measures in the Conservation Plan update will be critical for their survival.

Learn more about bats!



A friendly bat from Pacific Wildlife Care is coming to the SLO Botanical Garden October 10, 2015 at 1pm. All ages. Kids can enjoy story-time and make their own Bat Book from 2-3pm in the Children's Garden. Free tour of the Garden. Presentation: \$5 Garden members, \$10 public, kids FREE, but donations will be taken for book-making project. More info at slobg.org/bat.

Meet ECOSLO's new Executive Director

MARY CIESINSKI

In June of this year, the ECOSLO Board of Directors hired **Mary Ciesinski** to serve as the organization's Executive Director.

Welcome, Mary!

Mary recently moved back to San Luis Obispo after living in the San Jose Bay Area for the past three years.

Mary is a motivated nonprofit professional, bringing with her not only a passion for protecting the environment but also a strong business-sense. She is passionate about bringing business practices to ECOSLO to create operational sustainability, which will make room for ECOSLO to increase its role in activism, community engagement and program growth.

Mary has a life-long love for and dedication to the environment, especially here in San Luis Obispo County; she is honored and excited to lead ECOSLO into its new chapter. Mary's favorite activities will always include being at the beach or out on a hike, in awe of mother nature and enjoying the beauty that surrounds us.



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SLO STEWARDS Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo Post Office Box 1014 246 South Higuera Street San Luis Obispo, California 93401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SLO STEWARDS

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Open Space Preservation A Major City Goal

BOB HILL CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGER

It is with excitement and sincere appreciation that we announce that the City Council has made Open Space Preservation a Major City Goal for the 2015-17 Financial Period.

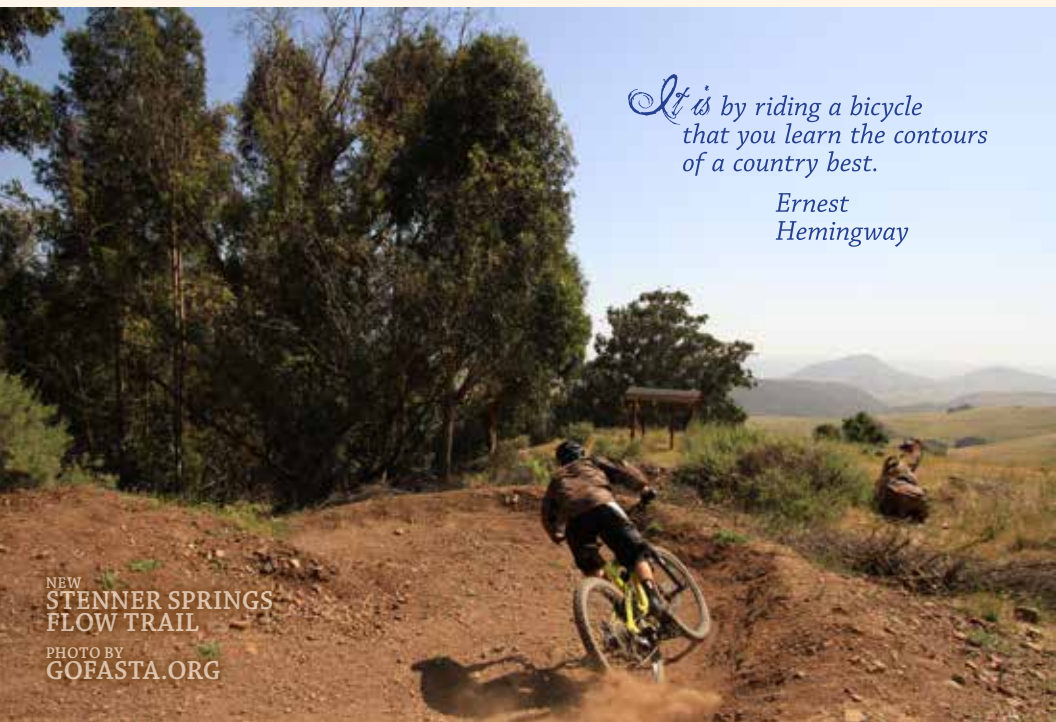
The City of San Luis Obispo's Open Space program, now in its 20th year of operation, has accomplished a proud land conservation legacy and established world-class outdoor passive recreation opportunities. As the program is now mature it has become of paramount importance for the City to shift towards a balanced program that builds upon our land acquisition and trail building efforts and also provides an appropriate level of maintenance and day-to-day operating standards. A key focus is the preparation of a comprehensive Open Space maintenance plan.

We'll also have the opportunity to envision the next 20 years for the Open Space program with the **Natural Resources Roundtable** beginning this fall.

Lastly, Open Space visitors can expect to meet our newly expanded Ranger Service staff out along their favorite trail or scenic overlook.

It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best.

Ernest Hemingway





Natural San Luis DOCENT-LED HIKES

SLO-DOCENTS.ORG

FELSMAN LOOP (Patricia)
OCT 6 8:30am Jan

ISLAY HILL
OCT 10 10am Christie

RESERVOIR CANYON (to the top)
OCT 17 9am Seth

JOHNSON RANCH
OCT 24 9am Carolyn

STENNER SPRINGS
OCT 29 9am Jan

STENNER SPRINGS
NOV 14 9am Seth

LEMON GROVE (Fernandez)
NOV 22 9am Carolyn

SOUTH HILLS (Woodbridge)
NOV 24 9am Jan

LEMON GROVE (Fernandez)
NOV 28 10am Christie

ISLAY HILL
DEC 8 9am Jan

IRISH HILLS (Froom Creek)
DEC 12 9am Seth

FELSMAN LOOP (Patricia)
DEC 19 9am Carolyn

CERRO SAN LUIS
DEC 19 10am Christie

IRISH HILLS (Madonna)
DEC 31 10am Jan

BISHOP PEAK (Patricia)
JAN 9 9am Seth

JOHNSON RCH to FROOM CK
JAN 16 8:30am Jan

(Shuttle hike: Meet at the parking lot near Costco gas station, leave cars there and car-pool to Johnson Ranch where the hike will start, then cross the Filiponi property and end up on Froom Creek in the Irish Hills.)

SLO City Parks RANGER-LED HIKES

JOHNSON RANCH
OCT 11 1pm

ISLAY HILL (Sweet Bay)
NOV 8 1pm

CERRO SAN LUIS
DEC 13 1pm

RESERVOIR CANYON
JAN 17 1pm

Volunteer TRAILBUILDING

IRISH HILLS (Madonna)
OCT 10 9am-12pm

CERRO SAN LUIS
OCT 24 9am-12pm

STENNER SPRINGS (road's end)
DEC 5 9am-12pm

RESERVOIR CANYON
DEC 19 9am-12pm

BISHOP PEAK (Patricia)
JAN 9 9am-12pm

IRISH HILLS/FROOM (Home Depot)
JAN 23 9am-12pm

INFO Rain cancels hikes and trail work.
City Ranger 781-7302 or ECOSLO 544-1777

HIKES Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water.
Hike length varies with group.

TRAILBUILDING Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Tools, water and snacks provided.

ABOUT

NAME Stenner Flow Trail

DISTANCE 2,850 ft (.54 mi)

TYPE Mountain bike flow

ELEVATION CHANGE 280 ft

OPEN TO Mountain bikers

FEATURES Single-track flow trail with jumps and banked turns; black diamond in difficulty

ADDRESS From SLO, park at the end of Stenner Canyon Road, continue up Elevator to The Eucs.

"From the bottom of The Eucs, the Flow Trail takes off to the left. At the beginning it shares parts of Elevator. After branching off, it becomes a one-way, downhill "flow" trail, with berms and other features for the intermediate to advanced rider."

~ CCCMB



Come flow with me

Stenner Springs Natural Reserve

The Wednesday workday crew just finished a "FLOW" style trail in the Stenner Springs Natural Reserve.

A flow trail is a twisting and turning mountain bike trail that features bermed turns and jumps that help facilitate keeping your flow going with minimal pedaling.

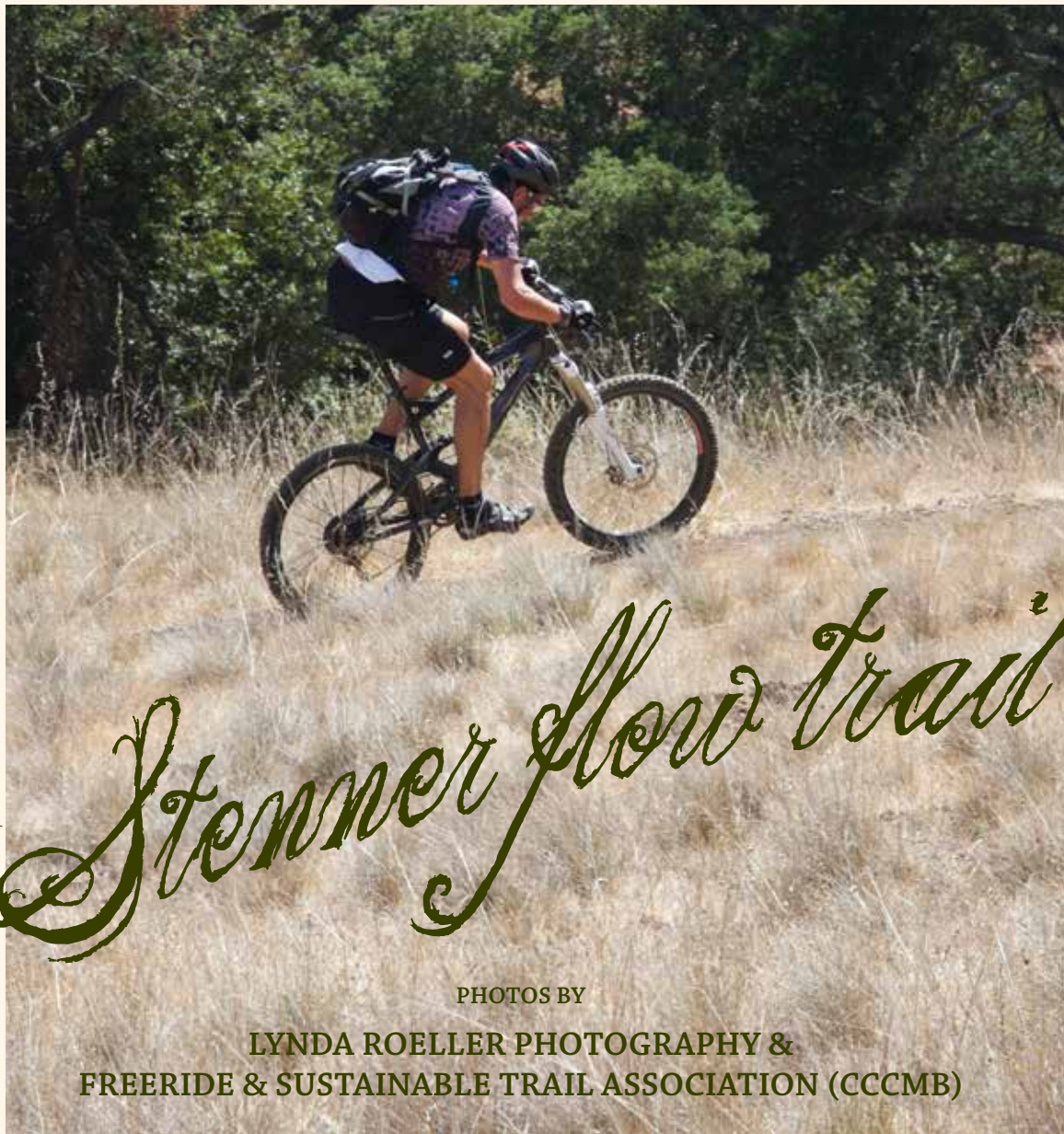
Crews worked for 20 days (660 volunteer hours) to complete the project, which has 17 built berms, 8 new drains and 6 new signs, and totals 2,850 feet of new trail. A fun and new component to this project (senior project of Cal Poly student **Niels Grether**) was the use of a mini skid steer to facilitate moving

big rocks and dirt. Volunteers and rangers were very happy the machine did the heavy lifting for this project.

A key component of the project is the decommissioning and restoration of eroded and poorly functioning sections of existing trails. Let us know what you think!

SAFETY

- Stay on designated trails
 - Dogs must be on a leash
 - Pick-up after your dog
 - Pack it in, pack it out
 - Camping and fires prohibited
 - Smoking prohibited
 - Do not remove flowers, rocks or other natural features
 - Open from dawn to dusk
- INFO: Ranger Service 781-7302



Stenner Flow Trail

PHOTOS BY

LYNDA ROELLER PHOTOGRAPHY & FREERIDE & SUSTAINABLE TRAIL ASSOCIATION (CCCMB)



TRAILHEAD DIRECTIONS

City of San Luis Obispo Open Spaces

BISHOP PEAK @ Patricia

To reach the trailhead, take Foothill Blvd west and make a right turn at Patricia Drive. Continue north on Patricia Drive. Trailhead is on the left just past Patricia Court.

BOWDEN RANCH

Take Johnson Ave south, then left on Lizzie Street (opposite French Hospital). Lizzie ends at a split rail fence that marks the beginning of the trail.

CERRO SAN LUIS

From Higuera Street, take the Marsh Street onramp to 101S, but turn right onto Fernandez Road just before entering the freeway.

FELSMAN LOOP

Meet at Patricia Drive trailhead. From Foothill, turn north onto Patricia Drive. Trailhead is on the left, just past Patricia Court.

FROOM RANCH @ Madonna

Take Higuera Street south, then a right on Madonna Road and follow it to the end. Trailhead is at the far side of the roundabout, up the walkway.

IRISH HILLS @ MADONNA ROAD

To reach the Madonna trailhead from Hwy 101, take Los Osos Valley Road north towards Los Osos. Turn left on Madonna Road and follow it to the end. Find parking on the street, then walk up the dirt road to the trailhead.

IRISH HILLS @ PREFUMO CANYON

Take Los Osos Valley Road north. Turn left on Prefumo Canyon Road. Follow for 1 mile. Trailhead is on the left after the bridge crossing.

ISLAY HILL

Take Broad Street south, turn left on Tank Farm Road. Make a right onto Wavertree Street. Turn left on Spanish Oaks Drive, then right onto Sweetbay Lane. Trailhead is at the end of Sweetbay Lane.

JOHNSON RANCH

Take Higuera Street until it turns into South Higuera Street. Park at turnout located at the intersection of South Higuera Street and Ontario Road. Trailhead is on the right, just off the freeway.



LEMON GROVE LOOP TRAIL

From Higuera Street, take the Marsh Street onramp to 101S, but turn right onto Fernandez Road just before entering the freeway. Lemon Grove Loop is on the Cerro San Luis Natural Reserve.

RAILROAD RECREATION TRAIL ALL ACCESS

Meet at the SLO Railroad Station at the south end of Santa Rosa Street (Amtrak station).

RESERVOIR CANYON

Take Highway 101 North from San Luis Obispo. About a mile past city limits, turn right on Reservoir Canyon Road. Trailhead is at the end of Reservoir Canyon Road. Park to the left.

SOUTH HILLS @ EXPOSITION DRIVE

From US 101, exit Madonna Road and go east. Take a left on Higuera Street and a quick right onto South Street. Turn right onto Exposition Drive and look for the South Hills Open Space sign on the right hand side of Exposition Drive, at Corrida.

BY **DOUG CARSCADEN**
LEAD RANGER
PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

STENNER SPRINGS
Take Highway 1 towards Morro Bay. Less than a mile outside SLO, turn right onto Stenner Creek Road. Follow Stenner Creek Road for about 2.5 miles to the end.



CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
OPEN SPACE TRAIL
TOPO MAPS

Miles of mountain biking and hiking trails traverse the City's 3,500 acres of open space and parkland, making outdoor adventures a wonderful part of everyday life on the Central Coast.

Download pdf TOPO MAPS showing trails, elevations, and features such as creeks and roads by aiming your smart phone at the QR code above. Or go to <http://bit.ly/SLOspaces>

