

More Wildlife Migration Corridor Safeguarded Above Crowley Lake

Working with the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the ESLT recently purchased a 33-acre parcel near Crowley Lake that was slated for development. The pinyon pine-covered hills are a haven for wildlife, with scattered Jeffrey pines and mountain mahogany thickets creating good nesting and roosting habitat. Bitterbrush for migrating deer is abundant. The lower portion of the property holds a grassy meadow crossed by a small year-round creek.

Migrating mule deer, sleek and elusive mountain lions, and a myriad of birds, butterflies, and dragonflies need safe access to their summer habitats in the high Sierra. These ancestral routes are threatened by development and subdivision, but thanks to the recent grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board, the ESLT has preserved an important section of a local migration corridor. The property's knobby hilltop is visible from HWY 395 and Crowley Lake so the scenic vista for travelers in beautiful Long Valley or fisherman on the lake will be maintained.

We like to think the wild orchids and tall penstemons on the property are blooming in celebration of their permanent preservation but the reality is probably a little more prosaic; pavement will never cover this ground and migrating wildlife will always find safe passage here. We're grateful to our supportive members, the California Deer Association, and the California Department of Fish and Game for helping the ESLT secure this important wildlife habitat. *_ By Karen Ferrell-Ingram*