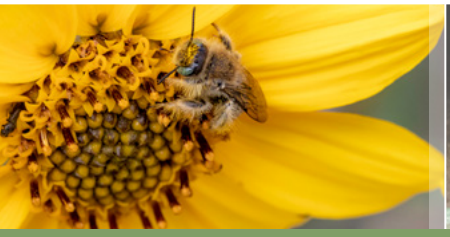
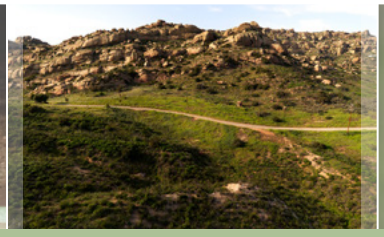
Santa Susana **Newsletter**






Fall 2024

This fall, we completed the removal of 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from two locations, the on-site Area I Burn Pit and the off-site former employee shooting range, which operated at what is now Sage Ranch Park. The amount of soil we removed is large enough to fill 29 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Both soil excavation activities were Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)-ordered cleanups.

The soil we removed from the former employee shooting range at Sage Ranch Park protects wildlife from eating lead shot and fragments from skeet and clay pigeon targets.

The soil we excavated from the Area I Burn Pit included the removal of chemicals to ecological risk-based screening levels, up to 2 feet of soil in some areas. Additionally, radionuclide-containing soil was cleaned up to background levels. In order to achieve this, some areas were excavated up to 10 feet.

After years of delay, we are making considerable progress and momentum toward the final cleanup of the site, which could begin as early as 2026 under the terms of our framework agreement with the DTSC and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The agreement accelerates cleanup, reduces the potential for technical disputes and establishes a process to resolve them quickly, avoiding delays from litigation.

We remain committed to fulfilling our obligations and completing a stringent cleanup. We appreciate the ongoing support from the community and look forward to the successful restoration and preservation of the Santa Susana site for the benefit of future generations.

Kamara Sams
Program Director

Mike Bower
Project Manager

Restoring and conserving ecosystems at Santa Susana

Santa Susana is home to more than 30 amphibians and reptiles species, which include eight special-status species like the two-striped garter snake (pictured above, with juvenile Pacific tree frogs).

The Wildlife Habitat Council highlighted *Boeing's* biodiversity preservation activities at Santa Susana in their recent white paper, "Beyond Target 15: Aligning Corporate Nature Actions to the Global Biodiversity Framework." The white paper features companies that are supporting the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which has 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030.

Some examples of the targets are enhancing green spaces for humans and biodiversity; conserving 30% of land, waters and sea; and reducing pollution to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity.

Santa Susana sits within a key habitat linkage connecting California's coast with inland mountain ranges and is home to Native American cultural resources, abundant wildlife and endangered plant species. It's home to more than 150 bird species; dozens of mammals, including 12 bat species; a few dozen reptiles and amphibians; a host of pollinators; and hundreds of plants and flowers. Some special status species on-site include golden eagles, Townsend's big-eared bats, western spadefoot toads, Braunton's milkvetch and mountain lions.

In 2017, Boeing recorded a conservation easement with North American Land Trust to permanently preserve and protect Boeing's nearly 2,400 acres. The easement forever protects the land, which is a part of the regional Wildlife Corridor and Simi Hills Critical Wildlife Passage Area in Ventura County's General Plan and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.

Download a free copy of the white paper here: *https://www.wildlifehc.org/knowledge-resource/beyond-target-15/*.

Woolsey Fire photography exhibit featured Santa Susana Field Lab wildlife

Female mountain lion P-62 raised two separate litters at Santa Susana.

The National Park Service partnered with California State Parks; Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; Santa Monica Mountains Fund; UCLA; and private landowners, including Boeing, to study the long-standing effects from the Woolsey Fire on the ecosystem and its inhabitants.

The project began in 2019 and ended in 2023 and involved surveying more than 180 designated unburned and burned sites in the Santa Monica Mountains, Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills with wildlife camera traps.

Scattered along remote locations to avoid human interaction with wildlife, the cameras gathered a series of photos triggered by motion and heat. The cameras provided researchers with the most authentic glimpse of wildlife in their habitat and provided an opportunity to monitor rare species like black bears, spotted skunks and American badgers. The photos were used to track times, locations, movements and habits of rare and local species. Some of the images were displayed at the King Gillette Visitor Center, giving the public a glimpse at these raw and unedited images.

Male mountain lion P-63, son of P-62, was collared at Santa Susana. He crossed U.S. Highway 101 successfully and now lives in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The project started as a wildlife research monitoring program of the Woolsey Fire. However, the long-term goal is to continue to use cameras in the mountains to study the impact of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, slated to open in 2026.

Risk Assessment Corporation receives Paper of the Year Award for Woolsey Fire study

The editorial board of the journal Health Physics has selected the paper "Potential Airborne Releases and Deposition of Radionuclides from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory During the Woolsey Fire" as the 2023 winner of the Michael T. Ryan Outstanding Paper of the Year Award, highlighting the paper's scientific merit, accuracy, balance, innovation and impact.

Authored by Arthur S. Rood, H. Justin Mohler, Helen A. Grogan, Colby Mangini, Emily A. Caffrey, and John E. Till, this paper was selected from among all those published in Health Physics in 2023. The Michael T. Ryan Outstanding Paper of the Year Award is named in honor of the late Michael T. Ryan, who served as editor in chief of Health Physics from 1999 to 2017.

"Potential Airborne Releases and Deposition of Radionuclides from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory During the Woolsey Fire" is available to review: *https://journals.lww.com/health-physics/Fulltext/2023/04000/Potential_Airborne_Releases_and_Deposition_of.3.aspx*

Boeing recognized for its conservation efforts at WHC Conservation Conference

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) recently awarded Boeing's Santa Susana Field Laboratory with two environmental awards during the WHC Conservation Conference. One recognition was for the Other Species Project Award for monitoring and protecting the Santa Susana tarplant, a rare native California plant. Boeing also received the Remediation Project Award, recognizing the site's interim soil excavation activities; stormwater management; groundwater studies; and stakeholder engagement, including recent Groundwater U technical community workshops. The WHC Awards honor excellence in corporate conservation.

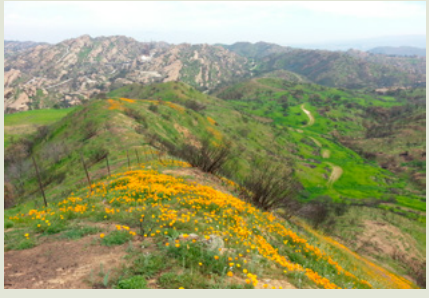
Mike Bower (left) and Kamara Sams (right) receive the Other Species Project Award from the Wildlife Habitat Council.

Mike Bower and Kamara Sams (middle) receive the Remediation Project Award from the Wildlife Habitat Council.

No concerns or violations found during recent Ventura County audit

This summer, Ventura County conducted a Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) audit at Santa Susana and found "no violations or concerns." The CUPA provides regulatory oversight for six statewide environmental programs. CUPAs implement state and federal laws and regulations, county ordinance codes and local policies and ensure compliance through routine and follow-up inspections, educational guidance and enforcement actions. CUPAs are also involved with hazardous materials emergency response, illegal hazardous waste disposal investigation and public complaints.

The audit reviewed Santa Susana's chemical and hazardous material inventory, management and related safety, with inspections of the site and all storage areas. Following field inspections, the CUPA reviewed applicable documentation and reporting, and it issued a final report showing no violations or concerns.



Around the watering hole (after dark)

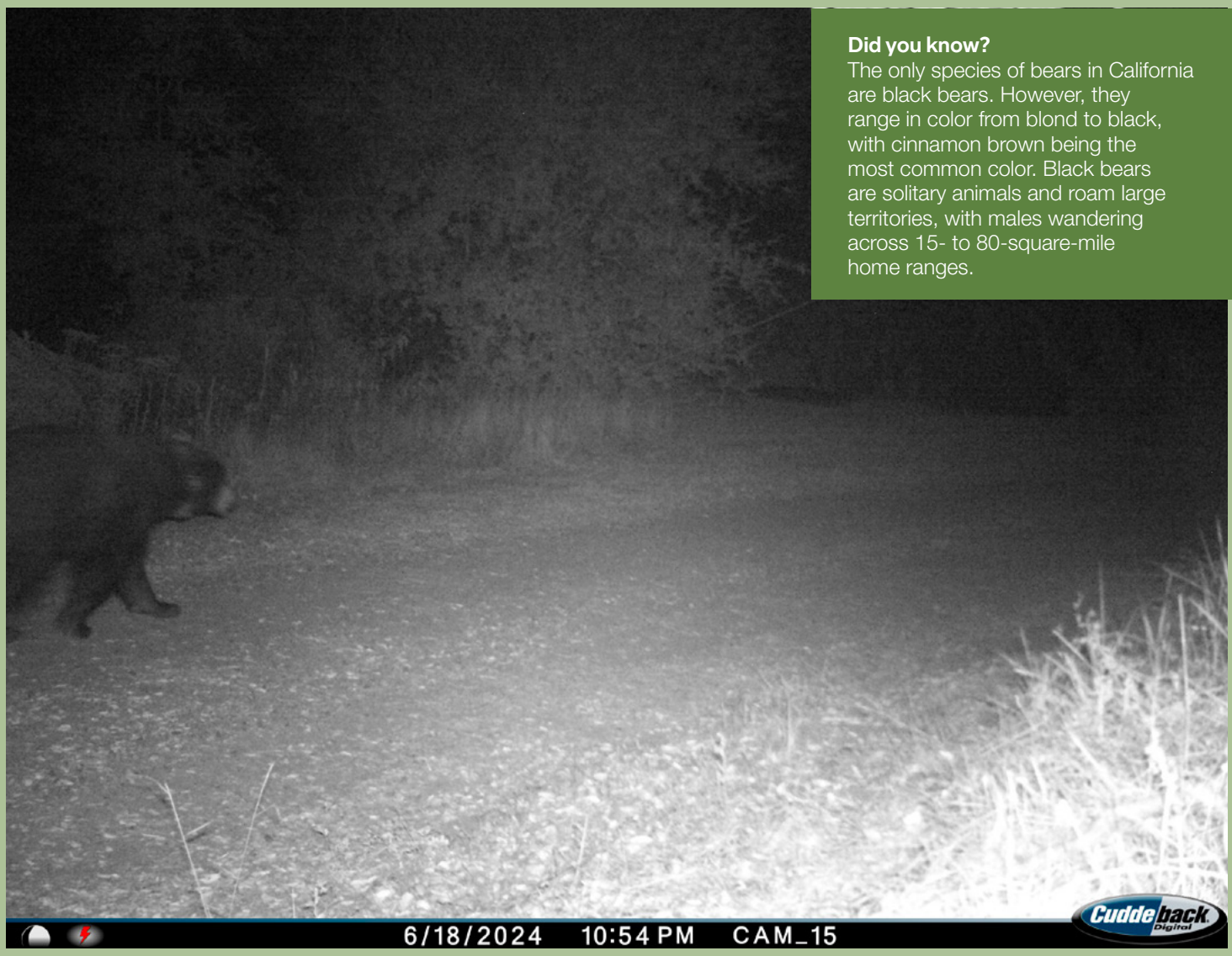
Q: Why did the tarantula cross the road?

A: To find a mate.

Did you know?
Tarantulas remain in their burrows most of the year. During mating season, which typically runs from September through mid-November, male tarantulas leave their dens to search for females, mostly at night.

The Southwestern Herpetologists Society citizen scientists spot tarantulas during a fall nighttime spider crawl.

Did you know?
The only species of bears in California are black bears. However, they range in color from blond to black, with cinnamon brown being the most common color. Black bears are solitary animals and roam large territories, with males wandering across 15- to 80-square-mile home ranges.



A California black bear, tracked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, meanders through the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

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