

BIG SUR
LAND TRUST
For the lands you love

Glen Deven Ranch

HIKING GUIDE



Glen Deven Ranch is an 860-acre nature preserve overlooking the Big Sur Coast. This diverse landscape features redwood-filled canyons and coastal chaparral and is home to Big Sur Land Trust's summer outdoor youth camps.

Preserve Hours

Monday through Sunday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Directions to Glen Deven Ranch

Street address: 37102 Garrapatos Road, Carmel, CA 93022

► From Monterey/Carmel:

Drive South on Highway One to **Palo Colorado Road (12.7 miles)** from Ocean Ave in Carmel). Look for the road sign on the left ½-mile past Rocky Point Restaurant.

Turn left and proceed **East on Palo Colorado Road** for approximately **1.4 miles**.

Take a **sharp left at Garrapatos Road** (look for small bridge and sign).

Continue up the hill **0.5 miles**. Glen Deven Ranch gates are on the left. You will see a sign marking the entrance to Glen Deven. Once inside the gates, please use the visitor parking lot just inside the main gate.

► From Big Sur:

Drive **North on Highway One to Palo Colorado Road**.

Turn right and proceed **East on Palo Colorado Road** for approximately **1.4 miles**.

Take a **sharp left at Garrapatos Road** (look for small bridge and sign).

Continue up the hill **0.5 miles**. Glen Deven Ranch gates are on the left. You will see a sign marking the entrance to Glen Deven. Once inside the gates, please use the visitor parking lot just inside the main gate.

► From Salinas:

Head to **CA-68 W**.

Keep **left at fork**, and **merge onto CA-1 S**, continue for **17 miles**.

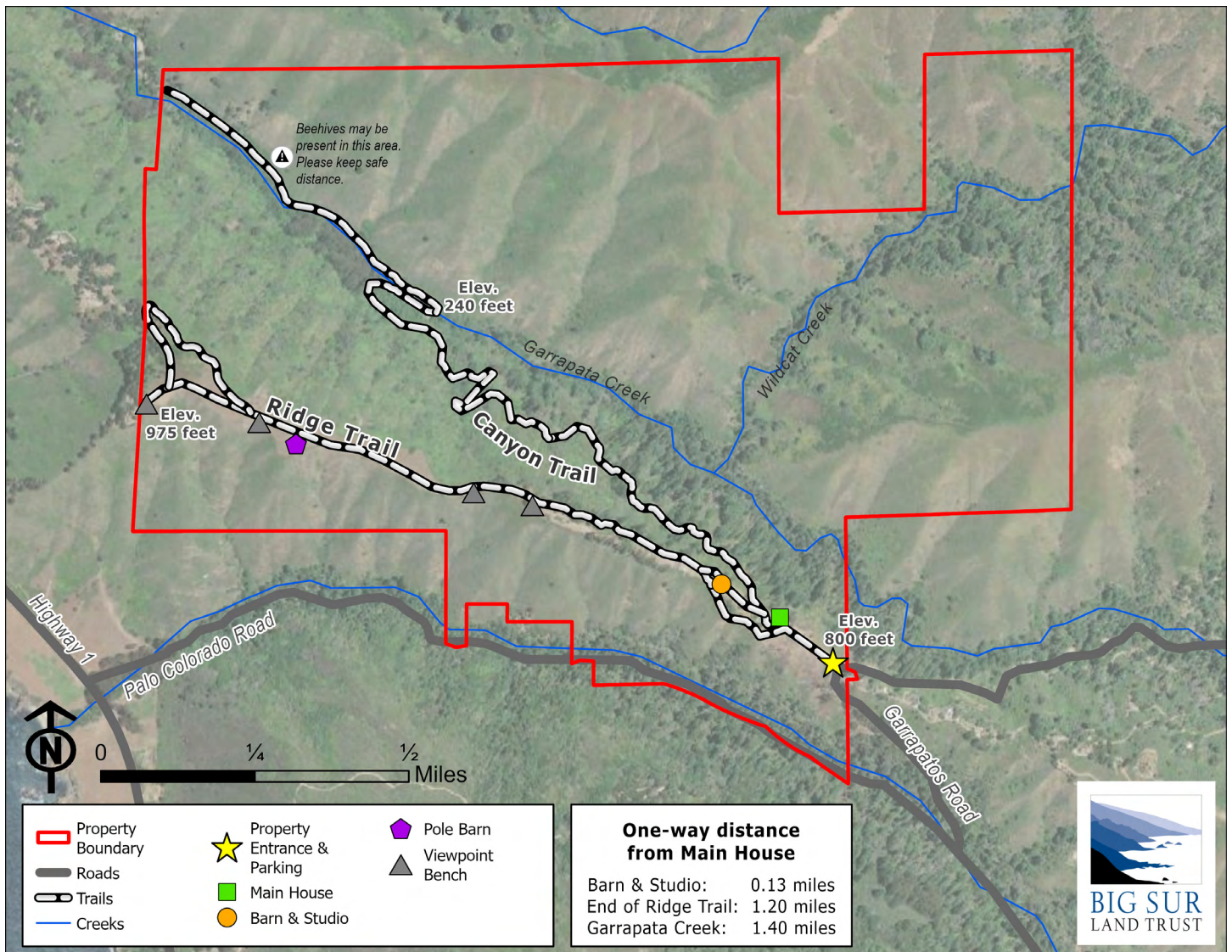
Turn **left on Palo Colorado Road**, continue for approximately **1.4 miles**.

Take a **sharp left at Garrapatos Road** (look for small bridge and sign).

Continue up the hill **0.5 miles**. Glen Deven Ranch gates are on the left. You will see a sign marking the entrance to Glen Deven. Once inside the gates, please use the visitor parking lot just inside the main gate.

Please be respectful of private residences by keeping on Palo Colorado Road and Garrapatos Road only.

**** Please use headlights on the narrow Palo Colorado Road! ****



This map was created from a combination of information from various sources and is intended as a general representation only. The Big Sur Land Trust makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, and/or timeliness of the information represented and shall assume no liability for errors, omissions, or inaccuracies.

Property Rules

Welcome! We invite you to:

- Enjoy this amazing place conserved and cared for by the generous donors and funders of Big Sur Land Trust.
- Experience all that nature has to offer, safely and respectfully.

In order to keep this beautiful place open and thriving, please follow these simple rules:

- Dogs must be well-behaved and are allowed on-leash only. This is for the safety of your dog while in mountain lion habitat and for the responsible stewardship of the Glen Deven Ranch nature preserve. Please keep dogs on-leash and on established trails at all times.
- Bikes are NOT allowed at Glen Deven Ranch. Mountain bikes can be very damaging to the environment. This causes plant destruction, animal habitat disruption and erosion.
- Drone flights are prohibited on Big Sur Land Trust properties.

- Leave no trace. Pack it in – pack it out. There are no garbage cans on the trails. Please dispose of waste (including dog waste) properly outside of property.
- For safety considerations, the pool is not open for public use.
- Please use existing trails and respect private land signs and fences.
- Respect and be cautious of local wildlife and cattle during grazing seasons.

Please Report Trail Maintenance Issues

Please get in touch with us if you notice any of our trails have an issue that needs our attention. For example, if there is a tree down across a trail, repairs needed on signs or facilities, or anything else that may improve our guests' experience we appreciate you letting us know. Please email your observations to hiking@bigsurlandtrust.org with the subject "**Report Trail Maintenance**", date, property, trail name, and nearest landmark.

Hike Logistics

Ridge Hike

- Moderately strenuous

The ridge hike is considered moderate because of a few somewhat steep hills, especially the first climb to the barn area. The length of the hike along the ridge is approximately 2.5 miles roundtrip with ~400 feet of ascent. On the ridge there are amazing views looking south down the coast, as well as great views looking north and east toward Ventana Wilderness. Interesting features of this hike include:



PINE TREES

In the 1930s and 1940s, the land in between the horse barn and the coastal edge of the property was used for growing Christmas trees as a business. The pine trees were left there to grow after the business shut down. The adverse weather of the California coast knocked many of the trees over, leaving only a group of pines on top of the ridge.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

Phyllis Krystal Memorial Bench. Phyllis Krystal supported Big Sur Land Trust and loved the outdoors. At her dedication ceremony, the SPCA (one of her other favorite organizations) released a red-tail hawk in her memory.

Dr. Gordon Williams Memorial Bench. Dr. Gordon Williams supported Big Sur Land Trust and was the first doctor to practice in Big Sur.

Sam and Nancy Hopkins Memorial Bench. Sam and Nancy Hopkins who were among the original founders of Big Sur Land Trust in 1978.

LA VENTANA (a.k.a. the window)

From the northeastern section of the loop at the end of the Ridge Hike, hikers are encouraged to momentarily turn their back to the coast and notice the view to their southeast. From this vantage point, you can see the Ventana Wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest. In the winter months, on the highest peaks, you may see snow. Sharp eyes can see the “ventana” (“window” in Spanish) – the narrow V-shaped notch for which the wilderness is named. Some say it was once covered by a rock bridge.



FOG COLLECTOR

On the knoll that the ridge hike loops around, you may see an erected screen. This is a fog collector, deployed and maintained by CSU Monterey Bay researchers as part of a project assessing fog collection as a potential solution to California’s water deficit. This research project now includes dozens of fog collectors deployed along the coast of California, including over 50 within three kilometers of CSU Monterey Bay. Glen Deven Ranch’s fog collector is special as it was the first to be deployed in 2005. In 2022, new efforts are underway to analyze the fog collector data with oceanographic data to better understand how our coastal ocean processes influence observed fog patterns.



GARRAPATA RIDGE POINT

At the westernmost extent of the Ridge Trail there is a fence along the boundary of the neighboring private property. Along this fence, near the Sam and Nancy Hopkins Memorial Bench, you may note two tall white poles. These are “repeaters.” Repeaters are used by the U.S. Forest Service to transmit radio frequencies to the Mid-Coast Fire Brigade during emergencies when roads cannot



be used to enter the canyons. The Forestry Service and CAL FIRE use Glen Deven Ranch to land helicopters and stage fire crews during emergencies.

**** No trespassing beyond the property boundary fence. ****

NOTLEY'S LANDING

From the Sam and Nancy Hopkins Memorial Bench you can view Notley's Landing to the immediate south along the shoreline below, where the grassy pasture stops and the brush starts, and near the mouth of Palo Colorado Canyon. Named after early homesteaders George Notley and his brother William Notley, ships used to dock at Notley's Landing to receive locally harvested tanoak and redwood for transport to San Francisco. The landing was abandoned when Highway 1 was completed in 1937 and nearly all of the buildings have since been dismantled or destroyed by fire.

Canyon Hike

- Strenuous

The Canyon Hike is considered strenuous because of the long steep climb up from the bottom of Garrapata Canyon. The roundtrip distance from the main house to Garrapata Creek is 2.5 miles, with ~600 feet of ascent.

When conditions permit, hikers may cross Garrapata Creek to continue along the fire road that runs along the north side of Garrapata Creek. The roundtrip distance from the main house to the end of the fire road is 4.4 miles, with ~700 feet of ascent.



Hikers will enjoy deciduous trees, great redwoods, and a large variety of plant life. Interesting features of this hike include:

GARRAPATA CREEK

The Garrapata Creek watershed encompasses approximately 10.7 square miles and includes Garrapata Creek and its two main tributaries, Joshua and Wildcat creeks. The watershed supports three federally listed threatened or endangered species: South Central Coast ESU steelhead trout, the California red-legged frog, and Smith's blue butterfly. All houses along Garrapata Creek rely on it as their primary source for water. Something to keep in mind: "garrapata" means "tick" in Spanish. Wear light-colored clothing so you can check for ticks more easily!

HONEY BEES

Along the fire road on the north side of Garrapata Creek, about 1.8 miles from the main house, you will pass by very active honey bee hives that are located just off-trail. These hives have called Garrapata Canyon their home for decades, making delicious honey and pollinating the wildflowers that abound in the canyon. Please stay safe and support these important pollinators by not approaching the hive.

History

Glen Deven Ranch covers 860 acres of preserved land 10 miles north of Big Sur. The name Glen Deven means small brook, referring to the Garrapata Creek that runs through the northern part of the ranch. The property line wraps around each side of Garrapata Ridge and extends to the bottom of the mountain near the Pacific Coast Highway.

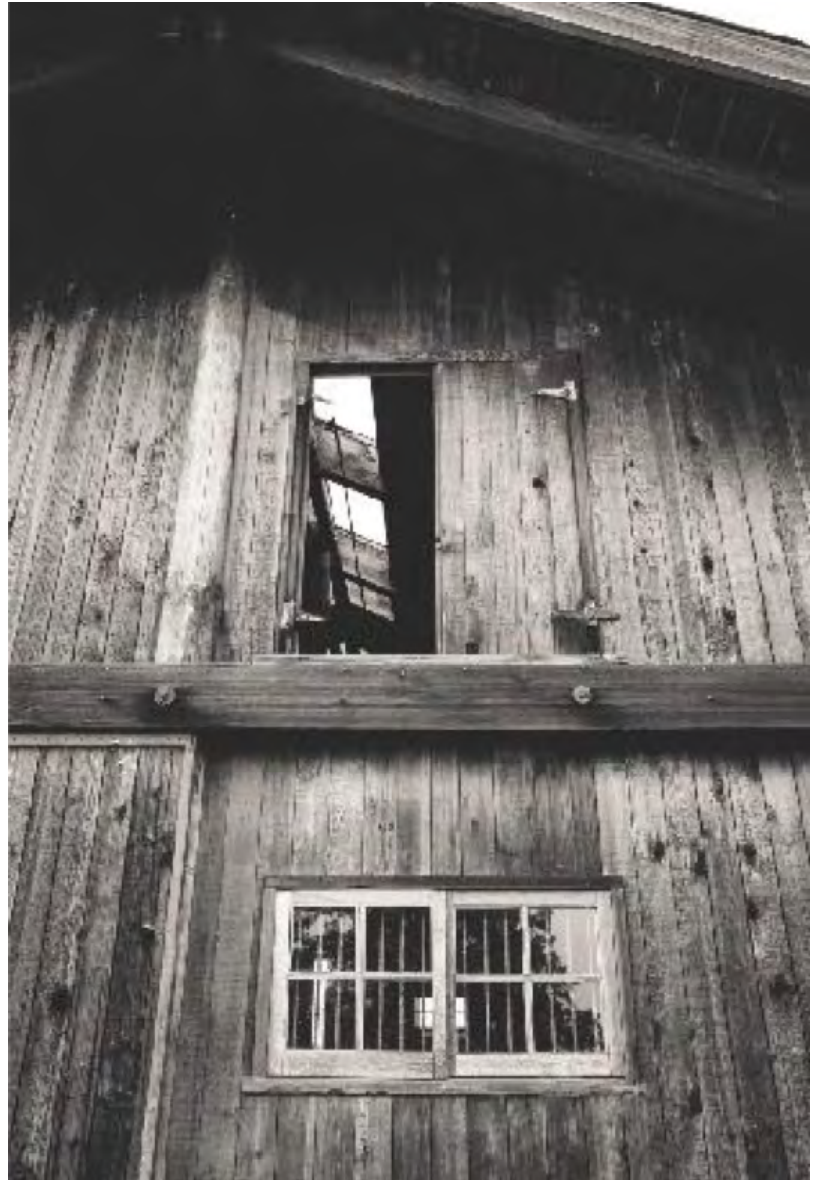
The main house was built in the early 1940's. This structure remained standing until Dr. Seeley Mudd and his wife Virginia Mudd had it remodeled in 1990 by architect Norman Gadby. Seeley wanted a better view of the nearby mountains, so the extended octagon was added to the backyard patio.

In 1997, Jim Cox, Kent White, and Keith Gaudoin built Virginia Mudd's studio. She used it as a refuge to write and create art.

Dr. Seeley Mudd

As a teen, Dr. Mudd sacrificed much of his time to study medicine. When most teens were out enjoying themselves, Dr. Mudd was preparing himself for a successful future. He graduated from Stanford University and began a practice in Los Angeles before moving up to Monterey.

The Mudds purchased the ranch in 1970 when Seeley extended his practice into Monterey. The land has served many purposes, from running cattle to growing Christmas trees to keeping bee hives for honey. Dr. Mudd wanted a ranch that would have enough room for his horses and chose Glen Deven Ranch. He loved the undeveloped, beautiful land surrounding his property.



He purchased connecting properties as they became available and acquired a total of 860 acres.

In his early years living at the canyon, Dr. Mudd was a very private man, few people living nearby knew him. Over time, emergencies would occur in the canyon and the community would pull together and act as one team. Dr. Mudd became more known in the community as these emergencies happened and even offered his house as a shelter during a fierce storm.

Dr. Seeley Mudd passed away on September 22, 2000. At his funeral, nearly every canyon resident was in attendance. Dr. and Mrs. Mudd's ashes were scattered across their favorite places at Glen Deven.

The Mudds were longtime, generous supporters of Big Sur Land Trust, and Virginia served on the Board of Directors. They left their property to Big Sur Land Trust, which officially received the land in April 2001.



Virginia Mudd

Mrs. Mudd was very active. In fact, she raced a 1948 mini-MG at Laguna Seca Raceway in 1983. She loved hiking, horseback riding, skiing, and her 1948 Woody boat moored in Lake Tahoe. Her love for the outdoors and animals extended to 10 pygmy goats that thrived and multiplied in her care. Her passion for writing books was so strong that she had a studio built so she could create in a beautiful setting. Her book, *The New Older Women: A Dialogue for the Coming Century*, was published in 1996. She passed away on December 22, 1999.

Jim Cox

A resident ranch caretaker, Jim Cox, lives on the property. Jim was hired by Dr. Mudd in 1978, eight years after they had purchased the ranch. Jim takes care of the land, buildings, and infrastructure, the animals, and he maintains the road system that is used on the ranch. Jim was the fire chief of the Mid-Coast Fire Brigade (volunteer fire-fighters) for 10 years. In 1998, Jim was voted Firefighter of the Year in Monterey County.

Conservation Value

Some of the conservation projects at Glen Deven Ranch involve invasive species control, fuels reductions, natural disaster preparedness, erosion mitigation, watershed restoration, and the promotion of native grassland vitality.

Two federally threatened species reside in Glen Deven Ranch's waterways: California red-legged frog and steelhead trout. At least 46 of California's special status species live within a 5-mile radius of the property. Special status raptors such as the American Peregrine Falcon, sharp-shinned hawk, Coopers hawk, California spotted owl, northern pygmy-owl and western screech-owl may be found foraging or nesting on the property.

Redwood restoration is the focus for the north-facing slope below the ranch house, and coastal scrub revegetation for the south-facing slope adjacent to the main road. Additional stewardship objectives include improved forest health and fire safety, increased functional wildlife habitat and riparian resiliency, as well as research, community building and aesthetics.

Flora and Fauna

- Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*): Coast redwoods are the world's tallest tree, reaching heights of over 300 feet. Regularly living up to 600 years, the oldest coast redwoods are over 2,000 years old. While you will encounter redwoods at Glen Deven, the view of the neighboring ridge to the south offers a chance to recognize these tall trees in profile: Look for feathery trees with branches whose tips reach slightly upward. Coast redwoods are highly fire-adapted and have thrived as part of fire-adapted ecosystems for millions of years. Among their adaptations is an incredible ability to regenerate quickly and without sexual reproduction, sprouting directly from a root, stump or burl (a hard knotty growth). Coast redwoods are also high in tannins and do not produce resin or pitch, making them resistant to not only fire but also to insects and fungi. Redwoods have shallow root systems that can spread over 100 feet from the base of the tree and intertwine with the roots of neighboring redwoods, providing stability during strong winds and rains. Needing fog to keep them moist, the coast redwood has a range that extends only as far as the coastal influence. Redwoods support entire ecosystems from root to tip, even supporting epiphytes (plants that grow on plants) that are themselves other trees. Douglas fir, Sitka spruce, and California bay laurel are among the trees documented growing on coast redwoods – to heights of 40 feet!
- Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*): Sharp-shinned hawks are agile fliers that speed through dense woods to surprise their prey, typically songbirds. They generally do not swoop down on prey from high overhead. They may also pounce from low perches. When flying across open areas they have a distinctive flap-and-glide flight style. Sharp-shinned hawks breed in deep forests. During migration, look for them in open habitats or high in the sky, migrating along ridgelines. During the non-breeding season, they hunt small birds and mammals along forest edges and sometimes at backyard bird feeders, causing a wave of high-pitched alarm calls among the gathered songbirds.

- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*): The California red-legged frog, federally listed as a threatened species, is the largest native frog in the western United States, measuring up to 5.25 inches from the tip of the snout to the vent. Although this frog has disappeared from 70% of its range, it is still common along the California coast. Garrapata Creek features the habitat preferred by adult red-legged frogs: dense, shrubby or riparian vegetation closely associated with deep, still, or slow-moving water, as both water and accessibility to sheltering habitat are essential to survival. While most adult California red-legged frogs are resident at favorable breeding sites, others have been shown to travel up to two miles between water sources during winter rains. Most of these overland movements occur at night. California red-legged frogs can live up to five years in the wild, but few live more than two years. Their diet is variable, with tadpoles grazing algae from the surface of rocks and vegetation and adults feeding on insects and other invertebrates.
- Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*): Also known as puma, cougar, or panther, sighting a mountain lion at Glen Deven is rare but possible. Mountain lions are crepuscular, meaning most active at dawn and dusk. Generally shy and reclusive, hikers are more likely to see signs of mountain lions than individuals. Signs may include large tracks (3-5" wide) without claw marks, a partially-eaten kill covered in brush, and claw-marked trees.
- California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*): The California condor, with its incredible wingspan of over three meters, became extinct in the wild and was reduced to only 27 individuals due to the effects of DDT, poaching, lead poisoning, and habitat loss. In 1987, a federal conservation plan saw the capture of these remaining individuals for captive breeding and reintroduction of the species into the wild. Condors can soar as high as 15,000 feet and over 200 miles in a single day. Distinguishing features that can help you to differentiate the California condor from the much more common Turkey Vulture include coloration (viewed from beneath, California condors have white 'arms' holding out their black wings; this coloration pattern is reversed in Turkey Vultures) and flight style (California condors are flat and steady while Turkey Vultures are V-shaped and rocking).
- Whales – Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*), Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) and Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*): Whales can be seen year-round off of the central California coast as they feed and migrate between breeding grounds to the south and feeding grounds to the north. Most typically, Gray whales will be seen in winter, Blue whales in summer, and Humpback whales in spring, summer, and fall. If you see a big spout or large splash from your high vantage point on Glen Deven Ridge, you are most likely seeing a Humpback whale. Look for a smaller spout accompanying the large spout; a calf accompanying its mother.



Coast redwood (*sequoia sempervirens*)

Photo provided by BSLT



Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)

Photo by David McQuade, Macaulay Library



California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)

Photo by Kirke Wrench, NPS



Mountain lion (*Puma concolor*)

Photo by Barbara Smyers, Shutterstock

Be an iNaturalist for the lands you love!

Please join us in recording the amazing biodiversity found on our preserves by downloading and using the iNaturalist app whenever you visit.

By taking photos in iNaturalist (and making sure to upload them when you get home) you will be contributing to a powerful biodiversity dataset.

iNaturalist can also instantly suggest identifications of the flora and fauna you photograph, thereby serving as a handy pocket field guide and powerful educational tool.

To use iNaturalist:

- Download the iNaturalist app to your mobile device.
- Create your iNaturalist account.
- Under “Community,” select “Projects” and search for Big Sur Land Trust. On the Big Sur Land Trust project page, click “Join.”
- In the iNaturalist app, take photographs of the biology and evidence thereof that you encounter on Big Sur Land Trust’s preserves. This can be plants, animals, fungi – or even just evidence of them (scat, feathers). Optional: After taking the photo, click “What did you see? View suggestions” for identification suggestions. (You can also save this step for later.)
- Click SHARE.
- When you get home, confirm that your observations have been uploaded.

Glen Deven Ranch is now an eBird hotspot!

eBird hotspots allow multiple birders to enter data into the same shared location, creating aggregated results available through [eBird’s “Explore” tools](#). Next time your visit includes birding activities, be sure to select the hotspot affiliated with the Big Sur Land Trust preserve or property you are visiting. Recording checklists while you are birding is not only fun, but the data you submit will contribute to our understanding of the lands we all love, the winged critters that love them too, and best practices for conserving both.



PO Box 4071
Monterey, CA 93942

bigsurlandtrust.org
(831) 625-5523
info@bigsurlandtrust.org

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