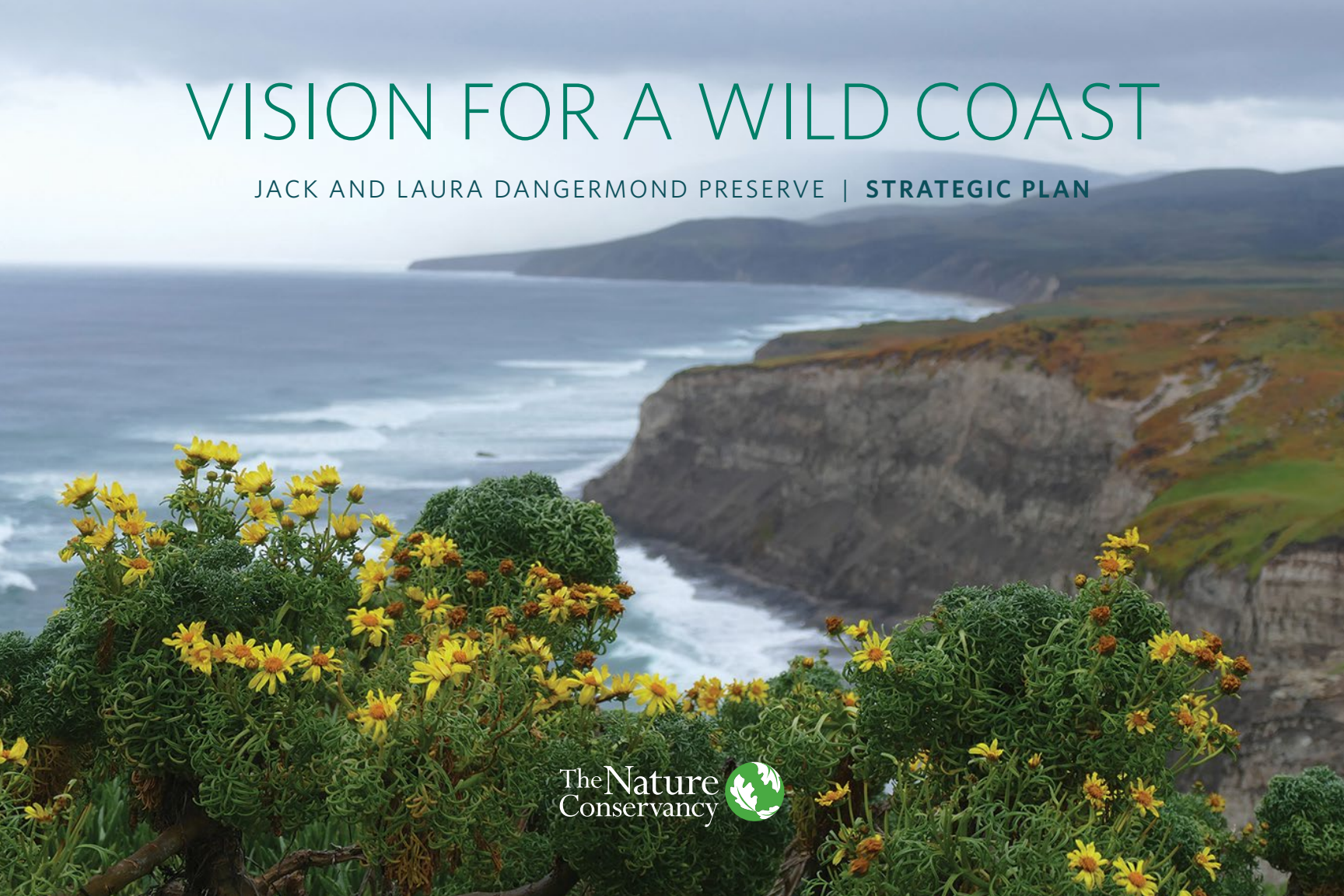
VISION FOR A WILD COAST

JACK AND LAURA DANGERMOND PRESERVE | **STRATEGIC PLAN**



This strategic plan is intended as a living document outlining key strategies for bringing our bold vision to life. We include the work as we envision it now along with a summary of the critical first steps that will be needed to build momentum for the journey.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

THIS PLAN PROVIDES OUR VISION AND STRATEGIES FOR THE JACK AND LAURA DANGERMOND PRESERVE TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THIS WILD COAST TO SERVE AS A LIVING LABORATORY TO ACCELERATE CONSERVATION.

A WILD COAST

The Southern California coast was once a wild landscape of rugged coastline, isolated beaches, grassy plains, estuaries, coastal prairies and foothill woodlands, breathtaking in scope and beauty.

TODAY

Our natural landscapes have been transformed by superhighways and major developments. Most of Southern California's coastal lands, waters and associated communities of wildlife and native vegetation have been lost. And many of the critical benefits provided by natural ecosystems to human communities—including clean water, resilient food systems and protection from flood and fire—have been lost along with them.

A RESILIENT FUTURE

Located at Point Conception, the 24,329-acre Dangermond Preserve is one of the last remaining natural areas on the Southern California coast. Its significance for nature and people is almost immeasurable, and it is critical that we protect it for future generations.

INTRODUCTION

There aren't many places on the Southern California coast that remain largely untouched by development. The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve is one of them—exceptional in size, location and biodiversity. The preserve is a vast property that sits at Point Conception—the sharp corner of coastline that gives California its distinctive crook. The land has been kept intact, free from significant development for nearly 100 years.

The preserve's unusual geography makes it a globally important site for conservation. The coastline runs north-south above Point Conception and east-west below it; cold currents from the north collide with warm water from the Santa Barbara Channel, creating diverse marine and terrestrial habitats unlike any others in the state. The preserve stretches from the coast to the Santa Ynez Mountains and includes chaparral, grassland, oak woodlands, coastal scrub and closed-cone pine along eight miles of wild coastline.

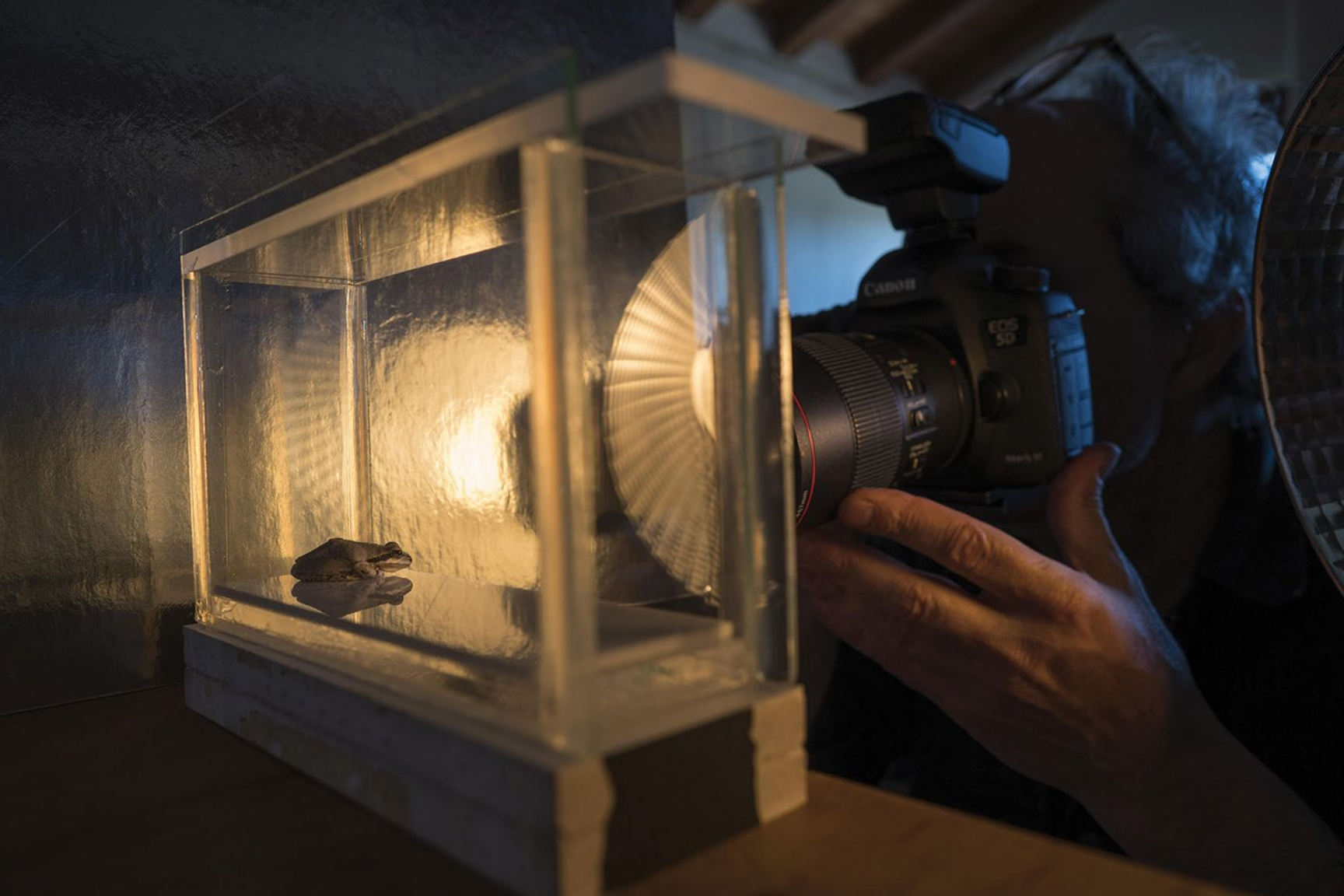
The Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve was established at a pivotal moment, a time when the world is waking up to the vital need for environmental action. Countries around the world are seeking solutions and insights into how to rebalance human interaction with the natural world and set the planet on a path to a more hopeful, sustainable future.

> *"We believe in the power of science and technology to accelerate conservation around the world.*
>
> —JACK DANGERMOND, FOUNDER ESRI

The preserve can serve as a platform for demonstrating how conservation can rise to this challenge. Our work is about more than just protection—this unique landscape will serve as a living laboratory, one that will facilitate the scientific research and environmental education needed to change the planet's trajectory.

Leading universities, researchers, conservation institutions and philanthropists have already begun to participate in projects at the preserve, bringing expertise and diverse perspectives that strengthen TNC's work. Through the use of cutting-edge technology, we can expand collaboration even further to accelerate conservation and achieve our ambitious goals.

The Point Conception region sits at a major ecological intersection that is among the most biologically rich in the world and contains some of the highest concentrations of imperiled species in the country.


CANON
EOS 5D

A LIVING LABORATORY FOR RESTORING NATURAL SYSTEMS

In 2019, TNC documented two years of exploration and analysis of the preserve in an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP). The plan records and evaluates the natural and cultural resources currently present on the preserve and establishes management recommendations for stewardship and program development. It is a roadmap for TNC and our partners to restore intact natural systems.

In the pages that follow, we share our vision and a summary of the strategic priorities informed by the IRMP that we are actively implementing to bring that vision to life.

OUR VISION FOR CALIFORNIA'S LAST WILD COAST

We envision a unique, wild and dynamic coastal landscape, protected and restored; a living laboratory of exceptional natural and cultural legacy for scientific conservation research; **technologies deployed to accelerate learning, improve management and disseminate findings globally;** engagement of the leaders of tomorrow and inspiration of widespread public commitment to conservation.

Strategies

- Restore and Protect Natural Resources
- Conserve Cultural Resources
- Develop Leaders of Tomorrow
- Advance Research and Conservation Technology
- Develop Infrastructure Solutions

Bringing Our Strategies to Life

The following pages provide an overview of our goals and ambitious five-year objectives in each of these areas.

STRATEGY ONE

Restore and Protect Natural Resources

Perform large-scale ecosystem restoration on Southern California's last wild coast by using the latest science, state-of-the-art technology, best management practices and an adaptive management philosophy. We will work toward our restoration goals using creative approaches that address conservation challenges from multiple perspectives and inspire investment from a broad group of stakeholders.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Restore the dynamic dune ecosystem, coastal prairies, estuaries and lagoons at Point Conception.**

   - Complete research, design and the development of a plan to launch a comprehensive dunes and coastal terrace restoration.
   - Remove 1,000 acres of ice plant from the Cojo Terrace and restore with native vegetation.
   - Develop, research and begin design solutions for Cojo Bay Road and railroad crossing impairments to land-sea connectivity.

2. **Successfully re-establish southern steelhead and other native species in Jalama Creek.**

   - Design, develop and implement a comprehensive watershed management plan and install instrumentation to manage recovery of lost species.
   - Implement first suite of projects that will lead us forward: remove fish barriers, reduce cattle impacts and enhance instream habitat restorations.
   - Restore ten miles of diverse instream and riparian habitats in Jalama Creek.

3 Restore resilience of oak woodlands and native perennial grasslands through grazing, prescribed fire and active management; restore target plant and animal species previously present or of conservation concern.

- Implement ongoing oaks, roads and Jalachichi restoration plans.
- Launch studies to guide enhancement of oak woodland resilience, structure and diversity.
- Successfully implement adaptive rangeland management plan to reduce weeds and invasive species while increasing diversity across the preserve; assess results over five years.
- Establish early warning detection systems for pathogens and invasive species.
- Research, design and develop comprehensive prescribed fire and feral pig management plans.

4 Establish Point Conception Wild Coast Regional Initiative with neighboring landowners and managers, focused on wildlife connectivity, freshwater ecosystems, climate change adaptation and collective learning.

- Establish working partnerships with neighboring lands to enhance land protection and develop wider stewardship networks.
- Establish data and monitoring network.
- Design, develop and successfully embed management goals in regional landscape partnership and special designation areas.

The preserve is located within a large expanse of connected lands and marine protected areas.

STRATEGY TWO

Conserve Cultural Resources

Collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop and advance conservation and stewardship practices that reflect the knowledge, views and approaches of Indigenous peoples.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Establish the preserve as a center for the testing and study of Indigenous land management practices to inform future science and conservation efforts.**

   - Raise awareness of the stewardship strategies used by local Indigenous communities to guide cultural resource interpretation.
   - Complete archaeological surveys to contribute to research about historical Indigenous practices and deepen our knowledge about the region's first inhabitants.
   - Utilize archaeological findings related to the historical interactions between climate changes and human resource use to support improved preserve decision making and management, with adaptations for current and future climate change.

2. **Strengthen engagement of the Chumash community on the preserve through restored relationships, land use and access to the land.**

   - Implement series of site walks with the Chumash community to help us co-develop and prioritize projects and initiatives.
   - Co-develop curriculum for preserve visitation and environmental education program.
   - Re-establish historic practices of gathering materials for traditional foods and textiles.

STRATEGY THREE

Develop Leaders of Tomorrow

Act now to ensure that conservation progress is continued by future conservation advocates and practitioners.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Establish the preserve as a place for environmental connection and learning through compelling storytelling and development of educational curricula.**

    - Co-develop story content and communication plan with preserve partners, stakeholders and community.
    - Create and deliver multi lingual, multi media content to express the stories that are compelling to a wide diversity of audiences and further the preserve mission.
    - Highlight storytellers who represent the diverse demographics of the preserve's local, regional and international audiences.

2 Build a sustainable and enriching public visitation program.

- Design and implement a comprehensive, sustainable and scalable preserve visitation enterprise that establishes systems, capacity development goals and quantifiable impact outcomes.
- Launch keystone partnerships to co-develop and deliver public visitation programs.
- Develop and manage programs for the public to experience the preserve and enhance public education.
- Develop and manage programs for the public to participate in preserve stewardship, restoration, science and education.

3 Build lifelong connections with youth to identify, teach, support and empower cohorts of conservation leaders by providing them with access to world-class immersive learning experiences.

- With network of environmental educational partners, re-envision an environmental program model that responds to current challenges for in-person experiences and meets current and future needs.
- Co-develop environmental education plan with partners and stakeholders.
- Continue to seek out opportunities to enhance environmental education through strategic partnerships.

STRATEGY FOUR

Advance Applied Research and Conservation Technology

Bring 21st-century technology to the world of conservation; enable state-of-the-art capabilities with advanced tools and breakthrough data solutions.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Marshall increased financial, human and social capital to address big science questions related to the preserve's critical conservation efforts.**

   - Establish structure, funding and personnel for a dedicated platform for scientific collaboration and discovery.
   - Recruit and engage experts with a range of external perspectives, including advanced technology, cultural arts and sciences, military and economics.
   - Launch major research initiatives focused on watershed management, species adaptation, coastal restoration and ecosystem resilience in a climate-crisis moment.

2. **Establish Dangermond Preserve digital twin—an open data repository and cyber-infrastructure—to advance worldwide access to data streams and analytics emerging from the preserve and its research partners.**

   - Design and implement state-of-the-art data collection and management systems.
   - Provide scalable model for connecting environmental information streams.
   - Install high-capacity Internet access, sensors and instrumentation across the preserve.
   - Advance communications of transformational scientific data to foster innovation in conservation.

STRATEGY FIVE

Develop Infrastructure Solutions

Enhance existing buildings and technological infrastructure to support a 21st-century field station.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Design, develop and implement comprehensive facilities and infrastructure master plan.**
   - Develop long-term vision and conceptual plan for build-out of a highly functional field station.
   - Complete long-term visitation infrastructure plan and implement first phases of appropriately designed gathering points, pathways, trails, signage and donor-recognition areas.

2. **Utilize historic buildings for current and future needs.**
   - Repair existing ranch structures to serve as accommodations for visiting collaborators and others as a first phase of establishing the preserve as a functional field station.
   - Adapt Cojo and Jalama headquarters and position appropriate areas of the preserve, both physical and natural, to support visitation, learning and engagement.
   - Update ranch facilities and preserve-wide infrastructure to support safe, maintained, financially sustainable ranch and visitation operations.

3. **Cultivate partnerships and develop initial opportunities to integrate and harmonize conservation management and access needs beyond preserve borders, including Point Conception Light Station.**

Dangermond by the Numbers

24,329

24,329-acre coastal property

8

More than 8 miles of undisturbed coastline with sandy beaches

78

50 miles of streams and arroyos

5,000

5,000 acres of native and annual grasslands

200

More than 200 wildlife species

600

Nearly 600 plant species

6,000

6,000 acres of oak woodland and forest

300

300 acres of wetlands

PARTNERSHIP TOWARDS A RESILIENT FUTURE

It is nothing less than inspiring to come to work at the Dangermond Preserve. Every day uncovers more that this amazing landscape has to teach us, both on the ground and through the impact of our work on the global conservation community. But as you've just read, this is only the beginning. Whether you're partnering with us through the science effort or supporting our work, you are making conservation history by enabling the protection and study of a truly unique place. There is so much more to do, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. Thank you for your partnership.

—BILL LEAHY, *Deputy Director, Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve*

"When you go there, you pinch yourself. It's one of those places I can't believe we managed to save.

TNC CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIKE SWEENEY
ON THE JACK AND LAURA DANGERMOND PRESERVE

PHOTOS: Cover: © Jay Carlson/TNC; Page 1: © David Liittschwager; Page 2: © Bill Marr/TNC; Page 4: © David Liittschwager; Page 6: © Bill Marr/TNC; Page 7: © David Liittschwager; Pages 8–9: © Jay Carlson/TNC; Page 10: © David Liittschwager; Page 12: © TNC; Page 14: © Bill Marr/TNC; Page 15: © Karin Lin/TNC; Page 17: © David Liittschwager; Page 18: © Ian Shive; Inside back cover: © John Stuelpnagel; Back cover: © TNC

The Nature Conservancy

Jack and Laura Dangermond Preserve
8101 Jalama Road | Lompoc, CA 93436

805-736-7300