VISION FOR THE GAVIOTA COAST

MOVING TOWARDS CONSERVATION

GCC is moving towards permanent conservation of coastal properties, and working with our allied organizations to repair infrastructure and provide jobs.

BY DOUG KERN

The Gaviota Coast connects Central and Southern California, covering 76 miles of coastline from Point Sal on the northwest to Coal Oil Point on the southeast. It represents the largest intact rural Mediterranean coastline remaining in the nation and is a biodiversity hotspot. GCC’s project area of interest encompasses 210,000 acres, including 43 ecosystems by 2030. On October 7, 2020, California Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order to conserve a minimum of 30% of California’s land and waters by 2030 and on January 27, 2021, President Biden signed a similar Executive Order “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.”

30x30?

30x30 is the name for a global initiative to preserve at least 30% of the earth’s ecosystems by 2030.

We'd like to see trails rebuilt, and exotic vegetation removed to make room for native species and reduce the risk of fast moving and intense wildfires.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Agriculture has been the long-term economic bedrock of the Gaviota Coast. However, the region is constrained by limited water and variable quality soils. Regenerative agriculture (RA) offers practical solutions to these limitations. RA builds soils and soil fertility while increasing water retention - helping to mitigate the two significant Gaviota Coast limitations.

GAVIOTA VISION

To learn more about GCC’s “Vision for the Gaviota Coast” please contact me at info@gaviotacoastconservancy.org and I’d enjoy talking with you about it.

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Photo: Shaw Leonard

Gaviota Coast Conservancy is dedicated to protecting the rural character and environmental integrity of the Gaviota Coast for present and future generations.

Gaviota Coast Conservancy P.O.Box 1099 Goleta, CA 93116

Photo: Ken Pfeiffer

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30x30?
Shaped by Rain

Rain water courses into the streams of deep, coastal arroyos, discharges to the sea...

BY REEVE WOOLPERT

The way to see terrain is as a water collector or watershed...shape the landscape like raindrops. The principal contours of the Gaviota Coast mark the many pathways taken by precipitation as it heads back to the sea like an evaporated waterfall. The abrupt climb out of the ocean of the Santa Ynez Mountains can be quite breezy, especially in the afternoons, but this afternoon was exceptionally calm. Baron Ranch is an orphan. It had been abandoned by the cattle ranchers decades ago, and more recently by an avocado grower seeking riches from marginal soils and hard water pulled from sandstone formations. The temperate climate favored the avocados, but it’s my guess that the soils and poor water quality made the trees less viable. Today the 250 acres of once-upon-a-time orchards are grassy meadows marked by orchard roads and occasional skeletal trees. It’s a shame – and an opportunity – something like a strip mine waiting to be reclaimed.

The rest of the 1000-acre Ranch is a jewel. This is a mature forest, last burned in the Refugio Fire of September 1955. It rewards the patient hiker with a beautiful upper canyon watered by a tumbling creek that is forested with oaks and laurels. The slopes of the mountains are carpeted with our trademark chaparral, impenetrable to me and without a trail, but home to the...