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## **‘California Wildlife Reconnected’ Hosts Workshop & Sets Collaborative Action Plan To Reconnect Wildlife and Protect Biodiversity Across California**

*Photos from the gathering that took place on Friday, March 21st in Sacramento [can be accessed, here.](#)*

**SACRAMENTO (March 25, 2025)** – California is demonstrating leadership on building wildlife crossing and connectivity infrastructure through a new, transformative public-private partnership, California Wildlife Reconnected. This initiative, originated by Governor Gavin Newsom, the California Natural Resources Agency, Caltrans, The Wildlife Crossing Fund, and the National Wildlife Federation, seeks to advance connectivity projects that will improve wildlife movement across California, protect ecosystems, increase motorist safety, create jobs, and help the State achieve its 30x30 goals.

The first collaborative workshop for California Wildlife Reconnected happened this **Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the California Natural Resources Agency headquarters in Sacramento** and was attended by close to two-hundred participants representing groups including State of California staff, nonprofit conservation leaders, scientists and businesses – who came together for an all-day workshop to develop a comprehensive action plan that will guide, advance and implement connectivity efforts. People represented an array of projects from across the state, from the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade working to save a population of newts, to a number of organizations wanting to restore connectivity to the Lake Tahoe Basin, to members of the Irvine Laguna Wildlife Corridor Working Group, and many more.

Among the topics discussed was the importance of collaboration – science and research, policy, restorative land design, engineering and construction, private funding and public support. The gathering also featured the launch of a privately funded virtual collaborative workspace and a California connectivity project database that will support the initiative into the future. Also lending their expertise to the workshop were ARC Solution co-founders, Nina-Marie Lister and Jeremy Guth, both visionary leaders in the field of connectivity.

“California Wildlife Reconnected is about helping nature and people to thrive, but it’s also about building on the bold conservation work that dedicated agencies and local communities are already advancing all over the state,” said California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot. “In Los Angeles, the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing reminds us that nothing is impossible and with the continued support of our transportation partners and so many others who have stepped up to the challenge – we will continue to do everything we can to protect and restore the incredible biodiversity of California.”

“Caltrans recognizes the responsibility we carry in shaping the future of infrastructure and environmental stewardship,” said Tony Tavares, Director of the California Department of Transportation. “Strategically placed wildlife crossings are a proven solution to habitat fragmentation to significantly reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, enhancing safety for both animals and motorists.”

“Wildlife connectivity is a fixable problem. We have the data to protect wildlife and keep drivers safe. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife looks forward to all of the energy and new ideas that the California Wildlife Reconnected campaign can generate – so that by working together, with all our partners, we can continue to collaboratively identify and fund connectivity projects everywhere that they are needed,” said Valerie Termini, Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“We can solve this,” said Beth Pratt, California Regional Executive Director for the National Wildlife Federation and founder of The Wildlife Crossing Fund. “We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis worldwide, and sometimes you feel hopeless, but the incredible collaborative spirit we are seeing around California Wildlife Reconnected gives me such hope. Wildlife crossings are proven and effective solutions. Working together through this new public-private partnership, we can act to help ensure a future for the wildlife of California.”

Wildlife crossings are bipartisan issues and enjoy widespread support. The Florida Wildlife Corridor project and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative served as models for California Wildlife Reconnected and in attendance were representatives from both. The all-day event concluded with a screening of ‘The Path of the Panther’ – a documentary that stunningly captured the plight of the Florida panther and its struggle to survive with increasing roads and development. Supported by the National Geographic Society and others, the Path of the Panther project led to the passage of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act – the first legislation of its kind and a blueprint for addressing habitat fragmentation and species extinction across the globe.

In addition to the originating partners, the founding advisory team for California Wildlife Reconnected includes a group of expert practitioners in the field of connectivity: ARC Solutions, The Nature Conservancy, Planning and Conservation League, Rock Design Associates, Wildlife Conservation Network, Wildlands Network, Fearless Advocacy and Pathways for Wildlife. The Woodcock Foundation served as the California Wildlife Reconnected workshop’s presenting sponsor, and leading sponsors included the National Wildlife Federation and the Wildlife Crossing Fund.

The California Wildlife Reconnected campaign is a part of the broader goals being advanced by The Wildlife Crossing Fund, a non-profit that is revolutionizing the possibilities for wildlife connectivity through a public-private model to accelerate conservation infrastructure projects. Launched in 2023, the fund aims to raise half a billion dollars from private philanthropy for wildlife crossings and connectivity projects in California and across the country.

To follow the Wildlife Crossing Fund and progress on its California Wildlife Reconnected campaign, visit the fund’s [dedicated website](#) and follow its accounts on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

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*The [National Wildlife Federation](#) is America’s largest conservation organization with over 6 million supporters nationwide, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).*