

About Us

MISSION STATEMENT

To publish a nonprofit community newspaper which serves the Mountain Empire communities of Santa Cruz county—including Canelo, Elgin, Patagonia, and Sonoita—and which is open to all views, highlighting local issues and emphasizing the contributions of local talent.

WHO WE ARE

We are a nonprofit organization, funded by paid advertising, donations and grants. PRT is a free monthly publication distributed to news stands and local merchants in The Mountain Empire.

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PRT's current issue can be found at Patagonia Library, Patagonia Community Center, Patagonia Market, and at other locations in Patagonia and Sonoita

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Reflecting On What Has Been Achieved

The 3 Canyons Wildlife Corridor

David Seibert, Executive Director, Borderlands Restoration

It's true—the property formerly known as 3 Canyons, with 200 houses and thin strips of land loosely defined as a 'conservation easement,' will *not* be developing as planned. It will, in fact, be protected as a wildlife corridor, with human and other animal activities negotiated through close collaboration with local communities. Up to 20 existing lots in the south end of the property may have to be sold over time in order to pay the enormous mortgage and insurance costs incurred by scores of family and friends, but these will not be exclusive or high-end sales. In fact, many who contributed to the effort emptied retirement or savings accounts to make this happen, and they continue to volunteer tirelessly. It's imperative that we all understand these facts. And it is for those who have given, and for many others who continue to give and always will, that we at Borderlands Restoration will work harder than ever to make this effort work in every way possible, including opportunities to work on the land.

We continue to conduct interviews, surveys, erosion control recon, trail planning, fence repair, and public outreach to neighbors. There is much to do yet and much to talk about, but thanks to PRT, Patagonia Area Business Association, Patagonia Regional Business Coalition, the library, Gathering Grounds, the Town, and many others, we'll have time and space for this. Join us, learn, and contribute.

Respectfully shared below is a

letter Ron Pulliam wrote to some of us who have nearly laughed and cried ourselves crazy over the challenges we faced on the journey to secure the corridor. In spite of his humble reluctance to publish it, I think it's beautiful and important to shine a little light on him, just this once. As Director, I'm going to go ahead and make sure it's in the local cultural archive in this way. Thank you, Ron. He wrote it right after closing on the land, and there are many more hard workers than are mentioned here to thank for their efforts.

December 2014:

Dear Friends,

Although there is still plenty to worry about, cash flow for example, I am happy to report that I am enjoying 3 Canyons more each day. I visit the land almost every day and almost always see a new vista or encounter a new animal or plant that I have not seen there before. Even though the perimeter is over 8 miles, a 1250-acre ranch isn't that big by Arizona standards. And even though there are at least four federally-listed threatened or endangered species that live there, it is not so much the number of species or the number acres but rather the connectivity it provides that makes it so special. Three Canyons and the adjacent Sonoita Creek Ranch connect the species-rich Huachuca, Patagonia, and Santa Rita mountains and form a vital natural corridor for animal movement. Patagonia sunrises are often spectacular, but last Tuesday [closing date] was perhaps the most glorious daybreak I have ever seen. By the

time we closed escrow that afternoon, the sky was gray and the sun was obscured, but we were happy. Some of us took a bottle of Cava and a few folding chairs out to the land and found a little knoll with a view. We called Jack May, toasted the wildlife, and celebrated. David Seibert and I talked about how many times we thought the deal was dead, only then told ourselves that we just had to find another way to make this work. Thank you Sy and Kate, for your optimism, and Jerry, for saying that gray sky was spectacular. Thank you, David and Jack for sharing so many ups and downs. And thank you Janice, for putting up with an obsessed husband. We have so much work ahead of us. We are planning rare plant surveys, cover hedgerows to conceal ocelot movement, a riparian restoration for Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and breeding ponds for endangered fish and frogs. We are engaging the community, creating new jobs, planning a restoration farm for growing rare plants, and looking for ways to accommodate bird-watchers, butterfly collectors, hikers, equestrians, dog walkers, and kite flyers, while keeping in mind that more than anything else, this land is for wildlife. I suspect there will still be days when it again seems like everything is falling apart, so David, don't forget to tell me that we just have to find another way to make this work.

Forever grateful,

Ron Pulliam

The next public meeting and planning session on the corridor will take place on March 24 at 7 p.m. in Cady Hall. Check us out at borderlandsrestoration.org.

