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**Correction to “WATCH: Help Rescued Animals Coexist With Cougars” Tweet**

Yesterday the Cougar Conservancy and the #SaveLACougars campaign was tagged in an appeal on Twitter with In Defense of Animals and Kindred Spirits Care Farm. While the Cougar Conservancy consulted on this initiative, we did not approve of the language used in yesterday’s appeal. This messaging is counter to our coexistence ethic and gets at the type of fear messaging we are always trying to educate against. We hold ourselves to rigorous standards based on the best available science and their statement was scientifically inaccurate and gravely mischaracterizes the outcomes of the wildlife crossing. While In Defense of Animals has been a supporter of the wildlife crossing and is attempting to correct this error, we still have to provide this clarity for the benefit of wildlife and the communities we serve.

The wildlife crossing will not attract more cougars to the area. Cougars already exist naturally in this area—it is simply preventing the extinction of this subpopulation. The National Park Service estimates that only 10 to 15 cougars form a stable population within the Santa Monica Mountains—this is the area’s carrying capacity due to cougars’ territoriality and large home range requirements. The wildlife crossing will enable the introduction of much needed genetic diversity into the subpopulation by promoting movement among resident cougars, not by increasing the overall population.

The Cougar Conservancy and the National Wildlife Federation will continue to collaborate with agency partners, non-profit organizations, and communities to support coexistence in this area by working with livestock owners and providing the tools needed to coexist in cougar habitat.