

# The Bigger Picture

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Bear Valley Springs is more than a community – it's a living ecosystem. The wildlife that roams these hills, valleys, and open spaces isn't separate from our quality of life here; it's a vital part of what makes this place special.

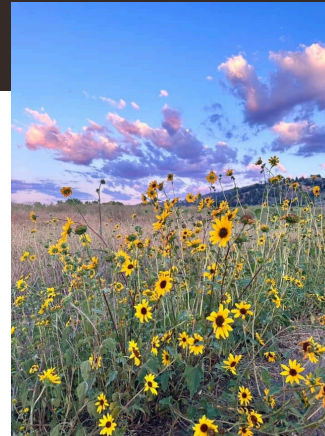
Healthy wildlife populations are a sign of a thriving habitat. Predators keep prey species in balance, preventing habitat degradation. Pollinators support native plants that hold soil, filter water, and provide food and shelter for countless species. Every animal, from the smallest insect to the largest predator, plays a role in keeping the ecosystem functioning.

That balance benefits us too. Studies consistently show that properties within thriving natural settings also tend to hold stronger long-term value.

When we protect wildlife, we protect the character, beauty, and future of Bear Valley Springs – for ourselves and for the generations who will call this place home after us.



## About Us!



## Protect & Preserve

The Bear Valley Wildlife Coalition promotes and supports a community that lives in harmony with nature by protecting wildlife and preserving habitat through education and community outreach.

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[www.bvswildlifecoalition.org](http://www.bvswildlifecoalition.org)

# Living in Harmony with Wildlife



Photo credit: David Emenheiser



# Poison

## The Hidden Cost of Poison in Wild Places



When poisons enter a wildland habitat, their effects rarely stop with the intended target. Rodenticides and pesticides move through ecosystems in ways that are difficult to predict and hard to reverse.

Predators and scavengers – hawks, owls, and foxes – consume poisoned prey and suffer the same fate.

Waterways carry toxins far beyond the original site, affecting species that were never the intended target. In a connected ecosystem, there is no such thing as a contained poison.

## Safe Alternatives That Work

**Work with Nature** – Supporting native predators like owls and hawks with nesting boxes and healthy habitat lets wildlife do the pest control for you.

**Trap, Don't Poison** – Live and mechanical traps effectively manage problem animals without putting the whole food chain at risk.

**Manage the Habitat** – Simple changes like securing food sources and clearing debris can make an area far less attractive to pests in the first place.



## Safety

### Safety First – For People and Wildlife

Keeping our community safe means sharing the road with the wild neighbors that call Bear Valley Springs home. Animals move fast, act unpredictably, and don't follow traffic rules – so we have to.

**Slow down** – especially at dawn and dusk when wildlife is most active.

**Stay alert** – scan the road ahead and both shoulders continuously.

**Expect more** – where one animal crosses, others are likely to follow.

**Give yourself space** – a lower speed gives you the reaction time you need.

**A moment of mindfulness behind the wheel can save a life – human or animal.**

## Keep Wildlife Wild

Attracting wildlife to your property may seem harmless, but it puts both animals and people at risk. Once wildlife associates your home with food, they become bolder – and far more difficult to discourage. A few simple habits go a long way.

**Secure your trash** – Use wildlife-proof containers and avoid leaving bins out overnight.

**Feed pets indoors** – Outdoor pet food is an open invitation to unwanted visitors.

**Secure enclosures** – Research predator proof construction for buildings housing animals.

**Store birdseed carefully** – Feeders can attract more than birds; bring them in at night.

