

Making a Difference for Wildlife

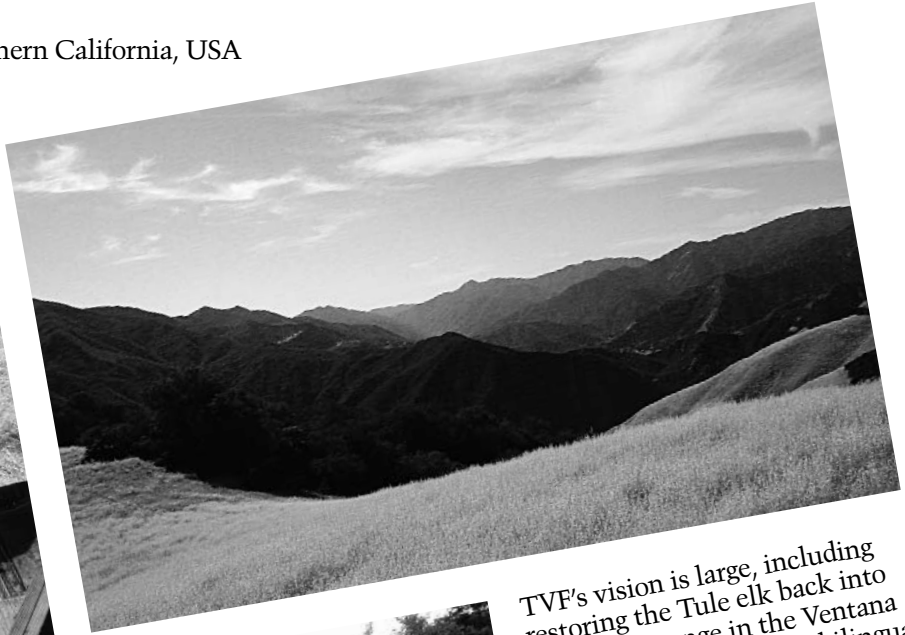
Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



The Ventana Foundation

Salinas River Watershed, Northern California, USA

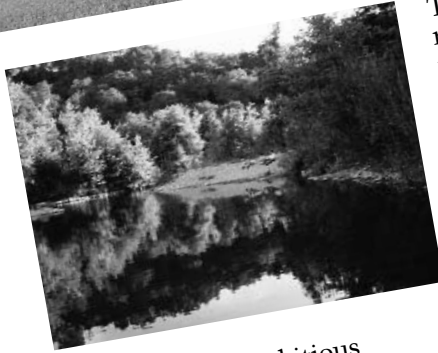
Total Funds: \$3,000,000



THE MAJOR year-round tributary of the Salinas River, the Arroyo Seco River feeds many people in the United States from the Ventana Wilderness in Monterey County, California.

Members from SCI's San Francisco Chapter formed The Ventana Foundation (TVF), a land trust organization, to protect critical lands in the Salinas Valley Watershed. TVF thus preserves the most important resource for this agricultural community: fresh water from a pristine watershed.

TVF is unique among land trusts in using its land resources as outdoor classrooms to educate the community. Additionally, TVF's mission provides one of the only bilingual outdoor environmental education facilities for California's Hispanic population. Since over 80 percent of California's central valley population is from Latin America, this critical component will help ensure that this region will be protected by future voters.



To achieve this ambitious regional plan, TVF is partnering with The Nature Conservancy, California Departments of Fish & Game and Water Resources, the National Marine Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, local schools and individuals.

David Rivard, President of TVF, said that Ken Behring introduced him to SCI while on a trip together in Africa. David was so impressed with Ken's sophistication in combining his substantial conservation and humanitarian missions with high-level governmental authorities and other SCI partners in Africa, he joined SCI as soon as he returned.

TVF's vision is large, including restoring the Tule elk back into its historic range in the Ventana Wilderness, establishing bilingual outdoor education facilities at its Mueller Ranch headquarters, opening up the steelhead run on the Arroyo Seco River, improving water quality and quantity for the Salinas River aquifer, as well as acquiring over 1,674 acres with a BLM leasehold of over 2,500 acres, and over five miles of border contiguous with the Ventana Wilderness.

To help fund this and other meaningful wildlife conservation initiatives, contribute to the SCI Foundation. Call 800-377-5399 or visit www.sci-foundation.org.