

CALIFORNIA PAINTED LADY

ATASCADERO CREEK RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

The riparian corridor in this area along Atascadero creek is pristine. In healthy streams such as this, trees and other water-loving plants stabilize the stream banks, serving as a buffer against erosion and flooding. The vegetation also shades the area, cooling the water and lowering evaporation. This plant life provides essential habitat for wildlife and enhances groundwater recharge.

Riparian corridors, the vegetative areas along

rivers and streams, are the most productive areas in the forest and grasslands. Cooled water supports aquatic life such as the steelhead trout, western pond turtles, and red-legged frogs. Birds and other animals use the corridor for food, water, nesting, and protective cover. Thick vegetation allows safe movement from one habitat to another, increasing biodiversity.

Riparian corridors are the arteries of the land, and

maintaining their health is vital. A healthy creek bottom has clean gravel and sand, allowing rapid infiltration and recharge of the aquifer. Fire, excess removal of plants by animals and soil excavation leads to erosion and sedimentation of the creeks, inhibiting groundwater recharge.

ALPS has taken care to avoid disturbing the native vegetation, soil, and stream beds during the planning and construction of the trails throughout the Preserve.



SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

LIVE OAK

LACE LICHEN

ACORN WOODPECKER



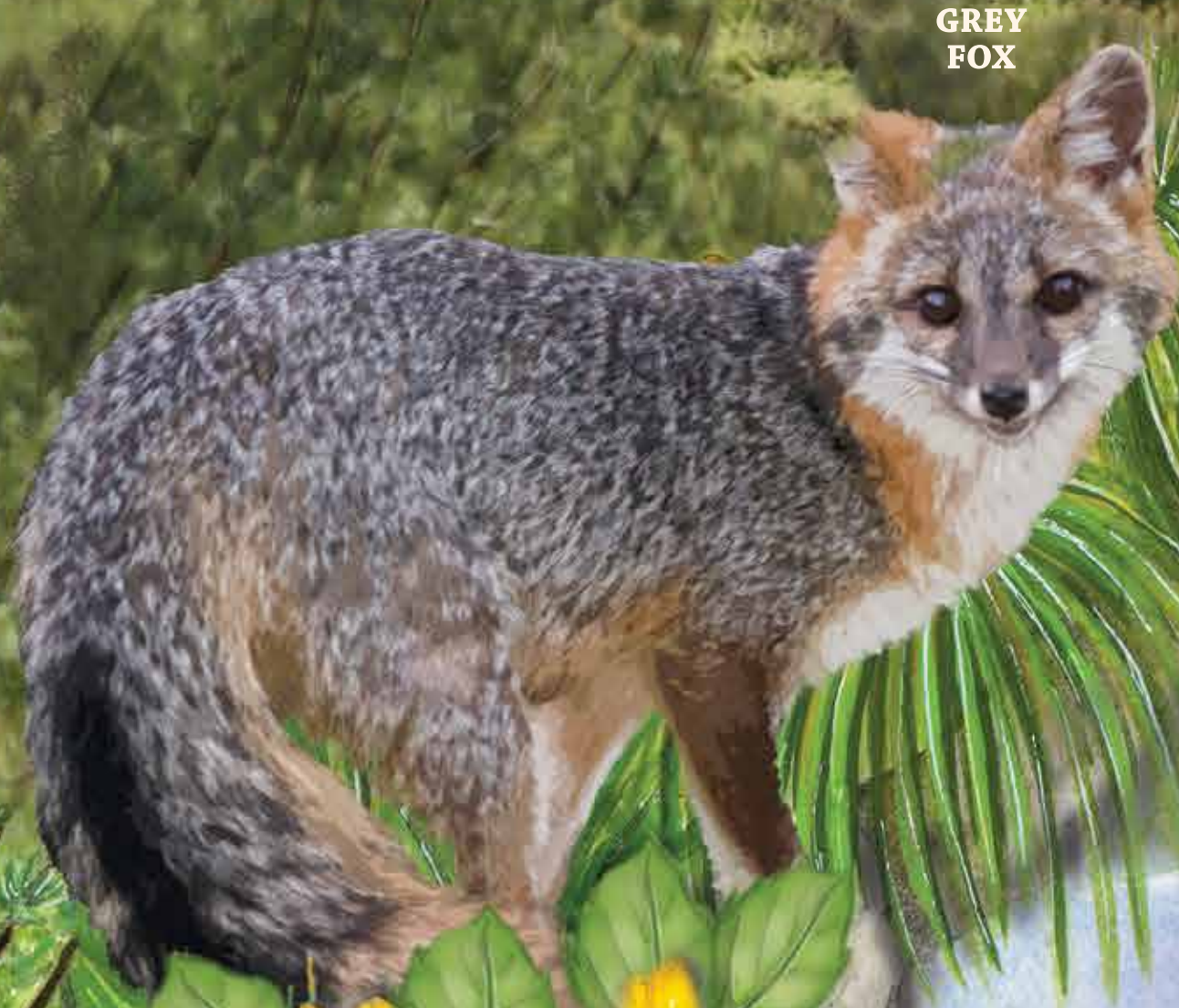
MULE DEER (MALE)

ARROYO WILLOW

BAY TREE

POISON OAK (SPRING)

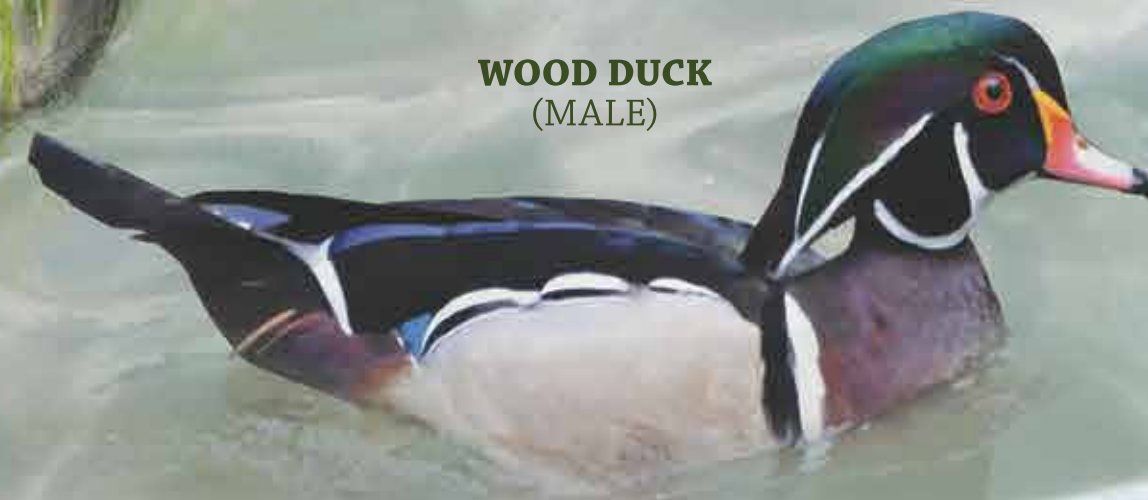
SYCAMORE TREE



GREY FOX

FIELD SEDGE

MUGWORT

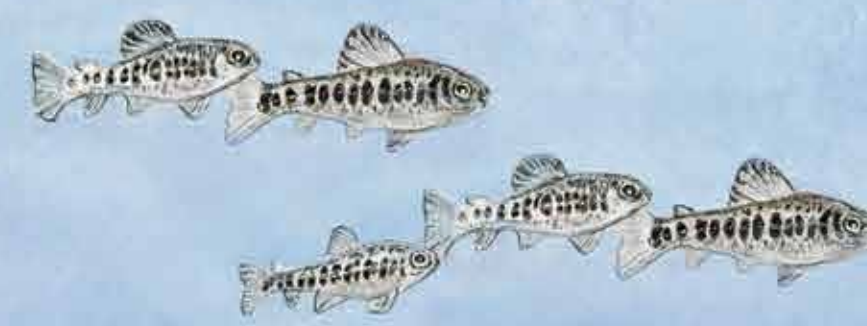


WOOD DUCK (MALE)

RACCOON

MINER'S LETTUCE

Creeks provide water, food and shade for wildlife, as well as breeding and nesting sites. Water evaporates more slowly when a creek is properly shaded, allowing it to filter through the rocks and soil into the groundwater.



STEELHEAD TROUT (FINGERLINGS)

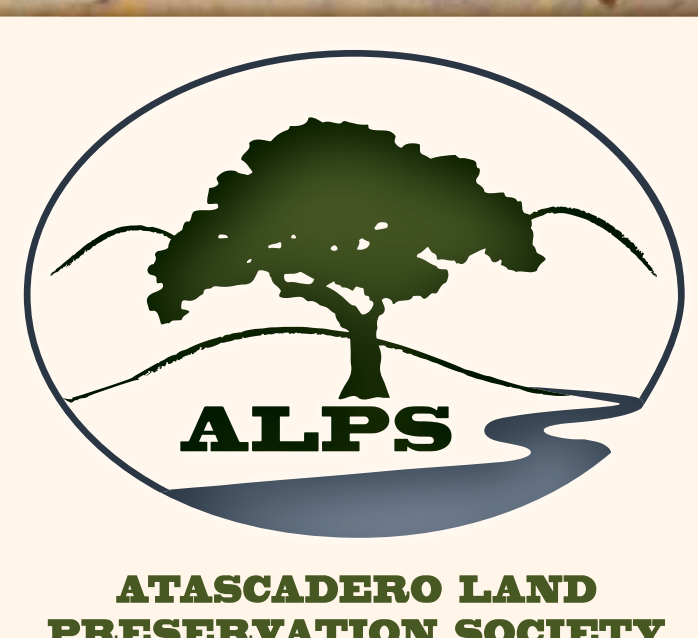


CHORUS FROG



COAST RANGE NEWT

F I L T R A T I O N



ATASCADERO LAND PRESERVATION SOCIETY