



Conservation
Lands
Foundation

Protecting America's Heritage



MEDIA ADVISORY:

**“From Military Service to Green Service: Veterans Conservation Corps
for Cotoni-Coast Dairies**

*An innovative partnership that supports young military veterans, youth volunteers, and conservation in honor of
National Public Lands Day, Saturday, October 3*

What's Happening: On Saturday, October 3, young military veterans who are part of the California Conservation Corps will begin a trail project in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other partners at Cotoni-Coast Dairies, public lands just north of Wilder Ranch State Park on Highway 1. The 12-member conservation corps will be joined by Youth Eco-Stewards Interns from the Bay Youth for the Environment program, Pacific Gas and Electric Company employees, and local volunteers for a special field trip and workday in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. The partnership is made possible by a grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Members of the media are invited to meet the CCC's Veterans Crew, hear from project supporters, and see the partnership at work at Cotoni-Coast Dairies. Additional partners include the Conservation Lands Foundation and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, who are hosting the kick-off event.

The event will celebrate the beginning of this Veterans Conservation Corps project, engage and educate young people about the natural resources of the area, and offer opportunities to interview participants and partners. Pacific Gas and Electric Company has made the partnership possible with a \$50,000 grant to the Conservation Lands Foundation.

When & Where: Saturday, October 3, 9:30 – 1pm. Speakers and recognition of participants takes place at 12:30. Cotoni-Coast Dairies are public lands managed by BLM, located on the Santa Cruz North Coast, north of Wilder Ranch State Park on Highway 1. Signs will direct you to parking off Highway 1.

Why: “From Military Service to Green Service” is a partnership that will employ a crew of 12 military veterans to work for 2.5 weeks building trails, protecting habitat, and creating better access for people to enjoy the beautiful Cotoni-Coast Dairies property, part of the BLM-managed National Conservation Lands. Partners include the Conservation Lands Foundation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, California Conservation Corps, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—all made possible with generous funding from Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Everyone wins: veterans receive jobs and work experience, volunteers and young people help steward public lands, and private and public entities participate with their expertise and financial support. As a result, the general public will be able to enjoy the scenery and wildlife at Cotoni-Coast Dairies for years to come.

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About Conservation Lands Foundation:

The non-profit Conservation Lands Foundation is the only organization in the country dedicated solely to protecting, restoring and expanding the National Conservation Lands so they will endure from generation to generation. The National Conservation Lands are 31 million acres of protected public lands and waterways, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, that have joined the ranks of our national parks and wildlife refuges as guardians of our nation's heritage and drivers of the country's \$646 billion outdoor recreation economy. www.ConservationLands.org

About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks:

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is an entrepreneurial nonprofit sustaining the legacy of our state parks and beaches. Through an innovative partnership with California State Parks, and by leveraging local community support, Friends has provided millions of dollars of funding for educational programs, visitor services and capital projects. Founded in 1976, Friends is passionately dedicated to the preservation of our spectacular natural environment and rich cultural history. Friends also operates six ParkStores, offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. ParkStore locations include Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff, Wilder Ranch and Online. Learn more at ThatsMyPark.org or via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.

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