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Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Partners Announce Historic Ribbon-Cutting Events for December 2, 2026

[Details on how people around the world can be part of the momentous ribbon-cutting event are here.](#)

Los Angeles, CA (August 20, 2026) – The National Wildlife Federation’s #SaveLACougars campaign and The Wildlife Crossing Fund are excited to share details about the historic ribbon-cutting celebrations that are being planned for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing happening on December 2nd. The event will also mark the launch of a partnership between the National Wildlife Federation and The Wildlife Crossing Fund that will support the long-term research and native habitat restoration needs for the visionary bridge – and advance large-scale connectivity efforts around the globe.

The events happening on December 2nd include a public celebration at King Gillette Ranch and a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing that will be broadcast live. Custom artwork to commemorate this special occasion was created by artist Wilda Lynn Garrett.

“What a momentous time for all of us who have watched this crossing go from an impossible dream to an actual structure rising over the freeway that will ensure the future of mountain lions and all wildlife in the Santa Monica Mountains. Ribbon-cutting is going to be an emotional time for so many of our supporters around the globe, and for those who can’t attend our celebrations in person, we’ll be broadcasting it live,” **said Beth Pratt, President and CEO of the Wildlife Crossing Fund.**

“Ribbon-cutting for me also represents a beginning, not an ending. Our efforts for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing don’t end after construction is complete—continuing the landmark research and ongoing habitat restoration is key. And as Wallis Annenberg once said to me, “we have to do more.” I am saddened she won’t be with us to cut that ribbon, but we are honoring her legacy not just with finishing this crossing, but by continuing to advance connectivity infrastructure worldwide.”

"The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing stands as a profound testament to what is possible when we refuse to accept the fragmentation of our natural world, and the National Wildlife Federation is incredibly proud to have helped bring this monumental project to life, under the leadership of Beth Pratt," **said Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.** "We owe an immense debt of gratitude to the visionary partners who made this possible, including the late Wallis Annenberg, Governor Gavin Newsom, Secretary Wade Crowfoot, the California Natural Resources Agency, Caltrans, the State of California, the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Rock Design Associates, and everyone who has worked with National Wildlife Federation on this project. When we cut this ribbon, we will not just celebrate a single bridge—we will be celebrating a global movement to restore wildlife connectivity. We look forward to deepening our partnership with the Wildlife Crossing Fund to advance ambitious connectivity infrastructure everywhere, ensuring this extraordinary crossing serves as the ultimate blueprint for saving wildlife across the country and around the globe."

When it opens this year, the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing will be the largest of its kind in the world. Named #15 of the 50 Most Influential Projects of 2022, alongside the James Webb Telescope and the Human Genome Project, it serves as a global model for urban wildlife conservation, and a testament to the visionary, large-scale solutions we need to build to

ensure the wildlife that lives in the Santa Monica Mountains thrive in the future. The landmark project is the result of decades of wildlife research, planning, science-led design and the engineering required to build a wildlife crossing in one of the most challenging sites in the United States, given the size of 101 freeway that it spans across, traffic volumes in that area and utility relocation needs, just to name a few.

Making the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing a reality involved a multi-agency collaboration that was led by the National Wildlife Federation, Caltrans, the National Park Service, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, with landscape architecture design led by Rock Design Associates. The project is also the result of a public-private partnership of a monumental scope and was funded in part by charitable donations. Philanthropic partners include Leonardo DiCaprio, one of the earliest donors to the project, along with Wallis Annenberg, Frank and Joann Randall, and over 6,000 donors from around the world.

The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing's ribbon-cutting moment later this year is only the beginning. As part of the Wildlife Crossing Fund, which was first created in 2023 with help from the philanthropist, Wallis Annenberg – the project will continue through native plant habitat stewardship on the surface of the bridge and on acres of natural open space alongside it, work at its dedicated native plant nursery, education and outreach programs and long-term research on mountain lions and the many wildlife species that live in the Santa Monica mountains. As construction on the bridge approaches its final stages, the #SaveLACougars campaign and its partners are preparing to invite members of the press out to the site for a comprehensive project update early this Fall. Details for that will be announced soon.

The Wildlife Crossing Fund is a movement that aims to raise a half-billion dollars from private philanthropy and leverage public dollars to accelerate construction of wildlife crossing projects that will protect wildlife and people. Earlier this year, the team announced details for a series of crossings in the Mammoth Lakes area that will protect mule deer populations and is working with partners to advance additional projects in Lake Tahoe, Colorado, New England, and Virginia, and more.

To support the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing's ribbon-cutting on December 2nd and learn more about the broad connectivity projects the National Wildlife Federation and the Wildlife Crossing Fund are working to build, visit <https://wildlifecrossingfund.org/sponsorship-opportunities/>

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The Wildlife Crossing Fund is a non-profit that supports innovative infrastructure systems that reconnect ecosystems disrupted by roadways. To learn more about our work advancing wildlife crossings and other connectivity projects visit wildlifecrossingfund.org

The [National Wildlife Federation](#) is America's largest conservation organization with over 6 million supporters nationwide, uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). To learn more about the #SaveLACougars campaign to build the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing visit <https://savelacougars.org/>