

Waste Management El Sobrante Landfill recognized for its wildlife habitat program

El Sobrante Landfill is one of more than 100 sites across North America contributing to the company's sustainability efforts by protecting native plants and animals

RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIF. — Sept. 1, 2015 — Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill was honored at the Wildlife Habitat Council's 26th Annual Symposium recently for its achievements in protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat. The facility earned recertification of its Wildlife at Work program, which was designed by the Wildlife Habitat Council to provide a structure for cooperative efforts between management, employees and community members to create, conserve and restore wildlife habitats.

The local effort is part of a national Waste Management program that protects animal and plant species on more than 26,000 acres across North America, representing an important contribution to the company's goal of 100 certifications by 2020.

"The 42 Waste Management wildlife programs being certified and recertified by the Wildlife Habitat Council this year set the pace for the corporate conservation community," said Margaret O'Gorman, president of the Wildlife Habitat Council. "Waste Management's leadership in this field is underscored by the fact that they have more than 100 programs certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council, meeting a goal established at the highest levels within the company and achieved by a broad coalition of employees and community volunteers."

El Sobrante is a non-hazardous municipal solid waste landfill that is located in the unincorporated community of Temescal Valley. The landfill property includes a 688-acre wildlife preserve where a variety of habitats exist such as coastal sage scrub, grasslands, rock outcrops and riparian habitat. Both the active landfill and wildlife preserve are managed and preserved by Waste Management and covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan for the protection of 31 sensitive plant and animal species.

A biologist administers the site's habitat management and restoration activities, but above that, landfill team members and local residents lend a hand to conservation via the Wildlife at Work program. In an effort to enhance the El Sobrante Wildlife Preserve, in 2014 alone, staff and volunteers constructed eight burrowing owl nesting dens, rehabilitated several illegal off-highway vehicle trails, and established two restoration plots for the rare Many-stemmed Dudleya.

Since 2003, the Wildlife Habitat Council has recognized the El Sobrante Landfill for its habitat management and environmental learning program. To learn more about participating in the Wildlife at Work program, please call (951) 277-5112.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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About WHC Certifications

Since 1990, WHC has certified 659 Wildlife at Work and 168 CLL programs worldwide. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

About the Wildlife Habitat Council

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 43 states, the District of Columbia and nine other countries. To learn more, visit www.wildlifehc.org.

About Waste Management El Sobrante Landfill

Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill is located in the unincorporated area of Riverside County. The landfill serves more than one million Inland Empire residents and is a critical component of Riverside County and the greater Los Angeles region's infrastructure. The site has more than 650 acres in permanent preservation and is a critical component of preserving open space in Riverside County. For more information on the landfill, please go to www.keepinginlandempireclean.com.

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