

Connecting with Nature on Fiscalini Ranch Preserve: Naming the Plants & Animals on the Ranch



By KITTY CONNOLLY, Executive Director, Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve (fiscaliniranchpreserve.org)

Many of us treasure being close to nature on the Ranch, from wildflowers to wildlife. Abundant plants are tree lupine, lizard tail, sea thrift, and of course, Monterey pine. Familiar animals on the Ranch include deer, vole, and the ubiquitous ground squirrel.

Sometimes, if you are lucky, you might catch a glimpse of a more elusive animal. Long tailed weasel are native to Cambria, as are bobcat, grey fox, and mountain lion. Naturally, it pays to be wary of these larger predators, but they are an indicator of a healthy ecosystem.

Identifying the more unusual animals and even more so the plants can be a challenge. Friends of the Fiscalini Ranch Preserve is ready to help with free educational resources online.

Our website features illustrated lists of the plants and animals you

are likely to encounter on the Ranch and around Cambria. Most of these lists are from iNaturalist, so are based on observations by the public.

We also link to a free floral key: The Fiscalini Plant Guide by Dr. David Chipping that was published by the

Native Plant Society-San Luis Obispo. This comprehensive PDF will guide to you to the right plant identification.

So next time you wonder: “What was that?”, you can look it up at fiscaliniranchpreserve.org

