

# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF HIPCAMP PROPERTIES

## Land conservation through camping on private land

 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

### NATURAL LANDS

85,000 acres of San Luis Obispo County's natural lands are listed on Hipcamp.

### ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

These lands provide ecosystem goods and services that support livelihoods, wellbeing, and a sense of place.

### BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES

The average Hipcamp property in San Luis Obispo County provides over \$3.75 million in benefits, every year.

### HIPCAMP ECOSYSTEMS



**GRASSLANDS**  
57,164 ACRES



**SHRUBLANDS**  
10,810 ACRES



**FARMS, RANGES, & VINEYARDS**  
9,792 ACRES



**DEVELOPED OPEN SPACE**  
2,983 ACRES



**FORESTS**  
1,262 ACRES



**ALL OTHER LANDS**  
2,942 ACRES

Local landowners in San Luis Obispo County partner with Hipcamp to make their properties available for camping and other outdoor experiences in natural grasslands, rangelands, forests, farms, and pastures. These properties range from cattle ranches and working vineyards to family-owned preserves and apple orchards. The 85,000 acres currently listed on Hipcamp provide multiple benefits to San Luis Obispo communities, such as cleaning the air and water and providing habitat for wildlife. It is estimated that San Luis Obispo County Hipcamp properties generate over \$274 million in benefits each year—that's \$3,230 per acre, every year.

# \$274 MILLION

THE ANNUAL VALUE OF ECOSYSTEM GOODS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL HIPCAMP PROPERTIES



# NATURE'S SERVICES SUPPORT RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND HUMAN WELLBEING

Ecosystems produce goods and services we depend on everyday—from clean water and air, to thriving fisheries, protection from storms, beautiful views, and recreational opportunities. Identifying the economic value of these goods and services can highlight the importance of natural capital to our communities.

## SOME ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF HIPCAMP PROPERTIES



**AIR QUALITY** Plants can clean the air, removing particulate matter that is harmful to human health, and producing the oxygen we breathe. **Air quality services provided by San Luis Obispo Hipcamp properties are valued at \$0.30 per acre, accumulating to more than \$22,700 per year.**



**CARBON SEQUESTRATION** Ecosystems help regulate local and global climate stability, capturing and storing carbon in plants and soils. Forests, grasslands, and wetlands play critical roles, absorbing carbon and mitigating climate change. **Hipcamp properties in San Luis Obispo County sequester \$5.5 million of atmospheric carbon each year, an average of \$65 per acre, each year.**



**FOOD PROVISIONING** Host properties with croplands, orchards, or vineyards produce food while facilitating natural control of pests, weeds, and agricultural diseases. **These services have been valued at \$6 an acre, totaling \$506,000 per year in the county.**



**RECREATION** Beautiful landscapes, clean water, and thriving wildlife are central to outdoor recreation. Camping, swimming, birdwatching, and picnicking experiences are all enhanced by healthy ecosystems. **The recreational benefits Hipcamp properties provide to visitors—beyond what they pay out of pocket—are estimated at \$10 per acre in the county, totaling \$883,000 each year in nonmarket value.**



**WATER SUPPLY** Vegetation captures precipitation, recharging groundwater and surface waters for a wide range of uses, including municipal, agricultural, and industrial needs. **The benefits of natural water supply that Hipcamp properties provide to San Luis Obispo communities are estimated at \$6 per acre, or a total of \$508,000 per year.**

