

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

July - August 2013

You Can Help ... Keep Up the Good Work ...

As mentioned in this report, the work of Citizen Scientists in documenting bird, animal and plant life on More Mesa is vital to our understanding of the More Mesa ecosystem. We call on all of you who visit More Mesa to report bird, animal and plant sightings by clicking on the lower right button of our web site at

www.moremesa.org.

... and get friends to join our supporter list.

To join the list of people who care about More Mesa, visit www.moremesa.org and click on the "Sign Up To Be A Supporter" button.

Thanks!

What's Happening About Potential Development On More Mesa?

There is no news concerning development.

Ask the President:

Q. Can the new owners block off access to More Mesa?

A. Maybe ... There is always potential for owners of private property to restrict access to their land. When the previous owner of More Mesa acquired the property in the mid-1980s, he proposed to enclose it with a six-foot-high, chain linked and barbed wire fence. This fence would have restricted access for both people and animals.

The plan was eventually dropped after a concerted effort on the part of a local grass roots organization, the More Mesa Foundation. These folks organized and documented the widespread community outrage over any potential closure of More Mesa. The County of Santa Barbara also insisted on an EIR for the fence plan. When the owner was unwilling to undertake the EIR, the plan was dropped. We don't know what the new owner will do with regard to access. However, we will inform all of our supporters immediately, if any action of this kind is ever taken.

This Month on More Mesa:

More Mesa provides excellent habitat for probably the most important White-tailed Kite population on the South Coast. Two or three pairs of this beautiful raptor, the signature bird of MMPC, and a fully protected species in the state of California, routinely make More Mesa their home.

It is the mission of the More Mesa Preservation Coalition to preserve More Mesa, in its entirety, for all times. We've been at it since 2000.



And, this year, true to form, there are two nesting pairs of kites on More Mesa. Citizen scientists, filing sightings reports on our More Mesa web site, have documented that the historical nest on "east" fledged two chicks and the nest on "west" two chicks as well. Although these numbers are smaller than average, they are very gratifying, especially in light of the drought conditions we are currently experiencing. Indeed, most of the historical kite nests in the Goleta Valley have been abandoned this year, making chicks produced on More Mesa all the more important.

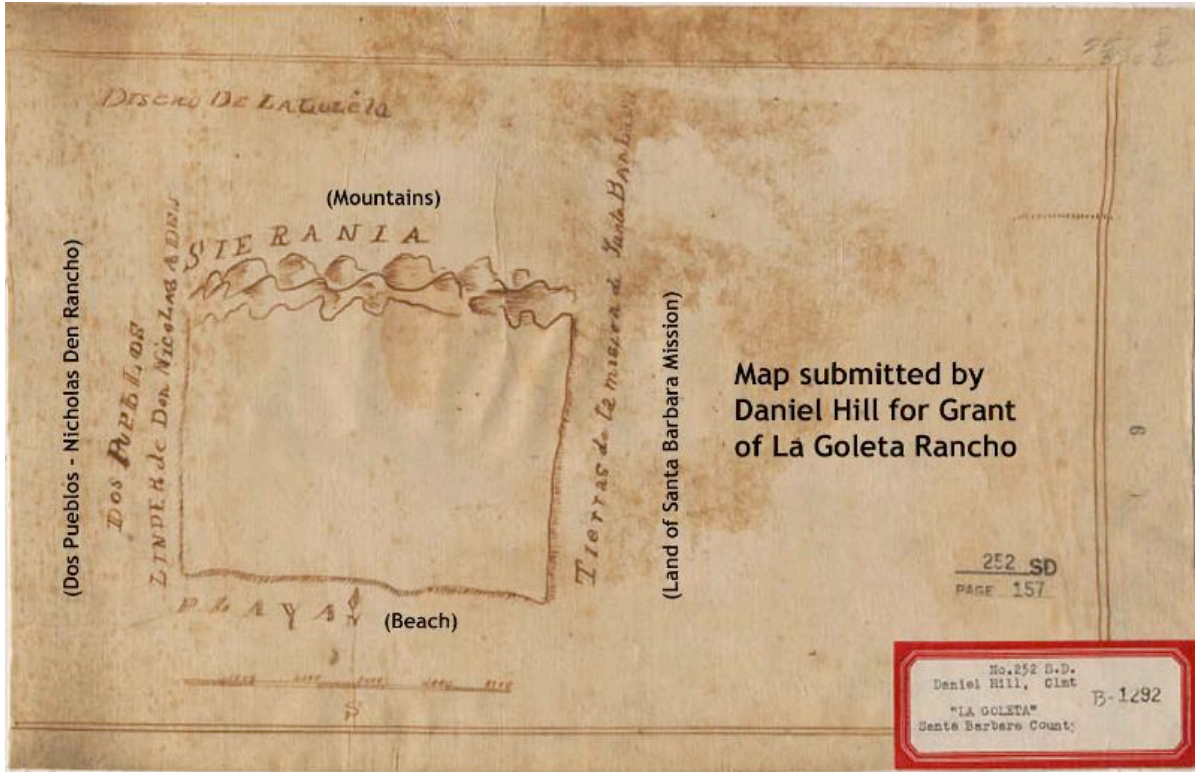


Photo by Morgan Ball



Daniel Hill-SB Historical Museum

The Past: More Mesa was part of the 4,426 acre La Goleta Rancho, the "Ranch of the Schooner". On June 10th 1846, Governor Pio Pico signed the deed that granted possession of this land to Daniel Hill. Pico's signature meant that, for the first time in history, the entire Goleta Valley was in private ownership. And Hill received his Mexican Land Grant just in the nick of time! Only four days later, the forerunner of the American Annexation of California began.



Map submitted by Daniel Hill for Grant of La Goleta Rancho

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