“Oh wow! I see a bald eagle!”

This from a third-grade student, Anna, whose only experience with bald eagles came from a textbook.

Now Anna saw one in the wild. And she was elated.

It’s the same feeling I get when I spot a deer leaping through the trees, or when a bobcat saunters by in the waning sunlight.

Elated, and grateful.

Anna was invited into the special world where bald eagles, deer, and bobcats live. The wild world of the San Joaquin River Parkway.

It’s a place that you can help create for wildlife AND people.

Do something great for the natural places along the Parkway and the wildlife that depends on those places for survival. Make a special gift today.

For the last few years, bald eagles have delighted thousands of people like you, and children like Anna, along the San Joaquin River Parkway.

But it wasn’t always this way.

In 1963, the population of bald eagles declined to just a few hundred in the whole country. Loss of habitat and overuse of certain pesticides such as DDT
contributed to the bald eagle’s decline. And in 1967 the bald eagle was listed as an endangered species.

The eagle’s rebound is one of the great conservation stories of the last century.

Through conservation efforts like improving water quality and protecting nest sites and open space, the bald eagle was saved from extinction. Today, the population of bald eagles is healthy and continues to grow.

The San Joaquin River Parkway is part of this conservation success story. A pair of bald eagles began nesting along the San Joaquin River in 2014, for the first time since Friant Dam was constructed in the 1940s. Support from people just like you has helped make this exciting outcome possible.

*You can be a champion for the bald eagles that call the San Joaquin River Parkway home.*
And that’s why I’m writing to you today – to ask that you *make a special donation toward continuing this important work.*

Because the San Joaquin River Parkway is important for people AND wildlife.

Every day, thousands of cyclists, hikers, runners, dog-walkers, and children like Anna use and enjoy the Parkway’s trails and open spaces.

And at night a different group of Parkway users comes out. If you were in the right place at the right time, you might hear them. The skitter of raccoon feet, the flap of a beaver tail, or the screech of a barn owl.

If you walked a little farther in the dark, you might hear the soft munching of a mule deer, followed by the gentle rustle of grass as it bounded away, startled by a bobcat or coyote.

*Your special gift of $50, $100, or more – will steward the land that these hidden users of the San Joaquin River Parkway depend on for survival.*
And that brings me back to Anna. Actually, I need to stop and tell you Anna is not her real name. But her story of discovery is real! And people just like you helped make it happen.

It happened at the River Center. A volunteer set up a spotting scope in the parking lot and pointed it in the direction of the river. He explained that there are many hidden users of the San Joaquin River. If we are quiet and pay attention, we might get to see some of these creatures.

“We might even get to see a bald eagle.” he said.

One by one the students stepped up, closed one eye, and peered into the spotting scope. Anna patiently waited for her turn. “I hope I get to see an eagle,” she said.

She looked through the spotting scope, and there it was. A bald eagle perched perfectly still at the top of a tree in the largest nest Anna had ever seen. Suddenly, a wild part of the world – where the hidden Parkway users are found – was opened up for Anna.

And she was elated.

The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust is an organization dedicated to protecting the river and the wildlife it supports. And to making that land available for education and recreation. Scientists, naturalists, volunteers, and students come here to protect and restore land, build trails, and learn about the natural world.

Half of the River Parkway Trust’s staff spend every day creating better living quarters for local wildlife. They work with partners to design habitat improvement projects to benefit wildlife. They plant trees, shrubs, and plants to make hiding places and feeding or hunting grounds for fish and wildlife. As the habitat improves, more wildlife - like the bald eagle - make the San Joaquin River home.

This is where you come in. This is where your gift of $50, $100 or more can make a real difference for continuing the work to create and protect the San Joaquin River Parkway. You understand that creating the Parkway matters, for people and wildlife.
Please make a special gift to the River Parkway Trust. Write a check today and make an immediate impact on the effort to create and protect the San Joaquin River Parkway.

You can be a champion for the eagles, mule deer, raccoons, bobcats, and hundreds of bird species that call the San Joaquin River home. You can help make sure that they never become endangered again. And by providing habitat for these creatures, you can give children like Anna the chance to discover a new piece of the wild world.

Please consider a gift of $50 or $100. If you can do more, please be as generous as possible. If not, please find the number that's right for you.

No gift is too small to help support the wildlife that is depending on all of us for their survival. Every donation makes an impact.

If you have any questions about the River Parkway Trust or any of our projects and programs, please contact me personally at 559-248-8480 ext. 105.

Thank you,

Sharon Weaver
Executive Director