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## Wildlife foundation opens Lincoln office

By Cheri March, *The News Messenger*

Lincoln has a nature-conscious new neighbor.

The Wildlife Heritage Foundation, a Woodland-based nonprofit, celebrated its move to Second Street in Lincoln on Friday.

“Primarily, (we moved here) because we have a lot of property situated locally,” said Patrick Shea, the foundation’s executive director and chief financial officer.

WHF manages and maintains more than 10,000 acres of conservation easements from Shasta to Riverside counties with the mission to protect, enhance and restore California’s wildlife habitat. A large portion of the land is concentrated in Placer County.

In Lincoln, WHF has oversight responsibilities for open space in Sun City Lincoln Hills and the Orchard Creek area, including property in the McBean Park expansion area and behind the rodeo grounds that mitigates for the Sun City development.

Though the city of Lincoln owns the land, the foundation’s job is to ensure easement compliance for the preserved wetlands, streams, ponds, tributary drainage channels and grasslands.

The group also manages easements for Loomis housing developments Bickford Ranch, Sierra Springs and Sierra de Montserrat.

“We’re very excited to be here,” said Kelly Velasco, the group’s education programs coordinator. “And I’m excited to get our new education outreach program off the ground.”

The foundation plans to connect to the community through youth involvement. Velasco will be taking local students on field trips to the group’s preserves.

“Our gift to the community is our desire to promote conservation,” she said.

In September, the foundation will hold its first nature walk, “Walk for the Green,” on the 500-acre Sun City easement.

The walk will focus on 75 bird species that habitat the preserve.

Besides its operations, the nonprofit’s more made personal sense for officers and directors.

Shea, a retired USDA Forest Service research entomologist, just moved to Lincoln. Foundation President Riley Swift has lived in town for 29 years. And Robert Weygandt, a board of director for the nonprofit, is also Placer County supervisor.

*The Wildlife Heritage Foundation is located at 563 Second St., Suite B. For more information, go online to [www.wildlifeheritage.org](http://www.wildlifeheritage.org).*