

# Trails, Interpretation and Connecting Visitors to Resources



Amy Lethbridge  
California Trails Conference  
2014

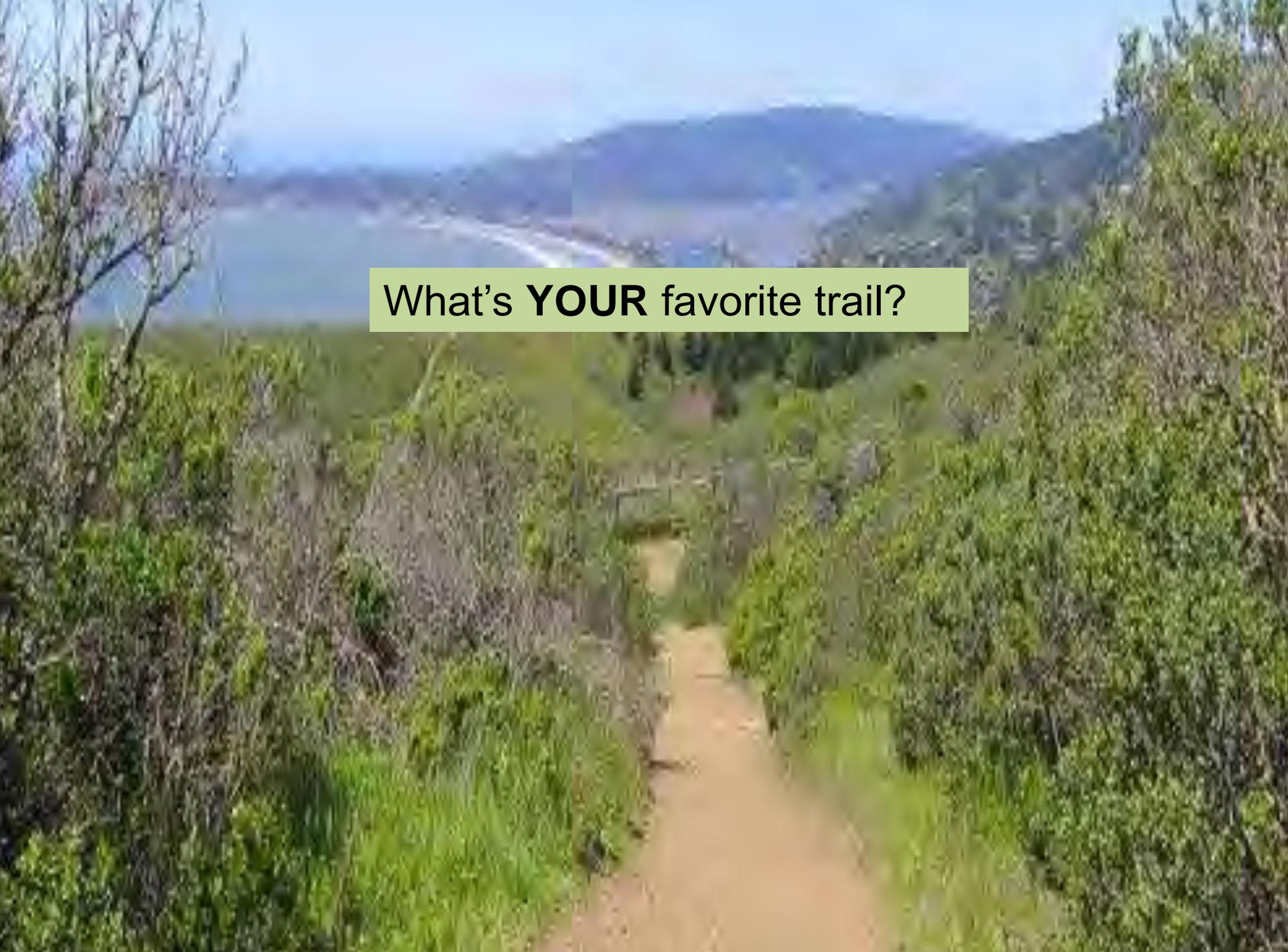


Interpretation is the mechanism with which we **convey values, promote stewardship and create legacies** for and about trails.



“Trails do more than lead us to a destination. . . they are themselves a destination -- filled with history, mystery, nature and awe -- sometimes subtle, and sometimes as brilliant as the moon.”



A dirt trail winds through lush green bushes and shrubs. In the background, a coastal town is visible, nestled between a blue body of water and a range of mountains under a clear sky. The scene is captured from an elevated perspective, looking down the trail.

What's **YOUR** favorite trail?

# Trails in Marin, Trails in the Shasta-T



This is not me. But it is Daniel Boone.





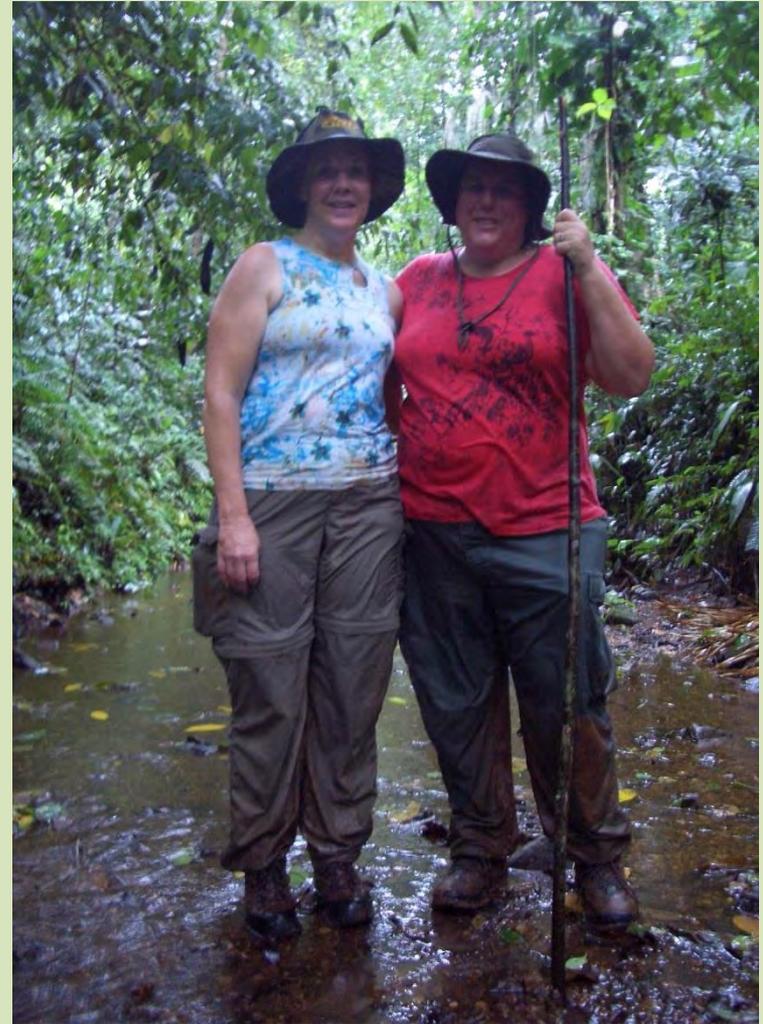
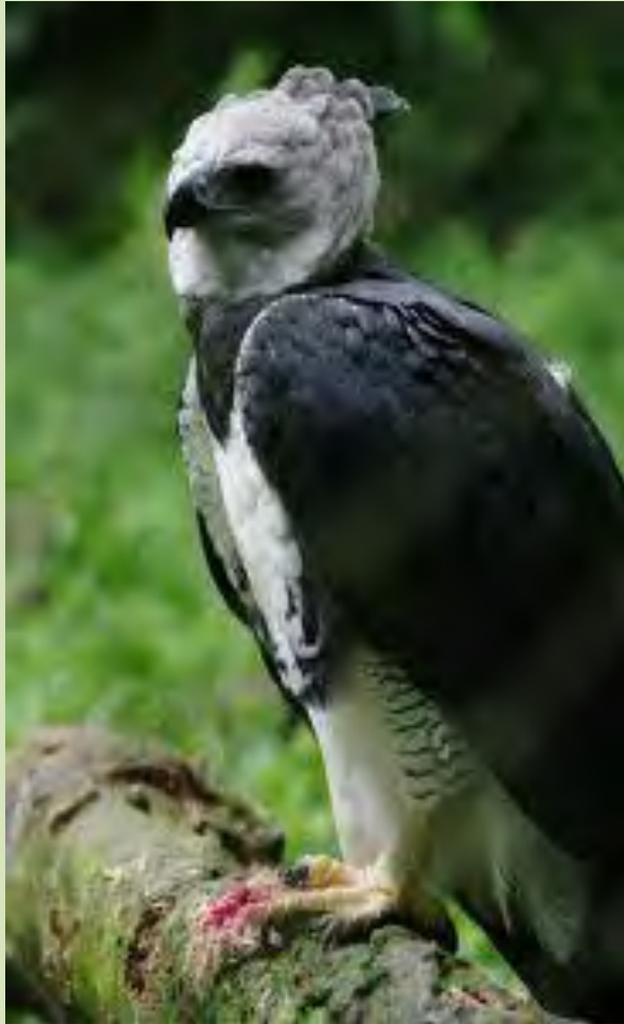


This is not “my” cat. But it is my dad!





This is not “my” Harpy. But it is me on THAT hike!

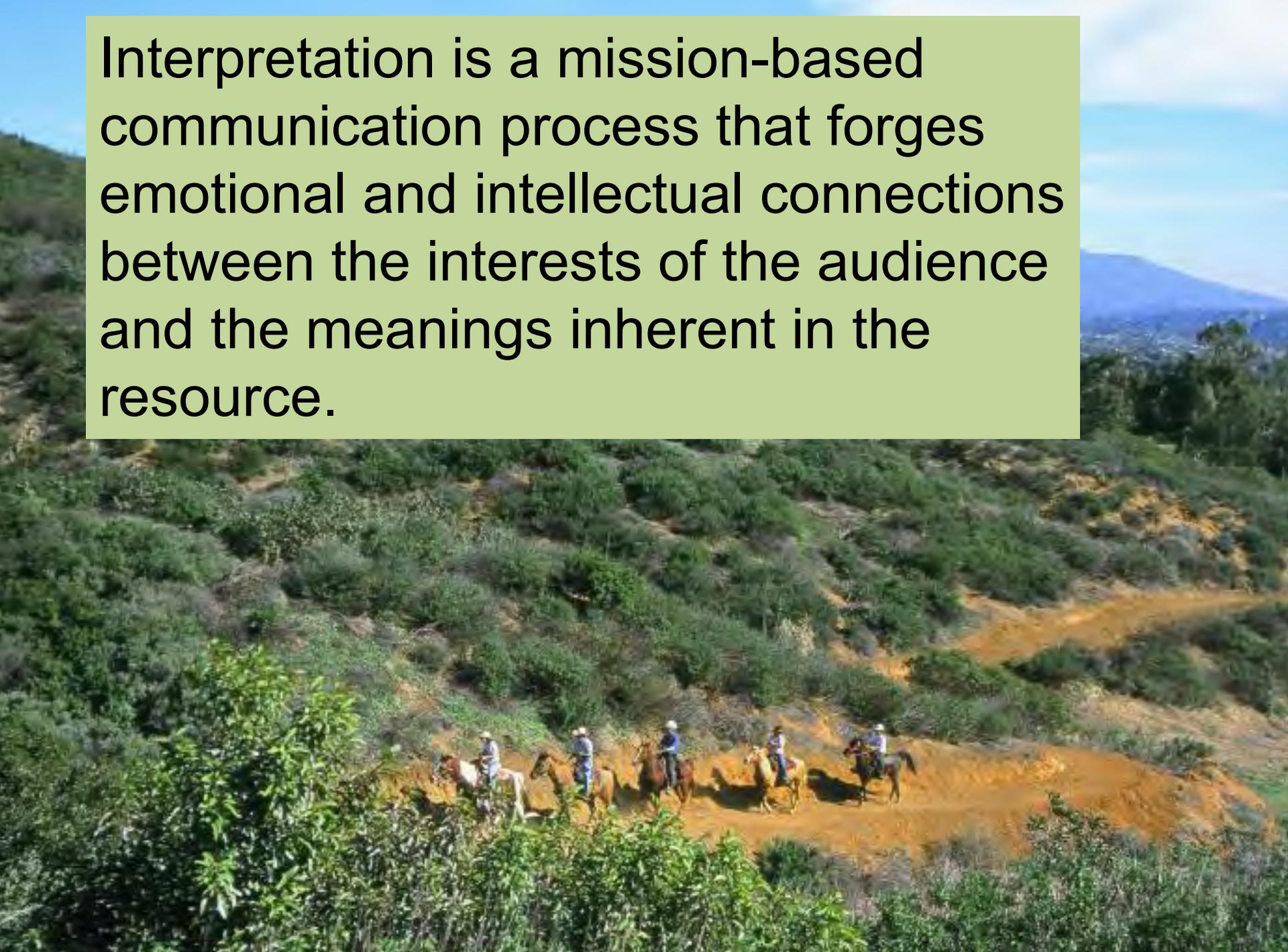




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
INTERPRETATION



Interpretation is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.





# Interpretation is Poetry

- Purposeful
- Organized
- Enjoyable
- Thematic
- Relevant
- You



Mission-based  
First things first  
Science AND Art  
**MESSAGES**  
Know your audience  
Bring your knowledge  
and passion







**Compton**  
To  
**The Santa Monica Mountains**

Made possible by  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority





# Interpretive Continuum



“In the end we will conserve only what we love;  
we will love only what we understand; and we  
will understand only what we have been  
taught.” Baba Dioum



Interpretation is the mechanism with which we **convey values, promote stewardship and create legacies** for and about trails.





“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.” John Muir

Thank you and  
happy trails!

