
Niemela, C., "Memo from C. Niemela (Bloom Biological) to Jesse Grantham (USFWS) regarding observations of California condor in Potrero Canyon in January 2009" (March 11, 2009)

Chris A. Niemela
Bloom Biological, Inc.
13611 Hewes Ave
Santa Ana, CA 92705

March 11, 2009

Jesse Grantham
California Condor Recovery Program Coordinator
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Rd, Suite A
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Jesse:

On January 29, 2009, I was notified by USFWS that several California Condors were on Newhall Land property, as detected by the GPS units worn by the condors. They had been on the ranch for several consecutive days that week, which strongly suggested that they were feeding on a carcass.

On January 30, I was notified by Newhall Land and asked to search for the condors and the carcass. At 1345, I located a cow carcass near the condor GPS points. (Carcass position: 34.39814, -118.65232). It was in lower Potrero Canyon just up canyon from the corrals. The carcass was in a flat open field surrounded by open grassy hills, on which the condors had been perched. The carcass had been picked clean to the bone. There were condor feathers on the ground at the carcass. The condors that had been at the carcass were no longer in the immediate area or on Newhall property, as determined by radio telemetry. While on Newhall property I also scanned for non-GPS condors, but none were detected.

If you have any further questions, please call me directly at 949-632-3902, or Matt Carpenter of Newhall Land at 661-255-4259.

Sincerely,

Chris A. Niemela

Chris A. Niemela

cc: Matt Carpenter, Peter Bloom
attachment: 1 photo

