

Citizens' Guide to Protecting Your National Forest



First Edition

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FORESTWATCH is a local nonprofit organization working to protect and restore the Los Padres National Forest and other public lands along California's Central Coast. Through community involvement, scientific collaboration, and legal advocacy, we work to safeguard the forests, hills, streams, wetlands, coastal areas, and wildlife of this spectacular area.

FORESTWATCH is the only organization working to protect the entire forest – from the Big Sur Coastline to the Sespe Wildlands – from damage caused by oil drilling, illegal off-road vehicle use, unmanaged livestock grazing, and other development.

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Goals of this Guide

This guide is designed to provide a stepping-stone for citizens as they become more involved in issues and decisions affecting the Los Padres National Forest. FORESTWATCH has put together this educational tool as a way to inspire concerned citizens to take responsible action when our public lands are threatened by commercial exploitation. We hope that this guide will help folks realize that the future of our national forest is the responsibility of each and every one of us, and that in order to protect these special places, citizens must become informed and active in forest issues.

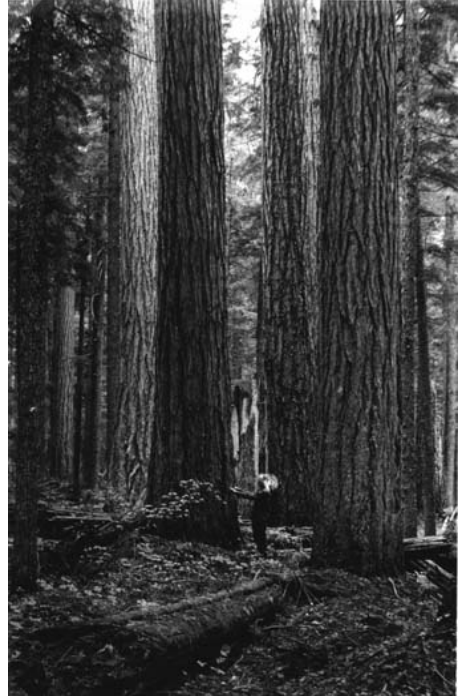
Goals

- Provide information about the purpose, history, and uses of national forests.
- Educate citizens about the benefits of forests and how certain activities like oil drilling, off-road vehicle abuse, unmanaged livestock grazing, and logging can harm forests and nearby communities.
- Demonstrate how citizens can stay informed about proposed activities and development proposals on their public lands and show ways that they can evaluate those projects to reduce or eliminate threats to the forest.
- Inform citizens about some of the laws and procedures governing the Forest Service and explain how they can use the agency's administrative process to ensure the proper applications of those laws.
- Show citizens how to gain support through public and political avenues, as well as how to work with FORESTWATCH.

This Land is Your Land: A Brief History of Your Forest

The very existence of the National Forest system is a significant conservation achievement. These are public lands, owned and managed by the American people to ensure sustainable use today and to protect their bounty for future generations.

In the late 1800s, forests were being logged at an alarming pace. To protect some of these areas, Congress authorized the creation of Forest Reserves in 1891. This legislation was supported by a broad array of interests including conservationists, hunters and anglers, garden clubs, farmers, and cities needing watershed protection.



"I think our people are growing more and more to understand that in reference to the forests and the wild creatures of the wilderness our aim should be not to destroy them simply for the selfish pleasure of one generation, but to keep them for our children and our children's children."

President Theodore Roosevelt,
Santa Barbara. May 9, 1903

Over 17 million acres were initially protected as Forest Reserves kept free from logging and other forms of commercial extraction. Congress later doubled the size of the Forest Reserves, but at a great price – logging would be allowed, a significant setback for John Muir and other preservationists of the time.

The Forest Reserves were renamed National Forests in the early 1900s, and placed under the authority of the U.S. Forest Service, a federal agency within the Department of Agriculture. More

and more land was added to the National Forest system throughout the 1900s to protect forests and mountain streams. Today, the National Forest System contains over 192 million acres of public lands, including 155 national forests found in nearly every region of the country. The Forest Service's commitment to good stewardship of the land, waters, and wildlife has shifted back and forth over the decades. Initially, the agency was for the most part a good steward, approving only small-scale logging projects and ensuring that the forests were protected for the benefit of future generations.



Things changed during World War II as the agency began a period of intensive resource extraction. As conflicts grew over the proper use of forests, Congress passed the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960, establishing a formal policy that the national forests be used for a wide variety of activities – outdoor recreation, range, timber, mineral extraction, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, the law was ineffective and did little to eliminate unsustainable practices.

Congress passed its strongest forest protection law in 1964 with the Wilderness Act, permanently protecting 54 wilderness areas across 9.1 million acres. Today, this number has increased nearly five-fold to 42.8 million acres, or 23% of the National Forest system.

But even this did not stem the tide of commercial exploitation. Citizens eventually gained the right to challenge some of the most destructive activities in the 1970s, when stronger environmental laws finally began to offer true protection for our national forests. These efforts culminated in forest management plans that provide for greater protection and

public involvement, wilderness areas covering millions of acres, policies issued by the Reagan administration to protect wildlife, and policies by the Clinton administration to protect roadless areas.

After progress towards more sustainable forest management and the protection of ecologically sensitive areas, the tide has been rapidly shifting backwards. Several of the Forest Service's most significant



conservation achievements are being undone and replaced with policies more favorable to development.

The Los Padres National Forest

The Los Padres National Forest has avoided many of these historic conflicts because it contains little – if any – commercially valuable timber. But logging has occurred here. Combined with abuse by shepherders (who removed large swaths of vegetation to promote grass growth), excessive cattle grazing, and mining operations, logging caused soil erosion and wrought havoc on the forest's streams and rivers. Floods and fires in the late 1890s caused so much damage that nearby farmers and other concerned citizens demanded protection of the mountain vegetation in order to maintain the pristine water supply.

The first oil well in the forest was drilled in 1856, and like most of these early wells, it came up dry. Speculators eventually struck oil in Tar Creek, and the forest's first (and largest) oil field – the Sespe Oil Field – began production shortly thereafter in 1887.

Protection arrived in 1898, when President William McKinley established the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Forest Reserves. A year later, he proclaimed the Santa Inez, the San Luis Obispo, and the Monterey Forest Reserves. Eventually, President Franklin D. Roosevelt combined all these forests and renamed it the Los Padres National Forest by Executive Order in 1938.

Also in the 1930s, the Forest Chief provided additional protection for parts of the new forest, establishing the Ventana and San Rafael Primitive Areas. This designation would not become permanent,

“This bill will some day be regarded as landmark conservation legislation. It is the first proposal to be enacted to add an additional wilderness area to the Wilderness System adopted in 1964.”

U.S. Senator Henry M.
“Scoop” Jackson, 1968

however, until thirty years later, when passage of the Wilderness Act inspired local residents to seek permanent protection for these areas. In 1968, Congress established the **San Rafael Wilderness**, the first primitive area to be designated as wilderness after passage of the Wilderness Act. A year later, Congress established the **Ventana Wilderness** in Monterey County. It now spans 240,024 acres, the largest wilderness area on the Los Padres.

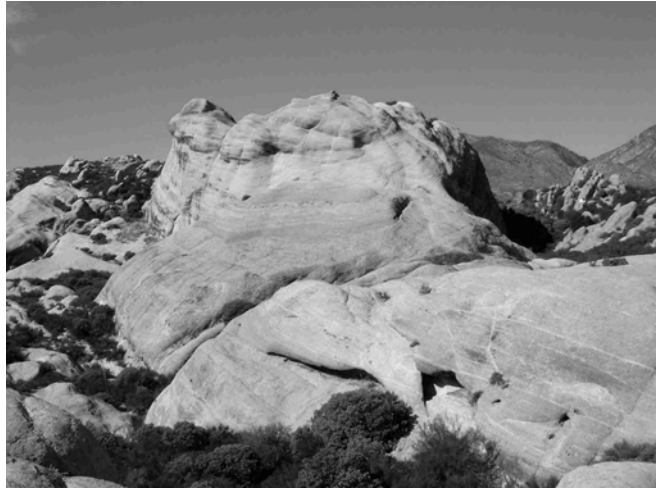
Since then, Congress has acted four other times to safeguard even more of the Los Padres. Today, nearly half of the forest is permanently protected as wilderness, preserving these magnificent landscapes for future generations:

- The Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978 created the **Santa Lucia Wilderness**, the first for San Luis Obispo County;
- The California Wilderness Act of 1984 created the **Dick Smith Wilderness** and the **Machesna Wilderness**;
- The Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act of 1992 protected five new areas, including the **Matilija**, **Chumash**, **Sespe**, **Silver Peak**, and **Garcia** wilderness areas;
- The Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002 expanded the size of the Ventana and Silver Peaks wilderness.

In the late-1970s, officials embarked on the first major planning effort for the Los Padres National Forest – preparing a land management plan to guide development activities across the entire forest. After a decade in the making, the first Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan was enacted in 1988. In 2005, the Forest Service updated and revised this plan.

The Future of our Forest

Americans cherish and value the National Forests. As development pressures increase in and around our remaining wildlands, the next century must be one of preserving watersheds, protecting roadless areas, maintaining recreational opportunities without letting them harm the environment, and restoring damaged watersheds and rare plants and animals.



Continuing exploitation of our national forest is prompting frequent objections by the public and bolstering calls for the preservation of the few wild lands that remain.

You – the concerned citizen – will continue to play a vital role in shaping forest policy and determining which activities will and will not be allowed in your national forest. After all, these are public lands, owned by each and every one of us. Whether you live, work, or play in these wide open spaces, or simply gain inspiration from afar, we all have a voice in guiding the future direction of our magnificent Los Padres National Forest.

The Benefits of a Healthy Forest

The Los Padres is California's second largest national forest, spanning 220 miles across the scenic Coast and Transverse mountains. The forest stretches from the famed Big Sur coastline in Monterey County, through the Pozo and La Panza Ranges of San Luis Obispo County, across the San Rafael, Sierra Madre, and Santa Ynez Ranges in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, and out to the southern San Joaquin Valley in Kern County. The forest spans nearly 1.8 million acres of land; the benefits that it provides to local communities are as boundless as the forest itself.

Scenic Backdrops for Local Communities



Rising from the Pacific Ocean to over 8,800 feet in elevation, the Los Padres National Forest forms the backdrop of many local communities in Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Kern Counties. From the cities of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo to

the smaller towns of Ojai, Arroyo Grande, Santa Margarita, and Santa Ynez, to the rural areas tucked in the Cuyama, Santa Paula, and Lockwood Valleys, and to the coastal enclaves of the Big Sur coast and the mountain villages of Frazier Park, the Los Padres can be seen from nearly every town and every countryside in central California.

Exciting Recreation Opportunities

Everywhere you look, the forest is a recreation haven, with exciting hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, kayaking, gliding, and bicycling adventures. The Piedra Blanca



National Recreation Trail and the Santa Cruz National Recreation Trail take visitors into some of the most wild and spectacular areas of the forest. It's also a place to seek solitude from the daily grind, to photograph, to draw, to write, to picnic, or to drive one of the many scenic highways that wind through this rugged landscape.

Pristine Water Sources

The Los Padres was originally established to protect pristine water sources for the towns surrounding the forest. Today, the Los Padres encompasses 1,134 miles of rivers and streams, providing water for urban and agricultural use, habitat for rare plants and animals, and



activities like fishing and kayaking. The major waterways in the forest are the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers in Ventura County; the Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara Co.; the Cuyama and Salinas rivers in San Luis Obispo Co.; and the Carmel River in Monterey Co.

In addition, eighty-four miles of Wild & Scenic Rivers – including the Sespe, Sisquoc, and Big Sur Rivers – flow through the forest's boundaries, and the Sisquoc River has been called "the most pristine stream in southern California." Healthy and freeflowing waterways are a vital part of this landscape.

Undisturbed Habitat for Rare Plants and Animals

The Los Padres is at the center of North America's only "biodiversity hotspot," one of the Earth's biologically richest and most endangered ecoregions. The forest forms the hub of a vast matrix of public lands in central California, including the Carrizo Plain National Monument, the California Coast National Monument, three national wildlife refuges, a national marine sanctuary, and other public wildlands. It is here that the marine coastline meets three other ecological regions to form one of the

richest varieties of ecosystems in the world, including sea coast and marine habitats, redwood forest, mixed conifer forest, oak woodland, grassland, pinon-juniper woodland, riparian, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and semi-desert.



The forest provides habitat for 468 species of wildlife and over 1,200 plant species, including over 90 species at risk of extinction, more than any other national forest in the state. The San Joaquin kit fox, steelhead, Smith's blue butterfly,

California spotted owl, bald eagle, California red-legged frog, arroyo toad, and California jewelflower are all found here. The forest is perhaps most well known as the focus of efforts to reintroduce the California Condor, one of the world's most endangered birds.

Boost to Local Businesses

The forest's diverse recreation opportunities attract visitors from all over the region, from our very own communities to the urban centers of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the southern San Joaquin Valley. In fact, the Los Padres is one of the most heavily visited forests in the nation, with over 1.8 million people exploring these lands each year.

A recent study conducted by the U.S. Forest Service concluded that visitors to the Los Padres National Forest spend an average of \$43.00 per visit, meaning that forest visitors infuse over \$77 million into local businesses like lodging, gas, outdoor equipment, food, and other tourism-based industries. A healthy forest will keep these visitors (and customers) coming back year after year.



Threats to Our Forest

The Los Padres has been consistently ranked as one of America's most endangered forests. Only twelve of the 155 national forests across the country have earned this dubious distinction. Here's a closer look at what's threatening our very own national forest.

Oil and Gas Drilling

The last few years have seen an explosion in the spread of oil and gas drilling in national forests across the country. Last year alone, agencies approved a record number of drilling permits, giving away more than 40 million acres of our public lands to oil corporations. Places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Rocky Mountain Front, New Mexico's Valle Vidal, Colorado's Roan Plateau, and Wyoming's Powder River Basin are facing tremendous pressures by the oil industry to open up these pristine lands. Oil companies have also set their sights on the Los Padres, California's only national forest with commercial oil drilling.



Right now, over 240 oil wells cover nearly 4,900 acres of the Los Padres, mostly in the Sespe Oil Field. This ecologically fragile area is located right next to a condor sanctuary and a wildlife refuge, lands that are extremely valuable for the California Condor Recovery Program.

In July 2005, the administration announced a plan to expand oil drilling across 52,075 acres of forestlands – for less than a day's supply for our nation, according to the agency's own estimates. The new drilling areas are next to some of the most sensitive areas of the forest, including the



Sespe Condor Sanctuary, the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, and four wilderness areas. In the past, California condors have been killed after colliding with power lines, and have been seriously injured after coating themselves and their young in pools of oil.

Oil drilling is an intensive activity requiring a vast network of infrastructure and development that fragments wild areas and scars the landscape. The Sespe Oil Field alone contains one hundred miles of roads and pipeline.

Oil drilling is a chemically intensive process. As oil or gas is extracted, ground water comes to the surface. This water must be re-injected into the ground, requiring even more drilling, or must be discharged directly into streams. Oil spills can inflict long-term damage.

Many communities around the forest – notably those in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Kern counties – already have severe air pollution, and additional oil drilling will contribute even more ozone, nitrous oxides, particulate matter, and smog precursors, threatening public health.



Illegal Off-Road Vehicle Abuse

Off-road vehicles (called "ORVs" for short) are motorized dirtbikes and all-terrain vehicles that travel off roadways and through meadows, forests, and streams. The widespread damage caused by ORVs has long been recognized. In 1979, the White House Council on Environmental Quality stated that "off-road vehicles have damaged every kind of ecosystem found in the United States." A quarter-century later, the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service has called unmanaged ORV use one of the four biggest threats facing our national forests.



ORV use is only allowed on officially designated trails, and only in areas where it will not damage fragile areas of the forest. However, inadequate law enforcement, poor signage, and confusing rules encourage illegal trespass into prohibited areas. The wheels on ORVs can carve deep tracks through forest vegetation, causing erosion that flows into nearby streams during rainstorms. Engine exhaust and leaking fluids pollute the air and water. Noise and air pollution disturbs wildlife, forest visitors, and neighbors alike and detracts from the tranquil forest experience. During the dry summer months, ORVs that are not equipped with spark arrestors (required by law) can backfire, sending sparks into fire-prone brush.

The Los Padres offers 980 miles of designated ORV routes and other roads open to ORV use. It's one of the fastest growing forms of outdoor recreation, from five million users in 1972 to 51 million in 2004 – a ten-fold increase over the past three decades. Officials estimate that ORV use on the Los Padres will increase by as much as 20% in the next fifteen years. Officials are already unable to adequately monitor and enforce



existing ORV routes, leaving many to wonder how the agency will safely accommodate such a dramatic increase over current levels.

The Los Padres has banned ORV use except along designated routes, and responsible users can minimize their trace on the landscape by staying on these managed trails. Unfortunately, irresponsible ORV enthusiasts have blazed hundreds of miles of illegal trails through fragile areas of the forest, ignoring “Keep Out” signs, and vandalizing fences and gates.

Unmanaged Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing affects more acres than any other activity on our Western public lands. If not properly managed, livestock grazing can inflict lasting damage, consuming excessive amounts of native grasses, trampling the soil, destroying streamside vegetation, and sending erosion into creeks and rivers on our public lands. Cattle waste pollutes water sources – in fact, livestock are the greatest source of non-point water pollution in the West. Unmanaged grazing also poses the greatest threat to rare plants and animals.



Already, grazing on public lands has resulted in the listing of ninety endangered and threatened species across the nation.

The Los Padres supports over 860,000 acres of grazing and has more grazing allotments than nearly any other forest in the country. Unfortunately, the Forest Service allows grazing to continue in some inappropriate areas, like alongside steelhead streams on the Big Sur



coastline, pristine wilderness areas, and habitat for the endangered Smith's blue butterfly and the Camatta Canyon amole, a plant so rare that it is found nowhere else on earth. Grazing allotments cover one-third of the protected wilderness lands in the Los Padres. In addition, livestock grazing has damaged and destroyed several local sites of cultural significance to Native Americans.

The Forest Service is not doing everything it can to reduce these impacts. A recent study found that most (78%) of the grazing allotments on the LPNF have not even been *studied* for their environmental impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. This is the highest noncompliance rate of all eighteen national forests in California.

Logging & Vegetation Clearing

Only eight percent of the Los Padres is covered by coniferous forests –pinyon pine, coulter pine, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Jeffrey pine, big-cone Douglas fir, white fir, the rare Santa Lucia fir, and even the southernmost stand of coast redwoods. Because these forests are so



scarce, logging has been extremely limited on the Los Padres and has not occurred here in recent history.

However, recent legislation threatens to roll back environmental laws and increase the pace of logging in our very own national forest under the guise of “forest health” and “fire prevention.” The Healthy Forest Restoration Act was passed in 2003 in response to several large wildfires that swept across Western forests. The HFRA was supposed to protect homes from wildfires, but instead, it has facilitated aggressive logging across millions of acres of backcountry forestland, targeting old-growth trees miles away from civilization. It also restricted public oversight and eliminated the need to prepare environmental assessments for many logging projects.



In 2004, Los Padres officials proposed their first HFRA logging project, announcing their intent to selectively log trees and remove vegetation across 665 acres of Figueroa Mountain, a popular recreation area above the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County. The agency has

since proposed additional logging and vegetation removal across nearly 7,000 acres of forest, including well-known areas like Mount Pinos, Pine Mountain, Frazier Mountain, and Mount Abel (Cerro Noroeste). As part of these proposals, the agency intends to cut ancient trees with trunks as big as 94 inches around, trees so large that it would take two adults to wrap their arms around them.

The overwhelming amount of scientific evidence suggests that cutting big trees increases – rather than decreases – fire risk. This is because larger, older trees have strong fire resistance, and if they are cut down, highly flammable brushy vegetation grows in its place.

The agency should spend its scarce funds where it's most effective - along the wildland urban interface. FORESTWATCH supports efforts to reduce vegetation directly alongside these communities. Removing trees and vegetation several miles from communities will do little to protect faraway homes from the threat of wildfire.

Dams & Water Diversions

Several large dams, over 150 small dams, and 500 small water diversions are found on the streams and rivers in the Los Padres. This complex hydrological system provides water supply, power generation, flood control, and reservoir-based recreation. But it also has environmentally damaging consequences.



Most of the major rivers on the Los Padres are dammed. Many of these reservoirs provide important water supplies to nearby communities. Others – like the Matilija Dam on the Ventura River – have become so filled with

sediment that they are no longer useful, and prevent steelhead from swimming upstream to miles and miles of prime steelhead habitat. Several organizations and agencies are working on a plan to remove the Matilija Dam, returning that river to its freeflowing state.

Water is diverted and removed from streams through a network of pipes, ditches, troughs, and canals for activities like mining, oil drilling, livestock grazing, and agricultural production, as well as for domestic water supplies. Sometimes, too much water is diverted from a single stream, leaving little or no water for fish and wildlife.

Laws and Regulations

As a citizen who's interested in taking an active role in protecting your national forests, you need to acquaint yourself with the major laws governing the actions of the Forest Service.

Multiple-use, Sustained-Yield Act (MUSYA)

This was one of the first laws to be passed by Congress to manage the competing uses of national forest lands. It acknowledges that several different types of uses occur on national forestland – “outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes” – and that resource extraction can only take place if it does not harm the overall forest environment. In managing the national forests, the Forest Service was to give due consideration to each of these various uses “in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people” and “without impairment of the productivity of the land.”

National Forest Management Act (NFMA)

The MUSYA sounded good on paper, but on the ground, the Forest Service increasingly favored extractive uses over watershed, wildlife, and recreation values. To address this imbalance, Congress passed the NFMA in 1976, and today it lies at the heart of how the Forest Service manages our public lands.

The NFMA requires “land and resource management plans” for each national forest across the country. These plans – called “Forest Plans” for short – serve as a blueprint for each forest, specifying where certain activities can and cannot take place. Under NFMA, these Forest Plans must be updated every ten to fifteen years to adapt to changing conditions and to incorporate new scientific information.

Congress also spelled out specific criteria that each Forest Plan must contain. For example, a plan must provide for “diversity of plant and animal communities based on the suitability and capability of the specific land area.” Forest Plans must also provide for wilderness and

watershed protection for streams and wetlands and other forest resources.

Finally, NFMA requires the Forest Service to give the public adequate notice and an opportunity to comment upon the agency's standards and guidelines. This means that the public has a right to participate in the revision and implementation of Forest Plans – essentially giving citizens a strong voice in forest management.



National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Congress passed the NEPA in 1969 to “prevent or eliminate damage to the environment” and to “preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage.” It requires every federal agency – including the Forest Service – to thoroughly examine the environmental consequences of their actions.

The NEPA requires agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for major projects, and an Environmental Assessment (EA) for smaller projects. In these reports, officials must disclose the environmental impacts of a project, alternatives and protective measures – called “mitigation measures” – to reduce or eliminate significant environmental damage caused by the project. These reports must be unbiased and based on professional and scientific integrity.

It also provides for public oversight by requiring agencies to consider public comments, and to make environmental documents available. The NEPA also directs the Forest Service to consult with other expert agencies – like the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish &

Wildlife Service, and the National Historic Preservation Office – before approving certain projects.

Agencies often do not follow the strict requirements of NEPA, claiming that they are too burdensome or that it is just “extra paperwork.” Sometimes, officials claim that a project is excluded from environmental review. Agencies are increasingly using these “categorical exclusions” as a way to avoid preparing more detailed studies, often at the expense of the environment.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

In 1973, Congress made the federal government responsible for preventing the extinction of threatened plants and animals “in danger of extinction.” The ESA directs federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before proceeding with any activity that may affect a protected plant or animal. However, the Forest Service and other agencies don’t always consult when they’re supposed to, leaving these critters at risk.

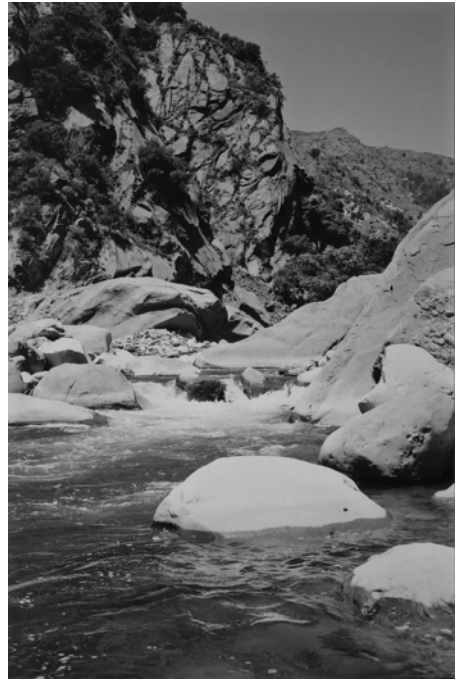


The ESA also prohibits the “taking” of protected plants and animals. This includes killing, injuring, harassing, pursuing, or even significantly damaging their habitat. It also directs agencies to designate “critical habitat” which receives special protections. An agency’s projects are not supposed to – but often do – adversely modify the critical habitat of a protected plant or animal.

The main goal of the ESA is to reach the point where plants and animals are no longer in danger of becoming extinct and where they have adequate habitat in which to thrive. To further that goal, the ESA requires agencies to develop and implement recovery plans. To date, the ESA has secured protection for about 600 plants and over 400 animals in the United States. Unfortunately, species continue to be added to the list, and those already on the list often do not receive enough protection.

Clean Water Act (CWA)

The CWA was enacted in 1972 to control pollution discharges into the nation's water, with the goal of achieving "fishable and swimmable" water quality in all waters in the United States. It requires industries and other "point sources" of pollution to obtain permits, limiting the pollution they can dump into waterways. It also requires permits for filling in wetlands, and state certification for projects that could degrade water quality.



To protect water quality, the Forest Service usually implements "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) that to reduce pollution and erosion into rivers and streams. Typical BMPs include buffer zones, monitoring, and controlling erosion. However, monitoring requirements and enforcement are weak, so the CWA does not always ensure that our waters are protected.

To read more about the laws and regulations governing our national forests, visit our website at www.LPFW.org/guide

Participating in Decisions

Because national forests are public lands, the public has a unique role to play in guiding how these lands are managed, used, and protected. Recognizing this role, many of the laws discussed in the previous chapter give the public the right to request information from government agencies, to attend public hearings, to receive notice about certain projects, to submit comments, and to appeal decisions that are not in the public's interest.

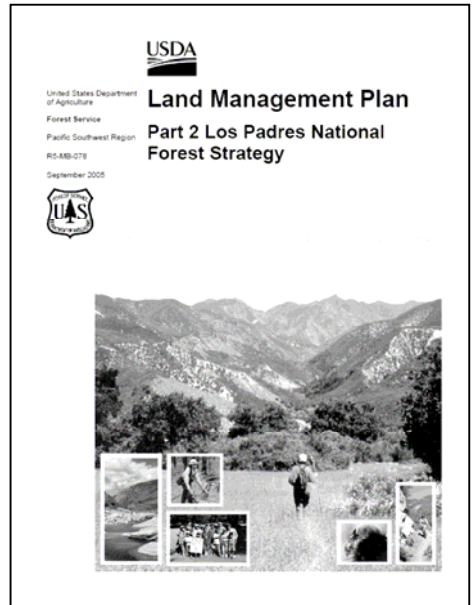
The agency has set up an administrative process to allow concerned citizens – like yourself – to stay informed on the uses of their national forests and to express their opinions to agency officials. Generally, here's how the process works:

- **Obtain Your Forest Plan** - This is the blueprint for your national forest. Every Forest Service project must comply with the standards and guidelines set out in this plan.
- **Request Notice** – Call or write the Forest Service and ask that you be placed on their mailing list to receive their quarterly newsletter. Look for projects that interest you and ask that you be put on the agency's mailing list for that particular project.
- **Submit Your Comments** – When you receive a notice about a project, the agency usually gives you at least a month to let the agency know about any concerns or issues you might have. Send your comments in writing.
- **Await the Agency's Decision** – The agency will spend some time preparing environmental studies and considering the public comments. The agency will notify you of its final decision.
- **File an Appeal** – If the agency makes a decision that you think will damage the forest, you can file an administrative appeal. This is a technical process that involves asking the agency to reconsider its decision.

STEP #: Obtain Your Forest Plan

The Forest Plan is the blueprint that guides all activities on national forest land. Officials enacted the very first Forest Plan for the Los Padres in 1988. It divided the forest up into seventy “management areas” with varying levels of protection. Some areas were set aside as wilderness, while other areas were zoned for intensive extraction activities like oil drilling. The old Forest Plan also set out specific guidelines and goals for each management area, as well as general standards to protect things like rare plants and animals, air and water quality, range, soils, heritage sites, and recreation across the entire forest.

Since 1988, the Forest Service has made significant changes to the Forest Plan, sometimes by its own initiative, and other times because citizen groups sued the agency for not keeping the plan updated. For example, the agency has added a Riparian Conservation Strategy to protect fragile streamside habitats, and an overall Conservation Strategy to protect rare plants and animals.



In 2005, officials finally completed the first full revision of the Forest Plan. The new plan completely overhauled the old one, strengthening some standards but weakening many others. The new Forest Plan is divided into three parts:

- **Part One** is the Vision that sets out the general goals that officials hope to achieve over the next decade.
- **Part Two** divides the forest into eighteen “places” (compared to the seventy “management areas” in the old

plan), and establishes vague management guidelines for each place. It also provides maps that zone every square inch of forest into one of six zones that allow increasing levels of development – Wilderness, Critical Biological, Back Country Non-Motorized, Back Country Motorized Use Restricted, Back Country, and Developed Interface.

- **Part Three** sets out a series of standards that apply across the entire forest to protect vegetation, scenery, wildlife, soils, watersheds, and cultural and historic areas. It also requires officials to monitor forest conditions out in the field, and to report the results to the public.

How to Request a Copy of Your Forest Plan

You can download, save, and print the 2005 forest plan on the ForestWatch website at www.LFPW.org/guide You can also contact the Forest Service (see Appendix A for addresses and phone numbers) and request a copy of the current forest plan. We recommend that you request the CD version, or access our on-line version, to save paper and to easily search for a specific word in the plan.

STEP #2: Request Notice

To find out exactly what projects are being proposed in the Los Padres National Forest, write a letter to forest headquarters and ask that you be placed on the agency's mailing list to receive quarterly notices of proposed projects.

These quarterly notices are called a Schedule of Proposed Actions, or SOPA for short. They are mailed in January, April, July, and October. The SOPA briefly describes each project that the agency is currently planning for the forest.

March 30, 2006

Dear Forest Service,


I would like to become more involved in projects planned for our national forest.

Please place me on the mailing list to receive your quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions.

Sincerely,

Forest B. Wild
100 Citizens Place
Anywhere, CA 93454

For each project, the SOPA gives the location, a short description of the proposal, its status, opportunities for public comment, and the name of the particular official in charge of the project. Projects can range from major activities like oil drilling, construction of new ORV routes, authorization of livestock grazing, and logging, to beneficial projects

 Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) 01/01/2006 to 03/31/2006 Los Padres National Forest					
This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.					
Project Name	Project Purpose	Planning Status	Decision	Expected Implementation	Project Contact
Los Padres National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest) R5 - Pacific Southwest Region					
Foster Botanical Interpretive Trail DM *NEW LISTING*	- Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Recreation management - Facility management	Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start: 01/2006	Expected 03/2006	05/2006	Karen Mochley 661-245-3731 ext. 232 jkelly@fs.fed.us
Description: The proposed project is to design and construct an interpretive trail at the Chuoputae Ranger Station. Native plants will be the featured resource.					
Location: UNIT - Los Padres National Forest All Units. STATE - California. COUNTY - Ventura. LEGAL - T8N R20W Sec 4 S88M. T8N R20W Sec 4 S88M.					
Los Padres National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide) R5 - Pacific Southwest Region					
Administrative Site Land Exchange DM	- Land acquisition - Facility management	Completed	Actual: 11/02/2005	12/2005	Vicki Collins 805-961-4719 vcollins@fs.fed.us
Description: Proposal to exchange 0.8 acres of federal land within the City of Ojai for 1.25 acres of non-federal land within the city of Santa Maria. The land would provide an option to build a new Forest Supervisors Office.					
Location: UNIT - Santa Lucia Ranger District, Ojai Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Santa Barbara, Ventura. One parcel located in Santa Maria and one in Ojai.					
Pine Mountain Recreation Area Forest Health Project EA	- Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management	In Progress Scoping start 06/03/2005	Expected 05/2006	06/2006	John Kelly 661-245-3731 jkelly@fs.fed.us
Description: Improve and maintain stand health conditions on 300 acres reducing stocking and tree densities. Reduce dwarf mistletoe infection by pruning and thinning outside of campground areas. Activities may include chainsaw work, chipping and rx fire.					
Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres					
Location: UNIT - Ojai Ranger District, Mt. Pinos Ranger District. STATE - California. COUNTY - Ventura. LEGAL - T 6 N, R 23 W, Sections 3,4,5. Approximately 8 miles East of Highway 33 along Pine Mountain Ridge Road.					

like the removal of small defunct dams and the eradication of invasive weeds, to small projects like campsite repairs and road maintenance.

April 10, 2006

Dear Forest Service,

I would like to become more involved in [write name of project here].

Please place me on the mailing list to receive all public notices and environmental documents about this project.

Sincerely,

Forest B. Wild
100 Citizens Place
Anywhere, CA 93454




When you review the list of proposed projects, mark the ones that you think are potentially harmful to your forest. Immediately write to the official in charge of the project and ask to receive all future notices and environmental documents.

Once you request notice, the Forest Service is required to give you notice. Keep copies of all correspondence to and from the agency; they may come in handy later if the agency fails to send you notice.

Step #3: The Public Comment Period

The Forest Service will first notify you about a project by sending you a Scoping Letter. The Scoping Letter is a very important tool in defending your national forest because it details that plan that is being proposed. The Scoping Letter gives a more detailed description of the project (along with a map showing the location of the proposal), and explains why the agency wants to do the project in the first place. The Scoping Letter also provides information about when you can send the agency your comments, and who to send them to.

This is when you get to express your

	United States Department of Agriculture	Forest Service	Santa Lucia Range District 2087-927-9748 Fax (805)941-5781	1616 Carlisle Rd. Santa Maria, CA 93454
				February 23, 2005
Dear Planning Participants:				
The Santa Lucia Range District is proposing forest health and fuels management treatments on Figueroa Mountain. A scoping letter to adjacent adjacent property owners and known mineral rights with "The Figueroa Mountain Project", and ask for help in identifying issues to be address in the environmental analysis, was sent November 10, 2004. The letter invited participation in a field trip at the project site on Figueroa Mountain on December 4, 2004. In an effort to ensure all interested parties had adequate time to respond to the proposed project, the Santa Lucia District has extended the period for receiving input for this project to March 24, 2005. You are receiving this letter because you were on the original mailing list, attended the field trip, or have since contacted us with your interest in the project.				
The "Figueroa Mountain Project" is a 667-acre area located along Figueroa Mountain Road (RD 70) approximately 7 miles northwest of the community of Los Olivos, California. (See map description in T 5 N, R 30 W, Sections 25 and 30 and T 5 N, R 29 W, Sections 30 and 31 (see enclosed map).)				
Figueroa Mountain is a high value recreation area and the emphasis is to maintain as such. The purpose of the project is to maintain the health of the existing mature conifers and oaks, and reduce the risk of future mortality of the conifers due to insects, disease, and catastrophic fire on Forest Service lands as well as on adjacent private lands.				
Treatment is proposed on a total of 667 acres. Of the project area, an estimated 555 acres would be hand treated and prescription maintenance. A combination of mechanical treatment such as sanitation coupled with chainsaw hand thinning would be used. An additional area of 112 acres would be thinned to address overstocking, ladder fuels and wildfire reduction concerns followed with prescription and prescription, burning or pocket burning. No new trees would be planted. Large trees would be retained for visual, screening and shade objectives. Berms (previously registered as SWP/AN) would be applied to freshly cut or snags to create a barrier to insect infestation on these riparian/woodland resources. Small scale snags burning may take place within the project area after setting objectives are completed to maintain a desired condition. See the enclosed document titled Figueroa Mountain Project Proposed Action and the project area map for more detailed information on the project.				
Your comments, suggestions, or concerns relative to this project are requested and will help us with analysis and project development. Your comments should be submitted by March 24, 2005 to be considered in the decision. Comments should be addressed to our staff as usual:				
			Project Leader Figueroa Mountain Project Santa Lucia Range District 1616 Carlisle Road Santa Maria, CA 93454 916 (805)927-9748 FAX (805)941-5781 EMAIL: comment-pacific@forest.sca.gov ; santa.lucia@fs.fed.us	
	Caring for the Land and Serving People			

concerns to the agency. The Scoping Letter will specify the deadline for comments. It is important that you meet all deadlines, so make sure to fully express your views and submit your evidence within the deadline. Scoping Letters are usually only one or two pages long, and not very detailed. You might read through the scoping letter and wonder what exactly the agency is trying to do. This lack of detail is not very helpful (and it's probably not very legal, either). But give it your best shot. At this stage, the agency only wants you to tell them about the issues you want them to study further. Are there rare plants or animals in the project area that you know about? If so, put that in your letter. What about camping and hiking trails? Put those in there, too. If you have a special area of expertise, you might want to include more detailed comments. Photos, scientific studies, and other evidence to support your comments are helpful, but certainly not required.



When you write your letter, explain why you think the project is not in the best interest of your forest (or, if you support the project, explain why you think it is a good idea). Express your concerns clearly and concisely, and present feasible alternatives to the project that you think would do a better job of protecting the forest.



Scoping is an opportunity for you to become more familiar with the agency's plans. If the agency's Scoping Letter is confusing, or doesn't provide enough information, be sure to include that point in your letter. Try to visit the project site to get a firm understanding of what's at

stake. You should also attend any field trips or public meetings that officials schedule to discuss the project in further detail. Visit the Forest Service office and ask to view the public comments that the agency has already received on the project – this will allow you to gain an understanding of opinions that reflect or differ from your own.

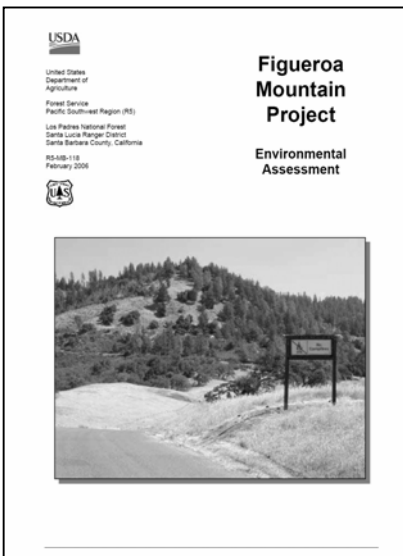
Commenting at this early stage is of the utmost importance. Because of recent changes in the law, this is the only chance you will have to comment on many projects. These projects are typically marked with a “DM” under the project name in the SOPA. This stands for “Decision Memo,” a short note that explains the decision made. Decision Memos are used for projects that are “categorically excluded” from having to prepare more detailed environmental assessments.

Step #4: Project Approval

Once the scoping period has ended, the agency will spend several months evaluating all the comments it received and conducting the necessary environmental studies. When the agency is ready to make a decision, it will issue a Decision Memo, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA), or a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

If the agency issues a DM that declares the project will proceed, check to see if there are any extraordinary circumstances mentioned in the document. If there are extraordinary circumstances – like rare plants or

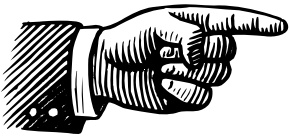
animals on site, wilderness or roadless areas affected, or watersheds impacted – then you might be able to appeal the project. If the project is not appealable, then you will have to bring your dispute before a judge.



For larger projects, the agency may prepare an Environmental Assessment or a detailed Environmental Impact Statement. These projects are denoted with a “EA” or “EIS” in the SOPA. If the agency decides to prepare an EA or EIS, the project must go through a detailed analysis before it’s approved.

A draft EA or draft EIS is subject to a public comment period. It is very important for you to carefully examine the statements in these documents. If you disagree with anything about the draft, be sure to comment on it before the period is over. During this comment period, refer to any research you have conducted and send copies of your sources with your comments. Remember, the final EA and EIS must (but don't always) comply with the specific requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, like scientific integrity.

The agency prefers not to prepare EAs and EISs for projects because of this additional administrative procedure, but it is vitally important that the public be given the opportunity to review these additional details before the agency makes its final decision.



Remember, if you don't comment either during scoping or on a draft document, you might lose your right to have your voice heard later in the process. It doesn't matter how bad the project is, or how many of your concerns the agency ignored – if you don't participate during the formal comment periods, you might lose your standing to appeal later in the process.

Step #5: Appeals and Lawsuits

After the scoping period (and after the agency releases a draft EA or EIS if applicable), officials will make a decision about the project.

If you submitted comments on the project, then the agency is required to notify you about whether the project is appealable, and if so, where you should send your appeal and any filing deadlines (usually within 45 days after publication of the legal notice). Identify the decision that you are appealing by stating that you are appealing the decision of a

specific date, location, and title. You must also give reasons to show that the decision was illegal, or not based on the best science.

Once you have filed a timely appeal, you must wait several weeks for the agency to reconsider the project and decide whether to grant or deny your appeal.

Proceed with appeals very cautiously. Recent regulatory changes have made it more difficult to appeal a decision, and easier for the Forest Service to dismiss your appeal based on technicalities. It is important to familiarize yourself with the Forest Service's appeal regulations, which you can request from the agency. The appeal regulations are also listed on our website at www.LPFW.org.



**BEFORE YOU FILE AN APPEAL,
CONTACT US!**

It is important to coordinate your appeal with ForestWatch. We might have already filed an appeal on the same project. Sometimes, additional appeals help steer the agency in the right direction. Other times, they might hurt more than they help. If you are considering appealing a Forest Service decision, we encourage you to contact us so that we can offer you helpful information to ensure your appeal is effective. We can't offer you legal advice, but we can help you navigate through the complex web of the appeal process.

Gaining Support

Although it only takes one person to make a difference, finding other people that are sympathetic to your cause may prove useful when your national forest is at stake.

Letters to the Editor

To get information about the Los Padres National Forest out to the general public, consider writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Remember that not everyone will receive the information that you have requested from the Forest Service. Most people may not even be aware that harmful projects are proposed in their forests at all. Allow a letter to the editor to be your way of educating those who are not aware and those who are misinformed. **See Appendix B for contact information for newspapers around the Los Padres National Forest.**

Write to Your Legislators

In order to get your message across in the political arena, begin by writing to your local representatives. Be sure to send them a copy of the scoping notice for the proposed project, and explain your stance and the reasons you oppose the project. Offer any evidence that you have gathered through your research and include what you're hoping to gain from the correspondence. If you are unable to glean an actual opinion from their response, write another letter detailing what you found vague about their reply letter. Do not forget to keep copies of any correspondence that you have received from them, as well as the letters you send to them. To further your efforts, encourage other individuals to write the same political figures about the proposed project. **See Appendix C for a list of local, state, and national legislators for your area.**

Working With ForestWatch

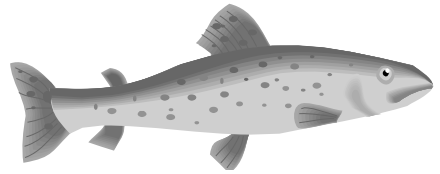


FORESTWATCH depends on the involvement of citizens in a cooperative effort to promote the preservation of the Los Padres National Forest.

Because of the hard work and support from citizens taking an active role in protecting their forests, it is vitally important to talk with FORESTWATCH

during every stage of the process, from the time you receive your first quarterly report to the point when you chose to pursue an appeal or legal action.

FORESTWATCH can also help you with ideas about where to find information about a particular area that interests you. Also, if you or other individuals are able to collaborate on an event to protect the Los Padres, FORESTWATCH can assist you in these efforts, too.



Perhaps one of the most important aspects of working with FORESTWATCH is the experience and friendship you will gain through meeting like-minded individuals. The partnership of individuals from FORESTWATCH and other organizations provides the connections needed to keep concerned individuals motivated and on the best path to preserving our national forest.

Programs offered through FORESTWATCH, like our **Citizens' Forest Campaign**, allow people like you to join the efforts of others and become more involved with the FORESTWATCH community. Join us as we monitor activities on our national forest and help protect our public lands!

Appendix A: Forest Addresses

The Los Padres National Forest is divided into five ranger districts. The person in charge of the entire forest is called the Forest Supervisor, headquartered in the town of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. Decisions are usually made by the District Rangers, and the Supervisor's Office coordinates activities between districts, allocates the budget, and provides technical support to each district.

Los Padres National Forest Headquarters

6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117
(805) 968-6640
FAX: (805) 961-5729

Monterey Ranger District (Monterey County)

406 S. Mildred
King City, CA 93930
(831) 385-5434
FAX: (831) 385-0628

Santa Lucia Ranger District (San Luis Obispo and N. Santa Barbara counties)

1616 N. Carlotti Dr.
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 925-9538
FAX: (805) 961-5781

Santa Barbara Ranger District (Santa Barbara County)

3505 Paradise Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 967-3481
FAX: (805) 967-7312

Ojai Ranger District (Ventura County)

1190 E. Ojai Ave.
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 646-4348
FAX: (805) 646-0484

Mt. Pinos Ranger District (Northern Ventura, Kern, Northern Santa Barbara counties)

34580 Lockwood Valley Rd.
Frazier Park, CA 93225
(661) 245-3731
FAX: (661) 245-1526

Appendix B: Letters to the Editor

All letters must include your name, address, and telephone number so that the newspaper can verify your identity (they will only publish your name and city). To increase your chances of getting published, keep your letter under 250 words. Also, make sure your letter is timely – if you see something in the news that motivates you to write, do it today! Send your letter to the attention of “Letters to the Editor” only to newspapers in your area.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Santa Barbara News-Press

PO Box 1359
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
FAX: (805) 966-6258
voices@newspress.com

Santa Barbara Independent

122 W. Figueroa St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
FAX: (805) 965-5518
letters@independent.com

Santa Barbara Daily Sound

1806 Cliff Dr. Ste. D
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
FAX: (805) 564-6060
news@santabarbarafree.com

Goleta Valley Voice

5786 Hollister Ave.
Goleta, CA 93117
FAX: (805) 683-7697
vvoice@goletavalleyvoice.com

Carpinteria Coastal View

4856 Carpinteria Ave.
Carpinteria, CA 93103
FAX: (805) 684-4650
Email: news@coastalview.com

Santa Ynez Valley News

P.O. Box 647
Solvang, CA 93463
FAX: (805) 688-7685
jlankford1@tampabay.rr.com

Lompoc Record

P.O. Box 578
Lompoc, CA 93438
FAX: (805) 735-5118
mchambers@lompocrecord.com

Santa Maria Times

P.O. Box 400
Santa Maria, CA 93456
FAX: (805) 928-5657
smtletters@santamariatimes.com

Santa Maria Sun

1954-L S. Broadway
Santa Maria, CA 93454
FAX: (805) 347-9889
mail@santamariasun.com

VENTURA COUNTY

Ventura County Star

PO Box 6711
Ventura, CA 93006
FAX: (805) 650-2950
letters@venturacountystar.com

Ventura County Reporter

4840 Market St., Ste D
Ventura, CA 93003
FAX: (805) 658-7803
Email: editor@vcreporter.com

Ojai Valley News

PO Box 277
Ojai, CA 93024
FAX: (805) 646-4281
letters@ojaivalleynews.com

Ojai & Ventura Voice

PO Box 1328
Ojai, CA 93024
FAX: (805) 640-9301
ovvoice@ojai.net

Tri-County Sentry

PO Box 20515
Oxnard, CA 93034
FAX: (805) 486-3650
sentry1234@aol.com

Fillmore Gazette

408 Orchard St
Fillmore, CA 93015
FAX: (805) 524-1164
info@thefillmoregazette.com

Fillmore Herald

PO Box 727
Fillmore, CA 93016
FAX: (805) 524-0154
linda@fillmoreherald.com

Santa Paula Times

PO Box 431
Santa Paula, CA 93061
FAX: (805) 525-7375
santapaulatimes@aol.com

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

San Luis Obispo Tribune

3825 S. Higuera St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
FAX: (805) 781-7870
letters@thetribunenews.com

The New Times of San Luis Obispo

505 Higuera St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
FAX: (805) 546-8641
letters@newtimeslo.com

Atascadero News

5660 El Camino Real
Atascadero, CA 93422
FAX: (805) 466-2714
editor@atascaderonews.com

The Cambrian

2442 Main St.
Cambria, CA 93428
FAX: (805) 927-4708
betling@thetribunenews.com

Central Coast Sun Bulletin

3825 S. Higuera St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
FAX: (805) 772-7044
aprado@thetribunenews.com

Five Cities Times Press Recorder

PO Box 460
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421
FAX: (805) 473-0571
mhodgson@timespressrecorder.com

MONTEREY COUNTY

Monterey County Herald

8 Upper Ragsdale
Monterey, CA 93940
FAX: (831) 372-8401
mheditor@montereyherald.com

Salinas Californian

123 W Alisal St.
Salinas, CA 93901
FAX: (831) 754-4293
rrobledo@thecalifornian.com

Carmel Pine Cone

PO Box G-1
Carmel, CA 93921
FAX: (831) 375-5018
mail@carmelpinecone.com

Monterey County Weekly

668 Williams Ave.
Seaside, CA 93955
FAX: (831) 394-0409
mail@mcweekly.com

King City Rustler

552-A Broadway
King City, CA 93930
FAX: (831) 385-4799
scneditor@redshift.com

KERN COUNTY

Mountain Enterprise

PO Box 610
Frazier Park, CA 93225
FAX: (661) 245-5620
editor@mountainenterprise.com

Bakersfield Californian

P.O. Box 440
Bakersfield, CA 93302
FAX: (661) 395-7380
opinion@bakersfield.com

STATEWIDE NEWSPAPERS

San Francisco Chronicle

901 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
FAX: (415) 896-1107
letters@sfchronicle.com

San Jose Mercury-News

750 Ridder Park Dr.
San Jose, CA 95190
FAX: (408) 288-8060
letters@mercurynews.com

Los Angeles Times

202 W. 1st St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
FAX: (213) 237-7679
letters@latimes.com

Sacramento Bee

PO Box 15779
Sacramento, CA 95852
FAX: (916) 321-1996
www.sacbee.com/sendletter

Appendix C: Your Legislators

Senator Barbara Boxer

<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.cfm>

San Francisco Office (Monterey County northward)

1700 Montgomery St., Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94111, (415) 403-0100

Fresno Office (San Luis Obispo & Kern counties)

2500 Tulare St., Suite 5290, Fresno, CA 93721, (559) 497-5109

Los Angeles Office (Santa Barbara & Ventura counties)

312 N. Spring St., Suite 1748, Los Angeles, CA 90012, (213) 894-5000

Senator Dianne Feinstein

<http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html>

San Francisco Office (Monterey County northward)

One Post Street, Suite 2450, San Francisco, CA 94104, (415) 393-0707

Los Angeles Office (Santa Barbara & Ventura counties)

11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915, Los Angeles, CA 90025, (310) 914-7300

Fresno Office (San Luis Obispo & Kern counties)

2500 Tulare Street, Suite 4-290, Fresno, CA 93721, (559) 485-7430

Congressman Sam Farr (17th District)

<http://www.farr.house.gov/feedback.cfm>

701 Ocean St., Room 318, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (831) 429-1976

100 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901, (831) 424-2229

Congressman Bill Thomas (22nd District)

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

4100 Empire Dr., Suite 150, Bakersfield, CA 93309, (661) 327-3611

5805 Capistrano Ave., Suite C, Atascadero, CA 93422, (805) 461-1034

Congresswoman Lois Capps (23rd District)

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

1216 State St., Ste. 403, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 730-1710

1411 Marsh St., Ste. 205, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, (805) 546-8348

141 South A St., Ste. 204, Oxnard, CA 93030, (805) 385-3440

Congressman Elton Gallegly (24th District)

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

2829 Townsgate Road, Suite 315, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361, (805) 497-2224

485 Alisal Road, Suite G-1A, Solvang, CA 93463, (805) 686-2525

ForestWatch Programs

Citizens' Forest Campaign – Our team of trained volunteers monitor land use activities across the entire forest to document and report violations and environmental damage.

Watersheds & Water Quality – We work to restore critical watersheds, improve aquatic habitats, and maintain clean water supplies for local communities.

Wildlands Protection – We protect all wilderness and roadless areas to ensure that they remain wild for future generations.

Rare Plants & Animals – We protect rare plants and animals through field work, monitoring, and commenting on agency proposals to ensure that agencies follow the best science and environmental laws.

Fire & Fuels Management – When officials propose forest thinning or fuels reduction activities, we ensure that limited funds go where they're needed most – alongside communities in the wildland-urban interface.

Please help protect our national forest!

Your financial support enables us to continue our work.

Membership includes our newsletter and discounts to our events.

LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH
POST OFFICE BOX 831
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93102
PHONE: (805) 252-4277
WWW.LPFW.ORG

ForestWatch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

Your donation is tax-deductible.

