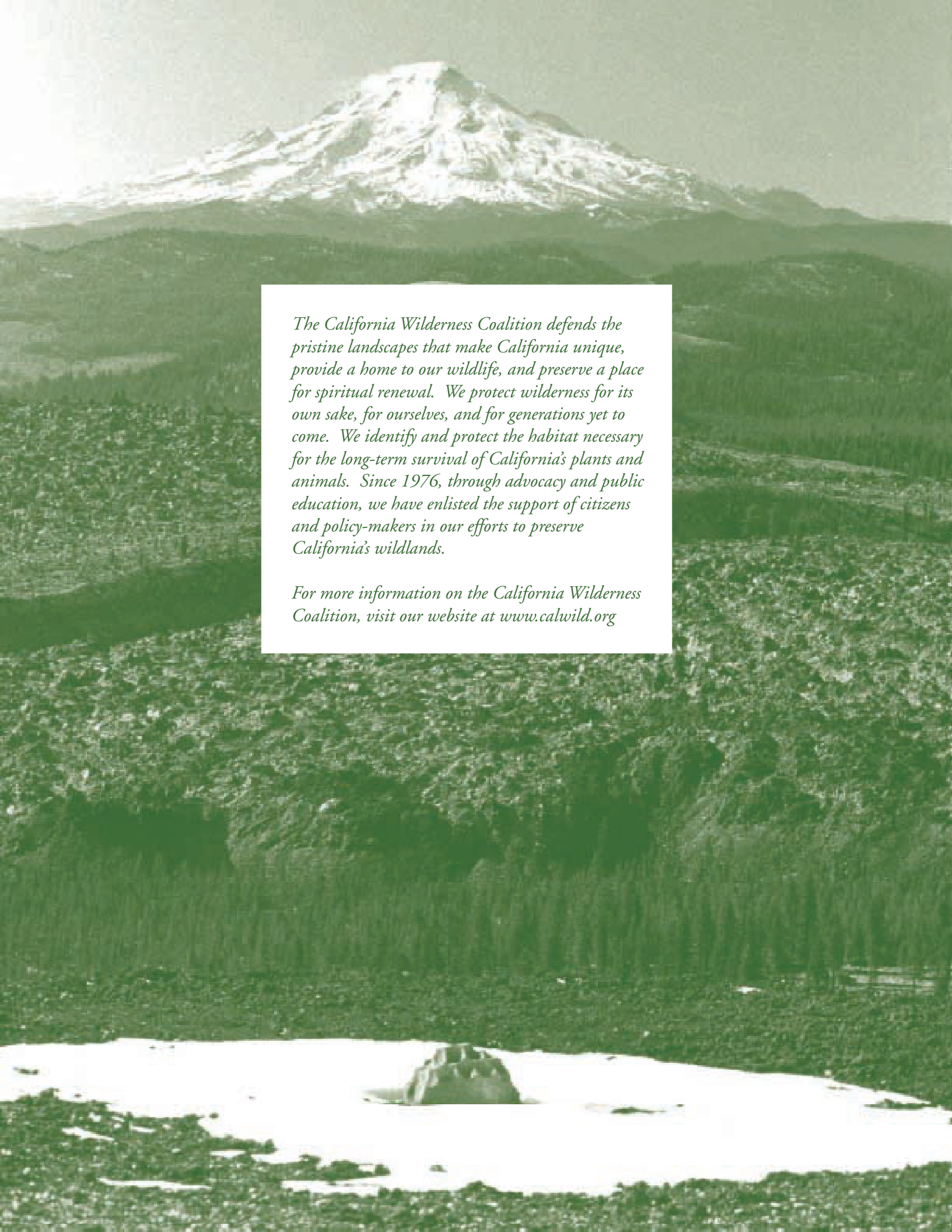


OUR NATURAL HERITAGE AT RISK:

California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places



CALIFORNIA
WILDERNESS
COALITION
A Voice for Wild California



The California Wilderness Coalition defends the pristine landscapes that make California unique, provide a home to our wildlife, and preserve a place for spiritual renewal. We protect wilderness for its own sake, for ourselves, and for generations yet to come. We identify and protect the habitat necessary for the long-term survival of California's plants and animals. Since 1976, through advocacy and public education, we have enlisted the support of citizens and policy-makers in our efforts to preserve California's wildlands.

For more information on the California Wilderness Coalition, visit our website at www.calwild.org

OUR NATURAL HERITAGE AT RISK

California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places

February, 2002

California Wilderness Coalition

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5

Davis, CA 95616

(530) 758-0380

www.calwild.org

Special Thanks to:

Tim Allyn, Anthony Ambrose, Christine Ambrose, Morgan Ball, Michelle Berditshevsky, Paul Carlton, Bill Corcoran, Courtney Cuff, Jane English, Gene Frick, Jenna Garmon, Keith Hammond, Ryan Henson, Simeon Herskovitz, Elden Hughes, Ariana Katovich, Jane Kelly, Laura Kindsvater, Claudia Luke, Jay Matchett, James McCarthy, Paul McFarland, John McGuire, Brittany McKee, Sally Miller, Jean Munoz, Felice Pace, Daniel Patterson, Kristeen Penrod, Peggy Risch, Jim Rose, Sedra Shapiro, Michael Summers, Helen Wagenvoord, Howard Wilshire, Wendall Wood.

This report has received the support of the following organizations:

- Center for Biological Diversity
- Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
- Klamath Forest Alliance
- Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
- National Parks Conservation Association
- Sierra Club California
- South Coast Wildlands Project
- Environmental Defense Center

"The wonder of nature is the treasure of America. What we have in woods and forest, valley and stream, in the gorges and mountains and the hills, we must not destroy.

The precious legacy of preservation of beauty will be our gift to posterity."

— Lyndon Baines Johnson

California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	iv
Introduction	vii
 California Desert	
Mojave Desert — Fort Irwin	2
Mojave Desert — Cadiz	4
 Southern California	
Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains	6
South Orange County	8
 Central Coast	
Gaviota Coast	10
Los Padres National Forest	12
 Sierra Nevada	
Owens River Headwaters	14
 Northern California	
Klamath River Basin	16
Medicine Lake Highlands	18
Trinity Alps Wilderness Additions	20
 Appendix	
Endangered and Threatened Species at Risk	22
Potential Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers at Risk	22

Executive Summary

With the largest population of any state—34 million and still growing fast—one in eight Americans now calls California home. Yet despite our tremendous population, California also retains a magnificent natural heritage of wildlife and wilderness, with 14 million acres of designated wilderness areas from the Pacific Coast ranges to the High Sierra crest to the wide Great Basin and Mojave Desert.

These are the places Californians go to hike for the day or backpack overnight, to spy bald eagles or black bears or shooting stars, to fish or float wild rivers, and just to escape the rush and clamor of our busy lives, finding peace in an oak-shaded meadow or a stunning view. These are the places where the thousands of diverse plants and animals that make up California's natural environment still thrive, untrammelled by civilization's sprawl. Californians have worked hard to protect our wild places, and we are fortunate to live amid such a wealth of wilderness.

But many of California's wild places may still be lost. Unfortunately today more than one-third of California's

wildlands, some 7 million acres, are still unprotected, vulnerable to the relentless encroachment of development that forever scars, fragments, and degrades our last wild natural environments. California's last wild places are under increasing pressure from urban sprawl, desert development, aggressive extraction of resources from roadless forests, and Bush administration rollbacks of environmental protections.

Once a wilderness is lost, it's gone forever. To prevent that fate, the California Wilderness Coalition set out to identify the ten most threatened spots in the Golden State, where imminent development would wipe out critical wild places and open spaces. We found the most urgent in places like the wild Mojave Desert, the great old-growth forests of the Trinity Alps, the unique volcanic highlands of Medicine Lake, and rare California coastal habitats like South Orange County and the Gaviota Coast.

What's at risk in these ten places? One National Park, one California State Park, six National Wildlife Refuges, and five designated Wilderness Areas. More than 45 threatened and endangered species, including California's state reptile, the desert tortoise, and many rare plants and animals that live in California and nowhere else. Eighteen proposed Wilderness Areas totalling more than 800,000 acres as well as five proposed

Wild & Scenic Rivers — wilderness that could soon host bulldozers and drilling rigs.

The tragic loss of so many wild places, so many uniquely Californian plants and animals, simply must not happen. Some costs are unacceptable. We owe it to future generations to stop the extinctions, to safeguard the ancient forests, the sun-baked canyons, the sweeping coasts that make up wild California, to fight for the last of the California condors, the San Joaquin kit foxes, the Coho salmon and California jewelflowers, so that our grandchildren may know California's natural wonders as we do today.

These ten places are where we can really make a difference. Congressional wilderness designation is needed to protect many

of these places; other wild landscapes on state or private lands require different approaches. But all of these wild places will be degraded or destroyed unless Californians act now.

Mojave Desert — Fort Irwin Expansion Threatens Pristine Wilderness and Endangered Desert Tortoise

The Army's Rhode Island-sized Fort Irwin National Training Center (NTC) is poised to expand even further into California's desert wilderness, jeopardizing endangered species and destroying 35,000 acres of potential wilderness.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says expansion could jeopardize the continued existence of the threatened desert tortoise and endangered Lane Mountain milkvetch plant.
- December 2001 legislation simply gave 110,000 acres from the Bureau of Land Management to the Army without environmental review beforehand.
- Base expansion would destroy 35,000 acres of potential wilderness, engulfing one entire Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and portions of another.

Los Padres National Forest — Proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Threatens 20 Imperiled Species for a Ten Day Supply of Oil

In spite of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, forest supervisors are targeting 140,000 acres of the Los Padres National Forest for oil and gas drilling, three-quarters of it still wild and roadless—rich habitat including redwood forests and oak woodlands, home to numerous imperiled species.



"...today more than one-third of California's wildlands, some 7 million acres, are still unprotected..."

- Some 20 endangered, threatened, and rare species live in the area proposed for drilling.
- About 100,000 acres of proposed wilderness is threatened by drilling, including designated Areas of High Ecological Significance.
- The Los Padres holds less than one percent of oil and gas on federal lands—potential reserves add up to at best a ten day supply nationwide.

Mojave Desert — Cadiz Water-Mining Project Would Dewater Five Wilderness Areas and a National Park

In the parched Mojave, water developer Cadiz Inc. proposes to mine an ancient aquifer, lowering the water table and threatening wildlife in the Mojave National Preserve and five designated BLM Wilderness Areas. Desert bighorn sheep, threatened desert tortoise, and rare plants would suffer; desert communities would get dust storms.

- Federal agencies and independent scientists agree the company’s estimates of groundwater “recharge” are far too low.
- U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have expressed concerns the project may harm the California desert, but BLM has refused additional public input.

South Orange County — Developer’s Sprawl and Toll Road Expansion Would Devastate Rare Habitat and a California State Park

A developer’s massive housing-shopping complex would destroy open space, globally rare habitat, and wildlife migration corridors between the coast and the mountains. Meanwhile, Orange County plans to punch a toll road through the same habitat and right on through the popular San Onofre State Beach. South Coast residents and endangered wildlife would lose twice.

- Projects would destroy or degrade habitat for as many as nine federally listed threatened and endangered species.
- Unprecedented taking of a state park by a county would threaten all California State Parks.

Trinity Alps Wilderness Additions— Logging the Last Old-Growth, Destroying Wilderness

Two post-fire “salvage” timber sales would shatter unprotected roadless areas in the heart of Northern California’s biggest remaining old-growth forests, harm threatened species, and destroy pristine wilderness areas proposed for addition to the majestic Trinity Alps Wilderness.

- Potential wilderness in the Orleans Mountain Roadless Area and other proposed Trinity Alps Wilderness Additions would be ruined.
- “Salvage logging” sales would not protect communities from fire — instead companies would take the largest ancient trees and leave highly flammable fuels behind.



Having thus far escaped the urban sprawl that has fragmented habitats throughout Southern California, South Orange county represents a rare and globally unique ecosystem.

- Forest Service is required to manage this area for the benefit of wildlife that need old-growth forests — yet they propose to log the habitat of threatened species.

Owens River Headwaters/San Joaquin Roadless Area — ORVs and Possible Ski Area Expansion Would Devastate a Crown Jewel of Roadless Forest Wilderness

In this unprotected wild forest, one of the Sierra Nevada’s biggest meadow ecosystems supports one of America’s finest, most popular trout fisheries — but it’s getting pounded by illegal off-road vehicle (ORV) use and its future is threatened by potential ski area expansion. Hanging in the balance: rare species, a world-class proposed wilderness area and three proposed Wild & Scenic rivers.

- Illegal proliferation of ORV routes is damaging wetlands and spilling sediment into trout streams.
- Mammoth and June Mountain ski areas have shown interest and could potentially expand into the headwaters if the Roadless Area Conservation Rule is not implemented.

Gaviota Coast — Development Threatens A Last Remnant of Southern California’s Undeveloped Coastline

West of Santa Barbara lies some of Southern California’s last rural coastline and richest biodiversity, but encroaching development threatens to wipe out the last open spaces and habitat for more than 40 sensitive species ranging from the surf line to the Santa Ynez Mountains.

- Gaviota Coast is home to more than a dozen endangered and threatened species, including several found nowhere else on earth.
- At least seven active development proposals along the Gaviota Coast are in the works—unless planners act to protect the area’s unique natural heritage.

Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains — Loss of Habitat Linkage Threatens Extinction for Mountain Lions in the Santa Anas

Although so much of southern California has been developed, the Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains still contain wild habitats for wildlife living in the region. Now urban development and other threats are creating a severe loss of the last remaining wild habitat that connects the two ranges.

- Without room to roam, mountain lions could go locally extinct in the Santa Ana Mountains.
- This area has been identified as a key recovery area for southern steelhead trout.
- The health of mountain lions, bobcat, and trout indicate the health of this entire ecosystem. Therefore, it is vitally important to ensure these species continue to have ample and healthy habitats.

Medicine Lake Highlands — Previously Rejected, Resurrected Power Plant Project Threatens Unique Wilderness

Industrial geothermal threats to the remote, pristine and geologically unique Medicine Lake Highlands have greatly escalated in recent months under the influence of the Bush Administration.

- Calpine plans future geothermal developments in the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area.
- Consistent with Bush energy policy, Interior Secretary Gale Norton lifted moratorium on geothermal development.

Klamath River Basin — Endangered Salmon Losing Battle with Interior Secretary Gale Norton

Water diversions, watershed degradation, and poor water quality continue to jeopardize the region’s threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species including native salmon and steelhead.

- Salmon losses cost over 3,000 jobs and more than \$75 million per year.
- National Academy of Sciences says Bush proposal to reduce water levels could cause extinction in Upper Klamath lake fish and Coho salmon.

Recommendations

While specific recommendations for each threatened area are found in the full report, we recommend a number of measures that would substantially increase protection for many of these places, as well as other threatened wildlands in California:

- Congress should designate wilderness areas on deserving public lands in California. Wilderness designation is the strongest protection under law, and the only means to ensure these lands are permanently protected for future generations.
- The U.S. Forest Service should uphold the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and find compatible ways to use forest resources without fragmenting and destroying the nation’s last wild forests.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should complete the listing of threatened and endangered species, and the designation of critical habitat for them, as required by law.
- Local land use planners should plan regionally, across political boundaries, to control urban growth in order to conserve threatened wildlife habitat and the connecting linkages vital to individual species and local ecosystems.

What’s Threatened?

- 1 National Park
- 1 California State Park
- 6 National Wildlife Refuges
- 5 Designated Wilderness Areas
- 47 Threatened and Endangered Species
- 18 Proposed Wilderness Areas
- 800,000 Acres of Proposed Wilderness
- 5 Proposed Wild & Scenic Rivers

Introduction

California is renowned for its scenic wilderness areas. These special places provide recreation opportunities for millions and are a vital part of our natural heritage and quality of life. California's National Forests, for example, are the source of more than 60 percent of our state's clean water. However, many of these wild places are at risk. Oil and gas drilling in the Los Padres National Forest threatens the home of the endangered California condor. Chainsaws are on the edge of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Development pressures endanger the last remnants of California's undeveloped coastline. These are the fates faced by some of California's most precious, but imperiled, wildlands.

The California Wilderness Coalition is working, along with our conservation partners and citizens throughout the state to win permanent protection for many of these pristine places through wilderness designation. Once designated wilderness by Congress, these wild public lands will be preserved in their natural state for future generations. However, if these areas are left to become severely degraded or developed they will no longer be considered viable candidates for wilderness.

Other threatened places will require different approaches to conservation: Many private and state lands in California are centers of biodiversity yet lack the protection needed to ensure that their natural character will be sustained. Restraining unplanned growth and development and other activities that degrade or destroy our last wilderness and open spaces is necessary to protect these rich and unique places, which are shrinking in size and number.

The aim of this report is to bring to your attention *California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places*. The report identifies unique areas across California that are currently threatened, describes the threats, and recommends policy reforms to ensure greater protection for these areas.

The California Wilderness Coalition staff, along with concerned citizens, activists, and conservation organizations, reviewed threatened wildlands throughout California. After carefully reviewing each area, *California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places* were chosen by using the following criteria:

Severity: What is the severity of the problem and the permanence of the damage?

Urgency: Does the problem pose an immediate threat to an area or will it slowly degrade an area over time?

Impact: How will the threats impact the wildlands? Do the threats include one or several of the following: logging, mining, development, oil and gas development, roadbuilding, off-road vehicle use, water development and diversion?



Howard Wilshire

A plan to mine groundwater in the Mojave Desert threatens California's second largest herd of desert bighorn sheep.

Significance: What is the ecological, cultural or historical significance of the area? Does the area contain threatened or endangered species?

Fragmentation: Are the wildlands becoming increasingly fragmented resulting in both geographic and ecological isolation?

Your active participation is greatly needed to preserve the wild areas near you and across California from threats such as development, logging, off-road vehicle abuse, and water diversion and pollution.

For more information on how to get involved to help protect *California's 10 Most Threatened Wild Places* and other lands that deserve to be preserved for future generations, see the "WHAT YOU CAN DO" section regarding each threatened place. Unless more citizens get involved to help save these imperiled wild lands, we will continue to lose precious places that should be cherished for generations to come.

Mojave Desert — Fort Irwin

FORT IRWIN'S PLAN FOR EXPANSION WOULD JEOPARDIZE ENDANGERED SPECIES AND WILDERNESS

Background

In San Bernardino County, north of the town of Barstow, California's desert wildlife and wilderness are threatened by the expansion of the Fort Irwin National Training Center by an additional 131,000 acres. The expansion of the Army's National Training Center (NTC) and its combat training operations will jeopardize the survival and recovery of federally protected threatened and endangered species, including the federally threatened desert tortoise and endangered Lane Mountain milkvetch.

Legislation passed in December 2001 — the military's annual Defense Authorization bill — gives more than 110,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management public lands to the Army immediately, without environmental law compliance up-front. The legislation ends the conservation of botanically diverse wildlands in the California Desert, including the Avawatz and South Avawatz Wilderness Study Areas — lands Congress has identified as meriting wilderness protection. The southern portion of the base, which has been closed to protect the declining desert tortoise population, is slated to be opened for training exercises.

The California Desert Protection Act (CDPA) of 1994 designated over seven million acres of new wilderness area throughout the California desert and retained eight Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). Among these WSAs were the Avawatz Mountains, Death Valley National Park Wilderness 17, Kingston Range, Soda Mountains, and South Avawatz Mountains WSAs. These were not designated wilderness based on an earlier proposal to expand the Fort Irwin National Training Center.

Outstanding Values

The Avawatz Mountains Wilderness Study Area is characterized by colorful slopes, rugged ridges, steep and narrow canyons, and creosote-covered valleys. This area is a paradise for rock climbers, as well as cross-country hikers and equestrians. It contains a seasonal bighorn sheep range as well as bobcat and roadrunner. Cultural sites include remnants from Shoshone Indians and prehistoric civilizations.

The entire South Avawatz Mountains WSA will be engulfed by the expansion of Fort Irwin. This vast and largely undisturbed area is home to desert bighorn sheep, sacred Native American sites, and part of the historic Old Spanish Emigrant Trail. It also offers sweeping views of both the Soda and Avawatz Mountains.



Janet Barth

California's desert wildlife and wilderness are threatened by the expansion of the Fort Irwin National Training Center by an additional 110,000 acres.

The expansion also includes the Superior Valley, an irreplaceable refuge for a wide variety of unique and vulnerable desert plants and animals, including two species threatened with extinction: the desert tortoise and Lane Mountain milkvetch.

Threats — Development

The expansion of the Army's National Training Center (NTC) and its combat training operations would destroy 35,000 acres of potential wilderness areas in the Avawatz Mountains and South Avawatz Mountains Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

The endangered Lane Mountain milkvetch, a slender spring flowering perennial that grows only in the Superior Valley, would be plundered by the expansion. Most of the Lane Mountain milkvetch plants lie within the proposed expansion area. Much of the original habitat for both of these species has already been destroyed by development, mining, grazing, off-roading and military training.

The federally threatened desert tortoise has suffered a steady decline in population over the past several years. The destruction of the tortoise's invaluable habitat within the Superior Valley, an area critical to its future recovery, will hasten its demise in the Western Mojave Desert.

Tortoise populations would also be devastated in the southern portion of the NTC (known as the UTM-90 lands). This area historically has been closed to protect one of the few thriving tortoise populations in the Western Mojave. The expansion will allow tank training to overrun this invaluable population of healthy animals.

Status

In December 2001 the military's annual Defense Authorization bill passed, authorizing the expansion of the Fort Irwin National Training Center. The expansion gives land which was formerly managed by the Bureau of Land Management to the Army for combat training. Included in these lands are the entire South Avawatz Wilderness Study Area, a portion of the Avawatz Wilderness Study Area, and parts of the Superior Valley.

Currently, the Army must begin environmental review required by the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the expansion is due in March 2002 followed by public comment hearings in December. The final Environmental Impact Statement is due in June 2003.

Recommendations

Congress should designate as wilderness the Cady Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA), Kingston Range WSA, Death Valley National Park 17 WSA, Great Falls Basin WSA, Soda Mountains WSA, the remainder of the Avawatz WSA, and other identified potential wilderness areas not overtaken by the Fort Irwin expansion.

The Bureau of Land Management is the agency designed to protect public lands and wildlife and should retain these lands until the Army has complied with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) processes. By complying with these laws, the Army will also be compelled to consider other alternatives and fully justify the need for this expansion in advance of taking these lands.

Desert tortoise critical habitat and Lane Mountain milkvetch habitat in the west Mojave should be protected from potential mining projects. Protection of desert tortoise critical habitat should be expanded by 30,000 acres, and off-road vehicle use in the tortoise's habitat should be restricted to maximize its recovery.

Additional protections for the Lane Mountain milkvetch should be ensured by designating the Lane Mountain Milkvetch Research Natural Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern on the federal lands south of Fort Irwin.

The southern portion of the Fort Irwin NTC which historically has been closed to protect the desert tortoise, should remain closed and continue with current management practices in order to protect existing desert tortoise populations.

What You Can Do

Please take just a minute to write California's U.S. Senators and thank them for their efforts to protect the California desert. Urge them to continue with their efforts by designating remaining WSAs around Fort Irwin as wilderness and ensuring that the Army follows all existing and necessary environmental laws so that it does not sacrifice the fragile wildlife and wilderness of the California desert.

Hon. Barbara Boxer

United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 956-6701 fax in San Francisco

Hon. Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
(202) 228-3954 fax

For more information contact:

California Wilderness Coalition
(530) 758-0380
info@calwild.org
<http://www.calwild.org>



Howard Wilshire

Destruction of the threatened desert tortoise's invaluable habitat in the Superior Valley will hasten its demise in the Western Mojave Desert.

Mojave Desert — Cadiz

WATER MINING PROJECT WOULD LOWER WATER TABLE AND THREATEN DESERT WILDERNESS

Background

Water has always been scarce in the arid West. For many years Southern California has taken more than its share from the Colorado River, but two years ago it was ordered to reduce the amount it takes from the river. Now, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California — the nation's largest water district, which serves metropolitan Southern California including Los Angeles and San Diego — is searching for new sources to tap.

Cadiz, Inc., a private agricultural and water development corporation with land in the Mojave Desert, proposes to mine up to 650 billion gallons of native groundwater from the aquifer beneath its land in the Mojave desert and sell it to MWD. While mining native water from the aquifer, Cadiz Inc., also proposes to separately pump Colorado River water into the same groundwater basin for storage and withdrawal.

Storing water in aquifers is an effective means to store water from an outside source, and can cause less environmental degradation than dams and reservoirs. The problem is that the Cadiz project is also a mining project that is taking groundwater from federally protected wilderness areas and a national park.

Finally, the project would build a pipeline across a pristine desert rather than use existing utility corridors. This violates restrictions in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Outstanding Values

The aquifer in question underlies the Cadiz and Fenner valleys and has sustained the fragile ecosystem of the western Mojave Desert for millennia. The bulk of the aquifer supports five Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas (the Trilobite, Clipper Mountain, Old Woman Mountains, Sheephole Valley, and Cadiz Dunes Wilderness Areas) and the Mojave National Preserve, managed by the National Park Service.

These wildlands are home to the second largest herd of desert bighorn sheep in California's Mojave Desert, and to the desert tortoise, listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Bonanza Spring in the Clipper Mountain Wilderness is the largest spring in the Fenner Valley, much of which is critical desert tortoise habitat. This region is home to the Iron Mountains, a potential wilderness area, and also harbors the Salt Song Trail which is sacred to the Colorado River Indian Tribes.



Pete Yamagata

Old Woman Mountains Wilderness is one of the five wilderness areas that would be adversely impacted if Cadiz Inc. is allowed to mine groundwater from beneath it.

Threats — Groundwater Overdraft

Cadiz Inc. proposes to sell up to 60,000 acre-feet per year of native groundwater to MWD for use by growing Southern California. Cadiz Inc. claims that overdraft is not a serious issue as the aquifer will annually replenish itself. Independent and federal agency scientists disagree and think Cadiz is overestimating the recharge by perhaps tenfold — and setting the stage for serious overdraft.

Overdraft, or the draining of the groundwater system, could devastate the desert landscapes, plants, and animals that have been supported by this aquifer for millennia. It could cause huge dust storms as overdraft would lower the water table beneath Bristol and Cadiz dry lakes. As a result, regional air quality and visibility would deteriorate. Depleting the aquifer is also likely to result in the migration of salts towards the project site, rendering more of the groundwater unusable.

The repercussions of the project could take a toll on springs in the Marble Mountains, the second largest herd of desert bighorn sheep in California, and the already struggling populations of desert tortoise in nearby critical habitat areas.

The project has two alternative pipeline and powerline routes through the proposed Iron Mountains wilderness area. If this project is approved it would destroy a significant chunk of now-roadless land from the proposed wilderness.

Status

Instead of studying and resolving the water recharge issue, Cadiz and MWD have proposed a monitoring system to detect changes in the aquifer level and in air quality conditions. However, project opponents say this "safety net" has huge holes. Dr. John Bredehoeft, a former senior researcher and manager with the U.S. Geological Survey, concludes that the proposed monitoring system cannot effectively prevent overdraft and environmental harm. Because the aquifer moves very slowly, the monitoring system will provide delayed and outdated feedback. By the time the monitoring system notes that the groundwater level or air quality has declined, it will be too late and those conditions will likely only worsen for decades.

Making matters worse, Cadiz Inc. has revealed in its own public filings that it has been losing money for several years. Its most recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reveals that its losses continue to mount. This financial position raises questions as to whether Cadiz can be counted on to make good on its financial or environmental commitments, including paying for the hidden additional costs of mitigating the harmful impacts of overdrafting the aquifer.

Both of California's U.S. Senators have expressed concerns about this project and the damage it may do to the California Desert. Despite their requests, the BLM has closed itself off from additional public input and scrutiny. The BLM will soon release its Record of Decision on the project.

Recommendations

The Iron Mountains were originally excluded from Bureau of Land Management wilderness surveys due to private inholdings. The recent acquisition of the private lands, however, makes the area an ideal wilderness candidate. Congress should designate the Iron Mountains as wilderness.

The environmental analysis for this project is incomplete, the monitoring system is flawed and there is no clear plan for how environmental problems will be managed. These problems must be addressed in a supplemental management plan and subjected to public review.

Southern California needs to develop sustainable solutions to meet its growing water needs by maximizing the agency's limited resources, not by taking unsustainable and finite resources such as irreplaceable desert groundwater. The Metropolitan Water District needs to revise its economic analysis of the project and acknowledge that this project needs to either mine a lot of groundwater or lose a lot of money — it's a lose-lose proposition.

The National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, the stewards of the public lands potentially in jeopardy, should be given great oversight and management roles.

No project, storage or otherwise, should go forward until the aquifer recharge rates are accurately determined and mitigation measures can be properly assessed. Furthermore, the BLM should not approve any extraction rate greater than the rate at which the aquifer recharges, which appears to be 6,000 acre feet per year.

What You Can Do:

Write letters to both of California's U.S. Senators thanking them for their involvement in this issue. Encourage them to continue supporting protection for the California desert, and to designate the Iron Mountains as wilderness.

Hon. Barbara Boxer

United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 956-6701 fax in San Francisco

Hon. Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
(202) 228-3954 fax

Contact the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and ask that they redo their economic and hydrology analysis and only approve a groundwater storage project and water supply solutions that are sustainable and protective of California's natural environment.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153
(213) 217-6000
<http://www.mwd.dst.ca.us/>

Write to the Bureau of Land Management and ask that they not approve either the powerline corridor or an extraction rate of water that is greater than 6,000 acre feet of water per year.

Bureau of Land Management

Mike Pool
California State Director
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886
(916) 978-4400

For more information contact:

Elden Hughes, Sierra Club, (562) 941-5306,
eldenhughes@aol.com

Jane Kelly, Public Citizen-California Office, (510) 663-0888
[ext.101, jkelly@citizen.org](mailto:jkelly@citizen.org)

Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains

LOSS OF HABITAT IN THE SANTA ANA AND PALOMAR MOUNTAINS THREATENS SPECIES SURVIVAL

Background

In order for species to survive and for wildlife communities to withstand disturbances to their environment, they need room — to migrate, to follow seasonal food sources, to seek mates, to reach breeding grounds. Unfortunately, unplanned growth, road building, and other types of development are carving up habitat throughout the state of California into smaller and smaller pieces, reducing the chances of survival for many key species. The United States already has lost many species due to loss of habitat, and now habitat for existing species is becoming increasingly more isolated. Such is the case in the Cleveland National Forest, where the wildlife living in the Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains are faced with a serious threat from habitat fragmentation and isolation.

The Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains are located in two separate sections of the Cleveland National Forest: the Santa Ana Mountains north of the city of Temecula, and the Palomars to the south. The northern end of the Palomar Mountains are protected as the Agua Tibia Wilderness. However, the private lands connecting these two ranges are not granted the same protection as the National Forest lands, and are subject to habitat fragmentation and isolation.

Maintaining habitats intact, by minimizing fragmentation due to development such as road building and urban sprawl, is crucial to sustaining California's natural heritage. If identified carefully and managed properly, *habitat linkages* and *wildlife corridors* — parcels of land that connect two larger sections of habitat vital to wildlife movement and survival — can contribute significantly to the survival of individual species and also to the health of the ecosystem.

Outstanding Values

The Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains are low elevation ranges in the Cleveland National Forest that extend through Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties. The habitat linkage between these ranges stretches roughly 19 miles between two separate regions of the National Forest.

One of the last natural rivers in the intensively developed region between Los Angeles and San Diego, the Santa Margarita River winds through the coastal sage, chaparral, and grasslands of the area and continues westward along the southern boundary of the Santa Ana Mountains to the ocean. The Santa Margarita River, from its headwaters near the city of Temecula to its mouth at the Pacific Ocean, 27 miles away, remains primarily in its natural state.



Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve

Although so much of Southern California has been developed, the Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains still contain wild habitats for wildlife living in the region.

This rich combination of riparian (streamside) woodlands and higher elevation habitats provides food and shelter for mountain lion and bobcats moving between the ranges. This area has also been identified as a key recovery area for the endangered southern steelhead trout. The health of mountain lions, bobcat and trout indicate the health of this entire ecosystem. It is vitally important to ensure these species continue to have ample and healthy habitats.

Threats — Development

Although so much of southern California has been developed, the Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains still contain wild habitats for wildlife living in the region. However, urban development and other threats are creating a severe loss of this last remaining wild habitat of coastal sage, chaparral and grasslands.

In addition to urban development, agricultural development, traffic on roads (including I-15), proliferation of non-native species, and artificial stream barriers are also threatening species survival and proliferation.

Should these linkages lose their current ability to sustain mountain lions, then mountain lions would most likely become extinct in the Santa Ana Mountains. Their loss would trigger a wave of change throughout populations of herbivores and smaller carnivores and the species on which they depend. The loss of these top predators of the ecosystem would permanently alter the complex weave of ecosystem function in the Santa Ana and Palomar ranges.

Status

The land between the Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains has been the focus of planning efforts from a wide variety of federal and state agencies and conservation organizations for the last 10 years.

Recently, the San Diego State University Field Stations Program, South Coast Wildlands Project, and The Nature Conservancy cosponsored a Habitat Connectivity Workshop that addressed the ecological values of the areas and also looked at focusing planning efforts on the need to maintain connectivity between these two ranges.

A conservation effort known as the Santa Ana-Palomar Mountains Linkage Project addresses the key issue of preserving biodiversity and ecosystem function at a landscape level. This highly collaborative project engages over 40 universities, agencies, and organizations, as well as members of the public, and is strongly based in scientific principles as a basis for conservation planning.

Furthermore, federal, state, county and private agencies have undertaken efforts such as analyzing and protecting habitat, funding studies to protect ecosystems and undertaken planning efforts to identify core habitats and corridors necessary for species survival.

Recommendations

Continued conservation efforts are needed for the Santa Ana-Palomar Mountains Linkage. As with many other fragmented habitats, a strategic plan is necessary to integrate conservation science into conservation planning and provide a framework for conservation efforts in other areas. The linkage needs to become a priority in both Riverside and San Diego Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCP).

The Santa Ana-Palomar Mountains Linkage lies on the boundary between San Diego and Riverside counties and is easily lost in independent planning efforts. Therefore, coordinated efforts between the two counties' plans is necessary. Furthermore, a significant education effort needs to be launched that will engage people living in the linkage with an understanding of regional processes and the importance of their land management actions.

What You Can Do

Support is needed through letters and phone calls to local elected officials in Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties. Please encourage them to support NCCP planning efforts, transportation planning, urban development, and land acquisition initiatives that protect the Santa Ana-Palomar Linkage and promote wildlife and habitat connectivity.

A conservation plan for the linkage is currently under development by San Diego State University Field Station Programs and its partners. The execution of this plan will depend upon community involvement and support.

To learn more about this program and how you can get involved, please contact:

SDSU Field Station Programs

Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve
(760) 728-9446

South Orange County

RANCHO MISSION VIEJO DEVELOPMENT AND PROPOSED FOOTHILL-SOUTH TOLL ROAD WOULD DEVASTATE OPEN SPACE AND POPULAR STATE PARK

Background

In South Orange County, two development proposals threaten to devastate habitat that provides one of the last homes to a number of rare plants and at least nine threatened and endangered wildlife species.

The largest landowner in South Orange County, the Rancho Mission Viejo Company, has proposed building 14,000 housing units and over 5 million square feet of commercial space on its remaining 22,850 acres of open space.

At the same time, the County of Orange is spearheading an effort to build a 16-mile extension of the Foothill Toll Road, called Foothill-South. The preferred route would run through the heart of the Rancho Mission Viejo open space and then through San Onofre State Beach. Just over the county line in San Diego County, the state beach is among the five most popular state parks in California. This move by the county, to build through a state park, would set a dangerous precedent for state parks elsewhere in California.

The proposed toll road and Rancho Mission Viejo housing and commercial development would devastate this globally rare ecosystem. The development projects would sever wildlife habitat and migration corridors — vital to wildlife movement and survival — especially on lands connecting the Rancho Mission Viejo Land Conservancy to the Cleveland National Forest.

Outstanding Values

Much of Southern California's unique biodiversity is concentrated in the foothills and terraces along the Pacific Coast, from Orange County to the Mexican border. Having thus far escaped the urban sprawl that has reduced and fragmented natural habitats throughout Southern California, South Orange County represents a rare and globally unique ecosystem. It is an area harboring very high concentrations of unique plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth.

The 22,850 acres of open space owned by Rancho Mission Viejo is the heart of an area that supports:

- More than half of the total remaining population of coastal cactus wren in the world
- At least nine federally listed threatened and endangered species



Jim Blomquist

The proposed Foothill-South Toll Road extension, which could be as many as eight lanes wide, would cut through the middle of the open space pictured here.

- Up to 25 percent of all the California gnatcatchers left in the United States — the country's largest population of this threatened bird
- One of the largest known complexes of several rare or endangered plant species, including southern tarplant, many-stemmed dudleya, and intermediate mariposa lily
- Significant acreage of native grasslands. California's native perennial grasslands have been reduced to about 0.1 percent of their original range.

South Orange County supports a tremendous diversity of nesting raptors (hawks, owls, eagles, and falcons) with over 330 recorded nest sites and 15 species including a critical foraging area for one of the last remaining golden eagle pairs in Orange County.

The area is also home to San Mateo Creek — one of the last entirely wild creeks remaining in coastal Southern California. San Mateo Creek is the most pristine coastal stream south of the Santa Monica Mountains and is a breeding ground for the endangered southern steelhead trout.

Threats — Loss of Open Space and Wildlife Habitat

The proposed Foothill-South Toll Road extension — as many as eight lanes wide — and the Rancho Mission Viejo development proposal threaten to destroy critical habitat, jeopardize endangered species, sever wildlife corridors, and pollute the cleanest remaining watershed in the area. The developments would also cause the loss of a significant part of one of California's most popular state parks and ruin one of Southern California's last great natural surfing beaches.

Development of the Rancho Mission Viejo property and the Foothill-South Toll Road would degrade water quality in what the EPA has characterized as the healthiest watershed remaining in all of Southern California (US EPA, Index of Watershed Indicators, September 1999).

Construction and roadbuilding in and around wild creeks and wetlands would pollute the creeks and local surf, and threaten the critically endangered southern steelhead trout, which was recently re-discovered in San Mateo Creek. San Mateo Creek runs through San Onofre State Beach and flows out at Trestles Beach, the finest natural surfing beach in Southern California. Dirtier water and a change in sediment flow would ruin this highly prized state park resource.

Current Status

A highly complex series of environmental planning processes are underway in South Orange County. The Foothill-South Toll Road project has proven so controversial among the regulatory agencies that a facilitator was brought in. A scoping hearing was held to determine the issues being considered for the project. A set of alternatives is currently being analyzed, including different toll road routes though the same and other open space. Most alternatives being analyzed would devastate the area as they are variations of a toll road.

An unprecedented environmental review process is being applied to the Rancho Mission Viejo development proposal. Three complex and different planning processes are happening concurrently. The developers benefit from carrying out these plans at the same time, because it allows them to potentially receive all necessary permits at once.

Therefore, area residents already grappling with the Toll Road environmental process now find themselves also confronting 1) a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), which is a state program that attempts to plan for development and

endangered species management at a regional scale, 2) a Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), which is the Army Corps of Engineers version of a NCCP for area wetlands and creeks, and 3) a General Plan Amendment and Zoning Changes for the County of Orange.

Recommendation

This globally rare land should be at the top of any list of land to acquire and protect forever. The County of Orange should defer decisions on its General Plan and zoning until an objective scientific review has identified the resources that must be protected on this land. The State of California should act vigorously to protect San Onofre State Beach from the Foothill-South Toll Road extension.

Alternative transportation options should be considered. Improved public transportation such as commuter shuttle services or a high-speed rail system could provide quick commuting between communities and job centers, and reduce freeway congestion. Furthermore, improvements should be made on existing commuter routes.

If this land and the state park are protected, Southern California will have protected open space that links the surf at San Clemente through Rancho Mission Viejo and Cleveland National Forest to the Whittier Hills in Los Angeles County. This is California's last chance to protect the best remaining example of some of our rarest habitat and species.

What You Can Do

To find out how you can help save South Orange County's last open space, contact:

Sierra Club
Brittany McKee
(949) 361-7534
brittany.mckee@sierraclub.org
or visit:
<http://www.friendsofthefoothills.org>

Gaviota Coast

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES THREATEN ONE OF THE LAST REMNANTS OF CALIFORNIA'S UNPROTECTED AND UNDEVELOPED COASTLINE

Background

The Gaviota Coast is one of the last remnants of unprotected and undeveloped coastline in South Central California. It makes up only 15 percent of Southern California's coast, but contains 50 percent of its rural coastline. The Gaviota Coast lies within western Santa Barbara County, stretching westward from Coal Oil Point in Isla Vista (just west of the UC Santa Barbara campus) to the watersheds of Point Sal. The area is an interface between land and sea, connecting the coastal watersheds running from the Santa Ynez Mountains down to the Santa Barbara Channel. Private property comprises 78 percent of the coastline, which also includes Vandenberg Air Force Base and public recreation areas like El Capitan State Beach, Refugio State Beach, and Gaviota State Park.

Outstanding Values

A globally unique climate and habitat is produced at Gaviota, resulting from the convergence of warm and cold water currents off the coast. In addition to being a key marine transition zone, the Gaviota Coast is one of the most important terrestrial transition zones between northern and southern California, resulting in rich biodiversity and unique species.

More than 40 sensitive species inhabit the coast, including the California red-legged frog, Western snowy plover, Southern California steelhead, tidewater goby, peregrine falcon, southern sea otter, California least tern, and California brown pelican. The coast serves as vital migration corridor between inland, mountainous, and coastal habitat areas.

The coastline's recreational resources are already utilized by county residents and visitors alike. State and county parks provide public beach access for day-use activities such as swimming, surfing, and kayaking, while other public uses along the coast include hiking, camping, whale watching, surf fishing, and hang gliding.

Threats — Development Pressures

The area is under intense development pressure due to high land values, which raise property taxes on undeveloped land and can make it financially infeasible to maintain land in agricultural use. Some intensive land uses have begun to degrade Gaviota's resources, as evidenced by decreased water quality, compromised viewshed integrity, and the continued loss of farmland and an agricultural way-of-life.



Morgan Ball

More than 40 sensitive species inhabit the Gaviota Coast, including the southern sea otter.

Continued population growth in Santa Barbara County — projected to increase 50 percent by 2025 — will add to the existing threat of increased urbanization up the coast. Many of Gaviota's agricultural lands are *not* designated as agricultural preserves under a state law known as the Williamson Act, which provides tax breaks for landowners who agree to keep their land in agriculture for 10 years, thereby protecting the land from development. Therefore, as taxes increase, landowners whose lands are not designated as preserves are finding it harder to hold onto their lands. Eventually these lands are sold and can be zoned for development.

Agricultural zoning of Gaviota land parcels is the main impediment to development up the coast, but zoning is a temporary and politically vulnerable land use designation which can be changed in the face of economic pressure. There have been many attempts to increase the development potential of land parcels through the lot line adjustment process, a tactic that is being misused to avoid the required subdivision process.

Status

Current management practices are insufficient to preserve the existing rural qualities of the coast from encroaching urbanization. Active development proposals along the Gaviota Coast are currently in the works, including projects at Ellwood Mesa, Winchester Canyon, Eagle Canyon, Naples, El Capitan Ranch, Tajiguas Ranch, and Dos Vistas Ranch.

Local residents are exploring management strategies to maintain the undeveloped, rural nature of the Gaviota Coast and prevent the continued degradation of the area's unique resources. The goals of such strategies are to preserve the Gaviota Coast's productive agricultural and ranching traditions as well as the integrity of its natural resources.

In response to local concerns about the future of the Gaviota Coast, in January 2000 the National Park Service (NPS) initiated the Gaviota Coast Seashore Feasibility Study to explore potential management methods for the area. The purpose of the feasibility study is to:

- Evaluate the significance of the Gaviota Coast's natural, cultural, and recreational resources
- Assess the suitability and feasibility of adding the area to the National Park system
- Analyze alternative management and protection strategies that could be applied to the Gaviota Coast
- Make recommendations as to which alternative would best protect the resources of the Gaviota Coast, based on the information gathered in the study and from public input.

Recommendations

Support the preparation of the National Park Service's feasibility study and other local, state and federal tools that will reduce development threats and preserve the natural, scenic, cultural and agricultural resources on the Gaviota Coast.

Other possible management strategies include the purchase of conservation easements or development rights from private land owners, as well as purchasing land outright. The County of Santa Barbara should update its General Plan to ensure comprehensive planning and greater opportunities for conservation measures for private property, open space and agricultural lands. The state should offer tax credits on gifts of land for conservation purposes.

Santa Barbara County should introduce a county level ballot initiative that, if passed, would lock the county's agricultural zoning ordinances and policies into place for a predetermined period, up to a maximum of 30 years. Subsequent changes to rural zoning would have to be voted on by the citizens of Santa Barbara County.

What You Can Do

In June 2002, the National Park Service's feasibility study will be released for public comment. Please be ready to comment on the study. For other ways to get involved, contact the groups listed below.

Sierra Club

Ariana Katovich
(805) 564-7892
Ariana.Katovich@sierraclub.org

Gaviota Coast Conservancy

(805) 563-7976
<http://www.gaviotacoast.org>

Environmental Defense Center

(805) 963-1622
edc@edcnet.org

National Parks Conservation Association

Courtney Cuff
(510) 839-9922
ccuff@npca.org
<http://www.npca.org>

Los Padres National Forest

PROPOSED OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT PUTS WILD FOREST LANDS AND CRITICAL HABITAT AREAS AT RISK

Background

In October 2001, the Los Padres National Forest released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for oil and gas leasing on this central coast National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has targeted an estimated 140,000 acres for drilling within the Los Padres — 74 percent of these are wild and roadless forest lands that provide vital habitat for many threatened and endangered species.

All Forest Service lands outside of protected wilderness areas are potentially at risk. The Forest Service has identified 'high potential areas' likely to be the first threatened if new oil and gas leases are permitted. These areas include potential wilderness areas, well known trails for horse packing, backpacking and hiking, lands the Forest Service has identified as "Areas of High Ecological Significance," and habitat for some 20 imperiled species.

While drilling in these areas poses significant risk, it offers no real solution — providing at best a ten day supply of energy for the nation. According to the Forest Service's own studies, the Los Padres National Forest contains less than one percent of the gas and oil thought to exist in federal lands throughout the United States.

Outstanding Values

The region encompassing the southern district of the Los Padres National Forest marks a transition zone of climate, plant community types, and ocean currents between central and southern coastal California. The mountain ranges of the Los Padres are a rare phenomenon due to their east-west axis. Warm, dry climates to the south meet cool, wet climates from the north. Transition zones of this type create a higher density of biodiversity — the region is home to more than 1,500 native plant and animal species.

The variety of ecosystems in the Los Padres include sea coast and marine habitats, redwood forest, mixed conifer forest, oak woodland, grassland, piñon-juniper, chaparral, and semi-desert. Among the species inhabiting the forest are California condor, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, California spotted owl, tule elk, bighorn sheep, San Joaquin kit fox, California red-legged frog, southern steelhead, Gambel's water cress, Hoover's eriastrum, and the California jewelflower.



Jim Rose

Los Padres National Forest marks a transition zone of climate, plant types, and ocean currents between central and southern coastal California.

Threats

There are at least 20 plants and animals listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive species under state and federal law that are at risk from expanded oil and gas activities on the Los Padres National Forest. According to the Forest Service, the species most at risk from oil drilling are the endangered blunt-nosed leopard lizard and the endangered California condor. The mountain plover, Swainson's hawk, southern rubber boa, riparian brush rabbit, California spotted owl, and many other species are at risk from habitat loss, human disturbance, and noise disturbance.

Furthermore, 66 percent of the oak woodlands within the Los Padres National Forest exist in areas being considered for oil and gas exploration. This creates a significant threat as oak woodland habitat has declined dramatically from its historical range and is a conservation priority for California.

Several potential wilderness areas could be impacted by oil and gas development. This would devastate their wild character and disqualify them from being designated by Congress as wilderness. Potential wilderness areas that are likely to be the first threatened if new oil and gas leases are permitted include: White Ledge, a Matilija Wilderness Addition, Bear Creek, Cuyama, Dick Smith Wilderness Additions, Moon Canyon, Fox Mountain East and Fox Mountain West, San Rafael Wilderness Additions, and Apache, Badlands, Quatal Canyon, and Long's Canyon, which are Chumash Wilderness Additions.

There are numerous Native American archeological sites that contain a wide variety of history within the proposed oil and gas area including Painted Rock, Lion Canyon, and White Ledge. In fact, two potential wilderness areas, Quatal Canyon and Badlands, are still used by the Chumash for spiritual ceremonies and festivals.

Current Status

The Forest Service is accepting public comment until mid-April 2002 on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that describes several alternatives for managing oil and gas leasing within the Los Padres National Forest. The seven alternatives described in the DEIS range from no new leasing for oil and gas, to allowing leasing with "standard lease terms" on all legally available national forest lands.

This draft environmental impact statement is premature and ill-informed. For example, there is little discussion of potential impacts to groundwater. When oil drilling occurs, toxic drill mud can be introduced into groundwater systems. These toxics are known endocrine disrupters and have been known to cause all sorts of ecological damage. The toxics are not mentioned in the DEIS. Furthermore, drilling for oil in these areas requires the use of large amounts of steam. The huge amounts of high quality groundwater required for this process are not discussed in the DEIS.

Recommendations

Congress should permanently protect the threatened wildlands in the Los Padres National Forest by designating them as wilderness. This would ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy this area as we do today.

By safeguarding these lands and threatened species from increased activity now, we can prevent causing further harm. The Bush Administration should immediately implement the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which would prevent road-intensive activities such as oil and gas development in inventoried roadless areas.

The Los Padres National Forest should ensure it has all the necessary information and analysis required to make an informed decision on oil and gas activity within this region before proceeding with the DEIS. This should include the impacts on groundwater systems, water quality, and toxics.

To maintain our quality of life, and keep up with our energy needs, we can preserve our remaining wild lands, while also planning for our future by promoting conservation and efficiency and investing in renewable alternatives like wind and solar.

What You Can Do

Support efforts to ensure these areas receive permanent protection through wilderness designation. Please let Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Congresswoman Lois Capps know that you would like to see permanent protection granted for all of the eligible wild places in the Los Padres National Forest.

Hon. Barbara Boxer

United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 956-6701 fax in San Francisco

Hon. Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
(202) 228-3954 fax

Hon. Lois Capps

U.S. House of Representatives
1118 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3601
(202) 225-5632 fax

Write the Forest Service and let them know that "OIL AND WILDERNESS DON'T MIX." In your letter, tell the Forest Service that you do not want to see any oil or gas leases in the potential wilderness of the Los Padres National Forest. These areas should be permanently protected with wilderness designation.

Send your letter to:

USDA Forest Service

Al Hess, Project Manager
1190 East Ojai Avenue
Ojai, CA 93023
Comments may be sent via e-mail to: ahess@fs.fed.us.

For more information contact:

California Wild Heritage Campaign

Michael Summers
(805) 455-3422
summers@conceptioncoast.org
<http://www.californiawild.org>

Owens River Headwaters

OLD-GROWTH FORESTS AND WORLD-CLASS TROUT FISHERY ARE THREATENED WITH SKI AREA DEVELOPMENT AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLE PROLIFERATION

Background

The 21,000-acre San Joaquin Roadless Area is part of the 45,000-acre Owens River Headwaters, located in California's eastern Sierra Nevada between the towns of Mammoth Lakes and June Lake. A rare mix of diverse habitats makes the headwaters ideal for fishing, day hiking, and bird watching. Heavy winter snowfall makes the area a haven for backcountry skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing. Preserving the ecological integrity of the Owens River Headwaters is essential to protecting the health of the local tourist-based economy.

Unfortunately, potential ski area development, out of control off-road vehicle (ORV) use and increased groundwater extraction threaten the biological, aquatic, recreational and economic resources of the Owens River Headwaters and the Upper Owens River.

Outstanding Values

The Owens River Headwaters contain over 100 seeps and springs, which sustain some of the most extensive riparian habitat in the eastern Sierra. This area contains the largest subalpine meadow in the central eastern Sierra, Glass Creek Meadow, which is home to the Yosemite toad, a candidate endangered species; the highest diversity of butterflies in the eastern Sierra; as well as a rare mixture of east- and westside flora.

The low elevation of the San Joaquin Ridge makes it a vital east-west passage for mule deer, pine marten and other animals. The ridge also could play an important role as a migration corridor for the recovery of the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. The eastern Sierra's largest old-growth red fir forest, with trees exceeding eight feet in diameter, thrives within the headwaters, providing important habitat for old-forest-dependent species. Tree rings taken from stands of locally rare limber pine provide a record of the area's climate back to 1362 A.D.

While drained by two main creeks, Deadman and Glass Creeks, much of the area's water percolates down into the porous volcanic soil. Like a sponge being squeezed, this groundwater pours out from Big Springs and doubles the flow of the Upper Owens River, one of America's finest and most popular trout fisheries. Water from Big Springs assures that fish are able to swim upstream to spawn in fall and remain safe from predation, especially during drought years.



Stephen Ingram

Glass Creek Meadow is the largest sub-alpine meadow in the eastern sierra. Seen here awash with buttercups, the meadow is also home to over 40 species of butterflies.

Unique geologic features are indicative of the area's rich volcanic history, and evidence of Native American occupation, dating back 10,000 years to the end of the last glacial period, is indicative of the area's rich cultural history. Remains of numerous camps still exist within the Owens River Headwaters, identifiable by concentrations of obsidian flakes, midden piles, and grinding rocks.

Threats — Development & Off-road Vehicle Proliferation

Both Mammoth Mountain and June Mountain Ski Areas have shown interest in potentially expanding their operations into the San Joaquin Roadless Area. Any development within the headwaters would irreversibly alter this invaluable ecosystem.

Illegal proliferation of ORV routes is currently damaging pristine riparian areas and spilling sediment into the creeks and trout streams. Excessive groundwater pumping could exacerbate this problem by lowering the flows from Big Springs. Pumping more water from the aquifer feeding Big Springs could adversely impact its flow volume, especially during drought conditions when in-stream flows are vital. Lower flows would threaten fish with increased bird predation and could strand migratory wild trout in the lower reaches of the river, unable to reach their historic spawning beds.

Status

Judging from the comments that the two ski areas submitted on the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, both are still interested in keeping their options open for expansion into the pristine San Joaquin Roadless Area. The Mammoth Community Water District has recently stated they are seeking consultants in hopes of beginning the federal application process to pump more water from Dry Creek. Under pressure from a local landowner and local activists, the Inyo National Forest is beginning to take some action to address the ongoing problem of ORV-induced sedimentation and creek bed damage.

Recommendations

Congress should designate the Owens River Headwaters as wilderness and Deadman Creek, Glass Creeks, and Upper Owens River as Wild and Scenic Rivers. These designations would ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy this area as we do today.

Also, the Bush administration should immediately implement the Roadless Area Conservation Rule without any changes. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects 58.5 million acres of national forest land in the U.S., including the core of the Owens Rivers Headwaters — the 21,000-acre San Joaquin Roadless Area — from development, logging, and road building.



Sally Miller

The Owens River Headwaters are home to the eastern sierras' largest ancient red fir forest.

What You Can Do

Write a letter to Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Buck McKeon expressing your support for permanent protection of the Owens River Headwaters as wilderness, and of Deadman Creek, Glass Creek and the Upper Owens River as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Hon. Barbara Boxer

United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 956-6701 fax in San Francisco

Hon. Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
(202) 228-3954 fax

Hon. Buck McKeon

U.S. House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-1956
(202) 226-0683 fax

For more information contact:

The Wilderness Society

Sally Miller
(760) 647-1614
or visit
<http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org>

Klamath River Basin

OVERUSE OF THE KLAMATH'S RESOURCES IS HURTING FARMERS, FISHERMEN, TRIBES, AND WILDLIFE

Background

Stretching roughly 250 miles from northeast of Crater Lake in southern Oregon to the Pacific Coast in Northern California, the Klamath River Basin is one of the nation's ecological treasures. Centered on the river that bears its name, the Basin encompasses deep canyons, steep mountains, high desert, wetlands, lush rainforests, and salmon spawning streams.

Significant habitat degradation began with mining and logging operations during the mid-1800s. Beginning in the early 1900s, the federal government directed and financed the draining of 75 percent of Upper Klamath Basin wetlands for conversion to irrigated farmland. This process continued through the 1950s, transforming the Upper Basin into the heavily farmed landscape we know today.

In 2001 a severe drought hit the region, putting intense stress on protected species and inflaming a longstanding water struggle between farmers, Native Americans, and fishermen.

Outstanding Values

The Upper Basin once held 350,000 acres of seasonal lakes, freshwater marshes, and wet meadows. Over 400 wildlife species still reside in the Upper Basin, including pronghorns, coyotes, Rocky Mountain elk, and river otters. The area is home to remarkably large native trout, and once contained thriving populations of spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, and Kuptu and Tshuam fish, also known as the Lost River and shortnose suckers — both are endangered species.

Every fall, nearly 80 percent of the birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway rest and feed in the region's six National Wildlife Refuges. Considered the "Everglades of the West," the Upper Basin is a home or stopping ground for 263 bird species, including the largest wintering population of bald eagles in the lower 48 states.

The Lower Klamath Basin encompasses the major portion of the Klamath Mountains, an area world-renowned for plant biodiversity. Twenty-nine species of conifers find a home in the Klamath Basin, including the weeping spruce, which survived the Ice Age here and nowhere else.

The Klamath River and its tributaries once produced the third largest population of commercially fished salmon and steelhead in the continental United States. Today the region's waterways contain habitat for threatened Coho salmon.



Klamath Forest Alliance

The Klamath Basin encompasses steep mountains, high desert, wetlands, and lush rainforests. It is considered the "Everglades of the West."

Threats — Water Diversion

Loss of Water Resources, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Today much of the Klamath Basin's summer water supply is diverted from wetlands, lakes, and rivers to irrigate fields and pastures. Logging and road-building have destroyed habitat, increased winter flood flows, and decreased summertime base flows. Water diversions, watershed degradation, and poor water quality continue to jeopardize the region's threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species including native salmon and steelhead. Abnormally high stream temperatures and pollution levels also result in the deaths of thousands of fish and prevent the recovery of species, including threatened Coho salmon.

This 254-mile river was once the third most productive salmon river in the United States. Now, 3,780 family wage jobs and more than \$75 million per year in economic benefits have been lost as a direct result of salmon losses in the Klamath River (Institute for Fisheries Resources, 1999).

Despite federally protected fishing rights, the basin's tribal fisheries have suffered greatly during the sharp habitat decline of the last hundred years. The Klamath tribes in Oregon once depended upon the Kuptu and Tshuam in Upper Klamath Lake for food. These endangered fish also have an ancient cultural and spiritual importance to the tribes. To the central and lower-river Karuk, Hupa, and Yurok tribes, the Klamath River and its salmon are unique and irreplaceable gifts of the Creator. The salmon are a vital natural resource, the foundation of native economies, spirituality, and ancient lifeways.

Status

Even before the 2001 drought, farming in the Klamath Basin was becoming economically difficult. The current non-sustainable use of water, even in non-drought years, has made it more difficult for the remaining agricultural businesses to survive.

In recent years the Klamath River has experienced fish kills, alteration of flow, and loss of in-stream and riparian (stream-side) habitat. Additionally, degraded water quality has spoiled recreational opportunities, with devastating impacts on sport fisheries and on whitewater recreation.

The problem is that too much water has already been taken out of the basin's streams. Water given to farmers is diverted from lakes, wildlife refuges, and the natural flows of the Klamath River and its tributaries. More than 75 percent of the Upper Klamath Basin's natural wetlands have been converted to crops and livestock pastures, leaving the natural system severely out of balance and damaging its ability to filter agricultural waste. Entrenched farming interests, benefiting from the present inefficient use of over-allocated water, continue to block the recovery of the Klamath River's collapsing ecosystem and river-dependent communities.

Recently the National Academy of Sciences, after a preliminary review, reported that more scientific study is needed to support the current conclusions of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding water levels for endangered lake fish and Coho salmon in the Klamath Basin. It also stated that Bush Administration proposals to further reduce water levels in Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River have no scientific justification and would put the lake fish and the Coho salmon at an unacceptable risk of extinction.

Recommendations

More than 75 percent of the Upper Klamath Basin's natural wetlands have been converted to crops and livestock pastures. This natural filtration system, once able to absorb nutrients and agricultural waste, is now severely out of balance. In order for the Klamath Basin to once again have life-sustaining rivers, lakes, and marshes, wetlands must be restored.

To reduce irrigation demand, the federal government should initiate a program to purchase land and water rights from willing sellers.

To ensure National Wildlife Refuges are protected, the federal government should initiate a program to reclaim and restore wetlands.

Improved water conservation and management measures should be implemented, and imperiled species should be protected by ensuring adequate flows, lake levels, and habitat.

Water quality and quantity need to be protected and ensured for all citizens of the Klamath River Basin as well as the environment.

What You Can Do

Write Interior Secretary Gale Norton. Ask Secretary Norton to:

- Reduce irrigation demand and restore wetlands by initiating a program to purchase land and water rights from willing sellers.
- Provide flows and lake levels adequate for the recovery of listed species.
- Respect tribal treaty and reserved rights.
- Guarantee an adequate supply of water for bald eagles and the Basin's wildlife refuges.

Please send a copy of your letter to the Klamath Forest Alliance.

Hon. Gale Norton

Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-7351
(202) 208-6950 fax
Gale_Norton@ios.doi.gov

For more information contact:

Klamath Forest Alliance

Felice Pace
James McCarthy
(530) 467-5405
klamath@sisqtel.net
<http://www.klamathforestalliance.org>

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

(541) 689-2000
fishlifr@aol.com
<http://www.pcffa.org>

Oregon Natural Resources Council

Wendell Wood
(541) 783-2206
info@onrc.org
<http://www.onrc.org>

Medicine Lake Highlands

CONSTRUCTION OF GEOTHERMAL PLANTS WOULD LAY WASTE TO THE MEDICINE LAKE HIGHLANDS AND THE MOUNT HOFFMAN ROADLESS AREA

Background

Industrial geothermal threats to the remote, pristine and geologically unique Medicine Lake Highlands have greatly escalated in recent months under the influence of the Bush Administration. Calpine Corporation, an independent energy producer based in San Jose, California, intends to develop geothermal “industrial parks” in the Modoc, Klamath, and Shasta-Trinity National Forests, northeast of Mount Shasta.

Each of these “industrial parks” would cover up to eight square miles in power plants, and fragment the area with well fields, toxic sump pools, and new roads. Furthermore, at least 24 miles of new transmission lines would be constructed in addition to the above-ground pipes that reach temperatures up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. Cumulatively, hundreds of wells could be drilled to depths approaching 10,000 feet.

In 2000, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management denied one of these “industrial park” projects in the Medicine Lake Highlands, the Telephone Flat project, which Calpine now hopes to develop. Originally proposed by CalEnergy, the location of the Telephone Flat project within the Medicine Lake caldera was deemed inappropriate due to noise and visual concerns. The project would interfere with the area’s scenic and recreation values, plant, wildlife, and ancient Native American sacred sites.

As originally proposed, the Telephone Flat project would have resulted in the construction of roads and powerlines in three potential wilderness areas: the Mount Hoffman, Lavas, and Dobie Flat Roadless Areas. While the roadless areas will no longer be directly harmed by this specific project, more projects are planned, and the potential wilderness areas are not out of harm’s way.

Another Calpine project, the Fourmile Hill project, was approved in 2000, subject to a 5-year moratorium on any further geothermal development. The moratorium was subsequently lifted by the Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton.

Outstanding Values

Rising out of a sea of blue-green forested hills northeast of Mount Shasta, the Medicine Lake Highlands volcano encompasses California’s most diverse volcanic fields, on the continent’s largest shield volcano. The volcano’s caldera, a 500-foot-deep crater about six miles long and four miles wide, was formed when underground magma flows collapsed the dome’s



Julie Donnelly-Nolan

“Industrial parks” would cover the Medicine Lake Highlands with power plants, well fields, toxic sump pools, and new roads.

summit. The azure waters of Medicine Lake lie embedded in this million-year-old sculpture with its striking variety of textures — lava flows, clear lakes, mountains of glass-like obsidian, slopes of white pumice, dark boulders, and silver-green mountain hemlock.

The Highlands’ clear skies, with visibility of 70 to 100 miles, are home to eagles, goshawks, and rare bats. Tall forests shelter rare carnivores including martens and fishers, and unknown numbers of sensitive plants. The Highlands’ aquifer forms the major source of spring waters flowing into the Sacramento River and is California’s largest spring system.

The Highlands are one of the most sacred areas to the Pit River and Modoc tribes, who have steadfastly opposed the developments. Linked by traditional running paths, Mount Shasta and the Medicine Lake Highlands share tribal stories that weave eternity, time, and the land together.

Threats

The Mount Hoffman Roadless Area contains many geothermal leases and currently is not protected as wilderness or by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which the Bush administration has yet to implement. This area may be threatened again soon by many other proposed power plants and support facilities expected in coming years.

Calpine recently announced that it bought all the leases on 66 square miles at the Medicine Lake Highlands, and intends to develop CalEnergy’s proposed Telephone Flat Project, despite

the federal agencies' denial of the project in 2000. Calpine has inherited a lawsuit ensuing from the denial, but opponents of the plan are cautious about the outcome because of the current administration's desire to promote geothermal power plants on public lands.

The Energy Security Act, introduced in 2001 by Rep. James V. Hansen of Utah, in concert with the Bush Energy Plan, aims to subsidize geothermal development and seeks to promote a new form of corporate welfare. It would grant industry exemptions from payment of royalties for leases, strip the Forest Service managers of decision making (paving the way for development projects in roadless and other sensitive areas), and require taxpayers to shoulder the costs of environmental studies.

Status

The California Energy Commission conditionally committed nearly \$50 million in funding from California ratepayers to the Fourmile Hill and Telephone Flat projects with the stipulation that they would be on-line by 2002. With the failure to meet that criterion, CEC held a public comment period on whether to deny the grant, penalize the developer, or reinstate the money. The CEC extended the funding by four years to December 31, 2005.

Furthermore, despite the fact that Calpine contracted to sell the power to the Bonneville Power Authority, which does not serve California and would not help California's energy supply, the California Energy Commission awarded Calpine another \$1.1 million for exploratory drilling at the Fourmile Hill site. Drilling began this fall with the deepening of an existing temperature gradient hole, and is slated to continue next summer with more invasive drilling and production/injection testing.

Environmental and Native American groups filed appeals before the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) against Calpine's proposed Fourmile Hill project. Those appeals were denied. Two additional lawsuits are also pending under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Recommendations

Greater conservation measures should be enacted to offer these areas increased protection. Congress should designate the Mount Hoffman Roadless Area as wilderness. Also, the Bush administration should immediately implement the Roadless Area Conservation Rule without any changes. This Roadless Rule protects 58.5 million acres of national forest land in the U.S. and 4.4 million acres of land in California, including the Mount Hoffman, Lavas, and Dobie Flat Roadless Areas, from development, logging, and road building.

Energy conservation and energy efficient technology, such as fuel cells and solar home power, should be supported. In the summer of 2001, Californians averaged a 10 percent reduction in electricity use during peak hours — the equivalent of nearly 100 geothermal power plants.

What You Can Do

Write Secretary Gale Norton and California's U.S. Senators. Ask them to protect the Medicine Lake Highlands and our sensitive public lands from geothermal development, including designating the Mount Hoffman Roadless area as wilderness.

Hon. Gale Norton

Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
(202) 208-7351
(202) 208-6950 fax
Gale_Norton@ios.doi.gov

Hon. Barbara Boxer

United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 956-6701 fax in San Francisco

Hon. Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
(202) 228-3954 fax

For more information contact:

Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Michelle Berditshevsky
Peggy Risch
(530) 926-3397
<http://www.mountshastaecology.org>
<http://www.medicinelakevideo.org>

California Wilderness Coalition

Ryan Henson
(530) 474-4808
ryan@calwild.org
<http://www.calwild.org>

Trinity Alps Wilderness Additions

LOGGING OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS THREATENS POTENTIAL WILDERNESS IN SIX RIVERS AND SHASTA-TRINITY NATIONAL FORESTS

Background

Unprotected roadless areas adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness are threatened by logging projects on the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests. The two timber sales are located in the heart of what may be the largest concentration of ancient forest habitat in Northern California.

The Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests have proposals to “salvage” log approximately 4,780 acres in the two forests. “Salvage” logging is the cutting of trees that are supposedly dead or dying (such as those burned in a forest fire), but all too often living trees are cut. The Shasta-Trinity proposal is in the initial stages; foresters there withdrew plans to log in inventoried roadless areas adjacent to the Trinity Alps, but with the uncertain future of President Clinton’s Roadless Area Conservation Rule, these plans may be revived. However, the Six Rivers National Forest has already started logging, and only stopped when a lawsuit was filed in Federal District Court in October 2001.

Outstanding Values

This pristine and unique area comprises the western and southern edges of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, and has outstanding natural, scenic, and recreational values. The forests, creeks, meadows, and peaks of the area offer wonderful hiking, backpacking, fishing, and horseback riding opportunities, as well as sweeping views of northwestern California.

The forests and streams in the area provide critical refuge for a host of plants, old growth trees, fish and wildlife species, many that depend on large, undisturbed areas of land for their survival. Species include rare orchids, salamanders, northern spotted owls, goshawks, fishers, martens, wolverine, steelhead, Chinook salmon, and Coho salmon. The proposed logging and road construction threatens to severely impact these species as well as domestic water supplies in Hoopa, Denny, and other Trinity River communities.

Threat — Logging

Loss of Potential Wilderness

The Six Rivers National Forest timber sale would log approximately 334 acres within the Orleans Mountains Roadless Area. It would also construct new roads and re-open previously used roads outside the inventoried roadless area. The Shasta-Trinity National Forest timber sale would log in



Jim Rose

The salvage logging projects would build new roads and re-open previously closed roads in the Six Rivers and Shasta Trinity National Forests.

de-facto roadless areas near the Trinity Alps Wilderness and would also re-open previously used roads outside the inventoried roadless area.

Increased Fire Risk

The proposed logging and road construction would remove large trees and logs on remote ridges miles away from any community. Larger trees and logs are more fire resistant than smaller brush and twigs. Furthermore, logging in these locations will do nothing to protect communities. To be effective in protecting communities, fuels reduction should be focused on highly flammable small materials such as brush and twigs directly adjacent to homes.

Impacts on Rare and Endangered Species

The timber sale areas are intended to be managed, as stated in the Northwest Forest Plan, for the benefit of species that rely on late-successional and old-growth forest habitat. However, the proposed logging will create severe negative impacts to rare, threatened, and sensitive plant and wildlife species dependent upon these older forests. Logging causes sedimentation in streams and raises water temperatures, which can kill salmon or prevent them from spawning. Yet the proposal in the Six Rivers National Forest would even log in the Horse-Linto Creek area — a watershed restoration success story — which has received tens of millions of dollars in salmon restoration efforts over the past 20 years.

Erosion

Logging and prescribed burning on soils already burned in the 1999 fires will result in further damage to soil structure, lowered soil productivity, and increased soil erosion. Even in severely burned areas, scattered live trees, large snags, and downed logs are ecologically important. These materials provide habitat for numerous wildlife species, preventing widespread erosion, and providing shade and nutrients for millions of tree seedlings regenerating in the area. These remaining materials are critical for natural fire recovery processes, and their removal could retard or prevent this natural ecological recovery.

Status

Facing the threat of an injunction by a Federal District Court in San Francisco, the Six Rivers National Forest agreed in October 2001 to postpone logging in the Orleans Mountains Roadless Area, located along the western border of the Trinity Alps Wilderness about 30 miles east of Eureka. The injunction effectively halts the logging until the Court can decide on the legality of the timber sale in the spring of 2002. An environmental assessment for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's timber sale was released for public comment in late December 2001 and comments were due by January 2002.

Recommendations

Greater conservation measures should be enacted to offer these areas increased protection. Congress should declare all roadless areas adjacent to the Trinity Alps Wilderness as wilderness. Also, the Bush administration should immediately implement the Roadless Area Conservation Rule without any changes. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects 58.5 million acres of national forest land in the U.S. and 4.4 million acres of land in California, from development, logging, and road building.

The Forest Service's own studies recognize that logging big trees is not the way to protect communities from future fires. In addition, post-fire logging destroys soils, harms threatened salmon and other fish, and retards ecosystem recovery. In order to protect these potential wilderness areas in the short run, the Federal District Court Judge in San Francisco should find that the Six Rivers sale is illegal and should not allow it to proceed. Both the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests should drop logging projects in both inventoried and uninventoried roadless areas, and work instead with local communities to reduce small-diameter trees and brush close to homes that are within or near the National Forests. The Forest Service should also be held more accountable for environmentally damaging fire suppression activities in roadless and wilderness areas that are far from communities.

What You Can Do

Please write a letter to Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Mike Thompson urging them to designate as wilderness the Trinity Alps Wilderness Additions. Let them know that you would like to see permanent protection given to the largest concentration of ancient forest habitat in Northern California. This area is also important as habitat for a variety of wildlife and as the water source for communities along the Trinity River.

Hon. Barbara Boxer

United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3553
(415) 956-6701 fax in San Francisco

Hon. Dianne Feinstein

United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-3841
(202) 228-3954 fax

Hon. Mike Thompson

U.S. House of Representatives
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3311
(202) 225-4335 fax

Furthermore, send a letter to both the Six Rivers and Shasta-Trinity National Forests requesting them to drop the two timber sales and other sales in roadless areas.

Shasta-Trinity National Forest

Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor
2400 Washington Avenue
Redding, CA 96001
(530) 244-2978

Six Rivers National Forest

Lou Woltering, Forest Supervisor
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 442-1721

For more information contact:

Environmental Protection Information Center

Anthony and Christine Ambrose
(707) 923-2931
epic@wildcalifornia.org
<http://www.wildcalifornia.org>

California Wilderness Coalition

Ryan Henson
(530) 474-4808
ryan@calwild.org
<http://www.calwild.org>

Appendix A

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, RARE AND SENSITIVE SPECIES AT RISK IN CALIFORNIA'S TEN MOST THREATENED WILD PLACES

Threatened and endangered species represent both state and federal listings.

Mojave Desert — Fort Irwin Expansion
Desert tortoise (*threatened*)
Lane Mountain milkvetch (*endangered*)
Mojave ground squirrel (*endangered*)
Bendire's thrasher (*highly imperiled*)

Mojave Desert — Cadiz Project
Desert tortoise (*threatened*)
Borrego milkvetch (*endangered*)
Elf owl (*endangered*)

Santa Ana and Palomar Mountains
Southern steelhead trout (*endangered*)
California red-legged frog (*threatened*)
Least Bell's vireo (*endangered*)
Pacific pocket mouse (*endangered*)
Stephens' kangaroo rat (*endangered*)
Arroyo southwestern toad (*endangered*)
Encinitas baccharias (*threatened*)
San Diego thornmint (*threatened*)
Arroyo chub (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Southern grasshopper mouse (*California Species of Special Concern*)
San Diego desert woodrat (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Dulzura pocket mouse (*California Species of Special Concern*)
San Diego blacktailed jackrabbit (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Pocketed freetail bat (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Western mastiff bat (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Yuma myotis (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Yellow-breasted chat (*California Species of Special Concern*)
California yellow warbler (*California Species of Special Concern*)

Bell's sage sparrow (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Southern California rufous crowned sparrow (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Loggerhead shrike (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Northern harrier (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Sharpshinned hawk (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Cooper's hawk (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Northern red diamond rattlesnake (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Two-striped garter snake (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Coast patchnose snake (*California Species of Special Concern*)
San Diego ringnecked snake (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Orange-throated whiptail (*California Species of Special Concern*)
San Diego horned lizard (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Southwestern pond turtle (*California Species of Special Concern*)
Western spadefoot toad (*California Species of Special Concern*)

South Orange County
Southern steelhead trout (*endangered*)
Least Bell's vireo (*endangered*)
California gnatcatcher (*threatened*)
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*endangered*)
Southwest arroyo toad (*endangered*)
Pacific pocket mouse (*endangered*)
Tidewater goby (*endangered*)
Riverside fairy shrimp (*endangered*)

San Diego fairy shrimp (*endangered*)
Southern tarplant (*rare*)
Many-stemmed dudleya (*rare*)
Intermediate mariposa lily (*rare*)

Gaviota Coast
California red-legged frog (*threatened*)
Western snowy plover (*threatened*)
Southern steelhead trout (*endangered*)
Tidewater goby (*endangered*)
California least tern (*endangered*)
Beach layia (*endangered*)
Gambel's water cress (*endangered*)
Gaviota tarplant (*endangered*)
La Graciosa thistle (*endangered*)
Lompoc yerba santa (*endangered*)
Unarmored threespine stickleback (*endangered*)
Seaside bird's-beak (*endangered*)
Beach spectaclepod (*threatened*)
Surf thistle (*endangered*)
California tiger salamander (*endangered*)
Least Bell's vireo (*endangered*)

Los Padres National Forest
California condor (*endangered*)
California red-legged frog (*threatened*)
California gnatcatcher (*threatened*)
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*endangered*)
Arroyo toad (*endangered*)
Least Bell's vireo (*endangered*)
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*endangered*)
Southern steelhead trout (*endangered*)
Gambel's water cress (*endangered*)
Hoover's eriastrium (*threatened*)
California jewelflower (*endangered*)
San Joaquin kit fox (*threatened*)

Smith's blue butterfly (*endangered*)
Riparian brush rabbit (*endangered*)
Bald eagle (*endangered*)
Swainson's hawk (*threatened*)
Southern rubber boa (*threatened*)
Mountain plover (candidate for threatened listing)
California spotted owl (candidate for threatened listing)
Southwestern pond turtle (*California Species of Special Concern*)
California leaf-nosed bat (*California Species of Special Concern*)

Owens River Headwaters
Yosemite toad (candidate for threatened/endangered listing)

Klamath River Basin
Coho salmon (*threatened*)
Steelhead (*threatened*)
Lost River sucker (*endangered*)
Shortnose sucker (*endangered*)
Bald eagle (*endangered*)
Weeping spruce (*regional endemic*)

Medicine Lake Highlands
Bald eagle (*endangered*)
American marten (*rare/sensitive*)
Pacific fisher (*rare/sensitive*)

Trinity Alps Wilderness Additions
Northern spotted owl (*threatened*)
Coho salmon (*threatened*)
Steelhead (*threatened*)
Pacific fisher (*rare/sensitive*)
American marten (*rare/sensitive*)
Northern goshawk (*rare/sensitive*)
Pileated woodpecker (*rare/sensitive*)
Chinook salmon (*rare/sensitive*)

Appendix B

POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS AND POTENTIAL WILD & SCENIC RIVERS AT RISK (acres approximate)

Mojave Desert — Fort Irwin

Areas at risk from current and potential future base expansion if not designated wilderness now

Avawatz Mountains WSA	64,300 acres
South Avawatz Mountains WSA	27,580 acres
Kingston Range WSA	41,400 acres
Soda Mountains WSA	110,800 acres
Death Valley National Park 17 WSA	48,600 acres

Mojave Desert — Cadiz Project

Iron Mountain	120,000 acres
---------------	---------------

[Note: The Cadiz project also threatens a national park (the Mojave National Preserve) as well as five (5) existing BLM Wilderness Areas — Trilobite Wilderness, Clipper Mountain Wilderness, Old Woman Mountains Wilderness, Sheephole Valley Wilderness, and Cadiz Dunes Wilderness.]

Los Padres National Forest

Antimony	
Chumash Additions	
Dick Smith Additions	
Fox Mountain	
Matilija Additions	
Moon Canyon	
Sespe Additions	
	subtotal approx. 100,000 acres
Piru Creek*	
Sespe Creek*	

Owens River Headwaters

Owens River Headwaters Addition to Ansel Adams Wilderness	45,000 acres
Deadman Creek*	
Glass Creek*	
Upper Owens River*	

Medicine Lake

Mount Hoffman Roadless Area	10,800 acres
Lavas Roadless Area	25,400 acres
Dobie Flat Roadless Area	12,900 acres

Trinity Alps Wilderness (Six Rivers NF and Shasta-Trinity NF)

Orleans Mountains Roadless Area Addition to Trinity Alps Wilderness	196,579 acres
---	---------------

TOTALS:

18 Potential Wilderness Areas
totalling approximately 803,359 acres

*5 Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers





CALIFORNIA
WILDERNESS
COALITION

A Voice for Wild California

California Wilderness Coalition

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5

Davis, California 95616

(530) 758-0380

www.calwild.org