



LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ALONG CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST

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WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN ■ CHERRY CREEK CLEANUP ■ UPCOMING EVENTS ■ PEREGRINE FALCON
BACKCOUNTRY JOURNAL ■ SALMON RUN ■ SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN BUCKWHEAT ■ WILDERNESS MAP

FALL 2011



CHERRY CREEK CLEANUP, LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Photo courtesy of Mike Summers





Mike Summers

BASE CAMP



Jeff Kuyper,
Executive Director

Our local back-country has a long history of residents working tirelessly to defend it. Because of these efforts, the Los Padres National Forest is blessed with ten wilderness areas that are forever protected from development, from the mighty Ventana Wilderness in the north, to the equally impressive Sespe Wilderness in the south.

Today, right now, our communities have an opportunity to build upon this rich wilderness legacy. There are many places in the Los Padres National Forest that are worthy of the protection afforded by the 1964 Wilderness Act – places like Condor Ridge on the Gaviota Coast, White Ledge Peak, and untold other places that don't even have names but are worthy of protection in their own right. We've spent countless hours in the field ground-truthing these areas, pouring over maps, and documenting their wilderness qualities. We've met with landowners, farmers, ranchers, local businesses, faith organizations, schools, and forest users, listening to their ideas about how to best protect these majestic lands.

The result – a proposal to add an additional 200,000 acres in the Santa Barbara and Ventura backcountry to the National Wilderness Preservation System. It's our region's largest land conservation effort in the last two decades.

We've already made great progress, but it's going to take a herculean effort to turn this vision into reality. Following in the footsteps of our local wilderness heroes – and with the support of our dedicated members and volunteers – we can, and will, add yet another chapter to our region's rich wilderness legacy.

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MIKE SUMMERS
Wild Heritage Project Coordinator

This year, three graduate interns from UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management contributed their skills to ForestWatch, gaining first-hand experience in nonprofit land conservation. Let's thank them for their hard work!

Andrea Blue is a California native who spent nine months with ForestWatch. She helped us identify key stakeholders for our wilderness project, while finishing up her Master's group project to prevent the spread of invasive species on Santa Cruz Island.



Sarah Clark grew up in Maine and, among her many talents, is an amazing singer and a crazy-mad GIS technician. Sarah helped us record precise locations in the field using a hand-held GPS unit, and then took that data to create some eye-popping maps, including the one in the centerfold of this newsletter.



Cassidee Shinn hails from Las Vegas and loves hiking in unbearably hot weather. So we sent her out to the Cuyama badlands this summer to document illegal off-road vehicle trespass in the Chumash Wilderness. Cass also researched several Los Padres trailheads that have been closed over the years.

WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN

ForestWatch launches campaign to formally designate more than 200,000 acres of the Los Padres National Forest as wilderness, and to protect 124 miles of backcountry streams as “wild and scenic” rivers.

Earlier this year, ForestWatch and a coalition of wilderness advocates launched an exciting campaign to formally designate more than 200,000 acres of the Los Padres National Forest as wilderness, and to protect 124 miles of backcountry streams as “wild and scenic” rivers. When complete, the campaign will ensure the permanent protection of these lands and waterways from development, and represents our region’s largest land conservation effort in more than twenty years.

Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, to protect federal lands and waterways in their natural state. Today, these designations remain our nation’s highest level of protection for public lands, and require an act of Congress to take effect. Wilderness allows for recreation activities such as hiking, paddling, fishing and hunting, horseback riding, and camping. It prohibits motorized or mechanized travel, development, road and dam building, and extractive industries, with limited exceptions. While many wilderness areas seem vast and expansive, less than 3% of all land in the lower 48 states is protected as wilderness, and less than 1% of our nation’s rivers are protected as “wild and scenic.”

The current proposal for the Los Padres National Forest includes 14 additions to existing wilderness areas such as the north slope of the Sierra Madre Mountains, the lower half of the Mono Creek watershed, and White Ledge Peak

overlooking the Ojai Valley. The proposal also creates a new area called Condor Ridge which includes the mountains along the Gaviota Coast between Refugio and Eagle canyons. Finally, six backcountry creeks are proposed for wild and scenic river status – Indian and Mono Creeks, two forks of Matilija Creek, upper Sespe Creek and Piru

together to preserve the Dick Smith Wilderness. Eight years later, the 1992 Condor Range and River Protection Act added the Chumash, Sespe, and Matilija Wildernesses while also granting wild and scenic river status to the Sisquoc River, the Big Sur River, and lower Sespe Creek. These efforts also created wilderness areas within the Big Sur and San Luis Obispo portions of the forest as well – Ventana, Silver Peak, Santa Lucia, and others.

Over the past several months, we have met with stakeholders around the forest to identify and resolve conflicts and concerns before any legislation is introduced. ForestWatch strives to create, in the spirit of wilderness efforts of the past, a bipartisan proposal for the Los Padres National Forest

that we all can support. These meetings helped us fine-tune our proposal and incorporate new ideas about how best to protect these magnificent lands and streams. Landowners, local businesses, farmers, ranchers, wine growers, elected officials, land conservation organizations, chambers of commerce, faith organizations, schools, forest users, and others share our vision for adding to our region’s rich wilderness heritage.

For more information about the wilderness project, visit www.LosPadresWild.org or contact one of our wild places campaign coordinators: in Santa Barbara County, call Michael Summers at (805) 617-4610; in Ventura County, call Matt Sayles at (805) 861-8170. **PAGE 2**



Looking into the Piru Creek watershed, a proposed Wild and Scenic River area

Mike Summers

Creek. These areas form our upper watersheds that supply our farms and homes with clean water. These areas also provide us with beautiful scenery and healthy places for families to recreate near our communities. All of these areas are vulnerable to development, road building, and resource extraction if they are not protected.

Wilderness protection is firmly rooted in the history of our region. The Los Padres National Forest has been the focus of protection efforts going all the way back to the creation of the Wilderness Act. In 1968, the San Rafael Wilderness – in the Santa Barbara backcountry – became one of the first areas added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. In 1984, the community came



CRITTER CORNER

Southern mountain buckwheat is a threatened plant solely found in the San Bernardino and Los Padres national forests. Specifically in the Los Padres National Forest, it has been found around Lockwood Valley and the Thorn Meadows-Mutau Flat-Piano Box Loop area. Identification can prove difficult, but this subspecies is distinguished from similar buckweats by its longer lance-shaped leaves and light rose colored flower clusters. It typically occurs in “pebble plains”- characteristically treeless openings at elevations above 5,000 feet.

Major threats to the species include development, off-highway vehicle trespass, mining or other activities affecting surface hydrology, and the invasion of competitive nonnative plant species, like Cheatgrass. Livestock grazing and wildland fires also have potential to negatively impact the Southern mountain buckwheat and its limited pebble plain habitat.

Southern mountain buckwheat was federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act on September 14, 1998. In 2004 conservation organizations were forced to file a joint lawsuit challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to designate critical habitat for the Southern mountain buckwheat, and because of that case, essential pebble plain habitat for Southern mountain buckwheat protection and conservation was eventually designated in 2006.

Through proper forest conservation and resource management techniques, the Forest Service, in cooperation with local conservation groups like Los Padres ForestWatch, can help ensure this species' survival.

WILDERNESS 101

What is wilderness and what does it mean to me?

Wilderness is an indispensable part of American history. In 1964 our nation's leaders formally acknowledged the benefits of wild places to the human spirit and fabric of our nation. That year, in a nearly unanimous and bipartisan vote, Congress enacted the Wilderness Act to permanently protect lands “where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man.”

Shortly after passage of the Wilderness Act, Congress passed the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to protect our nation's “outstandingly remarkable” rivers, and to preserve them “in free-flowing condition.”

ALLOWED USES IN WILDERNESS

Wilderness areas are devoted to recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historic use. Wilderness areas provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, including hiking, paddling, climbing, horseback riding, camping, fishing, and hunting. Other permissible activities include grazing, access to private lands, fish and wildlife management, protection of (and access to) Native American cultural sites, and the control of fire, insects, and disease. Once an area is designated as wilderness, it must still be actively managed so that its wilderness qualities are preserved.

PROHIBITED IN WILDERNESS

No developments, roads, or extractive industries are allowed in wilderness, making wilderness the strongest protection available for federal public lands. However, reasonable exceptions are made for existing activities, such as livestock grazing and mineral or other property rights. The other defining feature of wilderness is that no motorized vehicles or mechanized equipment is allowed – this extends to off-road vehicles (like dirtbikes and ATVs) as well as mountain bikes and power tools.

We carefully crafted our wilderness boundaries to avoid existing legal roads in the forest, including parking areas, turnouts, and established ORV routes and areas. This ensures that the public is still able to easily access these areas.

MOUNTAIN BIKES

While mountain bikes are prohibited in wilderness areas, our coalition took great effort to initially exclude more than 100 miles of trails from the wilderness proposal so that mountain bikers could continue to use them. After gathering input from mountain bike groups, we modified our proposal even further. Popular mountain bike trails like Chorro Grande, Tequepis Canyon, and the Buckhorn Trail will remain open to mountain bike use. There are approximately 22 miles of trails in our proposed wilderness areas, but they receive little or no mountain bike traffic. We are also working to identify new areas for multiuse trail construction.

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

Power tools are generally prohibited in wilderness, so trails must be maintained using hand tools. ForestWatch and other coalition members are seeking ways to implement a new trail stewardship program that focuses on wilderness trails while also partnering with existing trail groups. Wilderness and trail stewardship go hand in hand, and we're proud to do our part to help keep our backcountry trails open.

The Forest Service can approve the use of power tools and activities in wilderness areas, in certain circumstances. An example would be the use of chainsaws to clear a trail of many large downed trees after a storm, or to blast away a landslide or a boulder. Normally, the Wilderness Act would only allow a trail crew to use hand tools for trail maintenance, but if it can be shown that using power tools is necessary to accomplish the task, and can be done in a way that minimizes disturbance, then those exceptions can and have been granted.

WILDFIRES AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

In an emergency situation such as fire, search and rescue, and law enforcement emergencies, the Wilderness Act allows for the use of power tools and motorized travel. All forest supervisors are given the power to allow firefighters to use chainsaws and fire retardant to fight fires, and prescribed fire. Even the use of heavy machinery such as bulldozers is allowed if necessary. One rule guides the fighting of fires on public lands, whether in wilderness or not – preservation of life and property comes first.

VOLUNTEER WRAPUP

ForestWatch supporters improve habitat and have fun!

We'd love to have you on our next volunteer mission to create on-the-ground change along California's Central Coast. Stay in the loop by emailing suzanne@LPFW.org

OCTOBER 2011

What: Micro (and big) Trash Cleanup

Where: Cherry Creek

Who: 80 volunteers

For years, Cherry Creek canyon in the Ventura County backcountry has been littered with a colorful array of shotgun shells, bullet casings, shot-up televisions, furniture, and other trash. It's the result of unmanaged, unauthorized target shooting that has turned the area into one of the most trashed sites in the Los Padres National Forest.

On October 29, over 80 volunteers spent the morning removing thousands of pounds of trash in the area's largest clean-up effort to date. The entire Cherry Creek watershed has been closed to target shooting since July, when a federal judge ordered the Forest Service to close the area. The closure is the result of a lawsuit brought by ForestWatch and other conservation organizations concerned about the trash and toxic heavy metals finding their way into the nearby creekbed, poisoning



Heading up Cherry Creek

fish and other wildlife.

With the area closed, volunteers felt good about cleaning up all that they could before winter rains washed the trash downstream. "The Forest Service did the right thing by closing this dumping ground," said Suzanne Feldman, Conservation Coordinator for ForestWatch. "Now we can bring the

Cherry Creek watershed back to its natural splendor and we need all the help we can get."

Thank you to our partners the U.S. Forest Service and Keep the Sespe Wild, all the volunteers who participated, and the sponsors who made this epic event possible.

EVENT SPONSORS:
Patagonia
E.J. Harrison and Sons
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A full dumpster's worth of trash was hauled away at the end of the day



Mike Summers



HELPING HANDS

LUANN FARLEY

Growing up in the foothills of Colorado I was surrounded by the beauty and grandeur of nature. Camping and hiking gave me many opportunities to observe wildlife in its natural habitat and to view animals that many people only read about. One thing my parents taught me was that you left the wilderness the same way you found it. As if you had not been there at all.

When I moved to California, I found a whole new world of beauty in the beaches and deserts around Ventura. My daughters became active in local beach cleanups, and I began looking for a way to give back to my community. Awhile back, I read about a condor that had died after becoming entangled in a rope left behind by rock climbers. Reading further, I learned about Los Padres ForestWatch, and knew I had found a way to help. Participating in the condor micro-trash clean-ups has given me a great sense of satisfaction—knowing that I am helping to reduce the amount of "junk" that gets left behind by careless visitors and winds up in the nests and babies of the endangered California condor.

The ForestWatch folks are great to work with. Their strong determination to preserve the beauty and protect the wildlife of Los Padres and other animal habitats is remarkable, and it rubs off on anyone who has a chance to participate in one of their clean-up activities. It is refreshing in this day and age to know that there are still those who care deeply about the world around them and want to preserve that beauty for upcoming generations. I am proud to be part of that group, and will continue to participate whenever possible.

Potential Wilderness Area & Wild and Scenic River Additions



FOX MOUNTAIN & CUYAMA PEAK

The northern face of the Sierra Madre Range serves as a unique ecological transition zone, providing unique habitat for rare animals like the San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard. It's also a primary flyway of the California Condor, and contains Lion Canyon, where unique rock formations served as a release site for endangered California condors.

CHUMASH BADLANDS

Evoking the desert terrain often depicted in old westerns, this arid landscape is dominated by pinion-juniper woodlands, dry sandy washes and innumerable narrow, deep and eroded canyons with freshwater springs.

MONO & AGUA CALIENTE

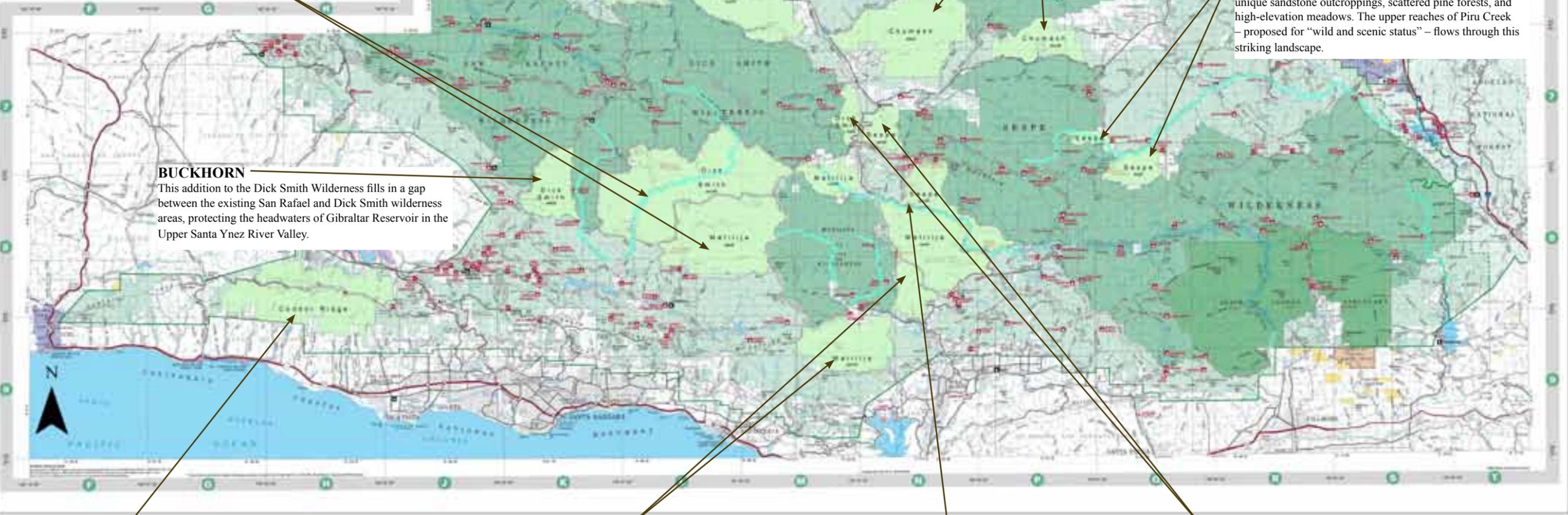
The area includes the headwaters of Mono and Agua Caliente creeks, and protects a series of unique grassy meadows called porteros. Mono and Indian Creeks – proposed for “wild and scenic” protection – also flow through and around this remote area of our local backcountry.

FISHBOWLS & THORN MEADOWS

These lands along upper Piru Creek are characterized by unique sandstone outcroppings, scattered pine forests, and high-elevation meadows. The upper reaches of Piru Creek – proposed for “wild and scenic status” – flows through this striking landscape.

BUCKHORN

This addition to the Dick Smith Wilderness fills in a gap between the existing San Rafael and Dick Smith wilderness areas, protecting the headwaters of Gibraltar Reservoir in the Upper Santa Ynez River Valley.



CONDOR RIDGE

The proposed Condor Ridge Natural Area extends along the crest of the Gaviota Coast, between Refugio Canyon and Eagle Canyon, providing majestic views of the Santa Barbara Channel, Channel Islands, and Santa Ynez Valley. It's home to rare plants that are found nowhere else on Earth, and serves as the headwaters for many coastal drainages – representing an opportunity to preserve one of California's most beautiful coastal stretches.

WHITE LEDGE & DRY LAKES

These additions to the Matilija Wilderness provide excellent views of the surrounding mountains, the Channel Islands and the Pacific Ocean. The area also contains the Matilija Escarpment, a 1,500-acre exposed sandstone formation and the Dry Lakes Ridge Botanical Area, where seasonal ponds provide habitat for a diverse array of unique plant life.

CHORRO GRANDE

This area forms the majestic southern slopes of Pine Mountain and Reyes Peak. Steep sandstone cliffs and canyons interspersed by dense stands of pine and fir give way to chaparral and the unique white rock formations in the adjacent Sespe Wilderness. Upper Sespe Creek – proposed for “wild and scenic” status – flows through this area.

BEAR CREEK & BOULDER CANYON

Forming either side of Pine Mountain summit, these lands contain some of the best old growth pine and fir forests in the Los Padres, and herald the long descent down into the Cuyama Valley.



EXISTING WILDERNESS



POTENTIAL WILDERNESS



POTENTIAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

BACKCOUNTRY JOURNAL

Stories from the backcountry that inspire the preservation of these unique wild lands

Personal stories instill a sense of place and help capture that wonder and excitement that we have all experienced when in an amazing natural setting. Share your personal accounts of time spent in the wild with us at info@LPFW.org

HUNTING WITH A CAMERA

Photographer Chuck Graham shares an amazing image and the story behind it



They were too far away to determine what they were, but I had a hunch. Eyes straining through my crusty binoculars, they looked too big to be pronghorn antelope. I was hoping they were Tule elk, but I couldn't be sure. About 40 of them were grazing at a steady pace moving west along the base of the Caliente Mountains in the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

The foothills were rolling green and the plain below was carpeted in tidy tips, owl's clover and other vibrant spring wildflowers. I dropped my binoculars in my truck, affixed my 300mm lens to my oldest tenured Canon camera and took off running, heading south between the morning sun and a still unconfirmed Tule elk herd.

The sun was my ally keeping those warm morning rays at my back and in the eyes of my potential subjects. I then had the luxury of locating a very shallow gully. I covered about 1.5 miles before turning west toward what I now knew as a Tule elk herd. After countless trips to the Carrizo Plain, there have been many moments when the historic grasslands lived up to its moniker as "California's Serengeti," but spotting a solid herd of elk was a highlight.

After two miles of running and maneuvering in for a possible shot, that gully served me well taking a serpentine path toward the elk herd. Several dried up

tumbleweeds enhanced my approach concealing my presence as I moved across the plain. The healthy looking herd was mostly made up of cows, several calves with a few young males mixed in. None of the ungulates raised their heads and peered my way as they browsed the lush grasses of the Carrizo Plain.

Now within about 100 yards of the elk, my first encounter had been a memorable one. I fired off a few frames, when several of the lead cows raised their heads, looking my way while munching those moist blades of grass. That was the end of the road for me. Once they were aware of me that was my cue to back away and let the herd of elk continue with their feeding.

I slowly backpedaled continuing to use the gully to conceal my presence. I waited until the entire herd was feeding again before spinning around and trotted back to my truck to continue exploring the Carrizo Plain.



Chuck Graham

18TH ANNUAL SALMON RUN

Patagonia's popular 5K to benefit
Los Padres ForestWatch

Don't miss the 18th annual Salmon Run! Join Patagonia, Real Cheap Sports and a long list of co-sponsors for a 5K run benefiting Los Padres ForestWatch in our efforts to protect the Los Padres National Forest and other public lands.

The Salmon Run is a certified 5K course along the Ventura River. Participants follow a 'migratory path' along the river, upstream from Patagonia's Great Pacific Iron Works, looping back and finishing at the starting line where prizes, refreshments, entertainment, raffles, a silent auction, and fun booths from local environmental organizations await.

ForestWatch is proud to have been chosen by Patagonia as the 2011 event beneficiary, and will be receiving the funds generated through race registration.



James Bonner

The Salmon Run is also an official run of the SOAR Trail Run Series. S.O.A.R. (Save Open-space and Agricultural Resources) is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to making Ventura County a better place to live by limiting urban sprawl, protecting open space and

agricultural lands, and promoting livable and sustainable communities in Ventura County. The SOAR Trail Run Series is a collection of five great trail runs around Ventura County; visit RunSoar.org to learn more

and join in for the last couple runs of the year.

To register for Patagonia's Salmon Run, and thus support all the great work that Los Padres ForestWatch does in your local backcountry, visit the event's webpage at Patagonia.com/SalmonRun



Terri Lane



LOS PADRES OUTFITTERS

Since 1969 Los Padres Outfitters has been bringing the wonders of nature to young and old alike on horseback.

Graham Goodfield, Los Padres Outfitters' Owner and Principal Operator, landed his first job with Outfitters at age 13 and since then has been hands-on in all aspects of its operations. Graham says, "outfitting is very rewarding – being able to show people the back country and let them discover what they're missing. With horses, mules and good food, my clients get a taste of what it used to be like here in California."

Each trip with Los Padres Outfitters is customized to suit the group. Outfitters' participants ride down tranquil and unspoiled trails, cross rivers and creeks, enjoy a comfortable version of "roughing it" while having excellent food prepared for them in the solitude of wilderness campsites.

Outfitters also provides pack support work for trail maintenance being done in the Los Padres. They use their mules to pack in all building material, tools and provisions for remote projects in the Los Padres.

Los Padres Outfitters has also supported Los Padres ForestWatch over the years. Since Ojai Wild! began, they have generously donated a special group horse pack trip each year and will be extending this generosity once again at the 2012 Ojai Wild! auction. We value their commitment to our work and to the protection of our region's wild lands and wildlife.

We encourage you to experience our local forest with Los Padres Outfitters. To learn more about their outings, call them at (805) 331-5252 or visit their website at www.LosPadresOutfitters.com.



CRITTER CORNER

The American peregrine falcon can be seen soaring high in the sky throughout the Los Padres National Forest. These magnificent birds have wingspans up to 44in (almost 4 feet!) and fly at speeds up to 60 mph. When diving down (a.k.a, “stooping”) for their prey, they can top speeds of over 200 mph, making them the fastest animal that inhabits the Los Padres.

There are 18 subspecies of peregrine falcon, which together have a global distribution, occurring on all continents except Antarctica. The subspecies of American peregrine falcon found in the Los Padres inhabits North America, from Mexico to Canada.

Because of steep population declines attributed to ingesting synthetic organochlorine pesticides (especially the commonly known one, DDT), the American peregrine falcon was one of the first species classified as endangered under federal law in 1970. The banning of DDT, coupled with captive-release programs, has allowed the peregrine falcon to repopulate its historic range and now it is no longer listed as endangered because of its successful population recovery. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will conduct population surveys every three years and will consider placing the species back on the endangered list if population declines are detected. Their population is expanding though, with hopes of the historical range being fully restored.

Currently the conservation measure of highest concern on National Forest System lands is protecting cliff-nesting sites from human disturbance, particularly during the nesting season. Additionally, the protection of riparian areas to maintain prey abundance is of importance to the falcon too.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS GIVEAWAY

Roadless Rule Upheld by Court, but Congress Seeks to Unravel Protections

Last month, a federal appeals court rejected the final legal challenge to the 2001 Roadless Rule – a decade-old regulation that protects nearly 50 million acres of “inventoried roadless areas” in national forests across the country.

With the court’s unanimous ruling in place, the Roadless Rule is firmly established as the law of the land. The rule prohibits most roadbuilding and was designed to protect the last remaining unroaded areas in the country, recognizing that these areas are valuable for their outdoor recreation opportunities, clean water supplies, and intact wildlife habitat. Roads, on the other hand, send sediment into streams, fragment wildlife habitat, facilitate the spread of invasive weeds, and scar the landscape – and open up areas for more intensive development activities like mining and oil drilling.

The Los Padres contains more than 600,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas.

This ruling may go down as one of the largest conservation victories in history, unless Congress gets its way. Dubbed the “Great Outdoors Giveaway,” H.R. 1581 was introduced earlier this year

and would explicitly revoke all of the protections offered by the Roadless Rule. It would also undo protections for Wilderness Study Areas on lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt summed it all up during a recent Congressional hearing, calling H.R. 1581 “the most radical, overreaching attempt to dismantle the architecture of our public land laws that has been proposed in my lifetime.”

Conservation groups from around the country are rallying to stop this bill, arguably the most damaging anti-public lands bill that Congress has ever considered. In May, ForestWatch joined more than one hundred other land conservation organizations in formally opposing the Great Outdoors Giveaway.

While public attention focuses on the economy, legislators have quietly initiated a broad attack on other environmental protection laws, too. H.R. 1505 would give control over all public lands, including national forests and monuments, within 100 miles of the Mexican, Canadian, and maritime U.S. borders to the Department of Homeland Security. H.R. 2834 would allow motorized vehicles in designated Wilderness Areas, and would unravel the protections in the 1964



Wilderness Act. H.R. 2852 would force the federal government to give away 30 million acres of federal public land, and H.R. 1126 would force the U.S. Forest Service and other federal agencies to dispose of “excess” public lands in ten western states for “deficit reduction.” Similar proposals are on the books to eviscerate the Environmental Protection Agency and landmark environmental protection laws

like the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Clean Water Act.

ForestWatch will continue to work with our coalition partners at the state and national levels to ensure that none of these bad bills become law. But in this Congress – with its partisan rancor and polarization – anything is possible, and we cannot let down our guard.

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

2011 was an impressive year of accomplishments for ForestWatch, but we certainly couldn't do it without you, please consider making a generous year-end contribution today!



Closed down the Cherry Creek watershed to unauthorized target shooting and organized a massive cleanup of the area.



Jim Logan

214 volunteers spent 2,255 hours removing nine miles of abandoned fencing on the Carrizo Plain, and picking up over 500 pounds of microtrash from eight different sites around the forest.



Daniel Bianchetto

Secured increased protections for more than two dozen plant and wildlife species that are threatened with extinction on the Los Padres National Forest, including southern steelhead, California condor, San Joaquin kit fox, and Smith's blue butterfly.

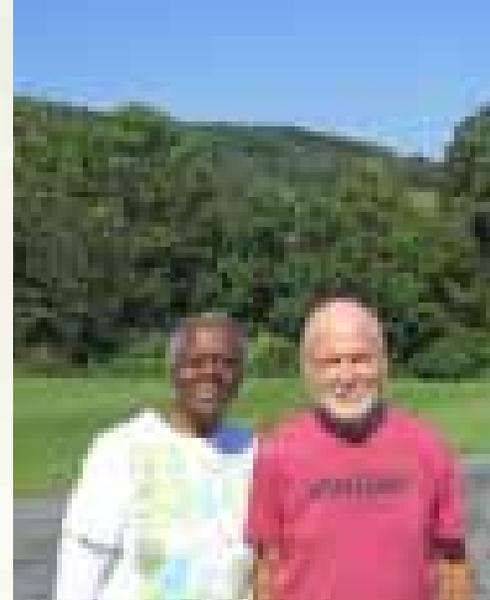


Demanded stricter accountability in the Sespe Oil Field after yet another oil spill fouled two miles of pristine mountain stream in the Sespe Creek watershed, and our lawsuit compelled the California Department of Fish & Game to protect the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve from severe overgrazing.



Bill Dewey

Launched wilderness campaign to permanently protect more than 200,000 acres of land in the Los Padres National Forest that is vulnerable to development, and 124 miles of creeks and rivers.



STELLAR SUPPORT

MARTIN & ELIZABETH STEVENSON

Los Padres ForestWatch was just a fledgling organization when Martin Stevenson became one of its first major donors back in 2005. Impressed with how ForestWatch identified a void in our region's conservation efforts, he decided to jump in and help. "Think of all the needless destructive exploitation that would have occurred if ForestWatch wasn't around to safeguard the national forest," said Martin.

In 2006, he met Elizabeth, they married in 2010, and now, together, they continue to support causes that they feel "really make a difference." Between them they have 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. They both feel strongly about the importance of preserving open space for future generations. Elizabeth summed it up this way, "today's generation spends so much time inside that they don't realize the importance of being outdoors, getting away from the city and experiencing nature. I want the Los Padres National Forest to remain protected for future generations so that families can continue to enjoy, appreciate, smell, touch and experience all that the forest has to offer."

Retired now, Martin - a former engineer - and Elizabeth - a former chief nurse for a large hospital in Los Angeles - enjoy being together, traveling, hiking, music, and growing lots of their own vegetables.

The Stevensons continue to be staunch ForestWatch supporters. It is because of the longstanding support from individuals like Martin and Elizabeth that ForestWatch is able to continue to be an advocate and voice for our region's wild lands.



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JOIN US! UPCOMING EVENTS

Patagonia's Salmon Run November 6



Don't miss the 18th annual Salmon Run! Participants follow a 'migratory path' along the Ventura River, upstream from Patagonia's Great Pacific Iron Works, looping back and finishing at the starting line where prizes, refreshments, entertainment, raffles, a silent auction, and fun booths from local environmental organizations await. Details at www.LPFW.org

Carrizo Plain Defencing Day November 19



We are sadly nearing the end to our defencing work on the Carrizo! If you haven't been out with us before, be sure to join in on one of the final trips to open up space for the pronghorn to roam.

Contact suzanne@LPFW.org to reserve your spot on this first trip, and stay tuned for more opportunities in the upcoming months.

Ojai Wild! Creekside BBQ March 31 - Save the Date!



Mark your calendar for the fifth annual Ojai Wild! on Saturday, March 31, 2012. Don't miss this ever-popular creekside BBQ at The Thatcher School's beautiful Diamond Hitch Camp!

Interested in planning, donating to, or otherwise participating in this fun event? Contact diane@LPFW.org or call 805.617.4610 ext 2