



LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH

PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ALONG CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST

FRACKING IN THE LOS PADRES ■ PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ■ OAKS ■ CONDOR ROOSTS PROTECTED
FOOTHILL YELLOW-LEGGED FROGS ■ SAN LUIS OBISPO MEMBERS' GATHERING ■ LAWBREAKERS FINED

FALL 2012



First Crossing Santa Ynez River, Paradise Road
Photo James Fortman





Vernal pool on the Carrizo Plain

Bill Bouton



BASE CAMP



Jeff Kuyper,
Executive Director

As I write this, our nation is going to the polls and voting for our next President. It's unclear who will win, but one thing's for certain: we have our work cut out for us. Both major candidates did not once

mention the importance of public lands and wildlife conservation.

Our national forests are the places we go to get away from it all and enjoy ourselves in the outdoors. These lands also provide valuable economic benefits – outdoor recreation, land conservation, ecological restoration, and visitor services support numerous local jobs in our communities. And forests provide our towns and farms with clean water supplies, drive our property values, provide us with open space and wildlife habitat, and enhance our quality of life.

As we decide on the future direction of our country, our national forests need a voice now more than ever before. A voice to push back against the special interests that want to exploit our forests and plunder our natural resources for short-term commercial gain.

Right here in our own backyard, ForestWatch is that voice. From the Central Coast to Washington DC, ForestWatch works every day to ensure that our decision-makers and land managers make the best decisions for the health of our region's wild lands.

You make our voice a powerful one. Together, we must constantly remind our decision-makers why it is so important to protect our public lands.

For the forest,

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DIANE DEVINE
Development Coordinator

MATT SAYLES
Wild Heritage Project Coordinator

FORESTWATCH INTERNS

JON MONTGOMERY
Conservation Intern

JAKE SAHL
GIS Intern

PHOTO CONTEST

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Wilderness & Wild River Photo Contest. We received dozens of spectacular images featuring proposed or existing wilderness areas and wild rivers. Congratulations to our winners!

Best Overall in Contest:

James Fortman, First Crossing Santa Ynez River, Paradise Road

Landscape Category:

James Fortman, First Crossing Santa Ynez River, Paradise Road

People Category:

Charles Graham, Self-Portrait, Sespe Wilderness

Wildlife Category:

Zack Abbey, Spirit of the Sespe, Sespe Wilderness

People's Choice:

Victoria Van Trees, Nighttime illumination, Sespe Wilderness

THANKS TO OUR JUDGES:

Jeff Jones, Ralph Clevenger, Russ Bishop and Tim Davis.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Samy's Camera, Dexter's Camera, Lumnos, Color Services, Brooks Institute, Russ Bishop Photography, Patagonia, and Hooper Camera.

DON'T FRACK WITH OUR FOREST!

The controversial oil extraction technique is making a resurgence in the Sespe Oil Field, threatening downstream water supplies

For several decades, the oil industry has injected a toxic brew of harmful chemicals deep beneath the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura County's Sespe Oil Field, and the controversial practice – known as hydraulic fracturing – is now making a resurgence. The practice was uncovered during a yearlong investigation by ForestWatch.

Hydraulic fracturing – commonly known as “fracking” – is a process whereby water, sand, and various chemical additives are pumped thousands of feet underground to break apart rock formations and stimulate the extraction of oil and gas. The technique has come under increasing scrutiny due to concerns with groundwater contamination, surface water pollution, and public health. Hundreds of fracking chemicals are known to be toxic, and several are known to cause cancer.

SEVEN WELLS FRACKED IN LAST TWO YEARS

The ForestWatch investigation revealed that at least four wells were fracked in the Sespe Oil Field in 2011, and at least three additional wells were fracked in 2012. The fracking occurred on private land owned by Seneca Resources Corporation, a Texas-based oil company that operates the vast majority of wells in the Sespe Oil Field. The company relies on slant drilling to reach oil deposits on federal leases beneath the Los Padres National Forest. The chemicals, supplies and equipment were provided by Halliburton, one of the world's largest oil field service companies with revenues of \$24.8 billion in 2011 and also headquartered in Texas.

The recent fracking operations were approved without any public notice or environmental review. This is because fracking is unregulated in the State of California, and is typically rubber-stamped by the California Department of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, the agency charged with regulating oil

and gas extraction throughout the state. In one of the recent Los Padres fracking operations, DOGGR officials received a Notice of Intention to Rework Well 48-33 on the White Star lease on June 22, 2012, and three days later issued a one-page Permit to Conduct Well Operations authorizing the fracking. According to records submitted by Seneca Resources Corporation, the fracking operation was completed a few days later on July 5, 2012.

351 FRACK JOBS IN THE SESPE... AND COUNTING

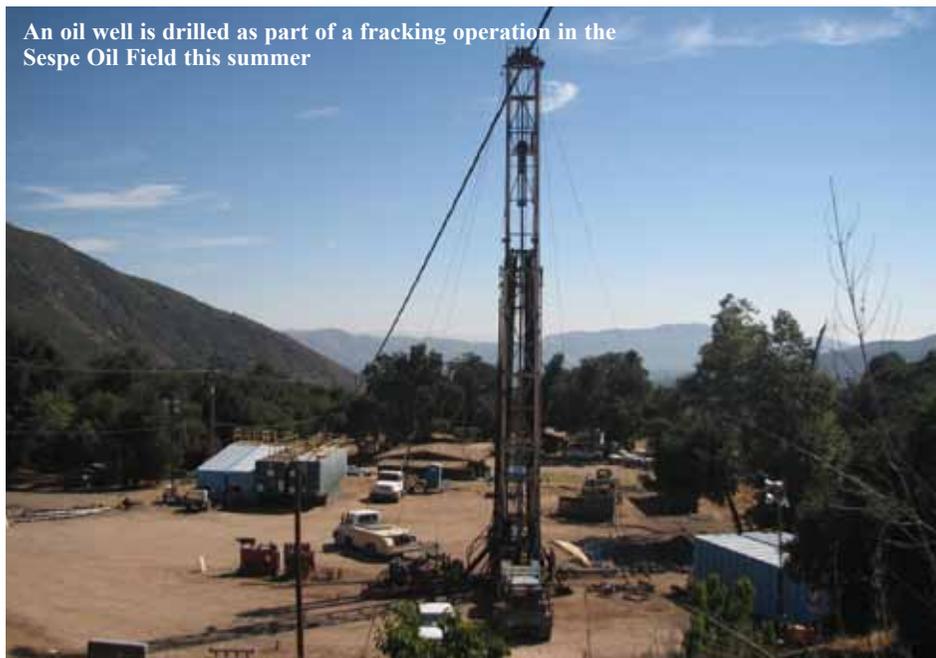
Altogether, the ForestWatch investigation revealed that fracking has occurred in the Sespe Oil Field at least 351 times since the practice was first reported to state officials in the mid-1960s. Fracking continued regularly here through the 1970s and 1980s, declining in the 1990s and was not reported at all in the early 2000s. The true number of fracking jobs may never be known, as the practice does not require any special approvals and is not tracked by state or federal officials, nor is it required to be disclosed to the public.

The Sespe Oil Field is located in and adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest north of the town of Fillmore in Ventura County. It contains nearly 300 active oil wells on federal and private land, according to data provided by the DOGGR. The oil field is also adjacent to the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, the Coldwater Canyon Ecological Reserve, and the Sespe Wild & Scenic River, the latter of which is designated as critical habitat for the federally-endangered southern steelhead.

The public deserves to know what types of chemicals are being pumped into our groundwater, and what impact those chemicals have on our water supplies, wildlife, and the environment. ForestWatch will continue to track all regulatory efforts, and will demand full disclosure of fracking chemicals and adequate safeguards to protect water quality and the environment.

To read the full report, visit www.LPFW.org

An oil well is drilled as part of a fracking operation in the Sespe Oil Field this summer





CRITTER CORNER

Oaks are one of the defining features of the California landscape, and eleven of our state's twenty oak species are found in the Los Padres National Forest. They range from shrubby oaks that grow just a few feet tall, to ancient oak trees that can reach heights of up to 120 feet and diameters of up to twelve feet! Some oaks have survived for five centuries or more, making them one of the oldest living organisms in our region.

Oaks provide important wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, shade for weary backcountry travelers, and stand as ancient sentries of bygone eras. In addition, Native Americans have used oaks for centuries for medicinal, practical, and ceremonial purposes.

The Los Padres National Forest contains six of the state's nine oak tree species: blue oak, valley oak, California black oak, coast live oak, interior live oak, and canyon oak – all distinguished from one another by the shapes of their leaves, acorns, and branches, the color of their bark, and whether they are evergreen or deciduous.

The Los Padres also contains five shrub oak species that grow six to fifteen feet tall. Two other plants that are commonly called oaks – tanoak and poison oak – are not true oaks, but are close relatives in the beech and chestnut families.

Oaks within the Los Padres National Forest face several major threats: a disease called sudden oak death, lack of oak tree regeneration, and overgrazing within oak woodlands. Visit www.LPFW.org to read more about the oaks of the Los Padres and our efforts to protect them.

CONDOR CIRCLE TAKES FLIGHT

ForestWatch launches Condor Circle giving program.

As a nonprofit organization, ForestWatch's efforts to preserve our region's wild places and wildlife depend solely on the support of our members. To acknowledge and encourage this support, we launched the Condor Circle giving program this past summer with positive and encouraging results. The Condor Circle represents our most engaged and committed donors. These individuals and businesses generously donate \$1,000 or more annually to ForestWatch, and serve as the core catalysts for our important work, allowing us to serve as one of our region's most effective conservation forces.

Along with helping ForestWatch advance the scale, scope and pace of

land and wildlife conservation in our region, Condor Circle members receive all the benefits enjoyed by ForestWatch members, along with a few exclusive benefits including: an annual Condor Circle member reception, invitation for a unique backcountry visit, recognition on our website, a commemorative bottle of wine from Condor's Hope Vineyard, and a 50% discount on a one-time total purchase from our friends at Patagonia.

We would be pleased to welcome you as a new Condor Circle member. For more information, please contact Diane Devine at 805-617-4610 ext 2 or diane@LPFW.org.

Thank you for soaring with us!



Condor Circle Charter Member List

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Richard W. Alberts | Nutiva |
| Griffin and Rachael Barkley | Jon, Erin, Lars & Evelyn Ohlgren |
| Dave & Heide Boyden | Jack & Sheri Overall |
| John & Kathy Broesamle | Jennifer Owyong |
| Tom & Betty Budlong | Patagonia |
| Peter Castellanos & Danyel Dean | Scott Renger |
| Yvon & Malinda Chouinard | Bill & Jill Shanbrom |
| Bill Hart & Connie Eaton | Virginia Sloan |
| Louise Heydt | Martin & Elizabeth Stevenson |
| Ruth Lasell & Robert Bonewitz | Tom, Kerry & Kellin Weisel |
| Hollis Lenderking | Richard Welch |
| Stuart Meiklejohn & Mary Ann O'Connor | Richard & Paula Whited |
| Brad Monsma | Ronald & Charlotte Williams |
| Allan Morton & Paula Steinmetz | Bob & Katy Zappala |
| Michael Mulligan & Joy Sawyer Mulligan | Anonymous (2) |

(through October 31, 2012)

FOREST IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Irresponsible target shooting is becoming one of the most serious environmental threats facing the Los Padres National Forest



The Los Padres is currently littered with at least 72 target shooting sites that have unacceptable levels of environmental damage and waste, according to a report released by ForestWatch in November. More than half of these target shooting sites are in the Mt. Pinos Ranger District in Ventura County, and other sites are scattered in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

The worst of these sites are larger than an acre, near mountain streams, and contain large quantities of electronic waste and thousands of shotgun, rifle, and handgun bullet shells and casings. Nearly all shooting sites contain damaged or dead trees ridden with bullets. Vandals repeatedly shoot at signs and bathrooms on federal land, costing taxpayers and cash-strapped agencies tens of thousands of dollars to repair.

Televisions and computer monitors are a favorite target, and they contain toxic chemicals that are released into the environment when the devices are shot. In addition, lead contamination poses a serious environmental concern at these shooting sites, as the lead from bullets and spent shells and casings accumulates in the soil and washes into nearby streams. Clay targets – another item frequently found at shooting sites – contain lead and other toxins as well.

Target shooting has caused 42 wildfires in the Los Padres National Forest in the last ten years, destroying 74,382 acres of forest land. When certain types of

bullets strike rocks or metal, they create a spark that may ignite dry brush. Adding to this wildfire danger, shooters are using flammable objects like propane canisters and other exploding targets that pose a serious risk of igniting a wildfire.

While vast areas of the Los Padres remain open to target shooting, the three other national forests in southern California – the Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland – have all issued closure orders banning target shooting outside of a few select, carefully-managed areas.

In 2006, the Forest Service approved a plan to close the Los Padres to target shooting (except for a handful of carefully-selected sites). However, the plan was never implemented, and the problem has only become worse. Three years ago, ForestWatch asked forest officials to take the final steps to implement this shooting moratorium, but they refused to do so.

Armed with the data from our surveys, we have renewed our request to

institute a forest-wide ban on target shooting. Forest officials should implement such a closure immediately to prevent further environmental harm. ForestWatch recommends that shooters use the well-managed facilities at the formal gun clubs in and around the forest. Pack it in, pack it out!

To read the full report, visit our website at www.LPFW.org



HELPING HANDS

JON MONTGOMERY & JAKE SAHL

Each year, ForestWatch hosts a graduate student intern from UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management. This summer, we had the good fortune of working with two of the Bren School's finest, and we thank them for their hard work.

Jake Sahl (GIS Intern) grew up in LA and earned his degree in Geological Sciences from UCSB. He's now studying water resources management and conservation planning at the Bren School, and is an avid rock climber, backpacker, hiker, and cross-country skier.

Jake spent hundreds of hours in the field for us this summer, and he didn't let a broken thumb slow him down (shh...don't tell his doctor!) He traveled throughout the Los Padres, recording the locations of trashed target shooting areas and surveying for goshawk nests. Jake also streamlined our GIS computer workstation so that we can continue to use this emerging map-making technology to support our land conservation efforts.

Jon Montgomery (Conservation Intern) hails from the Great Lakes, where he earned a degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin. He's now studying conservation planning at the Bren School. Jon plays guitar in several local Santa Barbara bands.

With a knack for tackling voluminous amounts of documents while maintaining his sanity, Jon poured through thousands of pages of oil well records dating back to the 1950s, and singlehandedly uncovered the use of controversial fracking practices in the Los Padres National Forest! He also researched the elusive Mt. Pinos sooty grouse, and monitored the Carrizo Plain for grazing impacts.

NORTHERN LOS PADRES



PROTECTING ROADLESS AREAS
 ForestWatch submitted detailed comments to the Forest Service this summer, asking forest officials to consider protecting certain Inventoried Roadless Areas in the Los Padres National Forest and recommending them for formal wilderness designation. The Forest Service plans to release its revised proposal in 2013.

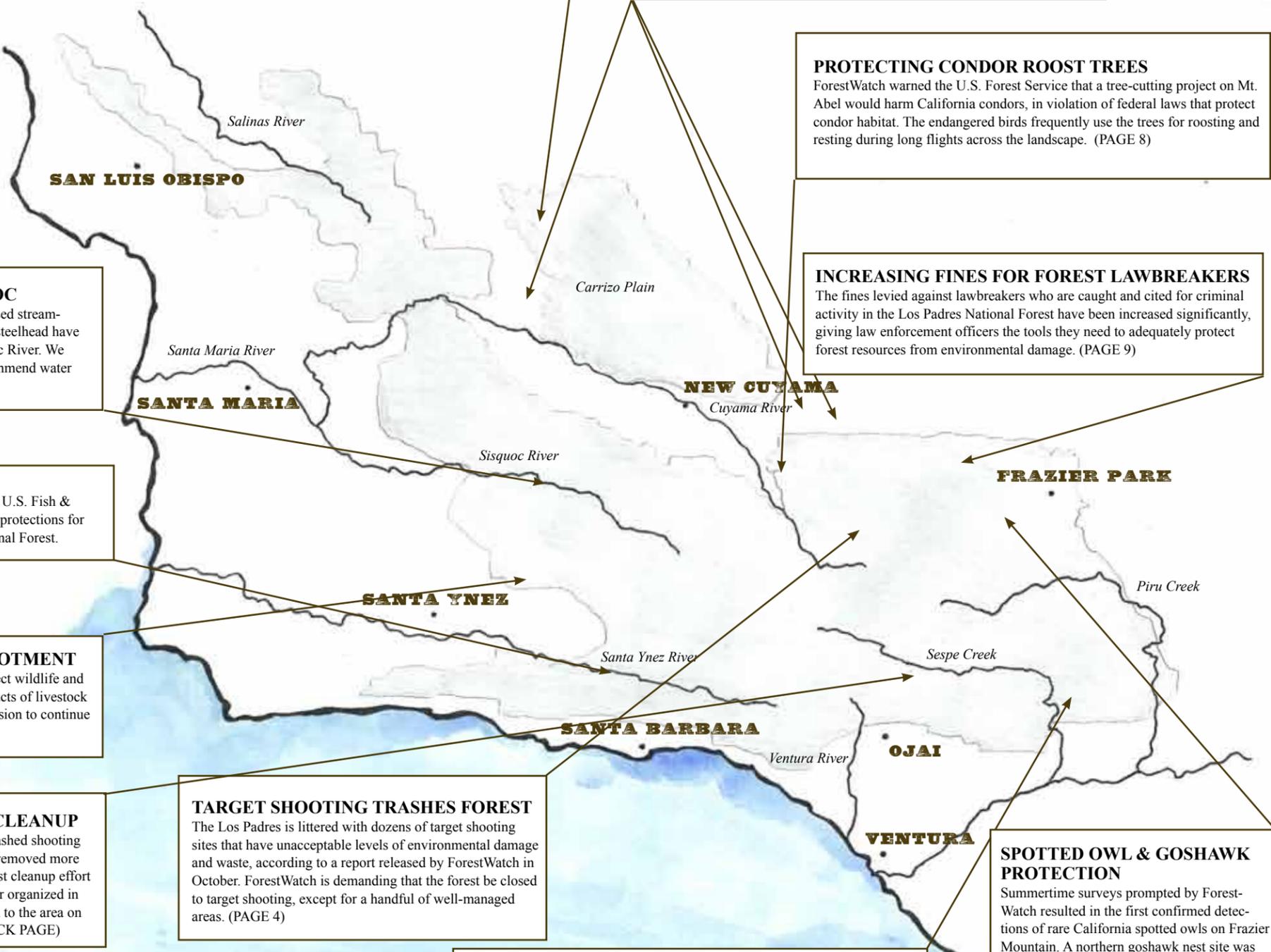
RESTORING STEELHEAD TO THE SISQUOC
 ForestWatch reviewed the first-ever study showing that increased streamflows in the Santa Maria River are needed so that endangered steelhead have enough water to swim to prime spawning habitat in the Sisquoc River. We then asked the California Department of Fish & Game to recommend water releases from a dam upstream to facilitate steelhead migration.

PROTECTING ARROYO TOADS
 ForestWatch submitted detailed comments to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, opposing a proposal to remove protections for endangered arroyo toads in the Los Padres National Forest.

HAPPY CANYON GRAZING ALLOTMENT
 ForestWatch urged forest officials to better protect wildlife and oak trees near Figueroa Mountain from the impacts of livestock grazing, and is currently reviewing a recent decision to continue livestock grazing here for another decade.

CHERRY CREEK VOLUNTEER CLEANUP
 Last year, after the Forest Service closed this trashed shooting area, more than eighty ForestWatch volunteers removed more than 2.5 tons of trash, making it the area's largest cleanup effort to date and one of the largest trash cleanups ever organized in Los Padres National Forest history. We returned to the area on November 3 to clean up the area for good. (BACK PAGE)

SOUTHERN LOS PADRES



CARRIZO TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN
 ForestWatch and our conservation partners submitted detailed comments on the Bureau of Land Management's preparation of a Travel Management Plan for the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
 ForestWatch filed a formal protest challenging the Bureau of Land Management's failure to formally establish enough Areas of Critical Environmental Concern on lands adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest.

PROTECTING CONDOR ROOST TREES
 ForestWatch warned the U.S. Forest Service that a tree-cutting project on Mt. Abel would harm California condors, in violation of federal laws that protect condor habitat. The endangered birds frequently use the trees for roosting and resting during long flights across the landscape. (PAGE 8)

INCREASING FINES FOR FOREST LAWBREAKERS
 The fines levied against lawbreakers who are caught and cited for criminal activity in the Los Padres National Forest have been increased significantly, giving law enforcement officers the tools they need to adequately protect forest resources from environmental damage. (PAGE 9)

TARGET SHOOTING TRASHES FOREST
 The Los Padres is littered with dozens of target shooting sites that have unacceptable levels of environmental damage and waste, according to a report released by ForestWatch in October. ForestWatch is demanding that the forest be closed to target shooting, except for a handful of well-managed areas. (PAGE 4)

FRACKING IN THE SESPE
 A ForestWatch investigation revealed that the oil industry has injected harmful chemicals deep beneath the Los Padres National Forest for decades, and that the controversial practice – known as “fracking” – is making a resurgence. Seven wells in the Sespe Oil Field have been fracked in the last two years, and ForestWatch has demanded a moratorium until adequate safeguards are in place to protect water supplies. (PAGE 2)

SPOTTED OWL & GOSHAWK PROTECTION
 Summertime surveys prompted by ForestWatch resulted in the first confirmed detections of rare California spotted owls on Frazier Mountain. A northern goshawk nest site was also discovered, confirming that this rare bird nests here as well. Their habitat will now be protected.

LOOKING ACROSS THE FOREST

AN UPDATE ON HOW WE'RE PROTECTING YOUR REGION

LPFW MEMBERS' GATHERING

Take a photographic journey of the Carrizo Plain on November 30 in San Luis Obispo



In July, more than fifty ForestWatch members attended our first-ever Members' Gathering. We'll be organizing future gatherings each quarter, as a way for our members throughout the Central Coast to come together and celebrate the national forest.

Our inaugural Santa Barbara gathering featured wine from Bedford Winery, tasty appetizers, and an opportunity to meet local backcountry enthusiast Craig R. Carey and author of the recently-published *Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura*. Mr. Carey provided a talk and slide show about the great destinations our local backcountry has to offer, and gave an account of his own adventures out in the field while writing his book.

Join us in San Luis Obispo for our next Members' Gathering on Friday, November 30 at the Meadow Park Community Building. This free event for current ForestWatch members will feature speaker Bill Bouton, who will take us on a photographic journey of the Carrizo Plain.

Bill moved to San Luis Obispo in 1997 from southwestern Michigan, where he taught biology and began his photographic adventures. Much of his pho-

tography was done with the intent to share with students his experiences in nature. While teaching, some of his greatest joys came while taking others into natural settings. He has led trips to many areas in the United States and around the world.

One of his favorite places, even before relocating to California, was the Carrizo Plain, and since arriving here, he has come to appreciate the Plain's wonders even more. Bill appreciates the chance to share the Carrizo Plain with those who are familiar with it and with those who aren't and, in this presentation he will highlight characteristic scenic vistas, flora and fauna of San Luis Obispo County's very own national monument.

We hope you'll join us for this enlightening evening, focusing on one of the most dramatic landscapes found in

California. Watch for more information on this event soon. Space is limited and the event is only open to current ForestWatch members. If your membership is not current, you can renew now at www.LPFW.org, or become a new member for a special new members' gathering rate of only \$20. We'll see you up in SLO on November 30!

Generously sponsored by our friends at Pozo Organic Farm.

Join Us!

November 30,
Meadow Park
Community Bldg,
2333 Meadow St,
San Luis Obispo,
5:30 - 7:00 pm

RSVP to Diane
diane@LPFW.org



PROTECTING CONDOR ROOST TREES

ForestWatch defends old-growth trees used by endangered condors on Mt. Abel

In October, ForestWatch warned the U.S. Forest Service that a tree-cutting project on Mt. Abel – in the Ventura County backcountry – would harm California condors, in violation of federal laws that protect condor habitat. The endangered birds frequently use the trees for roosting and resting during long flights across the landscape.

As a result of the warning, the Forest Service agreed to avoid the roosting area – and a half-mile buffer around them – until further notice.

The tree cutting is part of the Pine Mountain Club Project, a 1,865-acre vegetation clearing project in the Los Padres National Forest. The project – approved in 2008 – calls for the construction of a large fuel break on Cerro Noroeste (also known as Mt. Abel) measuring more than 500 feet wide and nearly 1.5 miles long, plus an additional 495 acres of forest thinning on the mountain top. The fuelbreak would cut through the middle of an active condor roosting area, where condors have perched on large trees and snags for centuries due to the unique environmental conditions of the area.

California condors rely on roost sites throughout their range for resting after long-distance flights across the landscape, and for protection during inclement weather. Traditional roosting sites are often located near important feeding and breeding areas. Condors often return to the same roost site year after year, and many traditional roost sites – including Mt. Abel – have likely been used for centuries due to their location, microclimates, and tree characteristics. California condors

often spend the majority of their time perched at a roost, preening and conducting other maintenance activities. Roosts may also serve an important social function, as condors usually roost in groups.

This is not the first time that ForestWatch has expressed concerns about this project. In 2008, ForestWatch appealed the project, challenging the Forest Service’s conclusion that the tree clearing “would have no effect on the California condor.” The Forest Service denied our appeal, and shortly thereafter, ForestWatch notified the agency that the project would violate the Endangered Species Act.

The most recent warning notice was filed by ForestWatch and our conservation partner, the Center for Biological Diversity, after ForestWatch uncovered significant new information and data regarding condor roosting in the area, further underscoring the importance of keeping the area intact.

While the condor roosts appear safe from the chainsaw for now, ForestWatch will continue to monitor this project to ensure that this important condor roosting area is protected. Safeguarding condor habitat throughout the forest will remain one of our top priorities.



JUNIPER RIDGE wildly real fragrance

The “wildly fragrant” company Juniper Ridge started at the Farmers’ Market in Berkeley, California back in 1998, where they began selling their various aromatic products. And since that time, the folks at Juniper Ridge have become admittedly “obsessed with natural aromatics” and spend more time in the field than in the office, collecting greenery (in a sustainable and responsible way of course), and even distilling and making fragrances on the road.

From natural room sprays to soaps, essential oils to teas, everything made by Juniper Ridge comes from the mountains and deserts of the West.

But beyond their wonderful aromatic products, Juniper Ridge cares about our wild lands, donating 10% of their profits each year to groups like ForestWatch that work to defend Western wilderness. The wonderful Juniper Ridge staff attended and sponsored our 2012 Ojai Wild! event, bringing with them their Wildflower Van and distilling the aromatic oils of black sage.

“Juniper Ridge supports Forest Watch because of their successful and tireless defense of the wild lands of Central California where many of our natural fragrances come from,” says Obi Kaufmann, their Creative Projects Coordinator. “Juniper Ridge is proud to contribute to LPFW and include them in our portfolio of effective wilderness defense organizations.”

Our thanks to Juniper Ridge for their strong dedication to wilderness protection, and for making our office smell like a mountain forest!



CRITTER CORNER

The foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) was once widespread throughout the streams and rivers of the Los Padres National Forest, but today has been reduced to scattered populations in Monterey County. All southern populations have been extirpated, and the frog may disappear from the forest completely unless urgent steps are taken to identify and protect its habitat.

The frog is found in streams and rivers in foothill regions, and as its name implies, its legs and lower abdomen have a notable yellowish color. Little is known about the frog's behavior and ecology.

Historically, the FYLF was found in the coastal drainages in Santa Barbara County, but has not been seen in this area for several decades. It occurred throughout the Piru, Sespe, and Santa Ynez River watersheds.

Nobody knows the exact cause of the frog's decline, but major flooding in 1969 may have flushed out its entire habitat. Other contributing factors may include pesticides from agricultural practices, introduced predator species (fish/bullfrogs) that eat frog eggs and tadpoles, disease, habitat loss, and trampling and sedimentation by livestock and recreationalists along streams.

In 1994, the California Department of Fish & Game classified the FYLF as a "Species of Special Concern" due to the continued threats facing the species. The U.S. Forest Service also considers the FYLF as a "Sensitive Species," requiring special management consideration when proposing activities in its habitat on national forest land. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is currently considering whether to add the FYLF to the federal endangered species list.

FINES INCREASED FOR FOREST LAWBREAKERS

ForestWatch encourages the Forest Service to increase penalties for criminal behavior in the Los Padres National Forest

\$50

Fifty dollars. Until recently, that was the fine levied against lawbreakers who were caught and cited for criminal activity in the

Los Padres National Forest. The fines were so low that they did not deter unlawful behavior, even for serious violations causing long-term environmental damage.

For example, the fine for using motorized dirtbikes in a Congressionally-designated wilderness area was only \$50 in the Los Padres National Forest – amounting to a slap on the wrist. Equally as shocking, the fine for throwing a burning cigarette out of a car window was only \$75. Similarly low fines were imposed for timber theft, damaging or removing resources, littering, polluting streams, and using motorized vehicles off of designated routes.

ForestWatch first learned of the unusually low fines in 2011, and at the time, we urged forest officials to work with the local U.S. District Court to update the schedule of fines for the Central District, which covers most of the Los Padres National Forest. The schedule had not been updated since 1990.

"We are requesting that the Los Padres National Forest immediately begin this process by working with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles to modernize the Schedule for the Central District," we wrote in a February 2011 letter to Forest Supervisor Peggy Hernandez. "Time is of the essence; we believe that your agency's ability to adequately police its lands and protect its resources is at stake."

The Los Padres was not alone. In 2009, half of all federal land managers surveyed nationwide reported that "fines are insufficient to deter illegal or unsafe OHV [off-highway vehicle] use" on public lands.

In May, the fine schedule was updated and we're pleased to report that the Los Padres National Forest now has one of the strongest penalty schedules in the nation! Many serious violations that previously resulted in only \$50-\$200 fines now require mandatory court appearances. Instead of getting the violation dismissed after paying a fine, lawbreakers now have to appear before a judge, who – depending on the circumstances – can levy fines as high as \$5,000 or six months in jail for certain offenses.

We hope that the new fines will give law enforcement officers – who are stretched thin by budget cuts and staffing shortages – the tools they need to enforce important regulations that ensure the protection of the land, wildlife, water, and public safety in the Los Padres National Forest. Please join us in thanking the Forest Service, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and others for this significant achievement. The Los Padres National Forest will now serve as a model for other national forests across the country.



TIS' THE SEASON THANK YOU

Your year-end contribution makes a difference!

As masticators mowed through the chaparral in the Los Padres National Forest this past summer, YOU made it possible for us to stop the impacts of this activity during migratory bird nesting season.

YOU made it possible for two ForestWatch interns to survey the southern Los Padres this year to document the locations of environmentally-harmful target shooting areas, helping us to put pressure on the Forest Service for more effective regulation.

And it is because of YOU that we were able to complete an investigation into the "fracking" practices of the oil industry in the Sespe Oil Field, shedding light on this controversial technique.

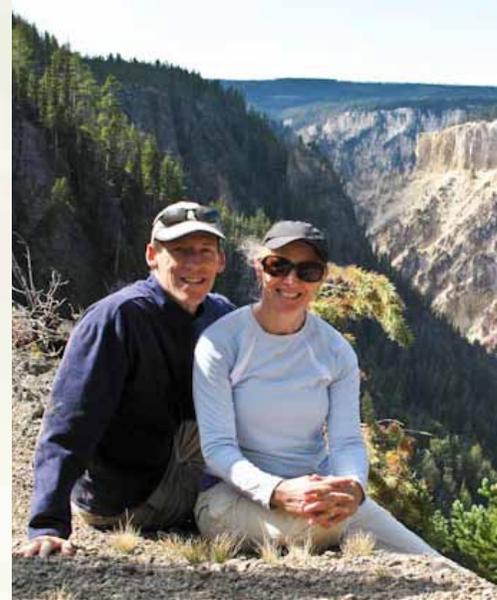
These are just a few examples of your effectiveness as a Los Padres ForestWatch supporter, and the list goes on...From wilderness designation to protecting the Carrizo Plain, everything we do takes support from generous people like YOU.

Let's keep it going! Help us keep our volunteer projects underway, influence forest policy, secure public access into the forest, and fight for wilderness! If you haven't donated yet this year, please do so right away to ensure YOUR part in protecting our local natural treasures.

If you've already given this year, we hope we can count on YOUR year-end gift. We need to raise \$40,000 between now and the end of the year, and your tax-deductible gift will ensure continued conservation successes in the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain. Thank You!

Three Simple Ways to Give:

- On our website at www.LPFW.org
- Via phone at 805-617-4610 ext.2
- Or mail to PO Box 831, Santa Barbara, CA 93102



STELLAR SUPPORT

DAVE & HEIDE BOYDEN

It took condors and gravel trucks to bring Dave and Heide Boyden and Los Padres ForestWatch together, and these Ojai residents have become generous and dedicated supporters ever since.

The Boydens moved to Ojai in 2001. Their two children were small at the time, and they were looking for a place with a small town feel. They have since grown to appreciate not only the community but relish the beauty and proximity of the local backcountry. Dave, a consultant in the biopharmaceutical industry, and Heide, a writer, love to hike on the many trails the local mountains have to offer with their dog, Topa.

In 2007, Dave was volunteering his time to monitor condor nests at Hopper Canyon, a wildlife refuge adjacent to the Los Padres. It is here that he first heard about Los Padres ForestWatch. He and Heide were also becoming increasingly concerned about the influx of industrial gravel trucks along Highway 33, a scenic route that cuts through the heart of the national forest. ForestWatch, which has taken a leadership role on both issues, clicked with the Boydens.

"We believe in protecting the environment for future generations," said the Boydens, "and only groups like LPFW can speak as the voice of the environment, which would have no voice otherwise."

Dave and Heide's continued support as donors, volunteers, and friends has an incredibly positive impact on the work of Los Padres ForestWatch as well, for which we are deeply grateful.





Post Office Box 831
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
Phone: 805.617.4610
Email: info@LPFW.org
Web: www.LPFW.org

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JOIN US! UPCOMING EVENTS

ForestWatch Members' Gathering
November 30, San Luis Obispo



Join us for some tasty appetizers, wine and beer as we take a photographic journey of the Carrizo Plain with local photographer and ForestWatch member Bill Bouton. His photos capture the wildflowers, wildlife, and landscapes of San Luis Obispo's only national monument. This event is FREE for current ForestWatch members. The gathering takes place at Meadow Park in SLO from 5:30 to 7:00pm. For more information, see page 7 inside this issue. Space is limited, so contact diane@LPFW.org to RSVP today!

ForestWatch Holiday Party
December 13, Santa Barbara



Celebrate the holidays with ForestWatch and renowned photographer Jeff Jones at his new Lumnos Gallery. His December exhibit, *Wilderness, Home*, will highlight wild landscapes here at home. Mention LPFW when purchasing a Jeff Jones gallery print in December and 50% of that sale will benefit ForestWatch. Holiday party features appetizers, wine, and yuletide cheer from 5:00 to 7:30pm. Space is limited to current LPFW members and their guests. Contact diane@LPFW.org to RSVP today!

Save the Date - Ojai Wild!
April 13, Ojai



Mark your calendar for our 6th Annual Ojai Wild! creekside barbeque on Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 3 to 6pm. It's our most important fundraising event of the year, and takes place at The Thatcher School's picturesque Diamond Hitch Camp along the foothills of the Los Padres National Forest in Ojai. Join us for an afternoon of guided nature walks, live music, benefit auction, and a gourmet barbeque supper under the oaks. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact diane@LPFW.org or call 805.617.4610 x2.

Photos left to right: Bill Bouton, Jeff Jones, and Tom Franklin

