



LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH

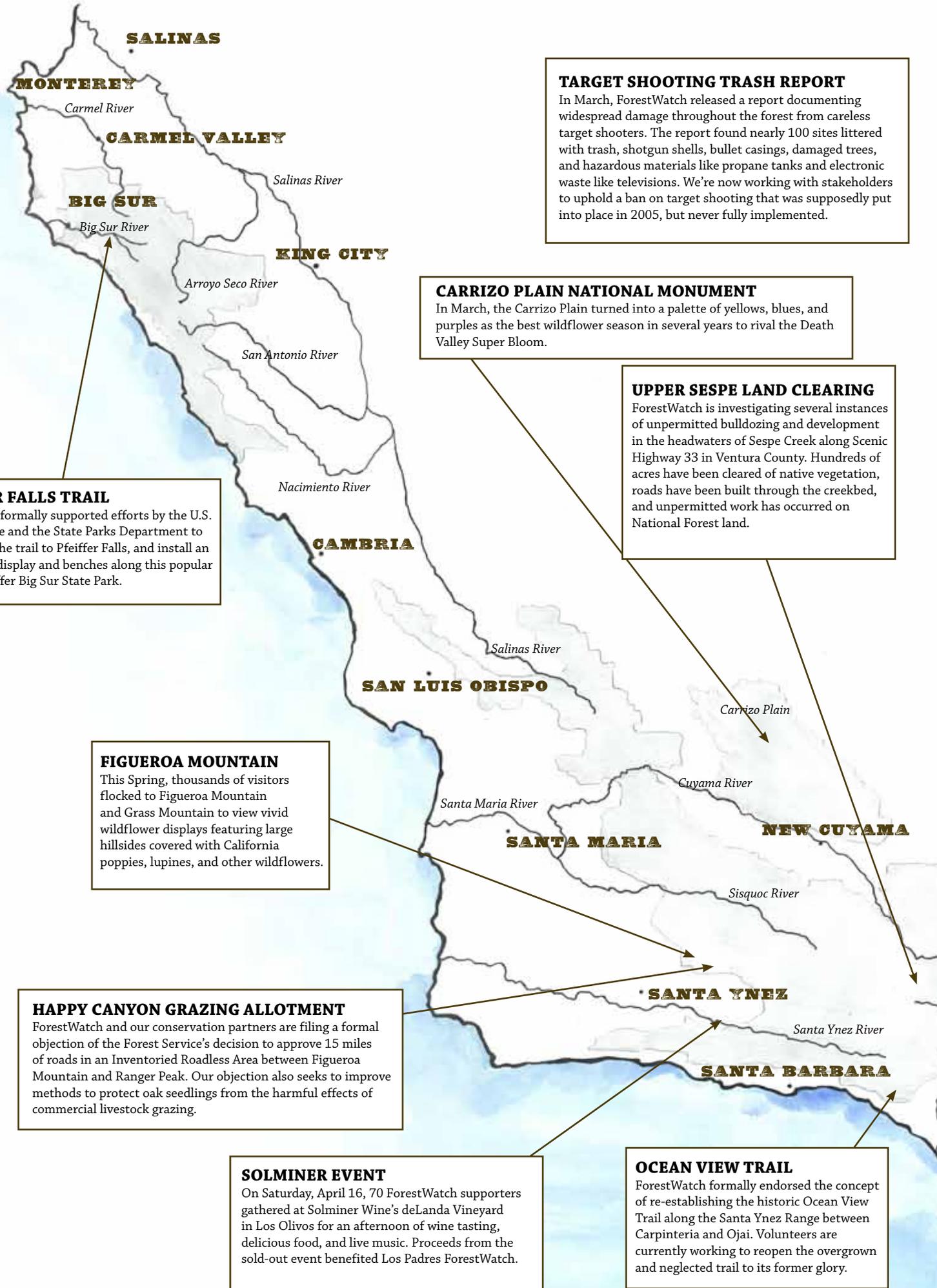
PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ALONG CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL COAST

APRIL 2016



Bush Lupin, Figueroa Mountain
Tanner Yould





SALINAS

MONTEREY

Carmel River

CARMEL VALLEY

Salinas River

BIG SUR

Big Sur River

KING CITY

Arroyo Seco River

San Antonio River

Nacimiento River

CAMBRIA

Salinas River

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Santa Maria River

Carrizo Plain

Cuyama River

SANTA MARIA

NEW CUYAMA

Sisquoc River

SANTA YNEZ

Santa Ynez River

SANTA BARBARA

TARGET SHOOTING TRASH REPORT

In March, ForestWatch released a report documenting widespread damage throughout the forest from careless target shooters. The report found nearly 100 sites littered with trash, shotgun shells, bullet casings, damaged trees, and hazardous materials like propane tanks and electronic waste like televisions. We're now working with stakeholders to uphold a ban on target shooting that was supposedly put into place in 2005, but never fully implemented.

CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

In March, the Carrizo Plain turned into a palette of yellows, blues, and purples as the best wildflower season in several years to rival the Death Valley Super Bloom.

UPPER SESPE LAND CLEARING

ForestWatch is investigating several instances of unpermitted bulldozing and development in the headwaters of Sespe Creek along Scenic Highway 33 in Ventura County. Hundreds of acres have been cleared of native vegetation, roads have been built through the creekbed, and unpermitted work has occurred on National Forest land.

PFEIFFER FALLS TRAIL

ForestWatch formally supported efforts by the U.S. Forest Service and the State Parks Department to reconstruct the trail to Pfeiffer Falls, and install an interpretive display and benches along this popular route in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.

FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN

This Spring, thousands of visitors flocked to Figueroa Mountain and Grass Mountain to view vivid wildflower displays featuring large hillsides covered with California poppies, lupines, and other wildflowers.

HAPPY CANYON GRAZING ALLOTMENT

ForestWatch and our conservation partners are filing a formal objection of the Forest Service's decision to approve 15 miles of roads in an Inventoried Roadless Area between Figueroa Mountain and Ranger Peak. Our objection also seeks to improve methods to protect oak seedlings from the harmful effects of commercial livestock grazing.

SOLMINER EVENT

On Saturday, April 16, 70 ForestWatch supporters gathered at Solminer Wine's deLanda Vineyard in Los Olivos for an afternoon of wine tasting, delicious food, and live music. Proceeds from the sold-out event benefited Los Padres ForestWatch.

OCEAN VIEW TRAIL

ForestWatch formally endorsed the concept of re-establishing the historic Ocean View Trail along the Santa Ynez Range between Carpinteria and Ojai. Volunteers are currently working to reopen the overgrown and neglected trail to its former glory.

LOOKING ACROSS THE FOREST

AN UPDATE ON HOW WE'RE PROTECTING YOUR REGION

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CERRO NOROESTE COMMUNICATION FACILITY

The Forest Service is considering renewing a communication tower atop Cerro Noroeste in Ventura County. ForestWatch reviewed the proposal and submitted comments to ensure that the facility takes routine measures to prevent condors and other wildlife from colliding with or becoming entangled in the facility.

TARGET SHOOTING CLEANUP

LUSH Cosmetics volunteers removed close to 1000 pounds of trash from a target shooting site in a tributary to the Sespe Creek. They later returned to remove over 400 pounds of trash from illegal campsite and target shooting area along the Sespe Creek.

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OJAI WILD!

Join us on Sunday, June 5 for one of our most important fundraisers of the year for the 9th Annual Ojai WILD! at The Thacher School. The afternoon includes beer and wine, an exciting live and silent auction, appetizers, dinner, and music by Grammy Award-winning artist Todd Hannigan joined by Sleeping Chief!

PROPOSED SPORTS COMPLEX

A Los Angeles-based baseball academy is seeking permission from the County of Ventura to construct a large sports complex in Rose Valley, a remote portion of the Los Padres National Forest that serves as a gateway to several campgrounds and the Sespe Wilderness.

PIRU TRAIL ACCESS

ForestWatch led a coalition of conservation and outdoor recreation organizations in calling for increased public access opportunities to the network of forest trails around Lake Piru. A series of gates and steep entrance fees greatly restrict the public's access to the Pothole Trail and the Agua Blanca Trail, gateways into the Sespe Wilderness.

OIL TANK FIRE

For the second time in less than a year, an oil tank facility caught fire near the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, a hub of the California Condor Recovery Program. ForestWatch is investigating the cause of the fire to hold the oil industry accountable.

MATILIJA FALLS ACCESS

As the deadline for trial rapidly approaches, ForestWatch is working around the clock to hammer out an agreement with a landowner to permanently restore public access to Matilija Falls. The area has been off-limits to hikers since the landowner posted signs along this historic route several years ago.

SANTA PAULA CANYON CLEANUP

Patagonia volunteers removed more than 150 pounds of trash from the Santa Paula Canyon trail.





BASE CAMP



Jeff Kuyper
Executive Director

We'll be the first to admit that we don't always agree with how our public lands are managed. While there's a good deal of things happening on public lands that are good and desirable, occasionally land management decisions are fraught with politics, bad science, and innocent mistakes. We spend our time writing letters, filing appeals and lawsuits, and participating in the democratic process. That's how the system of checks and balances is supposed to work.

The armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon, on the other hand, took a decidedly different approach. For 41 days, militia members hijacked one of our country's most prized landscapes. They destroyed public property, vandalized natural resources, harassed government employees, and closed schools and intimidated families in the nearby community of Burns.

This ordeal – as frustrating as it was – reminded us of the importance of our mission. How delicate the balance is between preservation and devastation. And how fortunate we are to have such a vast network of public land right here in our own backyard: the Los Padres National Forest, the Carrizo Plain National Monument, the Hopper Mountain and Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuges, the Channel Islands and Pinnacles National Parks, and countless other federal lands and state parks.

These lands offer places to hike, bike, ride, camp, fish, hunt, and enjoy a myriad of other activities with friends and family. They give us solitude, wonder, and adventure. They provide us with clean water. They boost our local economies with tourism dollars. They are part of our nation's heritage and history, helping us to preserve a glimmer of the past while sustaining the planet for generations to come.

While the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon is thankfully over, their underlying agenda is still very much alive. A small but vocal minority in Congress continues to push legislation to transfer public lands to corporations, developers, and private interests.

We can't let that happen. These lands are too valuable to be pilfered for profit.

You and I and a vast majority of Americans value and respect our public lands, and take pride in serving as stewards and ambassadors to these special places. Thank you for your support as we continue to defend and protect these mountaintops, canyons, rivers, and valleys so that our children, and our children's children, have places where they can explore, enjoy, and marvel at the absolute wonder of nature.

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COMINGS AND GOINGS



SAM THOMAS

For the last ten years, Sam has taught courses in environmental ethics and religion at California Lutheran University and is a known leader in campus sustainability efforts. He has graduate degrees from the University of Notre Dame and Yale University, and has published and presented in religious and environmental studies. "There's a well-known saying in environmental circles: 'We don't love what we don't know, and we won't protect what we don't love.' I have come to love this region deeply by getting to know its wild places, which the people of Los Padres ForestWatch work so diligently to protect and preserve." Sam loves backpacking, fly fishing, and both wild and urban nature. In his spare time he designs and builds custom furniture from sustainable and reclaimed domestic hardwoods. We're excited to welcome Sam as our newest ForestWatch Board Member!



MICHAEL SHAPIRO

Michael is well known for his support of political, environmental, civic and cultural nonprofit coalitions and organizations in Ojai Valley. A well-established producer and screenwriter, Michael is departing from the ForestWatch Board to more actively pursue his passion in the film industry. ForestWatch is grateful to have Michael's support and perspective over the years. We warmly thank Michael for his years of service as a Board Member and wish him the best of luck!

UPDATE: SAVE SANTA PAULA CANYON!

Last Fall, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 to approve an oil company's plan to drill 19 new wells along one of the most popular hiking trails leading into the Los Padres National Forest.

The trail – located in Santa Paula Canyon halfway between Ojai and Santa Paula – takes visitors into some of the most wild and rugged terrain in the forest, with stunning canyon walls and some of the best swimming holes and waterfalls around, including the famed Punch Bowl.

The proposed wells would compound the challenges of misuse and neglect that the canyon currently faces. ForestWatch – along with our conservation partners the Center for Biological Diversity and Citizens for Responsible Oil & Gas, and with the support of our members – filed a lawsuit in state court in October, and launched a program to focus renewed attention on the fate of this beautiful canyon.

THE LAWSUIT

Our lawsuit, titled *Los Padres ForestWatch et al. v. County of Ventura*, challenges the Board's reliance on a 37-year-old Environmental Impact Report. This report is woefully outdated, and the oil company has failed to implement many of its basic recommendations, such as protecting Santa Paula Creek from the risks posed by oil spills and planting trees to hide the oil wells from public view. The lawsuit alleges violations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The lawsuit seeks to stop the drilling of any new wells until a current and complete Environmental Impact Report is prepared. In addition to the County, the lawsuit also names two oil companies, California Resources Corporation (the state's largest oil and gas producer) and Seneca Resources Corporation, which owns the land and also operates the nearby Sespe Oil Field.

JUDGE SHOPPING

The case was initially assigned to Judge Reiser, the only judge in Ventura County who is certified to consider CEQA cases. Given Judge Reiser's expertise in this highly technical field, we looked forward to presenting our arguments in his courtroom, but the County's attorneys did not. This is presumably because Judge Reiser has ruled against Ventura County in several prior CEQA cases where the County failed to comply with the law. The County sought



to disqualify Judge Reiser from hearing the case, claiming that he would not be "fair and impartial" but the County's objection was denied on a technicality.

Then the oil companies followed suit, seeking to disqualify Judge Reiser on the same basis. Under the court's rules, upon receiving a properly-filed motion to disqualify a judge, the case is automatically reassigned.

We now look forward to arguing the case before Judge DeNoce – another highly-qualified jurist – later this summer.

STRENGTHENING OUR CASE

Since filing suit, ForestWatch has been busy sifting through thousands of pages of records, scanning each page and compiling evidence to build an even stronger case. Our attorneys are in the midst of preparing legal arguments to submit to the judge, and are confident that we will prevail. We are being represented in this case by Chatten-Brown & Carstens, one of the preeminent environmental law firms in California.

GROWING OUR LEGAL FUND

We're pleased to report that our initial fundraising effort raised more than \$40,000 from nearly 200 donors! Our friends at Patagonia continued their longstanding support of our work when employees from several departments selected ForestWatch as the recipient of year-end "Miracle Grants" that put us over the top of our goal. Thanks to the generosity of all of our supporters, we are poised to mount an effective litigation strategy to protect Santa Paula Canyon.

Learn more at SaveSantaPaulaCanyon.org

REPORT: FOREST IN THE CROSSHAIRS

New Report Documents Widespread Damage, Public Safety, & Health Risks from Target Shooting in Los Padres National Forest.



The Los Padres National Forest extends across nearly 220 miles of California's central coast, from the Big Sur shoreline in Monterey County, through the backcountry of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, to the Interstate 5 corridor along the Los Angeles County Line. It is California's second largest National Forest, and outdoor recreation is the predominant use here. Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors

come to the Los Padres National Forest to hike, camp, bike, climb, ride horses, swim, view wildlife, hunt, fish, play in the snow, and enjoy the great outdoors.

Recreational target shooting is also a popular activity in the Los Padres National Forest. Target shooting involves the discharge of firearms at paper targets, clay pigeons, and other inanimate objects, and provides a unique opportunity for citizens to practice their marksmanship in an outdoor setting. Target shooting can leave little or no environmental footprint when done responsibly, particularly when conducted at discrete, well-managed sites that are operated by non-profit gun clubs under permit from the U.S. Forest Service.

However, "dispersed" target shooting at informal, unmanaged sites has become an increasingly controversial activity on public lands throughout the country because of the risks it poses to the environment, public health, and safety. Specifically, dispersed target shooting is known to cause the following impacts:

- Contamination of soil and water associated with the accumulation of lead ammunition
- Litter, hazardous electronic waste, and other items used as targets
- Vandalism of signs, campsites, picnic tables, restrooms, and other public facilities
- Wildfire risk from steel-jacketed bullets and exploding targets
- Threats to public safety from stray bullets across roads, highways, and private property
- Damage to centuries-old trees from repeated shooting

- Poisoning of wildlife that ingest lead bullets, trash, or hazardous e-waste

The Los Padres is the only National Forest in southern California that still allows dispersed target shooting. Unmanaged target shooting has reached unprecedented levels, driven by the twin pressures of a growing population and a limited number of official, well-managed shooting areas. Rangers say the number of target shooters increases every year, and because of budget cuts and an overstretched staff they have no good way to police them or manage the impacts.



Over the last five years, Los Padres ForestWatch has surveyed the most popular shooting areas in the Los Padres National Forest to document the damage caused by unmanaged target shooting. We surveyed a total of 210 miles of forest roads in the Santa

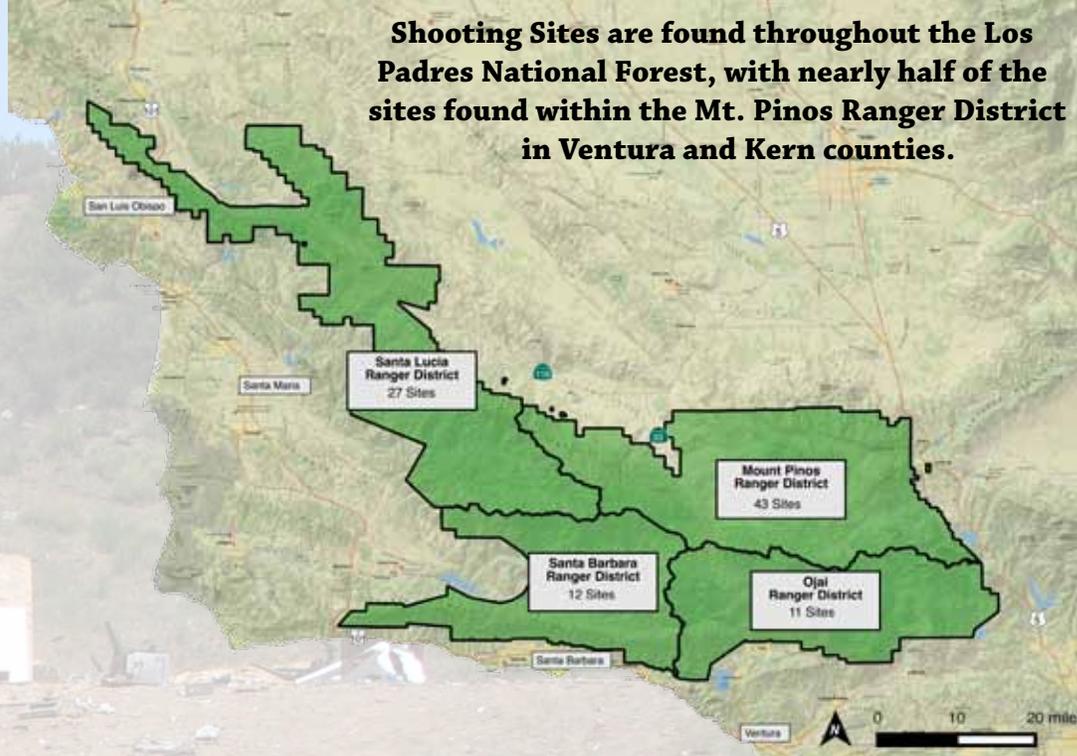
Barbara, Santa Lucia, Ojai, and Mount Pinos Ranger Districts.

Our surveys – along with research of official Forest Service records – revealed an epidemic of target shooting debris and damage across the forest. Specific findings of this report include:

- Dispersed, unmanaged target shooting occurs at 94 distinct sites throughout the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Kern counties. The Mount Pinos Ranger District in Ventura and Kern counties had the highest concentration, with nearly half of the shooting sites located within its boundaries.
- All sites contain varying levels of trash, hazardous materials, vandalized infrastructure, and damaged natural



Shooting Sites are found throughout the Los Padres National Forest, with nearly half of the sites found within the Mt. Pinos Ranger District in Ventura and Kern counties.



RAPID FIRE FACTS

- 94 distinct dispersed target shooting sites were identified.
- Sites were given severity ratings between 1-3 with 3 being the worst sites. Out of the 94 total sites, 10 were ranked with a severity rating of 3, while an additional 18 were given a rating of 2.
- The Mount Pinos Ranger District had the highest concentration of dispersed shooting sites accounting for 43 of the 94 sites.
- 29 sites were within 50 yards of rivers and streams.
- 10 sites were within 150 yards of designated campgrounds.
- 16 sites contained damaged trees.
- 8 sites contained electronic/hazardous wastes such as computer/television monitors and propane canisters.

resources. Many of these shooting sites are within footsteps of fragile waterways and popular campgrounds, trails, and recreational hotspots.

- Between 1992 and 2016, a total of 53 wildfires in the Los Padres National Forest were started by target shooting, burning a combined 74,478 acres of forest land. The largest fires caused by target shooting were the 1997 Logan Fire in San Luis Obispo County, and the 2002 Wolf Fire in Ventura County.
- The Los Padres National Forest is the only forest in southern California that still allows dispersed, unregulated target shooting.
- The 2005 Los Padres National Forest Management Plan banned dispersed target shooting, but ten years later, the ban has not been implemented or enforced.
- Forest officials have known about the damages caused by target shooting since the 1970s, when they recorded “pure wanton acts of destruction” throughout the Mt. Pinos Ranger District in Ventura County.

This report is the first comprehensive evaluation of dispersed target shooting throughout the Los Padres National Forest. The goal of this report is to demonstrate the extent and impacts of unmanaged target shooting, and to provide a comprehensive set of data that federal land managers can use to reduce or eliminate these impacts.

We recommend that the Forest

Service take steps to immediately implement forest-wide target shooting restrictions in the Los Padres National Forest, consistent with the other three southern California forests. We also encourage the Forest Service to designate a limited number of target shooting ranges that are formally managed under permit. Volunteer trash cleanups and remediation of contaminated sites will also be needed.

For more information visit:
lpfw.org/forest-in-the-crosshairs.





Photo by Flickr user Stairfly37

WILD THINGS

Larkspurs of the Los Padres

A member of the buttercup family, larkspurs have distinctive flowers that are sometimes likened to orchids due to their unique shape, variety, and coloration. The name *Delphinium* derives from the Latin word for dolphin, referring to the shape of the flower's nectar gland.

Delphinium species are flowering perennials, meaning they live longer than two years. Their petals range in color from fiery red and yellow to bright white to deep blues and purples. Some *Delphinium* species are cultivated as ornamental plants, and hybrids between different species are rather common, leading to many different larkspur varieties.

All parts of the larkspur plant are considered to be highly toxic to humans and livestock when ingested and some may cause skin irritation as well. The flowers of some *Delphinium* species can be crushed to produce a blue ink.

Nearly thirty different species of larkspur are found throughout California, half of which occur in the Los Padres National Forest. Three of the *Delphinium* species or varieties are classified as "sensitive" by the U.S. Forest Service due to their rarity.

MONTEREY LARKSPUR: grows on rocky and sandy slopes in coastal Monterey County.

MT. PINOS LARKSPUR: grows sporadically in the understory of chaparral, scrub and pinyon-juniper woodlands in Kern, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

UMBRELLA LARKSPUR: endemic to the Santa Lucia, San Rafael, and Santa Ynez mountain ranges where it grows along slopes in montane forests of San Luis Obispo County.

VOLUNTEER SUCCESSES!

ForestWatch volunteers get their boots on the ground to protect wildlife and watersheds

MONDAY, JANUARY 18TH: Patagonia gets boots on the ground to remove trash from Santa Paula Canyon.

Santa Paula Canyon is home to a perennial stream which gives life to waterfalls and swimming holes as well as a rich natural habitat for species like steelhead and California condors. It is also one of the most disrespected trails in the Los Padres. The allure of the swimming holes just a few miles back into the canyon – most notably the Punch Bowl – draws thousands of hikers each year, some of which leave trash or mar the rocks with graffiti.

Just past the oil wells the creek, and not even 100 yards down the trail, our team of six people found a trashed party site complete with smashed glass bottles, a picnic table, ping pong balls, and even two 25lb barbells. We gathered everything up, hauled it out, and continued up the canyon.

We trekked about two miles up the canyon before time constraints forced us to turn back, and along the way we were able to fill another trash bag with water bottles and food packaging found on the side of the trail.

In total, we removed over 150 pounds of trash from Santa Paula Canyon – trash that will not end up in the creek, down the river, or in the belly of a condor chick. There's still plenty of work to be done within Santa Paula Canyon – more trash to be picked up, graffiti to be removed, and

of course there's the oil wells. To get the full story on our work in Santa Paula Canyon, be sure to head over to SaveSantaPaulaCanyon.org

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH: LUSH Cosmetics gets dirty in removing microtrash near Sespe Creek.

28 volunteers from LUSH Cosmetics joined the staff of Los Padres ForestWatch in a tributary to the Wild and Scenic Sespe Creek, adjacent to the Sespe Wilderness, less than 15 miles from the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, and the site of a decimated target shooting area.

After brief introductions, and heartfelt thanks from ForestWatch, the majority of the volunteers quickly set to work cleaning up the site, spreading out to find glass, bullet casings, plastic, and clay shards scattered throughout the floodplain.

Meanwhile, a smaller group of ambitious volunteers headed upstream to tackle a massive tamarisk plant, not quite getting all of it, but reducing it to a mere stump that we'll be back soon to deal with once and for all.

The cleanup went on for three hours until sunset where the light was fading and it was time to call it a day. In just three hours, the volunteers were able to remove more than 1,000 pounds of microtrash





from this critical watershed. It was no small feat, and left a sizable dent in the microtrash at the area.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15TH: LUSH Cosmetics cleans up illegal campsite and shooting site.

Twenty eight great smelling volunteers from LUSH Cosmetics came out to the Los Padres again to clean up an illegal target shooting site and backcountry campsite off the now-closed Middle Sespe trail. The area is less than 15 miles from the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, less than a mile from the Sespe Wilderness, and right up against the designated Wild and Scenic Sespe Creek. The volunteers hiked down the old roadbed and found, just beyond the roadblock that seals off the Middle Sespe Trail to motor vehicles, the trail shimmering with the sun's reflection on thousands of shards of glass. The group picked up what they could along the trail as they hiked, but trekked on down the slope to the main site.

At the illegal campsite and target shooting area, trash, and debris was everywhere. Shocked but undeterred, the volunteers set to work, picking up everything from tiny shards of glass to the remnants of a bedframe, from metal plates full of bullet holes to an old Guitar Hero guitar that had been shot to pieces. They worked among trees riddled with bullets and across the creek along the hillside where the shrubs hid pockets of discarded trash and shrapnel. They destroyed makeshift fire pits and dispersed the charcoal left

behind from illegal campfires.

Despite the immensity of the dispersed trash, the small army of volunteers made short work of the cleanup – removing hundreds of pounds of trash in just a few hours. Rather than calling it a day, however, they turned their efforts to the trail they walked in on, and painstakingly picked up each and every small shard of glass that they could, all while hauling their ever-expanding trash bags up the steep hill.

Every single piece of trash can have an impact – not only in the belly of an immature condor, or in the Sespe Creek – but by leaving your trash in an area, it encourages others to do the same.

The only effort that is not enough is to make no effort at all. The 28 volunteers removed over 400 pounds of trash in just a few hours, one piece of trash and debris at a time. So long as people are willing to make an effort – collectively we can do so much good. The best thing you can do is leave an area better than you found it – by any amount that you can.

Thank you so very much to everyone that came out from the LUSH stores, you may have been woefully overdressed for the work set out for you, but you worked with a determination rivaled by few others. For more information about LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics, visit their site at LushUSA.com



STELLAR INTERNSHIP

ANNA CROCKETT

Anna was ForestWatch's Geographic Information Systems intern for the winter of 2016. Anna used GIS technology to create maps and analyze spatial data to help support our projects. She also got out in the field to survey for invasive Tamarisk in Manzanita Creek as well as searching for the endangered San Joaquin Woolly-Threads and California Jewelflower in Santa Barbara Canyon. One of Anna's largest (and favorite!) projects during her time as an intern was mapping and compiling detailed information on the occurrences of California Condor landings on oil pads in Ventura County.

Growing up exploring the outdoors under the Big Sky of her home state Montana, Anna developed a passion for the environment which lead her to the University of Montana where she earned a degree in Wildlife Biology. Since then, Anna has worked and volunteered for numerous agencies and nonprofits, all with a goal of conserving wild lands and the wildlife that live there. While working in habitat conservation and invasive species management, Anna developed an interest in utilizing GIS in conservation biology. Anna was very excited to apply her interest and skills in GIS and conservation in a different part of the country, all while getting to explore more of the wonderful Los Padres landscape.

At the end of her internship, Anna spent some time exploring more of California and then headed back to Montana to continue her education in GIS and Biology. She is grateful for her time at ForestWatch and the experiences she gained while working with a group of such dedicated and passionate people. "I will carry these experiences forward with me as I continue to use this technology to protect and conserve the environment and its natural resources."

Thanks for all of your hard work Anna, we had a lot of fun working with you!

TO STAY INFORMED ON ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ONLINE, BY EMAILING TANNER@LFPFW.ORG, OR BY CALLING (805) 617-4610X3.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE FOREST



Image Courtesy of Dan Blackburn

FOREST SERVICE REDUCES MONITORING FOR WILDLIFE

In March, the U.S. Forest Service announced that it would change the way it monitors the forest to detect environmental harms. The new monitoring program is a mixed bag, increasing the frequency of field inspections while entirely eliminating the monitoring of key species that the forest has relied on since 1982 to indicate overall forest health.

The Forest Service previously selected eight “Management Indicator Species” as bellwethers of entire ecosystems in the Los Padres: mountain lion, mule deer, arroyo toad, song sparrow, three species of oaks, and bigcone Douglas-fir. The new monitoring program will focus on only two species: non-native annual grasses, and coast live oak. This represents a significant reduction in how plants and wildlife are monitored throughout the forest.

On a positive note, the Forest Service will report the findings of its monitoring every two years instead of every five years. More frequent monitoring will help forest officials and ForestWatch more rapidly respond to issues of concern. Forest officials are also including new items to track, including fire regime departure, stream flows, and tree mortality.

ForestWatch is preparing detailed comments in consultation with our experts. We must ensure that the forest’s unique plants and wildlife continue to receive strong emphasis in the Forest Service’s monitoring program.



MASSIVE SPORTS COMPLEX PROPOSED FOR ROSE VALLEY

A Los Angeles-based baseball academy is seeking permission from the County of Ventura to construct a large sports complex in Rose Valley, a remote portion of the Los Padres National Forest that serves as a gateway to several campgrounds and the Sespe Wilderness.

The proposal includes five baseball fields along with eight new bunkhouses to accommodate up to 300 overnight guests, three bath houses, an amphitheater, and several parking lots.

The property’s current zoning only allows for 50 overnight guests. The County’s Planning Division has expressed concerns with lighting, water supply, scenic views, wildfire safety, and other issues. The academy will need to seek a variance or zoning amendment to move the proposal forward through the environmental review and public hearing process.

ForestWatch will track this proposal and demand preparation of a full Environmental Impact Report to ensure that the remote character of Rose Valley and the surrounding wilderness is preserved.



ANOTHER OIL TANK FIRE ON HOPPER MOUNTAIN

For the second time in a year, an oil storage facility has caught fire in the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge area adjacent to the Los Padres. The first incident occurred in April 2015, when a petroleum tank operated by DCOR LLC exploded in Hopper Canyon. Investigators determined that a faulty valve caused the fire. A second tank facility ignited in March 2016. This incident occurred in the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge on land leased by Vaquero Energy. The cause of this fire is still under investigation.

The Sespe Oil Field has a long history of oil fires. In 1988, an oil well burned for six days before specialized fire crews from Texas were able to finally extinguish it. The cause of that fire was a spark caused by malfunctioning equipment.

ForestWatch is demanding that regulatory agencies step up their monitoring and enforcement of other oil storage tanks in the area.



STELLAR SUPPORT FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN BREWING CO.

Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. is a long-time supporter, the official beer-sponsor of Los Padres ForestWatch, and our featured Stellar Supporter this spring. Look for them at our 9th Annual Ojai WILD! Sunday, June 5th at Thacher School.

COULD YOU PLEASE SHARE WITH US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN BREWING CO.'S HISTORY?

Jim and Jaime Dietenhofer are a father & son team with a passion for quality beer. Both businessmen and entrepreneurs, they've grown their companies on hard work and quality products. Jim raised his family in the Santa Ynez Valley along with wife Judie, and has enjoyed its natural beauty and the character of its inhabitants for years. Starting Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. has been a dream of the Dietenhofers for some time, and they feel fortunate to provide patrons the quality that they deserve. Jaime's wife Meighan and sons Anders and Gray are also key supporters of the operation.

Figueroa Mountain Brewing has focused on producing top tier beers from day one. They attribute that to not only the necessity for the highest quality ingredients, but the same

expectations for their staff. "We believe that success in this business like other industries starts with building a culture that is focused on always improving and never feeling complacent with mediocrity, always striving to better yourself and your business every day."

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT FORESTWATCH? AND HOW ELSE ARE YOU INVOLVED IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. was inspired by Los Padres ForestWatch's namesake, and we believe it is extremely important to preserve the beauty of Figueroa Mountain and the Los Padres National Forest not only through our brand but by supporting key initiatives of ForestWatch. Jaime Dietenhofer, President of Figuroa Mountain Brewing Co., frequently visits our backcountry with long hikes and camping trips.

We also host weekly Benefit Taphandles every Wednesday where a portion of proceeds from a particular beer will go toward a specified charity for a whole month. Each taproom has a different charity they support. We also host special fundraising events on a regular basis

at the taprooms and often sponsor nonprofit events in the community. The Dietenhofers and staff at Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. believe strongly in the importance of family and community.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE IN THE FOREST, AND WHY?

It's a bit like picking your favorite child but we certainly do like those iconic areas of the forest like the Davy Brown campsite, Hurricane Deck trail, the fields of poppies in the springtime and the various nooks and crannies that inspire so many of our beers.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT FIGUEROA MOUNTAIN BREWING CO.?

We are launching a new website for 2016 where we will have a blog and more backstory about the areas of the Los Padres National Forest that inspire our beers. Along with the new website we are launching a new look for our weekly newsletters and are starting a new text messaging service where fans of our beer can get weekly deals texted to them to use at their local Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co. taproom.





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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NINTH ANNUAL

Ojai Wild!

THE NINTH ANNUAL OJAI WILD!

Sunday, June 5, 2016
The Thacher School
5025 Thacher Road, Ojai
\$95/per person
sponsorship opportunities available
www.ojaiwild.org

Santa Barbara
WILD!

2nd Annual Santa Barbara WILD!

Fall 2016
Santa Barbara
More details to follow!



Gallery 113 ForestWatch Benefit

All October 2016
1114 State Street, Suite 8
Santa Barbara
Gallery 113 is accepting public art
submissions on October 2 for the show
(\$15 fee for 1 piece, \$25 for 2 pieces)

Mark your calendar to join us for:
First Thursday Reception
on October 6
&

ForestWatch Member Reception
on Thursday, October 27
More details to come!
www.gallery113sb.com

*For additional information regarding any of
our upcoming events, contact Serena at
805-617-4610x2 or serena@lpfw.org.*