Protecting wildlife and wild places along California’s Central Coast.

SCAPE Art Show and Sale throughout July

Don’t miss the Artist Reception on Thursday, July 7, for this exciting art show benefiting ForestWatch and featuring paintings from the talented artists of SCAPE. Show and sale runs through July at the Faulkner Gallery in the Santa Barbara Public Library. More details on page 9.

ForestWatch is taking a short break from our volunteer fieldwork over the summer, but stay tuned as we resume in the fall. Join in National Public Lands Day on September 17 - last year 170,000 volunteers worked at over 2,080 sites in every state! Check out California opportunities at PublicLandsDay.org

Stop by our booth at the Central Coast’s annual end-of-summer bash thrown by Ventura Hillsides Conservancy. Held in Arroyo Verde Park, in Ventura, CA, the Ventura Hillsides Music Festival is always a good time and ForestWatch is glad to be invited to share in the event and meet new supporters each year!

Los Padres
ForestWatch
Protecting wildlife and wild places along California’s Central Coast

Oil Spill in the Sespe - Greening Forest Roads - Upcoming Events - Santa Lucia Fir
Backcountry Journal - SCAPE Art Show - California Red-Legged Frog - Protecting the Amole

Los Padres National Forest

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Web: www.LPFW.org

Los Padres
ForestWatch

National Public Lands Day September 17
Ventura Hillsides Music Festival September 24

Summer 2011

Californa condor, Los Padres National Forest
Photo courtesy of Jeff Hobbs

Join us!

Upcoming Events

SCAPE Art Show and Sale throughout July

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper
If you received this newsletter, then you have reached out in some way to Los Padres ForestWatch. Perhaps you support our organization financially, perhaps you have spent time removing old barbed wire fences on the Carrizo Plain, or have come into the office to help lick stamps and seal envelopes, or perhaps you sent in a public comment on the proposed bear hunt in San Luis Obispo County, or gravel trucks along Hwy 33 outside of Ojai. Regardless of your level of involvement—thank you, we can’t even begin to get it done without you.

As we work day-to-day to ensure the best protection possible for the wildlife and wild places of the Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain, I never lose sight of the value of our ForestWatch supporters. From back-country travelers, to weekend warriors, to local business owners, you come from all walks of life.

Yet with this great diversity of support, we are all united under a common goal—ensuring that our local wildlife landscapes and the wildlife that inhabit them have a voice. It is because of you that we are able to continue to confront head-on the challenges and pressures facing our local forests.

Rest assured that you are making a difference. Your support of Los Padres ForestWatch counts. Your encouragement, involvement, interest, and concern make it all possible. We are truly grateful for your trust and in allowing us to serve as a voice for our community.

Thank you,

Jeff Kuyper, Executive Director

ForestWatch recently hired Matt Sayles as our Wild Heritage Project Consultant to coordinate our wilderness project throughout Ventura County. Matt Sayles has over ten years experience working for non-profit Land Trusts. Recently, Matt worked with Lassen Land and Trails Trust in Northeast California where he helped to protect California’s longest rail-to-trail, "the Modoc Line" which runs 86 miles north and south between Lassen County and Modoc Counties.

Sayles graduated from Northern Michigan University, and spent a “cold and happy” eight years in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan before moving to Bend, Oregon in 2004. He enjoyed two years in the Oregon High Desert blending time working for a few local non-profits with skiing & mountain biking before moving to Susanville, California in early 2007.

In Susanville, Sayles worked as Executive Director of Lassen Land & Trails Trust, and served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Sierra Cascade Land Trust Council which represents all Land Trusts in the Sierra and Cascade ranges of California.

Sayles currently resides in Ventura, and spends his time away from ForestWatch exploring the Los Padres Forest, bicycling, and playing bluegrass music.
**SCAPE ART SHOW AND RECEPTION**

Wilderness to Gallery, Painting to Protect the Los Padres National Forest

A SCAPE art show & sale to benefit Los Padres ForestWatch

Henry David Thoreau said that “this world is but a canvas to our imagina-
tion.” During the month of July you’ll have the opportunity to see our local forest lands captured on canvas by the imagination and skill of the artists of SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment) at the exhibit “Wilderness to Gallery.”

This month-long exhibit and sale will run from July 3-30, 2011 at the Faulkner Gallery at the main Santa Barbara Library. SCAPE will generously donate 40% of the proceeds from all sales from this exhibit to Los Padres ForestWatch to benefit our protection efforts in the Los Padres National Forest.

Don’t miss the special Artist’s Reception on Thursday, July 7th from 5-8 p.m. Open to the public, this is a great opportunity to meet the artists, mingle with ForestWatch staff and Board members, enjoy some refreshments, and purchase some amazing art!

SCAPE was founded in 2002 and has grown to over 200 members—a diverse group including nationally known and local artists, students, patrons and gallery owners. Their goals are to have exhibitions to help raise money to protect open spaces and to increase public awareness of environmental and conservation issues. For more information on SCAPE, please visit their website at www.s-c-a-p-e.org.

The Santa Barbara Main Library is located at 40 East Anapamu, Santa Barbara, CA. Open Tu-Th 10am-8pm, F-Sa 10am-5:30pm, and Sun 1-5pm

**OIL SPILL ON THE SESPE**

ForestWatch demands accountability

Crews continue to clean up Sespe Creek watershed

In April another oil spill in the Los Padres National Forest coated two miles of a pristine mountain stream in Ventura’s backcountry. The spill was reported in the Sespe Oil Field on Four Forks Creek, a tributary of Sespe Creek. Initially estimated at 630 gallons of oil and 25,700 gallons of chemical-laden wastewater, this was the largest spill to occur in the forest in recent history.

The spill occurred at a facility operated by Vintage Petroleum. ForestWatch also threatened a lawsuit, and Vintage eventually sold its Sespe operations to Seneca Resources.

The 2007 spill also prompted ForestWatch to file a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service, challenging plans to allow oil drilling to expand across an additional 52,075 acres of the Los Padres National Forest. That plan is now on hold pending resolution of the lawsuit and completion of new biological studies.

This flood of recent spills shows that the oil industry, and the regulators, still have a lot of work to do to bring this antiquated oil field into the 21st Century. It’s irresponsible to allow more run-away oil development when the industry can’t even figure out how to control spills in existing drilling areas.

**NEXT STEPS**

Investigation and cleanup efforts will continue until officials certify that the cleanup is complete. When the CDFG completes its investigation, officials will release a Natural Resource Damage Assessment that measures the ecological damage caused by the spill and recommends actions to avoid future spills. The case could also be forwarded to the District Attorney’s office for civil and/or criminal prosecution.

ForestWatch will begin a comprehensive evaluation of oil operations in the Sespe Oil Field. This evaluation will identify whether oil operations are properly permitted, whether they are in compliance with state and federal laws to protect clean air and water, and that adequate measures are put into place to prevent future spills in this ecologically sensitive area.

**PREVIOUS SPILLS**

During the last seven years, 13 spills have been reported in the Sespe Oil Field, sending a combined total of more than 48,000 gallons of oil and wastewater into tributaries of Sespe Creek. A 2007 spill polluted three miles of a creek along the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, contaminating the waterway and pos-
sing a “significant environmental risk,” according to CDFG. That spill prompted regulators to impose more than $350,000 in fines against the company responsible for the spill, Vintage Petroleum.

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**Scenic art show & sale to benefit Los Padres ForestWatch**

The SCAPE exhibit is scheduled to run through July 30th at the Faulkner Gallery in Santa Barbara. SCAPE is a diverse group of nationally known and local artists who join forces to raise money for environmental causes. SCAPE recently completed a successful exhibit “Wilderness to Gallery” to benefit Los Padres ForestWatch.

**SCAPE**

The California red-legged frog (CLRFL, Rana aurora) is the largest native frog in the western United States, and is actually found on the Los Padres National Forest more than any other public lands in California. These threatened frogs have been eliminated from over 90% of their historic habitat, and today can be found primarily in the coastal streams and wetlands of Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties.

CLRFL utilize a variety of habitat types, including aquatic, riparian, and upland areas. They need water during the breeding season (generally November – April) for laying their eggs. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become frogs—survival has been estimated to range as low as less than 1 percent.

Predatory nonnative fish and amphibians are particularly serious threats to red-legged frogs. With few exceptions, the red-legged frog has disappeared from virtually all sites where nonnative bullfrogs have become established. Other threats include impacts from campgrounds and roads in frog habitat, livestock grazing resulting in loss or damage to riparian habitat, and water diversions. Over 70 percent of their historic habitat, and over 200 members—a diverse group including nationally known and local artists, students, patrons and gallery owners. Their goals are to have exhibitions to help raise money to protect open spaces and to increase public awareness of environmental and conservation issues. For more information on SCAPE, please visit their website at www.s-c-a-p-e.org.

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**PREVIOUS SPILLS**

Since 2007, there have been reports of several oil spills in the Sespe Oil Field, sending a combined total of more than 48,000 gallons of oil and wastewater into tributaries of Sespe Creek. These spills have contaminated waterways, posing a “significant environmental risk,” according to CDFG. ForestWatch has threatened a lawsuit, and Vintage eventually sold its Sespe operations to Seneca Resources.

**NEXT STEPS**

Investigation and cleanup efforts will continue until officials certify that the cleanup is complete. When the CDFG completes its investigation, officials will release a Natural Resource Damage Assessment that measures the ecological damage caused by the spill and recommends actions to avoid future spills. The case could also be forwarded to the District Attorney’s office for civil and/or criminal prosecution.

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**Sespe Oil Field contamination**

In April a large oil spill in the Los Padres National Forest coated two miles of a pristine mountain stream in Ventura’s backcountry. The spill was reported in the Sespe Oil Field on Four Forks Creek, a tributary of Sespe Creek. Initially estimated at 630 gallons of oil and 25,700 gallons of chemical-laden wastewater, this was the largest spill to occur in the forest in recent history.

The spill occurred at a facility operated by Vintage Petroleum. ForestWatch also threatened a lawsuit, and Vintage eventually sold its Sespe operations to Seneca Resources.

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PHOTO Pete Veilleux

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THAT'S AN AMOLE

ForestWatch brings attention to the threatened Camatta Canyon amole Forest Service steps up

The Los Padres National Forest is threatened by cattle grazing – a project that prevents the Laboratory from restoring rare species. The Camatta Canyon amole is a rare and threatened species, and ForestWatch has taken action to protect it. Over the past six years, the Forest Service has taken steps to protect the amole, including the preparation of a management plan. But now, the Forest Service has decided to halt the project.

ROADS ON THE LOS PADRES

The national forest system is threatened by roads, which are ecologically and financially unsustainable. The Los Padres National Forest has been identified as a prime candidate for road removal. The Forest Service has been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review the effects of road removal on the national forest system. The Forest Service has also been working with the U.S. Forest Service to restore the plant.

LEGAL VICTORY

In 2009, ForestWatch filed a lawsuit against the Los Padres National Forest for continuing to take the public’s right to participate in forest decisions. The judge ruled in favor of the agency, concluding that the project would not cause an adverse impact on the national forest system. The Forest Service has agreed to work with the U.S. Forest Service to review the effects of road removal on the national forest system.

SAGEBRUSH ANNIE'S

Scattered in the Santa Lucia Mountains of the Los Padres National Forest is the rarest and most unusual of all species, the Santa Lucia Fir. Found only in the mountains whose name it bears, Santa Lucia Firs occur only by the hundreds of the high mountain region which drains directly into the Pacific Ocean. For the past fifteen years, the Forest Service responded to the threat the plant faced by beginning the need for modified grazing. They would begin preparation to remove vegetation along 750 miles of roads across the forest, and after the project was completed, the agency would begin to develop a long-term maintenance plan for the national forest.

LEGAL VICTORY

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FOREST SERVICE LEGISLATION

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SAGEBRUSH ANNIE'S

Proprietors Larry and Karina Hogan will be the first to tell you that Sagebrush Annie’s is more than a restaurant; it’s an experience. This tiny family owned business has more than twenty years experience in the food business, and is located in the Cuyama Valley, giving diners a beautiful nightly views of the incredible Cuyama Valley. For the past fifteen years, the Los Padres National Forest hasn’t done in more than twenty years. At Sagebrush Annie’s, they have also come to the aid of the Los Padres National Forest. In 2009, they generously brought and served a special dinner to support the protection of our region’s wildlife and continued to make themselves available on the sunset drive. We encourage you to visit Sagebrush Annie’s and experience all that they have to offer. Sagebrush Annie’s website is available at SagebrushAnnies.com.
My dad was born and raised in Santa Barbara and has talked about spending a lot of his earlier years backpacking in our local mountains. In fact, as a teenager he’d often take off for a weekend with little more than a sleeping bag, his dog, and a good knife—often determined to “eat off the trail,” which usually brought him back home on Sunday with an empty stomach. But they sounded like great adventures nonetheless.

Growing up, I did a lot of car camping with my folks, but pops and I never had the opportunity to go backpacking together. We talked about it over the years, but we just never seemed to find the time to go. During spring break from school, we did a hike to the top of Rattlesnake Canyon in our local mountains. In fact, as a teenager he’d often take off for a weekend with little more than a sleeping bag, his dog, and a good knife—often determined to “eat off the trail,” which usually brought him back home on Sunday with an empty stomach. But they sounded like great adventures nonetheless.

So, the day after arriving home from school, we did a hike to the top of Rattlesnake Canyon in our local mountains. In fact, as a teenager he’d often take off for a weekend with little more than a sleeping bag, his dog, and a good knife—often determined to “eat off the trail,” which usually brought him back home on Sunday with an empty stomach. But they sounded like great adventures nonetheless.

The first night we made our own camp on a very comfortable sand bar by the creek. Dad cooked up a pot of really bad tasting beef stroganoff. He had also decided not to bring a tent on this trip so it was my first time sleeping under the stars. That first night as we lay in our sleeping bags we started pointing out the stars as they were coming out. I remember waking up later in the night and looking up at the sky absolutely abuzz with stars. I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything so beautiful and I loved just lying there and looking up.

We spent much of both days swimming.

When we got home, my mom asked each of us what we liked best about the trip. I told her that it was just so beautiful back there and nice to be away from TV, computers, which as an 18-year-old we’re kind of addicted to, and I especially liked spending time with my dad. My dad said that the best part of the trip was sharing the experience with me. He said that it rekindled a desire to get out into the backcountry. Lots of his hiking had been done outside the Ojai area, and he would love to explore this area more.

My mom says she always feels a little closer to God in the mountains and I think she’s right. There is something spiritual about wilderness, something peaceful—something good for the soul.

Tons of wildflowers were in bloom, which we kept commenting on, and I was amazed how green everything was. I especially liked the little purple flowers that looked like fairy lanterns. The hills were just covered in them. It was really beautiful.

The river had so much water in it and there were a lot of river crossings. We had to take our shoes off and on, and in the end we just took them off and kept them off, but we didn’t care. We took our dog Dakota with us on the trip and my dad kept calling him “princess.” Although Dakota is part Labrador, he is downright afraid of the water, which isn’t a good mix with a hike that has several creek crossings throughout the day.

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We went on short hikes exploring along the creek—finding other swimming holes to cool off in. We saw turtles, fish, a gopher snake, a horned toad (which was awesome), mule deer, and very few people. We ran into only two other people on our trip, and each night we had the campsite to ourselves.

Our campsite on the second night was great. There was a fire pit, and some folks before us had placed rocks all around it, and fashioned these incredible stone seats. It was a perfect set up—right by a water pool.

That night dad and I played cards and slept much better. I think I was too tired to be nervous about sleeping outdoors. Our dog slept in between us and at one point I heard him grovel a little (I just pulled the sleeping bag over my head). Later on I thought I’d heard him growl a little, but then I realized it was just my dad snoring! It was a great adventure and dad and I are talking about doing another trip soon before it gets too hot in the backcountry.

The sense of freedom I get when out walking the woods or in the desert is indescribable, but by far the best thing about the trip was that it rekindled a desire to get out into the backcountry.
Looking Across the Forest
An Update on How We’re Protecting Your Region

Northern Los Padres

Southern Los Padres

Protecting a Rare Plant
In response to a ForestWatch request, the Forest Service has agreed to evaluate the impacts of livestock grazing on the Camatta Canyon amole, a flowering plant found nowhere else on Earth. [Page 3]

Wildfire Restoration
ForestWatch submitted a detailed list of potential habitat restoration projects that could be funded with $15 million in restitution that the U.S. Forest Service recently received from the entities responsible for the 2003 Piru Fire and the 2007 Zaca Fire. We're now working to ensure that these projects are funded and carried out.

Mega Microtrash Cleanup
Working with the Conservation Alliance, ForestWatch organized more than one hundred employees from Patagonia, Horny Toad and Deckers to clean up an area along East Camino Cielo littered by target shooters. At the end of the day, we had picked up more than 26,000 bullet shells, various household appliances, and more than one ton of trash.

Carrizo Grazing
ForestWatch is reviewing a new proposal to authorize livestock grazing in the Carrizo Plain Ecological Reserve to ensure that measures are in place to avoid continued overgrazing of the land.

Microtrash Cleanup
ForestWatch volunteers removed nearly 200 pounds of microtrash from the summit of Frazier Mountain, making the area safe for California condors. [Page 4]

Art Show
SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment) hosts a benefit art show and reception in July at Santa Barbara's Faulkner Gallery, with proceeds supporting ForestWatch. [Page 9]

Ojai Wild!
ForestWatch 4th Annual creekside barbecue and auction raised more than $37,000 for our local forest protection efforts. [Page 10]

Oil Spill
The largest oil spill in recent history occurred in the Sespe Creek watershed in April, prompting ForestWatch to launch a forest-wide evaluation of all oil drilling operations to prevent future spills. [Page 2]
My dad was born and raised in Santa Barbara and has talked about spending a lot of his earlier years backpacking in our local mountains. In fact, as a teenager he’d often take off for a weekend with a little more than a sleeping bag, his dog, and a good knife – often determined to “eat off the trail,” which usually brought him back home on Sunday with an empty stomach. But they sounded like great adventures nonetheless.

Growing up, I did a lot of car camping with my folks, but pops and I never had the opportunity to go backpacking together. We talked about it over the years, but we just never seemed to find the right time to go. During spring break from school, we did a hike to the top of Rattlesnake Canyon in the northeastern corner of Ventura County. It has long been on the microwaste cleanup list for ForestWatch. This past winter’s plentiful storms kept us confined to other sites, but as the sun shone down on 17 volunteers one beautiful Saturday in May we knew the time we had come!

An abandoned fire lookout tower perched on the mountain at 8,000 feet had unfortunately been littering the site with glass for decades. This broken glass, along with other bits of trash like nails, screws, bullet casings, and wires, was posing a threat to California condors who visit the area. Many times when they are easier to access from urban areas and have become a spot frequented by partying campers or target shooters. ForestWatch continues to work with the Forest Service on protecting these ‘problem areas’ and working on long-term solutions to their microwaste woes.

That night dad and I played cards and slept much better. I think I was too tired to be nervous about sleeping outdoors. Our dog slept in between us and at one point I heard him growl a little (I just pulled the sleeping bag over my head). Later on I thought I’d heard him growl again, but then I realized it was just my dad snoring! It was a great adventure and dad and I are talking about doing another trip soon before it gets too hot in the backcountry.

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My mom says she always feels a little closer to God in the mountains and I think she’s right. There is something spiritual about wilderness, something peaceful – something good for the soul.
The Los Padres National Forest is crossroaded by 1,684 miles of roads — the same distance as a road trip from Santa Barbara to Omaha, Nebraska! Many of these roads provide access to popular recreation sites. However, some of these roads do cross through streams and rivers (some of the most ecologically sensitive areas in the forest), spread invasive weeds, pollute waterways with erosion, and increase wildfire risk.

Indeed, maintaining the forest’s road system is a delicate balance between public access and finding ways to lessen or avoid the serious environmental damage that can be caused by roads. Here’s the latest on how ForestWatch, the Forest Service, and others are trying to strike that balance:

ROAD RIGHTSIZING

The national forest road system is more than 375,000 miles. Underfunded, with only about 20% of the system maintained to standard in any given year, this system of roads has a multi-billion dollar maintenance backlog.

In 2001, the Forest Service outlined a nationwide plan for making its road system both fiscally and ecologically sound. The purpose of the plan was two-fold: (1) to reduce the amount of backlogs by bringing the forest road system to more manageable levels, and (2) to “stormproof” roads so that the agency doesn’t need to spend scarce funds rebuilding them after every storm event. This plan now needed to move forward, so the Forest Service, with the help of Los Padres ForestWatch, agreed to a set of conditions to allow the project to move forward. The project – which rescind temporary roads, establish a Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative – (NEPA). In February, the judge ruled in our favor, concluding that the Forest Service’s approval of the project with-out public input “undermines the very purpose of NEPA.” The judge tempo-rarily halted the project for a few days, allowing the Los Padres National Forest, the Forest Service, and others to identify ways to reduce the damage to the environment from roads.

Now, the Forest Service has done just that, requiring each national forest to identify an ecologically and fiscally sustainable minimum road system by 2015. The Los Padres ForestWatch was one of many organizations that asked the Forest Service and Congress to take action, and to fully fund the initiative. We’re excited that work is now moving forward to ensure an ecologically and financially sustainable forest road system.

FOREST PLAN SETTLEMENT

Earlier this year, several conservation groups — including ForestWatch — reached a landmark legal settlement with the Forest Service and motor-ized user groups. Part of the agreement requires all parties to work collab-oratively to identify priority roads for decommissioning (closing unnecessary roads and returning the area to a natural state). After a series of day-long meet-ings this past Spring, we’re well on our way towards identifying which roads are prime candidates. Once the list is com-plete later this summer, we will work with the Forest Service to help fund and implement the projects.

LEGAL VICTORY

In 2009, ForestWatch learned of a proposal to remove vegetation along 750 miles of roads across the forest. We expressed our interest in reviewing and commenting on this project — on three separate occasions — but the Forest Service went ahead and began work on the project without notice, and with minimal environmental review. ForestWatch filed suit in federal court to defend the public’s right to participate in forest decisions, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In February, the judge ruled in our favor, concluding that the Forest Service went ahead and began work on the project without public notice, and with minimal environmental review.

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Proprietors Larry and Karina Hogan will be the first to tell you that Sagebrush Annie’s is more than a restaurant; it’s an experience. This twenty-something house has more than twenty years, is located in the Cuyama Valley, giving diners beautiful nightviews of the incredible Cuyama Valley as well as the suns rise below the Sierra Madre Mountains of the Los Padres National Forest.

Karina is the chef, and as good as they come in the kitchen, and Larry mans the BBQ with all the passion and skill of a top Texas pit master. Following the food preparation Larry personally pulls the cork and pours an award winning wine to complement an exquis-ite meal. Sagebrush Annie’s not only offers nightly weekend dining, but the Hogans also provide an array of guest packages that bring you the award winning wine, Annie’s and Pine Estate wines.

And while the Hogans fill their days with the restaurant, wine making, and life in the beautiful Cuyama Valley, they have also found time to become valued supporters of the work of Los Padres ForestWatch. In 2009, they generously agreed to join their Stone Pine Estate and Sagebrush Annie’s wines to over 200 guests at our Ojai Wild! benefit event; they’ve donated wine tast-ings at their facility for ForestWatch donors, and continue to make themselves available to support the protection of our region’s open spaces. ForestWatch is grateful for their support and we encourage you to visit Sagebrush Annie’s and experience all that this exquisite destination has to offer!

SAGEBRUSH ANNIE’S

Sagebrush Annie’s restaurant is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. BBQ steak, chicken and fish are the fare. The wine tast-ing room is open five nights a week and you can visit their website at SagebrushAnnies.com.
The California red-legged frog (CRLF), *Rana draytonii*, is the largest native frog in the western United States, and is actually found on the Los Padres National Forest more than any other public lands in California. These threatened frogs have been eliminated from over 70 percent of their historic habitat, and today can be found primarily in the coastal streams and wetlands of Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara counties.

CRLF utilize a variety of habitat types, including aquatic, riparian, and upland areas. They need water during the breeding season (generally November – April) for laying their eggs. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles. It takes seven long and dangerous months for the fertilized eggs to become tadpoles.

SCAPE was founded in 2002 and has grown to over 200 members—a diverse group including nationally known and local artists, students, patrons and gallery owners. Their goals are to have exhibitions to help raise money to protect open spaces and to increase public awareness of environmental and conservation issues. For more information on SCAPE, please visit their website at www.s-c-a-p-e.org.

The Santa Barbara Main Library is located at 40 East Anapamu, Santa Barbara, CA. Open Tu-Th 10am-8 pm, F-Sa 10am-5:30pm, and Sun 1-5pm.

Henry David Thoreau said that “this world is but a canvas to our imagina-
tion.” During the month of July you’ll have the opportunity to see our local forest lands captured on canvas by the imagination and skill of the artists of SCAPE (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment) at the exhibit “Wilderness to Gallery.”

This month-long exhibit and sale will run from July 3-30, 2011 at the Faulkner Gallery at the main Santa Barbara Library. SCAPE will generously donate 40% of the proceeds from all sales from this exhibit to Los Padres ForestWatch to benefit our protection efforts in the Los Padres National Forest.

Don’t miss the special Artist’s Reception on Thursday, July 7th from 5-8 p.m. Open to the public, this is a great opportuni

ity to meet the artists, mingle with ForestWatch staff and Board members, enjoy some refreshments, and purchase some amazing art!

PREVIOUS SPILLS

During the last seven years, 13 spills have been reported in the Sespe Oil Field, sending a combined total of more than 48,000 gallons of oil and wastewater into tributaries of Sespe Creek. A 2007 spill polluted three miles of a creek along the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, contaminating the waterway and pos-
ing a “significant environmental risk,” according to CDFG. That spill prompted regulators to impose more than $350,000 in fines against the company responsible for the spill, Vintage Petroleum. ForestWatch also threatened a lawsuit, and Vintage eventually sold its Sespe operations to Seneca Resources.

The 2007 spill also prompted ForestWatch to file a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service, challenging plans to allow oil drilling to expand across an additional 52,075 acres of the Los Padres National Forest. That plan is now on hold pending resolution of the lawsuit and completion of new biological studies.

This flood of recent spills shows that the oil industry, and the regulators, still have a lot of work to do to bring this anti-quated oil field into the 21st Century. It’s irresponsible to allow even more run-
away oil development when the industry can’t even figure out how to control spills in existing drilling areas.

NEXT STEPS

Investigation and cleanup efforts will continue until officials certify that the cleanup is complete. When the CDFG completes its investigation, officials will release a Natural Resource Damage Assessment that measures the ecological damage caused by the spill and recommends actions to avoid future spills. The case could also be forwarded to the District Attorney’s office for civil or criminal prosecution.

ForestWatch will begin a comprehen-
sive evaluation of oil operations in the Sespe Oil Field. This evaluation will identify whether oil operations are prop-
erly permitted, whether they are in com-
pliance with state and federal laws to protect clean air and water, and that adequate measures are put into place to prevent future spills in this ecologically sensitive area.

In April another oil spill in the Los Padres National Forest coated two miles of a pristine mountain stream in Ventura’s backcountry. The spill was reported in the Sespe Oil Field on Four Forks Creek, a tributary of Sespe Creek. Initially estimated at 630 gallons of oil and 25,700 gallons of chemical-laden wastewater, this was the largest spill to occur in the forest in recent history.

The spill occurred at a facility operated by Seneca Resources, a mid-sized oil company based in Houston, Texas. The facility is located on national forest land under a lease issued by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Sespe Creek and its tributaries, includ-
ing Four Forks Creek, provide clean water for thousands of municipal, agri-
cultural, and industrial uses downstream in the Santa Clara River water basin. The Sespe is also formally protected as “critical habitat” for southern steelhead.

The spill contained oil and wastewater—which contains “biocides, anti-cor-
rrosives, clarifiers, heavy metals, petro-
leum hydrocarbons, and brine, all of which can be harmful to wildlife, aquat-
ic species, and downstream water users. This toxic brew is often not contained or recovered during oil spill response strategies because it is difficult to detect and does not float on the surface like oil, according to the California Department of Fish & Game’s Office of Spill Prevention and Response.

Cleanup efforts underway for an oil spill on a tributary of Sespe Creek in April
Protecting wildlife and wild places along California’s Central Coast

SCAPE Art Show and Sale throughout July

Don’t miss the Artist Reception on Thursday, July 7, for this exciting art show benefiting ForestWatch and featuring paintings from the talented artists of SCAPE. Show and sale runs through July at the Faulkner Gallery in the Santa Barbara Public Library. More details on page 9.

National Public Lands Day September 17

ForestWatch is taking a short break from our volunteer fieldwork over the summer, but stay tuned as we resume in the fall. Join in National Public Lands Day on September 17 - last year 170,000 volunteers worked at over 2,080 sites in every state! Check out California opportunities at PublicLandsDay.org

Ventura Hillsides Music Festival September 24

Stop by our booth at the Central Coast’s annual end-of-summer bash thrown by Ventura Hillsides Conservancy. Held in Arroyo Verde Park, in Ventura, CA, the Ventura Hillsides Music Festival is always a good time and ForestWatch is glad to be invited to share in the event and meet new supporters each year!

Los Padres ForestWatch
PROTECTING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES ALONG CALIFORNIA’S CENTRAL COAST

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SUMMER 2011

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California Condor, Los Padres National Forest
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