



LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH

FALL 2019





FORESTWATCH ADVOCATES JOIN NATIONWIDE CHORUS AGAINST NATIONAL FOREST ROLLBACKS
 The Trump administration has proposed drastic changes to environmental protections for national forests. These changes would effectively gut the National Environmental Policy Act as it relates to the Los Padres and other forests throughout the country by creating massive loopholes for commercial logging and other activities while eliminating opportunities for public comment. Read more on page 4.

YOUTH HELP REMOVE TRASH ON LA CUMBRE PEAK
 We teamed up with the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Barbara over the summer to clean up La Cumbre Peak. These students, ranging from elementary to high school, explored the peak, enjoyed the ocean views, and gave the area a makeover!

FOREST SERVICE TO CONVERT STORM-DAMAGED ROAD TO NEW TRAIL
 We were excited to see the Forest Service select an environmentally-friendly alternative to their La Brea Restoration Project that will decommission extremely-damaged roads and convert them to new hiking, biking, and horseback trails. These trails will serve as new access points to the San Rafael Wilderness.

HALTED! NEW DRILLING & PIPELINE IN THE CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT
 The Bureau of Land Management upheld our appeal of their decision to allow drilling of a new oil well and construction of a new pipeline in the Caliente Mountains of the Carrizo Plain National Monument. See page 2 for more details.



FORESTWATCH TAKES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO COURT OVER LOGGING PROJECTS
 This summer, we spearheaded a legal challenge to two commercial logging projects near Mt. Pinos approved by the Forest Service without proper environmental review or public input. One of the projects threatens California condor roosting sites. Read more on page 3.

VOLUNTEERS AND FORESTWATCH TEAM UP TO CLEAN THE PLAYGROUND
 We joined forces with AppFolio to remove trash throughout The Playground, a popular hiking and climbing spot in the Santa Barbara frontcountry. The group made it all the way through the maze of boulders and even explored the famous Narrows—all while removing broken glass and beer cans.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS AT THIS YEAR'S SANTA BARBARA WILD!
 Come enjoy an afternoon of friendship, auctions, live music, farm-to-table delectables and advocacy for our backyard.



FORESTWATCH TEAMS UP WITH SEAVEES TO CLEAN UP SANTA PAULA CANYON
 ForestWatch teamed up with our good friends at SeaVees in Santa Barbara helped clean up Santa Paula Canyon on Earth Day. They hiked to Big Cone Camp and back, picking up over 100 pounds of trash along the way!

OJAI WILD! A MAJOR SUCCESS!
 Thank you to all of our guests, vendors and volunteers for helping to protect Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

LOOKING ACROSS THE FOREST

AN UPDATE ON HOW WE'RE PROTECTING YOUR REGION

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Cover Photo: Sunset on the Santa Ynez Mountains, by Bryant Baker

BASE CAMP



Jeff Kuyper
Executive Director

We often talk about the work we do in the context of future generations—protecting our national forests today so that future generations can continue to explore and enjoy them tomorrow.

This summer, I saw this dynamic play out firsthand while taking our two boys—ages 7 and 9—on their first overnight backpacking trip in the Sierra.

We hopped across boulders, crossed mountain streams, and conquered switchbacks. We were rewarded with extraordinary views of snow-capped peaks, wildflower-speckled meadows, starry nights, quiet solitude, and a healthy sense of adventure.

It was an experience they'll never forget. Their highlight was making flavored snow-cones from a patch of snow a short hike from camp.

But for me, the highlight was watching their curiosity unfold around every corner, the "wild" in wilderness freeing their imaginations. Around the lake, one brother carved a stick and stalked around the shore, hoping to spear a fish, while the other gave the fish names and secretly scared them away so that they wouldn't get caught. This lasted for hours.

Our public lands make moments like these possible. America's national forests, national parks, and national monuments give us all hope for the future. They bring families together, create memories, and remind everyone – younger and older alike—about the truly important things in life.

Conservationist Kris Tompkins says it best: *"If you want to build an army of people who love nature, you have to get them out into it. You can't protect a place unless you understand it. You can't love it until you know it."*

Our public lands are places where we can all go to recharge our shared commitment to protecting the outdoors. They are places we can take our loved ones, so that they too can know it, understand it, love it, and protect it.

From the Sierra to the Rockies, from the Appalachians to the Cascades, and from the Andes to the Coast and Transverse Ranges right here in our own backyard, thank you for building our army of people who love our shared public lands. Together we can continue making a difference while building the next generation of wilderness stewards.

COMINGS AND GOINGS



NATHAN WALLACE

Join us in bidding a fond farewell to Nathan Wallace! He served on our Board as our financial advisor for two years, helping set up a system to accept donations of stock as a tax savings for our donors, enacting policies to improve our long-term financial sustainability, introducing us to new supporters throughout the Ojai Valley, and providing wise advice on nonprofit board governance. He'll continue to serve in this role on an informal basis, as he makes more time for family.



CHRIS COLLIER

We are thrilled to welcome Amgen communications executive Christopher Collier to our Board of Directors. Chris is an east coast transplant who enjoys hiking, fly fishing, photography, and, as an avid surfer, paddling for waves at the mouth of the Santa Clara River, fed by the Sespe. Chris has authored three outdoor recreation guidebooks and published articles in prominent national outlets. His other work experience includes communication campaigns, and corporate digital and social media.



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CARRIZO VICTORY

ForestWatch Halts Plans for New Oil Well and Pipeline

This summer, the California Bureau of Land Management (BLM) halted plans for a new oil well and pipeline in Carrizo Plain National Monument. The decision was in response to an appeal of the project's approval, filed last year by Los Padres ForestWatch and the Center for Biological Diversity. It would have been the first well approved by the Interior Department since the monument was established in 2001.

The agency's deputy director found that the Bakersfield Field Office approved the project without evaluating greenhouse gas emissions, and how the project might impact threatened and endangered wildlife, and the climate. The field office was ordered to conduct a new environmental analysis, including a consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The proposed well site is located at the base of the Caliente Mountains along the western boundary of Carrizo Plain National Monument. The area is home to several protected species, including the threatened San Joaquin antelope squirrel, the endangered San Joaquin kit fox, and a threatened flowering plant called the Kern mallow. Endangered California condors also visit this area with increasing frequency as the birds continue to expand into their historic range.

The oil well would have been drilled on an existing oil pad that hasn't been productive since the 1950s. Two years ago, the oil company confirmed plans to abandon the pad, remove the old drilling equipment, and restore the area and return it to the monument. The work was never done.

"We have precious few wild places left," said Jeff Kuyper, Executive Director of Los Padres ForestWatch. "The monument is already surrounded by oil development. The line has to be drawn."



Existing oil leases were "grandfathered" in under the monument proclamation signed by President Bill Clinton in 2001, but new development must comply with more stringent standards. The new well would have been drilled in the Russell Ranch Oil Field, which covers approximately 1,500 acres of the monument, and has been identified by the US Geological Survey as a high priority for groundwater testing for oil field contamination. In 2016 the field produced only 125 barrels of oil per day, one of the lowest-producing oilfields in the state.

Carrizo Plain National Monument is a vast expanse of grasslands and stark ridges known for their springtime wildflower displays. Often referred to as "California's Serengeti," it is one of the last undeveloped remnants of the vast native grasslands that once carpeted California's inland valleys.

The Carrizo Plain is critical for the long-term conservation of the dwindling biodiverse southern San Joaquin Valley ecosystem. It links other valuable wildlife habitat like the

Los Padres National Forest, Salinas Valley, Cuyama Valley, and Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge in western Kern County giving birds and animals room to roam. As the impacts from climate change and expanding regional industrialization pressure our remaining wild places, an uncompromising commitment to their protection is the only hope that they will endure for the generations that follow ours.

This is not the first time that LPFW and allies have shut down oil development in the Carrizo. In 2006, we stopped an oil tycoon from drilling exploratory wells in the monument. Two years later, we squashed a plan to explore for oil along a 5-mile stretch of the valley floor.

LPFW will continue to lead the charge against oil development in this treasured landscape.

THE FIGHT FOR THE TREES

ForestWatch & Partners Challenge Commercial Logging in Court

In 2018, the Forest Service proposed two fast-tracked commercial logging projects near Mt. Pinos in the Los Padres National Forest. The projects—one along Tecuya Ridge and the other near Cuddy Valley—were approved using a loophole to exclude the logging activities from environmental review. This also limited public input from local residents, concerned about the project's potential to increase fire danger in the area, and allowed the agency to forego considering project alternatives.

This summer, ForestWatch and our partners filed two lawsuits against the Trump administration for approving these projects in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. We were represented by attorneys with the Center for Biological Diversity and Rene Voss of Natural Resources Law, with assistance from Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter LLP.

Both suits were filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, and state that the U.S. Forest Service violated federal law by approving the removal of large-diameter trees along 12 miles of Tecuya Ridge in the San Emigdio Mountains, including in the rugged Antimony Roadless Area which is legally protected from such logging, and across the base of Mt. Pinos.

The Tecuya Ridge logging area includes prime habitat for endangered California condors. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service condor tracking data, the project could harm more than 50 condor roost sites. These roost sites are typically large dead or live trees that condors use for resting overnight between long flights.

Federal standards require a minimum half-mile buffer from condor roosting sites to protect them from disturbances such as logging. The Forest Service

has provided no protections for the roosting sites because it denies that they exist.

"There is simply no place for commercial logging in California condor country," said Bryant Baker, conservation director for Los Padres ForestWatch. *"It's highly concerning that the Forest Service would push this project through without a full environmental review and in spite of widespread opposition from local communities."*

Local opposition to both projects was substantial—98 percent of the comments submitted to the Forest Service were opposed to commercial logging in the area and the lack of environmental review. In June, local community members submitted a petition with 275 signatures asking the Forest Service to stop the projects.

Studies have repeatedly shown the importance of retaining larger, fire-resistant trees to reduce the risk of high-intensity fire. The Forest Service has approved the removal of trees of all sizes throughout both project areas.

This project represents a major shift in how the Forest Service proposes and approves large vegetation removal projects. Past projects have not only gone through the full environmental review and public input process, but they imposed limits on the size of trees that could be removed and excluded the use of commercial logging.

"As mountain residents, we appreciate the Forest Service's intent toward fire safety, but the solutions must be long-term, done in the proper way with the protection of our forest habitat and its species thoroughly studied," said Teresa Grow, president of Mountain Communities for Fire Safety—the lead plaintiff on the case against the Cuddy Valley project. *"We want alternatives*

and community engagement in protecting our own homes."

Research shows that community-focused fire-safe measures are more successful and cost-effective than removing trees and vegetation in the backcountry. Those measures include creating defensible space around properties, retrofitting homes with fire-safe materials, improving early warning and evacuation systems, creating fireproof community shelters and curbing new development in fire-prone areas.

"Logging old-growth trees in remote forests will not protect homes from fire. In fact, it's a dangerous distraction. If this commercial logging proposal is implemented, it would make wildland fires burn hotter and faster and put local communities at greater risk," said Chad Hanson of the John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute, co-plaintiff on both lawsuits. *"Instead we should focus our resources on helping people make their homes fire-safe."*

The cases are expected to go to court later this year or in early 2020. ForestWatch and our partners want to see the projects taken back to the drawing board so environmental impacts and alternatives can be thoroughly analyzed and the public has more opportunity to provide feedback.

DISMANTLING LAWS OF THE LAND

The Trump Administration has demonstrated extraordinary efficiency in its effort to wipe out decades of environmental protections on behalf of commercial interests. Just this summer, rule changes were announced that strip the Endangered Species Act of its enforceability, repeal parts of the Clean Water Act, weaken the Clean Air Act, and revoke California's 50-year-old right to set its own emission standards.

Even the nation's oldest and most fundamental environmental law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is under assault.

The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.

NEPA gives the public the right to know what projects their government is considering, the right to learn how their environment and health will be impacted, and the right to file objections against decisions that are not legally or scientifically sound.

The President's first major strike at the law came as an Executive Order that requires agencies to spend no more than one year on NEPA compliance for each project and confines the length of NEPA documents to 150 pages, regardless of the scope and complexity of the project.

"We saw the impact immediately as the Bureau of Land Management scrambled to assess the impacts of fracking across one million acres of diverse ecosystems, rural and urban environments, and complex geology and water systems, within the time constraints specified by the new law," said Rebecca August, Director of Advocacy at ForestWatch. *"There was no time to conduct meaningful analysis, look at any individual area, or consider thousands of public comments. The President has made the process a sham and a waste of tax dollars."*

This summer, the Administration announced another sweeping proposal that would make NEPA not apply to most projects in National Forests across the country. The changes would normalize loopholes like those used to expedite commercial logging on Tecuya Ridge and Cuddy Valley.

"These rule changes only serve to benefit private interests like timber companies," said Bryant Baker, Conservation Director at ForestWatch.

If adopted, the Forest Service would



not be required to conduct thorough environmental analysis or consider alternatives prior to approving commercial logging, mining, oil drilling, road building, and other projects in national forests like the Los Padres. The changes would eliminate public input entirely for an estimated 93% of these projects.

The 60-day comment period that accompanied the proposal ended in August. In response to the agency's refusal to consider form-letters, ForestWatch dispatched a new interactive tool that helped over 1,500 people easily submit original and unique messages. In total, the Forest Service received over 43,000 comments, most in opposition to the proposed regulatory changes.

An exhaustive technical and legal analysis signed by ForestWatch and over 180 organizations from around the country states, "Despite good intentions, the Forest Service makes mistakes in

many of its projects. During the existing NEPA process, these mistakes can often be caught by an engaged public. Indeed, the Forest Service's own data show that projects change substantively in response to public input more than 63% of the time. This is how NEPA is supposed to work."

Over 230 scientists signed a letter that said, "The existing NEPA review and comment process is the only means available to ensure that best available, relevant scientific information is considered by the Forest Service before irreversible actions are taken that pose risk of long-term environmental harms." The letter goes on to say that litigation against the Forest Service, one of the ostensible reasons the Trump administration identifies in explaining the need for the changes, would increase, rather than decrease, under the proposed rules.

The proposed plan would allow:

- ***Avoidance of environmental assessment by vaguely claiming "long-term beneficial effects"***
- ***Commercial logging up to 6.5 square miles without environmental study or public input***
- ***11.5 square mile projects to be conducted without an environmental study and analysis of alternatives***
- ***Illegal roads and trails to be legitimized without study of environmental impacts***
- ***Construction of 5 miles of road at a time without public input, environmental study, or analysis of alternatives***
- ***Impacts on sensitive species to be ignored***
- ***The public and organizations to be barred from formally objecting to projects, leaving litigation as the only recourse***
- ***The public's right to help direct what impacts and alternatives are studied to be excluded***

The rules could be finalized next year. We'll continue to work with our national partners to protect the public's right to participate in national forest decisions.

12TH ANNUAL
Ojai Wild!
 A BENEFIT FOR LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH



Our Ojai WILD! fundraiser on Sunday, June 2 was a great success! With the support of our sponsors, guests, members, volunteers and community, who make this event possible, we welcomed over 325 attendees and raised over \$107,000 to protect our region's majestic landscapes.

Seasons Catering served up a delicious farm-to-table meal and wonderful appetizers, White Sage Catering tempted us with mouth watering desserts, and Ventura Rental Party & Events provided our stylish tenting. Our production needs were generously provided by Delicate Productions and DSR Audio. Our auctioneer, Suzanne Krainok, worked her magic and Todd Hannigan with Sleeping Chief provided the perfect tunes for the day. Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co., Topa Mountain Winery, Ampelos Cellars and Solminer Wine provided tasty libations. We owe a debt of gratitude to Carol Gravelle, for her remarkable graphic designs, and Ashley Lee, for her splendid program, as well as contributing photographer Luke Butcher.

We are sincerely grateful to our team of volunteers for their enthusiasm, efforts and time that made this day possible, as well as our attendees and vendors. With the energy generated at Ojai Wild! we are geared up to move forward with even more determination to protect the Los Padres National Forest, the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and other local public lands.

Many Thanks to Our Sponsors!

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CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO THE FOREST

Spring and summer included a variety of events and initiatives to support youth and families getting outdoors and visiting our public lands.

In May, we hosted our first community campout as a way to introduce local families and youth to the wonders of the Los Padres. The weekend included family camping at Wheeler Gorge, rock-climbing, and hiking in the Rose Valley area. Families from Ventura County attended the campout, and the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara joined us for the day for what turned out to be an adventurous time. The American Alpine Club set up ropes for rock-climbing, and then we visited Rose Valley Falls, a short drive from the climbing area. There we got a close-up view of the Thomas Fire burn scar and the ecosystem thriving there after the fire. We hiked through the riparian zone, and to the base of the falls to experience the lower tier of the

cascade. At 300 feet, Rose Valley Falls is one of the tallest falls in the Los Padres.



Over the summer we also participated in Latino Conservation Week for the second year in a row. This national initiative was designed to support the Latino community getting into the outdoors and participating in activities to protect our natural resources. During this week, community, non-profit, faith-based, and government organizations and agencies hold events throughout the country. From hiking and camping to community

roundtables and film screenings, these activities promote conservation efforts in communities from coast to coast, and provide an opportunity for Latinos to show their support for permanently protecting our land, water, and air. ForestWatch held events in Santa Barbara and Oxnard.

In Santa Barbara, we partnered with multiple groups to host the third annual Trails and Tacos day. It was a fun day filled with hiking, learning about our local ecosystem, gathering Latino community leaders, and culminating with a taco lunch in the park.

"The Trails and Tacos event was one of the most educational and inspiring family activities we have attended. The event creates environmental awareness, builds relationships, cultural embracement, and a sense of community. Latino families in the area need more opportunities like this to explore and connect with nature. Thank you Los Padres ForestWatch," said Angeles Small—a participant and mom that joined us for the day.



In Oxnard we gathered for Charla En La Playa which translates to "A Discussion on the Beach." Together with other community leaders, we held a discussion to address issues, spread awareness and explore solutions relating to public lands, conservation, environmental justice, climate change, worker rights and protections, and the Green New Deal.

We routinely lead educational hikes for youth and a variety of groups in the Los Padres and other public lands. We believe that visiting these places and establishing meaningful connections are important steps to building a strong conservation movement and healthy communities – especially amongst today's youth.



STELLAR INTERNS

Over the summer, we were lucky to have Robert Heim as our Conservation GIS Intern and Kat Sitnikova as our Conservation Legal Intern. Robert is pursuing his Master's degree at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at UCSB. He helped document off-road vehicle trespass, conduct mountain lion data analysis, and collect data on home development in fire hazard severity zones. Kat just finished her B.S. degree in environmental studies at UCSB. She worked on legal projects, including regulatory memos, Freedom of Information Act requests, one of our logging lawsuits, and more. We could not have accomplished so much without their great work!

VALIANT VOLUNTEERS

If it weren't for our volunteers, the Los Padres National Forest would have a lot more trash and invasive plants. Luckily, there are amazing people dedicated to reducing the human impact on our local wild places. Just this summer, a group of ForestWatch volunteers painstakingly removed over 30 pounds of lead ammunition from an old target shooting site along West Fork Cold Spring Trail in the Santa Barbara frontcountry. This lead was embedded in the soil, causing local and downstream contamination. Thanks to these incredible folks for spending a Saturday morning in the hot sun making the forest safer for wildlife and people.



RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR 2019

There's no question - our public lands are under constant attack. These threats remind us of what is at stake and what is truly important. And ForestWatch is more committed than ever to protect and preserve these iconic wild places, right in our own backyard.

"Today, I have a renewed sense of hope that people working together are a strong force for change," says ForestWatch membership and grants manager Jody Brown. "We need this strength now more than ever before."

Individual donors provide 1/3 of our operating revenue in the form of unrestricted support so we can leverage it where it matters most. Please renew your membership today with a gift of \$50, \$100, \$250, or more.

Your help in 2019 will support our many campaigns including:

Fighting the Escalation of Oil Development and Commercial Logging on Public Land

ForestWatch will continue to spearhead efforts to stop new oil drilling and fracking on public lands, as well as commercial logging and mining in the Los Padres National Forest, the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and other public lands along the central coast.

Blocking Trump's Environmental Rollbacks

ForestWatch will vigorously fight to stop the Trump Administration's efforts to gut the National Environmental Policy Act, and other bedrock environmental legislation.

Wildlife & Habitat Protection

ForestWatch will continue to defend and protect wildlife and wildlife habitat from escalating human-caused threats as animals and plants struggle to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Stewardship & Education

ForestWatch will remain on watch, identifying and addressing new issues

that impact our public lands. We will persevere in expanding our volunteer pool to conduct invasive species removal and trash clean-ups. We will continue to offer educational events to expand our community's interest and understanding of the natural world around us.

Community & Youth Outreach

ForestWatch will expand our efforts to introduce and facilitate access for youth and communities that are traditionally underrepresented in our wild places, help engender appreciation of our public lands, and nurture the will to protect them.

Staying Wild!

And of course we will host our annual Ojai WILD! and Santa Barbara WILD! events, as well as other membership gatherings throughout the year.

Donations of \$50 or more entitle you to an annual membership. Members receive our newsletter three times per year, invitations to our WILD! events in Ojai and Santa Barbara, and admission to our annual Member & Volunteer Appreciation Party, along with our monthly emails updating you on our work and ways to get involved.

Donations of \$1,000 or more will enroll you in our Condor Circle with an exclusive lunch or hike with our Executive Director, and invitations to our annual Condor Circle field trip and Condor Circle holiday party. At whatever level you join, we deeply appreciate your support!

Your membership ensures the protection and preservation of Los Padres National Forest, the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and other local public lands along the central coast.

To join, return the enclosed envelope, visit our website at: LPFW.org/donate, or call us at 805-617-4610 x2 to make your 2019 contribution.

Thank you for your commitment to our local wild lands, wildlife, and waterways - and to Los Padres ForestWatch.

FORESTWATCH GOES TO WASHINGTON

This summer Rep. Salud Carbajal's Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, H.R. 2199, had its first hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee. ForestWatch's Director of Youth and Community Engagement, Graciela Cabello, was one of only three leaders from the conservation and outdoor-recreation communities invited to testify before the bipartisan subcommittee for a trio of California bills.

A Santa Barbara native, Cabello provided compelling testimony focused on the importance of protecting public lands for youth and low-income communities, as well as the cultural significance of protected land for Indigenous people:

"My exposure to these wild places as a child was largely due to geographical access and low economic barriers. This is the case for many of the communities up and down the Central Coast.... We are all future ancestors, and we have a historic opportunity to protect this special place for all people and leave a legacy for future generations. I strongly encourage the committee to support H.R. 2199."

The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act was reintroduced this past April by Rep. Salud Carbajal (CA-24) and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). It would designate nearly 250,000 acres of land within Los Padres National Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument as protected wilderness areas, create two scenic areas encompassing 34,882 acres, and safeguard 159 miles of wild and scenic rivers. The bill also creates a 400-mile long Condor National Recreation trail that will stretch the length of the Los Padres National Forest, from Los Angeles to Monterey County.



STELLAR SUPPORT

ROSE FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Rose Foundation provides grants to grassroots initiatives that help build a world in which individuals, organizations, and communities are empowered to promote stewardship of nature, inspire people to take action, and hold government and corporations accountable.

The Rose Foundation has supported ForestWatch since our very beginnings with two general support grants through their Northern California Environmental Grassroots Fund. Over the years, its California Watershed Protection Fund provided three grants to monitor oil pollution discharge from in the Sespe Creek watershed. Their California Wildlands Rapid Response Fund provided



Rose Foundation Team

emergency funding to protect the Carrizo Plain National Monument from the Trump administration's efforts to slash its protections, and to stop drilling and logging on Central Coast public lands. Altogether, the Rose Foundation has awarded ForestWatch more than \$94,000 to protect local public lands.

We recently chatted with the Rose Foundation's founder and Executive Director, Tim Little to learn more about their strategic funding initiatives.

Tell us about Rose Foundation.

I helped start the Rose Foundation 25 years ago on the belief that people need to be involved in the decisions that affect their health, lives, families, and environment. Building community power has been at the root of everything we have done since. We had no endowment (still don't!), but we had this idea that Robin Hood was right and that there's a lot of money in the world, it just needs to be "rearranged" a bit. The first year we raised enough money to award about \$6,000 in grants. Now we award \$5 - \$7 million each year to foster stewardship, build community and demand justice for people and the environment.

Why are public lands important to you?

The Lorax spoke for the trees "because the trees have no tongue," and I think all of us at the Rose Foundation channel our inner Lorax every day. Forests are the lungs of our planet - without them we would not have enough oxygen to breathe. Forests form the headwaters of most major river systems - without them we would not have enough water to drink. But so many of the special places of the earth are under threat from people who put personal short-term profit ahead of general public good and long-term sustainability. National forests and other public lands are commons that belong to us all, and we all have a duty of stewardship to protect them and make sure they are there for all the generations to follow.

What is your favorite place in the Los Padres National Forest?

Many years ago I did a 10 day solo backpack through the Ventana Wilderness. It was early April and the wildflowers were in full bloom. From the time I left Double Cone until I got to Sykes, the only people I saw were a backwoods trail crew who told me that I was the first person they had seen out there all year. I got lost a few times, but I found myself too. Remembering this for you 35 years later brings back all the magic.



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MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

FIFTH ANNUAL

SANTA BARBARA WILD!

A BENEFIT FOR LOS PADRES FORESTWATCH

Sunday, October 20 · 3:00 – 6:30 PM · Garden Street Academy Playing Fields

Tickets available at sbwild.org

Farm-to-Table Dinner

Delicious Appetizers

Local Wines & Craft Brews

Live Music by Todd Hannigan & Sleeping Chief

Exciting Live & Silent Auctions

Wine Cellar Raffle

A Week in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Culinary Workshop in Tuscany for Two

Private Guided Wildlife Tour of Yellowstone

Vineyard Stay & Winemaker Dinner for 8

5-Day Stay at a Lake Arrowhead Cabin

and more!

