

The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, H.R. 4685

Protecting Public Lands on the Central Coast

The Central Coast contains some of the most beautiful and diverse ecosystems found anywhere in North America. The Los Padres National Forest rises from the Pacific Ocean to more than 8,800 feet in elevation and provides habitat for 468 species of wildlife, including the endangered California condor and the southern steelhead. The Carrizo Plain National Monument is home to incredible plant and animal life, such as the majestic Tule elk, Pronghorn antelope, as well as irreplaceable Native American cultural sites.

These invaluable public lands provide:

- clean drinking water for communities and agriculture
- watershed protection
- critical wildlife habitat
- cultural resource protection
- world class recreation opportunities



The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act would provide permanent protection of these unique and scenic wild lands and rivers by:

- Safeguarding land so that current and future generations can continue to camp, hike, hunt, fish, see wildlife, horseback ride, rock climb, and backpack in these unique places.
- Sustaining the ecological future of 468 species of wildlife and more than 1,200 plant species.
- Ensuring that farmers and communities in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties will have a sustainable source of clean water.
- Protecting our region's tourism industry that attracts visitors from around the globe.

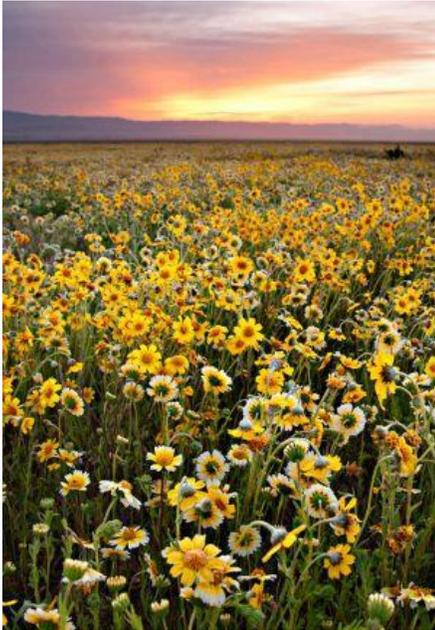
The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act would NOT:

- Close legally open roads or other motorized vehicle routes.
- Affect access to and the use of private lands.
- Eliminate any tools that are available to federal or state firefighters to keep people safe.
- Prohibit existing livestock grazing.
- Change the state's authority to regulate water rights.

Nearly 300 local landowners, businesses, elected officials, farmers, ranchers, civic leaders, wineries, recreationalists, and outfitters are supportive of additional protection for the public lands of our region.

Central Coast Heritage Protection Act Summary

Wilderness: The bill will protect 245,665 acres of wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument with four new wilderness areas and the expansion of nine existing wilderness areas.



New Wilderness Designations:

- Caliente Mountain Wilderness
- Soda Lake Wilderness
- Temblor Range Wilderness
- Diablo Caliente Wilderness

Existing Wilderness Additions:

- Chumash Wilderness Additions
- Dick Smith Wilderness Additions
- Garcia Wilderness Additions
- Machesna Mountain Wilderness Additions
- Matilija Wilderness Additions
- San Rafael Wilderness Additions
- Fox Mountain Potential Wilderness Additions
- Santa Lucia Wilderness Additions
- Sespe Wilderness Additions

Scenic Areas: The bill designates two new scenic areas totaling 34,512 acres in the Black Mountain area and Condor Ridge above the Gaviota Coast and Santa Barbara. These lands would be protected from extractive uses, but available for non-motorized recreation.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: The bill seeks to preserve the special character and free-flowing condition of 158.5 miles of rivers and creeks in the Los Padres National Forest:

- Indian Creek, Mono Creek, Matilija Creek, Sespe Creek, Sisquoc Tributaries, Piru Creek

Condor National Recreation Trail: The trail will provide an outstanding opportunity to hike approximately 400 miles along the spine of the coastal range from Los Angeles County to the northernmost point of the Los Padres National Forest in Monterey County.

