



Dedicated to the acquisition of forest open space and wildlife habitat on private lands within the San Bernardino National Forest in order to ensure lasting public benefit of the natural mountain environment.

UPDATE

October 2007

Impressive Conservation Progress

With the help of many generous supporters, significant progress by the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust has continued to protect vital forest lands. The scenic 273-acre Wildhorse Creek parcel was added to the National Forest this past summer. Prior to that the Land Trust worked with The Wildlands Conservancy to add 1,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Yucaipa Ridge to the National Forest public lands.

Also 150 acres were protected in the overcrowded Lake Arrowhead area the previous year. Before that, in the San Geronio Wilderness a large missing section of 520 acres was purchased for public conservation with the help of the Pacific Crest Trail Association and the Trust for Public Land.

Each of these million dollar acquisitions has greatly enriched the integrity of the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and its long-term sustainability.

Rescuing Land

Unless more of the threatened wildlands within the San Bernardino National Forest are rescued and protected, one of America's most outstanding National Forests will become increasingly fragmented by urban conversion.

This is the reason we are evaluating critical habitat areas in Cienaga Seca Creek, Crowder Creek, Mill Creek, Holcomb Creek, Little Horsethief Creek and the Santa Ana River.



Riparian habitat secured by the Land Trust in Deep Creek, where rare Lemon Lilies grow.

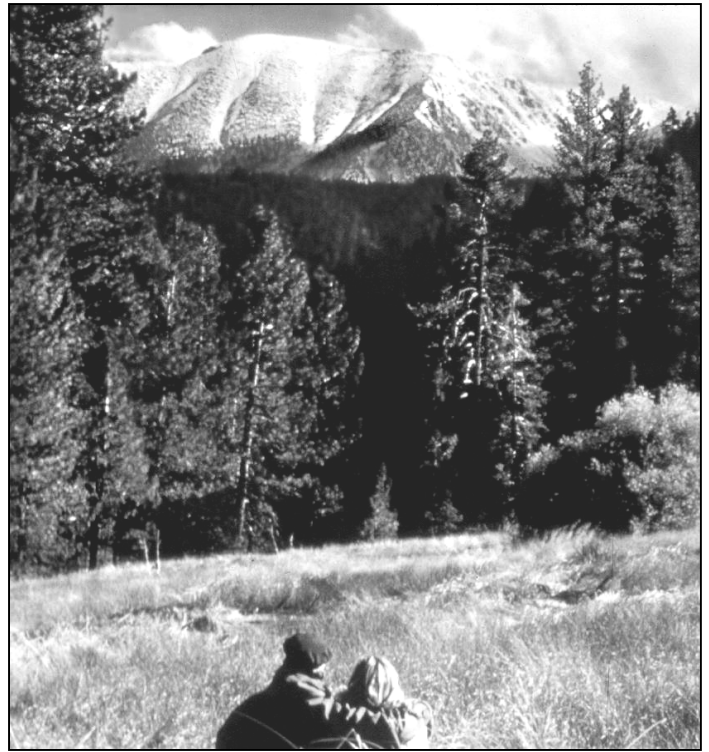


Photo by Don Rector. View of the San Geronio Wilderness Area, the crown jewel of our National Forest, where SBMLT was instrumental in protecting 520 acres in Mission Springs.

Riparian Habitat

The San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust is working with the Forest Service to prioritize key acquisition projects that protect riparian habitat.

Riparian habitat exists where natural water sources, like streams and springs, supports the growth of willows and other water-loving vegetation.

Over 70% of all SBNF wildlife depends on riparian habitat for survival. Yet, less than 1% of the SBNF landscape is riparian. Naturally, the protection of such vital habitat is of critical importance to the long-range health of the overall forest and its wildlife.

The Land Trust first began with special focus on the Deep Creek area, where over 700 acres were protected. Today we are concentrating on protecting key riparian habitats throughout the San Bernardino National Forest.

Successful Teamwork

For eleven years, the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust has been a leader in achieving vital land protection in the popular San Bernardino National Forest. This important work depends upon the Land Trust's continued existence and the support of people like you that sustain it.

Threatened Forest

What makes forest land protection so vital and the role of the Land Trust so essential?

Few people realize that the SBNF is both the most *popular* and the most *threatened* National Forest in America.

Popular, because it serves the most heavily populated region in the whole country. *Threatened*, because too many developers want to cash-in by crowding more and more housing tracts into the scenic forest.

There is profit to be made because there are a hundred private parcels (called "inholdings") inside the National Forest, and the County of San Bernardino is highly permissive of urban sprawl in the forest. Our local National Forest already has the highest percentage of urbanization of any National Forest.

Buying Land for Conservation

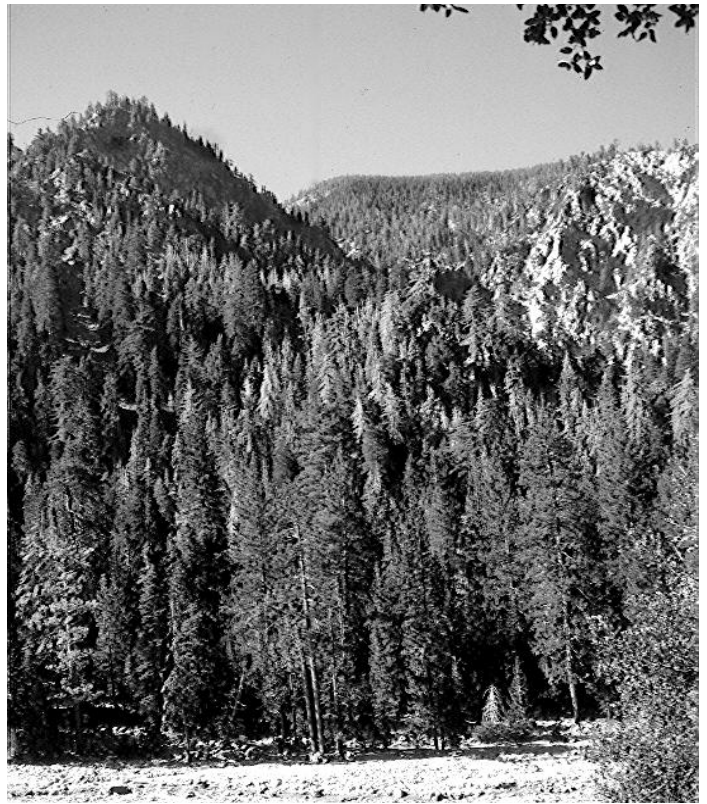
The best solution for preserving the integrity of our National Forest is to buy threatened land (i.e. those missing pieces inside the Forest) for conservation.



Bluff Lake – Saved from adverse development plans by Land Trust vigilance. Site of SBMLT hike this last August.

The Forest Service can't accomplish this task alone. Budget and staffing levels have been cut to minimal levels. The assistance of the nonprofit San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust is essential.

Willing sellers depend on a land trust organization like SBMLT because it can act more quickly than government. Likewise, your support is essential for the Land Trust to successfully carry out its on-going forest rescue efforts.



Camp Creek watershed area, where 1000 acres were added to the National Forest last winter by SBMLT.

SBNF Summit Conference

This past summer, the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust was instrumental in scheduling a Land Acquisition Summit hosted by the Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest.

The strategic conference was the first of its kind. The Land Trust helped lead discussions in identifying critical forest parcels for protection.

Key Participants

Participating in the conference with the Forest Service were representatives of Friends of the Desert Mountains, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, the Trust for Public Land, and The Conservation Fund.

Wild Fire Danger

The meeting highlighted the increasing importance of land conservation efforts in the SBNF and the need for greater collaboration and support to achieve success.

The SBNF faces the highest risk of wildfire danger and is more threatened by urban fragmentation and loss of critical wildlife habitat than any other National Forest.

For all these reasons, the Land Trust is increasing its efforts and leadership in rescuing threatened lands throughout the forest.

Your help is essential for greater success.