



July 9, 2019

Senator Kamala Harris  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Salud Carbajal  
1431 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Support for the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (S. 1111 / H.R. 2199)**

Dear Senator Harris and Representative Carbajal:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to share our thanks and strong support for the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (S. 1111 / H.R. 2199).

California's Los Padres National Forest is a popular destination for outdoor recreationists of all forms, from horseback riders, to mountain bikers, to wildlife viewers. Adding lasting protections to these areas will help sustain the health of our environment and our outdoor recreation economy. In California, outdoor recreation generates \$92 billion in consumer spending and supports 691,000 jobs, \$30.4 billion in wages and salaries, and \$6.2 billion in state and local tax revenue. The Central Coast Heritage Protection Act is an investment in our economic future.

The bill would protect more than 262,000 acres of public land within the Los Padres Forest and Carrizo Plain National Monument, designate 159 miles of river as Wild and Scenic, and create two new scenic areas, Black Mountain and Condor Ridge. Santa Barbara County's Condor Ridge is within the Santa Ynez Mountains, and its unique climate creates an area of high biodiversity and critical habitat for southern steelhead.

In addition to safeguarding clean air and water for Californians, the bill would create and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. The bill designates a 400-mile-long Condor National Recreation Trail, supporting through-hiking and

backpacking opportunities across the entire length of the Los Padres National Forest, from Los Angeles to Monterey County. The bill would also protect important and threatened wilderness characteristics around popular rock climbing areas in the Sespe Gorge along Highway 33. Paddlers supports adding more miles to the Wild & Scenic Piru Creek, a waterway rare for the region that provides outstanding whitewater less than an hour drive from downtown Los Angeles.

Importantly, all proposed new wilderness boundaries were drawn in order to preserve existing mountain biking trails, and the bill would mandate that the Forest Service conduct future studies for improving mountain biking trail opportunities across the Los Padres National Forest. We greatly appreciate that the bill protects trail corridors for numerous high priority trails identified by local mountain bikers through the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers (CCCMB), an IMBA local group, and CCCMB and IMBA have worked as part of a coalition to adjust proposed boundaries in order to protect corridors for the Mono Alamar trail, the McPherson Peak Trail, and the Rinconada Creek/Mine trails, as well as make other priority trail adjustments.

The outdoor recreation community strongly supports the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, and we appreciate your leadership in ensuring that our special wild lands and rivers are protected for future generations. We look forward to working with both of you to ensure this important legislation crosses the finish line this congress.

Sincerely,



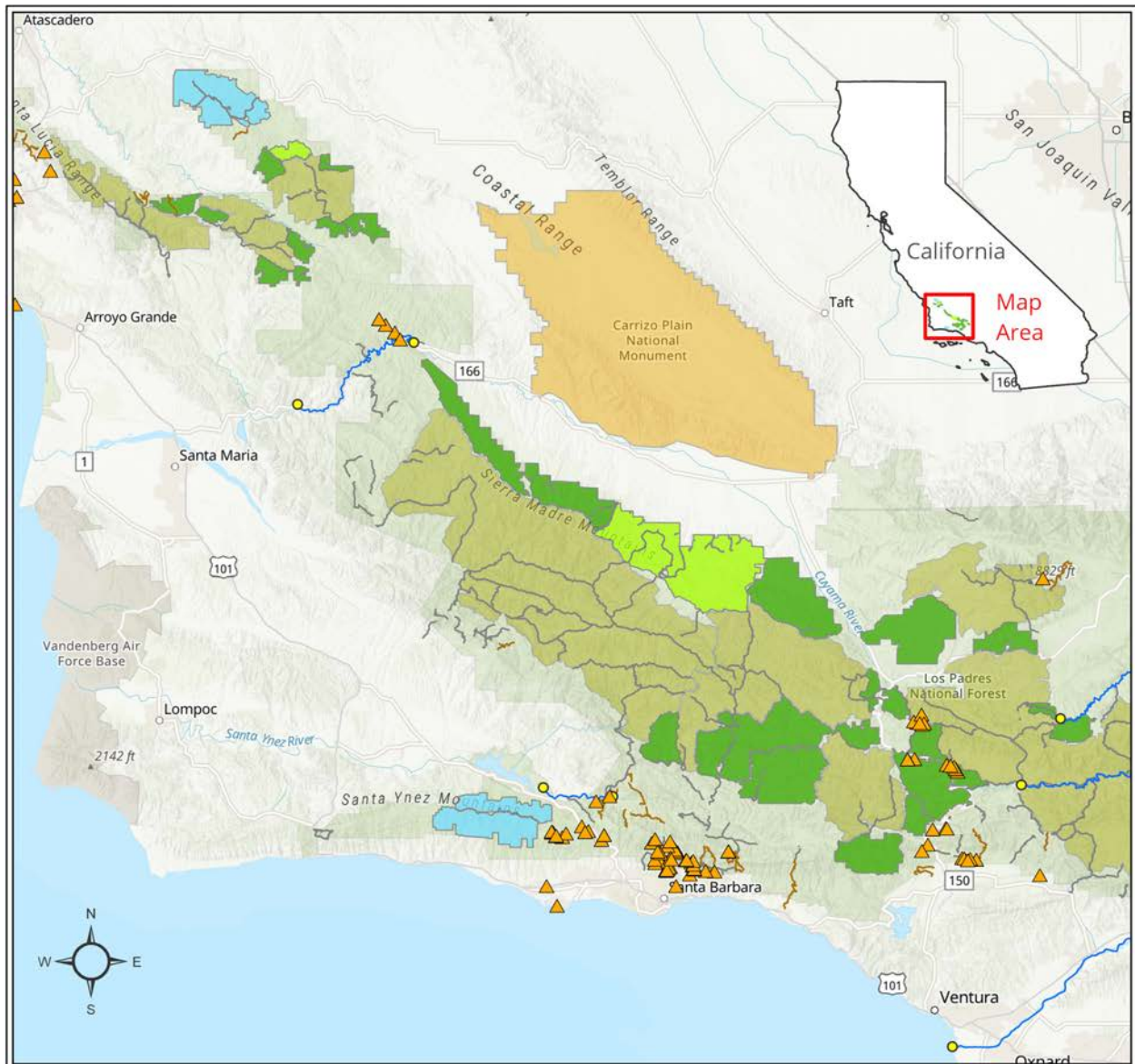
Kirsten Blackburn  
Advocacy Manager  
The Conservation Alliance



Louis Geltman  
Policy Director  
Outdoor Alliance



Patricia Rojas-Ungar  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Outdoor Industry Association



## Central Coast Heritage Protection Act

### Proposed Designations

- Proposed Scenic Area
- Potential Wilderness Area
- Proposed Wilderness Area

### Designated Areas

- National Monument
- Wilderness Area

### Recreation Resources

- ▲ Rock Climbing
- River Access
- Whitewater Paddling
- Mountain Biking Trail
- Hiking Trail

0 5 10 Miles

POWERED BY OUTDOOR ALLIANCE GIS LAB

## **Our Organizations**

### **Outdoor Alliance**

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

### **The Conservation Alliance**

The Conservation Alliance is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where outdoor enthusiasts recreate. Alliance funds have played a key role in protecting rivers, trails, wildlands and climbing areas. Membership in the Alliance is open to all companies who care about protecting our most threatened wild places for habitat and outdoor recreation. Since its inception in 1989, The Conservation Alliance has contributed more than \$21 million, helped to protect more than 51 million acres of wildlands; protect 3,107 miles of rivers; stop or remove 34 dams; designate five marine reserves; and purchase 14 climbing areas. For complete information on The Conservation Alliance, see [www.conservationalliance.com](http://www.conservationalliance.com).

### **Outdoor Industry Association**

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the national trade association for the outdoor industry and is the title sponsor of Outdoor Retailer, the largest outdoor products tradeshow in North America. OIA serves over 1,300 manufacturers, suppliers, and retailers through a focus on international trade and public lands and recreation policy, sustainable business innovation and outdoor participation.