PRESERVING OUR WILD SPACES TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY AND ECOLOGICAL HEALTH.

WILL YOU JOIN US IN PROTECTING WILD CALIFORNIA?
WWW.CALWILD.ORG
PHOTO BY JACK SCHLINKERT
CalWild protects and restores the state's wildest natural landscapes and watersheds on public lands. These important wild places provide clean air and water, refuges for wildlife, and outstanding opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal for people. CalWild is the only statewide organization dedicated solely to protecting and restoring the wild places and native biodiversity of California's public lands owned by us all, and managed on our behalf by agencies like the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

There is no prerequisite, no required qualifications or barrier to entry to join CalWild and add your voice to the mission. All you need is to believe there is value in wild places.

CalWild is a proud member of:
The California Wilderness Coalition - or “CalWild” - was founded in 1976 and has served as a resource for local groups and activists to protect their public lands. In 1976, only 1.9 million acres, 2% of total land in California, had legal protection against wilderness-destroying activities.

With almost 50 years of legislative action, CalWild has worked with other like-minded groups to ensure that over 13 million acres of land and 1,500 miles of waterways in California can remain wild in perpetuity. This is more than 10% of the total land in California, raising the total to 24% conserved. CalWild today is a recognized statewide leader in public lands protection, and our ongoing 30x30 campaign aims to reach 30% by 2030.

To achieve this, CalWild must adapt to the quickly changing environmental, social, and political landscapes. Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers, as the most protective designations, will remain our guiding lights. However, as the political and social environments change, it’s important that we stay open to the tools that will keep CA public lands wild, such as forest restoration and National Monuments. CalWild has made those adjustments and continues to use the full spectrum of public lands designations to keep them as wild as possible.
CALWILD’S WORK IS BASED ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION.

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it." - President Johnson, upon signing the Wilderness Act.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, provided an avenue for citizens to propose public lands and water to their congressional representatives for permanent protection. In 1976, the California Wilderness Coalition was founded by Jim Eaton, Don Morrill, Bob Schneider, Phil Farrell, and Jeff Barnickol.

DEFINITION OF FEDERAL WILDERNESS AREAS

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which

(1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;

(2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;

(3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and

(4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

“The Wilderness Act”
PUBLIC LAW 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136)

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes.
The National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018. Congress passed and President Lyndon Johnson signed the Act in 1968, creating the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. The law was specifically intended to balance the nation’s existing policy of building dams on rivers to develop their water supply, flood control, and hydroelectric potential, with a new policy to ensure that some free-flowing rivers with outstanding values are protected for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

**The National System protects 12,734 miles of rivers and streams, less than 1% of the 3.6 million miles of rivers and streams in the nation. In California, about 2,100 miles of rivers and streams are protected in the National System, or about 2% of the rivers and streams in the state.**

There is also a state-managed Wild & Scenic River System in California, with extensive overlap between federal and state protection. Based on federal agency assessments, CalWild estimates that there are another 4,500 miles of rivers and streams in California that are eligible for national and state protection.
24% of California lands and 2,100 miles of rivers are permanently protected. To achieve the 30x30 goal, we would need to protect an additional 6,000,000 acres. CalWild has worked hard to influence state and federal laws, planning processes, and other major protective actions since our founding in 1976. Here are some of the major milestones we’ve helped make a reality.
CALWILD CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

1. NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

2. NORTH CENTRAL & EASTERN CALIFORNIA

3. SACRAMENTO RIVER DELTA & SAN FRANCISCO BAY
   Public Lands Funding and Lobbying, Portion Of The Mountain & Rivers Campaign, Cannabis Removal on Public Lands, Public Lands Equity and Resilience, Wild Rivers Project, Wildfires

4. CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST
   Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (288,672 Wilderness acres, 159 Wild & Scenic River miles), Public Lands Equity and Resilience, Wildfires

5. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
   Public Lands Defense, Cannabis Removal on Public Lands, Public Lands Equity and Resilience, Wild Rivers Project, Wildfires

6. EASTERN SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS
   Sierra & Sequoia National Forest Plan Revisions, Cannabis Removal on Public Lands, Public Lands Equity and Resilience, Public Lands Defense, Wildfires, Wild Rivers Project

7. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DESERT

8. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
   San Gabriel Mountains (31,069 Wilderness acres, 46 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers), Protect California Deserts, Public Lands Equity and Resilience, Wildfires, New National Monuments, Mojave Trails National Monument Management Plan

CalWild is always working on concurrent campaigns. Some may take 10+ years to become a reality, while other projects are completed in as little as one year. The permanent protection of public land requires many stakeholders often with a long-term vision to reach a consensus. CalWild mediates and helps enact agreements and policies that are beneficial to the majority of people and are designed to improve economic and ecological health.
What “wild” means is entirely relative to an individual. As such, CalWild and our partners are open to many interpretations and levels of “wild” places and experiences. This includes “wild” spaces in the city as much as in open country and easy access “from the parking lot or bus stop” excursions as well as multi-day expeditions off the grid deep into the wilderness.

WE WELCOME MANY “WILDS”
It is generally agreed that “wild” is defined as a natural or untouched state, but beyond that, “wild” is a word surrounded by misconceptions. “Wilderness” does not directly translate in several mainstream languages. Mainstream western culture reinforces adventure as the act of navigating and taming the wild. Wild landscapes are depicted as dangerous, scary places. Wild creatures are unpredictable and untrustworthy. Wild plants are seen as organic resources to be mined. Further investigation has found that instead, wild creatures and native plants can teach us to create a more bountiful and resilient ecosystem, even in urban and suburban greenscapes. The knowledge within the myriad of indigenous cultures in California connect us to the genius of nature and proven solutions to thrive. Without preserving and tending to wild places, we are losing more than an adventure worth posting on social media – we are losing the solutions we need to survive the cascading effects of the ever increasing demands of a constantly growing population and damages from extractive industrial activities.

The natural world does not speak English, nor does it communicate its value in spreadsheets or stock prices. This is not to say that it doesn’t speak; spokesmanship for the natural world is an inherent component of Indigenous life and culture. The wild speaks to all of us differently. Our experiences, expressions, and collective action attracts other wild-loving people to come.

No matter the medium, communication about the wild has a place in helping cultivate respect, understanding, and compassion for the wild to our wider community. The future success of conservation will be dependent on the conservation community’s ability to expand its work in ways that speak to and engage more diverse groups than in the past. CalWild is a hub for those who thrive in wild places, who respect the inherent knowledge of the natural world and who wish to support the holistic problem-solving necessary to restore and protect wild places together.
THEORY OF CHANGE

CalWild believes in and is committed to the democratic process.

Our success comes through availing ourselves of democracy’s most fundamental concept: responding to the wishes and desires of the people.

Our theory of change is that through the direct engagement and empowerment of local public land advocates of all stripes, we can effect change at the local, regional, state and federal levels. CalWild’s role is to help identify where public lands advocates’ tools and capacity aligns with an immediate or medium-term political opportunity. It is our belief that local people and local elected officials are the best advocates for protecting lands and waters in their area. Our job is to provide the local community with the knowledge, technical support, and connections to make their goals a reality.

CalWild is currently working on change via:

- Working closely with our Senate and House champions to seek any passage opportunities in this Congress.
- Continuing to serve as the primary contact for legislative offices to resolve policy issues.
- Serving as primary contact and/or facilitator for communications, organizing needs, and policy questions or concerns for local stakeholders, including elected officials, business owners,
The most fundamental principle of CalWild’s work is that public lands belong to all people. Therefore, it is CalWild’s duty to ensure everyone is encouraged and empowered to be involved in the protection, management, use and enjoyment of public lands regardless of age, socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, culture, or spiritual background.

To be effective towards this end, CalWild is committed to integrating and executing values of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion into our hiring practices and internal support systems for staff. We will prioritize a rich mix of experiences, perspectives, backgrounds, and beliefs. We are committed to furthering that ethos by proactively listening to the different perspectives and points of view of our staff, and creating a welcoming environment where they feel empowered to bring their complete selves to the work they do. We believe our future organizational effectiveness rests squarely on our ability to embody these ideas.

CalWild has always worked to empower local voices and groups in their efforts to protect the public lands they love. We are committed to respectful, authentic, equitable, and proactive engagement and empowerment of all groups and individuals, specifically those that have been historically marginalized in the public lands decision-making, management, and use process. Only by ensuring that all groups and individuals have an equitable voice and power will California be able to protect its rich ecological diversity for generations to come.

CalWild also acknowledges that everyone connects and engages with nature in a way that reflects their culture, experiences, and abilities. We are committed to listening and helping to advocate for appropriate access and inclusive policies for all groups. Moving forward CalWild is prioritizing our role as a leader by continuing to provide education, training, strategic guidance, coordination, and connections to local groups and activists.
WORKING PRINCIPLES

GET OUT THERE

All efforts are focused on getting people outdoors, having positive experiences outside, and finding value in the wild. Everything starts with the connection to a wild place and we aim for all campaigns to support experiences in wild places.

INSPIRE ACTION FIRST

All communications must inspire action as their primary goal. Fundraising and other goals are secondary; although a stakeholder may not provide financial support, every stakeholder’s voice is critically important and desperately needed.

COLLABORATION OVER SPOTLIGHT

CalWild will not prioritize “ownership” over projects or ideas that benefit the broader community to gain brand awareness. CalWild does not believe in a zero-sum mindset. We believe that in helping our wild community to grow and strengthen, we will all be stronger and in a better place through collaboration.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE

Collecting a full-spectrum of books, essays, photos, presentations, memos and videos, CalWild will catalogue and disseminate all the materials possible to help provide the broadest and deepest set of information to those seeking to know more about wild places in California. CalWild will document, and when possible, broadcast and record talks and other education materials for those outdoor enthusiasts and aspiring advocates unable to be present.
We Seek Indigenous Knowledge

CalWild will always be humble in what we “know” about the lands we’re working to protect. As the original human inhabitants, CalWild will always prioritize outreach to the indigenous communities in relation to projects with the understanding that the community’s bandwidth may be limited for or opinion divided on participation with CalWild and the projects we undertake.

With a long history of partnering with tribes, we have been described as “the only group that bothers to ask” for input from tribal leaders. As future opportunities permit, we will work with enrolled tribal members, native-led non-profits (e.g., partnering with the Native American Land Conservancy for our Protect California Deserts campaign) and native-owned consulting firms to assist with tribal outreach.
Climate change is a pervasive and growing global threat to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. The emergence of the 30x30 initiative is a key element of the solution to combating climate change. CalWild has engaged in this process in California and will play a leading role in getting the state to engage in the management and protection of the federal public lands that comprise over 40% of the state. Currently 24% of the state is permanently protected. Climate scientists project increasingly common weather extremes that will transform California, with impacts on natural resources, communities, and the economy. Climate change will continue to challenge us all, and protecting CA’s wild spaces is central to CalWild’s mission and key to a greener future.
BIODIVERSITY

The capacity of ecosystems to deliver essential services to society is under stress. Biodiversity is essential for the processes that support all life on Earth. Without a wide range of animals, plants and microorganisms, we cannot have the healthy ecosystems that we rely on. The additional stresses imposed by climate change in the coming years will require extraordinary action. Rivers have been restructured, oceans have been altered and depleted, over half of the land surface is devoted to livestock and crop agriculture, with little consideration for the ecosystem services that are being lost as a consequence, some irrevocably so. Wild places inherently have more diverse biological populations. Their protection is critical for preservation of California and Californians.
CULTURE IN THE WILD

By taking culture conversations outdoors, removing the biases and baggage from the acts of showing artwork or hosting a reading, the language of the outdoors can be free of walled spaces and comfortable for all those attending in a natural, welcoming place. When necessary or appropriate, CalWild will address and act to counter the biases associated with being outdoors, especially in regards to the divide between urban and rural, so more perspectives can be shared and
CalWild seeks out local individuals and organizations that share a passion for the “wild” alongside a deep connection to the land and the community. Our form of organizing and campaigning is dependent on locals who speak to the value of conservation for their local lands and authentically connect with the community about the opportunities protection may bring.
CalWild, together with a number of partner organizations, is launching a new campaign to conserve and protect additional public lands in California’s Mojave and Colorado Deserts and in the San Bernardino National Forest.

The campaign involves a legislative proposal for Representative Raul Ruiz, M.D., who represents the 36th Congressional District which is located in Riverside County. We will be asking Rep. Ruiz to introduce legislation to accomplish the following:

- Establish a national monument in the Chuckwalla Valley
- Designate two new wilderness areas and expand three existing wilderness areas;
- Designate the San Bernardino County portion of Mission Creek as a Wild and Scenic River;
- Expand Joshua Tree National Park into the Eagle Mountain area, pursuant to a 2016 National Park Service study;
- Honor the work of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers in Riverside County;
- Protect World War II-era training sites; and
- Call for a recreational needs study to be completed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service, focused on quiet recreation opportunities – in particular
Arguably, illegal cannabis production on public lands may be the largest near-term threat to native species, communities, and ecosystems in much of California.

Illegal cannabis grows on California public lands, known as “trespass grows” constitute one of the leading issues threatening California’s wildlife and communities. Trespass grows contain copious amounts of illegal pesticides, rodenticides and herbicides. These toxicants contaminate water, poison wildlife, and pose a serious threat for wide-spread human exposure. These grows undercut the legal market, place rural and tribal communities at risk, threaten natural resource economies, and undermine the original purpose of California’s public lands.

CROP is a collaboration between CalWild and the Community Governance Partnership. More at www.cropproject.org
Since 2017, the reality of catastrophic wildfire in California has set in for all residents. This new and frightening paradigm presents a very difficult challenge for even the notion of conservation. It also presents a key opportunity for better management of CA landscapes with ecological considerations at the forefront. The biggest challenge is how to change the culture, institutions, and public sentiment that emphasizes fire suppression above all else. **To have an impact, we must emphasize at every opportunity that healthy and ecologically intact public lands, specifically roadless and wilderness areas, are essential to reintroducing good fire onto large landscapes.**

To address these issues, CalWild regularly participates with other conservation groups working to address wildfire issues. CalWild connects with partners, like the California Native Plant Society and Sierra Forest Legacy, to educate members of Congress on the issue and advocate for greater investment in our public lands agencies for more fire management.
With a grant from the River Network, CalWild was recently able to complete a community needs assessment along the Merced Wild and Scenic River corridor (CA Route 140) looking at the need for improved interpretative signage. With new reservation requirements to Yosemite National Park taking effect, drought conditions creating algal blooms, and wildfires besieging chronically underfunded management agencies like the Forest Service, a number of management issues presented themselves during the course of our field visits.

Signs are the beginning of good stewardship, and we’re proud to present this blueprint report that a community group, activist, or brand can use as a toolkit for phase 2.
In 2020, CalWild launched the Public Lands Equity and Resilience Program. This initiative included hiring our-then San Joaquin Valley Organizer André Sanchez and reaffirming our commitment to a more inclusive public lands community. Actions to further equity and access within CalWild and in our work have included or will include:

- Finalizing our equity protocols for all CalWild programs;
- Proactively and meaningfully engaging with tribal interests on all work;
- Serving on the California 30x30 Campaign Equity sub-group;
- Providing opportunities to improve CalWild’s engagement with historically marginalized groups.
**HOW TO SUPPORT WILD PLACES**

**LEARN**

Visit our website to learn about our current campaigns, see the unfolding history of California's public lands, and peruse our Recommended Reading List. While you're there, sign up for our email updates.

**EXPERIENCE**

Search our growing Hikes database to step into some of the areas we've helped or are helping to protect. Check our calendar for upcoming events across the state where you can meet our staff in person.

**ADVOCATE**

Sign our action alerts and join public comment processes as they arise to give voice to California's wild places as they are made eligible for protection and when they are under threat.

**DONATE**

Become a member for as little as $35/yr or $5/mo. Individuals who give over $250 will be recognized as Voices to a Wild Future donors. Businesses can become Group Members starting at $250/yr with a variety of visibility benefits.

More on the next page...
CALWILD GROUP MEMBERS: 2022

INDUSTRY LEADERS

Every dollar counts, and every group member adds voice to the Wild. Ideal for small, local businesses wishing to share their love for the wild and support CalWild.

This tier is more than a donation, it’s a true collaboration between CalWild and your organization. CalWild’s board members and staff will lead a hike in a campaign area or wild place of your choosing to incorporate our respective stories both online and on the ground.

COMMUNITY MODELS

This tier provides features in our newsletter and website to showcase your organization, its interests in California, and highlights what your donation makes possible either locally or as part of a larger statewide campaign.

GRASSTOPS

Double down the support and continue the conversation on social media with CalWild with a focus on the issues closest to your organization.

GRASSROOTS

Every dollar counts, and every group member adds voice to the Wild. Ideal for small, local businesses wishing to share their love for the wild and support CalWild.

This tier is more than a donation, it’s a true collaboration between CalWild and your organization. CalWild’s board members and staff will lead a hike in a campaign area or wild place of your choosing to incorporate our respective stories both online and on the ground.
FOR THE CHILDREN

The rising hills, the slopes, of statistics lie before us. the steep climb of everything, going up, up, as we all go down.

In the next century or the one beyond that, they say, are valleys, pastures, we can meet there in peace if we make it.

To climb these coming crests one word to you, to you and your children:

stay together learn the flowers

- Gary Snyder
JOIN US IN

PRESERVING, ENJOYING, PROTECTING, DOCUMENTING, NURTURING

WILD CALIFORNIA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.
CONTACT CALWILD EMAIL INFO@CALWILD.ORG
RESOURCES, LINKS, AND MUCH MORE AT WWW.CALWILD.ORG

Photo by Evan B. Dudley overlooking the Sacramento Valley