FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Californians for Western Wilderness

A project of Resource Renewal Institute

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Edgar Wayburn, M.D.
Frank Wheat

Coordinator
Michael J. Painter
(415) 752-3911

P.O. Box 210474
San Francisco
CA 94121-0474

e-mail:
info@caluwild.org

September 26, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Californians for Western Wilderness strongly supports the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

We are a citizens organization with close to 800 members, dedicated to preserving the West's wildlands and educating people how they can effectively participate in the democratic process to achieve that goal.

We strongly support the use of the Antiquities Act, both when Congress refuses to act and when Presidents invoke it on their own initiative to protect special places on federal lands. We thank you for your previous monument designations, both large and small, and ask that you continue to use the authority it grants you.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region in Northern California is one area deserving of protection as a monument. It is located within a short distance of both the Bay Area and Sacramento, and stretches almost 100 miles along the crest of the Inner Coast Range.

The area contains a wide diversity of habitats and is home to many species of plants and animals, some of which are relatively rare or coming back from the brink of extinction, like the Bald Eagle and Tule Elk.

Opportunities for recreation abound, from hiking and camping, to birdwatching, to photography, and many others. People can also engage in other forms of motorized and non-motorized recreation as well, where appropriate and regulated.

Finally, since the Inner Coast Range is an area that does not have many special designations such as parks or monuments on its federal lands, a designation would boost interest in the landscape. This would have the added benefit of giving the local economy a boost. However, the area merits protection on its own.

I attended the nearby University of California at Davis as an undergraduate, and my fellow students and I spent many days exploring the region. I've returned frequently in the years since, both by myself and with family and friends. Members of Californians for Western Wilderness

helped do some of the inventory work for the Cache Creek Wilderness, established in 2006 in the area. The rest of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region deserves special protection as well.

A national monument on these lands would allow future generations to be able to visit and enjoy them in the same manner as many others and I have. Californians for Western Wilderness urges you to designate a Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Painter
Coordinator

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman John Garamendi, District 3, CA
Congressman Mike Thompson, District 5, CA
Congressman Jared Huffman, District 2, CA
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Michael Boots, Acting Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

BCHA
Back Country Horsemen of America

September 4, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) have been in communication with our California BCH State organization and The Wilderness Society and concur with their expression of support for you to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

BCHA's mission is to perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness and to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use. We support the protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. We respectfully request that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to preserve this area as a national monument.

BCHA was organized with the assumption that we would be a different type of organization, not the usual special interest operating as a protest group. It was felt that a service organization, doing work in the back country and on our public lands, would lend credibility to our organization. Since 1995 we have contributed 3,710,693 volunteer hours for an in-kind value of $100.6 million – a partnership with our public land managers that benefits all wildland trail users.

Back Country Horsemen of America strongly supports permanent protection for the Federal lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national monument. Thank you for your efforts to preserve the Nation's special places and our recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

Jim McGarvey
BCHA Chairman

P.O. Box 1367 | Graham WA 98338-1367
Toll Free 1-888-893-5161 | www.backcountryhorse.com

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman John Garamendi, District 3, CA
Congressman Mike Thompson, District 5, CA
Congressman Jared Huffman, District 2, CA
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Michael Boots, Acting Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

RESOLUTION NO. 14-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, the non-profit land conservation organization Tuleyome, together with supportive business owners, elected officials, private landowners, and other community members seek to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain federal public lands in Napa, Yolo, Solano, Lake and Mendocino counties as a National Monument and has approached the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District for a resolution of support; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Napa County to permanently preserve both nearby public land, including the Cedar Roughs Wilderness, the Knoxville Recreation Area, the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area and all other parcels of federal land within the Berryessa Snow Mountain region of the county, as well as those public lands outside the boundaries of the county for the protection of our region's vast watersheds, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, there are various single parcels of federal public land within the Berryessa Snow Mountain lands in Napa County that are important to protect as wildlife habitat as well as being integral to plans for a county-wide trail system, that have recently been threatened with inclusion on a federal surplus land list, which was successfully opposed by local public agencies and private organizations active in the area, and that National Monument designation is needed to permanently protect; and

WHEREAS, National Monument designations have been shown to help communities diversify their economies and increase tourism, thereby generating economic benefits for nearby communities through local employment and tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, National Monument designation would permanently protect some of the most biologically diverse public land in the nation, from the oak woodlands around Lake Berryessa in the south, stretching 100 miles north to the 7,000 foot peak of Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest; and

WHEREAS, permanently protected public lands will enhance and ensure that local residents and visitors can continue to enjoy opportunities for many recreational activities including hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, photography, camping, orienteering, wildlife viewing, scientific research, mountain biking, motorized recreation on authorized routes, nature study, and other forms of land and water-based recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area is a federal recreation destination with motor boating, water skiing, paddling, hiking, swimming, other forms of recreational opportunities available, and concession areas with overnight accommodations, campgrounds, marinas, and retail facilities, as well as government offices; and Napa County wishes to ensure that such authorized activities are not affected by National Monument designation; and

WHEREAS, the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District is currently engaged in acquiring adjacent federal land under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (43 U.S.C. 869), thereby providing more management resources in both staff and funding as such land is incorporated into the District's conservation and recreation plans, and may in future acquire additional land that is adjacent to federal tracts, within the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District ask President Obama to designate the Berryessa Snow Mountain public lands as a National Monument on the condition that the designation will not affect the authorized activities at Lake Berryessa and that there be a limited exemption to continue to allow transfers under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (43 U.S.C. 869), where the purpose for which the land is to be conveyed is consistent with the purposes of the National Monument.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 13th day of October, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: DIRECTORS Karen Bower, Tony Norris, Michael Haley, Dave Finigan

NOES: DIRECTORS 0

ABSENT: DIRECTORS Brad Christian

Signed: _____
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

By: Melissa Frost
MELISSA FROST
District Secretary

APPROVED BY THE NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Date: October 13, 2014
Processed by:

APPROVED AS TO FORM
Office of County Counsel
By: *Chris R.Y. Apallas*
(Via E-Signature)
Date: October 13, 2014

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-190

RESOLUTION OF SOLANO COUNTY SUPPORTING PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN REGION AS A NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA OR A NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, Tuleyome and supportive business owners, anglers, elected officials, private landowners, and other community members seek to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain federal public lands as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument and increase economic opportunities for surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, Representatives Mike Thompson, John Garamendi and Jared Huffman have introduced the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act (HR 1025) and Senator Barbara Boxer have introduced companion legislation (S.483) to permanently protect the federal public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

WHEREAS, congress has not acted and a presidential declaration for a Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906 can accomplish the goals that the supporters of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region seek to achieve, and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Solano County to permanently preserve these nearby public lands, which are used by many of their residents as a place to visit and enjoy the regions vast recreational activities including hiking, swimming, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, photography, motor boating, camping, orienteering, wildlife viewing, scientific research, mountain bicycling, motorized recreation on authorized routes, and nature study, and

WHEREAS, National Conservation Area and National Monument designations have been shown to help local communities diversify their economies and increase tourism, as well as helping attract businesses, thereby generating economic benefits for nearby communities through local employment and tax revenue, and

WHEREAS, National Conservation Area or National Monument designation would permanently protect some of the most biologically diverse public land in the nation, from the oak woodlands around Lake Berryessa in the south, stretching 100 miles north to the 7,000 foot peak of Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest with Shasta red fir forests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Solano County hereby endorses the permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Conservation Area Act or a National Monument to permanently protect the federal public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

Resolution No. 2014-190

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Solano County Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting on October 7, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Hannigan, Spering, Thomson, Vasquez and Chair Seifert

NOES: SUPERVISORS None.

EXCUSED: SUPERVISORS None.

LINDA J. SEIFERT, CHAIR
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: Jeanette Bellinder
Jeanette Bellinder, Chief Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-125

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE SUPPORTING PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN REGION AS EITHER A NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA OR A NATIONAL MONUMENT

WHEREAS, Tuleyome and supportive business owners, anglers, elected officials, private landowners, and other community members seek to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain federal public lands as a National Conservation Area or a National Monument and increase economic opportunities for surrounding communities and have approached the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake for a resolution of support; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Mike Thompson, John Garamendi and Jared Huffman have introduced the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act (H.R. 1025) and Senator Barbara Boxer has introduced companion legislation (S.483); and

WHEREAS, Congress has not acted and a presidential declaration for a Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906 can accomplish the goals that the supporters of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region seek to achieve; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the County of Lake to permanently preserve these nearby public lands, which are used by many of their residents as a place to visit and enjoy the region's vast recreational activities including hiking, swimming, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, photography, motor boating, camping, orienteering, wildlife viewing, scientific research, mountain bicycling, motorized recreation on authorized routes, conservatively sound grazing, and nature study; and

WHEREAS, our Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the proposed National Conservation Area designation and proposed legislation, and supports the inclusion of those provisions in any National Monument designation, including hunting activities and water rights consistent with National Conservation Area approach.

WHEREAS, National Conservation Area and National Monument designations have been shown to help local communities diversify their economies and increase tourism, as well as to help attract businesses, thereby generating economic benefits for nearby communities through local employment and tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, National Conservation Area or National Monument designation would permanently protect some of the most biologically diverse public land in the nation, from the oak woodlands around Lake Berryessa in the south, stretching 100 miles north to the 7,000 foot peak of Snow Mountain Wilderness in the Mendocino National Forest with Shasta red fir forests; and

WHEREAS, 246,100 acres of the federal lands proposed for protection as a National Conservation Area or as a National Monument lie within the boundaries of the County of Lake.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-125

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Lake hereby endorses the permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as either a National Conservation Area Act or a National Monument and authorizes the Board of Supervisors to send letters to President Obama, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, California Senators Feinstein and Boxer asking for their support as well as Representatives Mike Thompson, John Garamendi ,and Jared Huffman, thanking them for their work to permanently protect the federal public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

THIS RESOLUTION was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake at a regular meeting thereof on the 21st day of October 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Smith, Farrington and Rushing

NOES: Supervisors Comstock and Brown

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: None

COUNTY OF LAKE

Chair, Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LAKE COUNTY, CAL

ATTEST: MATT PERRY
Clerk of the Board

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
ANITA L. GRANT
County Counsel

By: _____

October 9, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and our more than one million members and supporters nationwide, I strongly urge you to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region by proclaiming it as California's newest national monument.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is a hidden gem of northern California's wild Inner Coast Ranges and is one of the most biologically diverse yet least known regions of the Golden State. Located less than one hundred miles from the Sacramento and Bay Area metropolitan regions, the area is a dazzling outdoor wonderland rich in unique natural features and loaded with recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Public lands stretch nearly one hundred miles from the shores of Lake Berryessa in the south to the flanks of Snow Mountain in the north. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region – in the heart of California's global biodiversity hot spot – is rich in unique plants, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth. The region's thriving blue oak woodlands, red fir forests and creek side habitat set the scene for an annual explosion of wildflowers and provide habitat to a wide variety of wildlife, including nearly half of California's dragonfly species, butterflies, Pacific fisher, trout, Tule elk, deer, mountain lions, black bears, osprey, and is home to California's second largest population of wintering bald eagles.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain area also provides countless opportunities to hike, horseback ride, hunt, camp, ride motorized vehicles in designated areas, fish, watch birds, enjoy water sports and more. Permanent protection for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region isn't just good for the environment and wildlife; it's also good for the economy. The outdoor recreation industry supports more than 400,000 California jobs and generates $46 billion of economic activity in the Golden State every year. Protecting our special places encourages tourism, supports local businesses and creates desirable places to live and work.

California's Berryessa Snow Mountain region is a national treasure worthy of permanent protection for continued enjoyment today as well as for future generations. Establishment of a national monument will improve coordination between federal agencies, safeguard important areas for climate change adaptation, protect our clean water and provide additional federal

California Program Office

1303 J Street, Suite 270

Sacramento, CA 95814

Telephone 916-313-5800

funding opportunities for conservation management, invasive species eradication and recreational enhancement.

Defenders of Wildlife strongly supports permanent protection for the federal lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Monument and we urge you to take action to protect this special area for future generations to enjoy just as we do today.

Sincerely,

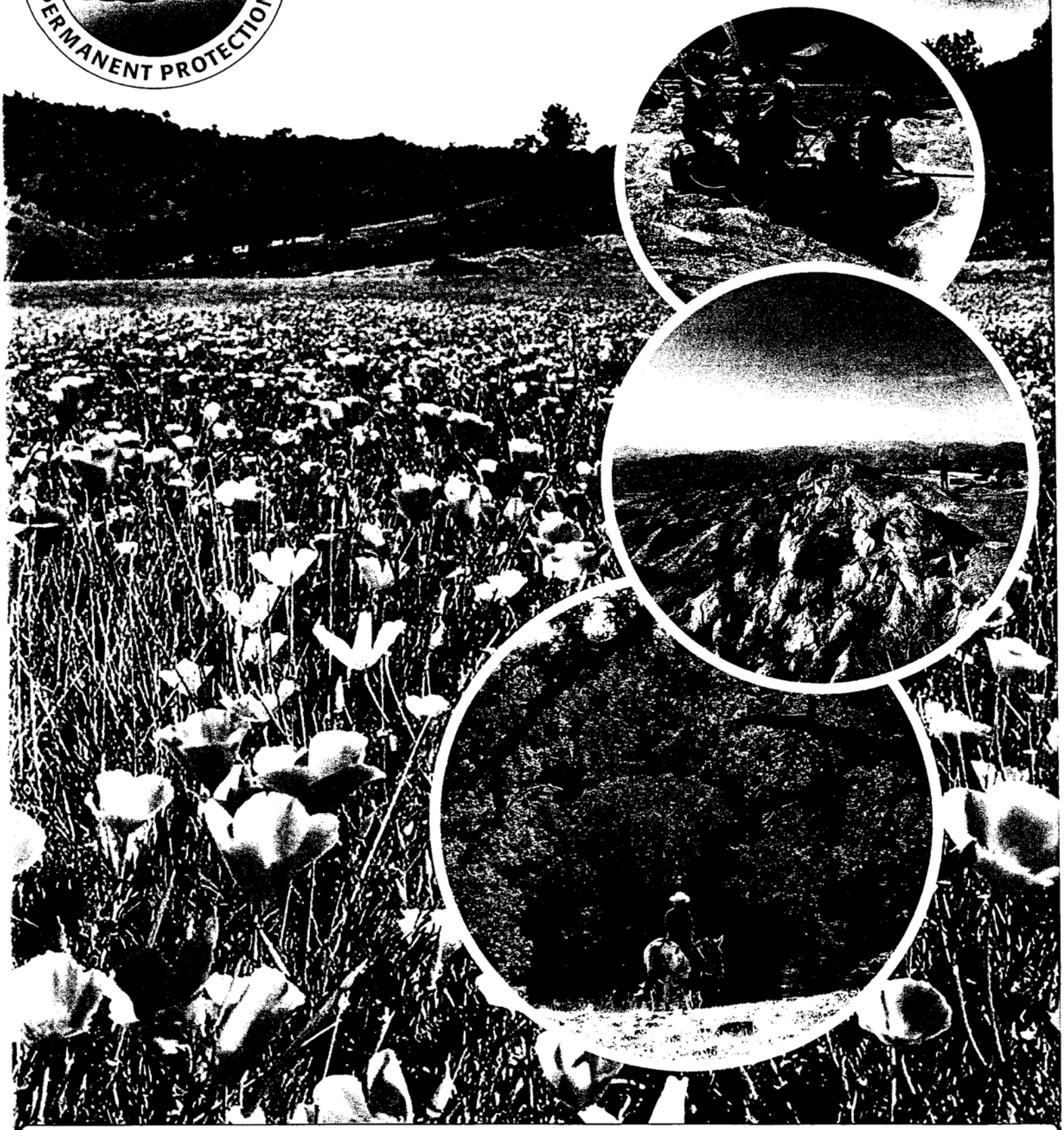
Kim Delfino
California Program Director

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Jared Huffman, CA-2
Congressman John Garamendi, CA-3
Congressman Mike Thompson, CA-5
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Michael Boots, Acting Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN • PERMANENT PROTECTION •

An undiscovered landscape



BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN PERMANENT PROTECTION PRESS BOOK

Overview:

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region of northern California is a hidden gem. It is one of the most biologically diverse, yet least known regions of the state. Located less than one hundred miles from the Sacramento and Bay Area metropolitan regions, the area is a dazzling outdoor wonderland rich in unique natural features and loaded with recreational opportunities.

Permanent protection of this region will provide well-managed recreation opportunities, safeguard the area's natural beauty, sensitive areas, wildlife and rare plants, and ensure continued use and enjoyment for future generations.

Snow Mountain in the Spring by Jim Eaton

Campaign Highlights and Supporters:

- Over 2,000 individuals and more than 200 businesses support permanent protection for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region
- The following cities and counties support permanent protection for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region: Winters, Davis, Clearlake, Calistoga, St. Helena and West Sacramento, as well as Yolo, Solano, Lake and Napa Counties.
- Editorials of support include The St. Helena Star, The Davis Enterprise, The San Francisco Chronicle, The Santa Rosa Press Democrat, The Sacramento Bee, The Modesto Bee, and The Napa Valley Register.
- On March 7, 2013 Representatives Mike Thompson John Garamendi, Jared Huffman, Ami Bera, and Anna Eshoo re-introduced the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act (H.R. 1025) and Senator Barbara Boxer re-introduced the Senate companion legislation (S. 483).
- On July 23, the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain legislation, (*H.R. 1025)* had a House hearing with the Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation. Congressman John Garamendi (CA-3) and Mike Thompson (CA-5) testified in support of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area Act. Judy Ahmann, a private land owner and rancher from Napa, also testified in support of the legislation.
- On November 20th, 2013 the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing for the Senate legislation S.483.

Berryessa Snow Mountain Press Highlights

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LAKE COUNTY NEWS

Saylor, Seifert and Rushing: Permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region

Tuesday, 10 June 2014

Don Saylor, Linda Seifert and Denise Rushing

We urge President Obama to take steps to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region by declaring the area a National Monument. Thanks to a recent designation by President Obama another piece of our country's outdoor legacy will be preserved as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico.

The designation will preserve irreplaceable archaeological, prehistoric, and cultural sites, while safeguarding outdoor recreation opportunities that are so important for the state. The designation, under the Antiquities Act, is the second by President Obama in New Mexico, following the creation of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument last year.

President Obama has recognized areas in California too, adding Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands to the California Coastal National Monument earlier this year. The addition of Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands to the monument provides a boost to the rural coastal economy and the everyday lives of those of know and love the North Coast.

Across the state protected public lands, like national monuments, help provide outdoor recreation opportunities that generate more than $6 billion for the California economy each year, according to the Outdoor Industry Association. We've seen time after time that communities flourish and local economies grow when nearby public lands are permanently protected.

After designation, the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument drew 50,000 new visitors in 2013, overall a 40 percent increase in visitation over 2012. Closer to home, the counties around Giant Sequoia National Monument saw jobs grow by 11 percent and real personal income rise by 24 percent after the area was protected. That same potential is offered by the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

Just a short drive from the Bay Area and Sacramento, the area between Lake Berryessa and Snow Mountain provides easily-accessible opportunities to recreate and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Whether it's hiking to the 80-foot-high Zim Zim waterfall, fly-fishing in Putah Creek, or viewing wildflowers and wildlife, the Berryessa Snow Mountain region offers something for everyone.

Visitors can take a relaxing horseback ride, spend quality time with family, or experience the adrenaline rush of a white water rafting trip through Cache Creek. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is one of the last remaining areas of undisturbed public lands in California, making it an ideal space for people to get outside.

It's also important for a host of wildlife that calls the area home, from bald eagles, to endangered Pacific Fishers and rare plants.

We're quite proud of this amazing place and our communities that have grown around it. It's an area that deserves to be recognized and permanently protected.

The benefits of such protection will extend far beyond the land itself to the surrounding areas, bringing new visitors to our towns as they take advantage of new recreation opportunities.

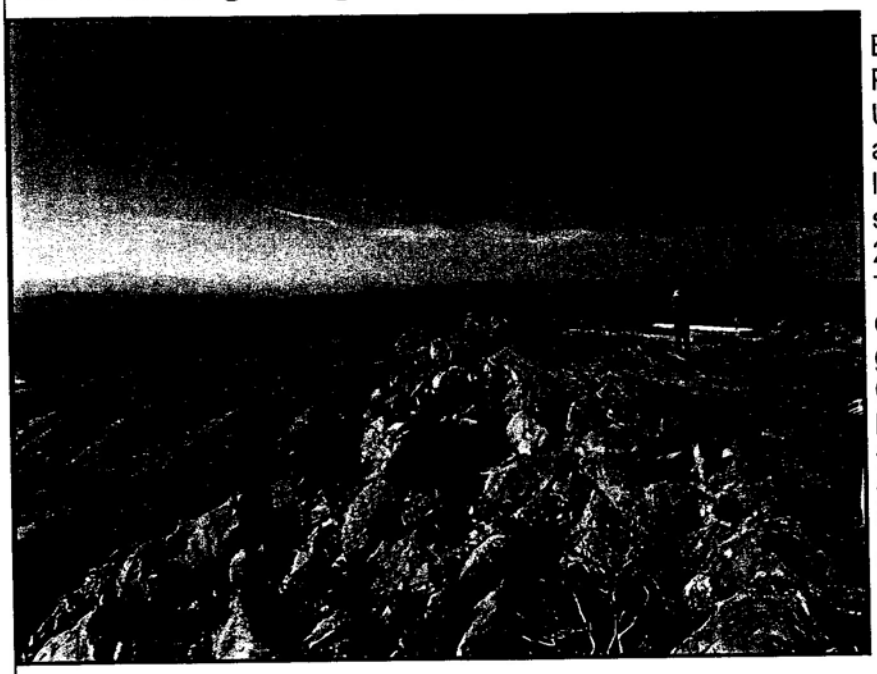
It's a move that's broadly supported, unlike recent legislative attempts in Congress to undermine the president's ability to permanently protect special places like Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Point Arena- Stornetta Public Lands, or Berryessa Snow Mountain.These attempts are out of step with public opinion, and attempt to limit one of our nation's most valuable conservation tools – the Antiquities Act.

Permanently protecting Berryessa Snow Mountain is of course good for the local communities, but we think it will also benefit anyone who is able to come sample our piece of the outdoor wonder California is known for. The door, after all, is always open.

Don Saylor, Linda Seifert and Denise Rushing are supervisors for the California counties of Yolo, Solano and Lake, respectively.

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Editorial: Nudge Congress to act on public lands bills



By the Editorial Board
Published: Saturday, Mar. 29, 2014

Until earlier this month, Congress hadn't acted to protect a single new acre of public land as a national park, national conservation area or wilderness area since 2009.

This congressional failure is not for lack of opportunity. A report by the advocacy groups Center for American Progress and Center for Western Priorities highlights 10 high-profile conservation bills, including two on federal public lands in California, that have languished despite strong backing at the local level and from members of Congress.

Following President Barack Obama's March 11 proclamation adding the 1,660-acre Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands along the Mendocino coast to the offshore California Coastal National Monument, this report should give a nudge to Congress – and a list to the president for action if Congress fails to act.

Under the landmark Antiquities Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, presidents by proclamation can give enhanced protections to existing public lands owned by the federal government. They have used that authority to create new national monuments and enlarge existing ones.

Among the 10 places highlighted in the report are our own Berryessa Snow Mountain and, further south, the Mojave Desert in Southern California. If Congress won't act, the president should.

Led by Rep. Mike Thompson and Sen. Barbara Boxer, 11 members of California's congressional delegation are sponsoring legislation to get National Conservation Area status for the federal lands in the 100-mile stretch fromLake Berryessa to 7,000-foot Snow Mountain, including the Cedar Roughs, Cache Creek and Snow Mountain wilderness areas.

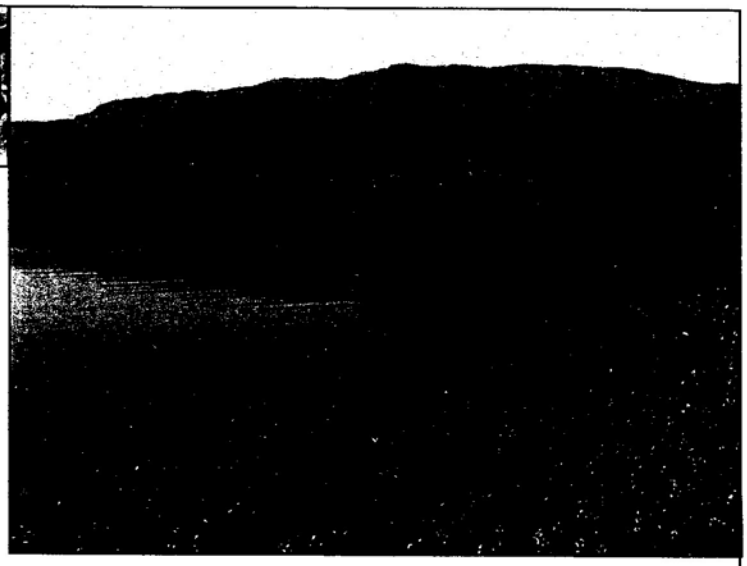
The gateway communities see tremendous potential in national designation, and the bill is widely supported by more than 200 businesses, local conservationists and recreation groups, like the Blue Ribbon Coalition and the International Mountain Bike Association. Yet it hasn't come to the floor of either the House or Senate for a vote.

Then there is Sen. Dianne Feinstein's California Desert Protection Act, which has been on the table for five years. In the growing area northeast of Los Angeles, it would create two new national monuments – the Mojave Trails and the Sand to Snow National Monuments – connecting with the Joshua Tree and Death Valley national parks and theMojave National Preserve that draw visitors to see wildflowers, bighorn sheep and 100-year-old desert tortoises.

This bill, too, has broad support from more than 100 cities, Indian tribes, businesses and community groups. Yet it hasn't moved.

The report highlights congressional "dysfunction and partisanship" as the culprit. But as with Point Arena-Stornetta, if Congress fails to act, the president should. One way or another, 2014 should be the time to catch up on a public lands legacy.

THE DAVIS enterprise



Sunday, March 9, 2014
YOLO COUNTY NEWS

Veterans unite to protect public lands

This view from the Smittle Creek trail is one of many in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region that helps heal battered souls, calm jangled nerves and undo the tension and anxiety that build with serving on a battlefield, says U.S. Navy veteran Michael Seaman. Courtesy photo

By Special to The Enterprise
From page A13 | March 09, 2014 |

By Michael Seaman

Those of us who answer the call to defend the liberties and freedoms of this great nation often pay a terrible price for doing so. Thousands of soldiers are returning home from places like Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injuries, trauma, anxiety and depression. These problems can be debilitating for soldiers, making their transition to civilian life difficult and, in some cases, impossible.

We owe it to our returning servicemen and women to do all we can to help them recover from experiencing the pain and suffering caused by war. There is something we can do close to home that does not cost taxpayers a penny, but will help ease the suffering of the men and women of our armed forces: Preserve our open spaces.

Nature heals. Spending time in nature soothes battered souls, calms jangled nerves and helps undo the tension and anxiety that build with serving on a battlefield. Recent scientific studies are increasingly supporting this conclusion as well, finding that veterans who participate in outdoor recreation show signs of improved mental health.

Close to the Sacramento area, 350,000 acres of federal public lands in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region provide ample opportunities for veterans to experience the wonder of America's great outdoors and heal the wounds of war. For those returning from the battlefield, the public lands in Berryessa Snow Mountain are a prescription for peace and reconnecting with family and society.

The region also thrives with a variety of recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, camping, fishing, mountain biking, horseback riding and, of course, boating on beautiful Lake Berryessa. There are also many routes available for those who enjoy off-road vehicles. It has opportunities available for anyone seeking an outdoor experience in Northern California.

For many veterans, public lands are not only a place for recreation; they also serve a therapeutic purpose. Public lands provide much-needed respite for our wounded warriors returning from service and allow our veterans and their families a place to heal and find new methods of recovery from the wounds of war.

Perhaps that is why veterans overwhelmingly support protecting America's public lands. A recent survey found that three-quarters of post-9/11 veterans support increased protections for public lands by designating additional wilderness, monuments and parks.

I served my country proudly as an officer in the U.S. Navy. As a veteran, I take nothing for granted. Outdoor opportunities like these won't last forever unless we carefully defend them. Proposals are pending before Congress to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national conservation area, which will preserve the current uses of the land for all to enjoy forever.

This proposal is great for veterans like me, who defend American soil and want our public lands to be there when we return. I want my fellow servicemen and women to be able to enjoy Berryessa Snow Mountain — to hike to splendid waterfalls, float down Cache Creek and climb atop Snow Mountain — forever. And our soldiers need this region to help heal the battle scars that service brings.

Protecting Berryessa Snow Mountain will mean so much to the returning men and women who sacrificed for America. It will provide a place of refuge and sanctuary where we can go to become whole again. And it will provide great benefits to everyone who lives near or visits this majestic region.

Service to country runs deep in my blood and I have paid my dues. Let's make sure that veterans returning from war have the best opportunities available to heal. Let's ensure that Berryessa Snow Mountain is preserved for veterans, and for all Americans to enjoy. America's defenders deserve nothing less.

— Michael Seaman, a Sacramento resident, is a U.S. Navy veteran and a member of Vet Voice Foundation.

The Modesto Bee
modbee.com

Our View: Interior Secretary should visit Central Valley in search of new monuments
December 1, 2013

Sally Jewell, chief executive officer of Recreational Equipment Inc. and nominee to become secretary of the U.S. Interior Department, listens during her nomination announcement with U.S. President Barack Obama, unseen, at the White House in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, February 6, 2013. (Andrew Harrer/ Bloomberg via Abaca Press/MCT)

This session of Congress is the first since World War II that has failed to protect a single new acre of public land. Not a single acre. This year, however, some locally supported bills are starting to get some action and a push from the Obama administration, a sign of progress. It might be time to catch up on a public lands legacy in 2014.

The House in July passed, by unanimous consent, a bill by Rep. Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, to add the 1,660-acre Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands along the Mendocino coast to the islands, rocks, and reefs in the offshore California Coastal National Monument. But the companion bill has languished in the Senate, despite the support of Sen. Barbara Boxer and Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

So it is welcome that U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited California last month, highlighting the effort to expand the California Coastal National Monument.

Under the landmark Antiquities Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906, presidents by proclamation can give enhanced protections to existing public lands owned by the federal government. They have used that authority to create new national monuments and enlarge existing ones.

As Huffman said, Jewell's visit "is basically sending a message that we're going to make it happen one way or another." But in California, the coast should not be the only area for boosting the national status of existing public lands. The San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys have spectacular public lands, too, yet open space and recreational opportunities have not kept pace with population growth from 5.7 million in 2000 to 7 million in 2010, and a projected 8.5 million by 2020.

To remedy that, the Point Arena-Stornetta effort should be paired with National Conservation Area status for the federal lands in the 100-mile stretch from Lake Berryessa to 7,000-foot Snow Mountain. Other areas in the eastern and western hills of Stanislaus and Merced counties should also be considered.

The Lake Berryessa bill, proposed by Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, and Sen. Boxer, stalled in the last Congress. They reintroduced it this session (HR 1025/S 483). The House Subcommittee on Public Lands held a hearing in July, the Senate's subcommittee last week. But no votes have been scheduled.

As it has done with Point Arena-Stornetta, the Obama administration can motivate Congress to act by suggesting the possibility of national monument status.

The new Berryessa Peak Trail, inaugurated only in January, already is acquiring iconic status – and international reputation. Adventure sports magazine Wide World features "5 best ultra marathon training trails" from a volcano in Guatemala, the rugged Australian coastline, Richmond Park in London, mountains in Nepal – to the Berryessa Peak Trail.

National Conservation Area status would enhance the place for the benefit of the public, bringing together the three federal landowners – the Mendocino National Forest, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation – to coordinate management of more than 300,000 acres of federal land. Giving the place a name – Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area – would signify a visible destination, not the current patchwork.

In a speech in October, Jewell noted "we cannot and will not hold our breath forever" if Congress fails to act on public lands bills. "We owe it to future generations to act."

She reiterated that pledge in her visit to Point Arena-Stornetta. Thompson and Boxer should invite Jewell to visit the rugged Berryessa Snow Mountain area in May. This area deserves national status, like many of the West's most spectacular landscapes.

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Editorial: Interior Secretary Sally Jewell should visit Berryessa

By the Editorial Board
Published: Friday, Nov. 29, 2013

This session of Congress is the first since World II that has failed to protect a single new acre of public land. Not a single acre.

This year, however, some locally supported bills are starting to get some action and a push from the Obama administration, a sign of progress. 2014 may be a time to catch up on a public lands legacy.

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In a speech at the end of October, Jewell noted that "we cannot and will not hold our breath forever" if Congress fails to act on public lands bills. "We owe it to future generations to act," she said.

She reiterated that pledge in her visit to Point Arena-Stornetta. Thompson and Boxer should invite Jewell to visit the rugged Berryessa Snow Mountain area in May, including a kayak trip down the wild and scenic Cache Creek. This area deserves national status, like many of the West's most spectacular landscapes.

The Press Democrat

PD Editorial: A sound plan for public land

October 11, 2013

The beauty of the region that paints the eastern realms of Napa, Lake and Mendocino counties — stretching from wilderness northwest of Mendocino National Forest to Lake Berryessa — is no secret to local outdoor enthusiasts.

The area, which includes the Cache Creek Wilderness, the Eel River Headwaters, the Knoxville Wildlife area and Mount Konocti, is a destination for hikers, mountain bikers and biologists alike from the coastal cities as well as from communities along I-80. The region offers a diversity of plant and animal life, from wildflowers and blue oak woodlands to river otters, mountain lions and osprey.

But given that it's governed by a hodge-podge of federal agencies, this beautiful corner of California lacks the oversight needed to ensure its ongoing preservation as well as its promotion as a tourist destination.

For those reasons, we support legislation now before Congress that would designate 320,000 acres of the area as the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area. The bill, authored by Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, would ensure the protection of the open space areas while promoting recreation and business in the area. Moreover it would improve the coordination of those federal agencies — including the Bureau of Land Management and the National Forest Service — that have oversight.

Contrary to fears raised by critics, this is not a land grab. Hunting and fishing would still be allowed in the conservation area. No legal roads would be closed, and this would not result in the acquisition of private lands from unwilling sellers. That's why the bill has widespread support from elected officials and businesses in the region.

We recognize that encouraging the passage of HR 1025, — and its companion bill in the Senate, SB 483, sponsored by Sen. Barbara Boxer — at a time when Republicans and Democrats in Congress can't seem to agree on the day of the week is howling in the wind. But we believe improved coordination of federal agencies, better use of tax dollars and measures that seek economic development are bipartisan ideals.

Let this also serve as a reminder to Congress that there are other matters, beside political squabbles, that require its attention — such as designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Conservation Area.

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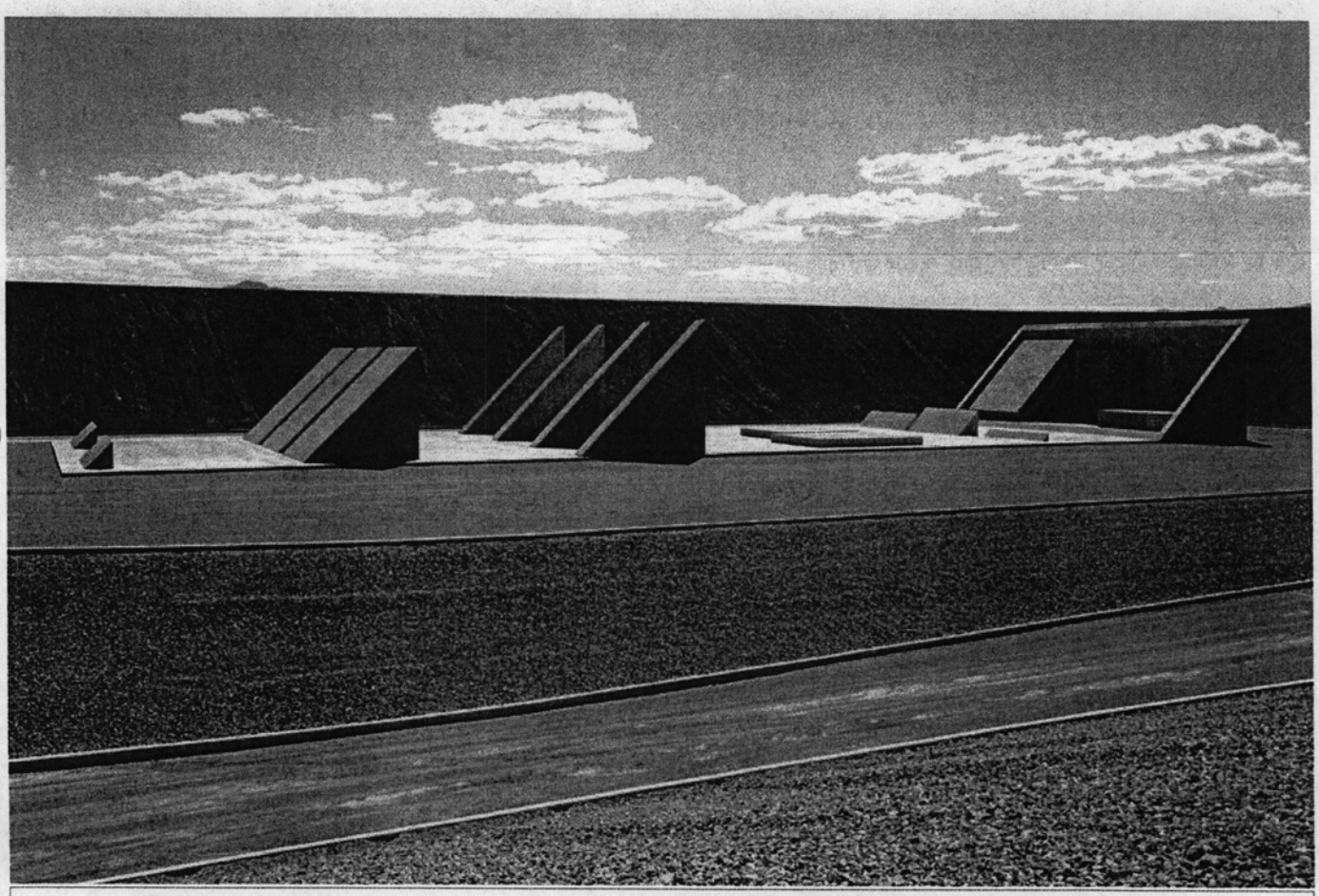


PROTECT MICHAEL HEIZER'S "CITY"

City by Michael Heizer. Photo by Tom Vinetz © Triple Aught Foundation

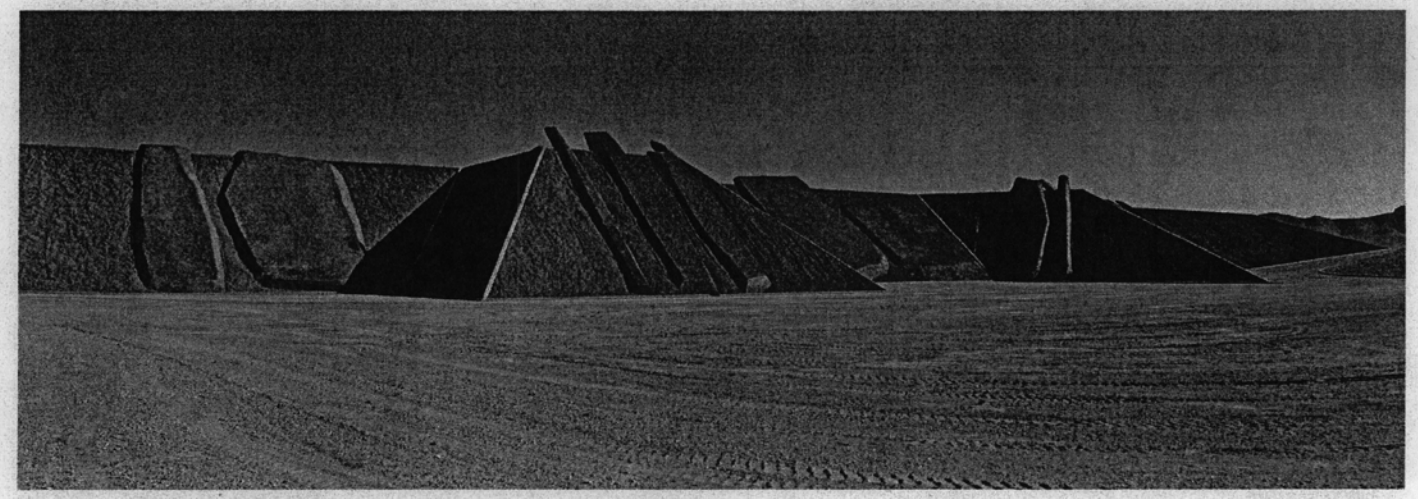
BY SCOTT TENNENT

March 18, 2015

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and keep it from being developed into a missile site, a location for oil and gas exploration, and a nuclear waste rail line. While the outcome of this issue has clear meaning to residents of the state and defenders of the environment, it also has significant *cultural impact*, concerning objects both ancient and

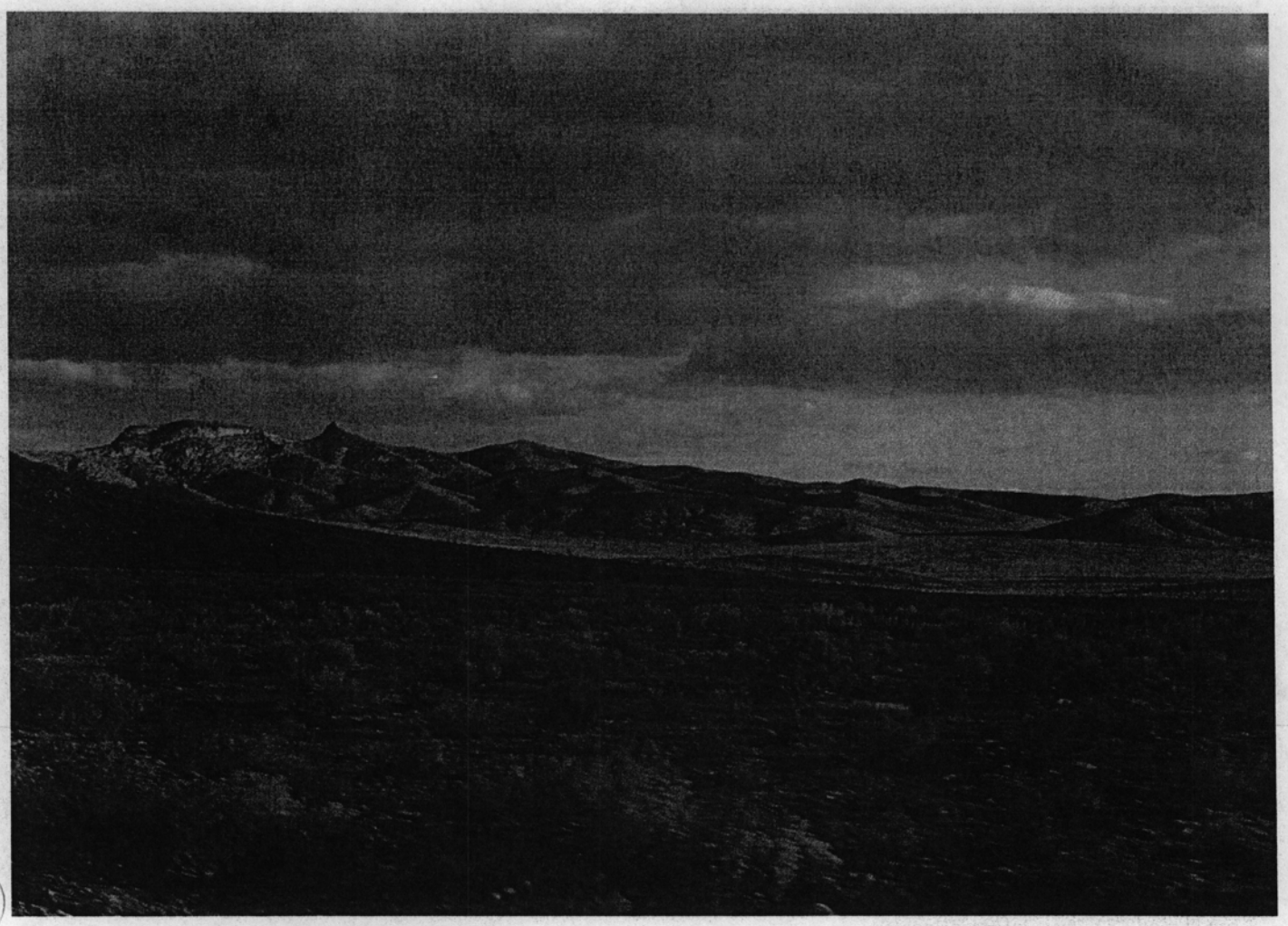
contemporary.

Located in Garden Valley, Nevada, Michael Heizer's *City* is one of the most significant works of art in the United States. Begun by Heizer in 1972, the project is now in its final stage of completion. It will, in the future, be accessible by the public. Heizer of course has some special significance to Los Angeles, as two significant works belong to L.A. museums. Heizer's incredible *Double Negative*, which exists in another part of the Nevada desert, is in MOCA's collection. (MOCA director Philippe Vergne recently visited the work and shared his experience on Instagram). LACMA installed *Levitated Mass* in 2012, as so many people witnessed firsthand when we moved "the rock" from Jurupa Valley to LACMA (now the subject of a feature-length documentary). Beyond Los Angeles, Heizer is simply one of the most significant living artists in the world, thanks to his pioneering work in what became known as Land Art.



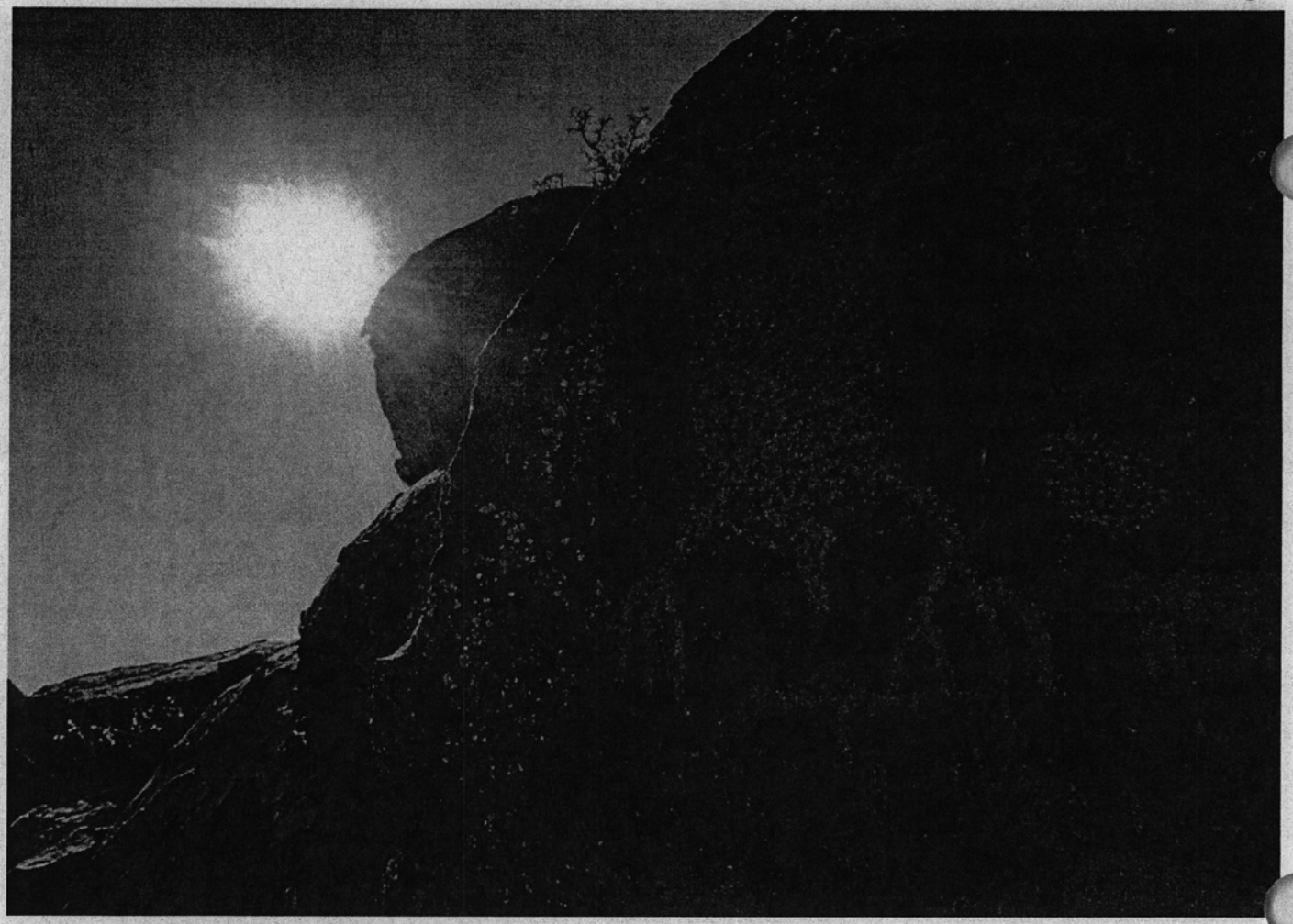
City by Michael Heizer. Photo by Tom Vinetz © Triple Aught Foundation

City is Heizer's magnum opus. Although it is not yet finished, images of *City* have circulated for decades. As with many of Heizer's greatest works, the sculpture is incomplete without the surrounding landscape. The solitude of *City* is part of its power. To have the surrounding land developed into anything would severely impact Heizer's work. To see the land developed into a site for military, energy, or waste purposes, would ruin it forever. After 43 years of work, can it really be destroyed like this?



Land around Michael Heizer's *City*. Photo by Doug Pray

Beyond Heizer's artwork, protecting Basin and Range has other critical cultural and scientific ramifications. The area contains ancient lithic scatters, early Native American trails, and rock art dating back thousands of years as well as wildlife unique to the area and important geologic features. The conservation proposal has the potential to provide important information about use of this portion of the Basin and Range province from the Paleoindian period through the present.



Land around *City*. Photo by Tyler Roemer

For almost 20 years, as director of both Dia Art Foundation and LACMA, Michael Govan has tried to educate people about *City* and bring this not only to the attention of the wider public but also to Washington D.C., as the land surrounding Heizer's property is all public land. As the possibility for protecting Basin and Range comes close to a reality, LACMA and other museums around the country are hoping to bring attention to the positive cultural impact protecting this land would have. Please take a few moments to sign this petition to voice your support for protecting this land.

Scott Tennent is Director of Executive Communications at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

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December 12, 1999
ART/ARCHITECTURE

ART/ARCHITECTURE; A Sculptor's Colossus of the Desert

By MICHAEL KIMMELMAN

IN THE NEVADA DESERT— MICHAEL HEIZER doesn't want you to know where he lives, just that he's in the middle of nowhere in the middle of Nevada.

His ranch is an isolated copse of trees and low buildings in an immense, flat, otherwise bone-dry valley -- a desert ringed by mountains, 40 miles, more or less, from the nearest neighbor, up to two hours' drive to the closest paved road. Beside the house is what looks from a distance like a low, U-shaped enclosure, an odd though not particularly dramatic bump in the land. Scale is deceptive in the desert. Up close, the bump turns into Mr. Heizer's sculpture "City," or, to be precise, the first phase of it, which he has just finished. The sculpture consists of three rectangular structures around a curved, sunken gravel-coated court or pit.

The structures -- which he calls "complexes," a term archaeologists use for buildings at ancient sites -- are immense concrete and dirt mastabas, rectangles with sloped sides. "Complex 2" is by itself more than a quarter-mile long. Its irregular surface incorporates two projections, one triangular and one rectangular, and several upright slabs that poke up over the top like mountain peaks. The slabs (Mr. Heizer calls them steles) rise as much as 70 feet and weigh up to a thousand tons each.

Altogether, what exists of "City" has got to be one of the most massive modern sculptures ever built. After nearly 30 years, Mr. Heizer has passed the first stage toward completing what is essentially his own Chichen Itza in the desert. There are four more stages to go.

During the late 1960's and early 70's, art began to move outdoors from galleries, and Mr. Heizer, among American artists, helped lead the way. He started as a painter, making shaped canvases with spaces carved out of the middle of them. In 1967, he completed "North, East, South, West 1," which included several holes he dug in the Sierra Nevada, the holes akin to the shapes in his paintings. He did similar works in the Mojave desert, and in 1968 he did "Nine Nevada Depressions": big, curved and zigzagging trenches, like abstract doodles on the earth, placed intermittently over a span of 520 miles. Another early sculpture, "Cilia," turned dug forms into light wells to catch the sun at different angles. His "Dye Paintings" involved big bags of white lime

powder and concentrated aniline dyes scattered across the desert floor, and he also drove a motorcycle across a dry lake bed, the tire tracks becoming like drawn lines.

Partly the move outdoors by Mr. Heizer and others reflected 60's art politics, the new eco-spirit and a general reaction against the art object as commodity. Works in the land were things that you couldn't put on your mantle, that didn't even necessarily last. Some of them, like "Nine Nevada Depressions," involved removing dirt to create sculptures out of the spaces left behind. "Un-sculpture" is the term Mr. Heizer likes, along with "sculpture in reverse." Negation, duration and decay became part of a new sculptural vocabulary.

The move outdoors also involved a rejection of prevailing modernist ideology, and in particular of the critic Clement Greenberg's notion that the best art had to concentrate on its own formal properties. Artists working outdoors wanted to reconnect the art world and the real world. Their materials were no longer canvas and paint or marble but dirt, sand and steel -- even sun and air.

Of course, not just Americans were involved in this quiet revolution. Joseph Beuys was in Germany; Richard Long was in England; and the Arte Povera group was in Italy. That said, Mr. Long was leaving discreet marks on the countryside. Mr. Heizer was blowing up things with explosives, so the connections were real but limited. And there was something particularly American about the size and ambition of some of the outdoor works. The Abstract Expressionists had made large scale a characteristic of American art. Beginning in the late 1940's, writings about Pollock and others often referred to the expanses of the West. By the 1960's artists like Mr. Heizer, with Pollock clearly in mind, were making art in the landscape of a size to rival it. A 520-mile sculpture is a very big thing.

Mr. Heizer came up with the idea for "City" in 1970, when he was in the Yucatan studying the serpent motif in the ball court at Chichen Itza. He was 24. The previous year he finished "Double Negative," a spectacular 1,500-foot-long, 50-foot-deep, 30-foot-wide gash cut onto facing slopes of an obscure mesa in Nevada, a project that required blasting 240,000 tons of rock. It was quickly recognized as the archetype of what people were beginning to call Land Art or Earth Art or Environmental Art. It made a huge impact.

His next plan, for "City," was to build a suite of giant, variously shaped abstract sculptures over an area that covered more than a mile end to end -- modern art turned into monumental abstract architecture, with ancient ruins as the model. Mr. Heizer's goal with "City" was to link contemporary American art and Pollock's legacy with the grandeur of the Olmecs, Mayans, Incas and Aztecs. "I was just doing what had already been done for centuries, but not in a while," he says. "City" was a very American kind of dream: big, brash, maverick, optimistic and a little loopy.

MR. HEIZER lives beside "City" in a comfortable ranch house with wood-burning stoves, a Remington sculpture, a big satellite television and a beamed ceiling. "Shrubs of the Great Basin" and "Weeds of the West" are on a bookshelf in the kitchen. An outbuilding for solar panels and a generator is across from a metal shop where he spends most of his time. And there are also studios

for him and his assistants, Mary Shanahan and Jennifer Mackiewicz, artists who've been with him for about a decade. Indefatigable, patient pioneers, they somehow manage to do their own work while bringing order to Mr. Heizer's life. When necessary, they'll change a tire or haul heavy equipment. He is devoted to them.

There are dogs, cats, horses, sheep and cattle, and machinery everywhere: road graders, loaders, tractors, horse trailers, manure spreaders, concrete mixers. The place is an industrial construction site, working farm and survivalists' hideaway.

In 1970, Mr. Heizer hired G. Robert Deiro, a pilot from Las Vegas, to help him find the property. It had sand and gravel, running water from a creek, isolation, the right climate -- and it was cheap. Almost 90 percent of Nevada is public land. This was private property surrounded by public land. Mr. Heizer gradually acquired three square miles, at $30 an acre. The last parcel was paid off two years ago. "Even I could save $150 a month," Mr. Heizer says. "Bob helped me get it, parcel by parcel. He went into county records and researched the owners. They all wanted to sell. Why not? Barren land in the middle of nowhere? It was the best thing that ever happened to them."

At first Mr. Heizer lived in a trailer with his wife, Barbara (they were divorced a couple of years ago). There was a weed-covered livestock trail to the property, and Mr. Heizer wore out a new truck a year getting to and from the place. Half the winter he'd be locked in. Once he went for 10 months and saw only a couple of sheep trailers and the occasional pickup truck in the distance.

He began work on "Complex 1" in 1971. A farmer lent him a paddle-wheel scraper to move dirt. Seismic engineers drew up plans for the 30-ton, T-shaped and L-shaped concrete columns that protrude from the complex. When the sculpture is viewed straight on from a distance, these shapes align visually to make a frame around the structure: an optical illusion causes the complex's slope to seem to flatten into a monochrome rectangle, three stories high, like one of Mr. Heizer's early paintings.

Mr. Heizer was able to finish most of "Complex 1" by himself. He began "Complex 2" in 1980 and "Complex 3" after that. But it was becoming increasingly difficult to go on as his cash dwindled. "A lot of money over the years went into simply trying to maintain old, useless equipment," he says.

He painted and made other sculptures during the 80's, including one called "Levitated Mass" that was installed outside the I.B.M. building on 57th Street at Madison Avenue. "I never stopped working on the pit and the complexes, whenever I could afford to," he says. "But we're talking crazy optimism here."

Mr. Heizer had met the artists Walter De Maria in 1966 and Robert Smithson in 1969 in New York, and they became linked with him as Land artists. He brought them west. Smithson finished "Spiral Jetty" in Utah in 1970. Mr. De Maria made "Lightning Field" in New Mexico a few years later. Those works became famous. While Mr. Heizer was immersed in his "City," Smithson wrote articles that made him the unofficial spokesman for the movement.

Increasingly, Mr. Heizer felt usurped and cheated. He began to seethe about the New York art scene, which he regarded as fickle and amnesiac. His frustration grew as the years went by. His freestanding sculptures included big stones carved into shapes that recalled tools. They were sometimes perforated like Swiss cheese or wedged into metal frames. Because of their size, he could never really show his work properly in New York, he felt, so he couldn't "play the game." His first gallery show of any real size in the city -- and therefore of any value to him, he says -- happened only five years ago, at Ace Gallery, when he was already 50.

Mention Robert Smithson or a few others associated with Earthworks to Mr. Heizer and he's off. "High-speed hustlers" is one of the few printable terms. "What was some guy from New Jersey doing building a sculpture like mine on a lake in Utah?" he asks about Smithson and "Spiral Jetty."

"But I figure, how much more original can you get than having nine different people doing what I did first, and none of them giving me credit? Actually, it's the academics who did not do a good historical job who are really to blame. I wasn't political enough to write articles about myself or go to cocktail parties, meaning that not only has my art been pirated and my intellectual property rights stolen, but my work has been misrepresented."

By 1997, Mr. Heizer was feeling exhausted and thinking about demolishing what existed of Complexes 2 and 3, leaving just Complex 1. Then Michael Govan, the director of the Dia Foundation, stepped in and, with money from both Dia and the Lannan Foundation (nobody would say how much), he arranged to pay to complete the three complexes and pit. There was an irony about this that wasn't lost on Mr. Heizer. Dia had offered to underwrite the whole project when Mr. Heizer started it 30 years ago, but he had declined. Heiner Friedrich, who founded Dia, had been Mr. Heizer's first dealer, and the two had fallen out.

With money, Mr. Heizer was able to hire outside help. Decades of pent-up desire combined with the inexperience of the construction crew to make the situation sometimes rocky at first. Mr. Heizer can be warm and solicitous, but also touchy, anxious and strong willed. The men had never worked on a project like this, which involved unusual materials, gigantic forms in odd shapes and tricky conditions. Storms would sweep across the valley and, in minutes, wipe out $30,000 of labor on one of the steles. This happened four or five times. The surfaces of the complexes required constant readjustment. Mr. Heizer would become upset when the shape of one of the forms he had drawn was not reproduced as he wanted. He wanted everything to be just right. At one point, he asked that hundreds of thousands of yards of dirt be moved 27 inches to align Complexes 2 and 3.

"I'm not a dogmatic, purist psychopath," he insists. "There's an unfair image of me -- mean, crazy, hostile. I'm really a very gentle person."

FOUR years ago Mr. Heizer got sick. He felt pain in his fingers and toes, which he mistook for frostbite because he had been standing in the cold 12 hours a day working on his sculpture. But

when the pain moved to his shoulders and back, a Medivac helicopter had to fly into the valley and rush him to a doctor, who sent him home and told him he was drinking and smoking too much. The doctor prescribed Tylenol. The pain became unbearable. Mr. Heizer went to New York to see a neurologist and collapsed on his way into the hospital.

He nearly died. He had contracted poly neuropathy, a nerve disease, which caused him to lose much of the use of his extremities. His weight plummeted. After therapy, he was able to walk, but he had become pretty much paralyzed on his left side.

He had always been an artist who could operate his own big machinery and build what he wanted himself. Then he found himself in a walker for a year. He still needs a crutch. "At least I'm working again," he said. "I had set out to do this sculpture by myself as a young man. When I got sick I figured that was the end of it."

Last month he turned 55.

YOU shouldn't try calling on Mr. Heizer uninvited. We were talking on the telephone a while back. "A guy called from France," he told me. "He was complaining: 'It's not done yet? How long is it going to take.' And I said I was sorry that I hadn't got it done for him. My God, you don't go into a painter's studio unless he wants you there. I got called by a travel agent who asked where the bus stop was. The project has involved a time reference the art world clearly can't understand."

"I've lived low for 30 years and privacy is now all I ask," he said. "All these rubberneckers show up as if it's entertainment. People fly over the place. This is private property. People presume that I want them to see it. That is a rash presumption. Only one-fifth of the whole job is done. Liability is an issue. The site is dangerous. The work isn't cohesive yet. When I finish Phase 5, O.K."

He suddenly disappeared. Gunshots in the background.

"What was that?" I asked.

"Someone was shooting to scare a coyote away from the sheep," he said.

"Forget my privacy," he continued as if nothing had happened. "It's also about how the work should be seen. I've made it big to make you feel small standing in it. Flying over it squishes the Gestalt. It's supposed to be about a motor-delayed, cumulative observation: you've got to walk around it, climb over it and later put it together in your mind and figure out where you were. It isn't the old convenient art object.

"I think size is the most unused quotient in the sculptor's repertoire because it requires lots of commitment and time. To me it's the best tool. With size you get space and atmosphere: atmosphere becomes volume. You stand in the shape, in the zone."

I woke up at dawn one day to see "City." It looked like a vast, empty stadium, sleek and expectant. Its surface is a graduated aggregate of reinforced volcanic cinder block, colored to look like

humble dirt. The steles in this light seem like cutouts, stuck on. The landscape being mostly obscured to someone standing in the pit, the mountain ridge in the distance appears only in the spaces between the complexes. The surrounding landscape isn't the point, Mr. Heizer insists.

"That's the reason I put my ranch right next door to the sculpture," he says. "I wanted to prove that I am here for the materials, not for the view. I'd have built this thing in New Jersey if it had been possible. All these so-called experts try to say my work is about the West, that's it about the view. They don't know what they're talking about. I came for the space and because it was cheap land. I don't care if you see the mountains. The sculpture is partly open because, rather than put you in a box, I want you to be able to breathe. But I also want to isolate you in it, to contain you in it, like in all my negative sculptures. It's not really different from 'Double Negative.' The sculpture is the issue, not the landscape."

But part of the experience of being in the "City" inevitably involves the isolation of the valley, the light and the weather, which are aspects of the environment. From 80 degrees the previous afternoon, the temperature plummeted to 15 overnight, causing an efflorescence, like frost, to coat parts of the complexes, whose masses were shimmering gray silhouettes in the half-light. When the sun rose, daylight fell gradually over different parts of the complexes. They were so big that the sun didn't seem to strike them equally all at once, which was part of Mr. Heizer's intent. Time is an element, as it is in other projects in the land, like "Lightning Field" and James Turrell's "Roden Crater," in Arizona, another long-delayed sculpture lately revived with help from the Lannan Foundation.

The first men from the construction crew arrived by 7:15. They drive 90 miles through the mountains -- it's a dirt road, the old Denver-San Francisco stagecoach route -- then reverse the trip at night. This morning they were completing concrete runoffs for water on Complexes 2 and 3. They steered one of the cement mixers through the pit past Complex 3. The contrast of size between the mixer and the sculpture made the truck look like a marble in a shoe box.

HEIZERS have lived in Nevada since the 1880's. One grandfather, Ott F. Heizer, was a mining engineer, the other, Olaf P. Jenkins, was the chief geologist for California. State maps in California are still named after him. Robert F. Heizer, Mr. Heizer's father, was an archaeologist from Lovelock, Nev., who taught at the University of California, Berkeley. He specialized in the Great Basin, in California and in the Yucatan. He also worked in Egypt, Bolivia and Peru. He was writing a book about the ancient transport of massive stones when he died.

You can't understand Michael Heizer without remembering what his father and grandfather did. At the root of his art are archaeology, geology and anthropology. About the idea behind the steles on Complex 2, he says, "One source is a verbal description in a book by my dad about La Venta in the Yucatan." La Venta was an Olmec ceremonial complex. The book has drawings of excavated stones shaped like Mr. Heizer's sculptures, with complexes of structures like the "City." He says that the forms are not directly lifted from the book, but had generally been on his mind as abstract shapes. His sculptures also allude to American-Indian tumuli, or burial mounds, and to the

mastaba that was originally on top of Zoser's tomb at Saqqara in Egypt, where he went with his father.

He volunteered a childhood story: when he was 6, he says, without permission he made a city out of wire, cans, glass and rocks on a hill beside his school, which the school janitor destroyed but the principal allowed him to rebuild.

He spent a year in high school, in France, then quit. His father took him to Mexico when he was 12 and to Peru and Bolivia when he was 18. He made drawings of the sites. He learned about, but never saw, the famous ancient Peruvian Nazca Lines, which he says had nothing to do with his "Dye" paintings or "Depressions," although he acknowledges that he was influenced by similar gravel lines, made by other ancient peoples, along the Colorado River in Arizona. "Really I was interested in taking Pollock a step further," he said. "I wasn't an academic looking in books for ideas. But I educated myself about historical work that was similar to mine, to provide a frame of reference that wasn't the usual frame of reference of the New York art world and Europe."

Briefly he took classes at the San Francisco Art Institute. In 1966, at 21, he moved to Manhattan and found a loft on Mercer Street in what was coming to be known as SoHo. Carl Andre, Dan Flavin, Walter De Maria, Tony Smith and Frank Stella were artists of the moment, and they became his friends and acquaintances. They spoke a language of reduction, geometry and elementary forms. John Chamberlain was making sculptures out of crushed cars. Mr. Heizer particularly admired their "toughness," he says. He's averse to the idea of influence: "My formative years were over by the time I arrived in New York. I was already making statements. I wasn't looking around for influences." He uses the word affinity. "I'd say, if anybody's work had an affinity with mine, it's Tony's and Carl's and Walter's."

Mr. Heizer would like to redo people's perceptions of the past in more ways than one. About his early sculptures in the desert, he says he recognized at the time and was willing to absorb the fact that nature would gradually overtake them, in the way that ancient sites were altered over time, but these days he makes a point of saying that he was never altogether happy with the deterioration: "Climate affected my early works and I accepted and studied it, but I'm resistant to it now." He says he wants to redo the deteriorating trenches of "Double Negative" in an obdurate concrete mixture, returning it to its pristine condition forever. "It will have had too short a career if it disappears."

A model of his plans for the rest of "City" are in his studio: a long clay model of abstract blocks, myriad shapes, like obscure board-game pieces, in an eccentric arrangement. The project's remaining four phases, he says, are each as big as the first. Mr. Heizer wants to start on the fifth phase next, meaning with the sculptures at the opposite end from Complexes 1, 2 and 3, a mile away, to define the perimeter of the entire project. If nothing else, that would create an enclosure. But he seems to believe that he can actually finish the whole project in the next five years, if the flow of money remains steady.

Does he feel isolated in the desert, working on his sculpture decade after decade? "Nevada is the only place for me that's home," he says, then adds: "I'm a committed professional, and I would go anywhere to pursue this line of work. I'm not living here because of lifestyle. I'm here because New York is expensive and limiting.

"I've always planned to get old someday and crawl back into my studio and paint. That's still the idea. But I'm making sculpture now, and for a sculptor like me it's impossible to build big works in New York. It's too expensive. I need cranes. I operate in the 20-ton minimum range.

"I don't work with scale," he adds. "I work with size. Scale is an effete art term."

"If I screw up out here," he says, "I know it will be big time. I'm going to go down in flames."

Photos: Michael Heizer's monumental "City" from different perspectives. The work, one of the most massive of all modern sculptures, is rising far from civilization deep in Nevada. (Tom Vinetz) (pg. 1); Michael Heizer in his huge project "City." When his work outgrew New York City's show space, he went to a place where there's nothing but space. (Peter Lindberg); Workers pouring volcanic-cinder concrete on a stele of Complex 2 at Michael Heizer's "City" in an empty Nevada valley. (Dia Center for the Arts)(pg. 49)

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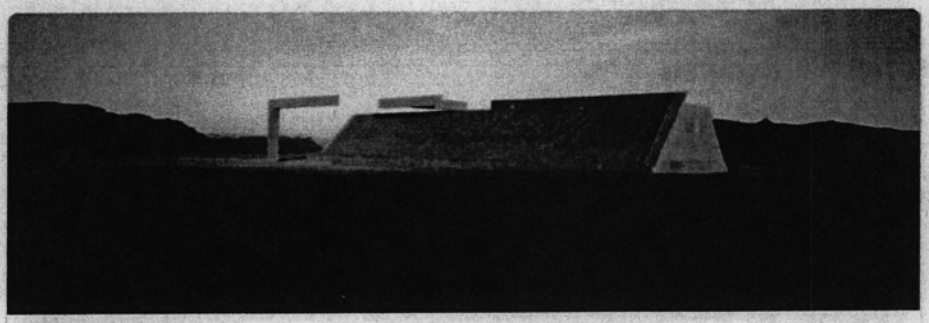
Protect #BasinAndRange, #ProtectCITY

Protect the land, preserve the artwork

by Jackie Feinberg an hour ago 30 Views

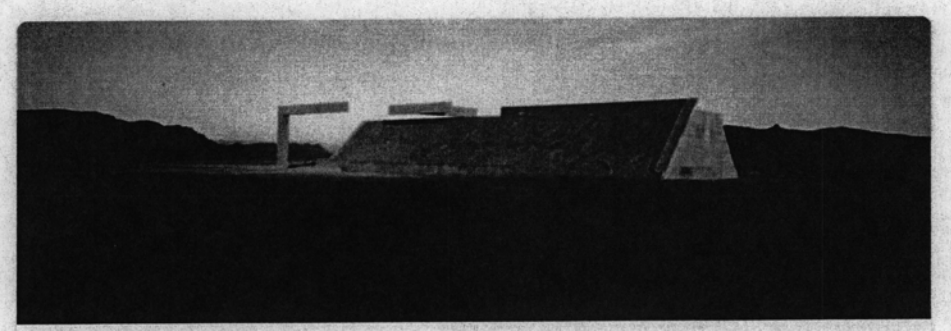


LACMA Follow
@LACMA

Michael Heizer's CITY needs your help: bit.ly/HeizerCITY
Protect the land, preserve the artwork. #ProtectCITY

9:10 AM - 18 Mar 2015

126 RETWEETS **95** FAVORITES



mark lamster Follow
@marklamster

a plea to protect nevada's basin & range and w/ it michael heizer's "city." #protectCITY |
unframed.lacma.org/2015/03/18/pro...

10:23 AM - 18 Mar 2015

6 RETWEETS 5 FAVORITES

ChristopherHawthorne Follow
@HawthorneLAT

.@LACMA is circulating a petition to protect the land surrounding Michael Heizer's "City" in Nevada:
unframed.lacma.org/2015/03/18/pro... ...

10:23 AM - 18 Mar 2015

2 RETWEETS **1** FAVORITE

Phila Museum of Art Follow
@philamuseum

Michael Heizer has been building CITY for 43 years in the NV desert. Preserve land & protect the work: unframed.lacma.org #ProtectCITY

10:50 AM - 18 Mar 2015

10 RETWEETS **13** FAVORITES

LACMA Follow
@LACMA

#protectCITY Sign and share this petition to protect Michael Heizer's art, 43 years in the making: bit.ly/CITYpetition

10:56 AM - 18 Mar 2015

23 RETWEETS **14** FAVORITES

The ICA/Boston Follow
@ICAinBOSTON

Stand with us to protect invaluable Native American artifacts and Michael Heizer's monumental CITY: bit.ly/HeizerCITY #ProtectCITY

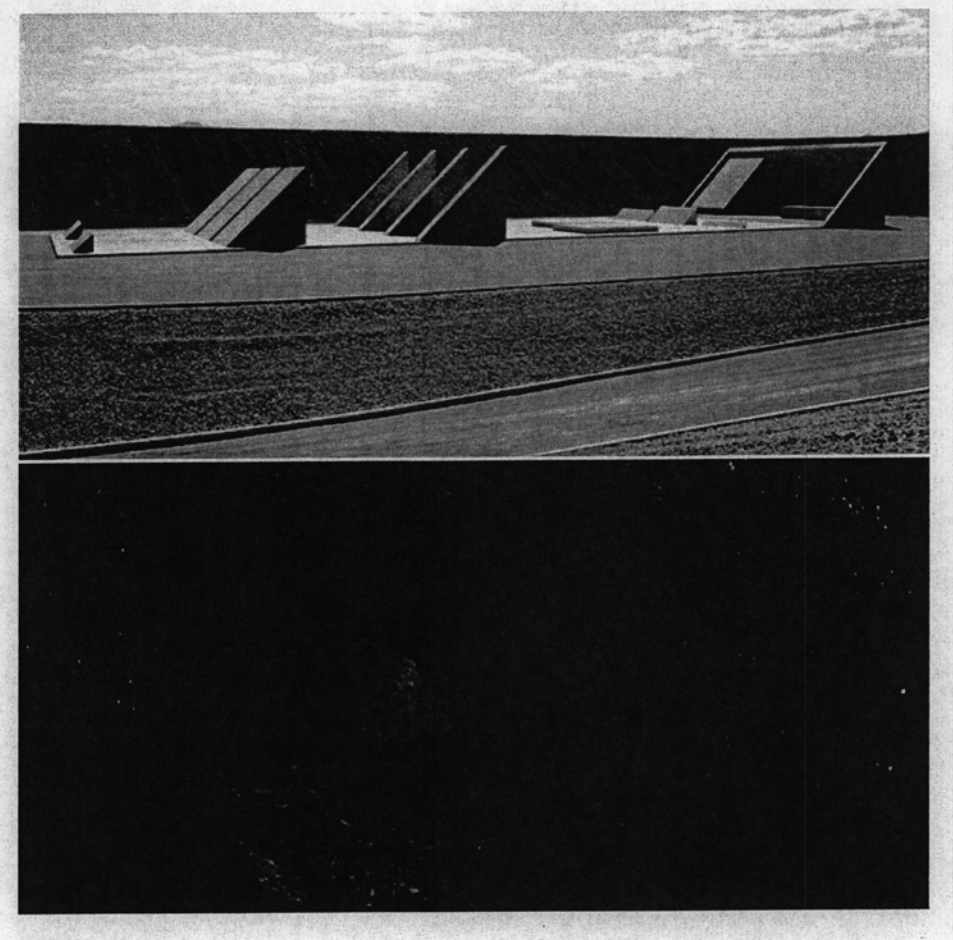
11:13 AM - 18 Mar 2015

3 RETWEETS **4** FAVORITES

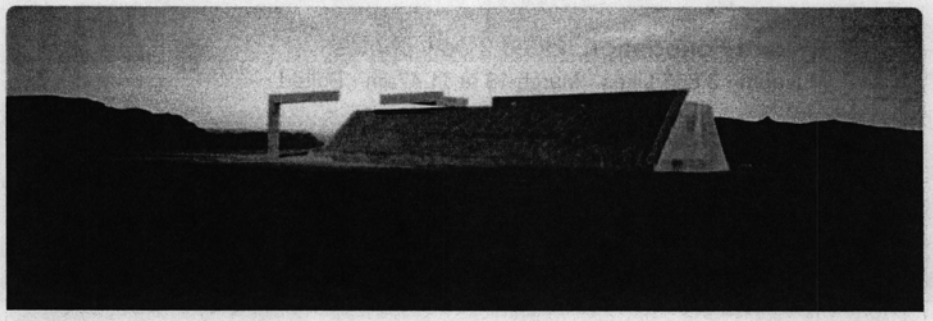
The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston
added 2 new photos.
Art Museum · 51,970 Likes · March 18 at 11:28am ·

Like Page

Stand with us to protect the Nevada desert landscape that houses invaluable Native American artifacts & Michael Heizer's CITY, a monumental sculpture 43 years in the making. Sign the petition today! #ProtectCITY #BasinandRange http://unframed.lacma.org/…/03/18/protect-michael-heizers-c…



Unlike · Share · 10



Michael Seman Follow
@michaelseman

Been waiting years to see it... || @LACMA: Michael Heizer's CITY needs your help: bit.ly/HeizerCITY #ProtectCITY

11:38 AM - 18 Mar 2015

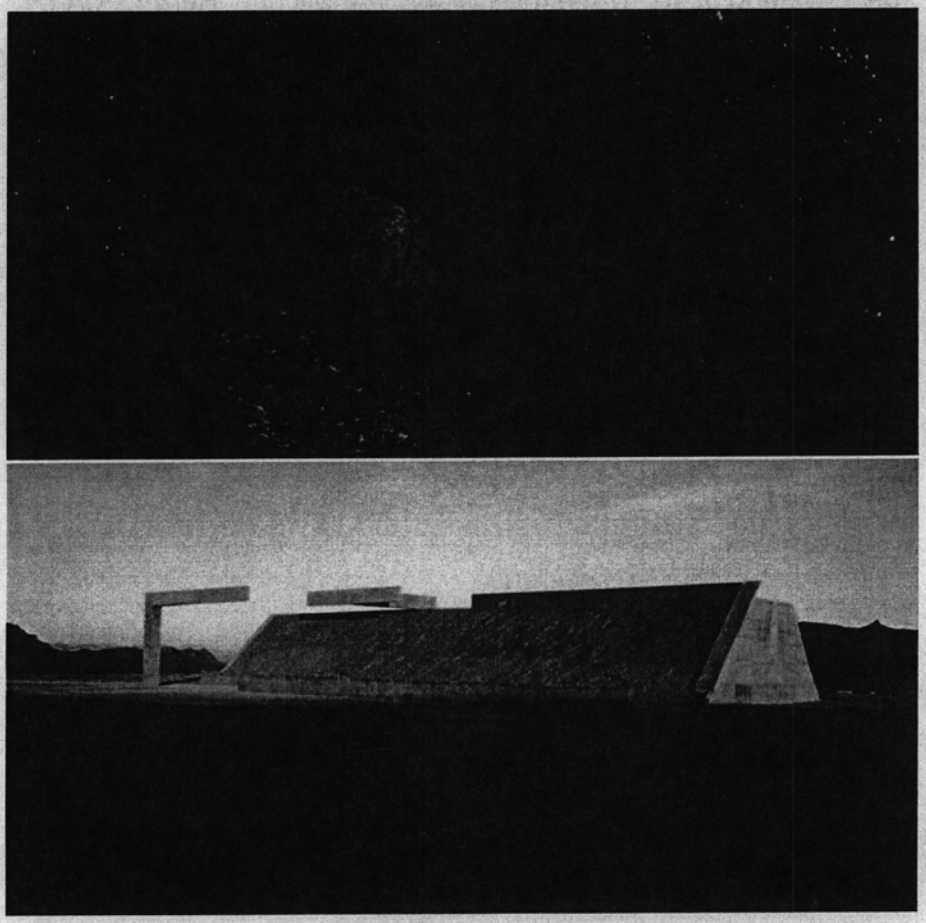
1 RETWEET **1** FAVORITE

Chinati Foundation added 2 new photos. Like Page
Museum · 3,865 Likes · March 18 at 11:47am · Edited ·

The Nevada desert contains the traces of ancient Native American culture, including rock art dating back thousands of years. It also holds one of the most significant works of art made by a living artist, Michael Heizer's CITY. This land needs to be protected, and you can help:
https://www.facebook.com/protectbasinan.../app_335652843138116

#ProtectCITY

#BasinandRange



Unlike · Share · 46 1 4

Chinati Foundation Follow
@ChinatiFndn

Chinati supports protecting relationship between art and its surrounding land. Preserve #BasinandRange #ProtectCITY unframed.lacma.org/2015/03/18/pro...

12:03 PM - 18 Mar 2015

7 RETWEETS **8** FAVORITES

Chinati Foundation Follow
@ChinatiFndn

From ancient Native American rock paintings to Michael Heizer's CITY, #BasinandRange needs to be protected. Help: facebook.com/protectbasinan...

12:04 PM - 18 Mar 2015

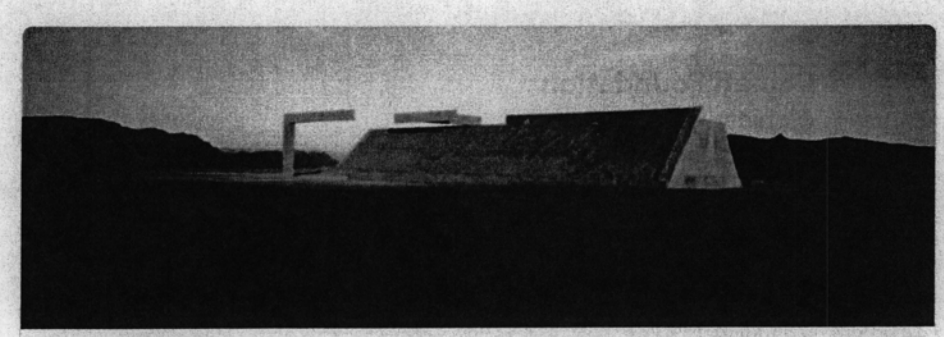
2 RETWEETS **1** FAVORITE

charlotte burns Follow
@charlieburns

Museums unite in campaign to save Michael Heizer's massive land art project, City #protectCITY theartnewspaper.com/articles/Museu...

12:30 PM - 18 Mar 2015

2 RETWEETS **1** FAVORITE

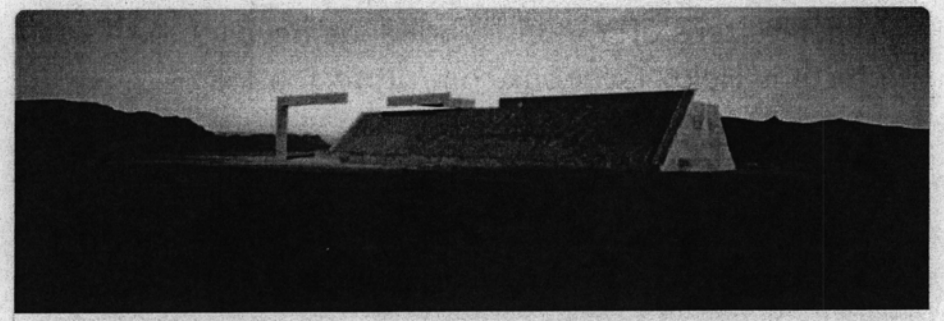


SFMOMA Follow
@SFMOMA

Museums are coming together to #ProtectCITY—Michael Heizer's magnum opus needs your help bit.ly/HeizerCITY

12:43 PM - 18 Mar 2015

21 RETWEETS **18** FAVORITES

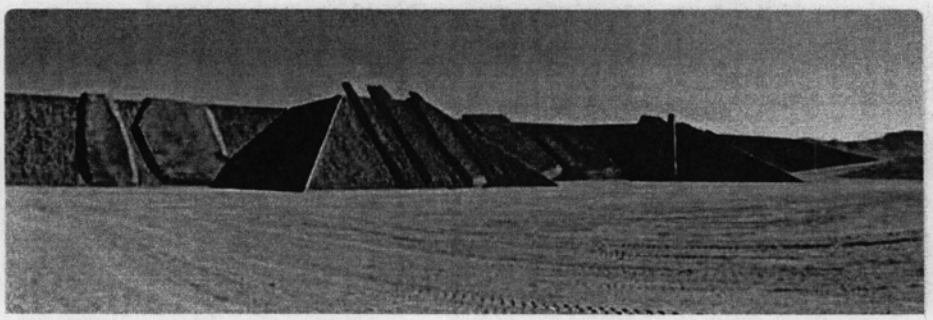


New Museum Follow
@newmuseum

Museums are coming together to #ProtectCITY—Michael Heizer's magnum opus needs your help bit.ly/HeizerCITY

12:45 PM - 18 Mar 2015

20 RETWEETS **14** FAVORITES



The Art Newspaper
@TheArtNewspaper
Follow

Museums unite in campaign to save massive land art project, Michael Heizer's 'City' bit.ly/1O6yWrM

12:46 PM - 18 Mar 2015

23 RETWEETS **13** FAVORITES

SFMOMA
@SFMOMA
Follow

#ProtectCITY and preserve the land around it from being developed for military or waste purposes. Sign this petition bit.ly/CITYpetition

12:47 PM - 18 Mar 2015

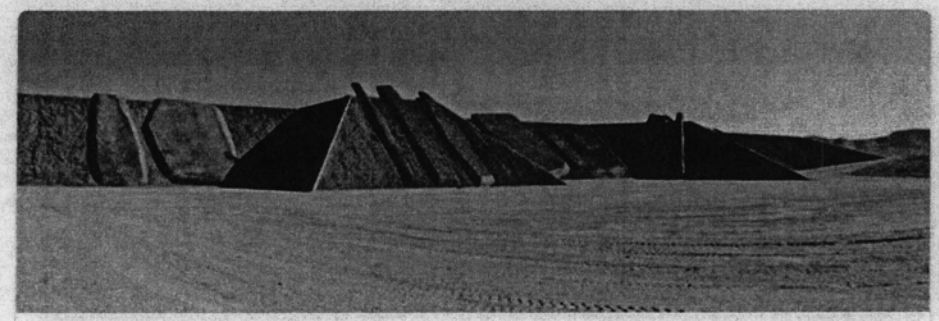
2 RETWEETS **3** FAVORITES

Matthew Goudeau
@MisterGoudeau
Follow

From ancient Native American paintings to Michael Heizer's CITY,
#BasinandRange needs to be protected
unframed.lacma.org/2015/03/18/pro... #ProtectCITY

12:54 PM - 18 Mar 2015

2 RETWEETS **1** FAVORITE

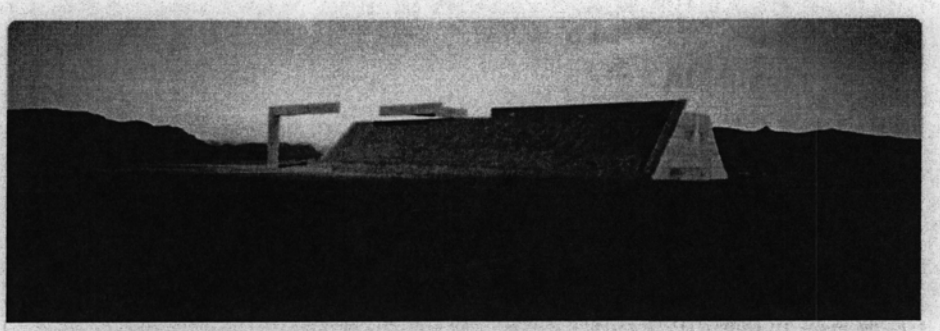


Art Museum Directors Follow
@MuseumDirectors

#ProtectCITY, Michael Heizer's land art work, & the land around it. More info & petition: bit.ly/HeizerCITY

12:57 PM - 18 Mar 2015

11 RETWEETS **4** FAVORITES



CMMOMA Follow
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Museums are coming together to #ProtectCITY—Michael Heizer's magnum opus needs your help bit.ly/HeizerCITY

1:08 PM - 18 Mar 2015

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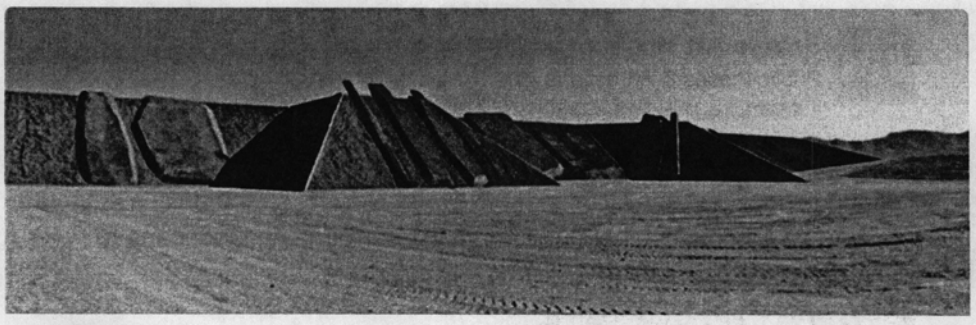
#ProtectCITY and preserve the land around it from being developed for military or waste purposes. Sign this petition bit.ly/CITYpetition

1:08 PM - 18 Mar 2015



LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art
with Óscar Leo
Art Museum · 237,481 Likes · March 18 at 1:09pm ·

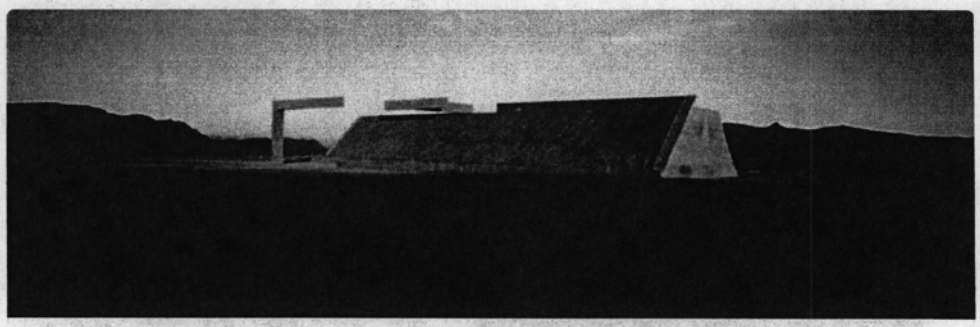
Like Page

Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he has created over the last 43 years. The land surrounding Heizer's sculpture has faced numerous threats of development into military testing and nuclear waste sites. Help protect this area to preserve Heizer's life's work: http://bit.ly/CITYpetition

Learn more: http://bit.ly/HeizerCITY

#ProtectCITY #BasinandRange

Unlike · Share · 497 13 123



Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA)
Museum · 7,560 Likes · March 18 at 1:18pm · Edited ·

Like Page

Museums are banding together to bring attention to an important issue facing Michael Heizer's CITY in the Nevada Desert. As the artist's magnum opus nears completion, help us protect the surrounding landscape to preserver its natural setting. http://bit.ly/CITYpetition

#ProtectCITY #BasinandRange

Michael Heizer, City, photo by Tom Vinetz, © Triple Aught Foundation

Like · Share · 10

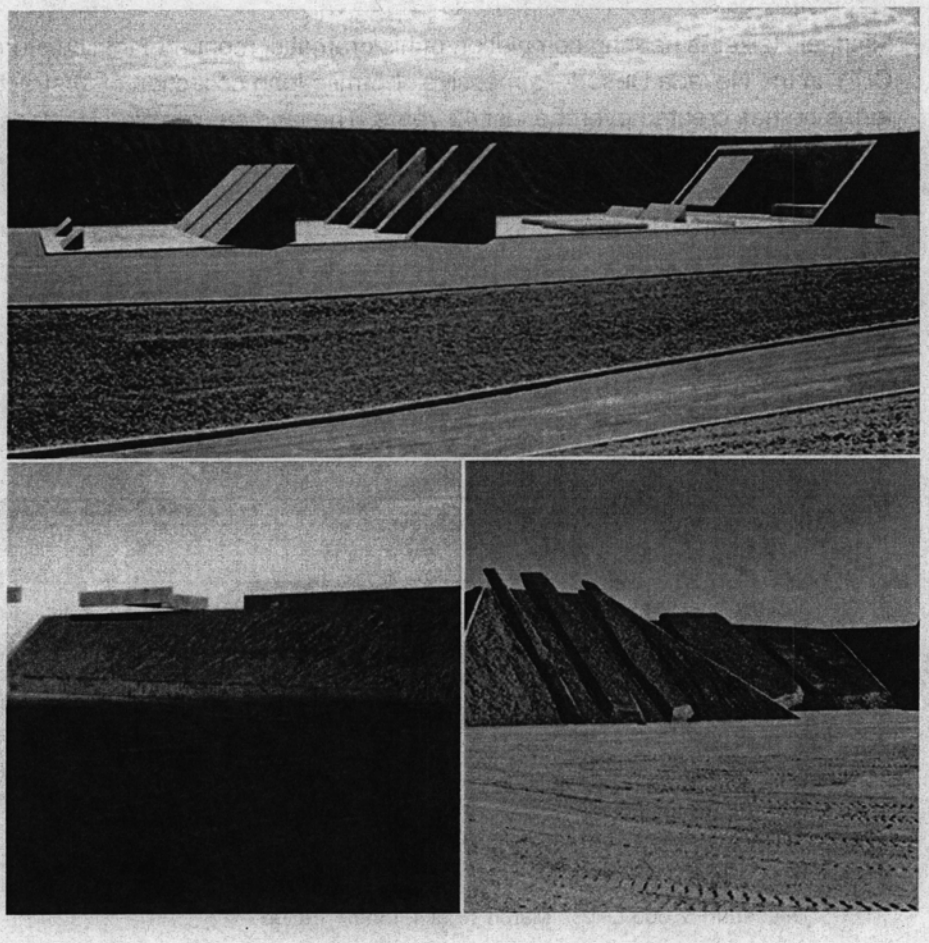
Seattle Art Museum added 3 new photos.
Public Places & Attractions · 75,937 Likes · March 18 at 1:44pm ·

Like Page

Museums are banding together to bring attention to an important issue facing Michael Heizer's CITY in the Nevada Desert. As the artist's magnum opus nears completion, help us protect the surrounding landscape to preserve its natural setting: http://bit.ly/HeizerCITY

#ProtectCITY #BasinandRange

Artwork credit: Michael Heizer, City, photo by Tom Vinetz, © Triple Aught Foundation... See More



Like · Share · 17

SAM Follow
@iheartSAM

@LACMA proud to be a part of the #ProtectCITY campaign. RT'ed! #BasinandRange

1:36 PM - 18 Mar 2015

1 RETWEET **1** FAVORITE

Association of Art Museum Directors added 6 new photos.

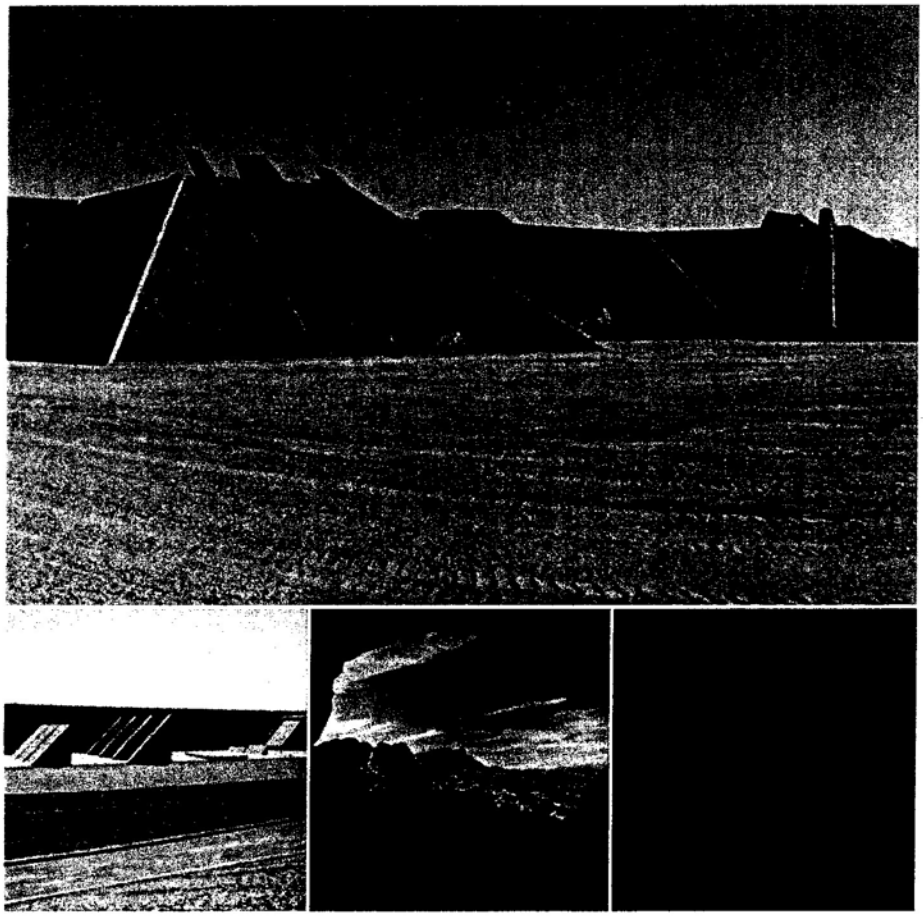
Like Page

Non-Profit Organization · 1,691 Likes · March 18 at 2:08pm

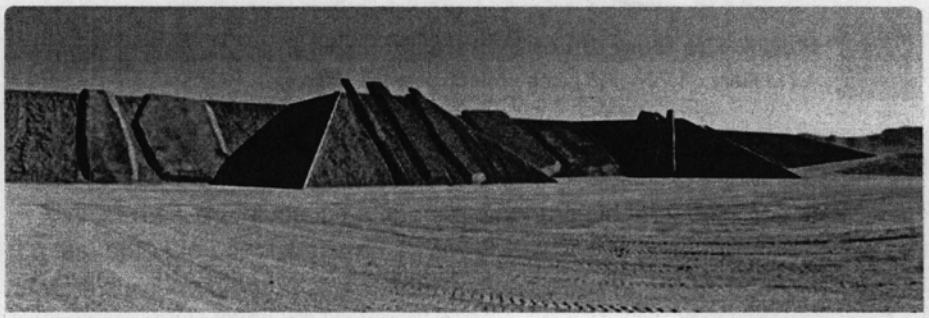
Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he has developed over the last 43 years.

The Nevada desert in this area contains the traces of ancient Native American culture, including rock art dating back thousands of years.

This land has faced numerous threats of development into military testing and nuclear waste sites. Stand with us and others to protect this land!... See More



Like · Share · 7 19



Museum of Modern Art Follow
@MuseumModernArt

Michael Heizer has been building CITY for 43 years in the NV desert. Preserve & #ProtectCITY: bit.ly/HeizerCITY

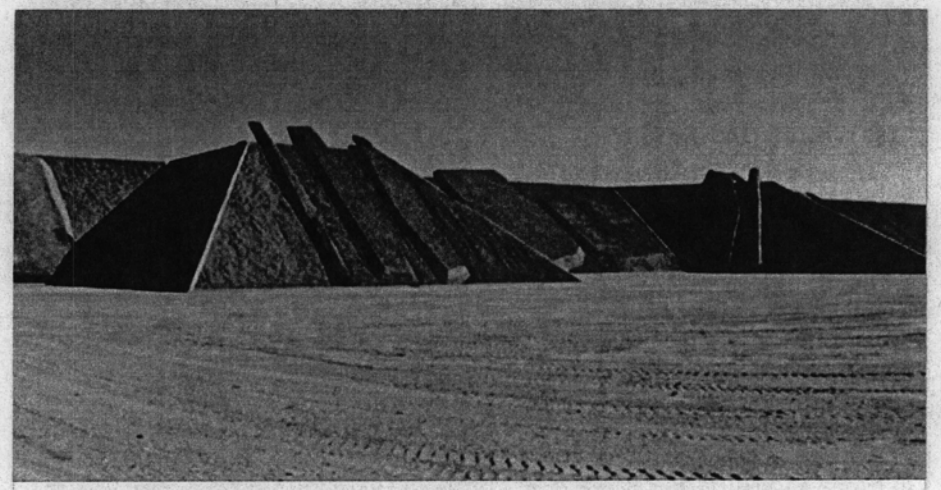
2:20 PM - 18 Mar 2015

152 RETWEETS **146** FAVORITES

MoMA The Museum of Modern Art
Art Gallery · 1,704,468 Likes · March 18 at 2:23pm ·

Like Page

Museums are banding together to bring attention to an important issue facing artist Michael Heizer's sculpture "CITY" in the Nevada Desert. Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he has developed over the last 43 years. The land surrounding Heizer's sculpture has faced numerous threats of development into military testing and nuclear waste sites. Help protect this area to preserve Heizer's life's work. http://bit.ly/HeizerCITY #ProtectCITY #BasinandRange



Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and...

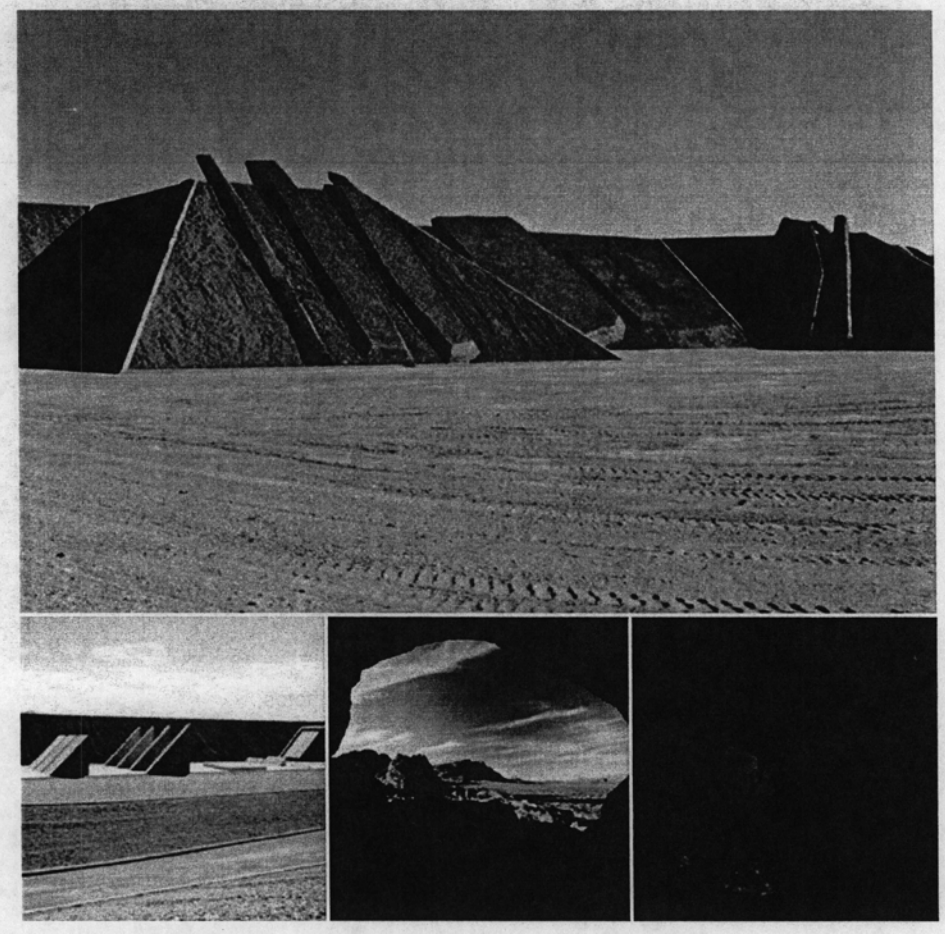
UNFRAMED.LACMA.ORG

Like · Share · 296 3 49

SITE Santa Fe shared Association of Art Museum Directors's post.
Art Museum · 7,023 Likes · March 18 at 2:25pm ·

Like Page

Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he has developed over the last 43 years.
The Nevada desert in this area contains the traces of ancient Native American culture, including rock art dating back thousands of years.
This land has faced numerous threats of development into military testing and nuclear waste sites. Stand with us and others to protect this land!
#ProtectCITY #BasinandRange
More information, from LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art: http://bit.ly/HeizerCITY
Sign the Petition: http://bit.ly/CITYpetition



Association of Art Museum Directors added 6 new photos.

Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he ha...

See More

Like · Share · 11

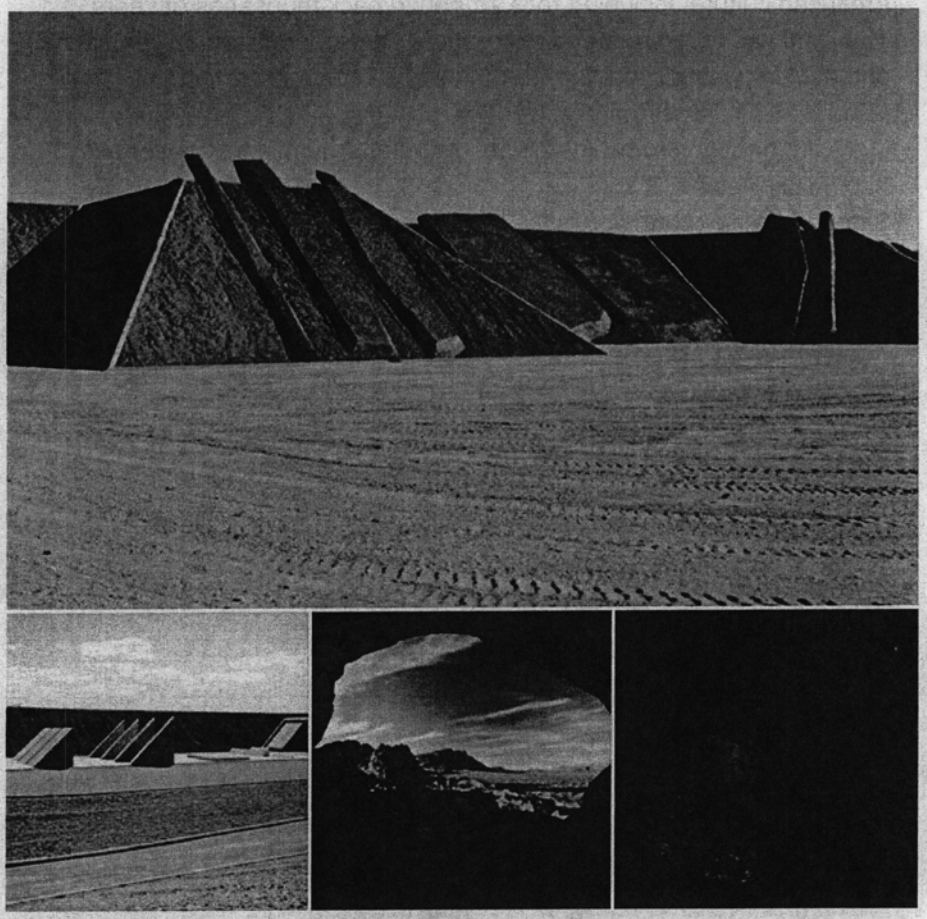
Protect Nevada shared Association of Art Museum Directors's post.

Liked

Community · 1,056 Likes · March 18 at 2:57pm ·

Thank you to all the Museums and museum organizations for are coming together to #ProtectCITY—Michael Heizer's beautiful sculpture!

You can help by signing this petition to protect Heizer's City - bit.ly/BasinandRange



Association of Art Museum Directors added 6 new photos.

Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he ha...

See More

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Dallas Museum of Art Follow
@DallasMuseumArt

Museums are coming together to #ProtectCITY -- Michael Heizer's magnum opus needs your help. bit.ly/HeizerCITY

3:04 PM - 18 Mar 2015

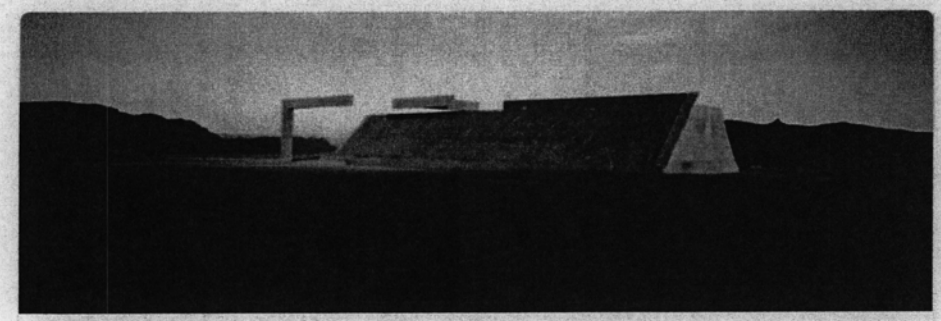
8 RETWEETS **3** FAVORITES

LACMA Follow
@LACMA

#BasinandRange not only would #protectCITY but also Native Am. rock art, 1000s of years old: bit.ly/CITYpetition

3:45 PM - 18 Mar 2015

17 RETWEETS **21** FAVORITES



CMMOMA
@CMMOMA
Follow

Museums are coming together to #ProtectCITY—Michael Heizer's magnum opus needs your help bit.ly/HeizerCITY

4:07 PM - 18 Mar 2015

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#ProtectCITY and preserve the land around it from being developed for military or waste purposes. Sign this petition bit.ly/CITYpetition

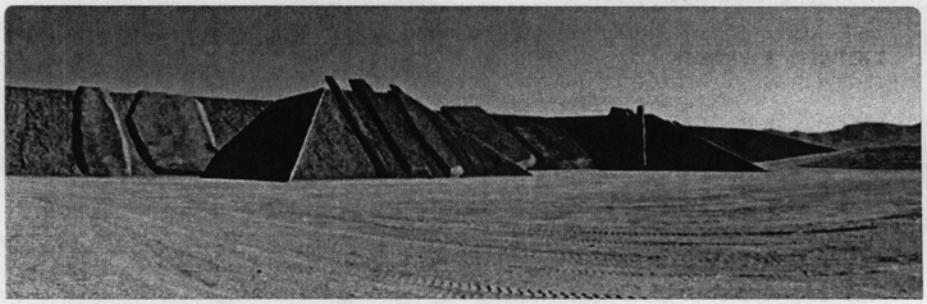
4:07 PM - 18 Mar 2015

1 RETWEET

Protect Our Public Lands shared LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art's photo.
Environmental Conservation · 6,941 Likes · March 18 at 4:15pm ·

Liked

Some of the most impressive art to be found in Basin and Range is just a few decades old. See why museums across the country are joining the effort to protect this stunning landscape.



LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art with Óscar Leo

Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he ha...

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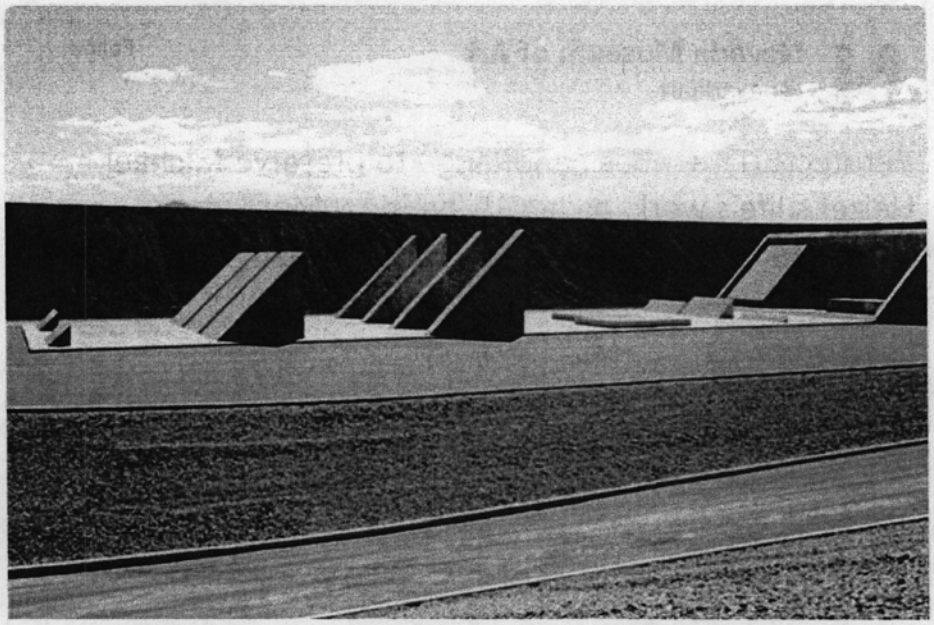


Curbed
@Curbed

Follow

Everything you need to know about the preservation battle over Michael Heizer's earth art. curbed.com/archives/2015/...

4:18 PM - 18 Mar 2015

3 RETWEETS

Drew Tewksbury Follow
@drewtewksbury

The area near artist Michael Heizer's huge sculptural "City" almost became a missile site. Help protect it: bit.ly/CITYpetition @lacma

4:40 PM - 18 Mar 2015

1 RETWEET **1** FAVORITE

Center for A+E Follow
@nevadaartcae

Located in Garden Valley, Nevada, Michael Heizer's CITY is one of the most significant works of art in the United... fb.me/40sWNWdCz

4:48 PM - 18 Mar 2015

2 RETWEETS

Nevada Museum of Art Follow
@nevadaart

#ProtectCITY + #BasinandRange to preserve Michael Heizer's life's work: bit.ly/CITYpetition. More via @LACMA: bit.ly/HeizerCITY

4:50 PM - 18 Mar 2015

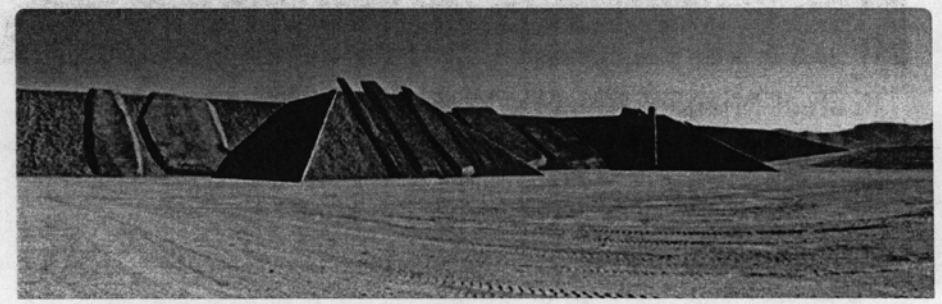
5 RETWEETS **2** FAVORITES

Center for Art + Environment shared LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art's photo.
Art Museum · 1,219 Likes · March 18 at 4:48pm ·

Like Page

Located in Garden Valley, Nevada, Michael Heizer's CITY is one of the most significant works of art in the United States. Begun by Heizer in 1972, the project is now in its final stage of completion. It will, in the future, be accessible by the public. The area surrounding CITY has been under threat.

Now you can take action to help preserve Basin and Range, protecting not only Heizer's life's work but also ancient lithic scatters, early Native American trails, and rock art dating back thousands of years as well as wildlife unique to the area and important geologic features: http://bit.ly/CITYpetition
Learn more: http://bit.ly/HeizerCITY
#ProtectCITY #BasinandRange



LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art with Óscar Leo

Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his dramatic, monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert—a massive, 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms he ha...

See More

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Hinterculture
Organization · 108 Likes · March 18 at 5:15pm ·

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Land art monument.

Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and...

UNFRAMED.LACMA.ORG

Like · Share ·

The Autry
@TheAutry

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Post from @LACMA explores the cultural & scientific ramifications of #BasinandRange and the effort to #protectCITY: bit.ly/1BQUwKB

5:24 PM - 18 Mar 2015

3 RETWEETS

ForYourArt
Arts/Humanities Website · 10,195 Likes · March 18 at 5:35pm ·

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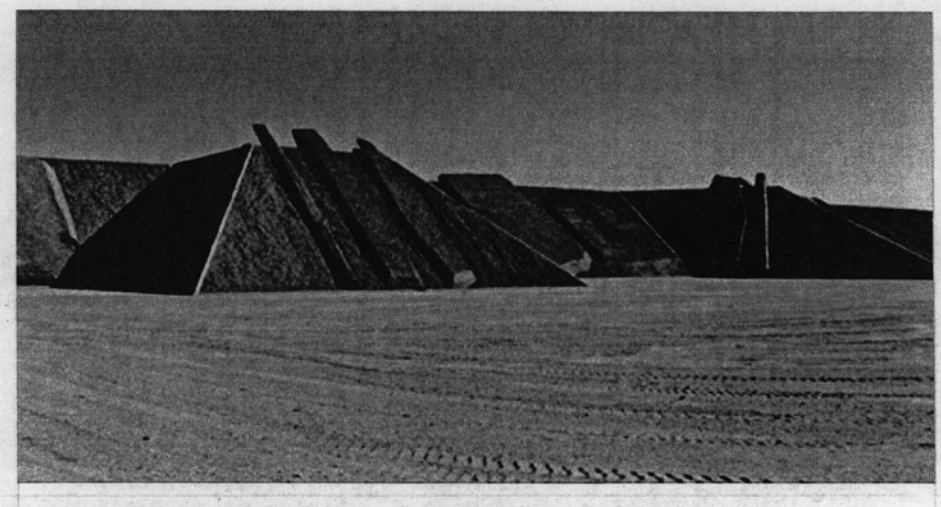
#protectCity by protecting this land from future development: http://bit.ly/CITYpetition



Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and...

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Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego
Art Museum · 22,590 Likes · March 18 at 6:26pm ·

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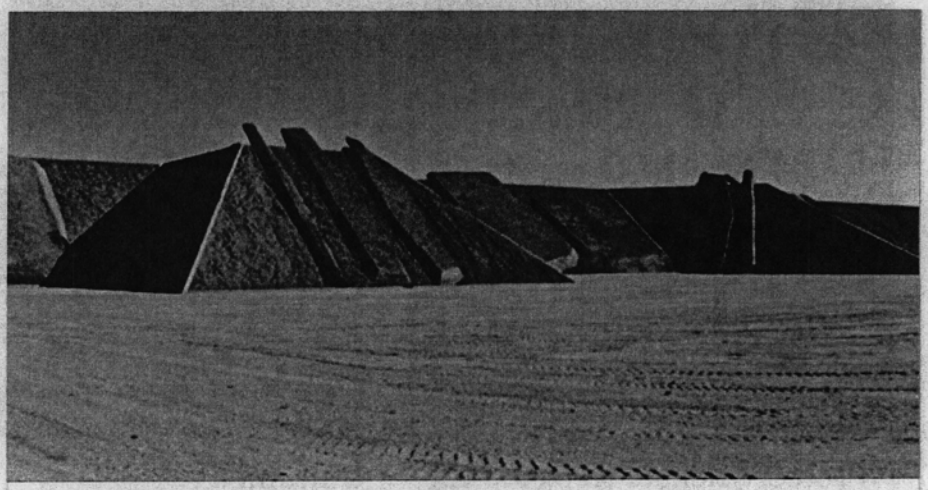
Museums are banding together to bring attention to an important issue facing Michael Heizer's CITY in the Nevada Desert. As the artist's magnum opus nears completion, help us protect the surrounding landscape to preserve its natural setting. #ProtectCITY #BasinandRange



Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and...

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MCASD
@mcasd

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Museums are coming together to #ProtectCITY
—Michael Heizer's magnum opus needs your help.
@LACMA bit.ly/1932SnT

6:24 PM - 18 Mar 2015

3 RETWEETS

MOCA Follow
@MOCAlosangeles

Michael Heizer's magnum opus—and the surrounding Nevada desert—are in danger. #ProtectCITY and #BasinandRange: bit.ly/CITYpetition

8:36 PM - 18 Mar 2015

4 RETWEETS **1** FAVORITE

scott tennent Follow
@sctttnnnt

LRTs: been a busy couple days @LACMA hq. 20 US museums posted re #ProtectCITY today. (See also FB, Instagram). bit.ly/CITYpetition

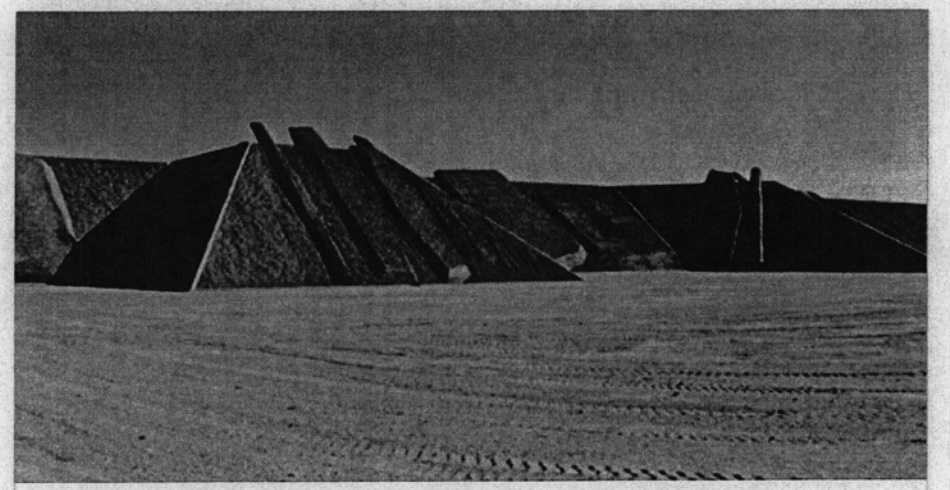
8:42 PM - 18 Mar 2015

The Broad
Art Museum · 3,040 Likes · March 18 at 9:44pm ·

Like Page

Land artist Michael Heizer is nearing completion of his monumental sculpture CITY in the Nevada Desert. Begun by Heizer in 1972, the massive work is made up of a 1.5-mile-long collection of abstract forms. The land surrounding Heizer's sculpture has faced numerous threats of development into military testing and nuclear waste sites. Learn more about an initiative to protect this area and to preserve Heizer's life's work on LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Unframed post below.

#ProtectCITY #BasinandRange



Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and...

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Phoenix Art Museum shared LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art's photo.
Art Museum · 42,192 Likes · March 18 at 11:43pm ·

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This is important for the Southwest. Be sure to click the links: http://bit.ly/CITYpetition

Learn more: http://bit.ly/HeizerCITY

#ProtectCITY #BasinandRange

LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art with Óscar Leo

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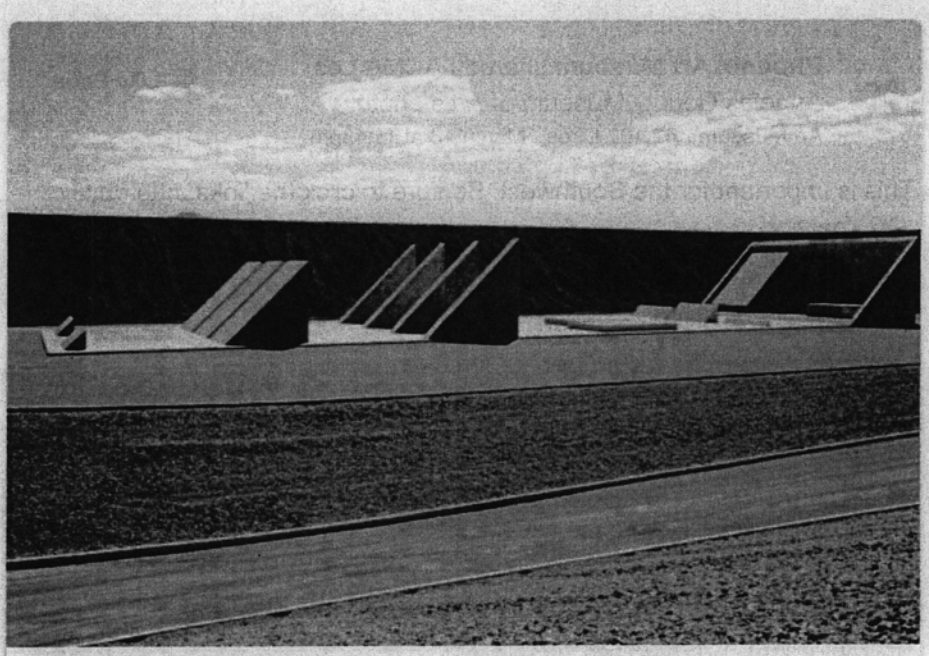


Carolina A. Miranda Follow
@cmonstah

Keep the land around Michael Heizer's Nevada land art piece "City" from becoming missile site: unframed.lacma.org/2015/03/18/pro...

8:04 AM - 19 Mar 2015

5 RETWEETS **14** FAVORITES

London Art News Follow
@londonartnews

Museums unite in campaign to save massive land art project ift.tt/1FAG6AU Nevada Desert site around Michael Heizer's City is unde...

8:34 AM - 19 Mar 2015

New Museum Follow
@newmuseum

Michael Heizer has been building CITY for 43 yrs in the NV desert. Preserve the land & protect the work bit.ly/CITYpetition #ProtectCITY

9:34 AM - 19 Mar 2015

6 RETWEETS **5** FAVORITES

Malibu Arts Journal Follow
@BuArtsJournal

Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed fb.me/1GNsuYfbP

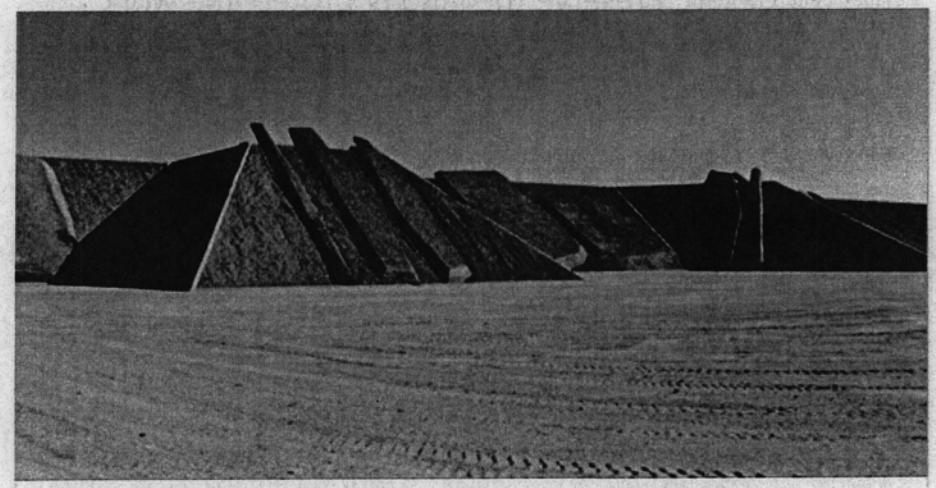
9:39 AM - 19 Mar 2015

Protect Basin and Range
Community · 2,353 Likes · Yesterday at 10:21am ·

Liked

Protect the land, preserve the artwork and so much more.

Sign the petition today: actionsprout.io/8C006E



Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and...

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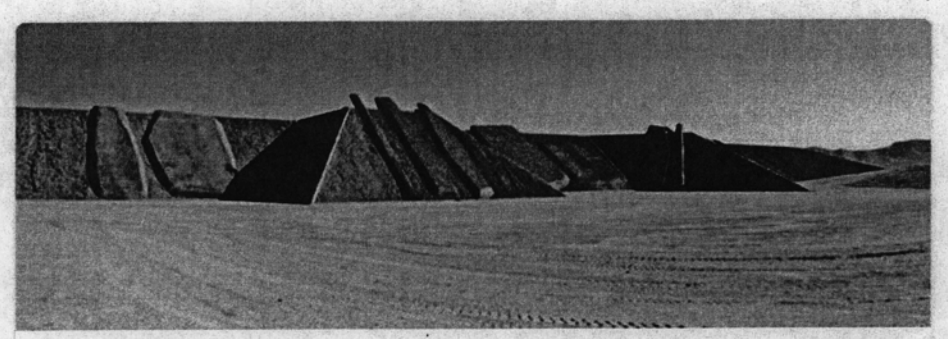

Public Art 4Culture
@pa4culture

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RT @MuseumModernArt: Michael Heizer building CITY for 43 years in the NV desert. #ProtectCITY bit.ly/1F4ftph

12:06 PM - 19 Mar 2015

1 RETWEET

Pasadena Heritage
Non-Profit Organization · 3,286 Likes · Yesterday at 12:16pm ·

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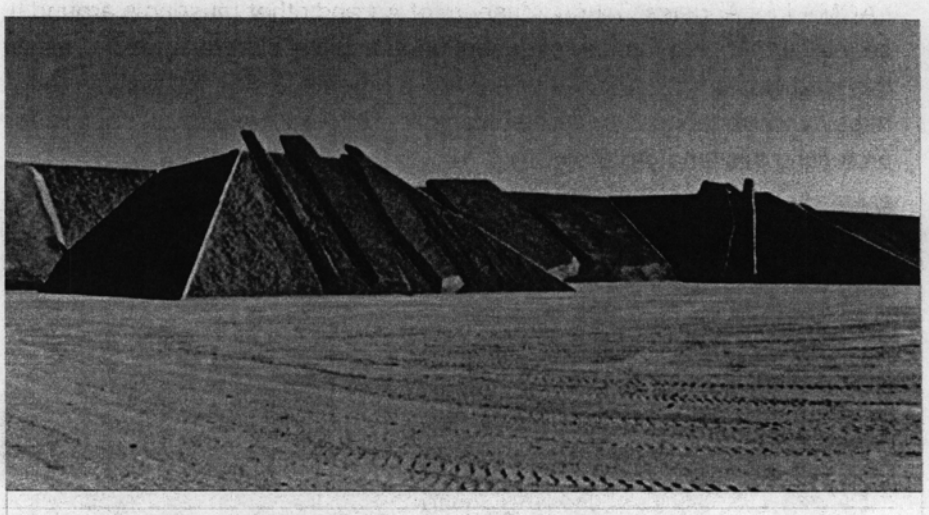
Click through to learn about an unique site where ancient and modern art/architecture vie for preservation together.



Protect Michael Heizer's "City" | Unframed

There has been an ongoing campaign in Nevada in the past few years to get a stretch of land, known as Basin and Range, designated with Monument status. This would preserve the land—which has been threatened in the past—and...

UNFRAMED.LACMA.ORG

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Gagosian Gallery
@Gagosian

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#LatestinNOW? Preserve & #ProtectCity, #MichaelHeizer's significant work in the NV desert. Read more & sign petition. fb.me/2346AX1iY

12:48 PM - 19 Mar 2015

3 RETWEETS **3** FAVORITES

Gagosian Gallery
Museum/Art Gallery · 88,236 Likes · Yesterday at 12:44pm

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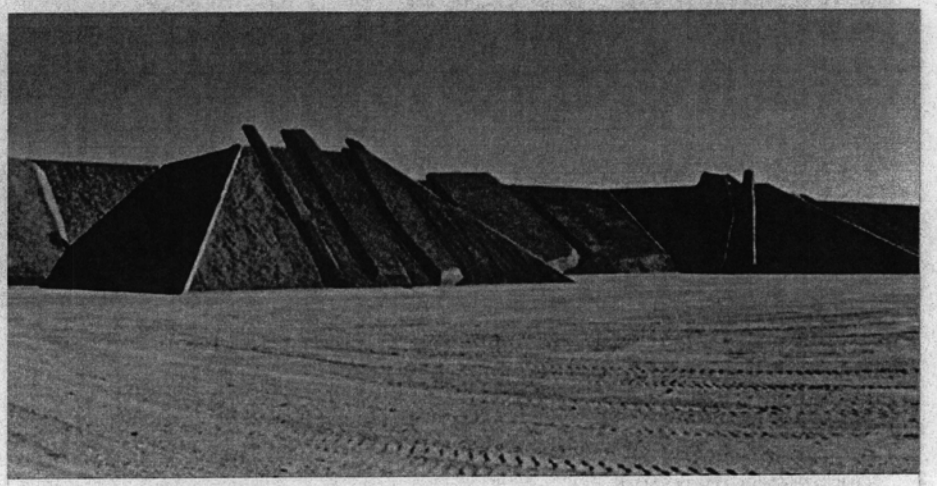
What's the #latestinNOW? As the possibility for protecting Basin and Range, the land surrounding #MichaelHeizer's "City," comes close to a reality, LACMA Los Angeles County Museum of Art and other museums around the country are hoping to bring attention to the positive cultural impact protecting this land would have. Please take a few moments to sign the petition (at https://www.facebook.com/protectbasinandrange) to voice your support for protecting this land. #protectCity



Protect Michael Heizer's "City" - - Gagosian Gallery
Gagosian Now - Protect Michael Heizer's
GAGOSIAN.COM

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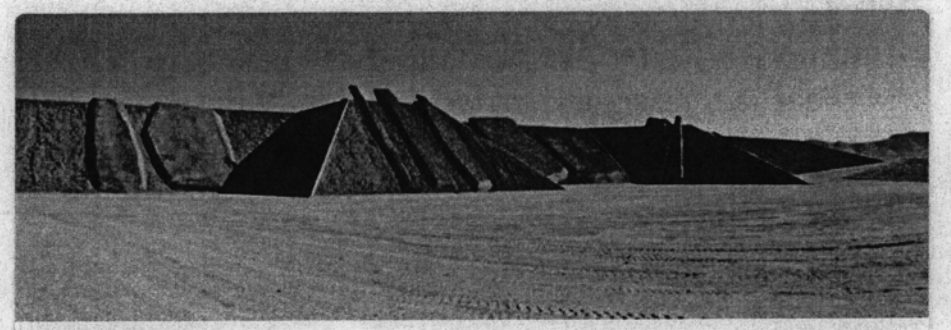

Walker Art Center Follow
@walkerartcenter
Michael Heizer has been building 'City' for 43 years in the Nevada desert. → bit.ly/HeizerCITY #ProtectCITY
1:33 PM - 19 Mar 2015

13 RETWEETS **11** FAVORITES

Archinect
@archinect

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#ProtectCity campaign launched in support of Michael Heizer's "City" arcnct.co/1H5iMK4

7:08 PM - 19 Mar 2015

1 RETWEET **2** FAVORITES

Theneeds Arch&Design
@tn_ArchDesign

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#ProtectCity campaign launched in support of Michael Heizer's... Hot on #theneeds #ArchitectureDesign theneeds.com/read/n7456668/...

8:24 PM - 19 Mar 2015

#ProtectCity campaign launched in support of Michael Heizer's "City"

Located in Garden Valley, Nevada, Michael Heizer's City is one of the most significant works of art in the United States. Begun by Heizer in 1972, the project is now in its final stage of completion....

Theneeds @theneeds

PreservationNation Follow
@PresNation

Group Seeks to Preserve the Desert Around Michael Heizer's Monumental Earth Art savingplac.es/1H2SurK via @Curbed #preservation

8:38 PM - 19 Mar 2015

Group Seeks to Preserve the Desert Around Michael Heizer's Monumental...

'City' by Michael Heizer. Photos by Tom Vinetz/Triple Aught Foundation via LACMA For 43 years, the pioneering "land artist" Michael Heizer has been building massive sculptures made of earthen...

Curbed @Curbed

2 FAVORITES

Phillip Sheppard Follow
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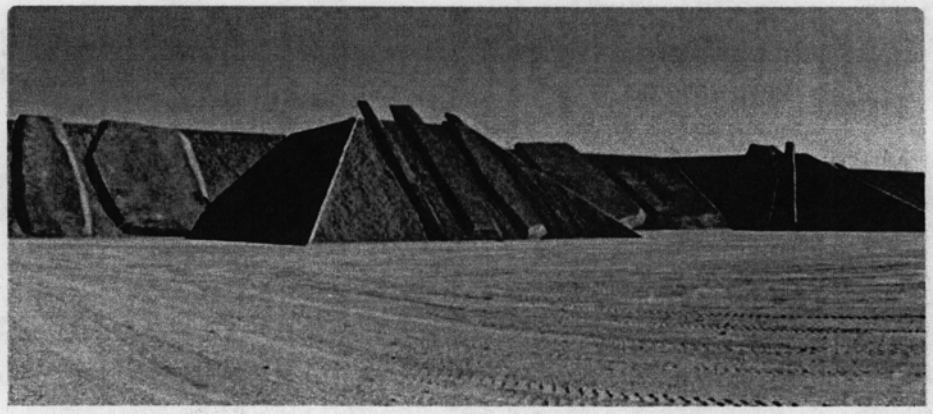
.BasinandRange not only would #protectCITY but also Native Am. rock art, 1000s of years old: bit.ly/CITYpetition

1:13 AM - 20 Mar 2015 Santa Monica, CA, United States

3 RETWEETS **7** FAVORITES



Phaidon
@Phaidon
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Why Michael Heizer's City needs saving before its even finished bit.ly/1OcGh9s #ProtectCITY #BasinandRange

5:42 AM - 20 Mar 2015

9 RETWEETS **10** FAVORITES

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@ArtObserved
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LACMA Calls for Defense of Nevada Desert Site of Michael Heizer's "City"
artobserved.com/2015/03/lacma-...

7:03 AM - 20 Mar 2015

2 RETWEETS

Anne Kellogg
@AnneKellogg_LV
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Be the change. Please sign this petition to protect the wide open Nevada space near Michael Heizer's "City" @LACMA unframed.lacma.org/2015/03/18/pro...

1:14 PM - 20 Mar 2015

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@hyperallergic

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Museums Join Campaign to Preserve Land Art Opus - bit.ly/19Fb9zH @LACMA @MuseumModernArt @ICAinBOSTON @WalkerArtCenter #ProtectCITY

1:30 PM - 20 Mar 2015

Museums Join Campaign to Preserve Land Art Opus

In 1972, the Land Art pioneer Michael Heizer began buying up tracts of land near Nevada's Garden and Coal valleys.

hyperallergic @hyperallergic

5 RETWEETS **3** FAVORITES

The Menil Collection
@MenilCollection

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Museums are coming together to #ProtectCITY —Michael Heizer's magnum opus needs your help. Learn more: bit.ly/HeizerCITY

3:01 PM - 20 Mar 2015

1 RETWEET **1** FAVORITE

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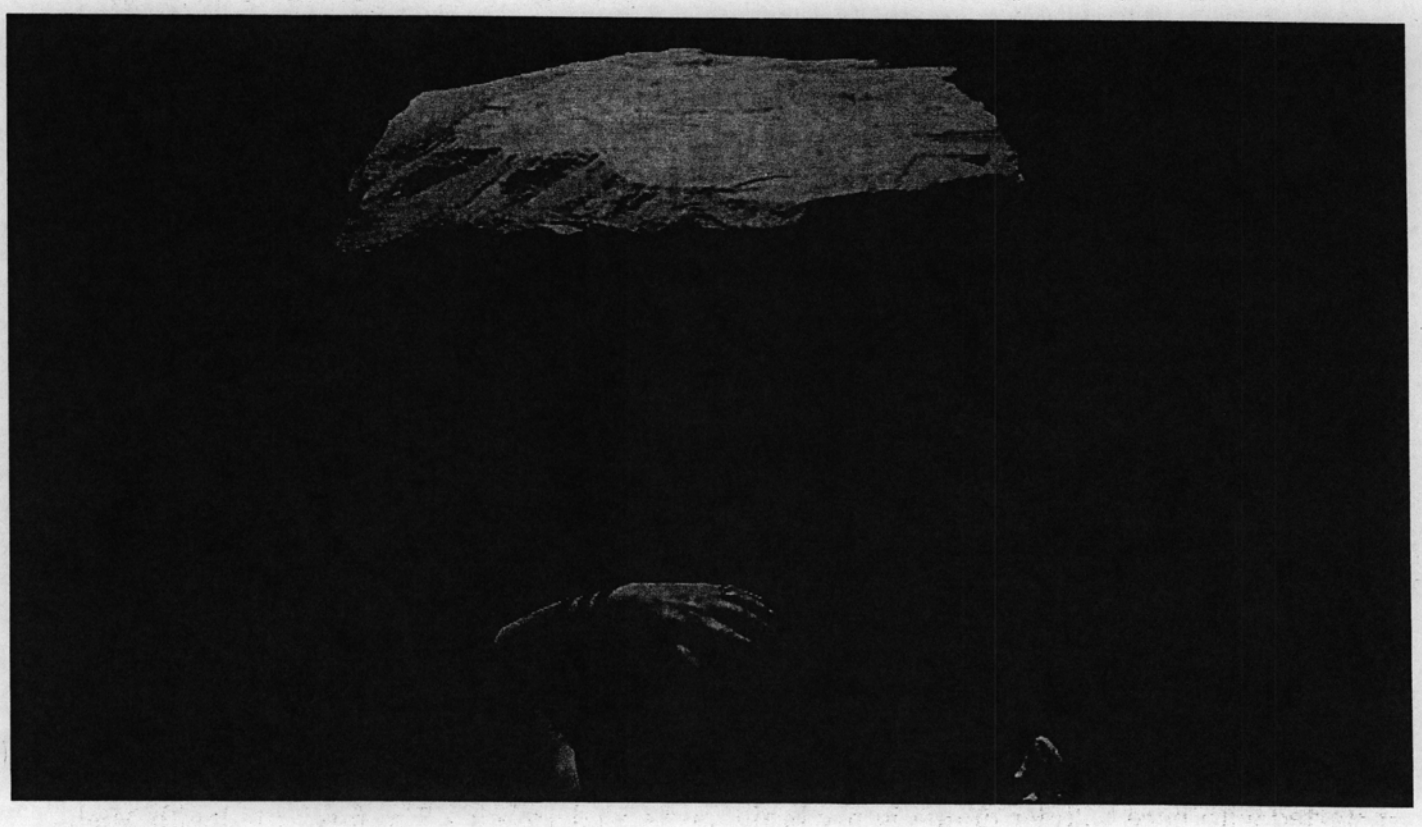
L.A. looms larger than rock in 'Levitated Mass' film



SHOW CAPTION

1 / 8

By DEBORAH VANKIN

JUNE 18, 2013, 5:55 PM

In the year it has been at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Michael Heizer sculpture known formally as "Levitated Mass" and more familiarly as "the rock" has drawn more than 300,000 people, many of them posing for Instagram or Twitter photos as though they are holding the boulder in their palm or on their shoulder. The shot even has a name —- the "boulder holder" pose.

Doug Pray's new documentary, "Levitated Mass," which has its world premiere this week at the Los Angeles Film Festival, tells the complete story of LACMA's rock star, and the tale has levity and mass.

Reporting for the Los Angeles Times, I traveled on and off with the boulder caravan on its 11-day journey in March 2012 from a Riverside area quarry across the Southland to LACMA's Wilshire Boulevard campus.

VIDEO: Levitated Mass opens

Pray adeptly captures the spectacle, from the thicket of permit snags the project required, to the international TV crews, to the traffic lights and power lines that were reconfigured so the towering rock could pass by. As the shrink-wrapped boulder atop its unwieldy, bright red "transporter" snaked its way through Southern California streets, it sparked a frenzy of curiosity, drawing pajama-clad spectators even in the middle of the night.

That's plenty of drama for a documentarian; and Pray could easily have structured the film as a simple, linear road trip, hitting all the obvious numerical facts along the way: 340 tons of granite, 105 miles, four decades of planning at the cost of $10 million.

Instead, the director weaves three separate and more nuanced narratives to provide context and depth.

There's the story of the logistically complicated, expensive and potentially dangerous journey, but "Levitated Mass" also charts LACMA Director Michael Govan's plans for large, modern outdoor sculptures that make the museum's campus an even more attractive cultural gathering place.

The third strand of the film explores the reclusive Heizer's background and vision for the sculpture — Heizer first conceived of the piece in 1968.

"It started with pure boulder mania in my brain, and ended up being 'I'm fascinated with Michael Heizer,'" says Pray, who knew nothing about the artist or land art when he started the project.

PHOTOS: Arts and culture in pictures by The Times

In the opening scenes of "Levitated Mass," boulders thunder down a jagged quarry hillside in clouds of dust after a dynamite blast. Heizer similarly detonated artistic conventions in the 1960s and 1970s with his landscape sculptures that were as much about "negative space," or holes in the ground, as the physical installations themselves.

He doesn't appear in the first two-thirds of the film. Instead, Heizer and works such as "Double Negative" in Nevada and "North, East, South, West" at Dia: Beacon in New York, are spoken *about*.

By the time he appears on-screen to help with the installation of the boulder at LACMA, he feels like something of a mythical figure. It's then particularly powerful to see Heizer — in his wide-brimmed hat and with his lined, deeply tanned skin — power washing the rock and overseeing the crew with uncompromising command. For a notoriously press-shy artist, he's also surprisingly at ease on camera.

"There is no art yet; we've just been moving components around," he tells one interviewer during the installation process.

At the artwork's official unveiling, as dozens of people flow through the concrete walkway beneath the rock, Heizer says: "Everyone takes away their own understanding. Everything said here is said by [the sculpture]."

More than anything, however, "Levitated Mass" — which captures all 22 cities the rock traveled through as well as the public's reactions along the way — is a portrait of the profound diversity of Los Angeles and the many different ways art can be interpreted.

CHEAT SHEET: Spring Arts Preview

Scene to scene over 11 nights, as the boulder travels through mountainous terrain at sunset and past congested, shimmering urban skylines in the middle of the night, the public's reaction mounts in intensity.

Women draped in saris gawk, curiously, as the boulder passes by them on the street. Bible-quoting zealots pontificate on the rock as a symbol of stability in shaky times. College kids with beer in hand cheer from the rooftop of a fraternity house. Conspiracy theorists call into question the real identities of the engineers who steer the rock's transporter. Coiffed looky-loos extol the art project's virtues; the unemployed condemn it as excessive.

That's part of what drew Pray to the project in the first place — he'd always wanted to make a film about Los Angeles.

"This just seemed a really interesting way to portray the real L.A.," Pray says. "This vast, spread-out city, neighborhoods that are so different and so diverse — ranch-like, desert-like, urban — and the people who live there. But it's also a simple story about the making of a piece of art."

'Levitated Mass'

Where: 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles

When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Tickets: $20

Information: http://www.lafilmfest.com

deborah.vankin@latimes.com

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buzz DOCUMENTARIES: 10 best of 2013, and a new crop in 2014

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⌐etween a rock and LACMA, it's a hard place

When installed at the art museum, a 340-ton boulder will become part of a sculpture called 'Levitated Mass.' Getting there from Riverside County is a logistical challenge and a bureaucratic one.

November 24, 2011 | By Deborah Vankin, Los Angeles Times

The object: A 340-ton, 211/2-foot-tall chunk of granite, sitting in a quarry in Riverside County.

The mission: Lift it and haul it to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, on a 106-mile journey.

Degree of difficulty: High. Very high.

This is no ordinary rock. The massive boulder is supposed to form the centerpiece of artist Michael Heizer's outdoor sculpture called "Levitated Mass," part of a planned permanent display on the north side of LACMA's Wilshire Boulevard campus.

If only the rock could really levitate. Moving it is turning out to be tougher than expected, and the museum, which was supposed to take delivery in August, now says the rock likely won't leave the quarry until the end of December.

"The move ain't gonna be a picnic," says Rick Albrecht, the project's logistics supervisor whose company, Emmert International, has moved nuclear generators and a 19th-century historic home, so he knows a thing or two about heavy lifting. "But the preparation is the biggest job."

Here's the plan. The big rock sits in Stone Valley quarry, a 90-acre wash of gray and brown framed by dusty, granite hillsides and Riverside's Jurupa mountains. Truckers must wrangle the boulder from the quarry onto a 294-foot-long, modular, centipede-like "transporter," which will carry it through the night on its journey across three counties.

Top speed? Seven miles per hour.

Work crews from 100 utility districts will accompany the rock to take down traffic signs, overhead wires and other obstacles, then reinstall them once the ⌐nt transporter moves on. A signal expert will move and then reinstate the traffic lights that otherwise would be mowed down like blades of grass by the ⌐nsporter, which is nearly as wide as three freeway traffic lanes.

There will be flag crews to stop traffic and a security detail. And, of course, the requisite documentary film crew.

Once in place, the boulder will rest atop a 456-long, ramp-like slot in the ground through which visitors will pass, making it appear that the rock levitates above them. The whole project — cost of the rock, its transport and construction of the sculpture site — will cost up to $10 million, which the museum has raised from private donors, including Terry and Jane Semel, Bob Daly and Carole Bayer Sager.

It is, as LACMA director Michael Govan is fond of noting, a process not unlike that facing the ancient Egyptians when they built the pyramids.

But the Pharaohs didn't have to contend with a thicket of bureaucracy. Even before they get underway, the movers must negotiate with city and county and state officials for the myriad permits required to cross jurisdictions — more than 100 in all.

And local officials are determining which roads and bridges are large enough and strong enough to withstand the weight. Permits are in flux for four cities, with Diamond Bar doing engineering studies on its portion of the proposed route.

"It's intensive," concedes Albrecht, something of a modern-day cowboy with a bushy mustache, silver hoop earring and a deep, above-the-neck-tan. He is standing in Stone Valley, eerily quiet but for the intermittent bleeping of a bulldozer and the occasional rumble of loose rock tumbling down quarry walls.

"Everyone has to be in agreement. It's always changing. Then we re-route. The [permitting] process generally takes a year, and we have six months. So we've been fighting like crazy to get it done."

Albrecht's brother Mark, lead project manager at Emmert, is the Oz-like figure behind boardroom doors, negotiating with municipalities for permission to travel their roads. Rerouting, he says, sets off a domino effect of changes involving multiple crews, scheduling tangles, new test drives, yet more permits — and each time pushing back the rock's leave date.

Meantime, the engineering feat that is the transporter raises its own set of obstacles.

"Try turning a vehicle like that," Rick Albrecht says, pointing out that the transporter will often have to drive on the wrong side of the road to make a turn.

⌐ch is why the rock will travel at night, on roads closed to traffic — a combined 1.2 million-pound load traveling so slowly that the journey will take nine days. The rock itself will be shrink-wrapped for protection and the vehicle illuminated by more than 800 feet of string lights for visibility.

Parking? "The middle of the road, the only place big enough," Rick says. Multiple permits were needed to park the rock during the day.

Tim Culverwell is the green light, red light guy — literally. As a superintendent at LA Signal, he'll have the laborious job of moving traffic signals.

"We're gonna end up flashing, lifting and turning almost every traffic signal pole that we pass," he says. "We've never had to go to this extreme on a load before; it's up to a two-hour process per pole."

If all this seems excessive, the artist's assistant, Tim Cunningham, is quick to play devil's advocate. "I've found it amusing from what I've read in the press about the expense, the naysayers. It's as viable as any other public works project," he insists. "And this is creating jobs above and beyond the aesthetic appe — for Emmert, the riggers, the truckers, the utility guys working overtime — and the country needs jobs."

Stephen Vanderhart, co-owner of the quarry, has found the experience a mixed blessing. The transporter which was built around the rock, sits smack in the middle of his mining area disrupting production. But what the quarry has lost in production, it's gained in PR, Vanderhart says. Stone Valley gets about half a dozen calls a day from people asking if the rock has moved, and visitors stop by every week to gawk.

"It's amazing; people who aren't necessarily into art are excited about it because of the mechanics, the geology of it," Vanderhart says.

The night the boulder begins its epic journey, Vanderhart plans to see it off with an open-air barbecue for about 300 people at the quarry, complete with a DJ and custom T-shirts as souvenirs.

What will the T-shirts say? "Big ... Rock ... Move!"

deborahvankin@latimes.com

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LACMA **LACMA** ✓
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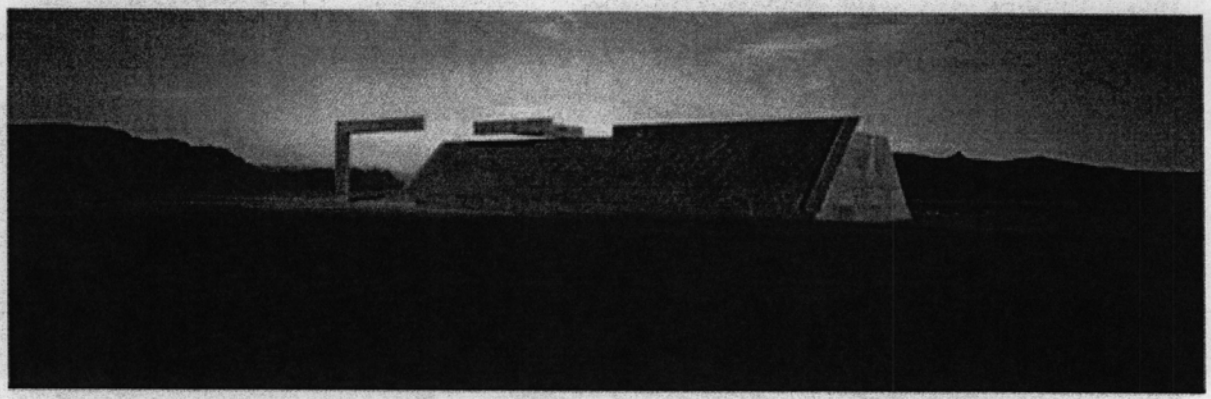
Michael Heizer's CITY needs your help: bit.ly/HeizerCITY Protect the land, preserve the artwork. #ProtectCITY



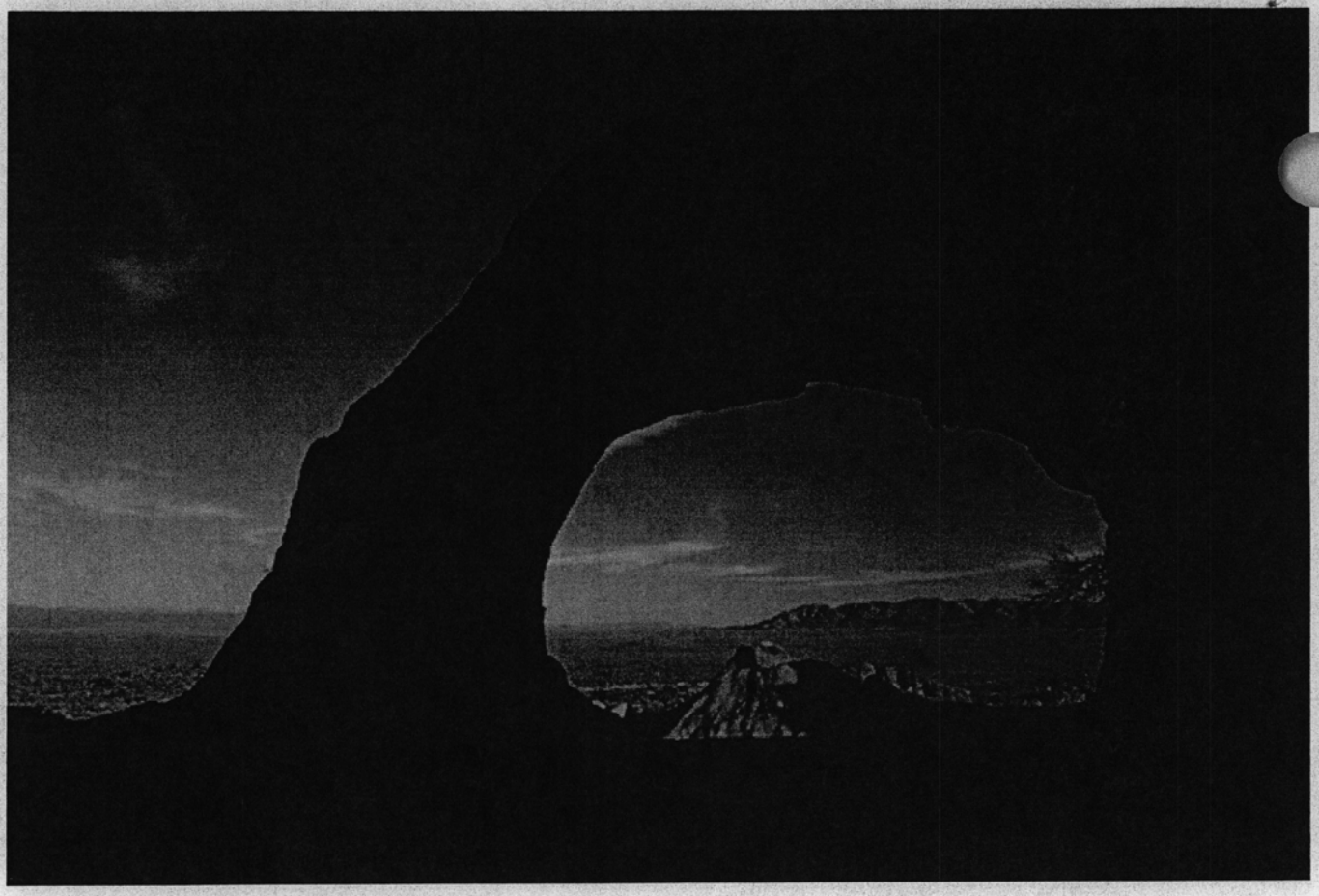
RETWEETS 115 FAVORITES 86

8:10 AM - 18 Mar 2015

(screen shot via **LACMA/Twitter**)

"Michael Heizer's City needs your help … Protect the land, protect the art #protectCITY," reads a **tweet** from Wednesday morning. The Museum of Modern Art, Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, all of which are participating in the campaign, are among the more than 125 who retweeted LACMA's message.

"The extraordinary Basin and Range landscape by itself is worth protecting. Michael Heizer's art must be protected too," LACMA Director Michael Govan told TAN. "Together, the environment and the artwork comprise one of the nation's greatest natural and artistic treasures." Supporters can sign a Facebook petition to preserve "Basin and Range" **here**.

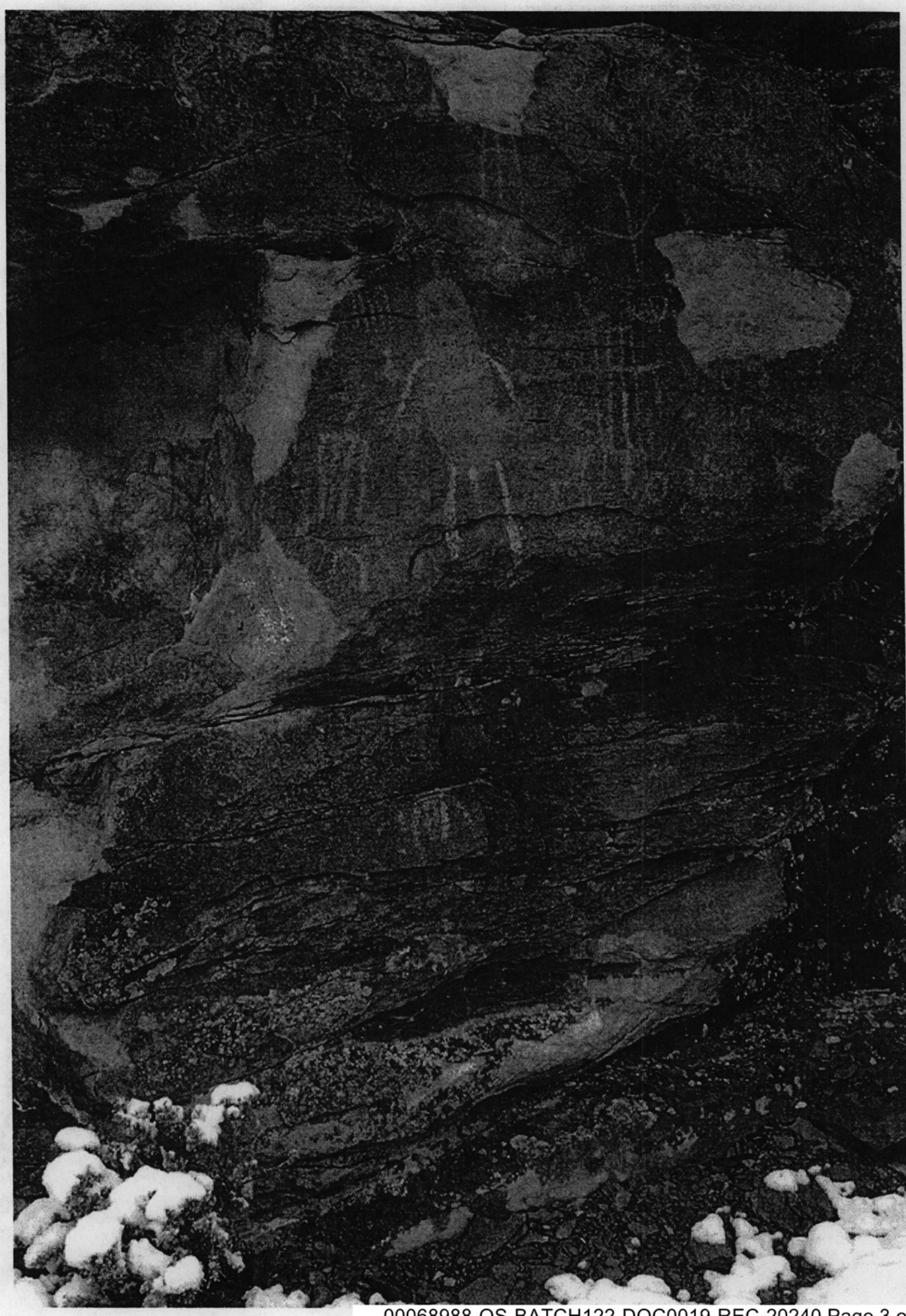


Garden and Coal Valleys (image via **Facebook**)

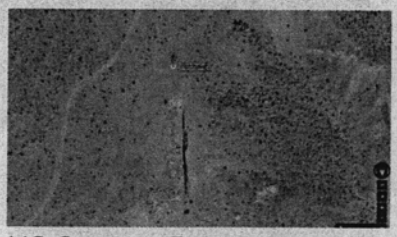
LACMA Director of Executive Communications Scott Tennent also **wrote** Wednesday on the museum's Unframed blog:

> While the outcome of this issue has clear meaning to residents of the state and defenders of the environment, it also has significant *cultural* impact, concerning objects both ancient and contemporary ... "City" is Heizer's magnum opus. Although it is not yet finished, images of City have circulated for decades. As with many of Heizer's greatest works, the sculpture is incomplete without the surrounding landscape. The solitude of City is part of its power. To have the surrounding land developed into anything would severely impact Heizer's work. To see the land developed into a site for military, energy, or waste purposes, would ruin it forever. After 43 years of work, can it really be destroyed like this?

Tennent's article was cross-posted on Gagosian's blog, **Now**. Larry Gagosian is a **major backer** of efforts to restore another significant land art project, Walter De Maria's "**The Lightning Field**."



Rock art in the Garden and Coal Valleys (image via **Facebook**)



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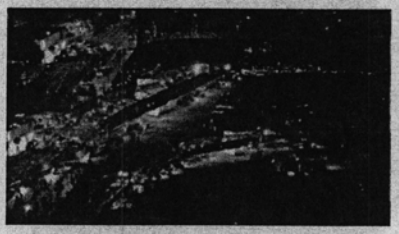

LACMA's Rocking Social Media Campaign for Levitated Mass

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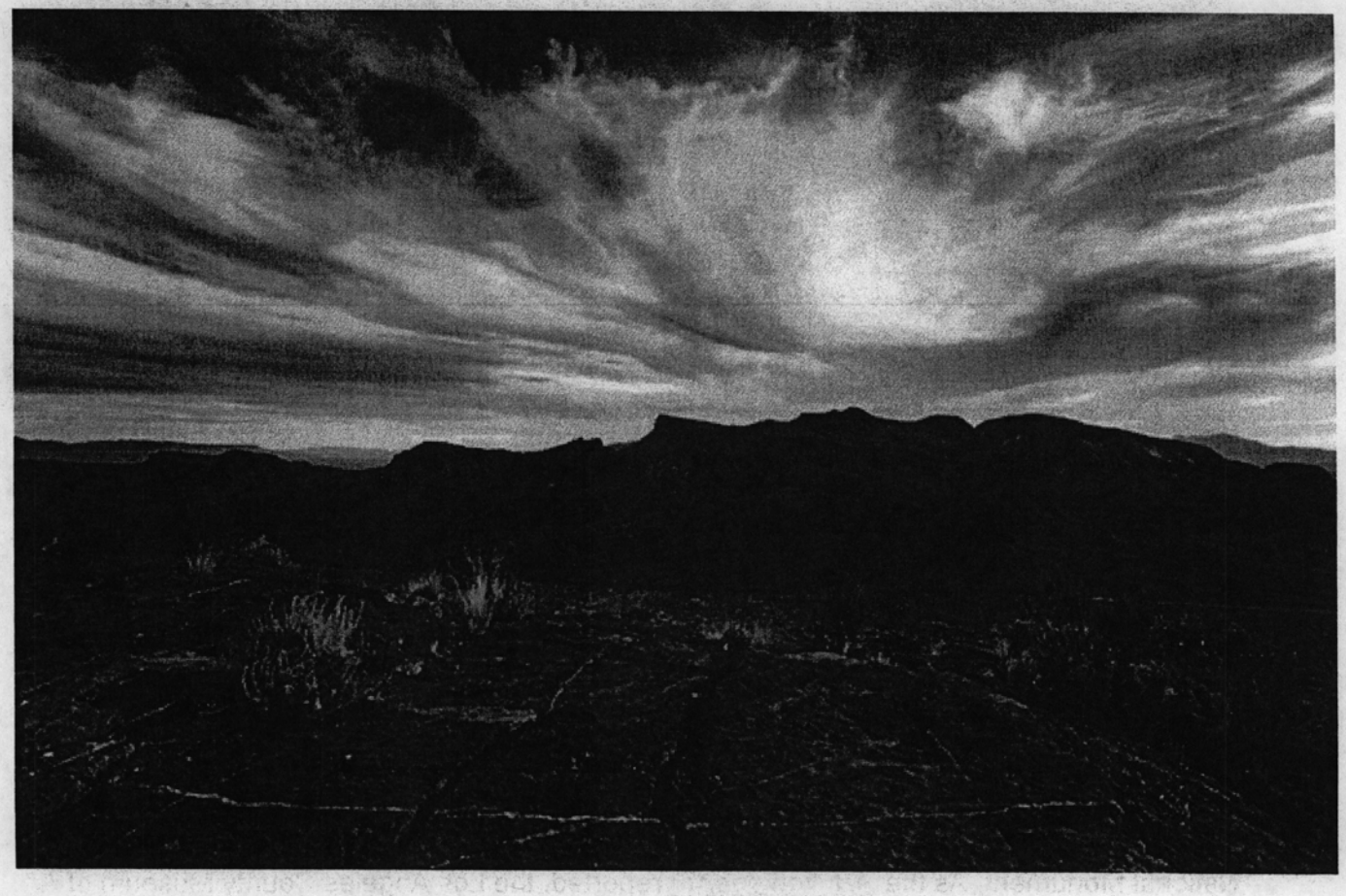
Museums Join Campaign to Preserve Land Art Opus

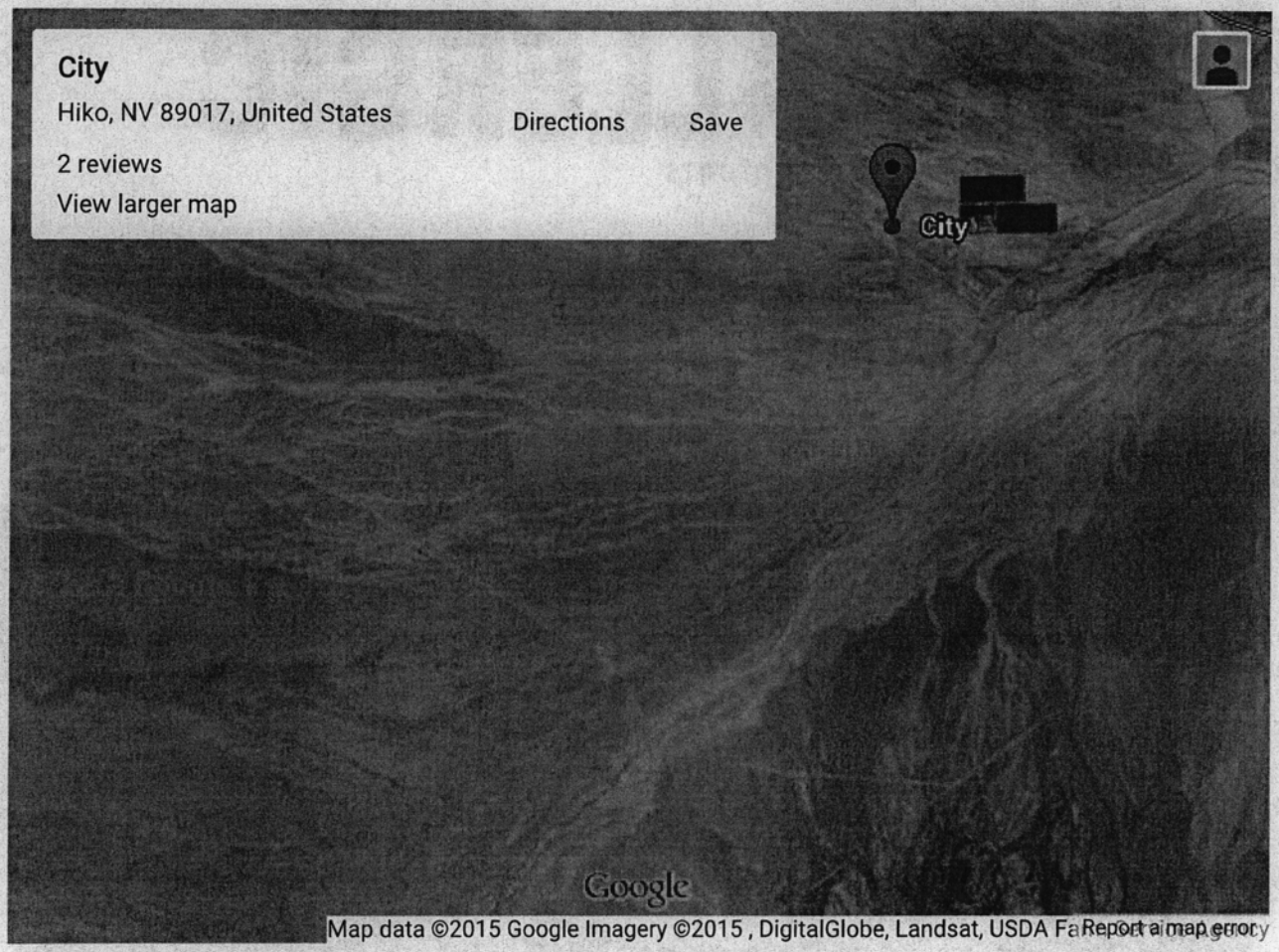
by **Laura C. Mallonee** on March 20, 2015



Garden and Coal valleys (image via **Facebook**)

In 1972, the Land Art pioneer Michael Heizer began buying up tracts of land near Nevada's Garden and Coal valleys. Set against the backdrop of the Worthington Mountains, the desert basin is home to the White River Narrows Archeological District, a historically registered site that contains ancient rock art, early Native American trails, and the remains of 19th century settlements. Greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbits, and antelope frolic among its native White River catseye.

Over the past four decades, Heizer has been reshaping his **mile-and-a-half tract of desert** into a sculptural work called "City," which he is expected to complete soon. When that finally happens, it will be unveiled to the public for the first time. But before it even opens, the future of what some anticipate will be Heizer's land art masterpiece — to say nothing of its stunning setting — remains uncertain.



In 2010, Heizer announced he would bulldoze the work should a Department of Energy plan to construct a rail line for carrying nuclear waste through Garden Valley to a proposed **Yucca Mountain** dump site come to pass. It was ultimately abandoned, but the fear of such developments remains. Last September, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid tried to **pass a bill** that would restrict mining and energy exploration there. The Garden Valley Withdrawal Act, which would have protected 1,250 square miles between the two valleys, was opposed by many who felt it was too sweeping, and it failed to pass.

Now the art world has gotten involved, putting its weight behind the **Conservation Lands Foundation**'s four-month campaign (which started in January) to have "City" designated a National Monument. As the ***Art Newspaper*** reported, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), which owns Heizer's "Levitated Mass," has been promoting their petition on social media.

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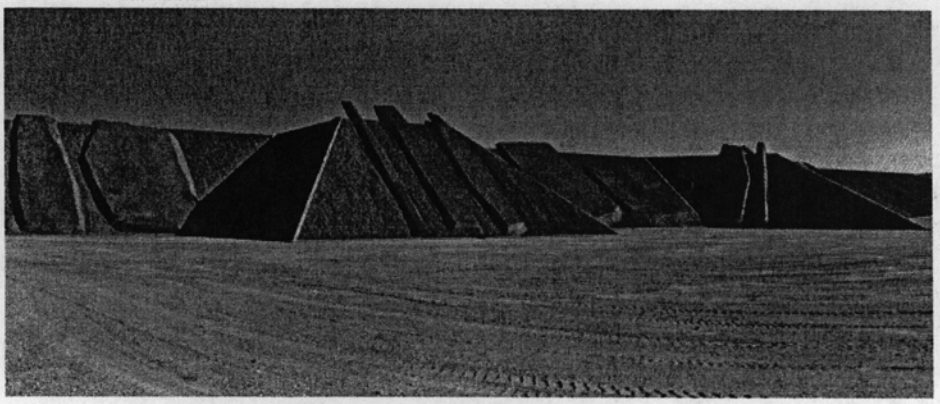
Who will save Michael Heizer's City?

Why does this storied work of land art need to be protected, before it is even finished?



City by Michael Heizer. Photos: Tom Vinetz/© Triple Aught Foundation

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Art conservators have to guard great works from a wide range of threats - from dry rot through to the ink in a vandal's pen. Yet we're pretty sure that no great works have ever been destroyed to make way for a missile silo, an oil well or a nuclear-waste dump. However, these are among the potential threats to Michael Heizer's City. The massive, remote land artwork was initiated by the American artist in 1972, out in the stretch of Nevada known as Basin and Range.

Heizer has in the past declared the site illegal to visit and threatened to have anyone who tried arrested and/or shot. In 2010 he said he would bulldoze the site if a proposed railway line to carry nuclear waste to nearby Yucca Mountain was built near it. In the end, the plan was scrapped. Art & Place, our recent book on land art describes a 2005 visit to the site by The New York Times and also reveals that recent satellite imagery of the site suggests the presence of numerous new and huge landscape forms on the site.

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Michael Heizer's rock begins to roll

Land artist Michael Heizer's Levitated Mass begins its slow journey to LACMA 42 years after he conceived the idea

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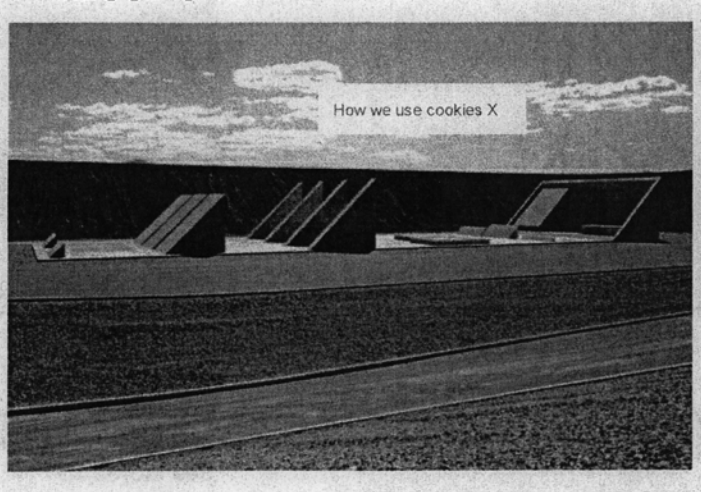
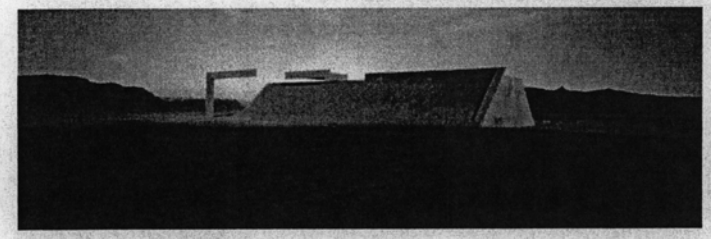


City by Michael Heizer. Photos: Tom Vinetz/© Triple Aught Foundation

In fact, the mile long, quarter-mile wide complex of pits, mounds, dyed earth and cement slopes looks like a Donald Judd take on a Mesoamerican ruin. Heizer, who is better known for his recent LA work, Levitated Mass, began working on City a little over four decades ago, acquiring the tract of land parcel-by-parcel. He still yet to complete the work and open it to the public. Unfortunately, those familiar with this stretch of the Western United States fear that day may never come.

The pressure group, Protect Basin and Range, believe this wilderness could soon be exploited by energy or waste companies, and are pushing for the land to be awarded Monument status, which would protect it from any egregious, manmade changes. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, and the Walker Art Center have all backed the campaign.



City by Michael Heizer. Photos: Tom Vinetz/© Triple Aught Foundation

In a post on its Unframed blog from earlier today, LACMA writes, "as with many of Heizer's greatest works, the sculpture is incomplete without the surrounding landscape. The solitude of City is part of its power. To have the surrounding land developed into anything would severely impact Heizer's work. To see the land developed into a site for military, energy, or waste purposes, would ruin it forever. After 43 years of work, can it really be destroyed like this?"

It's strange to think that a work like this might need protection, before its completion, yet Heizer's magnum opus certainly sounds like the sort of thing future generations will cherish. For more on

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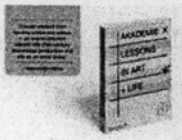

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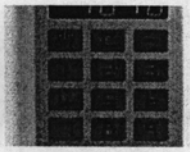

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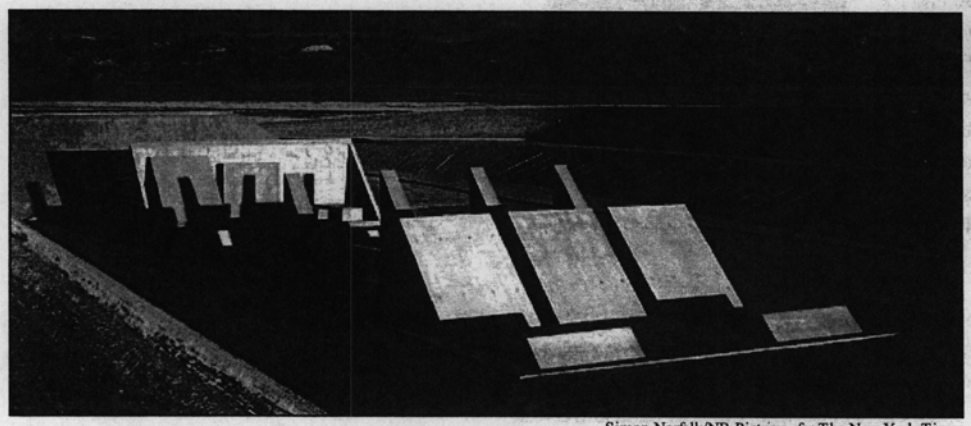

Simon Norfolk/NB Pictures, for The New York Times

"45°, 90°, 180°/City," 1980-1999. The pieces of Michael Heizer's sculpture could be combined to make a wedge.

By MICHAEL KIMMELMAN

Published: February 6, 2005

"You just don't get it, do you? This is a czarist nation, a fascist state. They control everything. They tap my phone. They'll do anything to stop me. We're the front lines, man, fleas fighting a giant."

It is a clear, crisp, gorgeous winter afternoon in the high desert in Nevada, and Michael Heizer, who has spent the past 32 years and many millions of mostly other people's dollars constructing "City" -- one of the biggest sculptures any modern artist has ever built, one and a quarter miles long and more than a quarter of a mile wide -- is in a state of extreme agitation, even for him. His pique is rising as he maneuvers his truck down a bumpy mountain pass, filling the truck's cabin with cigar smoke. I sense that he's rather enjoying himself.

We are driving through Murphy Gap. Pinyon and juniper cluster along the slopes on either side. This narrow, serpentine passage of astonishing beauty cuts through the Golden Gate Range, far from civilization. Aside from Heizer's voice and the truck's engine, there is an endless, empty, engulfing silence.

Coal Valley, on the eastern side of the mountain range, is a desolate, flat plain of yellow rabbit brush and silver sage for grazing cattle. To the west, Heizer's valley, Garden Valley, is vast and nearly uninhabited. Size is deceptive out here. "City" looks from the edge of the valley like a low-lying bump, barely visible. When you drive just a mile from it, south across the valley, it basically disappears into the brush. But picture a sculpture the size of the Washington Mall, nearly from the steps of the Capitol to the Washington Monument, swallowing many of the museums on either side.

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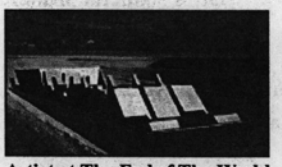

Artist at The End of The World

Michael Kimmelman narrates a look at the sculptor Michael Heizer's career.

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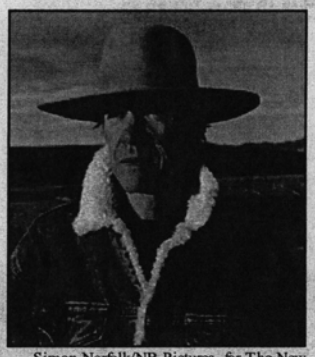
That's how big it is. Only once you're inside do you see all the mounds, pits, passageways, plazas, ramps and terraced dirt, most of the sculpture having been dug below ground level, masked from outside by berms. The shapes echo the mountains. "I'm not selling the view," Heizer contradicts when I mention this. "You can't even see the landscape unless you're standing at the edge of the sculpture." True. Even so, the echoes are plain as day.



Simon Norfolk/NB Pictures, for The New York Times

Michael Heizer.

We are maybe 30 miles from Nellis Air Force Base and the military's supersecret Area 51, and more than 100 miles from Yucca Mountain, where the federal government, if all goes as planned, will begin to collect the nation's nuclear waste in 2010. Trains will transport the waste from across the country, through the middle of Atlanta and Chicago and Salt Lake City and Kansas City, to Caliente, a town just north of here. From there, more than 300 miles of track will have to be laid, at a cost of more than $1 billion, to carry the waste the rest of the way.

As it is currently conceived, the route will cut across Garden Valley, within ear- and eyeshot of Heizer's sculpture and the ranch right next to it where he lives, a kind of survivalist compound of cinder block and solar panels, an oasis of cottonwoods and wild plum trees in the middle of a wide, empty plain. Having moved long ago to this virtual end of the earth, and having also moved heaven and earth to build in isolation his immense sculpture, Heizer now finds the federal government is plotting, as he sees things, to ruin it and him.

Heizer knows it's highly unlikely that he or anyone else will suddenly stop Yucca cold, but he says he's hoping at least to persuade Department of Energy officials at this 11th hour to redirect the tracks next door through Coal Valley and Murphy Gap. Of course he is deeply pessimistic. "I've always been a pessimist," he tells me, "but now I think things are going to get really, really bad." Squinting into a fresh plume of cigar smoke, which rises like a dark cloud around him, he starts imagining first the rail, then wells, then electric power lines invading the valley, while "sniveling toady" politicians, as he calls them, do nothing.

His soliloquy crescendos, linking defense contractors like Kellogg Brown & Root and Bechtel to the government as a sinister cabal machinating against him -- "I wouldn't be surprised if they sent out a hit squad to kill me!" -- when the silence of Murphy Gap is suddenly shattered by a heart-stopping boom.

An F-16 buzzes our truck. It looks as if it can't be more than 100 feet overhead, turned sideways to maneuver low through the snaking pass. Then as quickly as it appears, it's gone.

Who knows? I think. Even paranoids may be right sometimes.

This is a story about a man, his dream and a railroad. Everything in it is outsize, including the landscape. It's otherwise a familiar Western saga, pitting a brooding, determined loner against big, bad Washington, except that in this case the hero's personality is at least as radioactive as the train barreling toward him.

At 60, with hawkish steel gray eyes, a kind of wary stare, a deeply lined face and haphazardly combed-over hair, Heizer is still gaunt from a decade-long battle with a neurological disorder that left him weak and in crippling pain. If illness reinforced his native martyr streak, it also strengthened his resolve, making the sculpture a mission. The knowledge that the government or his body or both could prove his work's undoing makes him more fierce at the same time that he seems swallowed up in his clothes: dusty khakis, a checked vest over a plaid shirt, a sheepskin hat with earflaps and cowboy boots. He affects the look of other ranchers in this hardscrabble stretch of range, a resemblance that partly belies his upbringing.

Born in Berkeley, Calif., Heizer comes from an accomplished family of academics, geologists and miners with some history in Nevada, a history that he's proud of and that explains how he ended up making art here. During the 1960's, sculpture moved outdoors, and Heizer was one of the

movers. In the early 60's, Claes Oldenburg, Carl Andre and Walter De Maria were digging holes or talking about digging holes, making performances out of the process. De Maria was imagining milelong parallel walls in the desert, and Robert Smithson was mapping the New Jersey landscape, visiting quarries, making "Nonsites" out of rocks he collected and conceptualizing Earth Art, which became a catchall term for disparate experiments. It was an era of chest-thumping, clashing personalities, proclaiming to remake art from scratch, and Heizer fitted right in.

His contribution was to go West. The Abstract Expressionists had linked American art with scale. Jackson Pollock's paintings were said to refer to the Western landscape. Heizer took the idea to its logical next step. He literally made art out of the Western landscape, replacing scale with size: his works didn't just allude to big things; they were enormous. The bigger the hole or ditch he dug, the more monumental the sculpture. Negative sculpture, as Heizer called art made out of the space left behind from digging, crept into the mainstream consciousness, even if many people have never heard of him. Maya Lin's Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the memorial design for ground zero are both riffs, in part, on Heizer's negative vocabulary.

Adventuresome patrons and dealers like Robert Scull, Heiner Friedrich, Richard Bellamy, Virginia Dwan and Sam Wagstaff gravitated to the moody Westerner with the Ayn Rand vision and smoldering charm. They bankrolled his most radical art adventures. He dug holes in the Sierra Nevada, near Munich, Germany, and elsewhere; mostly the holes were shallow, the slopes gentle. But awe, even fear, was sometimes part of the work: the fear a viewer might feel about falling into one of the deeper holes. Heizer also scattered dyes and powders and drove a motorcycle to leave tire tracks, like drawings, across dry lake beds. He dug trenches, at intervals across hundreds of miles in the desert.

His best-known work was "Double Negative," for which he cut a 1,500-foot-long, 50-foot-deep, 30-foot-wide gash onto facing slopes of the Mormon Mesa in Nevada by blasting and scraping away 240,000 tons of rock. It became a landmark of Earth Art, never mind that Heizer wanted nothing to do with any movement -- or, increasingly, with most other artists. "I burned hot and was making something totally original," he recalled one afternoon while shuffling through some stacks of photographs of "Double Negative" in his office. "It was a moment of genius and unprecedented."

Then he couldn't resist taking his usual gratuitous whack at Smithson, his former friend, whose "Spiral Jetty" in Utah, finished just after "Double Negative," became an icon of Earth Art. Smithson, as Heizer sees it, "just copied my M.O., did a complete heavy borrowing, an identity theft." Smithson died in a plane crash in 1973. Over the years, most of Heizer's friendships with artists he knew then have fallen away.

In 1972, Heizer acquired land in Garden Valley and began work on the first part of "City," his own version of Easter Island or Angkor Wat: a modernist complex of abstract shapes -- mounds, prismoids, ramps, pits -- to be spread across the valley. It was to be experienced over time, in shifting weather, not from a single vantage point or from above but as an accumulation of impressions and views gathered by slowly walking through it. Artists in the 1960's and 70's -- Donald Judd, Andre, De Maria, Smithson, others -- were pushing sculpture off its pedestal. This was sculpture pushed all the way into the Western desert, the sort of work that you couldn't buy or sell even though it was very expensive to produce. Its materials were dirt and rock and cement and rebar, not marble or porcelain or bronze, and its tools were not chisels but heavy machinery.

The sculpture was meant not just to employ nature -- the soil, sun and air -- but also to make art out of engineering. Heizer traded in his paintbrush for a bulldozer, which, not incidentally, he could operate himself, unlike some of the other so-called Earth artists, but the work still required a crew. Artists have always had assistants. Heizer's happened to be construction workers with cranes and forklifts.

"City," in its vastness, was meant to synthesize ancient monuments, Minimalism and industrial technology. The work derived inspiration from Mississippian tumuli (ancient North American mounds), the ball court at Chichen Itza in the Yucatan and La Venta in southern Tabasco, where his father, a prominent anthropologist and archaeologist, had excavated. At the same time, it suggested airport runways and Modernist architecture.

Heizer resists such strict comparisons, stressing his basic abstract impulses. "The trouble is," he explained to me, "once you say something about a source, then you've pegged it down, and so now I'm reluctant to say anything. If I say I developed 50 different shapes from Mississippian tumuli, that doesn't mean they're copies of tumuli -- I'm not ripping off those shapes. I said I derived some of the shapes from the serpent motif at Chichen Itza, and now I have to live with this forever, as if that's the whole meaning behind it." Years ago he told another interviewer, "The only sources I felt were allowable were American; South American, Mesoamerican or North American. That might mean Eskimos or Peruvians. I wanted to finish off the European impulse." Whatever its sources, in its ambition and idiosyncrasy, it is clearly a very eccentric, American vision.

During the mid-1950's, the National Academy of Sciences raised the question of what should be done with the country's radioactive military waste. The academy proposed various underground sites around the country. Nevada wasn't on the initial list.

But Nevada was where the military had been exploding weapons, where fallout from atomic tests had drifted across mountains and valleys near Heizer's ranch. Nevadans came to learn firsthand what it meant to live in the shadow of the blasts and to distrust what the government said. "Part of my art," Heizer explained when he picked Garden Valley, "is based on an awareness that we live in a nuclear era. We're probably living at the end of civilization."

In its remoteness and its intimation of eternal landscapes and ancient monuments, which survive after the societies that built them disappear, "City" reflected this sentiment. At the same time, it was inspired, Heizer said, by what he calls the ceremonial city: "Every old city has the same sort of ceremonial feature, whether it's the Tuileries or St. Peter's or Teotihuacan. The long, stretched-out format of my sculpture is in dialogue with this ancient way of formatting space."

Heizer also designed "City" to blend into the contours of the valley and to act as a kind of bunker or container, open to the sky but dug into the earth, low to the ground (he admires Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings) and, as much as possible, disguised from outside, so that the natural vista would be largely preserved.

The military metaphor of the bunker, with its defensive aura, is hard to miss. When officials from the Department of Energy recently flew over the valley to survey the rail line, they reported briefly mistaking the sculpture for a military project. Years ago, Heizer compared the first part of "City" -- a sloped, flat-topped mound with projecting beams that he called Complex One -- to a blast shield. He has since constructed pits and perimeter mounds, turning his work into a sort of airy, roaming fortress made of millions of yards of dirt, so many yards by now that he long ago lost count. "My interest is in making this thing internalized," he said while driving the two of us slowly across the sculpture late one afternoon as the setting sun turned the mountains orange and purple and cast the deepest pits in black shadows. "It is connected to the environment but not to the landscape. Landscape to me is a planar thing, just a view. Environment is everything down to the ecosystem. Big difference."

Ten years after Heizer conceived "City," Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which insisted that the Department of Energy find deep geological disposal sites -- and also that the United States must permanently dispose of spent fuel from nuclear reactors, not reuse it, which meant that there would be less dangerous plutonium floating around in the world, but more waste to dispose of. After much political wrangling, three remote Western sites were recommended to President Reagan in 1986, one in eastern Washington State, near Hanford, where the U.S. had already built nuclear facilities for bombs; another in Deaf Smith County, Tex., near a secret plant for nuclear warheads.

The third was Yucca, near Area 51, where the Air Force conducts its so-called black programs, testing its most secret weapons. This is a no-fly zone. Fighters escort out, or shoot down, any plane that strays into the area. The pilot who flew me by helicopter to Heizer's ranch one stormy summer day last year was careful to check in with the Air Force controllers; still he kept one cautious eye on the horizon for lightning, the other out for military jets.

Naturally, no state wanted to store nuclear waste. Nevada, during the mid-1980's, was not in the best negotiating position. Las Vegas was still far from being the boomtown it would become. The

state had only one congressman. So it wasn't altogether surprising when in 1987 Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act, ordering the Department of Energy to focus exclusively on Yucca.

By then, Heizer had reached an impasse on "City." He finished Complex One in 1974, mostly working by himself, using a paddle-wheel scraper a farmer lent him and following plans drawn up by seismic engineers; then he started on Complexes Two and Three, gargantuan mounds that proved to be vastly more troublesome. Combined, the three Complexes were meant to form a horseshoe, like a stadium open at one end, around a broad pit or plaza. Complex One had protruding, 30-ton, T-shaped and L-shaped columns; Complexes Two and Three were angular dirt mastabas, crystalline shapes, up to a quarter mile long, entailing hundreds of thousands of yards of dirt, one with pointed slabs, like ancient stelae, 70 feet high. "A lot of money over the years went into simply trying to maintain old, useless equipment," Heizer said. "I never stopped working on the pit and the Complexes, whenever I could afford to. But we're talking crazy optimism here."

He took commissions to raise money and kept revising the plans for "City," which he had never imagined to be a lifelong undertaking but which was clearly turning out to be one. Some help arrived during the late 1980's when Charlie Wright, the director of the Dia Center for the Arts, visited with potential sponsors and provided cash to shore up what had already started to erode because of harsh weather and construction problems. Dia was founded in 1974 by Philippa de Menil and her husband, Heiner Friedrich, a charismatic but spendthrift German art dealer who sponsored Heizer's Munich sculpture years before. Friedrich considered supporting Heizer at the start of "City," but the two fell out. Then Dia's fortunes briefly collapsed. Wright, with fresh patronage, revived Friedrich's original ambition to back all sorts of grand art projects, like Heizer's.

Then Heizer got sick. In 1995, he mistook pain in his fingers and toes for frostbite because he had been standing in the cold 12 hours a day working on his sculpture. "I thought I was eternal," Heizer told me one evening, relaxing after dinner in his living room, flexing his hands while staring absently at the Science Channel. "I still do. But back then I took no care of myself. I hadn't seen a doctor or a dentist for 20 years." When the pain moved to his back, a medevac helicopter had to speed him to a doctor, who prescribed Tylenol and told him he was drinking and smoking too much. The pain became unbearable. On his way by plane to a hospital in New York, he collapsed and nearly died.

Polyneuropathy was the diagnosis, a nerve disease that progressively caused him to lose much of the use of his hands. His weight plummeted. For a while he couldn't walk, then he had to use crutches. He was in the hospital for months. His recovery was slow. Fed up, he resolved to demolish what he had done so far of "City." Meanwhile, Wright had been succeeded at Dia by Michael Govan, who picked up his plan to aid Heizer in 1996, cultivating more donors, above all the Lannan Foundation. Able to hire workers and rent heavy equipment at last, Heizer went back to work. Although still ailing, he finished the first Complexes by 1999, when I initially visited him -- 27 years after he started. Unbowed, he declared there were another four, even grander, stages to go.

If he'd never gotten to those, he would still have accomplished a feat on a scale not unlike, say, Mount Rushmore, which, along with the cowboy paintings of Charles Russell and Frederic Remington, is just about the only American art Heizer now volunteers to praise. Two Remington cowboy sculptures are on either end of the long table in his living room, and he keeps handy an old book of Russell's paintings of the West. "I love these artists because they're so precise and faithful," he says.

I was flabbergasted when I returned last summer, after several years away, to see what Heizer had accomplished since my earlier visit. I couldn't decipher the work at first, save for a few distinctive shapes. The sculpture melded with the valley. But then Heizer packed me into his truck and drove me to the sculpture, a quarter mile away from the ranch. The additions now dwarf the first phase of the project, making

Complexes One, Two and Three, which are collectively nearly the size of Yankee Stadium, look tiny and precious. The new phases are more pneumatic -- raked dirt formations resembling hills,

valleys and mountains. There is a patch of unspoiled sage, like a park, smack in the middle, for flood runoff through the valley (Heizer was thrilled to discover that it actually worked during the recent January storms); and there's now a concrete sculpture, "45o, 90o, 180o," which both evokes ancient Egypt and resembles a board game on the scale of an airport hangar. "I call it a defracted gestalt," Heizer said while slowly steering the truck to the steep precipice of what he calls Alpha mound. "From the ground you grasp the size but can't make out the shapes -- the opposite of what you sense from the air -- and your perception changes as you move around."

Heizer occasionally refers to the valley as virgin land; he obsesses about the originality of his conception, about protecting his property and his art from violation by the rail, from developers hunting for underground water, from people trying to sneak in to see the sculpture before it's finished. His project is propelled by anger and resentment and monomania but also by Eros: sculpture as voluptuous, unspoiled and ecstatic, an organic body (one mound from the air, I saw, clearly resembles an erect phallus).

The question, at a time when there's so little talk about government financing for new art of any sort, is whether a country that claims to prize its rugged individualists and its native treasures, both natural and cultural, will care enough to try to avoid "City" by running the nuclear train elsewhere -- whether accommodations will be made simply to preserve a sculpture and the equally obscure, awesome valley it occupies.

Obscure, in the art's case, not just because it's physically remote, but also because Heizer has frightened away almost everyone from seeing "City." He's the opposite of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, whose "Gates," to be unveiled this week in Central Park in New York -- another gigantic sculpture project decades in the making -- is ephemeral. Christo and Jeanne-Claude regard the public spectacle of their installation as part of the work itself: the art is a kind of temporary performance. Only when "City" is finished -- Heizer predicts it could take another decade to complete the 15 miles of concrete curbs that delineate the mounds and shore up the dirt slopes -- will the public be invited. Meanwhile, as he kept insisting to me while we were bumping down what sufficed for the path through Murphy Gap, anyone trying to show up uninvited will be arrested for trespassing or shot at.

Before I visited him the first time, he interrupted a tirade on the telephone against critics and people he contemptuously called art tourists who want to make the rounds of Earth Art. Then I heard gunshots. When he got back to the phone, he said he'd had to shoot at some coyotes. Then he just picked up the tirade where he left off. In a narrow pass along the drive across the desert this time around, I noticed someone had crudely painted "Mike's Country Stay Out" on a rock. The only directional sign for 35 miles was pocked with bullet holes -- used as target practice by ranchers, Heizer told me. It's a message, he speculated. Like him, he said, they just want to be left alone.

Heizer's ranch is a three-hour drive north of two million people in Las Vegas, but it's an hour's drive from almost anyone. His driveway is an unmarked dirt road meandering across several empty valleys and mountain ranges, more than an hour from blacktop. He rarely leaves the ranch these days, and hardly anyone visits except the construction crew. Heizer's Garden Valley is in Lincoln County, which, like half of Nevada, is a place where ranchers run cattle up-country during the spring and summer, down-country during the winter. This is mountainous range. Gold miners used to prospect here; there is still mining for opal and vermiculite.

Heizer and his second wife, Mary Shanahan -- a slender, friendly, brown-haired woman with a wry sense of humor, 21 years his junior, a painter, who was his assistant before they married -- tend a small herd of cattle. They're raising beefalo. They also grow alfalfa. Their house is simple, comfortable, a low two-story building with a big kitchen in front. Heizer fixed it up with hickory floors and fir beams. There's a metal shop, a dog kennel, a bunkhouse for workers to sleep in overnight, pens for cattle and farming equipment scattered along with half-finished sculptures in the yard.

Mary, although she's from Michigan, is a Western classic, soft-spoken and steady. She can birth a calf, make plum jam, change a truck tire, help oversee the complicated accounting on the project, ride herd over construction workers and ranch hands, format the digital images of the sculpture on the computer, reprogram electronics for the testy solar panels and in her spare time

retreat to a studio behind Heizer's office and paint abstract pictures of an ethereal calm and Western light. She's in charge of the herd. The plan is to keep expanding it, she said. She and Heizer live pretty much like many small-time ranchers in their elective isolation. He's just the only guy around building the equivalent of the ancient pyramids in his front yard.

Lincoln County is Mormon country, where ranching families go back to the 1800's, people don't like the government telling them what to do and outsiders are regarded with suspicion. It took a while for locals to get to know Heizer, who stayed to himself. His prickliness was always partly calculated: it kept away unwanted busybodies and skeptics while burnishing his reputation as art's ornery outlaw. One evening I discovered Mary and Heizer laughing in the living room. She had come across some old letters that Robert Heizer, Michael's father, had written to various people. They were rants, she said. Like father, like son, I surmised.

When I initially visited Heizer, his pent-up frustration had made him extremely testy with what was then a laconic crew that had no experience constructing anything like "City." The dozen or so men who now work with him -- several of whom trek hundreds of miles each week across the desert to accommodate Heizer's sudden decisions to shift several hundred thousand yards of dirt a few inches this way or that -- profess deep affection. He's a perfectionist; they shrug.

If Heizer, over the years, picked fights and lost allies, insisting, against common sense, he was the first, the only, the best artist around, clearly some people have stuck loyally by him. "The people who really spend time with him love him," says Michael Govan, who, along with Lynne Cooke, Dia's longtime curator, visits maybe three or four times a year to check on the sculpture's progress. "Never a nickel gets spent on anything that's not necessary," Govan adds. "If Mike weren't managing the construction and we had used outside contractors, it would have cost double, I'm sure. He's honorable."

The patrons Govan has enlisted -- the Lannan Foundation, the Riggio family and the Brown Foundation, the same Browns, by the way, of the defense contractor Kellogg Brown, which Heizer said was scheming to bump him off -- have stuck with a project that could cost nearly $15 million by the end. "Mike does things how he wants," says J. Patrick Lannan Jr., the foundation's president. "But it's going to be a monumental gift to culture for generations to come." Even Heizer is astonished: "I told them they're playing with fire. I'm an artist. I don't work with drawings or models. This is a creative process. It's an act of faith on their part." When I traveled with Govan and Cooke to "City" last summer, Govan mentioned that he had reread Irving Stone's "Agony and the Ecstasy."

Later he dug up a passage from the book and e-mailed it to me:

"During all these months the Pope kept insisting that Michelangelo complete his ceiling quickly, quickly! Then one day Julius climbed the ladder unannounced.

" 'When will it be finished?'

" 'When I have satisfied myself.'

" 'Satisfied yourself in what? You have already taken four full years.'

" 'In the matter of art, Holy Father.'

" 'It is my pleasure that you finish it in a matter of days.'

" 'It will be done, Holy Father, when it will be done.' "

Heizer figures that when his own work is done, it will be there for anybody to see for centuries -- that he's building not for today but for the ages. It's a perspective he came by literally. His father was collaborating on a book about the transport of massive stones in antiquity when he died in 1979, at 64. An obituary by colleagues from the Berkeley anthropology department described Robert Heizer as "a lone, work-addicted man whose prodigious production required rigid self-discipline."

Preserved in a file cabinet in Heizer's office is a page from The San Francisco Chronicle, dated Dec. 17, 1941. It's a picture of a slender, youngish Robert holding a box of 350-year-old rusty iron spikes that bound the oaken ribs of a sunken Spanish explorer ship. A 1946 newspaper cartoon of Robert is tucked in the same folder. He's depicted as a bespectacled Indiana Jones in tie and tweed jacket, brandishing a skull before a pile of bones. Some of the mounds in "City," it occurs to me when I see the cartoon, are shaped like bones, and the stelae are a bit like the spikes.

In front of Heizer's house there is also a gigantic perforated sculpture resembling Swiss cheese. During the 1930's, Robert Heizer discovered tiny perforated horns, shamanist objects, left behind by hunter-gatherers who lived beside a prehistoric lake in Nevada.

Heizers have been in or around Nevada since the 1880's. Heizer's grandfather, Olaf, whose own father was chairman of Stanford's physiology department, became the chief geologist for California. He conducted geological surveys in Sumatra and helped map Tennessee, Washington and California. (A family story, Heizer says, is that one of Olaf's horses was used by Eadweard Muybridge for his stop-action photographs.) Ott F. Heizer, Heizer's other grandfather, ran the largest tungsten mining operation in Nevada.

Heizer recalls: "I was taken out of school by my dad when I was 11 and lived in Mexico City, then later in Paris. I went with him to excavate in Bolivia and Peru. I never finished high school. I was a straight F student anyway. My father admitted to me later that he'd thought I would come to no good. It was tough for my parents because I hated school. I didn't have many friends. I wasn't a sports guy, a team player. The only sport I liked as I grew up was riding motorcycles, and you do that alone."

At 19, he briefly took a few art classes in San Francisco and started making geometric paintings, then moved to New York in 1966. He supported himself working for slumlords, lugging a compressor over the cobblestone streets in SoHo, hooking up a spray gun and painting a six-story building top to bottom (white in the rooms, brown in the stairwells) in a day. "It was a hand-to-mouth existence, but I met a lot of artists that way," he remembers. "I met Walter De Maria painting his loft. If you wanted your loft painted for $60 in three hours, I was the guy to call."

His switch to sculpture in 1967 grew partly out of the geometric paintings he had been doing, which were shaped canvases. These served almost as diagrams for the sculptures he would make in the earth. Much of that first outdoor work was fleeting, almost provisional, the opposite of "City." In 1968, he was included in "Earthworks," the influential group show at Virginia Dwan's gallery, and then in the Whitney Museum's painting annual in 1969, where his contribution wasn't strictly a painting but -- and this helped in a small way to redefine photography -- a huge photograph of a dye painting in the desert.

"When I met him he was 24," Dwan recently told me, "a young 24, sensitive and vulnerable. He has changed over the years, as a result of defending himself from attacks, real or imagined. I was flummoxed by the work. I couldn't figure out this person who seemed to come from outer space, so I asked Walter De Maria, who said, 'Yes, Virginia, he's an original.' So I knew this was someone to be reckoned with."

For "Double Negative," in 1969, Dwan gave Heizer money, sight unseen. Working partly with Dwan's gallery director, John Weber, Heizer called her from Los Angeles one day to say it was done. A few years later, Dwan bought for Heizer the first parcels of property in Garden Valley, which he chose because the land was cheap, the soil and climate were right and not much of the rest of the valley could be homesteaded. "When I visited at first Mike was living in a trailer and had a big young Mormon working for him," Dwan recalls. The road in and out was a weedy livestock trail, which sometimes got so bad in winter that Heizer would be locked in for months, seeing only a couple of sheep trailers and an occasional pickup truck. Fearful of being robbed, he surrounded the place with cyclone fencing and left only at night to get back before dawn.

Eventually he built himself a house out of cinder-block seconds. When Dwan finally saw the first Complexes, she cried. "There he is in the middle of nowhere, without an art world to talk to, without a bar where he can go find friends for support, building something much larger than

anyone has ever built, knowing he is going to be criticized for grandiosity, and yet going ahead and building what he must. That takes courage."

Heizer still commuted to New York and Los Angeles, doing commissions, networking. He liked the dinners at Odeon, the parties at Chateau Marmont with movie stars -- until he decided he didn't. "They're frivolous, I'm not," he told me. "You don't control your own destiny in New York. It's fine if you trust the system and agree to move along the street in an orderly fashion. But you can't carry a weapon to protect yourself, even though it's more dangerous there than here. I find it castrating."

It has been said that the early works Heizer and Smithson and De Maria and others did outdoors seemed like a fresh start, full of promise. Nancy Holt, the sculptor who was married to Smithson and who used to be close to Heizer, recalled traveling with the two men: "To go outside into the landscape, that sense of liberation, just crossing the Hudson River, it was glorious. The mass media picked up quicker than the art media what was happening. This was when everyone was seeing the earth from outer space for the first time; 'ecology' was a new word. And when you look at the old photographs of us, you can see the joy in our faces."

That was then. Should the rail go through, Heizer now claims, he'll dynamite "City," never mind that he is building it to be indestructible for thousands of years, or that the people giving him money aren't likely to fork over another million or so dollars to destroy it and return the desert to its original condition. But with him, it has become all or nothing. Posterity isn't the next generation; it's a millennium. "Double Negative" was "the most incredible sculpture I've ever seen or done," Heizer says. "When I finished I laughed. I knew I'd done it. There was no precedent in the history of mankind."

And he did not just add his sensibility to radical art movements of the 60's and 70's. As he sees it, he single-handedly, without influence from any other living artist, started a "revolution." "I'm self-entertaining," he declares in another fervid soliloquy. "My dialogue is with myself."

The sculptor Richard Serra, Heizer's contemporary, who was an acquaintance of Heizer's during the 60's and whose own work sometimes now rivals Heizer's in size, has said: "Whoever tells you he dropped from heaven knows the opposite is equally true." Serra hasn't seen "City," but he told me that he could imagine "the work may empower people in ways that don't have to do with scale, in ways that we can't foresee. Heizer's stance is empowering because what artists do is individuate themselves, and this guy has done it to the nth degree."

Of course, Heizer is not really on his own in the desert, as the nuclear train proves. There was also the MX during the 80's, he reminded me one morning. We were in his kitchen with Gracian Uhalde, his nearest neighbor, who has a ranch about 15 miles away and who works as a contractor on "City." We sat before cups of strong espresso that Heizer likes to serve in glass tumblers at the table his father built for him years ago out of mining timbers scavenged from some abandoned mine shafts in the Golden Gate Range. The MX plan was to crisscross Garden and other nearby valleys -- Coal, Dry Lake, Delamar -- with rail tracks leading to silos for moving around and hiding missiles. ("Peacekeepers," as President Reagan called them.) Mary spread an MX map over the kitchen table. It showed the valleys as a checkerboard of rail lines. "With the MX we won," Uhalde said, meaning the government decided not to go through with it. "Now they're back at it."

When I found Uhalde working at "City" later that same morning, he moseyed over, stomping his feet against the bitter cold, and slid a pinch of chewing tobacco into his cheek. In his early 50's, he has a broad, well-creased face, partly hidden behind a huge white handlebar mustache. His faded overalls matched his light blue eyes. I noticed part of his left pinkie was missing. A calf-roping accident, he told me. Heizer calls him a cowboy, a small-time rancher, which to Heizer is a big compliment.

"People are here because we want to be here, because we're attached to this place," Uhalde said. "You don't come to Lincoln County to make it in the world." Like Heizer, he has become outspoken against the Yucca rail plan, which he fears will destroy his cattle's grazing land.

"My grandfather came from the French Pyrenees in the 1880's -- he was Basque -- and at first he emigrated to Idaho as a sheepherder. At some point he was asked to take a herd of about 2,000 to Carson City. He didn't speak a word of English. He told me he had been given a burro and a tent, and when a bear killed the burro, which he needed to carry the tent, he had to leave the tent behind. In return he got 400 sheep, and he settled in Ely, north of here, where there was a Basque community, a kind of subculture."

Uhalde went on: "Now we have about 10,000 acres altogether, between the ranch here and one up north, and we farm about 150 acres for hay and have a couple thousand sheep plus 600 cows. We've been around for 100 years. I think the government figured they'd have no resistance in Garden Valley because no one lived here."

He handed me a palm-size square pamphlet titled "Atomic Tests in Nevada," which was printed in March 1957 by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Uhalde had been carrying it around lately. It showed cartoons of bowlegged cowboys on the range, watching mushroom clouds rise over the mountains. Allowing that "fallout can be inconvenient," it provides helpful tips like opening windows to avoid shock waves, wearing sunglasses if staring at fireballs and brushing off clothing when covered with radioactive dust.

"I believe it was in 1962," Uhalde continued, "that they did a hydrogen test that looked to me like snow falling in the mountains, the fallout was so bad. My dad never trusted the government. So he and Joe Fallini, his closest neighbor then, who lived 60 miles away, bought a Geiger counter. Deer started showing up with burn patches. Joe's cousin, a little boy, died of leukemia after that. There were dozens of test shots back in those days. We would try to figure out where the pink clouds were heading.

"Then in the late 80's my sister started having symptoms. They thought at first she was epileptic. She was in college at the time. By '92 she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Around then I got a tumor growing in my bladder. We both applied for downwinders' compensation. We got a total of $50,000.

"Now we say, just leave us alone and take your nuclear glow train through some other valley, along the highway or whatever. Just not here. Here you've got ranching -- small-time, old-style ranching, with the valley as a natural, reusable resource -- coexisting in peace with Mike's project, a cultural monument. The rail will kill all that."

Heizer joined us in the freezing cold, and he piped in that there were even bigger threats from developers who want to tap the valley's water table. "The train is just part of the problem," he said. "Developers want to rape this place." Railroad Valley, just next to Garden Valley, has oil wells and a refinery in it, Uhalde added.

Is there oil in this valley? I asked.

"God, I hope not," he said.

At the end of 2003, the Department of Energy announced the proposed nuclear rail line to Yucca. The Bureau of Land Management, which controls public lands, meaning most of Garden Valley, issued what's called a temporary segregation to reserve the rail route. Next will come an Environmental Impact Statement. When I called to ask about Heizer's fate, Joe Davis, a spokesman for the Department of Energy, said simply that Dia had proposed various "interesting alternatives we're considering." The department plans to issue a draft of what it calls the "Rail Alignment Environmental Impact Statement" by late spring or early summer. After that come hearings and another chance for public response before the final E.I.S. is issued and the fate of the rail line is decided sometime early in fiscal year 2006, Davis said.

"We have several laws to comply with," Gene Kolkman added. He is field manager for the B.L.M. in nearby Ely and oversees land withdrawal. If the rail line intersects free roaming area for wild horses, that will require modifications because the horses are protected by the Wild Horse and Burro Act. Ranchers must be compensated if the rail cuts off grazing lands and harms their livelihood. "It's very seldom that a project comes in, especially a controversial project like the Yucca Mountain railroad line, and that it ends up being authorized as it was originally

configured," Kolkman said.

A former Energy Department consultant on Yucca who is rooting for Heizer's plan to move the route to another valley (and so who asked not to be identified by name) nonetheless defended the selection of Yucca. No site is perfect, he said. But he acknowledged the problem of shipping the waste to Yucca. Spent fuel contains heavy metals, and they aren't called heavy for nothing. They require massive rail containers for transport. Cement for constructing the storage site must also be carried to it, tons of cement, on the scale of Hoover Dam. This is to be one of the largest public work projects ever. The shortest route would skirt Las Vegas, but the more politically feasible path -- and the one mapped by the Department of Energy -- goes from Caliente through the middle of nowhere, which is to say, right through Michael Heizer's front yard. Politics has trumped art, the consultant said, at least for the moment.

Heizer disappeared from the living room where he retreated after dinner one evening and retrieved an old, crumbling children's book. "Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel," the 1939 classic by Virginia Lee Burton, is about Mike Mulligan and his red steam shovel, Mary Anne. They quit the big city, frustrated because steam shovels were succeeded by electric and diesel shovels, and they find work in the countryside. In faraway Popperville, they dig a cellar for a new town hall but, in their haste, they forget to leave a way out. They end up entombed in the cellar, Mike as the janitor, Mary Anne as the furnace. Heizer says he loved the story so much as a boy that his mother used to call him Mike Mulligan.

At the sculpture the next morning, while Heizer tinkered in his studio at the ranch, I spotted Jim Hicks hunched beside his truck with his coat collar turned up, cupping his hands against the freezing wind to light a cigarette and looking absently out from the rim above Pits 4 and 5, a nearly sheer drop of 50 feet. Hicks has the chapped lips and weathered face of a cowboy who has spent his life in the great Western outdoors. He has been working on "City" for years. He told me he makes the daily commute across the mountains and the desert from Ely, two hours each way, to work 10-hour shifts on this project. "I can't sleep anyway, so why not drive?" he said, laughing. Like the other men, he enjoys working for Heizer.

"I've worked on an airport runway and on highways," he said, "where you've got big crews; the bosses flood the projects with equipment, nothing's complicated, you know beforehand the shape and the curve or whatever. This is completely different, 180 degrees."

How so? I asked.

He nodded toward Beta Mound, an immense, quarter-mile-long construction of dirt with sloping sides, a flat top and a rounded nose. Hicks pointed to the nose. "I used an 16-foot blade on the grader and most of the time, to get that angle just right on the mound, only about one foot of the blade was scraping the ground." He paused. "I did that. Maybe you wouldn't notice, but somebody will. And that will last hundreds of years."

When I came across Bill Harmon, who pours concrete for the curbs, he echoed what Hicks said about discovering, in the process of building "City," an American can-do ideal, the fine art of heavy construction. Harmon is from Ruby Valley, 230 miles north, and during the week he lives in a trailer at Uhalde's ranch across the valley with six other guys working on the project, including his two sons, Clint and Bo.

"Mike is demanding," he said. "But that's why things are as good as they are. I've worked in concrete all my life, and I've never had the time or money to do something to the best of my ability. Everything is hurry up. It's about making money. That's the American way. But here we have to produce something that has more to do with accuracy than I've ever been allowed even to imagine. This here is my chance to do the best I can. I travel over 400 miles a week just to be here. And my boys take pride in it, too. When it's finished, I'll be able to say, I had the chance to do that."

I asked him what he thinks the sculpture is about. "It's hard to explain," he added. "At the beginning I was lost. I can read a set of blueprints, but I had no idea what we were building. I could not see why we were doing this. I got stuck on the practical stuff -- was this a stadium?

Were we going to live in it? And then Mike wanted everything within a sixteenth of an inch, even on a concrete slab that was 78 feet by 240 feet.

"But gradually I got the idea. I can't say exactly what it means now, but I know it has to do with history and with making something that will last. I'm not an artist, but I can tell you I'm real proud to be working on something like this."

Gracian Uhalde, whom I came across later, echoed that sentiment. "It takes a while to get used to how Mike does things. But we admire him because he's not afraid to be different. And we're glad for him. It's not too many people in life get to see their dream come true, is it?"

I left at dawn the following day. Roaming antelope and coyote hunting for rabbits had made the dogs bark at night. Now a dozen cats huddled in the cold on the long wood table outside Heizer's kitchen window. Heizer had risen early to say goodbye. He told me he was sleepless, fretting about some of the things he'd said. He didn't want to hurt people's feelings. He wanted to give credit to people like Virginia Dwan, John Weber, Robert Scull and Richard Bellamy, who had supported him, and to Mary and his former wife, Barbara. So much of Heizer's hubris is bravado, I think -- his not having enough people around to vent to, to talk back to him. And in the end the work, which possesses him and drives him and other people crazy, is the only thing that will count -- if it isn't spoiled by the nuclear rail line or if Heizer doesn't blow it up first.

He walked me to my rental car and kicked the tires. "They're crap," he said. "They'll blow out if you hit a big rock, and then you'll be stuck." He reminded me to call when I reached the paved road, so that he'd know I got there.

With that, I drove off, tires crunching in the cold gravel, as the first rays of sun hit the snow on the mountains, casting the valley in a pearly gray pool of winter light.

Michael Kimmelman is the chief art critic for The New York Times.

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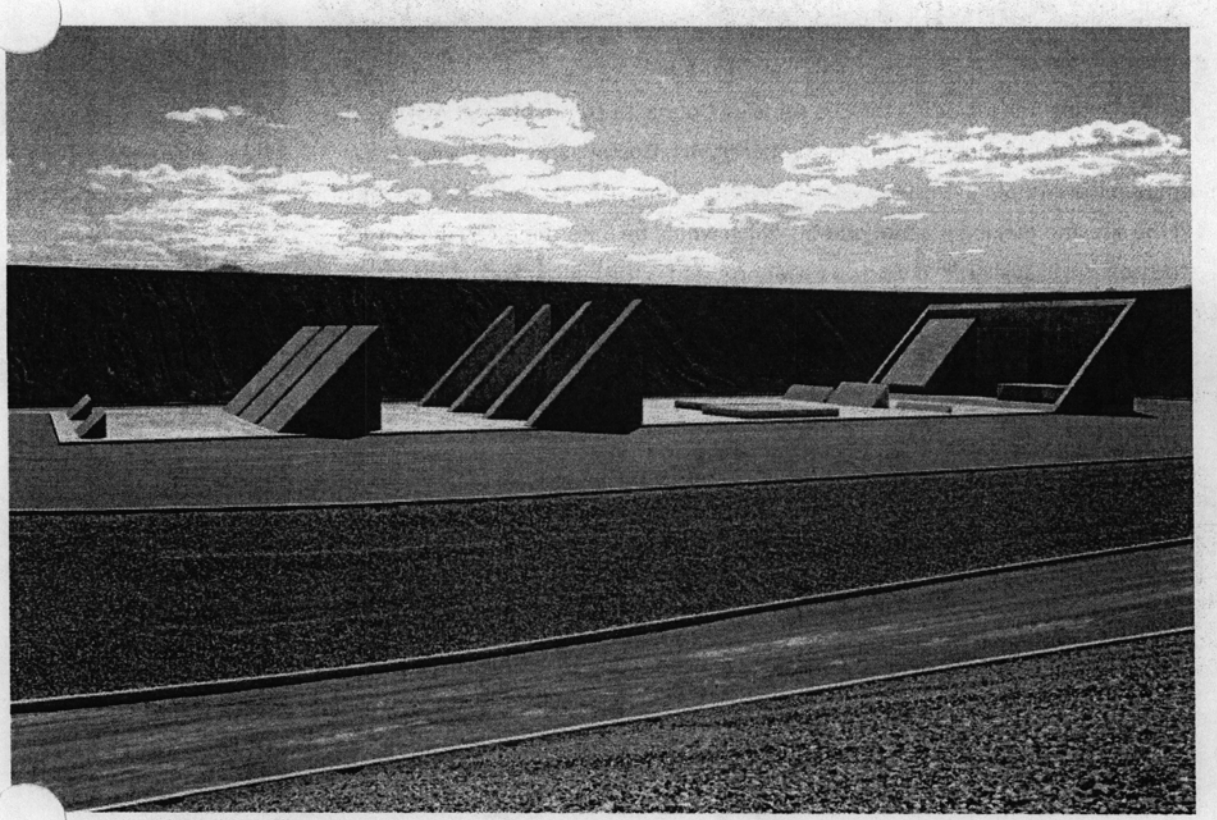
ARTS AND CULTURE

American Museums Band Together in Campaign to Protect Michael Heizer's "City"

Basin and Range, the Garden Valley, Nevada desert site surrounding the land artist's massive sculpture, is in danger. "Protect Basin and Range" is the petition to protect both the land art and natural environment.

By CHELSEA BLAHUT



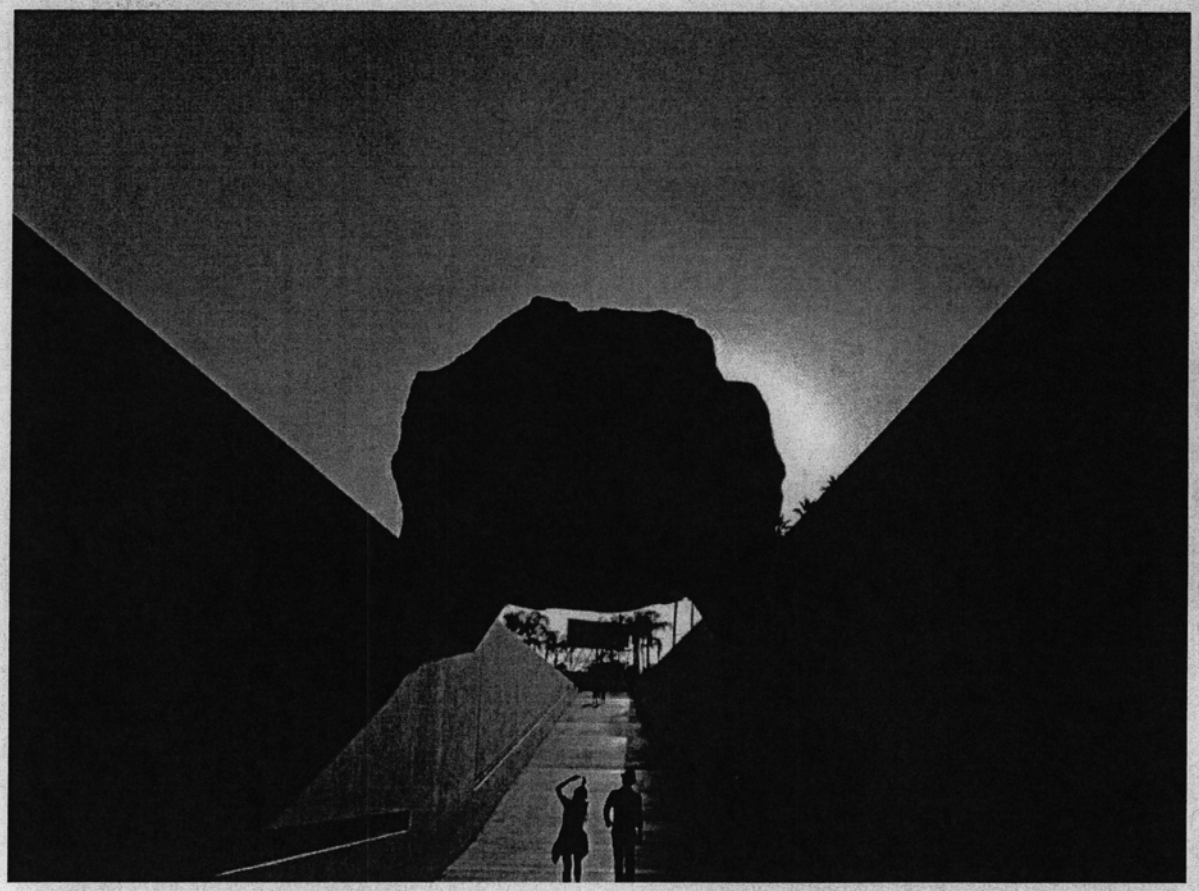
esy Tom Vinetz, Triple Aught Foundation

For the past 43 years, land art pioneer Michael Heizer has been constructing "City" in the Nevada desert. Spanning 1 1/4 miles in length and a little over a quarter of a mile wide, the massive artscape of abstract, geometric objects is undoubtedly the artist's masterpiece—and it isn't even finished. While the land that the

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chelsea Bla
Chelsea Blah
content prod
ARCHITECT.
bachelor's degree in English and a
Journalism and Fine Arts from the
North Carolina, Wilmington. Follo
Twitter at @chelseablahut.

piece stands on is actually owned by Heizer, the area around it is threatened by the possibility of becoming a missile site, oil and gas reserve, or a nuclear waste rail line.



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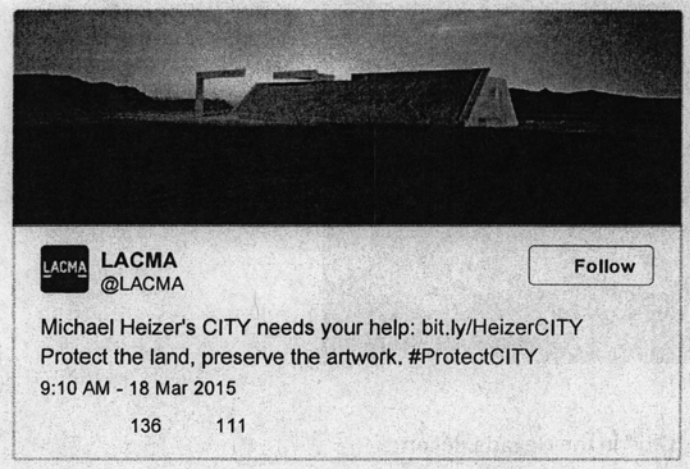
To combat this possibility, American museums including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, are promoted the campaign Protect Basin and Range. This calls for the conservation of the stretch of land surrounding the site and making it a monument, which would be determined by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The petition is available to sign on Facebook, and is further backed up the hashtag #ProtectCITY on Twitter. LACMA, which houses Heizer's 34-ton boulder titled "Levitated Mass," has a post on its Unframed blog on protecting the artist's work. The Gagosian Gallery, the international contemporary art gallery which represents Heizer, is also promoting this message on its site.



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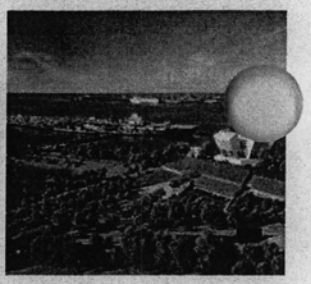

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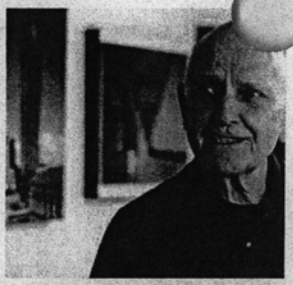

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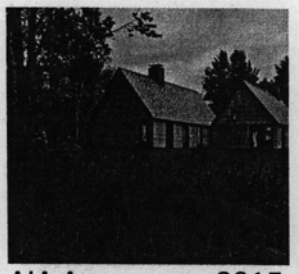

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From an artistic and cultural standpoint, the desolate land of the built site—which is in its final stage of completion—and the shape of the sculpture rely on each other. As evident in Michael Kimmelman's *New York Times* profile on Heizer from 2005, another time when a nuclear rail line predicted to be built there, the sculpture isn't visible from even a mile out yet the shapes mimic the topology. Scott Tennent, LACMA's director of executive communications, wrote this on Unframed: "As with many of Heizer's greatest works, the sculpture is incomplete without the surrounding landscape. The solitude of 'City' is part of its power. To have ' surrounding land developed into anything would severely impact Heizer's work." Especially since the t is not open to the public yet, and won't be until it is completed. If the public land was used to excavate natural resources, that would mean Heizer's original vision would be compromised, and not give visitors the true experience.

As with many of Heizer's greatest works, the sculpture is incomplete without the surrounding landscape. The solitude of City is part of its power. – Scott Tennent, LACMA's director of executive communications

But protecting the land goes farther than this. The area is also home to ancient archaeological findings, such as Native American trails, rock drawings dating back to the Paleoindian period, and artifacts of 19th century settlements. There are also environmental concerns for the natural wildlife such as the antelope, coyotes, and rabbits that are unique to the area. If Basin and Range was granted conservation status by the BLM, it would provide diversity within the lands already protected by the government.

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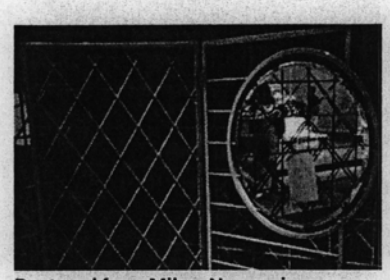

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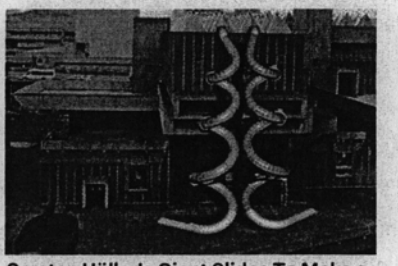

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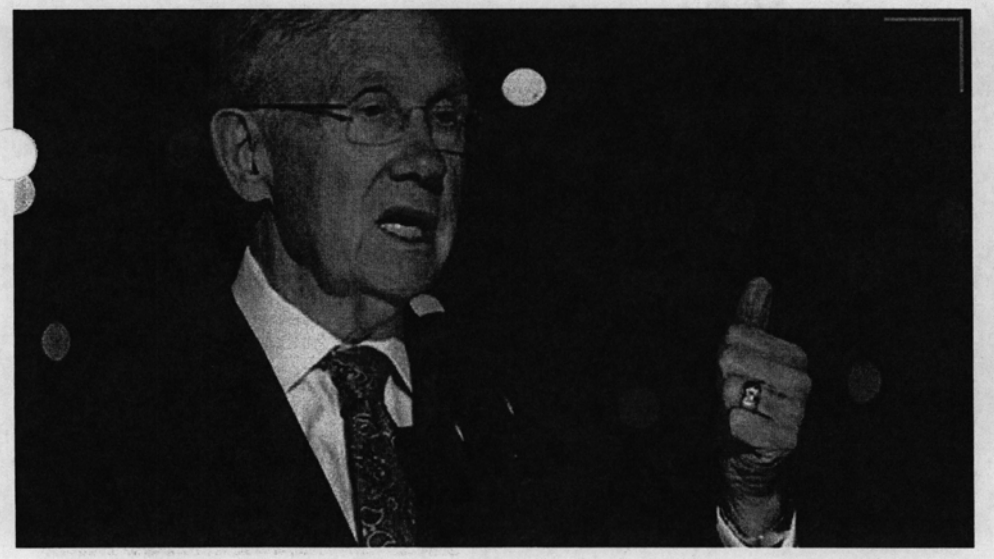
Sen. Reid quietly moves to block development of 800,000 acres in central Nevada



Sen. Harry Reid last month introduced legislation to withdraw 805,100 acres of federal land in Garden Valley and Coal Valley straddling the Lincoln and Nye county lines (Erik Verduzco/Las vegas Review-Journal File)

By STEVE TETREAULT and HENRY BREAN
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — A bill quietly introduced in Congress would restrict mining and energy exploration over a sweeping area of rural Nevada, preserving scenic valleys and buffering a landmark piece of desert artwork.

Sen. Harry Reid last month introduced legislation to withdraw 805,100 acres of federal land in Garden Valley and Coal Valley straddling the Lincoln and Nye county lines, a desolate area bigger than Rhode Island.

e restrictions would not affect current valid land use such as grazing, but it would forbid the Bureau of Land nagement from selling any land or granting permits for oil or mineral prospecting. Activities for new geothermal, solar or wind energy development also would be restricted.

The bill would ensure the most significant feature in the 1,250-square-mile area would be "City," one of the largest earth sculptures ever created. It is roughly the size of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and has taken its creator, noted artist Michael Heizer, more than 40 years to craft.

Lesson learned: 'No place to hide' in the Chase
Lesson learned: 'No place to hide' in the

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But conservationists said the withdrawal would have a much broader impact, offering a level of protection to some of Nevada's more stunning landscapes.

Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation, said the area provides habitat for mule deer and Pronghorn antelope, and contains Native American rock shelters and ancient Shoshone and Paiute trails. The withdrawal area includes the White River Narrows, an archaeological district of native rock art.

"When you think of unspoiled basin and range country, this is a place that best fits that description," O'Donnell said. "These are two of the most scenic valleys in Nevada, two of the most undisturbed, least-roaded, and least populated portions of the state and therefore the country."

Reid did not respond to a request for comment on the bill. His spokeswoman, Kristen Orthman, said the Nevada Democrat "has long had conversations about how to protect the scenic, natural and cultural values in and around Garden Valley."

The area once was considered for possible wilderness study but was set aside when Congress debated a Lincoln County land act in 2004. More recently, its natural and historic values prompted the BLM to reject it as a site for fast-tracking solar projects, O'Donnell said.

Reid toured the area in 2007 and has had subsequent conversations with Heizer, whose monumental art project has used bulldozers, cranes and other heavy equipment to reshape a slice of desert into his vision.

"Now that the project is almost complete, this is something that has been discussed for a while, and it made sense to do it," Orthman said.

UNEXPECTED MOVE

Reid introduced the bill Sept. 16, and was the only listed sponsor. Neither Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., nor Rep. Steven Horsford, a House Democrat who represents Nye and Lincoln counties, would comment.

Reid floated a similar proposal in 2010 that would have designated portions of Garden Valley and neighboring Coal Valley as a national conservation area to preserve the area around "City," said Ed Higbee, chairman of the Lincoln County Commission.

The idea drew opposition from Lincoln County officials then, and likely it will again.

"It is kind of neat stuff," Higbee said of the "City" complex. But he said it's hard to swallow restricting development on more than 800,000 acres of a county that is already 98 percent under federal control.

"That's a huge view-shed," Higbee said of the proposed withdrawal. "We don't want that to become a national conservation area."

The legislation was news to Nye County Commissioner Lorinda Wichman, whose vast district includes all of the county outside of Pahrump. She said she would want to hear from "the folks that live right around" the affected area before she takes a position.

Heizer, who lives in Lincoln County and whose age is given as 69 or 70, specializes in monumental-scale sculptures and pieces of art built out of earthen materials. At the eastern edge of Mormon Mesa near Overton, he displaced 240,000 tons of rock to create "Double Negative" in 1969 and 1970. Visible from space, it consists of two massive trenches, each 50-feet deep by 30 feet wide and spanning 1,500 feet.

Heizer's "Nine Nevada Depressions" are a series of earthen cuts in dry lake beds around the state, including Jean Dry Lake, Massacre Dry Lake near the ghost town of Vya in Washoe County, and a playa in the Black Rock Desert 100 miles north of Reno.

"City" is Heizer's lifelong project on private land he acquired about 160 miles northwest of Las Vegas, and about 55 miles west of Pioche. A mile and a half long and 900 feet wide, it comprises five major segments and numerous complexes within each one, made mostly of earth, rocks and concrete and inspired by Native American mound builders and ancient cities of South and Central America. An art critic once described it as "geometric depressions, mounds and plazas linked by unpaved roads."

"It is perhaps one of the greatest, most ambitious artworks ever attempted," said Michael Govan, director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art who has helped Heizer seek support for the project. Unlike traditional art and sculpture, people will have to wander through "City" — like they would a real city — to take it all in, he said.

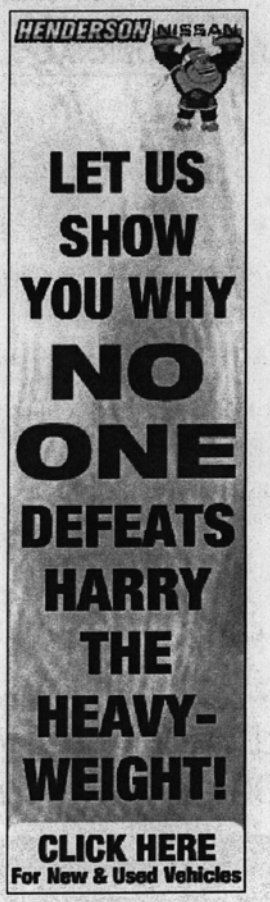
The project could cost as much as $25 million, according to "double negative," a website devoted to Heizer and his creations. "City" is not open to the public, but Govan said it will be when it is done. He said Heizer is working on final engineering and conservation plans, as the piece is meant to last thousands of years.

Garden Valley has been eyed for several major projects in the years since Heizer started working on his sculpture. In the 1970s and early 1980s, the government planned to crisscross the valley and others nearby with railroad tracks that would carry MX missiles to and from hidden silos. The program was killed by President Ronald Reagan.

More recently, the Department of Energy proposed building a rail line across Garden Valley to carry casks of nuclear waste to the proposed nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. Heizer joined Reid in publicly opposing the project.

In one of more than 200 technical protests against the Yucca project the state of Nevada argued the "City" artwork was "a cultural resource of national and international significance" and should not be disturbed.

Contact Stephens Washington Bureau Chief Steve Tetreault at stetreault@stephensmedia.com or 202-783-1760. Find him on Twitter: @STetreaultDC. Contact Henry Brean at hbrean@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350. Find him on Twitter: @RefriedBrean.



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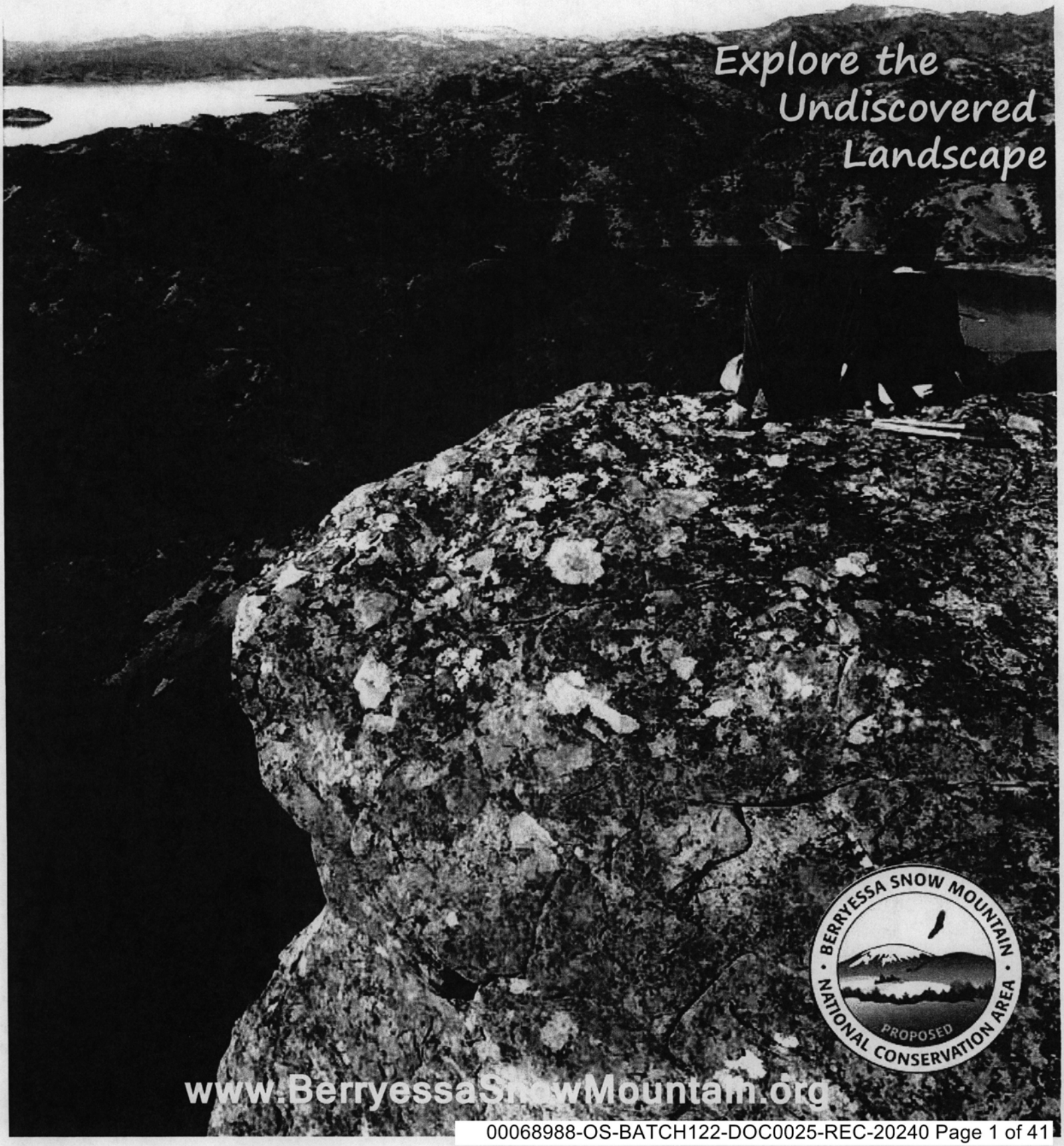

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Dear Friends,

My name is Sara Husby-Good and I am the Executive Director of Tuleyome. Tuleyome is a regional conservation organization based in Woodland, California and our big project is the permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

During the past year and a half in which I have been the Executive Director, I have really begun to explore this remarkable place. And believe me, for a girl from Chicago, there are awesome wonders around every corner. Hiking Cold Canyon and the Blue Ridge, feeling the spirituality of Native American sites, touching Big Bertha (a truly immense Sugar Pine on Goat Mountain), seeing Tule elk at Cowboy Camp, and meeting others that love this place has enriched my life.

Now this book of photographs taken by Jim Rose, Andrew Fulks, Eric Machleder and others brings alive the delicate beauty of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. While we may not yet have visited these places we can experience them through these diverse images, ranging from the surreal fog at Cold Canyon to a sunrise at Bean Rock north of Snow Mountain.

Alongside our partners -- The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife, Conservation Lands Foundation, California Native Plant Society, Yolo Audubon Society and others -- we are working to permanently protect the 500,000 acres of public lands of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region in the wild heart of California's Northern Inner Coast Range. In many respects, this effort is similar to the protection of the Golden Gate National Seashore in the San Francisco Bay Area or the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in southern California, which has been a model for protecting this region.

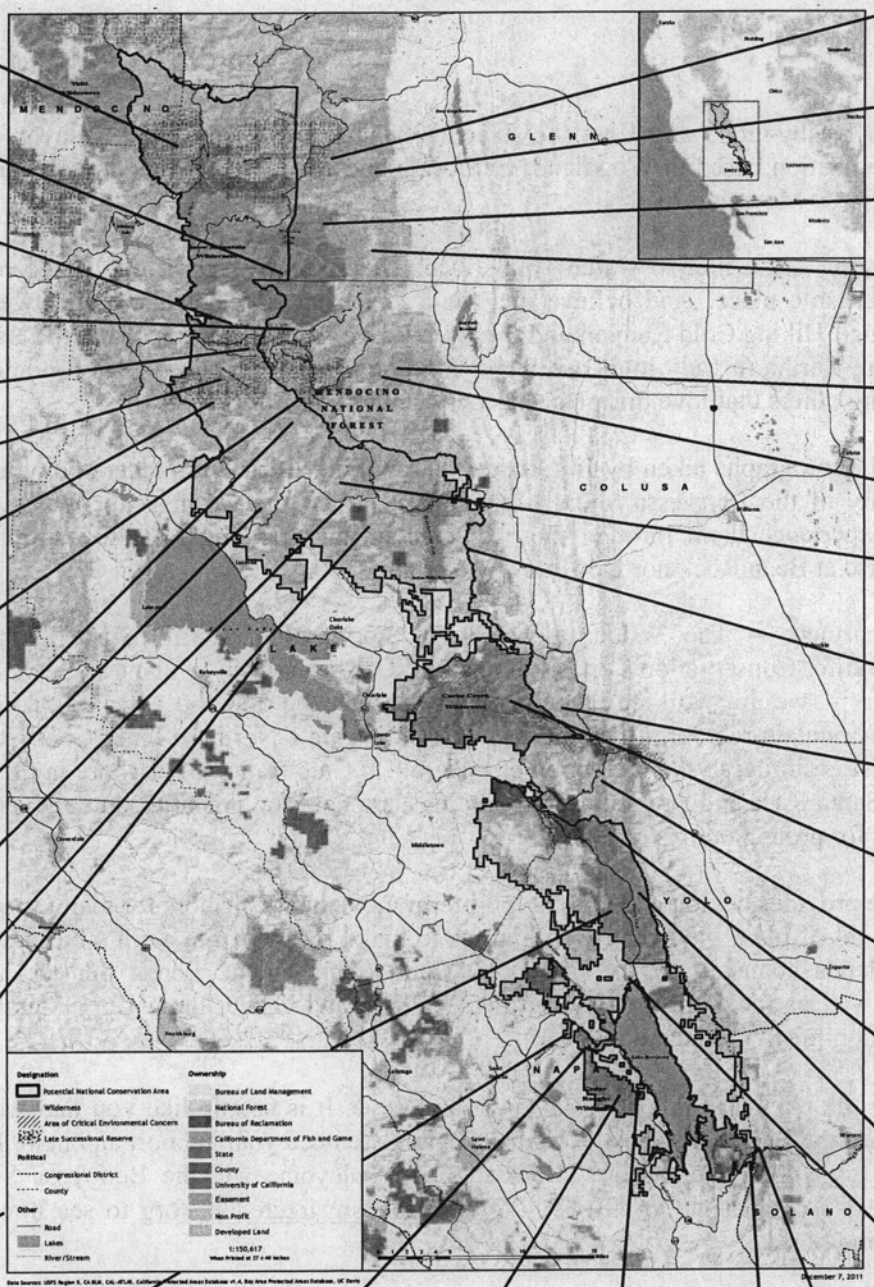
This vast expanse provides habitat and critical long-term movement corridors for many species of wildlife and registers a level of plant biodiversity so high as to make it one of the earth's biological hotspots. It includes public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Bureau of Reclamation; as well as the California Department of Fish and Game, three UC Natural Reserves and other public and non-profit organizations.

I hope you enjoy the photos in this book as much as I have. It is people like you that will permanently protect and steward the Berryessa Snow Mountain region; we need your support and help. Please visit our website at www.tuleyome.org for more information on Tuleyome and the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. You can also contact me at 530-350-2599 or sdhusby@tuleyome.org to see how you can help protect this amazing place.

Sincerely,

Sara Husby-Good
Executive Director

Map of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region



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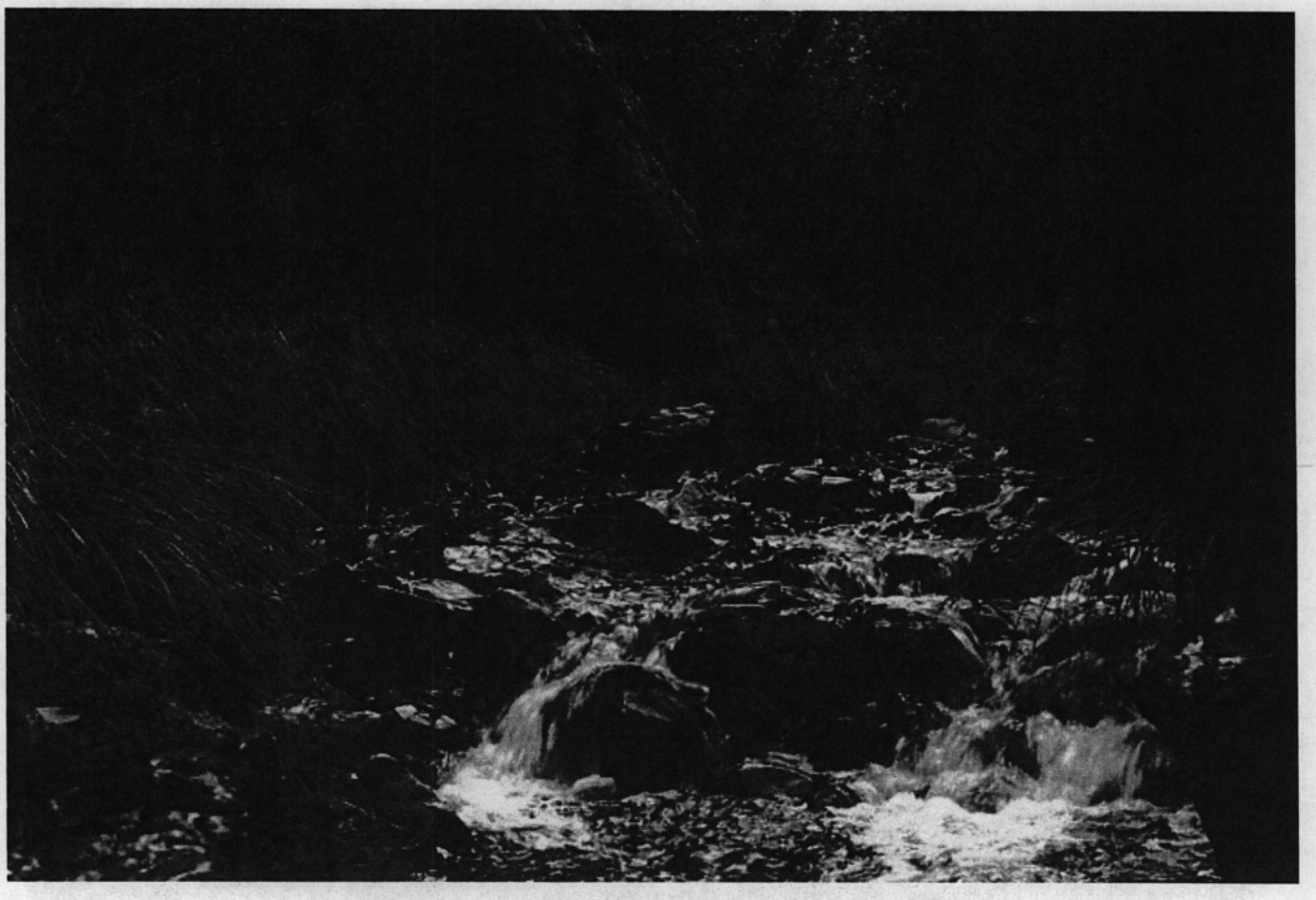
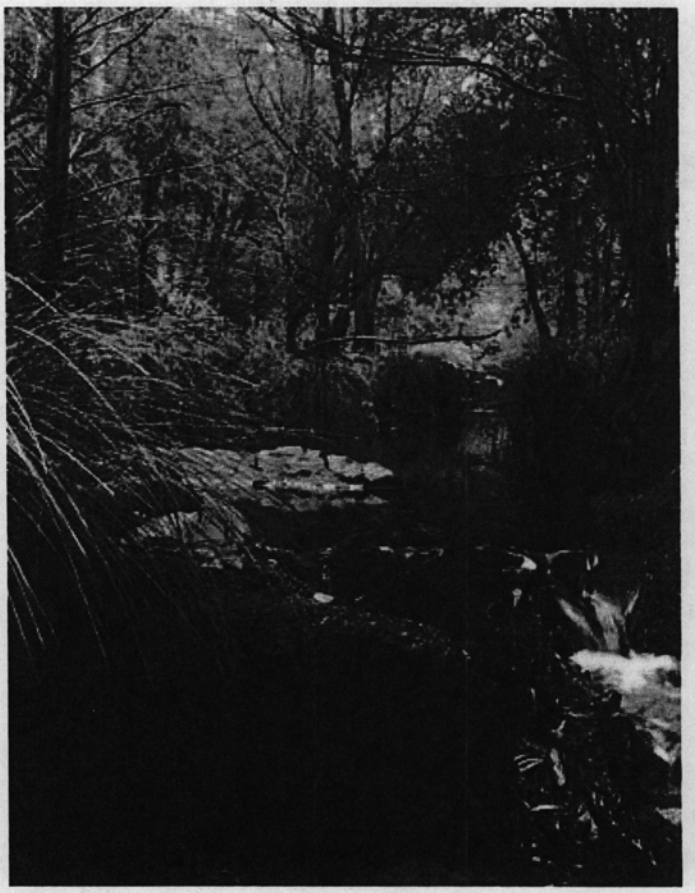
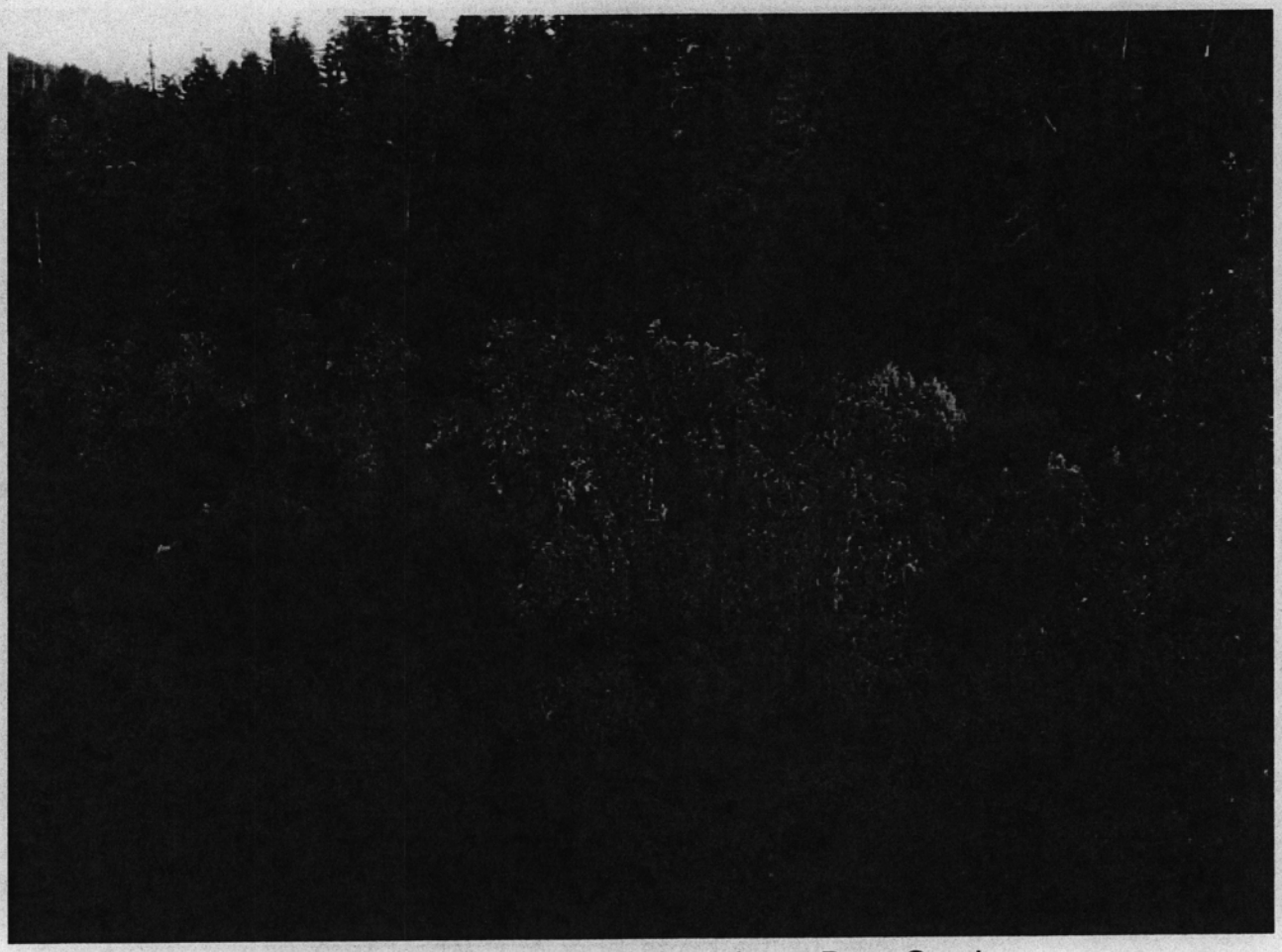


Flows to the North Fork of Cache Creek



Bear Creek



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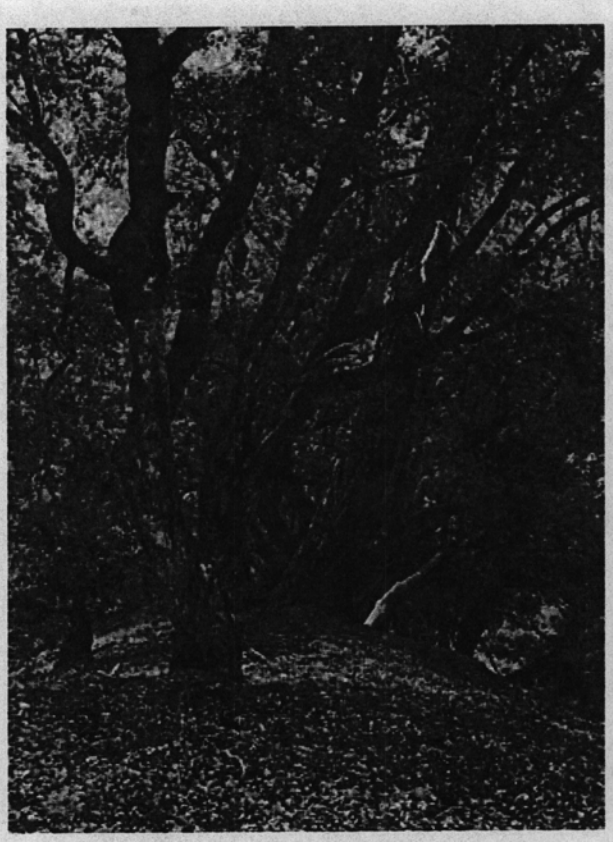
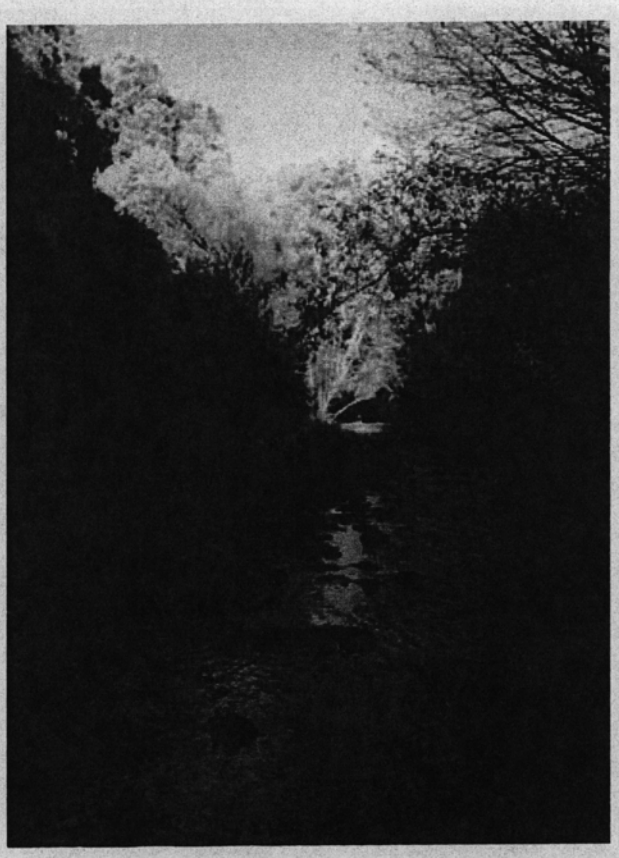
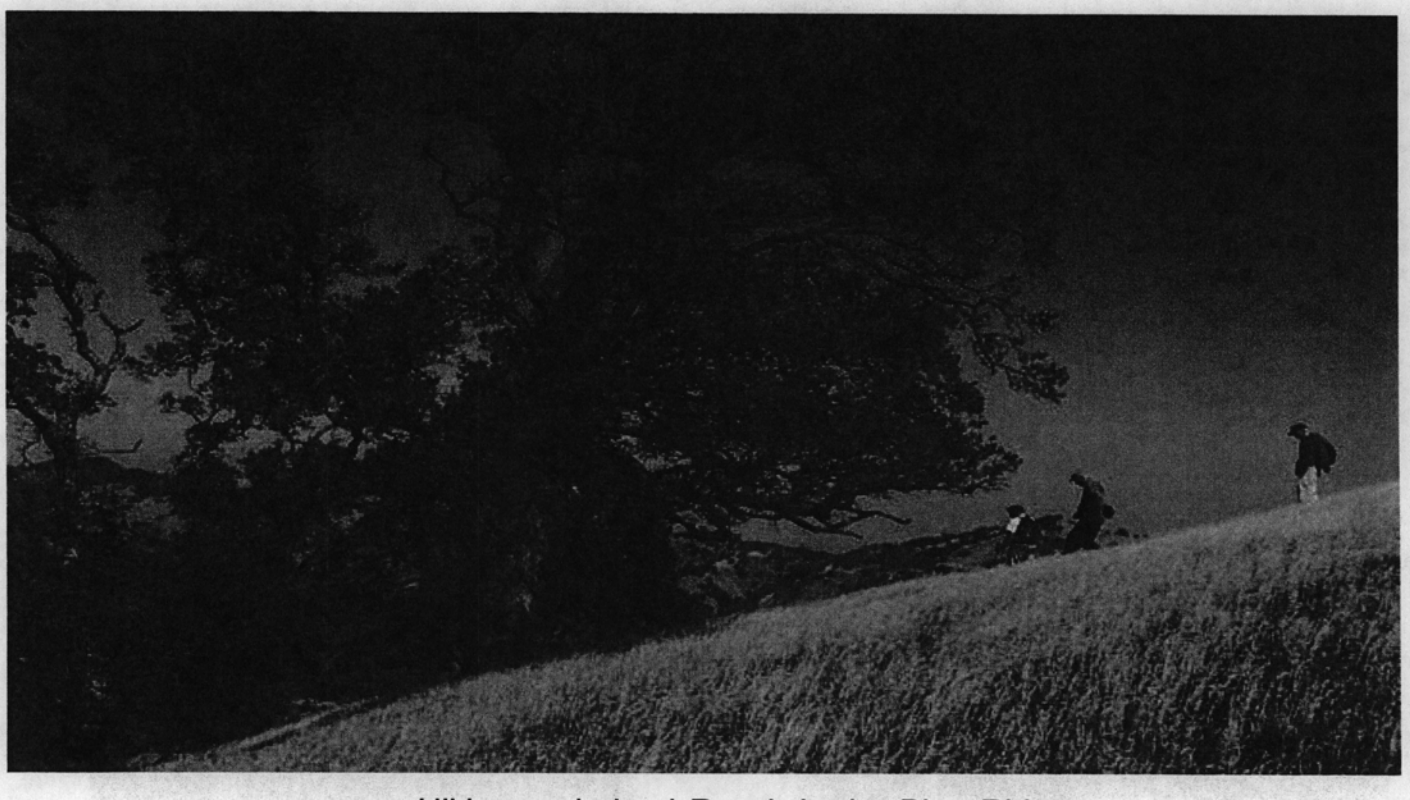


Oak woodland above Bear Creek



Bear Creek upstream from the campground

Blue Ridge



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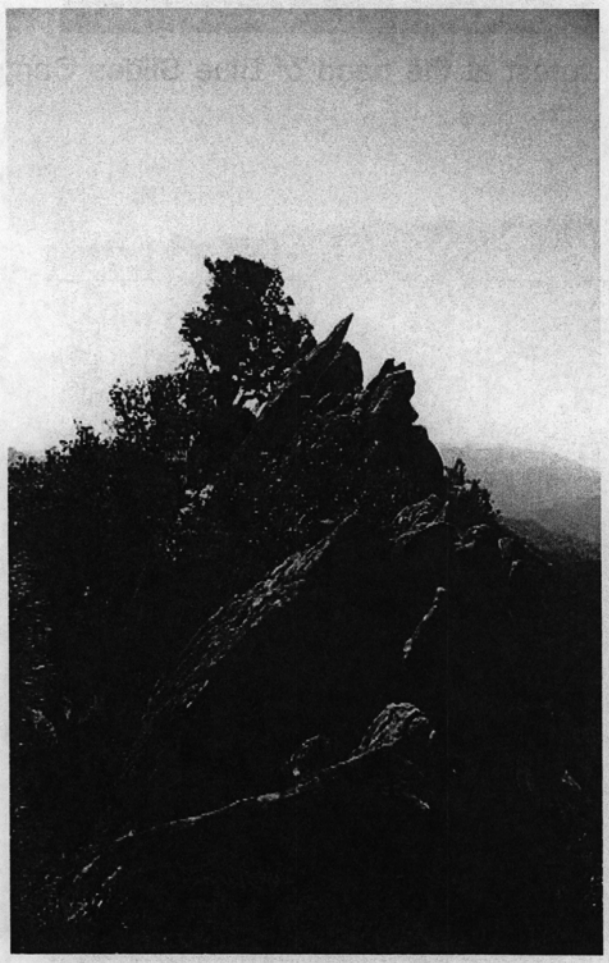

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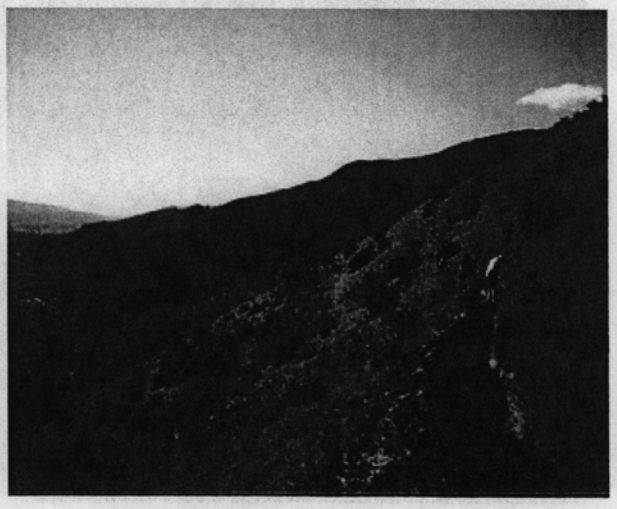
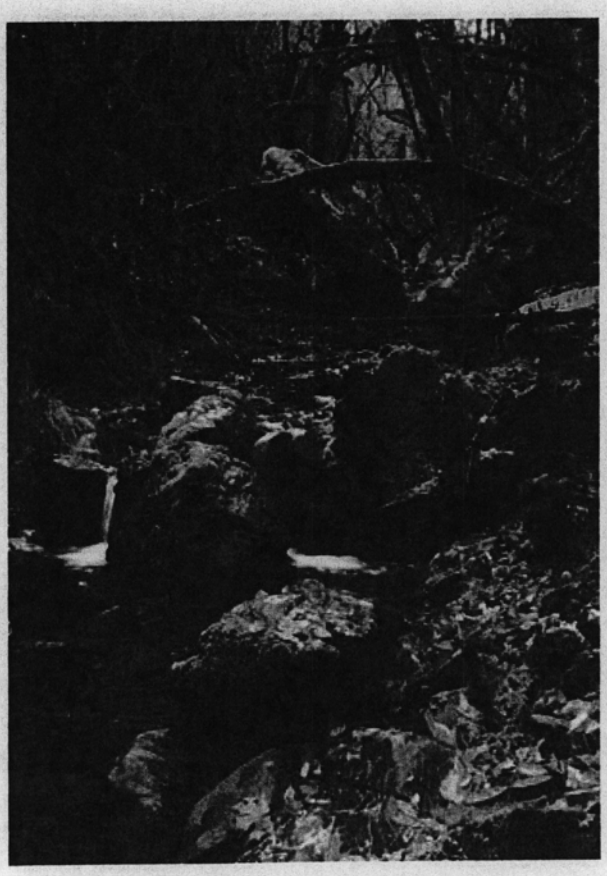
View of Lake Berryessa from Blue Ridge
by A. Fulks



Building the Berryessa Peak Trail
photo by A. Fulks

Blue Slides



Small cascades on Blue Slides Creek

View of small tributary to Blue Slides Creek

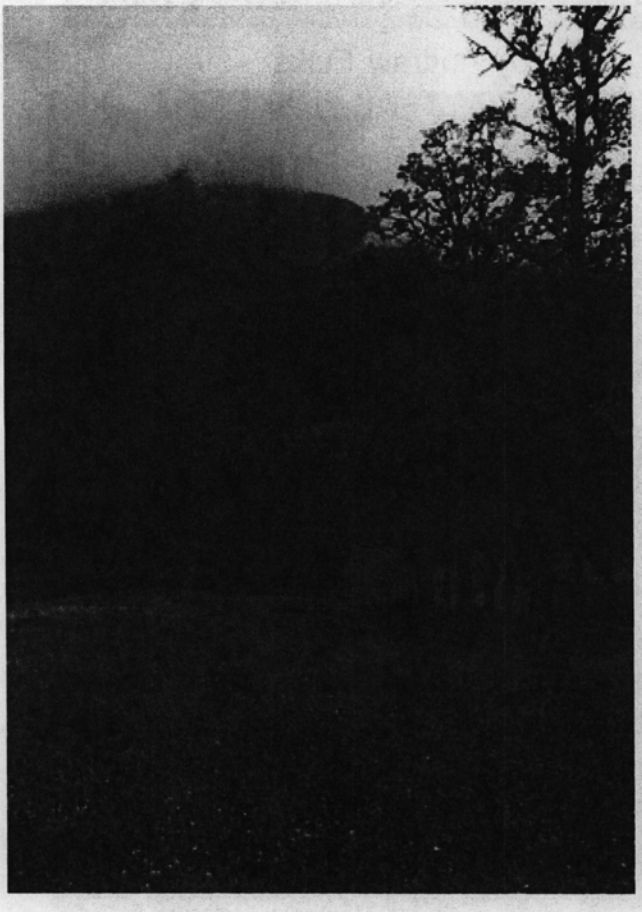
Mixed forest at the head of Blue Slides Canyon

View of upper Blue Slides canyon showing prairie

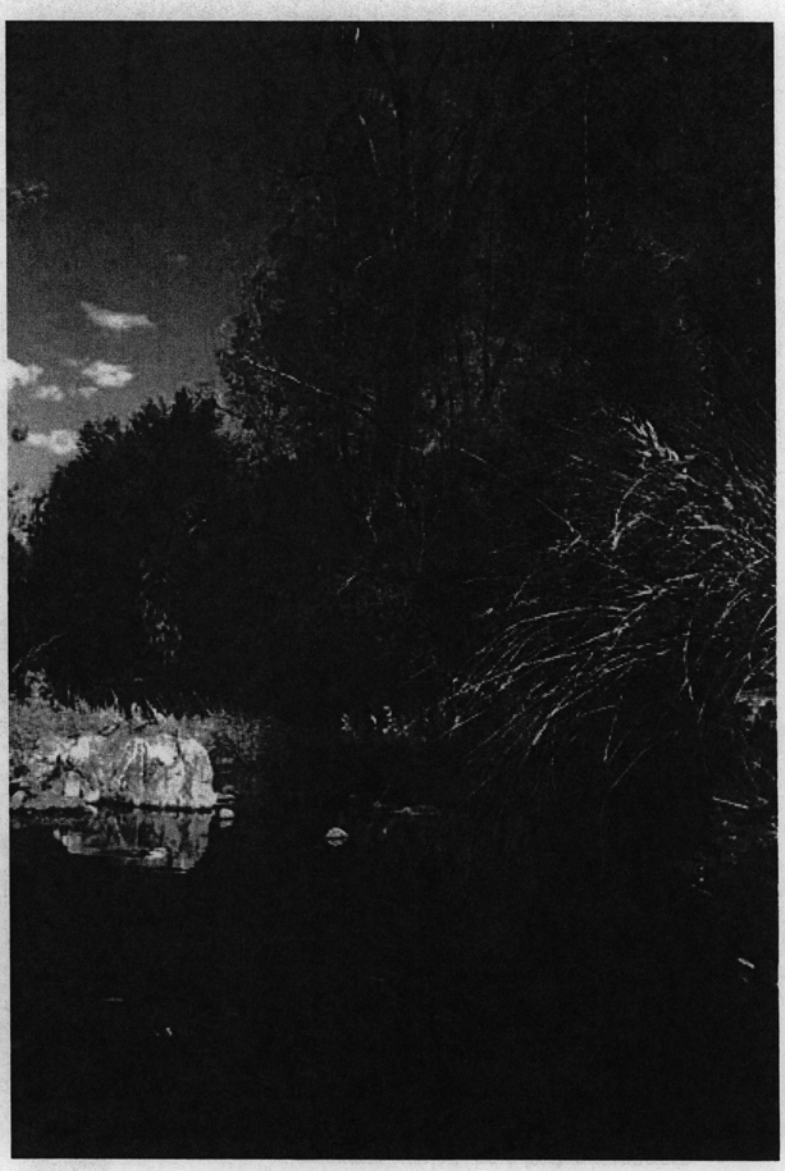
Briscoe Creek

California Wild Rose along Briscoe Creek

Oaks on Open Ridge, Briscoe Creek watershed

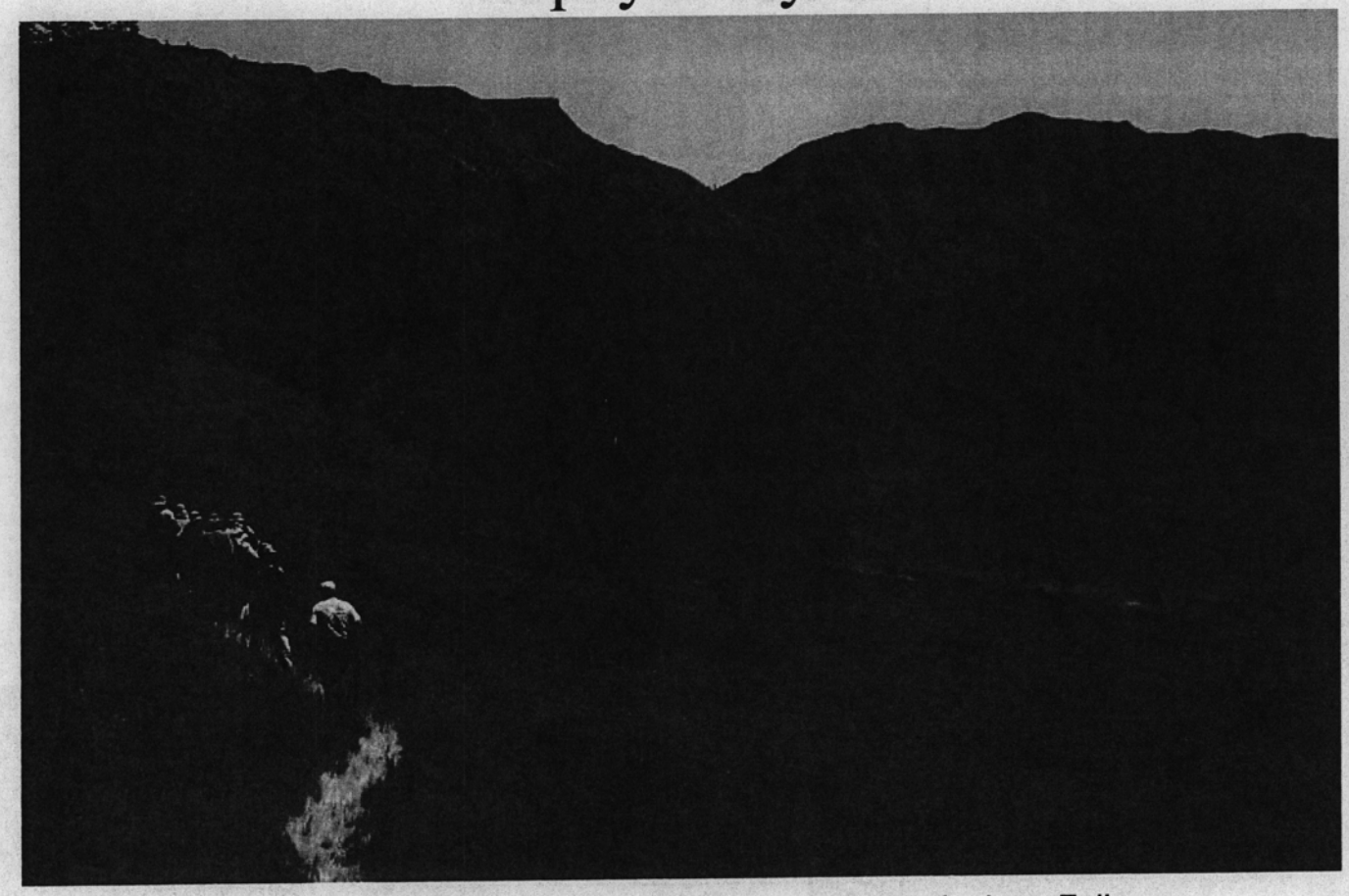


Oak woodland on Open Ridge, above Briscoe Creek



Briscoe Creek

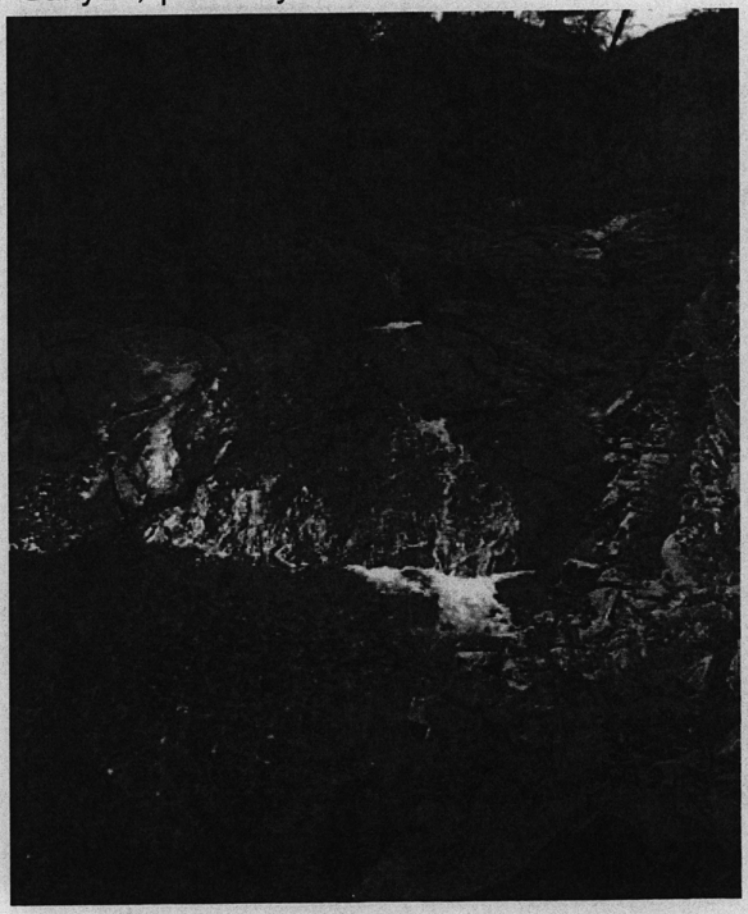
Brophy Canyon



Ridge country above Brophy Canyon, photo by Andrew Fulks

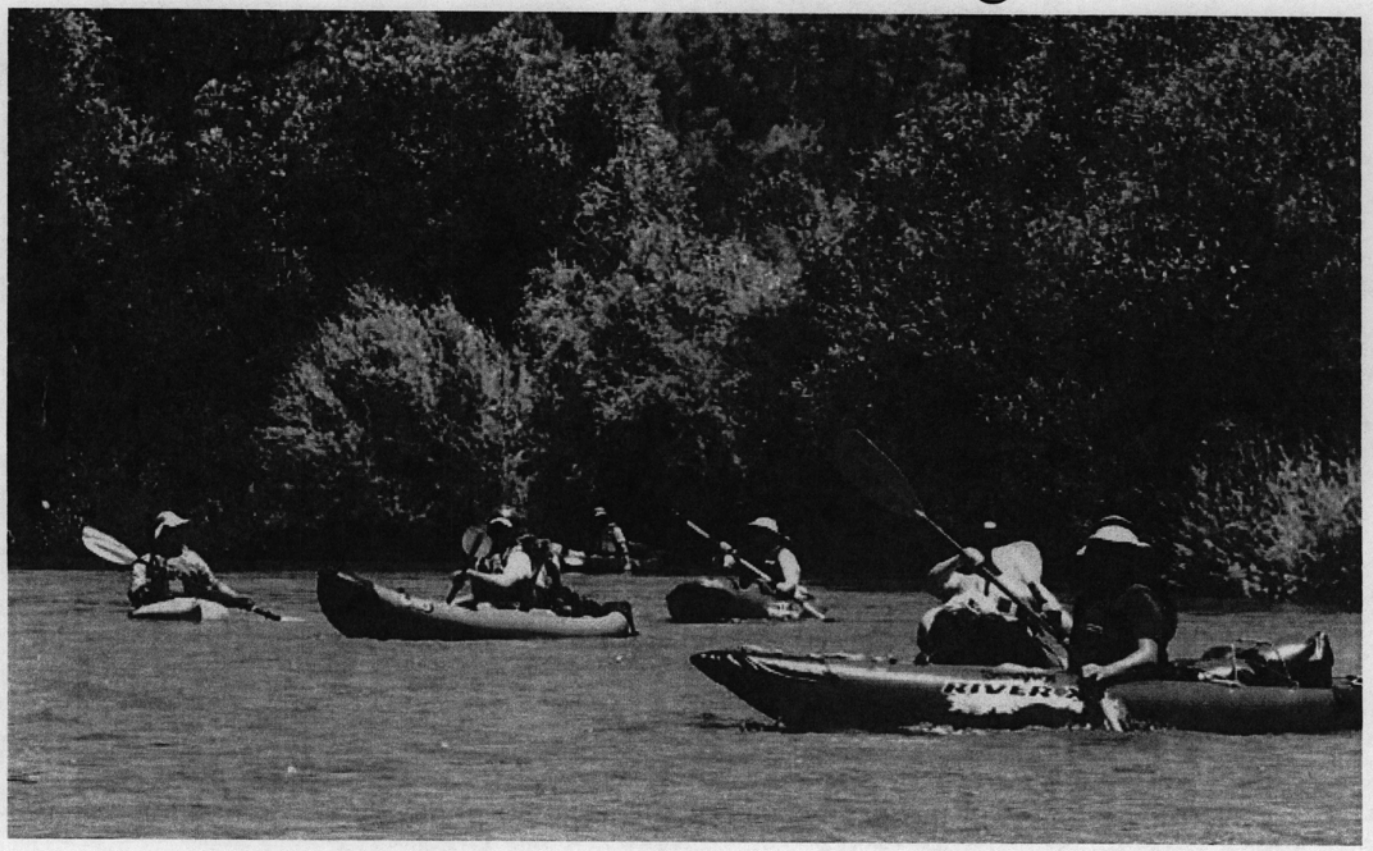
Pacific Tree Frog

Shooting Star blooms

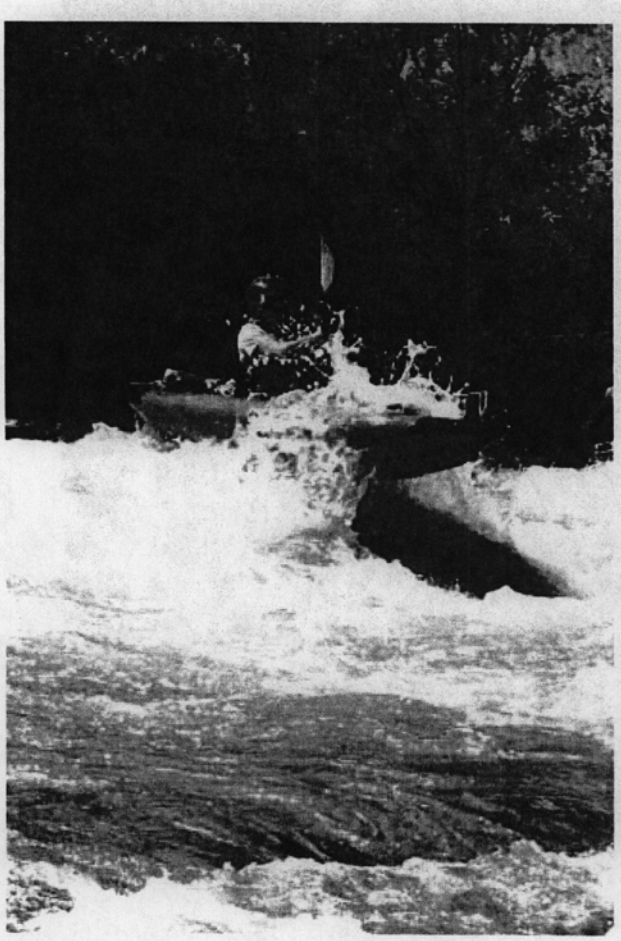


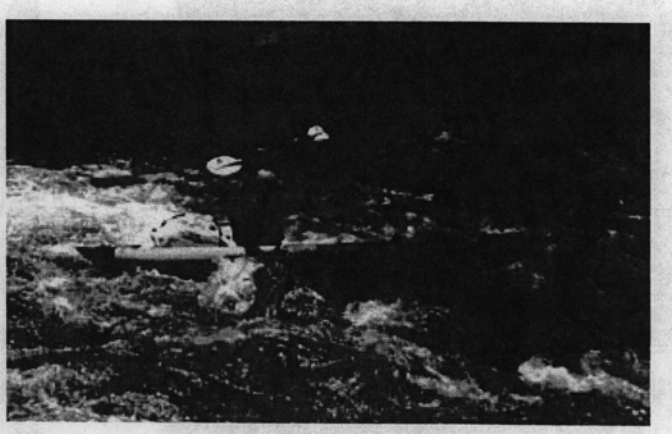
Falls and bedrock pool, Brophy Creek

Cache Creek Boating



Boating trip on Cache Creek, photo by A. Fulks



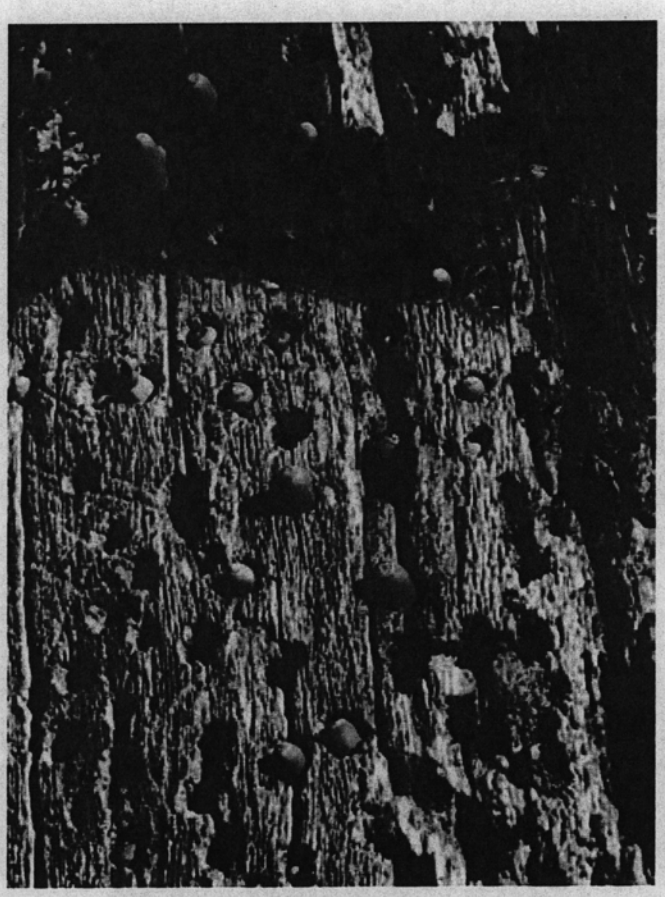


Tuleyome's Youth Outdoor Exploration Program rafting trip, photo by A. Martinez

Cache Creek Wilderness

Families enjoying the Cache Creek Wilderness, photo by B. Schneider

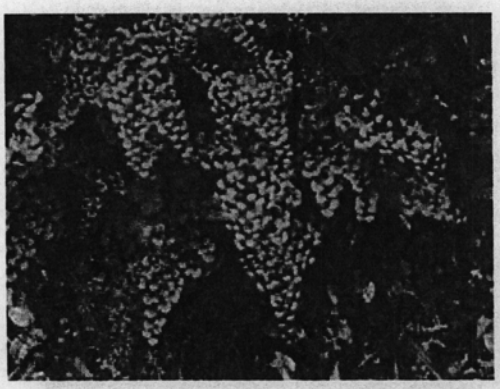
Wildflowers in the Cache Creek Wilderness, photos by A. Fulks



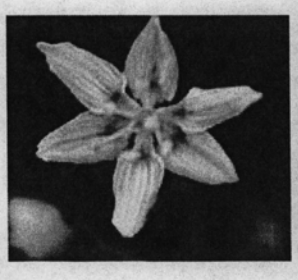
Acorns stored in a granary tree by woodpeckers at Kennedy Flats, photo by A. Fulks

Cedar Roughs Wilderness

View across Pope Creek to the Cedar Roughs Wilderness



Maidenhair ferns along lower part of Cedar Roughs trail

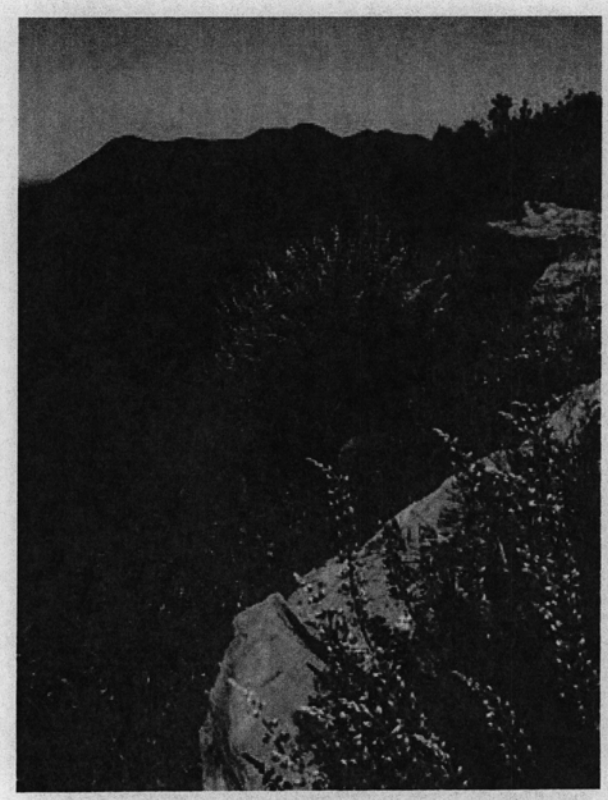


Star Lily

Oaks in the Access Meadow along the Cedar Roughs trail

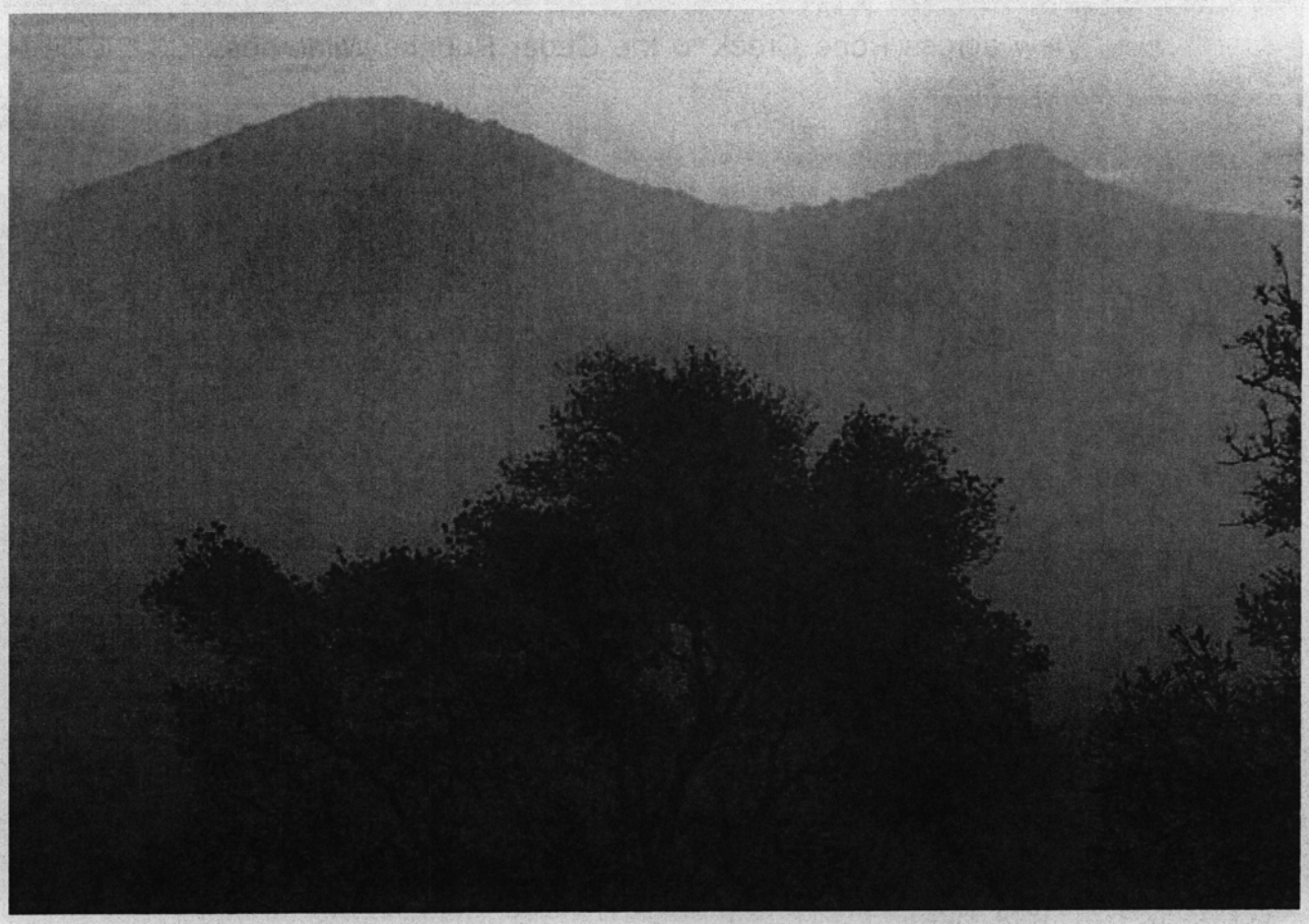
Manzanita flowering along Cedar Roughs trail

Cold Canyon



Bush lupine and poppies, Cold Canyon

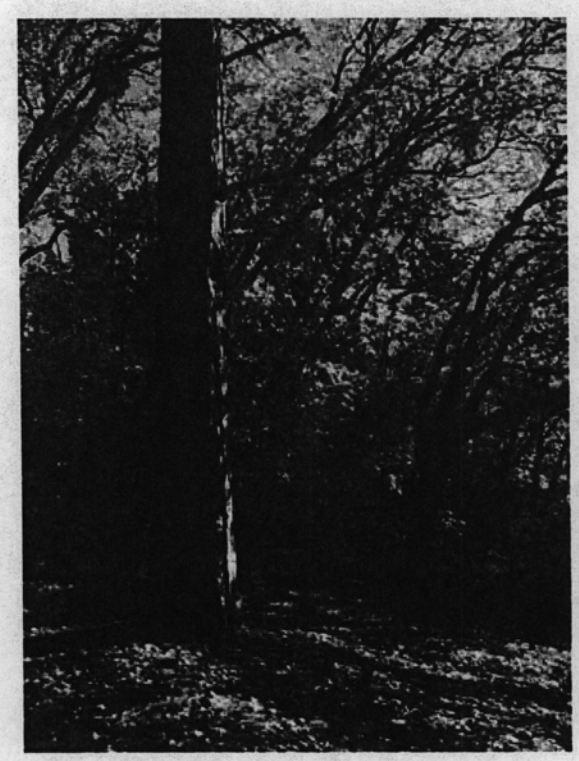
Wildcat Creek, photo by A. Fulks



Looking east across the UC Stebbins Cold Canyon Natural Reserve on a foggy winter morning

Deafy Glade

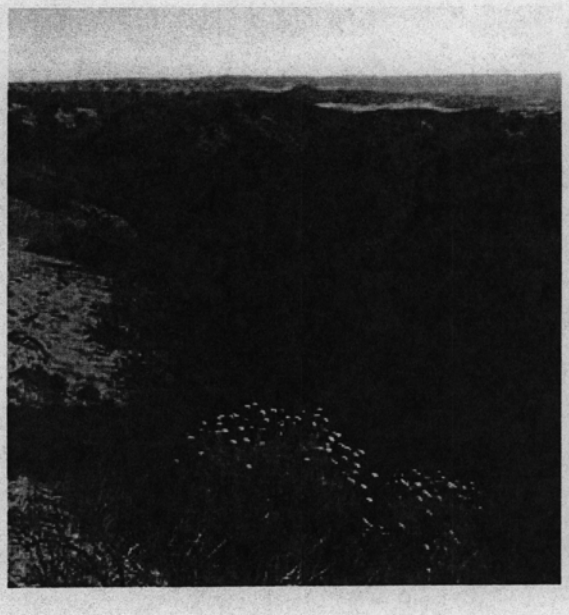
South Fork Stony Creek near Deafy Glade trail crossing

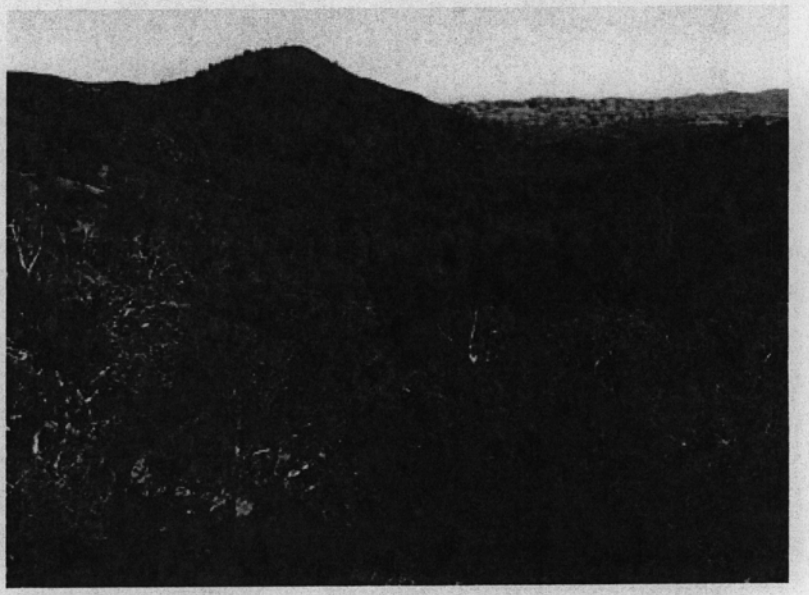


Mixed forest around Deafy Glade

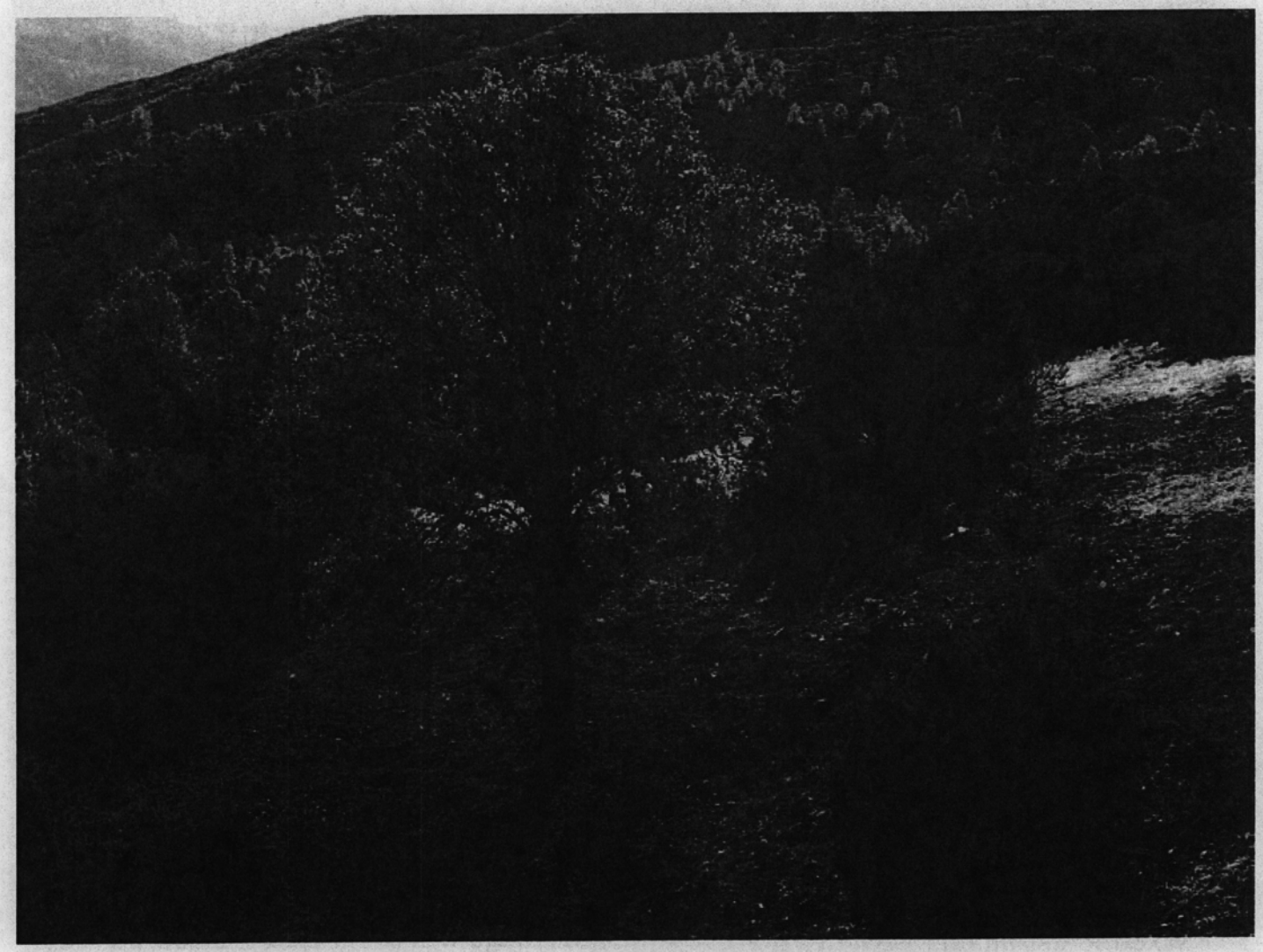
Ladybugs along the Deafy Glade trail

Dry Creek



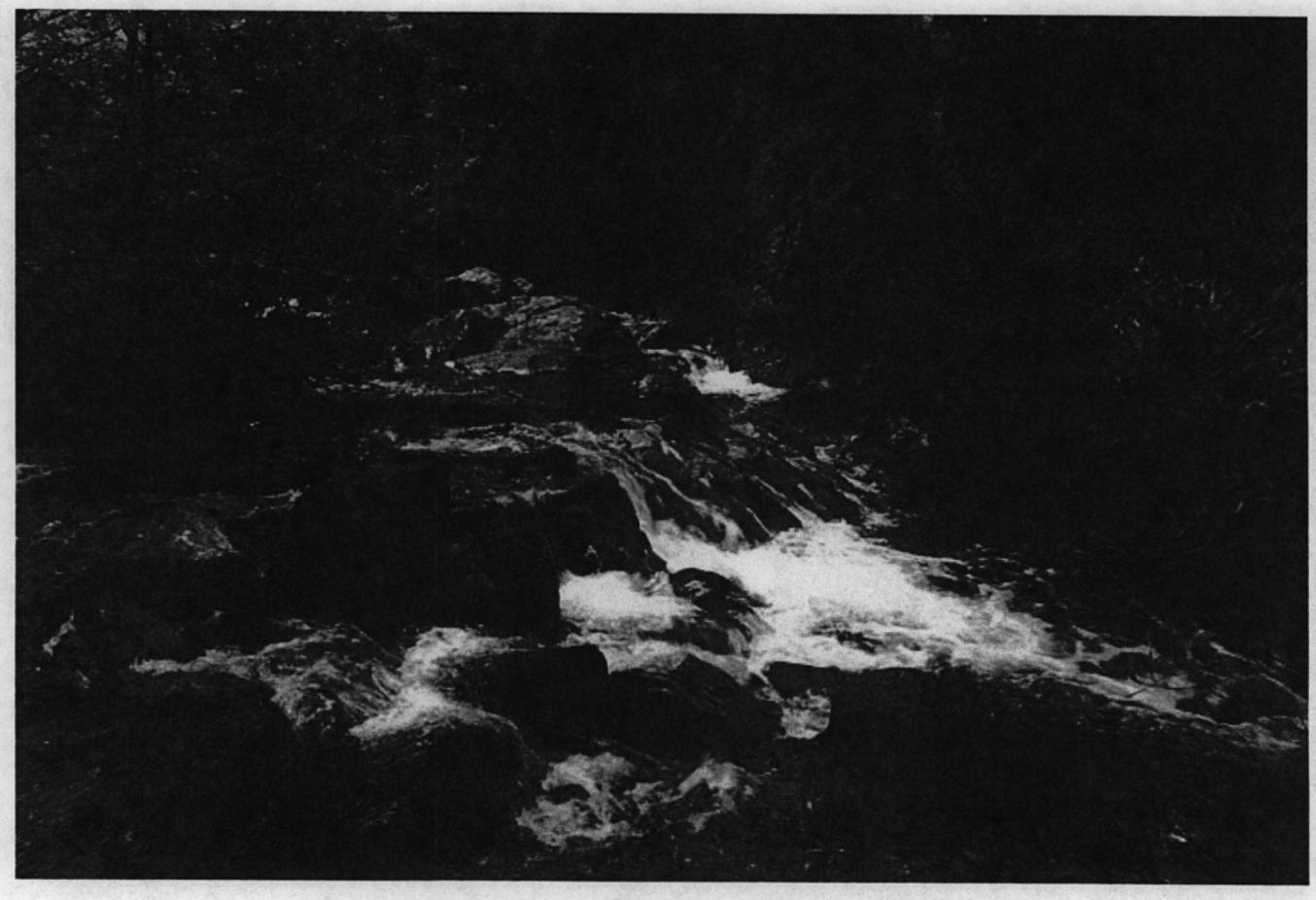


Looking down Dry Creek with
Elephant Hill at left center

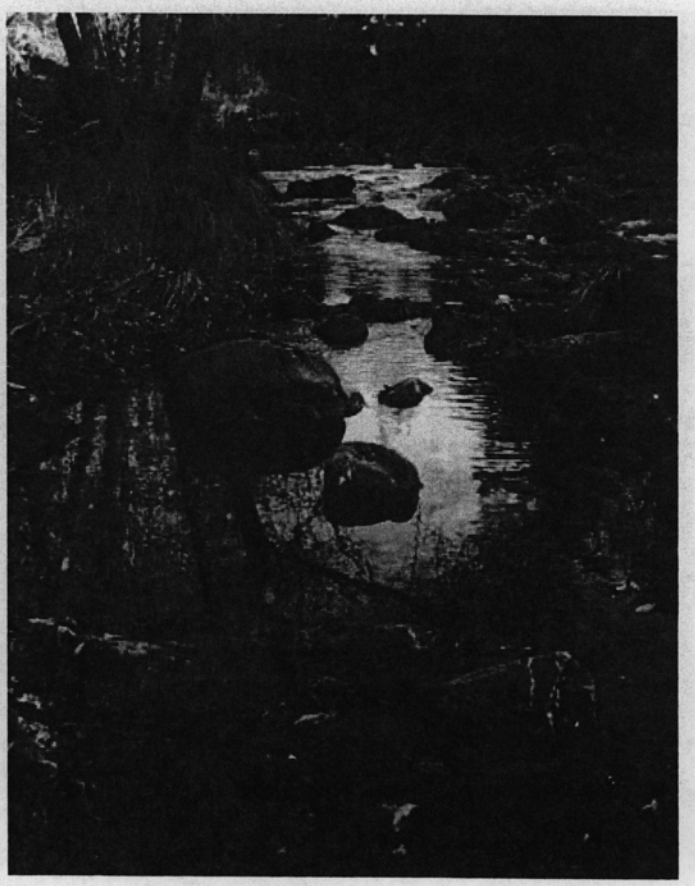


Located east of Snow Mountain, flows to Stony Creek

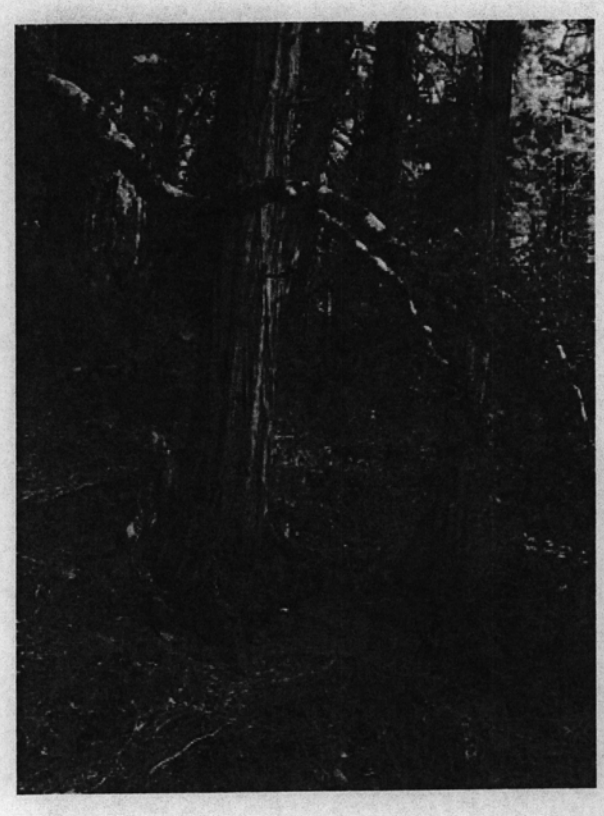
Eel River

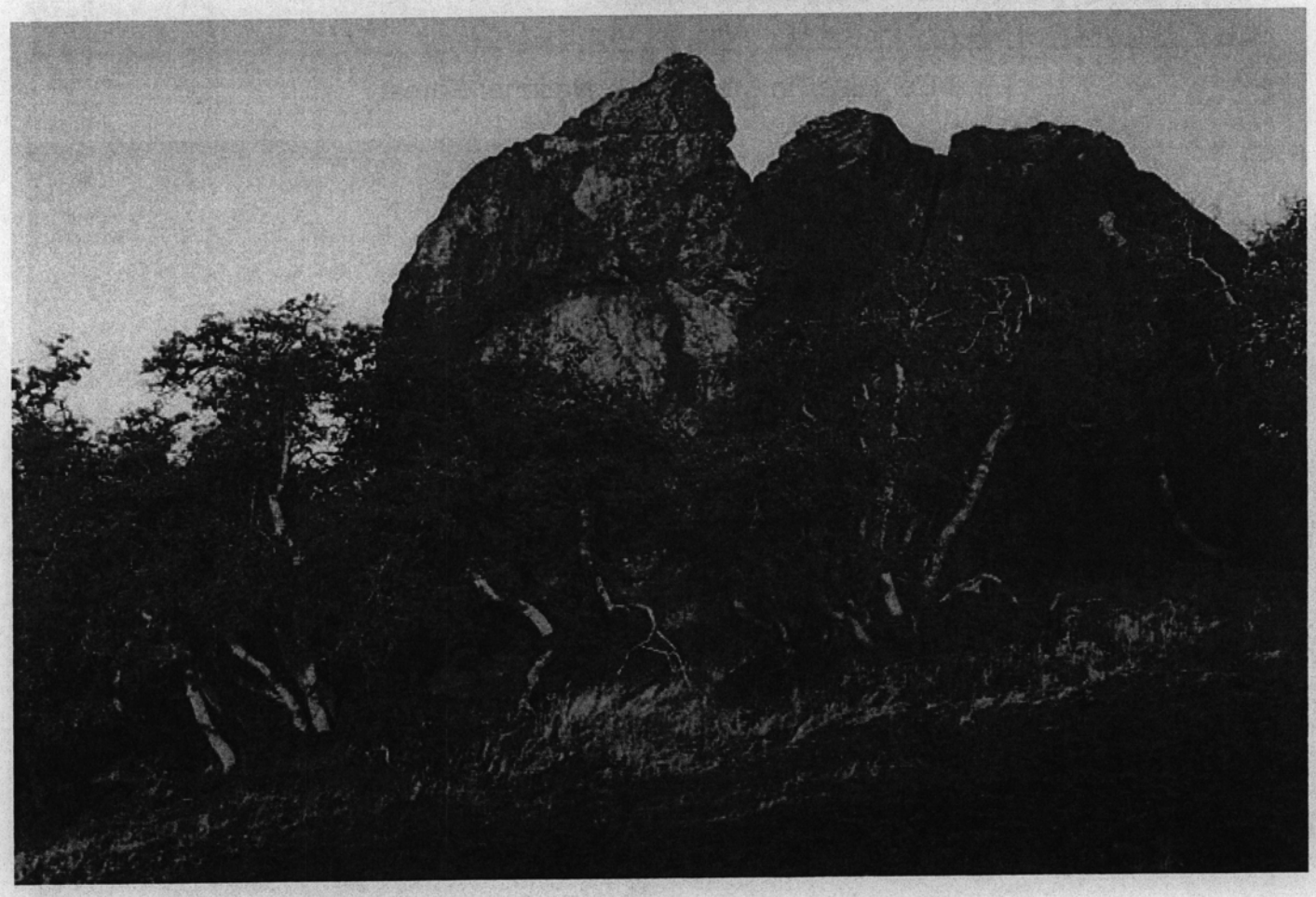


Eel River in Mendocino National Forest



Eel River Headwaters

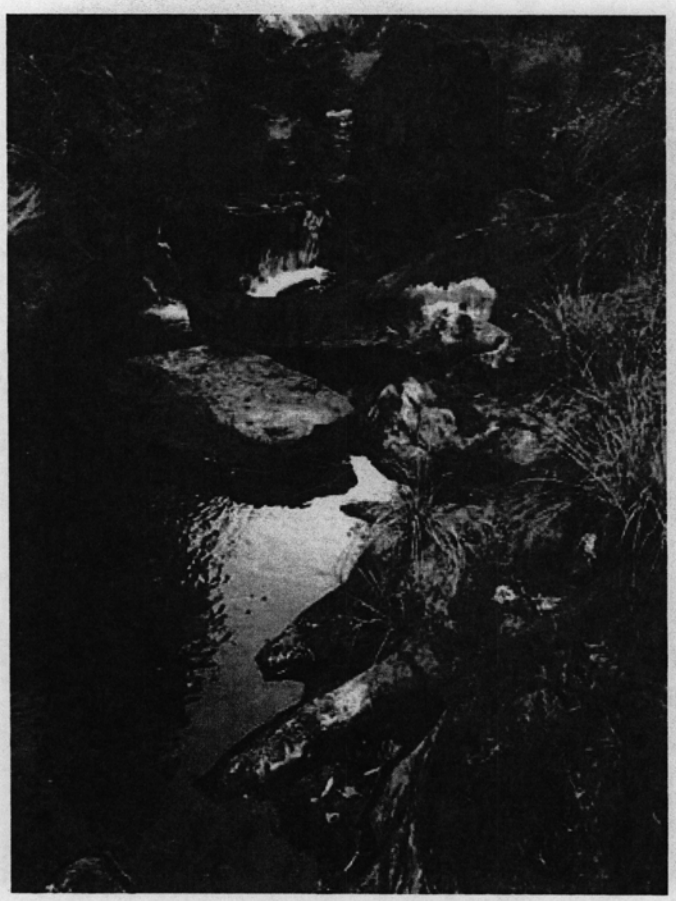




Sunrise on Bean Rock in Mendocino National Forest

French Ridge

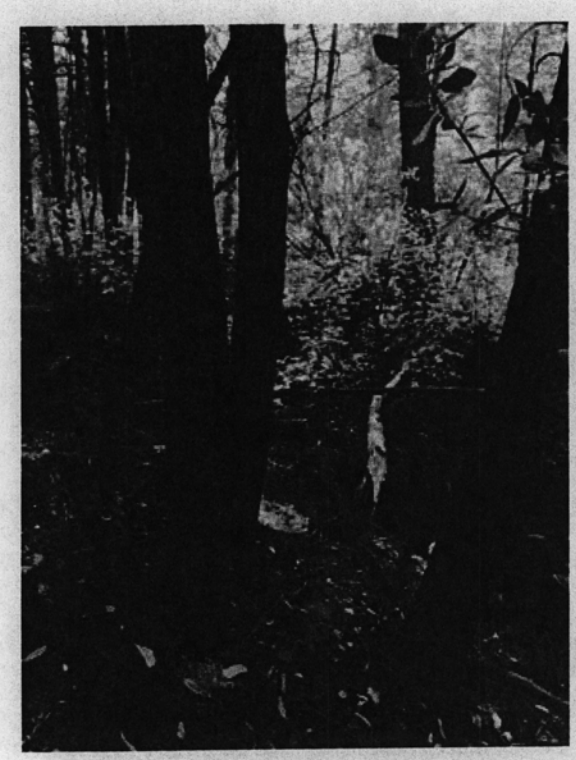
Sky Rock as seen near French Ridge



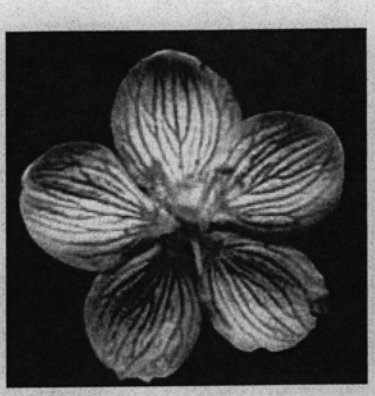
Rice Fork Eel river

Oaks at the head of French Creek canyon

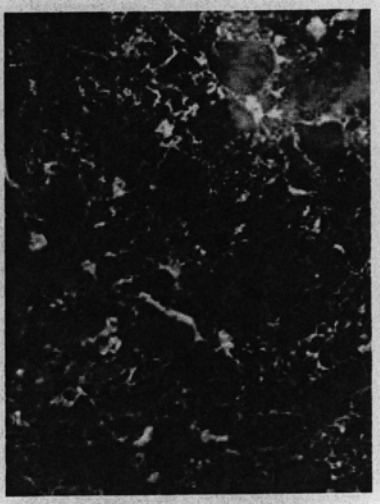
Frenzel Creek Research Natural Area



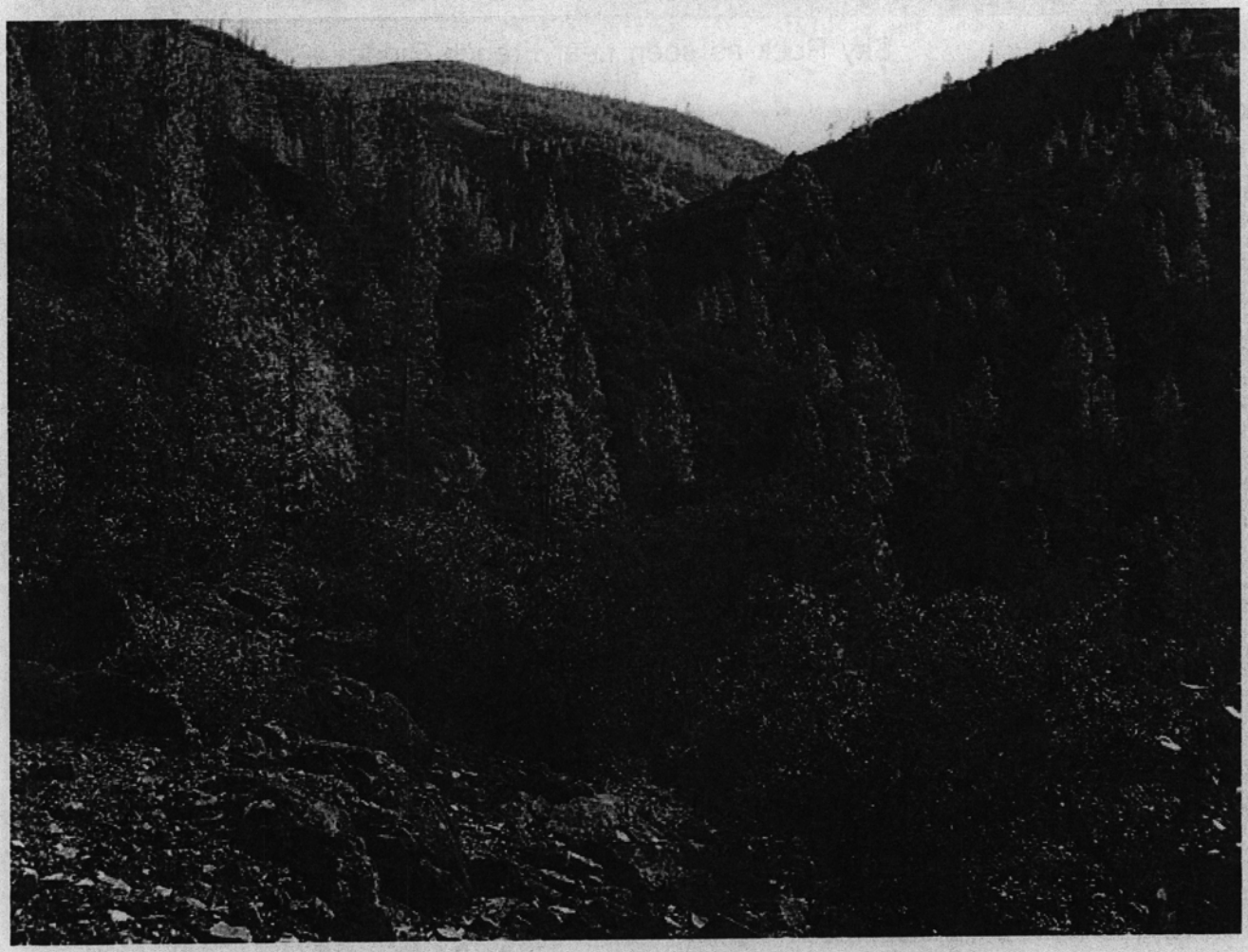
Conifers along Frenzel Creek



Grass-of-Parnassus flower near Frenzel Creek



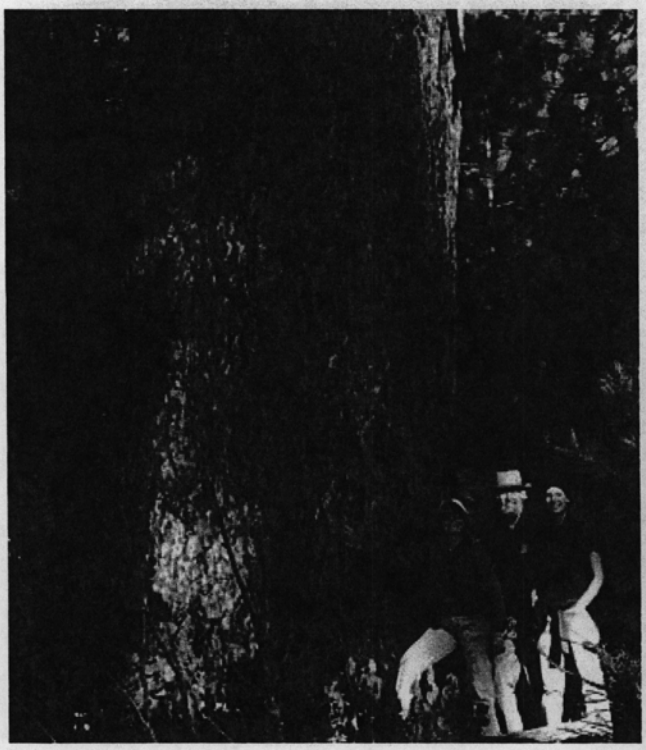
Interesting bedrock under Frenzel Creek



View up Frenzel Creek showing serpentine chaparral

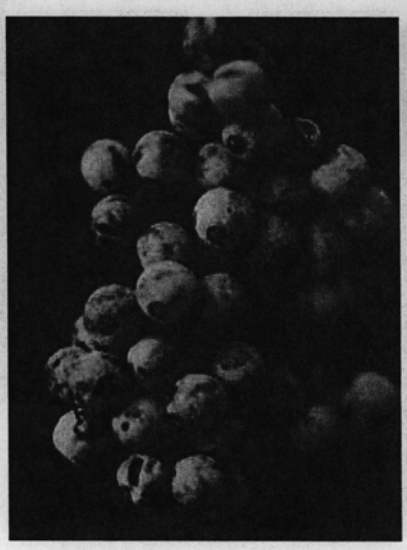
Goat Mountain

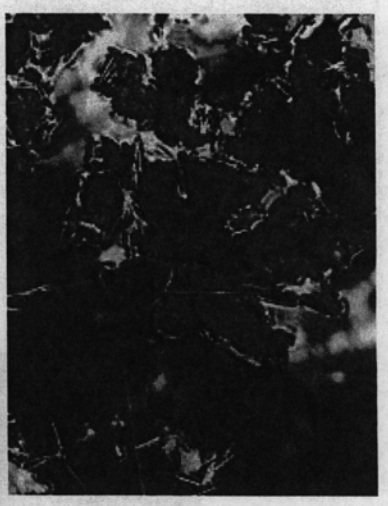
Edge of White Ranch glades, Goat Mountain



Big Bertha giant Sugar pine on South side of Goat Mountain

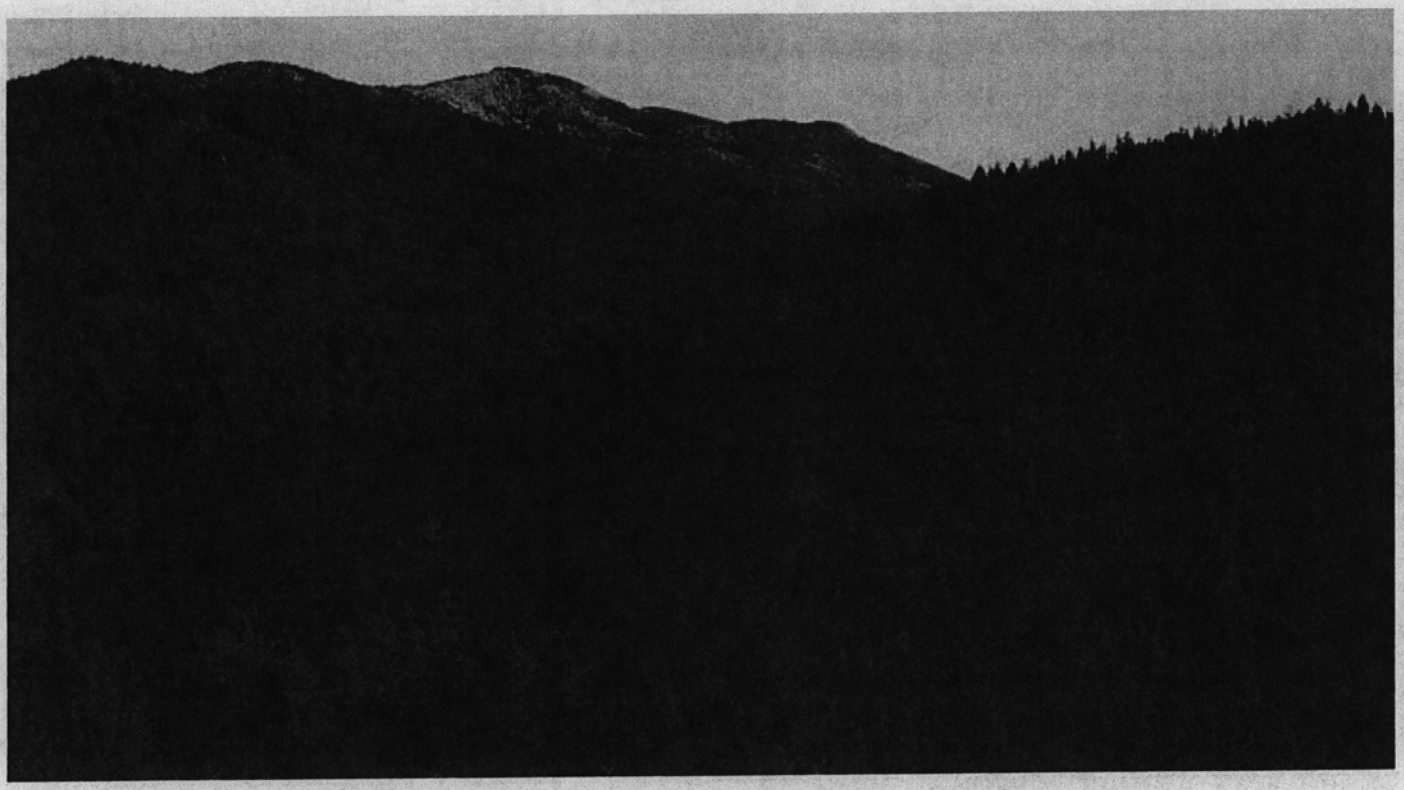
Native upland Elderberry fruit at 5000 foot elevation on Goat Mountain





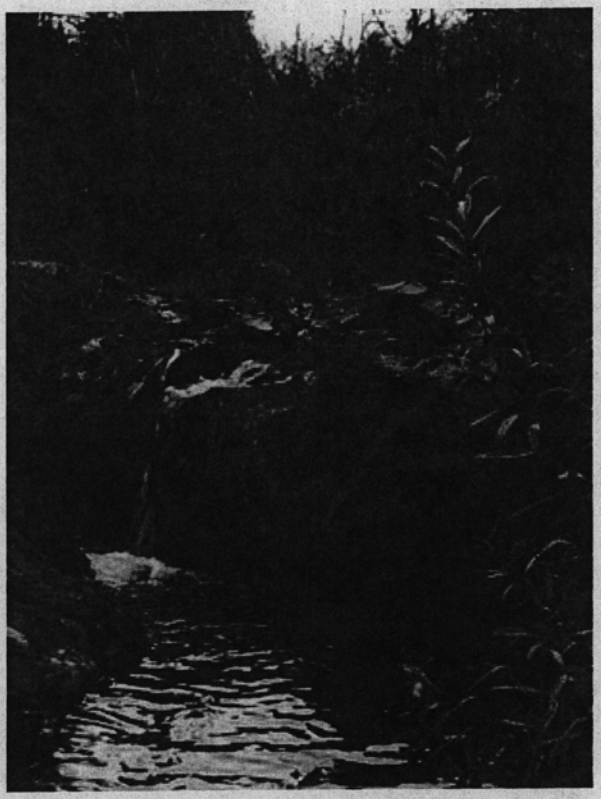
Leaves on Wyman Creek, near Goat Mountain

Hale Ridge Research Natural Area



Hale Ridge to the right, Goat Mountain in the distance

Bird's nest near Hale Spring



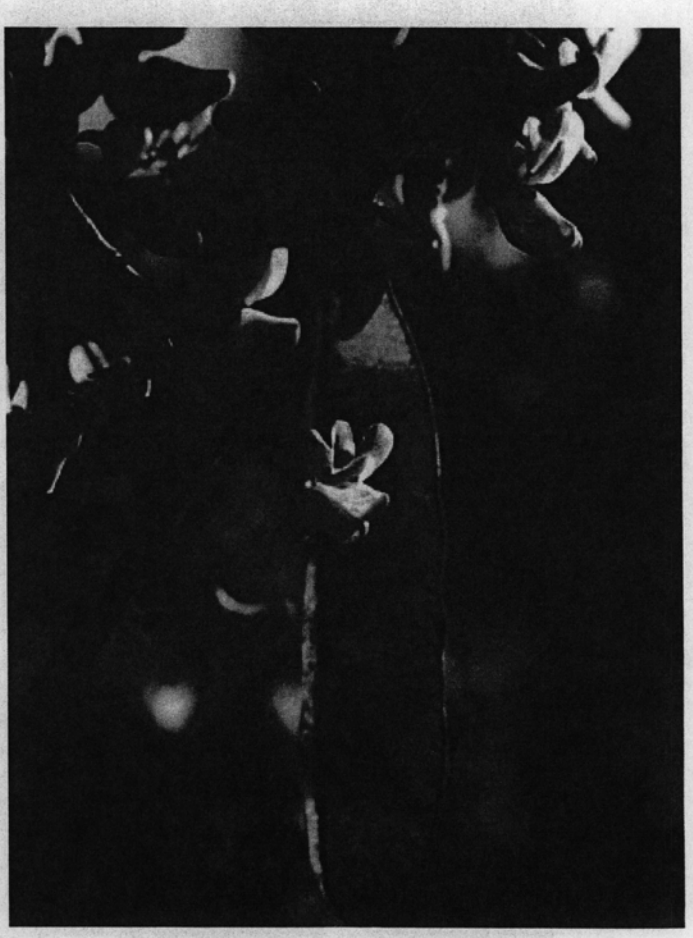
Salt Creek near west end of Hale Ridge

Knoxville Wildlife Area

Knoxville Wildlife Area land overlooking Lake Berryessa, photo by A. Fulks

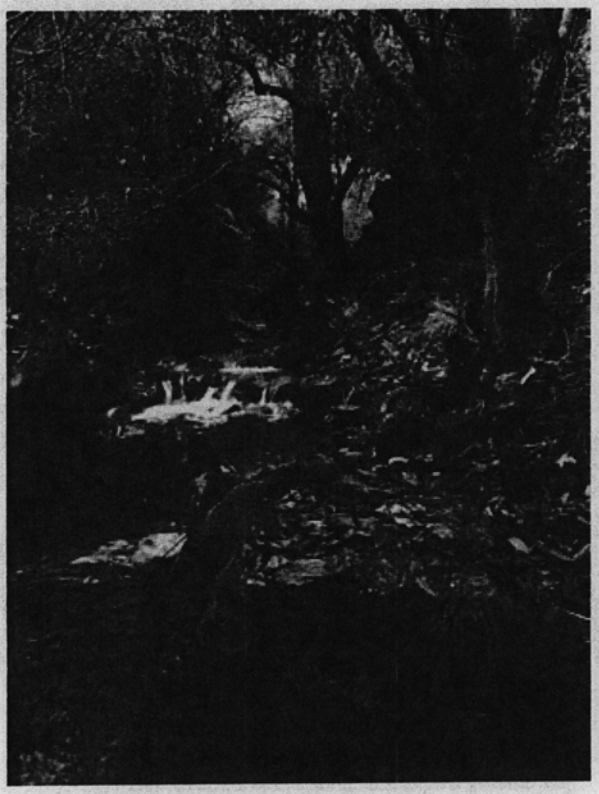
Cattails in Eticuera Creek

View across south portion of Knoxville Wildlife Area to Berryessa, photo by A. Fulks



Redbud flowers and seedpod, Knoxville Wildlife Area

Little Stony Creek



Trout in lower Little Stony Creek

Blazing Star

Little Stony Creek bedrock section

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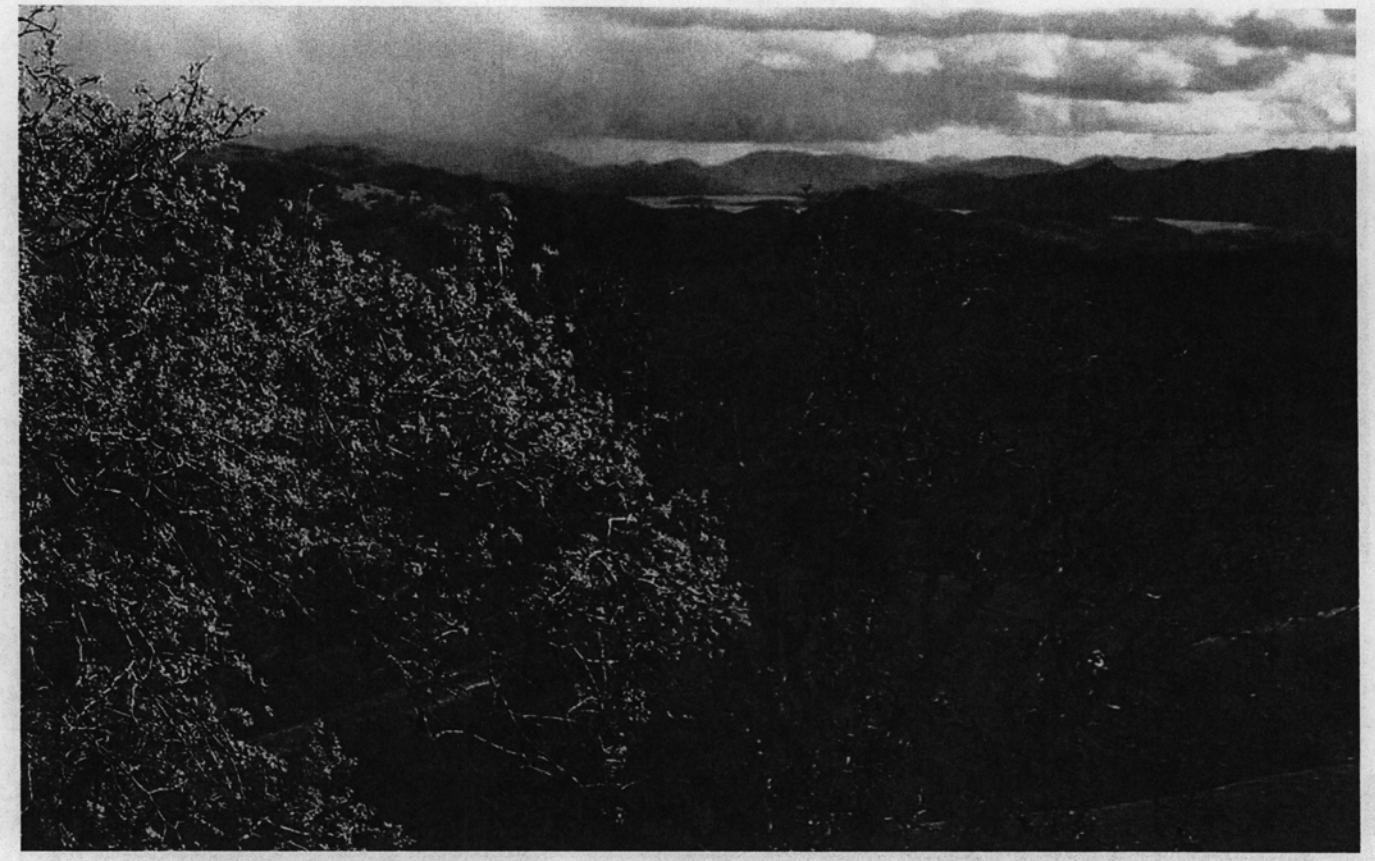
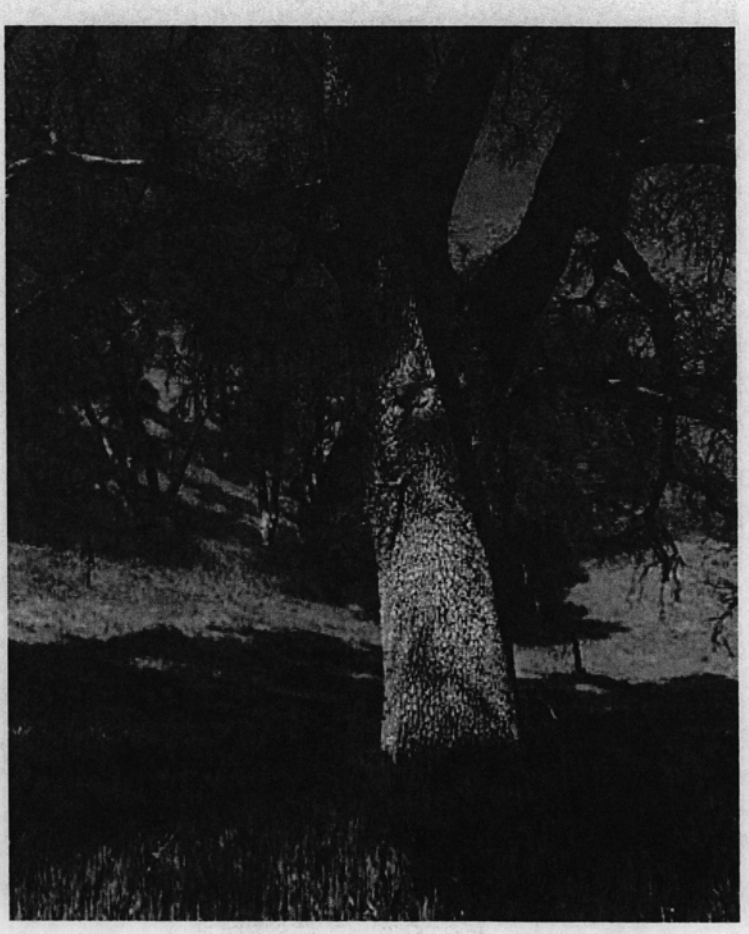
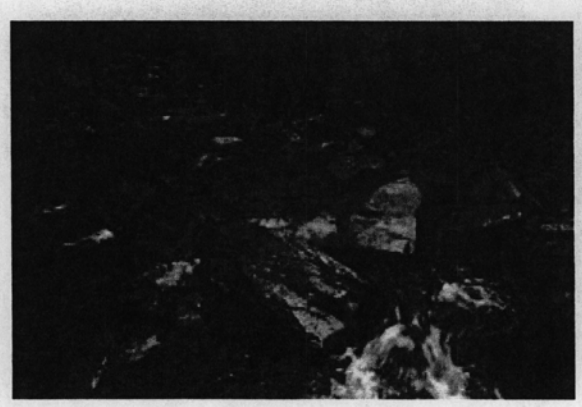
Long Canyon



View South from upper Long Canyon to Lake Berryessa, photo by A. Fulks

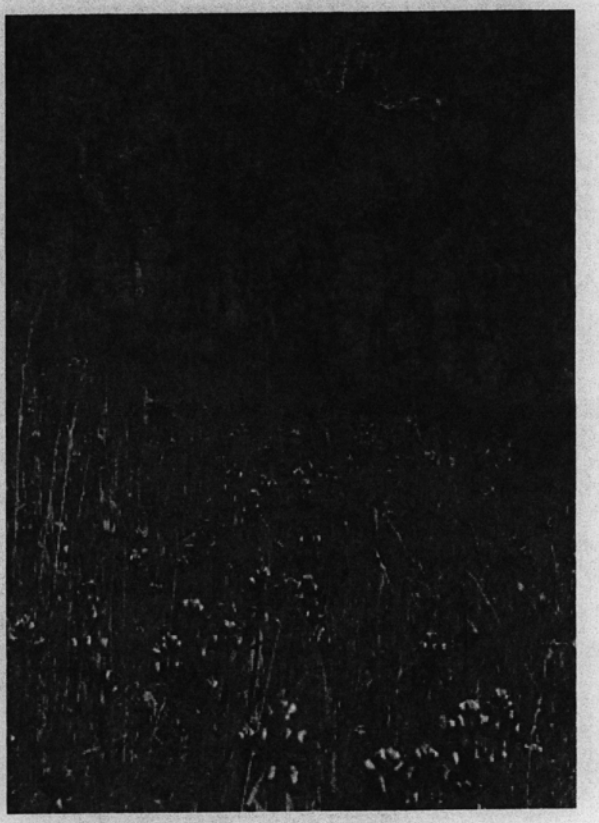
Bush lupine



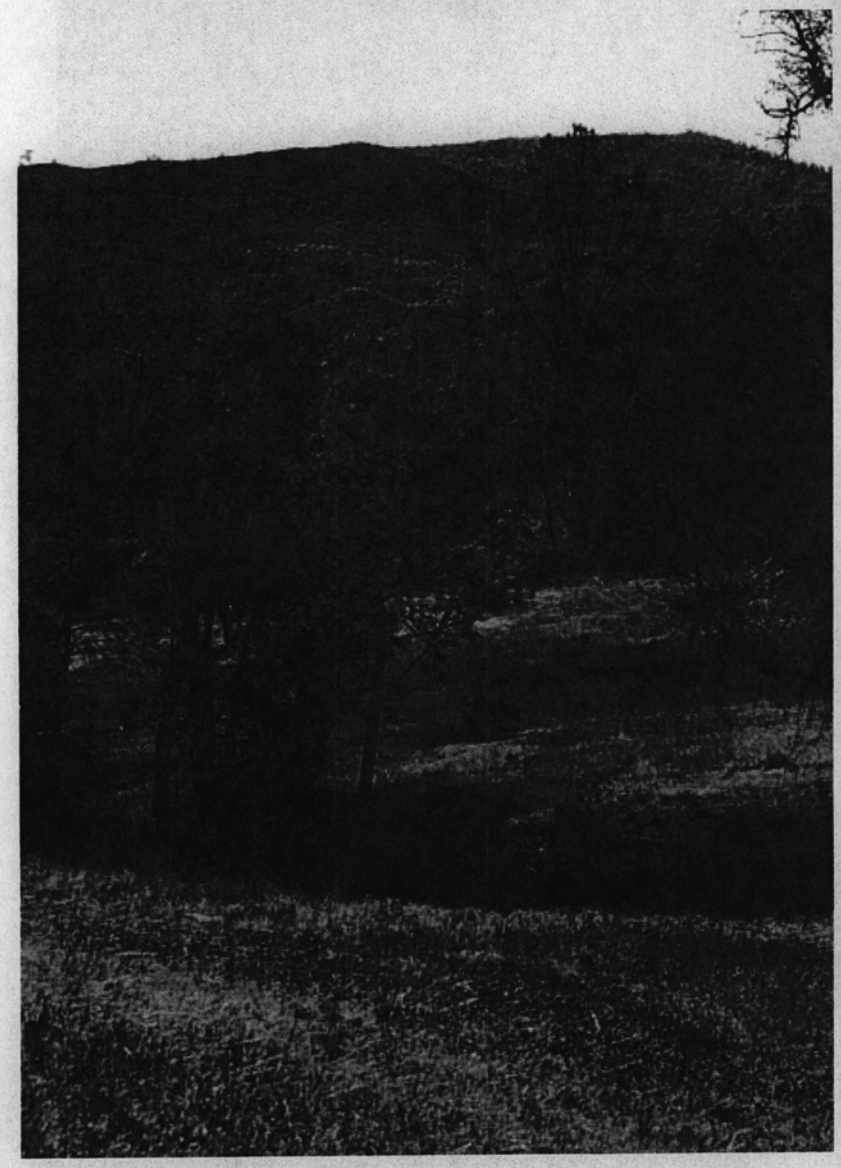


Maxwell Creek Public Access Area

Serpentine Onion



Hillside in Maxwell Creek public access area

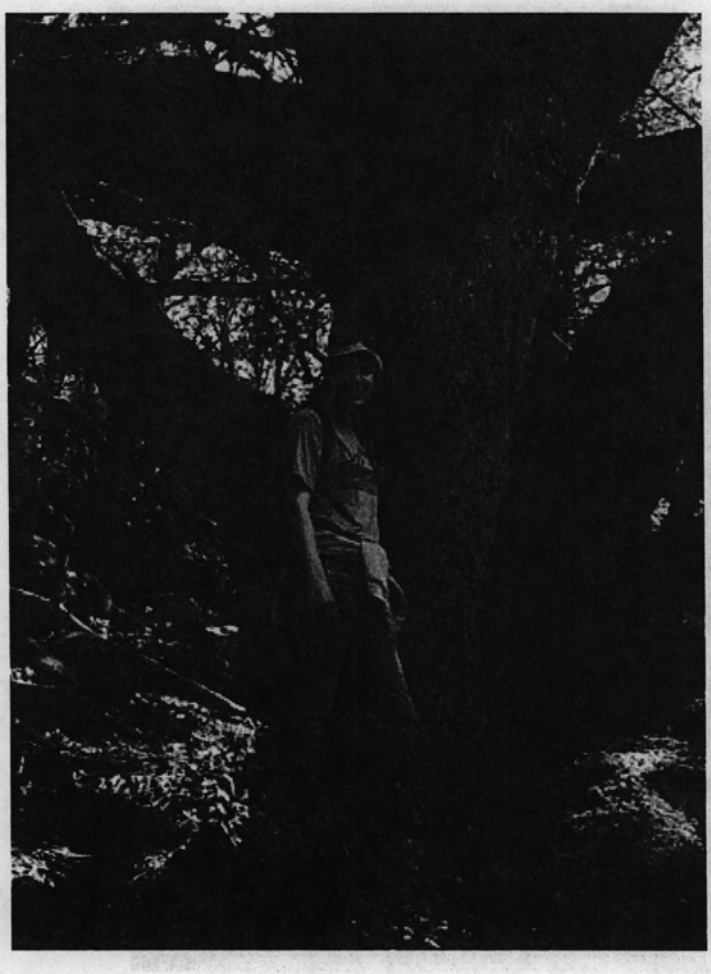


View across Maxwell Creek meadows to Cedar Roughs in distance

California poppies

Mount Konocti

View of Mt. Konocti from near Bartlett Mtn Summit



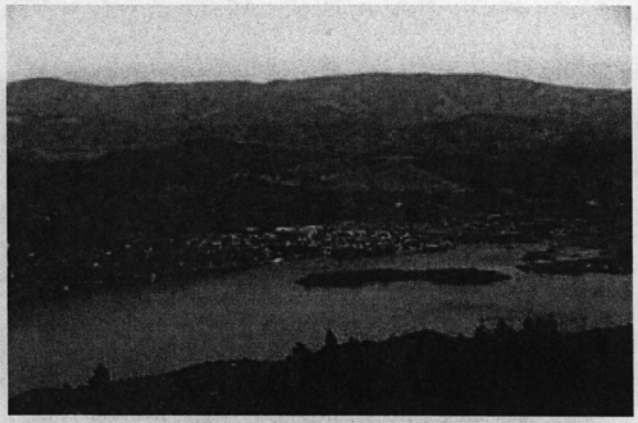
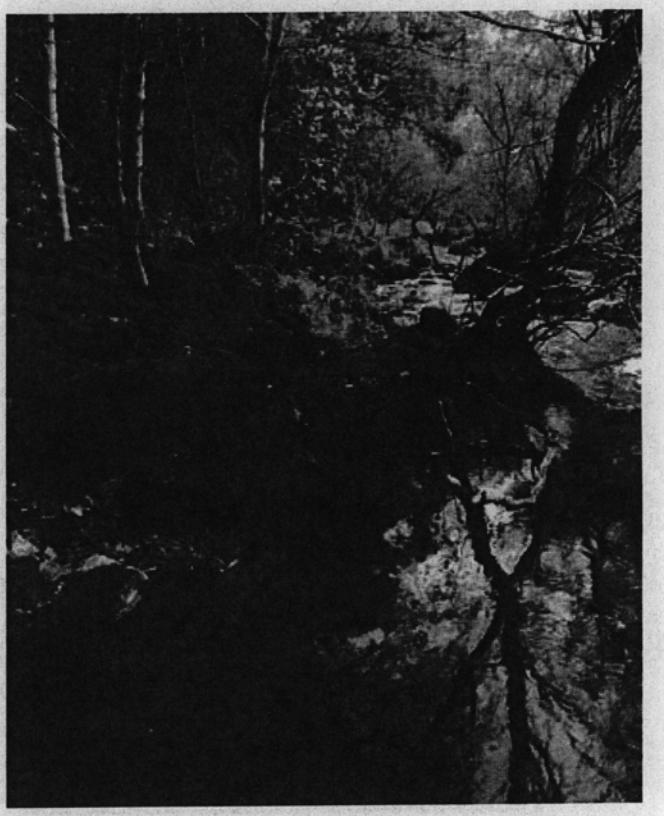


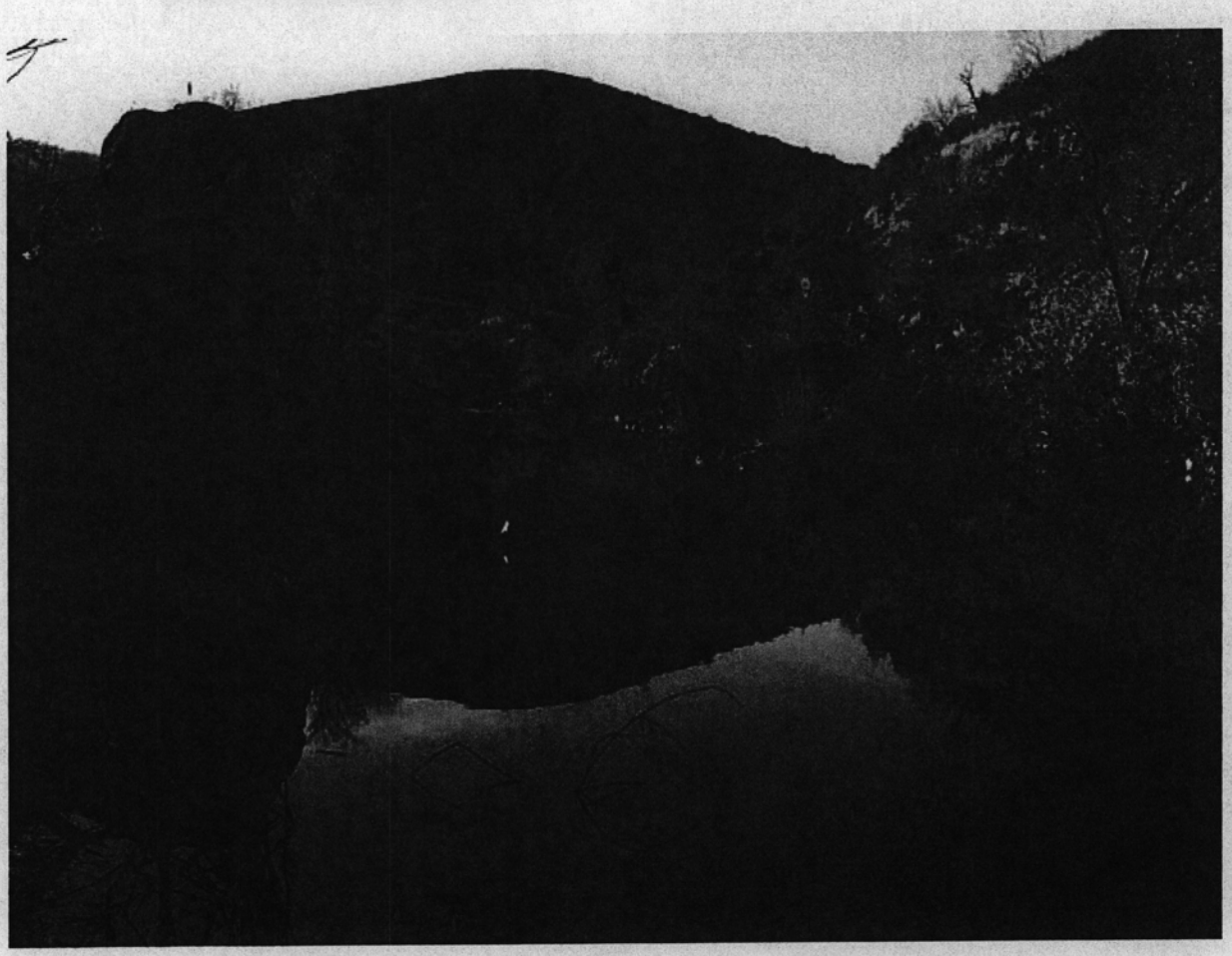
photo of Mt. Konocti by preservekonocti.org

North Fork of Cache Creek

Snowberry



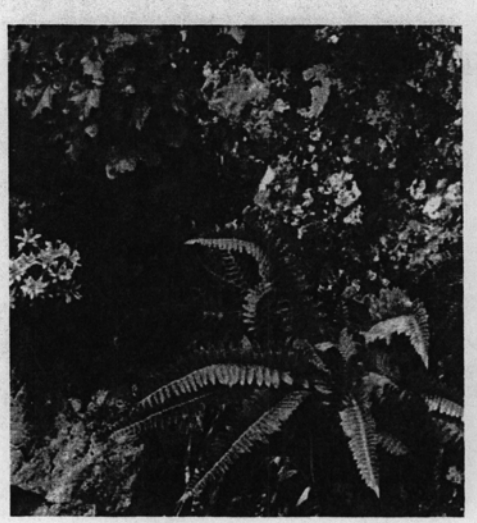
North Fork Cache Creek near Spanish Ridge

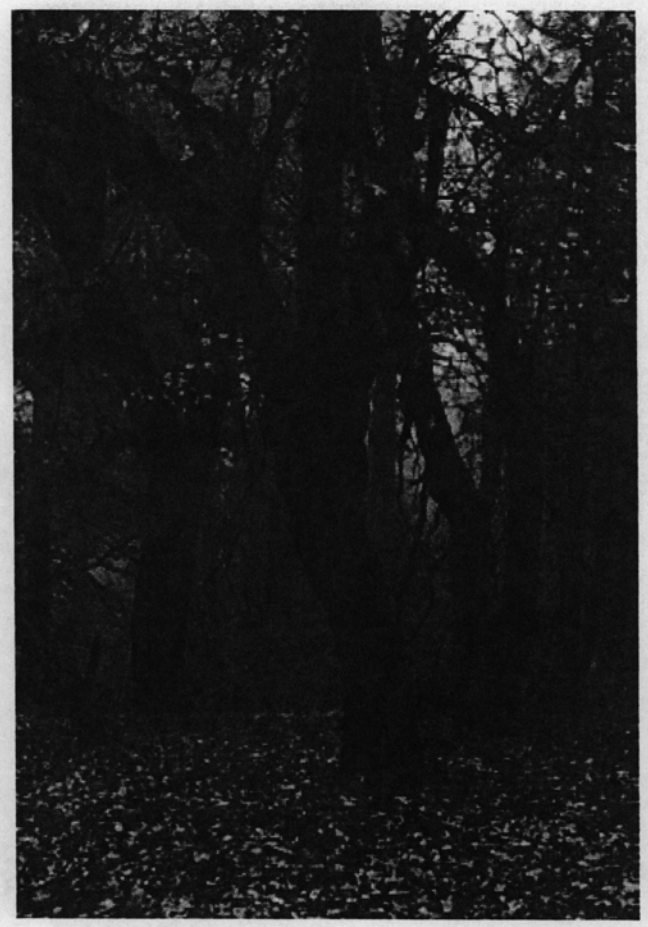


Pool on the North Fork of Cache Creek above Indian Valley Reservoir

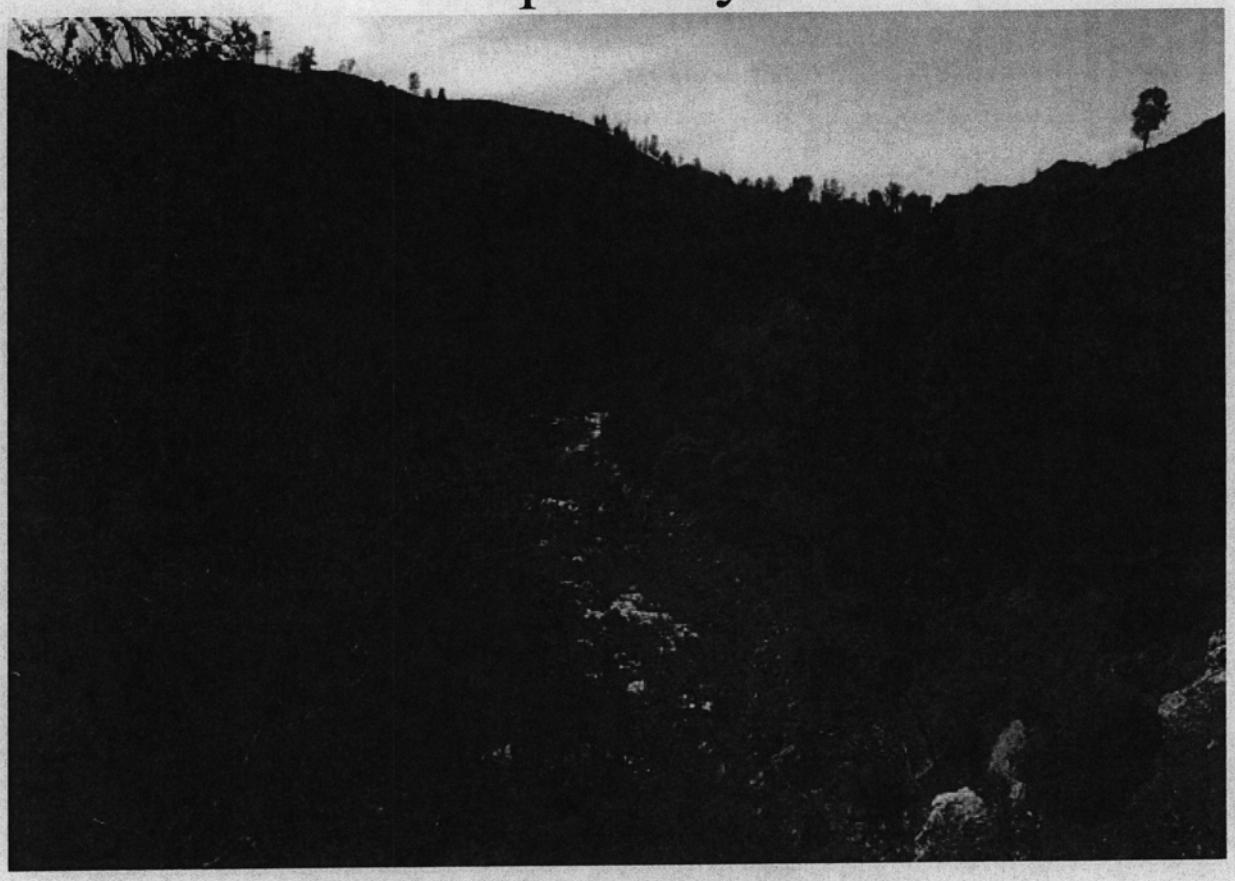
Pinnacle Rock

Rocky outcrop on a foggy day

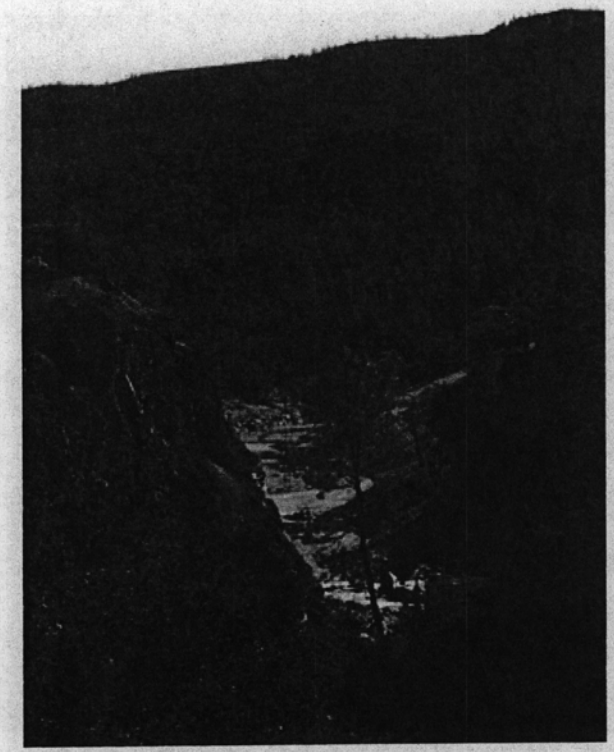




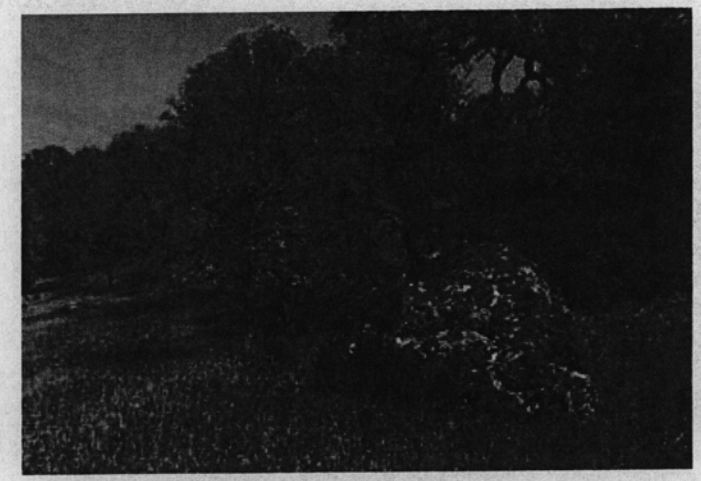
Pope Canyon



Looking up Pope Canyon from the trail



Looking down Pope Canyon, with Cedar Roughs on skyline



Lupine and oaks along the Pope Canyon trail

Red Larkspur alongside Pope Canyon trail

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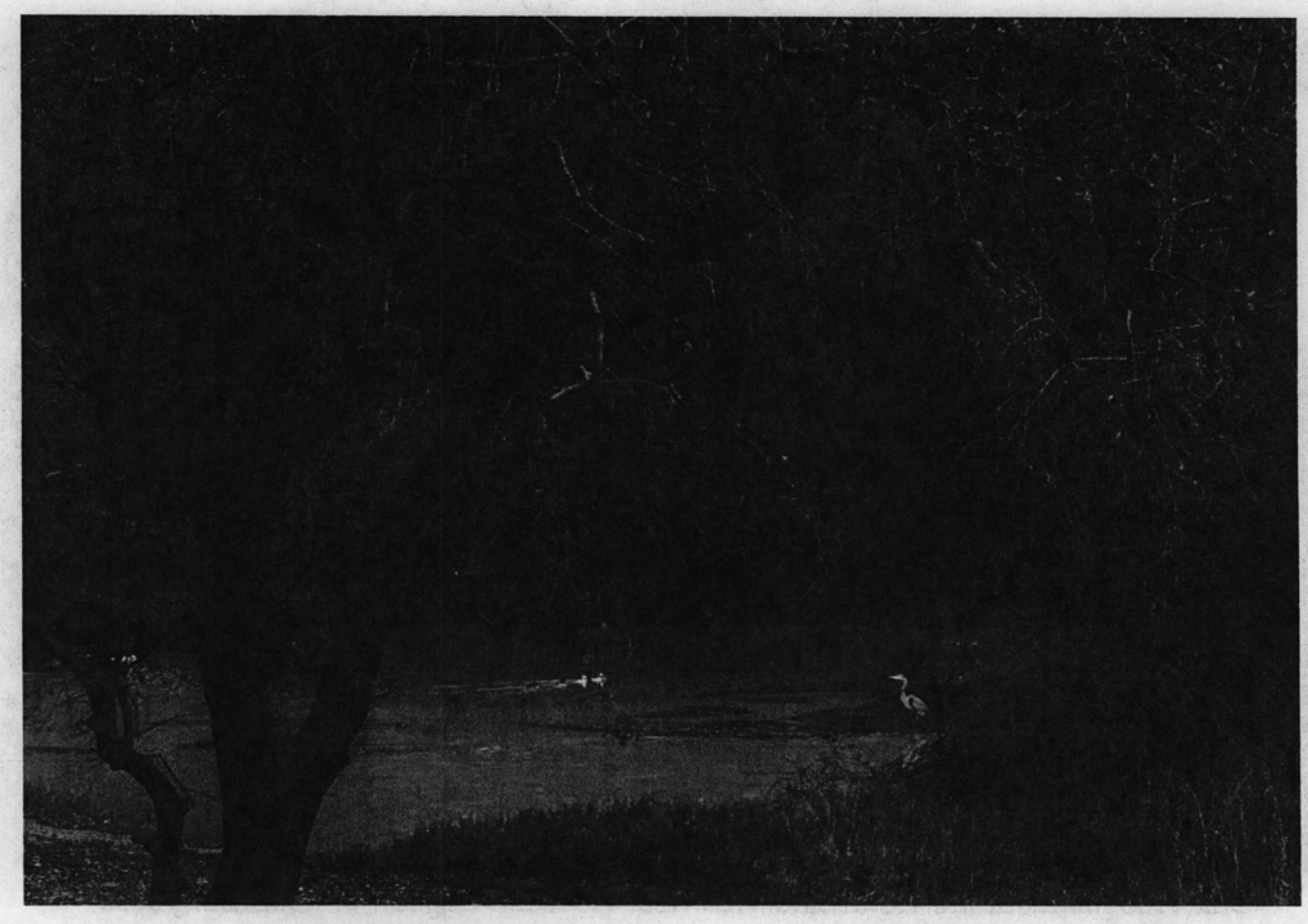
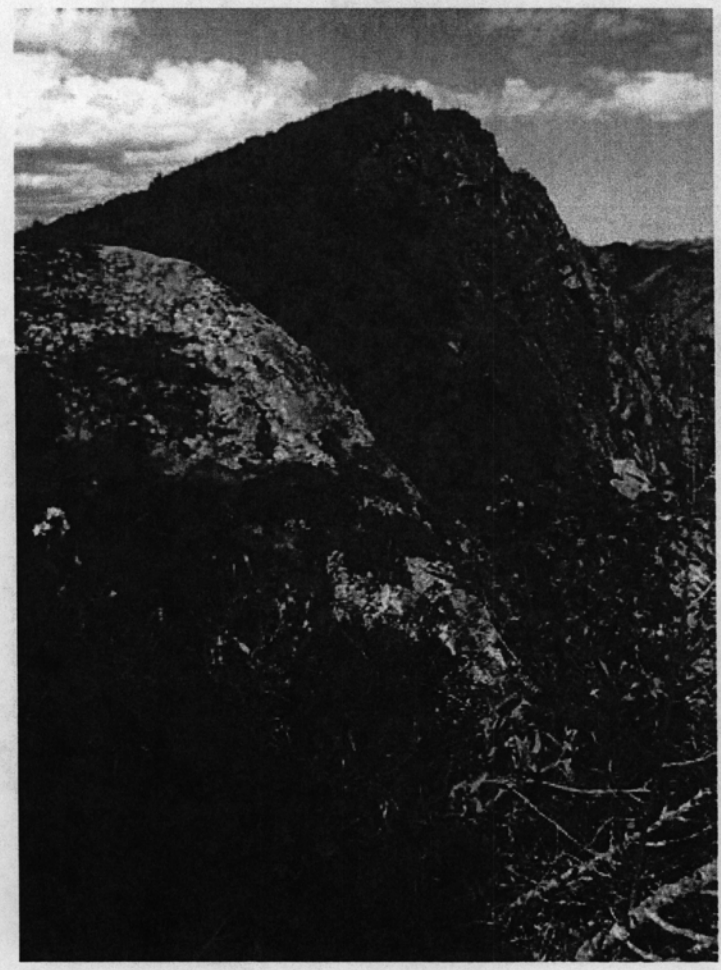
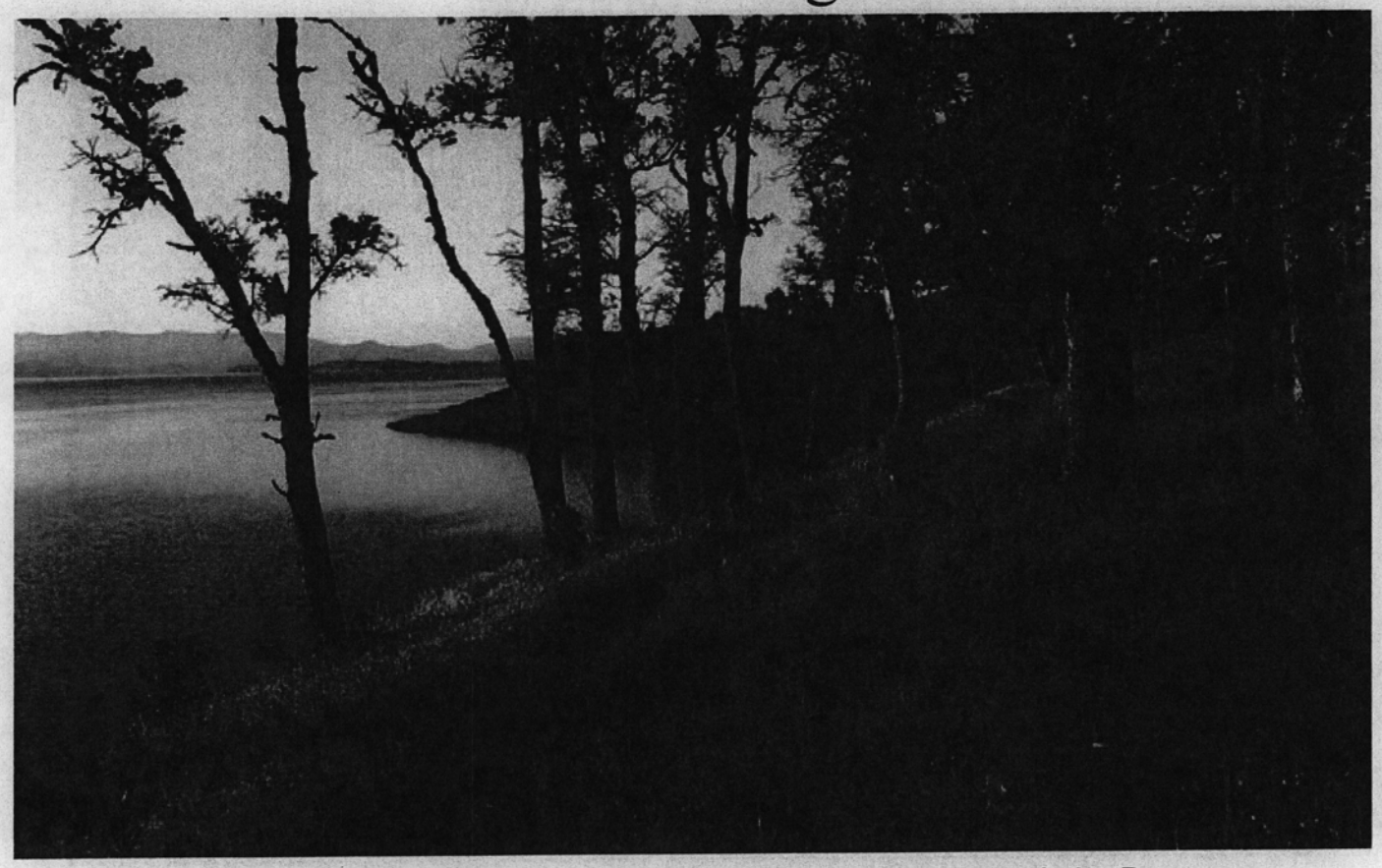
Putah Creek Wildlife Area



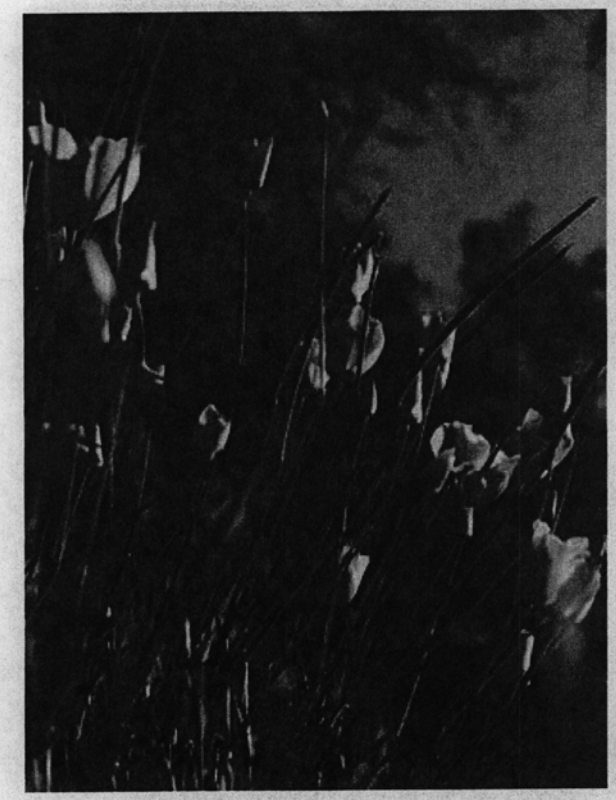


Heron in flight above Putah Creek, photo by D. Feliz

Raccoon Lagoon



Oak Woodlands at the North End Trail near Raccoon Lagoon at Lake Berryessa

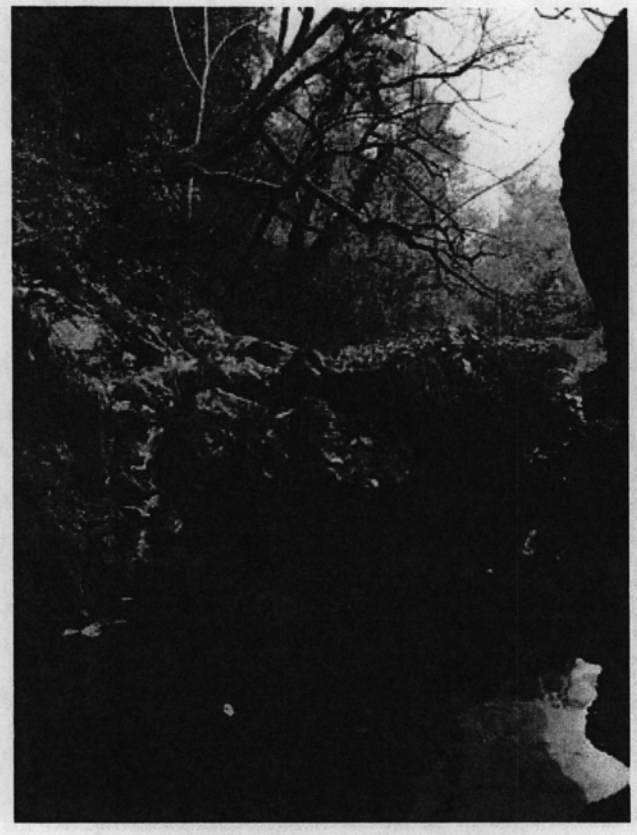


California Poppies

Flowers at sunrise,
Raccoon Lagoon trail

Turkey Vulture

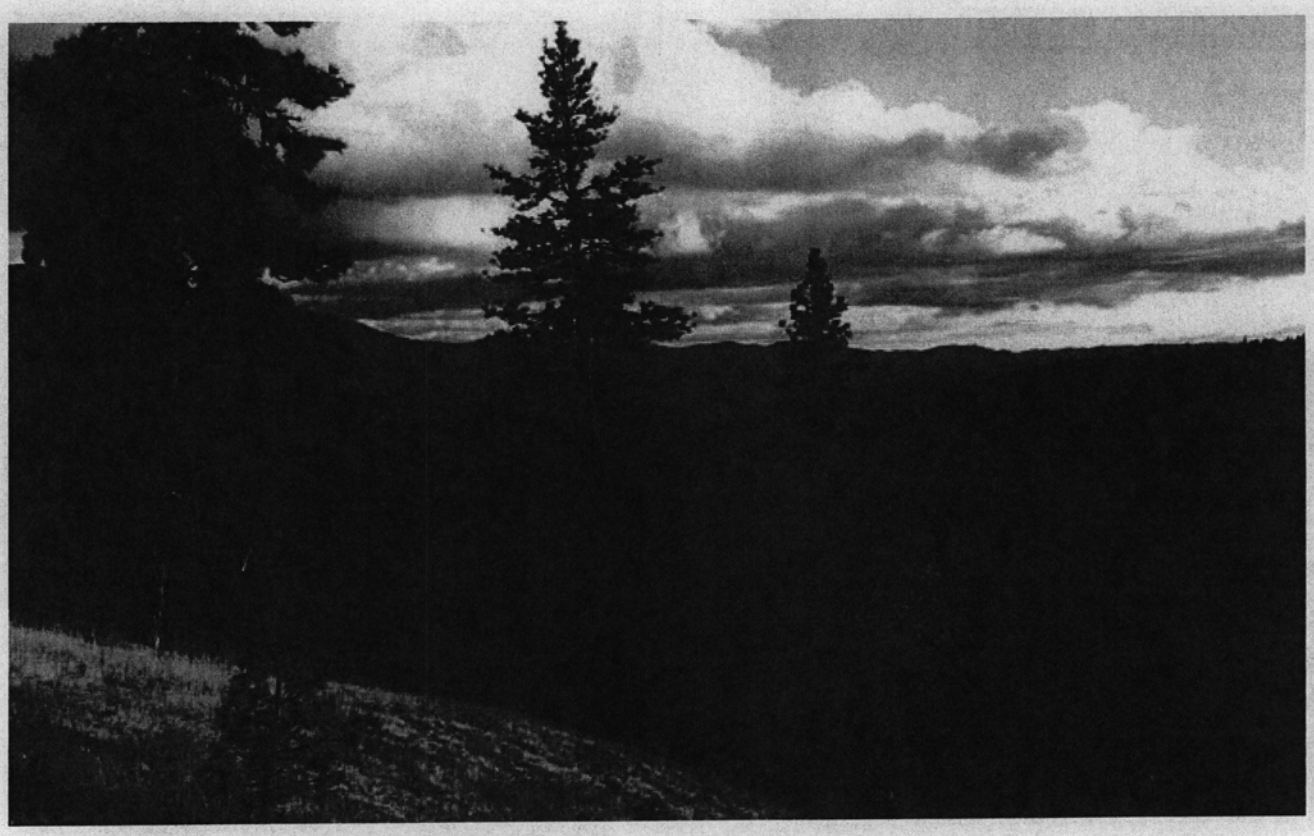
Rocky Ridge - Long Canyon - Wolf Creek



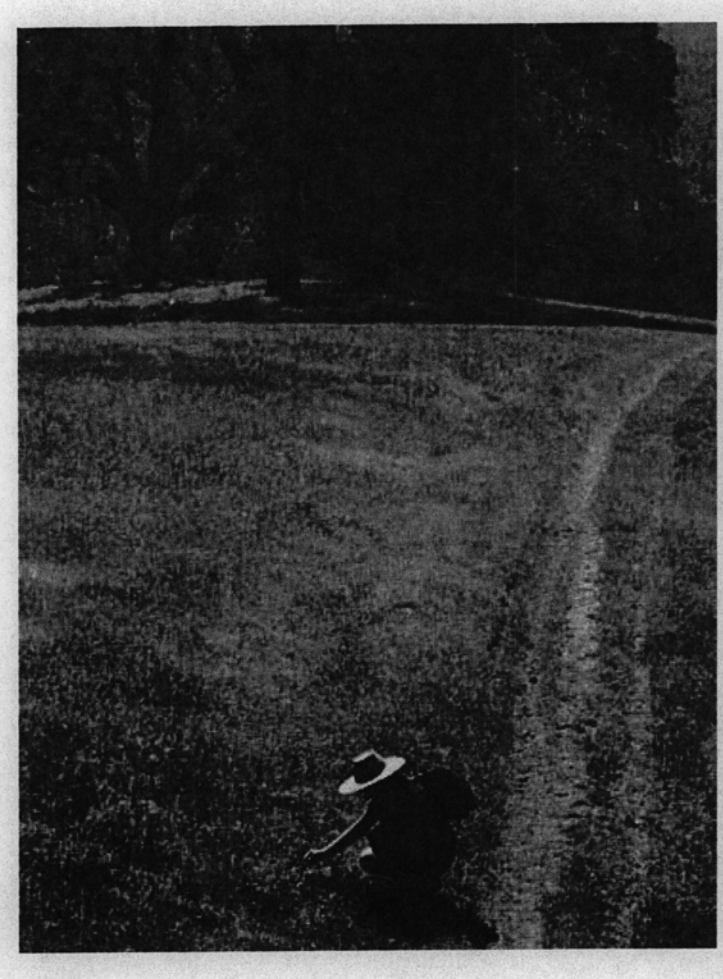
Wolf Creek on BLM land
below Springer Flat

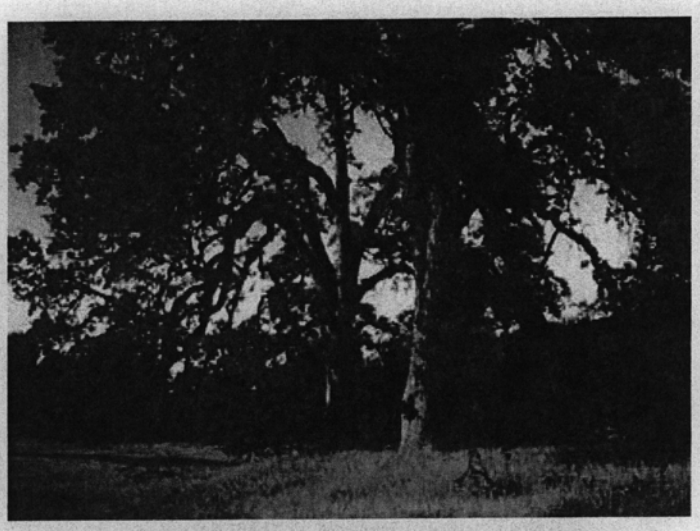
Chocolate peak in Long Canyon, with Walker Ridge in the distance

Sheetiron Game Refuge



Located north of Snow Mountain

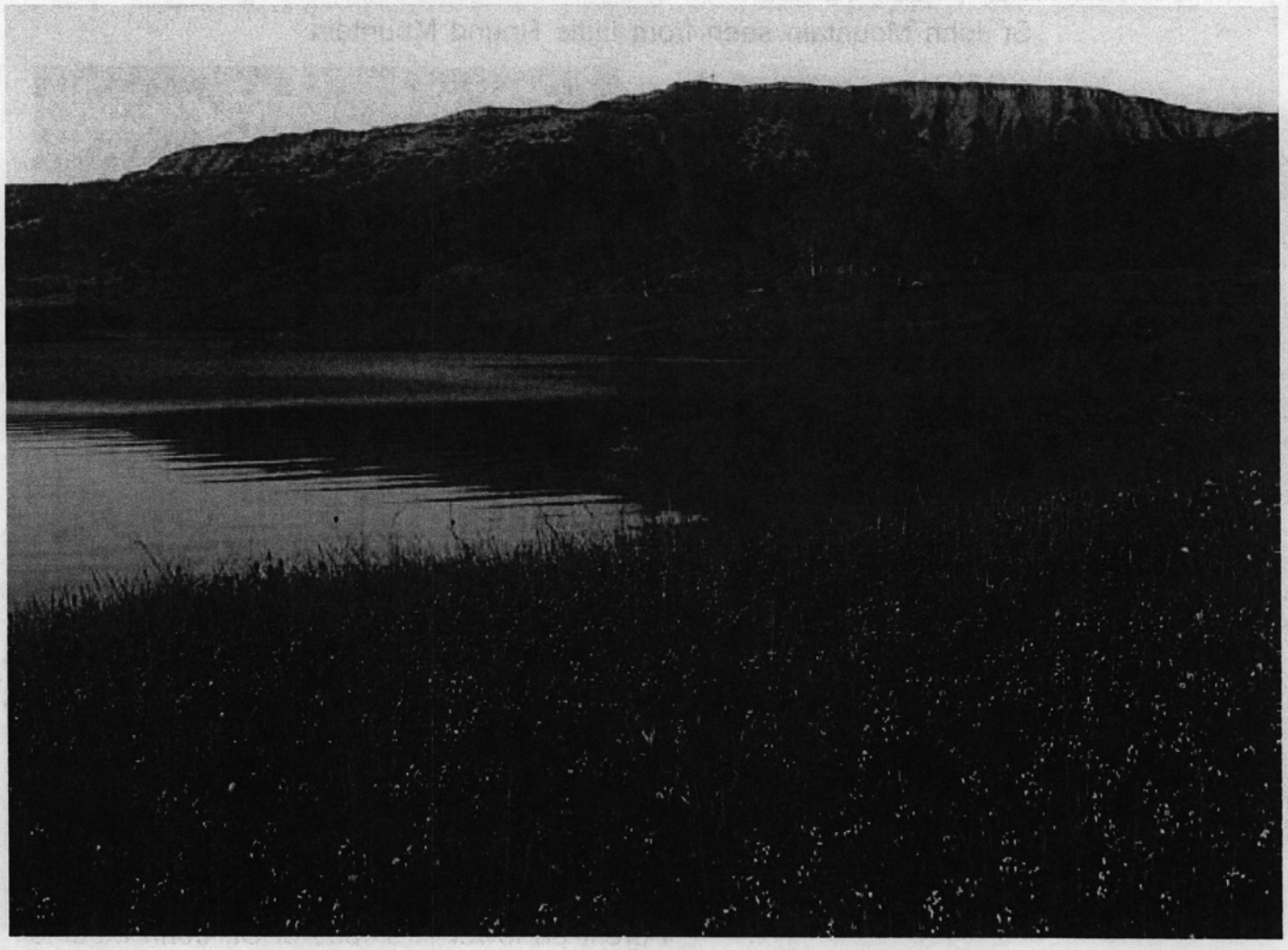




Smittle Creek

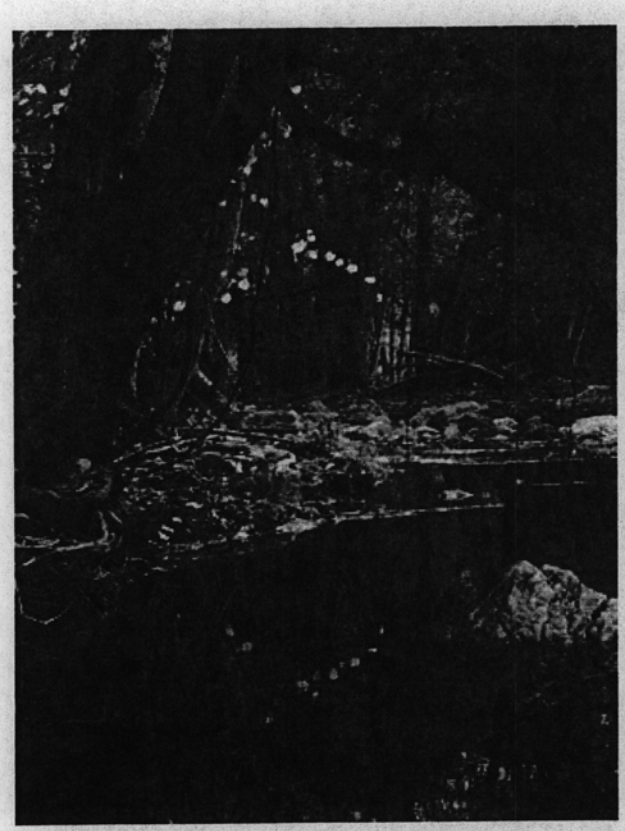
Goose near the Smittle Creek

Tuleyome's Youth Outdoor Exploration Program hikes Smittle Creek, photo by V. Mosquera



St. John Mountain - North Fork Stony Creek

St John Mountain seen from Little Round Mountain

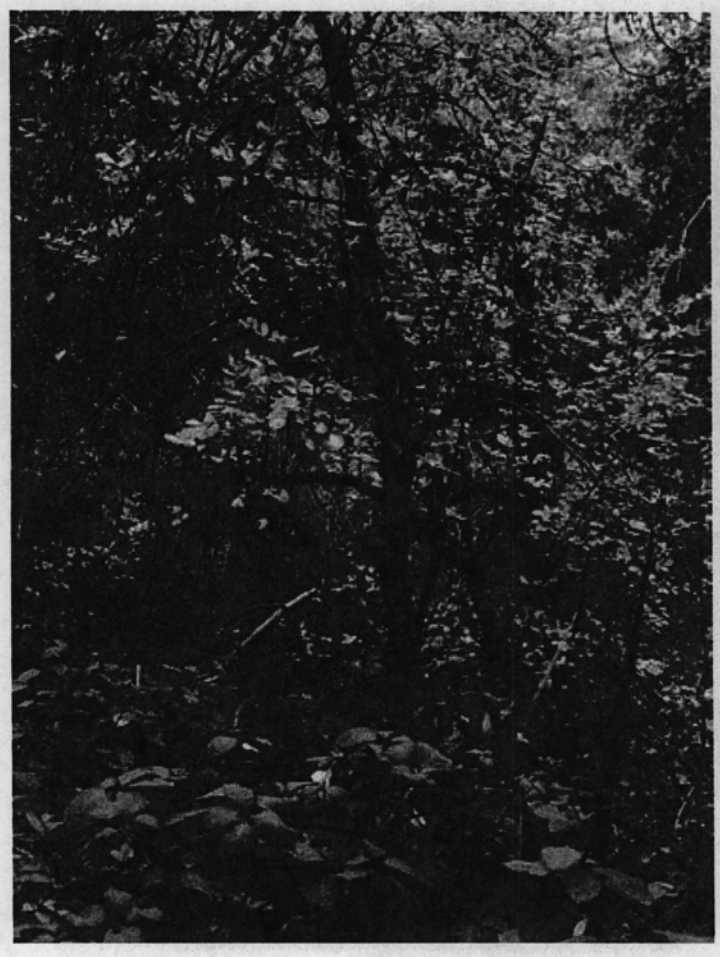


North Fork Stony Creek below St. John Mountain

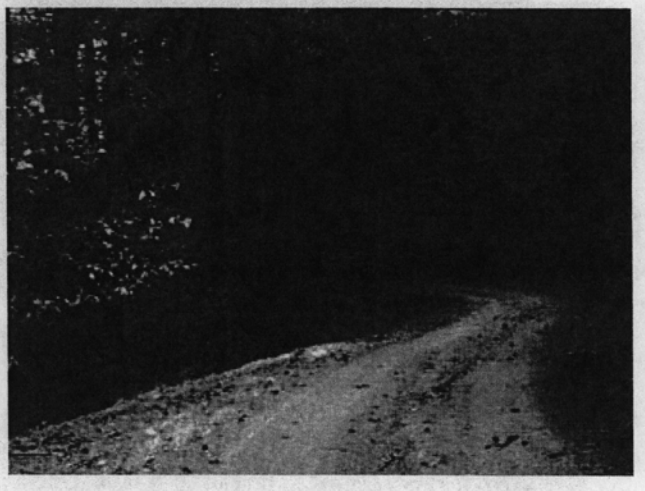
Ferns on hillside above N. Fork Stony Creek

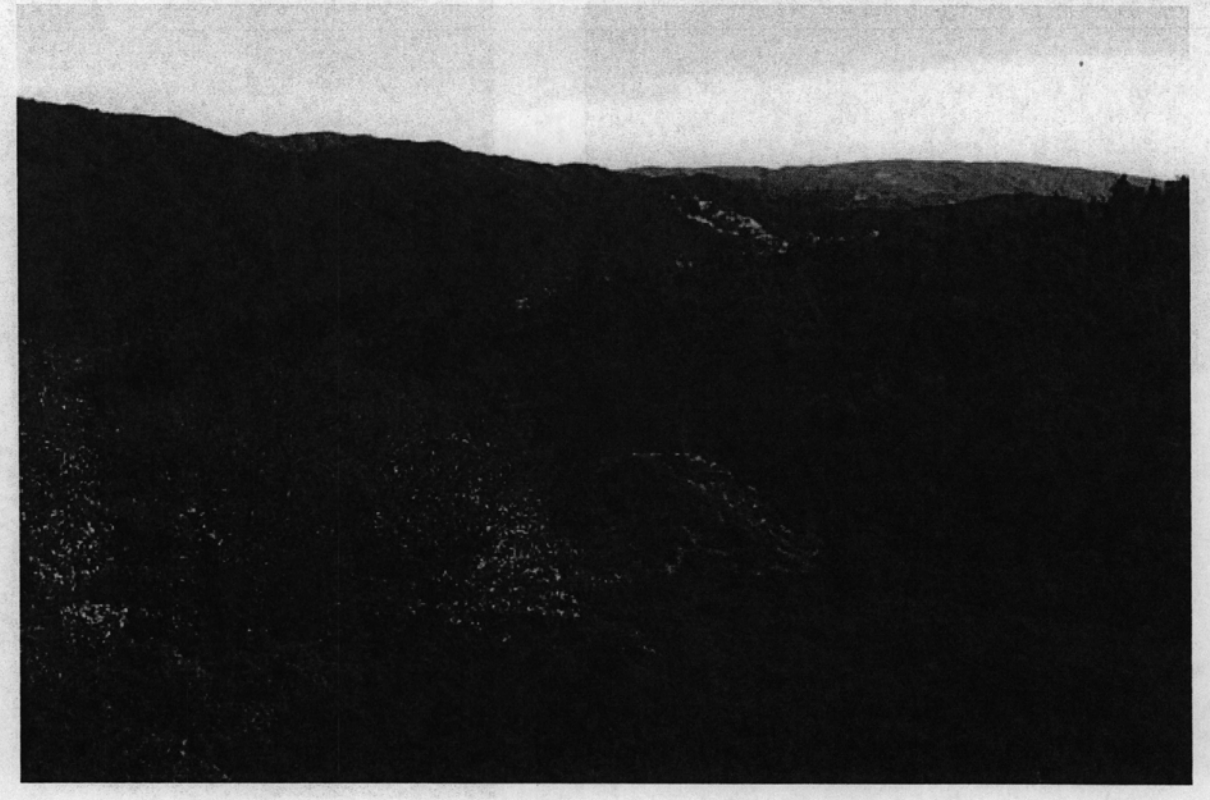
Forest on lower N slopes of St. John Mountain

Sulphur Ridge Area



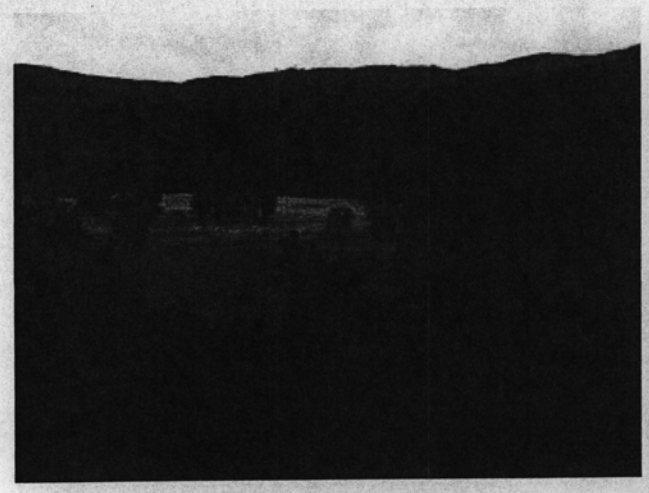
Overlooking Clearlake

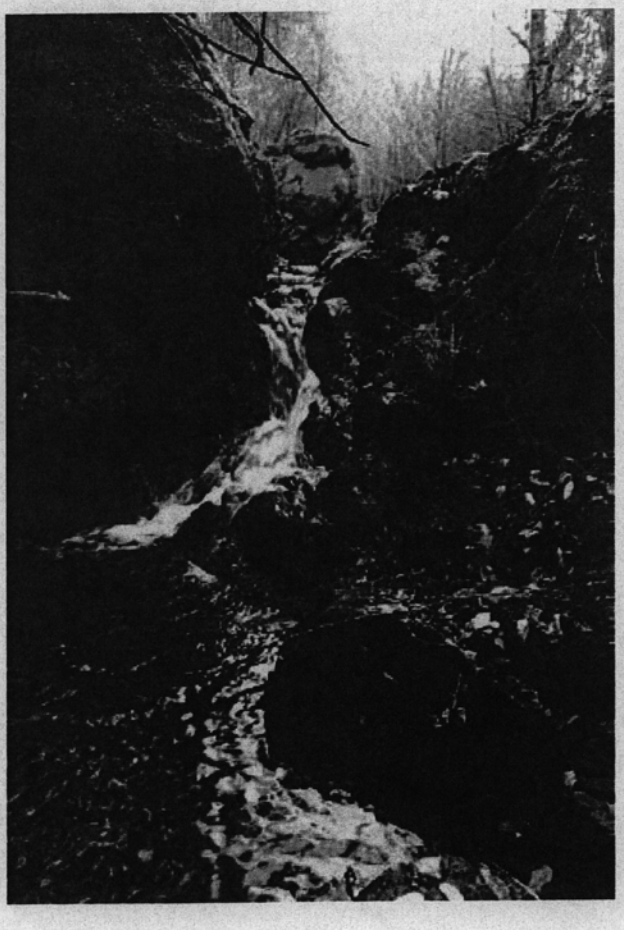




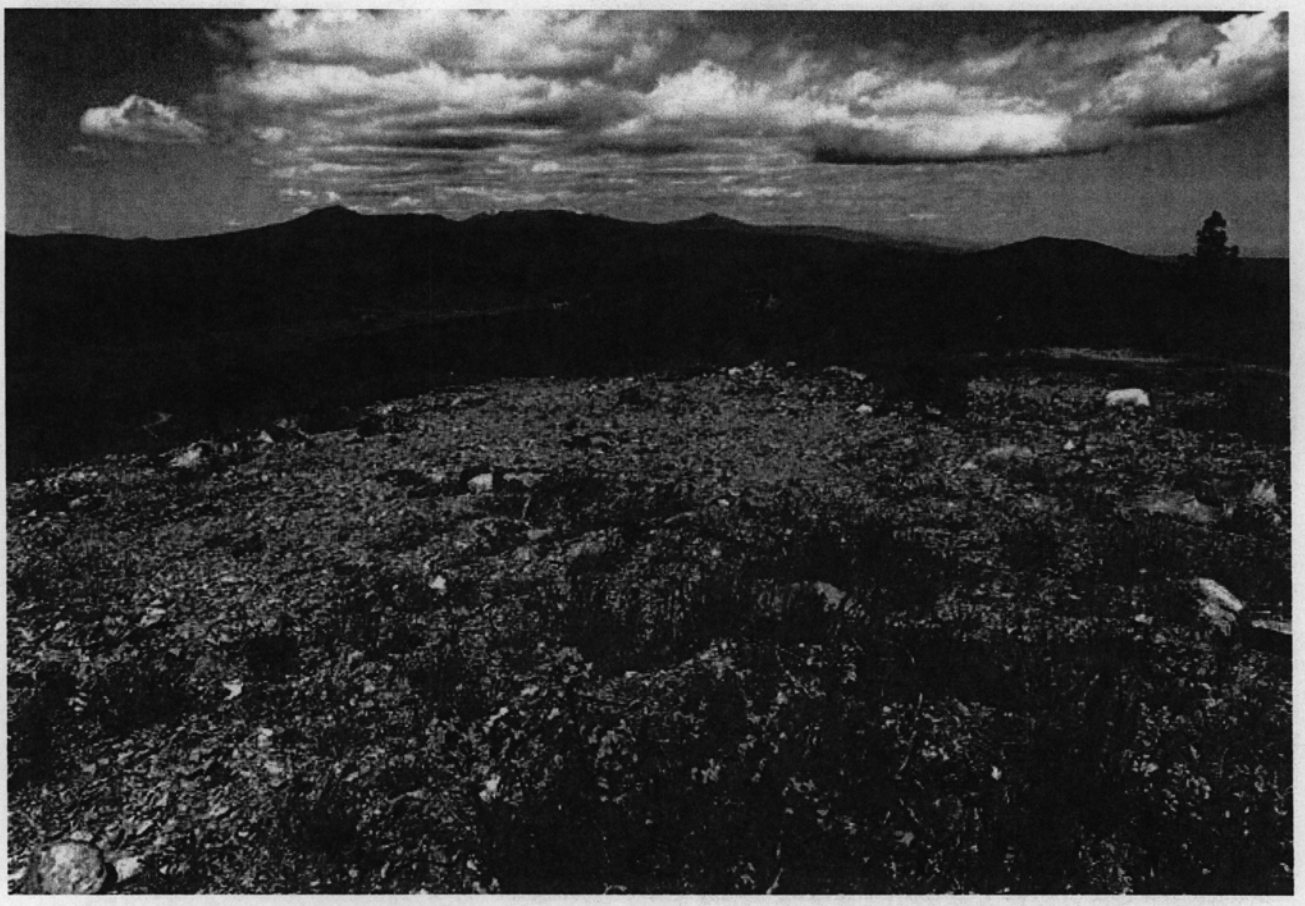
Twin Valley Creek

Flows to the North fork of Cache Creek

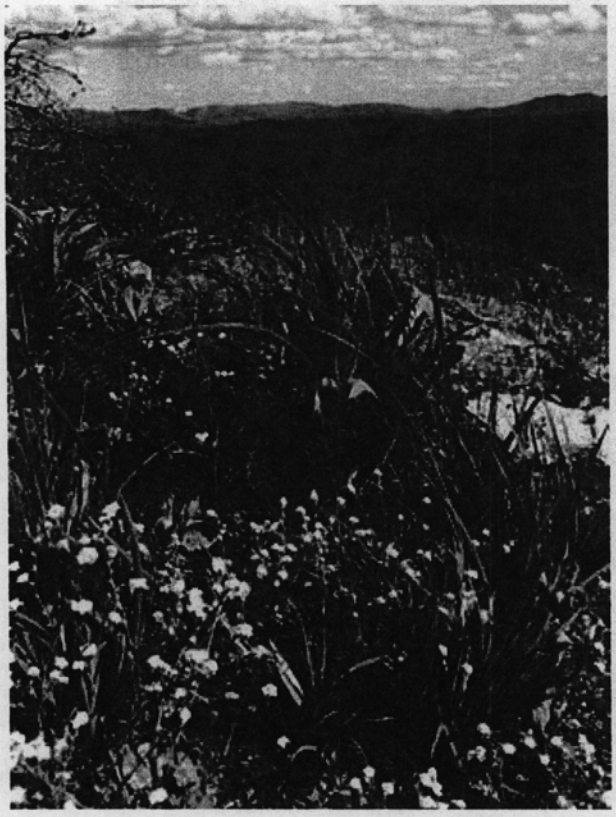




Walker Ridge



Goat Mountain, Snow Mountain and St. John Mountain from Walker Ridge

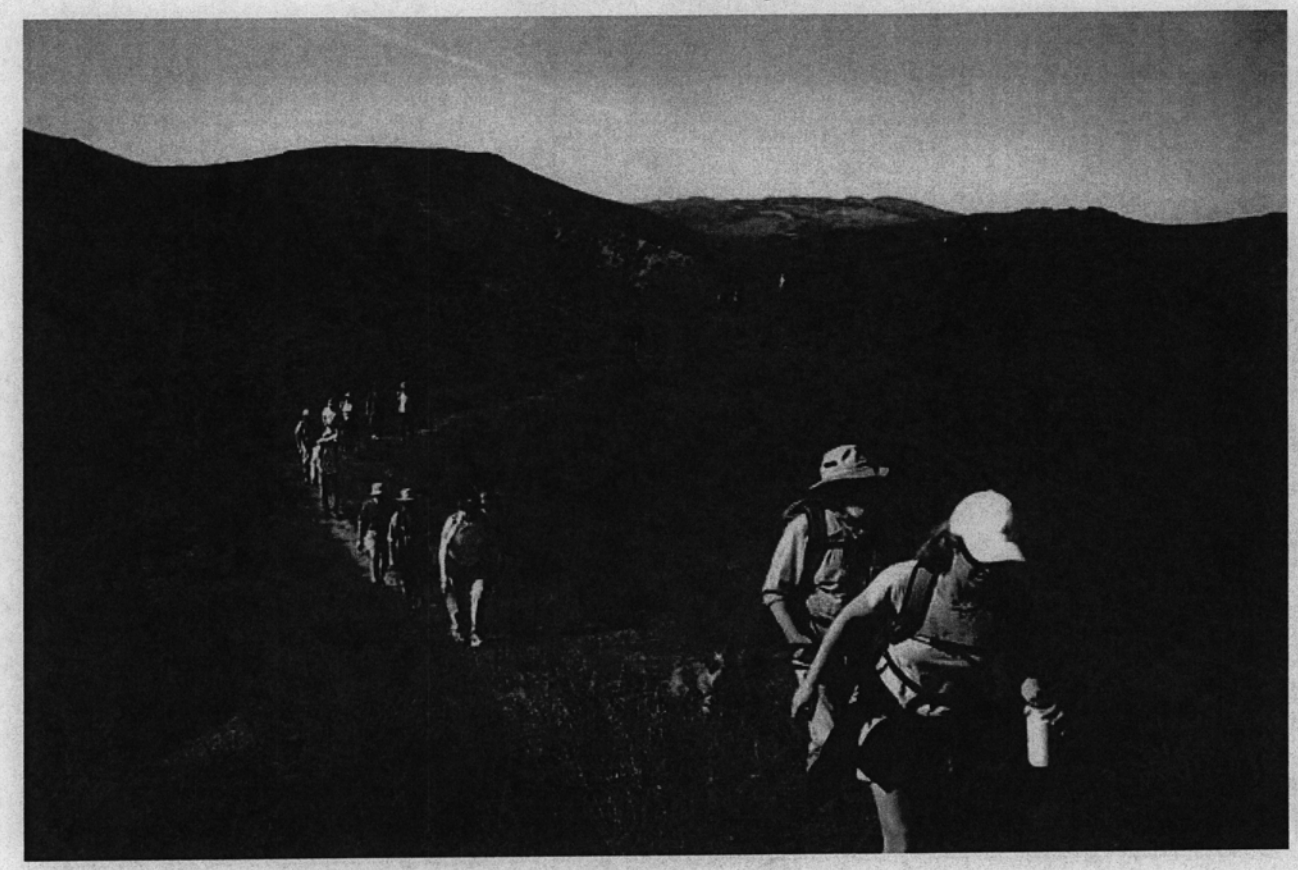


View SE from Walker Ridge Area of Critical Environmental Concern

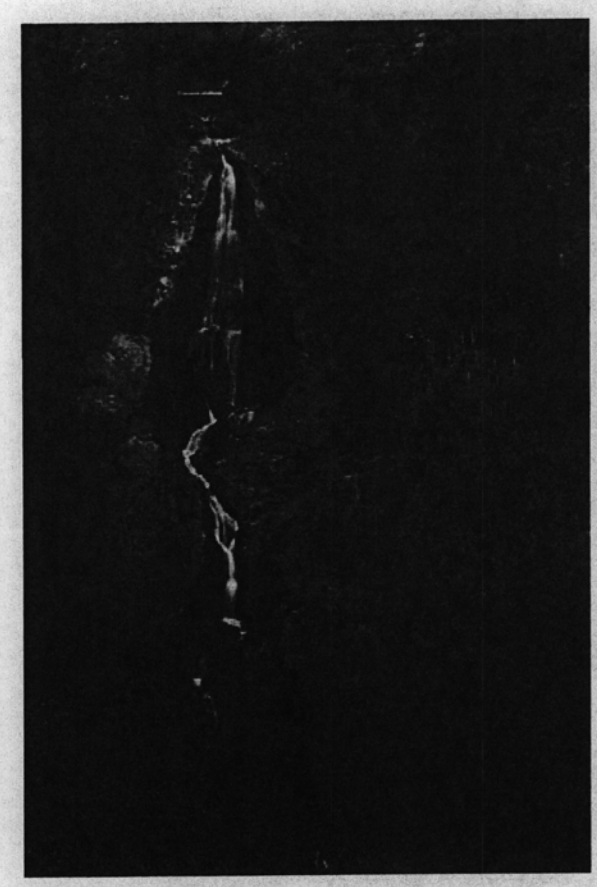
Hikers on the ridge, photo by A. Fulks

Chinese Houses flower

Zim Zim Canyon



Hike to Zim Zim Falls



Zim Zim Falls, photo by Eric Machleder

California newt, Zim Zim Creek

Indian warrior bloom near
Zim Zim Falls

The Photographers

We thank the photographers who have generously donated the use of their images to Tuleyome

Jim Rose has quietly photographed some of California's wildest landscapes. His early images appeared in the Sierra Club's small format book "The Last Redwoods and the Parkland of Redwood Creek" in 1969. More recently, Jim's images have appeared throughout the California Wild Heritage Campaign. Now, Jim's work brings alive the unique and delicate beauty of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. While we may not yet have visited these places, we can experience them through Jim's images, from the surreal fog at Cold Canyon to a sunrise at Bean Rock north of Snow Mountain. As Jim says, "Lots happen when you use a tripod." While that can mean a steady camera shot, we think it refers more generally to a life slowed down. Many people know Jim from his years caring for the burrowing owls while he worked at the Wildhorse Golf Course.

• • •

Andrew Fulks grew up on the Peninsula in the Bay Area where he hiked the hills and grew to love wild places. When he moved to Davis he began exploring the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. He started yolohiker.org to share his knowledge by leading many hikes. Those who know him wonder at his encyclopedic knowledge of the region. Andrew was a founder of and currently serves as the President of Tuleyome. His passion continues to be exploration and he is staying busy building the Valley Vista trail, Annie's trail, and the Berryessa Peak trail.

• • •

Eric Machleder lives in Mill Valley, CA. His academic background is in biochemistry and cancer biology. He describes himself as a photography hobbyist and he enjoys shooting images of wildlife while hiking around Marin County and beyond. We are pleased that Eric visited Zim Zim Falls and hope that he will continue to explore the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

• • •

Other photographers include:

Vallerye Mosquera
Dave Feliz
Preservekonocti.org
Bob Schneider
Angel Martinez

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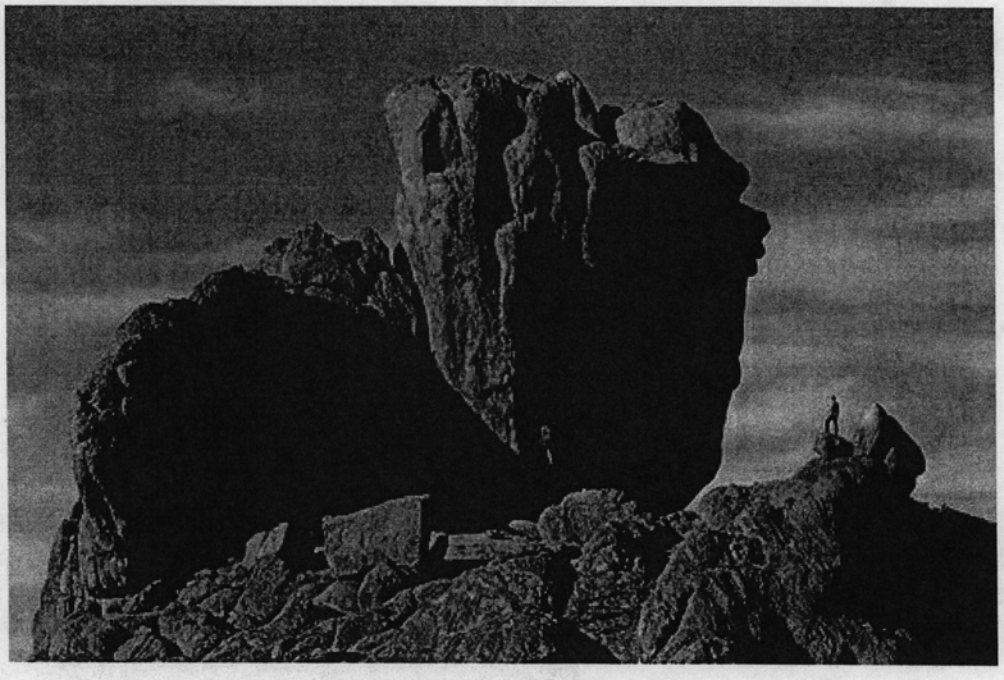
March 20, 2015

Deep Time in Nevada – A proposal for a Basin and Range National Monument

By Ron Hunter, Patagonia Environmental Activism Manager



In John McPhee's book, *Basin and Range*, he talks about time, deep time, in the sense that it is a silent world of austere beauty, of hundreds of discrete high mountain ranges that are green with junipers and often white with snow. The terrain becomes the setting for a lyrical evocation of the science of geology, with important digressions into the plate-tectonics revolution and the history of the geologic time scale. McPhee goes on to say, "If you free yourself from the conventional reaction to a quantity like a million years, you free yourself a bit from the boundaries of human time. And then, in a way you do."

The Cleanest Line

Weblog for the employees, friends and customers of the outdoor clothing company Patagonia. Visit Patagonia.com to see what we do.

About

RSS Feed

Recent Comments

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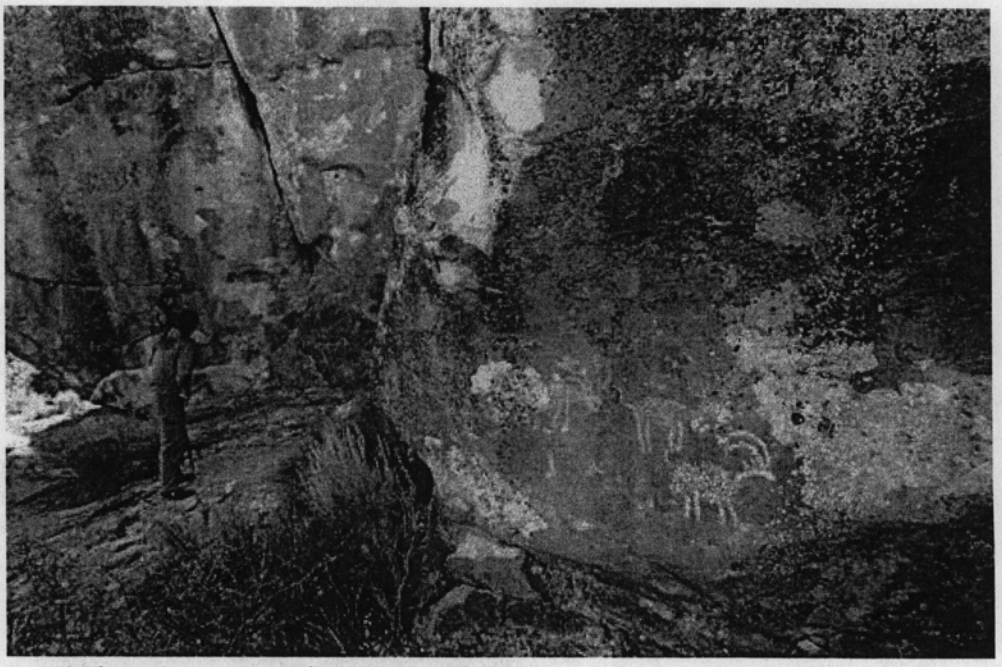
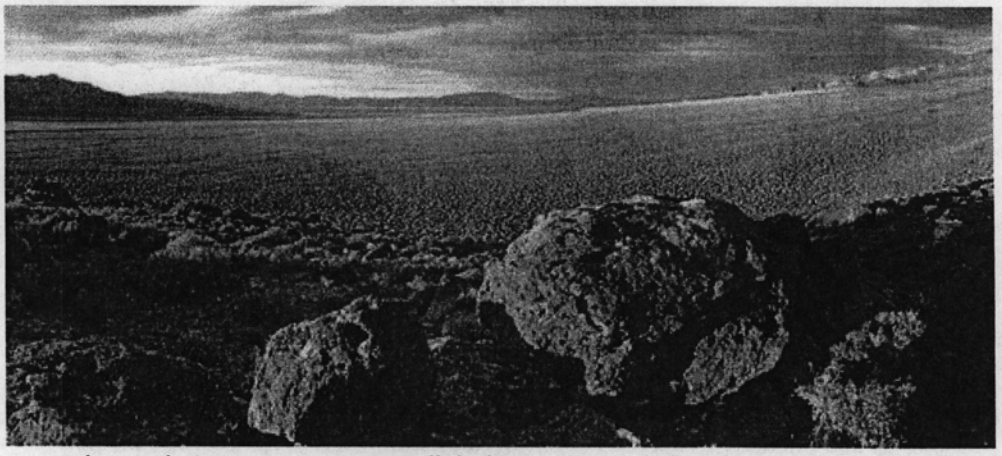
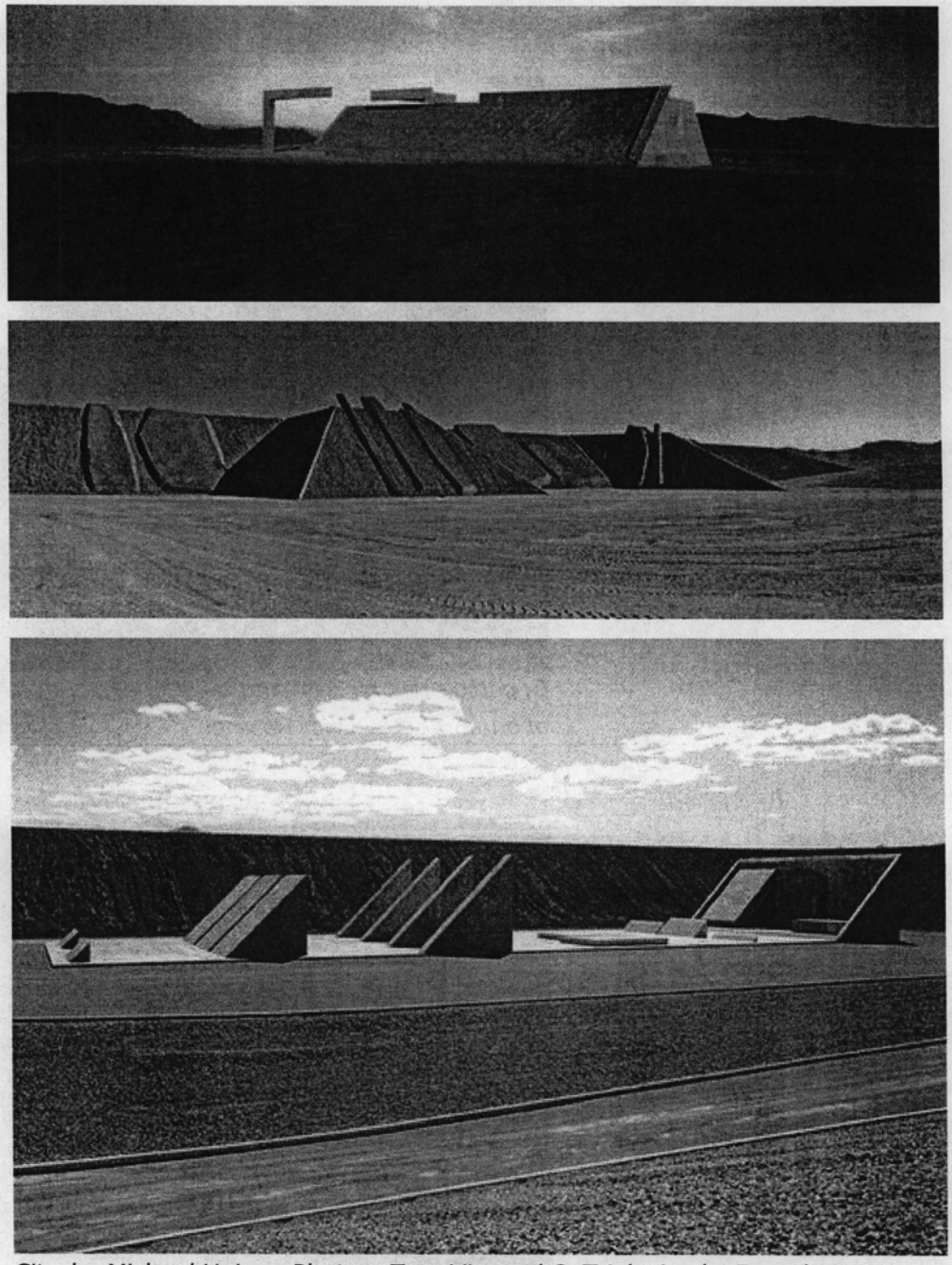


... windows into our early American history ...



... and grand vistas on an unparalleled American scale. Photos: Tyler Roemer (top, botom), Michael Ambrose (middle)

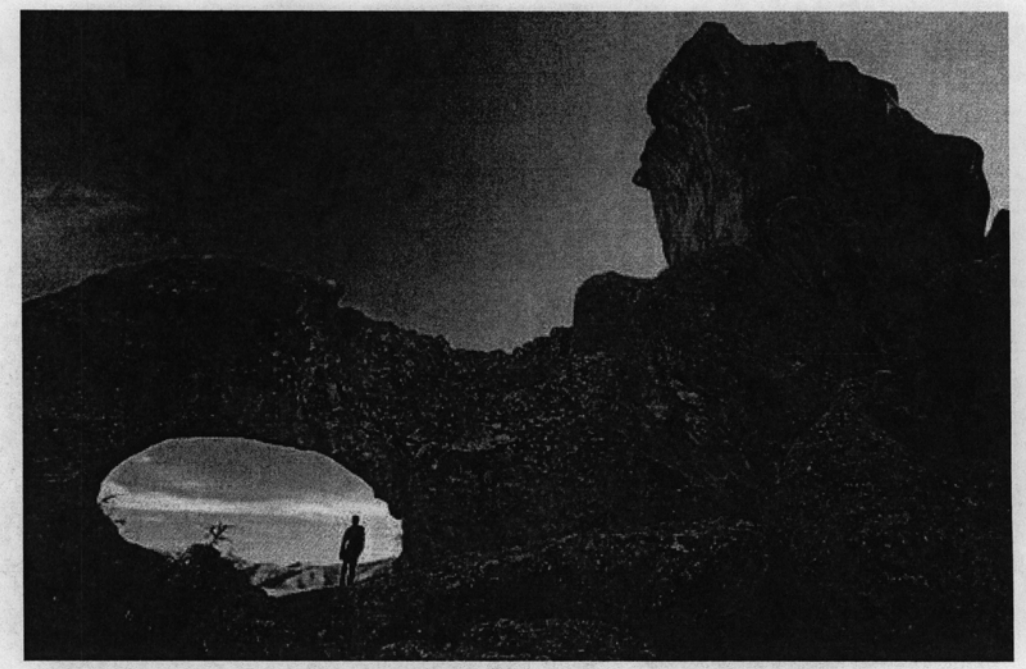
The proposal is big by design. Protecting intact mountain ranges and valley systems demands a landscape approach to conservation. Located two hours north of Las Vegas, the proposed monument comprises more than 877,000 acres of BLM land, including two valleys (Garden and Coal) and eight mountains ranges (Timpahute, Pahroc,Worthingtons, Mt Irish Range, Seaman Range, Golden Gate Range, Grant Range, and Quinn Canyon Range).



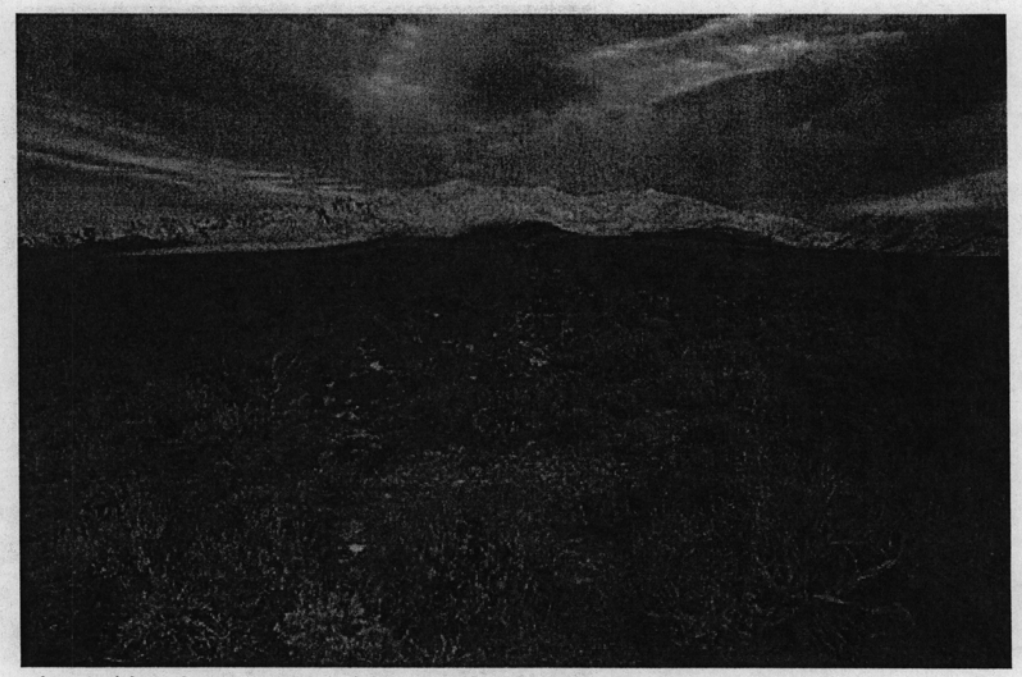
City *by Michael Heizer. Photos: Tom Vinetz / © Triple Aught Foundation*

The beauty of Garden and Coal Valleys and the eight mountain ranges that surround *City* are enough to warrant recognition. Add an art work by an American artist, which is fully and permanently integrated into the landscape it inhabits, we now have the opportunity to leave a dramatic legacy of land use and conservation in Nevada. We can be leaders in landscape conservation and landscape art—the two are linked and are distinctly American.

Last week, 300 people showed up on a Wednesday afternoon in Las Vegas for a "Conservation Conversation" with Senator Harry Reid and Representative Dina Titus. Testimony was heard from citizens as diverse as Friends of Gold Butte and the Nevada Resort Association on the need to protect Nevada's most important landscapes. Think about that: 300 people on a Wednesday afternoon. The time to act is now.



Peering into the window of Great Basin history. Photo: Tyler Roemer

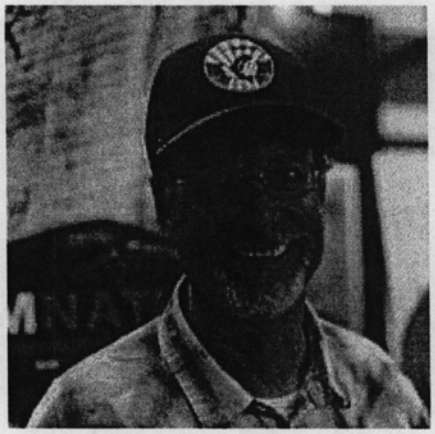


The Golden Gate Range. Photo: Michael Ambrose

You know what they say: "It's not a good basin, its a Great Basin!" Photo: Tyler Roemer

Please join us in lending your voice of support to protecting this unique and timeless landscape.

Sign the petition



Ron Hunter is the Environmental Activism Manager for Patagonia. He is based in Reno, Nevada at our LEED-certified Service Center.

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RESPONSE TO THE DESIGNATION OF MOJAVE TRAILS, SAND TO SNOW, AND CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

www.CaliforniaDesert.org

Following the designations of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments the community and media response mirrored the on-the-ground diverse and positive support for the protection of this nationally significant area.

There was also significant buzz through social media with #MonumentsforAll receiving more than 13.4 million impressions, and "California Desert" receiving more than 60 million impressions on Twitter.

To date, two print ads applauding President Obama's action have run in California papers, with an additional five ads scheduled to run the week on February 16th.

The Public News Service story "President Obama to Declare Three New Monuments in Southern Calif." was picked up by twenty different media outlets with an estimates audience of nearly 650,000 listeners.

The following pages document the response including press statements, paid media and some of the most notable news clips following the designations.

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- Amargosa Conservancy Applauds President Obama's Plan to Designate California Desert National Monuments
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- CAP President Neera Tanden on Designation of New Monuments to Protect the California Desert (Center for American Progress)
- President Obama Designates Three New California Desert National Monuments (Center for Biological Diversity)
- New Desert Monuments Protect Heritage, Open Space with Balanced Approach to Conservation (Conservation Lands Foundation)
- Christian Communities Rejoice over Establishment of California Desert Monuments (Creation Justice Ministries)
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- Joshua Tree Chamber Applauds the Designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails & Castle Mountains National Monuments

- KEEN's Live Monumental Campaign Celebrates the Historic Protection of California's Desert Landscape
- Latin Business Association Applauds Establishment of New California Desert Monuments
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California Celebrates Announcement to Establish New California Desert Monuments
- LCV & California LCV Statement on the Designation of Three National Monuments in the California Desert (League of Conservation Voters)
- Mojave Desert Land Trust Celebrates Three New California Desert Monuments
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- Native American Land Conservancy Comments Announcement to Establish California Desert National Monuments
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- Por La Creación Faith-based Alliance: Latinos Celebrate New Monuments Protecting the California Desert
- Sierra Club Praises California Desert National Monuments
- Statement of The Nature Conservancy California Desert National Monuments Designation
- President Obama to designate three new national monuments in the California desert (The Wilderness Society)
- Trout Unlimited applauds new Sand to Snow National Monument: Designation of three new national monuments in southern California will permanently protect water supply, habitat, and sporting opportunities
- Vet Voice Foundation Applauds President Obama, Sen. Feinstein on Announcement of California Desert National Monuments

Print Ads (as of 2/15/16)

San Bernardino Sun – circulation 41,398

- California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO)
- Native American Land Conservancy

Earned Media

Social Media

- Storify - https://storify.com/CalDesert/celebrating-california-desert-monumentsforall
- Twitter trackers for #MonumentsforAll and "California Desert"

- KEEN's Live Monumental Campaign Celebrates the Historic Protection of California's Desert Landscape
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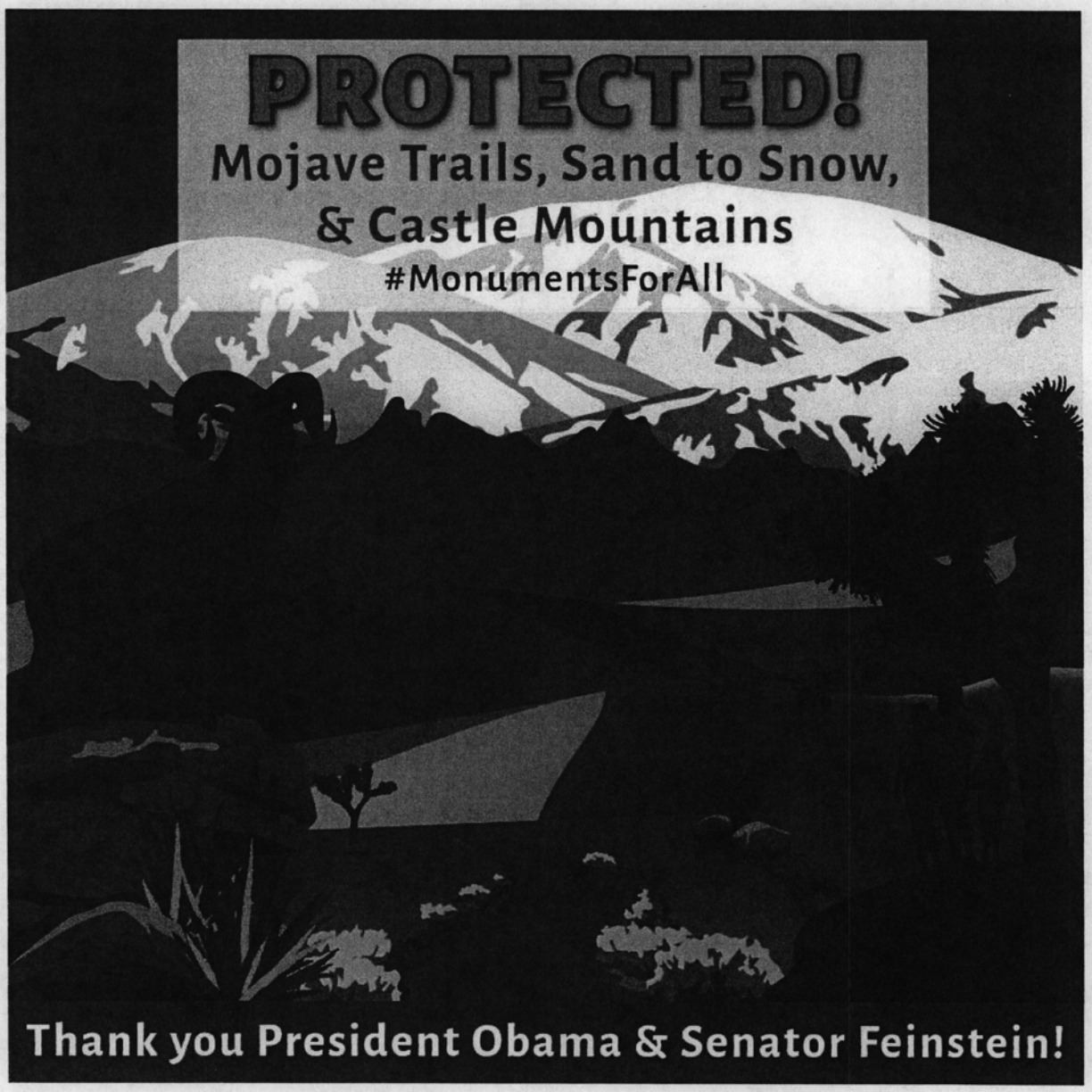

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CAMPAIGN FOR THE CALIFORNIA DESERT

Protecting Our Legacy, Strengthening Our Future

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2016

CONTACT:
Sarah Hersh-Walker, 510-550-8170 (office) / 510-759-2921 (cell)
Email: sarah@fcpcommunications.com / Website: www.CaliforniaDesert.org

HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF NEW CALIFORNIA DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENTS CELEBRATED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Joshua Tree, CA – Today, California desert communities are celebrating the announcement that President Obama will designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments while traveling in the region. National monument status means that these public lands will be permanently protected and that the public can continue to access these places for outdoor recreation activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, rock-hounding and more.

"Today is a day for celebration in desert communities," said **Indio Mayor Glenn Miller**. "The President is going to designate three new desert national monuments that protect our communities' history and provide a living legacy for future generations. Senator Feinstein's leadership and the President's actions mean that Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments will be available for our children, our grandchildren and visitors from around the world for years to come."

The designation of the new national monuments had widespread and bipartisan support, with local elected officials and community leaders, business owners, Native Americans, veterans, Latino organizations, faith leaders, sportsmen, historians, artists, conservationists, and others calling for the protection of these unique and special places. A recent poll also showed overwhelming support from the public, with over 75% of California voters statewide and 70% in the desert region in favor of President Obama designating the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

"As a member of a family which has owned land and operated businesses in the Amargosa and Death Valley area for over 100 years, I'm overjoyed that President Obama will designate these new national monuments," added **Susan Sorrells, owner and operator of Shoshone Village, a desert community and tourism destination**. "Our region's economy depends on tourism and outdoor recreational activities that take place in our unique and beautiful desert. Protecting these lands is a critical investment in our area's economic future."

By designating these monuments, President Obama has demonstrated that we can both protect America's public lands heritage and also grow our economy. Visitors come to Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve from across the country and around the world, spending $194 million in the region and supporting over 2,700 jobs (2014). The region welcomed 3.2 million visitors to the three desert national parks (2014) and almost 4.2 million visitors to areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management (2013).

Designating the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments puts these places on the map, drawing attention and visitors to the region and enhancing the region's vital tourism economy. Given this, it comes as no surprise that the designation of these monuments was supported by a bipartisan group of Republican and Democratic Mayors and City Councilmembers; the Coachella Valley Association of Governments; the Calimesa,

###

The Campaign for the California Desert is a coalition of conservation groups, community leaders and businesses dedicated to protecting our desert landscapes, celebrated both for their contributions to America's natural and cultural heritage and to the regional economy. For more information, visit www.CaliforniaDesert.org. Follow the Campaign for the California Desert on Twitter and like the campaign on Facebook. For photos and videos of California desert landscapes described in this release, click here.

News Release

Date: February 16, 2016
Event Contacts:
Meg Foley (760) 646-5625
Karen Lowe (760) 333-5197

Morongo Valley & Other Regional Leaders Celebrate New Desert Monuments by Dedicating Community Welcome Sign

"Home of the Sand to Snow National Monument" Sign Now Welcomes Visitors to Morongo Valley

Morongo Valley, CA – Members of the Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce, along with other regional and local leaders and residents celebrated President Obama's designation last week of three new National Monuments in the California Desert today by dedicating a new community sign welcoming visitors to "**The Home of the Sand to Snow National Monument**."

Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments are protected for future generations thanks to President Obama's actions and the efforts of Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. This action comes after nearly a decade of work to protect these public lands by local and statewide leaders including chambers of commerce, business organizations, tourism groups, and over 200 desert businesses.

"The Sand to Snow National Monument will preserve the natural beauty of our home for future generations while also creating business opportunities now," said **Karen Lowe, local realtor and Board Member of the Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce**. "We are excited about the new opportunities that Sand to Snow will provide for our community."

The Sand to Snow National Monument protects a diversity of landscapes, including portions of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts; streams and wetlands along the Whitewater River, Mission Creek, and Big Morongo Canyon; and the peak of Mount San Gorgonio, the highest point in Southern California. It also boasts rare desert rivers and stunning cultural sites including Native American petroglyphs and mortars. The monument provides many recreational opportunities on public lands for hiking, horseback riding, backpacking, fishing, bird watching, and even snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

"The third district is now the home of the Sand to Snow National Monument, which includes countless Native American resources, the pristine Black Lava Butte, more than 240 species of birds and 12 species of endangered wildlife, including the Desert bighorn sheep," commented **Supervisor James Ramos**, whose district includes a large portion of the Mojave Desert. "The Sand to Snow National Monument has the potential to bring plenty of economic opportunities to the many tourist-friendly desert communities. Residents of the Morongo Valley are sure to welcome visitors to the new National Monument with open arms."

"Conserving and connecting these habitats will benefit local tourism and also help desert animals and plants adapt to a changing climate," said **Meg Foley, Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce Board Member**. "By designating these national monuments, President Obama is balancing conservation and economic opportunity in a manner consistent with the priorities of the Morongo Valley Community Plan. These new monuments benefit Morongo Valley and the desert region."

PO Box 63
Shoshone, CA 92384
760.852.4339
www.amargosaconservancy.org

February 11, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
CONTACT: Patrick Donnelly, *Executive Director*
patrick@amargosaconservancyorg; 760.428.8653

AMARGOSA CONSERVANCY APPLAUDS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLAN TO DESIGNATE CALIFORNIA DESERT NATIONAL MONUMENTS
Historic Move Will Protect Public Lands for Wildlife, Historic Resources, Communities

Shoshone, CA - The Amargosa Conservancy joins residents and community leaders across the California desert today in celebrating the news that President Obama plans to designate three new national monuments in the California desert this week. The establishment of Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments will provide permanent and lasting protection for these nationally significant landscapes, and contribute to sustainable economic development for rural desert communities. Amargosa Conservancy is also grateful to Senator Dianne Feinstein for her leadership, on behalf of Californians, in asking the President to take this action.

The Conservancy joins a wide array of supporters from the desert region and across California in supporting President Obama's designation of these new national monuments. Local businesses such as Tecopa Hot Springs Resort and China Ranch Date Farm, community groups such as the Old Spanish Trail Association and Shoshone Museum Association, and academics such as Professor Dustin Mulvaney of San Jose State University and Professor Ruth Nolan of College of the Desert, all support the designations for the preservation of the desert's environmental and cultural heritage and for the economic benefits which will accompany the increased tourism that these designations will bring.

"President Obama's bold conservation action will ensure that desert communities have a sustainable economic future, as future generations of Americans can continue to access our amazing desert public lands," said Patrick Donnelly, executive director of Amargosa Conservancy. "These irreplaceable lands are the connective tissue which binds the wildlands of the Mojave Desert together. The President and Senator Feinstein have created an enduring conservation legacy in the California desert which will combat climate change, support communities, and promote economic development."

The Amargosa Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) based in Shoshone, California, "standing up for the wilds, waters, and communities of the scenic Amargosa Basin and Eastern Mojave." Founded in

NEWS RELEASE

California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity

For Immediate Release:
February 11, 2016
Contact: Heidi Pickman, Communications Director, 415.992.4484 hpickman@microbiz.org

Microbusiness Network Applauds Establishment of California Desert Monuments
Protected lands expected to increase tourism and boost microbusinesses

San Francisco, CA - CAMEO (California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity) applauds the announcement that President Obama this week is designating three new national monuments in the California desert – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains. CAMEO also thanks Senator Dianne Feinstein for her leadership in urging the President to take this action.

CAMEO has joined with diverse voices from the desert region and around the state to support President Obama's designation of these new national monuments. In addition to the microbusinesses that CAMEO represents, supporters include chambers of commerce, local elected officials and community leaders, Native Americans, Latino organizations, veterans, scientists, historians, and faith leaders.

"In California's rural areas, very small businesses are the economy," said Claudia Viek, CEO of CAMEO. "Many of them depend on our state's unique and spectacular natural resources for their success. Designation of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments will bring new attention and visitors to the desert region and benefit local businesses and economies."

###

CENTER for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY *Because life is good.*

For Immediate Release, February 12, 2016
Contact: Ileene Anderson, (323) 654-5943 ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

President Obama Designates Three New California Desert National Monuments

LOS ANGELES— The Center for Biological Diversity today celebrates the announcement of President Obama's designation of three national monuments in the Southern California desert as envisioned for more than a decade by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. Obama used the Antiquities Act to designate the Mojave Trails, the Sand to Snow and the Castle Mountains national monuments. National monument designation means these special places will be forever protected and accessible to the public.

"California's deserts include some of the most spectacular scenery in the nation, and serve as a refuge for some of the most rare and endangered plants and animals," said Ileene Anderson with the Center. "The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments offer enduring protections for these places and would allow future generations of all species to enjoy them. Thank you, President Obama."

This designation culminates Sen. Feinstein's legislative efforts to protect the California desert. These new monuments help to link Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park, allowing wildlife to migrate in a changing climate. In permanently protecting these special places, the president follows in the footsteps of nearly every president since 1906 — eight Republicans and eight Democrats — who have used the Antiquities Act to leave a legacy of national monuments more than 140 times.

About the National Monuments

The **Mojave Trails National Monument** preserves 1.6 million acres of diverse and striking desert lands and helps to link Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave National Preserve. Named for the most pristine stretch of historic Route 66, with wide-open desert vistas, the lands in the national monument are habitat for threatened desert tortoises, iconic desert bighorn sheep and many other desert dwellers. National monument status protects the existing uses of these lands for outdoor enjoyment and maintains key wildlife connections between Joshua Tree and the Mojave National Preserve and wilderness areas.

The **Sand to Snow National Monument** rises from the Sonoran Desert floor up to Southern California's tallest mountain, Mount San Gorgonio. It contains extraordinarily over 154,000 acres of diverse landscapes and habitats, including alpine peaks, Joshua tree woodlands, mountain vistas, rivers and wetlands, and desert. This area includes 25 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail and the headwaters of Southern California's longest river, the Santa Ana, as well as the headwaters of the Whitewater River. World-class hiking, backpacking, wildlife and bird-watching are readily available throughout the seasons.

The **Castle Mountains National Monument** conserves a 20,000-acre missing piece in the northern part of the Mojave National Preserve and provides vital habitat for golden eagles, bighorn sheep, mountain lions and bobcats. Castle Mountains offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements; it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn — the second-fastest land mammal in the world.

The Castle Mountains were originally left out of the Mojave National Preserve when it was established because of a large operational gold mine. The mine has since been reclaimed, and the Castle Mountains take their correct place as a rugged addition to the conserved landscape.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 990,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

"There are few actions that a President can take that will be celebrated by future generations," said O'Donnell. "Through these designations, President Obama has given California and all Americans an enduring gift."

###

The non-profit Conservation Lands Foundation is the only organization in the country dedicated solely to protecting, restoring and expanding the National Conservation Lands so they will endure from generation to generation. The National Conservation Lands are 31 million acres of protected public lands and waterways, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, that have joined the ranks of our national parks and wildlife refuges as guardians of our nation's heritage and drivers of the country's $646 billion outdoor recreation economy. www.ConservationLands.org

THE CALIFORNIA DESERT IS HOME TO THREE NEWLY ANNOUNCED MONUMENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2015
Contact: Catalina Tresky; ctresky@defenders.org, (202) 772-0253

WASHINGTON – Today, as one of his first public lands initiatives of his final year in office, President Obama announced the designation of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains as the nation's newest national monuments. This act will conserve 1.8 million acres of California's most ecologically important and scenic areas for generations to come.

Jamie Rappaport Clark, CEO and President of Defenders of Wildlife, issued the following statement:

> "President Obama's announcement of new national monuments is especially welcome news at the start of the New Year. National monument status guarantees the conservation of unique ecological, recreational and economic benefits of landscapes far into the future. This protective status safeguards wildlife as they adapt to climate change, protects fragile water sources, encourages tourism, supports local businesses, and provides outdoor recreation access to suitable public lands.
>
> "President Obama's inclusion of the California desert is particularly important since this desert is the most intact, undisturbed landscape left unprotected in the Lower-48. The California desert provides a home to fragile wildlife, such as the state-listed Mohave ground squirrel and the federally listed desert tortoise, and includes spectacular scenic areas, such as the biologically significant Pisgah Valley, the scenic Owens Valley and the remote Springs Valley.
>
> "We look forward to the official designation of The Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments in the near future and are encouraged to see that President Obama is making conservation a priority in his final year in office."
>
> ###

Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. With more than 1.2 million members and activists, Defenders of Wildlife is a leading advocate for innovative solutions to safeguard our wildlife heritage for generations to come. For more information, visit ***www.defenders.org.***

Hispanic Access Foundation

POR LA CREACIÓN
FAITH-BASED ALLIANCE

For Immediate Release:
February 12, 2016

Contact: Robert Fanger
P: 317-410-7668
E: robert@hispanicaccess.org

Latino Faith Leaders Rebut Criticisms of California Desert Monuments

Leaders applaud protecting outdoor heritage for future generations

WASHINGTON, DC – Members and supporters of Por la Creación: Faith Based Alliance (PLC), which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God's creation, are applauding the news that President Obama is designating three new national monuments in the California desert today: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains.

However, the group also expressed dismay over criticisms from Rep. Paul Cook regarding the President's action. While we appreciate Rep. Cook's commitment to preserving public lands, he raises several objections that warrant a thoughtful response.

Rep. Cook claims that the new national monuments lack broad public support. In fact, the breadth and depth of public support for the President to designate the new California desert national monuments demonstrates overwhelmingly that Rep. Cook is incorrect. Calls for President Obama to act came from chambers of commerce, over 200 desert business operators, local elected officials, veterans, Native Americans, Latino organizations, historians, artists, archaeologists, sportsmen, biologists, and community members. In addition, a recent poll from Vet Voice Foundation showed that 75 percent of California voters support the President designating three National Monuments in the California desert, with comparable levels of support—70 percent—among residents in the desert region. Rep. Cook himself built a huge amount of public support for permanent protection of most of the public lands in the new national monuments.

But Rep. Cook is opposed to Presidents creating any national monuments through the Antiquities Act. This is befuddling since Joshua Tree National Park – an economic engine that supports over 1,000 private sector jobs through $74 million in visitor spending (based on 2014 data) in surrounding communities, including Rep. Cook's hometown of Yucca Valley – was originally protected through the Antiquities Act in 1936. Other American icons protected through the Antiquities Act include the Statue of Liberty, Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Mount Lassen. Furthermore, a poll released by Colorado College in January showed that 80 percent of Westerners favor Presidents continuing to protect public lands as national monuments.

"We have a moral responsibility to future generations to protect God's creation — preserving the mountains, rivers, deserts and other breathtaking landscapes of our nation," said Pastor Jesse Villarreal of Templo La Hermosa in Coachella and member of Por La Creación. "Protecting the California desert is crucial not only to the majority of local economies in the area, but also to the spiritual well-being of our community."

Rep. Cook claims that the President should give the legislative process a chance to work. While legislative protection is desirable, many desert residents and organizations have expressed great concern with Rep. Cook's California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act (CMORCA).

For Immediate Release
February 11, 2016

CONTACT: Marcus Andrew Motamedi,
Executive Director, 760-501-1705,
marcusandrew@hotmail.com

JOSHUA TREE CHAMBER APPLAUDS THE DESIGNATION OF SAND TO SNOW, MOJAVE TRAILS & CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Joshua Tree, CA - The Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce applauds the announcement that President Barack Obama this week is designating three new national monuments in the California desert—Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains. These new designations will raise the profile of California desert public lands as a destination for recreational tourism, preserve unique ecosystems, provide a variety of recreational opportunities, and celebrate our region's rich history.

"The Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce has been a driving force for our community, supporting local and regional businesses, the arts and music, non-profit organizations, as well as residents and visitors for more than half a century," **said Marcus Andrew Motamedi, Executive Director of the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce.** "The designation of these three new national monuments in the California desert positions our region as a premiere destination for recreational tourism and will support existing and new local businesses. We thank President Obama for designating the new Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains National Monuments. These monuments protect and connect habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal life as our climate changes, preserve our rich history, enhance our quality of life and support a vibrant business environment."

More than 200 local businesses throughout the California desert region have joined the call for designation of the new monuments because they recognized that protecting public lands is not only good for people and wildlife, but also good for business.

The Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce extends a sincere thank you to Senator Dianne Feinstein for being a long-standing champion of the California desert and her tireless efforts that helped convince the President to take this historic action. The Chamber also thanks Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for listening to our community and supporting this outcome.

###

the finale of the 2015 tour and start of KEEN's 2016 campaign efforts.

The campaign urges the Obama Administration to protect five specific areas in the U.S. that have environmental, recreational, and historic significance, through national monument designations. The areas include: Mojave Desert, CA (now protected); Owyhee Canyonlands, OR; Birthplace of Rivers, WV; Boulder-White Clouds, ID (protected); and Gold Butte, NV. The first victory for the campaign came on Aug. 7, 2015 when Idaho's majestic Boulder-White Clouds was permanently protected as Wilderness.

In 2016 the Live Monumental campaign will continue to advocate for the remaining three public landscapes on its list, sparking advocacy from businesses, and attaining a critical mass of signatures before President Obama leaves office. A film documenting the 2015 road trip and campaign will be released in spring 2016.

To learn more about the Live Monumental campaign, see live updates and get the latest info, and sign the petition to help create lasting change, please visit: livemonumental.com.

#LiveMonumental

About KEEN
Inspired by a love of the outdoors, KEEN, Inc., a manufacturer of hybrid outdoor and casual products, including footwear, clothing, and accessories, is dedicated to creating quality products that support the lifestyles and outdoor adventures of active people around the world. KEEN products can be found online and through more than 5,000 retail locations in more than 60 countries, as well as in KEEN Garage retail stores in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. The company's operations and culture reflect a stand-out commitment to building a strong community and a healthier planet so that all can create, play, and care. Learn more at http://www.keenfootwear.com.

For more information, please contact:

Keith Cozzens
Phone: 970.259.3555 x122

Tessa DuBois
Phone: 970-259-355

For more from this organization:

KEEN Inc.

LCHC
LATINO COALITION FOR A HEALTHY CALIFORNIA

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 11, 2016
Contact: Xavier Morales: 916.448.3234 x2015, xmorales@lchc.org

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California Celebrates Announcement to Establish New California Desert Monuments

Protected lands to improve access to outdoors & health for Latino communities

Sacramento- The Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC) is applauding the news that President Obama plans to designate three new national monuments on public lands in the California desert region this week: Mojave Trails, Castle Mountains, and Sand to Snow. LCHC also expresses its gratitude to Senator Dianne Feinstein for asking the President to take this action and for her unwavering and decades-long commitment to protection of the California desert.

In addition to LCHC's support, President Obama's designation of these new national monuments is being celebrated by a wide array of diverse voices from across the desert region and throughout California. Besides other Latino organizations, supporters include local elected officials and community leaders, other health organizations, conservationists, Native American tribes, business owners and more.

"Preserving open space is important for the health of Californians and Latinos in particular," said LCHC Executive Director Dr. Xavier Morales. "These new national monuments improve access to the outdoors for the adjacent Latino communities, allowing families to more easily enjoy recreation opportunities together. LCHC applauds the President's work to ensure that all Americans can enjoy the health benefits provided by open space."

Mr. Morales attended an October listening session in Whitewater, CA to express LCHC's strong support for the monument designations to Sen. Feinstein and members of the Obama Administration.

###

Mojave Desert Land Trust
Preserving land to enjoy forever

P.O. Box 1544 • 60124 29 Palms Hwy • Joshua Tree, CA 92252
Ph (760) 366-5440 Fax (888) 869-4981 www.mojavedesertlandtrust.org

For Immediate Release
Date: February 11, 2016

Contact: Shauna Tucker, 760.366.5440 • shauna@mojavedesertlandtrust.org

Mojave Desert Land Trust Celebrates Three New California Desert Monuments

Monument status helps secure MDLT's commitment to preserving the extraordinary and one-of-a-kind resources, connections, and intact landscapes of the Mojave Desert.

Joshua Tree, CA – Mojave Desert Land Trust applauds President Obama for his visionary leadership in designating three new California desert National Monuments this week: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains. The announcement comes after nearly a decade of tireless work by local leaders to protect significant biological, cultural and historical resources in the California desert. Last year, Senator Dianne Feinstein called upon the President to designate these national monuments, building upon years of effort to pass legislation for the protection of these one-of-a-kind resources, connections and intact landscapes. MDLT extends its great appreciation to Senator Feinstein for her foresight and dedication to the preservation of these treasured desert lands.

Mojave Desert Land Trust joins a diverse group of voices from the desert region, across California, and around the world in a showing of widespread bipartisan support for these new national monuments. Local elected officials, community and cultural leaders, business owners, veterans, Native American and Latino organizations, faith leaders, sportsmen, historians, artists, scientists, conservationists, and others who live, work and recreate in the California Desert all have called for the protection of these unique and special places.

"We at Mojave Desert Land Trust have been truly inspired and energized by the myriad of voices joining in support of protecting and connecting these landscapes. Our community has a deep appreciation and connection to our public lands that knows no boundaries. We value that our nation's newest national monuments preserve uninterrupted landscapes, ecosystems and opportunities for future enjoyment, discovery and adaptation to a changing biosphere," said MDLT Executive Director Danielle Segura.

Mojave Desert Land Trust Conservation Director Frazier Haney added, "Mojave Desert Land Trust celebrates this historic moment and action by President Obama to permanently protect pristine lands in the California desert. Proactively conserving and connecting our public lands strengthens the ability of our communities and ecosystems to respond to climate change impacts now and in the future."

###

Mojave Desert Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to protect the Mojave Desert ecosystem and its scenic and cultural resource values through acquisition, land stewardship and strategic partnerships. Since 2006 the organization has protected over 56,000 acres of desert land.

parks. These national monuments will play a vital role in the long-term sustainability and health of the region, and the protection of our beautiful, diverse deserts. The Castle Mountains National Monument designation is also historic, marking the first time President Obama has used his authority to preserve a large landscape national monument within our National Park System."

Together, the Castle Mountains, Mojave Trails, and Sand to Snow National Monuments will preserve Native American spiritual and archaeological sites, WWII Patton training camps, abandoned ghost towns, historic Route 66, pioneer trails, stunning vistas, iconic desert wildlife species, critical wildlife corridors, diverse desert mountain ranges, and unusual geologic formations.

"The visionary designation of three beautiful, important, and diverse desert lands surrounding national parks in the California desert will forever protect and connect the greater landscape, for the benefit of all," said Thomas E. Lovejoy, professor of environmental science and policy at George Mason University.

# # #

777 6th Street, NW, Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20001-3723 | **P** 202.223.6722 | **F** 202.872.0960 | npca.org

NRDC

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

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Press contact: Jeff Benzak, 202-513-6248, jbenzak@nrdc.org; or Anne Hawke, 202-513-6263, ahawke@nrdc.org

NRDC: Designating New Monuments in California Desert is Smart Conservation Move

WASHINGTON (February 12, 2016) – President Obama today announced he is designating three new national monuments in the California desert – Mojave Trails near the Kelso ghost town, Sand to Snow near Yucca Valley, and Castle Mountains northwest of Needles.

The following is a statement from Helen O'Shea, director of the Western Renewable Energy Project in NRDC's Land and Wildlife Program:

"Protecting these fragile lands is an absolutely essential element of an overall vision for California's desert – a vision that includes both conservation and renewable energy development in the right places.

"President Obama, Senator Feinstein and dozens of local leaders truly deserve our thanks for having the foresight to protect these unique places for future generations."

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 2 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Bozeman, MT, and Beijing. Visit us atwww.nrdc.org and follow us on Twitter @NRDC.

"The designation of these outstanding natural areas as national monuments will ensure continued recreational opportunities, support local economies, and safeguard the region's beauty, wildlife, rare plants, and waters. This is a welcome start to the new year."

###

The Pew Charitable Trusts is driven by the power of knowledge to solve today's most challenging problems. Learn more at www.pewtrusts.org.

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The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 12, 2016

Statement of The Nature Conservancy
California Desert National Monuments Designation

President Obama's Antiquities Act designation of three new areas in California-the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains National Monuments--bolsters our magnificent portfolio of protected conservation lands in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, filling gaps between key habitat areas and adding important new assets for perpetual public enjoyment and use.

The creation of these monuments adds significantly to the desert protection legacy of Senator Dianne Feinstein, who has devoted the past three decades to the successful conservation of California's rich desert landscape.

These three new monuments conserve and link important habitat areas and protect many of the desert's natural communities against climate change impacts.

At the same time, the monuments provide access for tourism and recreation, and maintain existing rights to use areas within the monuments, balancing conservation and economic activities that preserves these future landscapes and wildlife for future generations.

"With these monument designations, we see real progress towards a comprehensive and proactive plan to protect our natural resources, address climate change impacts and increase appropriate siting of renewable energy in the California desert," said Mike Sweeney, Executive Director, The Nature Conservancy in California.

The Nature Conservancy salutes the President and Senator Feinstein in designating these three California desert national monuments.

Press Contact
Lisa Park
lpark@tnc.org
(408) 821-9255
The Nature Conservancy

historians, conservationists, and others who have worked for nearly a decade, with leadership from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, to achieve permanent protection for these important desert areas.

Mojave Trails National Monument:

- A critical linkage between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park
- Refuge for bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and fringe-toed lizards
- Sensitive underground springs
- Amboy Crater – one of North America's youngest volcanoes
- 550 million-year-old fossil beds of the Marble Mountains
- World War II desert training center, Iron Mountain
- Largest intact, open stretch of historic Route 66

Castle Mountains National Monument:

- Critical pathways for endangered wildlife
- Native American archaeological sites
- Historic gold mining ghost town of Hart
- Native desert grasslands and Joshua tree, pinion pine and juniper forests
- Target area for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world
- Spectacular views of California and Nevada peaks, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain

Sand to Snow National Monument:

- Headwaters of the Whitewater and Santa Ana Rivers
- Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa Native American cultural sites
- Home to more than 240 types of migrating birds, including yellow chat and vermilion flycatchers
- Wildlife paths for mule deer, mountain lions, black bears, bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise
- 25 miles of the iconic Pacific Crest Trail
- Home to one of the most botanically diverse mountains in the United States

The Wilderness Society is proud to have participated in the campaign to safeguard the California desert. We thank President Obama for having the wisdom and conviction to protect these irreplaceable national treasures, and we are grateful to Senator Dianne Feinstein for her steadfast efforts on behalf of the rich heritage and natural resources within California's public lands.

Resources:

- Web story: President Obama to designate three new national monuments in California desert
- Video and other media resources

###

The Wilderness Society is the leading conservation organization working to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Founded in 1935, and now with more than 700,000 members and supporters, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect 109 million acres of wilderness and to ensure sound management of our shared national lands. www.wilderness.org.

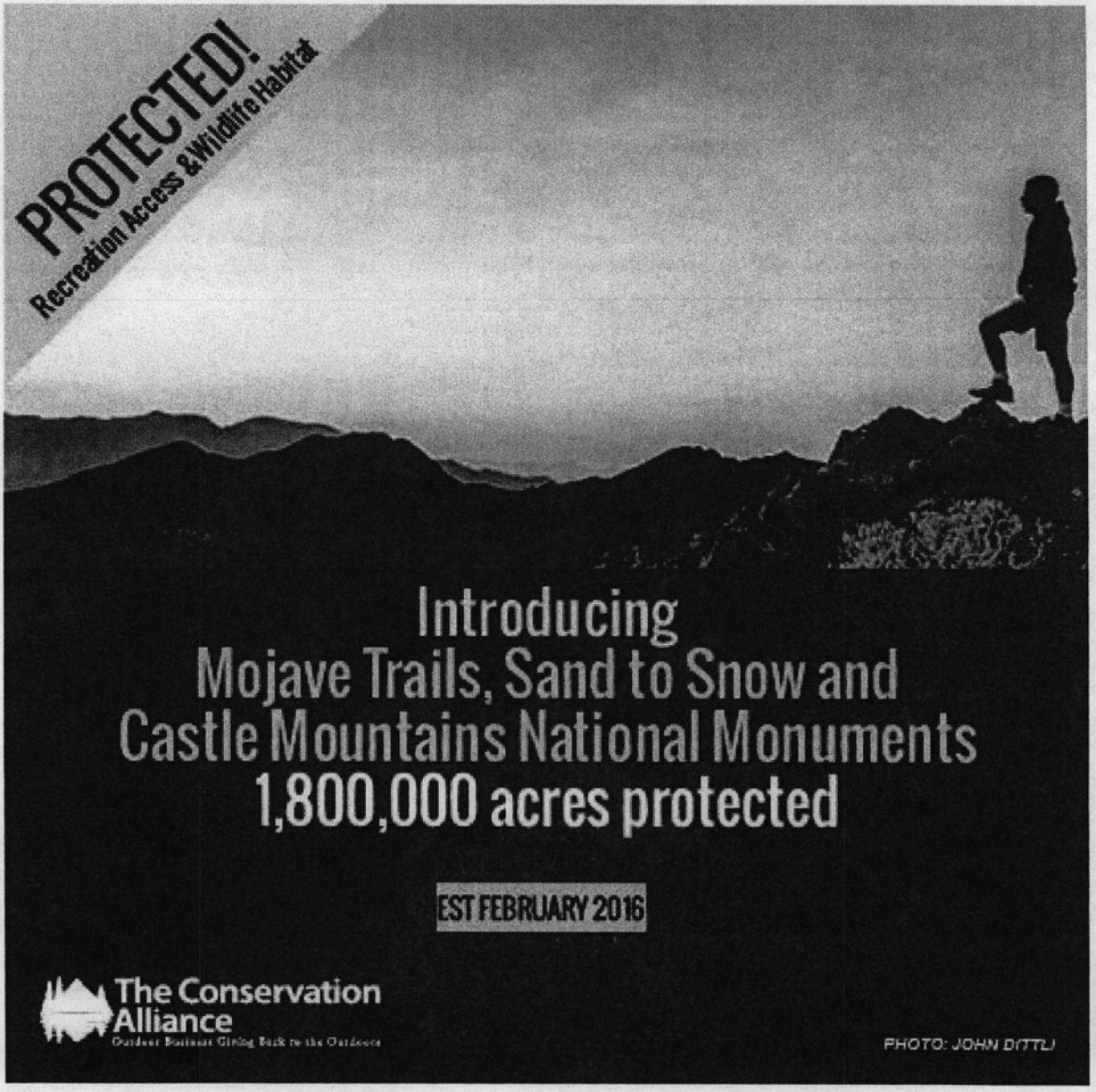
of stakeholders, agencies, chambers of commerce and elected officials. The new monument designations are consistent with the provisions of the Feinstein legislation.

Kate Miller, TU's Director of Government Affairs, noted that TU generally supports special designations that will improve protection for habitat and sporting opportunities on public lands where such designations have been endorsed by local stakeholders, including local sportsmen's groups. "In this case, we view national monument designation as a strong first step in a more comprehensive effort to protect and restore public lands habitat in southern California and the rare fishing and hunting opportunities these habitats provide," Miller said.

###

Trout Unlimited is the nation's oldest and largest coldwater fisheries conservation organization dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's trout and salmon and their watersheds. Follow TU on Facebook and Twitter, and visit us online at www.tu.org.

Print Ads


PROTECTED!
Recreation Access &Wildlife Habitat
Introducing
Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and
Castle Mountains National Monuments
1,800,000 acres protected
EST FEBRUARY 2016
The Conservation Alliance
PHOTO: JOHN DITTLI

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~ Thank you ~

PRESIDENT OBAMA

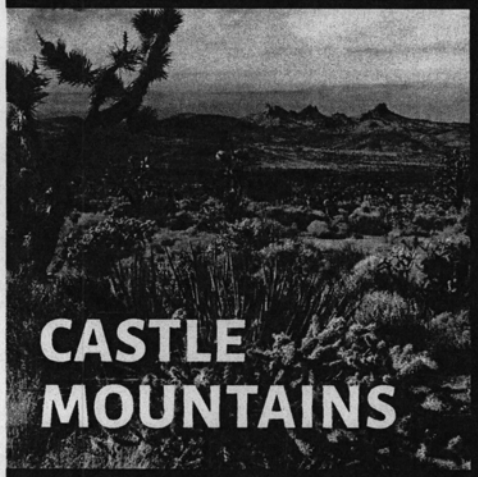
-and-

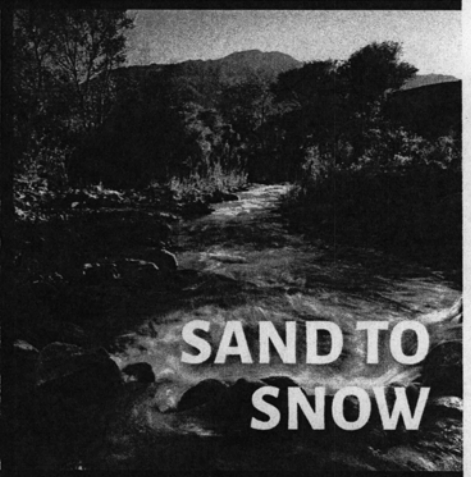
INTERIOR SECRETARY **SALLY JEWELL**

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY **TOM VILSACK**

SENATOR **DIANNE FEINSTEIN**

FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ESTABLISHING





NATIONAL MONUMENTS

This investment in on our public lands will benefit and grow our tourism economy and small businesses, which generate **billions of dollars** in spending, support **tens of thousands of jobs**, and create **strong communities**.

• Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau •
• California Association for Micro Business Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO) •
• Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce • Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce •
• Route 66 Chamber of Commerce • Calimesa Chamber of Commerce •
• Latin Business Association • Village of Shoshone • Small Business California •
• More than 200 desert businesses •

Paid for by California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity (CAMEO) • Photos by: Frazier Haney (top), David Lamfrom (bottom left), Jack Thompson/TWC (bottom right)

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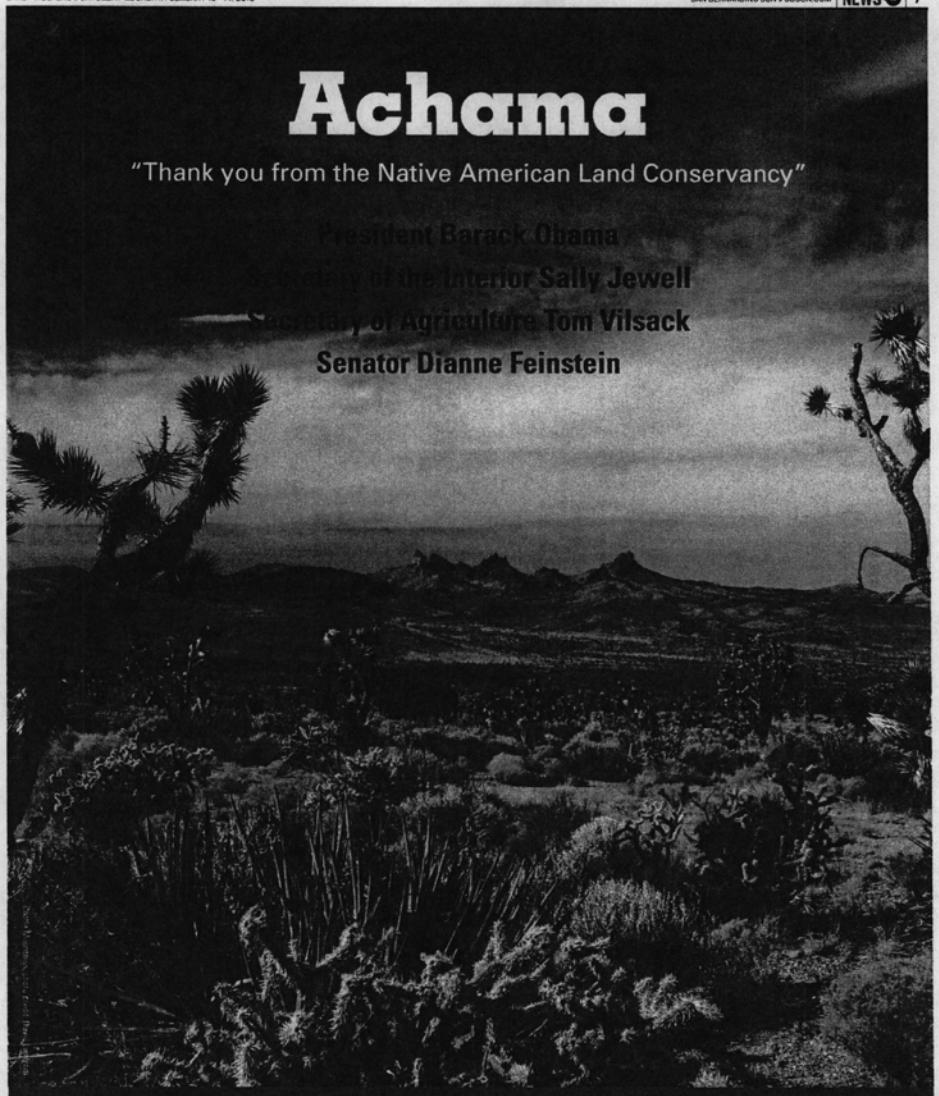
Achama

"Thank you from the Native American Land Conservancy"

President Barack Obama
Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack
Senator Dianne Feinstein



We thank you for honoring the decades of cooperation, outreach and support for the protection of the California desert by designating the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

These designations protect sensitive cultural and ecological resources for future generations. They also promote understanding of the value of these lands for tribes and our neighbors in the community at large.

Paid for by the Native American Land Conservancy
www.nalc4all.com

Earned Media List

(as of 2/16/16)

PRINT

Editorial: Obama's bold move on Mojave Desert protection
San Francisco Chronicle
2/13/16
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With three new national monuments, Obama creates world's second-largest desert preserve
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Obama designates 3 new national monuments in California desert
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KSL Salt Lake City
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KFI
2/13/16

KPCC
2/13/16

KFBK
2/13/16

KQED
2/12/16

KPCC
2/12/16

NPR
2/12/16

KLIV San Francisco
2/12/16

106.7 Atlanta
2/12/16

WBZ AM Boston
2/12/16

KNPR
2/12/16

KABC
2/12/16

NPR Affiliates
2/12/16

KPCC
2/12/16

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Celebrating California Desert #MonumentsForAll

February 2016

by California Desert a minute ago

#MonumentsForAll #FindYourPark

734 **77** **579**

ELECTED OFFICIALS

1,882 194 403

Raul Ruiz
@CongressmanRuiz

Follow

Monumental news: @POTUS designates 3 new @CalDesert #MonumentsForAll!

8:30 PM - 12 Feb 2016

16 14

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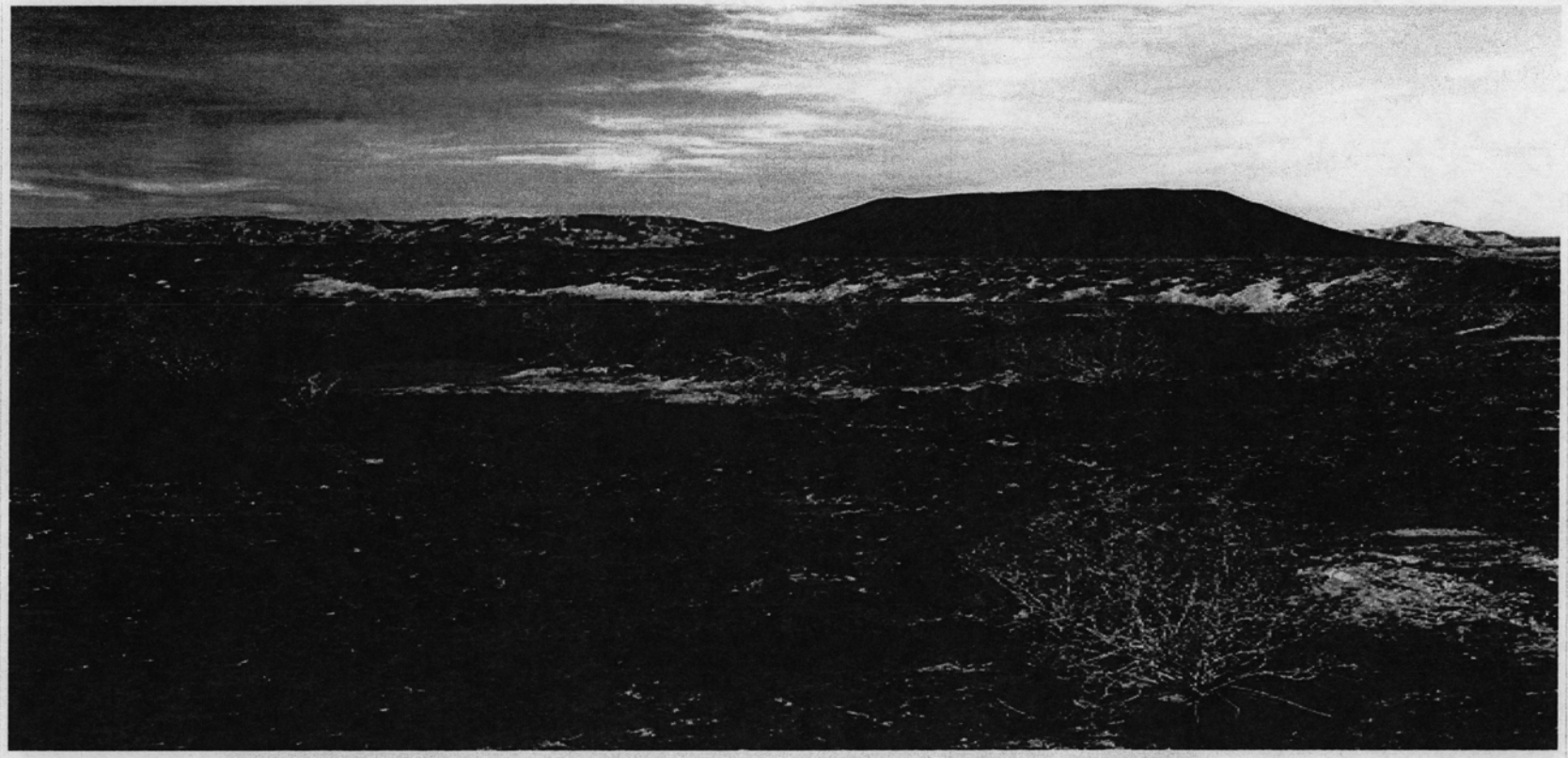
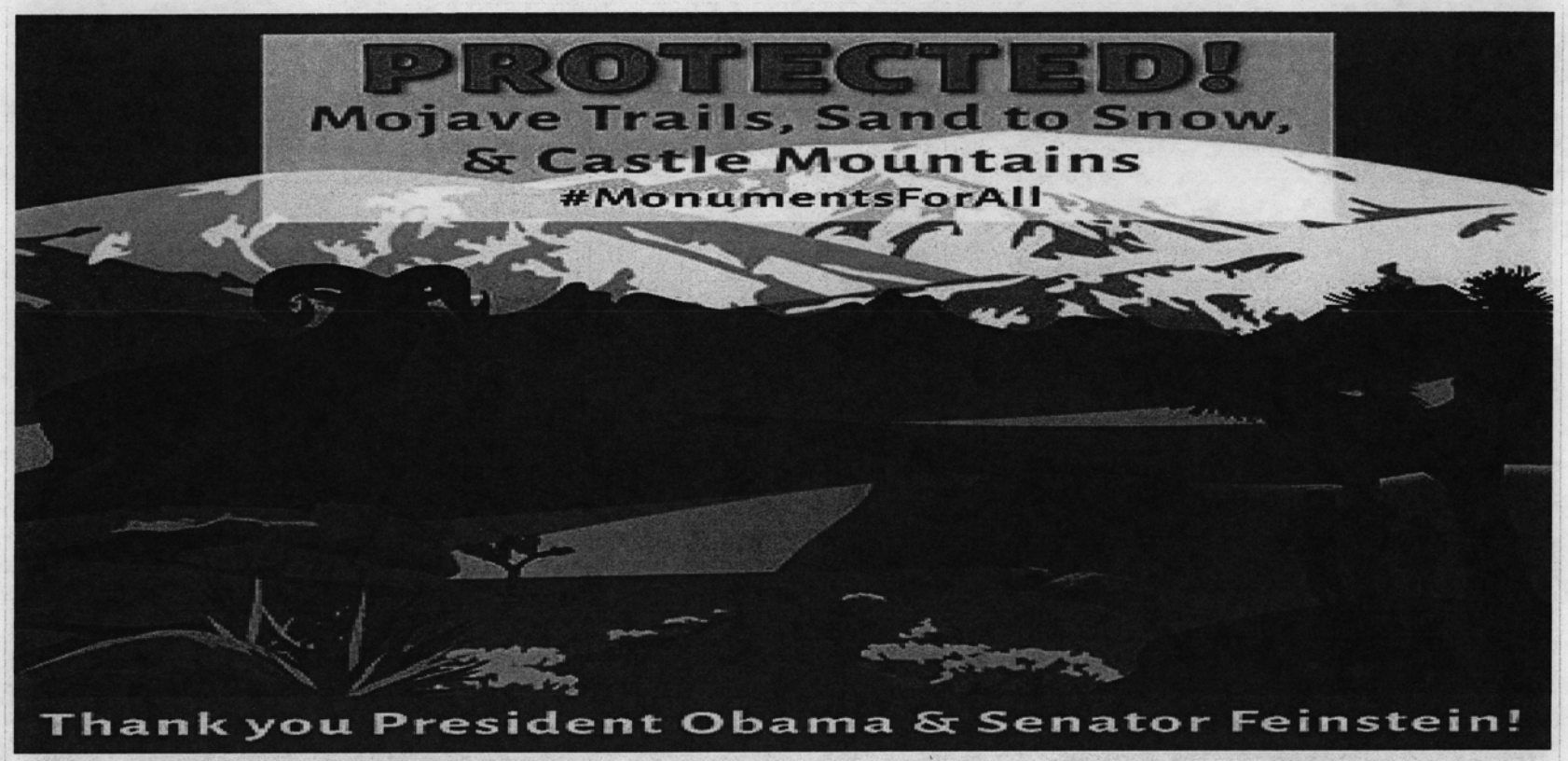


Today is a victory for conservation. President Obama designates three new national monuments in the California desert to permanently protect 1.8 million acres of natural public lands. The President has protected more acres of land and water than any Administration in history. The new monuments will link Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve and fifteen wilderness areas preserving wildlife habitat and natural resources. 📷: Bob Wick, BLM

PATAGONIA · 4 DAYS AGO

00068988-OS-BATCH122-DOC0028-REC-20240 Page 4 of 14



More protected lands! Thanks to you, to Senator Dianne Feinstein, to President Obama, and countless others from near and far, three amazing California Desert landscapes are now protected as national monuments. This historic action will ensure that Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains can be enjoyed by generations to come. Let's celebrate! #MonumentsForAll #FindYourPark

TWENTYNINE PALMS CHAMBER · 4 DAYS AGO

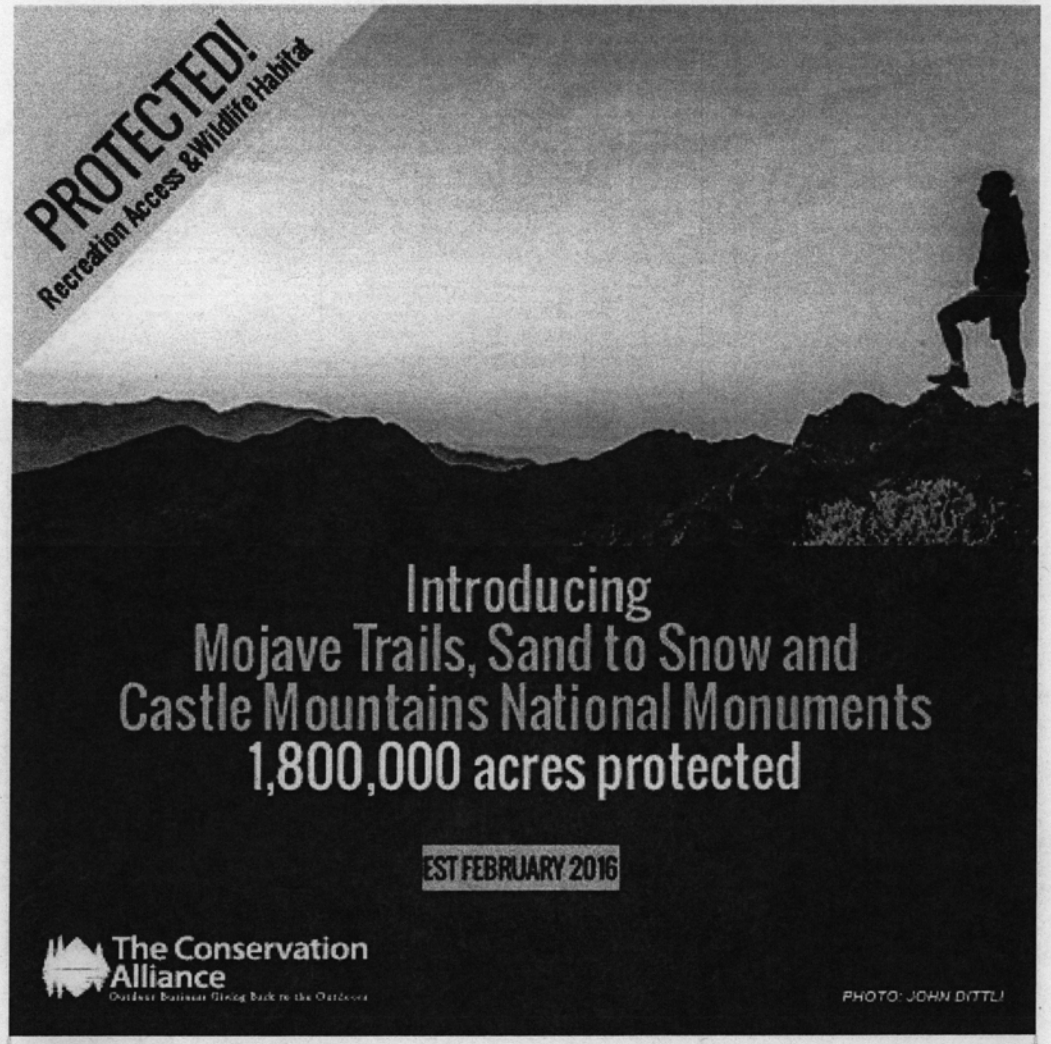
Outdoor Industry
@OIA

Follow

Great to see one of OIA's priority places protected! Check out our land designation policy: outdoorindustry.org/article/outdoo… twitter.com/whitehouse/sta…

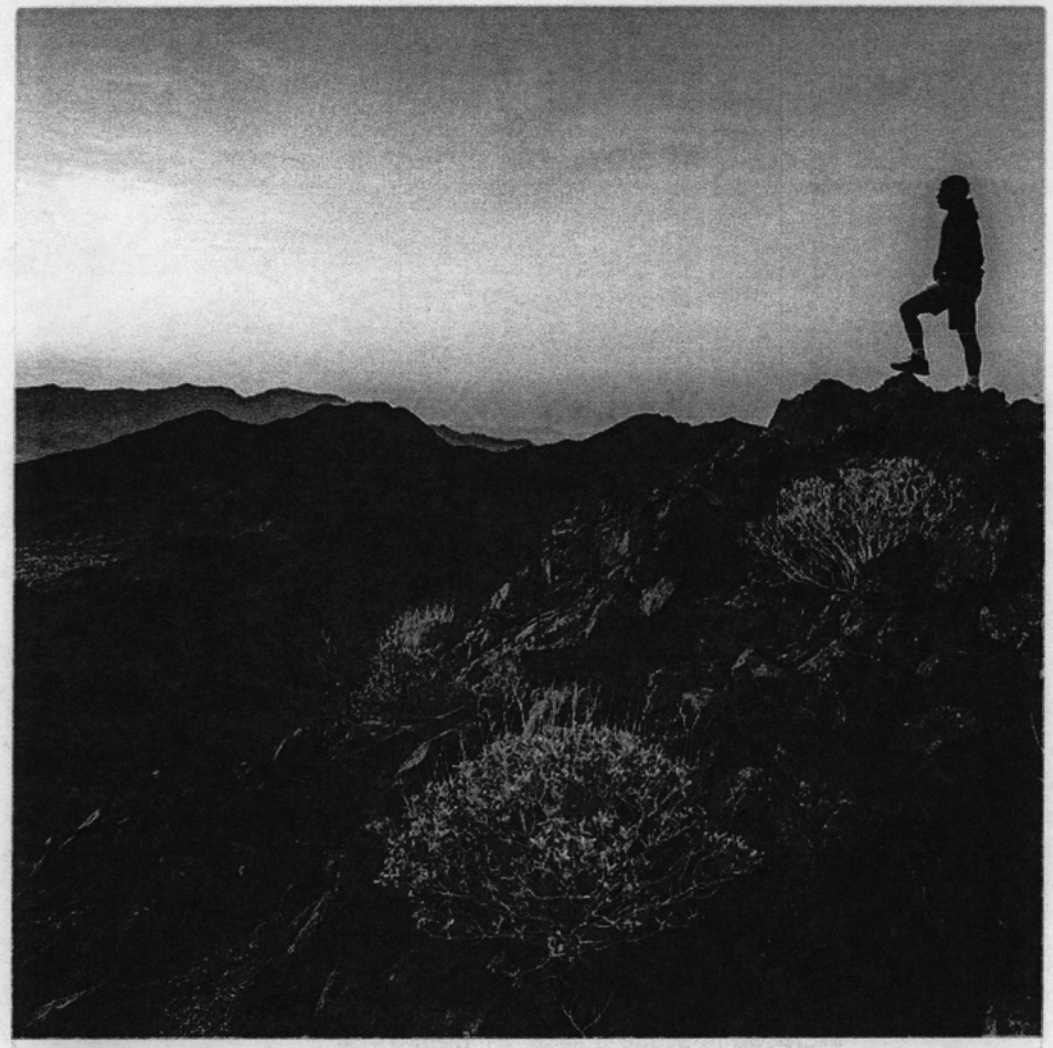
4:26 PM - 12 Feb 2016

2 7



The North Face
20 hours ago

President Obama has designated three new national monuments, protecting roughly 1.8 million acres in the California Desert. The three monuments connect Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world. We proudly funded the effort to protect this landscape through our The Conservation Alliance membership.



Eddie Bauer
@eddiebauer

Follow

Celebrating 3 new nat'l monuments in CA, totaling 1.8 million acres! Proud @conservationall member! #MonumentsForAll

8:00 AM - 16 Feb 2016

7 14

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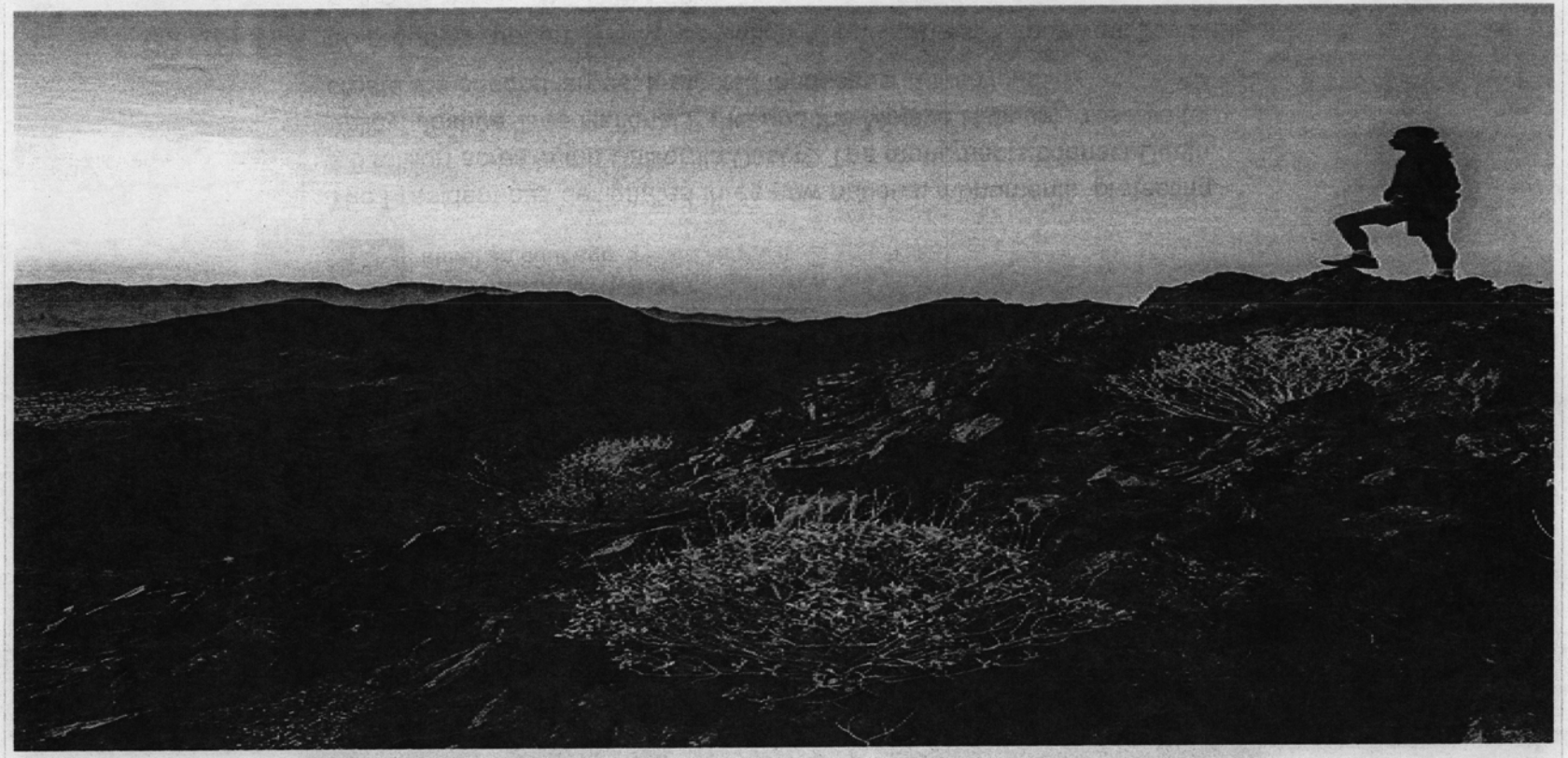
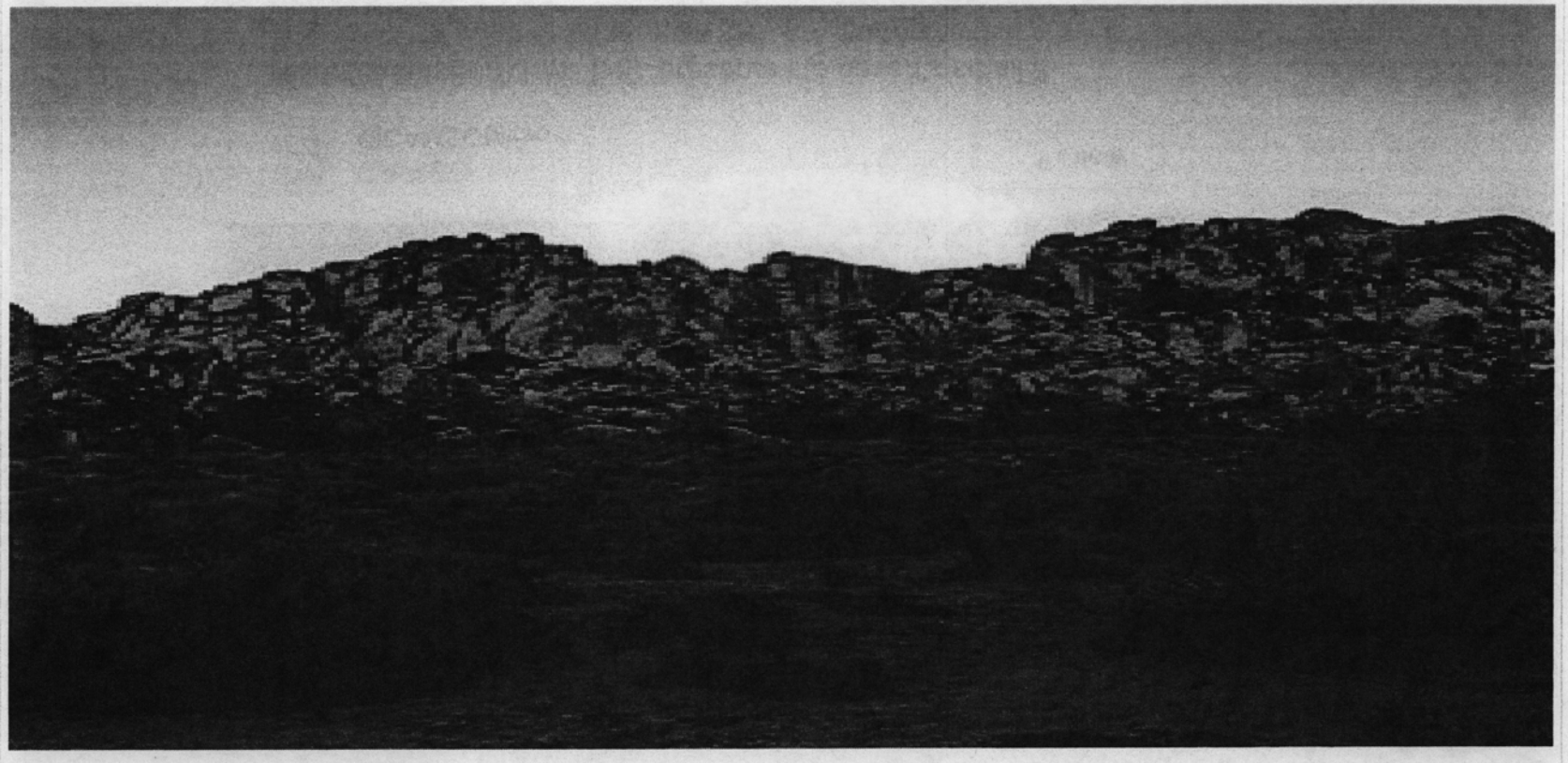


We're celebrating three new national monuments in CA, totaling 1.8 million acres! These monuments-Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument and Castle Mountains National Monument-connect Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve to create the second largest protected landscape in the world. We're proud to have funded the effort to protect this landscape through our @conservationalliance membership. #monumentsforall #explore #protect #repost Pic by John Dittli

ENOHAMMOCKS · 2 HOURS AGO

Full Story -> http://oak.ctx.ly/r/4auka

75 2 11



Today we get to celebrate 3 new national monuments, protecting 1.8 million acres in the deserts of California. The new public lands will better link Joshua Tree and Death Valley Nationals Park with 16 surrounding preserves and wilderness areas in the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, creating the second largest protected area in the world. Thanks to our friends @conservationalliance for their constant work in protecting these special lands! #findyourpark #mojavetrails #sandtosnow #castlemountains #myfreshair

YAKIMARACKS · 2 HOURS AGO

Blue Biz Council
@BlueBizCouncil

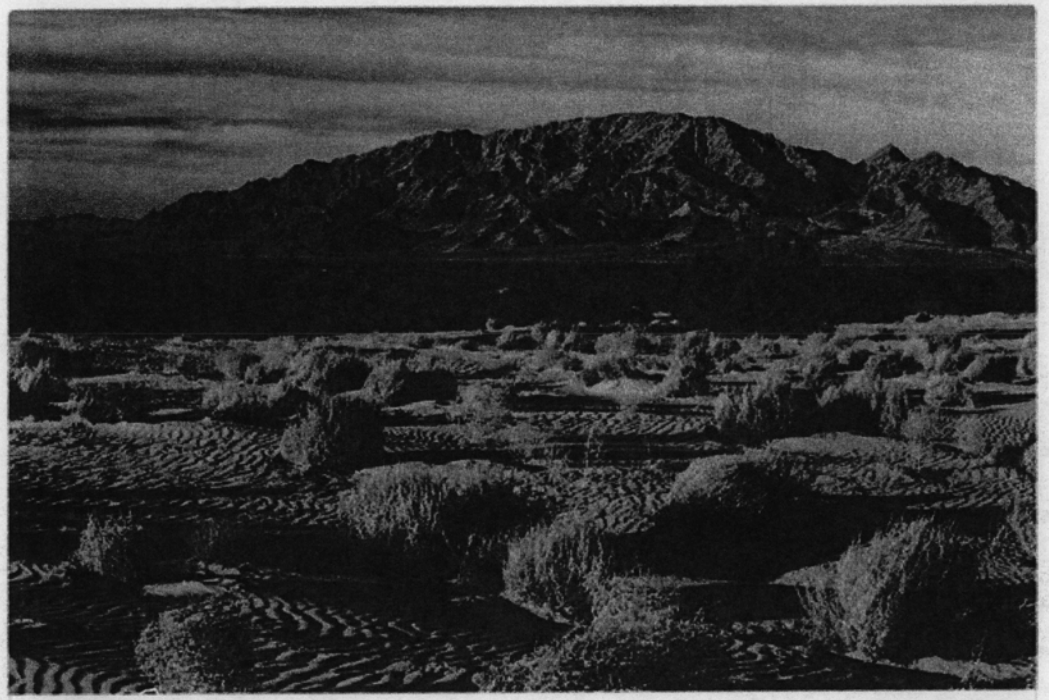
Follow

Welcome to #Cal's newest National Monuments; Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains! #ProtectWhatYouLove

11:38 AM - 12 Feb 2016 · San Bernardino, CA, United States

19 28

OTHER VIPS



Sen Dianne Feinstein
@SenFeinstein

Follow

Mojave Trails Nat'l Monument, on both sides of historic Route 66, has majestic mountains & valleys. #ProtectCADesert

12:47 PM - 12 Feb 2016

185 727

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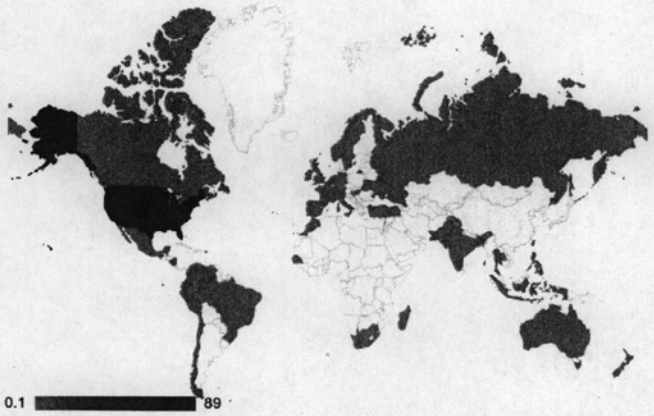
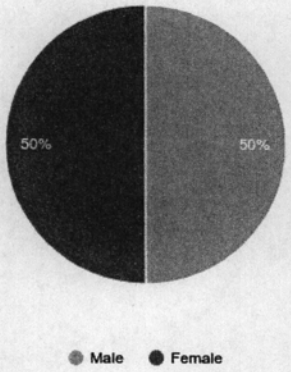
Location

World | USA



Demographics



Topics

Hashtags | A Keywords

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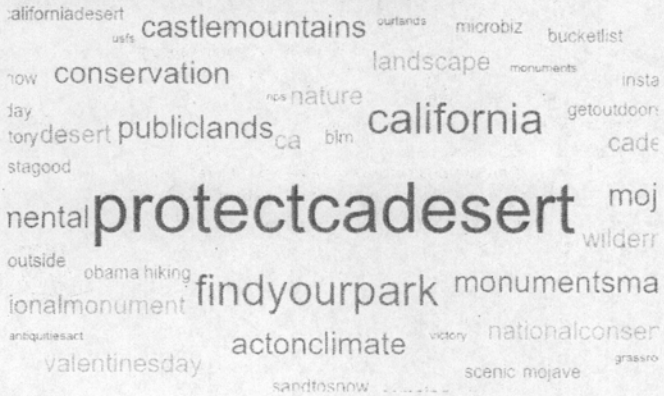

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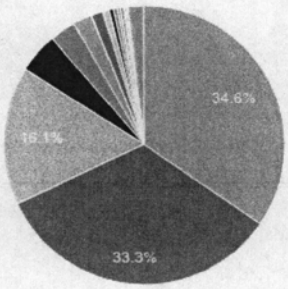

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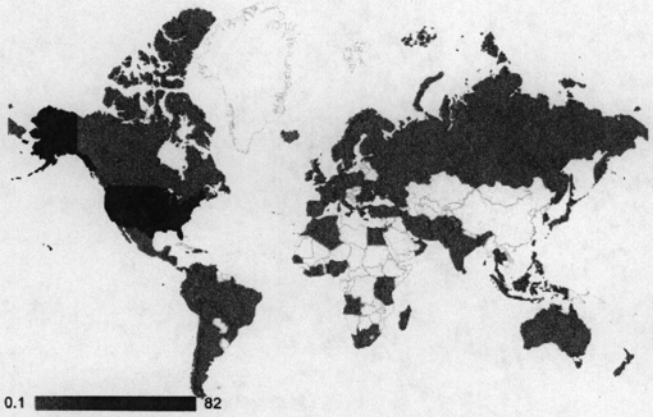
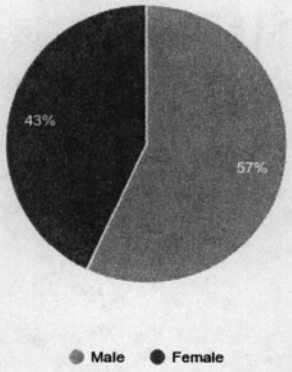
KEYHOLE

Location

World USA



Demographics



Topics

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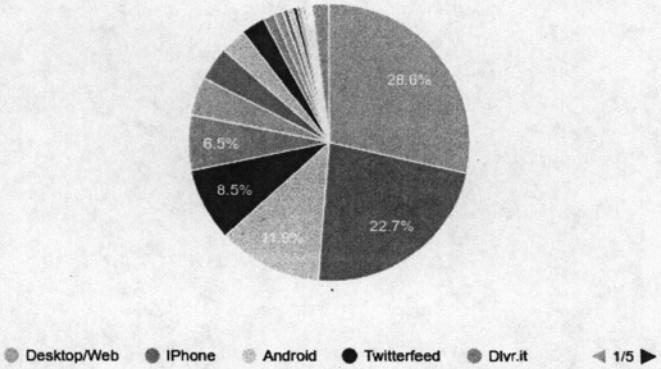

KEYHOLE

M-Desert

MOJAVE TRAILS, SAND TO SNOW, CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

Photo: John Dittli

SUPPORT FOR
MOJAVE TRAILS, SAND TO SNOW, CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

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Calimesa Mayor Pro Tem Ella Zanowic (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Stan Henry (R)
Cathedral City Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pettis (D)
Cathedral City Councilman Shelley Kaplan (D)
Cathedral City Councilman John Aguilar (D)
Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez (D)
Coachella City Manager David Garcia Desert
Hot Springs Mayor Adam Sanchez, Sr. (D)
Desert Hot Springs Mayor Pro Tem Russell Betts (D)
Desert Hot Springs City Councilmember Jan Pye (R)
Indian Wells City Councilmember Douglas Hanson (R)
Indio Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller (R)
Indio City Councilmember Troy Strange (D)
La Quinta Mayor Linda Evans (R)
Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem Paul Lewin (D)
Palm Springs City Councilmember Ginny Foat (D)
Rancho Mirage Mayor G. Dana Hobart (R)
Yucaipa City Councilmember Dick Riddell (R)

Morongo Valley Community Services District and Fire Department
Rancho Cucamonga Mayor L. Dennis Michael

TRIBES

San Manuel Tribe

FAITH LEADERS

Por La Creacion Sign On Letter

Frank Ruiz, Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, Indio CA
Enrique Orellana, Sr. Pastor, Fuente de Vida Christian Center, Coachella CA
Jesse Villarreal, Sr. Pastor, Templo La Hermosa, Coachella CA
Dr. Francisco Colop, Regional Vice President, Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales, Austin TX
Steven Morales, Pastor, Calvary Chapel, El Sereno CA

→ Pye no longer in office

Patricia Knight Photography, Joshua Tree
Ma Rouge Café, Yucca Valley
Route 62 Vintage Market, Yucca Valley
Sam's Market, Sam's Pizza, and Smoke n' More, Joshua Tree

EDUCATORS

Paul Delaney, PhD. Copper Mountain College

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Belinda Faustinos
Michael Fleming
Lyn and Norman Lear
James Redford
Michelle and Rob Reiner
Jim Steyer
Welch, David F.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

California Desert Coalition
The Friends of the Big Morongo Basin Preserve
Friends of Pioneertown
Great Outdoors Palm Springs
Latino Conservation Alliance:
- Green Latinos
- Hispanic Access Foundation
- Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO)
- Hispanic Federation
- La Madre Tierra
- Latino Outdoors

Morongo Basin Conservation Association
Summer Tree Institute
Vet Voice Foundation

OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND CONSTITUENTS

Fred Archer, Banning
Paul Backovich, Yucca Valley
Pauline Bedford, Joshua Tree
Pamela Berry
Steven Blossey
Courtney Brandt
Missy Buce
Jacqueline Budd, Yucaipa
Joan Clark, Yucaipa
Catherine Colella

Stephanie Weigel, Joshua Tree
E. Janelle Zarato, Yucaipa
Joseph Zine, Joshua Tree

III. PRESS

SUPPORT FOR
MOJAVE TRAILS, SAND TO SNOW, CASTLE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENTS

SUPPORTER LIST

ELECTED OFFICIALS & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
Coachella Valley Conservation Commission
Morongo Valley Community Services District and Fire Department

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Dr. Francisco Colop, Regional Vice President, Alianza de Ministerios Evangelicos Nacionales, Austin TX
Steven Morales, Pastor, Calvary Chapel, El Sereno CA
Raul Velazquez, Pastor, El Nuevo Comienzo, Adelanto CA

Joshua Tree Certified Farmers' Market, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Health Foods, Joshua Tree
Joshua Tree Saloon, Joshua Tree
Pappy and Harriet's, Pioneertown, CA
Patricia Knight Photography, Joshua Tree
Ma Rouge Café, Yucca Valley
Rieman Sculpture, Yucca Valley
Route 62 Vintage Market, Yucca Valley
Safari Motor Inn, Joshua Tree
Sam's Market, Sam's Pizza, and Smoke n' More, Joshua Tree
Sun Runner Magazine, Joshua Tree

EDUCATORS

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Lyn and Norman Lear
James Redford
Michelle and Rob Reiner
Jim Steyer
Welch, David F.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

California Desert Coalition
Friends of Pioneertown
Great Outdoors Palm Springs
Latino Conservation Alliance:
- Green Latinos
- Hispanic Access Foundation
- Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO)
- Hispanic Federation
- La Madre Tierra
- Latino Outdoors

Vet Voice Foundation

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

Amargosa Conservancy
California Wilderness Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Conservation Lands Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

Raul Lopez, Yucaipa
Marilyn Lutz
S Marling, Yucaipa
Jack Meyers
Dale Mondary
Danette Mondary
Doug Powell
Kevin Powell, Joshua Tree
Daisy Ramirez
Kevin Rieman, Yucca Valley
Ruth Rieman, Yucca Valley
Ashley Robles
Lara Rozzell, San Rafael
Attias Rzeznik
Nina Shine
Michael Smith, Banning
Theresa Smith, Banning
Max Stein
Lewis Stewart
Emilio Vegel
Deborah Vincent, Rancho Cucamonga
Donna Vincent, Rancho Cucamonga
Jacquelyn Webster, Yucaipa
Stephanie Weigel, Joshua Tree
E. Janelle Zarato, Yucaipa
Joseph Zine, Joshua Tree

September 11, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

2015

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The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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Mayor L. Dennis Michael • *Mayor Pro Tem* Sam Spagnolo
Council Members William J. Alexander, Lynne B. Kennedy, Diane Williams
City Manager John R. Gillison

The City of Rancho Cucamonga

Rancho Cucamonga

September 16, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Earlier this year, Senator Feinstein introduced S.414, *The California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015*, which, among other items, includes the designation of the Mojave Trails National Monument and the Sand to Snow National Monument. The conservation and recreation portion of the *California Desert and Conservation Act* will improve protection for approximately 1.6 million acres of federal land while ensuring that public access and recreational use of the desert can continue for generations to come. It is for these reasons that the City of Rancho Cucamonga SUPPORTS S.414.

Recently, Senator Feinstein submitted a request to the White House to designate these two proposed national monuments, as well as a third Castle Mountains National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906. All three of these proposed national monuments are wholly or partially within San Bernardino County. The City of Rancho Cucamonga also SUPPORTS Senator Feinstein's request for the national monument designations, however, the City urges that a robust public outreach process be conducted and that any potential impediments to mining activity be addressed BEFORE any such designations are made.

It is our understanding that the County of San Bernardino has expressed its concerns that the designation of a national monument may withdraw lands from mineral entry. We also share these same concerns. San Bernardino County regulates more than 100 mines which produce dozens of minerals. The mining industry supports thousands of well-paying jobs and helps support the local economy. We support protection of all existing and vested rights and protection of reasonable access for mining.

Secondly, before any national monument designation occurs by Executive Order, we respectfully request that a thorough public outreach process be engaged in order to gather critical input from affected jurisdictions, communities, tribes, agencies and stakeholder groups. Outreach should include public meetings held in affected communities, opportunities for the submission of formal comments, and collection of stakeholder feedback on the economic impact and environmental impact studies.

The efforts of Senator Feinstein and her staff in reaching out to a variety of stakeholders while developing the *California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act* is greatly appreciated. We are optimistic that this spirit of inclusion and participation will continue as your Administration considers the national monument designations.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

September 10, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians urges you to take action now to protect a portion of the desert region in California, which is among the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty in the southern California desert region.

Since time immemorial, San Manuel, a federally-recognized Indian tribe based in southern California and one of several clans of the greater Serrano Indian Nation, has executed on our responsibility to protect the plants, animals, land, air, and waters throughout our aboriginal territory and beyond as a part of our covenant with the Creator to be good stewards of the Earth.

Senator Dianne Feinstein has proposed that certain unique, undeveloped, culturally important, and ecologically significant scenic areas of public land within the California Desert Conservation Area be preserved as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, and National Park and Preserve additions as well as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. These areas face significant threats to cultural, biological, and recreational resources in the California Desert Conservation Area with new threats arising every day.

It is in the interest of the Tribe to preserve nearby open space, wild areas, and culturally significant sites for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations. These areas are also critical for helping to maintain the genetic flow of wildlife as corridors for population movement. This is why we support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains as national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas of the California desert - one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California and we must do so without delay. Communities surrounding these areas have worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. We urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains as national monuments.

We also ask that you include the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians as a member of the Advisory Council for the development of a management plan specifically for the Sand to Snow and the Mojave Trails prospective national monument designations as these areas lie within our Serrano Indian aboriginal territories. We have been working closely with Senator Feinstein on this important matter and were included in her legislation with a role on the Advisory Council. As our past cooperation with Senator Feinstein's efforts demonstrate, our expertise and input on cultural resources elements will be a key asset in developing an overall management plan.

26569 Community Center Drive • Highland, CA 92346 • Office: (909) 864-8933 • FAX: (909) 864-3370

POR LA CREACIÓN
FAITH-BASED ALLIANCE

September 25, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

Por la Creación Faith-based Alliance, which unites Latino faith leaders to develop stewards of God's creation by educating and engaging this generation to leave a legacy for the future, respectfully encourages you to use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the California desert and designate three new national monuments – Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails, which includes 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity, the largest land gift of its kind in American history, is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife and includes unspoiled desert vistas and important Native American cultural sites. Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitat in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities. The Castle Mountains protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The California desert is facing many threats — proposals to export groundwater from desert aquifers, air pollution, rapid community development and encroachments from renewable energy developments — that risk the future of this region and could have irreversible consequences. As pastors from the California desert, we appreciate not only the natural beauty that surrounds our communities, but we also acknowledge the need to care and protect these areas for future generations.

Our clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. Our land, water, and wildlife are gifts from God, and it is our moral responsibility to care for these gifts. We should respect and live in harmony with all of God's creation.

August 1,2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I am writing on behalf of The Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce to express our strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. We urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

The proposed Mojave Trails National Monument would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

The Castle Mountains National Monument proposal would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River-a beloved destination for the local community. The monuments establishment would ensure that critical wildlife habitat and corridors are protected. Sacred Native American resources, including archaeologically important sites such as Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa, would be safeguarded. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

In the Morongo Valley we understand that our quality of life is attributable to the beauty of our natural surroundings. That is why we have chosen to live and work here. We now have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular stretches of these desert public lands. We urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Michael Pollack
President, Morongo Valley Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Ron C. Hart - Director
Route 66 Chamber of Commerce
2316 UTICA ST., JOPLIN, MO. 64801
417-386-6966

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

John Sterling
Executive Director
The Conservation Alliance
Bend, OR

The North Face
Alameda, CA

Sally McCoy
General Manager
CamelBak Products, LLC
Petaluma, CA

Kevin Bailey
President
Vans
Cypress, CA

Obi Kaufmann
Chief Storyteller
Juniper Ridge
Berkeley, CA

Stewart Whitney
President
The Timberland Company
Stratham, NH

Brook Hoppper
Founder / CEO
Brook Hopper Consulting
Ventura, CA

Shari Boyer
CEO
Parkvisitor.com / Good Solutions
Pasadena, CA

Belinda Sanda
President
Belinda Sanda Sales
Redding, CA

Hans Cole
Director of Environmental
Campaigns & Advocacy
Patagonia
Ventura, CA

Roger Spatz
President
Eagle Creek Travel Gear
Carlsbad, CA

Jeff Cresswell
Co-Owner / Brand Steward
Klean Kanteen
Chico, CA

Mark Satkiewicz
President, Smartwool Americas
Smartwool Corporation
Steamboat Springs, CO

Caroline Duell
President
Elemental Herbs
Morro Bay, CA

Scott McGuire
President / Brand Strategist
The Mountain Lab
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Adam Forest
Managing Partner
The Forest Group
Lotus, CA

Francesca Hardy
Marketing Manager
VAPUR
West Lake Village, CA

beloved feature for local and national communities.

Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. These monuments will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local communities within and around these monuments has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. We urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Steve Bardwell, architect

Geoffrey H. Case, architect

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

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We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

8/16/15 owner, Grateful Desert

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Kimberly Bowers
President, Hi Desert Water Transport

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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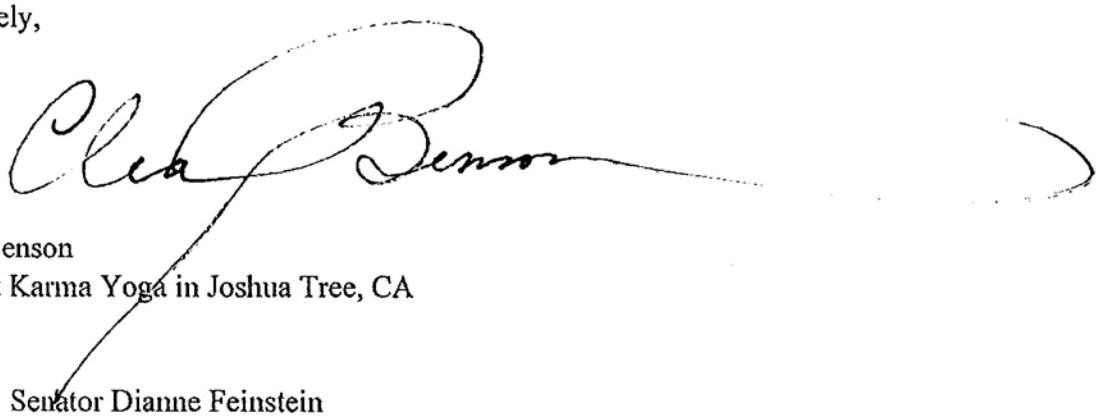

Clea Benson
Instant Karma Yoga in Joshua Tree, CA

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Ethan Peck
Founder, Owner and Head Guide
Joshua Tree Adventures
PO Box 2131
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Lori Herbel

OWNER OF JOSHUA TREE CERTIFIED FARMERS' MARKET

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Joshua Tree Health Foods

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Amille Peebles

owner JT Saloon

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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I have a coffee house in the Joshua Tree National Park gateway city of Yucca Valley. I have seen the influx of visitors all year round to the Joshua Tree Park and Mojave Preserve and of course my business benefits significantly from this tourism. Customers coming from Germany, Japan, France, China, Korea, Switzerland and countless other countries visit my business and have great stories of their visits to the Parks and how its such a National treasure and should be protected. I cant help but believe that any addition to this desert landscape (especially preserving Route 66) could only enhance this type of tourism which generates revenue for our desert communities.

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Sincerely,

Dianna Looney, Proprietor
Ma Rouge Cafe - 55844 29 Palms Hwy - Yucca Valley, CA 92284 - 760-774-7759

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

LINDA KRANTZ
PAPPY & HARRIET'S, OWNER
PIONEERTOWN, CA 92268

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Establishment of these national monuments will enhance recreation and tourism in the region, bringing economic benefits and jobs to surrounding communities. They will benefit public health by enhancing opportunities for outdoor access and recreation. They will preserve the vibrant but fragile desert ecosystem. They will provide peace and respite for our honored veterans, who have sacrificed so much for this land that we love. They will protect our culture and history from Native Americans to Homesteaders, General Patton's World War II training sites to western migration along Route 66, America's storied Mother Road.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments.

Sincerely,

Patricia Knight

PATRICIA KNIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY
JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252
www.patriciaknightphotography.com

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Matthew French
Owner, Pioneertown Motel

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Rock Haven Cabin (Vacation Rental)
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive bat species, and it is a target location for the reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest species of land mammal in the world.

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Sincerely,

Daron A Blevins
Route 62 Vintage Market

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Sam Market

Sam Pizza · Smoke N More

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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Sincerely,

Paul M. Delaney, Ph.D.

Paul M. Delaney PhD
Professor, Biology
Chair, Science and Mathematics Division
Copper Mountain College
6162 Rotary Way
Joshua Tree CA 92252

(760) 366-3791, ext 0257
pdelaney@cmccd.edu

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

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David Bohnett FOUNDATION
245 SOUTH BEVERLY DRIVE BEVERLY HILLS CA 90212 TEL 310 278 0001 FAX 310 278 0007
www.bohnettfoundation.org

File

August 19, 2015

Senator Dianne Feinstein
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Dear Senator Feinstein,

There is no greater champion for California's pristine desert landscape than you, and I want to celebrate the recent step you took in elevating the need for its future protection to President Obama's attention.

In our current partisan political environment, it's important to take decisive action to ensure that our treasured natural resources are protected for generations to come. As this gridlocked Congress continues its partisan bickering at the expense of our future, I applaud your leadership in finding a lasting solution to protect the Mojave and Joshua Tree deserts.

I stand behind you as you work to convince President Obama to use his executive authority to expand the environmental protections for the California desert. Much like our redwood forests and stunning coastline, our desert is a critical and iconic part of the California spirit. I, along with many other Californians, wholeheartedly support your efforts to ensure that common sense and stewardship prevail.

Executive action offers a unique opportunity to achieve your vision for the California Desert. California thanks you for all that you have done to get us to this point, and I look forward to celebrating this victory with you soon.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Fleming
Executive Director

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein,

My family has been actively engaged in efforts to preserve the nation's treasured natural spaces so that future generations can experience and enjoy America's breathtaking landscapes.

I have admired your strong commitment to environmental advocacy and sincerely appreciate your tenacious spirit in protecting California's desert.

I am frustrated that today's political climate has stymied your efforts to expand necessary environmental protections for the Mojave and Joshua Tree deserts, and want to lend a helping hand to elevate this issue to executive attention.

My father is currently working on an effort to urge President Obama to designate a new national monument in Utah, and I believe it's time we pursue the same route for the Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow desert areas.

There is always much as stake during the presidential election and our natural spaces are no exception. As Congress continues to care more about partisan bickering than driving meaningful change, we need to take advantage of having someone in the White House who has proven to be supportive of choosing preservation over profit. Now is the time to ask President Obama to exercise his executive authority under the Antiquities Act in order to expand protections for our California desert.

We firmly stand behind you as you push to make your environmental vision for California's desert a reality. We hope that you take the step to elevate this important issue to President Obama's attention, and we look forward to celebrating this momentous victory with you soon.

The California Desert has no greater champion than you. I look forward to supporting you as we continue to fight for its protection and preservation.

Sincerely,

James Redford

James Redford

common sense kids action

September 1, 2015

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The protection and preservation of our environment is a top priority for me and my family, so we were thrilled to hear of the recent news that you are asking President Obama to help secure the future of the California Desert.

In a state as geographically rich as ours, our deserts are as iconic as our beaches and redwood forests. For many years, you have fought to protect important wildlife corridors in the Mojave and Joshua Tree areas, and we stand behind you as you work to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the California desert.

Our desert is a California treasure, and one that must be preserved by all available options. Thank you for making President Obama aware of what's at stake for California's environmental future.

Sincerely,

Jim Steyer
CEO and Founder of Common Sense

CALIFORNIA DESERT COALITION

September 1, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

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Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements,

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THE FRIENDS OF BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE

The Friends of
Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Directors:

Patrick Casey

Meg Foley

Ann Garry

David Miller

Tish Miller

Jane Mootz

Jane Olson

Kc McKay

Laura Sherrod

Sept. 02, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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BMCP
P.O. Box 780
Morongo Valley, CA 92256

www.bigmorongo.org

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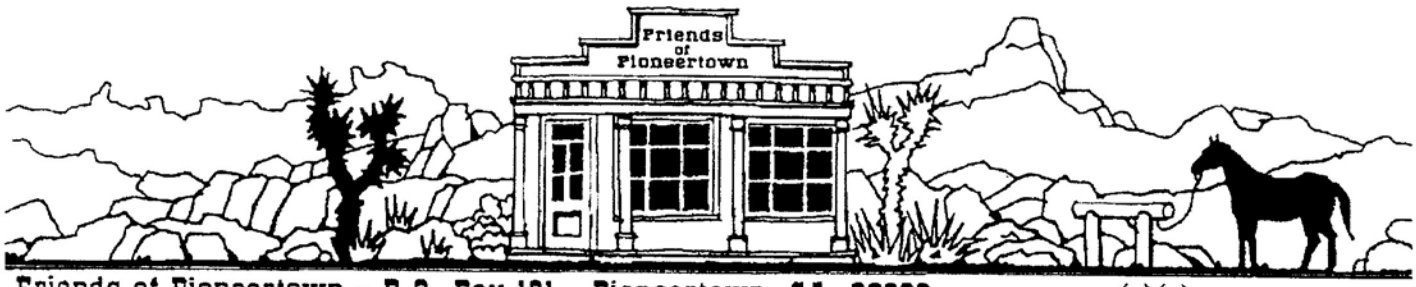

Friends of Pioneertown - P.O. Box 101 - Pioneertown, CA 92268 501(c)(3) IRS ID 47-3880803

2015 - SEPT. 3

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

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August 27, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than 200 members of Great Outdoors Palm Springs (GOPS), which serves the outdoor educational and recreational needs of the LGBT community, I want to express GOPS' strong support for designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert.

The Mojave Trails would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the Whitewater River-a beloved destination for the local community. Its establishment would protect critical wildlife habitat and corridors. Sacred Native American resources, including archaeologically important sites, such as Black Lava Butte, would be safeguarded. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

As a destination for outdoor recreation, the Coachella Valley will directly benefit from the establishment of the monuments. It is the accessibility of pristine public lands surrounding our communities that makes them attractive places to live, establish businesses, and visit. We now have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular stretches of these desert public lands. We urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Gary McGrath, President and Scott Connelly, Vice President of Outings

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LATINO CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

HECHO — HISPANICS ENJOYING CAMPING, HUNTING, AND THE OUTDOORS | Hispanic Access Foundation | La Madre Tierra | hispanicfederation | Latino Outdoors | GreenLatinos

August 21, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why the Latino Conservation Alliance – a group of six national Latino organizations dedicated to promoting conservation priorities in our communities, supports the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

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MBCA

morongo basin conservation association

September 1, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

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POST OFFICE BOX 24 JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA 92252
MBCA IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT CORPORATION
INFO@MBCONSERVATION.ORG

The SummerTree Institute
Making Environmental Education Irresistible

September 2, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The California Desert hosts some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why we support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

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Sand to Snow protects some of the most diverse habitats in the country, linking the San Gorgonio Wilderness to Joshua Tree National Park and the San Bernardino National Forest. Rising dramatically from the Sonoran Desert floor to Southern California's tallest alpine peak, this monument is one of the most critical wildlife corridors in Southern California, due to its topographic and ecological gradient from desert floor to alpine peak, providing continuous refuge for migrating wildlife and plants in response to climate change. Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and the majestic Whitewater River—a beloved feature for local and national communities. The inclusions of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa protect stunning cultural sites and rare species.

P.O. Box 307 • Morongo Valley, CA 92256 • 760-363-7229 • www.summertree.org • a 501(c)(3) nonprofit endeavor

August 24, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

VET VOICE FOUNDATION

Dear Mr. President,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

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Sept. 5, 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The California desert is some of the most pristine and unique land in the country. From painted mountains to archaeological treasures, world-famous wildflowers to herds of bighorn sheep, Americans have long been drawn to its stark beauty. That is why I support the designation of the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains national monuments and urge you to act now to permanently protect these special areas in the California desert—one of the richest and most intact landscapes in North America.

Each of the proposed national monuments contain exceptional characteristics that deserve to be protected. Mojave Trails is the connective tissue linking Mojave National Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park and existing Wilderness Areas, providing vital habitat for sensitive wildlife, and unspoiled desert vistas. It contains irreplaceable archeological and cultural sites including sacred Native American trails and trade routes. It includes the longest undeveloped stretch of historic Route 66, the scenic lava flows of Amboy Crater—North America's youngest volcano, the trilobite fossil beds of the Marble Mountains, the perennial river in Afton Canyon, and many unique geologic formations. Mojave Trails also represents the largest land gift in American history, with over 200,000 private acres donated to the federal government for conservation in perpetuity.

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Castle Mountain protects some of the finest Joshua tree, pinon pine, and juniper forests in the entire California Desert Conservation Area. It encompasses native desert grassland, features stunning vistas of California and Nevada desert mountain ranges, including Nevada's Spirit Mountain, which is revered by southwestern Native American tribes and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart. Additionally, Castle Mountain offers unparalleled opportunities to study wildlife movements, it is home to sensitive

September 12 2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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Sept. 26, , 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my strong support for the designation of Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. . We urge you to act now to permanently protect these three areas in the California desert—one of the most intact landscapes in North America.

Mojave Trails National would ensure connectivity between Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. It would preserve unspoiled desert vistas that draw visitors from around the world to the longest undeveloped section of historic Route 66. The inclusion of Iron Mountain Divisional Camp from General Patton's WWII Desert Training Center would conserve important military history. And sacred Native American trails and trading routes would be permanently protected.

Rising dramatically from the Colorado Desert floor to Southern California's tallest peak, Sand to Snow is home to the most botanically diverse mountains in the contiguous U.S., a 23-mile stretch of the famed Pacific Crest Trail, and critical wildlife corridors connecting the Sierra Mountains to Baja California and the desert to the California coast. And most remarkably, this spectacular resource is within a two hour drive of 18 million people.

Castle Mountains would protect some of the finest rare native desert grasslands in the entire California desert, making it a target location for reintroduction of pronghorn, the second fastest terrestrial mammal. Cultural resources also abound. Beneath the shadow of Hart Peak are rich Native American archaeological sites and the historic gold mining ghost town of Hart.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to protect some of the most spectacular and diverse stretches of intact desert in California, and we must not wait. The local community has worked for nearly a decade to preserve these iconic landscapes. It is time for this region to gain the protection it deserves. I urge you to designate the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails, and Castle Mountains National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Pamela Berry, 13175 Santa Ysabel Dr, DHS, 92240
Pamela BERRY

Cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Paul Cook
Representative Raul Ruiz
Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director, White House Council on Environmental Quality

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

September 12,

2015

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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August 16, 2015

The President
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9-6-2015

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