



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
COASTAL WILD HERITAGE
WILDERNESS ACT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF LEGISLATION SAFEGUARDING OUR WILDERNESS**

*Series of events to commemorate decade of protection under 2006
Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act*

Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Napa Counties, CA – October 17, 2016 – Local communities, businesses, recreation enthusiasts, teachers, families and residents will highlight their commitment to preserving public lands this fall with a series of events commemorating a decade of protection for special places in five Northern California counties.

This year, and today specifically, marks the 10th anniversary of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, which was signed into law on October 17, 2006. This legislation protected 273,000 acres of Wilderness and 21 miles of a Wild & Scenic River, and set aside approximately 51,000 acres as a Recreation Area for off-highway vehicles, mountain bikes, and other recreational activities. These public lands are located in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Napa Counties, and include the Black Butte River in Mendocino County and the Cow Mountain Recreation Area in Mendocino and Lake Counties.

To mark this significant anniversary, communities and land managers throughout Northern California are holding a [series of events](#) this fall, including hikes and restoration projects with students, veterans, members of local Native American Tribes and more. These activities aim to encourage local families and residents to explore these special places and highlight the local commitment to protect these public lands for future generations.

“A decade later, our communities continue to benefit from the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act,” said **Ryan Henson, Senior Policy Director for CalWild**, one of the organizations helping to support these events. “These benefits include clean water, the preservation of iconic wildlife, and access to recreation activities like hiking, fishing, boating, and hunting.”

This 10th anniversary coincides with the National Park Service Centennial and the 70th anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management, which manages many of these public lands. These milestones provide perfect occasions to recognize the incredible value these public lands contribute to our lives.

“It’s a perfect time to recognize the Congressional leaders that championed the protection of these special places: Congressman Mike Thompson, Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dianne Feinstein. Their legacy can be seen in the beauty of the Black Butte River, the redwoods of Elkhorn Ridge, and the bald eagles and elk in Cache Creek,” said **Sara Husby, Executive Director of Tuleyome**, an organization that is also celebrating these events.

“Looking to the future, we urge our Congressional and regional leaders to continue making the protection and funding of our public lands a priority,” added **Henson**. “Together, we can ensure that future generations will enjoy Northern California’s outdoors in its wildest form.”

Community partners are proud to host these events and work in stewardship with land managers from the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. To learn more, visit <http://tuleyome.org/northcoastwildernessbill/>.

EVENT LISTINGS:

Sunday, October 16 - Thursday, October 20 - TRAIL RESTORATION IN YOLLA BOLLY WILDERNESS

4:30 PM - Embark on a trip into the Yolla Bolly Wilderness for a picturesque trail restoration tour open to all skill levels and abilities. The High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew will lead repair of the Henthorne Trail where necessary road removal has made several stream crossings minimally accessible. A base camp will be set up at the Covelo Eel River Work Station Sunday at 4:30 PM (dinner provided). Additional volunteers are welcome to join the HSVTC crew, meet at 8:00 AM each day at the Work Station (directions below). Trailhead kiosk and signage will also be installed. Sign up at the HSVTC website www.trailcrew.org. Go to “Contact Us.” Additional trip information available at the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew events page. **Location:** 41.3 miles east of Highway 101 on State Highway 162. Turn east from 101 between Willits and Laytonville, then travel east through the Eel River canyon and Round Valley/Covelo. At mile 30.7 the highway takes a right turn. Thirteen miles past Covelo cross the last Eel River bridge, turn right onto the Etsel Ridge Road and camp at the Covelo Eel River Work Station. **Contact:** Rick Fleming, High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, rflaming@trailcrew.org, 559-325-2874.

Tuesday and Friday, October 18 and 21 BLACK BUTTE RIVER FIELD TRIP

8:30 AM - 2:00 PM - Round Valley Elementary and Middle School students will travel by bus to streamside interpretive hikes of the lower Black Butte River. Eel River Recovery Project volunteers and Mendocino National Forest staff will lead exploration of geology, hydrology, cultural resources and aquatic biology. Round Valley Indian Tribes EPA will be assisting with student activities. Family and parent volunteers should contact their child’s classroom teacher if they are interested in attending. **Contact:** Bruce E. Hilbach-Barger, Eel River Recovery Project, behilbachb@yahoo.com, 707-983-6169.

Saturday, October 22 - YUKI WILDERNESS FIRESCAPE TOUR AND CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM - Experience the magic of the scenic Yuki Wilderness with a tour of the Barnes Ranch “cherry stem” wilderness exclusion. The lands’ status as a historic cultural resource site influences fire management on the Yuki. Visitors will form a hand crew to cut brush, providing a buffer from the heavy fuels, which will allow more options for future wildfire management. The return of anthropogenic fire to the landscape will also be discussed. **Where:** Meet at the entrance to the Covelo

Eel River Campground to carpool to Barnes Ranch. **Bring:** A pruning saw (if you have one), water, snacks, and sturdy shoes. Dress for the weather. Leave pets, alcohol and drugs at home. The Forest Service Covelo Eel River Campground is available, \$8 /night. Space has been set aside for Fri, Sat & Sun. **Location:** 41.3 miles east of Highway 101 on State Highway 162. Turn east from 101 between Willits and Laytonville, then travel east through the Eel River canyon and Round Valley/Covelo. At mile 30.7 the highway takes a right turn. Thirteen miles past Covelo cross the last Eel River bridge, turn right onto the Etsel Ridge Road and rendezvous at the Eel River Campground gate.

Contact: Bruce E. Hilbach-Barger, Eel River Recovery Project, behilbachb@yahoo.com, 707-983-6169.

Sunday October 23 - BLACK BUTTE WILD & SCENIC RIVER - INTERPRETIVE HIKE, MONITORING AND BEACH AREA CLEANUP

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Join Dane Downing of Eel River Recovery Project and staff from the Mendocino National Forest for an array of breathtaking hikes through the lower reaches of the Black Butte River. Participants may opt to go on an easy, leisurely hike, or stay for the challenge of the intermediate route. The river, which is almost entirely without public access from its headwaters to the bridge at its junction with the Middle Fork Eel, is both highly impacted by human activity in its tributaries and wild within its banks. Trash will be collected from swimming areas. Participants will then hike upstream into wilder country. This interpretive hike will focus on culture, hydrology and aquatic biology. Intrepid hikers will continue two miles to the Black Butte Falls to recover temperature monitoring devices.

Details: Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the entrance to the Covelo Eel River Campground. **Bring:** water, lunch, snacks, and sturdy river walking shoes. Dress for the weather. Leave pets, alcohol and drugs at home. Please email behilbachb@yahoo.com to reserve lunch or a campsite. The Forest Service Covelo Eel River Campground is available, \$8 /night. Space has been set aside for Fri, Sat & Sun. **Location:** 41.3 miles east of Highway 101 on State Highway 162. Turn east from 101 between Willits and Laytonville, then travel east through the Eel River canyon and Round Valley/Covelo. At mile 30.7 the highway takes a right turn. Thirteen miles past Covelo cross the last Eel River bridge, turn right onto the Etsel Ridge Road and rendezvous at the Eel River Campground gate near the Black Butte bridge.

Contact: Bruce E. Hilbach-Barger, Eel River Recovery Project, behilbachb@yahoo.com, 707-983-6169.

Tuesday, October 25 - KING RANGE WILDERNESS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

9:30 AM - Local students, Lost Coast Interpretive Association, Student Conservation Association Interns and the Arcata Field Office are celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the King Range Wilderness with a meadow restoration project along the Hidden Valley Trail. Participants will hike to the meadow and pull small conifers by hand or with hand tools. After restoration is complete participants enjoy a natural and cultural history treasure hunt, called the [Redwood EdVentures Quest](#). The quest was created by local students, Humboldt County Office of Education and the BLM to encourage families to get outside and enjoy their public lands.

“This is a unique opportunity for Southern Humboldt elementary school students to connect with SCA crew members and learn about potential career opportunities and pathways,” said **Leisyka Parrott, Interpretive Specialist at the Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Office.**

After the quest is complete, lunch will be provided in the wilderness. Participants will meet at the

Hidden Valley Trailhead at 9:30 a.m. Members of the public must RSVP. Dress in layers and wear sturdy comfortable shoes for a 1+ mile hike. Bring gloves and water. All volunteers will return to the trailhead by 1:30pm. Directions to trailhead can be found on the [King Range NCA website](#).

Contact/RSVP: Leisyka Parrott, Interpretive Specialist at the Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Office, lparrott@blm.gov, 707-834-3089.

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About the 10th Anniversary of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. Signed into law in 2006, this legislation protected 273,000 acres of wilderness and 21 miles of a Wild and Scenic River, and set aside approximately 51,000 acres as a Recreational Management Area for off-highway vehicles, mountain bikes and other activities. These public lands are located in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Napa Counties, the Black Butte River in Mendocino County, and the Recreation Management Area in Mendocino and Lake Counties. To mark this significant anniversary, communities and land managers throughout Northern California are holding a series of events, including hikes and restoration projects with school children, veterans, members of local Native American Tribes and more. These activities are aimed at encouraging local families and residents to explore these special places and highlighting the local commitment to protecting these public lands for future generations. To learn more, visit <http://tuleyome.org/northcoastwildernessbill>.

About CalWild

The California Wilderness Coalition (CalWild <https://www.calwild.org/>) protects and restores our state's wildest natural landscapes and watersheds on public lands. These important wild places provide clean air and water, refuges for wildlife, and outstanding opportunities for recreation and spiritual renewal for people. **CalWild** is the only statewide organization dedicated solely to protecting and restoring the wild places and native biodiversity of California's public lands.

About Tuleyome

Tuleyome (<http://tuleyome.org/>) engages in advocacy and active stewardship with diverse communities to conserve, enhance, restore, and enjoy the lands in the region. Founded in 2002 as a volunteer advocacy-oriented nonprofit conservation organization, Tuleyome preserves and restores wild habitat, builds and repairs trails, educates the public about local conservation and environmental issues, and engages young people through their youth program. They aim to demonstrate a good "land stewardship" ethic and run campaigns that have a long-lasting positive effect on the region, inspiring members of the public to protect, restore, and enjoy the natural landscape in the Northern Inner Coast Range.