



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
COASTAL WILD HERITAGE
WILDERNESS ACT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL COMMUNITIES EXTEND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WILD HERITAGE WILDERNESS ACT**

Organizers add two new events to commemorate decade of protection for local wilderness

Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino and Napa Counties, CA – November 9, 2016 – Following the success of a series of October events celebrating a decade of protection for Northern California wilderness, communities and land managers are adding two new events to the roster of local festivities.

This year 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 extending the [series of events](#) they kicked off in October, 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:

Tuesday, November 15 – CAHTO PEAK/BLACK OAK MOUNTAIN TRAIL- DOZER LINE REPAIR

8:30 AM – Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the North Coast Wilderness Bill by joining Eel River Recovery Project volunteers, the Cahto Tribe and Bureau of Land Management Arcata Field Office in appreciating and caring for a beautiful landscape at the top of the South Fork Eel wilderness. Attendees will take a “hike with tools” to evaluate and update work performed last fall to retain soil and protect streams. The hike along the top of a ridge provides panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and many peaks of the South Eel basin. This event is part of an ongoing conversation about fire protection in our communities. Though some of the work may be technical or strenuous, elevation gains are limited, and volunteers of all skill and experience levels are welcomed and encouraged. Care and attention from our communities is the best way to protect public lands, and the conversation and beauty of these landscapes are important to everyone. Hikers will meet in Laytonville and carpool to Cahto Peak. Hand tools and gloves will be provided.

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

Thursday, December 1 – CACHE CREEK WILDERNESS AREA FIELD TRIP

8:30 AM – 1:15 PM – Fourth- and fifth-graders from Lower Lake Elementary School students will trek into the Cache Creek Wilderness, setting off by bus to the Redbud Trailhead at the forest’s Northern border. BLM and Tuleyome staff and volunteers will lead the interpretive hike and teach students about fire recovery biology in an area burned in the 2015 Rocky Fire. Students will also learn about archaeology, hydrology, geology, and recreation resources in the area. Volunteers can visit <http://tuleyome.org/volunteer/>.

Contact: Bill Grabert, Tuleyome, bgrabert@tuleyome.org, 530-350-2599

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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.