



TULEYOME

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July 10, 2017

Honorable Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

Dear Secretary Zinke:

We are writing in strong support of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument located in northern California, west of Sacramento, and north of the Bay Area. Tuleyome, in collaboration with our many partners, spearheaded the campaign to protect this special wild place that best illustrates plate tectonics, is a hot spot of biological diversity, and is critical to wildlife connectivity. The region is rich with Native American culture dating back over 20,000 years. It offers expansive recreational opportunities including hiking, camping, birdwatching, mountain biking, wildflower viewing, horse riding, legal OHV use, hunting, fishing, and so much more. It provides economic opportunities for rural gateway communities in the region. And, it facilitates landscape-scale planning across Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service boundaries and better integrates management with state and locally managed lands.

We often refer to the Berryessa Snow Mountain region of which the national monument represents the core. It is important to recognize the many stories of this place -geology, biological diversity, wildlife connectivity, Native American prehistory, and more recent cultural history- are just a subset of a much larger regional landscape. The national monument contains three existing wilderness areas including Cedar Roughs, Cache Creek and Snow Mountain and abuts the Yuki Wilderness on the northwest. The national monument provides connectivity between these core areas.

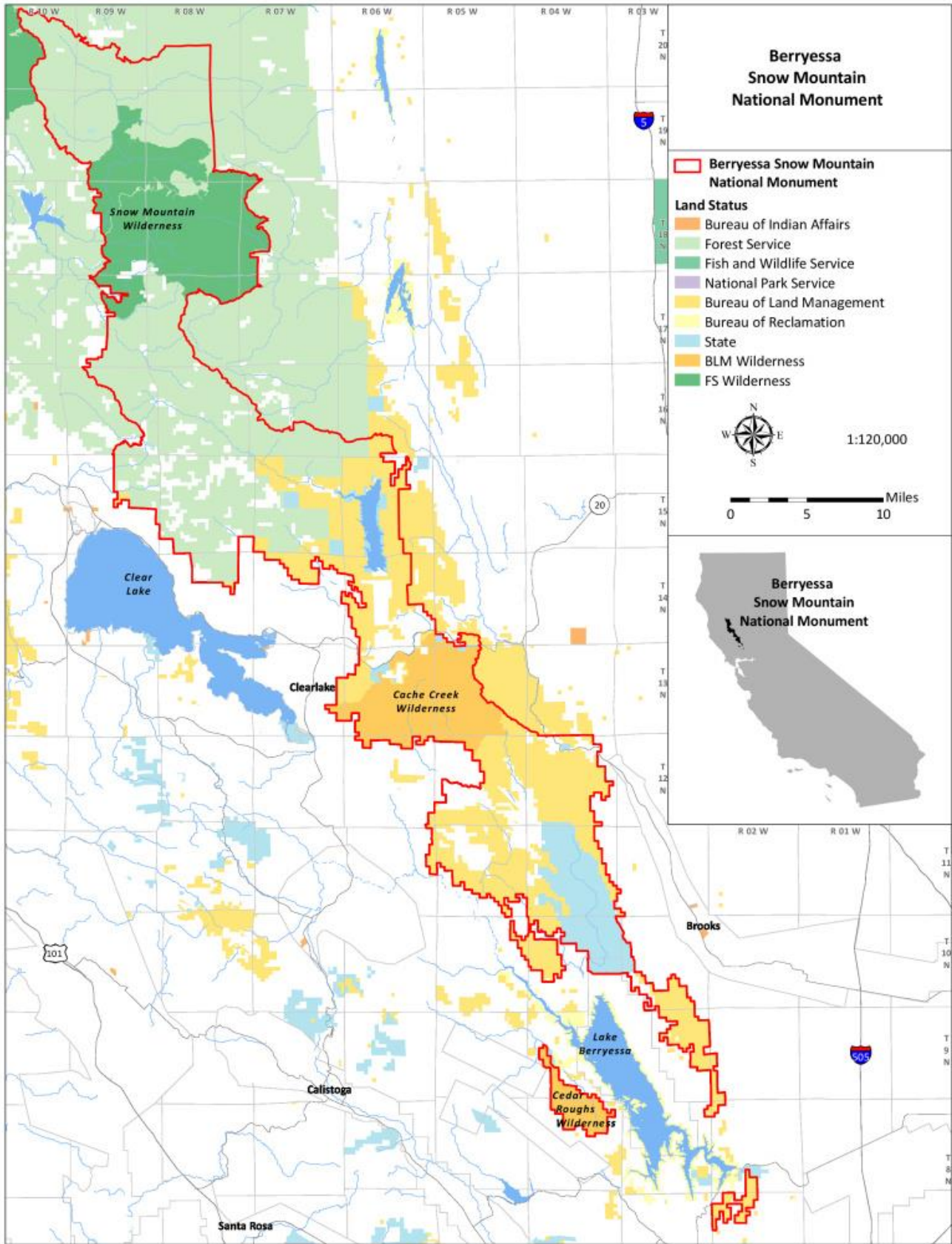
Tuleyome spent many years building support and addressing issues of concern. The state of California, five counties, many cities, over 60 elected officials, 200 businesses, conservation organizations, user groups including hikers, legal OHV users, mountain bikers, horse riders, hunters, anglers, ranchers and farmers, people of faith, Hispanic organizations, tribes, scientists, newspapers, and many more supported the protection of this region.

Water and grazing rights were protected and hunting and fishing regulations remain with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On December 19, 2014, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited the region and attended a town hall meeting in Napa at which everyone that wanted to speak was heard, and there was overwhelming support to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. President Barack Obama signed the designation proclamation on July 10, 2015.

An inclusive dedication celebration attended by more than 900 people was held on March 19, 2016. Hikers led hikes, Backcountry Horseman did presentations, and our OHV partners led a tour.

Tuleyome is a regional not-for-profit conservation organization based in Woodland, California. We work in the Northern Inner Coast Range on conservation policy, getting folks out to enjoy our public lands, and act as a land trust to protect key ecological properties. Our mission is to provide advocacy and active stewardship to conserve, enhance, restore, and enjoy the lands in the Northern Inner Coast Range



Map of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

Tuleyome is currently participating in planning for the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument management plan; the FireScape Mendocino stakeholder planning collaborative in the Mendocino National Forest; and the update of the Northwest Forest Plan.

We are building new trails and leading hikes for the public. And, we are purchasing and managing key ecological and access parcels including the 1280-acre Silver Spur Ranch that includes ½ mile of riparian habitat, mountain lion, river otter, Tule elk, bald eagles and more. Our ownership of the ranch provides hunting access to 3000 acres of adjacent BLM lands that were previously landlocked.



Trail crew at Annie's Rock at southern end of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument looking 100 miles north towards Snow Mountain.

VALUE OF DESIGNATION OF THE BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

Tuleyome is a science-based organization and our campaign to protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Monument followed from an understanding of years of research developed in the region. It is a special place from “accessible...world-class geology” to “a rich tapestry of biological diversity” and wildlife connectivity. In addition, it has Native American cultural history dating back 20,000 years. More recent historical cultural resources include mercury and gold mining; early water rights diversions; historical transcontinental survey sites used in measuring the width of our continent; and ranching and farming. Ours is a rich natural and cultural history with much to tell and interpret for the American people. The Berryessa Snow Mountain region merits national monument protection.

There are several scientific study areas in the region including University of California Stebbins Cold Canyon, Quail Ridge and McLaughlin Reserves located at the southern end and Hale Ridge and Frenzel Creek Resource Natural Areas in the Mendocino National Forest at the northern end of the National Monument. In addition, there are several Areas of Critical Environmental Concern including three on Walker Ridge. These sites serve to underscore the importance of science to the National Monument. There are several schools doing research in the region including Chico and Sonoma State Universities, and the University of California at Davis.

Geology

The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument region (BSM) provides unparalleled access to geologic features associated with an ancient tectonic system where one plate descended beneath another. (See attached map of the Geology of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Area.)

The Coast Range Fault, noted on the map, represents the ancient boundary between the upper North American plate and the descending lower Pacific plate. Rocks of the upper plate include Great Valley sedimentary and volcanic rocks overlying serpentine, that is remnants of ancient oceanic crust. The upper plate represents part of the western edge of North America that formed 140-20 million years ago. Lower plate rocks include the Franciscan complex - deformed and metamorphosed (recrystallized) sedimentary and volcanic rocks - that were scraped off the subducted plate and buried up to 12-20 miles beneath the North American edge as the plate went

down and then was uplifted to the surface and exposed by erosion. The active San Andreas fault family was superimposed more recently on this earlier convergent plate boundary.

The Great Valley sedimentary rocks themselves were deposited originally on top of oceanic crust, which had previously been incorporated into North American continental rocks. Great Valley sediments were laid down in some 3000 feet of marine waters at the edge of the North American continent. Subsequent earth movements tilted these rocks from their original horizontal position to steeply inclined vertical layers. These rocks are well exposed along the western side of the Great Valley, including in the southeastern part of the BSM region. Exposures are particularly dramatic in canyons cut by the streams of Cache and Putah creeks, which are older than the uplift and cut their canyons as mountains rose up above them.

The serpentine and related rocks of the descending plate represent remnants of oceanic crust formed at an oceanic spreading center and subsequently added to the North American continent. California's state rock serpentine, scientifically known as serpentinite, is a rock formed by combining water with rock that originally was part of the Earth's mantle, the layer beneath the Earth's crust. Soils formed from serpentinite rocks lack certain elements required by most plants. Thus it is not surprising that the BSM hosts unique plant species in a variety of landscapes and microclimates because they have adapted to serpentine-derived soils.

Some rocks of both the Franciscan and Great Valley units constitute blocky landscapes formed by a chaotic mixture of diverse rock types. Some of these rocks, often called "melange" after a French word meaning mixture, apparently formed as deposits of "mud volcanoes". Mud volcanoes are widespread in the Marianas trench area, where fluids derived from the down-going plate incorporate blocks of rock as they rise to the surface and spill over to form submarine earth flows as deep as 20,000 feet on the ocean floor. Some complex chaotic rocks found in the Great Valley and Franciscan units may have a similar origin. Other on-land exposures of similar mud volcano deposits may be present in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and SW Pakistan, but none of these areas is as well-documented or as accessible as the Berryessa Snow Mountain area.

Similar tectonic processes are active today in various locations, *e.g.*, off the Pacific Northwest and in the Marianas Trench National Monument. Such modern geologic rock-forming processes lie below thousands of feet of water and are not directly observable. To study such rocks, geologists employ deep-sea drilling and geophysical techniques of remote sensing, small deep-diving two to three-person submarines, or remotely operated submersible vehicles. **In contrast, one can walk across the preserved fossil boundary between the two former plates in the Berryessa Snow Mountain region and see the rocks and geologic structures that formed during ancient tectonic plate interactions.**

Snow Mountain itself represents a special feature. It contains submarine volcanic rocks, not more than 140 million years old that look as if they were laid down only a few years ago. However, minerals identified in the rocks indicate that they formed as an oceanic submarine volcano (seamount) far west of California, then migrated with the down-going plate to the continental edge, were buried 12-20 miles deep, and rose again to the Earth's surface.

Also, the Berryessa Snow Mountain area exhibits clusters of invertebrate fossils that apparently grew in deep water around chemical seeps. Such clusters are widespread on some modern plate boundaries. The fauna live in the dark thousands of feet deep around cold to warm submarine springs that typically contain methane or hydrogen sulfide. The animals thrive, however, using the chemicals as nutrients. About six such ancient sites occur in the Berryessa Snow Mountain area, enabling one to see such features closely and on land.

"In summary, the geology of the BSM region provides valuable instructive exposures of features and processes of a convergent tectonic plate margin. Nowhere else in the world are such features as well developed, preserved, or accessible. The proposed Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument region (BSM) is a unique region with world-class geology and biology. It is well worth National Monument designation."

Eldridge Moores, Ph.D., UC Davis, Geology, Professor Emeritus

Biological Diversity, Climate Change, Regional Ecological Connectivity, and other Ecological Processes

What's special about the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, from a biologist's perspective, is that it captures in a moderate-sized area (330,000 ac) a great deal of what makes California special, and which has not yet been similarly protected and appreciated. California is one of the world's top 25 biodiversity "hotspots" identified because of its thousands of native species found nowhere else. Among all US states, it has by far the highest biological diversity by any measure – plants, animals, vegetation types, and species found nowhere else. And most people don't realize that the majority of California's unique biological diversity resides not in our famous coastline or high Sierras, which are so well appreciated, but in our interior foothill environments, which are rich mosaics of conifer forests, oak woodlands, grasslands, and chaparral.

The Berryessa Snow Mountain region is emblematic of that diversity. It contains approximately 1700 plant species, several dozen plant species found nowhere else, and around 80 distinct vegetation types – making it more diverse than many entire US states. For more than 50 years, evolutionists and ecologists have recognized the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a living laboratory for understanding the origin of and maintenance of biological diversity. To borrow a metaphor from the great evolutionist Ledyard Stebbins, this region is both a 'cradle' and a 'museum' – a 'cradle' where new species are born in response to unique environmental conditions, and a 'museum' where ancient lineages have survived for tens of millions of years. I'll briefly mention three important sources of this region's diversity.

One is geology as discussed above. In the Berryessa Snow Mountain region you can easily see dramatic outcrops of numerous bedrock types including sandstone, basalt, gabbro, and serpentine – again, more diversity than you can find in many entire states. These outcrops are the visible remnants of the plate tectonic collisions that built western North America. These rocks were uplifted and exposed by the faulting that continues in this region today. Studies of these rocks have helped elaborate the story of global plate tectonics. Geologic diversity is an important cause of the plant diversity of the BSM region. One can see striking boundaries between blue oak woodlands on fine-textured sediments, chamise chaparral on sandstone, leather oak chaparral on serpentine, and so on. Serpentine – our state rock – deserves special mention. It's a bluish-green rock derived from the earth's mantle that is chemically harsh and supports many of the region's most unusual species. Many of these species appear to be young and rapidly evolving and are only found in a handful of locations.

A second important element is the BSM region's strongly seasonal climate, intersecting with its steep angular topography, giving rise to extreme contrasts between adjacent microclimates. This is important not only to winegrowers, but also to native species. You can go from oak forest on the cool north side of a ridge to grassland on the hotter south side, or from chaparral on the lower slopes of Snow Mountain to red fir forest only a short distance above, and find dramatic differences in animal as well as plant life.

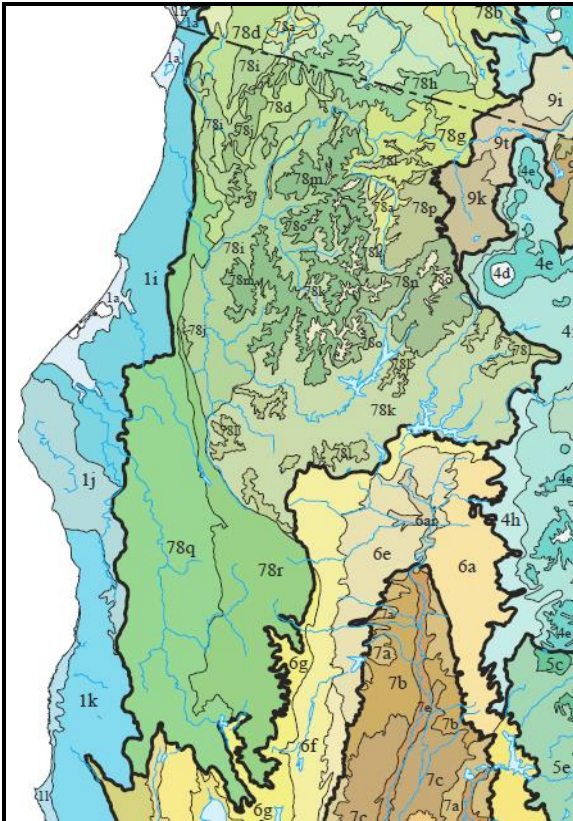
A third important element, especially as we look ahead, is the connectivity of the regional landscape from north to south and from low to high elevation, still almost unbroken by major development and land-use change. This connectivity makes it a rich region for migratory songbirds and for large animals such as Tule elk and mountain lion. Connectivity has been essential in the geologic past, and will be truly critical in the near future, for allowing plant and animal species to move around and survive rapidly changing climates.

The high-elevation Inner Coast Range region of northern California is ecologically the southern end of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion, one of the most biologically diverse regions of the state. Located less than one hundred miles from the Sacramento and Bay Area metropolitan regions, visitors can find California's dazzling wildflower displays, blue oak woodlands, conifer forests, serpentine plants, and the second-largest population of wintering bald eagles; see herds of wild Tule elk; California newts, and catch glimpses of black bears. The Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion stretches from the northern portion of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument (including Snow Mountain, the southernmost outpost of the Klamath Province bioregion) into southwestern Oregon.

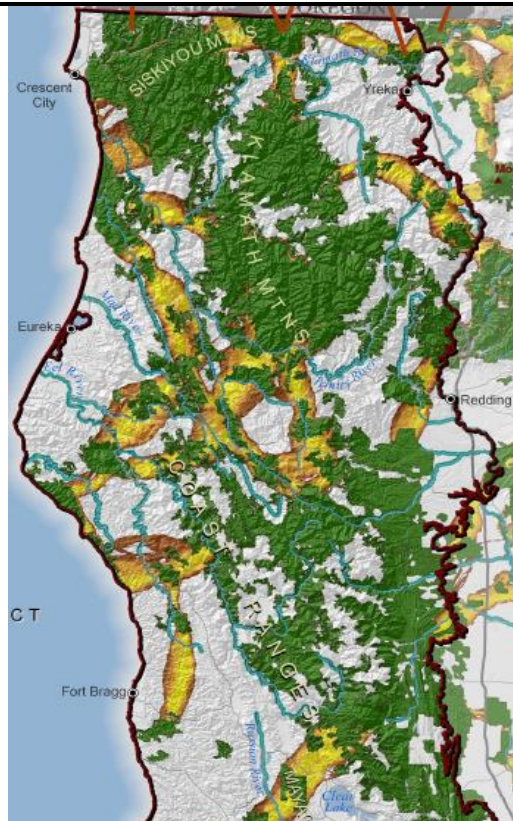
In the Klamath Mountains/California High North Coast Range, Omernik/USEPA Ecoregion 78 encompasses the highly-dissected ridges, foothills, and valleys of the Klamath and Siskiyou mountains. It includes the mixed conifer and montane hardwood forests that occur on mostly mesic soils in the North Coast Range mountains. The region includes ultramafic substrates such as serpentinite and mafic lithologies that directly affect vegetation. Most of the region was unglaciated during the Pleistocene epoch, when it likely served as a refuge

for northern plant species. The region’s diverse flora, a mosaic of both northern Californian and Pacific Northwestern conifers and hardwoods, is rich in endemic and relic species. The mild, subhumid climate of Ecoregion 78 is characterized by a lengthy summer drought.

The map below shows Ecoregion 78 in the left panel. The right panel shows an excerpt from the primary study addressing ecological connectivity in California (Clear Lake is seen at the bottom of each image). With few east-west roads, this region offers a largely unbroken landscape, with vital south-to-north ecological connectivity critical to climate-change adaptation. These elements illustrate ecological processes in the region, including necessary adaptations to climate change involving enhanced connectivity as well as protection of important natural areas.



Source: Griffith et al. 2016. Ecoregions of California (poster): U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2016–1021, with map, scale 1:1,100,000.



Source: Spencer et al. 2010. California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California. Prepared for California Department of Transportation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Federal Highways Administration.

“In summary, this monument proposal gives us the opportunity to protect not only a rich tapestry of biological diversity, but the processes that generate and maintain our biological heritage. It’s near major cities where scientists and the general public can study and appreciate it. In my subjective opinion, the scale of this monument could not be significantly smaller and still protect the ecological diversity and connectivity that are its fundamental attributes. I offer these remarks on behalf of dozens of other scientists who support monument designation for this region.”

Susan Harrison, Ph.D. UC Davis. Environmental Science and Policy, Professor

The Evolving Importance of Fire and Fuels Management

California has a Mediterranean climate, with cool, moist winters and warm, dry summers. Fire has always been an inherent element in the state’s landscapes, and projected future conditions because of climate change may

involve a greater extent of area affected by fires that occur more frequently. Ecosystems in the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument span lower-elevation prairies, shrublands, and oak woodlands as well as conifer-dominated forests at higher elevations, all of which have evolved with fire. Accommodating recurring fire as an integral element in the Monument landscapes also recognizes that areas near the Monument are more developed. Fires that occur within the Monument can also involve adjacent private lands, such as occurred with the Wragg, Rocky, and Jerusalem fires of 2015.

Fire science is an important element in Monument planning. Recently a near-consensus scientific conclusion has evolved that past fire-suppression practices have led to an increased presence of smaller trees in forested federal landscapes. This condition may lead to higher-severity fires under certain fire-weather conditions, and reducing the densities of smaller trees may be an appropriate management goal for parts of the Monument landscape. Because the sensitive wildlife and fish species that occur within this landscape evolved with fire, it should be possible to carry out desirable fire and fuels management in the Monument landscape while maintaining the habitat conditions suitable for those species. However, current fire science does not indicate that widespread salvage in burned areas has a positive effect on avoiding future fires, although the practice does have adverse effects on desired ecological conditions.

Prevalent residential development within non-federal lands in the region differs from historical conditions, however, and an appropriate focus for the Monument's management may include working closely with state and local governments to increase the effectiveness of fire management on private lands in the wildland-urban interfaces (WUIs) near the Monument. While there is no clear indication that fuels reductions in remote forestlands has a significant effect in reducing fire's effects on developed areas, current fire-science indicates the importance of fuels management in the WUIs, as well as the need for appropriate land use decision-making on private lands, in reducing the effects of wildfire in developed landscapes. Current collaborative efforts in the National Monument region (e.g., FireScape Mendocino) provide forums to address the range of concerns that surround current and future fire management in the region as a whole.

Prehistory of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument

The Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is home to some of the most important prehistoric cultural resources in the New World. Some of the oldest prehistoric sites in the Americas exist in the region and archaeological and ethnographic research has provided an outline of 20,000 years of cultural change and development.

Native people have been living in and utilizing the resources of the Berryessa Snow Mountain area for at least 20,000 years. During this long time period, they experienced part of the last Ice Age (30,000 to 15,000 years ago), the last Global Warming Period (8,000 to 4,000 years ago), and the variations of today's climate. These environmental changes and population growth required them to develop new technologies as well as new economic, social, and political systems.

As part of this development, they instituted the first form of passive agriculture and targeted resource use about 8,000 years ago when they took on grain processing as a new food source. Their growing population prompted a second targeted crop (~6,000 years ago) when acorn processing was added to their tool kit. From this time on, they lived in "orchards" of oak trees that were carefully tended and usually privately owned by families in each tribe.

With the development of permanent territorial boundaries (~6,000 years ago) it became necessary to establish an exchange system to ensure the movement of resources between areas and groups. This is when the various tribes in the area, the Yuki, Nomlaki, Patwin, Pomo, Huchnom, Wappo, Lake Miwok and Wintum developed political and economic systems based on a money economy using shell beads as the medium of exchange, professions, political centers, and trade networks.

The Wappo, Pomo, and Yuki people who inhabited the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument spoke languages belonging to the two oldest language families in the New World, the Hokan and Yukian.

Although some archaeological studies have taken place within the National Monument as part of land development projects, most work on area prehistory has occurred around the shores of Clear Lake, just west of the monument. This work has provided a framework of cultural history for the area.

Historic Cultural History Including Mining, Surveying, Ranching and Farming

There are many stories to tell about our more recent cultural history. Historic explorations of the region were first undertaken by fur traders with later settlements in places like Sutter's Fort in Sacramento. Some early Mexican Land Grants at Wolfskill in Winters and the Berryessa brothers land grant at what is now Lake Berryessa played an early role. Later in the 1920's, hot springs at Wilbur and Bartlett became public attractions.

The Gold Rush accelerated this process. As gold mines opened in the Sierra Nevada, mercury mines were developed in the Inner Coast Range. Mercury was used to amalgamate gold and later used for ammunitions and hearing aids. The Knoxville Mine was first opened in 1864. There are presently about 50 abandoned mercury mines in both the Putah Creek and Cache Creek watersheds. The Sulphur Bank mine at Clear Lake is a Super Fund site. While much remediation work has been done, mercury continues to leach out to the lake. Remediation has also been undertaken at the Turkey-Abbot Run, Rathburn-Petry, and Corona-Twin Peaks mine sites. From 1978 through 1997 the Homestake McLaughlin Gold Mine operated and it is now being remediated. This mining history is an important aspect of our nation's story.

In the 1880's surveys of the country were undertaken. The early survey triangle between Berryessa Peak, the Woodland Cemetery, and UC Davis was the most accurate of all and helped to determine the width of the country within a few hundred feet.

During the gold rush many worked to provide supplies and food to the miners. With that came the oldest water diversions in California in the early 1850's including the Moore Siphon near Woodland, and the Rumsey Ditch in the Capay Valley. Farming and ranching became mainstays in the region as we help to feed the country and the world. There are 14 grazing easements in the national monument and these have been protected as objects of the monument designation.

BOUNDARIES

The scientific basis for monument designation is based on landscape scale "objects" including conservation biology and wildlife connectivity. In addition, the geology of the region from the southern end at Cold Canyon to Snow Mountain near the northern end tells a comprehensive story of plate tectonics.

Dr. Susan Harrison comments that, "*In my subjective opinion, the scale of this monument could not be significantly smaller and still protect the ecological diversity and connectivity that are its fundamental attributes*". Dr. Harrison reiterates that this really represents the minimum size needed to protect the "objects" of the national monument.

It is also important to understand that these federal public lands are interwoven with state and local lands that add to the ecological protection of the region. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has 20,000 acres at the Knoxville Wildlife Area and lands at Putah Creek, Cache Creek, Indian Valley Reservoir; the Napa Regional Park and Open Space District has lands adjacent to Cedar Roughts and other BLM lands, Yolo County has park lands adjacent to the BLM Cache Creek Management Area; and, local not-for-profit organizations such as Napa Land Trust, Audubon California, and Tuleyome own properties that enhance wildlife connectivity and conservation diversity.

Attached to this documents is a map with numbered parcels, and a narrative description of the importance of each of the numbered BLM parcels in the southern end of the monument.

ALLOWABLE USES

Designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument did not close roads or limit uses. Grazing leases continue, water rights are not affected, hunting and fishing regulations remain with the State of California, OHV users continue to use legal OHV areas and trails; and, mountain bikers, hikers and horse riders continue to work together to enhance recreational opportunities and minimize conflicts. The designation does restrict new mining claims. The region has had significant mercury and gold mining. And, more recently, the Homestake

Gold Mine at Knoxville did cyanide leaching processing for gold. This mine closed in 1997 and remediation under their bonded remediation plan continues. There are no remaining viable mining opportunities.

We look forward to the development and enactment of the joint national monument management plan with the Bureau of Land Management Ukiah Office and the Forest Service administered Mendocino National Forest. This will help to coordinate the two agencies in the management of these federal public lands, enhance coordinated management with state lands, and private lands with collaborating owners.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT

In fall, 2014, the Winters Chamber of Commerce commissioned an independent study by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc on the potential economic impact of a national monument designation for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region in Northern California. The report predicted that it was likely to have significant economic benefits for the local economy and that the increase in annual visitation to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument – estimated at 20% to 30% – would have a **cumulative impact of up to \$50 million for the local economy over five years.**

“Protecting the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national monument will bring tremendous opportunity to our community and greatly benefit our economy,” said Matt Archibeque Board President of the Winters Chamber of Commerce. “This study makes clear that a national monument designation would be good for business and good for our community. That’s why more than 200 businesses support this designation, on top of the widespread community support we’re seeing from residents. We urge President Obama to listen to the local community and permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.”

Researchers studied the projected economic benefits for the seven counties that surround the Berryessa Snow Mountain region (Yolo, Solano, Napa, Lake, Mendocino, Glenn, and Colusa Counties) and estimated that local tax revenues would increase by up to \$800,000 over the first five years following a national monument designation. The report also indicates that the increase in visitors and economic activity could grow and provide a 30 percent increase in the number of jobs already supported by the lands.

“As a local business owner, I want to see our economy grow and our business community thrive,” said John Pickerel owner of the Buckhorn Steakhouse. “That’s why I support designating a Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. The increased visibility of a national monument will be good for our community. It will lead to more visitors, keeping the doors of our businesses open with a stream of customers.”

Protecting the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a national monument has widespread community support, including from business owners, local governments, and residents. Representative Mike Thompson (CA-5) has introduced legislation to create a National Conservation Area for the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, but that effort has stalled in Congress. With input from the local community, Congressman Thompson called on President Obama to designate the area a national monument.

More than 225 businesses along with Napa County and the North Valley Hispanic Chambers of Commerce support a national monument designation for Berryessa Snow Mountain. The effort has received resolutions of support from the counties of Yolo, Napa, Lake and Solano. In addition, local farmers, ranchers, landowners, and recreation groups have called for the area’s protection.

The study, “*Economic Impact Analysis of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Designation,*” by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. was commissioned to assess the economic impact of designating the Berryessa Snow Mountain region a national monument. The study can be found at <http://winterschamber.com>.

National Monument designation has increased media coverage on the Berryessa Snow Mountain region. And, as an indicator of future visitation the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument is shown in the 2017 Rand McNally Road Atlas.

STRENGTH OF PUBLIC SUPPORT AND PUBLIC PROCESS THAT LED TO DESIGNATION

Working with our many partners, Tuleyome build support for the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument over many years with an inclusive approach, open communication, hundreds of meetings, and a sincere effort to

address concerns. At the time of designation of the national monument Yolo, Solano, Napa, Lake, and Mendocino counties voiced support; over 60 elected officials; the State of California; over 200 businesses; conservation organizations; user groups including hikers, horse riders, mountain bikers, legal OHV users, hunters, and fishers; Hispanic groups, tribes; farmers and grazers; newspaper editorials and op-eds, thousands of individuals; and more. The latest supporters list dated April 2015 that was completed before the designation is attached. This was truly a grassroots campaign.

On December 19, 2014, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited the region and attended a town hall meeting in Napa at which everyone that wanted to speak was heard, and there was overwhelming support to permanently protect the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

An inclusive dedication celebration attended by more than 900 people was held on March 19, 2016. Hikers led hikes, Backcountry Horseman did presentations, and our OHV partners led a tour.

Since this review began we have circled back to some key supporters including the State of California (2017 Assembly Joint Resolution 15), Mendocino, Lake and Yolo counties and cities including Woodland, West Sacramento, Lakeport, American Canyon, Saint Helena, Back Country Horseman and Anglers, and more.

Upon national monument designation, Tuleyome began participation in the development of a management plan for the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. There were initial delays with fires in the region and the hiring process for the national monument manager. On January 21, 2017, Tuleyome hosted a meeting to discuss the monument planning process, a multi-use regional trail system including the development for a long-term volunteer trail stewardship maintenance plan. Our time and resources have been diverted to this current review process but we look forward to focusing on a management plan that tells the American people the many inspiring stories of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region.

FEDERAL, STATE, AND PRIVATE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

One of Tuleyome's goals in designating the BSM NM is to improve management of our public lands across public land ownership boundaries. To that end we are greatly pleased the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service are actively working together on the development of the BSM NM management plan. In conjunction with that effort through Memoranda of Understanding, Good Neighbor Agreements, and other tools we can enhance cooperation between federal and state land managers. As John Laird states:

"We'd like to see federal protections maintained for these special places. There is state support and cooperation for California's national monuments, including relatively new designations in the Mojave Desert, along the Pacific Coast, and in wildlands surrounding Berryessa Peak. We've talked with the federal government about our openness to help manage these lands, and we'd like to continue that conversation."

John Laird, California Secretary of Resources, April 26, 2017

Good relationships with private land owners in the monument region are an important goal. We recognize the need for landowners to maintain economically viable operations, which is fully compatible with Land Water Conservation Funds for conservation easements for long-term family ranch planning; NRCS funding to improve range, habitat, and research; and value added activities such as farm and ranch visits or bed and breakfast opportunities consistent with local zoning requirements. This cooperative working relationship can help to maintain biological diversity and wildlife connectivity, greatly leveraging protections on our federal public lands.

COME VISIT

We encourage you to visit the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. We will show you the tectonic plate geology that helped build our country. We can hike at UC Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve; visit John and Judy Ahmann's cattle ranch at the northeastern corner of Lake Berryessa; hike to Berryessa Peak; visit the Corona-Twin Peaks mine remediation project; use our inflatable kayaks to run the 20 mile Cache Creek Wilderness reach; observe Tule elk at BLM's Cowboy Camp or wildflowers and dragonflies and damselflies in Bear Valley; drive the Walker Ridge road across serpentine barrens with views of Mt. St. Helena, Snow Mountain, Mt. Shasta, the Sierra Nevada, and Mt. Diablo; or take a horse ride trip to the summit of Snow Mountain. Perhaps you would like to dine at the Buckhorn Steakhouse in Winters or stay at the Tallman Hotel in

Upper Lake? We and the gateway communities of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument would welcome an opportunity to host you and share with you our unique and diverse landscape.

SUMMARY

The proposal for a Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument received strong public vetting and support over many years. And, the region meets the criteria of the Antiquities Act of 1906. Educational interpretation, recreational opportunities, management improvements, and opportunities for economic benefits are real and beginning to happen.

We hope that in your review of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument you will come visit in order to better understand the need for additional funding to maximize opportunities for all in the region.

Sincerely,



Bob Schneider
Senior Policy Director
530-304-6215
bschneider@tuleyome.org

In the preparation of this comment letter I have drawn heavily and directly on the work of Dr. Eldridge and Mrs. Judy Moores, Dr. Susan Harrison, Chad Roberts, Ph.D. , and John Parker Ph.D., RPA . I thank them for the work that they have done in supporting the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Any errors are entirely my own.

Attachments:

Southern Units of the BSM NM

- Map with numbered parcels at south section of BSM NM
- Narrative of numbered southern section parcels
- Conservation values of the south portion of BSM

Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Economics

- BSM Final Economic Impact Report
- Winters Economic One Page Summary

Science Importance of the Berryessa Snow Mountain region

- Dr. Harrison comments
- Moores and Moores EARTH magazine article
- Roberts, Ecology, Conservation Biology, Climate Change and BSM
- Roberts, Conservation Planning Background for the BSM
- BSM and KS Wildlife Connectivity
- Parker, Draft Prehistory BSM NM
- Scientist sign-on letter

Submitted Under Separate Cover

- Supporters list index prior to designation
- Binder of supporter letters and resolutions prior to designation submitted under separate cover
- Recent resolutions and letters of support
- Media editorials, op-eds, articles and letters to editors