

Trout Unlimited's SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOALS:

(1) Protect Southern California's Rivers and their Watersheds

TU has worked for the past several years, in collaboration with partners such as San Gabriel Mountains Forever, Ventana Wilderness Alliance, and Vet Voice Foundation, to support conservation campaigns for public lands along the Central Coast and in southern California by educating and engaging sportsmen to help publicize and protect these lands. Current legislative initiatives would **designate six streams in the northern Los Padres National Forest as Wild & Scenic Rivers**, designate lands in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountain ranges as Wilderness, and **designate stream segments within the San Bernardino Mountains as Wild & Scenic**. **The Los Padres NF initiative would confer WSR designation on five rivers and their tributaries in the Big Sur area, which are critical spawning habitat for the threatened central coastal steelhead trout, and better protect fish and wildlife values along segments of the Little Sur, Carmel, Arroyo Seco, and San Antonio Rivers, and Big Creek.**

(2) Deliver the "sportsman's voice" to management planning for the San Gabriel Mountains monument, to better protect and enhance habitat and recreational opportunities.

The recently designated San Gabriel Mountains National Monument requires the preparation of a Management Plan. Trout Unlimited is leading the "sportsman's voice" in the planning process to assure that aquatic habitats are better managed and protected. We will educate sporting groups and businesses in southern California about the monument's planning process, and facilitate their engagement in it. Additionally, in coordination with our Science team, TU will provide important field data and references from scientific literature to the assessment process. The new management plan will be developed in accordance with the Forest Service's 2012 planning regulations (which TU had a hand in shaping), so we are confident we will be successful in ensuring that habitat considerations and sporting opportunities are fully addressed through this process.

We are also investigating restoration opportunities for the San Gabriel River and its tributaries. The National Forest Foundation has established a \$3 million fund dedicated to the new monument, and we are working in coordination with San Gabriel Mountains Forever to identify projects where TU's restoration skillset and grassroots resources can be utilized under this funding.

EASTERN SIERRA GOALS:

Trout Unlimited understands the Eastern Sierra provides "home waters" to many Southern California residents. Our goals for the Eastern Sierra are to protect high quality habitat, restore the iconic native trout of the region, support effective and responsive management of the resource, and ensure sustainable recreational fisheries that include both wild and stocked trout. To achieve these goals, we work directly with state and federal resource agencies and local anglers to better protect headwaters and improve management of our public lands and waters, and support restoration and angler education projects from Reno to Ridgecrest.

Tactics

TU's work in the Eastern Sierra is based on four primary objectives:

1. **Protect fish and game habitat on public lands** (*highly engaged in forest management planning, travel management (public roads systems), and grazing management*)
2. **Restore native trout waters** (*invasive species removal in cutthroat waters, grazing fencing in meadows, roads restoration to reduce stream sedimentation*)
3. **Enhance wild trout fisheries** (*researching opportunities to improve Hot Creek, Owens River and other wild trout waters under damaging drought conditions*)
4. **Sustain our work through outreach and education** (*participate and lead youth camps, river clean ups, veterans events, etc.*)

Detailed descriptions of the work in these for areas can be found on the [Eastern Sierra Trout Project](#) page on the TU website.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE SPECIFIC TO THESE PROJECTS: If you are interested in donating, please make checks out to Trout Unlimited with SIERRA written in memo. Checks can be mailed to: Jessica Strickland, Trout Unlimited PO Box 7399

Mammoth Lakes CA 93546. Please feel free to contact Jessica Strickland (cell: 830.515.9917; email: jstrickland@tu.org) with any questions or concerns.