



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

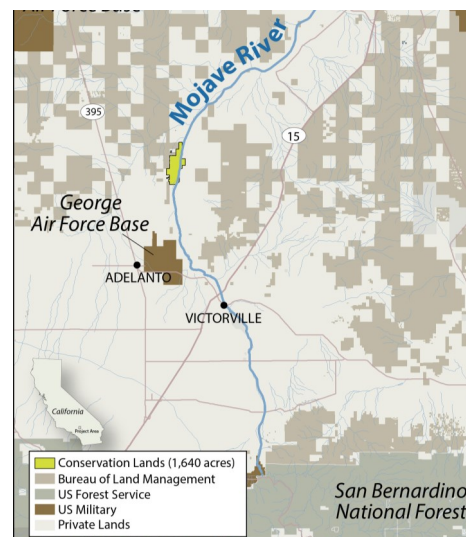
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April 2016

Mojave River, California: Conserving a Riverland Oasis in the Desert

In December 2015, Western Rivers Conservancy purchased 1,640 acres along one of the Golden State's most imperiled streams: The Mojave River. In a region stressed by ongoing drought and where residential development continues to chisel away at sensitive desert habitat, the Mojave River is a lifeline. It provides the only significant corridor of riparian habitat in the western Mojave Desert. The Mojave is unlike most rivers in that it flows underground for much of its length. Between the towns of Victorville and Helendale, the underlying geology forces the Mojave River to the surface, and year-round flows nourish a lush 15-mile corridor of cottonwoods and willows, rich with bird, insect and other life. This oasis in the Mojave Desert, known as the Transition Zone, is where WRC is focusing its effort. Conservation of these lands is crucial to the recovery of imperiled species like the southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo and Mojave tui chub (all endangered), as well as the threatened western yellow-billed cuckoo.

Krista Schlyer Photo



Salmon River and Pole Creek, Idaho: Preserving the Longest Salmon Pathway in the West

Idaho's Salmon River plays host to one of the greatest fish migrations on earth, a journey of more than 900 miles from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains. In spring 2016, Western Rivers Conservancy launched an effort on Pole Creek, a key tributary to the Salmon River with extensive designated Critical Habitat for chinook, steelhead and bull trout. WRC purchased 620 acres near the confluence of Pole Creek and the Salmon River, an acquisition that will protect more than a mile of the creek and a stretch of the main-stem Salmon itself. WRC's purchase of these lands builds on extensive conservation efforts. Habitat quality within the creek is on the upswing, and protecting the stream's sensitive riparian areas is crucial to preventing setbacks to the conservation investments already made. By conserving the property, we can prevent future development along this key reach of the creek and eliminate grazing in the riparian areas. And we will ensure that a mile of prime salmon and steelhead habitat is protected forever.

Ed Knight Photo

