

120 bird species are known to frequent the arroyo simi, near where I live. Some migrate to this area each year, others are here year round. All require undisturbed nesting sites, and forage. I hope photos of these species will help impress on you what would be lost for the next generation if these forests of Ventura county, the los padres national forest, are removed, damaged, and the roadless areas are rescinded. There is evidence that thinning "trees actually makes forest fires worse by encouraging the growth of invasive grasses such as what is commonly known as "cheat grass". these grasses are like kindling in a forest fire.

Th mission of the forest service has always been since its inception, in the early 1900's, to use resources for the "greatest good of the greatest numbers" over the years, the greatest good in Ventura county has shifted away from resource extraction to tourism. Like myself, many people are intrigued by the diverse wildlife present in these mountains and hills. I am intrigued when I hear a new species of bird. I have photographed over 50 species of bird in the past 5 years, since moving to Moorpark, in Ventura county. As part of my testimony, I will include the list of 120 species of bird that are known to be in this area in the past. The list is more than 20 years old, and the fact that so many bird species on the list still come here, is a testament to the importance of the preservation of open space. Another document that will attest to the biodiversity of the region is the cornell target list that they provided when I participated in their bird survey 2 years ago. I will include that list too, they call it their target list. It contains over 300 species of bird expected to be in ventura county as a whole.

Please continue to include public comment periods in your decisions. It is the best way for decision makers to know at least some of the consequences of their decisions before it is too late to reverse them.

Please protect the roadless areas of the los padres national forest. In the early 2000's these areas were determined to be better left as they were for clean water, for biodiversity and for the economy. Please uphold this rule.

These roadless areas were determined to be essential to protect human health, clean water and biodiversity through an extensive public comment process over 30 years ago, during the Clinton administration







