



California Native Plant Society

~ Channel Islands Chapter ~

P.O. Box 6, Ojai, California 93024-0006 ~ (805)646-6045 ~ www.cnpsci.org

October 1, 2010

The Honorable Elton Gallegly
2829 Townsgate Road, Suite 315
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361-3018

Dear Congressman Gallegly,

The Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) supports the designation of sections of the Los Padres National Forest as wilderness under the Wilderness Act. The protection of these sections of the Los Padres National Forest will ensure the permanent protection for many species of plants that exist no place else on Earth.

The Los Padres National Forest is part of the California Biodiversity Hotspot. California has more than 2,000 types of plants found nowhere else in the world, the highest diversity of endemic plants in North America. Many of these endemic plants are found within the Los Padres National Forest including the: Ojai Fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*), Flax-leaved Horsemint (*Monardella linioides* ssp. *oblonga*), Alpine Kennedy Buckwheat (*Eriogonum kennedyi* ssp. *alpigenum*), Mount Pinos Onion (*Allium howellii* var. *clokeyi*), Pursh's Woollypod Milkvetch (*Astragalus purshii* var. *purshii*), Mount Pinos Larkspur (*Delphinium parryi* ssp. *purpureum*), Salt Spring Checkermallow (*Sidalcea neomexicana*), and Gray-leaved Violet (*Viola pinetorum* ssp. *grisea*), as just a few examples.

The designation of sections of the Los Padres National Forest as wilderness under the Wilderness Act will ensure that this unique and globally significant plant biodiversity will be protected in perpetuity. The areas within the forest are generally all of rugged terrain that are only used for passive recreation, with most the land not visited by anyone due to their remoteness, but are vital as habitat for plants and wildlife.

Thank you for your support in expanding wilderness lands within the Los Padres National Forest in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

Sincerely

David Magney
President, CNPS Channel Islands Chapter

David Brown
Conservation Chair, CNPS Channel Islands Chapter