

Secretary
Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

May 2, 2016

Re: Proposed Cotoni Coast Dairies California Coast Monument

Dear Secretary Jewell,

It has come to our attention that proposals by the U.S. Congress for adding BLM's Cotoni Coast Dairies property to the California Coastal Monument could be better strengthened by including language addressing the specific significant natural resources of this property.

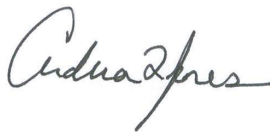
If the area becomes a National Monument, the attached document includes a description of the property's sensitive natural resources that need protection.

We urge you to request the inclusion of the attached language if this property moves closer to being declared a National Monument either through the Congress or by the President.

Sincerely,



Terry Corwin
Executive Director
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County



Andrea Jones
Director of Bird Conservation
Audubon California



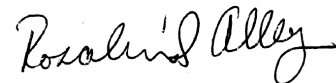
Dan Gluesenkamp
Executive Director
California Native Plant Society

Greg McPheeters

Greg McPheeters
Chair
Santa Cruz Group
Sierra Club



Deanna Guiliani
President
Santa Cruz Chapter
California Native Plant Society



Rosalind Alley
President
Valley Women's Club



Kerry Kriger, Ph.D.
Executive Director
SAVE THE FROGS!

cc: President Barack Obama; Senator Barbara Boxer; Congresswoman Anna Eshoo; Christy Goldfuss,
Council on Environmental Quality

Proposed Natural Resource Language for Inclusion in a National Monument Proclamation for the Cotoni Coast Dairies Property in Northern Santa Cruz County, California
February 2016

Introduction

The BLM-managed Cotoni Coast Dairies property is being proposed for National Monument status, but thus far proposed legislation lacks language typical in such proclamations that recognizes the natural and geologic features which make this place special. This brief proposes such language as reviewed by the region's experts in this area and its natural resources.

Methodology

The attached language about the Cotoni Coast Dairies property contains information about natural and geologic features of national significance as reviewed for accuracy by regional experts familiar with the property. Natural resources presented here include plant and animal species that are found in few other places. Bird species are included if they are suspected of breeding on the property. Because the property has historically been in private ownership and biological investigation has been largely prohibited, this list is not meant to be exhaustive. Experts who reviewed the proposed language for their areas of expertise are included in Appendix 1.

Proposed Language

"Because of its history, topographic features, and water resources, Cotoni Coast Dairies is a property notable for its species-rich, diverse habitats as well as its sensitive plants and wildlife. The property is located in one of the richest biodiversity hot spots in North America. Many species of plants and wildlife found on the property are listed as rare, sensitive, threatened or endangered under Federal, State, and local laws. These include: Point Reyes horkelia, Choris' popcornflower, Santa Cruz manzanita, steelhead, coho salmon, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, olive-sided flycatcher, Bryant's savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, tricolored blackbird, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, and American badger (for a complete list, see Appendix 2).

Cotoni Coast Dairies is replete with wild and diverse landscapes and climatic micro-habitats that support unique biotic assemblages. These include deep, riparian canyons containing seven nearly undeveloped watersheds and clear-running streams that have been rarely impacted by humans. Ridges contain intact lowland maritime chaparral, a threatened and species-rich, fire adapted ecosystem endemic to low elevations along the California coast. The property's four marine terraces contain an ecological staircase providing a unique localized profile of ancient soil development and evolution. Each of these terraces contains sensitive and unique assemblages of coastal prairie grasslands, of which more than 40 types have been documented from the vicinity. The extensive coastal scrub on the property includes species-rich rocky outcrops and large areas inaccessible to humans. The property contains numerous wetlands and springs, which are buffered by the maritime environment and fed by healthy watersheds that provide spawning, breeding, and foraging habitat for fish, amphibian and aquatic reptile species including steelhead, California red-legged frog and western pond turtle. The rare ecosystems of redwood, Shreve oak, and Monterey pine forests on the property are globally significant. The relative isolation of the property provides core wildlife habitat to a particularly diverse mammalian carnivore community including mountain lion, American badger, gray fox, long-tailed weasel, bobcat, and coyote. The grasslands on the property likewise support foraging habitat for an unusually abundant and diverse raptor community including: white-tailed kite, golden eagle, northern harrier, red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, American kestrel, American peregrine falcon, short-eared owl, barn owl, and burrowing owl."

Appendix 1: Expert reviewers

These persons provided review of the proposed language for their areas of expertise.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Expertise, Affiliation</i>
Mark Allaback	Certified Wildlife biologist Biosearch Associates
Don Alley	D.W. ALLEY & Associates Certified Fisheries Scientist
Sandra Baron	Ecologist
Phil Brown	President Santa Cruz Bird Club
Dr. Don Croll	Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology University of California at Santa Cruz
Dr. Gage Dayton	Ecologist University of California at Santa Cruz
Carleton Eyster	Coastal Ecologist
Steve Gerow	Past President and County Records Keeper Santa Cruz Bird Club
D. Kim Glinka	Wildlife Biologist
Dan Grout	Wildlife Biologist Grout Wildlife Research
Brett Hall	California Native Plant Program Director UC Santa Cruz Arboretum
Grey Hayes, PhD	Botanist/Restoration Ecologist
Kim Hayes	Biologist/Conservation Lands Manager
Dr. David Kossack	San Andreas Land Conservancy
Kerry Kriger, PhD	Executive Director SAVE THE FROGS!
Inger Marie Laursen	Wildlife Ecologist

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These persons provided review of the proposed language for their areas of expertise.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Expertise, Affiliation</i>
Dr. Bruce Lyon	Avian Ecologist University of California at Santa Cruz
Bryan Mori	Certified Wildlife Biologist Bryan Mori Biological Consulting Watsonville, CA
Dylan Neubauer	Botanist
Elliot Schoenig	Herpetologist
Lisa Sheridan	Conservation Officer Santa Cruz Bird Club
Dr. Dean Taylor	Botanist California Academy of Sciences
Jim West	Botanist

Appendix 2: Sensitive Species of the Cotoni Coast Dairies Property.

Animals		
<i>Common name</i>	<i>Latin name</i>	<i>Rarity Status</i>
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	Federally Threatened CA Species of Special Concern
Coho salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Federally and State Endangered (central California coast ESU)
Steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	Federally Threatened (central California coast DPS)
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	CA Fully Protected (nesting)
Bryant's savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis alaudinus</i>	CA Species of Special Concern
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	California Watch List (wintering)
Grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	CA Species of Special Concern (nesting)
Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	CA Species of Special Concern (nesting)
Olive-sided flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	CA Species of Special Concern (nesting)
Tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	CA Species of Special Concern (nesting colony)
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	CA Species of Special Concern
San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat	<i>Neotoma fuscipes annectens</i>	CA Species of Special Concern
Western pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	CA Species of Special Concern

Appendix 2: Sensitive Species of the Cotoni Coast Dairies Property.

Plants		
<i>Common name</i>	<i>Latin name</i>	<i>Rarity Status</i>
Choris' popcornflower	<i>Plagiobothrys chorisianus</i> var. <i>chorisianus</i>	California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) List 1B
Point Reyes horkelia	<i>Horkelia marinensis</i>	CRPR List 1B
Santa Cruz Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos andersonii</i>	CRPR List 1B
California bottlebrush grass	<i>Elymus californicus</i>	CRPR List 4
Michael's rein orchid	<i>Piperia michaelii</i>	CRPR List 4
Bolander's goldenaster	<i>Heterotheca sessiliflora</i> subsp. <i>bolanderi</i>	Locally rare ¹
Brownie thistle	<i>Cirsium quercetorum</i>	Locally rare ¹
Cascades oregon grape	<i>Berberis nervosa</i>	Locally rare ¹
Coast barberry	<i>Berberis pinnata</i> subsp. <i>pinnata</i>	Locally rare ¹
Coastal larkspur	<i>Delphinium decorum</i> subsp. <i>decorum</i>	Locally rare ¹
Common muilla	<i>Muilla maritime</i>	Locally rare ¹
Elmer fescue	<i>Festuca elmeri</i>	Locally rare ¹
Fire reedgrass	<i>Calamagrostis koelerioides</i>	Locally rare ¹
Hoary bowlesia	<i>Bowlesia incana</i>	Locally rare ¹
Narrow leaved mule ears	<i>Wyethia angustifolia</i>	Locally rare ¹
Round woolly marbles	<i>Psilocarphus tenellus</i>	Locally rare ¹
Salmon berry	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Locally rare ¹
Woolly goat chicory	<i>Agoseris hirsuta</i>	Locally rare ¹

¹ Locally rare species were not included in the suggested language but may deserve mention; these species are recognized by experts as deserving of protection because of their local rarity.