

2020



Land Protection Accomplishments



Soledad Canyon near Agua Dulce, California.





Conserving Open Space and Recreational Access On the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail



The Pacific Crest Trail in Soledad Canyon, CA—looking toward the San Gabriel Mountains.

For most of the 2,650 miles of the PCT from Mexico to Canada, you can experience some of the most sublime outdoor scenery in the world. But in far too many spots along the way, this experience is being threatened by development, resource extraction, inappropriate barriers, and unsafe road walks.

Over fifty years after the 1968 Congressional designation of the PCT as one of the first National Scenic Trails, it is still not completely protected. **Approximately 10 percent of the trail remains on private land** with little in place to help protect the trail experience for future generations.

The PCTA's land acquisition program works with willing sellers to conserve land along the entire 2,650 miles of the trail to protect the trail experience, enhance recreational access to our public lands, protect habitat for sensitive species, and secure critical watersheds. While federal agencies take the lead role in acquiring lands to permanently protect the PCT, they also rely heavily on the valued assistance of private, nonprofit partners.

Our 2020 land acquisitions are a prime example of this public-private partnership in action. The 2020 acquisition properties highlighted in this report have been acquired by the Pacific Crest Trail Association. We will hold and steward these properties until they can be transferred to the Forest Service for permanent protection and management for the Pacific Crest Trail.



2020 Pacific Crest Trail Land Protection by the Numbers...

2 parcels acquired

15 acres protected

.42 miles of the PCT were acquired

5 acres of important watershed lands protected in the Santa Clara river system

\$42,000 invested in land acquisitions

5 acres of important watershed lands protected in the Santa Clara river system

\$0 federal funding
\$42,000 private funding

15 acres of critical wildlife corridor lands



Soledad Canyon Property

Pacific Crest Trail Association



Pacific Crest Trail Association

Total Acreage: 5 acres

Miles of PCT: 0.17 miles

Final Purchase Price: \$17,000

Funding Source:
Private Donations

Acquisition Entity:
Pacific Crest Trail Association

Third Party Facilitator:
N/A

Acquisition Date:
March 11, 2020

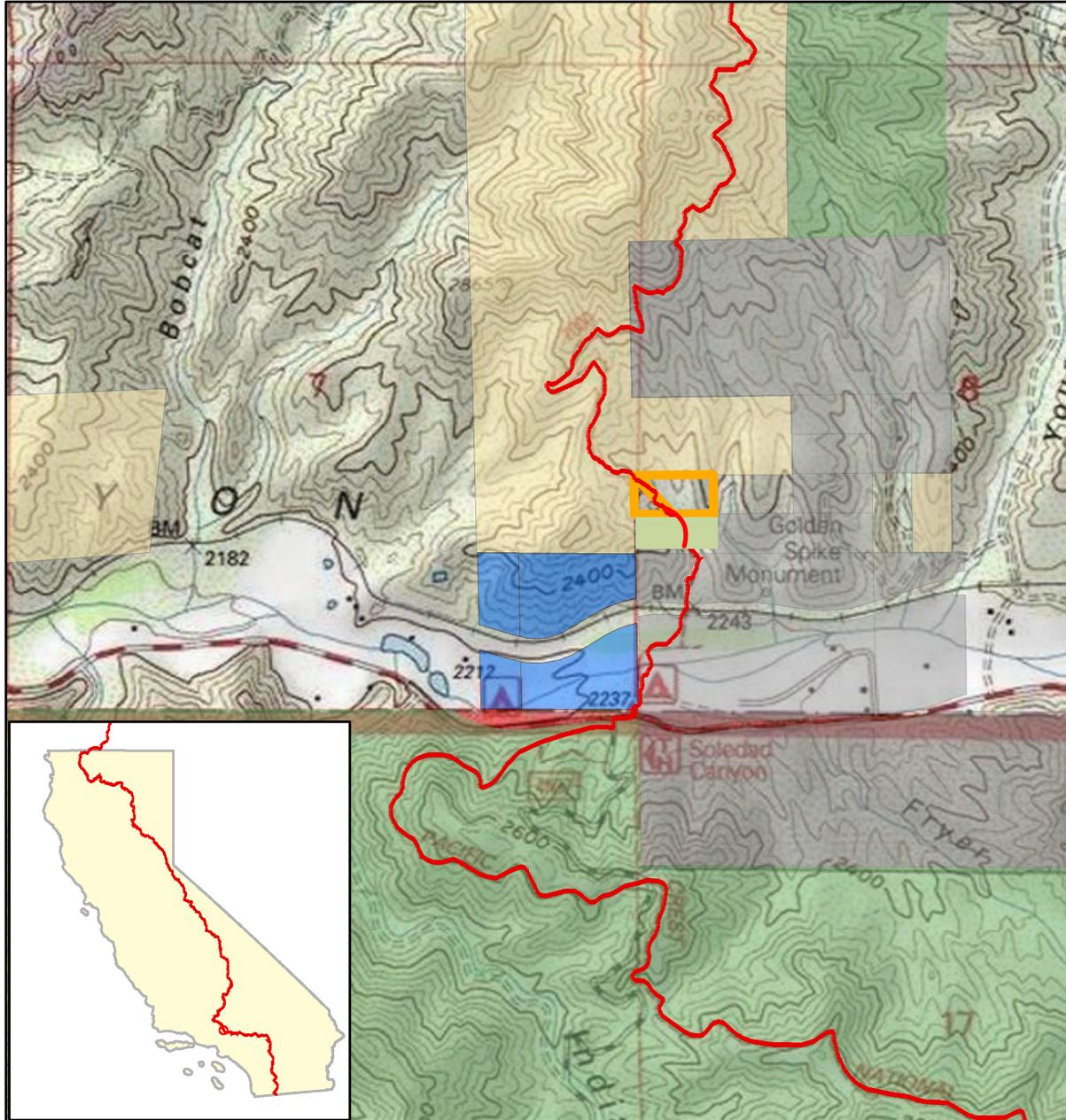
Location: Located where the PCT traverses Soledad Canyon, the property is a half-mile north from the PCT crossing of Soledad Canyon Road in Los Angeles County, CA. PCT mile 444.



Special Benefits: This property sits in Soledad Canyon, which lies between the Castaic Mountains towards the northwest and the San Gabriel Mountains to the southeast and provides an important ecological transition zone between the coastal and desert habitats.

The canyon provides one of the few wildlife corridor links in the Santa Clara River system allowing wildlife movement between the Castaic and San Gabriel Mountains. This property is one of several critical private parcels needed to secure a protected trail corridor in the Agua Dulce-Soledad trail section.





<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Soledad Canyon Parcel National Forest System Land Bureau of Land Management CA State Lands Private Lands <p>0 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 Miles</p> <p>Map Created- 1/25/21 By Pacific Crest Trail Association</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Soledad Canyon Property</p> <p>Township 04 North, Range 13 West, Section 08 Los Angeles County, CA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pacific Crest Trail Association</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Congressional District CA-25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PCT mile 444</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Service Layer Credits: Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed</p>
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Piute Mountain Property

Pacific Crest Trail Association



Pacific Crest Trail Association

Total Acreage: 10 acres

Miles of PCT: 0.25

Final Purchase Price:
\$25,000

Funding Source:
Private Donations

Acquisition Entity:
Pacific Crest Trail Association

Third Party Facilitator:
N/A

Acquisition Date:
July 24, 2020

Location: Located just south of the Sequoia National Forest boundary and west of the Bureau of Land Management's Jawbone/ Butterbredt Area of Critical Environmental Concern in Kern County, CA. PCT mile 601.



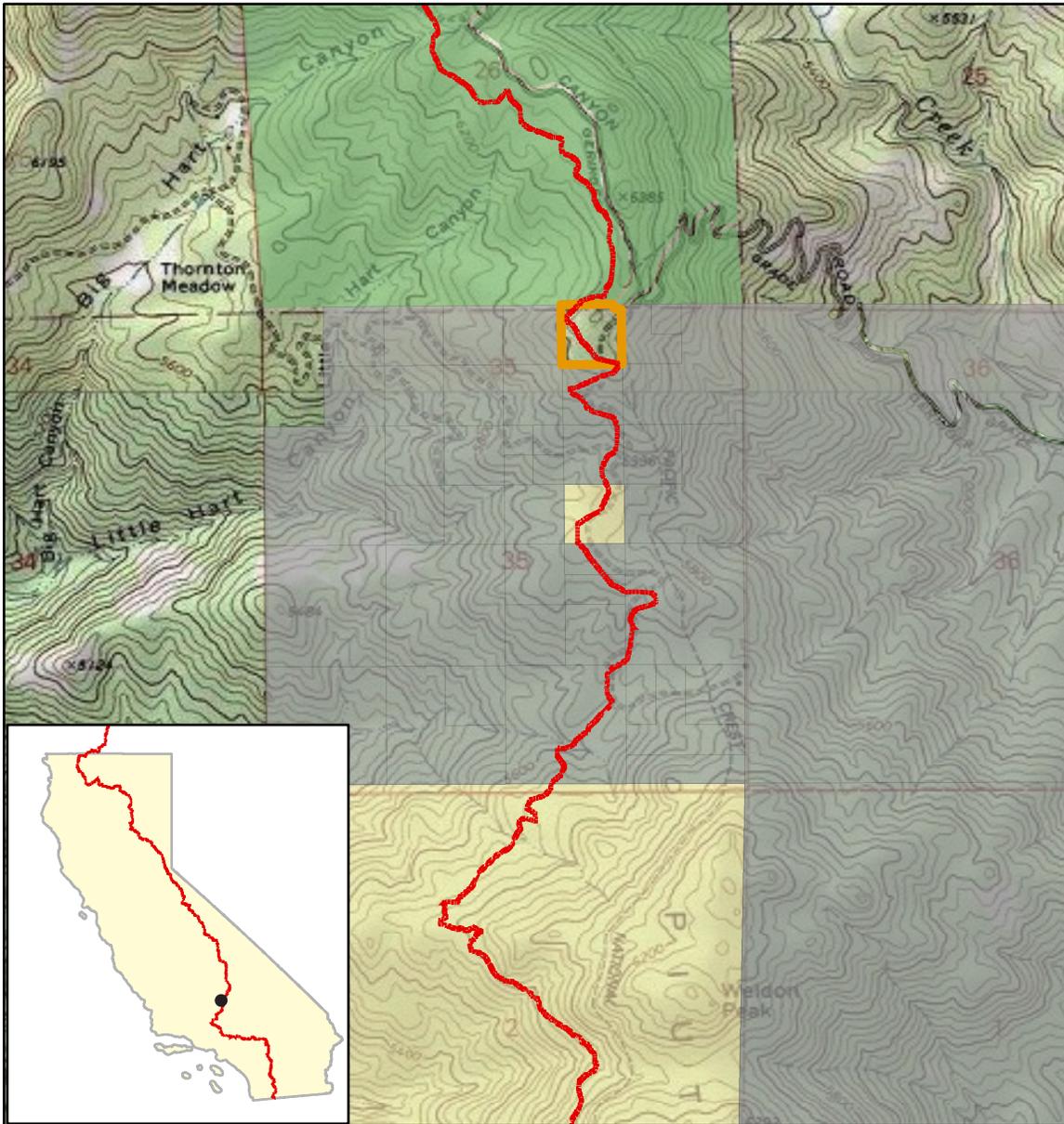
The PCT on the property.

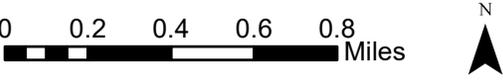


Special Benefits: The Piute Mountains are known for their diverse habitat with approximately 20 different plant communities found in the region. Wildlife frequently found in this area includes pronghorn antelope, Tule elk, mountain lion, and black-tailed deer. There are also migratory and resident birds including California Quail, Mountain Quail, and Mourning Dove.

The acquisition of this property will protect the scenic and wildlife habitat values on the property, which is zoned to allow at least one rural residence. Its acquisition will keep the trail in its current scenic location on the property and avoid having to relocate the trail back into its easement along a dirt road.





<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Piute Mountain Parcel National Forest System Land Bureau of Land Management Private Lands 	<p>Piute Mountain Property</p>
<p>0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 Miles</p> 	<p>Township 29 South, Range 34 East, Section 35 Kern County, CA</p>
<p>Map Created- 1/25/21 By Pacific Crest Trail Association</p>	<p>Pacific Crest Trail Association</p>
	<p>Congressional District CA-23</p>
	<p>PCT mile 601</p>
	<p>Service Layer Credits: Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed</p>



Celebrating **5** Years of Land Protection Successes



Trinity Divide, CA



Mountcrest Forest, OR



Stevens Pass, WA



Landers Meadow, CA



Donomore Meadows, CA



Central Cascades, WA

The Establishment of the PCTA Land Protection Program

One of the Pacific Crest Trail Association’s most important mission mandates is to ensure that the trail and the landscapes it crosses remain protected for generations to come.

In fall 2014, an anonymous donor, recognizing the urgent threat to one of the last great American environmental and recreational treasures, made a \$200,000 gift to dramatically expand our Land Protection Program. We hired an experienced full-time director to accelerate the pace of land acquisition and protection along the trail and established a Land Protection Advisory Council to provide expert guidance.

PCTA’s Land Protection Fund

With the funds in hand to hire staff, another donor stepped forward with a gift of \$500,000 to seed our Land Protection Fund and help expand our efforts to save properties from development threats. This fund is a vital tool that allows us to respond quickly to land protection opportunities as they arise. It has allowed a sustainable succession of acquisitions as we protect then resell properties to public land managers such as the U.S. Forest Service. Proceeds from the sales flow back into the fund to be used for the next purchases.



Accelerating the Pace of Land Protection on the PCT

In expanding PCTA's land protection program, we sought to accelerate the pace of land protection on the PCT, which happens through PCTA's direct land acquisitions as well as increasing our partners' capacity to protect lands along the trail. There are many ways that we have worked to increase this land protection capacity:

- **Land Acquisition** - PCTA has worked with both nonprofit and agency partners to directly acquire land from willing sellers and hold them until they can be transferred into the public trust for permanent protection.
- **Partner Grants** - PCTA has provided grants to non-profit partners to help with land acquisition and project costs in their PCT land protection projects.
- **Funding Advocacy** - As a powerful voice for the PCT and its community, the PCTA has advocated for state and federal grant funds for land acquisition projects being led by partner organizations.
- **Trail Protection Consultation** - PCTA has been able to advise non-profit partners on scenic management techniques and language to include in permanent conservation easements used to protect private land along the PCT.



Landers Meadow, California: one of PCTA's first land protection successes and a reflection of the continued need to protect every mile of the Pacific Crest Trail.



5 Years of PCT Land Protection Success

2015-2020

75 parcels acquired

22,700 acres protected

29.5 miles of the PCT were acquired and protected

\$22,797,000 in public funding invested (state and federal)

21 miles of the PCT was protected viewshed along an additional

\$7,500,000 estimated value of land donated by private landowners

\$8,524,500 in private funding invested

Also protected:

13 alpine lakes

1 future trailhead location

52 miles of streams

Habitat for **special status species** including (but not limited to):

- Northern spotted owl
- Quino checkerspot butterfly
- California pitcher plant
- Siskiyou fireweed
- Coho salmon

PCT Land Protection Successes



We've successfully worked with many partners to permanently protect 22,700 acres for the PCT in the last five years. The Forest Service has been tracking acres protected for the PCT, and more than 50% of the acres acquired along the PCT occurred in these last five years.



Legend

- ▲ PCTA led projects
- PCTA grant projects
- Partner projects



PCTA Land Protection Advisory Council Members

Chair: Liz Bergeron – *Sacramento, California*

Executive Director and CEO, Pacific Crest Trail Association

David Beaver – *Palm Springs, California*

Retired, Bureau of Land Management,
National Land and Water Conservation Fund Program Lead

Bill Dahnke – *Poway, California*

Retired, Telecommunications Industry Executive

John Hoffnagle – *Portland, Oregon*

Retired, Executive Director, Oregon State Parks Foundation

Terry Marbach – *Columbus, Indiana*

Retired, Kirr, Marbach & Company (investment management)

Paul Newhagen – *Los Altos, California*

Retired, Chief Financial Officer and board member, Altera Corporation

John Pardee – *Berkeley, California*

Retired, Counsel in the Western Division of The Trust for Public Land

Tom Reveley – *Bainbridge Island, Washington*

Managing Director of Wealth Management, Merrill Lynch
Board of Directors, Pacific Crest Trail Association

Rick Thalhammer – *Sacramento, California*

Retired, Deputy and Supervising Deputy Attorney General for the State of California
Board of Directors, Pacific Crest Trail Association

Megan Wargo – *San Mateo, California*

Director of Land Protection, Pacific Crest Trail Association