



Bighorn sheep will benefit from the protection of critical winter range on Stucky Ridge in western Montana.



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Protecting Wildlife and Redwoods

While ALC primarily focuses its work on select geographic areas, it also responds to stellar conservation opportunities outside of its program boundaries. The American Landscapes program provides the framework to address this need, strategically targeting exceptional projects wherever they may occur. From southern California to the Maine woods, ALC has responded to conservation opportunities nationwide. Current projects are in western Montana and California's Napa Valley.

STUCKY RIDGE, MONTANA

Rising from a series of grassy benches and timbered gulches just west of Anaconda, Stucky Ridge is a vital resource for wildlife. Some 300 bighorn sheep and a nearby herd of 700 elk depend on Stucky Ridge for critical winter range as well as rutting and calving grounds. Adjacent to National Forest land and in close range of five wildlife management areas, it also supports mule deer, white tail deer, black bears, and mountain lions.

ALC and its partners, Five Valleys Land Trust and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, took on the project in 2007, when planning and initial site work for an extensive

residential subdivision was already in the works. The 296-acre property will now be protected from development. Phase One (220 acres), was completed in June.

BOTHE-NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

The 2,000-acre Bothe-Napa Valley State Park in California's wine country is a popular recreation area and home to old growth redwood forests and 17 endangered or threatened species, including spotted owls, California red-legged frogs, and peregrine falcons. Sixty sensitive or rare species have also been documented in the area.

A 115-acre property on the western border of the park provides an important buffer from development for these natural resources. It includes portions of one of the healthiest tributaries in the Napa River system and habitat for threatened steelhead trout. Without protection, the property will most likely be lost to development or agricultural use. ALC is working to acquire the property, which will be added to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park, protecting ancient redwoods and expanding contiguous protected habitat for threatened wildlife.

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