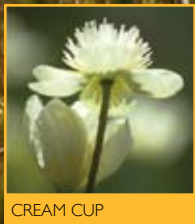


A Cache of Treasures

*Wildflowers, wilderness and
white-water rafting around the
Cache Creek Natural Area*



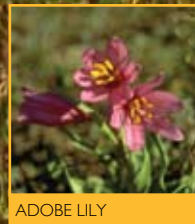
CREAM CUP



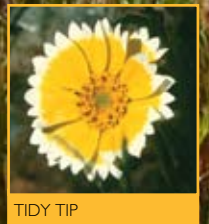
PURPLE OWL'S CLOVER



LUPINE



ADOBE LILY



TIDY TIP

HIDDEN IN THE FOLDS OF THE COASTAL RANGE, BETWEEN the Central Valley and the Pacific Ocean, lies an ecological and recreational treasure—the 75,000-acre Cache Creek Natural Area. Here you will find a classic California landscape of rolling grasslands, oak savannah and rough chaparral where hills and canyons give way to the cool waters of the Bear, Cache and Putah Creeks.

As with many wild regions of the state, subdivision and development threaten to unravel the unique character of the landscape. ALC has worked since 1999 to protect this area's unique scenic beauty and biodiversity through the conservation of private ranchlands.

PRIVATE CONSERVATION

In December 2006, ALC concluded its most recent project in the region with the conservation of the Payne Ranch, a 3,140-acre private working cattle ranch. With funding from the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board, ALC acquired a conservation easement to sustain the property's oak-covered hills, extensive grasslands and wildlife habitat forever.

Every year between March and May the ranch floor becomes a carpet of tidy-tips, poppies, purple owl's clover, lupine, cream cups, larkspur and the endangered adobe lily.

It is home to one of the largest remaining Tule elk populations in California and the second largest wintering bald eagle population in the state.

RARE WILDFLOWERS

Together, the two ranches host the last significant display of lowland field wildflowers in the Central Valley. Once blanketing the landscape for hundreds of miles around each spring, the smaller remaining array is still breathtaking and all the more compelling for its rarity. Every year between March and May the ranch floor becomes a carpet of tidy-tips, poppies, purple owl's clover, lupine, cream cups, larkspur and the endangered adobe lily.

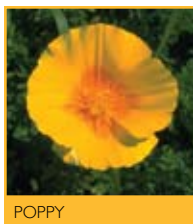
Located at the junction of California Highways 16 and 20, the Payne Ranch is immediately adjacent to 14,500-acre Bear Valley Ranch, a property ALC conserved in 2001. Bear Valley Ranch is also a privately-owned cattle ranch managed to enhance the land's ecological resources.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

The conservation of these two ranches compliments the adjacent Cache Creek Wilderness Area by extending habitat protection across a broader landscape. The 27,245-acre Wilderness Area was designated by Congress in 2006 as a special part of the much larger Cache Creek Natural Area. Today



LARKSPUR



POPPY

Though the land is privately owned, those seeking to admire the famed wildflower display can take a scenic drive up Bear Valley Road from the intersection of Highways 16 and 20. Spring's astonishing display in pink, yellow, purple, orange and blue draws enthusiasts from far and wide.

GET OUTSIDE!



Photo: BLM

Just two hours from the San Francisco Bay Area, a land of outdoor adventure awaits. The 75,000-acre Cache Creek Natural Area entices steady numbers of people looking for rafting, inner-tubing and camping opportunities.

In 2002, ALC helped Yolo County Parks acquire 617 acres along the Cache that includes one full mile of creek front. Known as the Otis Ranch Open Space Area, the property connects Cache Creek Canyon Campground and Camp Haswell, creating a two-mile corridor for public recreation and creek access.

Wildlife enthusiasts may catch a glimpse of bald eagles, tule elk, wild turkey, black bear, black-tailed deer and other resident species. Other recreation opportunities include horseback riding, hunting, fishing or hiking one of the many public trails including the Redbud, Blue Ridge and Cache Creek Ridge Trails.

