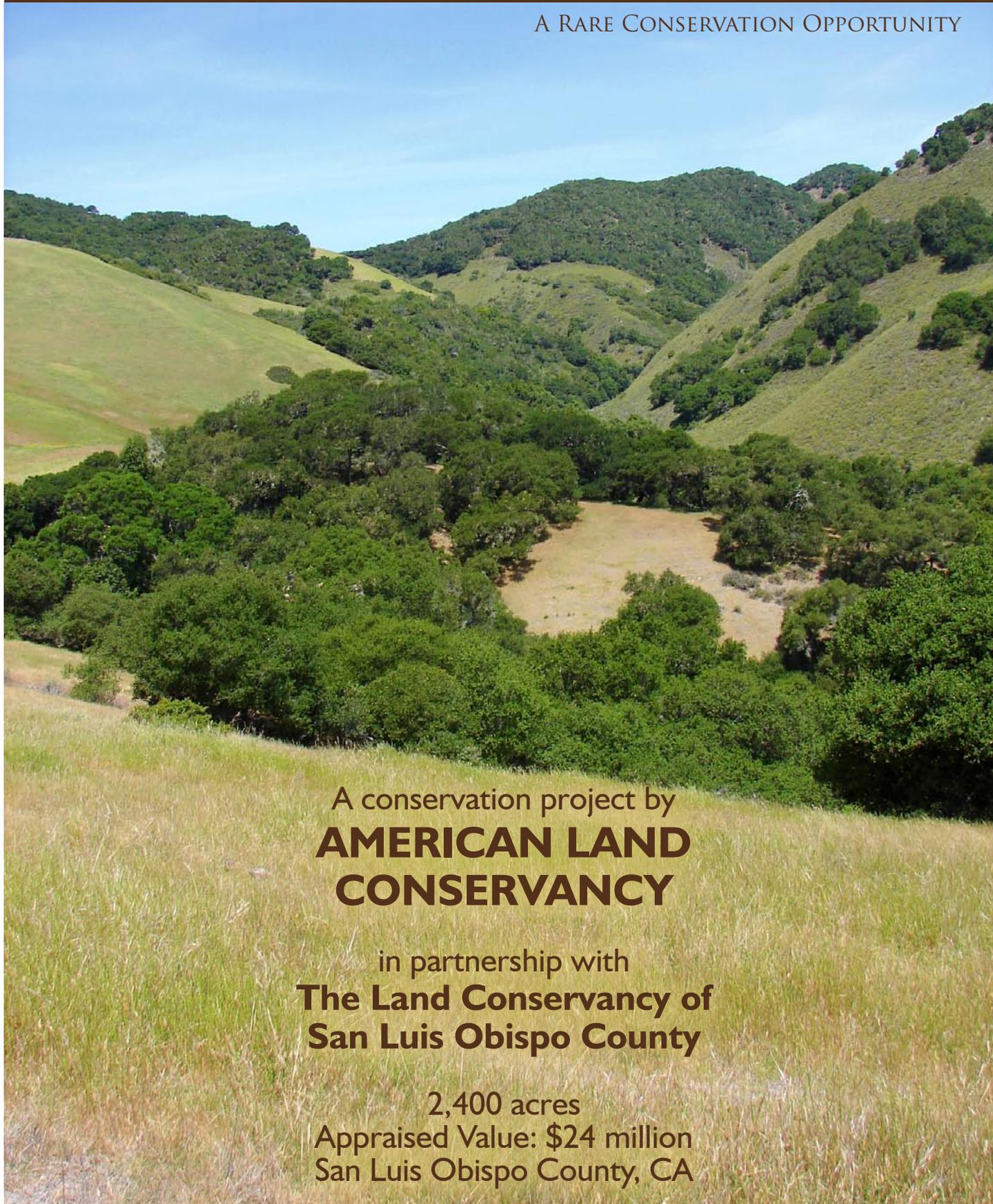


# Wild Cherry Canyon



A RARE CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY



A conservation project by  
**AMERICAN LAND  
CONSERVANCY**

in partnership with  
**The Land Conservancy of  
San Luis Obispo County**

2,400 acres  
Appraised Value: \$24 million  
San Luis Obispo County, CA

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The Wild Cherry Canyon property comprises approximately 2,400 acres located on the Pacific Ocean along California's central coast. Recognized as one of California's outstanding conservation areas, it lies within San Luis Obispo County northwest of the town of Avila Beach and within the region known as the "Irish Hills."<sup>1</sup>

American Land Conservancy (ALC) has an option to purchase the long-term leases on the property that control all uses on the land for the next 160 years. (ALC is also in negotiations with PG&E regarding the acquisition of the underlying fee interest.) The purchase price, established by an appraisal undertaken for ALC, is \$24 million, reflecting the relatively high development potential of the property,

including its location mostly outside of the coastal zone.

After acquisition, ALC will transfer the Wild Cherry Canyon land interests to the State for inclusion in the State Park system. The property, along with other adjacent and nearby properties, will be incorporated into the existing Montaña de Oro State Park. To make the project a reality, ALC has launched a campaign to raise the necessary funds from a variety of public and private sources. By working together with the local community, public agencies, businesses and partner organizations, we have an opportunity to preserve one of California's unique landscapes for future generations to use and enjoy.

The preservation value of the Wild Cherry Canyon property is increased by its location

adjacent to other pristine and undeveloped lands, including the Hibberd Preserve, owned by the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. ALC is working with the Land Conservancy and State Parks to coordinate the transfer of the Hibberd Preserve to the State with the acquisition of Wild Cherry Canyon.

Together, Wild Cherry Canyon, Hibberd Preserve, and other smaller parcels would add 5,500 acres to Montaña de Oro State Park, expanding it by 65% and making it one of the largest parks in the state. In addition to augmenting the existing park, the Wild Cherry Canyon transaction is essential to extending the California Coastal Trail through this area.

1. The Irish Hills was an area identified in 2000 as an "Outstanding Conservation Area" in the report, *Conserving the Landscapes of San Luis Obispo County*, funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.



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California red-legged frog



Golden Eagle



Western pond turtle

## Wild Cherry Canyon Resources

Wild Cherry Canyon is a spectacular stretch of undeveloped yet unprotected coastal property. It provides a relatively intact example of historic coastal California.

Scenic views from the property stretch over 180 degrees from the San Luis Range inland, to sweeping vistas of the Pacific Ocean across San Luis Bay. Avila Beach, Olde Port Beach, and the San Luis Pier are among the sites visible from the property, as well as rugged woodland hills and serpentine outcroppings of the property's interior.

Wild Cherry Canyon contains a diverse and largely undisturbed collection of natural resources. Its coastal bluffs, terraces, and inland areas support coastal scrub, coast live oak woodlands, wildflower fields, and maritime chaparral. Within the property, the watersheds of Wild Cherry Canyon, upper Harford Canyon Creek, the headwaters of Rattlesnakes Canyon Creek and the eastern half of the Upper Pecho Creek support aquatic species including the threatened California red-legged frog as well as riparian forests suspected to be rich in neotropical migratory birds.

## Special Status Species\*

**Western pond turtle**  
**Two-striped garter snake**  
**Coast Range newt**  
**Pallid bat**  
**Townsend's big eared bat**  
**Cooper's hawk**

**Sharp-shinned hawk**  
**Bell's sage sparrow**  
**Merlin**  
**Golden eagle**  
**California horned lark**  
**Yellow-breasted chat**

**California spotted owl**  
**Burrowing owl**  
**Long-eared owl**  
**Yellow warbler**  
**Tricolored blackbird**

\*No information is available on presence of special status species, but based on the presence of suitable habitat, these species may occur on the property.

# Wild Cherry Canyon



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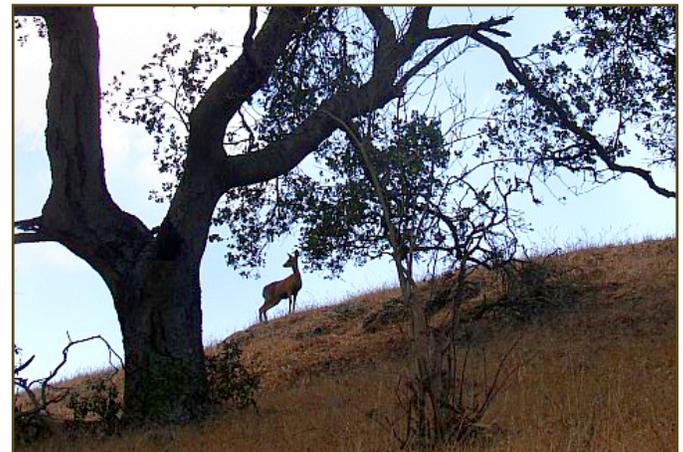
## Recreational Opportunities

Wild Cherry Canyon would provide multiple recreation opportunities as part of Montaña de Oro State Park. One of the most exciting possibilities is a 15- to 20-mile extension of the California Coastal Trail.

The trail would commence at the existing Montaña de Oro State Park and proceed through other protected, or soon to be protected, properties of the Irish Hills, including the Hibberd Preserve and Wild Cherry Canyon.

Acquisition of Wild Cherry Canyon would also complement existing recreation plans in San Luis Obispo County. First, the project is adjacent to the Port San Luis Lighthouse, where efforts are currently underway to make this historic resource more accessible to the public.

Second, the land is a natural extension of the Bob Jones City to the Sea Trail, a walking and biking trail stretching from the City of San Luis Obispo to Avila Beach. With easy accessibility from San Luis Bay Drive and proximity to Highway 1, Highway 101, and the community of Avila Beach, the property would well serve the growing number of Californians seeking to experience the beauty and open space of the Central Coast. The property is also suitable for a system of hiking trails, possible campsite locations, and other visitor amenities. At 5,500 acres (including Wild Cherry Canyon, Hibberd Preserve, and other nearby properties), the size of the project alone suggests many possible public uses.



# Wild Cherry Canyon



A RARE CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY

## Toward a Successful Conservation Conclusion

ALC has until late 2009 to raise all of the funding necessary to secure this significant piece of California history and protect an essential component of the California Coastal Trail along the Central Coast. We urge your support in making this rare conservation opportunity a reality.

### We cannot do it without your help.

For a list of supporters and for how you can help visit us on the web at [www.alcnet.org](http://www.alcnet.org)



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The mission of the AMERICAN LAND CONSERVANCY is to protect our natural heritage by conserving land for the benefit of people and wildlife.

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