

**PROPOSED FLTFA ACQUISITION – CALIFORNIA
CASE MOUNTAIN AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN
PROJECT SUMMARY
(March 2008)**

Property Name: Self Property

Nominating Entity: Bureau of Land Management

Federally Designated Area: Case Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Acquiring Agency: Bureau of Land Management

General Location: Central California, 30 miles east of Visalia

County: Tulare **Acres:** 40.0

Project Description /

Resource Values: The 40-acre parcel within the Case Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) encompasses a block of BLM land in the southern Sierra Nevada Range of approximately 18,000 acres in size. The ACEC directly adjoins Sequoia National Park and the Sequoia National Forest. This ACEC is unique in that it contains the only stands of Sierran redwoods (*Sequoia gigantea*) on BLM lands. The BLM land use plan for this area emphasizes the protection of these Sequoia groves, along with limited public access and recreation. The area has become very popular with mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers in recent years, who use the few dirt roads in the ACEC. As the Sierra foothills become increasingly urbanized, the integrity of such large blocks of public land becomes increasingly important. One aspect of the protection of the ACEC is the acquisition of the private inholdings from willing sellers, as they become available. This 40-acre parcel has road access and is developable for a home or cabin site, having good terrain and sweeping views of Sequoia National Park lands that would attract “trophy home” builders if not acquired by BLM.

While the subject parcel does not contain any Giant Sequoia trees, it is an inholding within a unit of BLM land that contains these trees approximately three miles to the southeast. The parcel is within the range of the California Condor and is part of a mountain/valley terrain that provide thermal updrafts for soaring and foraging. The parcel is visible from the main access route to the ACEC and to Sequoia National Park. Cooperators in the ACEC include Sequoia Rivers Land Trust, Southern Sierra Archaeological Society, Southern Sierra Fat Tire Association, Sequoia National Park.

Anticipated Costs: FLTFA Funding in the amount of \$200,000 would be utilized to acquire the 40-acre parcel. Additional funding in the amount of \$200,000 will be requested from Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Emergency Inholding funds. LWCF funds would be utilized to cover the costs associated with completing the acquisition, including the appraisal, environmental studies and closing costs. The 40-acre parcel has an estimated value of \$400,000.