

**PROPOSED FLTFA ACQUISITION – CALIFORNIA  
JOHNSON CANYON AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN  
PROJECT SUMMARY  
(November 2010)**

---

**Property Name:** Sky Oaks West Property

**Nominating Entity:** Bureau of Land Management

**Federally Designated Area:** Johnson Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern

**Acquiring Agency:** Bureau of Land Management

**General Location:** Southern California, 50 miles northeast of San Diego

**County:** San Diego                      **Acres:** 440.0

**Project Description /**

**Resource Values:** The Sky Oaks West property is within the Beauty Mountain Management Area and is within and adjacent to the Johnson Canyon ACEC. The property is contiguous to BLM lands on its western and southeastern borders and is contiguous to Cleveland National Forest lands on its southern border. The South Coast Resource Management Plan established a goal of acquiring lands within both this management area and adjacent to this ACEC due to its high value resource and recreational values.

Nearby BLM lands are within the Beauty Mountain Wilderness Area, a portion of which has been proposed by Congressman Issa for further wilderness protection. Eastward, the Johnson Canyon ACEC BLM lands meet the Anza Borrego Desert State Park boundary.

Because of this adjacency to thousands of acres of publicly owned lands, the acquisition of the Sky Oaks West property will provide a vital wilderness linkage and help to offset increasing development pressure in this sensitive ecological area. The ACEC adjoins Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and designated State Wilderness as well as provides important connectivity for habitat and wildlife movement between protected lands in the Cleveland National Forest, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Wilderness, and the Beauty Mountain Wilderness. Most important, these lands are within a key wildlife linkage identified in the interagency and hugely collaborative "South Coast Missing Linkages Project, A Linkage Design for the Palomar-San Jacinto/Santa Rosa Connection" dated May 2006.

**Anticipated Costs:** FLTFA Funding in the amount of \$1,300,000 would be utilized to acquire the 440-acre parcel. Additional funding in the amount of \$100,000 will be requested from Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) if the appraised value warrants the request. LWCF funds would be utilized to cover the costs associated with completing the acquisition, including the appraisal, environmental studies and closing costs. The 440-acre parcel has an estimated value of \$1,400,000.