



Media Release

For Immediate Release: May 6, 2014

Contact: Jennifer Browne

Tejon Ranch Conservancy

jbrowne@tejonconservancy.org

Cell: (805) 602-2776

Office: (661) 248-2400, ext 3

One Step Closer to Realigning the Pacific Crest Trail

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) has gotten one step closer to becoming the trail that was first envisioned in the 1930's. The independent [Tejon Ranch Conservancy](#) has received a 10,000-acre conservation easement from the [Tejon Ranch Company](#) limiting the construction of new roads and buildings to protect the views seen from the new section of the trail.

This legal agreement will lead to [relocating 38 miles](#) of the Pacific Crest Trail onto the Tehachapi Mountain's crest as was first imagined some ninety years ago.



Photograph by Linda Kwong

When the 2,650 mile trail was proposed, it was to traverse the highest points along the West Coast's mountainous spine between Mexico and Canada. But an easement to construct the PCT through Tejon Ranch was unavailable. The trail was instead routed through the Mojave Desert and along the California Aqueduct, a far more industrial path

than was originally intended and today is regarded as one of the least appealing sections of the PCT.

“Realigning the Pacific Crest Trail through the Tejon Ranch will give hikers and riders a tremendously enhanced trail experience; Tejon Ranch sits at a unique place that melds four ecological regions of California,” said Tom Maloney, executive director of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy. “Providing access to Tejon Ranch is a core part of our mission and establishing the trail is a top priority for the Conservancy.”

"For more than a decade now we've been working toward relocating the Pacific Crest Trail to where it belongs – the mountain ranges of Tejon Ranch – and dedicating this easement represents a significant step forward," said Tejon Ranch Co. President and CEO Gregory S. Bielli. "It's a promise we made when we announced the historic Tejon Ranch Conservation and Land Use Agreement, and it's a promise we've kept."

This conservation easement is the first of several steps to move the trail onto Tejon Ranch. Because the new trail will wind through condor habitat and land protected by the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), the [U.S. Forest Service](#) – in cooperation with the [Pacific Crest Trail Association](#) and the Tejon Ranch Conservancy – will next need to get agency permits to build the trail.



Photograph by S. Pipkin

“Today we have hikers walking along dirt roads thought the Mojave Desert,” said Liz Bergeron, executive director and CEO of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. “Moving the trail to the crest, where it belongs, will better serve future generations of hikers and horseback riders. This new section will traverse a quintessential California landscape, one befitting a National Scenic Trail such as the PCT.”

For the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, this brings their easement holdings to more than 100,000 acres on Tejon Ranch. “For a land trust to acquire over 100,000 acres of conservation easements in five years is an extraordinary accomplishment that the Conservancy is very proud of,” said Maloney. “This remarkable landscape will be protected for future generations of Californians to explore.”