

Watershed Map



What is a Watershed?

A watershed is best described as a natural basin. Every drop of rain that falls within the boundary of that basin flows to a single drainage point or outlet. A watershed varies from the largest river basins to just acres or less in size. Imagine a maple leaf. The stalk of the leaf is the river. The veins threading into the stalk are the tributaries flowing into the river. The complete leaf represents a river drainage system, or watershed.

Critical Watershed Protection for Southern Steelhead Trout, Tidewater Goby and Southwestern Pond Turtle



Southern steelhead trout
(*Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*)



Tidewater goby
(*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)



Southwestern pond turtle
(*Clemmys marmorata pallida*)

Over twenty miles of USGS blueline streams are located in the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, most of which are part of the Malibu Creek Watershed. The Preserve comprises a significant portion of the headwaters of Malibu Creek, which drains into one of the last remaining coastal wetlands in Los Angeles County, Malibu Lagoon. Preservation of the headwaters is crucial to maintaining two federally-listed endangered fish, the Tidewater goby and Southern steelhead trout in lower Malibu Creek, and the State listed sensitive Southwestern pond turtle in the middle creek reaches. Malibu Creek is the southernmost documented run of steelhead trout on the Pacific Coast. The East Las Virgenes Tributary within the Preserve was historically reached by steelhead prior to the construction of Rindge Dam in the 1920s.

Interpretative Signage produced by Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

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