

WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS

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Private land access grows through WU

HAYWARD—Finding landowners willing to allow fishing, hunting and camping access in California grows more difficult every year, yet members of Wilderness Unlimited actually have seen increased access thanks to the club's aggressive leasing program. With over a hundred properties, the club offers opportunities for fly casters, bass fishermen, waterfowlers, big game hunters, upland game hunters and more.

Camping is allowed at most of their properties, and some are leased entirely for the camping experience. With all the public campgrounds available, why would a camper want to go to private land? For most, it's a security issue. Behind locked gates, WU member privacy is protected, and they can comfortably leave their camping gear unattended without fear of tampering or theft. Also, many WU members camp so they can better enjoy the premium hunting and fishing that goes along with a private land experience.



Lake Margaret, Burney, CA

WU carefully manages their properties, with some big game ranches designated as three-point or better to promote quality sized bucks in their herds. Big game ranches also have quotas; when the harvest reaches a certain level, the ranch will close to insure quality future hunting seasons. While some waterfowl properties shoot seven days per week, others are limited to Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays to decrease pressure on the birds, and increase the quality of the experience.

The same conservative management also applies to the fishing properties. Some are catch and release, and most have bag limits more conservative than the state's.

Joining Wilderness Unlimited is like having your own hunting club, but instead of being restricted to one property, you have access to hundreds of thousands of acres of private land with many different uses. For more information, go online to www.wildernessunlimited.com, or call (510) 785-HUNT (4868).

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