

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Cedar Creek

*A Riparian Restoration
Showcase*



The Ribbon of Life

*A line of willows stretch their branches
over a meandering stream . . .*

Colorful songbirds warble along the streambank . . .

*Deer and pronghorn antelope wander through
luxuriant meadows . . .*

Your imagination flows freely along Cedar Creek. This 60,000 acre area is administered cooperatively by the Bureau of Land Management and others to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

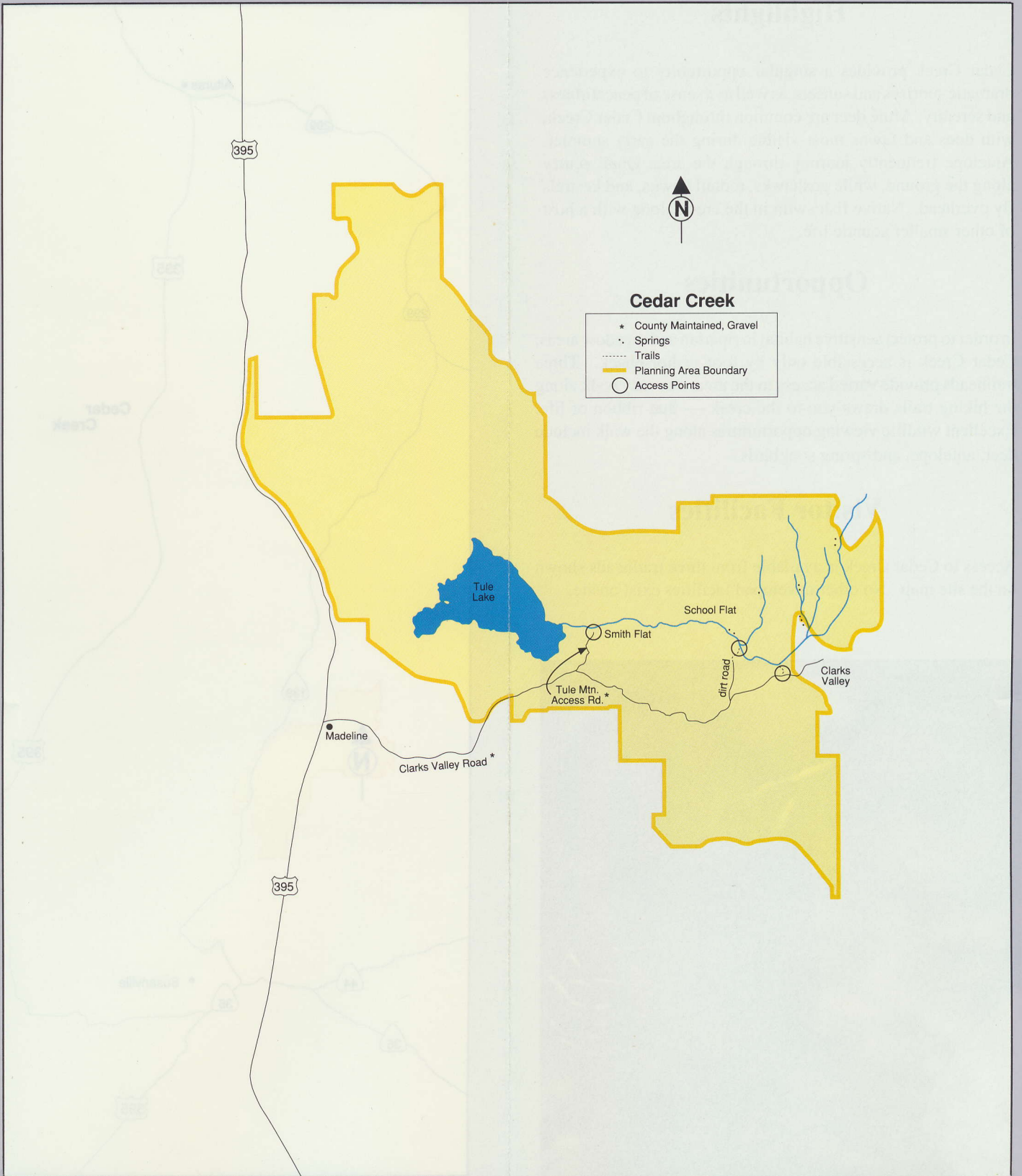
Resource Values

When early settlers entered the Cedar Creek watershed, they were greeted by a vast, open landscape of perennial grasses, mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, and sagebrush, flanked by rocky ridgetops. This upland area was dotted by a network of springs and meadows, including “rafted meadows” where mats of water-loving vegetation floated over springs.

The real heart of the area was the riparian zone — a continuous band of willows and aspens sheltering a rich green understory at the edge of a narrow creek. This ribbon of life, Cedar Creek, was filled with native fish such as redband trout.

The healthy riparian vegetation was critical to the native fish populations because it provided shade, which reduced summer water temperature, and harbored insects, which were the fishes’ primary food. The riparian zone also produced lush vegetation, providing food and shelter for birds and fawning habitat for mule deer.







Cooperative Management

Cedar Creek is an 8 1/2-mile perennial stream lying entirely on private land. The creek originates from a cluster of high volume springs and is augmented throughout its length by numerous perennial springs. The surrounding 60,000-acre watershed is managed primarily by the Bureau of Land Management, but also includes 12,000 acres of private land. The area therefore presents a unique opportunity for integrated management of private and public land.

Descendants of the original settlers were able to see changes in the area, and felt a critical need to preserve its bountiful resources. These landowners and ranchers, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, the Alturas Riparian Steering Committee, California Department of Forestry, and The Nature Conservancy are working to restore the Cedar Creek watershed. A key contributor has been the Izaak Walton League's Public Lands Restoration Task Force.

Specific management emphasis includes:

- promoting recovery of the riparian zone through intensive grazing management and the planting of willows, cottonwoods, aspen, and sedges;
- improving habitat for native nongame fish and redband trout;
- increasing the quality and diversity of forage for wildlife and livestock through prescribed burning;
- restoring spring and meadow systems; and
- enhancing habitat for deer, sage grouse, and pronghorn antelope in both riparian habitat and meadows.

Highlights

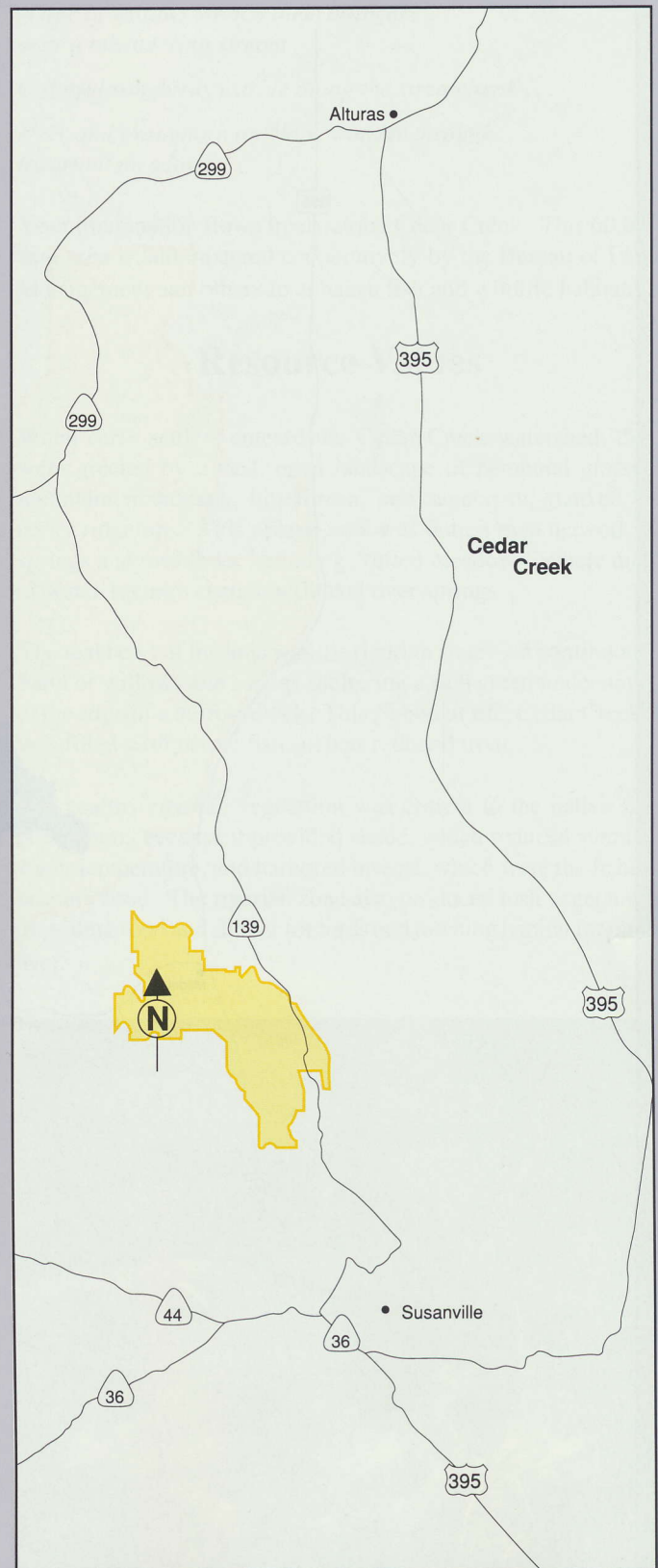
Cedar Creek provides a singular opportunity to experience dramatic sunrises and sunsets, as well as a sense of peacefulness and serenity. Mule deer are common throughout Cedar Creek, with does and fawns most visible during the early summer. Antelope frequently journey through the area. Quail scurry along the ground, while goshawks, redtail hawks, and kestrels fly overhead. Native fish swim in the creek along with a host of other smaller aquatic life.

Opportunities

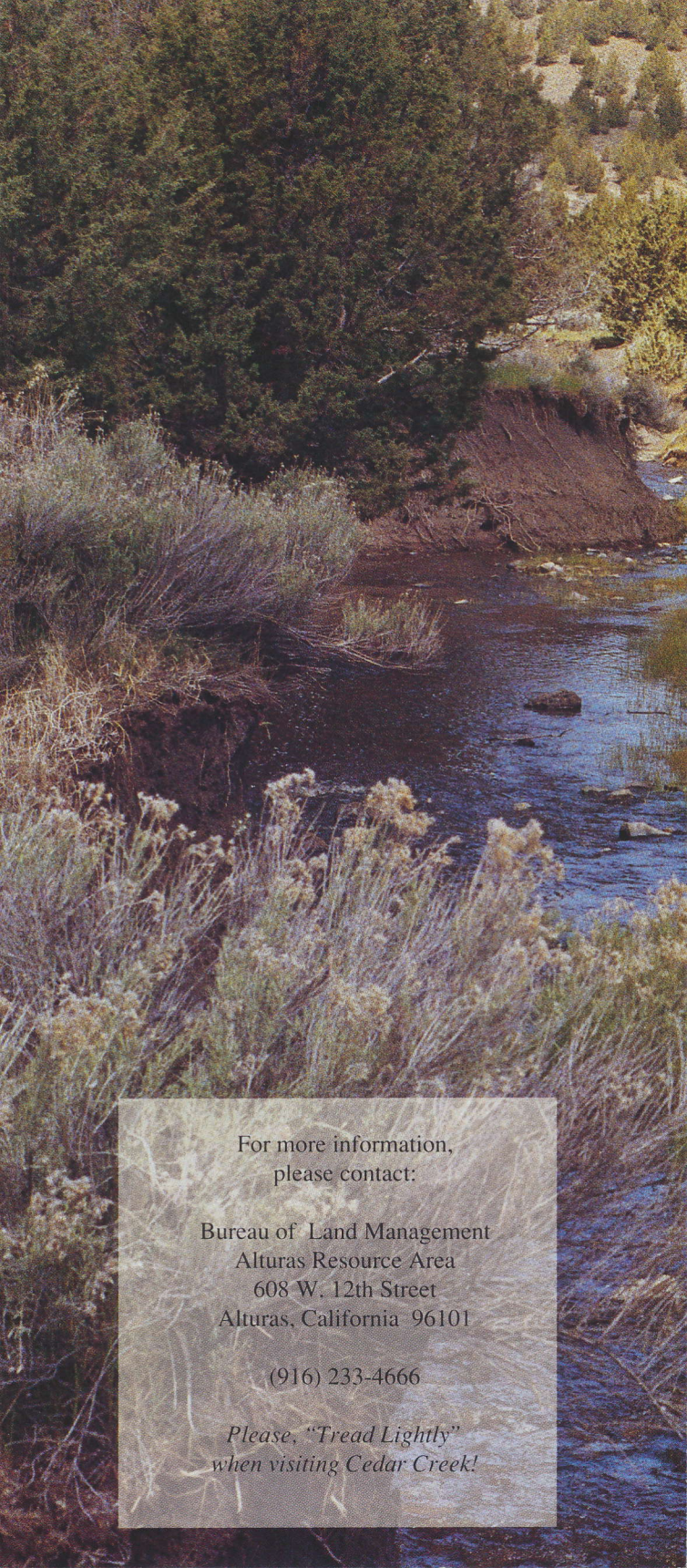
In order to protect sensitive habitat in riparian and meadow areas, Cedar Creek is accessible only by foot or horseback. Three trailheads provide varied access to the area. An easy walk along the hiking trails draws you to the creek — that ribbon of life. Excellent wildlife viewing opportunities along the walk include deer, antelope, and spring songbirds.

Visitor Facilities

Access to Cedar Creek is available from three trailheads shown on the site map. No other developed facilities exist onsite.



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For more information,
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*Please, "Tread Lightly"
when visiting Cedar Creek!*