

Recommended  
for designation  
by BLM!



it takes  
**WILD AND SCENIC RIVER  
DESIGNATION**

to  
**PROTECT**  
the

# San Joaquin River Gorge

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## PROTECT THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE

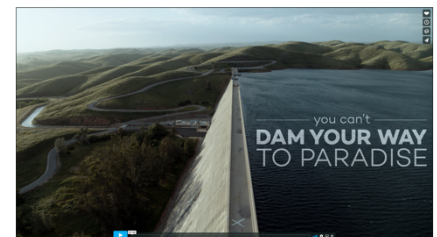


The San Joaquin River Gorge is a jewel awaiting its fate: it can be California's next Wild and Scenic River, or it can continue to be targeted for an expensive and ineffective dam project. It's a choice.

The San Joaquin River Gorge is a rare find in today's California: a spectacular low-elevation river flowing through public lands near a major population center. The gorge is full of remarkable cultural, recreational, and natural wonders and, in 2014, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommended this river segment for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. But the river has been repeatedly threatened by the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed Temperance Flat Dam, a \$2.8 billion boondoggle that would add less than 1% to the state's water supply while permanently destroying the San Joaquin River Gorge.



Located near Fresno, Madera, Visalia, Auberry, and other Central Valley communities, the San Joaquin River Gorge provides essential access to the outdoors for a diversity of visitors.



### ***You Can't Dam Your Way to Paradise***

Learn more about the San Joaquin River & Temperance Flat Dam in four minutes:  
[vimeo.com/285322434](https://vimeo.com/285322434)



### **QUICK FACTS SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE**

- > Outstanding example of a low-elevation Sierra Nevada river system near population centers.
- > Receives the BLM's highest rating for scenic quality.
- > Rich in Native American cultural history, values, and significance.
- > Provides critical regional recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike.
- > Essential wildlife migration corridor and habitat for sensitive, threatened, or endangered species.



## A SPECIAL PLACE TO MANY



Over 85,000 people visit the San Joaquin River Gorge every year to enjoy its outstanding scenery, use its extensive trail system, paddle the river's class III-V rapids, and camp in public campgrounds. As a 6,500-acre BLM Special Recreation Management Area, there's an environmental education center and a museum that highlights the unique features of this popular area including its rich Native American heritage. There's a National Recreation Trail and even the world's best example of a granitic cave, the Millerton Cave System. All of this is less than an hour from Fresno and over one million people. And all of it would be flooded forever if the Temperance Flat Dam were built.

## WHY WILD AND SCENIC?



Only National Wild and Scenic River designation can permanently protect the San Joaquin River Gorge from dams. Dubbed a "zombie dam" by the L.A. Times, the Temperance Flat Dam proposal is currently dead, but it has been resurrected before and, without permanent protection for the river, the proposal will surely rise again.

The San Joaquin River Gorge possesses many outstanding values which contribute to its eligibility as a Wild and Scenic River. The gorge is within the ethnographic region of the Foothill Yokut groups and the North Fork Mono Tribe and is culturally significant to these people. Signs of long-term human use and habitation are evident throughout the gorge, including parts of the historic Mono Trail. Abundant wildlife, including several rare and endangered species, are found in the river gorge as are a diversity of plants. With the river winding through a steep, rocky gorge in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the scenery is stunning, and the BLM ranks it as having the highest scenic quality.

The BLM has found that the San Joaquin River Gorge possess outstandingly remarkable cultural, wildlife, and scenery values that are regionally and nationally significant and would be best protected with Wild and Scenic River designation.

## WHY NOW?



Even in this time of polarized politics, the American public broadly supports our nation's public lands and waters—it seems to be one of just a few issues that bridges divides and unites diverse interests. The San Joaquin River Gorge is cherished by those who know it, and Wild and Scenic designation will permanently protect this incredible and irreplaceable resource.

And, until the San Joaquin River Gorge is protected by Wild and Scenic River designation and is off-limits to water project development, dam proponents will continue to squander public resources promoting and planning for a questionable project that may never be built. The time for Wild and Scenic is now.



The BLM has determined that nearly 11 miles of the San Joaquin River are eligible and suitable as a National Wild and Scenic River. [#sanjoaquinrivergorge](#) to see how people are enjoying the river.

**The San Joaquin is one of the most heavily dammed rivers in California, and its remaining free-flowing reaches are valuable and cherished by the public.**

### QUICK FACTS WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

- > Congress designates certain free-flowing rivers with outstanding values to be preserved for the enjoyment of present and future generations.
- > Less than ¼ of 1% of the nation's river miles are in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.
- > Designation does not affect private property.

