

Protect, Steward, Thrive



The Newsletter for Land Trust of Napa County • Summer 2011



Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary



Palisades

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Celebrating 35 Years of Preserving the Character of Napa County



2011 marks the Land Trust of Napa County's 35th anniversary of preserving the character of Napa by permanently protecting land. Over the past three and half decades, the Land Trust has collaborated with the community to protect our most cherished places while supporting our economic livelihood and well-being. For Napa that means protecting farmland, water resources, recreational areas and wildlife corridors. To date we have completed 150 projects, protecting more than 53,000 acres of land—10% of Napa County. *(continued on pages 4 & 5)*

Napa Valley Wild! Campaign Completed

This successful campaign led to the protection of one of the most important and diverse properties in the California North Coast Range. Inside this expanded edition of the Land Trust's bi-annual newsletter learn how a community came together to keep Napa Valley wild!



Letter from the CEO

2011 marks the 35th anniversary of the Land Trust of Napa County. We are taking this opportunity to celebrate our past successes as well as our future plans with the community that helped us make it all happen. As we work to protect the character of Napa County by permanently protecting land, we recognize the value of collaboration and the many partners we have who share in this effort. We thank the many people who share our vision that Napa County will be preserved for current and future generations and recognized internationally for its scenic beauty, agricultural heritage and biological diversity.

We are working hard to identify the important areas that define the character of Napa County and are therefore important to protect. We will seek innovative ways to see that development happens inside the cities' limits and not in the Agricultural Preserve.



Continuing to demonstrate our integrity, we've included information from our annual report in the special insert section of this newsletter, and will post all financials to our website at napalandtrust.org. This will become part of our regular communication with the community to share how the money we are entrusted with is spent on important programs that support our mission.

In May we will celebrate the closing of the Napa Valley Wild! Campaign by thanking all of the generous people who helped to make it a great success. Funds from the campaign were used to permanently protect the Wildlake Ranch and adjacent Duff Ranch properties, which will serve as a national model for land stewardship.

In 2010, the cities of American Canyon, Napa, Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga, as well as the County of Napa, declared June as Land Trust Month. We have taken that to heart and are now treating every June as Land Trust Month. Please help us celebrate our 35th year by joining in some of our activities in June.

Happy Birthday Land Trust!

Joel Tranmer

We Need Your Support

- *Become a Member*
- *Volunteer*
- *Become a Corporate Partner*

Visit us online at napalandtrust.org



Preserve Spotlight: Missimer Snell Valley Wildflower Preserve



The 240-acre Missimer Snell Valley Wildflower Preserve was purchased by the Land Trust with funds donated by Dale and Sue Missimer in 1999.

The Preserve is known for the diversity and spectacular display of wildflowers that occur in the extremely rare serpentine wet meadow habitat in the spring. These wildflower fields have long been recognized by Bay Area botanists as a gem of the regional flora of the North Coast Ranges.

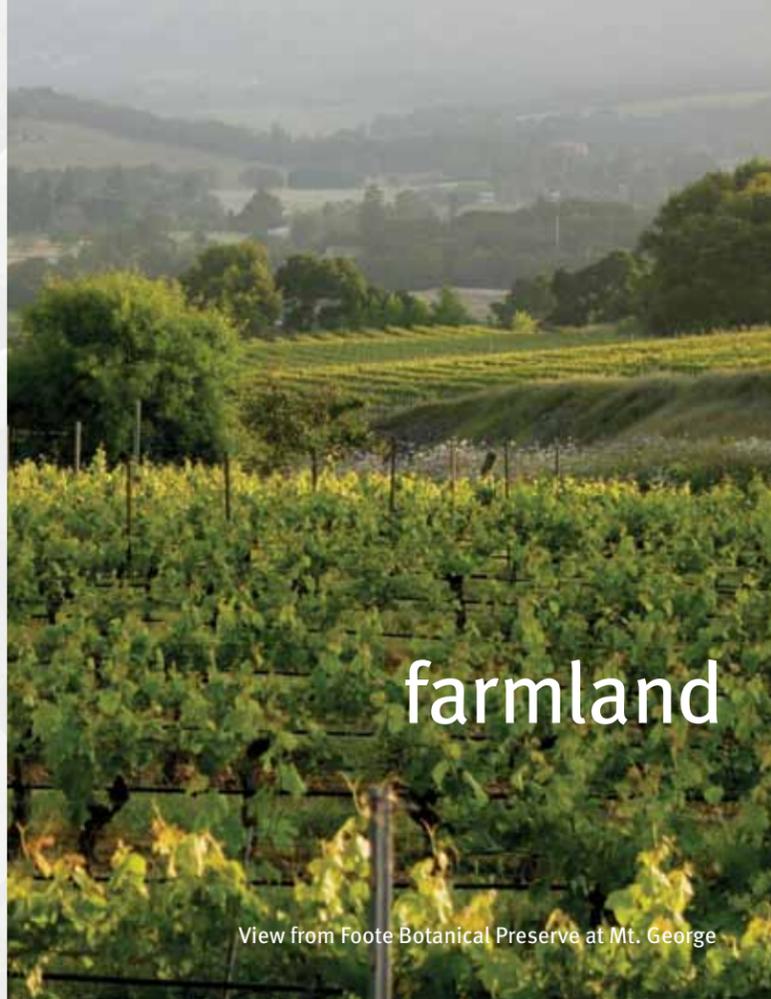
The property contains over 290 native species representing almost one quarter of all known Napa County native species, an amazingly high concentration for a 240-acre area. Several of the species are listed as threatened or endangered by the California Native Plant Society, including the narrow-leaved daisy, Napa western flax and Colusa lavia.

It has become an annual pilgrimage site for wildflower enthusiasts from throughout the region. Snell Valley and the surrounding hills are exceptional for their almost complete lack of development. The entire viewshed from Snell Peak is a mosaic of wildlands and pasture, a visual treasure.

Celebrating 35 Years of Preserving the Character of Napa County

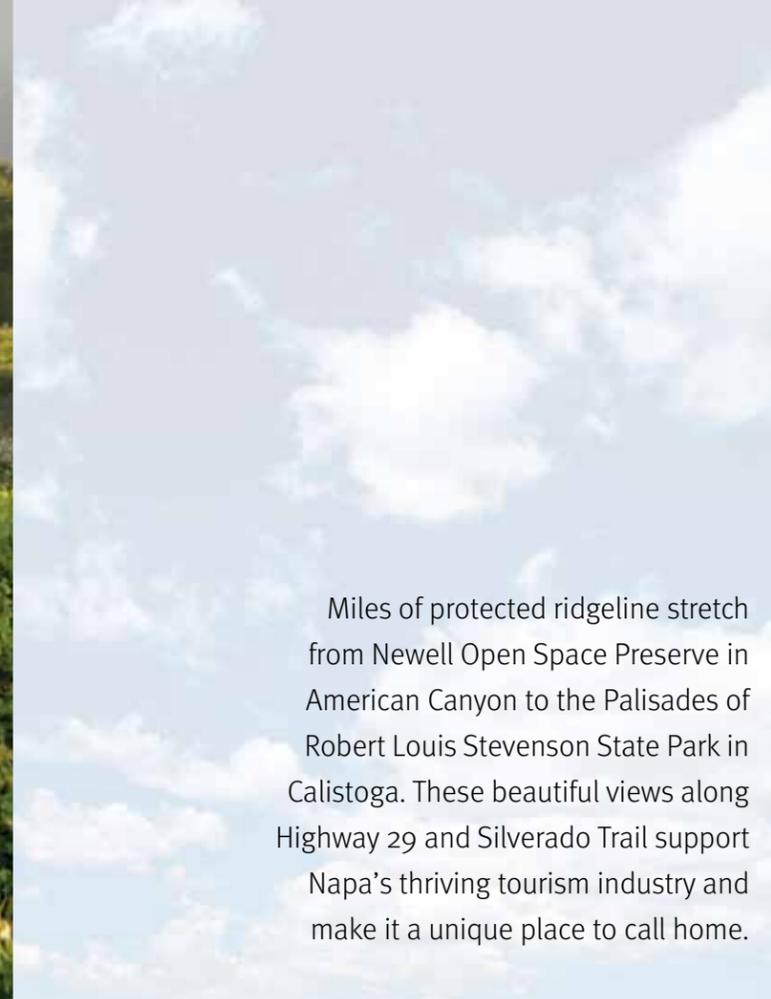
(continued from page 1)

The San Francisco Bay region is one of the nation's leaders in local food and boasts an agricultural industry worth \$1.9 billion annually. Napa's world-class wines, local produce and livestock have been at the heart of this economic engine for generations. Today, over 9,000 acres of permanently protected farmland support our continued agricultural vitality.

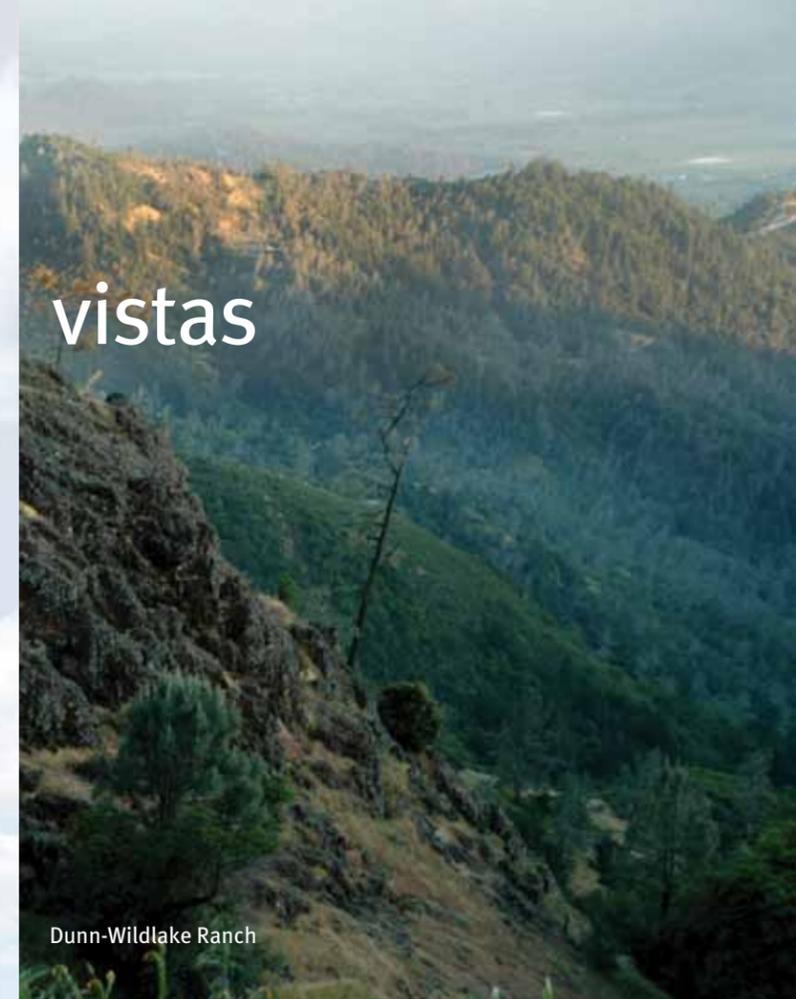


farmland

View from Foote Botanical Preserve at Mt. George



Miles of protected ridgeline stretch from Newell Open Space Preserve in American Canyon to the Palisades of Robert Louis Stevenson State Park in Calistoga. These beautiful views along Highway 29 and Silverado Trail support Napa's thriving tourism industry and make it a unique place to call home.



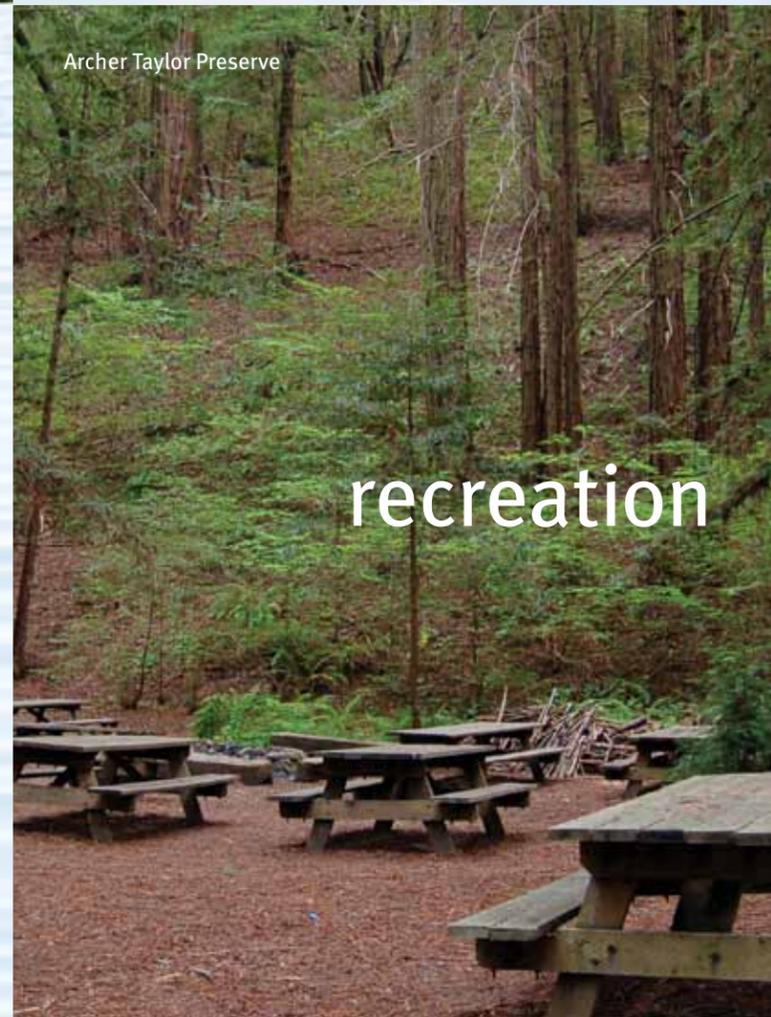
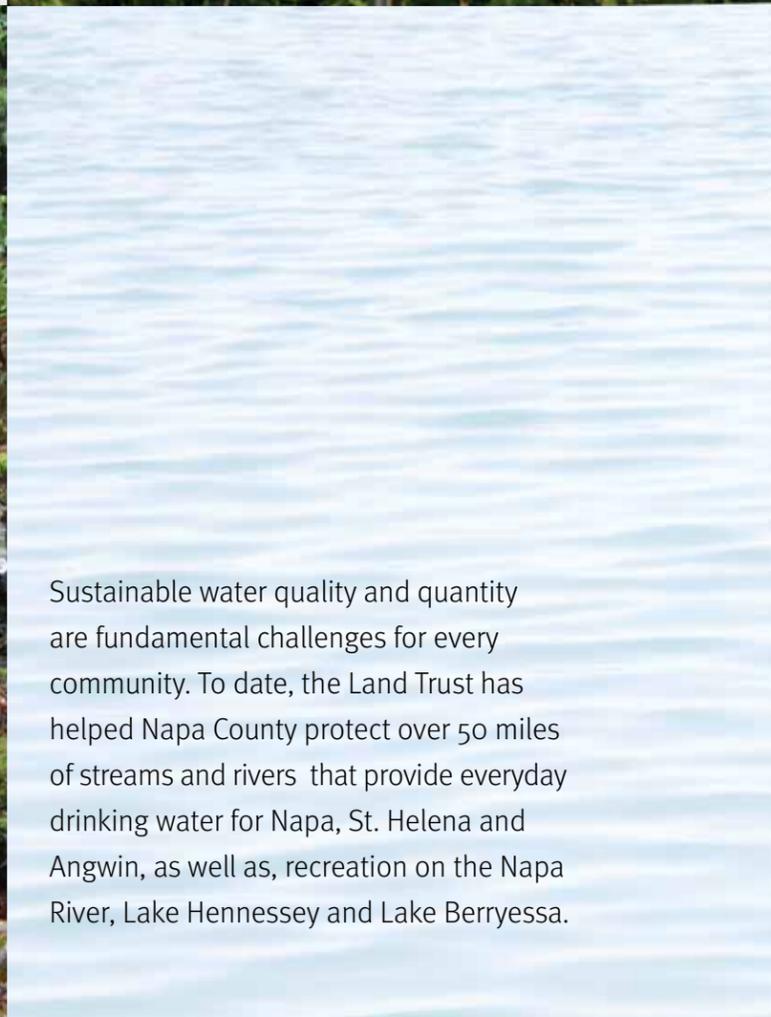
vistas

Dunn-Wildlake Ranch



water

Sustainable water quality and quantity are fundamental challenges for every community. To date, the Land Trust has helped Napa County protect over 50 miles of streams and rivers that provide everyday drinking water for Napa, St. Helena and Angwin, as well as, recreation on the Napa River, Lake Hennessey and Lake Berryessa.



Archer Taylor Preserve

recreation

Outdoor Living and Natural Habitats: Urban development must be balanced with the need for green space that is vital to our health and well-being. In partnership with state and local agencies, the Land Trust has preserved more than 26,000 acres of beautiful open space, which are now 8 public parks and recreational areas. In addition, the Land Trust owns 9 unique permanent preserves accessible year-round for recreation via our Field Trip Program. Collectively, these areas create dynamic habitat corridors that help keep wildlife out of croplands and residential areas and in their natural habitat.





Conservation Agreement Incentive Act Extended Thru 2011

Congress recently renewed, through 2011, an incentive act that enhances the tax benefits of protecting your land by donating a voluntary conservation agreement. If you own land with agricultural resources, donating a voluntary conservation agreement can be one of the smartest ways to conserve the land you love, while maintaining your private property rights and possibly realizing significant federal and state tax benefits.

The included incentives make it easier for owners of open space or agricultural land to donate the development rights on their land. The incentives:

- Raise the maximum deduction you can take for donating a voluntary conservation agreement from 30% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) to 50%;
- Allow you to deduct up to 100% of your AGI if you qualify as a farmer or rancher; and
- Increase the number of years over which you can take deductions from 6 years to 16 years.

These benefits allow many landowners to deduct much more than they could under the old rules, bringing increased fairness to the tax code.

Unless Congress acts, these enhanced tax benefits will expire December 31, 2011, so we recommend you complete your donation by the end of this year.

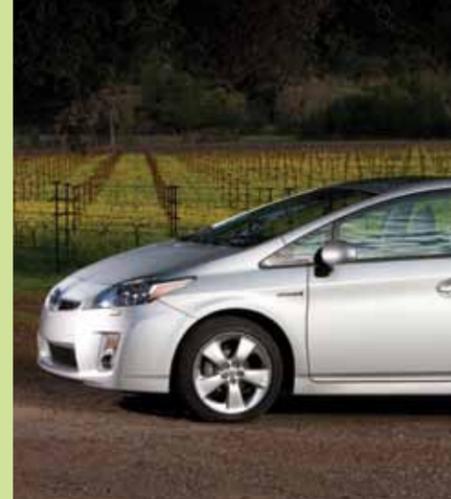
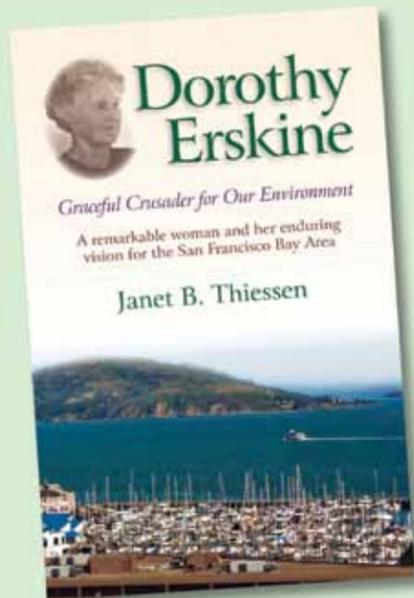
To learn more about protecting your land with a voluntary conservation agreement, visit community.napalandtrust.org/yourland or contact John Hoffnagle at 707.252.0435.

Dorothy Erskine, Graceful Crusader for Our Environment

This book is a refreshing new biography of a remarkable woman and her enduring vision for the Bay Area.

Acknowledged as the founder of SPUR and Greenbelt Alliance, godmother to Save the Bay, and influential catalyst for the Napa County agricultural preserve, Dorothy Erskine left a legacy that has shaped the way we all feel about the environment and the Bay Area she loved.

Learn more at Reach360bookstore.com.



Corporate Partners

In our mission to preserve Napa, the Land Trust is not alone. In fact, there are a number of organizations who share our philosophy, but realize it in a different, yet complementary way. Together, we are creating innovative ways to keep Napa beautiful. Following are highlights of a few of our valued Corporate Partners.

Jimmy Vasser Toyota

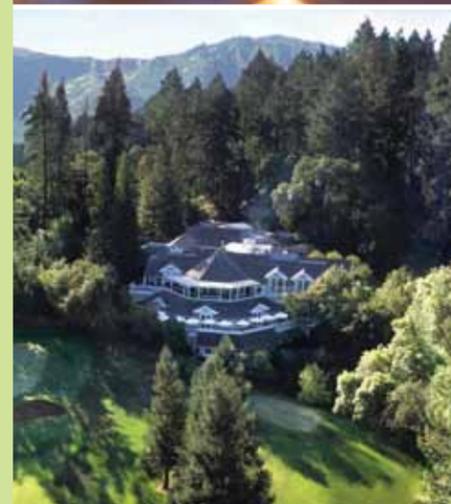
Jimmy Vasser Toyota's commitment to customer service, the environment and the Napa community is exceptional. As an environmental leader, Toyota does more than meet industry standards, it raises them. As a local business leader, Jimmy Vasser Toyota goes above and beyond to serve its community. The Land Trust is proud to announce Jimmy Vasser Toyota as our 2011 Field Trip Program Sponsor. Their generous support allows us to provide the Napa community with a robust hiking program on permanently protected lands.

Contact Brandon Barrett at Jimmy Vasser Toyota and mention "The Land Trust" for a completely different car-buying experience.



CADE Winery

As Napa's first organically farmed, LEED Gold Certified Winery, CADE Winery has taken a leadership stance in preserving and protecting the valley. A key marker of success for the company is its ability to invest a portion of profits back into the community. The company is committed to numerous environmental, charitable, social and civic causes. This innovative approach to business makes for a perfect partnership with the Land Trust. We are proud to partner with CADE Winery and also proud to call the winery neighbor, as it is located near Dunn-Wildlake Ranch and Linda Falls Preserve.



Meadowood Napa Valley

Napa Valley's first luxury resort, Meadowood offers a robust collection of amenities, activities and services, as well as a Michelin Three-Star Restaurant, all on a private 250-acre estate in the heart of the Napa Valley. Meadowood is a mainstay in Napa and is committed to building a strong, vibrant community. It is this shared commitment that makes our partnership a dynamic one.

Raymond Vineyards

Organic and biodynamic farming are hallmarks of Boisset Family properties worldwide, which have included Raymond Vineyards since 2009. Owner Jean-Charles Boisset is an advocate for organic and biodynamic farming and believes Raymond Vineyards has a profound responsibility to pass along a clean environment and revitalized, healthy soil to future generations. The Land Trust is proud to partner with Raymond Vineyards and honors their commitment to the environment.



For more information about our Corporate Partners program, contact Kimberly Barrett at kimberly@napalandtrust.org.

Board of Trustees

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- Louise Vicencio..... Administrative Assistant

Look for updates on our website
at napalandtrust.org

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Upcoming Field Trips & Events

June 2011 – Land Trust Month

- 4 Foote Botanical Preserve Workday
- 5 Mead Ranch..... M-3mi-+
- 11 Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary Open House
- 11 Napa River Paddle
- 11 Archer Taylor Preserve Workday
- 18 Newell Open Space Open House
- 19 Green Valley Ranch Lily Hike..... M-4mi-+**
- 25 Maggie’s Peak..... V-7mi-+++
- 26 Dunn-Wildlake Ranch Open House

July 2011

- 15 Moonlight Hike at Tuteur Ranch..... M-4mi-++
- 23 Wantrup Stargazing..... E-1mi-+**

October 2011

- 8 Feast of Eden, Raymond Vineyards

** Member event

Please visit napalandtrust.org for details and to register.



Hike Rating		
DIFFICULTY	MILES	ELEVATION GAIN
E = Easy	<i>See hike description for mileage</i>	+ less than 1,000 ft (relatively flat)
M = Moderate		++ 1,000 to 2,000 ft (some uphill)
H = Hard		+++ 2,000 to 3,000 ft (lots of uphill)
S = Strenuous		++++ over 3,000 ft (steep)
V = Very Strenuous		

For example, **M-3mi- +** is a moderately difficult 3-mile hike with less than 1,000 ft elevation gain.