

European Wilderness Network

Majella Wilderness



2018

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Let's get Wild!

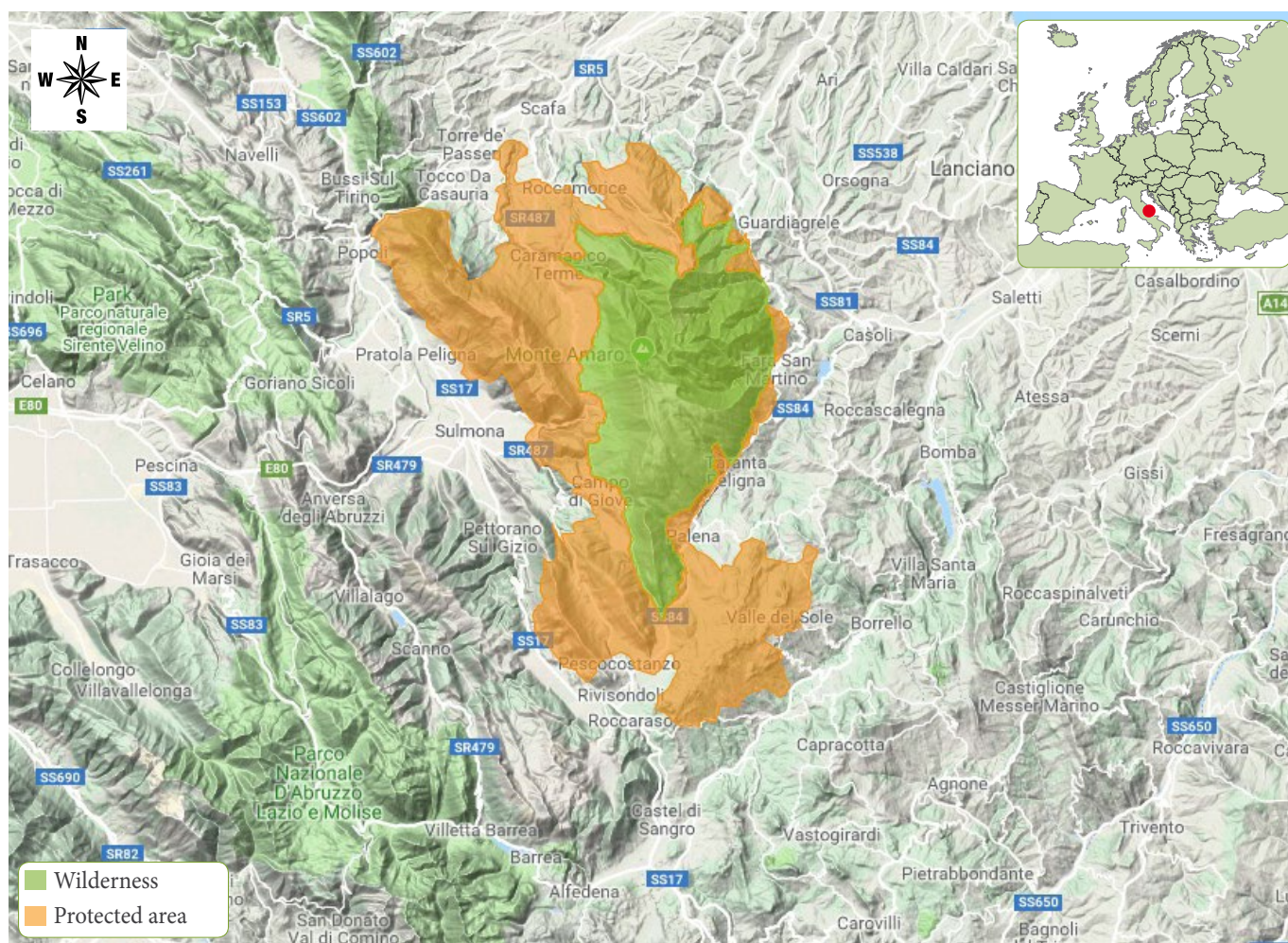
Majella Wilderness, Italy

The 25895 ha Majella Wilderness is embedded into the Majella National Park, Italy. The Majella National Park is situated in the Abruzzo Region of Central Italy, one of the most impressive, wild and extensive mountain ranges of the Apennines, containing more than 30 peaks higher than 2 000 m. The elevation range within the National Park is from 130 to 2 793 m (Mt. Amaro).

Majella Wilderness is home to an amazingly large and rich Wilderness. It includes the most inaccessible and wildest area of the Central Apennines. The Wilderness consists of limestone mountains of the Majella massif, the Morrone massif, Monte Porrara, Monte Pizzalto and Monte Rotella, separated by valleys and karst plateaus.

Majella Wilderness is home to several glacial relicts, which had a widespread distribution during the quaternary glaciations, and are now represented by the dwarf poppy, capillary sedge and alpine aster, especially at high altitudes. Majella Wilderness is also home to a rare old-growth black pine forest with trees up to 700 years of age.

Wilderness information	
Protected area	Majella National Park
Wilderness	Majella Wilderness
Country	Italy
Size of the protected area	74 095 ha
Size of the Wilderness	25 895 ha
First Audit	2005
Most Recent Audit	2018
Wilderness Uniqueness	Apennine beech forests with yew and ilex, rare fragment of old-growth black pine forest, alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, dwarf pine, deep canyons, large mammals (chamois, wolf, marsican bear), and many endemic plant species
Number of visitors per year to the protected area	approx. 530 000
Number of visitors per year to the Wilderness	approx. 125 000



Map scale 1 : 1 000 000



European Wilderness Quality Standard Audit System

The Majella Wilderness was audited and monitored in 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010. A European Wilderness Quality Standard Re-Audit was implemented in 2018 and 25 895 ha of Wilderness meet the Platinum Wilderness Quality Standard.

Biodiversity

Majella Wilderness has one of the best-preserved Apennine ecosystems. Due to its altitude, inaccessibility and prominence, most of Majella Wilderness is uninhabited. Consequently there are less human-made structures, such as skiing resorts and roads, compared to other National Parks in Italy.

Nearly half of all mammal species found in Italy are present in Majella Wilderness. The Apennine wolf, red and roe deer, wildcats, chamois, wolf and marsican bear are all found here. The golden eagle is often seen and other spectacular sights include the white-backed woodpecker, honey-buzzard, lanner falcon and the dotterel. Majella National Park has many endemic plant species, including *Crepis majellensis* and *Centaurea tenoreana*.

Majella Wilderness hosts a rare remnant of Apennine primeval old-growth black pine forest, growing on steep inaccessible slopes above a deep canyon. Black pine natural forests are very rare in the Apennines and those of Majella are among the best preserved. Additionally, Majella is one of only two places where the *Pinus mugo* dwarf scrub is found in the Apennines.

Wilderness Tourism Experience

Majella Wilderness is a well-known destination for local and international visitors and provides an opportunity for Wilderness experiences in the heart of the Apennine mountains. The area is the first certified Wilderness in the Mediterranean. Spectacular canyons, dense beech forest and mountain tops provide extraordinary Wilderness experiences. Majella Wilderness contains around 200 kilometres of hiking trails.



Contact

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European Wilderness Society

Founded on more than 20 years of Wilderness work by our members, the European Wilderness Society is the only Pan-European, Wilderness and environmental advocacy non-profit, non-government organisation.

It has a dedicated multi-cultural and experienced team of Wilderness and wildlife specialists, nature conservationists, researchers and scientists, tourism experts, marketing and business professionals, legal advisors and Wilderness advocates, whose mission is to:

- ▶ identify
- ▶ designate
- ▶ steward
- ▶ promote

Europe's last Wilderness, WILDcoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers. Here non-human intervention leads to open-ended, dynamic processes.

This is conveyed through a range of projects that facilitate Wilderness knowledge exchange, including education, culture and science, from local community through to scientific and governmental level.

European Wilderness Network

The European Wilderness Network connects Europe's wildest places. Certified by the European Wilderness Quality and Audit System, these unique areas host diverse wild ecosystems governed by dynamic open-ended processes, with no or minimum human-intervention. The Network includes, for example, Europe's last primeval beech forests, the arctic tundra, and mountain landscapes in different climate conditions. It aims to promote Europe's last Wilderness, WILDcoasts, WILDForests, WILDIslands and WILDRivers, with a comprehensive marketing strategy. The European Wilderness Network offers a platform to share Wilderness Stewardship best-practice examples and Wilderness research. It connects like-minded Wilderness managers and advocates and fosters the exchange of ideas and knowledge across Europe and the world through the European Wilderness Exchange Programme.

For more information please see <http://european-wilderness.network>

European Wilderness Society

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