



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 11

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No. 2

Rivers Bill Meanders Through Congress

by Ron Stork

On a voice vote, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 4350, a bill to include the North and South Forks of the Kern River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN).

In addition to the California river, designation was recommended for Cache La Poudre in Colorado, Saline Bayou in Louisiana, and Black Creek in Mississippi. Henry's Fork in Idaho and the West Branch of the Farmington in Connecticut and Massachusetts were scheduled for further studies. The bill also contains amendments to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

H.R. 4350 adds 78.5 miles of the North Fork Kern River to the wild rivers system, including 18 miles originally recommended by the U.S. Forest Service but later deleted by the Reagan Administra-

tion. Rep. Charles (Chip) Pashayan also left this stretch of river out of his proposal, H.R. 3934.

Additionally, most of the South Fork Kern River in public ownership has been included in the House-passed bill. The 72.5-mile stretch from the headwaters to the Domeland Wilderness boundary is recommended for protection in the draft Sequoia National Forest plan. The South Fork was included in the legislation at the suggestion of Rep. John Seiberling of Ohio.

Action now moves to the Public Land, Reserved Water, and Resource Subcommittee in the U.S. Senate. Senator Alan Cranston has shown considerable interest in working toward protection of the Kern River (as well as the Merced and Kings rivers). Senator Pete Wilson has not yet taken a position on these issues.



Forest Service says no to Freel Peak - Page 3 Photo by Kathy Blankenship

But Don't Talk About Water

Planning the Future of Mono Lake

A comprehensive management plan is being developed for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. Although public workshops already have been held, written comments still are being accepted.

The U.S. Forest Service has put discussion of water rights "outside the scope of the management plan." They will consider mitigation but would like to skirt the lake level issue as much as possible. Instead, they intend to address grazing, mining, roads, parking areas, campgrounds, trails, interpretative activities, off-road vehicle (ORV) use, hunting, boating, and other issues.

The Mono Lake Committee believes that the Forest Service must consider lake levels to draft a meaningful management plan. Even prosaic details, like the location of roads, parking areas, and trails, will depend on where the lake level lies in years to come.

The public will have another opportunity to comment on the management plan when the draft environmental impact statement is issued, probably in November.

The Mono Lake Committee has drafted the following positions on specific management issues:

Lake Level: The future of Mono Lake needs to be considered in the

management plan. The Forest Service should play an advisory and facilitative role in seeking a solution that keeps the area "scenic."

Vegetation and Wildlife: The protection of native plants and animals and their habitats should take precedence over conflicting uses, including recreation; sage grouse, antelope, bighorn sheep, and other species should be reestablished.

Grazing: Grazing should be prohibited on the relicted lands, meadows, marshes, stream banks, and other sensitive habitats; elsewhere it should be managed to improve

range conditions, restore native grasses and forbs, and not compete with native wildlife; if not possible, it should be phased out entirely from public lands.

Geologic Features: Protection of tufa, volcanoes, and other geologic features should take precedence over conflicting uses.

Mining: Current mining operations should continue but should not be allowed to inflict conspicuous new scars on the landscape.

Hunting and Trapping: Legal hunting of waterfowl, doves, and deer should be allowed to continue in areas that do not endanger pub-

Cont. on Page 5

Coalition Report

by Jim Eaton

As you may have noticed from this and recent issues of the Wilderness Record, the California Wilderness Coalition is becoming involved in a number of appeals which protest decisions of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. We soon will become involved in many more.

I'm not sure why so many poor and/or illegal projects are being approved by land management officials. Obviously, they don't see their actions in the same light as we do. Here's how we view things:

- We felt it was poor planning to approve a powerline across the Cleveland National Forest while the forest plan was before the public. A number of alternatives protected the roadless area being crossed. The Regional Forester and Chief denied the appeal.

- We argued that expansion of the Dodge Ridge Ski Area should await a final plan for the Stanislaus National Forest, especially since the impacts on wildlife (including the wolverine) were not

adequately assessed. The Regional Forest disagreed; the appeal now is before the Chief.

- We are party to the appeal of the proposed Peppermint Ski Area in Sequoia National Forest for many reasons. The environmental impact statement ranks among the worst I ever have reviewed. The appeal is in the first stage.

- We believe opening the King Range Wilderness Study Area to off-road vehicles is a blatantly illegal act. The notice of appeal was filed in late March.

- We cannot believe the Forest Service refuses to write an environmental impact statement for a major new ski area on Mt. Shasta. We will join other groups with an appeal any day now.

While appealing a decision is not the same as filing a lawsuit, the process takes a lot of time and energy. But as long as land management officials make these poor or illegal decisions, the California Wilderness Coalition will be there to defend our wild lands.

Telecommunications

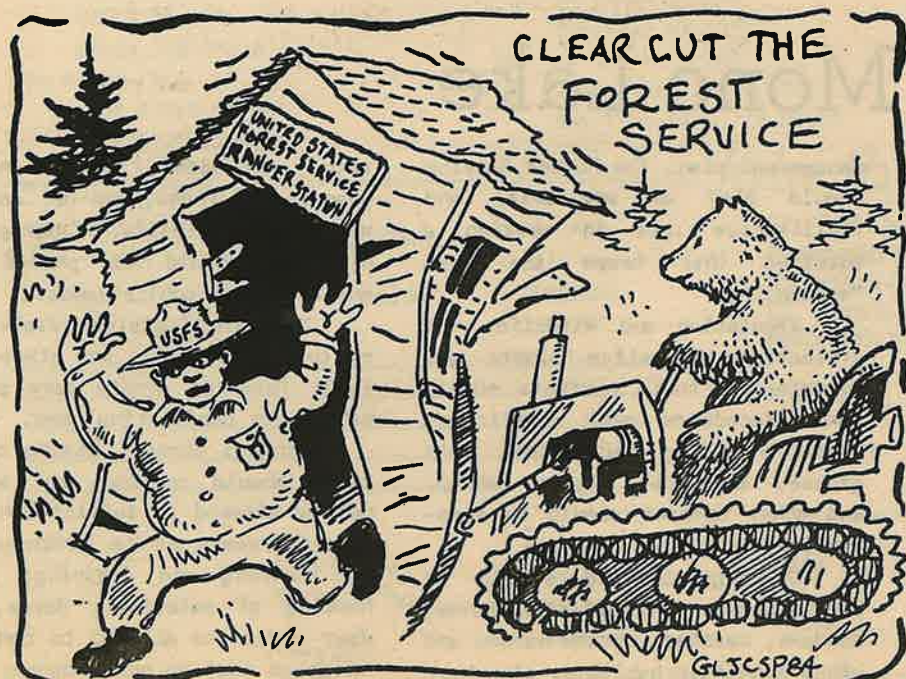
The CWC's computer now can talk to the rest of the world via Econet, a data network put together by the Farallones Institute with the help of Apple Computer, McDonnell-Douglas, and the San Francisco Foundation.

Econet serves all 50 states and 60 countries and provides such information exchanges as teleconferencing, bulletin boards, electronic mail, and file transfers. All that is needed is a personal

computer, a modem, and a phone call to any of 600 access numbers in the United States.

Non-profit organizations may obtain Econet subscriptions at far lower rates than similar commercial services -- just \$15 per month and 25¢ per message sent. The first month is free.

Interested parties may contact Econet, Farallones Institute, 15290 Coleman Valley Road, Occidental, CA 95465 (707) 874-3060.



Courtesy of Earth First!

News Briefs

Pinchot, Teddy Roosevelt, and . . . Ronald Reagan?

On April 1 the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to seek legislation to rename the Angeles National Forest for President Reagan.

"I take pride in the fact that our president has long been associated with Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Pete Schabarum, adding

that Reagan has a special love of the outdoors.

But the Sierra Club's Bob Hatoy blasted the plan, saying "this is an appropriate motion for April Fool's Day. Substantive issues aside, naming a national forest for Ronald Reagan is like naming a day care center after W.C. Fields."

Mott Says Smith River Park in Trouble

National Park Service Director William Penn Mott thinks proposals for a national wild river park along the Smith River are dead. According to a Sacramento Bee article by Stephen Green, Mott said, "My guess is that (the Smith) would be in the first cut. We don't need to get into that controversy ... when there are other sites where we find the support of local and state government."

The Smith was nominated by the Save-the-Redwoods League. "The

issue is not going to be decided by the Reagan administration alone, but by the people of the United States and the Congress of the United States," said League Executive Director John Dewitt. "The present administration will be gone in three years, but it will take 10 to 15 years to settle this."

Mott thinks two other California rivers might still be under consideration after June 1, the Kern in the southern Sierra and the North Coast's Mattole River.

Hefty Increase in National Park Fees

William Penn Mott, director of the National Park Service, wants a five-fold increase in park fees to recoup money lost in balancing the federal budget. The highest fees for 1987 would be charged at ten of the nation's best known areas, including Yosemite, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Everglades, and Rocky Mountain national parks. The standard \$2-per-car fee at Yosemite would increase to \$10.

If financing national parks becomes a problem for 1988, Mott predicts some parks will be closed, with only a security and maintenance force remaining.

Rep. Richard Lehman (D-Sanger) charged that "the Reagan administration wants to pay for the defense budget by charging for viewing America's natural beauties, in some place for the first time."

Second tier sites, where visitors would be charged \$5 to enter, include Death Valley, Joshua Tree, Lassen Volcanic, Lava Beds, Pinnacles, and Sequoia-Kings Canyon. Cabrillo and Devils Postpile national monuments would require a \$3 fee.

Two free sites would have charges: \$2.50 to enter the John Muir House National Historic site and \$1.50 for visiting Muir Woods.

Kings River Photo Contest

June 1, 1986 is the deadline for entries to the Kings River Photo Contest. All photos must be taken within the threatened area above Pine Flat Lake. Black and white categories include Flora and Fauna, People in Nature, and Scenic. A one hundred dollar first prize will be awarded to winning photos in each category. Non-cash

second prizes also will be awarded in each category. The overall Grand Prize will be a thrilling raft trip for two on the Kings. Full information can be obtained at all local camera shops in Fresno or by calling Gerard Gendron at (209) 233-8485.

- The Committee to Save the Kings River

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan

We Have No Timber, But Let's Log Anyway

The good news is that there is no forest land suitable for timber harvesting in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The bad news is the Forest Service plans to log 4.4 million board feet (MMBF) of timber each year anyway.

This and other fascinating information is contained in the forest plan recently released for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). Public comment will be accepted until June 27, 1986.

Three roadless areas are located in the Tahoe Basin. The wilderness potential of two further planning areas, Freel Peak (15,600 acres) and Lincoln Creek (6,665 acres), was considered in this plan. The 14,500-acre Dardanelles roadless area (also known as Echo-Carson, Upper Truckee, and the Meiss Management Area) was released by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 and is not considered for wilderness.

The Forest Service is not recommending any lands for wilderness designation. They are proposing that 12,322 acres of the Echo-Carson area be managed for "unroaded recreation." This area has had strong support for wilderness protection and was dropped in the final compromise over the California Wilderness Act by Senator Pete Wilson.

Conservationists feel the Forest Service is misinterpreting the intent of Congress by stating that lands released in 1984 cannot be considered for wilderness. While Congress did not require these areas to be studied for wilderness, they did not prohibit the Forest Service from considering a wilderness recommendation.

As a result, environmentalists will submit a Conservation Alterna-

tive to the forest plan which will incorporate this wilderness proposal with other issues.

The plan to log 4.4 million board feet of timber comes as a surprise to conservationists. As a result of an economic analysis, all timber lands were determined to be unsuitable for commercial harvesting. The Forest Service, however, believes it can log even through they do not have any suitable lands. Their timber goal is to "maintain healthy, diverse forest conditions through timber management practices designed primarily to achieve scenic, water quality, recreation, wildlife, pest, and fire protection benefits rather than for wood fiber production." This would be done with selective harvesting and clearcuts up to eight acres in size.

The "amenity" alternative has the same timber harvest as the preferred alternative, and the wilderness alternative harvest would be increased to 5.0 MMBF.

The lowest amount of timber cut is in Alternative D, the Constrained Economic Efficiency alternative. "No lands in the Tahoe Basin would be economically efficient to manage for timber. The only vegetation management would be to remove hazard trees for public health and safety and to treat 40 acres each year to maintain early successional wildlife habitat." Even so, this annual harvest would go from .8 MMBF in the first decade to 1.2 MMBF in the fifth decade. This alternative would have both further planning areas (Freel Peak and Lincoln) recommended for wilderness. "Grazing would be eliminated on the LTBMU because the costs exceed the benefits." The preferred alternative has 1500 ani-



Freel Peak roadless area in the Tahoe Basin Photo by Kathy Blankenship
 mal unit months (AUMs) per year, up Ralph C. Cisco, Forest Supervisor
 from the base year of 1000 AUMs. Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
 Comments should be sent by P.O. Box 8465
 June 27, 1986 to: South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731

Plans Due Out Soon

Forest plans in California slowly are being released for public review. At press time, the California Wilderness Coalition was informed that the draft plan for the San Bernardino National Forest was being mailed out to the public. At least six more draft forest plans are expected to be released from early May to late July, including the Lassen, Sierra, Los Padres, Eldorado, Shasta-Trinity, and Mendocino.

Heavily timbered North Coast forests, including the Six Rivers and Klamath, have fallen way behind schedule. Depending on who you talk

to and who asks the questions, the public release dates for these draft plans are either "August," "October," or "the first of the year" (1987!).

Meanwhile, final plans are being prepared for the Cleveland, Angeles, and Toiyabe forests. The comment deadline for the draft Stanislaus plan ended April 7th. Upcoming deadlines include the Sequoia (April 28), Plumas (May 8), Tahoe (June 2), and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (June 27). Below is a complete listing of the status of all forest plans in California.

Forest	Draft Plan	Final Plan
Cleveland	completed	under preparation
Angeles	completed	under preparation
Toiyabe	completed	under preparation
Stanislaus	deadline: 4/7/86	comments under review
Sequoia	deadline: 4/28/86	-
Plumas	deadline: 5/8/86	-
Tahoe	deadline: 6/2/86	-
Lake Tahoe Basin	deadline: 6/27/86	-
San Bernardino	"draft is in the mail"	-
Lassen	release in early May	-
Sierra	release in late May	-
Los Padres	release in early June	-
Eldorado	release in late June	-
Shasta-Trinity	release in early July	-
Mendocino	release in late July	-
Modoc	release in August	-
Inyo	release in middle September	-
Klamath	release in all of 1986	-
Six Rivers	release in Fall of 1986	-

Roadless Areas in the Lake Tahoe Basin

Existing Wilderness	acres	
Desolation Wilderness	94,686	
Roadless Areas	acres	designation
Dardanelles (1)	14,500	SPNM, RN, SPM
Freel Peak (2)	15,600	SPNM, RN, SPM
Lincoln Creek (3)	6,665	SPNM, RN

SPNM = Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized

SPM = Semi-Primitive, Motorized

RN = Roaded Natural

(1) adjacent to roadless lands in Eldorado and Toiyabe national forests

(2) adjacent to roadless lands in the Toiyabe national forest

(3) entirely in the State of Nevada

The California Desert Protection Act of 1986

On February 7, 1986, Senator Alan Cranston introduced the California Desert Protection Act of 1986. The bill, S. 2061, calls for the creation of a new national park, additions to existing National Park System units, additions to a state park, and new wilderness designations — in all, it would protect some eight million acres of federal lands in southern California.

The California Desert encompasses 25 million acres and amounts to about one-quarter of California's land surface. Major provisions of the bill are:

- * Designation of a 1.5 million-acre East Mojave National Park

from land presently managed by BLM.

- * Reclassification of the 2 million-acre Death Valley National Monument into a 3.4 million-acre Death Valley National Park.

- * Reclassification of the 560,000-acre Joshua Tree National Monument into a 805,000-acre Joshua Tree National Park.

- * Expansion of Red Rock Canyon State Park by 20,000 acres.

- * Establishment of 85 BLM wilderness areas consisting of 4.5 million acres in Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Diego, Kern, Imperial, and San Bernardino counties.

- * Establishment of a 3.2 million-acre Death Valley Wilderness and a 748,000-acre East Mojave Wil-

derness; expansion of the Joshua Tree Wilderness by 133,000 acres.

- * Creation of the Desert Lily Sanctuary of 1,920 acres.

- * Creation of the Indian Canyons Historical Site of 490 acres.

- * Requirement that all unpatented mining claims located within the boundaries of proposed parks be validated within two years after passage of the bill.

- * Requirement that the cost of purchasing existing patented mining claims be determined within two years after passage of the bill.

- * Protection of grazing leases located within proposed national parks until expiration of the current term of such grazing leases,

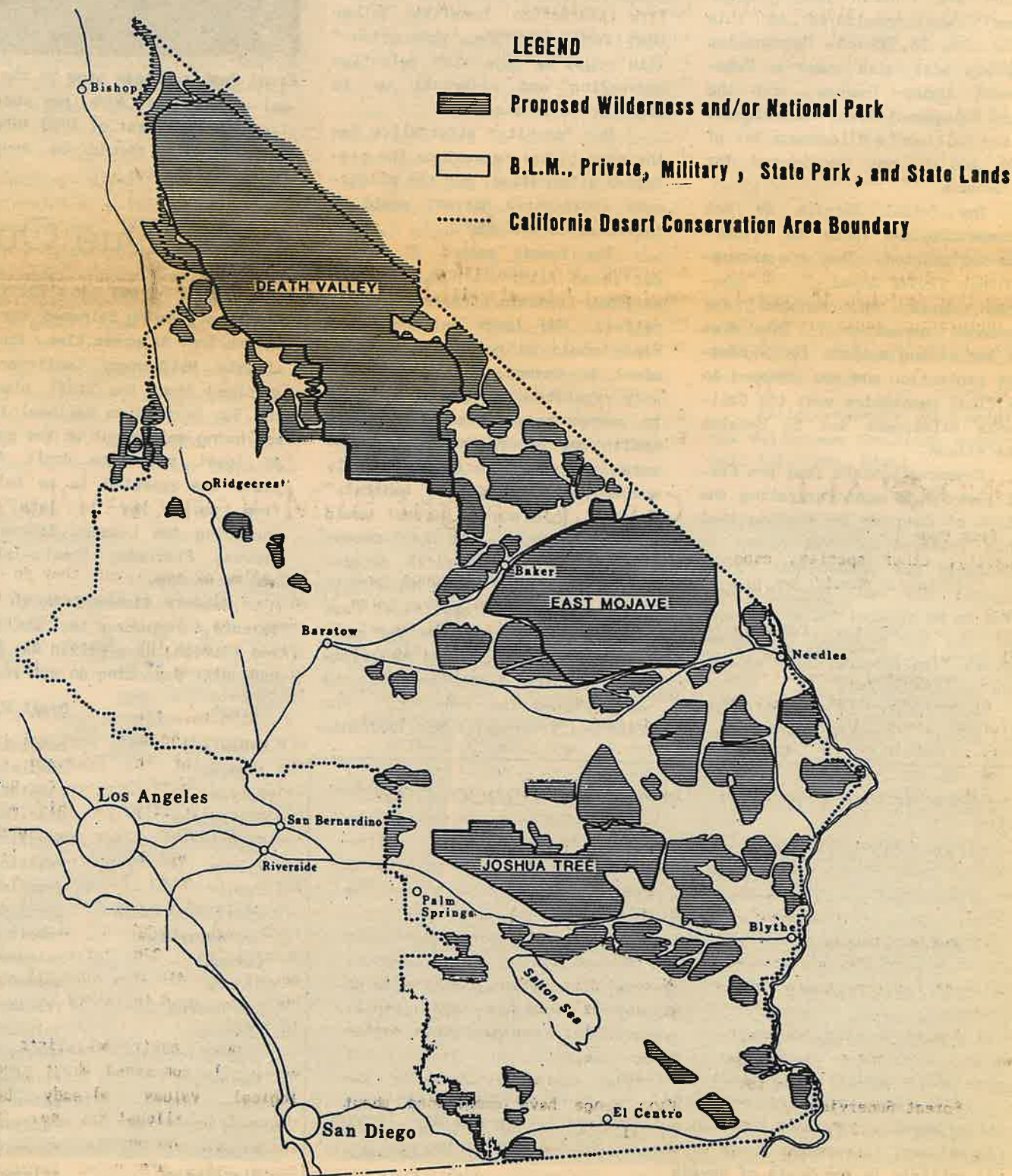
but no renewal of the grazing permits.

The Cranston bill has the support of a broad citizen coalition, the California Desert Protection League, which has been working for the past year to identify the best management strategies and protection for each area within the desert. The alliance includes the California Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Club, Desert Protective Council, Citizens for a Mojave National Park, Desert Survivors, the Ecology Center of Southern California, the National Parks and Conservation Association, and The Wilderness Society.



Grazing Fees Stay Low

Giving in to pressure from his western political allies, President Reagan signed an executive order on February 14 indefinitely extending the current grazing fee formula for public lands. "The president's action removes much of the incentive for the Congress to break its stalemate and approve a new, more equitable grazing fee formula," declared Debbie Sease, the Sierra Club's Washington Representative for public lands. "Even the president's own financial advisors, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), had recommended a one-year extension to keep the pressure on Congress to settle this issue. It's an absolute outrage." Reagan's order retains the 1985 fee of \$1.35 per animal unit month until Congress acts to change it.



Water Rights Battle Reaches Boiling Point

by Sally Kabisch

In November 1985, the U.S. District Court for Colorado decided in *Sierra Club v. Block* that wilderness designation implies a reservation of water rights by the federal government if the water is needed to protect the wilderness values.

Rather than forcing the Forest Service to assert water rights immediately, the court directed the agency to develop a plan to protect wilderness resources in Colorado which are affected by assertion of water rights. In most cases, a federal water right for wilderness will have no effect on water use outside the wilderness boundary. A recent report by the Colorado State Engineer and the Natural Resources Department states that wilderness water rights would have little, if any, impact on other vested water right holders within and above Colorado wilderness areas.

In response to the court's favorable decision on water rights, Senator William Armstrong (R-CO) and Rep. Michael Strang (R-CO) have introduced legislation which would overturn that decision. If enacted, his legislation would amend the Colorado Wilderness Act passed in 1980.

Strang's bill, H.R. 4472, eliminates any wilderness water

right and proposes that wilderness water be protected through Colorado's instream flow program. Unfortunately, the state's instream flow program cannot be relied upon to protect wilderness areas adequately. The Senate bill, S. 2097, simply bars a wilderness water right without offering alternative methods of protecting water in wilderness. (S. 2097 also would add over a million acres of wilderness to the wilderness system in Colorado.)

Why is this important to California wilderness?

Precedents set in wilderness legislation for one state often are used in subsequent wilderness bills for other parts of the country. Special provisions for grazing management, for example, first were included in the 1980 Colorado Wilderness Act and have been added to every wilderness bill enacted since then, including the California Wilderness Act of 1984.

H.R. 4472 and S. 2097 present serious attacks on the Wilderness Act and the protections afforded all wilderness areas. If Strang and Armstrong are successful, water development interests will lobby to strip wilderness of water rights in every western state.

Sally Kabisch is the Sierra Club's Northern California-Nevada Regional Representative.



Court ruling protects Mill Creek in Ishi Wilderness

Photo by Jim Eaton

MONO LAKE

Cont. from Page 1

lic safety; other species, especially predators, should be protected.

Roads and ORV Use: Vehicular travel should be restricted to existing, designated roads. No new roads or parking areas should be constructed around the lake, and jeep trails should not be improved.

Camping and Campgrounds: Campgrounds should be inconspicuous and primitive.

Trails, Hiking, Backpacking, and Skiing: Mono Lake's undeveloped shores should be left undisturbed by trails, signs, or other development. Backpackers should be allowed to camp in most of the Scenic Area, including the eastern shore relicted lands.

The Forest Service is accepting written comments on the management plan until May 1. Write to:

Forest Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
873 North Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Groups Fight BLM Vehicle Plan for King Range

Five conservation groups have appealed the transportation plan for the King Range National Conservation Area. While purporting to control off-road vehicles (ORVs), the plan actually opens roads in wilderness lands under study by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The organizations filing appeals are the California Wilderness Coalition, Environmental Protection Information Center, North-coast Environmental Center, Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society.

A major point of contention is the designation of four roads as open to ORVs within the King Range Wilderness Study Area (WSA). Environmentalists consider this action to be illegal.

For years, visitors to the King Range have complained about the illegal use of ORVs along the 22-mile stretch of wilderness beach. BLM allows vehicles to use

two miles of beach, but they do not enforce closure of the rest of the coast. As a result, ORVs regularly travel through the closed area, the wildest strand of coastline left in California.

With this transportation plan, BLM would bring more vehicles into the heart of the proposed King Range Wilderness. Despite the questionable legality of this move, conservationists think opening more areas will lead to increased trespass into wild lands supposedly closed to ORVs. If BLM can't control dune buggies, jeeps, and motorcycles now with limited access, how are they going to do it when even more territory is opened to them?

Local environmentalists are especially concerned about archeological values already being degraded by illegal ORV use. These values and the destruction of cultural sites are being documented

for inclusion in the appeal.

Notification of the public also is at issue in this case. When the public was asked to comment last fall on the transportation plan, citizens overwhelmingly asked that no roads be allowed within the WSA. Many groups and individuals specifically asked to be notified of the Area Manager's decision on the plan.

The plan was quietly signed by the Area Manager with no public notification. After receiving additional requests for notification, BLM published notice in the Federal Register.

The issue now is before the Interior Board of Land Appeals in Washington, D.C. Appellants hope to argue the case this spring.

Meanwhile, BLM has filed notice that they intend to bulldoze open several roads inside the WSA in early May. This action likely will be appealed as well.

Book Review

Overgrazing, Fire Suppression, and Drought

by Elliott Bernshaw

Vegetation Changes on Western Rangelands, by F.A. Branson, 1985, 76 pages, \$4.00, paper from Society for Range Management ("Range Monograph No. 2"), 2760 W. Fifth Ave., Denver, CO 80204.

The cover photograph is a typical Southwest desert scene, but the caption to the photograph should stagger anyone: "In 31 townships in southern New Mexico, grassland occupied 75% of the land in 1858 but only 5% in 1969."

Author F.A. Branson is a botanist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division. His monograph-booklet is short (76 pages) and well written, and it cites extensive literature references. Most significantly, he discusses the impacts of grazing and other factors, such as drought and fire suppression, on each individual region of the West, including the prairies, sagebrush ranges, Sonoran desert, pinyon-juniper woodland, and others.

Chapter headings include Vegetation Changes Before the Arrival of European Man, Influence of European Man in Western North America, and Range Condition on Public and Private Lands. The author's stated purpose in this revealing work is to explore the available literature for answers to controversial questions, contrasting opinions about the quality of our rangelands, the impact of grazing and other factors, and any differences between public and private rangeland.

The author starts by telling us that rangelands are complex ecosystems that involve a large number of uncontrolled variables often resulting in inconclusive experimental studies. He discusses the difficulty in determining the "original" or "climax" vegetation of western North America. This difficulty stems from a number of events: the most recent Ice Age glacier retreated only 10,000 years ago, huge herds of bison and antelope roamed the "original" prairies and other parts of the West "naturally," and the Indians regularly set range fires to modify local vegetation in many areas.

The book discusses the relationship of past buffalo grazing to present livestock use. For example, cattle have been in New Mexico since 1598, in Texas since 1690, and in Arizona since 1700. Between 1880 and 1910, when both cattle and

certain areas inaccessible to livestock, drought also has produced dramatic negative impacts.

In the Southwest semidesert grasslands of Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas, widespread changes also are well documented. Major losses of topsoil are perhaps permanent. Reasons for this include excessive livestock, suppression of range fires, and drought.

Regarding riparian areas, the author states that the only fact not controversial is that 90 percent of all riparian habitat in the U.S. already has been lost, and of the remaining 10 percent, about 6 percent continues to be lost every year.

In the pinyon-juniper woodlands, remarkable increases both in areas occupied and in density of tree stands have occurred just since the time of the pioneers (i.e., the mountain meadows area of southwestern Utah). Reasons include suppression of wildfires which kill pinyon-juniper, overgrazing which weakens grass cover and thereby encourages pinyon-juniper seedlings, and possibly a recent shift in climate that favors woody plants.

In the ponderosa pine-bunchgrass rangelands, conspicuous historical changes are attributed to either fire suppression, heavy grazing or both. In the chaparral

areas of California and Arizona, severe alteration has resulted from exploitive logging from the earliest mining days, livestock overgrazing, and repeated hot fires.

In the chapter on range conditions, the author states that "there is no doubt that uncontrolled grazing ... caused much damage, and in some areas irreparable damage." However, the author notes, range conditions have certainly improved from the sad state of affairs in the 1930s. The major reason for this is not so much the "scientific" range management of sheep numbers peaked, severe and immense depletion of western ranges occurred.

A discussion of the history and characteristics of the different types of ranges in the West shows that other factors could be more important to range deterioration than grazing. For example, in the grasslands east of the Rocky Mountains, drought (such as in the 1930s) might have far more impact than any grazing since bison have grazed heavily since prehistoric times. Indicators of unhealthy range include grasshoppers, jack-rabbits, and prickly pear cactus.

The sagebrush ranges are highly controversial, the author admits. He acknowledges that cheatgrass, where abundant, is an indicator of disturbed soils. He con-

cludes that sagebrush ranges are unusually susceptible to grazing impacts because they probably evolved without heavy grazing from herds of large ungulates. This certainly applies to the Palouse grasslands of eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, and much of Montana.

In the Sonoran desert, the dramatic impacts of livestock grazing are well documented. Yet in today, but the tremendous reduction in livestock grazing that has taken place (from 34 million Animal Unit Months [AUMs] in 1935 to 11 million AUMs in 1972).

Finally, despite the large percentage of our rangelands in "unsatisfactory" condition (54 percent), the author reports that our ranges are "... the envy of people in Australia, Africa, Asia, and Latin America" (how bad must their lands be?).

All statements of facts, opinions, and study results in this book are referenced to an extensive list of existing literature. It is highly recommended as a good source to begin with for anyone trying to make sense of "what is going on" out on the range.

Elliott Bernshaw is a California Wilderness Coalition member in Salt Lake City, Utah.



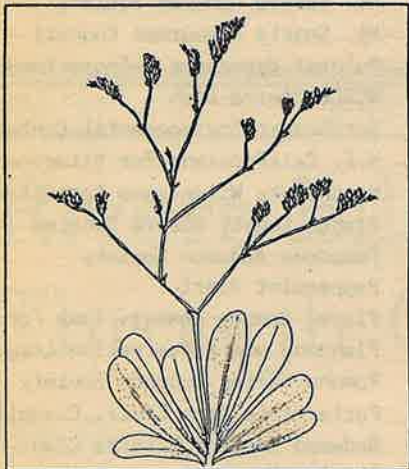
An extreme example of the impact of livestock grazing on plant succession

Photo by Elliott Bernshaw

Book Review

Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains

Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains, Coast, and Chaparral Regions, text by Nancy Dale, Capra Press, 1986, 240 pp., \$15.95 paperback.



Sea Lavender
Limonium californicum (Boiss.) Heller.
Leadwort Family. PLUMBAGINACEAE

Capra Press, in cooperation with the California Native Plant Society, has produced a very attractive guide to the wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains. Nearly every species is accompanied with an excellent color photograph; the few plants without photos have a botanical drawing.

Plants are organized first as monocots or dicots, then the families are arranged in alphabetical order. Plants within each family also are in alphabetical order. While the neophyte may find it hard to key plants in this arrangement, flowers also are indexed by color, name, and family.

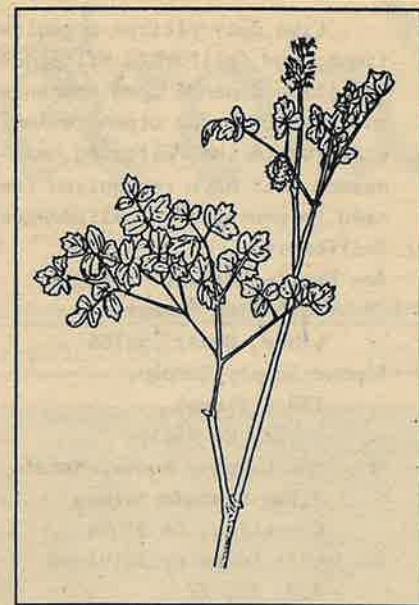
Once you find your plant, the book is user-friendly. Common names are given as well as the scientific name, and the meaning of the scientific name is explained.

Having missed Latin in my education, I greatly appreciate this translation.

The flowering time and the usual habitat for each species is listed. Interesting information is given about each particular plant -- how it was used by Indians or early settlers, if it is edible, if it is useful in the garden, if it has an unusual method of pollination or has a special smell or a well-known garden relative.

One final point really warms my heart: all proceed from this book will be used for educational and interpretative materials within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

- Jim Eaton



Many-fruited Meadow Rue
Thalictrum polycarpum (Torr.) Wats.
Buttercup Family. RANUNCULACEAE

Discover the California Wilderness Act of 1984

The California Wilderness Act of 1984 is the subject of the California Wilderness Coalition's first book. The 48-page booklet describes the 25 new national forest wilderness areas and 14 additions to existing wilderness areas, the two new national park wildernesses, the wild and scenic Tuolumne River, and the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

It is a source book, not a trail guide. The wilderness areas are briefly described, the needed topographic maps are listed, and if trail guides exist they are mentioned. The address and telephone number of the federal agency managing each area is given, a useful feature with the new complicated wilderness permit system now in

effect. The address of a local environmental group working in the region also is listed.

Discover the California Wilderness Act of 1984 was made possible by a grant from the Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI) Environmental Committee. The booklet evolved from a search for a community project to commemorate the tenth anniversary of REI's Berkeley store. The four California REI stores sell the booklet for \$5.95, with all proceeds coming to the Coalition.

If you cannot pick up a copy at REI, you may order directly from the Coalition. Just use the T-Shirt order form on Page 8, and be sure to add \$1.55 for tax, postage, and handling for a grand total of \$7.50.

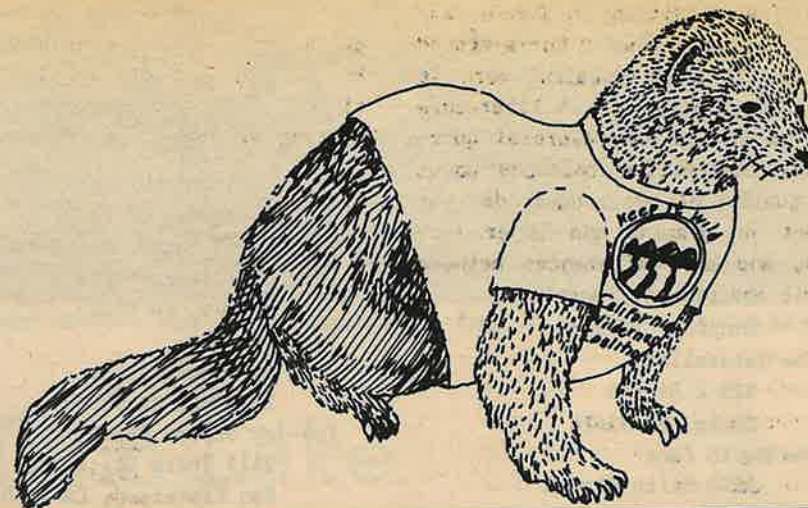
T-Shirts - The Height of Fashion

Climb the tallest tree in your new T-shirt flying the CWC logo of black mountains beneath a blue sky, with yellow sand dunes in the foreground? KEEP IT WILD rings the top of the logo, with CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION beneath.

T-shirts are 100% double knit cotton. Regular T-shirts are available in white, tan, blue, and yellow in S, M, L, and XL. A limited

number of French-cut style T-shirts are available in white, pink, and powder blue in women's S, M, and L.

T-shirts are \$8.00 to CWC members; \$10.00 for non-members (sales tax included). There is an order form on Page 8; clearly indicate if you want regular or French-cut, size, color, and a substitute color. Please add \$1.25 postage; 75¢ for each additional T-shirt.



California Wilderness Coalition

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PURPOSES OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

CWC Business Sponsors

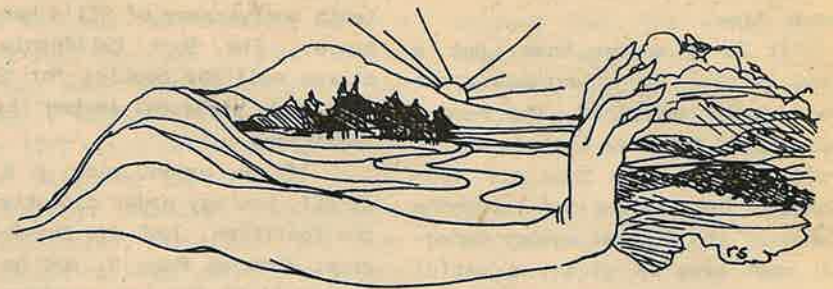
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- Friends of Plumas Wilderness
- Friends of the Earth
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- Friends of the River Foundation
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- Stockton Audubon Society
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- Tule River Indian Health Project
- UC Davis Environmental Law Society
- The Wilderness Society



Join the Coalition!

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

Item	size	color	amount

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____
TOTAL _____

Yes! I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition. Enclosed is \$_____ for first-year membership dues.
 Here is a special contribution of \$_____ to help with the Coalition's work.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Annual Dues:†

Individual	\$15.00
Low-income individual	\$7.50
Sustaining individual	\$25.00
Patron	\$500.00
Non-profit organization	\$30.00
Business sponsor	\$30.00

† tax deductible

Mail to: California Wilderness Coalition 2655 Portage Bay Avenue, Suite 3 Davis, CA 95616