



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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No. 3

Kern River Gets Boost From Cranston

By Sally Kabisch

On Wednesday, June 11, 1986, Senator Alan Cranston once again demonstrated his strong commitment to conservation and protection of California's natural resources. S. 2544, introduced by Sen. Cranston, would place the North and South forks of the Kern River in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

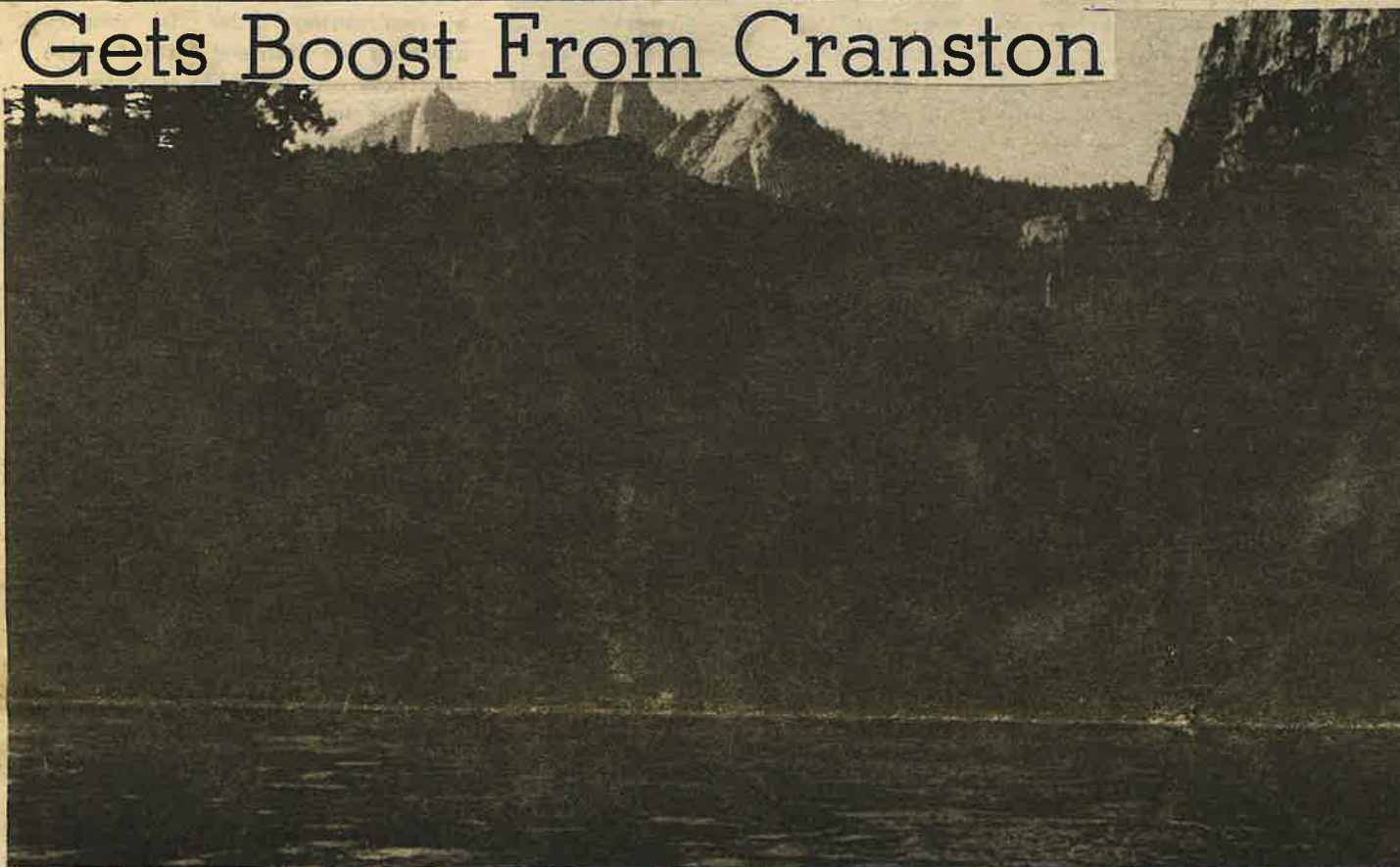
When he introduced the bill, Senator Cranston said, "As many Californians know, the Kern River is one of the state's most outstanding recreational resources. It is beloved by people all over the state for its boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, its splendid scenery and its wilderness values. I'm pleased to sponsor legislation to add the North and South Forks of the Kern to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, a designation the river fully deserves."

S. 2544 includes the headwaters of the North Fork, Kern down to the Kern-Tulare County line. This includes the portion of the Kern River below the Johnsondale Bridge. The South Fork, Kern from its headwaters to the southern boundary of the Domelands Wilderness also is included.

The omnibus rivers bill, H.R. 4350, which passed the House of Representatives this spring also includes the North and South Fork, Kern as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In January 1986, the Secretary of Agriculture found only the North Fork, Kern above Johnsondale Bridge to be suitable for inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system. The Forest Plan for the Sequoia National Forest follows that recommendation and fails to recommend "wild" designation for the Kern as it flows through Monache Meadows.

Senator Cranston's bill and the House-passed omnibus bill are the only proposals which sufficiently protect the Kern in its



The Golden Trout Wilderness rises behind the North Fork Kern River

Photo by Bob Barnes

Eden Valley and Thatcher Ridge

BLM Says No to Wilderness

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is recommending no wilderness for two Mendocino County Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). A public hearing on this decision is set for July 23 in Ukiah with written comments due September 19, 1986.

The BLM is studying these WSAs as separate although they are contiguous through roadless lands in Mendocino National Forest. If combined with the Mendocino's roadless areas, a single wilderness of more than 55,000 acres is possible. Conservationists feel that the wilderness values of this larger unit should have been studied rather than the piecemeal approach used by

wild and natural state.

No hearings have been scheduled yet in the Senate.

Sally Kabisch is the Sierra Club's Northern Calif.-Nevada Representative and a CWC Board member.

BLM and the Forest Service.

The 6,674-acre Eden Valley WSA is located west of the Elk Creek drainage and east of Eden Valley. Thick brush covers most of the area, but some grassy meadows with hardwoods are dispersed throughout the area. A large stand of Sargent cypress extends to the north beyond the WSA represents one of the most extensive stands of this species known. Elevations range from 1,000 feet along Elk Creek to 2,800 feet above Toney Creek.

The Thatcher Ridge WSA of 17,187 acres is located east of Elk Creek and west of Etsel Road. The Middle Fork of the Eel River flows through the area. Most of the WSA is on a west-facing chaparral covered slope. Hardwoods, conifers, and a few grassy meadows are found in the area.

Two endangered species, the peregrine falcon and the bald

eagle, may be found in the WSAs. Suitable habitat is present for the golden eagle, black-shouldered kite, ringtail cat, river otter, and mink. The fisher has been sighted in the vicinity of Elk Creek. The WSAs are important winter deer range, and tule elk have been observed. Eden Valley is probably the northernmost limit of the roadrunner.

The watersheds are important anadromous fish spawning and nursery areas for salmon and steelhead. Resident rainbow trout also may be found.

The public hearing is scheduled for 7 P.M. in the LuAnn Motel's Empire Room in Ukiah on July 23. Comments must be sent to BLM by September 19, 1986. Write:

Van Manning, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 940
Ukiah, California 95482

Coalition Report

by Jim Eaton

Needless to say, we are quite excited about the Macintosh computer grant we are receiving from Apple Computer, Inc. The hard part is the wait — we won't see the beast until after a three-day training session the first of August.

I will admit to the sin of smuggling a MacUser magazine along on a weekend backpack to Grouse Lakes. It was all about using the Mac for "desktop publishing," a new development which may put a few publishing firms out of business.

Already I can envision better Wilderness Alerts, improved type for the Wilderness Record, and an end to going outside the office for headlines (don't worry, super volunteer Mary Sconover — we'll find something else for you).

We must have written a really good grant proposal; Apple is giving us better equipment than we asked for. Their information said they gave out either the Apple IIe or the Macintosh 512K, but I guess when they heard how we are going to save millions of acres of wilderness in five western states with their computers, they upped the ante. Now I suppose we are obligated to protect all the wilderness we said we could.

The old workhorse, my Model 1 TRS-80 will get to come home at long last. This home computer has never known a home; it spends all of its time in the CWC office. Now maybe I can get down to some serious home computer uses, like games.

The last few weeks the computer has had a brief rest as we fin-

ished our forest plan deadlines. No sooner had we finished reviewing one plan than it was time to do another. Other things, like appeals at the King Range, Mt. Shasta, and Peppermint, filled in the gaps. Comments on the San Bernardino plan aren't due until July 24, so it's off to the Rockies for a vacation.

Maybe this counts as a working vacation since first we are going to attend part of the Round River Rendezvous in Idaho. I'm planning on seeing a lot of old friends at this Earth First! event, as well as giving my best to the newlyweds Nancy Horton and Dave Foreman.

From there it's a quick tour of Grand Teton and Yellowstone (Wendy's first visit) and then on to see Kirk and Lisa Thompson in Montana. They are veterans of the Snow Mountain Wilderness battle. They now live at the base of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, so we plan to check out this great area set aside in 1936.

The rest of the summer looks busy. Comments will be due on the San Bernardino, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Area, and Lassen forest plans, a hearing on the Eden Valley and Thatcher wilderness study areas in Ukiah, the next Wilderness Record, a CWC Board meeting, and other documents and meetings which have yet to be entered on my calendar. By Labor Day I'll be ready for another vacation (and just happen to have one planned to Evolution Valley, since you asked).

Welcome to our newest member group, the Wintu Audubon Society in the Redding area.

News Briefs

California Condor Condemned to Cages

A federal appeals court has ruled that the federal government may capture the three California condors remaining in the wild and place them in zoos.

A three-member U.S. Court of Appeals overruled District Court Judge Barrington Parker, who issued a restraining order in January blocking the Fish and Wildlife Service from capturing the condors.

The National Audubon Society had sought the injunction on grounds that such a roundup would make it impossible to reestablish flocks in the wild.

After six condors died in the winter of 1985, federal wildlife officials decided the snare the remaining birds.

However, the National Audubon Society said unless some condors remained in the wild, the planned release of some now-captive birds would never succeed. The group also argued that removal of the condors from the wild would not only end studies of their habitat, but would open the area for possible commercial development.

In its one-page order, the

appellate court said the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to capture the scavengers "constituted a reasoned exercise of the agency's decision."

Meanwhile, researchers said a recent hatching of a California condor egg taken from the wild may be the last for several years since the only known female condor has been brought into captivity.

The 24 other survivors of the endangered species are kept in two Southern California zoos.

The hatching of an egg snatched from the wild in April came a day after members of the Condor Recovery Team picked up the adult condor, known as AC-8, which laid the egg.

The condor was picked up because its radio tags had not been working properly. AC-8 was supposed to be held only long enough to change its radio transmitter and to conduct a blood test for lead. The test showed low levels of lead in AC-8's blood and the bird was being prepared for return to the wild when orders were received to keep the bird in captivity.

Public Land Round Tables

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has scheduled public land round tables throughout California for informal discussions on how the public lands are being managed and how they should be managed in the future.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. For more information, contact BLM at

2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4746. Scheduled round tables include:

July 10	Mariposa	County High School Audit.
July 24	Santa Monica	Civic Audit
July 31	Sacramento	Woodlake Inn
Sept. 11	Ukiah	LuAnn Motel
Sept. 17	Alturas	High School

Coming Soon . . . MacWilderness

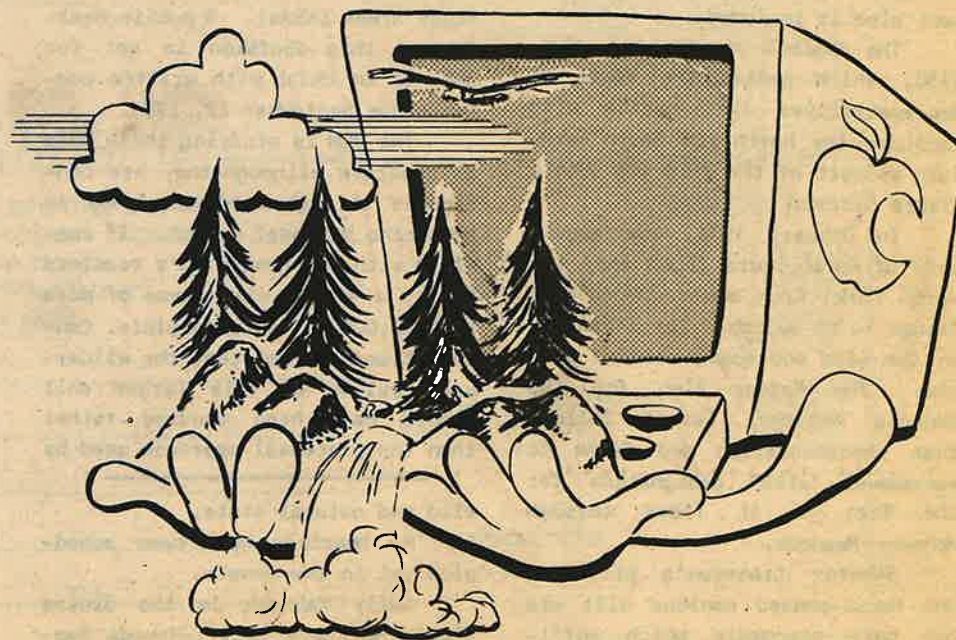
The California Wilderness Coalition is the recipient of a generous grant of computer equipment from Apple Computer, Inc. for the Western Wilderness Network. Later this summer you may notice a number of changes in the Wilderness Record and with Wilderness Alerts resulting from the grant.

The network was initiated by the CWC to improve communication among statewide wilderness groups in the West. Other groups receiving computers will be the Idaho Conservation League, Citizen Alert in Nevada, Oregon Natural Resources Council, and the Washington Wilderness Coalition. The groups will use their computers to communicate among themselves, member groups, and activists through electronic information services such as Eco-

net. They will establish data bases on roadless areas and wild rivers in their states, keep track of appeals and lawsuits, and share information with interested people through the bulletin boards of Econet.

The Community Affairs Program of Apple is donating to each group a Macintosh Plus computer with a 20 megabyte hard disk and 800K external disk drive. Apple also is including a printer, modem, and software.

This equipment will allow the organizations to produce excellent graphics for alerts and newsletters. Those with access to a LaserWriter printer can produce headlines and text of typeset quality. Look for major changes in the Wilderness Record later this year.



Cartoon by Pat Rigley

Dam Builders Plan a Concrete Tribute to Ansel Adams

By Patrick Carr

Does damming a wilderness sound like a fitting tribute to Ansel Adams, the great photographer/conservationist? Apparently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission thinks so, for it has given a preliminary permit for a large hydroelectric project on the North Fork of the San Joaquin River in the new Ansel Adams Wilderness.

If the project is built, the North Fork and several nearby streams within the wilderness would be diverted into tunnels to fill two large reservoirs serving a powerhouse near Mammoth Pool Reservoir on the mainstem San Joaquin. The wilderness of the Minarets and the Ritter Range, some of Adams' favorite places in the Sierra, would be permanently reduced. The project is

proposed by several San Joaquin Valley irrigation districts. Power would be sold to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company for Southern California Edison, and little water would be stored.

This is the second time the irrigation districts have received a preliminary permit for the project. An earlier proposal was shelved because of difficulties in reaching an agreement with a power purchaser and concerns that wilderness status would stop the dams. That problem was solved for the districts in 1984 with passage of the California Wilderness Act. The Act contained special provisions that did not prevent the dams, which are ordinarily forbidden in wilderness except under presiden-



Ansel Adams Wilderness

Photo by John C. Modin

tial order.

One of conservationists' best shots at preventing this gray future from overtaking the memorial to America's most famous black & white photographer is to comment on the Sierra National Forest plan, due for public release in late June. The plan is expected to raise the issue of preserving the North

and Middle Forks of the San Joaquin through inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Write to receive a copy of the plan (1130 "O" St., Fresno, CA 93721) and then write forest staff to support Wild and Scenic for the rivers!

Patrick Carr is editor of Headwaters, the membership newsletter of Friends of the River.

Lehman Supports a Wild Kings River

by Donn Furman

On April 17th, Congressman Richard Lehman introduced legislation which would place the major undammed portions of the Kings River above Pine Flat reservoir in the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System. HR 4629 has 76 co-sponsors including Congressman Tony Coelho and George Miller.

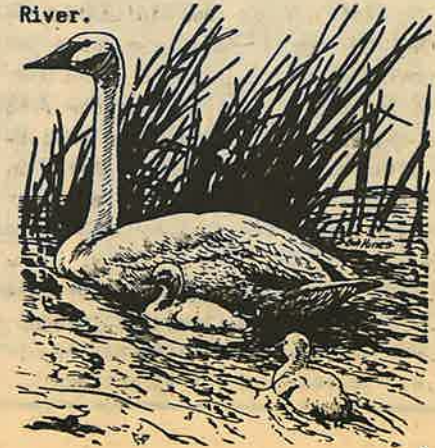
The bill would give wild river status to the Middle and South forks of the Kings River in their entirety. These two branches originate high in the Sierra Crest of Kings Canyon National Park and combined constitute 74.5 miles of the proposed 92.5 miles of river to be designated.

The most significant effect of the bill would be to prohibit construction of a dam at Rodgers Crossing on the Main Fork of the Kings.

Lehman gave several reasons for his commitment to protection: the fundamental economic, environmental, and political unsoundness of the Rodgers Crossing project as

well as the availability of less costly and damaging alternatives. "Most importantly, there is the great canyon itself. It is a national treasure, one of the crown jewels in the Forest Service domain. Next to Yosemite Valley, it is the most significant terrain feature in the Sierra. It would be a foolish travesty to destroy the pristine splendor of this magnificent area for such minimal and short-sighted gain."

Donn Furman is the chairman of The Committee to Save the Kings River.



Rough Creek Falls along the Kings River

Photo by Gerard Gendron

Lassen National Forest Plan

Finally, A Plan That Proposes Wilderness and Wild Rivers

By Steve Evans

Over ten years of meetings, correspondence, and occasional legal appeals have paid off for Chico area conservationists with the Lassen National Forest draft land management plan. Under pressure from conservationists and the general public, the Lassen Forest is recommending all or portions of three roadless areas for wilderness designation. The draft plan also recommends National Wild and Scenic River status for two rivers in the Lassen Forest. The Lassen is the first forest plan in California to recommend any roadless area designated as "further planning" by the 1984 California Wilderness Act for wilderness.

These recommendations make the Lassen the best plan so far out of nine that have been released for public review by the Forest Service in California during the latest round of forest planning. Published draft plans include the Cleveland, Angeles, Toiyabe, Stanislaus, Plumas, Tahoe, Lake Tahoe Basin, San Bernardino, and Lassen. As of late

June, the latter three still were soliciting public comments.

Despite the wilderness and wild river recommendations, the Lassen plan does include several aspects of great concern to conservationists. But first, the good news:

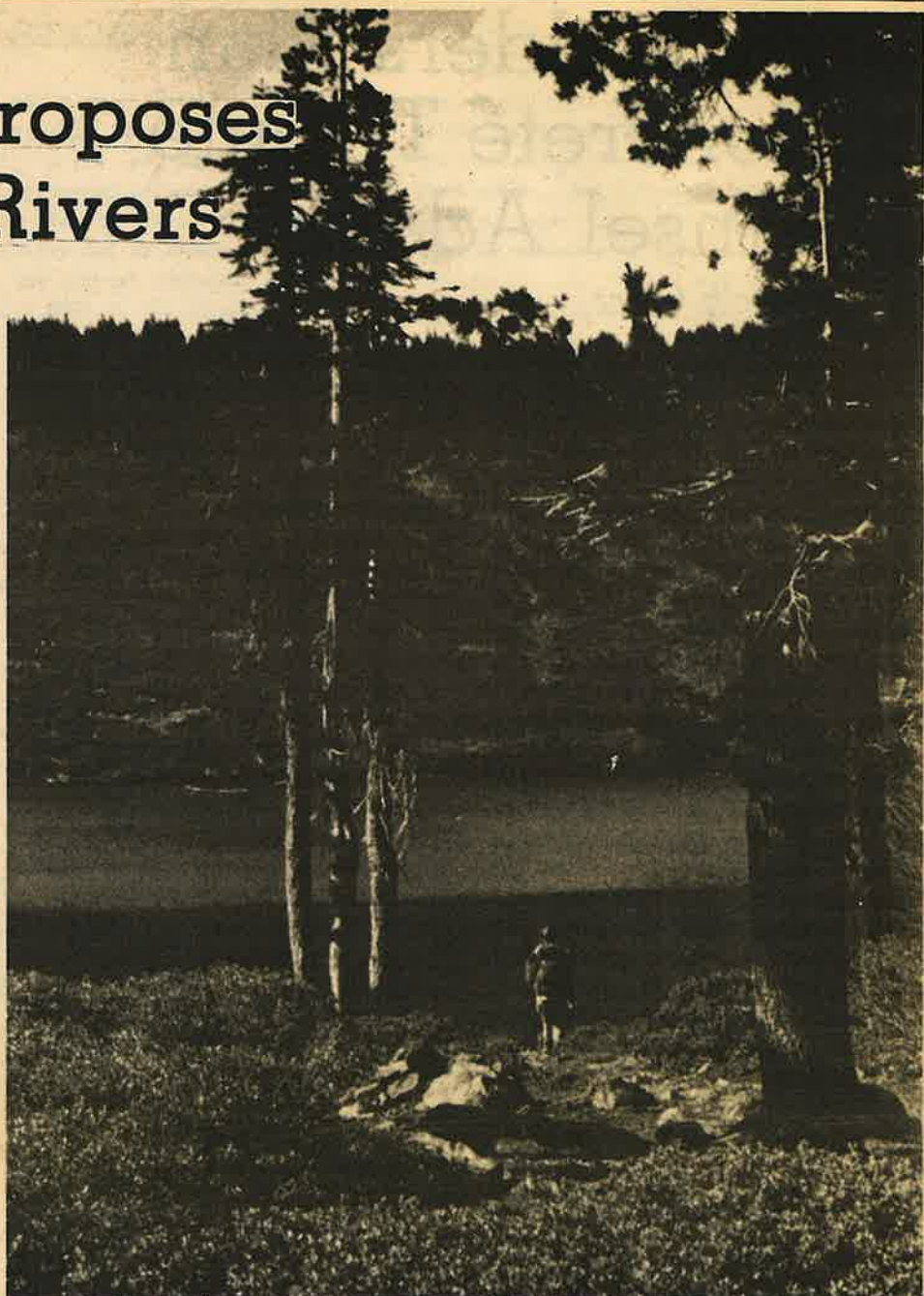
* All of the 9,800-acre Mill Creek roadless area and the 9,300-acre Heart Lake roadless area are recommended for wilderness. In addition, all of the 1,115-acre Trail Lake addition to the Caribou Wilderness is recommended as well as about half of the 4,965-acre Wild Cattle Mountain roadless area. In summary, the Forest Service's "preferred" alternative recommends 21,168 acres spread over four areas for wilderness. These wilderness recommendations will compliment the existing Lassen Volcanic National Park, Caribou, and Ishi wilderness areas since the four roadless areas are adjacent to them.

* Mill and Deer creeks, the only Sierran rivers with anadromous fisheries under the management of the Forest Service, are recommended for National Wild and Scenic River status. Approximately 58 river miles will be protected under the three status levels "wild," "scenic," and "recreational."

* Portions of four other roadless areas, Polk Springs, Chips Creek, Prospect, and Cinder Butte, will be partially or completely protected under the administrative "semi-primitive, non-motorized" designation.

* Almost 6,500 acres in another four areas will be recommended for Research Natural Area (RNA) status in order to protect rare plants and unique ecosystems in the vicinity of Green Island Lake, Indian Creek, Soda Ridge, and Timbered Crater. Another 1,600 acres in the Graham Pinery and Mayfield areas will be protected as potential RNA candidates.

Now, the bad news:
 * Over 80 percent of the proposes 20,000-acre addition to the Ishi Wilderness in the vicinity of Antelope Creek and Brushy Mountain will be designated an off-road vehicle (ORV) play area, their wilderness and primitive recreation values to be sacrificed under the misnamed "semi-primitive,



Spring Valley Lake in the Chips Creek Roadless Area Photo by Nancy Morton

motorized" designation.

* About a third of the Chips Creek roadless area permanently is allocated to ORV use and timber management in the vicinity of the main High Lakes and Soda Ridge. Soda and Chips Creek canyons and remote portions of the High Lakes (including the Plumas National Forest portion of the roadless area) are allocated to "semi-primitive, non-motorized" status rather than recommended for wilderness.

* The scenic 8,300-acre Butt Mountain roadless area will be logged and roaded, and the peak of the mountain will be "reserved" for a possible downhill ski site.

* Over 46,000 acres in the Polk Springs, Mt. Harkness, Lost Creek, Lava, Devils Garden, Cypress, and Cub Creek roadless areas are allocated to various non-protective uses.

* The critical upper stretches of Mill and Deer creeks are not considered for Wild and Scenic status due to private inholdings.

In terms of timber management, the Lassen to toeing the Forest

Service line in unquestioned support of so-called "even-aged" timber management (an industry euphemism for clearcut logging) and the spraying of toxic herbicides. Even so, the Lassen is reducing its allowable cut by almost 13 percent, a de facto admission that they have been overcutting timber in the recent past. In fact, the Lassen is so desperate for timber they are proposing to log so-called "flower pots;" areas of soil that contain timber in the generally barren lava flow areas in the northeastern portion of the forest. Over the ten year planning cycle, the plan will clearcut over 75,000 acres and targets an unrealistic amount of acreage for annual reforestation.

The Lassen also shares a problem generic to all national forests. Its proposed plan is based upon increased funding from the federal government in the near future. All Forest Service budgets have been drastically cut over the last few years, and there is no indication that any national forest

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Lassen Roadless Areas

Existing Wilderness	acres	
Caribou Wilderness	20,625	
Ishi Wilderness	41,840	
Thousand Lakes Wilder.	16,335	
Roadless Areas	acres	protection
Butt Mountain	8,300	RNA / SPNM
Chips Creek	31,100	SPNM / SPM
Cinder Butte	16,000	SPNM / RNA
Cub Creek	9,100	SPNM / RNA
Cypress	5,400	100% RNA
Devil's Garden	3,500	100% RNA
Heart Lake	9,289	100% W
Ishi	50,624	SPM / SPNM
Lava	7,500	SPNM / RNA
Lost Creek	8,300	SPNM / RNA
Mayfield	14,700	SPNM / RNA
Mill Creek	9,815	81% W / RNA
Mt. Harkness	300	100% RNA
Polk Springs	9,400	SPNM / RNA
Prospect	4,200	SPNM / RNA
Timbered Crater	4,400	100% RNA
Trail Lake	1,115	100% W
Wild Cattle Mtn	5,295	52% W / RNA

SPNM = Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized
 SPM = Semi-Primitive, Motorized
 RNA = Roaded Natural Appearing
 W = Recommended for Wilderness

San Bernardino National Forest Plan

ORVs Favored Over Wilderness

By Joyce Burk, Larry LaPre', and Jim Matthews

Hunters, fishermen, bird watchers, and conservationists have formed the San Bernardino National Forest Conservation Coalition to address the inadequacies of the San Bernardino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan which will set the course of the Forest for the next fifty years. The Coalition consists of local chapters of the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Wildlife Society, California Trout, Federation of Fly Fishers, Southern California Deer Hunters, The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation, and the Izaak Walton League.

The Coalition has prepared a Conservation Alternative which addresses wilderness preservation, off-road vehicles (ORVs), hiking and equestrian trails, skiing, target shooting, special areas, and wild rivers.

Roadless Areas

There are more than 215,000 acres of roadless lands in the San Bernardino National Forest. The Forest Service was required by the California Wilderness Act of 1984 to study just five areas totaling less than 48,000 acres. The preferred alternative doesn't recommend any new wilderness in the San Bernardino National Forest.

Cleveland Final Plan Released

On June 2 the Cleveland National Forest became the first in California to issue a final forest plan. Regional Forester Zane G. Smith, Jr., accepted the preferred alternative but with significant modifications.

Among the changes to the adopted preferred alternative are an increase in the Corral Canyon open off-road vehicle (ORV) area by 50 percent, an increase in loop trails, and a tie-in with the state ORV system.

Two roadless areas, Eagle Peak and No Name, were changed from "general forest roaded" to "general forest unroaded" because there is

Conservationists are requesting that the Forest Service recommend to Congress all further planning areas (Cucamonga and San Geronio wilderness additions, the Pyramid Planning Area, and Sugarloaf) totalling 47,480 acres.

Some 41,890 acres are allocated for semi-primitive, non-motorized recreation, but only one of the five further planning areas (Pyramid Peak) is left intact for future wilderness consideration.

Other Issues

The Forest Service's preferred alternative proposes the construction of a 126-mile cross-forest ORV trail along with miles of loop systems. The total number of miles of roads and trails open to non-street licensed vehicles (motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles) would increase by 336 percent.

The current 50-acre ORV "open" area would be made into a staging area frequently used for competitive events, and a new 750-acre open area in the Baldy Mesa area (northeast of Wrightwood) would be created. While some roads and trails will be closed to non-street licensed vehicles, the emphasis will be on designing a corridor across the northern face of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel moun-

tain no plan for roads or any other major development. Despite public support for wilderness, the Sill Hill and Caliente further planning areas remain in the "general forest unroaded" category because wildlife habitat management, prescribed fire, mining, and grazing "would be more constrained under wilderness designation."

Over six hundred copies of the draft plan were mailed out, but only 99 individuals, 41 organizations, and 13 public agencies commented on the plan. In contrast, the Tahoe National Forest has received over 8,000 comments on their plan.

tains for motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles. This will encourage more competitive events for such vehicles.

The San Bernardino National Forest plans to allow a downhill ski development on the northern half of the Sugarloaf roadless area. Existing ski areas would be allowed to expand their permit boundaries, except that there would be no further expansion of the Baldy Ski Development in Stockton Flat.

Comments on the forest plan must be postmarked by July 24. Interested citizens should support the Conservation Alternative and write about their particular concerns. Mail your comments to:

Dick Stauber, Forest Supervisor
San Bernardino National Forest
144 N. Mountain View Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Joyce Burk, Larry LaPre', and Jim Matthews are active in the San Bernardino National Forest Conservation Coalition.

San Bernardino Roadless Areas

Existing Wilderness	acres	
Cucamonga Wilderness	9,022	
San Geronio Wilderness	44,218	
San Jacinto Wilderness	43,255	
Santa Rosa Wilderness	20,160	
Sheep Mtn. Wilderness	2,400	
Roadless Areas	acres	protection
Cactus Springs	4,240	RN
Cahuilla Mtn.	7,100	SPM, R
Cajon	7,500	SPNM, RN
Circle Mountain	6,600	RN, SPNM, R
City Creek	10,900	SPM, RN
Crystal Creek	7,500	RN
Cucamonga	18,900	SPM, RN
Deep Creek	23,400	SPM/SPNM/RN
Granite Peak	11,700	SPM
Heartbreak dg	6,200	RN
Hixon Flat	7,300	RN
Horse Creek	1,100	RN
Mill Peak	9,500	SPM
Pyramid Peak	28,300	SPNM, RN
Raywood Flats	20,835	SPNM, RN
Rouse Hill	13,700	RN
San Sevaine	8,000	SPNM, RN
Sheep Mountain	5,300	SPNM, RN
Sugarloaf	8,800	SPM, RN, R

SPNM = Semi-Primitive, Non-Motorized
SPM = Semi-Primitive, Motorized
RN = Roaded Natural R = Rural

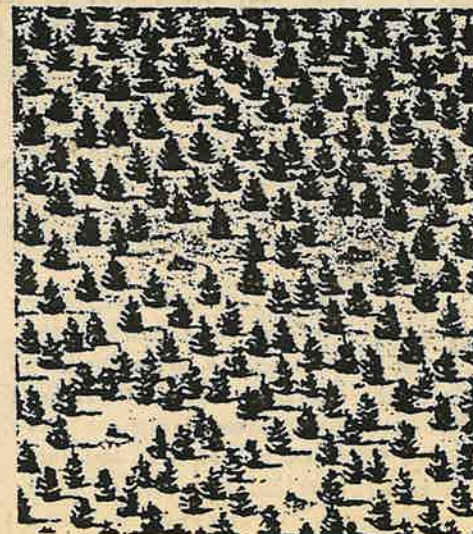
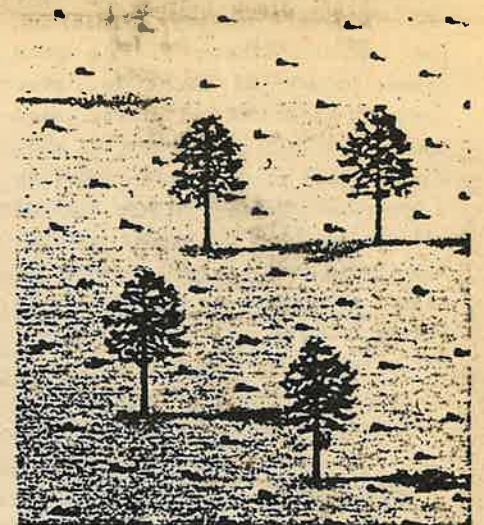


Figure 2. Seed-tree System.

Extension Granted for LTBMU

The public comment period for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) forest plan has been extended until July 27, 1986.

The LTBMU is a special management unit that includes all of the

national forest land within the watershed of Lake Tahoe. In 1973 portions of the Eldorado, Tahoe, and Toiyabe national forests were combined to form the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Readers' Opinions

Disappointed in Tahoe Article

Editor:

I have been a member of CWC for many years and generally support what you have been doing. However, I was very disappointed in your article about logging in the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Plan (March-April Wilderness Record). The statements in the article display an unfortunate ignorance of natural resource management. The article states that the Forest Service has found no land suitable for commercial timber harvesting in the Tahoe Basin, but plans to harvest 4.4 million board feet per year anyway. Yes, superficially, this would seem to be a real contradiction. However, it is not quite that simple.

Commercial timber land is land which is capable of being managed for a sustained and perpetual yield of timber. When such land is allocated to timber production in a forest plan, this means that the major management emphasis is placed on timber production. Other values may receive some attention, but will be subordinate to a greater or lesser degree.

Land that is not allocated to timber production per se may still produce a certain amount of timber. Custodial management of the forest may involve removing disease or pest infected trees, thinning dense timber growth in order to favor certain kinds of wildlife, etc. Such relatively low intensity management will produce some timber as a byproduct, but is not the same as allocating land to timber production. With this kind of management, timber production is subordinate to water quality, wildlife habitat, etc., rather than vice versa.

Thus, there is no contradiction between allocating no land to

timber production per se, yet still harvesting a small amount of timber. The Forest Service has been doing this for a long time in the Tahoe Basin, and has done so in an environmentally sensitive manner (unlike in some other areas).

The headline "We Have No Timber, But Let's Log Anyway" is therefore extremely misleading and will result in numerous well-meaning but misinformed letters being sent to the Forest Service. **This will only decrease our own credibility!** You might have done better by questioning whether "clearcuts up to eight acres in size" are really compatible with water quality and scenery.

Too many times people on both sides of environmental issues oversimplify the issues or disseminate misinformation. We can't afford to fall into this trap. If we present the decision makers with well informed and accurate criticisms, then we will ultimately have more influence on the important decisions being made.

Bill De Jager
San Leandro

Dear Bill:

You have some good points in your letter, especially where you point out that some timber comes from land not classified as "commercial." Our flippant headline ignored this. On the other hand, we question the volume of timber that is proposed to be logged "to achieve scenic, water quality, recreation, wildlife, pest, and fire protection benefits."

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, "as a result of economic analysis," has no land suitable for commercial timber harvesting but proposes an annual cut of 4.4 mil-

lion board feet (MMBF). The adjacent Toiyabe National Forest, with 70,583 acres of suitable forest land, proposes an annual cut of 4.5 million board feet. Something is definitely out of whack.

The Forest Service plans to log 1.5 MMBF in the Blackwood area, "which has one of the highest sediment rates in the Tahoe Basin." They plan two sales totaling 2.725 MMBF during the coming decade in the Martis Management Area where "the desired future condition would consist of small, even aged, fully stocked stands under fairly intensive management." Two sales in the next ten years also are planned in the Ward Creek drainage "where there are excellent opportunities for timber management," but construction of a bridge is necessary because "access is a problem in some locations." Four sales with 8.690 MMBF are scheduled in the Watson Management Area where "tim-

ber management would also improve roads for vehicular travel, improve the visual quality of the area for recreation, and increase the density of vegetation cover for water quality management."

Each of these sales will include clearcuts from one to eight acres in size to "create openings and early successional stage habitat for wildlife" or where the goal is "greater efficiency of operation."

We hope you understand why we do not see the Lake Tahoe Basin's logging plans as custodial or low intensity. The bias towards timber shines through, even in such a critically sensitive area as the Lake Tahoe Basin. It strikes us that here the Forest Service is planning logging as usual but hiding behind the guise of supposed scenic, water quality, recreation, wildlife, pest, and fire protection benefits.

Editor



'OK, now that you've become aware of the mirror in our souls reflecting the beauty and harmony of the universe -- get those #*!*\$ trees down!'

and the spraying of toxic herbicides in favor of more environmentally protective group selection harvesting of timber, thereby providing for community stability by harvesting timber on a long-term, sustained yield basis.

* Protect trails, streams, critical wildlife habitat, fisheries wetlands, and scenic vistas from development.

Concerned citizens should incorporate the points listed above in their written comments. Be sure to request full wilderness protection for the Antelope Creek and Brushy Mountain additions to the Ishi Wilderness and for the Mill Creek, Heart Lake, Wild Cattle Mountain, and Butt Mountain roadless areas. Please also request "semi-primitive, non-motorized" protection for all of the Chips

Creek and Polk Springs roadless areas. Also support full Wild and Scenic River status for all of Mill and Deer creeks. Thank the Forest Service for their recommendations in the preferred alternative, but make it clear that they are not enough.

Letters should be addressed to:

Richard Henry, Forest Supervisor
Lassen National Forest
55 South Sacramento Street
Susanville, CA 96130

The deadline for written comments is Thursday, August 7. For more information concerning the Lassen plan, please call Steve Evans at (916) 891-6424 (days) or (916) 345-0672 (eves.).

Steve Evans is a Chico activist and is president of the California Wilderness Coalition.

Lassen Plan

Cont. from Page 4

will get an increase in funding. This issue is critical in terms of how much timber is cut, how many trees replanted, how many miles of streams rehabilitated, how many miles of trails maintained, and so forth. You cannot manage a forest without money. Management alternatives must be adjusted with the annual budget.

Conservation groups submitted a "conservationist alternative" to the Lassen Forest in 1982. The alternative has been periodically revised to reflect the concerns of five environmental groups and many individuals. Citizens interested in commenting on the Lassen plan should support the conservationist

alternative. The conservationist alternative will:

* Recommend all of the Ishi additions (Antelope Creek and Brushy Mountain) as well as the Mill Creek, Heart Lake, Wild Cattle Mountain, Butt Mountain, and Trail Lake roadless areas for wilderness designation.

* Protect all the remaining roadless areas, especially the Chips Creek roadless area, under a strongly defined "semi-primitive, non-motorized" prescription.

* Include all of Mill and Deer creeks, particularly their upper reaches, in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

* Prohibit clearcut logging

Oxbow Geothermal: The Powerline That Wouldn't Be Moved



By Jim Eaton

One of the problems we environmentalists face is our conscience. We often question whether we are doing the right thing. Are Timbered Crater, Excelsior, and Cedar Roughs really "outstandingly remarkable?" Yes, they are, but if you listen to the exploiters long enough, you begin to wonder.

Last fall, I began to wonder just what kind of environmental extremist I have evolved into. All the nice woman from Oxbow Geothermal Company wanted was to run a new powerline down an existing powerline corridor, and here I was threatening to fight the project.

It wasn't a great time to bargain with me. Nobody sent the draft environmental analysis to CWC, we

were frantically making final arrangements for the California Wilderness Conference, and my dog was dying. Nevertheless, I tolerated our daily telephone calls.

The problem was simple. The proposed powerline from geothermal resources in Dixie Valley, Nevada, needed to get to Bishop, California. Everything was fine until the route reached a six-mile stretch between the Casa Diablo and Fish Slough wilderness study areas (WSAs) north of Bishop. The two WSAs were separated only by a powerline corridor, but the corridor was too narrow for a new powerline to be built, and it was impossible to add to the existing powerline.

The folks at Oxbow wanted to

move the WSA boundary, but I noted that required an act of Congress or a finding that the original boundaries were incorrectly drawn by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We would oppose any moving of the boundary by Congress, I explained, because everybody wants to modify WSA boundaries for their particular project. After long discussions, on-the-ground visits, and more discussions, BLM approved an alternate route across eight miles of national forest land.

All winter I pondered my extremism. Heck, a Southern Cali-

fornia Edison powerline already separated the two WSAs. Here we were forcing the destruction of eight miles of national forest land. Oh well, didn't someone once say that extremism in the protection of the environment is no vice?

Well, well. Guess what arrived in our mail box. It seems that after being told their powerline had to be rerouted, Oxbow Geothermal had another discussion with Edison. They can add to the existing powerline after all.

It's amazing. Defending the wilderness can result in the impossible being accomplished.

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.

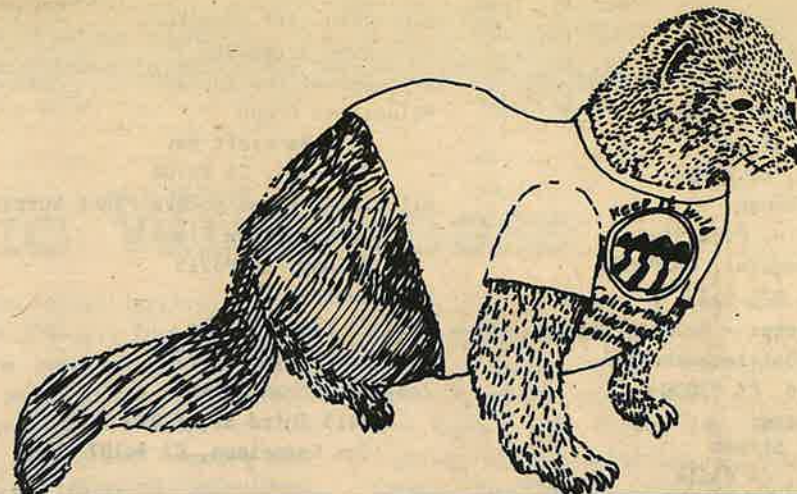
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Climb the tallest tree in your new T-shirt flying the CWC logo of black mountains beneath a blue sky, with yellow sand dunes in the foreground? KEEP IT WILD rings the top of the logo, with CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION beneath.

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.



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...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.

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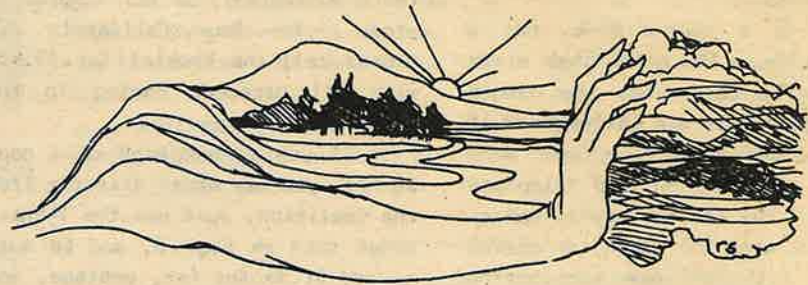
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