



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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No. 1

Renewed Hope for the California Desert



Providence Mountains in the proposed Mojave National Park Photo by Jim Eaton

Senator Cranston Reintroduces Desert Protection Act

By Jennifer Wachter

On January 7, Senator Alan Cranston introduced his California Desert Bill to the 100th Congress. This year's bill, numbered S.7, is getting Sen. Cranston's top priority as demonstrated by its low number. In his address to the Senate, the Senator stressed the great value of the California desert. "Wilderness is a distinguishing characteristic of the public lands in the California desert, one which affords an unrivaled opportunity for experiencing vast areas of the Old West essentially unaltered by man's activities."

There are 25 million acres of land in the California desert region, 12.1 million of which are public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Sen. Cranston's bill protects 81 areas as official wilderness covering 4.5 million acres of BLM land. The bill also redesignates both Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments as national parks and makes appropriate additions to both. It creates a new Mojave National Park which incorporates the existing East Mojave Scenic Area and designates 3.9 million acres of wilderness within all three parks. Sen. Cranston also proposes the long awaited expansion of Red Rock

Canyon State Park, the creation of the Desert Lily Sanctuary to protect this vulnerable wildflower, and the establishment of the tribally controlled Indian Canyons National Historical Site.

Companion bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Mel Levine and Richard Lehman. Levine's bill, H.R. 371, is identical to Sen. Cranston's, while Lehman divided the issue into two separate bills—one dealing with BLM land (H.R. 729) and the other dealing with national parks (H.R. 361).

Levine introduced his bill by stating that it "establishes in law the most appropriate form of protection to assure that all Californians and visitors to the desert will be able to experience the full value of these lands." Lehman stated that this is "the largest, most complex resource issue since California became a state."

Senator Pete Wilson has not yet cosponsored S. 7. Senate hearings on the bill are expected this spring.

Additional information on Sen. Cranston's S.7 is found on page 6.

Jennifer Wachter is a volunteer with the CWC and is an Arts/English major at the University of California at Davis.

Rivers Bills in Congress

From the Tehipite Topics

On the first day of the 100th session of Congress, four different bills were introduced to protect some of the most beloved portions of three major river systems in the southern Sierra Nevada—the Merced, Kings, and Kern rivers. Hearings in the House of Representatives are set for March 5th.

The Merced

The Merced River currently is threatened by a hydroelectric dam proposal at the boundary of Yosemite National Park. The license application for this dam project is under review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. A decision to dam the river could be reached as early as fall of 1987 unless Congress moves to protect the river now.

But protection may be on the way. Taking his cue from the recommendations of the Sierra National Forest's draft land management plan, Senator Pete Wilson [R-CA] introduced S. 275. This bill, cosponsored by Senator Alan

Cranston, would protect all of the Merced River (including the South Fork) above Lake McClure reservoir.

In the House, Representative Tony Coelho [D-Merced] introduced H.R. 317 which is identical to his bill in the last session. While similar to S. 275, H.R. 317 leaves the fate of the eight miles of the Merced between Briceberg and Lake McClure unresolved.

The Kern

The North Fork of the Kern River above the Tulare/Kern county line and the high country portions of the South Fork of the Kern River were the focus of much legislative activity last year.

After hearings in the fall of 1985, the House passed legislation to protect the Kern only to see their efforts die in the Senate because of the objections of Senator Pete Wilson.

This year, Senator Alan Cranston introduced S. 247, a bill similar to last year's House-passed bill. Rep. Charles

Pashyan [R-Fresno], who introduced last year's House bill, has not yet decided whether to reintroduce his bill.

The opponents of protection for the Kern—who had trouble finding reasons to oppose the bill last year—now are talking about the "need" for a flood control dam in the Golden Trout Wilderness and Rincon roadless area. This idea was rejected by the Army Corps of Engineers as being infeasible.

The Kings

The wild and scenic river campaign began on the first day of the session with

the introduction of H.R. 361 by Rep. Richard Lehman [D-Fresno]. It is similar to legislation introduced last year and supported by many members of California's House delegation.

If this effort is successful, the Kings River above its confluence with the North Fork will be freed from the specter of destruction by the Rodgers Crossing Dam. Wild and Scenic River protection has been a long-sought goal of conservationists and visitors to the Kings River Canyon.

Reprinted from Tehipite Topics, the monthly newsletter of the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club.

COALITION REPORT

By Jim Eaton

I thoroughly enjoy our new office. Looking out through the greenhouse there often is a cat or two unsuccessfully hunting gophers in the plum orchard. At other times there may be a selection of birds, from meadowlarks and red shafted flickers to a new visitor, a pygmy owl.

There now is ample room for three U.C. Davis students who are doing lots of fine things for wilderness, including much of the writing and layout of this issue of the *Record*.

Jennifer Wachter has been volunteering since last fall. She has helped to organize the office and now is concentrating on the California desert.

Lora Moerwald is tackling the wilderness study areas outside of the desert. Those readers working on such BLM lands may soon be hearing from her.

Joe Bogaard is trying to make sense out of forest planning. At least he is arranging the documents and reports that used to be stacked in high piles from eighteen forests.

All of us want to thank Jean Crossley for the loan of a desk for the

interns. It's a working place that I am not supposed to clutter with my mountains of papers.

After six years of hard work on the CWC Board, John Hooper has resigned to take on new projects. It is with great thanks but reluctance that we let him off the hook (he and Molly have hosted many great Coalition parties over the years).

Charlene Little of Kernville now joins the Board. Charlene is among a wonderful group of activists making life difficult for administrators of the Sequoia National Forest. *Forest Watch* magazine recently published her article "Conducting Your Own Reforestation Survey."

We have a couple of new organizations to welcome to the Coalition. Marble Mountain Audubon Society, from the heart of Siskiyou County, has joined. Also, Friends Aware of Wildlife Needs in Georgetown is part of our alliance. I had a great time recently speaking at a dinner meeting of FAWN.

Thank you, too, to business sponsor John B. Frailing, of Froba, Frailing, and Rockwell in Modesto.

UPDATE

BLM Denies Coalition Protest of Pit River Canyon Water Project

The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] has denied a protest against the granting of a right-of-way for a hydroelectric project which will lower water flows through the proposed Pit River Canyon Wilderness. The California Wilderness Coalition, The Wilderness Society, and 55 others had objected to the water diversion.

Ironically, the BLM is recommending a portion of the Pit River Canyon Wilderness Study Area [WSA] as suitable for designation as wilderness [see page 4].

The Muck Valley Hydroelectric Project would take between 600 to 700 cubic feet per second of water from the Pit River upstream of the WSA and return it below the proposed wilderness. The BLM claims this will have no negative impacts on the fishery, recreation, or wilderness qualities, or on riparian,

botanical, wildlife, and raptor resources.

The agency refuses to prepare an environmental impact statement [EIS] for the project but instead states that the action will have "no significant impact" on the environment.

In denying the protest, the BLM's area manager referred to a *Wilderness Record* article "which made several unsubstantiated allegations."

But Coalition executive director Jim Eaton counters that "BLM can't seem to understand that WSAs are protected until Congress makes a final determination on the best use of the area. Diverting part of the Pit River from the WSA is simply in violation of the law."

Eaton said he is confident that environmentalists will stop the water diversion project either with an appeal to the Interior Board or Land Appeals or in court.

Appeal of Meadow and Muffin Timber Sales Turned Down

Regional Forester Zane G. Smith has denied an appeal of timber sales in the Eagle Roadless Area of the Stanislaus National Forest. The roadless area is adjacent to the Emigrant Wilderness.

The appeal was filed by the Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club.

The appellants questioned the timber sale's impact on wildlife, the economic justification for the sale, and the roading of the wild land.

The decision is expected to be appealed to the Chief of the Forest Service.

Geothermal EIS for Lassen Forest Delayed by Study

The Final Environmental Impact Statement [EIS] for geothermal leasing in Lassen National Forest will be delayed while the Secretary of the Interior determines if there are significant thermal features in Lassen Volcanic National Park. The EIS is being prepared in response to an appeal filed by the Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, and others.

If the Secretary determines that exploration, development, or utilization of lands are reasonably likely to result in a significant adverse effect on the thermal features, the land will be withdrawn from leasing.

The Forest Service is considering leasing for geothermal exploration lands adjacent to and north of Lassen Volcanic National Park.

READERS' OPINION

More on *Giardia* and Some Fan Mail

After reading Elliott Bernshaw's letter in your last issue, I am compelled to clear up some increasingly common misconceptions about *Giardia*.

He correctly points out that cattle can transmit human-infective *Giardia*, but to date, there are not sufficient data to infer that livestock are the *primary* factor in contaminating water with *Giardia*. Other known carriers of *Giardia* are humans, dogs, cats, and in some areas, wild species. Equids (horses, mules, etc.) and sheep require further study.

It is important also to remember that *Giardia* is not transmitted only by water. *Giardia* cysts from human or animal feces can contaminate food via dirty hands or flies, and "person-to-person" infection can result any time fecal material reaches ones mouth directly. This latter point is illustrated by the fact that most outbreaks of giardiasis in California occur in daycare centers. Hence, treating your water (although necessary) isn't enough to avoid giardiasis. Hands need to be cleaned before preparing food, etc. Think about it next time your hiking partner disappears into the woods grasping a roll of TP or pets the dog which has been eating and/or rolling in scat.

An aggressive program to fight giardiasis in wilderness areas would include: 1) the elimination of pets and cattle, 2) education about sanitation and water treatment methods, 3) research on

the role of horses and sheep in transmitting human giardiasis, and 4) research on the effectiveness of various waste disposal methods in preventing human diseases from being acquired and/or transmitted by wildlife, insects, and water.

And for you *real* purists, maybe it's time to pack it out.

Finally, in response to Elliott's other concerns about mixing livestock grazing with the preservation of natural processes (i.e., wilderness), maybe we've been putting up with the "bull" for too long. Let's get off our saddles and amend the Wilderness Act.

Tom Suk
Truckee

Editor:

This is an unabashed fan letter. I just received my November-December, 1986 copy of the *Wilderness Record* (mail DOES take a long time to get from Davis to Reno), and I am delighted. From the informative articles by Sally Kabisch on the 100th Congress and Bruce Hamilton on the Forest Service budget to the guest piece by Tom Suk on the lamented demise of the wilderness ranger, the *Record* is full of good information presented in such a way that the reader wants to read every word. The staff deserves much applause for a great job.

Marge Sill
Reno

Line 90:



You Can Help California's Rare and Endangered Species With a Tax-Deductible Donation on Your State Tax Form.

FOREST PLANNING



Six Rivers National Forest

Trees, Metals, Roads: Business as Usual

by Tim McKay

Logging at levels close to those of the last decade, precious-metal mining, and 850 miles of new roads are all part of the preferred alternative in the long-awaited, just-released Six Rivers National Forest Plan.

The plan, intended to guide management decisions until the year 2000, also predicts that the timber output in all the alternatives considered would drop 40 percent if the Forest Service is prevented from using herbicides.

Among the eight alternatives, the preferred choice calls for cutting almost 175 million board feet [MMBF] which is near the average of the last decade. Others call for cutting levels of from 110 MMBF to 243 MMBF annually.

The draft plan underscores the traditional bias of the Forest Service towards producing the commodity known as timber, which one critic has called "first among multiples." The plan boosts timber and minimizes other multiple uses such as recreation and fisheries.

It also assumes that large-scale mining will occur—even though the prospects of the proposed miners, the California Nickel Corporation, are now at their lowest ebb.

Nevertheless the plan proclaims that Cal-Nickel "is doing extensive prospecting and exploratory work on Gasquet Mountain for nickel, chromite, and cobalt deposits." Such talk only sells more mining stock.

To its credit, after eight years in production, Six Rivers has produced a set of documents relatively free of gross typographical errors, unlike the neighboring Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Also to its credit, Six Rivers has recognized many issues such as Native American cultural uses, landslides, sensitive plant species, and water quality—issues which environmentalists have pressed in the courts for more than a decade. To read through the plan, however, you'd think the agency had invented these concerns.

Close examination does show, however, that Six Rivers serves timber and supports the politicians that support timber.

One recent scholarly review of seven federal agencies categorized two of them, the Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers, as virtually invincible because they deliver fat decentralized budgets to congressional districts. How else can one explain the last-minute massive increase in the Forest Service road-building budget despite two years of raging opposition in Congress?



Crescent City Fork of Blue Creek in the Siskiyou Mtns. Photo by John Hart

Six Rivers contains 2,400 miles of roads today. Under the preferred alternative, another 850 miles would be bulldozed into existence during the next decade. Other proposals call for as much as 990 miles of new road.

The Department of Fish and Game got an alternative into the plan but since it represents one of the lower cutting "extremes" it likely will not be adopted.

The Northcoast Environmental Center is enlisting a team of reviewers to stand up for the Klamath-Siskiyou scenery, fish, wildlife, forests, and rivers.

This team will oppose those who would bleed the region for its "present net value" and leave an eroding industrial woodlot in their wake.

You can be on this team, but first you have to get your copy of the plan and start plowing.

Write or call Six Rivers National Forest, LMP, 507 F Street, Eureka Ca 95501, (707) 442-1721, and request the whole plowing package.

Tim McKay is the director of the Northcoast Environmental Center and a member of the CWC's Advisory Board.

Last Gasp for the G-O Road?

An appellant court ruling banning construction of the Gasquet-Orleans (G-O) Road finally has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court by the Forest Service.

The agency filed just before Christmas, after being granted two extensions by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, appealing three lower court decisions which halted the forest highway through Siskiyou high country sacred to Native Americans.

The appeal focused on the First Amendment religious rights of Native Americans to object to the 55-mile-long road, and not on those parts of the lower court ruling that strengthened the environmental rules the agency must follow.

Lawyers have about 30 days to file briefs, and then it will be up to the nation's highest court to decide whether to re-hear the case. It could take a year or more.

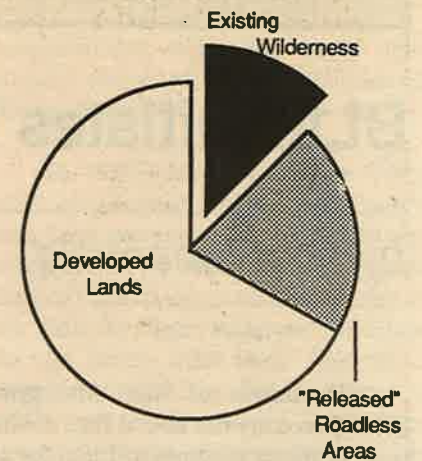
Legal moves to halt the piecemeal construction of the road have taken 13 years, and the opponents say they may take their campaign to Congress, which is due to review Forest Service road-building activities.

The agency, whose road system is already four times the length of the federal interstate highway system, wants to build hundreds of thousands of additional miles on national forests.

-Econews

Northcoast Environmental Center.

Six Rivers National Forest



Six Rivers National Forest

WILDERNESS AREAS

North Fork	8,270 acres
Siskiyou*	74,067 acres
Trinity Alps *	27,460 acres
Yolla Bolly Middle Eel*	11,584 acres

Total Wilderness 121,381 acres

* Six Rivers portion

FURTHER PLANNING AREAS

None

"RELEASED" ROADLESS AREAS

Roadless Area	1986 Acreage	Proposed Wilderness
Blue Creek	11,741	0
Board Camp	4,586	0
Cow Creek	1,309	0
Kelly	5,400	0
Monkey	8,246	0
Mt. Lassic	6,142	0
Orleans C	15,223	0
Packsaddle	3,626	0
Pilot Creek	9,797	0
Salt Creek	8,886	0
Ship Mtn.	12,279	0
Siskiyou B	18,251	0
Slide Creek	11,758	0
Soldier	14,821	0
S Kalmiopsis	284	0
Underwood	6,529	0
Big Butte-Shinbone	949	0
Orleans B	17,294	0
North Fork Smith	37,639	0

Total Roadless Acreage: 194,760
Total Proposed Wilderness 0



Smith River Photo by Tim Palmer

PUBLIC LANDS



BLM Initiates Final Phase of Wilderness Study Process

by Lora Moerwald

The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] recently has issued final environmental impact statements [EISs] for nine Wilderness Study Areas [WSAs], initiating the final reporting phase of the wilderness study process. Final EISs are now complete for Pit River Canyon, Tule Mountain, Lava, Timbered Crater, Cedar Roughs, Rocky Creek-Cache Creek, San Felipe Hills, Sawtooth Mountain, and Carrizo Gorge WSAs. Of the 142,560 acres comprising the nine WSAs, BLM has recommended BLM has recommended 43,139 acres for wilderness designation.

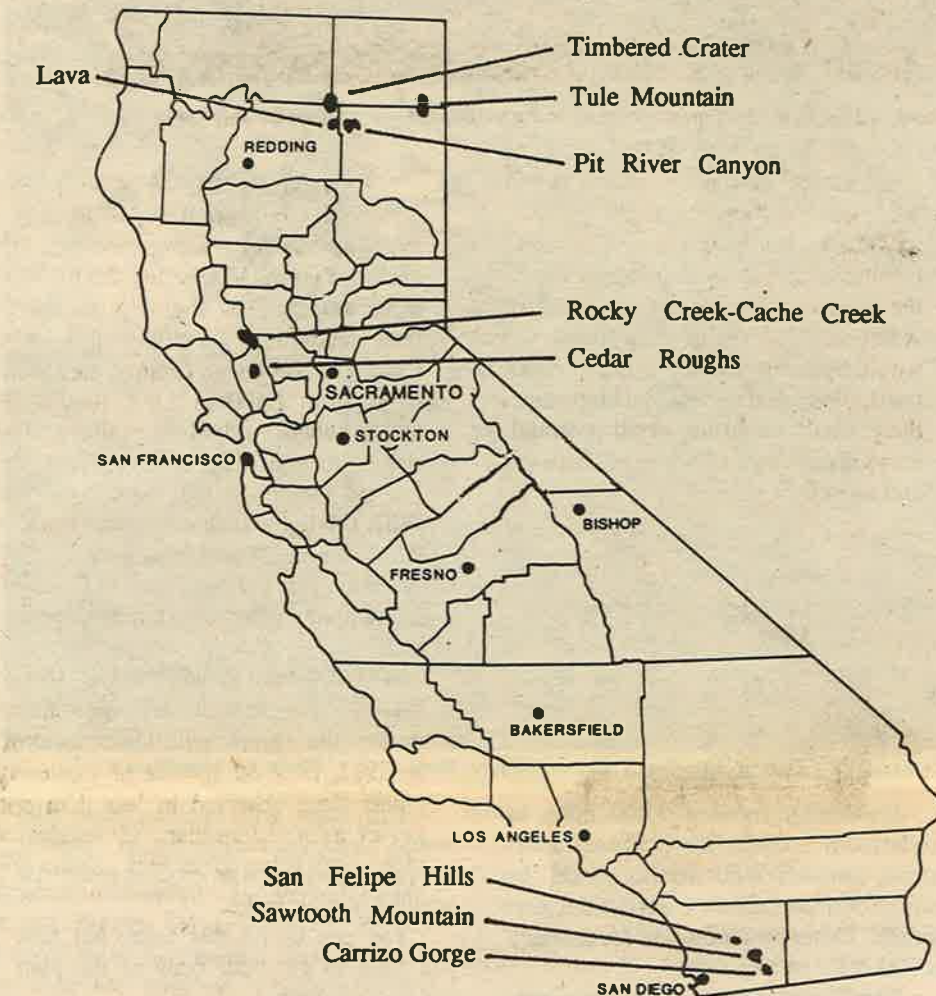
According to John Mills, Wilderness Coordinator for BLM in California, a little over two million acres of all California WSAs are projected to be recommended suitable for wilderness. BLM anticipates completing all WSA final EISs by the end of this year or early next year. Once final EISs are complete for the areas, the Secretary of the Interior will make a final recommendation to the President. WSA recommendations then will be sent to Congress for approval or change. Congressional wilderness designation would guarantee permanent protection for the areas.

The WSAs in the final EISs represent varied ecosystems throughout California from Modoc to San Diego counties. Descriptions of the areas follow:

Northern California

Of Pit River Canyon's 11,575 acres located in Lassen County, BLM has recommended only 6,640 acres for wilderness protection. The area is comprised of Horse Creek's and Pit River's canyon rims and upland areas outside the canyon. Approximately 740 acres of private lands would be acquired along the canyon rim to enhance wilderness values. The area contains numerous special features, including high density raptor nesting habitat, primarily golden eagles, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks, and American kestrels. Fishing, hunting, wildlife observation, hiking, and climbing are a few of the potential recreation activities available.

The remaining 4,935 acres would be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. Livestock grazing would continue throughout the WSA at current use levels. Hunting is the main form of motorized recreation in the area. BLM has rationalized that the remaining areas are not suitable for wilderness because



Location of the nine Wilderness Study Areas

they lack excellent opportunities for solitude and have low natural values, since most are narrow projections of land isolated from the central WSA.

Although recommending a portion of the area for wilderness, BLM is proceeding with a hydroelectric project which would route much of the Pit River around the WSA [see article on page 2].

None of 16,950 acres of the Tule Mountain WSA, which straddles Lassen and Modoc counties, has been recommended for wilderness designation. Impacts on wilderness values under this recommendation would result from continued motorized recreation use, intensive timber management, a prescribed burn to increase livestock grazing use, and continued maintenance of existing livestock projects. BLM states that the area does not provide unique ecologic, geologic or other features of special scientific, educational, or scenic value that would receive substantial benefit from wilderness designation. The area became a WSA as a result of a protest filed by the

California Wilderness Coalition during the wilderness inventory phase.

Tule Mountain forms the prominent landmark of the WSA and is viewed for miles within the surrounding areas. Vegetation is comprised predominantly of big sage, although ponderosa pine, mountain mahogany, and juniper are found within the area. Wildlife species at Tule Mountain include mule deer, coyotes, jackrabbits, cottontail rabbits, badgers, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, golden eagles, and great horned owls.

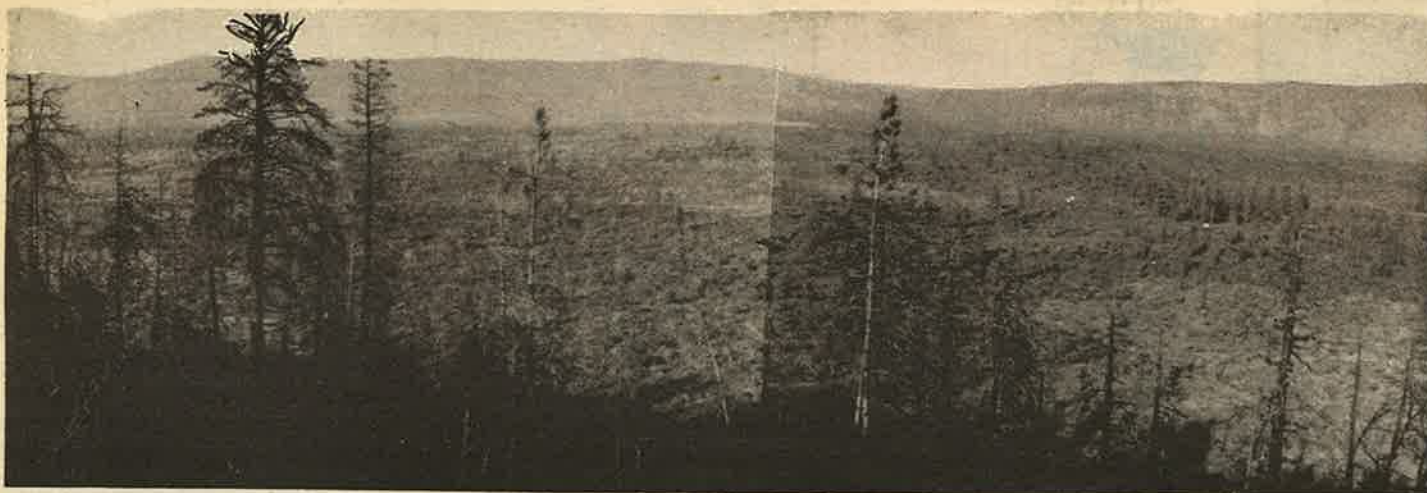
Under the proposed action, BLM has not recommended any of the 18,690 acres in the Timbered Crater WSA located in eastern Shasta County for wilderness designation. The dominant feature in this area is the large crater on the west boundary. The crater lies mostly outside the unit with only the east edge on BLM lands. Its slopes are covered with grasses, manzanita, and ponderosa pine. The unit also contains a 1,148-acre stand of Baker cypress and a crucial winter deer range. The remainder of the unit consists of a

large lava flow, which has not yet developed deep soils and is still rocky, rough and difficult to traverse. Additionally, the area contains several archeological sites. Impacts on wilderness values under a non-wilderness recommendation would result from timber harvesting, removal of flat lava rock and continued off-road vehicle [ORV] recreation on twenty percent of the WSA. Opportunities for solitude would remain only in the more rugged portions of the WSA.

During RARE II, the Forest Service recommended adjacent lands under their jurisdiction for wilderness designation with the understanding that BLM would recommend their lands as well. The WSA also is adjacent to potential state wilderness in Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park.

All 11,632 acres of Lava WSA, also located in eastern Shasta County, have been recommended for non-wilderness. Most of the area is similar to the Timbered Crater WSA, which consists of a lava flow dominated by a prominent butte. The butte is located on the southern end of the unit and rises 500 to 700 feet above the general elevation of the surrounding terrain. Several lava tubes and caves are found near the south boundary. A bald eagle nesting site also exists on the west side of the WSA. Approximately 7,000 acres of the south portion of the area is classified as a crucial deer winter range. Additionally, the area contains hedge-hyssop, a federally proposed threatened and endangered plant. Impacts on the region due to a non-wilderness designation would be similar to those at Timbered Crater.





Timbered Crater's wildlands encompass lands managed by BLM, the Forest Service, and a state park Photo by Jim Eaton

North Coast Range

None of the 5,597 acres of Cedar Roughs WSA, located in Napa County, has been recommended for wilderness designation. The area is generally a rounded ridgeline extending northwest to southeast. Iron Mountain rises to over 2,200 feet in the southern portion of the area, and Trout Creek Ridge parallels Cedar Roughs to the east as an intervening ridge between the WSA and Lake Berryessa. A unique Sargent cypress stand dominates most of the area. The remainder of the WSA is comprised of chaparral and chamise. Cedar Roughs is unique because it is the only known area in the county where black bears breed. The endangered American peregrine falcon may occasionally forage in some portions of the WSA. Recreation is limited in the area because there are few recreational resources and a lack of access to the area. BLM reports that impacts on the area due to a non-wilderness designation would be small, since little development activity or increased motorized recreational use is anticipated for the area.

All 33,582 acres of Rocky Creek-Cache Creek WSA, which straddles Lake and Yolo Counties, have been recommended as non-suitable for wilderness. Nearly 16,000 acres of the area have previously been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern [ACEC] (to protect the unique resource values found along the creek corridor) and a Research Natural Area (to set aside an area of pristine California chaparral for research activities). With the non-wilderness designation, these administrative designations would remain in effect, but oil, gas, and geothermal leasing and hardrock mining could be allowed. The remaining area would be subject to management practices emphasizing resource production, particularly mining and grazing.

Two important wildlife species are the bald eagles which winter in significant numbers along Cache Creek and the tule elk herd which has been resident since being reintroduced into the area in 1922. A stretch of whitewater along Cache Creek also adds to the recreational and scenic values of the area.

Unavoidable impacts from a non-wilderness designation would include an increased silt load in Cache Creek and its tributaries and the loss of vegetation from the construction of access trails and roads. Additionally, existing wilderness values would be decreased due to the intrusion of trails, roads, and mineral development, and there would be an increased potential for some disturbance of wintering bald eagles and tule elk.



Tule Elk Photo by Mark J. Palmer

San Diego County

None of the 5,265 acres comprising the San Felipe Hills WSA has been recommended for wilderness. Located in San Diego County north of San Felipe Valley and along the western border of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, this WSA is comprised mostly of steep rolling hills which rise 500 to 1,500 feet above the surrounding valleys. The hills are covered with dense, scrubby chaparral vegetation, with small clusters of live oak and scrub oak on the lower slopes. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail winds for 11.8 miles through the WSA along the crest of the ridge. Both woodland and cliff/bluff raptor nesting habitat have been identified in the northeastern portion of the area, and red-tailed hawks have been seen in the WSA. Despite any decision, BLM plans to close 4.75 miles of four-wheel drive trails. Present short-term uses, such as hiking and grazing, with the exception of ORV use, would continue under non-wilderness designation. Future development options would remain open. The WSA is contiguous with state wilderness lands in Anza-Borrego.

A whopping 21,926 acres of the Sawtooth Mountain B WSA are being recommended for wilderness designation, leaving two areas totalling 2,770 acres to be managed for multiple uses other than wilderness. Within this area, located in San Diego County, elevations range from 1,400 to 5,600 feet, alternating between ridges and valleys. The ridges extend like fingers from the Laguna Mountains into the desert. The WSA is adjoins state wilderness lands in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

The area's large size and rugged topography offer outstanding opportunities for hiking, backpacking, and nature observation and study. Photography opportunities are outstanding during the spring wildflower blooms. In 1983, over 80 species of flowering plants were observed in less than one square mile. More than 200 species of plants are believed to exist within the WSA boundaries. Spotted bats, San Diego horned lizards, several raptor species, great horned owls and ringtail cats are found in the area, and BLM is currently planning to relocate bighorn sheep there. Additionally, over 100 archaeological sites have been recorded within the area.

The WSA contains 1,960 acres of private lands, which are frequently used as a hunting camp. For the areas to be

designated for wilderness, twenty miles of roads and ways would be eliminated, closing most of the area to ORV use.

All 14,573 acres of Carrizo Gorge WSA, also located in San Diego County, have been recommended for wilderness designation. The WSA forms the western slope of Carrizo Gorge and is bounded on two sides by state wilderness in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Elevations range from 1,000 in Carrizo Gorge to 4,647 feet at Mt. Tule. Topography generally consists of steep slopes of the gorge and side canyons with a number of relatively flat open ridgetops on the west side of the WSA. A number of the side canyons support springs and fan palm oases which provide water sources for the State-listed "rare" Peninsular bighorn sheep.

Carrizo Gorge WSA offers some of the most outstanding scenic values within the California desert. From the eastern edge of In-Ko-Pah Mountains, at the point where the gorge begins its descent, superlative views of Carrizo Gorge and the Salton Basin are available. Views across distances of 100 miles or more are common, and the panorama includes the Salton Sea, Chocolate Mountains, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Carrizo Badlands, Coyote Mountains, and Mt. Signal, on the Mexican border. Several archeological resources also exist within the WSA.

Access to Carrizo Gorge WSA is restricted to hiking trails. Major activities include hiking, backpacking, rock-hounding, nature study, sightseeing and photography. Most of the species habitat is similar to that of Sawtooth Mountain B WSA. Under wilderness designation, ORV use will be prohibited, and future mining and mineral leasing will be eliminated.

Lora Moerwald is an intern with the CWC and is majoring in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning at the University of California at Davis.



The Cache Creek WSA is a haven for wintering bald eagles Photo by Phil Farrell

CALIFORNIA DESERT



S. 7: The California Desert Protection Act of 1987

By Jennifer Wachter

As represented by his recently introduced California Desert Protection Act of 1987, the California desert is receiving Senator Alan Cranston's top priority. In his address to the Senate, Sen. Cranston voiced his concern by stating that, "the wilderness values of the California desert are increasingly threatened by and especially vulnerable to impairment, alteration, and destruction by activities and intrusions associated with incompatible use and development." He went on to explain that his bill is "to assure that present and future generations will be able to enjoy the diverse resources of the desert".

The California Desert covers approximately a quarter of California. It includes some of the most beautiful scenery found in the world and houses incredibly varied ecosystems. The wildlife in the desert region ranges from desert tortoises and lizards to California mountain lions and bighorn sheep. The plant community includes some of earth's oldest life forms, such as bristlecone pines and 12,000 year-old creosote bush rings. The remains of ancient human habitations are also found in the desert, some of which have been judged to be approximately 70,000 years old.

Senator Cranston's bill gives statutory protection to 81 separate wilderness areas to be administered by the Bureau of Land Management [BLM]. The bill also designates three areas as national

parks—the existing Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments, and the eastern Mojave desert. Death Valley and Joshua Tree are enlarged by the bill, as the present boundaries exclude areas worthy of preservation. The proposed additions to Death Valley include such invaluable lands as Panamint Valley, Saline Valley, and Eureka Valley.

The additions to Joshua Tree include areas that were once within the original monument boundaries, but were removed from the park in 1950 because of mining activity at Eagle Mountain. The mine is now closed, and Sen. Cranston's bill proposes to restore to the park 245,000 acres of those lands remaining pristine.

The proposed Mojave National Park contains 1.5 million acres of land located between Death Valley and Joshua Tree. The majority of this land is known today as the East Mojave National Scenic Area, so declared by the BLM. This designation has proven to be completely ineffective in the preservation of this very valuable land, as the BLM has shown itself far too ready to sacrifice fragile desert land to off-road-vehicle racing and general vehicular usage. In addition, the BLM has proposed changing the boundaries of areas they previously proposed for wilderness designation. To better protect the east Mojave, Sen. Cranston proposes its addition to the national park system. Sen. Cranston recognized in his address to the Senate that there are some active



Clark Mountain in proposed Mojave National Park

Photo by Bob Badaracco

mining claims, grazing permits, power transmission facilities, a natural gas pipeline, and a communication cable within this area. The operations which are valid will not be stopped by the bill, but new entry in these areas will not be allowed.

The bill designates qualified lands within the three proposed national parks as national park wilderness. This includes a 3.2 million acre Death Valley wilderness, a 133,520 acre addition to the already existing Joshua Tree wilderness area, and a 747,940 acre Mojave wilderness. Sen. Cranston stresses that 4.6 million acres of public land will remain available for uses which are incompatible with "wilderness" designation, such as new mineral exploration, newly obtained grazing permits, and off-road vehicle [ORV] usage. Major areas enjoyed by ORV enthusiasts, as well as those with known commercial resource conflicts carefully have been excluded from the boundaries of the areas to be protected.

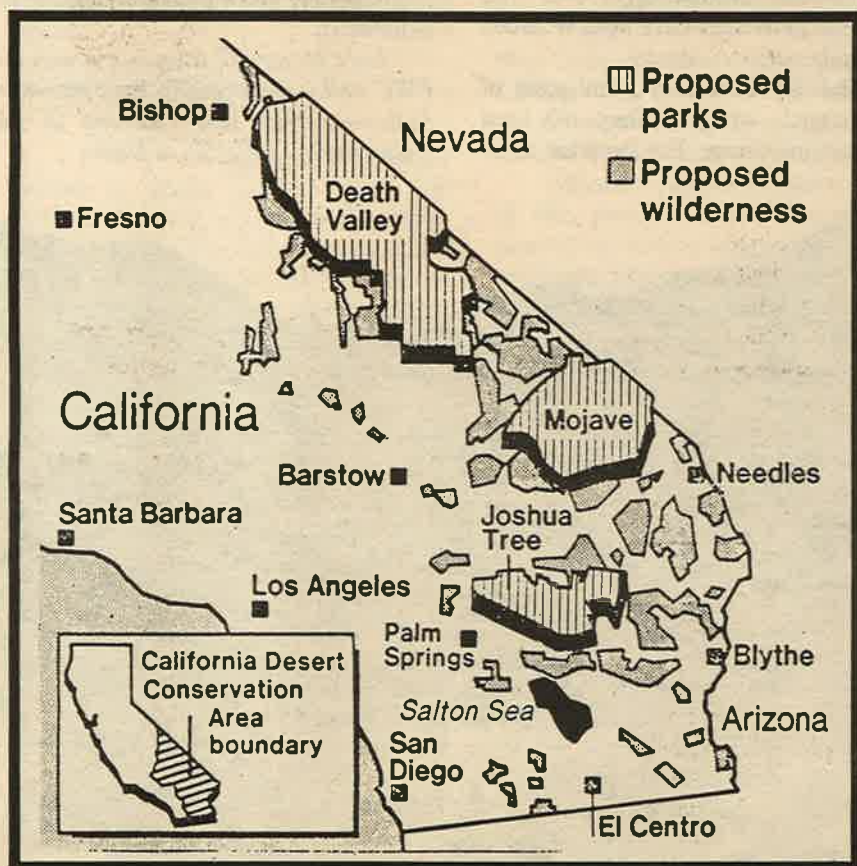
Red Rock Canyon has been a state park since 1969. When it was so declared, it was agreed that the private lands held within the area would be acquired by the state and that the BLM

land inside the boundaries would be transferred to the state. Sen. Cranston's bill resolves this issue by calling for the transfer of 20,500 acres of BLM lands to the California Department of Parks and Recreation and for the inclusion of these acres into Red Rock Canyon State Park.

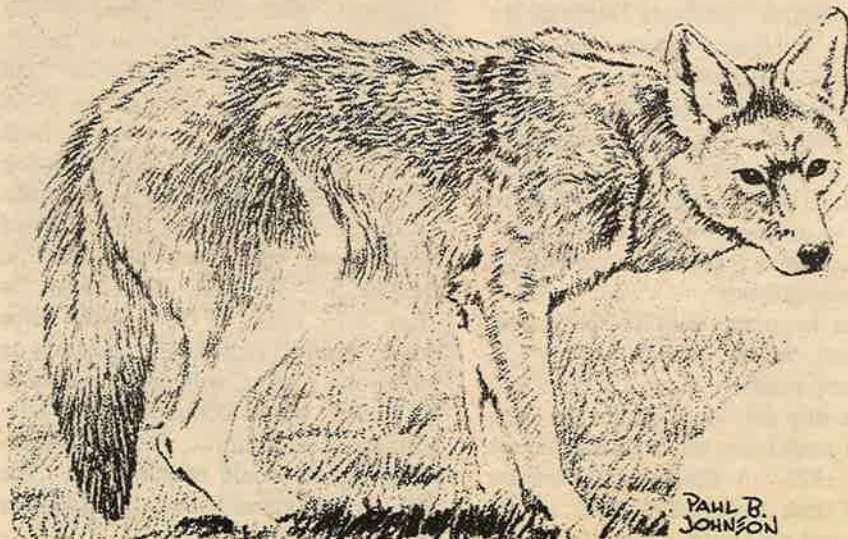
In addition, to protect the Desert Lily in its natural habitat, Sen. Cranston has proposed that statutory protection be given to the existing 2,040 acre Desert Lily Sanctuary. This will ensure that the area will not be redesignated or reduced in size. The Desert Lily only grows in the deep powder sand found in the low desert, a very fragile area, and needs to be well protected if it is to survive.

Finally, the bill designates the Indian Canyon National Historic Site, protecting it from impending golf course development. The land in this area is placed in the cooperative management of the Department of the Interior and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, who have title to this land held in trust by the United States.

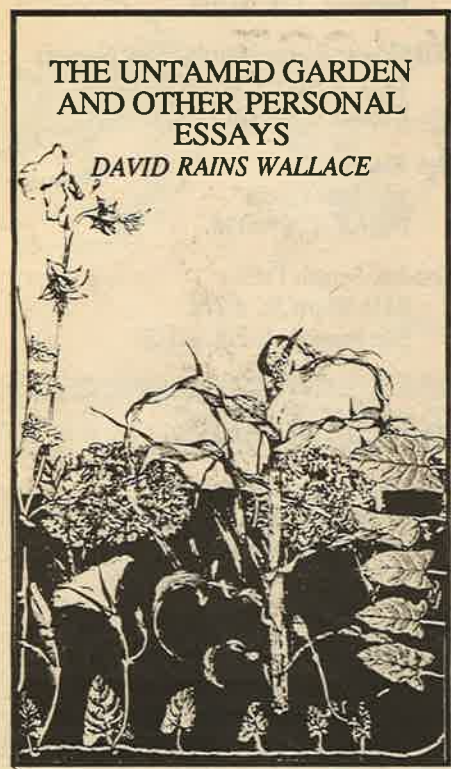
Jennifer Wachter is a volunteer with the CWC and is an Arts/English major at the University of California at Davis.



Courtesy of the San Francisco Examiner/Don McCartney



BOOK REVIEW



The Untamed Garden and Other Personal Essays. David Rains Wallace. Ohio State University Press. 1986.

There is not a heck of a lot of things to do in the hot summers of Davis, but tomatoes and other heat loving vegetables are easy to raise. So it was the gardener part of me that enjoyed the opening of David Rains Wallace's newest work, *The Untamed Garden and Other Personal Essays*:

"Sensible people take up gardening because they like fresh, inexpensive produce. That isn't why I took up gardening. I took it up because I had a vision of harmonious participation in the natural world."

A man after my own heart. (Once while digging compost and manure into my raised beds, I answered a neighbor's query by replying that my goal was to return the soil to what it was 150 years ago.)

Wallace has some interesting perspectives on gardening. Have you ever considered what a violent world a garden must seem to an earthworm? Is our anger towards pests a relic of an earlier time when we literally depended upon growing our own food? Instead of making a garden a "superproductive vegetable machine," why not have fun observing the antics of other creatures sharing your land?

But most of the essays are not about gardening, they are about wildlife and wildness. Some of the writings are about *real* wilderness: the Beartooth-Absaroka, Okefenokee, and Alaska. Most are about less wild places—Coyote Hills Regional Park near Fremont,

Oakland's Lake Merritt, and places in Mendocino County.

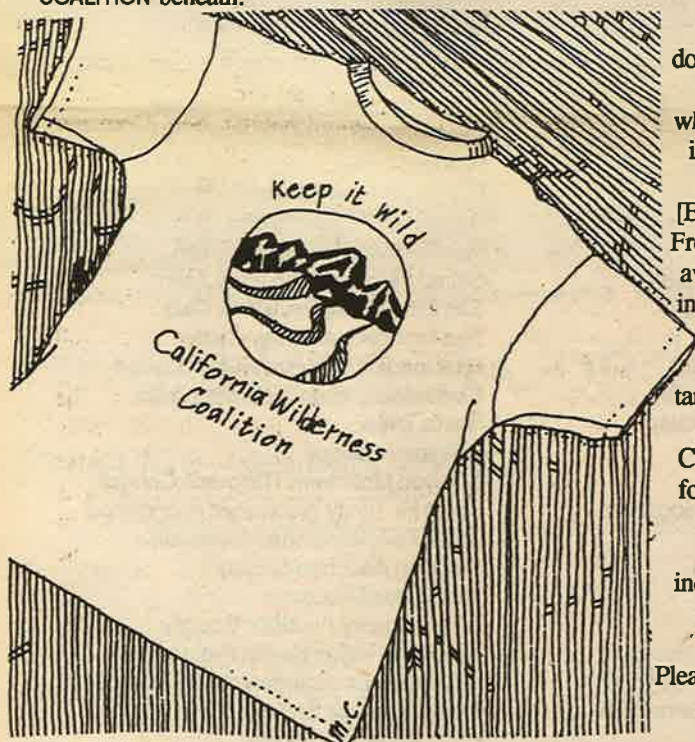
Wallace tends to concentrate on birds. In most of the essays he describes our flying friends in great detail. Ravens and starlings get their own compositions. Other essays are about predators, beavers, madtoms, wood rats, and ruffle shells. "Our inquiring primate minds need the novelty and stimulation of rarity. We need to know that there is more to the world than we know."

Twice before I have recommended books by Wallace, *The Klamath Knot* and *The Turquoise Dragon*. *The Untamed Garden* is another winner. You'll enjoy it.

—Jim Eaton

Never Out of Style

As the weather warms you will want to order your CWC T-shirt sporting the Coalition's 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 percent double knit cotton. Regular T-shirts are available in white, tan, blue, and yellow in small [S], medium [M], large [L], and extra-large [EX]. A limited number of French-cut style T-shirts are available in white and pink in women's small, medium, and large.

[Sorry, we are out of tan in large size at present.]

T-shirts are \$8.00 to CWC members and \$10.00 for non-members (sales tax included). Use the 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 and 75¢ for each additional T-shirt.

\$: Whence It Comes and Goes

End of the year donations pushed the income of the California Wilderness Coalition over \$32,000 last year. Included in the total is nearly \$12,000 in grants administered by the Coalition, much of it for distribution to local groups working on forest planning.

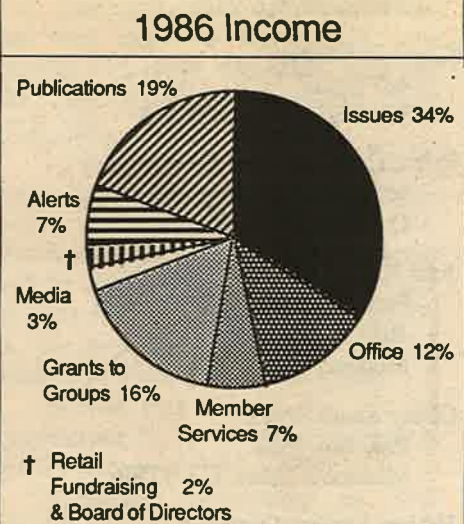
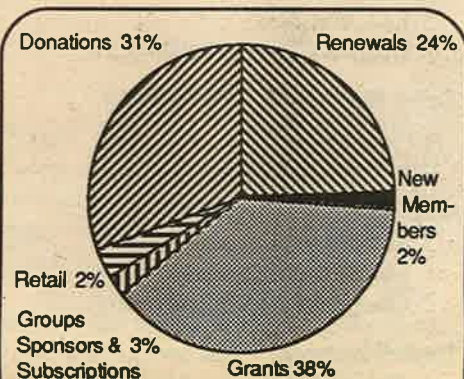
Renewals and donations still are the primary source of funding for the CWC, accounting for 55 percent of total income. In 1987, it is hoped that money from member groups, business sponsors, and new memberships will play a larger role.

In 1986, the CWC only spent \$25,000. However, most of the unspent income is earmarked for forest planning alerts, many of which will be funded in the first few months of this year.

As in previous years, the majority of the Coalition's income is spent on a variety of wilderness issues and in the production of the *Wilderness Record*. More than \$4,000 was given as grants to local groups.

Rent, telephone, and supplies chew up 12 percent of the annual budget. This will increase in 1987 with the move to a much larger office.

The distribution of Wilderness Alerts and the servicing of members each take up seven percent of income.



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

Like many citizen organizations, the California Wilderness Coalition depends upon sponsorship and support. The organization is grateful to have the following businesses that have recognized the need to preserve the wilderness of California.

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