



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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Senate Hearings On California Desert Bill

Legislation to protect the California Desert took a giant stride forward in July at hearings before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks, and Forests. Testimony was heard for and against Senator Alan Cranston's bill, S. 7, the California Desert Protection Act.

"The awesome presence of overwhelming time and force surround you in the desert. There is an immense, almost incomprehensible beauty there..." said Senator Cranston in describing his legislation.

Senator Cranston's bill gives statutory protection to 82 wilderness areas which cover 4.5 million acres of BLM land, redesignates both Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments as national parks and makes appropriate additions to both, and creates a new Mojave National Park. Companion bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives by Reps. Mel Levine and Richard Lehman.

"This legislation is not simply a matter of parochial interest to only those that reside in rural desert communities. I introduced the California Desert Protection Act earlier this year out of a personal commitment to protection of public lands and because the

California Desert is enjoyed by my own constituents in Los Angeles, urban dwellers outside my district, and visitors from all around the nation," Rep. Levine testified.

Rep. Lehman thanked Senator Cranston for setting the highest goals for the California Desert, stating "I know that it was not easy for Senator Cranston to begin a process which by its nature will be controversial, divisive, and exhausting...He has shown us what the top of the mountain looks like, so that we may climb as high as we possibly can."

The other key player in this issue, Senator Pete Wilson, attended much of the hearings but declined to take a position on the bill: "I am here to listen carefully before rendering judgement."

Opposition to the legislation came from the Reagan administration, Republican members of Congress, and the State of California, represented by Secretary for Resources Gordon Van Vleck. The administration argued that the California Desert Plan, developed by the Bureau of Land Management [BLM] with extensive public involvement and an \$8 million planning effort, is sufficient to protect the desert. Rep. Jerry Lewis called the bill "an unwise



A panel of California witnesses testify at Senate Hearing

Photo by Jim Eaton

and impractical circumvention of a Congressionally-mandated public policy process."

Many elected officials in California, however, do support S.7. "The sands of time are running out for California's deserts," warned Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy. "California keeps in trust a precious gift for the rest of the nation."

Letters of support for Senator Cranston's bill were submitted by Controller Gray Davis and the mayors of Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco.

Forty Californians journeyed to Washington, D.C., to testify and lobby on the bill's behalf. These citizens documented a decade of mismanagement of the desert by BLM.

See DESERT BILL HEARING, page 6

Hodel Suggests Liberating Hetch Hetchy Valley



By Jennifer Wachter

"What a wonderful thing it would be if we could return to Yosemite National Park a second valley."

What odd words to come out of the mouth of the Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel, no friend of California's natural environment!

On Thursday, August 6th, Hodel stated his intentions to support research into the destruction of Yosemite's O'Shaughnessy Dam on the Tuolumne River. This action would result in the draining of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and eventual restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley, a once magnificent place that was compared to a cathedral by John Muir and loved by environmental-

ists from all over.

Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club, lead the battle against the flooding of the Hetch Hetchy and lost in 1914. Since then, the idea to rid the world of the 430-foot block of concrete and free the valley has been on the minds of many environmentalists. No, Hodel's proposal is by no means new. It is, however, "a very odd idea coming from that source," as Senator Alan Cranston told reporters.

The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is the number one source of San Francisco's water supply and also generates a large sum of money from power generation. It is no surprise that San Francisco's Mayor Diane Feinstein was shocked by Hodel's suggestion. "I regard this, frankly, as the worst thing since selling arms to the Ayatollah.

It's one administration idea that truly belongs in Ollie North's shredder."

It is true that the restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley would be an amazing accomplishment, but the question of alternate power and water sources for San Francisco remains.

Hodel's solution to this problem lies in the building of the Auburn Dam on the American River, a proposal introduced many years ago and fought continuously by environmentalists. It is hard not to see the proposal to drain the Hetch Hetchy as a way for Hodel to divide up conservationists and ram the otherwise dead Auburn Dam proposal through. While not advocating that the federal government fund the building of the Auburn Dam, Hodel stated that "other

See HETCH HETCHY, page 7

COALITION REPORT

By Jim Eaton

Although this has not been a particularly hot summer here in the Central Valley, we have had our scorching moments (downtown Sacramento reached 110° recently). But after a week in Washington, D.C., with 100° heat and drenching humidity, California weather is a piece of cake.

About forty desert wilderness supporters braved that extreme mugginess to lobby and testify for the California Desert Protection Act in July [more details on page 1]. Working in teams, we managed to make about 70 Congressional visits, attend seven hours of hearings on the bill, participate in a couple of press conferences, as well as socialize at several dinners and receptions. An action-packed week.

The Sierra Club's D.C. office staff did an amazing job of helping this crew with office space, telephones, computers, copying machines, and advice. To add to the madhouse, lobby groups from Alaska and the Midwest also were crammed together with us.

The Coalition was well represented. Although wearing multiple hats, we had two of our directors, our entire staff (me), a business sponsor, and representatives from eight of our member groups.

I hadn't been to town since the California Wilderness Act, so I was pleased to find I hadn't forgotten how to navigate through the labyrinth beneath the Capitol that links the subways from the House and Senate. That way you can spend your entire day out of the heat by using the tunnels that connect the Capitol with the three House and three Senate office buildings.

So if you see someone wearing a T-shirt that says "I climbed the Hill for the California Desert," you know where they were in July.

And now for something completely different...

In the coming months you should see some real improvements in the *Wilderness Record*. Thanks to the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Coalition will hire a half-time editor this fall [see position announcement below].

With a person concentrating just on the *Record*, you can expect a better, more timely publication. It has been hard for me to meet production schedules (I seldom do) when the issues, hearings, and other projects don't recess for a week or two at newsletter time.

As a result of this grant, we intend to increase the *Record* frequency to monthly around the first of the year. I know that sounds ambitious, but if we are to get information out in a timely fashion, it is imperative to publish more often.

The grant proposal was written by our intern Lora Moerwald last spring. Actually Lora had an ulterior motive—employment. But while waiting for word on funding her proposal, she found more profitable employment elsewhere. Thanks, Lora, for your successful grant writing.

Our challenge during the coming year is to increase our membership to keep our new editor employed and the *Wilderness Record* at its new monthly schedule.

And yes, Inyo, the office puppy, shows no signs of slowing his explosive growth. Now at seven months and seventy pounds, I hesitate to think how big he'll be in 12 months.

He joined us in the Jennie Lakes Wilderness in early August at the first Coalition board meeting in a wilderness area. It was so successful that plans are being made for a spring meeting in the Phil Burton Wilderness at Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

We would like to welcome our newest business sponsor, attorney Christopher P. Valle-Riestra in Oakland.

UPDATE

National Park Flights Controlled

Legislation to study and control aircraft noise over national parks and Forest Service wilderness areas was signed without comment by President Reagan.

The bill by Rep. Tony Coelho sets interim minimum altitudes at Haleakala and Yosemite national parks and bans flights below the rim at Grand Canyon

Oil and Gas Leasing Protested by the Sierra Club and CWC

The Sierra Club and California Wilderness Coalition have protested the issuance of any oil and gas leases in the Lassen, Klamath, and Shasta-Trinity national forests. The Forest Service released an environmental assessment earlier this year for these forests, although the Bureau of Land Management actually issues the leases.

The groups argue that the leasing recommendation was selected without any honest balancing of mineral values and surface impacts, and without observance of the processes required by law. As a result, they feel the recommendation and supporting documentation should be returned to the Regional Forester for a complete rewrite.

Pit River Appeal Turned Down

The California Wilderness Coalition and four other organizations failed in their appeal of a right-of-way for a hydroelectric project that will dewater the Pit River Wilderness Study Area [WSA]. The power development will remove water from the Pit River upstream of the WSA and return it downstream.

The issue became mostly academic when a change in appeals regulations allowed the development to be constructed

while the appeal was before the Interior Board of Land Appeals [IBLA].

Although the project will decrease flows through the reach of the river by as much as 600 to 700 cubic feet per second [cfs], the Bureau of Land Management maintains that the requirement that 50 cfs remain in the river will assure a "visually aesthetic experience," protect fish populations, and provide sufficient moisture to maintain riparian vegetation.

BLM Plans King Range Helispots

With an appeal already before the Interior Board of Land Appeals over the Bureau of Land Management's [BLM] effort to open roads in the King Range Wilderness Study Area [WSA], the BLM now is planning to construct seven 90-foot in diameter helispots

inside the WSA. The Wilderness Society and the California Wilderness Coalition are protesting this proposal.

The seven helispots would be less than a mile apart, and many are within a mile of existing helicopter pads.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

TITLE: Editor of the *Wilderness Record*
LOCATION: Davis, California

JOB DESCRIPTION: The position is with the California Wilderness Coalition, a non-profit alliance of individuals, businesses, and 90 organizations working together or preserve the wild lands and waters of California. Now in its eleventh year, the Coalition produces a bi-monthly tabloid newsletter, the *Wilderness Record*, the only statewide publication that provides informative articles concerning the status of California wilderness, suggests proper use and enjoyment of backcountry lands, and encourages public action to preserve these important areas.

The Editor will be responsible for all aspects of producing the *Wilderness Record*. Duties include: 1) research, report, and write articles; 2) obtain graphics and photos; 3) lay-out and paste-up each publication; and 4) oversee printing and distribution of the

newsletter. The publication is to become a monthly by January 1988.

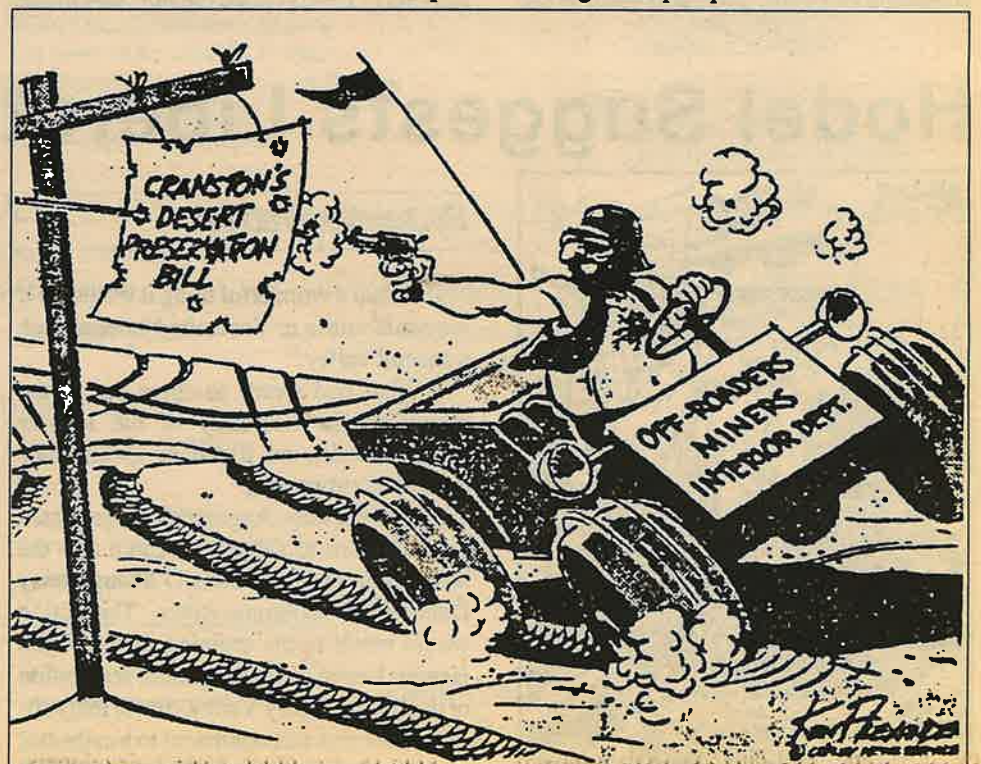
QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience in producing a newsletter
- Typewriting skills important [experience with computers, especially a Macintosh, helpful but not required]
- Ability to work with volunteers [part volunteer or staff position with an environmental organization preferred but not required]

TERMS: Half-time. Salary is \$500/month and is secure for one year by a grant. Benefits include flexible hours, vacation and sick leave, and paid holidays. Available in October 1987.

SEND RESUME AND REFERENCES BY SEPTEMBER 15TH TO:

California Wilderness Coalition
2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5
Davis, California 95616



From the Inyo County Register

Forest Wilderness

Santa Fe Pacific Threatens Mt. Eddy

By Phil Rhodes

Santa Fe Pacific Timber Company [SFP], which controls over 2,000 acres of inholdings in the 9,000-acre Mt. Eddy further planning area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, plans to road and log part of the area as early as this fall.

The further planning area was established by the Forest Service during the second roadless area review and evaluation [RARE II] and confirmed by Congress in 1984 as part of the California Wilderness Act. Congress specified that this remnant of Mt. Eddy wildlands be kept intact at least until the final Shasta-Trinity land management plan is issued. This "final" plan probably will not be completed for two or three years.

In the meantime, SFP has asked the Forest Service to grant them a right-of-way over public land to reach their inholdings. The Forest Service routinely grants rights-of-way requests under a standing "agreement" they have with SFP, but in this case the right-of-way would involve public and private land within the planning area, so the Forest Service is opting to take the unusual step of preparing an environmental assessment on the request. Public comments will be accepted through September 11, 1987.

Until recently, Santa Fe Pacific Timber Company was known in Northern California as Southern Pacific Land Company. Southern Pacific had a reputation of being a responsible timberland owner who, although they opposed federal wilderness designation, often logged their inholdings so carefully that these potential wilderness lands were believed by Congress to be worthy of designation anyway. Several examples may be found in the Mt. Shasta and Trinity Alps wilderness areas.

Such might have been the case at Mt. Eddy had it not been for a merger attempt that resulted in a change in name and top level management direction for the company. The new SFP, with its several hundred thousand acres of California timberlands, is up for sale, conceivably to a rapacious corporate raider.

The area SFP plans to log is about two miles northeast of the summit of Mt. Eddy, part of a large basin and adjacent ridges at the headwaters of Wagon Creek. In addition to Wagon Creek, the area includes tarns, meadows, and tributary streams.

In the 1970s, Southern Pacific built a road into the area and conducted a very light timber harvest. The managers at that time obviously recognized the environmental sensitivity of the area, which includes serpentine rock strewn on the soil at high elevation. The road and associated logging stopped just short of a very fine wildflower meadow, and road culverts were removed

from Wagon Creek and its tributaries, effectively obliterating the road through much of the area.

Now the new, apparently more timber hungry SFP wants to put the culverts back in, rebuild the road through the area, and extend the road across the middle of a gentian and *Darlingtonia* wet meadow and into a pristine forest.

On Mt. Eddy, SFP is engaging in timber "mining," removing all the merchantable timber it can sell, leaving only a mangy scattering of genetically inferior and non-commercial trees. The area may not recover for centuries. Water quality and quantity in Wagon Creek will be affected and the view of Mt. Eddy from the east will be altered.

If SFP is allowed a foothold in the Mt. Eddy area now, they may use this to develop other portions of their land in the further planning area, effectively gutting it. We cannot let this happen to Mt. Eddy. Please write the Forest Service and ask them to turn down SFP's right-of-way request.

Write by September 11th to:

Ken Showalter, District Ranger
Mt. Shasta Ranger District
204 West Alma Street
Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

Phil Rhodes, an activist with the Mt. Shasta Recreation Council, lives in Mt. Shasta.



The huge meadows of the Golden Trout Wilderness will be free of airplanes

Photo by Phil Farrell

Tunnel Meadow Airstrip in Golden Trout Wilderness Will Be Closed

The airstrip inside the Golden Trout Wilderness at Tunnel Meadow will be closed this year. The 1,500-foot long runway was used to bring visitors to the backcountry long before the wilderness was designated by Congress in 1977.

"It was a really nice operation," said pilot John Langenheim. "You could fly in there in 20 minutes, stay in camp and fish there or pack on to somewhere else..."

Hunters and fishermen paid \$110.00 for a round trip flight from Lone Pine into the meadow at 9,100 feet.

In 1946 Bob White began regular flights into the area. He later added a pack station at Tunnel Meadow that visitors used to reach the gorge of the Kern River and the Rocky Basin Lakes.

After White died in 1977, White's widow sold the flying service to Langenheim

and the pack station to another operator. But four years ago the pack station failed, and the Forest Service asked Langenheim to close up as well.



Vice President Bush Lobbies for Hydro Project

FRESNO, Calif. (UPI) A hydroelectric project near Yosemite National Park's south entrance which was sought by a family friend of Vice President George Bush will reportedly be licensed by a federal agency.

Environmental opponents of the project on Lewis Fork Creek, who contend Bush improperly lobbied for the project, said it would destroy a scenic waterfall and detract from a national scenic trail popular with Yosemite-bound travelers.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] spokeswoman Sharon Hyland said a license would be issued "shortly."

Bush's office made at least two calls to FERC last summer at the request of Bill Dyer of Newport Beach, Calif., the principal project developer. Dyer's father, Hector, a retired Texas oilman was a neighbor and friend of the Bush family when Bill Dyer was a boy.

Bush aides denied any improprieties in contacting FERC and said they would have done the same for any constituent.

One of the other project developers,

Dale Lucas of Madera, Calif., said issuance of the license would end nearly six years of what he called bureaucratic delays and "obstructionism" by environmentalists. He denied it would seriously damage the creekside environment.

The project is on Sierra National Forest land near the Madera County mountain community of Oakhurst, a few miles south of Yosemite's southern gate.

It was bitterly opposed by the Madera County grass roots environmental organization, Save Our Streams [SOS], and a number of other environmental groups as well as the Madera County Board of Supervisors.

SOS leader Jerry Bishop of North Fork promised an appeal of the FERC ruling and indicated his group might file a lawsuit.

Sierra National Forest Supervisor Jim Boynton said the project developers must still meet minimum stream flow requirements to protect the aesthetics of Corlieu Falls on the creek.

He said videotapes of the waterfall had

been taken and would be shown to the public to gather opinions on the minimum amount of water that should be left in the creek. He said minimum stream flows should be set in the next two months.

Rep. Richard Lehman [D-Sanger], a long-time opponent of the Lewis Fork project, said he was "very disappointed in FERC's pending action."

"Our constituents, Madera County, and the public in general have had their concerns ignored," said a statement issued by Lehman's office. "Lewis creek is another example why small hydro laws need to be reformed."

Lucas said he believed issuance of the FERC license meant he could begin construction of the \$5.4 million project anytime but that he would still seek a state water rights permit.

The project involves a powerhouse, a 7,000 foot pipeline, and some transmission lines.

—LLOYD G. CARTER

Defacto Wilderness

Wildlands of the Volcanic Tablelands—Glass Mtn. Area

by Jim Eaton

A little-known cluster of roadless areas lies between Mono Lake and Bishop. These wild areas, mostly of volcanic origin, are overshadowed by the Sierra Nevada on the west and the White Mountains to the east, both ranges climbing to above 14,000 feet.

Known in Paiute legend as "the burnt land," the 150,000 acres of wild lands between these two major ranges are part of one of the most violent regions in California. Volcanic eruptions have occurred at the rate of once per century for the past 2,000 years, leaving cinder cones, craters, obsidian domes, and acres of pumice.

About 700,000 years ago a cataclysmic blast about 200 times greater than the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption launched ash as far east as Nebraska. The volcano in Long Valley erupted ash, pumice, and Bishop Tuff, a porous rock that blankets about 450 square miles of the region. The volume of material ejected is estimated at 150 cubic miles.

Four Forest Service roadless areas are found here: Dexter Canyon, Glass Mountain, Watterson, and the Benton Range. The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] has five Wilderness Study Areas: Benton Range, Chidago Canyon, Casa Diablo, Fish Slough, and Volcanic Tablelands. Another wild area further west in this region (but not part of this article) is the Mono Craters roadless area, now a part of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area.

During the Forest Service's second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation [RARE II], none of the roadless areas were recommended for wilderness designation. The Benton Range (including BLM's land) is being reevaluated in the Inyo National Forest Plan, but the area has been rejected for wilderness in the draft plan.

BLM reviewed its WSAs in 1983; none were recommended for wilderness.

GLASS MOUNTAIN AREA

Although much of this region is gentle

country, there are sharp canyons in the east and steep slopes leading to the summit of 11,123-foot Glass Mountain.

Part of the area supports lodgepole and Jeffrey pine forests, including the largest stand of pure Jeffrey pine in the world. Much of the remaining area is vegetated with pinyon pine-juniper and sage-grass communities. The craters, lava flows, and the south-facing slopes of Bald and Glass mountains are essentially unvegetated.

Prehistoric use is significant, with obsidian obtained at Glass Mountain found in cultural sites in the Midwest.

Wildlife values include winter deer range, pronghorn, and goshawk.

BENTON RANGE

The Benton Range is a Forest Service roadless area with contiguous BLM lands. Elevations in this pinyon pine-juniper woodland range from 5,800 to 8,252 feet.

Most of the terrain is steep and rugged, with some gentler slopes and flats on the northern end. Rock is volcanic and granitic, with a ridge of eroded granitic domes along the northeastern boundary. Good views may be had of the White and Glass mountains.

The Forest Service claims that should the area be designated wilderness, "recreation use would decrease," as few people would find the area attractive for a wilderness experience."

Considerable vandalism and theft of cultural resources have already resulted from artifact hunters using 4-wheel drive vehicles.

THE TABLELANDS

South of the Benton Range are flat to rolling tablelands, volcanic terraces, rugged hills, canyons (including the deeply incised Chidago Canyon), and drainages. The extensive tablelands landform is unusual and unique to this area. The WSAs offer outstanding views of the eastern Sierra and White Mountains.

This land is winter habitat for the Casa Diablo mule deer herd. Raptor and eagle nesting habitat also is present.



Chidago Canyon slices through the gently sloping tablelands

Photo by Jim Eaton

Vegetation is mostly Great Basin shrubs, such as spiny hopsage, shadscale, ephedra, dalea, and cholla as well as intermixed annual plants. Juniper is found in the upland areas.

Cattle and sheep graze the area, and there is some hunting and light ORV use.

Much of the area is used for archaeological research and observation by the public and scientific community. There are many camps with rock rings and lithic scatters. The Bishop Paiute Elders have expressed concern about protecting the areas.

These WSAs offer no potential for oil and gas, very low potential for non-metallic minerals, low to very low potential for uranium and thorium, low to moderate potential for metallic minerals, and moderate potential for geothermal development.

AGENCY PLANS

The Forest Service has plans for their roadless areas that does not include much preservation:

Dexter Canyon—97 percent range emphasis and 3 percent high level timber management.

Glass Mountain—57 percent range emphasis, 27 percent limited access, 10 percent high level timber management, and 6 percent research natural area.

Watterson—100 percent range emphasis.

Benton Range—86 percent mule deer emphasis and 14 percent range emphasis.

BLM, too, has plans for its WSAs should Congress not designate them as wilderness:

Chidago Canyon—Mining and geothermal development, grazing, expansion of the boundary transmission line corridor, ORV use (including an "historical motorcycle trail," and a pending aqueduct application by Los Angeles.

Fish Slough—Geothermal development, grazing, expansion of the boundary transmission line corridor, ORV use, potential development of a power site reserve, and

a pending aqueduct application by Los Angeles.

Casa Diablo—Geothermal development, grazing, expansion of the boundary transmission line corridor, ORV use, and potential development of a power site reserve.

Volcanic Tablelands—Mining and geothermal development, grazing, expansion of the boundary transmission line corridor, ORV use, potential development of a power site reserve, and firewood gathering.

FURTHER READING

More information on the geology of the region may be found in *Earthquakes and Young Volcanos along the Eastern Sierra Nevada* by C. Dean Rinehart and Ward C. Smith, Genny Smith Books, Palo Alto, 1982.

Jim Eaton is the Executive Director of the California Wilderness Coalition.



7,912-foot Casa Diablo Mountain rises above the tablelands

Photo by Jim Eaton



Benton Range Photo by Jim Eaton

Oxbow Returns Once Again

"Temporary" Powerline in the Casa Diablo WSA

Proposed powerlines don't die, they just charge on. The Bureau of Land Management has given permission to the Oxbow Geothermal Company to build a "temporary" powerline just inside the Casa Diablo Wilderness Study Area [WSA].

In the fall of 1985, Oxbow began plans to run a powerline from their geothermal fields in Dixie Valley, Nevada, to Bishop. For the most part, the new powerline would follow existing transmission corridors.

Oxbow was stymied, however, when they reached the Casa Diablo and Fish Slough WSAs. Although the WSAs are

separated only by a powerline corridor, the strip was too narrow to allow for a new transmission line. Oxbow asked to be allowed to build inside the Casa Diablo WSA to avoid creating a new corridor elsewhere.

The California Wilderness Coalition pointed out that this would take an Act of Congress, something the Coalition would fight. The Bureau of Land Management concurred and suggested alternate routes.

At that point Oxbow decided that the impossible was possible: they could add their line to an existing line in the corridor, something the Coalition was told from the begin-

ning just couldn't be done.

Now Oxbow reports that this "temporary" powerline must be built in the WSA so that the existing poles can be rebuilt and restrung without a loss of service.

The Coalition protested this plan, but after walking through the area, reviewing the environmental analysis, and receiving additional information, the protest was withdrawn. The "temporary" line will be built only a few feet into the WSA, great care will be taken in its construction, it will be removed next year, and the area will be restored to a natural appearance. The alterna-

tive was a new powerline across lands not currently scarred.



Existing transmission lines between the Casa Diablo and Fish Slough WSAs
Photo by Jim Eaton

Rocks Stolen From Fish Slough WSA

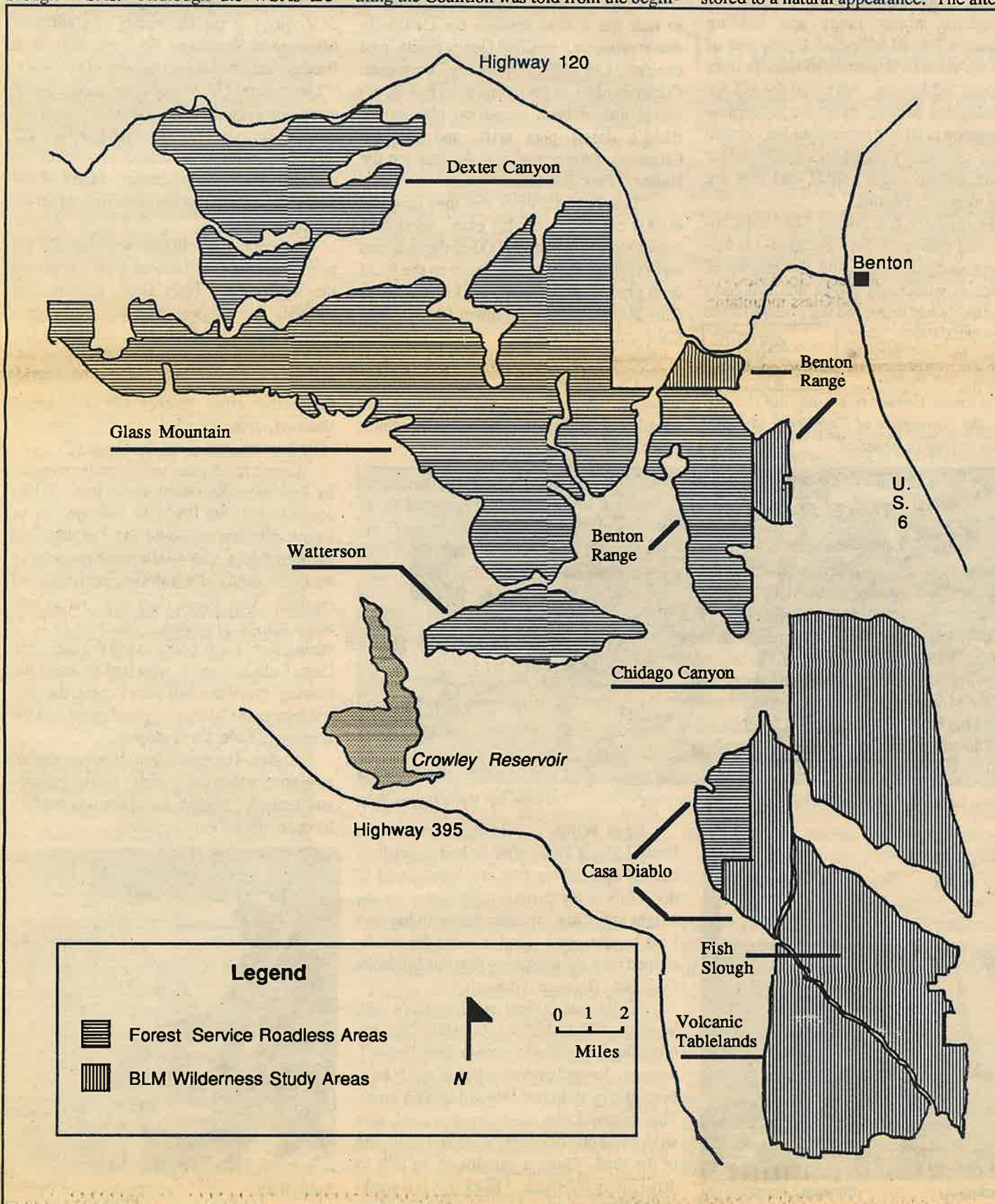
The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] caught a local resident stealing decorative rock from the Fish Slough Wilderness Study Area [WSA]. It is estimated that 19 tons of rock may have been removed.

The trespasser and employees were driving flat bed trucks cross-country into the WSA. The cross-country travel has caused the destruction of some local vegetation and disturbance of the aesthetic quality of the slope over an area of approximately 6-7 acres.

BLM will ask a federal magistrate to require the trespasser to complete or pay for rehabilitation of the WSA to a natural appearance and to assess appropriate fines and punitive damages.

Wildlands of the Volcanic Tablelands/Glass Mtn. Area

Roadless Area	BLM Acres	USFS Acres
Dexter Canyon		17,725
Glass Mountain		53,975
Watterson		7,465
Benton Range	4,052	10,451
Chidago Canyon	20,246	
Casa Diablo	9,167	
Fish Slough	14,450	
Volcanic Tablelands	11,840	
Uninventoried Strip	5,280	
Total	65,035	89,616



PUBLIC LANDS

Final Recommendations for Northeast California Released

By Michael Ceaser

The Bureau of Land Management [BLM] has released its final wilderness recommendations for areas in the Eagle Lake-Cedarville region.

This latest final environmental impact statement looks at 13 Wilderness Study Areas [WSAs], including six all or partly in California: Tunnison Mtn., Five Springs, Skedaddle Mtn., Dry Valley Rim, Buffalo Hills, and Twin Peaks. Five of these straddle the California-Nevada border about midway between Lake Tahoe and Oregon; the sixth is a little to the west, directly east of Susanville.

The WSAs areas boast deep ravines, grasslands, riparian areas and pine forests that support a broad cross-section of Great Basin flora and fauna. If the five study areas on the border were all designated wilderness they would form a single, contiguous, 346,000-acre preserve. The BLM, however, chose to recommend only four of the six Study Areas just for partial wilderness designation, and it consistently based its decisions on human values, not ecological merit.

The BLM did their best, for example, not to interfere with off-road vehicle [ORV] play areas. Although the BLM recommended a healthy 41.6 percent of the total area of the six WSAs for wilderness status, it picked those areas so that they would interfere with only 7.7 percent of the total number of ORV use days. They also left alone the few areas with mining or energy potential, as well as all of the likely paths for a proposed trans-Sierra power line.

Those all might seem like reasonable decisions, but ecological value clearly loses out in the process. In the Tunnison Mtn. WSA, for example, the investigators found "critical deer winter range throughout most of the WSA's southeastern end inclusive of all of Willow Creek...and critical pronghorn winter range around the confluence of Pete's Creek and Willow Creek and the area to the south." The Tunnison Mtn. WSA was recommended for partial wilderness designation, but almost none of the above areas, which the BLM's own study noted for their

high wildlife value, were included in the area that the BLM recommended be wilderness.

Similarly, in the Dry Valley WSA the BLM found "large wintering herds of deer" to be "common on the gradually sloping western flanks of the WSA." The wilderness area proposed by the BLM leaves out much of that ecologically valuable western flank.

In the Twin Peaks WSA the investigators found six wildlife habitats that they considered important enough to mention. These included: "sage grouse strutting grounds," "mule deer winter range," and "pronghorn winter range and kidding grounds." The BLM included only one of these six areas so important to wildlife in its proposed wilderness. All six of the WSAs, including the two for which no wilderness designation at all was recommended, contain a cross-section of great basin wildlife. All six contain golden eagle habitat and five are home to prairie falcons.

Fortunately, it is not the BLM but Congress that makes the final decisions on wilderness designations. And the history of California wilderness shows that Congress consistently has increased the acreage of the recommendations submitted by the federal agencies like BLM.



Michael Ceaser is graduating this fall from the University of California at Davis with a degree in genetics.



Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy encourages California activists

Photo by Kelly Hayes-Raitt



Judy Anderson and Jim Dodson testify at Senate Hearing

Photo by Rose Certini



Bob Barnes tells the Senators about the Kern River Watershed

Photo by Rose Certini

Desert Bill Hearing

Continued from page 1

"I regret that I must say the BLM seems to lack the will to manage the California desert properly," testified Genny Smith, past chair of BLM's Desert Advisory Committee. Criticism of BLM also came from Bob Badaracco, former head recreation planner for BLM's desert plan staff, and Howard Chapman, former regional director for the National Park Service.

"The BLM tells you that they received 40,000 comments on this plan...what they neglect to say is that 30,000 of those letters were seeking more protection than the BLM draft plan offered," said Jim Dodson, Sierra Club Regional Vice President for Southern California and Nevada.

As expected, off-road vehicle [ORV] interests oppose S. 7. Other witnesses, however, showed that the bill does not greatly restrict the use of the desert by vehicle users.

ness in the bill. Those cherry stems need to be cut off at the cherry so they can produce good fruit."

Robert C. Stebbins, Emeritus Professor of Zoology at the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, warned of the destruction of the fragile desert by ORVs. "'Legitimate' (BLM approved) and illegitimate (unsanctioned by BLM) ORV activity has now seriously damaged the natural ecology of hundreds of thousands of acres of the western and southern Desert. Many of the more seriously impacted areas may never recover."

A number of citizens working for the proposed Mojave National Park supported the legislation. Peter Burk, representing Citizens for Mojave National Park complained that "BLM has been unable to say 'no' to speculative miners, prospectors, entrenched and absentee grazing interests, destructive cross country ORVers, target shooters, archaeological vandals, irresponsible hunters, and some developers."

Comic relief was inadvertently provided by Resources Secretary Van Vleck. While complaining that the new national parks would stop hunting, especially of deer and bighorn sheep, Van Vleck proudly spoke of the desert tortoise, "California's official state reptile." Van Vleck then went on to talk about all the proposed wilderness in S. 7, stating that "I was going to tell the chairman [Sen. Dale Bumpers, who had to leave the hearing] that if this bill were to pass, the total wilderness in California would equal half the acreage of his state of Arkansas."

At that, Georgia's Sen. Wyche Fowler, now conducting the hearing, leaned forward and replied, "Maybe, but Arkansas doesn't have an official state reptile."

Dave Willis, a wilderness guide who formed Sierra Treks after he lost to frostbite half of each of his feet and hands, said "I don't follow the curious logic that gives me a right to further handicap the earth because I am handicapped. And it is not the handicapped who are screaming that this bill locks them out. Because it doesn't."

Willis was critical of Cranston's bill, however. "The odd thing about this Cranston bill is that it would allow me to drive into wilderness. Seven hundred miles of roads have been cherry stemmed into wilderness areas. That means I can drive down a road with wilderness on both sides of me and at the end of the road. Quite a paradox to be able to drive into wilderness. I think this is a weak-



Peter Burk

Photo by Rose Certini

Book Review: *Photographing Wildflowers*

Photographing Wildflowers: Techniques for the Advanced Amateur and Professional, by Craig and Nadine Blacklock, Voyageur Press, MN, 64pp., \$9.95.

This not only is an informative book, but the outstanding color photographs throughout show you that the techniques really work. The Blacklocks take you from finding your subject through all the methods you may use to take great photos of wildflowers.

There is information on equipment that will help, including some items I had not thought of (duct tape: "We find it essential in nearly all photographic work"). Some tricks of the trade are given, such as using a diffusion tent to soften sunlight, stop the wind, and keep rain off your equipment. Although you may not want to take all this equipment backpacking, you can get some good ideas on

making better use of that you do bring along.

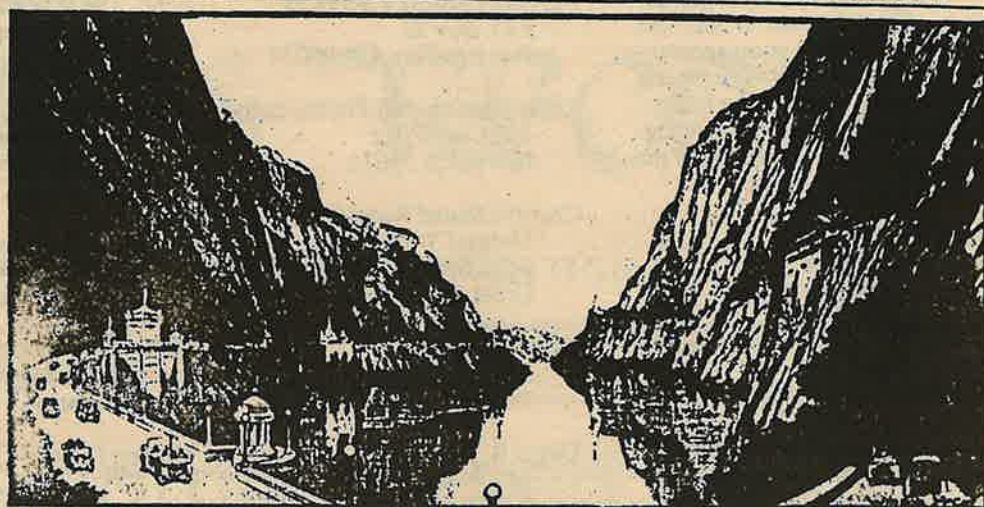
Chapters on Depth of Field and Focusing, Metering, Lighting, and Separating the Subject from the Background give you additional technical information, although not at all confusing. The book is straightforward, clearly written, and to the point.

In addition to close-up photos, other chapters include information on photographing wildflowers with a landscape background and other subjects other than flowers. There is some good philosophy as well: "we do not condone the picking of wildflowers anywhere..." The Blacklocks also caution that in some public places even removing dead weeds may be against the rules, so the photographer should ask about policies.

—Jim Eaton

Tuesday, December 2, 1913 Editorial Page San Francisco Examiner Tuesday, December 2, 1913

DOES THIS BEAUTIFUL LAKE RUIN THIS BEAUTIFUL VALLEY



THE REAL FACTS ABOUT HETCH HETCHY

On December 2, 1913, the day the Senate voted on the Hetch Hetchy bill [the Raker bill] a special edition of the San Francisco Examiner, propounding the benefits of the dam, was placed on every Senator's desk.

From John Muir and the Sierra Club

Hetch Hetchy

Continued from page 1

entities (such as San Francisco) might be interested in such an idea."

The Auburn Dam proposal would be neither environmentally nor financially sound. Not only would it cause the destruction of another invaluable valley be the most costly dam yet in the U.S., but it would necessitate either building of the Peripheral Canal or shipping more water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Thus Auburn Dam clearly is not a satisfactory alternative to Hetch Hetchy.

"Donald Hodel, who wants to despoil the coast, ignore the fragile desert, and dam our rivers is no friend of the California environment," Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy criticized. "Since Donald Hodel has supported destructive dams on other California rivers, we know this proposal does not stem from his environmental vision."

Under Hodel, the administration has called for increased offshore oil drilling, opposed designation of wilderness areas, and supported of other dams on the Tuolumne River.

The Sierra Club has long dreamed that the O'Shaughnessy Dam would be removed and is now wholeheartedly supporting its

possible destruction. The group has suggested that the already existing Don Pedro reservoir, located farther down the Tuolumne River, as an alternative water source. The Sierra Club does not endorse Hodel's suggestion to construct the Auburn Dam.

Paul Pritchard, president of the National Parks and Conservation Association said that he was ready to work with Hodel on the condition that various other power and water alternatives for San Francisco are explored. He stated that if Hodel "is trying to become an environmental secretary before he walks out, this isn't going to do it."

As Pritchard added, it is important that we "focus first on not creating more Hetch Hetchy's."

Hodel headed off to Alaska shortly after expressing the wonder of returning Hetch Hetchy to Yosemite. No doubt he will be working hard to gain support for a proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration. Hodel is not one to speak of the destruction of dams as he seems to create "more Hetch Hetchy's" wherever he goes.

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

"I'd Flip for a T-Shirt

—No Lion!"

Whether hanging around at the beach or just paddling around, 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.



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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.

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