



# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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Winter in the Freel Peak Roadless Area, part of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Photo by Phil Farrell

## Fisher Tracks Found in Tahoe's Duncan Canyon *Elusive Mammal Stops Roadless Area Logging*

By Bill Burrows

Tucked away deep in the southeastern Tahoe National Forest in the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the American River is an expanse of 9,000 acres of pristine, roadless wilderness known as Duncan Canyon. The Duncan Canyon Roadless Area contains the largest concentration of closed canopy, old-growth mixed conifer forest in the entire Tahoe National Forest. The area also encompasses some of the most beautiful sections of the Western States Trail, part of which hosts famous 100-mile annual endurance runs from Squaw Valley to Auburn.

Since the spring of 1986, the fate of this beautiful land has been the grounds of a classic battle between local environmental and trail users groups and the Forest Service's (FS) logging objectives. The FS

had plans to log two sections, a total of 700 acres, in Duncan Canyon. The Sunflower sale was planned for the north side of Duncan Creek and the Duncan sale for the south side.

When the agency first proposed the two sales the Forest Issues Task Force (FITF), a local environmental group, and the Western States Trail Foundation, which sponsors the annual endurance run and the Tevis Cup horse endurance race, began working together to appeal the sales and preserve Duncan Canyon's *de facto* wilderness.

As a result of their initial appeal, the Sunflower sale was withdrawn when the Environmental Assessment (EA) was found to be incomplete. The EA had not adequately examined what the logging's impact would have been on the Western

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## South Fork Trinity River

### *Salvage Logging Stopped By Court*

By Jay Watson

In a victory for conservationists, on November 21 Judge Lawrence Karlton of the Eastern District Court of California entered a preliminary injunction banning salvage logging in the South Fork Roadless Area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

The purpose of the lawsuit, the Wilderness Society et al. v. [Forest Supervisor] Robert Tyrrel et al., is to halt the implementation of the South Fork Fire Salvage Recovery Project. Plaintiffs maintain that the project violates the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, National Forest Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, Forest Service regulations, and Forest Service regional guidelines concerning logging in designated spotted owl habitat areas.

Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, candidate rivers can be included in the Wild and Scenic River System in two ways: by Congressional designation or by obtaining statutory protection under a state-initiated process where a Governor formally requests inclusion by the Secretary of the Interior. The South Fork Trinity River was designated through the special state process and thus became a Wild and Scenic River by proclamation of the Secretary of the Interior in January 1981.

The preliminary injunction was based primarily on two violations of the Wild and Scenic Rivers. First, the Forest Service violated section 12 (a) of the Act by failing to adopt a comprehensive management plan for the river prior to undertaking logging and road construction that could degrade the rivers wild and scenic values. The Forest Service has failed to prepare a management plan for the South Fork Trinity River despite having had seven years to do so.

Second, Judge Karlton found that the Forest Service had not met project planning requirements set forth in the 1986 amendments to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Section 12 (c) of the Act requires federal agencies "administering a component of the national wild

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## Final Plan for Lake Tahoe Basin All Wet

In June of 1986 the public was asked to comment on a draft forest plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). Now, after several public meetings, an open house, a hearing, and comments from 353 individuals, groups, and officials, the new selected alternative has been unveiled.

It is virtually the same as their preferred alternative in the draft plan.

So much for public comment.

Actually there is one change in their wilderness recommendations. In the draft

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• *BLM review board backs down on King Range road...p. 3*

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## Monthly Report

By Jim Eaton

Rather than face the hordes of skiers after Thanksgiving (and their traffic jams), Wendy, Inyo, and I headed west to check out a new public access into the Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area. The trailhead is just off Highway 20 where it crosses the North Fork of Cache Creek (more details in a future *Wilderness Record*).

Now the easiest way to get into the WSA is simply to walk down the dirt roads that parallel the creek. But private land blocks the way, and it is ferociously posted. So the Bureau of Land Management built a trail to circumnavigate this land.

I do credit BLM for trying. But this trail is the most poorly constructed route I have hiked (surpassing some particularly bad stretches of the Pacific Crest Trail in the Carson-Iceberg and Mokelumne wilderness areas). They built it with a bulldozer.

I guess people and bulldozers just don't think alike. Among the problems:

- Machines like to go straight up hills rather than contour along them. Although the grade wasn't excessively steep, it is built on a dirt mountain side which becomes wet in the cool, rainy months—precisely when this is a popular place to hike. When you try to hike up the steeper portions of the trail, you keep slip-sliding away.

- Rather than contouring through a grassy hillside, the bulldozer chose to crash through a chemise thicket—sure to be a continual maintenance problems as the chaparral grows back.

- When the machine did try to contour along a hillside, the berm it left on the outside of the trail will force water to run off down the inside of the trail (inboard drainage for your engineers), washing the whole thing away. Anyway, the cuts into the hillside and dirt shoved over the side of the bulldozer track really makes this a scar that looks more like a road than a trail. The trees and large shrubs unfortunate enough to be on the uphill side of the trail often have their roots severed or undermined by the dozer. Many will die and fall in the near future.

- Culverts were placed in creek beds (aesthetically made of black plastic) and covered with a dirt causeway which already is sloughing over the culvert opening. These temporary earth dams will be washed away with the first good rain. Causeways? Why is there any need to span ephemeral streams with culverts and earthen dams? Even when these creeks are running bank full, you can hop over them. I guess the bulldozer is expected to make repeat performances to repair the annual damages it causes.

- Switchbacks are supposed to reduce the grade and avoid the trail going straight up the hill. The bulldozer, however, would wander around the hillside (often dropping in elevation) until it found another place to go straight up the hillside. The switchbacks also are clearly visible (as well as the circuitous route the machine took), inviting hikers and mountain bikers to cut them.

- After climbing hundreds of feet to a ridge top with wonderful views of Cache Creek, the trail turns around and leads you back down the hillside you just climbed! Wouldn't it have been simpler (and easier on the environment) to have obtained an easement to allow the public to cross the private lands?

Ah well, at least BLM tried. I suppose when you are used to catering to the whims of the off-road vehicle community you forget how light on the land a trail should be.

But maybe we can get an organization to "adopt" this trail, re-route it, and make it a truly enjoyable entrance to the Cache Creek WSA. Any groups out there interested?

Several of our eagle-eyed readers noticed an addition to our Board of Directors in the last issue. A former intern, extraordinary volunteer, typesetter of *Discover the California Wilderness Act*, law student, and, at long last, a full-fledged attorney, Mary Scoonover finally has hit the big time as our newest Director.

## Opinion

# One More View Of The Elections

By Jim Eaton

From an environmental perspective, the elections of 1988 seem to have done little to help the preservation of wilderness in California. Ronald Reagan has been replaced by President-elect George Bush, Pete Wilson was re-elected to the U.S. Senate, and there was little change in the makeup of the House of Representatives.

The big question is whether Bush will be any better on environmental issues than his predecessor—he can hardly be worse.

So far we have little other than campaign promises to anticipate Bush's environmental leanings. He has yet to name his choices for Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. Will he nominate another James Watt or Donald Hodel? Will timber industry executives be brought in to "regulate" the Forest Service? Or will he surprise us with more moderate women and men?

During the campaign, Bush pledged to end ocean dumping by 1991, help stop acid rain, reduce carbon dioxide from vehicles and factories, and convene a global environmental summit at the White House during his first year in office.

The former Texas oilman said he would oppose off-shore drilling along the California coast in "environmentally sensitive areas," although he failed to explain just where these areas are. Unfortunately, he does favor oil and gas exploration in the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Not only did Bush inherit an enormous national debt, he faces massive environmental problems: global warming and the greenhouse effect, loss of our protective ozone layer, worsening acid rain, and cleanup and disposal of toxic waste.

In the California Senate race, environmentalists were disappointed that Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy, an outspoken wilderness advocate, was unable to unseat Pete Wilson. Although Wilson supported wild river issues and opposed some offshore oil drilling, he has been quite moderate on wilderness issues. Wilson forced a major compromise onto the California Wilderness Act of 1984, with 500,000 acres of wild land dropped from the bill. The past two years he has refused to take a stand on the California Desert Protection Act.

The current rumor is that Wilson will introduce a wilderness bill next year that encompasses Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands both in the desert and the rest of the state. If the legislation resembles BLM's recommendations, it indeed will be a sorry bill.

Wilson also pledged to introduce companion legislation to Representative Robert Lagomarsino's wilderness bill for three areas in the Los Padres National Forest, including the proposed Sespe Wilderness. Unfortunately, Lagomarsino simply rubber-stamped

the Forest Service's wilderness recommendation, leaving out tens of thousands of acres of deserving *de facto* wilderness.

It will be incumbent upon environmentalists to urge Wilson to introduce much stronger wilderness legislation. Failing that, we need to decide if the bills can be strengthened in Congress or if we should fight a defensive battle until better representatives are elected. If we truly believe that wilderness is an enduring resource, there is little reason to compromise away our wild lands simply to get a bill passed in the near future.

### Wilson Wins: We Worry and Wonder

With Wilson's reelection, we wonder and worry,  
Fearing no desert bill will emerge in a hurry.

But Pete's an environmentalist—so he states;  
Please show it to us, Pete—the desert waits.

Must Cranston alone try to save California?  
About Pete's environmentalism I'd better warn ya.

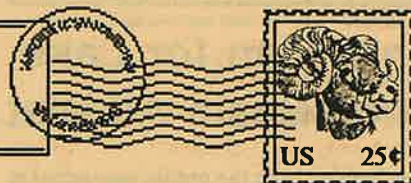
Will he chop the bill down—yet try to take credit?  
Assert the bill's his?—in '84 he said it.

Fragile desert resources can't suffer forever,  
We ask Pete's assistance in our great endeavor.

Must we do it without him? It's harder...  
But if need be, we will, with our own Alan's ardor.

So, desert lovers—let's not just worry and wonder—  
Work hard—keep at it—don't let the desert go under!  
—VNH

## Letters to the Editor



### Fair Treatment

[Note: This letter refers to the article titled "Forest Service Says to Off-Roaders," from page 1 of the November Record.]

Dear Stephanie:

Thank you for the copy of the latest *Wilderness Record*. Although I hate to admit it, you did a better job of conveying the issues than we've ever seen from the local newspapers. In all fairness, I believe

you treated Bill Dart's [of the High Sierra Motorcycle Club] point of view with respect. Given your own viewpoints, I think you deserve a pat on the back. On the other hand, I don't think I want to get on your bad side on a wilderness issue; I might get chewed up and spit out.

Sincerely,  
Don Lane  
Assistant Recreation Officer  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

## Uncle Jim's WILDERNESS TRIVIA QUIZ QUESTION:

Name the ten federal California Wilderness Areas that are comprised of two or more non-contiguous units yet retain one name?

## UPDATES

# IBLA Flip Flops on King Range Road

"I didn't realize IBLA was subject to political pressure," was the comment of an environmentalist after learning that the Interior Board of Land Appeals reversed its earlier decision to keep vehicles out of the King Range Wilderness Study Area. The California Wilderness Coalition and other groups had appealed to IBLA a plan by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to allow off-road vehicles (ORVs) inside the WSA.

The announcement by IBLA, received shortly after the November election, vacated their strongly-worded decision of last February. Then the judges ruled that "BLM's decision to permit ORV use within the WSA does not conform to the management objectives of the King Range and will result in significant environmental impacts to natural and cultural resources."

Now the judges contend that BLM has furnished proof that they can, after all, pro-

tect the King Range WSA. This "proof," some of which was just plain false, clearly was refuted by the appellants in their responsive briefs.

One benefit to the King Range is that the appeal resulted in BLM hiring a ranger "to assure that environmental damage, if any, will be kept to a minimum." Environmentalists hope the ranger, stationed in Arcata, can make the two-hour drive to the King Range in time to prevent damage from occurring.

*The California Wilderness Coalition would like to acknowledge and thank the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund's Deborah Reames for her many hours and excellent work on this project. It's not over yet!*

## New Law Prohibits O'Shaughnessy Dam Expansion

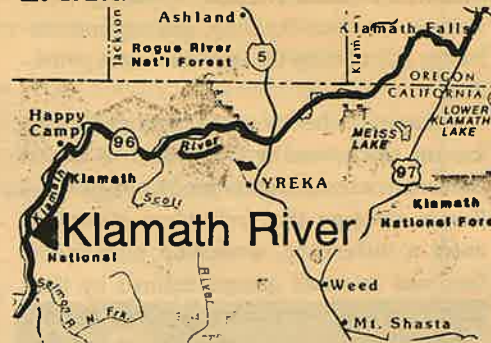
The expansion of O'Shaughnessy Dam in Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley was prohibited in legislation signed by President Reagan this fall. The O'Shaughnessy Dam provision was part of the Central Utah Water Project bill.

Since the early 1980s the city of San Francisco has been making preliminary plans to enlarge the dam, which has been raised once already since it was first built in the 1920s.

## "No Dams in Parks" Bill Killed in Senate

National parks and monuments were not saved from new dam projects by the 100th Congress. Legislation that would have prohibited new dams, authored by California Representative Rick Lehman (D-Fresno), was held up in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The bill, HR 1173, has passed the House of Representatives in the past two sessions of Congress.

There are four national parks in California—Lassen Volcanic, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, and Yosemite—and five national monuments. According to Ron Stork of Friends of the River, with the passing of a prohibition on expanding O'Shaughnessy Dam in Yosemite (see adjacent article), opposition to future national park dam bills is expected to come from the Southwest and Alaska.



## Endangered Klamath River Left Out of Oregon's Wild & Scenic Bill

While conservationists celebrated the recent passage of Oregon's 40 rivers bill, some were disappointed in how the Klamath River fared in the legislation.

Wild and scenic status for the Klamath, unlike the other rivers in the bill, was "compromised out" in the Senate, according to Ron Stork of Friends of the River. The Klamath, which crosses the California/Oregon border, was named by American Rivers (a conservation group) as one of the Nation's ten most endangered rivers.

The bill, authored by Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, did require a study of the Klamath's potential for inclusion in the National Wild & Scenic River System. Such a study, however, does not stop the federal dam authorization process, and the City of Klamath Falls continues to push toward building the Salt Caves Dam.

The Klamath is designated by the State of Oregon as a scenic river, but the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does not accept this status as binding on its licensing actions. However, the Commission will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Salt Caves Dam project.

Early versions of the Oregon 40 rivers bill would have protected as wild & scenic six of the Klamath's 15 unprotected California miles and 13 miles in Oregon. Representative Wally Herger (R-Yuba City), in whose district a portion of the Klamath runs, opposed wild & scenic designation for the California stretch.



Beyers Lakes, in the Grouse Lakes Roadless Area.

Photo by Eric Gerstung

## Grouse Lakes, Castle Peak Areas Rescued, For Now

By Eric Gerstung

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), a California timber company and the principal private landowner within the popular and scenic Castle Peak and Grouse Lakes region, has just signed an agreement with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit land conservation organization. The agreement calls for SPI to make 12,000 acres of prime recreation land available for public acquisition. A local grassroots group, the Grouse Ridge Lakes Coalition, supports the proposal and will lobby members of Congress for appropriations. Appropriations sessions start in January.

The agreement with SPI specifies that the Castle Peak property must be acquired before the Grouse Lake property and that both must be purchased before March 1991, when the agreement expires. If conservationists fail to convince Congress to appropriate federal funds for the project (probably from the Land & Water Conservation Fund), SPI will be free to sell the land on the open market, an action which could end all public use.

In addition to the SPI lands, additional private lands must be acquired at both Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak before total protection of the two areas can be assured. Pendola Company is continuing to log the

south and west slopes of Castle Peak near Castle Valley and west of Andecite Ridge. However, they have delayed logging adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail and Warren Lake Trail while discussions with TPL continue. TPL is also trying to raise money for a Pendola acquisition.

Another property owner, who acquired 1,200 acres of railroad land in the Grouse Lakes region several years ago, is attempting to subdivide the property. The property includes portions of Penner, Sawmill, and Island Lakes and all of Milk and Long Lakes. The Nevada County Advisory Review Committee will take up the matter on December 7. [Note: For the time and place of the meeting call the Nevada County Planning Department, (916) 265-1440].

Conservationists are hoping that the property in question can be acquired in a land exchange with the Tahoe National Forest. The landowner is seeking isolated parcels of national forest land within the headwaters of the North Fork of the American River, east of the Cedars (a summer home colony).

Although there is currently no public trail access to the subject parcels, the Tahoe National Forest is studying the feasibility of an athletic events trail through the region as an alternative to the current Western States

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## Attorney General Appeals Mount Shasta Ski Plans

The state Attorney General's office has added its voice to appeals of the Forest Service's Mount Shasta ski area proposal.

Filing the appeal on the November 14 deadline, the Attorney General, like other appellants, requested a stay of action on the project. A partial stay was granted by Re-

gional Forester Paul Barker.

Four appeal foci dealt with shortcomings of the Mt. Shasta Ski Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Attorney General charged that the EIS doesn't analyze reasonable alternatives and has incomplete analyses of environmental impacts, an example of which is the absence of a study of plans to accommodate Lemuria Village development.

In addition, the appeal points out that water quality impacts from the proposed development's sewage treatment system are not thoroughly analyzed in the EIS and that economic projections of skier demand are flawed.

### Lake Tahoe Plan continued from page 1

they recommended no wilderness for the Dardanelles, Freel Peak, and Lincoln Creek roadless areas. The decision for no wilderness did not change, but a new roadless area, Mt. Rose, was identified and recommended for wilderness. Most of this 19,000-acre roadless area is in the Toiyabe National Forest, but 3,000 acre extends into the Tahoe Basin.

The Dardanelles Roadless Area (a.k.a. Echo-Carson, Upper Truckee, and Meiss) is adjacent to wild lands in the Eldorado and Toiyabe national forests. It was included in the California Wilderness Act until Senator Pete Wilson demanded it be dropped from the legislation.

The Freel Peak Roadless Area is adjacent to *de facto* wilderness in Toiyabe National Forest. Lincoln Creek is in Nevada.

What about the other features of the plan? They still propose to log 4.4 million board feet of trees a year because "trees must be cut to accomplish the plan objectives including forest diversity, wildlife habitat, and hazard tree removal in recreation areas."

The Forest Service emphasizes that it will do no clearcutting but instead will opt for "group selection" which means cutting down all trees, "resulting in openings up to five acres. Results in an even-aged stand." Clearcutting, on the other hand, is defined as logging "of all trees in one cut or area for the purpose of creating a new, even-aged stand." The distinction between the two methods apparently is clear to the agency, even though the public does not see much difference.

Grazing will continue at the current level, even though it is admitted that "the costs exceed the benefits."

The Forest Service proposes to double the existing downhill ski use in the Tahoe Basin by the expanding Northstar, Alpine Meadows, Heavenly Valley, Ski Incline, and Homewood/Tahoe Ski Bowl areas. This is proposed despite the entire basin being considered a non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act; in 1985 carbon monoxide violated the state standard 188 times. According to the forest plan, in the next three decades there will be an increase of 221,000 vehicular miles of travel as a result of the selected alternative.

The California Wilderness Coalition will be meeting with the League to Save Lake Tahoe and other groups in December to discuss appealing this forest plan.



Debbie Sease leads a workshop titled "Carrying the Torch: Making the Case for Desert Protection" at the California Desert Colloquium. Photo by Jeff Widen

### The Momentum Builds

## 100 Activists Organize to Save Desert

By Cheri Rae Wolpert

On the weekend of November 11-13, more than 100 desert enthusiasts traveled to the Wonder Valley Ranch, just outside Fresno to participate in the first California Desert Colloquium. Members of the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, and the California Wilderness Coalition were in attendance at the colloquium, the first of its kind to address issues related to saving the California Desert.

Event co-organizer Sally Kabisch stated, "The intention of the colloquium was to harness the enthusiasm of those interested in the desert, to bring people together and train and educate them so they can go out and spread the word in their own communities."

The weekend activities began Friday night with a roundtable discussion about the evolution of the California Desert Protection Act, with Jim Eaton, Judy Anderson, Jim

Dodson, and Peter Burk offering their personal observations and historical perspectives.

A jam-packed Saturday agenda led off with an inspiring speech by Sierra Club Conservation Director Doug Scott, followed by an overview of the campaign and politics of S.7, featuring Debbie Sease, Patricia Schifferle, Bob Hattoy, and Dodson. Concurrent workshops throughout the day allowed participants to develop their skills in a number of essential areas, including letter writing, coalition-building, gaining endorsements, and making the case for desert protection.

Saturday afternoon was highlighted by a moving talk given by Doug Kari of Desert Survivors, a conservation group. Inspired by Kari's message that individual efforts do make a difference, workshop participants then met in small groups defined by their

geographic regions across the state. The regional strategy sessions gave individuals the chance to meet with others to develop a network of local support and a plan for action. The ooohs and aahhs expressed during Saturday evening's slide show reminded everyone of the beauty and serenity of the land we're working so hard to save.

A skill-building workshop about dealing with the media, led by Sierra Club Media Relations Manager Brian Erwin highlighted Sunday morning's brief schedule.

**"...the structure across the state is much stronger and in a better position to conduct a lot of hard organizing work next year."**

—Jeff Widen, Sierra Club

As participants packed up and moved out during a much-welcomed rainstorm, there was a definite feeling that the grassroots effort to save the desert is solidly in place.

"The weekend identified new people and sharpened the skills of those who had already been involved for some time," concluded co-organizer Jeff Widen. "As a result, the structure across the state is much stronger and in a better position to conduct a lot of hard organizing work next year."

Thanks to a generous grant from Recreational Equipment, Inc., and the organizing efforts of Jeff Widen, Sally Kabisch and Frannie Waid, the first California Desert Colloquium was a real success.

*Cheri Rae Wolpert is an environmentalist and free-lance writer in Los Angeles.*



Sally Kabisch, Frannie Waid, and Jeff Widen hold up a thank you card to REI that was signed by all who attended the Desert colloquium.



## Endangered Species Listing Decision Court Sides With Owl, Against Feds

By Jay Watson

A federal judge recently sided with the northern spotted owl in a lawsuit filed with the U.S. District Court of Seattle, Washington in January 1988.

On November 9, 1988, Judge Thomas S. Zilly held that the December 1987 decision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) not to list the owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) under the Endangered Species Act was "arbitrary and capricious and contrary to law." Judge Zilly gave the federal government 90 days to reconsider and issue a new decision consistent with the court's ruling.

The judge was particularly critical of the agency's failure to identify a single expert who agreed that the owl should not be listed. Judge Zilly emphasized that the government did not provide any reasoned explanation for deciding not to list the owl.

The northern spotted owl lives in ancient forests, where complex ecological conditions provide the owl with nesting sites, thermal cover, prey habitat, and protection from

predators such as the great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), which preys on juvenile spotted owls.

The bird is threatened with extinction in the Pacific Northwest because extensive clearcut logging and road construction have dramatically reduced and fragmented its habitat. Old-growth forests on private lands have been virtually eliminated. Most of the



remaining habitat for the spotted owl is on public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. National forests, for example, support about 68 percent of the remaining habitat, and BLM lands in southern Oregon support another 15 percent.

Recognizing this precarious situation, in July 1987 conservationists submitted a petition requesting the agency to list the northern

spotted owl as an endangered species and accord the owl protection under the Endangered Species Act. Subsequently, in a December 1987 finding, the USFWS decided not to list the owl. Rather, the agency found that "through proper management a viable population of northern spotted owls will be maintained throughout its range." This finding defied a substantial body of credible scientific opinion that virtually unanimously agrees that the owl's populations face a serious and imminent threat.

In response to the USFWS finding, more than 25 environmental groups challenged the legality of this decision in federal court. The spotted owl is lead plaintiff in the case, Seattle Audubon Society et al v. Hodel et al. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit were represented by Vic Sher, staff attorney with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in Seattle.

There are three subspecies of the spotted owl. The Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) occurs from southern Colorado and central Utah, south through mountains in Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, and into Mexico. The California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) is confined to the Sierra Nevada and coastal mountains south of San Francisco. The northern spotted owl ranges from British Columbia, down through western Washington and Oregon, and into northern California.

The northern spotted owl is listed as an endangered species by the state of Washington, as a threatened species by Oregon, and as a "species of special concern" by the state of California. The U.S. Forest Service considers the bird a "sensitive" species and uses it as a management indicator for old-growth forests in forest plans.

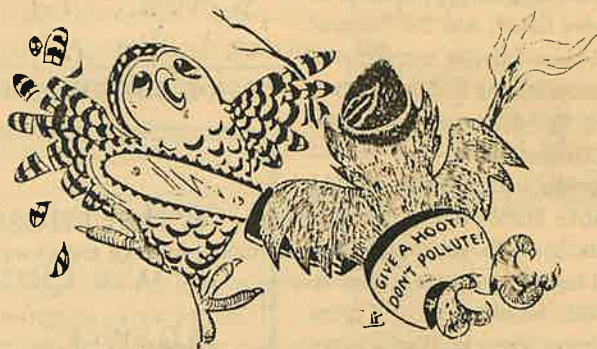
*Jay Watson is Director of The Wilderness Society's National Forest Action Center in Washington, D.C. and is a Director of the CWC.*

## Forest Service's Care of Spotted Owl Challenged

Balancing wildlife protection and the short-term economic drive to cut down forests has long been a balancing act, but now the Forest Service's scale is being reviewed by the court. Recently weighing in favor of wildlife, specifically spotted owls, U.S. District Court Judge Raul A. Ramirez issued a temporary restraining order halting logging.

Beckwitt. "It would have eliminated spotted owls on a major portion of the forest, not immediately, but over the next one or two decades."

According to Jeannie Masquelier of the Forest Service, no spotted owls were found in these areas, near Yuba Pass, in a 1981 survey. Thus, the effects of the logging on the owls were not considered



Willow and Eric Beckwitt of North San Juan and the National Resources Defense Council are suing the Tahoe National Forest and Sierra Pacific Industries of Loyalton, charging that their logging plans jeopardize northern spotted owls in the Tahoe National Forest. The two sales under appeal total 14.4 million board feet and 1,020 acres.

"(The Forest Service) had proposed to cut so much old growth, there would not have been enough left to support spotted owls afterward," explained Eric

at the time. Since then the agency has found owls in the sale areas.

The Beckwitts have charged that the Forest Service is ignoring its own guidelines that say each pair of spotted owls should be supported by 1,000 acres of old growth timber. The Tahoe officials, they charge, are setting aside only 400 to 500 acres of habitat for each pair of owls.

Tahoe National Forest officials would not comment further on the issue outside of court, on the advice of their attorney.

### Mysterious Old-Growth

"Information about wildlife use of old-growth forests is limited. Few species are solely confined to old-growth forests, but many find optimum breeding or foraging habitat there (Franklin, et al., 1981). It is not known whether these species can maintain viable populations in other age classes of forests. Isolating old-growth forest stands by clearcutting surrounding stands can create a biological island that supports fewer wildlife species (Rosenberg and Raphael, 1986)."

California's Forests and Rangelands: Growing Conflict Over Changing Uses, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, July 1988.

### Vertebrate Animals that Find Optimum Habitat for Foraging and /or Nesting in Old-Growth Forest Ecosystems

#### Group: Common Name

##### Amphibians:

Del Norte salamander  
Olympic salamander  
Tailed frog

##### Birds:

Marbled murrelet  
Goshawk  
Spotted owl  
Black-backed three-toed woodpecker  
Hairy woodpecker  
Pileated woodpecker  
Vaux's swift  
Winter wren  
Mountain chickadee  
Chestnut-backed chickadee  
Red-breasted nuthatch  
Pygmy nuthatch  
Brown creeper  
Western wood pewee  
Yellow-rumped warbler  
Hermit warbler  
Townsend's warbler  
Pine grosbeak  
Evening grosbeak  
Purple finch

##### Mammals:

Silver-haired bat  
Long-eared myotis  
Long-legged myotis  
Hoary bat  
Red tree vole  
Western red-backed vole  
Northern flying squirrel  
Marten  
Fisher

Source: California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Habitat Relationships Data Base; Franklin, et al. 1981; Verner and Boss, 1980.

### Duncan Canyon fisher continued from page 1



States Trail. FITF Chair Eric Beckwitt requested that the FS conduct a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for all of Duncan Canyon, but the FS denied this request.

According to Beckwitt, the main con-

**Fisher tracks** cern for Duncan Canyon is preserving the area's value as wildlife habitat. The initial effort, Beckwitt said, was to have the area set aside as a Spotted Owl Habitat Area, but after further research, they began to realize that there might be a small

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Duncan Creek in the Duncan Canyon Roadless Area in the Tahoe National Forest.

Photo by Eric Beckwitt

## Duncan Canyon Fishers continued from page 5

population of Pacific fishers living there.

Last June, when the FS submitted a supplement to the original EA for the Duncan sale, the FITF appealed the document, raising the new Pacific fisher habitat issue. They argued that the FS had not adequately addressed what the potential impacts of logging would be on that species.

The Pacific fisher is a small, carnivorous mammal, about three feet long from head to tail, that weighs between ten and twelve pounds. The Pacific fisher is currently on the FS's "sensitive species" list, which is a list of wildlife species about which the FS is particularly concerned.

The "sensitive species" list differs from an "endangered species" list in that it includes animals that "we don't want to let become threatened or endangered," said Mike Chapel, the chief Forest Service biologist for the Tahoe National Forest. "We don't want the fisher to be the same status as the grizzly bear [the California grizzly is extinct] in twenty to thirty years."

Chapel said that when the FITF raised the issue of potential fisher habitat in Duncan Canyon, he agreed it was possible and began surveying the area.

Late this past summer, Maryann Armijo, District Biologist for the Foresthill

Ranger District, identified a fresh set of Pacific fisher tracks in Duncan Canyon, confirming the FITF's concerns. "There is no question in our minds that the fishers are there," Chapel said.

Since the findings of the FITF were confirmed, the FS changed its position on the two Duncan Canyon timber sales and postponed any further logging activities until they prepare an EIS for the area.

The FS does not plan to try to do a complete census of the fisher population in Duncan Canyon. According to Chapel, they are mainly interested in the fact that any fishers live there at all. He hopes that the management experiences developing in the Duncan Canyon area with regards to the Pacific fisher will be applied on a wider scale and eventually become a more general state-wide management plan. Biologists in the Park Service, Department of Fish and Game and the FS are interested in developing a management plan for such "sensitive species" as the Pacific fisher, pine martin, wolverine, and Sierra Nevada red fox.

Beckwitt commented on the broader significance of the events occurring in Duncan Canyon by noting that "There is a committed biological community as well as environmentalists involved in this issue."

## Grouse Lakes Land Deal continued from page 3

Trail route through the northern Granite Chief Wilderness. While the potential route would provide visitors with some spectacular views, the trail route may be too steep and rocky for foot races. The Western States Trails Association is also opposed to moving the Tevis Cup race to this route because snow fields often linger in the area until late summer, beyond the race's traditional date. The North Fork Association, which owns adjoining property, is opposed to a new trail because they fear that their seclusion would be compromised and that the fragile alpine environment would be damaged by potential hordes of trail users.

The complex problem of trying to protect the Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak areas could have been avoided if the Tahoe National Forest had acted when Santa Fe Pacific owned the property several years ago. Santa Fe and its predecessor Southern Pacific were both willing to trade their lands at Grouse Lakes and Castle Peak to the Forest Service in exchange for low-elevation federal timber land possessing little recreation value. De-

spite continued urgings from conservation groups over a 15-year period, the Forest Service refused to budge on this issue. Furthermore, the Forest Service assured conservationists that Nevada County would never allow the Grouse Lakes to be subdivided because the rocky terrain was not suitable for septic systems use. The parcel split applicant, however, has been requested to conduct percolation tests for septic leach fields. If these tests indicate that septic systems can be built, the lands can legally be subdivided into 160-acre parcels even without the planning commission's approval.

The Grouse Ridge Lakes Coalition has a dire need for more volunteers, particularly those willing to prepare publicity, make phone calls, and stuff envelopes. Those wishing to help can call Jerry Foote in Grass Valley at (916) 272-5878 or Eric Gerstung in Sacramento at (916) 447-3802 or 355-7118.

*Eric Gerstung is an active member of the Grouse Lakes Ridge Coalition.*

## "Name It and Save It"

Potential long-term protection of Duncan Canyon's old-growth forests lies with the National Audubon Society's "Name It and Save It" campaign that began last March.

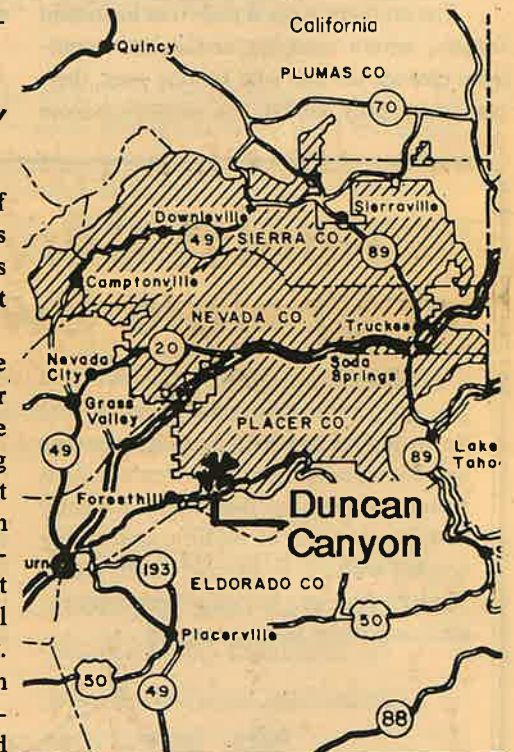
According to Brock Evans, the Audubon Society's Vice President for National Issues, the "Name It and Save It" campaign is a movement inventorying the remaining stands of old-growth forest in the U.S. The current focus has been on Northern California, Oregon, Washington, and parts of British Columbia, but Evans said he hopes that the program will expand to include the rest of the country.

In this effort, key old-growth areas in these states were listed, and the list presented to the House Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, with the request that the areas be removed from existing timber sales.

The campaign's purpose is to build more quantitative knowledge of the old-growth forests in each state and then "bind them all together" as one conservation effort. This would lead to a more effective lobbying force in Washington, D.C., Evans said. The "Name It and Save It" campaign is brought directly to Congress, not the FS, he said.

Because Duncan Canyon is the largest stand of old-growth in the Tahoe National Forest, this inventory preservation effort may be helpful in saving it from logging.

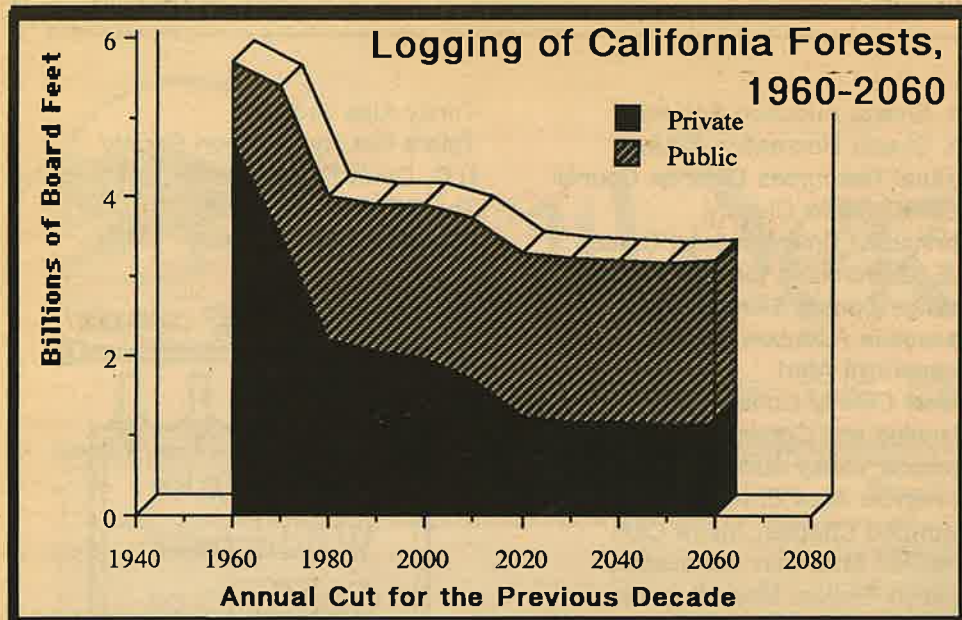
*Bill Burrows is an intern with the CWC, studying English and Environmental Studies at the University of Califor-*



TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

**Wilderness  
Trivia Quiz  
Answer:  
(from page 2)**

**Joshua Tree (seven units); Phil Burton [Pt. Reyes] (three units); Siskiyou, Lava Beds, Lassen Volcanic, Mokelumne, Yosemite, Monarch, Ventana, and San Jacinto (two units).**



**California's Forests and Rangelands: Growing Conflict Over Changing Uses**  
 Forest and Rangeland Resources Assessment Program (FRRAP), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, July, 1988.

California Department of Forestry's newly-released report on forests and rangelands includes some less-than-glowing reports on the Golden State's forestry future.

Timber growth and the logging levels were compared in one graph. For industry forests, 22 percent more timber was logged than grew annually from 1978-1985. The amount of timber cut annually has dropped for 30 years, and is projected to plummet in the future as well.

A heavy document chock-full of data and graphs in shades of gold and green, the

**South Fork Trinity from page 1**

Section 12(c) of the Act requires federal agencies "administering a component of the national wild and scenic river system to cooperate with the administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and with the appropriate state water pollution control agencies..."

The court found that "plaintiffs have made a sufficient showing, that under any reasonable standard of cooperation, the approval of the timber sale was taken in an uncooperative manner." The EPA, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, the California Department of Conservation, and the California Department of Fish and Game all submitted comments opposing the South Fork Project.

The government argued that the salvage logging operations were exempt from the Wild and Scenic River Act because they



would not take place within one-quarter mile of the river. However, boundaries of the protected wild and scenic river corridor for Secretarially-designated rivers are not limited to a quarter-mile from the high water mark, as are the general boundaries of a Congressionally-designated river. Thus, activities associated with the South Fork logging project would have taken place on lands that would be included in the designated river corridor.

The lawsuit was brought by The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations and California Trout on October 17, 1988 after the Forest Service denied their request for a stay of the sale. Plaintiffs are represented by Stephan Volker, staff attorney with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund in San Francisco.

The court's finding could affect timber sales elsewhere, such as several salvage proposals on the Klamath River.

*Jay Watson is Director of the Wilderness Society's National Forest Action Center in Washington D.C. and a Director of the CWC.*

**CALENDAR**

**January 16 DEADLINE** for appeals of the *Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Final Land & Resources Management Plan*, send to: Paul Barker, Regional Forester, Pacific SW Region, USDA Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

**December 7 HEARING** on the subdivision of Grouse Lake Roadless Area lands, Nevada County Advisory Review Committee, Eric Rood Administration Bldg., 950 Maidu Ave., Nevada City. Call (916) 265-1440 for time. (See article on page 3)

**January 7 PUBLIC HEARING** on the *Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Comprehensive Management Plan*, in Lee Vining at the American Legion Hall, 2:00 pm; presentations limited to no more than five minutes per speaker. The Mono Lake Committee would like to know who will be testifying [619] 647-6386.

**January 19 COMMENTS DUE** on the *Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Comprehensive Management Plan*. Send to: Inyo National Forest, Attn.: Recreation Staff Officer (Mono), 873 N. Main, Bishop, CA 93514.

**IS ONE CWC T-SHIRT REALLY ENOUGH?**



Get them while they last — the California Wilderness Coalition's "Keep It Wild" T-shirts are destined to be collector's items.

This design of black mountains beneath a blue sky with yellow sand dunes in the foreground comes in white, tan, blue, and yellow in small, medium, and extra-large (no larges or med. yellows). French-cut style shirts are available in white, pink, and light blue in sizes small, medium and large (except no large in blue or white).

The shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton, and cost \$8.00 for CWC members and \$10.00 for non-members (sales tax included). Use the order form on page 8, and clearly indicate if you want regular or French-cut, and a substitute color. Please add \$1.50 postage and 75 cents for each additional shirt.



**California Wilderness Coalition**

**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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The *Record* welcomes letters-to-the-editor, articles, black & white photos, drawings, book reviews, poetry, etc. on California wilderness and related subjects. We reserve the right to edit all work. Please address all correspondence to:

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