



# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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## Protecting the Soda Mt. Wilderness—A Test of Vigilance

By Stephanie Mandel

With a big victory under their belts, the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council (SMWC) has entered a period of vigilance. The good news is that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is recommending a 5,640-acre Wilderness Study Area in southern Oregon for wilderness designation (see inset article). But the SMWC has proposed a total of 31,528 acres of land for protection, and this goal has met with resistance.

While only Congress can preserve lands by granting wilderness status, the BLM, which owns much of the land, can manage an area to preserve wilderness values (they are required to for Wilderness Study Areas) until Congress makes a designation. The SMWC views timber sales as the major potential conflict in protecting the lands in this interim period. The BLM's Medford District estimates that 6,600 acres, or almost 5%, of the land in the proposed wilderness area is commercial timber land.

In 1986, the SMWC presented the BLM with a map outlining the territory of the Cascade and Siskiyou mountains of southern Oregon and northern California that the group would like to protect. "They know what we want," said Dave Willis, an outspoken representative of the group. BLM Area Manager Lance Nimmo said the agency found that the larger area doesn't meet the wilderness criteria in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Nimmo pointed out that roads, two major power lines, and lots of private land exist in the area.

In 1980 the Oregon BLM completed its wilderness inventory that identified the Soda Mtn. Wilderness Study Area. No appeals or comments proposing additional area came for several years, Nimmo said.

### Timber Sale Threat

The BLM's response to the wilderness proposal, Willis said, is demonstrated by their recent timber sale proposed, the Hobart sale, in one of the finest spots in the proposed wilderness territory. One of the 2 continued on p. 4



Pilot Rock rises on the left, looking west over would-be wilderness from unofficially-named Boccard Point near Soda Mtn. Photo by the late Bruce Boccard

## Overgrazing at Stake in Toiyabe Plan Appeals

By Rose Strickland

The Toiyabe Forest Plan, completed in 1986, has been appealed by a group of central Nevada ranchers who fear that the good old days of Forest Service acquiescence to livestock overgrazing and range mismanagement are about to end. The Nevada Cattlemen's Association and related groups are attempting to bring political pressure on the Forest Service (FS) at state and national levels to influence the appeal and overturn the plan.

The Toiyabe Forest Plan has been hailed by resource professionals and conservationists as a long overdue commitment to improving unsatisfactory range management on national forests in Nevada. The plan standards and guidelines, especially on forage utilization and riparian area management and protection, are being used as guides for forest plans all over the West.

Intervening on behalf of the Forest Service, the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Cal Trout, American Fisheries Society, the Izaak Walton League, Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers, and three individuals are strongly supporting the standards and guidelines in the plan. Several of continued on p. 6

## Mono Lake's David Gaines Dies in Accident

Three hundred mourners gathered on the shores of Mono Lake to pay tribute to David Gaines, 39, founder of the Mono Lake Committee who died January 11 in an automobile accident. Also killed was Don Oberlin, 28, and intern with the committee. Gaines' daughter, Vireo, was seriously injured while his wife, Sally, suffered a broken arm.

"His loss is a devastating blow," said Martha Davis, executive director of the Mono Lake Committee. "What was so



David Gaines

extraordinary about David as a conservationist and biologist is that while he was passionate, he was also sensitive about people living in harmony with each other and with the Earth."

Gaines was born in Los Angeles and attended U.C. Santa Cruz before obtaining a master's degree in ecology at U.C. Davis. He was a leader in the Davis Audubon Society and active in the campaign to preserve riparian habitats in the Central Valley.

In 1976 Gaines helped a group of students with a three-month study of Mono Lake funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation. That study produced the first data on the possible ill effect of the Los Angeles water diversions.

Eventually it led to the establishment of the Mono Lake Committee, which he set up as a non-profit organization to preserve the scenic, wildlife, and scientific values of Mono and other Great Basin lakes.

In an editorial honoring him, *The Sacramento Bee* said Gaines "made a name for Mono, and the fact that its survival now seems secure is probably the most fitting tribute to his memory."

Gaines' family has suggested that contributions be made for the construction of a permanent visitor center at Mono Lake. Donations may be sent to the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

### INSIDE ———

— Off Highway Vehicle program reformed

— Klamath Roadless Areas targeted for salvage logging

— Fiery letters-to-the editor

# COALITION PAGE

## Report

Shock, disbelief, and grief were the reactions throughout the environmental community when learning of David Gaines' death. He was a friend to so many of us. He was one of California's outstanding environmental leaders. He was perhaps the gentlest soul I ever have had the privilege to know.

I always will remember David's shining eyes. Few people have such expressive ones, like the green fire of a wolf's eyes. When talking with him you shared his love of wilderness, of nature's plants and animals, of life itself.

David really cared. He took on an "impossible" task, the preservation of Mono Lake, and turned it into a national cause. But he was not caught up in the politics of preservation. He kept reminding us just what it is we are struggling to save.

Although I did not know Don Oberlin well, his friends have said he, too, was a gentle, caring soul who tried to touch the earth lightly as possible while continuing to work for its preservation.

As editor of the Mono Lake Newsletter, David Gaines shared his feelings with thousands of readers. Last fall he wrote about the restoration of Lee Vining Creek, suggesting that we should

By Jim Eaton

think of ourselves "not as fighters, but as healers." He continued:

"I've been walking Lee Vining Creek frequently, and sometimes think of myself as a stream, newly reborn, just beginning to grow. I can feel the icy water sing over me. I can feel the tender plants sprouting on my banks. I can feel deer, heron, and bobcat leave their tracks on my shores.

"We are these streams, this lake, this land, sharing, as Robinson Jeffers wrote, 'the beauty of things, the terror, pain, joy, the song.'

"As Jeffers also said, 'It is time to kiss the earth again, it is time to let the leaves rain from the skies, let the rich life run to the roots again.'

"May we all kiss the earth this winter solstice, and may our hearts blossom with joy. And may Mono Lake—and our spirits—always be high.

"Peace with Earth!"

We have both a new member group and business sponsor to welcome this month. Thank you Kern-Kaewah Chapter of the Sierra Club and Yakima Products, Inc., of Arcata.

## Our Financial Scene

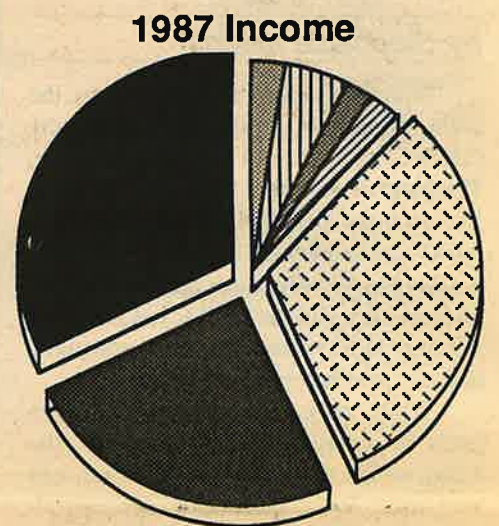
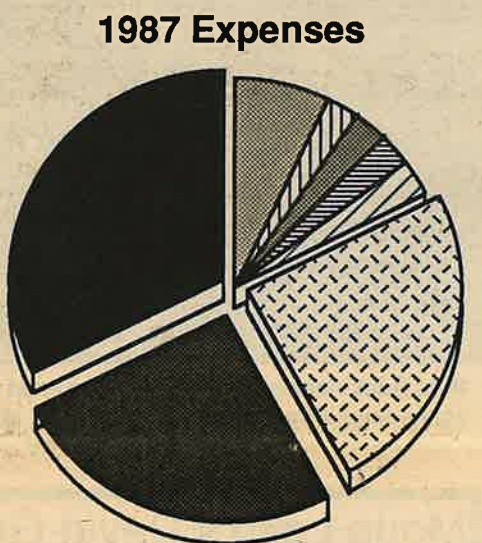
During 1987 the California Wilderness Coalition brought in a total of \$28,866 and spent \$25,878 [the extra three thousand dollars is earmarked for the *Wilderness Record* editor and monthly production in 1988].

### Income

As in the past, the bulk of the Coalition's income (57 percent) is derived from individual memberships and special donations from those members. Last year nearly a third of our income came from grants, primarily the generous endowment from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation for the monthly publication of the *Wilderness Record* and hiring of an editor. Less than 12 percent of our income came from new members, group and business members, retail sales, and interest.

### Expenses

Three categories accounted for more than four-fifths of our expenditures. A third of our costs are incurred working on wilderness issues—all the various projects you read about in the *Record*. The *Wilderness Record* itself accounts for 25 percent of our expenses. For various reasons the office gobbles up another quarter of our money. Rent is greater in our larger space [more than two people at a time now fit in our room] and a number of bills are lumped into the office category: our basic telephone charges, postal permits and fees, and all costs of running our donated copying machine.



- Membership
- Fundraising
- Media
- Wild. Alerts
- Board of Dir.
- Office
- Wild. Record
- Issues
- Grants
- Donations
- Renewals

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No Ads

Dear Stephanie,

Enclosed is \$50 for 3 gift memberships to the *Record*. I'm sending this as my vote AGAINST advertising in the *Record*. Please ask the Board of Directors to give us a chance to increase membership before filling the *Record* with sleazy capitalism! (And print this as a challenge to other members: sign up more folks to prevent ads in this fine monthly!) LET'S KEEP THE RECORD 100% READABLE!

Tom Suk  
Sequoia National Park

### Less is Better

Dear Wilderness Record,

I am extremely sorry to read that you are becoming a monthly publication. Over the years that I have been a member, I have liked to think of the California Wilderness Coalition as a small group of hard-working characters in a no-fat office pursuing the greater good, and firing off the occasional posting to the rest of us to let us know what's going on. Now here you are, following the

all-too-common route of having the publicity become the action. No doubt you imagine if your public was only informed on a monthly basis we could get behind with more of a heave-ho, stay up to date on fast-breaking political events, etc. But the obvious is stated clearly in Mr. Eaton's editorial: the *Record* is going to start soaking up the lion's share of effort and money. Do I want to donate so that one more environmental newsletter can choke my mailbox? I do not. Do you have any idea how much reading matter us environmentalists are already drowning in? My favorite things about the *Record* were that it was short and came out infrequently. These facts in themselves convinced me that it was worthwhile reading matter. It seemed to serve a purpose apart from its own existence, unlike, for instance, *Sierra* magazine. The errata in the *Record* only suggested to me that your organization wasn't top-heavy with proof-readers. It will be now though as you take on advertising sales managers, sub-editors, and lousy articles because you have space to fill. Quel dommage. Good old *Record*: R.I.P. And grateful thanks to those who made it what it will remain in memory.

Sincerely,  
Esther Wanning

### One More Pine

Dear Folks:

I read with interest your articles on the South Warner Wilderness. I had not been to this area until last year, when my purpose was to take a look at Washoe pine (*Pinus washoensis*). This pine is not threatened or endangered but is nevertheless very restricted in range. The most extensive stands now known are in the South Warners. The general appearance of these pines is very similar to that of Ponderosa and Jeffrey but they do not seem to form closed forests as the latter do, but are typically in rather open stands.

W. Robert Powell  
Agronomy & Range Science  
University of California, Davis

## Wilderness Quiz Question

Name the first area in California (and the nation, for that matter) added to the National Wilderness Preservation System after the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act.

(Answer on page 6.)

Save this date: October 19 – 22, 1989 is the California Wilderness Conference!



Meadows amidst the trees in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Logging is proposed inside the wilderness near Casa Vieja Meadows, upper right. Photo by Jim Eaton

## Logging Proposed for Golden Trout Wilderness Private Lands

By Stephanie Mandel

Louisiana Pacific Corporation has proposed logging 40 acres of private lands within the Golden Trout Wilderness, for which the Forest Service (FS) might be required to provide a road. The intrusion may be prevented, however, by an exchange of land.

"Possible outcomes," according to Charlie Robinson, Acting District Ranger in the Mt. Whitney Ranger District, are that the FS will trade the wilderness property for other national forest land or for timber. Robinson is hopeful that the land-for-timber exchange will work, particularly since Louisiana Pacific's local mill is being dismantled. An exchange of land for land, he explained, takes two years to process, as would a FS purchase of the 40 acres. Avoiding the wilderness logging, Robinson explained, will depend on Louisiana Pacific's time frame. If the company decides they want to log during the coming summer there will not be time to conduct an exchange or purchase.

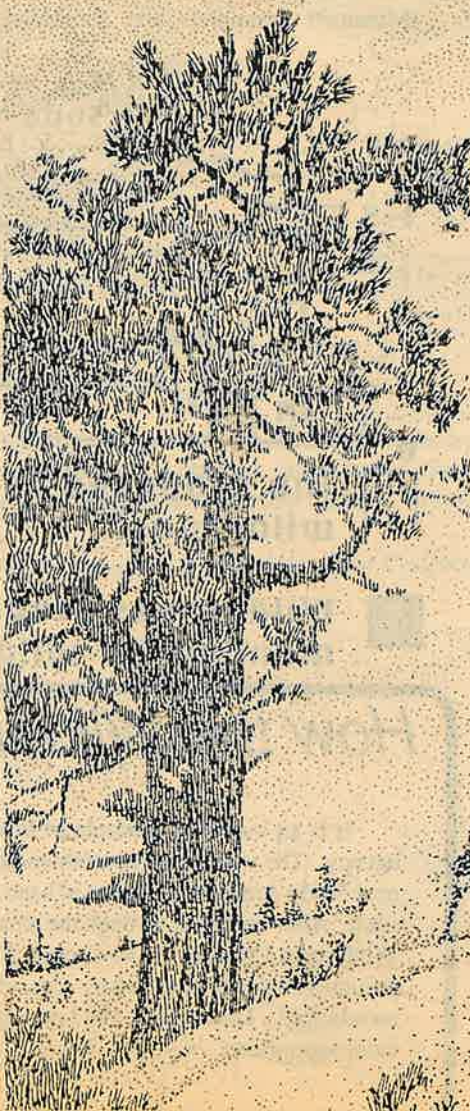
The Inyo National Forest is preparing an Environmental Assessment which will consider the exchange and purchase alternatives and analyze the impacts of access through the Golden Trout Wilderness to the private land.

The FS is required by law to "ensure adequate access to states or persons...who own land completely surrounded by wilderness." Private owners of land that is located within a federally-designated wilderness have the right to harvest timber on their property, although instances of wilderness logging are rare. Many wilderness areas in California have inholdings of private land within their boundaries.

The proposed road would intrude through 150 feet of the southern Sierra Nevada wilderness, managed by the FS. According to the FS manual, "adequate access" is that which "will have the least-lasting impact on the wilderness resource and, at the

same time, will serve the reasonable purposes for which state or private land or rights is held or used."

The 303,287-acre Golden Trout Wilderness, designated by Congress in 1978, is located partially in the Inyo National Forest (about 200,000 acres) and partially in the Sequoia National Forest (about 100,000 acres).



## UPDATES

### Sespe Dam Too Expensive

Building a dam on the Sespe River in Southern California (See the Nov.-Dec. *WR* for an article on the Sespe) was concluded to be too costly a project, in a study commissioned by the Ventura County Water District. Water from a dam on the now free-flowing river would be twice as expensive as bringing in water from the State Water Project, to which Ventura County is entitled. Local Assemblyperson Tom McClintock still supports tapping into the Sespe. The Keep the Sespe Wild Committee can be contacted via P.O. Box 715, Ojai, CA 93023, (805)646-0483.

### CA Reforms Off-Highway Vehicle Program

Major reforms in California's Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) program became law on September 22, 1987. Authored by Senator John Garamendi, the new legislation provides funding for resource conservation and law enforcement in OHV areas, requires the state to establish a soil loss standard "at least sufficient to allow rehabilitation of off-highway motor vehicle areas and trails," and ties OHV Fund grants to wildlife habitat programs.

[Off Highway Vehicles is a state euphemism for Off Road Vehicles (ORVs), the term normally used by federal agencies.]

The monies for conservation will come from gas tax revenues. This funding provision is a "radical change from the original law," according to Howard Wilshire, a geologist who has worked for many years with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and other groups on OHV issues. In the past, gas tax monies have been used primarily for acquiring land and developing trails.

The new soil loss standard, due to be set by January 1, 1991, may go a long way in curbing OHV-caused soil erosion, according to Wilshire. He feels that the new soil loss standard "ought to be used to close freeplay areas." "Freeplay" refers to the practice of driving all over an "open" area, not just on trails.

Freeplay driving is known to cause much more severe erosion than driving on developed trails. Estimates by the U.S. Geological Service are that the soil erosion in Chabot Park, a now-closed Bay Area OHV park, exceeded soil loss tolerances (the rate at which soil cannot be restored) by a factor of 45. And Chabot Park did not have freeplay areas.

The new law also requires the state, as well as federal agencies applying for OHV Fund grants, to complete wildlife habitat protection programs by July 1, 1989. An inventory of wildlife populations and their habitats must be compiled, and a wildlife habitat monitoring and rehabilitation program developed for each OHV area. In 1987 the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management together were granted a total of \$4 million in OHV Funds to develop this type of recreation. Although repeated budget cutbacks by the Reagan administration have left the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management with sparse funding for recreation management, the availability of state money has made OHV driving one land use that agencies can afford to cater to.

Another reform is in the composition of the OHV Commission members. Now biological and soil scientists, environmental protection organizations, and rural land owners must be represented, along with off-highway recreationists.

#### But watchdogs can't relax

Conservationists like Wilshire applaud the reforms but caution that the law will be effective only if implemented with citizen involvement and pressure. "I don't think they'll do it (adequately enforce the reforms) unless they're forced to do it," he said.

### Dam— One Step Closer

The wilderness boundary change affecting dam-targeted Caples Creek passed the U.S. Senate in late December, tacked onto unrelated legislation on the Senate floor. The boundary change, which would remove land from protected status, is now being considered by the House National Parks & Public Lands Subcommittee, chaired by Bruce Vento (D-MN).

Senator Pete Wilson is the champion of the amendment, which excludes approximately 250 acres of Eldorado National Forest land from the Caples Creek Further Planning Area, which the Forest Service may recommend to be an official wilderness.

A diversion of the Silver Fork of the American River, inside the current planning area boundary, has been proposed by developer Joseph Keating for his Foottrail Hydroelectric Project. (See the January, 1988 *WR*, p. 2, for a longer article.)

## Soda Mt. wilderness

cont. from p. 1

sale units would be under the south slope of the Soda Mtn. lookout—pristine, old growth forest in the headwaters of Camp Creek. Camp Creek is one of the only uncut drainages in the entire wilderness.

To propose logging this land is "an outrage," according to Willis, "in total disregard of the wilderness values on their (BLM's Medford) district." Nimmo countered that roads run right up to the area. 53 acres of the sale area, west of Soda Mtn., are in the proposed wilderness area.

The Medford District is writing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hobart sale, which was originally scheduled for September, 1988. Randy Gould, EA Coordinator, said the EA will include alternatives that prevent logging in the proposed wilderness area and from along the Pacific Crest Trail, which runs through the sale area. "We've been involved with the public from day one" on the timber sale plan, he said.

The EA process has been delayed by nominations of land in the sale area for "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC) status. An interdisciplinary ACEC team is expected to make their decisions on these designations by the beginning of February, after which time the EA can be completed.

ACECs were submitted by two local groups, Friends of the Greensprings and Headwaters. Scenic values and "natural systems" values were the primary features upon which their ACEC was based, explained Linda Buturain, coordinator of Friends of the Greensprings. The transition

zone between the Siskiyou and Cascade Mtns. "harbors an incredible diversity of vegetation and wildlife," she said.

### Deer and Steeply Rolling Mountains and Foothills

The Soda Mountain roadless area has very steep ridges and peaks ranging in elevation from 2300 to 6090 feet. The vegetation

is highly diverse, with higher elevations and north-facing slopes covered by old-growth white fir forest and other areas containing mixed white fir and Douglas fir forest. Oak woodland covers almost half of the area, made up mostly of Oregon white oak, with black oak and some Ponderosa pine. Idaho fescue, pine bluegrass, and other grasses are found beneath the trees.

Mountain grasslands and shrublands

cover the rest of the territory, made up of bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, and other high desert species. The shrublands are dominated by chokecherry, scrub oak, ceanothus, mountain mahogany, and other species, with juniper-sagebrush woodlands found in the higher, drier parts.

The proposed wilderness provides opportunities for hiking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, birdwatching, and fishing.



Looking from the south end of the Wilderness Study area, Soda Mt. is at the far right and Boccard Point, named for late activist Bruce Boccard, is in the top center.  
Photo by Bruce Boccard

### Dept. of Fish & Game Database

## Paper Monkeywrenching Toolkit

By Denise S. Groncki

The California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Natural Diversity Data Base is a valuable tool for individuals and groups engaged in a variety of projects, ranging from land use planning and energy development to resource management and protection.

Established by 1981 legislation and patterned after other natural heritage programs created by the Nature Conservancy, the "Data Base" is a computerized inventory of information on the location of California's rare, endangered and threatened animals, plants and biotic communities. Offices are located in the Resources Building in Sacramento.

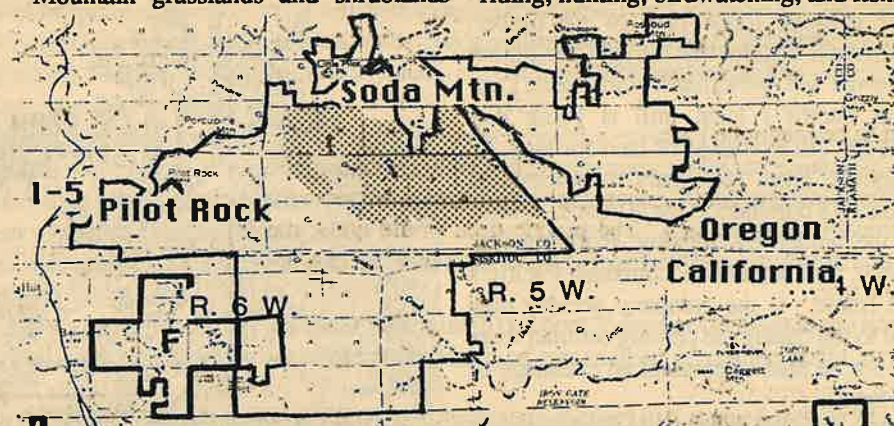
The Data Base has computerized over 13,500 locational records of over 1000 species and biotic communities to help identify them in planning and research and potentially aid in their preservation and maintenance.

Included in the inventory are officially listed (state and federal) endangered, threatened, and rare animals and plants as well as others considered by the scientific community to deserve listing. Information is not included on common animals and plants which are generally found in field guides.

The costs for using the Data Base are determined on a case by case or subscription rate basis. A simple information request may cost \$35 for one hour of staff time while computer retrievals are \$30 and map overlays start at \$12. More complex requests may be more costly. According to Roxanne Bittman, botanist with the Natural Diversity Data Base, trade agreements are occasionally made with researchers who agree to submit new data retrieved through their field work.

Specifics on the variety of services available may be obtained by calling the Data Base User Services representatives at (916) 324-0562.

*Denise S. Groncki has worked as a lobbyist for the California State Student Association, as an instructor with Outward Bound in Maine, and is now a part owner of the Blue Mango Cooperative restaurant in Davis.*



□ The proposed 31,528-acre Soda Mtn. wilderness

■ Wilderness Study Area, recommended for wilderness by the BLM

### How the Wilderness Was Won

It is an inspiring example of how citizens can work with a public lands agency. The wilderness recommendation for the 5,640-acre Soda Mt. Wilderness Study Area was a change of heart inspired by the beauty of Soda Mountain itself. After being led through the area on a trip arranged by the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, BLM Oregon State Director Bill Luscher reversed two previous analyses of the study area which had yielded "no wilderness" recommendations. The August, 1987 outing was followed by a meeting with over 40 local supporters.



## Bank of America & State May Cut Deal to Preserve Critical Deer Habitat in Sacramento Valley

By Steve Evans

Northern Californians have the unique opportunity to preserve 37,000 acres of Sacramento Valley foothills adjacent to the Tehama Wildlife Area and the Ishi Wilderness. In a complicated tax negotiation between the State of California and Bank of America, the Dye Creek Ranch in eastern Tehama County may be placed in a private trust to preserve its critical wildlife habitat...but only if concerned citizens let local legislators know that this is an important issue.

The critical nature of this area for winter habitat for the Tehama black-tailed deer herd cannot be understated. To preserve the winter range, the State manages the 43,000-acre Tehama Wildlife Area which is directly north of the Dye Creek Ranch. Directly east is the 41,000-acre Ishi Wilderness, which is managed by the Lassen National Forest. Together with the Dye Creek Ranch, a total of over 141,000 acres of foothill land have been managed for wildlife purposes.

The Dye Creek Ranch was managed for grazing and as a private hunting preserve for several years. The Bank of America foreclosed on the ranch's previous owners and is now negotiating with the state to use the ranch as a partial payment on back taxes. The State Controller's office originally considered adding the ranch to the Tehama Wildlife Area, which is managed by the Dept. of Fish and Game, but Tehama County officials have protested the loss of tax revenues if the land were to become public. To ensure the preservation of the ranch's critical wildlife habitat, the Controller's office has proposed that the ranch be placed in a private trust, with the State as the beneficiary. The ranch would then be managed by The Nature Conservancy to preserve its wildlife values. Sustainable, environmentally benign levels of grazing and hunting would still be allowed.

Public support must be demonstrated to ensure that the Dye Creek Ranch property is placed in a private trust. Residents of Tehama County can write letters to the Tehama County Board of Supervisors at Courthouse Annex, Red Bluff, CA, 96080.

Point to be mentioned are:

- \* Request support of the plan proposed by the State Controller's office to place the Dye Creek Ranch in a private trust to preserve the area's critical wildlife values. The private trust would allow the continuation of grazing and hunting and make tax payments like any other landowner.

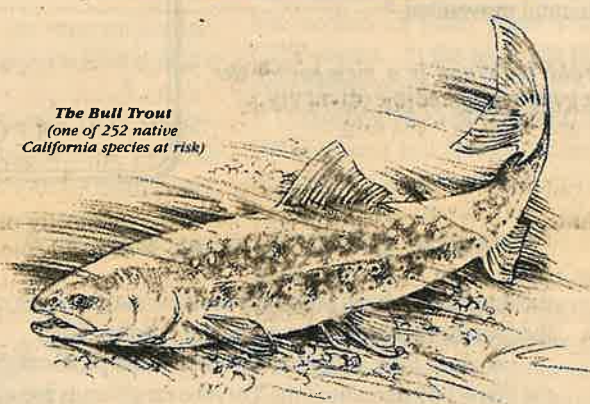
- \* Point out that the Dye Creek Ranch is critical winter range for the Tehama black tail deer herd, a major recreational and tourism resource for Tehama County.

It is feared that Senator Jim Neilsen may attempt to block action in the state legislature, and northern Californians are encouraged to send personal letters expressing the above points to Senator Jim Nielsen, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For more information, please call Steve Evans at the Butte Environmental Council, 916-891-6424.

*Steve Evans is an environmental activist living in Chico and is President of the California Wilderness Coalition.*

### THE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF CALIFORNIA



The Bull Trout  
(one of 252 native California species at risk)

**You can help them survive  
by filling in LINE 45  
on your State Tax Return.**

California has more than 250 animal and plant species that face the threat of extinction. We urge you to help them survive with a tax-deductible contribution on LINE 45 of your State Tax Return. Please help if you can. The loss of just one living species hurts us all...

## Fire Sales & Fish Heat Up

By Tim McKay

Out of the ashes of last summer's wildfires comes Operation Phoenix, a stratagem funded in part at taxpayer expense to convince the public that salvage of burned timber is imperative — especially in roadless areas.

The Forest Service itself has calculated that about 80 percent of the 1.5 billion board feet of timber deemed salvageable is accessible through existing roads. Will this timber rot while Phoenix followers press their campaign to build new roads in the wilderness?

Despite the attempt to use the fire disaster as a lever for more sales and more roads, the big task ahead is to assess and to mitigate the damage the blazes did to the anadromous fisheries of the Klamath-Trinity watershed.

The Forest Service estimates that 40% of the spawning beds on the Klamath National Forest were destroyed by the fires. Salmon and steelhead populations will suffer because ash, silt and debris are expected to wash down in the winter's rains and smother the spawning gravels the fish use for egg-laying.

Additionally, the miles of streamside canopy layer destroyed will contribute to increased water temperatures in the summer. The warmer waters, in turn, will limit the number of juvenile fish that might be expected to survive to reach the ocean.

The most controversial fire area to the south, in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's Hayfork Ranger district, will be the South Fork roadless area. This old-growth area was extensively burned, and has long been an object of lust for Sierra-Pacific Industries, which has mills in Hayfork and Arcata.

Comments on the South Fork roadless area can be sent to Dave Wickwire, District Ranger, Hayfork Ranger District, POB 159, Hayfork, CA 96041.

A professional forester told ECONEWS he believed that the Klamath National Forest will aim its first round of salvage sales at the high-elevation roadless areas adjacent to the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area. The lands involved may be in the Titus/King area of the Happy Camp Ranger District and in Grider Creek, north of the Marbles. Environmental Assessments of proposed sales will be available by mid-February.

To engage the Forest Service on these issues, contact George Harper, District Ranger, POB 377, Happy Camp, CA 96039.

Local conservation groups, the Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund are scrutinizing proposed fire sales, especially in roadless areas, and are asking the Forest Service for full environmental impact statements, rather than shorter environmental assessments.

*Reprinted from ECONEWS, the monthly publication of the North Coast Environmental Center, Jan.-Feb., 1988.*



# A Day For John Muir

By Harold Wood

At the Fourth World Wilderness Congress, held in Estes Park, Colorado, September 14—18, 1987, a resolution calling for the commemoration of John Muir, father of national parks and founder of the Sierra Club was adopted. The Wilderness Congress included representatives from over 60 nations, as well as numerous United States scientists, scholars, agency staff, and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

John Muir was instrumental in the establishment of Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Park, and many other parks and monuments. It has been said that there are more geographical place names in California referring to John Muir than any other single person in the state. Muir Woods National Monument in Marin County was named for him, as is the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. In the Sierra Nevada, there is a Mount Muir, Muir Grove of sequoias, Muir Pass, and Muir Lake, as well as the famous John Muir Trail and the John Muir Wilderness. Some years ago, the California Historical Society voted John Muir the greatest Californian in the state's history.

As first president of the Sierra Club, John Muir was largely responsible for launching the modern wilderness preservation movement. His books on the Sierra Nevada, national parks, wilderness, and wildlife are still widely read and treasured today. The past few years have witnessed an explosion of interest in John Muir, including the publication of at least four major biographies and several new anthologies of his writing. Despite his death more than 70 years ago Muir holds a preeminent spot in the hearts and minds of many Californians.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of John Muir, the Fourth World Wilderness Congress resolved that (1) April 21, 1988 should be designated as a national day of observance, (2) a commemorative U.S. postal stamp should be issued by the U.S. Postmaster General, and (3) Muir's boyhood home, Fountain Lake Farm and Muir Memorial Park near Montello, Wisconsin, should be designated a national historic site.

Because of the special significance John Muir holds for the State of California, at least two additional actions ought to be undertaken in our state. I propose a permanent commemorative limited state holiday in honor of the birth of John Muir. Legislation should be adopted which would require the Governor to proclaim April 21 annually as "John Muir Day" and establish suitable exercises in the public schools to teach about the establishment of national parks and wilderness, and particularly the significant role of John Muir. Such a commemorative day would not provide a day off work or school and thus would not engender controversy over economic and labor issues.)

Muir is known as the "Father of our

National Parks," and was largely responsible for the establishment of numerous national parks and monuments, including Yosemite, Sequoia, Mount Rainier, Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, and others. He was instrumental in influencing Presidents Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt to establish millions of acres of forest reserves, leading to the establishment of the National Forest System. Historians recognize that no one has had more influence on the modern conservation movement than John Muir.

The resolution notes that generations of Americans have reveled in the wonders of the parklands set aside by Congress and past presidents at the urging of the Scottish-born naturalist, and that the system of national parks which John Muir helped pioneer has grown in size to almost 80 million acres.

The resolution recognizes Muir as "the co-founder and first president of the Sierra Club, an organization which contributes to making this nation a leader in the global environmental movement."

*Harold W. Wood is a member of the Mineral King Group of the Sierra Club.*



## Wilderness Trivia Answer:

from page 2

On March 21, 1968, the 142,918-acre San Rafael Wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest became the first area to be added to the nine million acres of wilderness protected by the Wilderness Act of 1964.

## Toiyabe grazing, cont. from p. 1

the intervenors have provided documentation of poor range conditions and trends. The groups are trying to generate support for the plan to counteract the appellants' politicking.

A close look at the background of the problem shows why the plan and appeal have raised such controversy. According to the FS, 40-45 percent of the Toiyabe rangelands are in poor condition, more than any other national forest. The Toiyabe National Forest contains 3.2 million acres, of which 1.1 million are suitable for grazing. According to FS records, another 250,000 acres of unsuitable range is currently being grazed by livestock.

The forest plan prescribes a maximum of 65 percent vegetation utilization when riparian areas are in satisfactory condition and 55 percent when they are in unsatisfactory condition. Some researchers believe that utilization should not exceed 35 percent on streambanks with fisheries, even when included in a rest rotation system of grazing management. Current vegetation utilization is far in excess of 80 percent in many allotments. According to Barry Davis, of the Toiyabe NF, with proper management the riparian areas could produce three to four times more forage in as little as ten years. Most research shows that utilization over 60 percent is very deleterious to riparian habitat.

The actual utilization levels will be set by an interdisciplinary team when the Allotment Management Plans are written. The maximum utilization standards in the plans are the primary ones being appealed by the permittees. The appellants feel that the standards are too restrictive and should allow for more use.

In the early 1960s, when much of the rest of the Intermountain Forest Region was embroiled in the conflicts of making reductions in livestock and applying better grazing management, the Toiyabe was asked by its Regional office not to take controversial actions. Due to that request and the strong political clout of the Nevada ranchers, range management on the Toiyabe is 20 - 30 years behind most other forests. The typical grazing practices — spring turnout, heavy grazing on the same areas all season, and late fall removal — continue. Most permittees resist any management changes and strongly oppose any stocking reductions.

There have been some changes in management since the forest was created. But these have been primarily through shortening the use season and reducing some livestock numbers. Cattle use the canyon bottoms heavily until all of the streamside vegetation is gone. Then they move up onto the steeper sidehills. During the early part of the century, almost all of the range was in poor condition. Due to the shortened grazing seasons and reduced stocking, less use was made of areas away from the stream bottoms. These steeper areas have improved substantially since the early 1900s and are often used as examples of range improvement.

Unfortunately, the level riparian zones continue to experience soil and productivity losses. Losses are dramatic, especially during very high runoff. Wayne Padgett, a FS ecologist, says that the riparian areas of Central Nevada are the worst he has seen anywhere.

Less than one third of the Toiyabe's allotments are properly managed. According to the forest plan, during the next 8-10 years, five or six allotments per year will be placed under improved management. The resistance to changing present management will be considerable. Conservatonists must win the fight over the plan standards and guidelines and their implementation NOW or forever accept unsatisfactory management of our public lands.

*Rose Strickland is Chair of the Public Lands Committee of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club.*

Book Review**Koyukan People Teach Us "Ancient Holding Patterns"**

Make Prayers to the Raven, Richard K. Nelson.

By Dave Fritz

### KNOWING THE UNKNOWN

Our trouble  
is only the trouble anyone,  
all of us, thrust from the ancient  
holding-patterns, down toward  
runways new built,  
knows; the strain  
of flying wing by wing, not knowing  
ever if both of us will land, the planet  
under the clouds—  
does it still want us? Shall we be wel-  
come,

we of air, of metallic  
bitter rainbows —Denise Levertov

How are we connected with the natural world? For those of us who feel, like Levertov in this poem, that we are members of a society that has moved far from a sense of intimate and deep connection with the natural world, the question may phrase itself more like "how do we reconnect with the natural world?"

With a readability that belies what might appear to be a specialized text, *Make Prayers to the Raven* is recommended for the way it can deepen a person's exploring of their sense of connection with the natural world. We are



presented with a remarkable evocation of one group's "ancient holding patterns."

The book combines a tradition of ethnography in anthropology with the tradition of nature journal writing — an articulate, thoughtful person's journal of impressions of nature, people, and of the writer's own inner development. Though perhaps less extensively achieved, the book echoes what is impelling in much of the writing of Thoreau and Muir, as well as more recent books, such as Peter Matthiessen's *The Snow Leopard*.

Nelson writes in a style that is clear and considerate, a quietly distinctive balancing of the informative with moments of humor and feeling.

The setting is the subarctic forests and inland waters of central Alaska. The people of the study are the Athapaskan group known as the Koyukon, from the name of the river on which they live. This is a world of boreal forests, massive glacier, carved mountain ranges, wide river valleys, edged with hills and gentle slopes, lakes, and muskeg bogs. The yearly cycle goes through "warm, bright and flowing to cold, dark, and frozen," the intense seasonality of climate that blanket-sand transforms the landscape. In the book one constantly senses the corresponding season-



ality of activity of the Koyukon. The people's lives are occupied with hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering firewood, berry-picking, preserving and processing food stuffs, daily and seasonal household and subsistence tasks, tool and shelter maintenance, crafts, visiting and conversation, and storytelling.

Central to this experience for Nelson, central to the book and central to Koyukon life is the knowledge or belief that, in Nelson's translation, the Koyukon live in a "world that watches." The nature that surrounds Koyukon is not only a challenging place in which they exert themselves to continue their livelihood, it is simultaneously a world in which all that exists "is imbued with awareness and power."

The interchange between humans and environment is based on an elaborate code of respect and morality without which survival would be jeopardized. All animals and plants were once humans who died and changed into other form. Some originally human character was retained in the animal being.

Deepening our understanding of the abiding, thoroughly awe-worked human connection with the natural world is the value of this book.

"What is the raven? Bird-watchers and biologists know. Koyukon elders and their children who listen know. But those who have heard and accepted them both are left to watch and wonder."

Nelson's book leaves one with a sense that this is good wondering, even if, as he suggests is possible, the raven is laughing.

## The Contest is On — Enter a T-Shirt Design for the CWC and You May Win Fabulous Prizes!!

The California Wilderness Coalition is seeking a new T-shirt design. Send in your original artwork by February 29, 1988.

In the meantime, you can order our old design 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, medium, large, and extra-large. A limited number of French-cut style T-shirts are available in white and pink.

T-shirts are \$8.00 for 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, and a substitute color. Please add \$1.25 postage and 75 cents for each additional T-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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## CALENDAR

Feb. 6 CWC Annual Meeting, 10:00-3:00pm, Davis, call (916)758-0380 for more information.

Feb. 6 CWC "Roast Jim Eaton" fundraiser, Davis, reception at 6:30pm, call (916)758-0380 for more information.

Feb. 15 DEADLINE for comments on BLM Draft California Vegetation Management program Environmental Impact Statement.

Feb. 15 DEADLINE for comments on BLM Section 202 Wilderness Study Area recommendations.

Feb. 19 Tour and meeting with Salmon River Concerned Citizens, write Box 610, Forks of the Salmon, CA 96031-for more information.

Feb. 26 DEADLINE for comments on Lassen National Forest's Winter Off-Highway Vehicle Plan.

Feb. 27 "Parks and Wildlife: Preserving & Enriching Our Inheritance" Conference by the Environmental Law Society of U.C. Davis, featuring William Penn Mott, Director of the National Park Service & author Joseph Sax; 8:30-5:00pm, call (916)758-5221 or (916)758-9146 for more information.

March 7 DEADLINE for comments on the Modoc Draft Forest Plan.

March 11-13 "In Celebration of Rivers" Conference by Friends of the River, San Rafael, call (415)771-0400 or (916)442-3155 for more information.

CONTACT the CWC at (916)758-0380 for more information on any Calendar item.



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