



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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Battle of Words Erupts Over Mill Closures. Environmental Groups Blamed

By Ryan Henson

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation (L-P), feeling the effects of decades of over-cutting and general mismanagement, has launched a vigorous campaign to discredit environmentalists and secure more timber from the Mendocino National Forest. One month before Christmas, the company announced they would close their mill in the small Mendocino County community of Potter Valley because of the "...difficulty in securing timber from the Mendocino National Forest."

In the *Willits News*, L-P western division manager Joe Wheeler did cite the losses sustained by the timber giant from the fires of 1987, but heaped most of the blame for the mill closure on environmentalists. Wheeler accused "preservationists" of reducing the flow of logs to the mill through "...legal appeals and litigation holding up sales on the Forest Service salvage and L-P's [own] timber plans." L-P spokeswoman Glenys Simmons also blamed the "...setting aside of lands for environmental concerns," citing her belief that each pair of spotted owls are allotted 2,600 acres of forest apiece. Actually, only 1,000 acres are devoted to each pair of spotted owls, and then only to those owls that comprise the "minimum viable population."

This message was quickly repeated by Congressman Doug Bosco, who proclaimed "When we can't even salvage fire-damaged timber, then I feel the environmentalists do have to take some of the responsibility for the 132 people who will be out of work in Potter Valley."

Bosco went on to ask if human beings aren't becoming an endangered species due to the "10 million acres" of land Congress recently added to the Wilderness Preservation System in Northern California alone (actually, only 1.8 million acres of national
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The Pit River Canyon Wilderness Study Area is getting dryer all the time.
Bureau of Land Management photo

Mucking Around With Pit River

By Jim Eaton

The developers who built a water diversion around the proposed Pit River Canyon wilderness area apparently have learned that some water still flows through the wild canyon. They now are proposing an off-stream storage reservoir to divert even more of the flow of the Pit River.

In 1987 the California Wilderness Coalition and three other groups appealed the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) decision to grant a right-of-way permit for the Muck Valley hydroelectric project. BLM had refused to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project, even though it would lower water flows through the Pit River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Lassen County, one of the few areas the agency is proposing for wilderness classification in northern California. BLM said the hydro project would have "no significant impact" on the proposed wilderness. The appeal was denied.

Now the developers want to divert additional water from the Pit River and flood 244 acres adjacent to the WSA. The 12,650-acre foot reservoir would be used for peak power production at the Muck Valley powerhouse.

The Pit River has high flows only dur-

ing the wet winter and spring months. The current water rights permit for the Muck Valley Project allows the developers to divert up to 700 cubic feet per second (cfs) after assuring that 50 cfs is allowed to continue through the WSA. In addition, the developers have returned to ask for an additional 200 cfs diversion.

In their 1987 appeal, the conservation groups argued that an EIS was required because of the scope of the project and the affect on the environment. BLM declared that an EIS was not needed, and the appeal of that decision was overruled. It now appears that BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act by looking only at a portion of a large project in their determination that an EIS was not needed.

It remains to be seen if BLM will now prepare an EIS or try to get away with another environmental assessment of this larger project.

If you would like to express your opinion to BLM, write:

Lynda Roush, Area Manager
Alturas Resource Area
120 South Main Street
Alturas, California 96101

Klamath Lawsuit Restrains Salvage Logging

By Stephanie Mandel

It was the week before Christmas, and the people slogging through the forests of the Klamath River watershed were inspecting a cluster of evergreens.

But they weren't choosing a tree for the family living room; they were adversaries complying with a court order to agree on logging plans.

In a lawsuit filed against four Forest Service timber sales in partially-burned areas, Judge Edward J. Garcia asked the three timber companies who have purchased the timber, the environmentalist plaintiffs, and the Forest Service to come to an agreement over the details of a temporary restraining order to stop the companies from cutting down trees. The order will be in effect until a January 20th preliminary injunction hearing. An injunction would stay in force longer than a restraining order.

The Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC) and Klamath River Concerned Citizens, plaintiffs in the case, are suing to force the Forest Service to write a complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a number of adjacent timber sales in the Klamath National Forest.

The sale areas are adjacent to the northwest boundary of the Marble Mountain

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Monthly Report

By Jim Eaton

Some extremely generous year-end donations have pushed us near the top in our effort to meet the challenge from Patagonia to match their \$10,000 grant. We now have reached the \$9,000 level, by far our most successful fund appeal.

So now it's time to get around to other deferred office chores, like renewals. Please don't think that you overlooked your annual renewal if you get a notice soon. Things have been so busy this fall that many mundane tasks have been avoided with the best of excuses (would you rather get your renewal on time or have Mt. Shasta saved?).

Part of the problem was that we didn't hustle enough to assure a sustained yield of interns and volunteers last fall. Kinda got used to all that free volunteer help earlier in the year. So we are going to do our best to line up some additional help this new year.

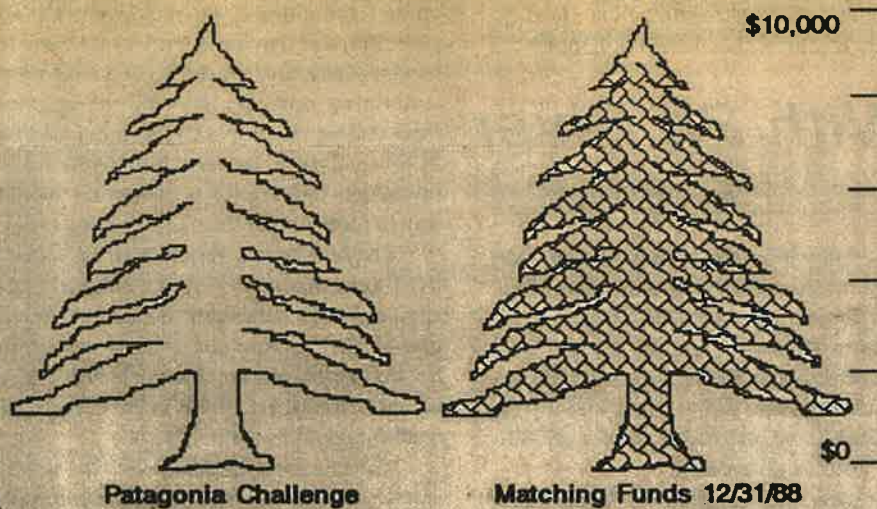
Some of our sharp-eyed readers have suggested some additional answers to previous wilderness trivia quiz questions. Another five areas named for people surfaced; in each case the wilderness adopted the moniker of a previously named feature in the area. The additions are the Bucks

Lake Wilderness (for Horace "Buck" Bucklin), Jennie Lakes Wilderness (Jennie Ellis), Kaiser Wilderness (probably Elijah Keyser), South Warner Wilderness (Captain William H. Warner), and the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness (*not* named for Clarence King [the name came from *Rio de los Santos Reyes*—River of the Holy Kings], but Sequoia doubtless honors Sequoia, creator of the Cherokee alphabet). I couldn't discover how the name Hauser originated (Hauser Wilderness in San Diego County).

Also, I realized belatedly that a federal wilderness in more than one unit is the Farallon Wilderness—the ocean between the island units is not included in the 141-acre wilderness area.

We would like to welcome two new organizations to the Coalition. The Soda Mountains Wilderness Council, based in Ashland, Oregon, works on the proposed Soda Mountains Wilderness along the California-Oregon border. The Yolano Group of the Sierra Club, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Mother Lode Chapter, is active here in our local area on issues in Yolo and Solano counties. Welcome both!

Matching the Patagonia Challenge Grant



Patagonia Challenge

Matching Funds 12/31/88

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

When the original Wilderness Act passed in 1964, thirteen California areas became "official" wilderness areas.

How many can you name?

(See page 6 for answer.)

ERRATA (from the Dec., '88 Wilderness Record)

Deserved credit goes to Jim Dodson for his photos of the California Desert Colloquium that appeared in the December *Record*. Jeff Widen, who saw to the delivery of the photos to our office, was mistakenly credited for taking them. (But he's still a nice guy.)

Inyo Plan Appeal

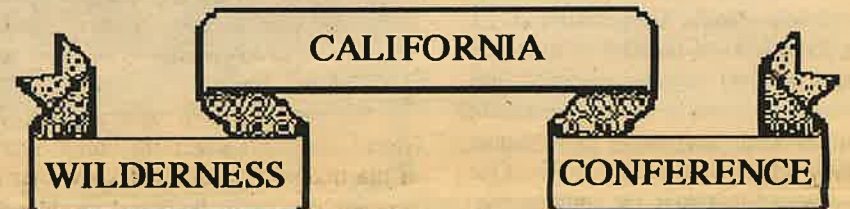
Nine organizations that appealed the final Forest Plan of the Inyo National Forest, including Friends of the Inyo and the California Wilderness Coalition, have submitted a 144-page Statement of Reasons that details the numerous flaws found with the plan.

Separate appeals were filed by the California Department of Fish and Game and Friends of the River.

Objections to the forest plan covered many subjects. Among them were the plan's failure to properly review and protect roadless areas, wildlife, range and riparian areas, and diversity of plant and animal communities. Other topics were timber

management, downhill ski area development, energy development, and the treatment of public comments in the draft plan.

The Inyo is one of California's wildest national forests. More than three-quarters of the forest remains wild today, with some of that land protected in the Ansel Adams, Golden Trout, Hoover, John Muir and South Sierra wilderness areas. But of sixteen further planning areas studied in the forest plan, only parts of four are recommended for wilderness. Another 23 roadless areas were totally ignored because they had been "released" by the California Wilderness Act of 1984.



"Celebrating the 25th Anniversary
of the Wilderness Act"

October 19-22, 1989
Visalia, California

Planning for the 1989 California Wilderness Conference is underway! The Visalia Convention Center has been reserved, the conference has been expanded from 3 to 4 days, and the fee has been set for \$15, the same cost as the 1985 California Wilderness Conference!

We estimate that this \$15.00 grassroots fee will pay for less than 25% of the conference costs and are depending on the goodwill of those of you who have the resources to donate more. Please consider being a Conference Mentor by contributing \$50 or more, for which you will receive a free conference t-shirt.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED — volunteers from all over California can help to make the conference a success by helping to publicize the conference in their region and by gathering suggestions for conference activities.

We're very interested in your suggestions for workshop subjects, speakers, entertainment, or any other element of this long-awaited conference.

Please send your suggestions, questions about being a local coordinator, fee, and/or goodwill Conference Mentor contribution to: Bob Barnes, P.O. Box 269, Porterville, CA 93258.

Make checks payable to: California Wilderness Coalition [or: CWC]



The Wild and Scenic upper South Fork of the Smith River and the Siskiyou Crest.
Photo by Doug Ayers

Appeal buys time for land exchange *Locals Save Siskiyou Wilderness Inholding*

It was a close call for the Siskiyou Wilderness, Forest Service Assistant Lands Officer George Frey admits. The owner of about 65 acres of private land in the wilderness had been granted a special use permit for a road to his parcel. "It looked like he (landowner Jack Lahr) might go ahead and log," Frey said.

An appeal filed by the Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC) slowed things down, however, and bought time for the Forest Service to make progress on an exchange of the wilderness inholding for other national forest land. In November 1988 the NEC won its appeal of the Six Rivers National Forest's decision to grant the special use permit for a road in the Siskiyou Wilderness.

Raised in the appeal were rules governing crossing the South Fork of the Smith River, which is a designated wild river, roads in wilderness areas, and concerns over bringing the fatal Port-Orford cedar root rot to the area on truck tires.

Faced with the delay, owner Lahr (a former Bureau of Land Management Area Manager) sold the property last January. "The appeal actually did a fair amount of good," Frey said.

The new property owner, Indian Hill Timber, is working with the Forest Service on the trade. "I feel and I know that the company that owns the parcel would rather have equal value of timber somewhere else," Frey said, because many stipulations would have been placed on the logging operation. "Stiff" rules would govern hauling lumber across the Wild & Scenic South Fork of the Smith River, which marks the wilderness boundary.

According to Frey, the Forest Service still needs to get land value appraisals and to complete some of the required resource reviews of the federal land being considered for exchange. He expects the exchange agreement to be completed by late next spring.

Modoc Forest Pining Away

The Modoc National Forest wants to protect its pine trees from fire. To do this they propose to burn, bulldoze, and hand cut 398,000 acres of "eastside" pine land in Lassen and Modoc counties.

The Forest Service believes that their policy of suppressing fires has, over the decades, resulted in a fuel buildup that will result in catastrophic fires. They want to protect the pine trees until they are big enough to log.

The fuel load consists of naturally deposited tree limbs, twigs, and needles, and "slash" left over from logging.

The Forest Service would like to reduce the fire potential by using prescribed fires,

mechanical treatment (tractor piling, chipping, crushing with a crawler tractor, etc.), and hand treatment (lopping and scattering and hand piling). The agency hopes to "treat" between two and eight thousand acres of land a year.

Four roadless areas are within the lands suggested for fuel reduction—the Damon Butte, Big Canyon, Knox Mountain, and Sears Flat roadless areas.

If you would like to comment on the Modoc National Forest's plans, write to: Douglas S. Smith, Forest Supervisor, Modoc National Forest, 441 North Main, Alturas, CA 96101.

UPDATES

BLM Plans Big Gulp From Proposed Soda Mountain Wilderness

A new threat to the Soda Mountain wilderness has raised its ugly head. The sale of a small patch of old growth, along with younger trees, is being planned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in this proposed wilderness area straddling the California-Oregon border.

"We find it amazing that the BLM is offering this sale after all the controversy they have received on the Hobart Sale (another sale proposed in the Soda Mtn. area)," Richard Brock of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council wrote in the group's December newsletter.

The Council, which has proposed that approximately 32,000 acres of the Soda Mtn. area be designated wilderness, is working with (against?) the BLM, hoping to prevent the sale.

The Hutton Creek sale includes groves on Slide and Lone Pine Ridges and along Slide and Hutton Creek, southwest of Pilot Rock.

To oppose this timber sale, write to: David Jones, District Manager, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504.

Action Alert Rules Pending for Roads in Protected Areas

Paths through wilderness—yes, they're allowed in order to reach private land inholdings. The number of access routes, the type of access, and whether landowners pay the U.S. government, all depend on regulations.

New regulations were proposed on September 28, designed to protect the integrity of forest lands and their surface resources to the maximum extent possible while providing reasonable access to private lands.

Major provisions of the regulations are:

- The Forest Service is under no obligation to provide additional access routes if a landowner already has access to their land.
- Landowners must receive a special-use permit from the Forest Service if access to inholdings requires surface disturbance, use of forest roads or trails, associated facilities or structures other than those set forth in the proposed rule.
- Fair market value of the uses allowed on federal lands must be paid, through a special-use permit.
- The type of access must be harmonious with the type of land uses commonly or

traditionally made on similar private lands in the general area. Consideration of the need to minimize impacts on forest resources and to avoid conflicts with wilderness areas must be reflected in the type of access allowed.

Environmentalists know that strong pressure is being put on the Forest Service to weaken this proposed rule. To let the Forest Service know that support exists for their regulations, write a letter to F. Dale Robertson, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

JANUARY 28, 1989 is the deadline for comments.

Send copies of your letter to Senator Patrick Leahy, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, 328A Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510, and to Representative Harold Volkmer, Chairman, House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy, 1301 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Ring Around the Mtn.: Comment Now On New Mt. Shasta Trail

If you have anything to say about a hiking trail around Mount Shasta, now is the time. An environmental report is currently being prepared to study the proposed trail.

The Mount Shasta Trail Association, which is working with the Forest Service on the project, reported in its December newsletter that "written comments received thus far are running about even between those favoring the trail around the mountain and those opposed."

Comments received through January 20, 1989 will be considered in the EA process. Send comments to: Garry Oye, Forest Service, 204 West Alma Street, Mt. Shasta, 96067.



Wild Rivers Promised

The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have promised to triple the number of rivers protected in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. At a news conference in Washington, D.C. on November 17, the agencies stated their intent to add 200 rivers to the system by 1993. Although conservationists applaud the agencies' intent to protect the nation's free-flowing river resources, the untold story is the number of rivers left unprotected.

Approximately 20 rivers of the 200 alluded to at the news conference are located in California. While the Forest Service is proposing to protect notable rivers such as the McCloud, San Joaquin, and Big Sur, the same planning process that has resulted in these favorable recommendations has found such scenic and popular rivers as the lower Kern, Truckee, and Yuba rivers to be "ineligible" for protection.

Even rivers recommended for Wild and Scenic designation by the Forest Service are receiving only partial protection. For example, only 50 percent of Sespe Creek in the

Los Padres National Forest is recommended for protection while the remainder is reserved for two proposed dam projects which will drown scenic recreation areas and degrade California's southernmost steelhead stream.

No list of rivers was provided by the Forest Service with the press announcement, so specifics are unknown at this time. However, it appears that the 20 California rivers alluded to in the announcement are rivers already recommended for Wild and Scenic status in draft national forest plans released to date by the Forest Service (see chart).

The Forest Service has deferred suitability decisions for the North Fork Stanislaus, Walker River (West and East forks), and East Fork Carson. A proposed cooperative study of the Little Sur River is also being explored by the Forest Service and local governments.

Not to be outdone by the Forest Service, the BLM is predicting two "likely" rivers to be assessed for Wild and Scenic in upcoming resource management plans over the next three years, including the Sacramento River

and a portion of the lower Kern River. The BLM is also conducting the only Congressionally-mandated Wild and Scenic River study in California on the lower Merced River.

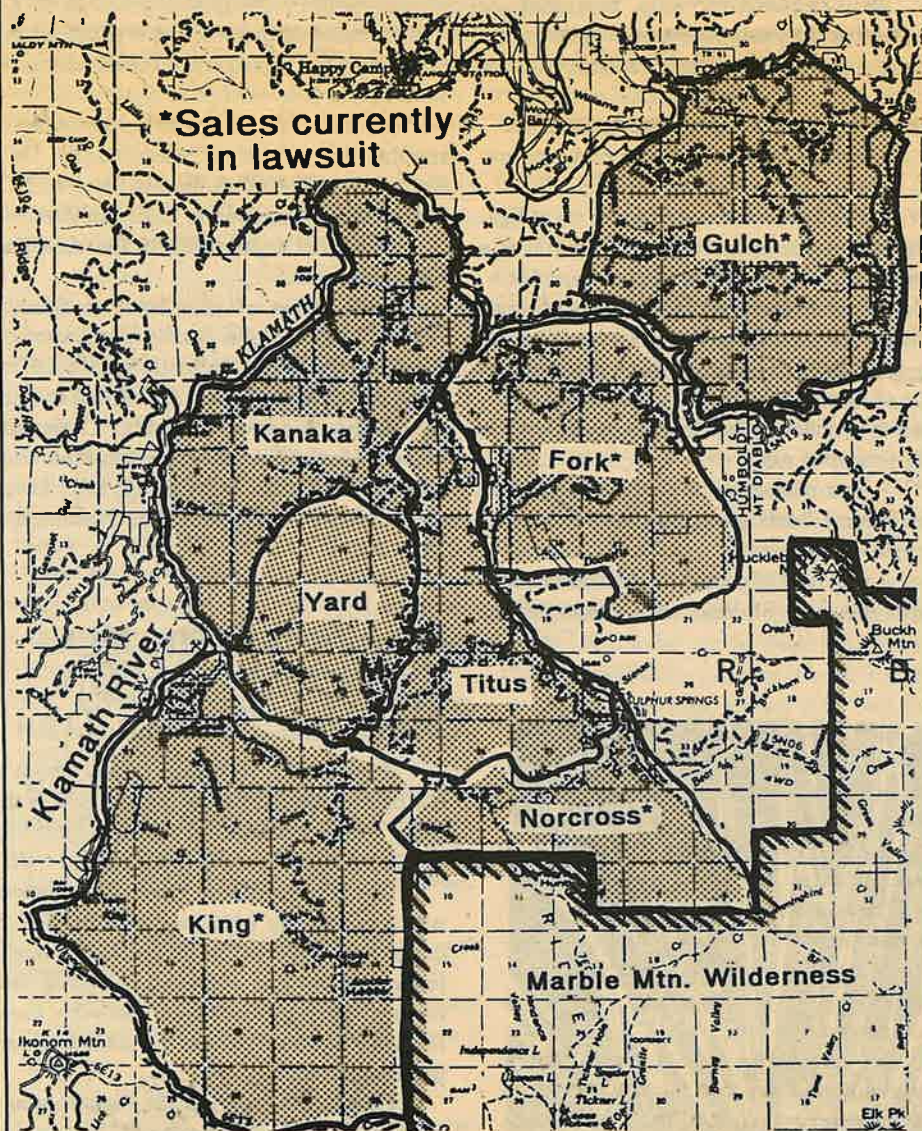
While the Forest Service is recommending protection of about 500 miles of river land on 20 streams, Friends of the River has identified 1,500 miles on more than 100 rivers deserving of protection. Continued public pressure to protect more riverside recreation areas and angling streams is the only way to ensure that the Forest Service and other federal agencies make adequate recommendations concerning our threatened free-flowing rivers.

Reprinted from the December issue of Cross Currents, a Friends of the River publication.

California Rivers Recommended for Wild and Scenic Status in Draft National Forest Plans:

- Big Sur River
- Cosumnes River; North, Middle Forks
- Deer Creek
- McCloud River
- Mill Creek
- North Fork Mokelumne
- Rubicon River
- Sacramento River
- San Joaquin River; Middle, North, South Forks
- Sespe Creek
- Sisquoc River
- Trinity River; North, South Forks
- Virgin Creek

Some of the Controversial Timber Sales in the Klamath National Forest's Happy Camp Ranger District



America the Beautiful USA 15

This California Desert sunset scene is featured in the U.S. Postal Service's first issue of 1989. The postal card will be issued January 13 in Tucson, AZ.

Klamath Logging Compromise continued from page 1

Wilderness Areas and include the King roadless area. The companies who have bought the timber are Eel River Sawmill of Fortuna, Stone Forest Industries Inc. of Happy Camp, and Hi-Ridge Lumber Company of Yreka.

After their forest walks and a couple of meetings, an agreement was reached. Susie Van Kirk, one of the NEC's representatives, felt that the plaintiffs demonstrated the spirit of compromise, saying "we were more than reasonable."

"We have, I think, given much more than they have" in the compromise, she added. Van Kirk and Tim McKay, the other NEC negotiator, were most concerned about logging and road-building on steep, south-facing slopes where successful reforestation is unlikely. They were successful in getting a number of units eliminated from the next few weeks' logging plans.

While four timber sales totalling 5,000 acres in the Happy Camp Ranger District are currently the subjects of the suit, more sales will probably be added if the Forest Service

continues to deny administrative appeals. McKay estimates that as many as a dozen timber sales may eventually be included.

The NEC contends that the sales violate the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

One of the major issues raised in the suit is spotted owl habitat. Van Kirk explained that the Forest Service is planning sales within an interim Spotted Owl Habitat Area (SOHA), tentatively drawn up after wildfires in November 1987 disrupted the previously existing SOHA network.

Van Kirk is concerned that the Klamath National Forest is selling lots of timber without having even a draft forest plan; a 1974 timber management plan is the most recent planning document being used. By selling so much timber they are, without public input, making land allocations decisions—"writing the forest plan right now, on the ground; options are going to be gone."



Mills Closed, Environmentalists Blamed

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forest land was added in the California Wilderness Act of 1984 throughout the entire state.)

To increase the pressure on officials of the Mendocino National Forest, L-P announced the closure of its Red Bluff mill just ten days after its Potter Valley closure announcement. This time Wheeler mentioned Forest Service officials directly, stating in the Ukiah Daily Journal that the Forest Service has not "...fully assumed [its] responsibilities to the timber-dependent communities." L-P spokespersons noted in subsequent press releases that hope remained for the Red Bluff mill due to the fact that the Mendocino National Forest has not yet released its final plan.

"L-P/Bosco blamed the mill closure on logging delays caused by 'environmentalist' appeals and litigation on Mendocino National Forest fire salvage sales" despite the fact that "...all administrative appeals have been denied by the Forest Service, and no stays or restraining orders have been granted to delay logging."

—Don Morris

Environmentalists working to preserve the ecological integrity of the Mendocino National Forest responded to L-P's press releases with letters to local papers. Don Morris, Forest Watch Coordinator for the Willits-based Rural Institute, noted in the *Willits News* that "L-P/Bosco blamed the mill closure on logging delays caused by 'environmentalist' appeals and litigation on Mendocino National Forest fire salvage sales" despite the fact that "...all administrative appeals have been denied by the Forest Service, and no stays or restraining orders have been granted to delay logging."

Morris also stated that "L-P has contracted this year to log 42 million board feet of fire damaged and 'incidental' green timber...enough to feed the Potter Valley mill for one year—on 6,000 acres of the Mendocino National Forest." Morris notes that despite L-P's claims of over-competition and high bidding for timber from the Mendocino, L-P has obtained 32 million board feet of burned timber for its Potter Valley mill for bids of only \$20 dollars per thousand board feet or less (far below the actual worth of the timber, which is often unburned). "Other fire salvage sales with competitive bidding paid for an average of \$71-\$135 per thousand board feet," Morris adds.

Forest Service records indicate that L-P has not bid on some salvage sales despite their claims of log shortages. The records also show that many of the small logging companies that outbid the timber giant will have their timber processed at L-P's mills. As for other timber sales on the Men-

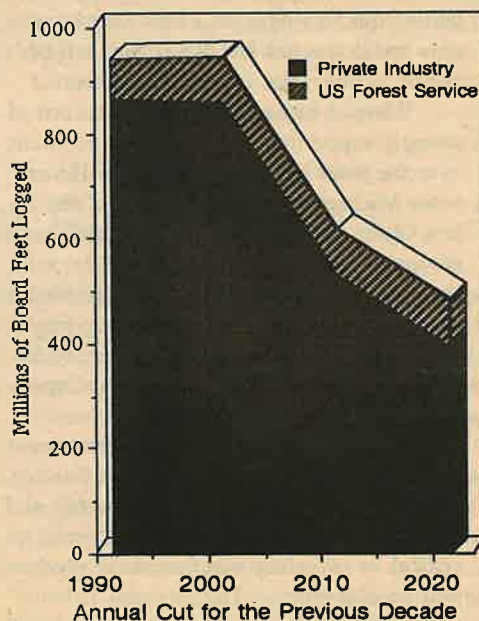
docino, a full 74 million board feet of unburned timber is to be sold in 1989, despite the fact that 80 million board feet of burned timber will have been stripped from the steep ridges of the Mendocino as a result of the fires of 1987. The draft management plan for the Mendocino envisions an increase in logging to 99 million board feet annually in the future from unburned timber (much of this coming from the Mendocino's remaining 100,000 acres of old-growth forest.)

The most creative response on the part of environmentalists to expose the lies and pressure tactics—recently employed by L-P has come from Darryl Cherney of Earth First!. Cherney has offered to withdraw the nonexistent environmental lawsuits against L-P and the Mendocino over salvage logging in exchange for a promise from the company to keep at least the Potter Valley mill open.

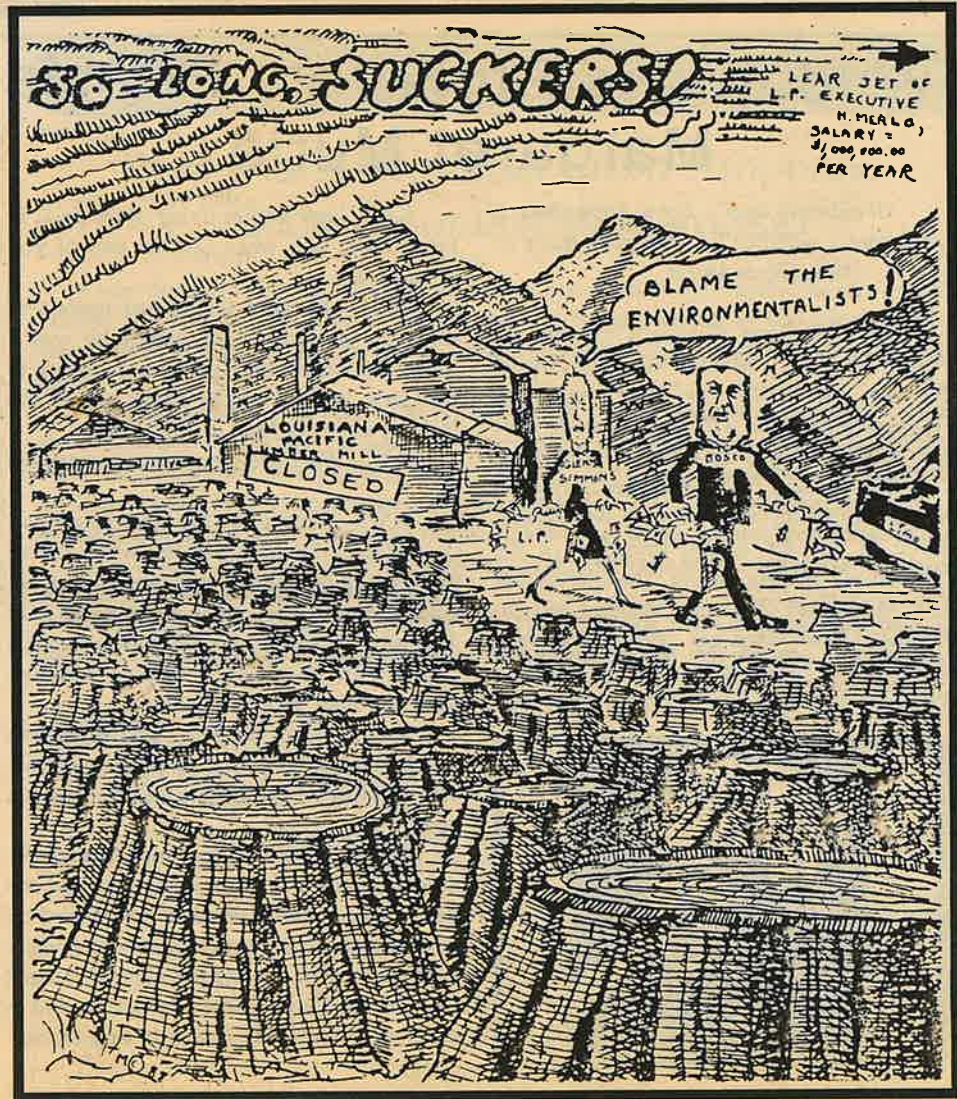
The *Ukiah Daily Journal*, among other publications, printed Cherney's proposal and it was received "...with surprise and cautious optimism..." by company officials, according to the report. Even many of the L-P workers whose futures are now uncertain are wary of L-P's recent press releases, as one anonymous worker from the Red Bluff mill stated "we've always known that L-P is over-cutting, and a lot of us have had our bags packed for the deep south for a long time now."

As for the environmentalists that the company officials have blamed for the mill closures, the same worker said "I guess they [environmentalists] overdo it sometimes, but I've got more in common with them than I do with Merlo," referring to L-P's chief executive officer (the proud owner of a personal jet and one of the highest paid executives in the country, according to Cherney). Fred Emery, the president of the United Independent

Logging of North Coast Forests
1980-2020



Source: CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection, 1988



from the *Anderson Valley Advertiser*, Box 459, Boonville, CA 95415

...one anonymous worker from the Red Bluff mill stated, "we've always known that L-P is over-cutting, and a lot of us have had our bags packed for the deep south for a long time now."

Box and Lumber Workers, L-P's sole union, speculates that the potential Red Bluff mill closure "can be an attempt on the part of L-P to disrupt the membership of the union due to the timing and manner in which L-P announces the closure." Emery added that "L-P has used odd work schedules and extended shut-downs in the past that have made it increasingly difficult for the union to conduct its business."

The only silent side in this battle of words that has erupted over the mill closings has been the Mendocino National Forest staff. The only official comment released was one stating that no lawsuits have been filed against the Forest Service or L-P to stop the extensive salvage logging that has taken place in the Mendocino National Forest. The agency added that all of the administrative appeals filed by environmental groups have been denied.

One anonymous official working for the Mendocino did say that the environmentalists' appeals resulted in a "profound rethinking on our part" over salvage sales in the forest. The official did not specify what

resulted from that rethinking. The Mendocino's final plan is due in 1989, and the timber staff is already predicting the highest annual cuts ever, despite citizen input requesting that old-growth and *de facto* wilderness land be spared.

For their part, L-P officials have denied charges that they are trying to influence planning in the Mendocino National Forest, and continue to blame lawsuits and high operating costs for the mill closures rather than the over-cutting of their own timber base.

L-P is currently trying to stress the sadness of the post-Christmas lay-offs. Spokesperson Shepard Tucker, referring to environmentalists, recently stated that "they can say industry is the bad guy, but they don't know anything about meeting the payroll...there's nothing that hurts more than seeing the faces of those guys when you tell them they're not going to have jobs."

It is in the face of this sort of corporate hypocrisy that people try to stabilize rural economies, protect abused ecosystems, and preserve some of the remaining wilderness left in the Mendocino National Forest.

Ryan Henson is an intern with the CWC who is studying Political Science at American River College in Sacramento.



Wilderness Elder: Margaret Murie

"It enlarges man's soul to know there is wilderness, whether he ever goes there or not." —Mrs. Olaus Murie

Born Margaret Elizabeth Thomas on August 18, 1902, "Mardy" Murie is a model for those whose lives have been touched by wilderness and who wish to dedicate at least part of their lives to the cause of wilderness.

Indeed, most of her 86 years have been spent promoting and enjoying wilderness. Celia M. Hunter, a past president of the Wilderness Society, wrote "throughout her life, Mardy has constantly inspired and encouraged those about her. Her lovely, comfortable log-cabin home in Moose, Wyoming, is a mecca for young people, who



always find a welcome there and depart determined to become part of the battles to save both endangered wildlife and the wild places essential to its survival."

She and her husband and work partner, Olaus, were instrumental in bringing about the creation of the nine-million acre Arctic National Wildlife Range.

Mardy is the author of three books, including *Two in the Far North*, an account of her Alaska years with Olaus. Indeed, of Alaska she says "We were back in Alaska so many times it is as though we never left it really...the great country." Her books show a deep appreciation and spiritual sense of the wild natural world.

Mardy was honored with the Department of Interior's Conservation Service Award in 1971 and received the honorary degree of Doctor of Human Letters and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from her alma mater, the University of Alaska.

Adventurer, mother of 3, grandmother, activist, writer—throughout her life Mrs. Olaus Murie, as she likes to be called, has been a model of persistence in working for the wilderness that is greater than ourselves.

Following is an interview with Mrs. Murie by Katie Amodio of Jackson, Wyoming.

KA— When did you and Olaus get married?

MM— In 1924. My family had moved to Fairbanks before that and that's where I grew up.

KA— Is that where you met Olaus?

MM— Yes, he was sent up there by the Biological Survey, which is now called Fish and Wildlife Service, to do a complete life history of the Alaska Yukon caribou.

KA— Now you're living in the park, in Teton Park, and when did the two of you come here.

MM— Because Olaus had made this study on the caribou in Alaska he was, I guess, the natural one for them to choose to send here to do a similar study here of the Jackson Hole elk herd in July 1927.

KA— What are you currently involved in?

MM— I'm still on the governing council of The Wilderness Society, which means that I get quite a bit of mail and go to Congress and testify and make speeches all over the place. In addition to writing three books, I think I've written eight or nine introductions for other people's books.

KA— What do you see as having changed since you first became involved, and the kinds of challenges we're up against now?

MM— I think in my mind one of the most important changes is the fact that the whole wilderness movement was carried on by a comparatively small number of people. And now I think the biggest change is that I see more and more people being involved in these activities. That I think is very encouraging.

KA— What kinds of things to you see as being the most pressing issues right now that we need to deal with?

MM— Areas that have already been either fully established for wilderness which still need to be guarded or areas which some kind of clause in the operating bill which left them vulnerable, for instance the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the top priority as far as I'm concerned. And the preservation of every other bit of wild land we have left, because I'm convinced that if we save every scrap of wild we have left now it's not going to be enough for future generations to have a real wilderness experience. And I think that's something for people's souls.

KA— What advice would you give to wilderness activists?

MM— I think I would say the same thing that I used to hear my husband say to them. Join some one of these organizations, I don't care which one, but join an organized group and then look around your own town, your own county, your own state, and see what needs to be done around you. I myself feel more and more that we're not going to be saved by big business or big government, it's going to be by the people themselves, standing up and saying what they feel is necessary.

KA— Tell about your favorite environmental victory.

MM— The thing that just shot into my mind when you asked me that question was a lot of fun we had over the Cascades, which is now the North Cascades National Park.

This was just after Olaus had died and I was spending winters in Seattle, first because my mother was still living and I had an apartment in the same building as her and I got involved with Brock Evans and the Sierra



Olaus and Mardy

Club office and all the other conservationist types in that whole state of Washington and we did all kinds of things and meetings and mailings and affairs where we raised funds and we had a lot of fun with it. We had all kinds of hearings and we finally had the big hearing when the Congressional committee came out there. They had the hearings in a big hotel in Seattle. Well we were working hard on the telephone all the days before that,

urging people to come and testify and they came and Mr. Aspenall said—there's all these people swarming around in this hotel—"Who are all these people, a bunch of hippies?" Oh my.

...Anyway, that was part of it and we have a North Cascades National Park.

KA— How to help people see the value of the environment and the value of wilderness—do you have any insights or tricks of the trade?

go to next page

Bush's Environmental Appointees Winners & Potential Losers

President-elect George Bush announced the filling of several of his administration's top posts December 22, including his picks for the crucial positions of Interior Secretary and chief administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Manuel Lujan, Jr., the former representative from New Mexico's First District who gave up his seat just last November, is Bush's choice to direct the Interior Department.

"Manuel Lujan has not had a record of strongly supporting environmental positions over the years he has served in the House," notes Michael McCloskey, Chair of the Sierra Club. "But he has been accessible, and environmentalists have been able to work with him on occasion. We hope to do so in his new position, and trust he will work to implement President-elect Bush's pledges to improve the stewardship of the Interior Department."

Subsequent appointments to posts over the Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Office of Surface Mining (OSM) will be critical in revealing whether those pledges will be redeemed. The "careful balance" which President-elect Bush is pursuing will not be realized unless those appointments go to those with strong environmental records.

Lujan's rating on key environmental issues, as tracked by the League of Conserva-

tion Voters (LCV) has averaged about 20% in the period from 1970 to 1988. On particular issues, though, Lujan is somewhat unpredictable—for example, he was a cosponsor of Rep. Don Young's bill to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas development, but he also opposed former Interior Secretary James Watt's push for oil and gas exploration in wilderness areas.

Environmentalists welcomed the selection of William K. Reilly, President of the Conservation Foundation/World Wildlife Fund-U.S., as head of the EPA. "We commend the President-elect on his choice of a top environmentalist to this critical post," says McCloskey.

Reilly is a lawyer by profession, with a specialty in land use issues. He served on the Council on Environmental Quality in the early 1970s before being selected to head up the Conservation Foundation. Later, when the Foundation merged administratively with the World Wildlife Fund-U.S., he became president of that organization as well. The Foundation has followed pollution issues for over a decade, and a number of their staff are regarded as experts in the field.

Reprinted from the Sierra Club's National News Report, December 22, 1988.

Book Review

Up and Down California's Coast

By Stephanie Mandel

Coast Walks: One Hundred Adventures Along the California Coast

by John McKinney

Olympus Press, P.O. Box 2397, Santa Barbara, CA 93120. \$12.95 postpaid, 264 pages.

"Other states have snowy peaks, wild rivers and vast deserts, but only California has a coastline of such length and diversity," states John McKinney in his new book, *Coast Walks*.

McKinney's book does a good job of reflecting that diversity. The 100 walks included are evenly divided between the south, central, and north coasts (33, 33, and 34 walks each, respectively) and include popular as well as little-known places—redwood forests of Big Sur, mountains of the King Range, lagoon bird sanctuaries, historic resorts, etc.

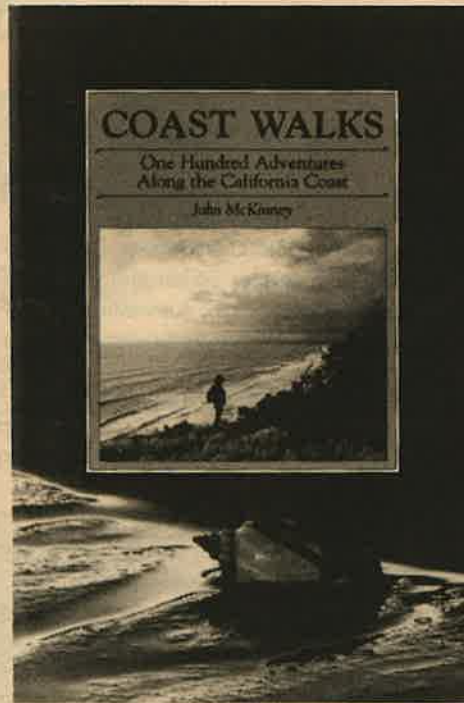
Never mind if you don't get to the coast

very often—this book will motivate you to change that. Each trail comes alive as you read about its natural features, history, and twists and turns. Maps are simple and clear.

Many of the trails are within state beaches, state parks, and state reserves. Most are between one and ten miles long, round-trip, with some quite a bit longer. The length and elevation gain/loss is provided for most trails, along with information usefully sectioned into an introduction, directions to the trailhead, and a "The Walk" section, which provides interesting step-by-step facts about what you'll find along the way.

The photos are mostly of good quality and enrich the book with historic, wildlife, and having-fun scenes. (One wonders if the photo of Massachusetts governor Mike Dukakis talking to "schoolchildren about the importance of coastal conservation" isn't a tardy political statement.)

The South Coast section, from Border Field State Park on the U.S./Mexican border to north of Point Conception, includes walks along some little-known beaches and land forms. McKinney writes that "The South



Coast walker will find one sandy beach after another. But expect some surprises. Though a huge metropolis crowds the shoreline, there are still some amazingly tranquil and pretty places awaiting your discovery."

The Central Coast, or "Middle Kingdom," encompasses shore from Point Sal State Beach north of Point Conception to Sweeney Ridge in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area near San Bruno. The Ventana Wilderness and the Santa Lucia Mountains in the Los Padres National Forest are included here. From the windswept ridges of the Santa Lucia Mountains walkers look down on what McKinney says is often called "the greatest meeting of land and sea in the world."

The North Coast, from San Rafael to Pelican Bay north of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, includes hikes in Point Reyes National Seashore. McKinney writes that "with its moors, weirs, glens and vales, Point Reyes Peninsula calls to mind the seacoast of Great Britain." Also included is the King Crest Trail, along a rise of over 4,000 feet that is within three miles of the ocean. From the crest—on a clear day—you can see the Yolla Bolly Wilderness.

Let *Coast Walks* draw you out to see California's vast, mysterious neighbor, the origin of life, the sea.

Mardie Murie, from page 6

MM— Well, there are so many lovely, beautiful little things that happen in the wilderness and on the edge of wilderness. Years ago, there was a fifth grade teacher in Jackson, just a remarkable, fine young lad, asked Olaus if she could bring her fifth grade class up here on a Saturday morning. I remember Olaus saying to me, "my gosh, what am I going to do to keep those kids interested for three whole hours." Well, they just barely got back to the picnic grounds. It was afternoon because the children themselves had had such curiosity.

And I remember one little boy was walking ahead of me and he suddenly stopped and he said "what's that?" and it was one of those lovely little calypso orchids. It was spring, you see. I said "stand still, don't move!" He looked so startled. Then I said, "you're the hero. You found the first orchid. That's an orchid." Then Olaus came along and we explained to them that we never picked one because the orchids don't reproduce if they're picked.

It's really experiencing something. It may not have to be a big thing, but some true experience in a natural setting does something to people, I think.

Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

(from page 2)

The original 13 areas are:

Caribou, Cucamonga,
Dome Land, Hoover,
John Muir, Marble Mtn.,
Minarets, Mokelumne,
San Gorgonio, San Jacinto,
South Warner,
Thousand Lakes, & Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel.



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

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

January 18 PUBLIC MEETING on a wild & scenic management plan for the North/South Forks of the Kern River, sponsored by the Forest Service; 7:00 pm at Kernville Elementary School Cafeteria, 13350 Sierra Way, Kernville, CA.

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

January 20 DEADLINE for comments on the proposed Mount Shasta trail. Send to Garry Oye, U.S. Forest Service, 204 West Alma Street, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067-2258.

January 28 COMMENTS DUE on proposed Forest Service regulation revisions regarding access to inholdings (see article on page 3). Send your letter to: F. Dale Robertson, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090.

January 31 COMMENTS DUE for the wild and scenic management plan for the North/South Forks of the Kern River. Mail to: Attn.: Kern Wild & Scenic River Planner, U.S. Forest Service, Canell Meadow Ranger District, P.O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238.

February 4 CWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ANNUAL MEETING; Davis, CA; for more information, call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

February 18 NON-DESERT BLM (Bureau of Land Management) WORKSHOP; Davis, CA, by invitation—for more information call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

February 19 ANCIENT FORESTS MEETING; by invitation—for more information call the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

Bill Burrows, Jr.
Wendy Cohen

