Phil Farrell
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WILDERNESS RECORD

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Backcountry hikers on Mount Gardiner, Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park. Photo by Phil Farrell

Declining backcountry use—fact or fiction?

By Jim Eaton

You've read Galen Rowell's article in *National Geographic*. You've seen the *L.A. Times* story and others about how backpacking is no longer the "in" thing to do, how Yuppies have grown up and gone on to other pastimes. People no longer go to the wilderness like they used to. True or false?

After viewing use statistics for California wilderness areas, we can definitively state: who knows? There is a corollary to this conclusion, because fewer backcountry users mean less impact on our wild lands: who cares?

We have looked at the wilderness use figures for the U.S. Forest Service and for Lassen Volcanic, Sequoia/Kings Canyon, and Yosemite national parks. Our confidence level for these estimates varies greatly. For example, since two-thirds of the wilderness areas in the state require *no* wilderness permit for entry, where are the figures for these areas coming from?

As Benjamin Disraeli said, "there are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics."

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Opposing desert bill introduced

By Anne Paley

A new desert bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on October 12 by Representative Jerry Lewis (R-CA). The irony of the proposed legislation is illustrated in its stated purpose: "To provide for the conservation and protection of the public lands in the California desert, *and for other purposes*." (emphasis added)

Jeff Widen of the Sierra Club called Lewis' bill "a horrible precedent and attack on the 1964 Wilderness Act."

For example, the bill allows off-road vehicles in several of the wilderness study areas it would designate as wilderness—a direct contradiction of the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness areas are kept potentially open to mining for 20 years, even when there are no valid existing rights. Current restrictions allow existing grazing to continue in designated wilderness areas and allow the owner to get

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Mt. Shasta Appeal Wins!

"It is absolutely the most we could have hoped for."

By Lois Kent

Forgive them if they gloat, but some people in the town of Mt. Shasta are very happy these days. Environmentalists were handed a major victory on October 30, 1989 when Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson upheld their appeal of the Mt. Shasta Ski Area Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The California Wilderness Coalition, along with the Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter and The Wilderness Society, filed an appeal of the final EIS in November 1988. The office of Attorney General John Van de Camp also filed an appeal.

The Washington, D.C. Forest Service office agreed with the appellants' contention that a reasonable range of alternatives had not been presented or evaluated. They also agreed that the expansion of the ski area was likely, as was the potential for development on adjacent private land; therefore, these impacts must be evaluated.

The Chief instructed the regional office to prepare a supplemental EIS that includes a broader range of alternatives and evaluates the impacts of the private land development. He also required that each of the new alternatives in the supplemental EIS fully evaluate the other points in the appeal, such as sewage treatment, air pollution, and financial feasibility. There is no word from the Forest Service on how long this process will take.

To date, the appeal has been well-represented by prominent environmental attorney Roger Beers. Recently, another well-respected attorney, Zane Gresham of Morrison & Foerester in San Francisco, decided to join Mr. Beers in future efforts. After reviewing the background of the case, he agreed to work on a pro bono basis. This is added cause for celebration for all Mount Shasta supporters.

COALITION PAGE

Jim Eaton's Monthly Report

The California Wilderness Conference of 1989 is history. And after dragging my mentally and physically drained body back to Davis for a slow recovery, I can now look back on the four-day event.

From the letters, cards, phone calls, and personal statements received the past few weeks, it must have been a great success. I thought so, too, but it's hard for me to be objective. Despite the earth-shaking events in the Bay Area, it looks like we gathered 750 people, give or take a few score.

So many old friends were there, and I got to meet so many new people, too. The movement keeps growing and growing.

Our special thanks goes to Bob Barnes, inspiration and energy behind the conference. We also appreciate the volunteers in the Porterville-Visalia area who helped out in so many ways.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding work my staff contributed to the event. Conference Coordinator Jeanette Colbert solved crisis after crisis, fielded complaint after complaint, worked *long* hours at the conference, and was still smiling at the end. And despite job descriptions that do not mention a conference, Stephanie Mandel and Nancy Kang contributed extra hours and much energy to the gathering.

Most of the Coalition's directors were present, and they contributed time staffing the registration table and the CWC booth. And before the event we got a lot of office help from volunteers and interns Dan Hill, Dan Cato, Mick Klasson, and Shelley Mountjoy.

When is the next conference? We're still not rested enough to think about it. Is every four years often enough?

Although my desk never is neat, after the rush before the conference it now resembles the Professor's desk in the cartoon Shoe. I sometimes can find needed items by the stratigraphy method—every four to six inches deeper in the stack represents about a week's accumulation of mail and documents. Having mastered her other tasks, I find Nancy eying this possibly insurmountable project: getting me organized. I wish her well, but I don't think there are enough hours in her work day to accomplish much. Maybe it's time to find an office manager (although my guess is he or she would want to get paid—a real challenge in this organization).

Rather than take on this onerous task myself, I have been racing off to meetings the past weeks. Off to Oxnard for a meeting with BLM employees concerned about fire and wilderness. Up at 5:30 am to get to a breakfast meeting with BLM's national director Cy Jamison [those who know me and my late habits will understand what a amazing feat that was for me!]. Off to a Conservation Foundation meeting to offer my opinions on how forest planning is working (or isn't working). Down to Oakland for the Woody Wabbit Wilderness Banquet.

If you don't know about Woody Wabbit, I don't think I can do justice to the zany evening held each fall in Jack London Square. It is an evening of speeches, bad puns and jokes, awards, and waiting for Woody (like Linus awaiting the Great Pumpkin each year). I did get an award for my work on forest issues—the spotted owl award, but the trophy looks more like a gold-painted dodo than an owl. The Sierra Club's Bruce Hamilton was the keynote speaker who enlightened us about Woody's contribution to the wilderness movement. This event is put on by Mark Palmer and the other crazies that are part of the Wilderness Subcommittee of the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club. You gotta be there to understand.

Special thanks to our newest member group, Desert Survivors. There is a long story behind that group; maybe in a future issue we can tell the story.

Thanks, Bob

Conference Organizer Bob Barnes

Dear CWC:

Thanks for a great conference! I look forward to the next already!

Alasdair [Coyne, of Keep the Sespe Wild Committee]

Well, once again the Wilderness Coalition put on an excellent conference! The Bakersfield District would like to thank you for allowing the BLM to participate. All those who attended, commented on what a positive four days it was. With this in mind, we look forward to working with you and the Wilderness Coalition as BLM approaches a new era of Wilderness management.

Sincerely,
John Skibinski, Asst. District Manager, Bakersfield District

A note to say that all of your time and energy planning and coordinating the conference went well appreciated. Speakers, workshops, and the overall atmosphere were conducive to sharing among friends and new faces. Thank you for providing such a wonderful conference.

Susan Garber, Californians for Population Stabilization

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

Why is the Ventana Wilderness so named?

(See page 7 for answer.)

More thanks

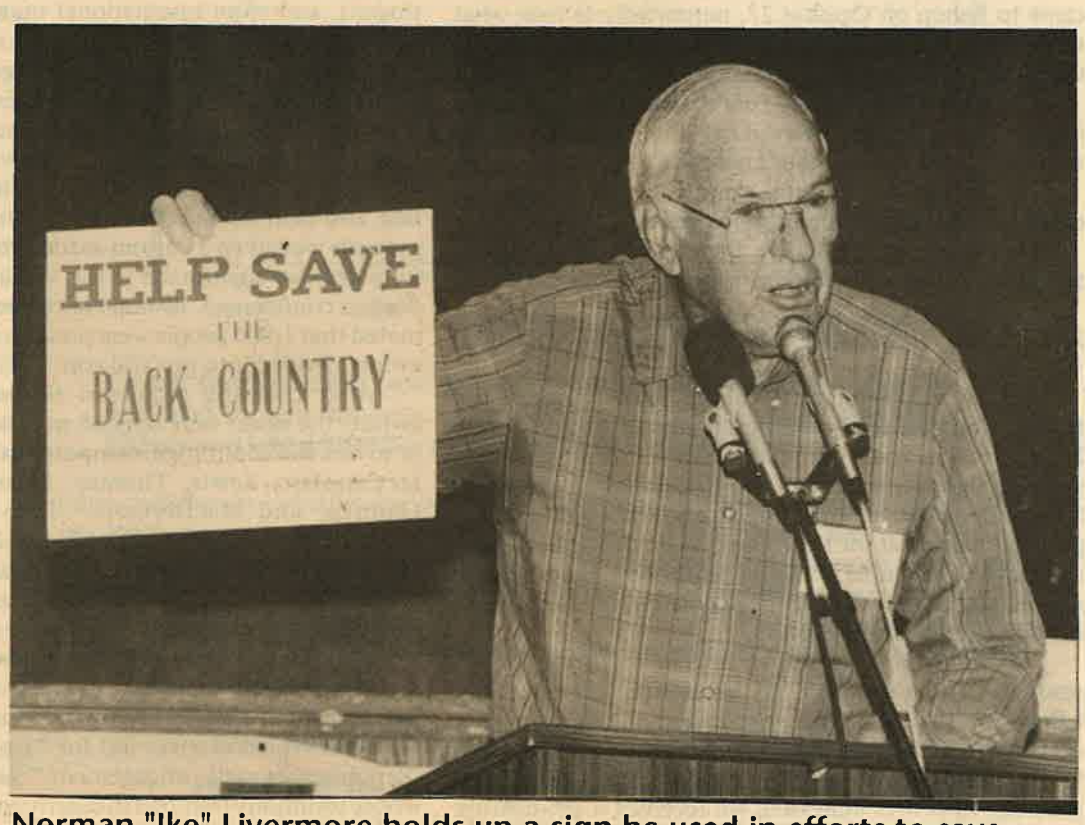
From as far north as Ashland, Oregon and as far south as San Diego, those who attended found the four days xhausting and exhilarating.

Our thanks to the speakers, workshop leaders, and volunteers who helped make the conference a success. Volunteers: Jeanette Colbert, Pam Coz-Hill, Louise Culver, Nancy Izkendarian, Nancy Kang, John Konior, Bob Lindsay, Sally Miller, Charlie Morgan, Mary Moy, Brian Newton, Jim Sellers, Alison Sheehy, Frannie Wade, and the students from the Students for Environmental Awareness club at College of the Sequoias. And special thanks to Martin Litton for flying our speakers in and to the Visalia Convention Center for all their cooperation.

CWC Board members Wendy Cohen and Sally Kabisch wait for a rush of t-shirt customers at the CWC booth.

Glimpses of the California Wilderness Conference

U.S. Representative Mel Levine was given a number of standing ovations for his enthusiastic support of desert protection.



Norman "Ike" Livermore holds up a sign he used in efforts to save Sierra wilderness in the late 1930s.

In the "Persuading Decision Makers" workshop, Tim Mahoney (dark vest) plays the role of a U.S. Senator while Jeff Widen (right) acts the part of his aide. Jim Middleton, Susan Bower, and Herb Klarer (top to bottom) play wilderness advocates.

Photos by Stephanie Mandel and Wendy Cohen

Felice Pace of Marble Mountain Audubon Society and Neil Lawrence of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Judy Anderson, President of the California Desert Protection League, talks to Bureau of Land Management State Director Ed Hastey, who spoke at the conference as part of a panel.

Sidney Barnes takes a knitting break while volunteering at the registration desk.

Good Bishop show, minus 4

Six members of the House Public Land subcommittee came to Bishop on October 27, purportedly to hear what Californians had to say about Representative Mel Levine's California Desert Protection Act, H.R. 780.

Only two actually heard. Four of them stayed for only a fraction of the day and heard mostly the legislation's foes, who dominated the first hour's agenda.

The Bishop field hearing, along with two others, was called by these same committee members.

Despite the party poopers, the day was rich in desert-saving spirit, as described in the following firsthand account.

By Dan Cato

We met at 5:00 pm on October 27 to head out for the Bishop Congressional hearing on the California Desert Protection Act. There were about 20 of us from Davis, each showing signs of excitement about attending the hearing. Some were talkative, some fidgety and smiley, and others peaceful, staring at the fiery sunset as if waiting to express their love of nature to a "higher" authority. For whatever reason, twenty very beautiful people boarded the Sierra Club chartered bus for Bishop.

We arrived in Bishop at about 1:00 am, groggy-eyed, ready to set up camp and "get horizontal," as one of my fellow riders put it. We awoke at about 7:30 am with a coating of ice on our tents and a hot breakfast of eggs, hash browns, and English muffins waiting across the campground. Appetites appeased, we received a pre-hearing pep talk from Jeff Widen, Knobby Reidy, and Bob Hattoy. Among other things, they informed us that the Congressional panel would be biased against us. And boy, were they biased.

Entering the Bishop fairgrounds, I could feel tension filling the air as I looked out over a small sea of 4x4s littered with bumper stickers reading things like "Dirt Alert: We Write To Ride," "The American Motorcycle Association," and of course the infamous "Cranston Sucks." Stepping off the bus, our group was immediately confronted with the fact that the opposition was organized. They toted anti-H.R. 780 signs, chanted anti-H.R. 780 slogans, and wore international orange to distinguish themselves.

Our side also had a touch of organizational expertise. If people wanted to express their written opinions to the subcommittee they were shown how to do so. Yellow shirts were printed up, so our side could be identified, and each desert activist within the fairgrounds was given a custom-made, wonderfully positive sign (made at the Visalia wilderness conference). Bishop Police later estimated that 1,000 people were present, about evenly divided into pro and con.

After chanting pro-desert slogans for awhile, the doors were opened and we filed in to face the committee, composed of Reps. McCandless, Lewis, Thomas, Marlenee, Lehman, and MacDermott. Four were against H.R. 780; Rep. Lehman, the Chair, seemed to be straddling the issue, looking for compromise, and Rep. MacDermott was definitely in favor of the act.

Approximately the first twelve people to speak were against the act, and after about twenty people gave testimony the four anti-H.R. 780 representatives left for "a previously arranged (Republican) party engagement," leaving the people whose testimony they had so eagerly come to hear to speak to only two representatives and a couple of half-conscious Congressional aides.

After seven hours of testimony and 100 speakers, the hearing came to a close with a sigh of relief from all involved. Our group boarded the bus again and headed back to camp for dinner and a bonfire. There Jeff told us that "though the panel was against us, we gave sincere, intelligent testimony and at least tied in this round of conflict, showing the Representatives that environmentalists can turn out crowds of concerned people."

Bishop is surrounded by extremely beautiful mountains. On our drive back to Davis this became readily apparent. Ten to fourteen thousand-foot snow-streaked, high desert mountains surrounded us. Heads turning from window to window, astounded voices commenting on the beauty, we wound our way toward Mono Lake for a short hike before heading home. Talking to people within the bus I began to realize why we were really there: not to debate or fight or criticize some short-sighted politicians, but instead to save this sublime sense of wonder for our children and our children's children.

(Note: See calendar on page 7 for information on the other two hearings.)

Dan Cato is an intern with the CWC and a student at the University of California at Davis.

At the Bishop hearing colorful signs and yellow shirts distinguished supporters of the Cranston/Levine Calif. Desert Protection Act.
Photo by Eric Knapp

ROADLESS AREAS

Moses RA delivered from the ax

The Forest Service has temporarily stopped its planning to log and build roads in the Sequoia National Forest's Moses Roadless Area.

Last summer local residents and environmentalists spoke out strongly against the plan to degrade the old-growth forest within the Doyle Springs and Sequoia Crest areas (known by the agency as the Wishon Compartment).

In a letter to interested people, the agency wrote that it's change of heart is "pending the conclusion of on-going Forest Land Management Plan mediation efforts regarding roadless areas..."

The Forest Service's new plan is to locate sales adjacent to, rather than in, the roadless area. The Forest Service will begin accepting scoping comments (initial public input) for the relocated sale plans after January 1, 1990.

To receive Forest Service correspondence related to the Moses area, write to: Tule River Ranger District, 32588 Hwy. 190, Springville, CA 93265, (209)539-2607.

(For a longer article on the Moses Roadless Area, see the July/August 1989 WR.*)*

Peppermint Plan Putters Out

Where are all the ski resort developers? Even with a three-month delay of the original July 1 deadline, the Sequoia National Forest got no response to its call for bids on Peppermint ski resort in the Slate Mountain Roadless Area. Since 1981 the project has been opposed by Peppermint Alert, a group of local residents who were concerned about potential impacts on wildlife and sensitive plants, degradation of air and water quality, and road problems. The area also has religious significance for Native Americans.

The skiing industry's disinterest, however, may not spell the end of the Forest Service's decade-long push for the huge new resort. The agency's local office says they will probably re-issue the prospectus at a later date.

Carla Cloer of Peppermint Alert, however, believes that the Forest Service is bound to give up on the resort. She cites the words of Chief Dale Robertson, who, in a December 1987 decision on an appeal of the project, wrote that "should no suitable bids be received, no further action would be called for regarding possible use of this land for ski area development." *(For a longer article on the appeal decision, see Jan. 1988* WR*)*

For more information, contact Peppermint Alert at P.O. Box 8332, Porterville, CA 93258.

Lewis desert bill

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into the area to maintain the facilities. The restriction on access is that the leasee must use a method that has the least impact on the wilderness. The Lewis bill mandates vehicle access.

Lewis' bill also exempts military flights over wilderness from any restriction or interference from BLM and gives the Secretary of the Interior the ability to unilaterally change the boundaries of at least three wilderness areas in the California Desert in order to provide vehicle access.

A final important issue is "release" language. Lewis' bill mandates that areas not protected as wilderness now can never be reconsidered for wilderness status.

The Cranston-Levine desert bill would establish 7.5 million acres of new wilderness and park lands in the California Desert. The Lewis desert bill would supposedly protect 2.1 million acres.

Jim Dodson of the California Desert Protection League stated one redeeming quality of Lewis' bill at his workshop on the desert protection at the California Wilderness Conference. He said a crucial step in the process of a bill's acceptance is the presentation of opposing legislation. Jerry Lewis has clearly provided such a step for the Cranston-Levine bill.

Anne Paley is an intern with the CWC who will graduate in December 1989 from the University of California at Davis with a degree in English.

Declining use—fact or fiction?

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There are many factors to be weighed when looking at wilderness use. For most areas, the annual use is a reflection of the weather. Light snow years may mean increased use in the High Sierra, since visitors can get in earlier. But lack of snow may result in decreased use in places like Lassen Volcanic National Park, where many streams and lakes dry up during a drought.

Wilderness managers in the Sierra feel there has been a drop in use during the past decade. How much of this is due to either the institution of trailhead quotas or negative publicity ? And while there may be a decrease in use of the Sierra, some areas elsewhere in the state are showing increasing use. Also, nobody's assessment of declining use is counting the visitors who may be going to roadless areas currently unprotected, such as the White Mountains, Grouse Lakes, Sespe, and the West Walker country.

Unfortunately, there are so many variables, unknowns, and faulty data that we cannot reach many solid conclusions about wilderness use in California. Instead, we can offer some of the following thoughts to the dominant suppositions:

Lore: Use in the High Sierra has declined since peak use levels in the mid-1970s.

Possible Explanation: Trailhead quotas make it impossible for as many users to visit these wilderness areas at popular times. For example, more than a thousand people used to climb Mt. Whitney on some weekends—the quota now is 75 per day.

Jim Shiro, Recreation Specialist for the U.S. Forest Service, admits that "the institution of trailhead quotas resulted in a fairly significant reduction in users." Conversations have shown that there are a body of users who are displaced by increasing regulations. These backpackers choose wilderness areas with fewer restrictions or roadless areas where no permits are required at all.

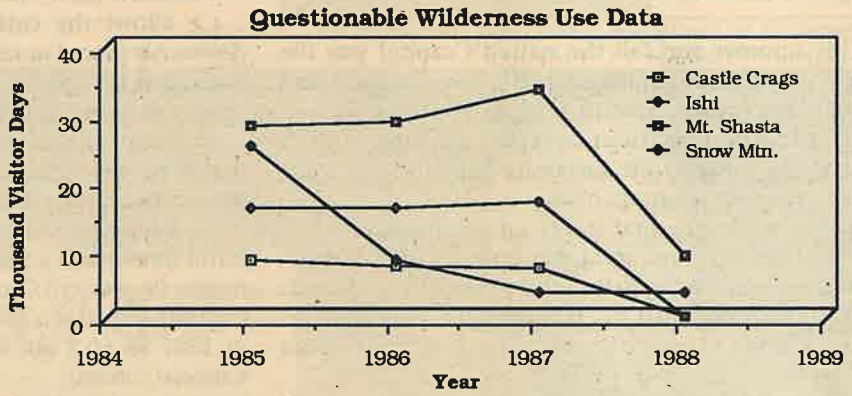
Lore: Use is declining in wilderness throughout the state.

Possible Explanation: Some areas are not showing a decrease. Others, such as Snow Mountain and Castle Crags, show zero use in 1988, obviously errors. Where permits are not required, questionable methods are used to estimate visitation, such as occasional counts of vehicles in parking lots multiplied by an annual use factor, seat-of-the-pants guesses, and just fudged figures. The fudge factor includes use figures which may be the previous year's use level multiplied by the annual inflation rate or some other percentage.

Even in areas requiring permits, compliance is not 100 percent. Or, as we discovered in the Trinity Alps Wilderness last summer, the agency may just run out of blank permits for weeks so users are not counted. Some users, unable or unwilling to find the appropriate agency building during regular office hours (and knowing how few wilderness rangers are employed these days), go backpacking without a permit.

Lore: The John Muir and Ansel Adams wilderness areas had more than twice as much use in 1968 than in 1988 [*National Geographic*].

Possible Explanation: It just isn't true. Use of the John Muir was 20 percent greater in 1968, but in the following two years it was *less* than last year. The Ansel Adams wilderness contains the old Minarets Wilderness plus lands not protected until 1984 so the use of the old Minarets in 1968 was less than that of the larger Ansel Adams in 1988. Also, use figures in the 1960s were guesses done without the benefit of wilderness permits or other visitor benchmarks.

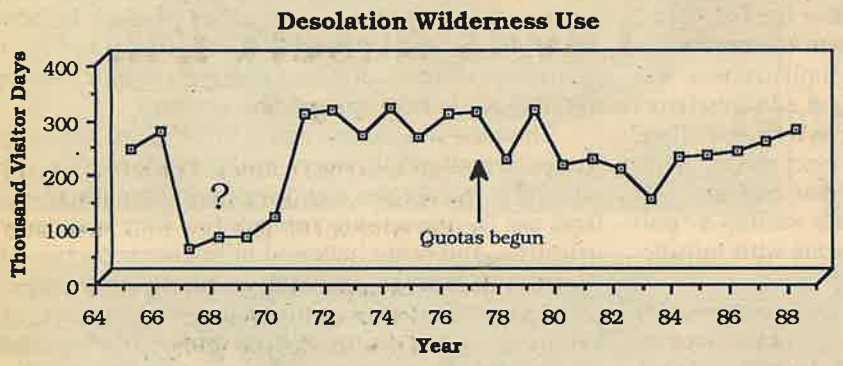


Clearly the wilderness use for Castle Crags and Snow Mountain did not drop to zero last year. Also the great drops in use for the Mt. Shasta and Ishi wildernes areas seem quite questionable.

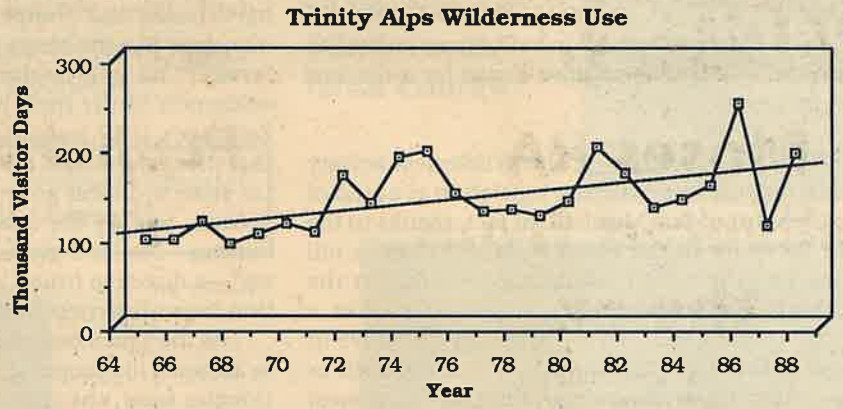
The amount and quality of data for wilderness use varies year-to-year and agency-to-agency. Use statistics from the 1960s and early 1970s resulted from a variety of methods. For the next decade, wilderness permit information allowed quite a bit of information to be developed But after many new wilderness areas were added in 1984, permits were not required for entry to many of these new areas as well as many existing wilderness areas that used to require permits. There also are differences among the agencies of gathering backcountry use information that makes it hard to compare the data.

"the institution of trailhead quotas resulted in a fairly significant reduction in users."

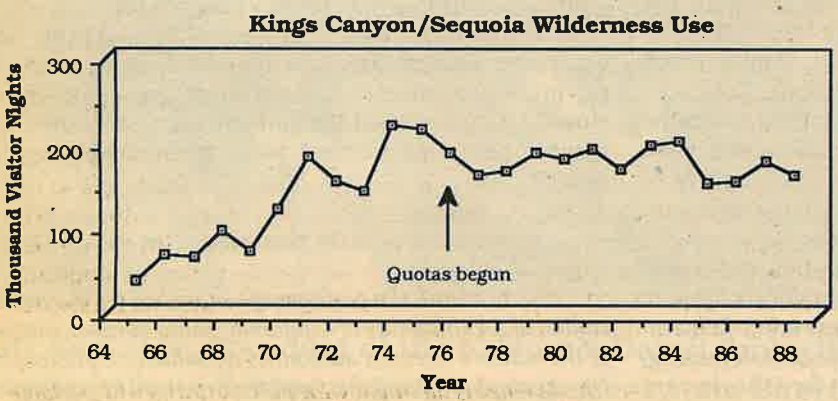
So what can we conclude from all of this? Our best guess is that wilderness use is slightly declining or remaining steady in the Sierra, increasing in some areas elsewhere in the state, and spreading to unprotected wild areas where we haven't a clue to the amount or type of backcountry use.



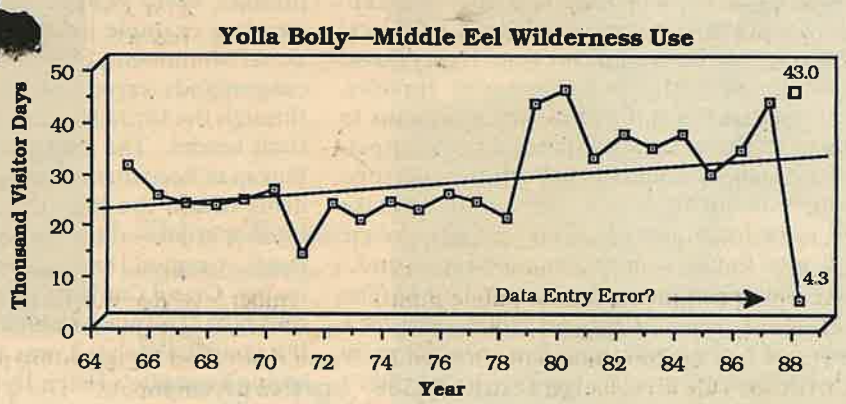
Desolation Wilderness use declined after trailhead quotas were enforced, but since 1984 use has been climbing.



Unlike the High Sierra wilderness areas with maximum use in the 1970s, the Trinity Alps Wilderness highest use year was 1986.



Use dropped in Kings Canyon/Sequoia after ceilings were placed on trailhead entry quotas; since 1979 the use has remained quite stable.



The Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness has been showing an upward trend in use—until last year. Could it be that the figure should have been 43 thousand visitor days, not 4.3?

California forests feel winds from north & east

By Stephanie Mandel

This summer and fall the nation's capitol was the scene of an already infamous battle over logging and ancient forest preservation in Oregon and Washington. The Hatfield/Adams rider was an alarmed timber industry's response to the successful legal tree-saving of their environmental antagonists.

All the environmental forces agreed that the Pacific Northwest Senators' proposal was outrageously destructive, and joined together to find and work with our friends in the legislature against it. Months later, as September ended, a House and Senate conference committee struck a compromise.

Their deal has been characterized variously as "a solid step forward to secure lasting protection of the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest" and a "significant victory" (The Wilderness Society) and as the "most definitive mandate from Congress the Forest Service has ever had to cut down our forests regardless of all the environmental laws." (Native Forests Council, Eugene)

In short form, the bill:

• allows the cutting of about half of the timber previously placed under court injunction for violating the Forest Service spotted owl management plan; directs the agency to revise the plan;

• directs the Forest Service to prohibit logging in any of the spotted owl habitat areas (SOHA) identified in their management plan and increases SOHA sizes;

• mandates that 7.7 billion board feet of national forest timber and 1.9 bbf of Bureau of Land Management timber (in western Oregon) be sold in 1989-90 (the original Hatfield/Adams proposal required 10 bbf in sales, and in 1987-88 10.2 bbf was offered for sale on Northwest national forests);

• mandates 45-day stays in timber sale lawsuits; prohibits courts from issuing a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction against Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management timber sales;

• directs the Forest Service to minimize fragmentation of ecologically-significant old growth, using the definition established by old-growth expert Jerry Franklin.

However the legislation itself is viewed, this year's events will be important to ancient forest protection efforts in the future. Although out of the national limelight this fall, California's ancient forests are as endangered as those to the north. Pending now are timber sale plans for some of the largest, most pristine of the state's national forest roadless areas: Pattison Roadless Area in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, ancient forest along river corridors proposed for biodiversity linkages in the Klamath National Forest, North Mountain Roadless Area in the Stanislaus National Forest, and many others.

The way our state's private land forests are managed is now more alarming than ever, and citizens are currently gathering signatures for the Forest and Wildlife Protection ballot initiative.

California ancient forests may feel the impact of a reorganized and perhaps empowered timber industry. The "half empty" perspective, as expressed by Tim Hermach of the Native Forest Council, is that Congress' compromise gave the Forest Service the message that "timber sales are law"—that the industry's strength was asserted.

On the other hand, California will feel the wake of the Congressional and national media attention that was directed on the ancient forests dilemma this year. Ancient forest legislative champions as well as adversaries emerged. Fifteen California representatives were among 100 who signed a letter rejecting the rider.

That's good news.

Wilderness Act History Series

Path to Preservation

(Part 3)

By Roderick Nash
Reprinted from Wilderness *magazine, Summer 1984, 1984 The Wilderness Society*

Part 2 described the growth of the U.S. wilderness movement from 1919 until 1939, when Robert Marshall died shortly after convincing the Forest Service to adopt regulations strengthening its protection of wilderness.

But a realization dawned that administrative protection was not enough. Part 3 traces events from the first ill-fated introduction of wilderness legislation in Congress in 1940 to 1955 when the final eight-year drive began for a national wilderness preservation system.

In 1940, Harvey Broome of The Wilderness Society tried to raise support for wilderness legislation as a kind of tribute to the spirit of Bob Marshall. In fact, thanks to the interest of Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, a bill actually reached the congressional hopper. But, in the words of journalist Irving Brant, it "progressed like a glacier moving backward." With Hitler on the move in Europe, the nation had little time for amenities such as wilderness. After the war, however, the individual most responsible for the National Wilderness Preservation System began to make his presence felt. Howard Zahniser had been a member of The Wilderness Society since its inception in 1935. An editor with the United States Biological Survey, a scholar and collector of the works of Henry David Thoreau, and an enthusiastic backcountry traveler, Zahniser believed that it was high time for Americans to quit thinking of wilderness and civilization as incompatible. Instead, he argued, a mature civilization concerned about the long-term quality of its existence should make a permanent place for wilderness in its land-use policy. Zahniser dedicated the remainder of his life to this end.

Assuming the duties of executive secretary of The Wilderness Society in 1945, Zahniser began to press for a wilderness law. The first result was a 1947 resolution by The Society's Governing Council to work for, in Zahniser's words, "the extension throughout the continent of a system of wilderness areas for permanent preservation." The following year Zahniser engineered a request from a member of Congress to the Library of Congress for a study of the value of wilderness and the possibility of its legislated protection. In effect, Zahniser created an opportunity for himself to write a lengthy memorandum on the subject. The resulting congressional committee document entitled The Preservation of Wilderness Areas: An Analysis of Opinion on the Problem became the foundation for fifteen years of preservation politics. It urged the establishment of "a national wilderness policy" that identified and protected wilderness conditions. A political realist, Zahniser did not propose anything that would have raised the competitive hackles of existing land managers like the National Park Service or the U.S. Forest Service. He only wished to direct them to protect the wilderness under their jurisdictions. Similarly wise was Zahniser's 1949 reassurance to state park administrators that their land would not be taken over by a federal office. Let state and local governments, and even private landholders, join in the new policy. No new budgets. No bureaus. No land grabs. Zahniser only wanted a "policy"—a directive from Congress to anyone with jurisdiction over wilderness to keep it wild.

As the 1950s began, Zahniser took every opportunity to advance his proposal. According to Sierra Club staffer Douglas Scott, the man "was haunted...by the idea that wilderness set aside by administrative action was not saved at all." Changing economic circumstances and political pressure could weaken bureaucratic resolve. The outstanding example in the early 1950s was Dinosaur National Monument, over 200,000 acres of mostly roadless canyonlands carved by the Green and Yampa Rivers through the Uinta Mountains that straddle the Colorado-Utah border. The controversy began in 1950 when the Bureau of Reclamation announced plans to construct two dams within the monument. Initially the Secretary of Interior approved the project. Preservationists were outraged. Granted Dinosaur was not well known compared to, say, Grand Canyon Natonal Park, but that was beside the point. The place was part of the National Park System. If it could be violated, was any wilderness safe? Remembering Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley and its damming, the wilderness movement dug in its heels for a showdown. But from Howard Zahniser's perspective, the need to do so was a sad commentary on the nation's commitment to wilderness. Why should wilderness have to fight for its life over and over again? In March 1951, he told the Sierra Club's Wilderness Conference "let us try to be done with a wilderness preservation program made up of a sequence of overlapping emergencies, threats, and defense campaigns!" What Zahniser wanted was a "positive program that will establish an enduring system of areas where we can be at peace and not forever feel that the wilderness is a battleground!" Four years later, as the Dinosaur controversy entered its climactic stages, Zahniser published an eloquent statement of "the spiritual benefits of a wilderness experience." These included humility, dependency, and responsibility for protecting the "great community of life." At the end of his essay, Zahniser called for the immediate introduction into Congress of bills creating a national wilderness preservation system.

The time was almost right. In 1955, the well-organized preservation movement smelled victory in the Dinosaur fight. Wilderness could apparently hold its own as a land use in one-on-one competition with hydropower, irrigation, and other hallowed utilitarian concerns. One reason, as historian Samuel Hays has explained, was the rising importance of amenity values in American conservation. Aesthetic considerations associated with quality of life gained importance after the dislocations of the Great Depression and World War II. A full lunch pail was still important, but increasing numbers of Americans were also concerned about finding a pleasant place to eat its contents. This translated into a concern for open space, clean air and water, wildlife protection, scenic beauty, and wilderness preservation. A nationwide explosion of interest in "environment" and "ecology" was just ahead. Howard Zahniser used the gathering momentum of the environmental movement to start implementing his dream.

...to be continued in the next issue of the WR.

Roderick Nash is a professor of history and environmental studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and one of the nation's foremost authorities on wilderness philosophy. His classic study Wilderness and the American Mind was first published in 1967 and has been revised twice.

Poetry

Prologue

Mt. Shasta, the perfect mountain for me
A hat-shaped crown of clouds worn jauntily
Dressed in Shasta red fir robe warmly worn
Except where by man it is so badly torn
My spirit on yonder landscape rests
Then soars on eagle's back to mighty crests.

The breeze softly sings as a little girl's sigh
Booming rocks warn that danger is nigh
Meadow flowers are the glitter of your jewels
Glacier and avalanches become your tools
Serenity through quiet valleys ranges
The face of this land needs no changes.

From "The Spirit of Mt. Shasta"
Copyright 1989 by Larry Wehmeyer

L-P to Build Mexico Mill

An economic bombshell fell on the north coast this fall when it was revealed that Louisiana-Pacific (L-P), one of the area's largest employers, was developing a mill complex on the coast of Baja California, Mexico. Logs from Humboldt and Mendocino counties would be sent to the new mill, according to L-P's Shep Tucker.

The plan calls for barging rough-cut redwood timbers into Baja's El Sauzal from Humboldt Bay, remanufacturing them into finished redwood lumber, and then shipping them to southern California markets.

The news brought swift condemnation from community leaders at a press conference of government, labor, and environmental leaders. Assemblyman Dan Hauser said of L-P's plan, "In the long run it will export jobs and lead to the potential overcutting and destruction of the resource base." Hauser said L-P was treating the north coast like a colony, ready to "extract our natural resources with nothing in return to the people."

In response to a questions about how the northern California job market will affected by the new mill, Tucker claimed that the wood products to be produced in Mexico are not made at their California mills. Tim McKay of the Northcoast Environmental Center countered that Tucker's response "begs the question of whether they (L-P) *could* produce those wood products here." Last winter L-P closed their mills at Potter Valley and Red Bluff. The company owns 1.5 million acres of timberland in the U.S., including 500,000 acres in northern California.

Mostly from Econews, *October 1989.*

CALENDAR

November 11 *DESERT BILL FIELD HEARING* in Barstow, CA; House Interior Committee's Public Lands Subcommittee. Free camping and bus transportation will be available from various California locations. For time, place, or other information, contact Vicky Hoover, (415) 776-2211, Jeff Widen, (213) 387-6528, or Nobby Reidy, (415) 541-9144.

November 16 *PUBLIC LAND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION* with Bureau of Land Management officials; Eueka Inn, 7th and F Streets, Eureka, 7 pm. All topics open for consideration. For more information, contact the BLM's State Office of Public Affairs in Sacramento at 2800 Cottage Way, (916) 978-4746.

December 5 *PUBLIC LAND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION* with Bureau of Land Management officials; Carraige Inn, 901 North China Lake, Ridgecrest, 7 pm. All topics open for consideration. For more information, contact the BLM's State Office of Public Affairs in Sacramento at 2800 Cottage Way, (916) 978-4746.

December 20 *DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS* (extended) on the proposed listing of the northern spotted owl as a threatened species. Send written comments to: Listing Coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1002 N.E. Holladay St., Portland, OR 97232.

Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer

(from page 2)

The Spanish word for "window" was applied because of a window-like opening in one of the hills

New CWC T-Shirts!

Not one, but two new styles!

The animal design that Outreach Coordinator Nancy (left) is wearing is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank (of Farley fame); it comes in beige and light gray for $12. Conference Coordinator Jeanette (right) is wearing our official conference shirt; it has no less than six colors and comes in yellow, light green, and peach for $15. All the shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton. To order, use the form on page 8. Please add $1.50 postage and 75 cents for each additional shirt.

California Wilderness Coalition

Purposes of the California Wilderness Coalition

...to promote throughout the State of California the preservation of wild lands as legally designated wilderness areas by carrying on an educational program concerning the value of wilderness and how it may best be used and preserved in the public interest, by making and encouraging scientific studies concerning wilderness, and by enlisting public interest and cooperation in protecting existing or potential wilderness areas.

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

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