



# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 14, No. 5

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5 Davis, CA 95616

May, 1989

## Spotted Owl To Get "Threatened" Status

Forced by the courts to respond to the preponderance of evidence of danger to the species, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) has said it will "begin steps to officially propose listing" the northern spotted owl as a "threatened" species.

If expeditiously implemented, listing the owl will have powerful significance to public old-growth forest timber sales, which are the owl's main habitat.

A court ruling made last November left the F&WS until May 1 to either provide

evidence supporting its original decision against protective designation for the owl, or to list the owl as "endangered" or "threatened."

The agency's announcement does not guarantee that the owl will be on the official list, subject to legal protection, anytime soon. However, according to Andy Stahl of Sierra Club Legal Defense in Seattle, the fact that the agency was under court order makes expedient action likely.

The designation gives the F&WS re-

sponsibility for taking steps to prevent the species' extinction. The clearcutting of the economically valuable ancient trees where the owls nest is the biggest threat to their survival.

Several lawsuits and appeals pending against timber sales are based on threats to the spotted owl and would be strengthened by its new status. In Oregon, courts have already stopped timber sales that threaten owls on Forest Service old-growth forests. The bird is listed as threatened in Oregon and endangered in Washington state.

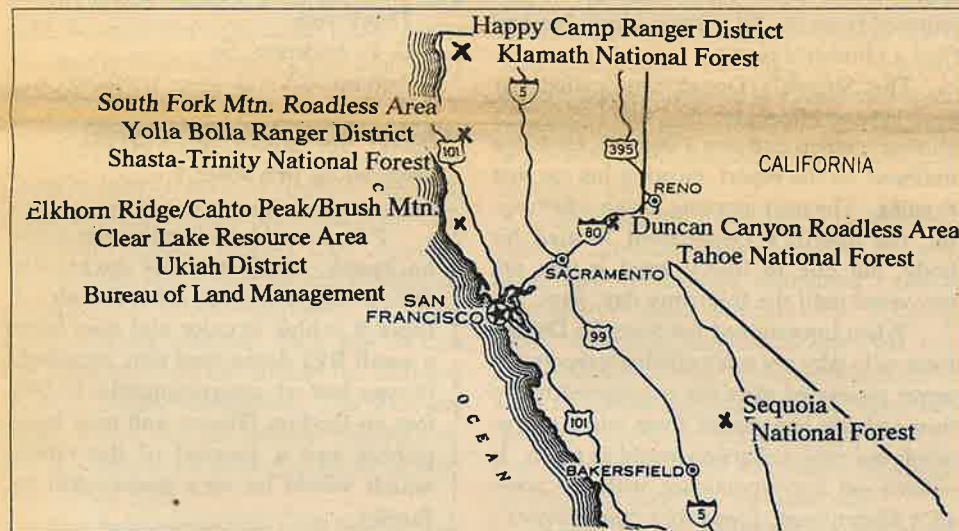
Federal listing would require Forest Service and BLM to consult with the F&WS to assure that their actions—including timber sales—will not jeopardize the owls' survival. An estimated 533 pairs of northern spotted owls live in California in the Shasta-Trinity, Klamath, Six Rivers, and



Mendocino National Forests.

There is concern among environmentalists, however, that the F&WS's original refusal to list the owl is an indication that they won't strictly follow endangered species law in protecting the bird.

Spotts says environmentalists need to "take vigilance to keep F&WS political appointees honest in consultation with the Forest Service."



California wilderness lawsuit hotspots

### Lawsuit Compromise

## No Joy At Happy Camp

In a compromise that left all sides feeling less than satisfied, the U.S. Forest Service, Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC), and timber buyers settled negotiations over the NEC's lawsuit against several salvage timber sales.

The agreement reached at the end of March left environmentalists something to be happy about in that the logging of 15 million board feet of unsold timber has been stopped, at least until Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) are completed for the sales. According to Tim McKay of the NEC, their goal in the suit and for the North Coast region is to protect wild land corridors between wilderness areas.

The suit settlement, according to McKay, "forces the Forest Service to make a more serious effort at environmental analysis." The agency was required to include the cumulative impacts of their entire sale program into each sale's impact analysis. "We were able to nail them down on copping to the effects," he said.

Carmine Lockwood, Planning Forester for the Happy Camp Ranger District, said that he "felt the original decisions for environmental assessments (EAs) were balanced with multi-resource considerations." He also said, however, that the agency is willing to be open-minded as it puts to-

continued on page 5

## Environmental Day In Court At Stake

By Mick Klasson

Despite the great importance of the many public lands lawsuits now pending, citizen rights to challenge agency action have been abridged and continue to be threatened. Tacked onto the federal budget for fiscal year 1989 were three sections that have little to do with money and much to do with the environment. These amendments, known as "riders," limit judicial review of Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) policy and nullify previous victories.

The first rider prohibits litigation against the agencies' management plans that is based solely on new information—that made available since the plans were written. The court case *Pacific Audubon v. Lujan* has since determined that this prohibition does not effect legal claims that show "substantive concerns" related to the new information.

The second rider prohibits judicial review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Silver Complex Fire

Recovery Area in Oregon's Siskiyou National Forest. This section also specifies that "any decision of a responsible Forest Service official...shall not be subject to administrative appeal or judicial review."

continued on page 4

INSIDE  
this issue:

— Shasta developer crashes environmentalist event...page 5

— Cahto Wilderness lawsuit scares off BLM...page 4

— Is it safe in the wilderness?...page 6

COALITION PAGE COALITION PAGE COALITION PAGE

## Monthly Report

By Jim Eaton

The day-to-day chaos in our office usually revolves around forest plan appeals, timber sales, off-road vehicle races, open pit mines, and ski area expansions. They often take precedence over such mundane things as sending out renewals, fund appeals, new member appeals, and requests for information.

This is not to say that the CWC Board of Directors is happy with this situation. While they agree that our priorities are saving the wilderness, they want this done while still paying the bills and the staff salaries (picky, picky, picky).

With this in mind, we recently launched an ambitious campaign to get new members to join the Coalition. Bill Burrows is busy each day folding, stamp-

ing, inserting, labeling, sorting, and mailing our solicitations. Although the jury is still out on the long-term economics of this project, one fact is clear: in the first quarter of this year the number of new CWC members exceeds our total for *all* of 1988.

Much the same can be said for the overall health of the organization. For various reasons, CWC's income for the first quarter of this year is about half of our total 1988 income. Of course, with October's conference only six months away, we need to bring in even more cash to pay the up-front costs of this gathering. But it is a sign that we are doing something right.

I had a great time at the Back Country Horsemen's convention earlier this month. Look for them at our conference this fall.

## Let Emigrant Dams Deteriorate

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to your article on the dams in the Emigrant Wilderness (April 1989).

It may be true that the dams are small and "generally considered to be visually unobtrusive." I wanted to point out that the main impact of the dams on wilderness resources is probably not the dams themselves, but the USFS [Forest Service] and DF&G [Department of Fish & Game] crews that maintain them. I worked as a backcountry ranger in the Emigrant for several summers, and I carried out more than one backpack full of trash left by dam maintenance crews (packed in on mules, of course). I also witnessed graffiti on several dams and surrounding granite left by DF&G crews.

The dams were originally built to increase habitat for fish and livestock, but studies have shown benefits to be negligible. Limited wilderness management funds would be better spent on trail maintenance, visitor education, and campsite/firepit cleanup.

Everyone who reads this should write a short letter to the Forest Service and ask that all the dams in the Emigrant Wilderness be allowed to **deteriorate without further maintenance**. (Forest Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonoma, CA 95370).

See you at the Conference!  
Tom Suk  
Kings Canyon National Park

## California Wilderness Conference

### California Wilderness Conference Registration

- I will be a local conference coordinator.  
 Here is my \$15 registration fee.  
 Here is \$30 for registration + CWC membership.  
 Here is my Conference Mentor contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please send to:

California Wilderness Coalition, 2655  
Portage Bay East, Ste. 5, Davis, CA 95616  
**Make checks payable to:**  
California Wilderness Coalition or CWC

### "Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act" October 19-22, 1989 Visalia, California

**Conference Co-sponsors to date:** Sierra Club Angeles and Kern-Kaweah chapters, The Wilderness Society, Tulare County Audubon, Yosemite Association.  
**Conference Mentors:** Harriet Allen, Bob Barnes, Liz Caldwell, Alan Carlton, Jim Clark, William Hauser, Ron & Mary Ann Henry, Vicky Hoover, Sarah & John Konior, Norman B. Livermore, Jr., Julie McDonald, Brian Newton, Bob & Anne Schneider, Robert L. Starkweather, Stan Weidert, Carl Weidert.

## LETTERS:

# Rescue Policy Unclear

Editor:

I am writing this letter in the hope of increasing public awareness of a potential life-and-death situation in our wilderness areas and parks.

During the period of Wednesday, August 24, and Saturday, August 27, date and time unknown, my 26 year-old son Gary Phillip Andersen, Jr. was killed by a 500-foot fall at the 12,500-foot level of Hotlum Glacier on Mount Shasta. He had filed a climber's report at the U.S. Forest Service station in Mt. Shasta on Wednesday, in which he stated he would be on a solo climb and would check in with the Sheriff's Department on his anticipated return date of Saturday by 5:00 pm.

On the following Tuesday in the early evening I received a call from my daughter, who informed me that Gary Jr. had not returned to his home in Pacifica. I immediately contacted the Sheriff's Department at Mt. Shasta and explained that my son had not returned from his Mt. Shasta climb but had filed a climber's report.

The Sheriff's Department called me back later to inform me they had located his climber's report and sent a sheriff's car to the trailhead on the report, locating his car that evening. The next morning, using a helicopter, the Sheriff's Department located his body, but due to heavy wind it was not recovered until the following day, Sept. 1.

When I questioned the Sheriff's Department as to why my son's climber's report was never processed after his anticipated return time and date had passed, I was told it was an employee error and action would be taken. In subsequent correspondence with the Sheriff's Department, I was told "the climber's report form is a courtesy service provided for those who voluntarily wish to register" and "our procedure for checking climber reports is that they are checked each morning by the area deputy on duty, depending on case load."

I personally believe that this sort of case load attitude by public agencies in charge of public safety is unacceptable. In a case like my son's, chances are if he was not instantly killed he would have died from untreated injuries or exposure because someone did not process a piece of paper. The present concern I have is for the climbers, hikers, etc. who fill out climbing or hiking reports in the future.

They need and have the right to know that when they file a report and the anticipated return date or time expires, that action will be taken to assure their safety and optimize their chance of survival. If an agency cannot promise this, then a clear statement should be made to the public and typed on the reports so people will not have a false sense of security that could result in their death.

I would like to end this letter by stating that in no way do I consider the problems I have listed above a reflection on the Siskiyou County Sheriff's personnel that I personally dealt with or the search and rescue team who recovered my son's body. I would especially like to thank Sgt. Charlie Simpson and his search and rescue team for risking their own lives to recover my son's body. I only hope and pray that people like these will receive full public support, including funding that they will need to meet the increasing public pressure in their recreational areas.

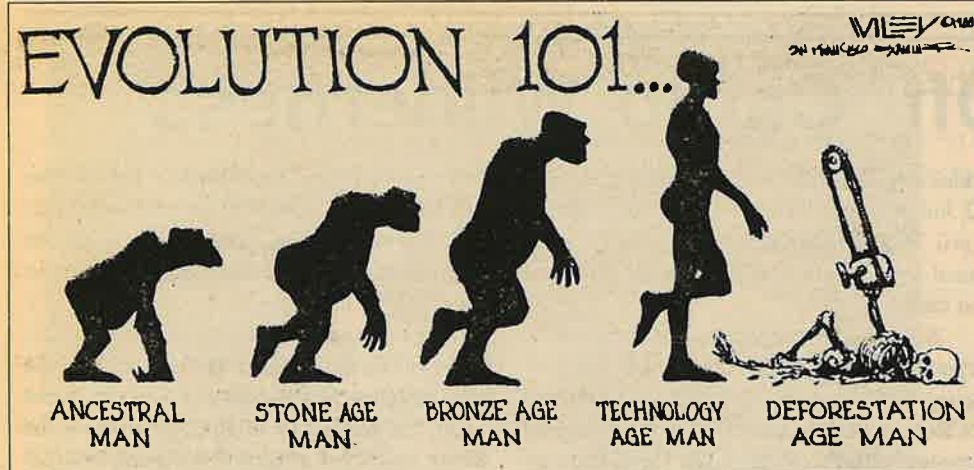
Thank you,  
G. P. Andersen, Sr.  
Auburn, CA

[Note: See page 6 for an article inspired by this letter.]

P.S. I need help locating my son's backpack, which was lost during his fall. It has been seen from the air. I think it is blue in color and may have a small REI dome-type tent attached. It was lost at approximately 12,500 feet on Hotlum Glacier and may have photos and a journal of the climb which would be very meaningful to family.



Mt. Shasta's Hotlum Glacier



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## Timber Sales Threaten Deer Crk Roadless Areas

By Steve Evans

The Lassen National Forest has released two Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for the Alder and Polk timber sales in Deer Creek canyon. The Forest Service is inviting written comments on the EISs until June 30 and has scheduled three public meetings in Chester (May 9), Red Bluff (May 16), and Chico (May 25).

At stake is one of the most pristine river canyons in the northern Sierra Nevada. Deer Creek is heavily used by anglers, campers, and hikers and provides important habitat for peregrine falcon, spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, and a remnant run of chinook salmon. In acknowledgement of Deer Creek's unique qualities, the Forest Service has recommended the stream for National Wild and Scenic River status. But Wild and Scenic status will not prevent logging outside of a narrow 1/4-mile corridor along both sides of the river.

The Polk timber sale calls for the logging of 10.9 million board feet of timber on more than 1,000 acres. Approximately 4.5 miles of new roads would be constructed. The sale area is located on Deer Creek downstream of Highway 32 and upstream of the Ishi Wilderness.

The major unavoidable adverse impact of the Polk sale is the loss of 960 acres of the Polk Springs Roadless Area from consideration as wilderness. Through road construction and logging approximately 10 percent of the roadless area would be developed. Five proposed harvest units directly conflict with the draft Lassen forest plan's wild and scenic river and semi-primitive prescriptions for the Polk Springs area. Another impact is the logging of large pines which shade the primitive campground at the Transfer Station Road crossing on Deer Creek for purposes of "public safety."

The Alder sale would remove 8.8 million board feet of timber from 552 acres. About 2.2 miles of new roads would be built

and 1.5 miles of existing roads reconstructed. The sale is located within the heart of Deer Creek canyon along Highway 32 and in the vicinity of the Alder and Elam campgrounds.

Major unavoidable environmental impacts identified for the Alder sale include the loss of 700 acres of the Cub Creek Roadless Area from consideration as wilderness due to road construction and logging. Approximately 8 percent of the roadless area would be developed, and habitat for the pileated woodpecker and spotted owl would be significantly affected.

Both EISs fail miserably in their assessment of cumulative environmental impacts, especially cumulative watershed impacts such as erosion and sedimentation. A cumulative watershed analysis for the Polk sale has determined that several tributaries to Deer Creek are approaching their watershed stability thresholds, indicating past and current degradation of the watershed. No analysis has been done for the Alder sale.

The EISs rely exclusively on the establishment of so-called streamside management zones (SMZs) and best management practices (BMPs) to supposedly prevent erosion and sedimentation from impacting water quality and fisheries. But SMZs do not prohibit the logging of trees (just the retention of ground cover) and BMPs are nothing more than a list of common sense management practices such as installing culverts where roads cross creeks. Federal courts have found that even with the establishment of SMZs and the use of BMPs, the water quality after logging can often fail to meet Clean Water Act standards.

The issue of water quality and fisheries is especially critical since the spring run chinook salmon population in Deer Creek has declined over the past 40 years. Several important tributary watersheds to Deer Creek, including Carter, Elam, and Rattlesnake Creeks have been roaded and logged.

continued on page 5

## UPDATES

# Eldorado Appeal Filed

By Jim Eaton

The Forest Service must be overwhelmed with appeals. On April 20th they acknowledged the receipt of the Coalition's appeal of the Eldorado's Forest Plan (which they received on January 30th) and recommended that CWC be granted a 45-day extension of time to file our Statement of Reasons. In the meantime, CWC already had filed its Statement of Reasons on April 6th.

The Coalition was joined in the appeal by the Environmental Planning & Information Council of Western Eldorado County, Friends Aware of Wildlife Needs, and the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club. Ten major subjects were detailed in the appeal, including lack of protection of roadless areas, high country management, livestock grazing, off-road vehicle use, and ski area expansion.

Nine "released" roadless areas, including the proposed Echo-Carson Wilderness, are of special concern to the appellants. These areas never were adequately reviewed in the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II), and the Forest Plan simply disposed of them in a 15-page, after-the-fact appendix.

Seventeen other organizations and individuals also appealed the plan, including Friends of the River, California Native Plant Society, Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game, and the Calif. Attorney General. Also fighting the Forest Plan are motorcycle and 4-wheel drive groups, the timber industry, a hydroelectric developer, and El Dorado County.

In addition, the off-road vehicle arm of the Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation has been allowed to intervene in all 18 appeals.

## Long Road to Resolve Tahoe Appeals

Nine appeals of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit's Forest Plan were filed by the January deadline. The Forest Service reports that "while the topics of the appeals were often similar, the requested remedies ran the gamut of possibilities. Consequently, resolution of the appeals will require much discussion between the interested parties."

Appeals were filed by a trio of conservation groups (League to Save Lake Tahoe, Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter, and California Wilderness Coalition), California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs, Sierra Pacific Industries, High Sierra Motorcycle Club, California Department of Fish and Game, California Off-Road Vehicle Association, the California Attorney General, and two individuals.

Issues not resolved between staff and appellants will be considered by the Forest Service's Washington office, and, according to the Forest Service, it will "probably take at least a year" for their final decision.

(A more lengthy article on the conservation groups' appeal was printed in the February 1989 issue of the *Wilderness Record*.)



### Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What federal wilderness areas in California have lands that do *not* drain into the Pacific Ocean?

(hint: there are 14!)

(See page 6 for answer.)



## BLM Backs Off Cahto Wilderness

*Logging operations on Elkhorn Ridge, part of the proposed Cahto Wilderness, were suspended by the Bureau of Land Management pending further environmental review. The suspension was announced just days before a court ruling on the case's merits, and represents an important victory. The legal effort was initiated by the Jackson Valley Watershed Coalition and Ancient Forest Defense Fund. The letter below from Eric Swanson provides background on the case.*

We have some good news. On March 31, Federal Judge Eugene Lynch granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) blocking the logging on Elkhorn Ridge. Eel River Sawmills had been scheduled to commence logging the Bureau of Land Management-managed land on April 4.

The TRO was good for ten working days, during which time both sides presented

additional information to the Court. On April 12 Judge Lynch extended the TRO through April 26 and asked for submission of additional legal briefs dealing with the merits of the case.

After initial preparation of the case by private attorney Tom Lippe, we are now being represented in court by Stephan Volker, a highly qualified environmental attorney with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Mr. Volker has said, "I believe that the resource values at stake are significant, that a favorable court ruling will gain us useful legal precedent under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act." He adds that "a favorable precedent could be used to protect other BLM old-growth lands in Northern California." BLM lands represent the last opportunity to preserve lower elevation old-growth Douglas-

fir forests in the Coast Range. Mr. Volker and his staff have worked long hours preparing this case. Their dedication has been phenomenal, and they deserve all the support we can give them.

In addition to the Ancient Forest Defense Fund, the list of plaintiffs on the case now includes The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, California Trout Inc., Friends of the River, and the California Wilderness Coalition.

The issues surrounding the preservation of ancient forests are far more complex than just saving the spotted owl and other old-growth dependant species from extinction. Our own survival and the survival of the entire planet demands a better understanding of these complex ecosystems.

Preservation of the Cahto Wilderness will provide future generations a gift beyond measure.

## Day in Court

continued from page 1

that "any decision of a responsible Forest Service official...shall not be subject to administrative appeal or judicial review."

An additional rider concerns the Mapleton Ranger District of the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon, authorizing timber sales in this forest "notwithstanding the injunction" issued against these sales in a prior court case. Furthermore, this rider provides that the draft EIS for the forest should be treated as a final EIS "satisfying all requirements" of law. The law also states that it does not "represent a judgement upon the legal adequacy" of the EIS. In other words, the rider says to treat the EIS as legal even though it may not be.

All three of these amendments were added to the Senate appropriations bill by Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, the Senior Minority Chair of the appropriations committee. In a letter to his constituents, Hatfield declared that he authored these riders to "mitigate the unacceptable economic disruption" that public involvement in agency decision-making might entail.

While the impact that these riders have had on California forests has so far been nil, the threat that specific riders represent to the environment is potentially much greater than the impacts of this year's legislation.

Congress has overridden the judicial process in wilderness decision-making affecting California in the past as well. In the 1978 case *California v. Bergland*, U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton ruled that the Forest Service's environmental impact statement for its second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) was "heavily skewed towards development" and "violated the National Environmental Policy Act." The judge stopped development of areas discussed in the lawsuit, but the injunction was later vacated when Congress passed the

California Wilderness Act.

"Many areas that weren't reviewed in the first place were released from wilderness consideration when the 1984 act passed," says Jim Eaton of the California Wilderness Coalition. "In order to reach a compromise, Congress overruled the court."

Although the Constitutionality of appropriations riders has not yet been challenged, it may be challenged in the future. Prohibiting private challenges to government action may be an abridgment of freedom of speech and "the right of the people...to petition the Government for a redress of grievances," both guaranteed by the First Amendment.

As appropriations legislation is considered for the 1990 fiscal year, there is an ever-present danger that one or more riders may appear that will affect public lands policy. Because a legislator, in order to minimize debate, may add a rider just prior to passage of the appropriations bill, Jay Watson of The Wilderness Society has warned that we "may not see [a rider] until the eleventh hour." The appropriations bill is due to be passed by July.

Although riders are not intrinsically bad, environmental organizations are justifiably wary of them. Watson has warned, "what we're opposed to is riders that block citizen action in court," such as the ones that were passed for this fiscal year. Senator Hatfield has introduced riders limiting public accountability in each of the last four annual appropriations bills.

(For more information see the Oregon Natural Resources Council's fall/winter 1988 Wild Oregon.)

*Mick Klasson is an intern with the CWC who is studying Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning at the University of California, Davis.*

## California's Major Lawsuits Related to Wilderness

Area	Main Issue(s)	Step in Process	Appellants
Happy Camp Ranger District Klamath NF*	EIS*** needed to study cumulative impacts of adjacent timber fire salvage sales	settled without going to trial	Northcoast Environmental Center, Klamath River Concerned Citizens
Duncan Canyon Roadless Area Tahoe NF	new timber sale EAs for new spotted owl information (NEPA)	preliminary injunction in effect, out-of-court negotiations near completion	Natural Resources Defense Council, Eric & Willow Beckwith
Sequoia NF	cumulative effects of timber sales on watersheds, viability of policy of clearcutting around giant sequoias	enjoinment of timber sales in effect, discussion of a mediation process underway	Sierra Club Kern-Kaweah Chapter, CWC, Sierra Club Legal Defense, other groups
Elkhorn Ridge timber sale Ukiah Dist. BLM**	preserving old-growth Douglas-fir forest	logging suspended by BLM, pending further environmental review	Ancient Forest Defense Fund, Jackson Valley Watershed Coalition
South Fork Roadless Area Shasta-Trinity NF	watershed impacts of salvage logging on the S. Fork Trinity Wild & Scenic River	preliminary injunction in effect, defendants have appealed it	The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen, CalTrout
Northern Spotted Owl endangered species listing	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's refusal to list the owl as endangered	court remanded F&WS's decision not to list owl; agency listed owl as threatened	Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund on behalf of 26 groups

\*National Forest

\*\*Bureau of Land Management

\*\*\*environmental impact statement

~ involves National Environmental Policy Act requirements



Rugged Deer Creek canyon. Will logging ruin the salmon habitat and prime trout fishery?  
Photo by Steve Evans

## Deer Creek Canyon

continued from page 3

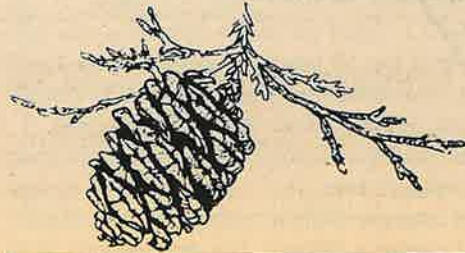
The future of Deer Creek and its magnificent canyon rests with the public. A personal letter could make the difference between a canyon managed for timber and a canyon managed for fish, wildlife and recreation. Write a letter today to Supervisor Richard Henry, Lassen National Forest, 55 South Sacramento Street, Susanville, CA 96130. Support the "No Action" alternatives in the Polk and Alder EISs. Be sure to mention the following issues:

- The EISs are inadequate because they fail to provide an analysis of cumulative impacts, especially watershed impacts.
- The roadless/wilderness character of the Cub Creek and Polk Springs roadless areas should be retained.
- All habitat for spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, and peregrine falcon should be preserved in its natural condition.
- Preservation of water quality and the spring run chinook salmon population is paramount to all other considerations. A water quality monitoring program for the Deer Creek watershed should be developed and implemented immediately.
- The river corridor for the proposed Deer Creek Wild and Scenic River should be expanded to include the entire canyon, in order to preserve water quality and scenic views.

The deadline for written comments is June 30. Your vocal attendance at the meetings is also critical. All hearings begin at 7:00 p.m. The May 9 Chester meeting is at the Chester Civic Auditorium, the May 16 Red Bluff meeting is at the Elk's Lodge (355 Gilmore Road), and the May 25 Chico meeting is at the CARD Community Center (545 Vallombrosa Avenue).

For more information, contact Steve Evans at (916) 442-3155.

Steve Evans is President of the CWC.



## Wayne Dakan: In Memorial

Wayne Dakan, well-known Plumas County botanist and environmental radical, passed away Tuesday, April 25. Wayne was 72 and died of natural causes. The self-taught, but definitive authority on the botanical resources of Plumas County, Wayne was best known for his outspoken criticism of its development. He will be sorely missed by local and statewide conservationists. Friends of Plumas Wilderness will be proposing that the Butterfly Valley Botanical Area, a favorite area of Wayne's for botanizing, be dedicated in his memory.

## Happy Camp

continued from page 1

million board feet. The logging of 53 million board feet was halted.

The Forest Service was also required to:

- Hold a series of environmental meetings involving the NEC, state Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Redwood National Park, and local Indian tribes.
- Close some roads, rescind several road proposals, and replant a fire line near Clear Creek.
- Provide timber sale Environmental Assessments (EAs) and maps to interested citizen groups on a regular basis.

The Klamath National Forest will re-

# Martin Crashes Banquet

By Stephanie Mandel

I had thought that the Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter's "Golden Jubilee" anniversary banquet would be boring. Hearing hero Alan Cranston would be neat, but the main program was honoring people who I don't know.

Soon after arriving for the social hour, however, I found my hosts, some of the CWC's co-appellants on the Mt. Shasta ski area appeal, and the fun began. We sat down at our prominent front-of-the-room table, and I noticed that these friendly people were nervous.

"N" kept glancing about the room, and the rest of these environmentalists were acting something like sore thumbs at a Timber Association event, rather than basking in the friendly companionship of the like-minded.

I soon found out why—Phil Rhodes, a priest-like force in Mt. Shasta protection, explained that sitting within food-fight distance was Carl Martin, the would-be developer of the ski area...and perhaps golf course, condo complex, and shopping "village."

Despite the local Sierra Club's stated opposition to his pot-of-gold scheme, Martin and crew had paid their \$25 to act like environmentalists. "R" explained to me that "he

does this sort of thing," and hinted that lobbying Senator Cranston might be part of Martin's agenda for the evening. While concerned about overdevelopment on the mountain, Cranston has not opposed the new ski plan.

The developer's presence still seemed incongruous to me, but I have a lot to learn about politics in the small town of Mt. Shasta. Its face is resoundingly pro-ski area, to the point where threatening "Wanted" posters with environmentalist's photos have been circulated. People fear for their jobs, or their spouses jobs.

Those opposing the ski area, for the most part, remain silent. Attending the Mother Lode Chapter banquet was a "coming out" for some of my table-mates, and one that Martin's presence made them feel ambivalent about.

Used to a life of relative anonymity and fascinated by the evening's scenario, I approached Martin after the ceremonies. Is he a Sierra Club member? Yes. For how long? Since 1979 or 1980. Is he aware of the Sierra Club's position on his proposition? Of course, he said, complaining that "my white hat changed to black" with the ski plan. He finds it very uncomfortable. He wasn't the only one.

Martin went on to explain that "radicals" have stayed in the local Club, and the leadership is more radical than it used to be.

He claimed that he also wants to protect the area, so I asked if he would be willing to quiet some of the major concerns about rampant development by signing some document that would limit the ski area's scope.

To do this would be a "detriment to the U.S.A.," Martin responded. "I'm not willing to let another bureaucracy be formed. Laws are there governing every move I make."

Thank goodness.

[Note: Following rejection by California's Regional Forester, conservation groups and the Attorney General have extended their appeals of the Mt. Shasta Ski Area EIS to the second (and final) level, the Forest Service Chief in Washington, DC.]

lease its draft forest plan around the spring of 1990, and environmentalists are concerned that the vigorous fire salvage timber sales program, along with the green sales program, amount to making long-term planning choices before there is a cohesive plan.

Therefore, McKay points out, the public input process that is legally required for the plan is shortcut. Lockwood agreed that it is "unfortunate" that there is no Klamath National Forest Plan, but said "we can conduct the EA and NEPA [National Environmental Policy Act] documentation in a way that will provide sound land management decisions. Particularly with the EISs, we're giving the public ample opportunity to comment."

McKay, however, says of the Forest

Service that "they meet only one objective consistently, and that's selling timber."

While the settlement for EISs has put off some of the logging for a while, the Forest Service could well conclude in the new environmental documents that the sales may continue as originally planned.

Not naive about this possibility, McKay doesn't rule out the possibility of another lawsuit. Resorting to the courts has become necessary, he feels: "there was little choice for everyone concerned about the Klamath National Forest."

Calling the lawsuit a learning experience," he reflects that "we're only beginning to establish a serious relationship with the Klamath National Forest."

# Wilderness Safety: False Sense of Security?

The following article was developed in response to concerns raised in a letter from Gary Andersen, Sr., printed on page two of this *Wilderness Record*.

By Bill Burrows

Thousands of people recreate in the beautiful wilderness lands of California every year. Most of these areas are still pristine, and have not been tamed, except for trails, for the sake of human safety. These wilderness areas are still "wild," and dangerous as well.

An experienced rock and ice climber, Gary Andersen, Jr. was aware of the dangers in wilderness. Last August, however, Gary was doing a solo climb on Mt. Shasta when he fell 500 feet to his death.

Before starting his climb Gary filled out a climber's report form with the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office. On this form he wrote his check-in time and date and estimated check-out time and date.

Three days after the 26-year old was due back home, his father called the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office to report that his son had not yet returned from the mountain. The search that began that evening ended the next morning when Gary's body was discovered on the Hotlum-Wintun Snowfield above the Hotlum Glacier at roughly 12,500 feet.

The Andersen story raises the question of the purpose of the Mt. Shasta climber's reports and, on a wider scale, wilderness permits in general. How much can anyone who enjoys hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, or any other outdoor

activity in wilderness areas depend on the managing agency to come looking for them if they do not sign out when they said they would? Just how tight is the safety net for people out in wilderness areas? Or is there a safety net at all?

According to Sergeant Charlie Simson of the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office, jurisdiction for Forest Service wilderness areas lies with the local sheriffs department, and they are responsible for all search and rescue activities. However, due to a lack of personnel, time and sufficient funds, Simson explained that they "don't have the manpower to check up on it (visitors who have not signed out of the area) every day."

Sergeant Simpson said the normal procedure for dealing with climber's reports, which are unique to Mt. Shasta, is that they are checked each morning by the deputy on duty, "depending on caseload." When an individual has not signed out on the date indicated, the Sheriff's Office normally waits 24 hours before beginning a search.

However, the search for Gary was not initiated until three days after his sign-out date, when his father reported he had not returned.



An important qualification in this procedure is that it is the size of the daily caseload that determines whether the climber's reports are checked and followed up on. "It's a matter of priorities," Simpson said.

According to Sergeant Simpson, climber's reports are voluntary. He estimates that "less than 50 percent check in and register," and that fewer than 50 percent of those who do sign in bother to sign back out when they leave the area.

According to Micheal Zanger, the owner and manager of the Mt. Shasta Guides tour company and a member of the search and rescue team, a "boy who cried wolf" syndrome exists. "So many times the Sheriff's Department sends deputies up to check up on a person and their car is gone—they've gone home." The report form, however, asks the person to "Please be sure to check in with the Sheriff's Department upon your return. Failure to do so may result in a needless rescue effort (for which you may be charged)."

As a result checking up becomes a routine that is not taken wholly seriously because usually nothing serious has happened.

The situation is similar for management on National Park lands. According to Phil Ward of the National Park Service, there is "no standardized procedure" for registering in National Park wilderness lands, but that the registration process is "almost impossible to enforce." Ward says that most parks require wilderness permits, but they are used mainly for statistical purposes, such as regulating the number of visitors.

But is this clear to visitors? In the case of Mt. Shasta climber's reports, Gary Andersen Sr. feels that it is not, and suggests that the forms should clearly state the agencies' policy on follow-up.

Gary Oye with the Forest Service Recreation Office of the Mt. Shasta Ranger District said that they "won't initiate a search unless a relative requests it." He describes search and rescue efforts as being "very costly," and says there simply is not enough funding or time to make regular, thorough investigations of every delinquent visitor. Similarly, Phil Ward says that in the National Park system, "response times (to reports of overdue visitors) depend on specific areas."

The search and rescue teams are really only there to help assist with whatever accident has already happened.

Oye also raised the point that if agencies like the Forest Service or Sheriff's department were to intensify the registration and follow-up procedures, they might be "infringing on the user's experience." Part of going out into wilderness is to live out on the edge and challenge oneself in a harsher environment—to seek out a bit of danger.

Oye goes on to say that there is "a fine line between our (the Forest Service' and/or the Sheriff's Department's) responsibility and the user's responsibility." There is a fine line between policing visitors and providing effective assistance. Oye recommended that visitors "go prepared, be observant, and anticipate dangers" when heading out into wilderness. "People should not feel real comfortable. You're assuming some risk when you go out."

One suggestion for dealing with the problem of keeping tabs on visitors' safety is to focus on educating people to take more responsibility for themselves. Zanger described it as promoting "more of a personal ethic. Better education of conduct and climbing would be more valuable than a closer watch-over system. I don't think the sign-in/sign-out procedure is the answer."

Both Oye and Simpson also emphasized preparing properly before entering wilderness, and Ward suggested that people use relatives or friends as check-out points, saying that this usually "works better than using a formal sign-in/sign-out procedure."

*Bill Burrows is the CWC's Outreach Coordinator.*

## Budget Woes Endanger Wilderness Rangers

Some national park wilderness areas will be less crowded this summer—not in numbers of visitors, but the staff people who protect and monitor them. Budget pressures have led to cut backs on seasonal wilderness staffs.

Yosemite seems to have been particularly hard-hit. Down from 18 part-time seasonal wilderness positions last year, the park will have seven paid positions this season. The mounted rangers, a Yosemite tradition since at least the turn of the century, has been blue-penciled completely. Volunteers will make up some of the loss of staff, says Ron Mackie, Yosemite's wilderness manager.

According to Mackie, park budgets statewide have been stressed by a cost-of-living pay increase that went into effect this year. In some years the parks get supplemental money from Congress to make up for inflation and salary increases. "It builds up if they don't get increases for a few years," Ward says.

Mackie was particularly disappointed about the elimination of the wilderness naturalist program "It was the finest wilderness program ever," he boasts, expressing hopes that the budget will be able to reinstate the program in the future.

In Lassen Volcanic National Park four seasonal wilderness positions were cut, including the only back country protection patrol for the 72,000-acre wilderness area. Patrols for more heavily-used recreational areas were the priority, according to park official Albert Snyder. Snyder pointed out that the other patrols can cover the wilderness.

Back country rangers and other staff are often targets for budget cuts, according to Phil Ward, Chief of Ranger Services for the National Park Service's western region. Ward explains that back country rangers are less visible, even if their absence "results in an increase in resource degradation."

## Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

Ansel Adams, Carson-Iceberg, Desolation, Golden Trout, Granite Chief, Hoover, John Muir, Joshua Tree, Mokelumne, San Geronio, San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, South Sierra, & South Warner.



Remnants of Fort Piute in the East Mojave Desert's Piute Canyon. Photo from *Newsbeat*

## Now or Never?

Featured in the March issue of *Newsbeat*, the Bureau of Land Management's monthly California publication, was Piute Canyon, a Wilderness Study Area that is threatened by the proposed Castle Mountain gold mine which has the agency's blessing.

The proposed mine's cyanide leaching process would use enormous amounts of water, drawing it from the same groundwater

basin that feeds Piute Spring. The spring could be dried up if too much water is pumped out. Piute Spring is the largest riparian woodland in the East Mojave, and has been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

(See the April 1989 *Wilderness Record* for an in-depth article on the proposed Castle Mountain Mine.)

## New map available A Desert Guide

A large, detailed map, *A Recreation Guide to the East Mojave National Scenic Area*, is just off the press. The map highlights the wonders of Kelso Dunes, Wildhorse Canyon, Cima Dome, and Clark Mountain, along with more than two dozen other special places within the Bureau of Land Management-administered East Mojave National Scenic Area.

The back of the publication features a map/guide to the entire California Desert, including 36 parks, preserves, natural places, desert museums, and nature centers. The well-known desert parks of Death Valley and Anza-Borrego are detailed as well as such off-the-beaten-track destinations as the Chuckwalla Mountains and Darwin Springs.

The map was produced by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and a consortium of conservation groups including the California Coastal Trails and Desert Protective Council Foundations. It is available for \$3.50 from: Desert Protective Council Foundation, P.O. Box 76210, Los Angeles, CA 90076.

*Note: Hiking in the desert is most pleasant from November to April. Temperatures over 100 degrees and a lack of shade and water demand that summer hikers take care.*

## CALENDAR

**May 6** CWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING; Davis.

**May 7** CALIFORNIA ANCIENT FORESTS COALITION MEETING; sponsored by the CWC, The Wilderness Society, N'l. Audubon Society, Sierra Club. Davis; by invitation. Contact Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380 for more information.

**May 9** DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS on the BLM's Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP). Contact Michael A. Ferguson at (619) 872-4881.

**May 17** DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS on the scope of the EIS of timber sales in the Mendocino National Forest's Black Butte watershed, which includes the Black Butte Roadless Area. Send in writing to: Charles McFadin, District Ranger, Covelo Ranger District, Mendocino National Forest, Covelo, CA 95482.

**May 20, 24, 27** SODA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS HIKES, free. For details, contact the CWC at (916) 758-0380.

**May 28** DEADLINE FOR APPEALS of the Forest Service's *Vegetation Management for Reforestation Final E.I.S.* Send to: F. Dale Robertson, Chief, USDA Forest Service, 12th and Independence Avenue, S.W. S. Bldg., WA, D.C. 20250 and to Paul F. Barker, Regional Forester, Pacific S.W. Region USDA Forest Service, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.

**June 30** DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS on the Alder and Polk timber sales in the Lassen National Forest's Deer Creek Canyon (see story on pages 3 & 5).

## Positive Investing: Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is

By Mark B. Pey

Those of us who are making an effort in our lives to preserve the world as a safe, clean, healthy place to live are presented with choices every day which put our values to the test. Some of these choices are easy—should I support or condone policies like multiple (ab)use and clearcut logging?

Decisions concerning money tend to be trickier, with more gray areas and trade-offs. How, for example, is it possible to know whether the local bank or credit union invests its funds in strip miners, toxic dumpers, and land developers? By the same token, funds set aside to reach long-term goals like improving financial security or children's education may actually be invested in areas like

nuclear energy and weapons producers which could jeopardize us all.

A little research and common sense can uncover opportunities that will put your money to work in positive ways. There are money market and mutual funds, for example, which avoid investment in South Africa, nuclear power and weapons, and companies that discriminate or harm the environment. (Two of these funds, in fact, finished in the top five of all mutual funds for 1988, advancing more than 39 percent.) Digging a little deeper will uncover opportunities like federal tax credits for investing in low-income housing programs, or investments in companies that produce ethanol or biodegradable plastics, just to name a few.

Integrating all these areas into a finan-

cial strategy that makes sense for your individual situation is easy with the help of an account executive who specializes in SRI, Socially Responsible Investing. The thing to keep in mind is that voting on environmental issues isn't just something you do every two or four years in a voting booth, it's something you do every day with your wallet or pocketbook. With the many choices that are available today, the decision to "do well by doing good" is up to you.

*Mr. Pey is a fully-licensed account executive with Dean Witter, Inc. and has been involved in environmental issues since the first Earth Day in 1969. He can be reached at (415) 955-6000 (from out of the area, call collect).*



**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 *Wilderness Record* is the monthly publication of the California Wilderness Coalition. Articles may be reprinted; credit would be appreciated. Subscription is free with membership.

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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# CWC Member Groups

## Focus: Back Country Horsemen

If you haven't packed your britchin, hobbles, and chaps for your next wilderness outing, you probably aren't a member of the Back Country Horsemen, a group of 1,100 California wilderness supporters that was founded in 1981.

The Back Country Horsemen (who, at the suggestion of a female member, are considering changing their name to Back Country Riders), organized to help maintain the riders' right to visit wilderness on horseback and to educate riders on safe and environmentally-conscious trips.

Member Charley Morgan points out that riding opens wilderness to people who otherwise would be unable to reach it. For example, Morgan took his 18-month-old granddaughter Brenna on a week-long trip last year. She sat in a pack box, sharing the horse with her three and four-year old brother and sister.

Morgan has also shared trips with people in wheelchairs. One of the more elderly and active riders of the group is

Roscoe Bessey, 82, who takes several trips a year.

The environmental focus of the Back Country Horsemen is made clear in their 1989 guidebook, which covers trail courtesy, choosing where to camp, and precautions with fire. Its "Environmental Concerns" chapter lists seven Back Country Horsemen "commandments," the last of which is "the horsemen shall respect the fragility of the back country environment and practice minimum impact techniques at all times."

- American Alpine Club; El Cerrito
- Ancient Forest Defense Fund; Ukiah
- Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club; Los Angeles
- Back Country Horsemen of CA; Springville
- Bay Chapter, Sierra Club; Oakland
- Butte Environmental Council; Chico
- California Alpine Club; San Francisco
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