



WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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June, 1989

Anza-Borrego Park Detours ORV Users

By Stephanie Mandel

Anza-Borrego is the largest state park in California, containing more state wilderness than any other, with seven Bureau of Land Management wilderness study areas along its borders. A substantial preserve of desert wilderness, the park also has a dubious distinction.

From 1973 to 1987 Anza-Borrego was

essentially the only state park which welcomed off-road vehicles (ORVs). Since May 1987, when District Park Superintendent Jim Hendricks closed the park to ORVs not licensed as street-legal, the desert park has been a hotbed of controversy.

Last month, legislation to reopen the park to vehicles carrying special permits was narrowly defeated in a 5-4 vote of the California Senate Natural Resources Committee. Senator Cecil Green from Norwalk authored the legislation without the approval of Marian Bergeson, in whose district the park is located. Bergeson voted against it.

Despite this victory, conservationists warn that ORV users are far from giving up on being able to use the park, and there are rumors of ORV user groups bringing a lawsuit against State Park Director Henry Agonia.

According to Mark Jorgensen, Park Naturalist, ORVs were excluded because the vehicles often stray away from their designated trails onto fragile desert land, killing plants and increasing soil erosion. "Damage was becoming greater and greater each year," Jorgensen says.

continued on page 6 Borrego Badlands, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Photo by Jim Eaton



Wilderness Water Fight Continues

If you asked most people whether a hydro-electric power project could be licensed that would substantially de-water a river flowing through a Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the answer would come back loud and clear—of course not!

In 1985, an Idaho developer applied for a federal license to divert the Pit River in order to bypass the BLM's Pit River Wilderness Study Area in Modoc County. The license application went unnoticed by conservation activists until it was too late to stop the licensing of the dam, reservoir, and powerhouse.

When the California Wilderness Coalition protested the BLM's decision to issue the right-of-way permits necessary to construct the diversion, the BLM replied that condemning the river to nearly perpetual minimum stream flows would not impair the wilderness qualities of one of the few non-desert WSAs being recommended for wilderness status by the BLM in California.

CWC's 1987 appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals was denied, and the

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Los Padres Wilderness Bill Stakes "Environmental High Ground"

By Steve Evans

The California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, Keep the Sespe Wild Committee, Sierra Club, and other conservation groups are proposing national legislation which would designate several new wilderness areas and wild rivers in the Los Padres National Forest. The organizations intend to approach Senator Alan Cranston (D-California) and Representatives Leon Panetta (D-Monterey) and William Thomas (R-Bakersfield) to ask that they sponsor the bill, tentatively titled the Condor Range and Rivers Act.

Sprawling from the Big Sur coast near Monterey to southern Ventura County, the Los Padres National Forest contains some of the largest remaining unprotected

wildlands in the state, all of which are the ancestral homeland of the endangered California condor. Although the list of areas and rivers to be included in the bill is not finalized, the bill will include major additions to the already designated Ventana and San Rafael wilderness areas, as well as designate the Garcia Mountain Wilderness in San Luis Obispo County and the Sespe and Matilija wilderness areas in southern Ventura County. Rivers to be added or studied for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System include the Little and Big Sur rivers, Arroyo Seco River, Sisquoc River, Sespe Creek, and Piru Creek.

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Monthly Report

By Jim Eaton

Because of my travel plans in June, we plan to cheat a bit on the monthly Wilderness Record. This year you will be treated to a fat July-August issue, mailed in mid-July, that will have lots of great articles.

Perhaps we could have stuck to our normal schedule, but tradition calls for me to write this column as Stephanie is frantically putting the final touches on the newsletter prior to racing to the printer. Besides, the ritual also calls for the potluck mailing party to be at my house the next night (drinks, chips, and video provided by the hosts).

But next month Wendy, Inyo, and I plan to head off to New Mexico to attend the Round River Rendezvous and visit a new wilderness area, perhaps the Pecos.

Actually, I suspect the delay is occurring less because I will be absent but more because Wendy's ruthless blue editing pen will be on vacation. Some of our writers would be appalled at her caustic comments on their bewildering passages and fractured English. In fact, this column is the only item that escapes her eagle eye. It shows, I guess.

So our new crop of interns will get a two-week respite from my bad jokes, Inyo's lunchtime begging, and a steady diet of 60s' rock-and-roll. It will be up to Steph and Bill to indoctrinate them into the ways of the Coalition.

It now looks like Mick, our sole Spring intern, will be replaced by up to four young women this summer (I wonder if Bill's girlfriend is aware of this). I suppose I will have my hands full keeping them busy.

Our office routine has been brightened

by a steady stream of postcards: bighorn sheep from Sally Miller in Lee Vining, Chicago's John Hancock Building from former intern Lora Moerwald, and a nude Hawaiian "island girl" from Mad Watters (who now runs llama trips in Oregon). The latest is a painting of Kit Carson's House at Warner Springs from former intern Joe Bogaard who is hiking the California portion of the Pacific Crest Trail this summer. Joe reports that after 105° temperatures in the desert, he and his companion were drenched to the bone in a rain-sleet-snow storm in the Cleveland National Forest.

My travels have been limited to the Bay Area, Sacramento, and Ukiah. The latter trip was for a presentation to the Sierra Club's Mendocino-Lake Group on wilderness, especially the potential for wilderness on BLM lands. While there I had a chance to visit the Mendocino Environmental Center, an ecology center in downtown Ukiah. Betty and Gary Ball have done a marvelous job of putting together a fascinating facility with lots of information, helpful volunteers, and two Macintosh SE computers.

Each week Bill Burrows keeps churning out mailings to attract new members. As a result, in three months he has recruited more new CWC members than we gained in all of 1988. This includes our newest business sponsor, Paul F. Nielson, M.D. of Bakersfield. Thank you, Dr. Nielson, and thank you to our newest member group, People for Nipomo Dunes National Seashore.



Steve Evans, now CWC President, talks about wilderness issues with other participants at the 1978 California Wilderness Conference in Oakland.

Photo by Alan R. Houser



Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What movie, filmed on the shores of Mono Lake, featured views of the Granite Mtn., Mt. Biedeman, and Bodie wilderness study areas, the Mono Craters and Glass Mtn. roadless areas, and the Hoover and Ansel Adams wilderness areas?

(See page 5 for answer.)

California Wilderness Conference

"Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act"

October 19-22, 1989
Visalia, California

Conference Co-sponsors to date:

Friends of the River, Genny Smith Books of Mammoth Lakes, Sierra Club Angeles, San Francisco Bay, Kern-Kaweah, and Loma Prieta chapters, Sierra Club Northern California/Nevada Field Office, The Wilderness Society, Tulare County Audubon, Yosemite Association.

Conference Mentors:

Harriet Allen, Bob Barnes, Arthur & Sidney Barnes, Liz Caldwell, Alan Carlton, Jim Clark, Sara Lee Gershon, William Hauser, Ron & Mary Ann Henry, Vicky Hoover, Sally Kabisch, Sarah & John Konior, Bob Lindsay, Norman B. Livermore, Jr., Julie McDonald, Brian Newton, Trent Orr, Mark Palmer, Bob & Anne Schneider, Mary Scoonover, Robert L. Starkweather, Steve Stocking, Ron Stork, Jay Watson, Stan Weidert, Carl Weidert, Brad Welton, Mendocino-Lake Group, Sierra Club, Save-the-Redwoods League.

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 (\$50 or more).

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

Two Wilderness Records in One!?

Look for a blockbuster, double-sized combined July/August issue of the Wilderness Record, which you'll receive near the end of July.

UPDATES

City & County Support for Desert Bill Grows

By Vicky Hoover

On April 11 the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the California Desert Protection Act—the Cranston-Levine bill (HR 780, S 11) now before the U.S. Congress. The landmark bill would establish three new national parks and 81 separate wilderness areas in the much-threatened and fragile California Desert.

By this resolution, introduced by Supervisor Mary King, Alameda became the fifth county in the Bay Area to join the campaign for desert preservation. Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Marin and Santa Clara Counties have all recently endorsed the Cranston-Levine bill.

RIVERSIDE SUPPORTS BILL, BARSTOW WITHDRAWS OPPOSITION

The Riverside City Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting the California Desert Protection Act, becoming the third major California city to take positive action for desert protection. It follows Los Angeles, whose City Council endorsed the bill in 1987, and San Francisco, where Mayor Agnos signed a strong desert protection resolution in June of 1988.

Riverside is an extremely important addition to the list of official supporters for the Cranston-Levine desert bill. Not only is Riverside the first city in the interior of California to speak out for desert protection, but it is the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management's Desert District.

On May 15 the Barstow City Council reversed its vote on the Desert Bill from an opposition position to a neutral position. The Council voted 4 to 1 to take "no position" on the bill. Peter Burk of Citizens for Mojave National Park in Barstow called the reversal "a tremendous environmental victory."

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS COMING UP

County and city desert protection endorsements are not the only desert news this month: Congressional hearings are coming up. The National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Bruce Vento (D-MN) of the House Interior Committee has agreed, on the request of Rep. Mel Levine (D-Santa Monica), to hold hearings this year on the desert bill. Levine introduced HR 780 in the House of Representatives in February.

Conservationists are preparing testimony to support the need for strong legislated protection to keep fragile, threatened desert areas from being scarred permanently by improperly regulated mining, grazing, and off-road vehicle use. Although no date for the hearings has yet been scheduled, summer or early fall is likely.

Vicky Hoover is a member of the Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club and active supporter of the California Desert Protection Bill.

Lion Hunt Initiative Signature Drive Begins

California mountain lions and other diminishing wildlife will benefit from a new initiative. This June, conservationists around the state will begin collecting 600,000 signatures in order to earn a place on the June 1990 ballot for the California Wildlife Protection Initiative.

In brief, the wildlife measure has two basic purposes. The first is to prevent the trophy hunting of California mountain lions. The second is to provide funds for the protection of habitat for endangered species, mountain lions, and other wildlife.

The moratorium on hunting lions for sport ended in 1985 when Gov. Deukmejian vetoed its renewal. Since then two legal challenges by the Mountain Lion Foundation have prevented two lion hunting seasons sanctioned by the Fish and Game Commission. Permanent legal protection for the big cats is needed, however, or the hunt will be back.

To volunteer for the signature-gathering effort, contact the California Wildlife Protection Committee, 1012 J Street, #202, Sacramento, CA 95814, (916)444-2287.

(Excerpted from the May 1989 Sierra Club *Bonanza*.)



The Condor Range and Rivers Act would permanently protect Sespe Creek and Condor Sanctuary by designating the area as wilderness and adding Sespe Creek to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Photo courtesy of Keep the Sespe Wild Committee.

Los Padres Wilderness

continued from page 1

The proposed Condor Range and Rivers Act is intended to preserve in perpetuity the critical natural wild areas needed for the healthy survival of the California condor when the species is returned to the wild. The legislation is also intended to stake out the environmental high ground in response to two inadequate bills sponsored by Senator Pete Wilson (R-California) and Representative Robert Lagomarsino (R-Ventura). Those bills, S. 637 and H.R. 1473, would designate an inadequate Sespe Wilderness and leave half of Sespe Creek unprotected from two proposed dam projects.

It is hoped that the regional approach of the Condor Range and Rivers Act will draw the support of Senator Cranston as well as Representatives Panetta and Thomas. Thomas has indicated an interest in legislation to designate the Garcia Mountain Wilderness. Panetta has already asked the Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council to investigate Wild and Scenic status for the Little Sur River. Senator Cranston, although busy with the legislative battle to preserve California's desert, has already indicated an interest in a regional wilderness and wild rivers bill for the Los Padres Forest.

The Condor Range and Rivers Act

would be the first major California national forest wilderness bill since the passage of the California Wilderness Act in 1984. It would also be the first omnibus Wild and Scenic Rivers bill for California (the Merced, Kings, and Kern rivers were all designated in 1987 through separate bills).

For more information, contact Jeff Widen at the Sierra Club's Southern California office (213) 387-6528 or Steve Evans at Friends of the River (916) 442-3155.

Steve Evans is a Conservation Director for Friends of the River and President of the CWC.



Cyanide Accidents Will Happen Spills, Dead Wildlife Plague Gold Mines

Attempting to reassure the public that it has the animal deaths under control, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced in early May that all gold mines on their lands in California that use cyanide solution will now be required to report bird and other animal mortalities to the BLM.

Leaving most of the responsibility for reporting to the companies themselves, the new BLM directive also instituted on-site monitoring, but only on a monthly basis.

Attracted to the sight of the liquid ponds, animals drink or swim in the ponds; the BLM does not yet have Bureau-wide rules for preventing the wildlife deaths. The thousands of migratory birds and other animals killed at these mines are not the only problem with the heap-leach mines, however.

Another danger was demonstrated on Tuesday, May 16, when approximately 100,000 gallons of cyanide solution leaked from the Carson Hill mine to the New

Melones Reservoir near Sonora. Jim Lee of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board said that the solution rapidly broke down in the drinking water source, and that the "impact on water quality was very limited."

Reacting to a number of current gold mine proposals in California, Representative Mel Levine (D-LA) and The Wilderness Society (TWS) have called for a federal investigation into gold mining operations in

California and Nevada that use cyanide to extract the precious metal.

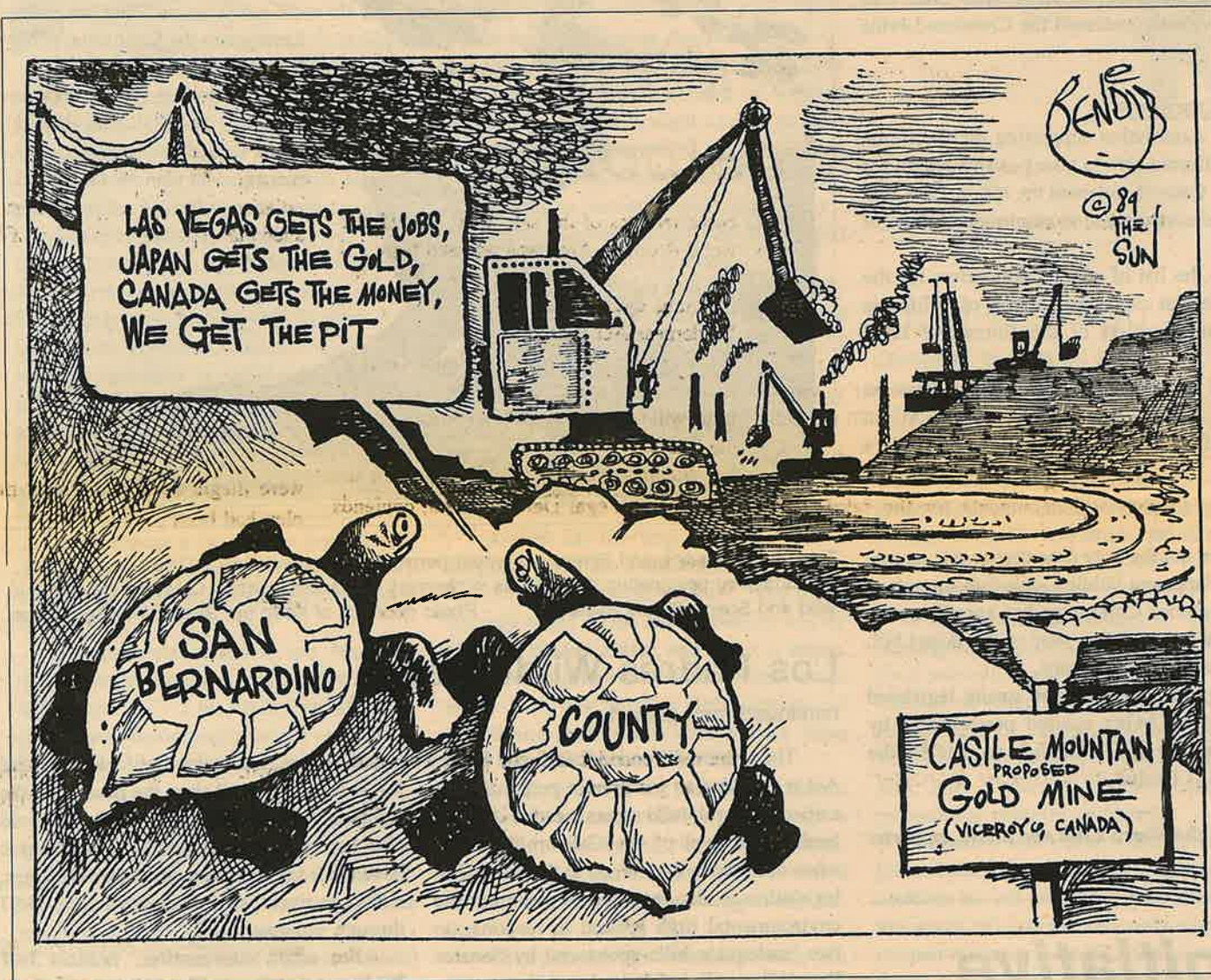
Patty Schifferle of TWS lists threats to water supplies and quality, wildlife, and decimation of public lands as the main problems with heap-leach gold mines. She also points out that there are gaps in the laws that govern the mines. "The laws are a hodge-podge, not consistent, and enforcement is variable," she says.

One of the proposed mines is near Castle Mountain in the East Mojave Desert. Others are being considered at Bodie, a historic ghost town and state park in Mono County, and near the western boundary of Death Valley National Monument, according to Norbert Riedy of The Wilderness Society. "We expect more," said Jim Lee of the water quality board. "It is the cheapest way to mine gold," he added.

The cyanide gold mining method uses the poisonous substance to dissolve the gold particles, removing small quantities from large piles of ore. Gold is then removed from the cyanide in ponds ranging in size from one to over 100 acres.

In California BLM has used nets over the ponds or distractions to prevent wildlife, which are attracted to large water bodies, from drinking the poisoned water. According to Riedy, however, distractions such as sonic disturbances and flagging, which he says "look like you're in a used car lot," have had little success.

Riedy does believe, however, that nets with 1/4" fencing and that goes into the ground "can exclude just about anything." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service advocates prevention through neutralizing the cyanide with other chemicals or covering the ponds completely with nets. Chlorine is among the chemicals used to render safe the cyanide, but it is expensive and so hasn't been used much in California.



San Bernardino Sun



Citizens Oppose Castle Mtn. Mine

Over 125 environmentalists dominated the Bureau of Land Management's San Bernardino public hearing on the proposed Castle Mountain gold mine. Some 40 demonstrators carried signs outside, protesting the cyanide-using mine. John Bailey of the Needles BLM office remarked that there is "reasonable public fear about the use of a hazardous substance."

The hearing in Barstow was attended by

100 citizens concerned about the environment, but in Las Vegas only five conservationists and 10 mining company representatives testified.

Many citizens want to see a Mojave Desert National Park instituted in the area. The park would be created by the California Desert Protection Act, now before Congress.

Over 600 comments on the Castle Mountain mine draft Environmental Impact

Statement were received by the May 15 deadline. The BLM estimates that the final report will be completed by late August or early September.

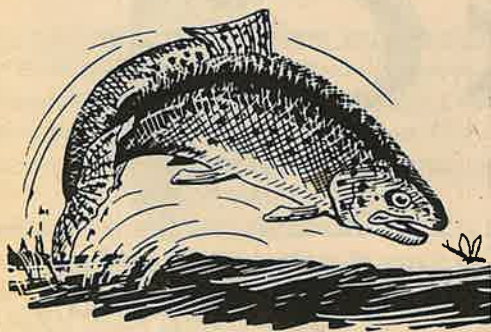
Castle Mountain mine has been proposed by the Viceroy Resource Corporation of Vancouver, Canada.

(A more in-depth article on the proposed Castle Mountain gold mine was printed in the April 1989 Record.)



Yucca (Agave Family)

ROADLESS
AREAS



New Loophole Grider EIS Evades Appeals

The controversial and massive Grider fire salvage logging project on unroaded lands will not be appealed. Is everyone satisfied with the plan to open to roads this beautiful area right next to the Marble Mountain Wilderness?

Hardly—but the Forest Service has, perhaps for the first time, disallowed appeals using a new loophole. The 1989 appeal regulations (in effect as of 2/27/89) allow “catastrophic exemptions” from the appeals process. Regional Forester Paul Barker announced in the April 7 *Federal Register* that “Any further delay in the activities necessary to restore these damaged lands or remove this salvage timber will result in unacceptable degradation of the physical and biological condition of national Forest Service lands and a substantial deterioration of the fire-damaged timber.”

The Grider sale is also unique in that the final decision on which of the alternatives studied in the EIS will be implemented was not issued with the report.

Instead, a tentative alternative is named, and the final decision will be described after the 30-day comment period on the FEIS. The Forest Service says the final decision “may, however reflect changes due to substantive comments received” during this period.

The tentative alternative would include building 12.3 miles of roads.

South Fork Timber Sales Postponed

By Mick Klasson

Two timber sales in the Six Rivers National Forest in Humboldt County were postponed following an appeal filed by the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, California Wilderness Coalition, and six other environmental organizations. On April 24 the U.S. Forest Service withdrew its Environmental Assessment (EA) and will rewrite the environmental documents for the sales, ominously called the Dungeon and Phantom Helicopter Timber Sales.

“Our contention is that we conformed with most of the laws in question.” — Eric Brunner, District Timber Manager

The appeal alleged that the EA and the timber sales it described violated several environmental laws. These include the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The South Fork Trinity River is home to a unique variety of steelhead trout as well as peregrine falcons, bald eagles, ring-tailed cats, spotted owls, and old-growth forest. As a nearby resident describes the area, “it looks as wild as you’d want it to look.”

The Forest Service, however, is planning to go ahead with the sales after a new EA or an Environmental Impact Statement (a more comprehensive document) is filed.

Eric Brunner, the District Timber Management Officer who signed the EA, said that “our contention is that we conformed with most of the laws in question.”

Brunner noted only one exception, which is that the sale included logging a portion of the Underwood Roadless Area. Forest Service policy, based on NEPA, is that timber sale EAs must consider the roadless

characteristics of the sale area. The Underwood Roadless Area was released from wilderness consideration for the first forest planning cycle when the 1984 California Wilderness Act passed.

According to Brunner, concerns raised in the appeal other than the roadless area issue will not receive special consideration in the future.

Stephan Volker, an attorney with the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, contends that other issues are substantial as well. The timber sales are within the watershed of the Wild and Scenic section of the South Fork of the Trinity River. Not only does the Wild and Scenic designation signify an area with “outstanding natural amenities,” it also prohibits Forest Service actions that could degrade the area until a management plan for the river corridor is filed, which the agency has not yet done.

Volker points out a U.S. District Court stopped timber sales in the South Fork Trinity watershed in 1988 because there was no management plan. “I’m confident that courts will stick with that,” Volker said. In fact, SCLDF may move to ask courts to hold the Forest Service in contempt of court for proposing sales near Wild & Scenic Rivers with no management plans.

Volker also pointed out that the spotted owl claim in the appeal, that a pair exists with no territory set aside, would be a compelling court claim.

The groups on the appeal were California Wilderness Coalition, Friends of the River, Northcoast Environmental Center, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations, South Fork Mountain Defense Committee, South Fork Watershed Association, and The Wilderness Society.

Mick Klasson is a student intern with the CWC who is about to graduate from the University of California, Davis, with a degree in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning.

Yolla Bolly Logging Appealed

A roadless area next to the Yolla Bolly Wilderness is targeted for logging, and an appeal has been filed in protest.

Arguing that the Ant Ridge Area timber sale violates spotted owl management guidelines, is potentially detrimental to the Middle Fork Eel Wild & Scenic River, and violates several major federal environmental laws, the appeal was filed by the Sierra Club, Rural Institute Environmental Defense Network, Citizen’s Committee to Save Our Public Lands, and the California Wilderness Coalition.

A major point in the appeal is that activities such as logging in the watershed of a Wild & Scenic River must be based on a management plan for the river’s corridor and adjacent lands; the Forest Service has no such plan, although the Middle Fork Eel was designated in 1981.

A number of timber sale appeals have been based on the Forest Service’s failure to complete such plans, including those in the Underwood Roadless Area (see article on this page) and the South Fork Mountain Roadless Area (both along the South Fork Trinity River). A court has ruled these sales were illegal because no river management plan had been completed.

Other issues in the appeal are:

- potential violations of state and federal water quality standards,
- logging in landslide terrain,
- failure to prepare an environmental impact statement for a roadless area, as required by law,
- logging and fragmentation of old-growth habitat for goshawk, pileated woodpecker, pine marten, and Pacific fisher, as well as spotted owl.

A decision on the appeal is due from Regional Forester Paul Barker by mid-August.

**Wilderness
Trivia Quiz
Answer:**

**“High Plains
Drifter,” starring
Clint Eastwood**

Spotted Owl News Ruffles Feathers

By Vince Haughey & Stephanie Mandel

Last month's announcement that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) agreed the Northern spotted owl was eligible for threatened status set off a flurry of reaction from the logging community and environmental groups.

The economies of communities throughout the Northwest are dependent on timber, and the perceived threat by the rare bird is added to other threats—declining timber supplies, competition from the South and Canada, and government trade policy.

"When they solve the spotted owl problem something else will pop up. It's a no-growth attitude," said Frank Stewart, manager of Marysville Forest Products, in a jab at environmentalists, who, through a lawsuit, pressured the F&WS to protect the owls.

Environmentalists dispute timber industry estimates that 132,000 to 280,000 jobs could be lost in the Northwest if the owl is listed under the Endangered Species Act. Both sides have aired viewpoints and advanced proposals in the past few weeks as the controversy over spotted owls soared to new heights, resembling and at the same time overshadowing the snail darter battle of the 1970s. The little fish merely threatened a dam (or was it the other way around?)—the owl has become a symbol to loggers that environmentalists seem to care more about a critter than about a region's economic survival.

To environmentalists, the Northern spotted owl is not just a bird but also an "indicator species": If the owl's habitat is protected then, theoretically, many other wildlife species in the same ecosystem also will thrive.

Responding to logging community fears, the National Audubon Society, The Wilderness Society, and others have advanced recommendations to strengthen the timber economy. Among these:

- shift more timber sales to second growth age classes (40-180 year-old trees) and to non-industrial private forest lands (which comprise about one-fifth of the commercial forest land base in the region).

- re-tool mills to handle smaller trees.

- increase domestic manufacturing of end products, such as dimension lumber and hardwood furniture. Many environmentalists and loggers feel that the government should move to limit raw log exports, rather than lift export restrictions, as President Bush has proposed.

- thin overstocked stands—there is a huge backlog needing thinning on national forest land.

Some other proposals advanced by loggers, as reported from the Sierra Cascade logging conference held in Redding this February, include:

- streamline the appeal process.

- delay changes proposed by the US

Forest Service in accounting and enforcement procedures.

- maintain the 25 percent of gross receipts that counties receive from federal timber sales.

Also, the industry has requested that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture review the Forest Service's spotted owl plan and refuse to approve it on grounds that the agency has not conducted an objective research program.

In the judicial arena, the owl listing news was followed by an important court set-back for old-growth forest habitat in western Oregon. A lawsuit brought against the Bureau of Land Management by the Oregon Natural Resources Council and others asked that logging be banned because the agency's timber management plans fail to protect adequately spotted owl habitat.

U.S. District Judge Helen Frye recently lifted a preliminary injunction that had stopped the logging of old-growth within 2.1 miles of spotted owl habitat, writing that appeals would have to be made case by case. Frye said her hands were tied by an amendment to a Congressional budget resolution that was pushed through by Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR).

Amidst all the flap over the F&WS decision, officials of the Klamath National Forest remain outwardly calm. They assert that any effect of the announcement will be small for at least a year, and that it is impossible now to gauge the decision's long-range effect. They also said that bird inventory and monitoring studies will continue for some time.

Brock Evans of the National Audubon Society said ancient forests "constitute a biological, recreational, and spiritual resource unmatched on this planet, which should be protected and not logged any further."

Environmentalists assert the Northwest should recognize it is facing a future less reliant on timber, and the record high cutting levels of 1980-85 are not sustainable nor environmentally wise.



Anza-Borrego

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In 1987 the park conducted a survey of its records and citations and took photos of damage. Of 650 citations in 1987, 82 percent were vehicle-related and 3/4 of those were to green-stickered vehicles. Serious levels of damage to soils, vegetation, wildlife, fossil records, and cultural artifacts, as well as enforcement problems were found.

It is not a small percentage of "bad apples causing the trouble," he contends. Based on field surveys, Jorgensen estimates that as many as 40 percent of the users leave established trails, of which there are 500 miles. Three-wheelers, quad-runners, dune buggies, and 2-wheeled motorcycles are the recreational vehicles excluded.

"There's too much attraction for vehicles built to go off road," Jorgensen says. Multiply the off-trail driving by hundreds of thousands of visitors, with only eight patrol rangers to cover the 600,000 acres, and the desert is in trouble, he says. "They're definitely the number one threat in this park... it shouldn't even be out for discussion."

The biggest problem areas of the park

are not the wilderness areas, but places where there is easier road access. Miles of roads run through the wilderness, however, as the boundaries were drawn to accommodate several major routes through the park. The tendency for leaving established trails had created some damage near Coyote Canyon, where a road cuts through the wilderness.

Ironically, Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area, a 25,000-acre ORV park, is located just east of Anza-Borrego. Yet the persistent desire of ORV users to use the state park for their sport has been characterized as an "obsession" by some observers.

The ultimate decision over the park's fate rests with the State Park & Recreation Commission, a governor-appointed body. The commission has maintained that it will wait until a master plan for the park is completed, which will take at least five years.

In the meantime, the park's ecosystem rests. Jorgensen says that with the ORV pressure off, some areas have recovered.

Life in the desert unfolds slowly, wondrously. The raging politics of the question of ORVs in Anza-Borrego fitfully evolves. "The battle is long from over," Jorgensen warns.

Groups Rally Against Appointees

George Bush's ecological sweet talk during the campaign was enough to win the election, but now it seems to be back to business as usual with his appointment of Cy Jamison to head the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and James Cason as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources (overseeing the Forest Service).

Both men are regarded as political clones of James Watt, and the major national conservation groups are urging U.S. Senators to vote against their confirmations to those posts.

Jamison worked in the Billings, Montana BLM office before becoming a top aide to Representative Ron Marlenee, one of the most anti-wilderness members of the House.

Cason, with his roots in real estate development in Oregon, served the Interior Department as a deputy to James Watt. Cason and Watt together were responsible for dropping hundreds of potential areas from BLM wilderness consideration because of technicalities.

Also while at Interior, Cason was directly linked to the weakening of oil, gas, and

coal mining regulations and to political interference that delayed the Fish and Wildlife Service from listing the Northern spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act. In a letter to president Bush in April, leaders of the nation's ten largest environmental groups accused Cason of "wanton insensitivity" to the environment.

The one outstanding environmental appointment that Bush has made—William Reilly to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

Wilderness Water Rights

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minimum stream flows would not impair the wilderness qualities of one of the few non-desert WSAs being recommended for wilderness status by the BLM in California.

CWC's 1987 appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals was denied, and the project was completed this year with the BLM proudly trumpeting the news in its California news magazine *Newsbeat*.

Now the Muck Valley Hydroelectric Project, as the Pit River diversion is called, is back for more of the Pit River. Requesting to amend the original license, they propose to construct an offstream reservoir along the diversion tunnel which would allow the project to store water for peak, concentrated surges of power.

In addition, the developer has requested permission from the State of California to divert another 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water. The project is now allowed to divert 700 cfs, and must leave a minimum stream flow of 50 cfs to preserve a minimum fishery within the WSA.

In response, last month the CWC and Friends of the River filed a motion with the federal licensing authority, the Federal En-

ergy Regulatory Commission, to oppose any further expansion of the Muck Valley project. The groups argued that the commission has an independent duty to consider the impact of any increased diversions on the wilderness character of the Pit River WSA, even if the BLM had abrogated its responsibility to preserve the area's wilderness values.

They further argued that any additional energy resulting from modifications to the project was unneeded, and that modifications to Muck Valley could not qualify for Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) benefits, which are likely to be essential to the success of the project. PURPA required PG&E to purchase power from the Muck Valley project for very high prices even if the energy was unneeded or available less expensively elsewhere. Stay tuned for more details.

To express your concerns about water in the Pit River Wilderness Study Area, write the BLM Susanville District Manager Rex Cleary at: Susanville District, P.O. Box 1090, Susanville, CA 96130.



Attention hikers: Lost backpack on Mt. Shasta

Lost during a fatal fall, the pack is probably blue in color and may have a small REI dome-type tent attached. Lost at approximately 12,500 feet on Hotlum Glacier, may have photos and a journal of the climb which would be very meaningful to family.

CALENDAR

June 3 - July 1 Soda Mountain Wilderness Hikes, free. Call the CWC at (916) 758-0380 for more information.

June 10 *Communications Tools for Environmentalists*, a conference sponsored by the CA Environmental Network. Workshops on media attention, the perfect PSA, power newsletters, TV interviewing, creating an issues-specific network, databases, corporate and foundation support for non-profit communications, and more; 9 am to 4:30 pm at the Pacific Bell Conference Facilities, 370 3rd Street, San Francisco; \$20 preregistration, \$30 at the door. To register or for more information call the California Environmental Network at (415) 488-4332.

June 15 DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS & suggestions on the Grider Fire Recovery Project Final EIS. The decision on this salvage logging operation on roadless lands will be issued after comments are reviewed (see article on page 5). Send comments to: Grider Fire Recovery Project, Oak Knoll Ranger District, 22541 Highway 96, Klamath River, CA 96050.

June 30 DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS on the Alder and Polk timber sales in the Lassen National Forest's Deer Creek Canyon. For more information, contact Steve Evans at (916) 442-3155.

July 30 - August 19 *Golden Trout Wilderness Workshops*, sponsored by members of the National Audubon Society; 3 1-week sessions featuring hikes led by resident naturalists. For details or reservations (recommended), write or call Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373, (714) 793-7897.

August 25-27 *Incentives for Better Forest Management*, a conference on Forest Service Reform, sponsored by CHEC; speakers Jerry Franklin, Chris Maser, Randal O'Toole, and others, old-growth forest tours. Camp Cascade, 40 miles east of Salem, OR. For more information, call (503) 686-2432 or write to CHEC, P.O. Box 3479, Eugene, OR 97403.

Requiem

By Joy Phillips

the trees whisper
near the edge
of the clearcut
careful
lest their noise
disturb the graveyard
awakening
the souls

Reprinted from the November 1988 *Local Endeavor*, published in North San Juan, CA.

Fill this space

We would like to expand our collection of black & white photographs of wilderness and roadless areas. If you would like to donate any prints or negatives to the CWC, they would be gratefully accepted. Please send to our address, on the front of this newsletter.



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: California Wilderness Coalition, 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, California 95616, (916) 758-0380

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COALITION MEMBER GROUPS

Focus: Citizens for Mojave National Park

Peter and Joyce Burk have been there since the beginning, when Citizens for Mojave National Park was formed as a bi-centennial project, July 4, 1976. Ten years it would take—that was what they heard—to get national park designation for their beloved desert.

While it hasn't happened yet, the Burks, both librarians in San Bernardino County, are confident that within a few years Congress will see the wisdom of preserving one-and-a-half million acres of the desert they love.

They have seen some progress in gaining protections for the desert, as when the "East Mojave National Scenic Area," the nation's first national scenic area, was declared in 1981. The designation resulted in some environmental protections, including a route change in the Barstow to Las Vegas motorcycle race.

The Burks have also seen some setbacks. Threats they have fought over the years come from mining, grazing, power lines, a microwave tower, and off-road vehicle use. The proposed Castle Mountain gold mine (see article on page 4) that would create a huge hole in the area proposed for the park, spurs them to keep working for a national park. "You just say: enough is enough. Let's work for some

real quality of life."

Since 1978 seven bills have been introduced in Congress to designate a Mojave National Park, sponsored by Representatives George Brown and Mel Levine, Senator Alan Cranston, and others. Some day, the small but resilient group believes, the park will be a reality and their bi-centennial celebration will be complete.

Citizens for Mojave National Park, P.O. Box 106, Barstow, CA 92312; (619) 256-9561.

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 California Native Plant Society; Sacramento Citizens Committee to Save Our Public Lands; Willits

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NCRCC Sierra Club; Santa Rosa People for Nipomo Dunes National Seashore; Nipomo Northcoast Environmental Center; Arcata N.E. Californians for Wilderness; Susanville Pasadena Audubon Society Peppermint Alert; Porterville Placer County Conserv. Task Force; Newcastle Planning and Conservation League; Sacramento Porterville Area Environmental Council Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club; Santa Rosa The Red Mtn. Association; Leggett Salmon Trollers Marketing Assn.; Ft. Bragg San Diego Chapter, Sierra Club Sea & Sage Audubon Soc.; Santa Ana Sierra Ass'n. for Environment; Fresno Sierra Treks; Ashland, OR Siskiyou Mtns. Resource Cncl.; Arcata Soda Mtns Wilderness Cncl.; Ashland, OR South Fork Watershed Ass'n.; Porterville Tulare County Audubon Soc.; Visalia U.C. Davis Environmental Law Society Western States Endurance Run; San Francisco The Wilderness Society; San Francisco Wintu Audubon Society; Redding Yolano Group, Sierra Club; Davis

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Peter Burk, Alan Cranston, and Joyce Burk at the 1985 California Wilderness Conference.

- Yes! I wish to become a member of the California Wilderness Coalition. Enclosed is \$ _____ for first-year membership dues.
- Here is a special contribution of \$ _____ to help the Coalition's work.

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