

Phil Farrell

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WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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January, 1991

The fifteen year Record

By Steve Evans

Editors are relentless. I guess it is a basic job requirement. After nonchalantly agreeing to write an article about the 15-year history of the *Wilderness Record*, I should have known that the *Record* editor would have tracked me down and held me to my commitment. She even hand delivered past issues from the archives.

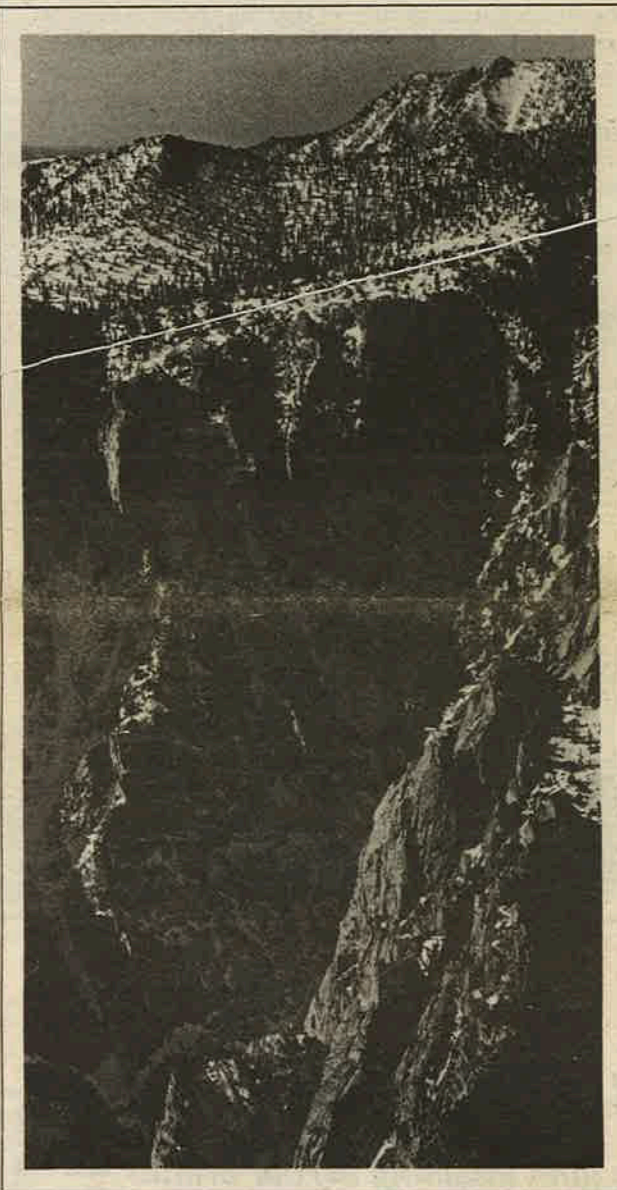
And so, with little more than a vague idea of how to create an article around this particular subject, I began to review the past issues. I was surprised with the familiar feeling of the articles. It seemed that little had changed in fifteen years—even the place names remained the same.

"Coalition Forms" was the front page headline of the March-April 1976 issue of the *Record*—volume 1, number 1 of the proceedings of the fledgling California Wilderness Coalition. In addition to the feature article on why the Coalition was formed, the four page tabloid was replete with articles concerning the wilderness issues of the day, including updates on Granite Chief, Big Butte, Siskiyou, Death Valley, Point Reyes, Pinnacles, and Yosemite. A short article noted that the coalition's first president, Jim Eaton, was on his way to Washington, D.C., to testify in support of California wilderness designations. Coalition Treasurer Bob Schneider authored a column on wilderness use and manners. The first eight member groups of the coalition were listed on the front page. With a slightly jarring feeling of *deja vu*, I was struck by the way all of the photos in the first issue failed to match any of the articles—a criticism I remembered from 15 years ago.

And yet, a deeper review of the *Record's* past issues shows that California's wilderness landscape has vastly changed. Yes, the wildland names remain the same (there are exceptions), but many are now officially designated wilderness (including five areas headlined in the first issue). The eight member groups have swelled to over 80. Old-timers such as Jim Eaton and Bob Schneider are still active, but many new people are becoming involved, with new issues and ideas. It is odd to realize that Bob and Jim were relative newcomers in 1976.

Although still retaining its tabloid format, the *Record* itself has changed. Largely due to the tenacious efforts of our editor, articles are solicited from many knowledgeable sources, with photographs to match. The *Record* is now published monthly instead of bi-monthly. More pages and well-designed format make it easier to read and more informative.

Things have, indeed, changed. And those changes were chronicled in the *Record*. In fact, the newsletter's first two years are largely an agenda for the next ten years



Featured in the first issue (March-April '76) of the WR, the Sierra Crest at Olancha Pass is now protected as the Golden Trout Wilderness. Photo by Phil Farrell

of wilderness conservation action.

The May-June 1976 issue of the *Record* noted the introduction of bills to designate wilderness lands in Joshua Tree National Monument and to add Mineral King, a glaciated valley ringed by mountains, to Sequoia National Park. That issue also included an insert on Forest Service planning—a precursor to the mind boggling process in which we are still embroiled. Activists were organizing to stop the expansion of downhill skiing on Mt. Shasta—a successful effort to date. Some readers debated the impact of brightly-colored outdoor gear on wilderness values. The Coalition established an interest in the California desert early on with an article about off-road vehicles damaging the wild values of the Eureka Dunes (which
continued on page 5

Habitat area logging cancelled

Spotted owl saves Snow Mtn. RA

To the delight of environmentalists, the Forest Service has eliminated from its plans the Fur Timber Sale on the boundary of the Snow Mountain Wilderness. On November 30 the Mendocino National Forest's Stonyford Ranger District sent out a notice that the sale was cancelled due to the area's designation as a northern spotted owl habitat conservation area (HCA).

Three thousand acres of proposed logging were to take place within roadless lands that were rejected by the Forest Service for inclusion in the wilderness area. Environmentalists were concerned that the logging would have had visible and audible impacts on the environment of the southern slopes of the West Peak of Snow Mountain, and that opportunity for expanding the wilderness would have been lost. The impacts of the logging on the South Fork of Stony Creek were also of concern, as environmentalists have proposed that it be studied for the Wild and Scenic River System.

Katherine Petterson, a local resident who had objected to the sale, believes that the Forest Service's decision to cancel its plans was not solely based on the owl HCA. "I think it was because of public pressure against the sale," she said. In an effort spearheaded by long-time wilderness activist Tom Maloney, who passed away in August 1990, people living in Willows and in Lake County had met with the Forest Service and expressed their opposition.

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COALITION PAGE

MONTHLY REPORT

Mother Nature made December a month to remember. Sometime in the next century when we hear someone complain of cold, we'll tell them what it was like during the great freeze way back in the winter of '90.

I believe that last night the low was 33°, thus ending two continual weeks of nighttime freezing temperatures. We picked and extracted the liquid from 60 pounds of frozen oranges hanging on our trees. The hope now is that the trees (including the tangerine, lemon, and kumquat) themselves survive.

Neighbors have remarked on how my cactus plants resemble Salvador Dali paintings as they drape themselves over fences, tree limbs, and the ground, taking on a fluid shape. Not since the freeze of '73 have the succulents taken such a hit.

This will lead to another generation who won't understand directions when we tell them to drive out to Cactus Corners and take a right. That nearby landmark froze 17 years ago and was just growing back into the local vernacular.

My garden took on a barren look as scores of sprouting bulbs sank into a translucent green mass and the broccoli and Chinese cabbage put a hold on their growth. It was a good thing I procrastinated about much of my plantings, so that the recently planted bulbs are still safe and warm in the soil.

But far be it from me to complain. Many of my neighbors suffered greater damage as water pipes burst after freezing. Tubes in solar collectors cracked, irrigation systems blew apart, and pipes in out-buildings shattered. Here in Village Homes, more than a dozen neighbors (mostly those on vacation who conserved energy by turning off their heat) had pipes freeze and break *inside* their homes. In some of these houses the damage to carpet, sheetrock, and personal possessions is staggering.

Global warming? Hard to believe. Then again, one freeze does not an Ice Age make. Most of the

BY JIMEATON

country probably can't believe what we call an unprecedented freeze: "It only got down to 18° above zero? It doesn't get that warm here all winter," I'm sure I'd hear from Montana.

But perhaps more importantly, it continues to be dry. Last year we had some early rains and then a completely dry December. Yet on January 3rd, our rainfall total (from July 1) was 6.58 inches, exactly the average rainfall for the date. This year we have received but 2.5 inches.

This is bad news when we think of the drought stressed plants and animals that may have to endure another parched summer. It will mean another tough environmental year as the Forest Service proposes to log additional "dead, dying, and associated" trees. (It never pays to hang around dead and dying trees—they'll chop you as well!). It will mean more clamor for dams, canals, and other water development schemes. Rain dances are in order.

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What roadless area received the greatest number of personal letters during RARE II?

Answer on page 7.

Wilderness Primer, Part VIII

The RARE II Inventory

After the first Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE), the U.S. Forest Service attempted to develop many roadless areas throughout the country. Stopped by a Sierra Club lawsuit, the Forest Service agreed out-of-court to complete site-specific environmental impact statements (EIS) for *each* area proposed for development.

By 1976 Coalition activists were monitoring 92 EISs (covering 253 roadless areas) scheduled for completion in the following three years. Conservationists were attending public meetings, commenting on EISs, and winning appeals that stopped Forest Service development plans. In Congress, 25 bills to designate various California areas as wilderness were working their way through committees.

Shortly after Jimmy Carter became President, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Rupert Cutler announced that the Forest Service would redo the roadless area review. The restudy, eventually called RARE II (although some liked Son of RARE), began in June 1977.

Many roadless areas were missed in RARE I, such as the 71,250-acre Raymond Peak Roadless Area, much of which later was added to the Mokeiumne Wilderness. The Inyo and Los Padres national forests shared the record (30 each) for the most newly discovered roadless areas. The San Bernardino found 23 more and the Modoc an additional 20. In all of California, 190 new roadless areas totalling 2.8 million acres were "discovered" in RARE II.

In the summer of 1977 the Forest Service held sixteen wilderness evaluation workshops in California for citizens to see what they had identified as roadless areas and to comment on the inventory. By the following summer, the Forest Service released a nationwide draft EIS covering some 2,000 roadless areas totaling 62 million acres.

Since the RARE II program had no on-site analysis or new data gathering, it put speed ahead of thoroughness. In many cases the data for timber values and other resources was old and unreliable; much of it was expressed in terms of "maximum potential" values based on unrealistic assumptions. Wilderness values were summarized in a "Wilderness Attributed Rating System" (known as WARS) that was open to the biases of individual Forest Service personnel. There was no field review of data and virtually no national quality control.

After a three-month public comment period for the draft EIS, the Forest Service began working on their recommendations. Only 18 months after beginning RARE II, the final EIS was released.

Conservationists were outraged. Only 13 percent of the roadless acreage in California was recommended for wilderness designation. Over 600,000 acres were dropped from the RARE II process altogether, with no explanation. The boundaries of many areas were altered without public notification.

Also criticized was Forest Service trickery concerning the method of analyzing public comment. Although originally stating that the "content" and "substance" of comments would bear more consideration than sheer numbers, the Forest Service gave as much weight to form letters, petitions, and coupons as they did to original, personal letters. The total number of signatures for or against wilderness designation was used as a criterion in the final decision, although many of these signatures appeared on timber industry coupons on which the respondent merely checked a box stating that he or she preferred "non-wilderness" for all roadless areas in a particular national forest.

Next: *The State of California v. RARE II*

Help us celebrate...

CWC's 15th Birthday!

— A lighthearted evening honoring (and laughing at) our origins —

With special guests Martin Litton and David Brower



February 2, 1991

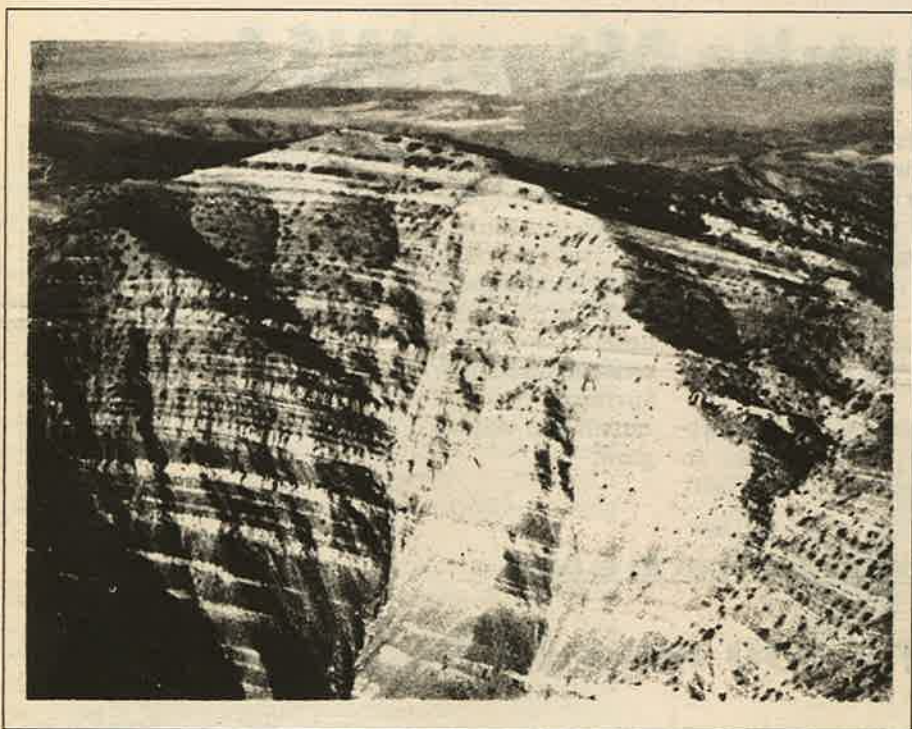
7:00 pm

Village Homes
Community Center,
Davis, California

Admission: donation, \$25
Drinks and hors d'oeuvres included



Roadless areas



This dramatic canyon is seen from the view northwest to Caliente Peak, in the Caliente Mountain Wilderness Study Area. Photo by Bureau of Land Management

BLM eyes Caliente Mtn. WSA for oil and gas

The Caliente Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA), near eastern San Luis Obispo County's Carrizo Plains, is being eyed for oil and gas exploration. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced plans to complete an environmental analysis (EA) for oil and gas leasing in this sensitive area by the end of January.

The announcement came as a surprise to local environmentalists, who are recommending that a large portion of the WSA be designated wilderness. In recent months, representatives of the CWC and Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club met with BLM officials in an effort to avoid conflicts and accommo-

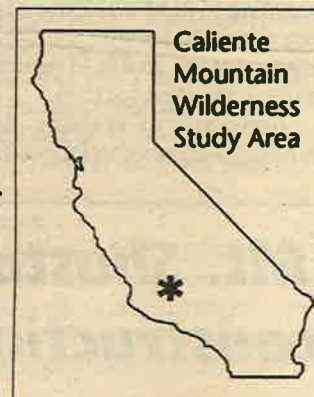
date concerns over the wilderness recommendation.

Bob Barnes, a member of the CWC Board of Directors, said "The proposed Caliente Wilderness, part of our San Joaquin Rim wilderness proposal, would be a perfect designation for a portion of the Carrizo Plains biological reserve."

The Carrizo Plains area is home to the greatest concentration of rare and endangered vertebrates in California. Tule elk, pronghorn, and sandhill cranes are among the species in residence in this unique place.

Barnes points out that protecting the canyons of the Caliente Mtn. WSA as wilderness would protect the transition zone from 5,106-foot Caliente Peak down to the plains.

Following its completion, a 30-day comment period for the public will be provided to review the draft oil and gas leasing EA. Questions, comments, or requests for a copy of the EA may be directed to Jack Mills or Carl Rountree, BLM, 2800 Cottage Way, Rm. E-2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4722.



Local environmentalists want San Joaquin RA off limits

Compared to the popular Sierra Crest trails, the San Joaquin Roadless Area, east of the Minarets, is quite remote. But environmentalists have not forgotten this 21,214-acre stretch between Mammoth and June mountains, and are protesting a Forest Service logging proposal that may include part of the eastern edge of the area.

The Inyo National Forest plan, published in 1988, prescribed that timber be cut on the eastern edge of the San Joaquin. A number of environmental groups appealed the decision to allow logging in the San Joaquin Roadless Area, contending that it should be designated wilderness, possibly by adding it to the adjacent Ansel Adams Wilderness. Marge Sill, a Sierra Club federal lands expert, believes any logging in this controversial area should await resolution of the appeal. Sill says, "We claimed in our appeal that just to drop these roadless areas arbitrarily is not right. We're very unhappy about what I consider to be a premature proposal."

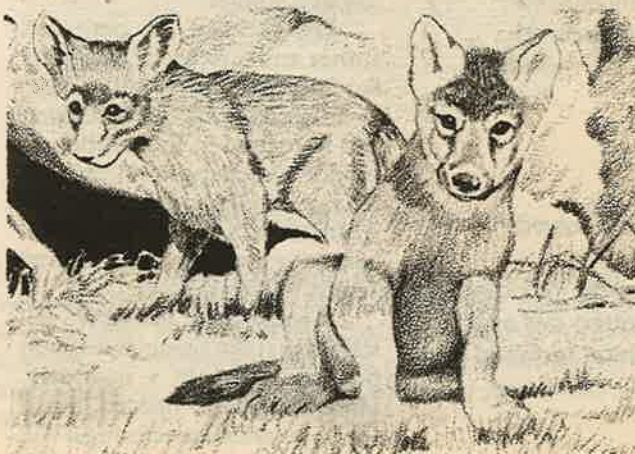
The San Joaquin Roadless Area was recognized in a 1980 study as an important corridor for biological interchange. An additional concern with the proposed logging is its potential impacts on Glass Creek, which is being considered for Wild and Scenic River status.

Local environmentalists are urging the Forest Service at least to fully consider the impacts of the proposed logging by completing an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the sale, rather than a less comprehensive environmental assessment (EA).

Bill Bramlette, Mono Lake District's Ranger, claims that only a "very small portion" of the proposed sale is in the roadless area. He also hints that some of the roadless area lands in the sale area may be set aside from logging as part of the district's old-growth reserve. Such reserves are being required for all California national forests, and Bramlette plans to announce soon what old-growth in his district will be left unlogged.

But the determination of what areas to include in the reserve will not be open to public debate. The old-growth, or "seral stage 4," inventory is being conducted by Forest Service wildlife biologists—"trained people," Bramlette says, elaborating that "it really is just a professional process." Sally Miller of Friends of the Inyo disagrees with this behind-the-scenes decision-making, however, saying that "designation of old-growth is an issue of national concern."

Issues and concerns on the timber sales (in the Hartley, White Wing, and Glass Creek compartments) will be accepted for consideration in the environmental assessment until the end of January, Bramlette told the *Wilderness Record*. Send to: District Ranger, Mono Lake Ranger District, P.O. Box 429, Lee Vining, 93541.



Motorcycle group's appeal thrown out

By Sally Miller

On December 12, 1990 District 37 of the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) appealed Inyo National Forest District Ranger JoEllen Kiel's Decision Notice for the Inyo 250 Dual Sport Motorcycle Ride environmental assessment (EA). Kiel's October notice had prohibited access through the Inyo Mountains and the Crooked Creek drainage in the White Mountains to California Trail Rides, the promoter of the off-road vehicle event. (See article in December WR.) The participants in the ride defied Forest Service restrictions by partaking in a "protest ride" along the forbidden routes on November 10-11.

The appeal by the AMA contended that the EA did not consider an adequate range of alternatives and was based on assumptions unsubstantiated by data. The AMA also claimed that the decision notice "demonstrates an abuse of administrative discretion against a unique group."

Friends of the Inyo requested intervenor status in the appeal. However, on January 3, 1991, Forest Supervisor Dennis Martin dismissed the appeal on the grounds that the new EA and Decision Notice, requested by the appellants, is moot since the ride already occurred. The AMA may still request a review of Martin's decision by the Regional Office.

California Trail Rides has already filed an application for a special use permit to conduct the 1991 Inyo 250 Dual Sport ride on October 5-6. The Forest Service will conduct public scoping this spring, and expects the EA to be completed by May, giving ample time for the appeals process to run its course.

Headlines

Bulldozer invades Jacumba Mtns. WSA

Making his rounds in early December, a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ranger discovered bulldozer tracks, a large cleared area, a pile of dirt, and damaged vegetation in the Sulphur Springs area of the Jacumba Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in Imperial County. Following the tracks to a nearby residence, the ranger issued a citation to a man who admitted he had done the excavation that same day. The perpetrator, according to BLM Wilderness Specialist Lynn Watkins, has been agreed to reclaim the site. He is also subject to a fine in federal court, and BLM requested his identity be withheld pending the court action.

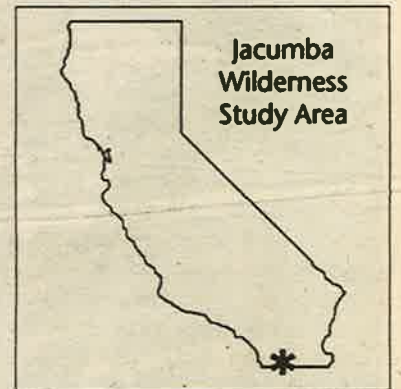
According to Watkins, the problem began when a four-wheel drive vehicle became stuck in a sandy spot near

the access road to the springs, which is an approved route of travel. The driver of the stuck vehicle sought the nearest help, and the man with the bulldozer obliged; afterwards deciding to see if there was water in the spring and construct a swimming hole. A sign identifies the area as a WSA, warning that certain activities may be restricted—contact the BLM for information. The extent of the excavation was about 25 feet across and four or five feet deep, with the resulting material spread in a low linear mound about 120 feet long.

The reclamation plan calls for putting the dirt back and replanting some vegetation. It is awaiting review at the District Manager's office in Riverside, and BLM offi-

cials say they will work with the perpetrator to complete the job this winter.

The Jacumba WSA contains about 33,000 acres, and is desert, except in areas such as Sulphur Springs, where cattails and willows grow.



Mt. Shasta ski area construction okayed

Construction of the controversial Mount Shasta ski area was approved by Shasta-Trinity Supervisor Robert Tyrrel in mid-December. Environmentalists who oppose the project had slowed it for seven years with administrative appeals, but Tyrrel announced that no appeals of the most recent environmental documents would be accepted. With the right to appeal denied, court is the only recourse for the opponents, a representative of whom said that "litigation is a definite possibility."

If there is no intervention, construction could begin next spring. Preliminary road construction and land clearing was begun two years ago, but was halted during the appeals process.

Catch 22 lands old-growth mammal in a bind

Pacific fisher—too rare to be protected?

By Tim McKay

The Pacific fisher is so rare that there is not enough information available on the mammal to justify listing it as an endangered species.

That is the unusual logic of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) in its response to a petition, filed last June by the Northcoast Environmental Center and other groups, to list the weasel-like animal under the Endangered Species Act.

The agency said insufficient information exists on the arboreal animal's habitat requirements—or the threats that the species faces. However, it will form a scientific

be increasingly difficult to even find fishers to confirm the trend.

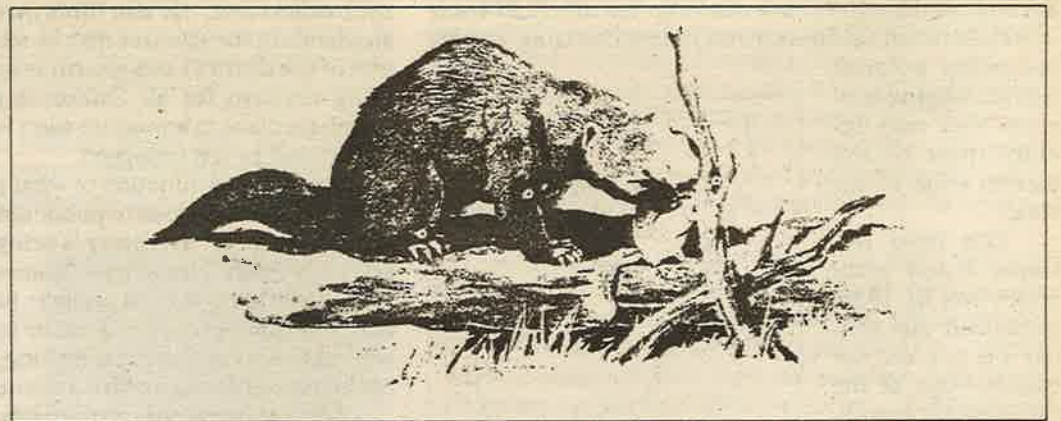
One of a family of animals, called the Mustelidae, which includes otters, martens, skunks, wolverines and weasels, fishers are predatory and are even known to prey on porcupine. Females weigh about five pounds and males up to 14 pounds.

The F&WS says little evidence exists that fishers prefer mature and old-growth coniferous forests, "although the petitioners provided strong evidence that such habitat has

Forest planning

National forest	Year final plan issued	Status of appeals **appealed by CWC
Angeles	1987	unresolved
Cleveland	1986	unresolved
Eldorado	1988	unresolved**
Inyo	1988	unresolved**
Klamath	*draft being rewritten	
Lake Tahoe Basin Mgmt. Unit	1988	unresolved**
Lassen	final due out in 1991	
Los Padres	1987	unresolved
Mendocino	*draft being rewritten	
Modoc	final due out in 1991	
Plumas	1988	unresolved**
San Bernardino	1988	unresolved
Sequoia	1988	CWC withdrew
Shasta-Trinity	*draft being rewritten	
Sierra	final due out in 1991	
Six Rivers	*draft being rewritten	
Stanislaus	draft out Nov. 1990	
Tahoe	1990	unresolved**

* These draft plans needed to be rewritten for various reasons, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's listing of the northern spotted owl as a threatened species. The mandate to protect the bird's habitat required changes in land use prescriptions and timber sale plans.



The Pacific fisher

Fisher tracks>

panel to evaluate and design research studies.

Eric Beckwitt, the petition's author and director of the Sierra Biodiversity Project, said studies of fisher populations do exist, and were used in the petition to support the proposition that the animal is dependent on old-growth forests (including a seven-year-long study on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest).

A spokesman for F&WS admitted that the agency's decision puts the fisher in a quandary. More studies are needed, but if the population is declining it will

declined substantially because of logging in the three Pacific states."

Co-petitioners include the National Audubon Society, seven local Audubon chapters, California Wilderness Coalition, Greater Ecosystem Alliance, and Oregon Natural Resources Council.

Reprinted from the December 1990 issue of *Econews*, monthly publication of the Northcoast Environmental Center.



Wilderness management

Forest Service gets help with wilderness education

The following article was reprinted from Wilderness Watcher, published by Wilderness Watch in Milltown, Montana.

Wilderness education received a boost on August 23, 1990, when Wilderness Watch joined in a cost-share contract with the U.S. Forest Service to begin a wilderness education program. The program seeks to change the face of wilderness management from regulatory and punitive to preventative. The contract calls for the Forest Service to establish an Education Resource Specialist for each participating national forest, and for Wilderness Watch to send a team of trainers to help these specialists develop the skills necessary to identify and educate the wilderness-using public, primarily user groups.

Wilderness Watch believes that wilderness users do not go to the wilderness with the intention of degrading that irreplaceable resource. It is out of ignorance that damage and degradation occurs. But, short of heavy-handed regulation and enforcement, how can managing agencies alter the behavior of wilderness users? Education is the primary means of accomplishing this objective. However, that education must be timely. That is, it must occur prior to the visitor's entrance into the wilderness,

and it must be consistent and continuous.

Out of this understanding Wilderness Watch has developed a program that will enable managers to find the people who use the wilderness before they get to the

resource. People visiting wildernesses have a variety of expectations and use a variety of methods to meet their expectations. They believe that the "typical" wilderness user does not exist. But there are some basics to a wilderness ethic that anyone can understand. Objectives can be modified, but the resource cannot.

Wilderness Watch is in the process of choosing—from 64 applicants—its training team for the 1991 training sessions. So far 18 national forests have requested the program, including the Central Southern Sierra Interagency Wilderness Managers. This affiliation includes the Inyo, Sequoia, Sierra, Stanislaus, and Toiyabe national forests, Sequoia-Kings Canyon and Yosemite national parks, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Wilderness Watch is still raising matching funds for the program. If you can help with a donation, would like to know more about the program, or are interested in having it come to your wilderness, contact Bobbie Hoe c/o Wilderness Education Program, P.O. Box 127, Milltown, MT, 59851, (406) 542-2048.



The Wilderness Record—a look back 15 years

continued from page 1

would eventually be closed to ORV use). About half of the photos matched the articles.

The July-August 1976 issue announced the introduction of the Endangered American Wilderness Act, which included several areas in California—most notably the Golden Trout Wilderness. Another desert article is featured and a new issue crops up—the state wilderness review for state park lands. Member groups of the coalition grew to 15, including the Northstate Wilderness Committee (a group formed by myself and six others who have since moved on to Alaska, Vermont, Arizona and other points of the compass). One of the members of the committee, Sami Izzo, is featured in a photo taken at a wilderness activists workshop. She would later relocate to Vermont but be instrumental in lobbying Congress for protection of the Ishi Wilderness.

The September-October 1976 issue increased the tendency to match photos with articles. Unfortunately, my opportunity for early fame was lost when my photo credit failed to appear with the front page picture of one of my fellow Northstate Wilderness Committee members disgustedly surveying jeep tracks in the High Lakes area of the Lassen National Forest. Oh well. The big feature of this issue is a special insert on the Siskiyou, with magnificent photographs probably taken by Dave Van de Mark (but since no credit is given, he and I share editorial oblivion).

The November-December 1976 issue celebrated the passage of wilderness legislation which protected more than 2.6 million acres in California, including Joshua Tree, Kaiser Ridge, Pinnacles, and Pt. Reyes. Sheep Mountain and Snow Mountain are designated study areas. This issue also featured an eight-page insert on the California desert. Ten years later, Senator Alan Cranston introduced legislation to protect this vast area. Was there a connection?

The first issue of our second year (January-February 1977) included a recap of our first year and a plug for joining the Coalition ("Members Are Important," it says on the front page). Articles featured attempts to block enlargement of a dam and reservoir in the proposed Carson Iceberg Wilderness (later to prove unsuccessful—

the dam was enlarged and the wilderness shrunk) and a downhill ski resort proposed for Independence Lake by Disney Productions (we won that one).

I have a special attachment to the March-April 1977

Excerpt from the July-August, 1977 issue of the Record

The California Wilderness Coalition is taking a giant leap forward by hiring its first employees. Two half-time positions were filled in June.

Julie Sullivan is the Coalition's office coordinator. She has an A.B. from Yale in Chinese, which will be handy for evaluating Forest Service environmental impact statements...Our executive officer is Phil Farrell...

We are too embarrassed to mention their salaries—it comes out of petty cash. This will be corrected as soon as possible. We want to bring them up to poverty level, at least.

Later issues in 1977 announced the passage of the Endangered American Wilderness Act, which protected the Golden Trout Wilderness, Ventana additions, and Santa Lucia wilderness area. Also introduced in the Record in 1977 was the initiation of the now infamous Forest Service Roadless Area Review Evaluation (RARE) II program which would lead to passage of the California Wilderness Act in 1984.

And so it goes—a record of 15 years of wilderness preservation. But some things truly never change. There is so much more to do.

Steve Evans has served as President of the CWC Board of Directors since 1983 and has been on the Board since 1977.

wilderness record

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

Vol. 1 Date: March-April 1977 No. 1

COALITION FORMS



Wild Lands Threatened

Wilderness in California is seriously threatened by long-term land use decisions... The Coalition will continue to work for the protection of wilderness areas...

Wild Lands Threatened

Wilderness in California is seriously threatened by long-term land use decisions... The Coalition will continue to work for the protection of wilderness areas...

CWC Member Groups

- California Wilderness Coalition (CWC)
Central Southern Sierra Interagency Wilderness Managers
Golden Trout Wilderness Committee
Northstate Wilderness Committee
Siskiyou Wilderness Committee
Ventana Wilderness Committee

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issue, not only because it says March-April twice on the masthead, but I am mentioned on the front page as a newly elected member of the Coalition board (a "fifth" member). This issue also featured a major insert on the state wilderness program. Suddenly, every photo had a credit.

CWC's origins

"Our attitude was, 'Let's not develop any more wilderness, period.'"

Phil Farrell was one of the founders of the California Wilderness Coalition

WR: What inspired the CWC founders to get together to form a new organization?

PF: Those of us who started it were all late '60s college students who had been active on various college campuses in environmental politics. We knew each other through the Sierra Club, mostly, so we'd met each other at meetings. The five of us (Farrell, Jeff Barnickol, Jim Eaton, Don Morrill, and Bob Schneider) and some others had a feeling that the existing environmental organizations, particularly the Sierra Club, which has this grassroots structure, were just not putting enough emphasis on these wilderness issues. And furthermore, we thought that some of the people who were in leadership positions were not



Phil Farrell and Larry Kolb

radical enough.

The thing that made us impatient with the existing leadership was that we saw the timber industry and the mining industry and the regulators in the Forest Service accelerating their impacts. That's how it looked anyway, and it looked very fearsome. And so we felt that the existing structures weren't geared up for that. It was time to stop saying, "Let's pick out the few areas of wilderness



Tom Jopson, the first editor of the *Wilderness Record*

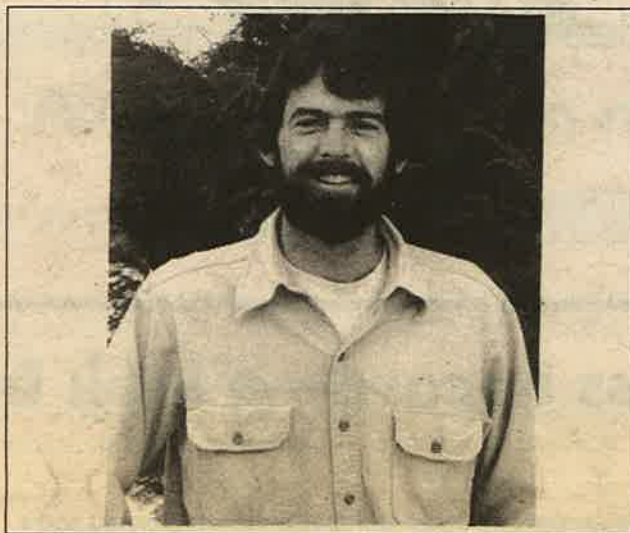
that are the best and preserve them." Our attitude was, "Let's not develop any more wilderness, period."

WR: Did the CWC gather support quickly?

PF: It was a lot of work—I was surprised, actually. We were going to start a newspaper because Jim and I and

others had been collecting lots of information so we could start spreading the word, and it was going to be a really great cause, right? And so we figured that everybody would just sign up immediately, right? Well, you know, it was a real slow process to develop a membership, both individuals and groups. It took several years to build up a solid membership base. I guess we were a little naive about that. We were printing 5,000 copies of the *Record* when we had a membership of 100. Of course, we were completely unknown, and it's always risky to get involved with a new group.

I don't think any of us really thought it was going to



Don Morrill

last this long. Personally, I wasn't thinking this long-term. We were inspired a lot by the grassroots organizing in Oregon. They'd started an Oregon Wilderness Coalition that had been going for several years before we started CWC...

We were thinking, how can we get these little groups, these little five person committees in some small town up in rural California—or somebody that was concerned with one particular area—how can we get them more organized with each other so they get more resources to work on their issue and so they can support each other. That was one of the real reasons for doing this. I think Jim had the idea that it would be nice to help nurture these groups and get them started.

Certainly one idea was that if you had this umbrella group, one of the things you could do is help these people hear about each other.

WR: What do you consider were the group's strong points at the time?

PF: We had a lot of energy. I was working on this full time as a volunteer. Jim was also working on the CWC full time, although he also had a paying position with The Wilderness Society; he was trying to merge the two. Bob



Bob Schneider

Schneider was also putting a lot of energy into it.

I think the other thing that was a strong point was having this vision, an uncompromising stance. We thought at the time what needed to be done was to radicalize the issue, to make it a more stark and powerful issue and not keep it hidden in the back rooms—to make people aware that every little piece of wilderness was important, that the whole idea of wilderness was really important. In talking to people from the Forest Service, Park Service, and timber industry, I think they were a little surprised, initially at least, when we would put a lot of energy into defending some very small fragment of roadless area somewhere. From their point of view, why bother? There are no lakes or trails there, and nobody goes there, so why's it so important? We were trying to say that it is important, we don't even have to know anything about it to know that it's important. Although we didn't really think that we could save them all, it was worth trying, and it was worth trying to put it in those terms. It was wilderness as a system we were trying to save, not any particular spot. I think having that type of philosophy really helps; it's more of a long-term philosophy.

The other thing that was important, and I credit Jim with this, was that you need to nurture people at the grassroots. You can't have somebody at the top telling the people down below what to do; the people at the top really have to be helping the people down below, because the ones below are the ones who really care. There's no way that five people or ten could do all the work that needs to be done—to go to all the meetings, to badger all the decision-makers, to generate all the public interest. We tried having some educational workshops very early on, to try and educate people about the processes the Forest Service and Congress went through. We tried to get them to know each other, to bring them together. I think that's also been a strength of the Sierra Club, which also has a very strong grassroots component.

WR: Any advice for the group's future?

PF: I like the idea of putting a lot of energy into the newsletter. I think we're going to have to address more, in coming years, the management issues, things like these mountain bikes.

I think one thing that the CWC could emphasize...is to be able to do more overall research, finding out the information on a broader scale and getting that out to people. Another thing would be trying to reach a broader audience.

Other than that, there seems to be more of the same; 15 years later there's still the same kinds of issues going on and the same kinds of efforts needed.



Jim Eaton

New projects

CWC to bring home wilderness

Why would five hikers out for a day in the wilderness carry 85 pounds of metal six or seven miles cross-country into the Cache Creek basin?

Nancy Kang, CWC's office co-ordinator, and Executive Director Jim Eaton have embarked on an exciting new wilderness conservation project. They plan to capture Cache Creek and other prime wilderness candidate areas on videotape and distribute the images to build public support for their protection.

The new project is made possible by Nancy and Jim's enthusiasm and a unique Davis non-profit organization, Davis Community Television. The cable T.V. station offers inexpensive video classes and the use of its equipment to locals who agree to make videos for DCTV cable viewing.

Nancy and Jim spent about 30 hours each in training to use the expensive cameras, editing equipment, etc., needed to make videos. Extra training was required to take cameras out of the studio—an obvious requirement for wilderness taping.

With the basic skills acquired, Nancy and Jim look forward to the creative challenges ahead.

"We'll be going out to Cache Creek over the next six months to capture the area during different seasons. Meanwhile, we plan to produce programs on environmental troubadours Bill Oliver and Glenn Waldek and on the CWC's 15th Anniversary Party."

Interviews are also contemplated, and ideas from members are welcomed.

Thanks to volunteers Sherry Brown, Eric Knapp, and Jen Wachter for carrying equipment for the Cache Creek taping.



CWC T-Shirts!

The animal design that Mary (right) is wearing is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige and light gray for \$12. John is wearing our anniversary shirt; it has no less than six colors and comes in light blue, yellow, light green, and peach, for \$15. All the shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton. To order, use the form on page 8.



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 17 DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS on the Bishop Resource Management Plan and EIS, covering BLM lands east of the southern Sierra Nevada. Send to: Area Manager, BLM, 787 N. Main St., Suite P, Bishop, CA 93514.

January 31 SCOPING COMMENTS DUE on timber sales proposed for the Hartley, White Wing, and Glass Creek compartments of the Inyo National Forest. Send to: District Ranger, Mono Lake Ranger District, P.O. Box 429, Lee Vining, CA 93541. (Article on page 3.)

February 28 SCOPING COMMENTS DUE on the South Fork of the Trinity Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and EIS. Send to: Karyn L. Wood, District Ranger, Hayfork Ranger District, P.O. Box 159, Hayfork, CA 96041. For more information contact Bob Hawkins or Gail Tanaka at (916) 628-5227.

March 8-10 FRIENDS OF THE RIVER CONFERENCE AND FESTIVAL, "Making Waves," at Dominican College in San Rafael. Non-profit organizations wishing to set up a booth should contact Frank Coppel, Exhibitor Chair, at F.O.R., Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C, San Francisco, CA 94123.

Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

from page 2

A total of 1,969 personal letters commented on the Siskiyou Roadless Area with 87 percent in favor of wilderness designation.



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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