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# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

ISSN 0194-3030

Vol. 16, No. 8

2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5 Davis, CA 95616

August, 1991



View north from Aquila Peak (Five Fingers) on the eastern edge of Owens Peak WSA in the California Desert Conservation Area. Photo by Pete Yamagata

## Desert's day in the sun

By Norbert Riedy

Representatives Mel Levine (D-Santa Monica) and Richard Lehman (D-Fresno) joined together on July 17 to introduce a House companion bill to Senator Alan Cranston's Desert Protection Act. "The logjam is broken," announced Rep. Levine, "The California Desert's day in Congress has finally come."

Rep. Lehman, chairman of the House Subcommittee on General Oversight and California Desert Lands, stated on introducing the bill, "I have made protection of the desert a priority."

The bill, H.R. 2929, parallels the Cranston proposal in its expansion of Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments and its redesignation of the areas as national parks. H.R. 2929 also would designate 77 new wilderness areas covering over 4.4 million acres of land to be administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The legislation also would create a new Mojave National Monument to be administered by the National Park Service.

This new proposal is a compromise compared to earlier versions in several ways. Rather than designating the Mojave a national park, as Senator

*continued on page 5*

## Sespe critical to fate of Los Padres wilderness bill

By Steve Evans

Some of the most extensive wildlands remaining in California may soon gain partial protection by way of legislation pending in Congress that target the Los Padres National Forest. Two bills adding almost 400,000 acres of the forest to the National Wilderness Preservation System and designating nearly 200 miles of free flowing streams as National Wild and Scenic Rivers, are now under consideration by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The House bill, introduced by Representative Robert Lagomarsino (R-Ventura), is titled the Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act. Co-sponsored by Representatives Gallegly, Panetta, and Thomas of California, H.R. 2556 is already under consideration by the House National Parks and Public Land Subcommittee.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

hearings are expected to be scheduled sometime in October for S. 1225, a similar bill co-sponsored by Senators Alan Cranston and John Seymour.

Encompassing the rugged coast range from Monterey County to Ventura County, the Los Padres National Forest is a vestige of truly wild California. Areas in Los Padres proposed for wilderness designation include Sespe, Chumash, Garcia, Silver Peak, Matilija, Ventana additions, and San Rafael additions. Rivers proposed for Wild and Scenic designation include Sespe Creek, Sisqouc River, and Big Sur River. In addition, the Little Sur River, Lopez Creek, Matilija Creek, and Piru Creek would be designated for Wild and Scenic study. (See table, page 6, for acreage and mileage details.)

The principal difference between the House and Senate bills is also the primary reason why similar legislation failed to pass in the last Congress. H.R. 2556 designates

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# COALITION PAGE

## MONTHLY REPORT

BY JIM EATON

Last year Wendy had a conference in Durango, Colorado, so we took a long backpack in the South San Juan Wilderness. This year the conference was in Honolulu, so we visited Hawaii's two wilderness areas—in Hawaii Volcanos and Haleakawa national parks.

I briefly visited these parks twelve years ago when I was the California/Hawaii representative of the Wilderness Society. The volcano was quiet back then, and it rained for three days on me in Maui.

This time was different. Pele was active and the weather cooperated.

We often talk about how once wilderness is destroyed, it can never be created. On the whole this is true, since the plants and animals in the area lost may be gone forever. But in Hawaii, things are a little different.

Our first example of Mother Nature striking back was when the end of the Chain of Craters Road abruptly disappeared under a lava flow just 18 months old. We hiked across the pahoehoe to the Waha'ula Heiau (Temple of the Red Mouth), the foremost temple for human sacrifice in the islands. Built on a slight knoll, the heiau survived the recent lava flow, but all that remained of the park service's visitor center were a few twisted girders and some cinders.

As the sun sank into the western sea, we reached the cliffs where molten lava challenged the ocean. Liquefied rock, red- to white-hot, poured and dribbled into the Pacific. The high surf briefly would cover the sputtering, blistering brew, but soon the wind blew away the steam to reveal new ground risen from the bowels of the earth. Occasionally rafts of glowing lava would break away and, surprisingly, float on waves. For hours I stood mesmerized on the edge of the cliff watching the spectacle just 50 feet below me.

In the short run, geologically speaking, Pele

adds new land to Hawaii. In the long run Namakaokaha'i, her sea goddess sister, erodes away this new rock.

There was another example of Mother Nature restoring wilderness on the Big Island. In 1975 an earthquake dropped part of the Crater View Road into the Kilauea caldera. The road was rerouted and the jungle is recapturing portions of the old road. Nature bats last.

On Maui, we spent three days backpacking in the crater of Haleakala, the House of the Sun. The dry, sandy terrain reminded me more of the California desert than a tropical isle. There was strangely little vegetation in the dormant volcano, and the parched watercourses were not expected. The sandy trails reminded me alternately of the beach and Oregon's Kitty Litter (Three Sisters) Wilderness.

We did meet an endangered species. At each campsite we were greeted by nene, Hawaiian geese. Perhaps their tameness has been a factor in their decline.

There was a major downside to the visit to the islands. Helicopters. During the day in the national parks, there was a nearly continuous blap-blap-blap of whirlybirds taking affluent tourists closer to the wilds. It was quite annoying.

There also was the issue of naturalness. Island ecosystems are extremely vulnerable to invasion by exotic species and Hawaii is a textbook example. Most of the colorful flowers there are escaped aliens; feral pigs, goats, rabbits, mongoose, rats, and mosquitos have taken their toll on native species. It is an ecologist's nightmare; it is depressing to realize how many of the endangered species in our country are on these small islands.

Nevertheless, Hawaii is a fascinating and beautiful place to visit.

Next August, Wendy's conference is in Baltimore. I told her to have a good time without me.

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

What is the smallest Wilderness Study Area in California recommended by the BLM for wilderness designation?

Answer on page 7.



### Wilderness Primer, Part XII

## Interim Management

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) wilderness program, recently submitted by the President to Congress after a 15-year review, has a mechanism for protecting lands under study until Congress makes a final determination for each area. The 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires the Secretary of the Interior "...to manage such lands according to his authority so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness..."

To receive interim management, an area first had to be identified as a Wilderness Study Area (WSA). This occurred early in the study process. Although the inventory of wild lands was fairly complete in the California desert, significant areas were missed in the rest of the state, such as Cahto Peak in Mendocino County.

As might be expected, Interior Secretaries James Watt and Donald Hodel developed interim management guidelines that allowed for mining, grazing, off-road vehicle races, and other destructive projects in WSAs. These activities were allowed on the theory that the WSAs would recover by the time BLM's recommendations were sent to Congress.

Now that the deadline is here, interim management requirements are stricter. With some exceptions, activities such as grazing or mining whose impacts could be mitigated only by recontouring of topography, replacement of topsoil, or restoration of plant communities are prohibited. The newer guidelines now cover three types of actions that may occur in a WSA:

**Discretionary actions**—actions that require reclamation are not to be approved. Impacts must be substantially unnoticeable in the WSA upon completion of the activity. Examples of activities that may be allowed include:

- construction of temporary structures which can be removed easily and immediately upon wilderness designation,
- issuance of Special Recreation Use Permits which would result in little or no physical evidence of the activity,
- maintenance of existing range improvements, and
- minor activities on post-FLPMA (grandfathered) mining claims, including any activity which is exempt from a Plan of Operations.

**Grandfathered actions**, or valid existing rights actions—surface-disturbing activities may be approved. Reclamation is required to be accomplished as soon as possible after completion of the activity, and a bond is required.

**Emergency actions**—in the event of wildfire or search-and-rescue, any action necessary to prevent loss of life or property may be taken, even if the actions will impair wilderness values.

Congress, not BLM, determines which WSAs will be designated as wilderness. Congress is under no deadline to resolve the wilderness issue on BLM lands. Every area identified as a WSA, therefore, must receive interim management protection until Congress designates the area as wilderness or releases it to other uses.

Nevertheless, the California Wilderness Coalition receives from BLM nearly every week notices of proposed actions (or violations discovered) in WSAs. Most of these are plans to prospect for minerals or mine claims; others are for grazing developments or wildlife habitat "improvements."

Until Congress acts, it is up to citizen activists to monitor these proposals and fight those that would impair the wilderness characteristics of any WSA.

## BLM's Wilderness Study Areas

# BLM proposal abandons part of the Lost Coast

The King Range has been called the crown jewel of the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in California. Environmentalists were commensurately disappointed, therefore, when the BLM issued its wilderness proposal last month: 13,000 acres in the King Range WSA will be released from interim protection if Congress adopts the BLM's recommendations for new California wilderness. These recommendations are contained in H.R. 3066, the California Public Lands Wilderness Act, which was introduced in July by Representative Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands).

The King Range, with Chemise Mountain WSA and Sinkyone Wilderness State Park to the south, comprise California's "Lost Coast," located north of Fort Bragg where Highway 1 leaves the coast to turn inland. Few roads penetrate the Lost Coast; it is the area's relative inaccessibility that inspired the epithet and has precluded significant development.

With the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline left on the northern Pacific, the King Range is uniquely valuable. The terrain is dramatic: coastal mountains rise abruptly from the shore; erosion and landslides—surface manifestations of the shifting of continental

plates—etch the landscape. Raptors, including the northern spotted owl and the bald eagle, nest in the old-growth Douglas fir which cover the range. Along the shore are middens, detritus of prehistoric Athapaskan inhabitants.

The smaller Chemise Mountain WSA is separated from the King Range WSA by the town of Shelter Cove. Like the King Range, Chemise is rugged; its western slope descends steeply to the sea. With its coastal chaparral, Chemise is less forested than the King Range. A trail links Chemise with the adjoining Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

Some 51,000 acres of this Lost Coast—including both WSAs—were designated the King Range National Conservation Area in 1970. (The 1970 King Range Act, with its mandate of "multiple use," was a model for the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, passed in 1976.) King Range and Chemise Mountain attained WSA status, and correspondingly stricter protection, in 1979. The BLM is required to provide interim management for WSAs in order to protect their wilderness qualities during the study process.

During the 12-year study, BLM has acquired an additional 40 acres within Chemise and 196 coastal acres within the King Range. Pre-existing, or "grandfathered," uses have been maintained. Grazing, off-road vehicle (ORV) use, and military overflights are permitted where BLM has deemed them appropriate.

Portions of the King Range and Chemise Mountain WSAs are protected by other agencies. The intertidal zone of both WSAs is protected by the California Water Resources Control Board as an Area of Special Biological Significance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers an indigenous coastal grass, *Calamagrostis foliosa*, a candidate for "threatened" listing.

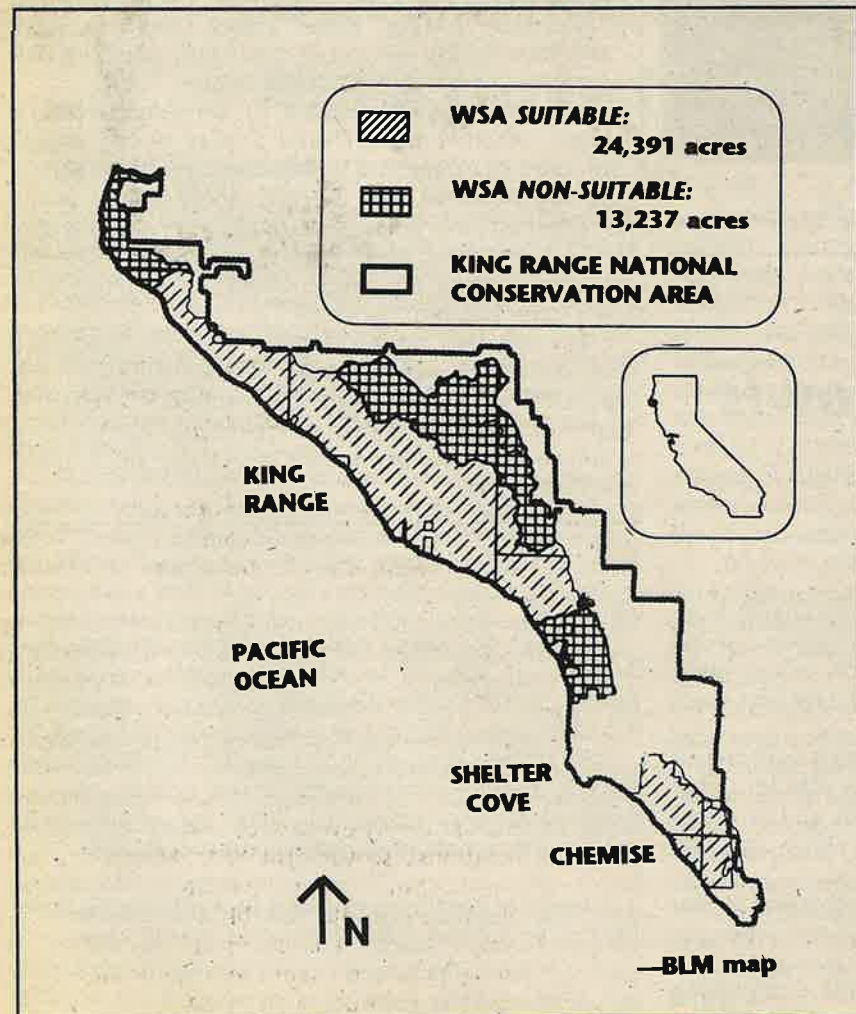
### Wilderness Recommendation

The BLM recommends all of Chemise Mountain WSA—4,143 acres—for wilderness designation. Of the 33,485-acre King Range WSA, 20,391 acres, or 60 percent, are deemed suitable. BLM also recommends that another 269 acres of coastal inholdings

## King Range & Chemise Mountain



A backpacker travels the coast trail south of Punta Gorda in the King Range WSA. Photo by Pete Yamagata



be acquired as wilderness additions to the King Range.

The BLM issued an "all-wilderness recommendation" for Chemise because of the area's "outstanding wilderness values and special features," its "convenient location," and its manageability. BLM also cited the lack of "resource conflicts."

The portion of the King Range recommended for wilderness is bounded at the north by Sea Lion Gulch, whose large boulders the BLM considers "the most effective natural barrier" to ORV encroachments on the beach. The BLM proposal would release for other uses the parcel north of Sea Lion Gulch, where the imprint of human development, associated with grazing activity, has "resulted in a landscape that appears unnatural and noticeable."

BLM also recommended as unsuitable the WSA's eastern slope, which, despite "special features such as...old-growth Douglas-fir forest which is habitat for...the spotted owl,...is not as unique and spectacular as the WSA's western slope...." Roads and noises associated with logging activity outside the WSA "make it difficult to find secluded places and detract from the primitive setting."

The beach of the southern parcel recommended for release is presently open for ORV use by dint of the 1974 King Range Management Plan. Inholdings and structures further diminish the parcel's wilderness qualities.

Environmentalists believe all of the now 62,000-acre King Range National Conservation Area should be protected as wilderness. According to Lynn Ryan of the Lost Coast League, "The obvious solution to the perceived problem of logging noise is to eliminate logging." Jim Eaton, director of the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC), agrees. "Logging and grazing are particularly inappropriate in the King Range because these activities destroy a fragile balance."

Eaton is disturbed that the BLM has revived a moribund argument. "To declare a parcel unsuitable because it is impacted by 'sights and sounds' from without is ridiculous. Congress rejected this argument decades ago."

The BLM's recommendation for the southern parcel

continued on page 5

## Ancient forests

# Sequoia logging practices under scrutiny

By Lynn Ryan

Sequoia National Forest is home to the largest trees on earth and to five wilderness areas—Dome Land, South Sierra, Jennie Lakes, Monarch, and Golden Trout. Environmentalists hope it will one day be home to a Sequoia National Monument that would permanently protect the Giant Sequoias and, not incidentally, adjoin existing wilderness areas to create a wildlife corridor that would sustain the region's biodiversity.

This southernmost national forest in the Sierra Nevada is the closest and most accessible of the Sierra forests to the densely-populated Los Angeles basin. Although the Forest Service purportedly rates the Sequoia's watershed and recreational values as having six times the worth of timber cutting, ancient trees, including red and white firs, ponderosa and sugar pines, are being logged.

Logging in the Sequoia National Forest loses money, pure and simple. For the last three years, the Sequoia has lost \$3.9 million dollars per year, or \$650 per acre logged. The Sequoia returns to the U.S. Treasury eight cents per dollar expended; by contrast, most California national forests return an average of 65 cents per dollar. We are paying twice for the extensive watershed damage, loss of rich forest soils, expansion of recreation trails to logging roads, and conversion of the Sequoia ecosystem to (unsuccessful) tree farms that result from current forest practices.

National monument status for a portion of the Sequoia National Forest would provide recreation and wildlife values while preserving the Sequoia ecosystem. A Congressional hearing has been scheduled for early September in Visalia. For information on the hearing date or the Sierra Club's Sequoia campaign, contact Lynn Ryan at the Sierra Club's Northern California/Nevada Field Office at (415)654-7847.



Clearcuts in Sequoia N. F.

Photo by Martin Litton

## New bill would protect loggers and ancient forests

There's a lot of ancient forest legislation now pending in the House and Senate. Do we need more? Senator Brock Adams (D-WA) thought so. In July he introduced a comprehensive forestry bill, "The Pacific Northwest Forest Community Recovery and Ecosystem Conservation Act of 1991." The legislation, a companion to the Jontz bill in the House, addresses the needs of timber workers and timber-dependent communities while protecting the ancient forest ecosystem.

Adams' prescription for economic mitigation is multipronged. By authorizing western states to restrict the export of logs and encouraging—via tax credits and loan guarantees—the export of wood products, the Adams bill would partially offset the loss of jobs and income resulting from reduced logging.

The bill would further protect workers and communities whose timber-related jobs are lost by augmenting the federal assistance now available. With \$50 million reserved annually from timber sales, the bill would fund community efforts to diversify the local economy. In addition, the legislation would provide job search and relocation allowances, extend the duration of unemployment benefits, and expand eligibility for those benefits.

### Environmental Protections

The Adams bill would preserve the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest by establishing "Ecosystem Natural Areas" which would incorporate most of the remaining significant stands of old-growth as well as significant salmon habitat.

Federal lands included in Ecosystem Natural Areas, whether under Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction, would be permanently protected from logging. Some logging would be permitted only as needed to preserve the integrity of the forest from fire, insects, or disease. Grazing and new mining operations would be prohibited in Ecosystem Natural Areas.

The bill also would establish adjunct "Watershed Study Areas" for many areas not protected as Ecosystem Natural Areas. Logging would be banned in Watershed Study Areas for three to five years, pending Congressional action on the recommendations of an independent scientific committee.

## Suppressed report indicates saving owls would create jobs

By Tim McKay

More than 28,000 jobs would be created if the government would only change its timber policies, according to a suppressed government report prepared for the Bush administration's northern spotted owl recovery team.

The report was drafted last year by a team of managers from the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and makes suggestions on how to offset the economic impact of the creation of forest reserves for the northern spotted owl.

According to the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, the Bush administration rejected the report and ordered it suppressed.

The report's 23 recommendations ranged from extending unemployment benefits to displaced workers and removing roads from owl habitat conservation areas (HCAs) to banning all exports of raw logs from the Pacific Northwest.

The team estimated that a ban on exports would result in the creation of as many as 17,000 new jobs in timber processing. A program of road removal and environmental rehabilitation would create as many as 1,000 jobs, at wages equal to those in logging.

Other recommendations included increasing in lieu tax monies to local governments from 25 to 50 percent of gross federal timber receipts, declaring the affected areas as labor surplus areas, and establishing national workplace literacy programs in affected com-

munities.

Though the earlier report was suppressed, the Forest Service was allowed to release a report projecting a loss of 25,000 jobs in Washington, Oregon, and northern California if logging were to be prohibited in HCAs.

[A revised draft of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) recommendations for critical habitat was announced in early August. The F&WS has reduced by 25 percent the acreage proposed for critical habitat.]

Reprinted from the August 1991 issue of *Econews*, newsletter of the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata.

## Wilderness legislation

# Tax change would eliminate needed funding for endangered species

By Mark Palmer

The endangered species tax check-off on the state income tax form is the most successful "check-off" in California, raising over \$1 million annually for programs in the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) that benefit threatened and endangered species. Through the tax check-off, the public can give voluntary contributions to wildlife programs.

But some legislators oppose tax check-offs, because check-offs complicate the tax

form. These legislators also feel that tax check-offs are unfair, because many causes should have tax check-offs, not just the six that are now on the form.

This year, virtually all the tax check-offs have expired and cannot be renewed without new legislation. Opponents of the tax check-off, led by Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee chair Johan Klehs (D-San Leandro), have taken this opportunity to jeopardize all tax check-offs, including the successful endangered species tax check-off.

Renewal legislation, AB 1111 by Assemblyman Robert Campbell (D-Richmond), initially failed in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee. Supporters managed to convince the committee to approve all the tax check-offs, however, in Assemblyman William Filante's (R-Marin) AB 281.

AB 281 has now passed the Assembly and is pending in the state Senate. Unfortunately, an amendment by the hostile Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee will erode contributions and ensure that all tax check-offs, including the endangered species tax check-off, fail to raise funds.

The amendment specifies that the tax check-offs will no longer be listed on the state income tax form, for easy reference by the public. Instead, the form will have three blank spaces; a taxpayer wishing to make a contribution will have to refer to the instruction booklet to find the proper codes to fill in on the tax form. Furthermore, any tax check-off that fails to raise more

than \$250,000 annually will be dropped automatically in future years.

The million dollars raised each year by the tax check-off represents ten percent of the DFG's budget for endangered species, money DFG can ill afford to lose. "Losing



## 540 California Tax Form

You may make a contribution of \$1 or more:

- |                             |      |           |
|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| 48 Alzheimer's Disease Fund | • 48 | ___       |
| 49 Senior Citizens Fund     | • 49 | ___       |
| 50 ENDANGERED SPECIES       | • 50 | <u>15</u> |
| 51 Child Abuse Prevention   | • 51 | ___       |
| 52 Olympics Fund            | • 52 | ___       |
| 53 Vietnam Veterans Fund    | • 53 | ___       |

ten percent would be a serious problem," stated Steve Nicholls, Division Administrative Officer at DFG.

Conservation groups and other tax beneficiaries like seniors and child abuse prevention organizations have protested this amendment. On July 17th, the Mountain Lion Foundation was successful in getting AB 281 amended in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, negating the Assembly amendment. Now, the Assembly must go along with the Senate action for the bill to become law.

For more information, contact the Mountain Lion Foundation, P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, 95812, (916)442-2666.

Mark Palmer is Conservation Director for the Mountain Lion Foundation.

## Compromise desert bill may pass this session

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Cranston's bill would, the Levine-Lehman measure makes it a Park Service monument. The proposal also differs in the amount of acreage that would be designated wilderness. H.R. 2929 dropped 250,000 acres from previous wilderness proposals to accommodate off-road vehicle, mining, and utility right-of-way concerns. Another significant change was to allow grazing in the new Mojave National Monument for 25 years. Previous bills would have phased it out in ten years.

While these changes are significant, environmental organizations are supporting the legislation and have been actively seeking co-sponsors. The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and other organizations of the California Desert Protection League already have committed themselves to working with Congress to restore Park status for the Mojave and make other changes, as the bill moves through committee.

Chairman Lehman has called for a September 12 hearing in Washington, D.C. to consider the new proposal. At the press conference announcing the introduction of H.R. 2929, Rep. Lehman indicated that he plans to move the bill this year. Rep. Levine had earlier stated he was "convinced that the bill will be enacted into law during this Congress."

Significantly, Rep. George Miller (D-Martinez), Chair of the powerful House Interior Committee, is an original co-sponsor of the legislation. All indications are that Rep. Miller will help move the legislation through the House

this fall.

Another House bill, with its own desert wilderness package, was introduced last month. Only days after President Bush had approved the BLM's statewide wilderness proposal, Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands) introduced the proposal as the California Public Lands Wilderness Act, H.R. 3066. Disappointingly, the BLM/Lewis proposal recommends only 2.1 million acres for wilderness in 62 separate areas. The bill would transfer 108,600 acres to the National Park Service at Death Valley and Joshua Tree, far short of the 3 million acres (including the 1.5 million-acre Mojave monument) the Levine-Lehman bill would transfer to the Park Service.

With House introduction of the Levine-Lehman compromise and the administration's proposal, the attention will soon shift to the Senate where Senator Cranston's California Desert Protection Act, S. 21, has a dozen co-sponsors.

California's newly appointed Senator John Seymour has stated that he wants to see a desert bill passed this year. It is unclear, however, what kind of bill Senator Seymour would like to see enacted. As quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*, Senator Seymour described the Levine-Lehman compromise as being "a long way from what most people would consider an acceptable compromise."

To get more involved in the desert campaign, please contact The Wilderness Society at (415)541-9144, or CWC.

Norbert Riedy is California representative of The Wilderness Society and a CWC board member.

## King Range proposal disappoints

continued from page 3

may prove most controversial. "There are no effective natural barriers to ORVs," explains Ryan. Eaton points out that the BLM is unable to control ORVs now. "ORVs are frequently seen on restricted portions of the beach."

Conservationists and land managers have long sought the "highest and best" use of this remarkable area, California's Lost Coast. "A visit to the King Range," rhapsodizes the BLM, "is a visit to another place in time...." In the coming years, Congress will determine once and for all the future of "a very special place."

For more information on the BLM's proposal and conservationist alternatives, contact CWC.

## Wilderness legislation

# House and Senate bills would release roadless lands

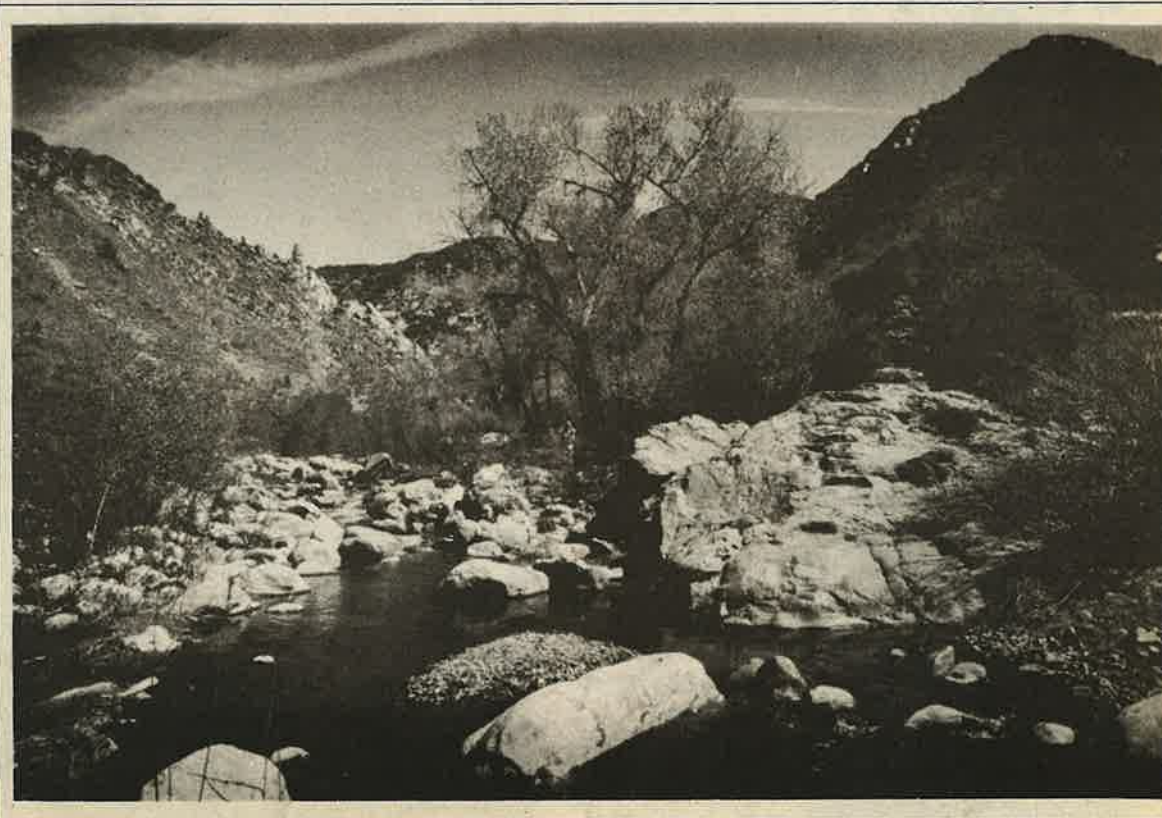
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31.5 miles of Sespe Creek as a Wild and Scenic River (W&SR), but leaves segments of the stream vulnerable to future dam development. Although Senator Cranston strongly supports W&SR designation for all 55 miles of Sespe Creek, Senator Seymour has yet to decide how much of the creek he will agree to protect in S. 1225. Consequently, the Senate bill lists Sespe as Wild and Scenic but does not provide a mileage figure.

Draining one of the largest unprotected roadless areas in California, Sespe Creek is also one of the last remaining undammed rivers in southern California. The creek and the surrounding 320,000 acres of rugged canyon lands form the heart of condor country, the critical native habitat needed to reintroduce the endangered California condor into the wild. Sespe Creek also provides habitat for at least two other rare species (coastal steelhead and arroyo toad), contains extensive cultural remains of the Chumash Indian tribe, and offers a primitive outdoor recreation experience to millions of southern California residents.

Agricultural interests have been trying for years to dam the Sespe. But environmental concerns, dam safety questions, public opinion, and economics make damming the Sespe little more than a pipe dream. Supporters of a wild Sespe include the City Councils of Ojai and Fillmore, the *Ventura Star Free Press* (Ventura County's major newspaper), the *Los Angeles Times*, numerous environmental groups, and—according to polls—most of Rep. Lagomarsino's constituents. Rep. Lagomarsino has ignored this massive outpouring of public support, however, in favor of leaving open future dam options—an approach evidently being considered by Senator Seymour.

Although the political debate over the two bills currently



Sespe Creek in Los Padres National Forest. This segment of the creek lies below a proposed dam site.

### LOS PADRES WILDLANDS SCORECARD

AREA (acres)	RARE II	1989 CRRA <sup>1</sup>	HR 2556 <sup>2</sup>	S 1225 <sup>3</sup>
Sespe	335,900 <sup>4</sup>	280,300	220,500	220,500
Chumash	90,000	85,000	38,150	38,200
San Rafael Add.	111,500	51,000	43,000	43,000
Garcia	25,200	16,500	14,600	14,600
Silver Peak	15,500	14,500	14,500	14,500
Ventana Add.	66,300	63,200	38,000	38,000
Matilija	32,000	32,000	30,000	30,000
Other Areas	449,000	0	0	0
<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>1,125,400</b>	<b>542,500</b>	<b>398,750</b>	<b>398,800</b>
<b>Released Roadless Acreage</b>		<b>582,900</b>	<b>726,650</b>	<b>726,600</b>

RIVERS (miles)	1989 CRRA	HR 2556	S 1225
Sespe Creek	55	31.5	?
Sisquoc River	33	33	33
Sisquoc Tributaries	18	0	0
Big Sur River	18.5	19.5	18.9
	8.5 (study)		
Little Sur River	15.5	23 (study)	23 (study)
	7.5 (study)		
Arroyo Seco River	16	0	0
Lopez Creek	5.5	11 (study)	11 (study)
	5.5 (study)		
Matilija Creek	20	16 (study)	16 (study)
Piru Creek	49	49 (study)	49 (study)
Designated Subtotal	230.4	84	51.9
Study Subtotal	21.5	109.5	99
<b>Total Miles Protected</b>	<b>252.4</b>	<b>193.5</b>	<b>150.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> Original Condor Range & Rivers Act (CRRA) sponsored by Senator Cranston

<sup>2</sup> Los Padres Condor Range & Rivers Act sponsored by Rep. Lagomarsino

<sup>3</sup> New Senate version sponsored by Senators Cranston and Seymour

<sup>4</sup> Includes 15,200 acres on the Angeles National Forest

pivots on the Sespe, other issues are likely to arise as the various Congressional committees consider the legislation.

Conservationists are particularly concerned about the insufficient level of protection provided the Los Padres forest's once vast wildlands. More than one million acres of roadless land in the Los Padres forest were originally inventoried by the Forest Service in the 1979 Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). Of this amount, slightly more than 89,000 acres, or eight percent, were designated wilderness in the 1984 California Wilderness Act. The Los Padres Condor Range and River Protection Act would increase this amount to about 43 percent; even so, more than half of the roadless land in the forest would remain unprotected and subject to development.

Roadless areas proposed for "release" and potential development include Sespe-Frazier (only 68 percent would be protected), Chumash (formerly Sawmill Badlands—only 42 percent), and Garcia Mountain (only 57 percent). In fact, the proposed level of protection for wilderness and wild rivers has declined since the Condor Range and Rivers Act was originally proposed by Senator Cranston in 1989. The current version protects 25 percent less wilderness acreage and 24 to 40 percent fewer river miles (depending on how much of Sespe Creek is likely to be included) than the original bill.

Another major departure from the original Cranston bill is the deletion of W&SR designation for 16 miles of the Arroyo Seco River. Reportedly at the request of Rep. Panetta, the Arroyo Seco was removed from consideration because of the river's potential for dam development. Panetta was responsible last year for legislation which changed the boundaries of the existing Ventana Wilderness to accommodate the expansion of a reservoir on the Carmel River. A similar legislative maneuver would be required for the Arroyo Seco since any dam constructed on the river would inundate portions of the Ventana Wilderness.

Conservationists are pleased that both the House and Senate bills include the proposed 14,500 acre Silver Peak Wilderness. This area was considered and released by the 1984 wilderness bill. Inclusion of the area in both bills indicates that Congress will reconsider legislative protection for released roadless areas in this decade.

## Book review

# Fish Out of Water

## California's Salmon and Steelhead: The Struggle to Restore an Imperiled Resource

By Alan Lufkin, ed., University of California Press, Berkeley, Ca., 305pp., \$24.95.

The Pacific Ocean's salmon and steelhead have been much in the news lately, as more and more depleted runs (distinct populations) are deemed "threatened". *California's Salmon and Steelhead* provides all the background most of us need to understand the situation, and then some.

Alan Lufkin served on the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout. One of the conclusions reached by the committee—that increased public knowledge would increase support for restoration efforts—led Lufkin to compile this book, a collection that mingles scholarly reports with impassioned narratives, economic models with reminiscences. (Royalties from sales of the book have been allocated for educational programs.)

Particularly good are Dave Vogel's engaging story of his adventures as a Fish & Wildlife Service biologist and George Warner's affecting recollection of the noble, but ultimately futile struggle to save the San Joaquin River's spring salmon run. Lufkin provides useful maps and a fairly comprehensive glossary. Abundant photographs

supply further illumination.

California's salmonid populations (biologists have recently reclassified steelhead as salmonid) have declined dramatically in the last century. The history of that decline is the history of California: mining, logging, water diversions, and population pressures determined the fate of California's rivers and, consequently, the fate of California's salmon.

The overriding, and urgent, theme of Lufkin's book is that hatchery programs alone cannot preserve a species; salmon runs are not interchangeable. The key to saving salmon is saving (and restoring) its habitat—the rivers of northern and central California.

—Lucy Rosenau

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**August 17** ACTIVIST MEETING of the California Ancient Forest Alliance. For more information, call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380.

**September 1** COMMENTS DUE on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge south of Sacramento. Mention your support for Alternative C-1 or the stronger Alternatives D or E. Send to: Pete Jerome, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2233 Watt Ave., Suite 375, Sacramento, CA 95825.

**September 9** DEADLINE FOR APPEALS of the Mt. Vida Planning Area Environmental Impact Statement. Appeals must be filed in duplicate with the Reviewing Officer, Ronald E. Stewart, Regional Forester, 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111. For more information, contact Edith Asrow, District Ranger, (916)279-6116.

**October 4** COMMENTS DUE on BLM's Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft EIS for the South Coast Planning Area. Send to: Area Manager, BLM, 400 S. Farrell Dr., Suite B-205, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

**October 28-30** SYMPOSIUM ON BIODIVERSITY IN NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA in Santa Rosa. For more information or registration materials, write to: Drs. Richard Harris and Don Erman, Biodiversity Symposium, 163 Mulford Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

### Wilderness Trivia Quiz

**Answer:** A 344-acre addition to the Agua Tibia Wilderness. (The smallest discrete WSA is the 4,143-acre Chemise Mountain.)

### T-shirts for travelers

Justin came all the way from Texas to buy a CWC t-shirt. He likes our six-tone anniversary shirt; it comes in light blue, yellow, light green, or peach for \$15. The animal design his grandmother Sheila chose is by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige or light gray for \$12. All the shirts are 100 percent double knit cotton. To order, use the form on the back page.



**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

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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Printed by the Davis Enterprise on recycled paper

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### Jargon watch:

## "Sufficiency" spells danger for spotted owl

Buried in Representative Jerry Huckaby's (D-Los Angeles) "Forest and Families Protection Act of 1991" is a landmine: "sufficiency." If enacted, Huckaby's bill (H.R. 2463) would gut the Endangered Species Act by precluding litigation based on new information.

The bill would declare its own provi-

sions "sufficient" to protect ancient forest-dwelling species like the spotted owl. With sufficiency once declared, agencies would not be required to consider new biological information when assessing existing management plans and citizens could no longer appeal those plans under the Endangered Species Act.

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