



# WILDERNESS RECORD

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION

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## Benchmark Shasta ruling affirms right of appeal

A passage from Lewis Carroll helped clear the way for environmentalists to appeal a Forest Service (FS) decision approving a new downhill ski facility on the slopes of Mt. Shasta. U.S. District Judge David F. Levi ruled in August that the FS had improperly prevented the public from commenting on a very important decision regarding public land and had grossly misinterpreted its own regulations in denying environmentalists their right to appeal.

The California Wilderness Coalition, the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society had sought to challenge a December 1990 FS decision granting a former FS employee permission to develop a Mt. Shasta ski resort despite concerns that the development would damage the environmentally-sensitive timberline area. Two other lawsuits challenging the FS decision on cultural and religious grounds are still pending.

The FS denied environmentalists an opportunity to appeal its approval of the ski development on the basis of a sentence in the Code of Federal Regulations which states that the Chief may waive the obligation to go forward with an appeal. The FS chose to interpret that as meaning that the agency had the authority to 'waive' on its own initiative the public's right to appeal an administrative decision.

The environmentalists' attorneys challenged this Orwellian interpretation with a Carrollian one, likening the agency's tortured logic to Humpty Dumpty's claim that "a word...means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." While conceding

*continued on page 5*



Mt. Shasta from Little Crater Lake

Photo by Phil Rhodes

## Proposed NFMA changes target spotted owl

The Bush administration hopes to achieve by fiat what it could not achieve in court: the release of Pacific Northwest ancient forests for logging. On August 27 a notice in the Federal Register proposed changes to National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations that would liberate the Forest Service (FS) from its current obligation to protect viable populations of listed species. The proposal follows a decision by District Judge William Dwyer banning logging of the old-growth forests that provide habitat to the threatened northern spotted owl. If, after a 30-day comment period, the Bush administration adopts the proposed changes, the legal basis for the Dwyer decision would no longer exist.

Elimination of the viability standard would imperil more than the Dwyer decision and the spotted owl. NFMA requires the FS to preserve both fish and wildlife habitat in order to maintain viable populations of all existing vertebrate species native to the forest.

'Viability,' as defined by the NFMA encompasses both population size and distribution. Consequently, the viability standard protects not just endangered species but biological diversity.

Environmentalists consider the viability regulations the cornerstone of NFMA, without which the likelihood of extinction would increase. The Endangered Species Act, itself under fire, comes into play only after a species has already declined; its remedies are necessarily drastic and, too often, ineffective. The viability regulations of NFMA, by contrast, protect the health of species and ecosystems, obviating the need for "heroic" measures.

The comment period for the proposed NFMA regulation changes ends September 26. To comment on the proposed elimination of the viability standard, write to: Land Management Planning Staff (1920), Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C., 20090-6090.

### Inside this issue:

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## COALITION PAGE

### MONTHLY REPORT

Many moons ago (about 180) when the Coalition's office was in my garage, a group of us sat around the kitchen table pondering a novel suggestion by BLM Area Manager Dean Swickard: we should be straight with each other. We greeted this peculiar idea with great mirth and skepticism. We proceeded to regale Dean with numerous horror tales of our experiences of working with agency personnel (especially the Forest Service). But Dean was so persuasive that we agreed to try one more time; besides, we didn't have much of a track record with BLM.

This led to some memorable times living with ranchers in the Fort Bidwell-Cedarville-Eagleville area in Surprise Valley, a chunk of Modoc County a stone's throw from both Nevada and Oregon. It also led to a long, trusting relationship with Dean. We don't always see eye-to-eye on the issues, but we know neither of us is deceiving the other.

There are other officials whose word I can rely on, and there are more agency personnel that I am beginning to know and have confidence in. But this trust can be shattered easily.

Several weeks ago, activist Sally Miller, accompanied by Nobby Riedy and Mike Gonella of The Wilderness Society, spent part of a weekend with four BLM staffers travelling around the wilderness study areas surrounding the historic town of Bodie. They shared a lot of information about the areas and Sally thought they had a good working relationship.

The following Friday afternoon, one of the BLM employees dropped a bombshell on Sally: an off-road vehicle race was being run *the next morning* that would use routes adjacent to the wilderness study areas.

Clearly the BLM officials knew that information when they were in the field with the environmentalists the previous weekend. They were discussing off-road vehicles and exploring the very routes that were to be part of the race. So why didn't they tell Sally and the others at the time?

### BY JIM EATON

Sally got a double whammy several days later when the Forest Service informed her they planned to allow roadbuilding and trenching in the San Joaquin Roadless Area without any environmental review. They justified the lack of notice by saying that the proposal was mentioned in local newspapers *last September* (i.e., 1990) and "interested citizens within the community" were contacted. Who were these interested citizens? Well, nobody was contacted, "but this is just standard language you put in these decision notices."

For years, Sally has been working on the preservation of the San Joaquin. She has been out in the field with Forest Service employees on many occasions, and she is a frequent visitor to their offices. If she is not an "interested citizen," I'm not sure who qualifies.

There are two points to this essay. First, if agency personnel want to avoid always being adversaries with environmentalists, they have to earn our trust and not pull stunts like those related here. Certainly, we have to be honest and forthcoming in return. But our basic distrust and suspicion of the Forest Service and BLM should come as no surprise as long as deception and subterfuge are practiced by these public servants.

Second, "interested citizens" are the key to saving wilderness areas. If Sally Miller were not watching the roadless areas on the east side of the Sierra, projects like those described above might never come to public attention. There are a lot of "interested citizens" who have adopted their favorite areas or forests: Charlene Little and Carla Cloer in the Sequoia, Felice Pace in the Klamath, Don Morris in the Mendocino, and the Los Padres Biodiversity Group near Santa Barbara are just a few examples.

You, too, can become an "interested citizen." Work with an existing group or start your own. There are a lot of folks who will help you begin; the staff of the Coalition, Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society all will be willing to lend a helping hand. If you want some ideas, please give me a call.

### GO WILD

### CWC INTERNSHIPS

Have we got a project for you! Whether your interest lies in graphics, computers, photography, journalism, or activism, there's room for you at the California Wilderness Coalition.

Open to college students, recent graduates, or anyone seeking a departure from the tame.

Interns have the opportunity to attend agency meetings, work on the *Wilderness Record*, analyze documents, research issues, and gain valuable experience in the daily operation of a grass-roots environmental organization.

To apply, or to learn more, contact Jim Eaton at 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616, (916)758-0380.

### CWC INTERNSHIPS

### GO WILD

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

What potential wilderness areas share a border with Mexico?

Answer on page 7.



In July, Hilda Maloney unveiled a sign erected by the Forest Service to honor her late husband for his efforts on behalf of Snow Mountain Wilderness.  
Photo by Jim Eaton

## BLM's Wilderness Study Areas

# Bodie Hills—mining bonanza or wilderness complex?

By Sally Miller and Emilie Strauss

The Bodie Hills region, located east of Bridgeport and north of Mono Lake, is a starkly beautiful country of contrasting landforms and diverse habitats. Alkali wetlands and playas, dense stands of aspen and willow, flower-filled meadows and cacti, are all found among rolling hills dominated by pinyon-juniper woodland and big sagebrush. A cinder cone forms the backdrop for the "Dry Lakes Plateau," which drops away to the red rock gorge of Rough Creek. Herds of pronghorn roam the hills, raptors dot the skies, and the ubiquitous sage grouse provide comic relief. These hardy inhabitants attest to the region's wildness. Rising above this wild scene, Bodie Mountain, Potato Peak, and the lone sentinel, Mt. Biedeman, afford spectacular views of the surrounding country.

Five Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) lie within the Bodie Hills: Bodie, Bodie Mountain, Mt. Biedeman, Mormon Meadow, and Masonic Mountain. There are a number of privately-owned parcels in the WSAs; landowners include Flying M Ranch, owned by a hotel chain magnate.

Several large areas in the Bodie Hills did not qualify for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) final inventory of WSAs in 1979 but possess qualities which make them valuable potential wilderness additions. These areas include the approximately 6,400-acre Bodie Mountain-Potato Peak parcel which is contiguous with Bodie Mountain WSA on the east (see map), the 21,040-acre Sugarloaf parcel which lies in the southeast corner of the range, and a portion of the approximately 1,200-acre Long parcel in the north-eastern corner.

Conservationists are developing a proposal to protect the WSAs and the additional acreage as a Bodie Hills wilderness complex comprising some 100,000 acres. In considering the region as a whole, it is important to remember that each unit possesses unique geological features and outstanding natural resource values. "The first rule of intelligent tinkering," wrote Aldo Leopold, "is to save all the pieces."

### Save all the pieces

The Bodie Hills region hosts an incredible variety of geologic features. Evidence of recent volcanic activity abounds, from the symmetry of Beauty Peak to the Travertine Hot Springs. A high, barren plateau dotted with blue lakes is cut by the deep, lush drainages of Rough and Atastra creeks—perennial streams proposed for Wild and Scenic River status by the BLM.

The vegetation in the Bodie Hills reflects the region's ecological diversity. Sagebrush, bitterbrush, and rabbitbrush, all typical of the Great Basin, predominate. In the western portion of the range, pinyon and juniper clothe the landscape, along with an occasional majestic Jeffrey pine. Relict stands of lodgepole pine that date to the Pleistocene are found in the eastern portion of the range, especially along the Rough Creek drainage. Aspen grow throughout the range, wherever seeps, springs, and streams are found. Peat bogs (another Pleistocene remnant) and several species of cacti have been documented in the Bodie Hills. In the summer months, a riotous bloom of wildflowers greets the explorer; in the fall the palette shifts to the yellow of rabbitbrush and the spectacular display of the aspen.

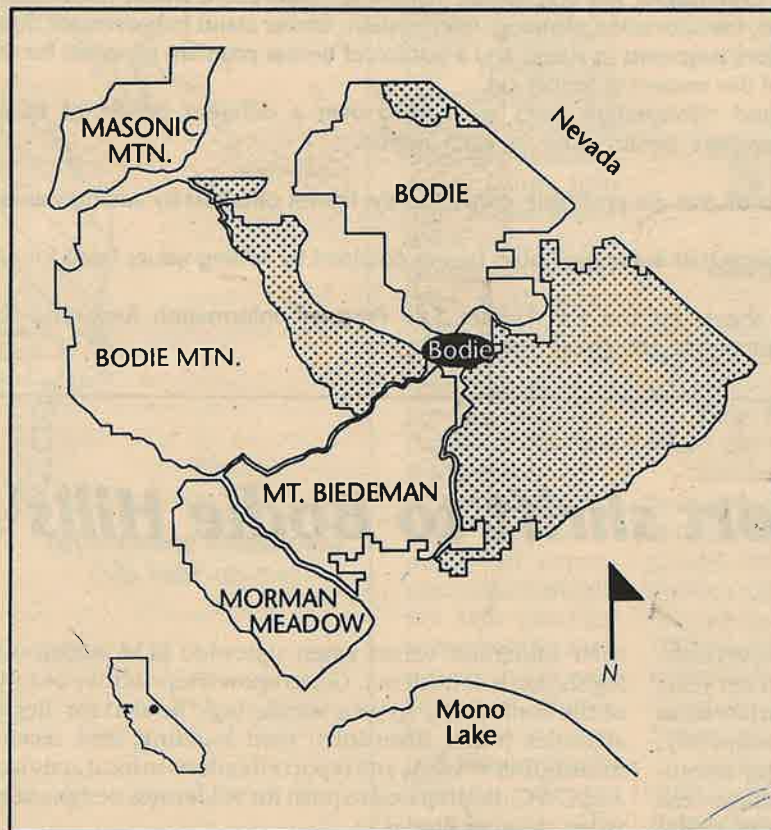
The Bodie Hills are home to pronghorn, mule deer, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, and badger. Avian species include golden eagle, red tail hawk, Cooper's hawk, prairie falcon, and sage grouse. Springs provide habitat for populations of the endemic Great Basin

springtail.

Less than five percent of the region had been surveyed for cultural resources (both prehistoric and historic) when BLM published its final Environmental Impact Statement for Wilderness Recommendations in 1987. The area appears to be rich in these resources, however. Primitive rock rings, obsidian scatter, hunting blinds, and nearby petroglyphs are indicative of use in this region in prehistoric times, while abandoned cabins, Basque sheepherder carvings (some pornographic), and remnants of mining activity attest to historic human use in the region.

Other outstanding features of the region include Bodie Mountain and Potato Peak, the highest points in the Bodie Hills and favorite destinations for hikers and skiers. The peaks afford spectacular views of Mono Lake and the Mono Craters, the Sierra Nevada, and the White Mountains. Overall, the feeling is one of true isolation and wildness. What scars remain from human activity are absorbed by the vastness of the surrounding landscape.

It is the Bodie Hills' abundant mineral and geothermal resources, however, that most influenced the BLM in recommending all five Bodie WSAs as unsuitable for wilderness designation.



WSAs in the Bodie Hills. Shaded areas, clockwise from top, are the Long, Sugarloaf, and Bodie Mtn.-Potato Peak parcels. Map by Jim Eaton



Headwaters of Warm Springs in the Bodie Hills.

Photo by Emilie Strauss

### BLM proposal favors extractive uses

The BLM's statewide wilderness proposal was introduced by Representative Jerry Lewis as the California Public Lands Wilderness Act. (See *WR* articles, July and August 1991.) If enacted, the bill would release the Bodie Hills WSAs from wilderness protection and open the region to a multitude of destructive uses. In addition to hard rock mining and geothermal development, grazing "developments" would require miles of fences, water troughs and pipelines, and new "route connectors" would promote off-road vehicle (ORV) recreation in the area. There is considerable pressure from BLM and a powerful coalition of special interests (mining, grazing, and ORV) to "resolve" the wilderness issue so that these uses may be allowed.

The specter of cyanide heap-leach mining for gold is a very real threat in the Bodie Hills. Exploration by Galactic Resources, Ltd. in the vicinity of the historic town of Bodie is just the beginning. The BLM expects to receive in the near future a Plan of Operations from Homestake Mining Company to explore for gold in the historic Paramount Mine region of Bodie WSA. BLM allowed mineral exploration in the Paramount Mine area in the early 1980s, and the scars created by new roads and drill pads are an enduring reminder of this previous activity. High potential for mineral development exists throughout the region.

Acknowledging the problems of overgrazing in the Bodie Hills, the BLM has developed a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) which would better distribute and "manage" grazing with a network of fences, pipelines, and water diversions. The CRMP cannot be implemented unless the WSAs are formally released—by an act of Congress—from wilderness protection.

Environmentalists have suggested that the simplest solution to the problems associated with overgrazing is to reduce the num-

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## Wilderness agencies

# FS bookkeeping turns red ink black

A report released by The Wilderness Society found that, contrary to Forest Service (FS) claims, taxpayers lose money on most logging in national forests. Using FS data but eschewing FS accounting methods, Richard E. Rice, a resource economist with The Wilderness Society, calculated that the elimination of unprofitable timber sales would have saved the treasury, and taxpayers, more than \$250 million in 1990 alone.

According to Rice's calculations, the net gain to the treasury from all 1990 timber sales was only \$5.1 million. (Tellingly, 16 individual forests each posted profits of more than \$5 million.) By contrast, the Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System

(TSPIRS) used by the FS showed a profit of \$630 million for the same period.

The reason for this huge discrepancy, Rice explains, is that his method tracks only those revenues received by the treasury. The FS method counts timber and road credits, work performed by loggers in exchange for timber, as income. Similarly, Rice's analysis considers actual costs borne by the treasury; TSPIRS disguised a quarter billion dollars in 1990 costs with amortization periods—the time over which a cost will be discharged—of as much as 2,000 years for some forests.

The formula used by the FS to determine amortization periods does not reflect reality, Rice claims. According to

the FS formula, if a forest has 100 trees and cuts one in a given year, the amortization period for that forest is 100 years. In theory, the FS then would set aside each year for 100 years one-hundredth of the estimated cost of reforestation and road upkeep. Because the amortization period is a function of the percentage of trees cut, however, the amortization period—and the FS estimate of costs—may change annually for each forest. Accounting becomes meaningless when fixed costs do not remain constant.

By Rice's accounting, only 22 of the 120 national forests were profitable in 1990. Of those, only one, Pennsylvania's Allegheny, was outside the Pacific Northwest. Among regions, only Region 6 (the Pacific Northwest) was profitable. Overall, the treasury received a profit of one cent for every dollar expended in 1990 on timber programs. (See chart.)

In Region 5, which encompasses most of California's national forests, only eight (of 18) forests made money in 1990. Those forests—Eldorado, Lake Tahoe Basin (technically a 'management unit'), Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta-Trinity, Sierra, and Six Rivers—netted the treasury \$32.5 million. Three forests (Lassen, Shasta-Trinity, and Sierra) accounted for all but \$10 million of that total. Amortization periods for Region 5 forests ranged from zero to 226 years. In 1990, 623 million board feet were cut below cost in Region 5.

A copy of Rice's report can be obtained from The Wilderness Society, 900 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20006.

NET RETURNS TO THE TREASURY FROM NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER PROGRAMS, BY REGION, FY 1990

National Forest Region <sup>1</sup>	Treasury Receipts	Treasury Costs <sup>2</sup>	Net Treasury Receipts	Return per \$ Appropriated	# of profitable forests	Amount Cut	Average Amortization <sup>3</sup>
	(Thousands of dollars)			(Dollars)		(mbf) <sup>4</sup>	(Years)
1-Northern	22,909.4	74,954.9	-52,045.4	0.31	0 of 13	1,015,536	178
2-Rocky Mountain	2,503.7	21,327.7	-18,824.0	0.12	0 of 12	385,787	188
3-Southwestern	9,015.4	29,022.5	-20,007.1	0.31	0 of 11	433,257	179
4-Intermountain	5,600.0	28,982.4	-23,382.4	0.19	0 of 16	415,740	134
5-Pacific SW	131,859.1	133,322.8	-1,463.7	0.99	8 of 18	1,712,147	102
6-Pacific NW	543,527.5	341,780.9	201,746.7	1.59	13 of 19	3,878,403	113
8-Southern	50,988.7	85,688.8	-34,700.2	0.60	0 of 15	1,422,239	108
9-Eastern	21,426.6	41,207.1	-19,780.5	0.52	1 of 14	752,007	153
10-Alaska	9,984.5	36,405.0	-26,420.5	0.27	0 of 2	471,634	112
National Summary							
Profitable <sup>5</sup>	627,368.7	365,480.5	261,888.2	1.72	-	4,112,312	109
Unprofitable <sup>6</sup>	170,446.2	427,211.6	-256,765.3	0.40	-	6,374,438	137
National Total	797,815.0	792,692.1	5,122.9	1.01	22 of 120	10,486,750	126

<sup>1</sup> The Forest Service has no Region 7

<sup>2</sup> Treasury costs include actual appropriated expenses for sale preparation, harvest administration, timber resource planning, silvicultural examination, road design and construction, transportation planning, reforestation, timber stand improvement, forest genetics, timber program general administration, facilities construction, payments to states, and a portion of timber program expenses for the D.C. and regional offices of the F.S. allocated to each forest on the basis of the amount of timber cut.

<sup>3</sup> In the F.S. accounting system, road and reforestation costs are spread over a different period of time on each national forest.

Figures in this column represent the average period used in each region.

<sup>4</sup> Thousands of board feet.

<sup>5</sup> Figures are based on the 22 forests nationwide that are profitable; consequently, figures obtained by adding values listed for profitable regions may differ.

<sup>6</sup> Figures are based on the 98 forests nationwide that are unprofitable; figures obtained by adding values listed for unprofitable regions may differ.

All data are from unpublished work sheets for the F.S. Timber Sale Program Information Reporting System on file at F.S. Headquarters in Washington, D.C. All figures are for Fiscal Year 1990. Chart by Richard E. Rice

## BLM gives short shrift to Bodie Hills' wilderness values

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bers of cattle and sheep allowed to graze on these lands. Data collected by wildlife biologists over the past ten years show a marked deterioration of sensitive riparian areas which can be attributed to overgrazing. Consequently, environmentalists intend to appeal the grazing recommendations in the BLM's final Resource Management Plan, due in September. (See WR article, December 1990.)

### Call to action

Get involved! These areas need further research; the better we know them, the better we will be able to defend

their wilderness values when statewide BLM wilderness legislation is considered. Get to know the primitive beauty of the Bodie Hills. In your wanderings, be alert for illegal activities (water diversions, road building, and recent mining) in the WSAs and report violations to local activists and CWC. Be prepared to push for wilderness designation when the time comes.

Contact BLM to express your interest in their management of the Bodie Hills. Ask to be informed of all proposed actions in each of the WSAs. Write to: Mike Ferguson, Area

Manager, BLM-Bishop Resource Area, 787 N. Main St., Suite P, Bishop, CA 93514.

For more information on how you can join in the effort to obtain wilderness protection for the Bodie Hills, contact Sally Miller, P.O. Box 22, Lee Vining, CA 93541, (619)647-6411; Mike Gonella at (415)541-9144 or (415)255-2820; or Jim Eaton at CWC, (916)758-0380.

Sally Miller is an activist with the Sierra Club's Toiyabe chapter and Friends of the Inyo; Emilie Strauss is an activist with Desert Survivors.

## Wilderness management

# Trail extension places snowmobiles on brink of wilderness

By Marcus Libkind

The recently-concluded Amador Winter Sports Study (AWSS) Environmental Assessment addressed winter sports use (excluding alpine skiing) in the Eldorado National Forest's Amador District. The AWSS again brought Nordic skiers and snowmobilers to the discussion table. But this time, the effect of the Forest Service's actions could extend to the Mokelumne Wilderness which is closed to snowmobiles.

A little history is required to understand the present situation. The struggle between Nordic skiers and snowmobilers is not new. As both user groups have grown, Nordic skiers have been pushed out of areas they had formerly used by the roar of snowmobiles and the torn-up landscape they leave behind. Because the snowmobilers do not object to the presence of skiers, it is the skiers who lose out.

The aim of the AWSS scoping was to meet the needs of both user groups. The AWSS scoping map adds 40 miles to the Silver Bear groomed snowmobile trail system, which is funded by fees paid by snowmobilers. For Nordic skiers, the map designates an area, south and east of Silver Lake, which would be closed to snowmobiles except on designated routes. One of these designated routes parallels the border of the Mokelumne Wilderness (see map).

Because the restricted area is very mountainous, the only good ski route is along Squaw Ridge next to the Mokelumne Wilderness. The designated snowmobile route in this area follows the ridge before coming to a dead end. Nordic skiers have protested this aspect of the AWSS

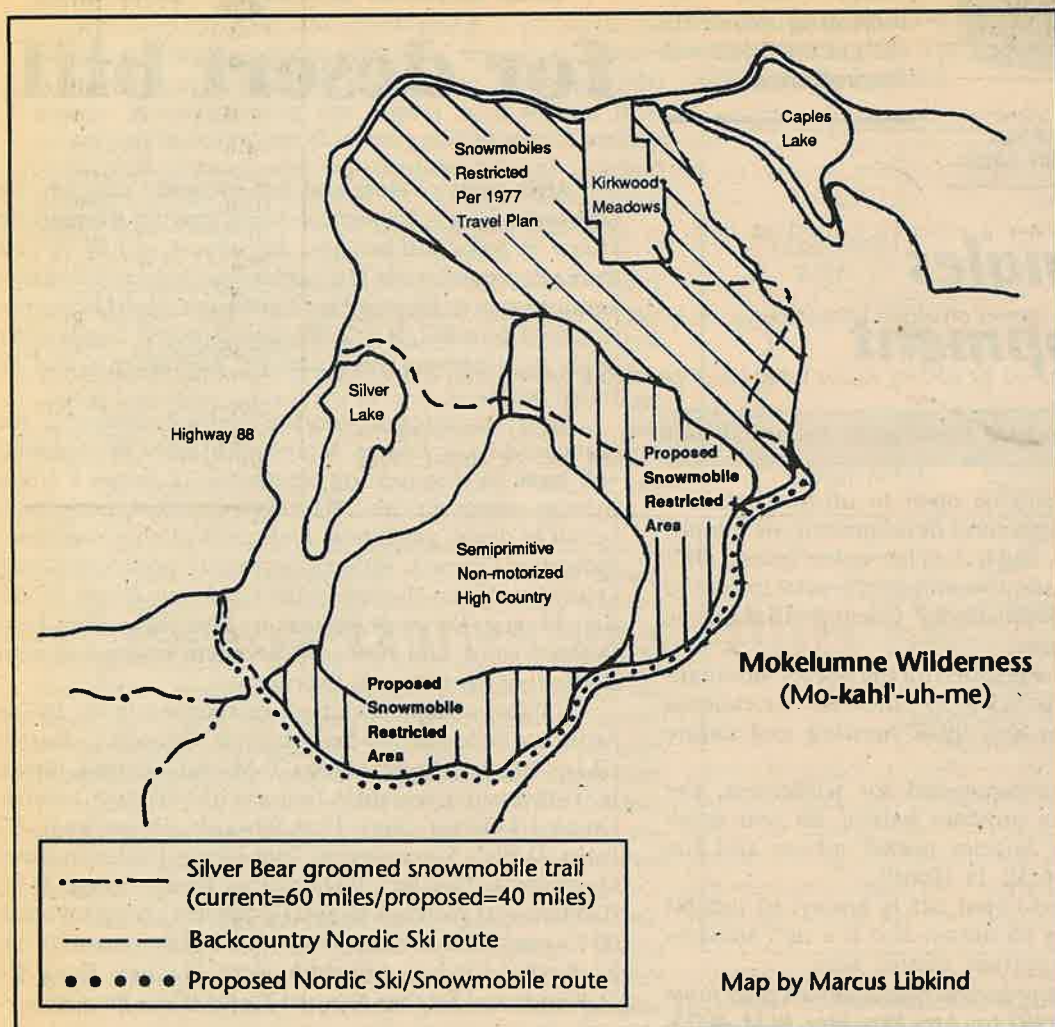
map because the snowmobile route coincides with the ski route. Skiers believe that the proximity of the snowmobile route to the Mokelumne Wilderness will foster intrusion into the wilderness by snowmobilers.

Historically, the closure of areas and designation of snowmobile routes have not been effective in deterring snowmobilers from illegally entering restricted areas. From Red Lake, just east of Carson Pass, a ski route leads to the headwaters of Forestdale Creek in the Mokelumne Wilderness. Snowmobilers from Hope Valley find their way into this area. Although there is a narrow corridor for motorized vehicles



Skiers traversing Squaw Ridge in Eldorado N. F.

Photo by Marcus Libkind



open slopes in the wilderness.

The situation that would result from the AWSS proposal will not be much different. The designated snowmobile route along Squaw Ridge offers two excellent access points into the Mokelumne Wilderness. It is not conceivable that the designated route can be marked and enforced so thoroughly as to prevent motorized intrusion into the wilderness.

Effectively, the AWSS proposal is purely an expansion plan for the Silver Bear groomed snowmobile trail system. It not only fails in its attempt to improve backcountry Nordic skiing, but also jeopardizes the Mokelumne Wilderness.

For additional

information about the Amador Winter Sports Study Environmental Assessment and other issues affecting Nordic skiers, contact Nordic Voice, 3383 Burgundy Drive, San Jose, CA 95132 for a free subscription to their newsletter.

Marcus Libkind is Political Issues Coordinator for Nordic Voice, a committee of the Loma Prieta chapter of the Sierra Club.

## Shasta victory

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that agencies may have some latitude in interpreting regulations, the attorneys argued that that latitude "is not unbounded, at least on this side of the looking glass."

Judge Levi agreed, admonishing the FS that it "cannot avoid the requirements of the English language."

Levi's decision sets an important precedent that may have wide-ranging applications. Zane Gresham of Morrison and Forester, the law firm representing the environmental groups, characterizes the ruling as "vindication of the public's right to access to administrative appeals." Gresham believes Judge Levi was influenced in his ruling by a June 1990 memorandum that indicated the FS had decided to approve the ski development prior to the conclusion of the comment period on a relevant Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Levi's ruling triggers a 45-day appeal period for the draft supplemental EIS. Having fought so hard for the right to appeal, environmentalists, and others who oppose the development, are likely to take advantage of the opportunity.

## Wilderness news

### San Joaquin mining plan protested

By Jim Eaton

Inyo National Forest officials are preparing to allow a controversial mining project in the San Joaquin Roadless Area near Mammoth Lakes. The agency has scheduled no environmental review of the planned road building and trench excavation despite its location in a roadless area.

Miners have asked the Forest Service for permission to dig eight to ten trenches at their claim near the Inyo Craters. The excavations would be four feet wide, five feet deep, and 30 to 40 feet long. An access route of "several hundred yards" would be needed to get heavy equipment

to the claims.

The Forest Service reports that no objections or protests were received in response to notices published in the local *Review-Herald* and *Inyo Register* newspapers during the week of September 4, 1990. After learning of the project nearly a year later, the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, and The Wilderness Society have registered complaints and threatened to appeal.

Conservationists are concerned that the proposed project would not receive any environmental study, despite being in a roadless area with numerous natural values. In light of recent judicial and administrative decisions requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement for projects that would alter roadless areas, conservationists believe they can win an appeal.

The portion of the San Joaquin Roadless Area that would be affected by the proposed development is an ancient red fir forest known to support pine marten. It also is potential spotted owl habitat and may be territory used by furbearing mammals such as the fisher and the wolverine.



One of the few remaining ancient forests on the east side of the Sierra lies within the San Joaquin roadless area of Inyo N.F. Photo by Jim Eaton

### South Coast plan mingles open space and development

By Jim Eaton

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released for public comment a draft resource management plan for the South Coast Planning Area. The plan covers 129,000 acres of public lands in San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Orange counties. The deadline for comment is October 4.

Within the planning area are five Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs): Agua Tibia, Beauty Mountain, Hauser Mountain, Western Otay Mountain, and Southern Otay Mountain. BLM is recommending for wilderness designation the 344-acre Agua Tibia WSA (adjacent to the Agua Tibia Wilderness managed by the Forest Service) and almost all of both Otay Mountain WSAs.

Most of the lands in the Los Angeles-Orange County area are recommended for exchange with the Forest Service or other public agencies, or for sale.

BLM proposes to manage lands in the other counties for "sensitive species, open space, and recreation." However, under this alternative, nearly 21,000 acres of public land could be exchanged or sold for residential use. Over

253 miles of routes will be open to off-road vehicles (ORVs), and with campground development, new trails, easement acquisitions, and lack of law enforcement, ORV use "would create a disruptive and detrimental impact to resident large animal populations." Grazing will continue with few new constraints.

Prescribed burns are planned for the Beauty Mountain and Hauser Mountain WSAs to "increase recreational opportunities for deer and quail hunting and nature study."

Although not recommended for wilderness, the Beauty Mountain area provides habitat for two sensitive species, the Los Angeles pocket mouse and the orange-throated whiptail (a lizard).

The California leaf-nosed bat is known to inhabit Otay Mountain. Otay Mountain also is a rich archaeological area with important quarry sites.

Comments on the proposed management plan must be sent by October 4, 1991 to: Area Manager, BLM, 400 S. Farrell Drive, Suite B-205, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

## Roadless area logging blocked

Salvage logging by helicopter will not be allowed in roadless area portions of the 6,500-acre Hotshot timber sale in the Eldorado National Forest, thanks to an appeal brought by The Wilderness Society. Environmentalists objected to the sale which had been approved without an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Wilderness Society argued, and the Acting Forest Supervisor has now agreed, that the Environmental Assessment utilized by the Eldorado instead of an EIS was inadequate.

The decision means that no logging will occur in the roadless areas unless forest personnel decide to write an EIS, during which public comment would be solicited. Logging outside the roadless areas will be allowed. Environmentalists and the Forest Service (FS) are frequently at loggerheads over which FS actions require the more stringent EIS.

## Hearing set for desert bill

After years of slow and not-so-steady progress, the California Desert Protection Act is moving through the House by leaps and bounds. Introduced in July by California Representatives Mel Levine and Richard Lehman as a counterpart to Senator Alan Cranston's Desert Protection Act, the House bill, H.R. 2929, would protect fragile desert lands as wilderness areas, national monuments, and national parks.

Since its introduction, the Levine-Lehman bill has garnered 42 co-sponsors. More importantly, the desert bill will have its first hearing September 12 before a House Interior subcommittee. Witnesses expected to testify on behalf of desert protection are Harriet Allen of the Desert Protective Council, Wilderness Society president George Frampton, Elden Hughes of the California Desert Protection League, Deborah Reames for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, and Howard Chapman, regional director (retired) of the National Park Service.

California Representatives co-sponsoring the bill are Anthony Beilenson (D-Los Angeles), Howard L. Berman (D-Los Angeles), Barbara Boxer (D-Marin), George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Riverside), Ronald V. Dellums (D-Berkeley), Julian C. Dixon (D-Culver City), Don Edwards (D-San Jose), Vic Fazio (D-West Sacramento), Tom Lantos (D-Burlingame), Matthew G. Martinez (D-Monterey Park), George Miller (D-Martinez), Norman Mineta (D-San Jose), Leon E. Panetta (D-Carmel Valley), Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), Edward R. Roybal (D-Los Angeles), Pete Fortney Stark (D-Oakland), and Esteban Edward Torres (D-La Puente).

## Book reviews

# Shaping National Parks

### Worthwhile Places:

#### *The Correspondence of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Horace M. Albright*

By Joseph W. Ernst, ed., Fordham University Press, New York, 354pp.

Worthwhile Places offers fascinating insight into the shaping of our National Park system and the major contributions private citizens (who have money, as well as ideas) have made in the development of the National Parks.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., over the course of his long life, was responsible for shaping, beautifying, and markedly modifying many parks, notably Acadia, Yellowstone, and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. We can credit Rockefeller's foresight that the Grand Tetons have not suffered the fate of southern Lake Tahoe, but remain to a great extent undeveloped and preserved. Rockefeller found a willing ally in Horace Albright, the second director of the National Park Service. Over a period of 35 years, the two worked together to put into practice their very similar visions of preservation and parks.

In his retirement, Albright (with Rockefeller's support) worked to preserve the lovely South Grove at California's

Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Reading this book, I developed an appreciation for the influence exercised by bureaucrats into the workings of government (which has historically valued long and faithful service) and the joy of reading well-crafted letters (particularly Rockefeller's). I think you will find the book surprisingly enjoyable, and, like the places considered, worthwhile.

—George M. Clark

## The wilderness of government

### *California Political Almanac 1991-1992*

By Stephen Green, ed., California Journal Press, Sacramento, 528pp.

This almanac, compiled by staff of the *Sacramento Bee*, is the perfect guidebook for those who must make their way through California's governmental thicket. With detailed entries covering every aspect of the state's government, this is the book we refer to when we need to verify a fact or find an address.

Moreover, it's a good read. Want a snapshot history of California politics? A pithy assessment of your state representatives? Ever wonder what the State Board of Equalization equalizes (and why it matters)? With charts, maps, and abundant information, the *Political Almanac* has all the answers.

## T-shirts for trysters

Linda wears our six-tone anniversary shirt; it comes in light blue, yellow, light green, or peach for \$15. The animal design Paul 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.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 26** COMMENTS DUE on proposed changes to the NFMA regulations. Send to: Land Management Planning Staff (1920), Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, D.C. 20090-6090. (See article on page 1.)

**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. (See article on page 6.)

**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:

from page 2

Southern Otay and Jacumba WSAs.



**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:

California Wilderness Coalition  
 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5  
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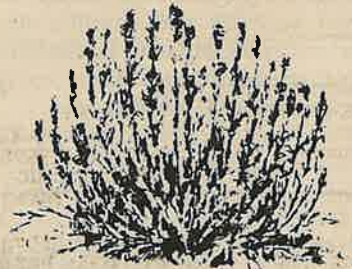
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Silver sagebrush

Soil Conservation Service graphic

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