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# WILDERNESS RECORD

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## Lassen plan abandons salmon, ancient forests, and Yahi culture

By Steve Evans

The fate of a nearly extinct run of salmon, rare wildlife like the California spotted owl and its ancient forest habitat, and the cultural remains of an already extinct tribe of Native Americans will be decided by the implementation of a ten-year land and resources management plan recently published for the Lassen National Forest.

Public comments in response to the plan are being solicited by the Forest Service until October 9, 1992. The comment period provides an important opportunity for conservationists to help guide the future management of 1.1 million acres of national forest straddling the transition zone between the northern Sierra Nevada, southern Cascades, and the Modoc plateau.

Of particular concern to conservationists is the plan's treatment of ultra-sensitive tributaries to the Sacramento River, including Deer, Mill, and Antelope creeks, which host one of the last remaining wild spring runs of chinook salmon in California. Fewer than 1,000 salmon migrate up these streams annu-

ally to spawn, a decline of more than 50 percent in the last two decades. Although all three streams are recommended for addition to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers system, conservationists fear that road construction and logging in their watersheds, particularly in unprotected roadless areas, will degrade spawning habitat and lead to the salmon's eventual extinction.

Unfortunately, nearly 27 percent of almost 60,000 acres of roadless land in the Deer, Mill, and Antelope creek watersheds is slated for some level of road building and logging in the Lassen plan. Although portions of some roadless areas are recommended for wilderness (see map and sidebar on page 4), most notably Mill Creek and Wild Cattle Mountain, other areas are open to development, including Cub Creek, Butt Mountain, Polk Springs, and portions of the Ishi 'B' roadless area. The nearly pristine nature of Deer, Mill, and Antelope creeks is considered unique in California and is attributable, in part, to much of their watersheds remaining unroaded and undeveloped.

The ancient forests in these watersheds provide an important connection between old-growth-dependent wildlife species in the Sierra Nevada and species in the southern Cascades and Modoc plateau. Although some spotted owl and furbearer habitat is set aside for protection in the plan, many other ancient forest areas which provide

*continued on page 4*



This portion of the Mill Creek Roadless Area is proposed for wilderness in the Lassen forest plan. Photo by Jim Eaton

## Polluted air—a wilderness crisis in the making

By Lucy Rosenau

In an American city, songwriter Tom Lehrer once warned, "don't drink the water and don't breathe the air." In California's wilderness areas, we already know to be leery of the water; increasingly, we are seeing evidence in the Sierra Nevada and in the southern coast ranges that the air, supposed to be the most pristine in the nation, is polluted. The decrease in visibility noted by long-time wilderness visitors is symptomatic of a far more serious but less visible problem: the effects of air pollution on montane ecosystems. Since wilderness air pollution, unlike most other wilderness problems, originates outside the wilderness boundary and impacts hundreds of thousands

of acres, it is one of the trickiest problems for managers to address. Quite literally, the hydrocarbons we emit in San Jose wind up at night in Yosemite.

In response to concerns about increasing air pollution, Congress in 1977 amended the Clean Air Act (CAA) to protect air quality in areas with air cleaner than in most of the nation. All wilderness areas larger than 5,000 acres and all national parks larger than 6,000 acres established before August 7, 1977 were designated Class I areas (see sidebar on page 5). Congress charged the managers of Class I areas with protecting their air quality-related

*continued on page 5*

### Inside this issue:

**Environmental ethics—two views by wilderness writers.....3**

**Forest Service serves up comedy (on purpose).....4**

**Desert bill mark-up produces high theater, no action.....6**

## COALITION PAGE

### MONTHLY REPORT

BY JIM EATON

During the dog days of August, it doesn't take much of an excuse to get me to attend meetings far away from Davis (powwows in Los Angeles excepted). Inyo and I didn't mind missing the hottest weekend of the year (107°) by travelling to Bishop for a series of meetings.

We were accompanied by former intern and designated dog-sitter Shelley Mountjoy who had just finished her last final and was looking for a change in scenery.

Our plan for a hike near Sonora Pass was thwarted by downpours from thunderstorms, so we headed east into the Bodie Hills. The rain followed us there, but it did inhibit the dust that lies thick on those back roads. Late in the afternoon the rain stopped, and we were treated to the sight of a herd of 30 pronghorn (one buck and many does) trotting through the sage. Later we saw the first of many northern harriers flying about.

The following day we drove on to Denny Wilcher's cabin between Tom's Place and Bishop. Here we met activists with the Eastern Sierra Committee and the California Desert Protection League. It can be hard to concentrate on business with the Sierra at your back and the White Mountains in front, but it sure beats meeting in a city. Normally this is Inyo's boring time as he has to lie in the hot shade all day, but this trip Shelley took him off for a hike in the woods.

The conservationists on the East Side are a small but active group who hail mostly from Mono and Inyo counties, but others came from Reno and from the Los Angeles basin. They included the CWC's newest board member, Sally Miller, and mentors like Marjorie Sill and Joe Fontaine.

After a scrumptious potluck dinner, a group of Coalition members gathered to establish an advisory committee to dispense money from the Smoke Blanchard fund. As the day ended, Shelley and Inyo returned from their adventures, and we set off to find a suitable campsite.

We found one among the Jeffrey pines in the Long Valley caldera. Although relatively quiet now, 700,000 years ago a blast 560 times larger than that at Mt. St. Helens ejected enough material

to build another Mt. Shasta. I tried not to think about that, or that this region is given the greatest likelihood of producing California's next eruption.

In the warm morning, we climbed the flank of Casa Diablo, a granitic peak that rises above the volcanic tablelands and Long Valley. From this vantage point, the colossal caldera really looks like a crater, with Mammoth and Glass mountains forming parts of the rim.

Despite the allure of the lofty White Mountains and Sierra, we opted to stay in the arid lands and spent the rest of the morning exploring the roadless tablelands around Chidago Canyon. After visiting several petroglyph sites, we drove along the Benton Range to Highway 120, and then to the Granite Mountain Wilderness Study Area southeast of Mono Lake.

Recalling Sally Miller's glowing description of the view from the summit, I decided it was worth a climb. Inyo and I panted our way up the hot, dry creek bed, disturbing a long-eared owl and a rattlesnake along the way. At the base of the summit block, we shared the last of our water and looked for a route suitable for a dog. After several attempts, we reached the crown of Granite Mountain, just shy of 9,000 feet in elevation.

Sally was right. It was a marvelous viewpoint. I could see some 20 wilderness, roadless, and wilderness study areas. In addition to the White Mountains and Sierra, there were the Sweetwaters, Bodie Hills, Excelsior, Glass Mountain, Mono Craters, and Dexter Canyon.

But Sally didn't have to contend with flying red ants. So after some quick photographs, Inyo and I beat a hasty retreat off the peak. Enticed by thoughts of water and cold beer back at the truck, we returned in a fraction of the time it took initially.

That night, as we watched meteors from the Perseids shower, I realized that of the score of wild areas I had seen from the summit, only four are protected as wilderness (and one of those is in Nevada). Clearly there is much to be done on the East Side.

On the other hand, that means many more excuses to escape the flatlands of Davis. This is a challenge I am going to enjoy!

### Board profile



Sally Miller is perched high above Tuolumne Meadows.  
Photo by Geoff McQuilkin

## East Side champion joins CWC

Although she joined the California Wilderness Coalition's (CWC) Board of Directors in December 1991, Sally Miller did not attend her first meeting until this spring because a clutch of car troubles kept her on the east side of the Sierra. Sally lives in Lee Vining where she works as Eastern Sierra Representative for the Mono Lake Committee and as a volunteer troubleshooter for just about everybody else.

Why would a person with so much to do travel great distances to serve on the Board of yet another conservation group? Because the CWC isn't just any group, Sally says. As a novice activist, Sally herself was encouraged by the CWC and especially by Executive Director Jim Eaton, who Sally considers one of her mentors. So she's glad "that CWC is going back on the road," the better to aid and abet and enlist more activists for wilderness. Sally's own priority, like the Coalition's, is to protect those wild areas—like the desert, the ancient forests, and the White Mountains—that have not been protected. Yet.

Asked to name a favorite wild place, Sally chooses the San Joaquin Roadless Area in her own backyard, describing a place of secret treasures, of forests and meadows, ridges and streams. A place that feels all the more special for being threatened. For now.



### CWC wish list:

Aside from the usual (a full-page monitor for our Macintosh or a scanner), our office could use two four-drawer filing cabinets to handle our paper overflow. Anyone out there have a filing cabinet or two you would like to donate? (It's tax-deductible!)

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

What are the most popular animals in California place names?

Answer on page 7.

## Environmental ethics

# Deep ecology: how low do you go?

## Is tree spiking ethical?

By Dave Foreman

This is a question open to great dispute. Those who believe in the sanctity of private property, who believe that laws must never be broken, or who believe that forests are merely resources to be used by people will always argue that tree spiking is immoral.

I maintain that tree spiking can be ethical, for several reasons.

Forests are not simply collections of trees. All natural forest ecosystems are integrated, complex systems. Many species depend on natural forest ecosystems. These species and the community they form have value in and of themselves, not merely for the benefit of human beings.

Current logging of old growth on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and private lands represents the final mopping-up in a two-century-long campaign of genocide against the ancient forests that once blanketed much of the United States. Defending the victims of this genocidal campaign seems to me inherently ethical.

Efforts by conservationists to preserve viable old-growth ecosystems by working within the system are failing. When conservation groups file lawsuits to halt timber sales, members of Congress in thrall to the timber industry quickly pass legislation voiding or preventing such suits. Protesters using nonviolent civil disobedience to slow logging of wild forests are being hit by lawsuits from timber contractors. This leaves monkeywrenching.

Therefore, responsible tree spiking (done as a last resort after legal means, civil disobedience, and lesser forms of monkeywrenching have failed; and only with full warning to the land-managing agency and timber harvesters) is justified and ethical.

Dave Foreman is the author of *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior*, from which the above passage is excerpted.

Amory Lovins came up the road from his nascent Rocky Mountain Institute one evening. Twenty-five of us volunteers gathered in the dining room, and he talked to us about ways of generating energy that made environmental sense and ways that didn't. This man, who was once the British representative for Friends of the Earth, was now on a mission to bring empowerment to homeowners and enlightenment to the utility companies. When he addressed himself to our questions that evening, he listened intently, spoke directly to each question without evasion or sidetracking, and made sure the questioner was satisfied before he moved on.

Impressed, I came back the next summer to work for Amory as a volunteer during the construction of an energy-efficient home for the Rocky Mountain Institute.

We asked some of the California Wilderness Coalition's distinguished members to respond to a question of environmental ethics. Do they consider how we treat one another an environmental issue, we wondered, and when, if ever, do the ends justify the means? Below are the very different responses of Lorraine Anderson and Dave Foreman.

mental ethics, but I prefer the bodhisattva model because it works. The utilities pay Amory to tell them how they need to change, and they follow his advice. (Our own Pacific Gas and Electric Company is a shining example of this.)

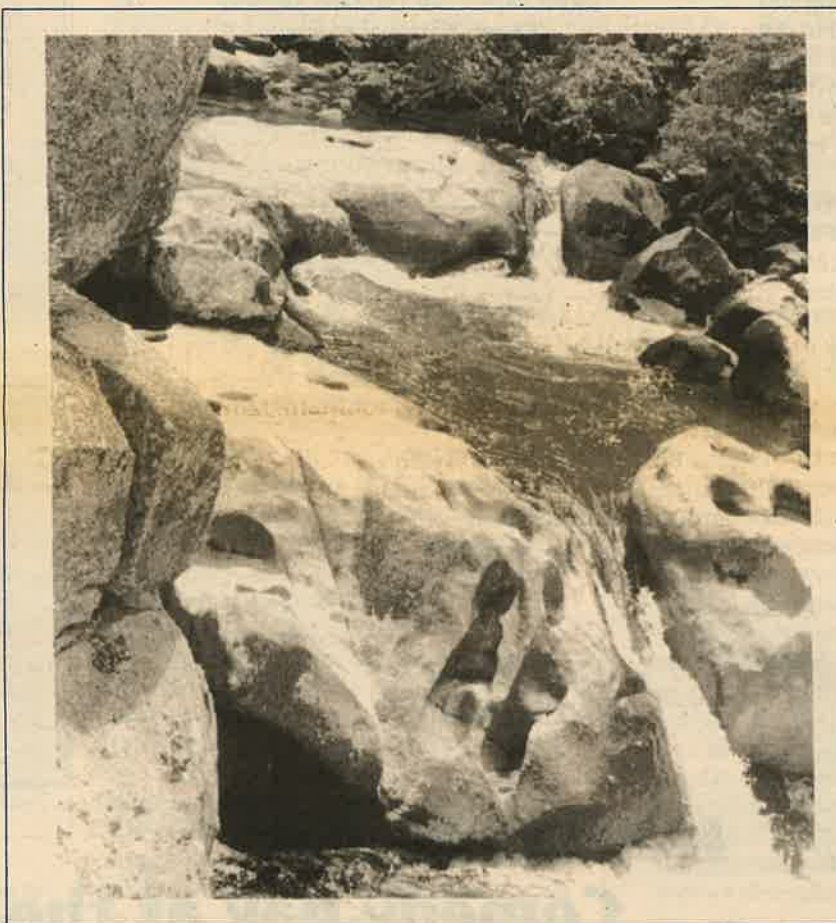
The world is ripe for environmentalist bodhisattvas. I and most people I know have a gut-level sense that we're stuck in the inertia of a self-destructing system. We don't need to be banged over the head with more evidence or blamed for our complicity in the system. Instead, we need to feel that those with some insight into the situation are willing to partner us as we explore ways out.

Craig Schindler and Gary Lapid are some other bodhisattvas I know. They started Project Victory back in the eighties to take the anti-nuclear debate beyond dogma to dialogue. I attended one of their two-day trainings, and something Craig Schindler said still sticks in my mind. He quoted Gandhi: "The means are the ends in the making." In other words, if we want a world in which all members of all species are respected, we don't go around hurling invective at loggers (even if they hurl it at us first). If we want to preserve and honor diversity of species, we must preserve and honor diversity of viewpoints. Project Victory is now conducting environmental/corporate dialogue programs. Business, environmental, and government leaders sit down to reach beyond their apparent differences to an understanding of the deeper problem they share: lack of the community ethic necessary to sustain an adequate balance between economic and environmental needs.

Environmentalism is about change. It's about changing a way of seeing and being that we've been taught by the major institutions of our culture—family, education, religion, state. Change is painful, and we humans don't change unless we see that it's in our self-interest to do so. We certainly don't change because someone is scowling at us and telling us we're wrong, our livelihood is wrong, our way of life is wrong. We change only when the pain we're feeling as a result of our way of life makes us look for a different way. Then we become receptive to enlightened role models.

Not that it's easy to be a bodhisattva. Aldo Leopold said that an environmentalist lives in a world of wounds. I bleed internally when I hear that another member of my human family has proposed to dam the American River or Caples Creek, to dig the coal out of the Kaiparowits Plateau in southern Utah, or to extinguish another species in order to protect profits. But there really is no alternative to a patient and persistent dialogue with these fellow travelers. None of us gets to ecotopia alone. We all go or no one goes. That's the law.

Lorraine Anderson edited *Sisters of the Earth*, a collection of women's writings about nature.



The confluence of Caples Creek and the Silver Fork American. Photo by Lucy Rosenau

## Beyond dogma to dialogue

By Lorraine Anderson

One chilly fall evening in the Colorado Rockies about a decade ago, I met a man who was to have a decisive impact on the way I think about environmental ethics. It was during Volunteer Week at Windstar, a whale-shaped piece of land near Aspen acquired by John Denver to pursue the dream of creating a sustainable culture. We volunteers were getting the organic gardens ready for winter, building a composting toilet, stacking wood for the woodstove, tidying up the old ranch house that had been remodeled with energy efficiency in mind. The windmill on the hill above the house was humming.

Listening to him at the dinner table, watching him take reporters from national media on tours of the building site and prepare for consultations with utility executives, I learned more about his ideas and methods. Amory talks to utility executives in their own language, giving facts and figures, dollars-and-cents reasons for the transition to renewable sources of energy. From his environmentalist stance, he creates common ground and meets the other side more than halfway. He makes their needs and interests the centerpiece of his pitch. And they listen, because he makes it easy for them to do so.

Amory is a dazzling example of the bodhisattva model of environmental ethics. The bodhisattva, a deity worshipped by Buddhists, is an enlightened being who compassionately refrains from entering nirvana in order to show others the way. There are other models of environ-

## Roadless areas

# Lassen's ancient forests on the chopping block

continued from page 1

habitat for such diverse species as the California spotted owl, pileated woodpecker, Pacific fisher, pine marten, and wolverine are slated for logging.

Ironically, the plan reduces logging in the Lassen National Forest by as much as 44 percent. But there is so little of the native ancient forest left that any level of intensive logging is bound to put sensitive watersheds and key ancient forest habitat on the chopping block. One wildlife biologist familiar with the forest has noted that the reduction in logging from 171 million board feet (mmbf) of timber per year to 96 mmbf is a "step in the right direction, but it should be about half that level." The timber industry is bitterly opposing the logging reduction and is expected to challenge the plan in court.

### Roads over reason

Another major concern for conservationists is the plan's predilection for indirectly encouraging looting and vandalism of Native American cultural sites. Much of the western portion of the Lassen Forest was the former home of the Yahi—a tribe wiped out by European invaders in the 1800s. Ishi, the last known survivor of the Yahi tribe, died in 1916. A major roadless area encompassing the tribe's former homeland now bears his name.

Approximately 41,000 acres of the Ishi Roadless Area were designated wilderness in 1984. The remaining 20,000 acres are not recommended for wilderness status in the plan but are allocated instead to various primitive and motorized recreation uses. Motorized access to culturally sensitive areas such as Ishi country encourages vandalism and illegal looting of cultural sites—a threat which became an ugly reality a few years ago when looters on motor bikes were arrested while vandalizing a cultural site on Antelope Creek. Wilderness designation of the entire Ishi Roadless Area would make motorized access to Yahi cultural sites illegal.

In another example of roads over reason, the plan allows for almost

including the Chips, Soda, and Yellow creek drainages, continued off-road vehicle use in the High Lakes area and proposed intensive logging on Soda Ridge are expected to exclude this area permanently from future wilderness consideration and destroy much of its ancient forest habitat.

### What you can do

Please write a letter to Forest Supervisor Leonard Atencio by October 9, 1992. Urge him to protect the wilderness, fish, wildlife, and cultural values of the Lassen National Forest. Be sure to provide your address and ask the Forest Service to put you on their mailing list to be kept informed of their management activities. Your letter must be postmarked by October 9 in order to be considered by the Forest Service.

Address your letter to:

Forest Supervisor Leonard Atencio  
Lassen National Forest  
55 South Sacramento Street  
Susanville, CA 96130

Steve Evans is Vice President of the California Wilderness Coalition.



- ① Mill Creek Wilderness
- ② Lassen Wilderness Additions
- ③ Heart Lake
- ④ Wild Cattle Mtn.
- Caribou Wilderness Addition
- ① Trail Lake

Map by Jim Eaton

three miles of the upper Mill Creek trail to be reconverted into a road, supposedly to allow for fishing access. In reality, the road will encourage poaching of endangered salmon as well as looting of cultural sites and result in the logging of 400 acres of the Mill Creek Roadless Area.

The plan also maintains motorized recreation in the High Lakes region of the Chips Creek Roadless Area. This 36,000 acre roadless area adjacent to the North Fork Feather River canyon is chopped up into various units emphasizing primitive recreation, motorized recreation, and logging. Although some sensitive areas are protected,

### Environmental revue:

## Comedy day at the Forest Service

In Forest Service files we found the following parody of an environmental review:

### Afflicted Environment

There are three kinds of rocks in the project area:  
Ignominious: These rocks are embarrassed about being puked out of a volcano.

Sedentary: These rocks have lain around for a couple of hundred million years and are too lazy to do anything else.

Metaphorical: These are like other rocks, but they're not.

These rocks are all lying around the project area waiting to slide downhill. In some cases the ignominious rocks are made to feel more unstable by being taken for granite, thereby proving not all geologists have their schist together.

### Alternative Consequences

1. Do nothing: In this alternative the ignominious

rocks, trying to hide their shame, slide away from the other rocks.

2. Do something: Here also the ignominious rocks slide, joined by the metaphorical rocks trying to do something somewhere else.

3. Do everything: In this alternative even the sedentary material tries to get out of the area.

### Alternative Affliction

In choosing number three we plan to enhance everything in every way because we have tried really hard. There will be more wood fiber to generate more government forms, so we can all get awards after we are all done, plus we are enhancing fisheries, wildlife, and recreation.

Fisheries: After sediment gets in the fishies' eyes they get grumpy and bite at anything.

Wildlife: It's a lot easier to shoot bambis when there are no trees for them to hide behind.

Recreation: More landslides mean more sediment means we are saving the beaches.

## Roadless areas abandoned, too

During the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) program in the late 1970s, 18 roadless areas, totaling 208,600 acres, were identified in the Lassen National Forest.

When Congress passed the California Wilderness Act in 1984, three of these areas were designated as wilderness: the 41,800-acre Ishi Wilderness and two small additions to the Caribou Wilderness totaling 1,800 acres. Six areas (including potential additions to Ishi and Caribou) remained in further planning, and 12 areas were released from further wilderness study.

The six further planning areas were studied in the current Lassen forest plan. The Forest Service now proposes wilderness designation for all or part of four areas:

Area	Size	Proposed
Heart Lake	9,289	9,289
Mill Creek	7,990	7,580
Trail Lake	1,115	815
Wild Cattle Mtn.	4,965	3,900
Ishi	20,027	0
Butt Mtn.	8,300	0

None of the 12 released areas, totaling 111,000 acres, was proposed for wilderness, even though the Forest Service had recommended Timbered Crater, Prospect, Devils Garden, Cinder Butte, Cypress, and Mt. Harkness for wilderness in RARE II. The other roadless areas the Forest Service chooses not to protect as wilderness are Chips Creek, Cub Creek, Lava, Lost Creek, Mayfield, and Polk Springs.

—Jim Eaton

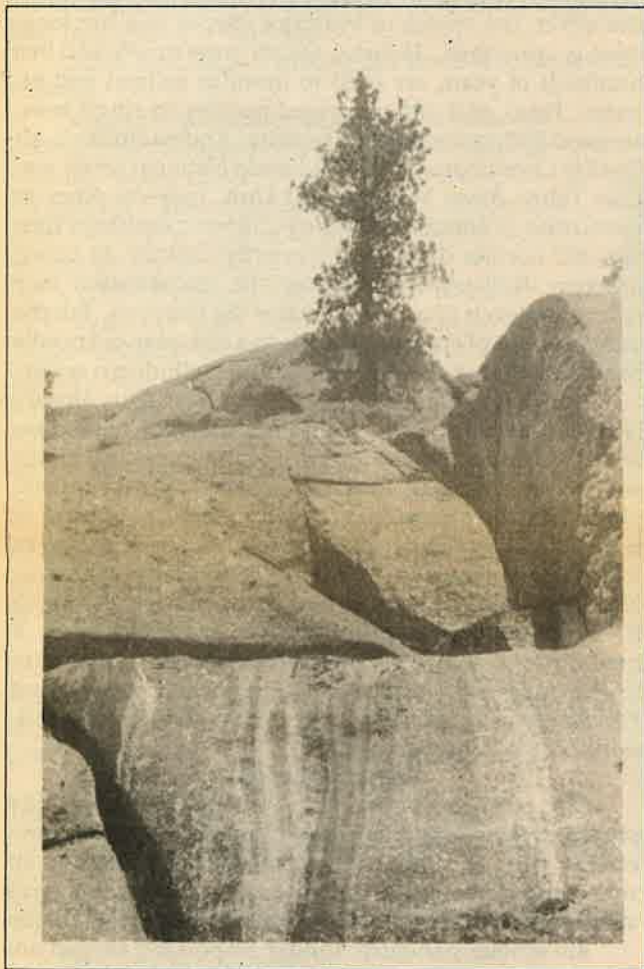
## Wilderness management

# Air looms as wilderness problem

continued from page 1

values (AQRVs), those components of the wilderness most sensitive to air pollution, from the impacts of nearby development.

So far so good. But Congress authorized federal land managers to intervene only under certain circumstances, specifically, when the expected increase in pollutants would come from a single, localized or "point" source. When someone wants to build a coal-fired generating plant next to the Grand Canyon, for instance, the park supervisor may recommend against the project if studies show that the plant would degrade the air quality inside the park below the Class I range established by the CAA.



Pines at high elevation are particularly susceptible to ozone pollution. Photo by Lucy Rosenau

Then the Environmental Protection Agency or a deputized state agency (in California, the Air Resources Board) decides whether or not to approve the project. The process can work, provided the point source is neither too small nor too far distant to be exempt from the CAA.

But the gaping loophole that makes the federal CAA largely ineffectual for California wilderness is that many of our parks and wilderness areas are suffering not from point sources of pollution but from "non-point" sources like transportation corridors full of cars and trucks, and subdivisions full of lawnmowers and wood-burning stoves. Consequently, the federal land managers responsible for protecting the purity of wilderness air have virtually no authority to combat the sources of air pollution.

### Chlorotic mottle

The air-borne pollutant most destructive to plants in California, where acid rain, the bane of eastern forests, is comparatively slight, is ozone, a secondary pollutant created when nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons, emitted

primarily from cars and trucks, interact with sunlight. In California, auto emissions are heaviest in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Los Angeles basin, and the Central Valley. In the San Joaquin Valley alone, according to Trent Procter, Air Specialist for the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest region, 40 million miles are driven each day, with a resulting 1,600 tons of pollutants emitted. (By contrast, a proposed point source that would emit only 100 tons of pollutants a year would be considered to have "Potential for Significant Deterioration" of air quality and trigger a review process under the CAA.) Prevailing winds carry polluted air east to the Sierra Nevada or the southern coast ranges.

The result of all that ozone on forested, west-facing slopes is chlorotic mottle, a discoloration of conifer needles that signifies the loss of chlorophyll. Trees damaged by ozone retain fewer needles. With fewer needles, photosynthesis and, consequently, growth are diminished, and the trees are more vulnerable to insects. Yellow pine species—Jeffrey and ponderosa—are especially susceptible to ozone; firs are more tolerant. Also at risk from ozone and other pollutants are lichens because they absorb nutrients directly from the air.

Ozone levels are now considered severe in the forests of the Los Angeles basin, where as much as 50 percent of all lichen species historically present in some mixed conifer forests have disappeared. In the southern Sierra, ozone pollution is deemed moderate, although individual areas may be more or less impacted. In July 1989 at a site in Sequoia National Park (a Class I area), the monthly average ozone level was higher than levels recorded at some sites in the Los Angeles basin. In the northern Sierra, ozone concentrations at Blue Canyon are three times the level in downtown Sacramento. Lower emissions, less-restrictive topography, and more atmospheric mixing combine to make northern California less prone to ozone damage.

While the effects of ozone on the Sierra Nevada are easily detected and increasingly well known, the extent and impacts of acid deposition remain in question. Acid rain results when nitrogen oxides combine with nitrous acids; as the acid-laden air masses rise over mountain ranges, the lifting of the air causes precipitation, and acids are released along with moisture. Soil and water studies have shown that the granitic soils and high-elevation lakes of the Sierra Nevada have very little buffering capacity, so they are particularly susceptible to acid deposition. Although testing indicates that Sierra lakes are not suffering from acidity, Procter questions the reliability of those findings because acid deposition in Sierra Nevada lakes and streams tends to be episodic rather than constant. He speculates that since spring snow melt and amphibian reproduction times roughly coincide, high acid levels from melting snow, undetectable at other times of year, may be partly responsible for declining populations of amphibians.

### What's being done

Though frustrated by their inability to deal with non-point sources of pollution and by insufficient funds and personnel, wilderness air specialists have begun the time-consuming process of determining just

how serious a problem wilderness air pollution is now. The Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management have formed a Federal Clean Air Partnership, meeting twice a year to share data and resources. The Department of Defense, concerned about visibility on the east side of the Sierra where pilots train, also is involved.

The Clean Air Act stipulates visibility, specifically integral vistas within wilderness, as an AQRV that managers must protect. Since research has shown that visual quality is critical to users' enjoyment of wilderness, the Forest Service has responded to this double mandate by requiring its wilderness managers to gather photographic data as baseline information on visibility in wilderness. (Because most archival photographs are black-and-white, they do not carry the information, apparent in color photographs, needed to assess air quality.)

Specific geological features, like a marble formation in the Marble Mountains Wilderness, were identified as another type of AQRV by Forest Service personnel who gathered at a May 1990 workshop to begin the process of defining AQRVs, the cornerstone of implementing a Limits of Acceptable Change monitoring process for wilderness air quality. Another AQRV is night visibility which is considered impaired when the glow from cities, which increases as the amount of particulate matter in the

continued on page 6

## Classifying wilderness air

California presently has 27 Class I wilderness areas. The remainder of the state's wilderness is designated Class II. The 1977 Clean Air Act amendments, which established the classification system, also provided that at the request of the state and with the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency, Class II areas can be upgraded to Class I, a classification under which less degradation of air quality is allowed. In 1990, the Clean Air Act was again amended. In addition to tightening emission standards for pollutants, the 1990 amendment extended Class I status to subsequent additions to existing Class I areas.

Because the assignment of classes was arbitrary, based on the date the wilderness or park was established rather than on scientific criteria, and because air pollution respects few boundaries, the distinction between Class I and Class II areas in California is both artificial and irrelevant. Any action taken to protect air quality in a Class I area is likely to benefit neighboring areas, whatever their classification. The bottom line, however, is that until wilderness managers have authority over non-point sources of pollution, they will be unable to protect air quality in most of California's Class I or Class II areas.

### Class I Wilderness Areas

Agua Tibia	Mokelumne
Ansel Adams	Pinnacles
Caribou	Point Reyes
Cucamonga	San Gabriel
Desolation	San Geronio
Dome Land	San Jacinto
Emigrant	San Rafael
Hoover	Sequoia-Kings Canyon
John Muir	South Warner
Joshua Tree	Thousand Lakes
Kaiser	Ventana
Lassen	Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel
Lava Beds	Yosemite
Marble Mountain	

## Wilderness news

# Seymour blocks desert bill

By Judy Anderson and Vicky Hoover

In the waning weeks of the 102nd Congress, Senator Alan Cranston is continuing in his determined efforts to get the California Desert Protection Act passed by the Senate this year. In early August, Sen. Cranston convinced the Senate Energy Committee to consider and vote on (or "mark up") the bill. Before the mark-up, Sen. Cranston had offered a drastic reduction in the desert bill—a major compromise—to Sen. John Seymour, who serves on the Energy Committee, but even those extreme cuts were not enough to satisfy California's junior senator.

What Sierra Club representative Larry Freilich termed "high theater" began when Sen. Tim Wirth (D-CO) attached the desert bill to a Republican-sponsored ancient forest bill which preceded the desert bill on the committee's agenda. Sen. Wirth's maneuver was intended to move both bills out of committee for consideration by the full Senate, at which point the bills could be separated. Sen. Seymour responded by invoking an obscure procedural rule which forced the committee to adjourn at once without marking up either bill.

The desert bill that reached the Energy Committee was not the original

Cranston bill, S. 21, but the version overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives last November, a version that included a number of compromises on wilderness acreage and the status of the Mojave. In a meeting with desert activists shortly after the attempted mark-up, Sen. Cranston indicated he will once more request the committee to consider this version.

Sen. Cranston also discussed his attempts at reaching a compromise with Sen. Seymour. Principally, Sen. Cranston had offered to remove from his bill the designation of a Mojave National Park and to reduce Bureau of Land Management wilderness from 4.5 million to 3.3 million acres. Eliminating national park status for the Mojave is especially galling to activists who consider it the keystone of the desert bill, but Sen. Cranston told them it could be achieved separately later.

The senator assured activists that, given his colleague's rejection of the compromise, he no longer feels bound by it. Since Sen. Seymour will not help the desert, Sen. Cranston urged activists to work on gaining support from senators in other states. Sen. Cranston told the *Los Angeles Times* that if he is unable to get his bill passed this term, he thinks it could be passed next year if Rep. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, who support his bill, are elected to the Senate.



This rock formation in Caruthers Canyon will be protected inside the Mojave National Park when the desert bill is passed. Photo by Pete Yamagata

## Wilderness air

continued from page 5

atmosphere increases, obscures the stars. Other AQRVs defined at the workshop include water quality, pictographs, which may deteriorate more quickly in the presence of pollutants, and indicator species like macroinvertebrates (organisms found in lakes and streams), pines, and lichens.

These indicator species were chosen, Procter says, because they are some of the weakest elements of an ecosystem. Like the canary in the mine, they alert us to dangerous conditions. Because pollutants have a cumulative effect, the choice of indicator species that are long-lived is important. Lichens, which grow slowly and live hundreds of years, are used to monitor sulfates and nitrates. Pines, with different-aged needles on single trees, are good indicators of ozone severity. Andrea Holland, Air Quality Coordinator for the Eldorado National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, inspects pines in Desolation Wilderness. Finding chlorotic mottle in five-year-old needles does not necessarily indicate an ozone problem, Holland says, because the discoloration may reflect low levels of ozone in each of the five years. But the same amount of chlorotic mottle in a one-year-old needle would lead her to conclude that ozone pollution is severe.

Monitoring of indicator species and visibility already is underway in most of California's Class I wilderness areas. At Desolation, for instance, lake surveys and lichen analysis show no problems, but ozone studies are incomplete. Visibility impairment is considered a problem at times in the San Gabriel and San Geronio wildernesses in the Los Angeles area and in the Los Padres National Forest. Northern California wilderness areas outside the Sierra have received little attention from air specialists so far. A preliminary screening of macroinvertebrates is underway in the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, however, and Procter plans to investigate the effects of pulp mill emissions on wilderness ecosystems.

### What's needed

One must remember that even if Class I air quality standards are attained in wilderness, AQRVs are not necessarily safe. The state and federal standards for clean air were intended to protect human health. Stricter standards are needed to protect the health of more sensitive species.

But stricter standards, though important, should not be our first priority, according to Judith Rocchio, former Air Specialist for four Sierra Nevada national forests who now works for the National Park Service. The first and much more difficult task is limiting growth. As a society and as individuals, we must take responsibility for our own pollution, Rocchio reminds us. Without drastic changes in the way we live, consume, and commute, the most draconian standards will remain meaningless because we will not be able to attain them.

Along with constraining growth, tightening standards, and closing the legal loophole that precludes managers from protecting wilderness from non-point sources of pollution, there is one more hurdle that must be surmounted if we want clean air in wilderness areas. Only by educating wilderness advocates can any of these goals be attained. If wilderness users raise the issue of air quality half as often as they raise other, more visible or audible wilderness issues (cowbells, for instance), the solution will have begun.



## Confusing ruling on "takings" issued

On June 29, the same day the U. S. Supreme Court released its long-awaited decision on a controversial abortion case, a Court decision that affects government's ability to establish environmental regulations was assigned to relative obscurity and considerable confusion. Nonetheless, the Court's decision for a property owner in *Lucas vs. South Carolina* could have a chilling effect on the willingness of governments to enforce existing regulations and adopt new ones.

The case, widely watched by "wise use" groups advocating less governmental control, began when Lucas, the owner of two beachfront lots in South Carolina, learned that a new state regulation designed to protect fragile coastal areas would prevent him from building homes on his property. He sued, claiming that the state had effectively "taken" his property, violating his rights under the Fifth Amendment which requires the government to compensate owners of property taken for public use (see article in June 1992 WR).

When the case reached the Supreme Court (after lower courts had rejected Lucas' claim), environmentalists and developers alike hoped for a ruling which would

clarify which regulations constitute "takings," and therefore warrant the payment of restitution, and which do not. But in deciding for Lucas, the Court failed to clarify the issue. The Court's decision found only that the state courts had been remiss and remanded the case back to the state level.

In finding, however narrowly, for Lucas, the Court appears to have taken a first step in curtailing governmental control over private property. Conservationists fear that is one step down a slippery slope which will end with the erosion of regulations designed to protect wetlands and endangered species habitat: government will retain the legal right to "take" property by enforcing and adopting regulations, but the financial cost of doing so will prove prohibitive.

The narrowness of the Supreme Court decision means that the larger questions about the conflict between property rights and environmental regulations remain unresolved even as the conflict, fueled by an increase in both regulations and opposition to them, escalates. Until the Court definitively answers those questions, neither environmental laws nor property rights will be assured.

## Book review

# A landscape detailed

### Yosemite National Park: A Natural-History Guide to Yosemite and its Trails

By Jeffrey P. Schaffer, Wilderness Press, Berkeley, Third Edition, 1992, 274 pp., \$19.95.

Since I've backpacked with dogs most of the past 20 years, I wasn't sure what I would get out of this new edition of a trail guide to Yosemite National Park, where I can't take my canine companion. Still, I was impressed initially that the region has been explored so thoroughly that one hundred hikes—from two hours to seven days long—are described in complete detail.

But the book is far more than a trail guide. Jeffrey Schaffer has used his wide knowledge of geology and biology to make this a detailed natural history handbook of the Yosemite region. Not only will you learn when to look for forks in the trail and where the good campsites are, but also what trees and plants are along the way and why the rock formations look the way they do.

In addition, there is a brief history of Yosemite National Park and a section on the area's flora and fauna. An extensive chapter on the evolution of the Yosemite landscape examines in great detail the geologic origins of the

region. Schaffer concludes that the widening of Yosemite Valley is due more to mass wasting than glaciation. He also mentions that the Merced Peak glacier, the first Sierra glacier discovered by John Muir (in 1871), disappeared in the 1977 drought.

The guide does not stop at the park boundary. Trails in much of the neighboring Emigrant and Hoover wilderness areas are described as well as routes in the northern portion of the Ansel Adams Wilderness.

A weatherproof map that provides a wonderful perspective of Yosemite and surrounding wild lands is included. But at a scale of 1:125,000, the map could not replace larger scale topos, especially if you're doing any cross-country hiking.

If you are planning any hiking or backpacking trips in or around Yosemite, this guide will be of immense value.

—Jim Eaton



## Great old broads for CWC

Margie (r.) is cool in our our six-tone anniversary shirt which comes in light blue, yellow, light green, or peach for \$15. The animal design Helen wears 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.

### Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

'Bear' appears in more than 500 place names. 'Deer' is second at 150.

from page 2

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 15 COMMENT DEADLINE** on recreational mining guidelines proposed for the East Fork of the San Gabriel River in the Sheep Mountain Wilderness. Send to: Supervisor Mike Rogers, Angeles National Forest, 710 N. Santa Anita Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006. (See article in July WR.)

**September 30 COMMENT DEADLINE** on the Sequoia National Forest's proposal to employ "ecosystem-based" vegetation management in the Cherry Hill Planning Area, which includes portions of the Cannell and Woodpecker roadless areas. To participate in the scoping, send comments to: Sequoia N. F., Cannell Meadow Ranger District, P. O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238, or call Sue Porter or Ray Huber at (619) 376-3781 for more information.

**October 1 COMMENT DEADLINE** on proposed changes in management for the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. To submit ideas in the scoping process, write to: Stanislaus National Forest, ATTN: CARSON-ICEBERG, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370. (See article in August WR.)

**October 9 COMMENT DEADLINE** on the final Land and Resources Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Lassen National Forest. Send to: Forest Supervisor Leonard Atencio, Lassen N. F., 55 South Sacramento St., Susanville, CA 96130. (See articles on pages 1 & 4.)



**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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### FOCUS

## Klamath Forest Alliance

The Klamath Forest Alliance was founded in 1989 by a group of activists who wanted to work together for the benefit of the many lives, plant and animal, human and non-human, that together depend on and constitute the Klamath Mountain Province. They had their work cut out for them.

Despite important victories won by the Alliance, like a successful suit against Forest Service plans to log Grider Creek, an important wildlife corridor, the region's forests and rivers, and the species therein,

are suffering. A rapid decline in salmon and steelhead populations (five stocks in the Klamath River alone are at high or moderate risk of extinction) is an indication of the region's failing health.

The group's current projects include promoting affordable housing, monitoring herbicide spraying, and protecting watersheds from excessive water diversions. Convinced that sustainable ecosystems and sustainable economies are interdependent, the Klamath Forest Alliance is working toward both.

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