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Duncan Canyon reprieve!

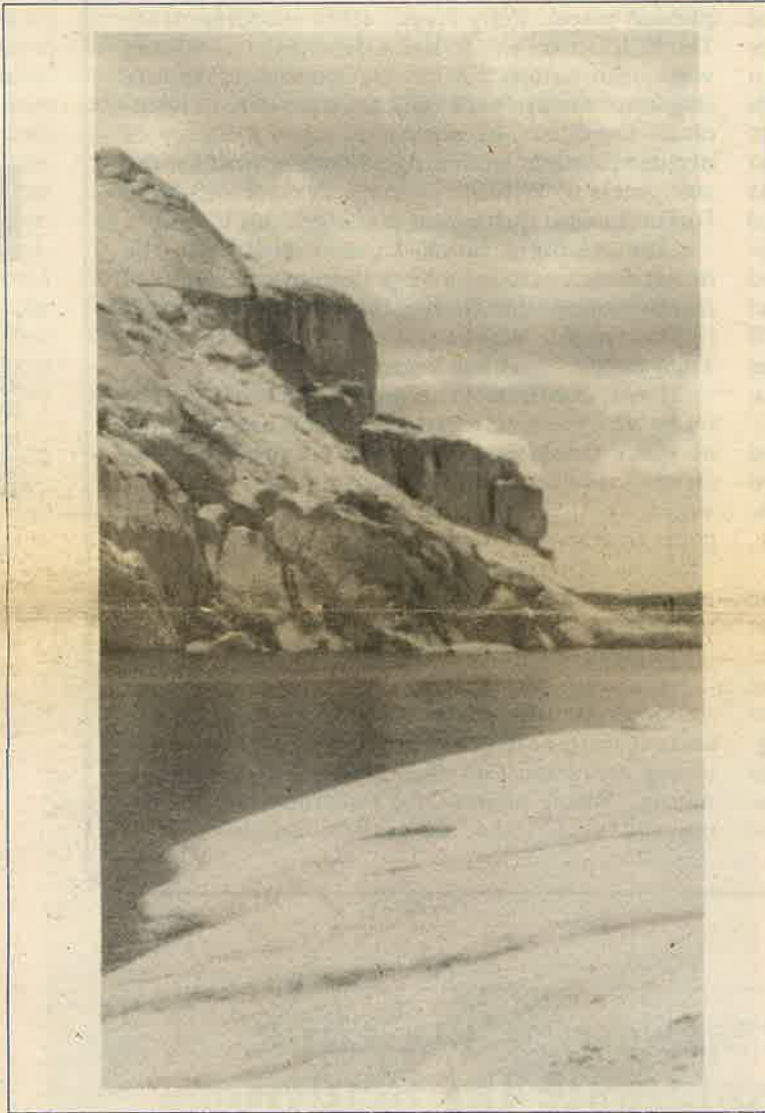
By David Orr

Forest activists in northern California are rejoicing at the recent announcement by Tahoe National Forest (NF) Supervisor John Skinner cancelling the proposed Duncan/Sunflower Timber Sale in roadless upper Duncan Canyon. The Record of Decision (ROD), released February 25, adopts Alternative A, the 'no action' alternative.

One environmental attorney familiar with the case remarked tongue-in-cheek that this is the "first time in the agency's history" a no action alternative has been chosen under National Environmental Policy Act procedures.

The Forest Service's proposed cutting levels for Duncan Canyon have been slowly but surely reduced since the Notice of Intent to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the sale appeared in the Federal Register in November 1988. The draft EIS, issued in January 1991, prescribed nearly 13 million board feet of timber to be cut in suitable California spotted owl habitat. Following an outpouring of public sentiment in opposition to the plan, the Forest Service issued its final EIS in September 1992, calling for an insect salvage sale of 3.5 million board feet (see October 1992 WR). The new ROD reduced this figure to zero.

After release of the draft EIS, a number of activists, including Erin Noel and John Tecklin of the watchdog group Forest Alert, visited Duncan Canyon to examine for themselves the extent of tree mortality. Failing to find quantities sufficient to support the Forest Service's contention that a salvage sale was warranted, environmentalists raised concerns that the limited number of dead and dying
continued on page 6



One of the Lewis Lakes of Emigrant Wilderness. Because lakes attract campers, they often are overused. Photo by Jim Eaton

Duncan Canyon: what next?

By David Orr

Now that five years' work by the Forest Service on the Duncan/Sunflower Timber Sale has drawn to an appropriate close, perhaps we now can proceed with the real business of environmental planning for this special area. Home to numerous ancient forest-associated species, the Duncan Canyon Roadless Area is much more than a "Spotted Owl Habitat Area," a "Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Recreation Area," or any other management category the Forest Service can label it with. It is time to accord Duncan Canyon its due as one of two large stands of ancient forest remaining in the Tahoe National Forest: declare it wilderness!

While we're at it, let's save the entire ecosystem, including the drainage to the north, Sailor Canyon, and its tributary, the North Fork American Wild and Scenic River (also a roadless area). Except for the Foresthill Divide and Mosquito Ridge roads, wild forestlands blanket the watersheds of Duncan and Sailor canyons all the way from the Middle Fork to the North Fork, forming an obvious wildlife migration corridor.

Though the Forest Service refers to "semiprimitive nonmotorized recreation," in reality, the Western States Trail through Duncan Canyon is an off-highway vehicle trail on which only four-wheeled devices are restricted. On many weekends in hiking season, the canyon's silence is pierced by the drone and whine of dirt bikers traversing the canyon, some with firearms across their laps. The Forest Service believes this is acceptable recreational
continued on page 6

Wilderness of 1993: more water, more flowers, more regs

By Lucy Rosenau

The heavy snows and rains of winter will bring an abundance of life to California's wilderness areas this spring and summer. Wildflowers, mosquitos, and recreationists all are expected to be out in force. Deep snow in the high country means a late spring and a late start for wilderness recreation. Consequently, quotas in popular areas are likely to fill fast, and the less-popular areas may see some overflow.

To assist you in planning your wilderness trips, the California Wilderness Coalition surveyed the managers of all of California's wilderness areas about current regulations. The results, on pages 4 and 5, are a snapshot of where wilderness management is and a portent of where it's going.

Inevitably, as the recreational demand on wilderness increases, so do the regulations designed to minimize its impacts. Our impacts. Admittedly, the impacts of camping, fishing, hunting, rock climbing, and skiing tend to be much less severe than the impacts of mining and livestock grazing. There is no denying, however, that in some places wilderness recreation is wilderness degradation. If you don't believe in protecting wilderness for its own sake, consider that by minimizing your impact you are maximizing your freedom to use wilderness.

Minimizing your impact means more than just knowing and obeying regulations, though certainly you should do that. Regulations are not license: just because a
continued on page 6

In this issue:

CWC Board may adopt an anti-grazing policy for California wilderness.....3

A directory of wilderness regulations from Agua Tibia to Yosemite.....4 & 5

COALITION PAGE

MONTHLY REPORT

BY JIM EATON

I got my environmental batteries recharged recently in Tucson at the first board meeting of The Wildlands Project.

The flight was disappointing, as I saw nothing but clouds until we were over the Colorado River (where Bullhead City reared its ugly head). Phoenix was a mass of houses and swimming pools, including subdivisions with huge artificial lakes and shoreline homes reminiscent of Tahoe Keys. The concept of water conservation does not seem to exist in this neck of Arizona.

The meeting brought together activists and scientists from various parts of the continent. Monte Hummel, president of the World Wildlife Fund in Canada, represented the wildlands to the north, while the northeast was covered by Jamie Sayen. George Wuerthner was down from Montana, Roz McClellan from Colorado, Terry Tempest Williams from Utah, Mitch Friedman from Washington, and David Johns from Oregon. Arizona was amply represented by Dave Foreman, Roxanne Pacheco, and Rod Mondt, while conservation biologist Michael Soulé and I flew in from California. The entire staff of *Wild Earth* magazine, including board member John Davis, had driven all the way from Canton, New York.

Those coming from frozen climes were attired in shorts and t-shirts, while the locals were cloaked in parkas and sweaters to endure the 60° temperatures. It all depends upon your point of reference, I guess.

We spent much of our three days camped in the desert south of Saguaro National Monument, serenaded by coyotes day and night. Our long, intensive sessions were punctuated by short hikes and great meals provided by CWC members (expatriate Californians) Nancy Morton and Nancy Zierenberg.

The evenings provided a relaxing contrast to the busy days. The first night local activists came out for a grand potluck dinner. We heard stories of

grizzlies from Doug Peacock, and I was honored to meet Clarke Abbey from Wildlife Damage Review.

After the board meeting, a group of us ignored the gathering clouds to visit the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. I dislike zoos, but this is among the better ones in the country. When the storm broke, Monte pointed out how incongruous it was for a group of environmentalists to be standing in the pouring rain gawking at a caged Mexican wolf.

I hung around for a few days to help out various groups with their computers (all Macintoshes, I was pleased to see). Kelly Treese, office coordinator for The Wildlands Project, had a dead disk containing vital information. After the mandatory lecture (Back up! Always back up!), we were able to resuscitate the files. In my wake, I left a legacy of digitized sounds, including a howling wolf for the computers of Wildlife Damage Review and Dave Foreman, who insists that machines can't howl.

On the flight home, I gazed down into the desert darkness to see a huge illuminated object. I finally realized that Hoover Dam is bathed in floodlights at night. What a waste of energy, I thought. Then we flew over Las Vegas...

I will continue to install energy-saving light bulbs, turn them off when not needed, and do a host of other things to reduce my energy use. But looking down on a neon-decorated city like Las Vegas, I realized that our society as a whole must come to grips with its exorbitant use of energy. As much as turning off unused lights is an important part of energy consciousness, it is trivial compared to driving our cars, cooling our houses and offices, and supporting our recreational amusements.

We were blessed with truly amazing energy resources on this planet—wood, water, coal, oil, and natural gas. In a few short generations, we have pissed away most of these bountiful gifts from nature. Future generations rightfully will be dismayed and critical of our societal narcissism.

CWC members won't be cowed

Congratulations CWC members! The *Tahoe Daily Tribune* reports that the Forest Service received close to 50 comments in less than a month on its grazing management plan for the Meiss Allotment in the proposed Echo-Carson Wilderness.

"Many respondents called for an end to cattle herding in the Meiss Grazing Allotment," the paper reported, because "they see the range as a stockyard of 'cattle-churned bogs' and want the area preserved as wilderness."

Keep up the good work!

Letters

Dear Editor,

We are writing in regard to the article "Lassen plan abandons salmon, ancient forests, and Yahi culture" in the September 1992 *Wilderness Record*, specifically how motorized access to parts of Lassen National Forest could pose a threat of vandalism or looting to American Indian ancestral sites.

As an American Indian advocate group of the 1990s, the Affiliated Obsidian Nation cannot speak out strongly enough against those who would desecrate the resting places of our dead relatives. Nor can we abide by the convoluted scientific logic (also known as modern-day archaeology) that says it is permissible, even desirable, to simply help oneself to the objects that rightfully belong to the Dead.

We are this Nation,
Steve Jerome-Wyatt

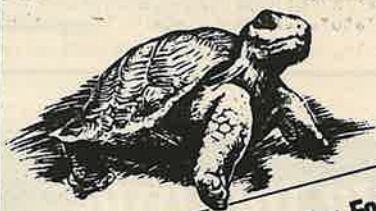
Director, Affiliated Obsidian Nation
Of The People Who Live The Legacy



Correction

An article in the March 1993 *WR* misidentified the Greater Ecosystem Alliance. The ecosystem in question is the North Cascades.

Help Endangered Species at Tax Time. Use "Line 50" on your State Tax Return.



FORM 540 California Tax Form

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

48	Alzheimer's Disease	• 48
49	Senior Citizens	• 49
50	ENDANGERED SPECIES	• 50 \$15
51	Child Abuse	• 51
52	Olympics	• 52
53	Vietnam Veterans	• 53

It's 100% deductible!

Fill in any amount you want!



Pictured here: Desert Tortoise and the Western Lily (two of more than 280 California species at risk!)

Pressures from a rapidly expanding population, habitat loss and pollution have pushed more than 280 of California's native plant and animal species to the brink of extinction. We can help turn things around for them by making a VOLUNTARY contribution on "Line 50" when we do our state taxes this year. "Line 50" does a world of good for California's species-at-risk—primarily by acquiring and enhancing critical habitat. We urge you to please help if you can.

Uncle Jim's Wilderness Trivia Quiz Question:

What is the only river for which two California wildernesses were named?

Answer on page 7

Wilderness grazing

Grazing policy—the debate continues

At the California Wilderness Coalition's (CWC) Board meeting February 7, we had a lengthy and lively discussion of the long-pending proposal to adopt organizational policies concerning the practice of commercial grazing of cattle and sheep in officially-designated wilderness areas. Two CWC members who are not on the Board attended the meeting specifically to sit in on this discussion. We also considered the views, both pro and con, expressed in a number of thoughtful letters that we had received in response to our latest draft proposal.

Recognizing the controversy surrounding this issue, and wanting to hear more generally the views of our membership, the Board determined not to adopt a policy at the February meeting, but to publish a revised draft policy in the *Wilderness Record* and to seek the comments of all interested CWC members. The Board will carefully consider and discuss these comments in acting on this proposed policy later this year. Because of confusion on the part of some commenters about what domestic animals the policy would concern and how the CWC would implement the policy, we have revised and expanded the draft to clarify these matters. This issue of the *Wilderness Record* also contains a sampling of the letters we have received on the proposed grazing policy to give our readers an idea of the range of opinions expressed to date.

Send your comments by May 15 to CWC Grazing Policy, 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616.

Draft CWC Grazing Policy

The Wilderness Act permits commercial grazing in federally-designated wilderness areas. At the same time, it requires that designated areas be managed to preserve their wilderness character. These two provisions of the Act are at odds because commercial grazing of cattle and sheep is inimical to wilderness character: The introduction of these domestic animals and attendant herders and facilities into wilderness areas runs directly counter to their preservation as areas substantially untrammelled by humans. Even as it inflicts considerable damage upon wilderness values, commercial grazing in wilderness areas accounts for an economically insignificant portion of the nation's livestock production. For these reasons, the California Wilderness Coalition (CWC) adopts the following policies regarding wilderness grazing in California:

1. In no circumstances should the numbers of permitted livestock or the intensity of grazing management practices in any wilderness area be increased over present levels.
2. Any grazing that has a significant negative impact on any natural resource of a wilderness area should be modified or, if necessary, eliminated to reduce that impact to a level of insignificance.
3. All wilderness grazing practices and facilities

should be designed and conducted in a manner that minimizes impacts on the naturalness of wilderness areas.

4. Grazing in existing wilderness areas should be phased out. For example, permission to graze in wilderness areas could be limited to the current permit holders and not transferable upon their deaths or retirement or other abandonment of such grazing.

5. Grazing should not be allowed in any wilderness areas designated in the future.

6. Policies 4 and 5 are the goals toward which the CWC will strive. They will not be an absolute litmus test of whether the CWC will support any given wilderness bill or management plan. We feel that any future discussion of and negotiation over the proper management of existing and proposed wilderness areas, however, should begin with the proposition that commercial grazing in designated wilderness is an inappropriate activity that should be prohibited whenever pragmatically possible and that should, where political realities compel its continuance, be very rigorously controlled to keep damage to wilderness values to a bare minimum. We explicitly reject the assumption that commercial grazing is an appropriate activity in wilderness areas that should be routinely accommodated.

Letters pro

"If we care about protecting (and allowing for the possible restoration of) any remnants of California's indigenous ecosystems, we have to designate some places where cattle are not allowed. Maybe those places should not be called wilderness areas. Maybe we should concede that the word 'wilderness' has already been ripped off and that its new definition is 'a sort of roadless area where some people get to graze their domestic animals.' And maybe it's good to work for the expansion of such areas, if we are convinced that's the only way to protect them from ski resorts, condo developments, and golf courses. But let's be honest. If our reluctance to demand an amendment to the Wilderness Act is based on our perception of political realities, let's be up front about those perceptions and not pretend that grazing can be ecologically sound or that native grasslands need cows (somehow the poor grasslands managed to survive before Europeans introduced the cow) or that cattle have the same impact as elk or antelope.

"What are the CWC's fears about its public image? Would insistence on no-cow zones be interpreted as an abandonment of our efforts to improve grazing practices elsewhere? (I can't see how.) Would it make the group look too radical? Too un-American? Do we care? How will we be seen by those who care about the long-term ability of the earth to support human life? (Science tells us we cannot possibly solve the world's hunger problems if we don't stop eating beef very soon.)

"I do understand that we can't always get everything we want, and I do appreciate the danger of losing the prize by sticking to principle. But if the CWC insists on perpetuating the lie that cattle grazing can be managed in a way that prevents further degradation of our native ecosystems, I will have to drop my membership and request that the member groups to which I have been a contributor withdraw from the Coalition."

—Ruth Gravanis



Cattle graze in a soggy meadow near Kennedy Lake in Emigrant Wilderness. Conservationists agree that cattle do not belong in wet wilderness meadows; the debate is over how best to get them out.

Photo by Jim Eaton

"As a card-carrying member of the California Wilderness Coalition, I wish to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed [policy]. It is about time one of California's statewide conservation organizations had the intestinal fortitude to just say no to welfare ranching in wilderness; none of the mega-groups seems to possess the initiative to do it.

"How much more damage to streams and riparian zones are we going to take? How many more native plant and animal extinctions have to occur before we take a strong stance against welfare ranching? How much more watershed destruction, soil erosion, topsoil loss, and desertification are we going to accept before we stop kowtowing to a small minority of whiny welfare ranchers?

"I am growing tired of this obsession with so-called 'political realities' and the proclivity of the environmental
continued on page 6

and con

"As I interpret it, your policy makes the basic assumption that in wilderness, domestic livestock grazing is ecologically unsound under all real management methods but that other types of grazing [by exotic species like wild horses and burros, by native wildlife, and by pack stock] are acceptable. The proposed policy implies that grazing by domestic livestock in wilderness is different from grazing in non-wilderness areas.

"There is another approach that can help end bad grazing practices in wilderness. I argue that wilderness management needs to be measured against a biocentric standard. Each policy we recommend should be established to sustain undiminished the natural biota of a wilderness ecosystem. Protection must be extended to all of the natural ecosystem's members, their needed supplies, and their processes. Any management we establish should err on the side of protection. Uses can be allowed only when we are satisfied that these activities will not diminish the ecosystem.

"Using a biocentric approach, you can set uniform and fair standards for all categories. Ranchers get the same treatment as do the backcountry skier and the horse outfitter.

"Requiring grazing to meet the 'no impacts' standard is a positive approach rather than the more negative approach of prohibiting a category of wilderness users."

—James Catlin

"I feel so strongly about the effects of grazing that if I ever win \$10,000,000 in the state lottery, I think I'd use much of it to buy up grazing rights in the desert and in some mountain meadows, to get the sheep and the cows off the land permanently.

"Far more important than how you or I feel about grazing's impacts, however, is: What are the probable
continued on page 7

Wilderness management

Wilderness regulations of 1993

Listed below are the results of our survey of regulations now in effect for all the federal wilderness areas of California that allow recreational use. For each wilderness, we asked whether there is a quota on the number of people who may enter the wilderness or a limit on the number of people and pack or saddle stock in a single party, whether permits are required, whether fires or pets are allowed, and if any areas are closed to recreational use.

These are the basics for planning a wilderness trip. Contact addresses and phone numbers are included for each wilderness; call or write for more information. Most wilderness managers now recommend or mandate minimum-impact recreation. Among other things, that means not camping within 100-200 feet of water, building fires only in existing rings or pits, and, for stock users, carrying weed-free feed.

Campfire permits are required in the wilderness areas that allow fires and, in some wildernesses, are required for camp stoves. These permits can be obtained at any ranger station and are good throughout California. Wilderness permits for overnight use, however, can be obtained only from the managing park or forest. Many permit applications to wildernesses with quotas are incomplete; call the contact listed to learn what information you must include if you are applying by mail.

Regulations in adjacent wilderness or non-wilderness areas often are different. The ranger districts (RDs) listed can provide information about adjacent areas or refer you to the appropriate agency.

Because regulations can change, either as a result of long-term planning or local conditions, call the RD or park office before setting out. This is especially important during fire season.

The winter's heavy rains and snows will have washed out some trails and left water courses full and fast. Use extreme caution fording streams and rivers this year.

Agua Tibia Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 8 stock Fires: no Pets: leashed Closures: no Notes: carry water; no overnight stock use Contact: Palomar RD, Cleveland NF, 1634 Black Canyon Road, Ramona, CA 92065; (619) 788-0250.

Ansel Adams Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: depends on location Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Lee Vining Ranger Station, Inyo NF, P.O. Box 429, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-3000 or Minarets RD, Sierra NF, 57003 Road 225, North Fork, CA 93643; (209) 877-2218.

Bucks Lake Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Quincy RD, Plumas NF, 39696 Highway 70, Quincy, CA 95971; (916) 283-0555.

Caribou Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: possible in fire season Contact: Almanor RD, Lassen NF, P.O. Box 767, Chester, CA 96020; (916) 258-2141.

Carson-Iceberg Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Calaveras RD, Stanislaus NF, Highway 4, P. O. Box 500, Hathaway Pines, CA 95233; (209) 795-1381.

Castle Crags Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people (maximum of 10 recommended), 25 stock Fires: yes, but not recommended Pets: yes, but not recommended Closures: no Note: Recommendations expected to become regulations sometime this year Contact: Mount Shasta RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, 204 West Alma Street, Mount Shasta, CA 96067; (916) 926-4511.

Chanchelulla Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Yolla Bolly RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Platina, CA 96076; (916) 352-4211.

Chumash Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF, Star Route, Box 400, Frazier Park, CA 93255; (805) 245-3731.

Cucamonga Quota: yes, but rarely filled Permit: day and overnight Party size: 12 people, 25 stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Note: stock use not advised because



Shooting star, Marble Mountain Wilderness
Photo by Jim Eaton

terrain is very steep Contact: Cajon RD, San Bernardino NF, 1209 Lytle Creek, Lytle Creek, CA 92358; (714) 887-2576 or Mt. Baldy RD, Angeles NF, 110 North Washburn Ave., Glendora, CA 91740; (818) 335-1251.

Desolation Quota: yes Permit: day and overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Eldorado Visitor Center, Eldorado NF, 3070 Camino Heights Dr., Camino, CA 95709; (916) 644-6048 or Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; (916) 573-2600.

Dick Smith Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: yes, in fire season Contact: Santa Barbara RD, Los Padres NF, Star Route, Los Prietos, Santa Barbara, CA 93105; (805) 967-3481 or Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF, Star Route, Box 400, Frazier Park, CA 93255; (805) 245-3731.

Dinkey Lakes Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: King's River RD, Sierra NF, 34849 Maxon Road, Sanger, CA 93567; (209) 855-8321.

Dome Land Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Cannell Meadow RD, Sequoia NF, P. O. Box 6, Kernville, CA 93238; (619) 376-3781.

Emigrant Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, below 9,000 feet; no fires at Emigrant Lake Pets: yes Closures: some lakes closed to stock Contact: Summit RD, Stanislaus NF, #1 Pinecrest Lake Road, Pinecrest, CA 95364; (209) 965-3434.

Garcia Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, 1616 North Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93454; (805) 925-9538.

Golden Trout Quota: yes, for some trails Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Mount Whitney RD, Inyo NF, P. O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545; (619) 876-5542.

Granite Chief Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 12 people, 8 stock overnight (12 stock day use) Fires: yes Pets: yes, but seasonally restricted from fawning habitat Closures: Five Lakes Basin closed to camping, all lake basins closed to stock Contact: Truckee RD, Tahoe NF, 10342 Highway 89 North, Truckee, CA 96161-2831; (916) 587-3558.

Hauser Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 8 stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Note: carry water Contact: Descanso RD, Cleveland NF, 3348 Alpine Blvd., Alpine, CA 92001; (619) 445-6235.

Hoover Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: depends on location Fires: depends on location Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Bridgeport RD, Toiyabe NF, P. O. Box 595, Bridgeport, CA 93517; (619) 932-7070 or Lee Vining Ranger Station, Inyo NF, P. O. Box 429, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-3000.

Ishi Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: possible in fire season Contact: Almanor RD, Lassen NF, P.O. Box 767, Chester, CA 96020; (916) 258-2141.

Jennie Lakes Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Hume Lake RD, Sequoia NF, 35860 E. Kings Canyon Rd., Dunlap, CA 93621; (209) 338-2251.

John Muir Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: depends on location Fires: depends on location Pets: yes, except in bighorn habitat Closures: stock excluded from Mt. Whitney. Contact: Pineridge RD, Sierra NF, P. O. Box 300, Shaver Lake, CA 93664; (209) 841-3311 or Mount Whitney RD, Inyo NF, P. O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545; (619) 876-5542.

Joshua Tree Quota: no Permit: self-issue Party size: no limit Fires: no Pets: no Closures: some areas closed to camping or stock Note: climbers prohibited from installing new bolts or replacing old ones Contact: Visitor Center, Joshua Tree National Monument, 74485 National Monument Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277; (619) 367-7511.

Kaiser Quota: yes, for some trails Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Pineridge RD, Sierra NF, P. O. Box 300, Shaver Lake, CA 93664; (209) 841-3311.

Lassen Quota: no Permit: overnight and stock use Party size: 10 people, 15 stock Fires: no Pets: no Closures: many areas closed to camping Note: no overnight stock

continued on next page

Wilderness management

Wilderness regulations of 1993

continued from page 4

use Contact: Lassen Volcanic National Park, P. O. Box 100, Mineral, CA 96063-0100; (916) 595-4444.

Lava Beds Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 12 total Fires: no Pets: no Closures: some caves Contact: Lava Beds National Monument, P. O. Box 867, Tulelake, CA 96134; (916) 667-2282.

Machessa Mountain Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, 1616 North Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93454; (805) 925-9538.

Marble Mountain Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: yes, but not recommended Closures: English Peak area closed to stock Contact: Salmon RD, Klamath NF, P.O. Box 280, Etna, CA 96027; (916) 467-5757 or Scott River RD, Klamath NF, 11263 S. Hwy 3, Fort Jones, CA 96032; (916) 468-5351 or Happy Camp RD, Klamath NF, P. O. Box 377, Happy Camp, CA 96039; (916) 493-2243 or Ukonom RD, Klamath NF, P. O. Drawer 410, Orleans, CA 95556; (916) 627-3291.

Matilija Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Notes: regs may change this year; send SASE for new trails brochure Contact: Ojai RD, Los Padres NF, 1190 East Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA 93023; (805) 646-4348.

Mokelumne Quota: no Permit: April-November, overnight only Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, except in Carson Pass Restricted Area Pets: leashed Closures: some areas closed to stock Contact: Amador RD, Eldorado NF, 26820 Silver Drive & Hwy. 88, Star Route 3, Pioneer, CA 95666; (209) 295-4251.

Monarch Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Hume Lake RD, Sequoia NF, 35860 E. Kings Canyon Rd., Dunlap, CA 93621; (209) 338-2251.

Mount Shasta Quota: no Permit: day and overnight Party size: 10 people, 10 stock Fires: no Pets: only in Avalanche Gulch, leashed Closures: possible meadow restoration Note: regs may change this year Contact: Mount Shasta RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, 204 West Alma Street, Mount Shasta, CA 96067; (916) 926-4511.

North Fork Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Mad River RD, Six Rivers NF, Star Route, Box 300, Bridgeville, CA 95526; (707) 574-6233.

Phillip Burton Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: depends on campsite Fires: yes if below tide line with driftwood or in pits with your own wood Pets: no Closures: occasionally some trails Contact: Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956; (415) 663-1092.

Pine Creek Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 8 stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Note: carry water Contact: Descanso RD, Cleveland NF, 3348 Alpine Blvd., Alpine, CA 92001; (619) 445-6235.

Pinnacles Quota: no Permit: no Party size: no limit Fires: no Pets: no Closures: climbing banned January-June at raptor nesting sites Note: no camping in wilderness Contact: Pinnacles National Monument, 5000 Highway 146, Paicines, CA 95043; (408) 389-4485.

Red Buttes Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 8 people, 12 stock Fires: yes Pets: leashed Closures: no Notes: carry water; Azalea Lake has segregated campsites for hikers and stock users Contact: Rogue River NF, P.O. Box 520, Medford, OR 97501; (503) 776-3600.

Russian Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Salmon RD, Klamath NF, P.O. Box 280, Etna, CA 96027; (916) 467-5757 or Scott River RD, Klamath NF, 11263 South Highway 3, Fort Jones, CA 96032; (916) 468-5351.



Nevada Fall, Yosemite Wilderness. Photo by Jim Eaton

San Gabriel Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 total Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: no Note: regs may change this year Contact: Mt. Baldy RD, Angeles NF, 110 North Wabash Ave., Glendora, CA 91740; (818) 335-1251.

San Gorgonio Quota: yes Permit: day & overnight Party size: 15 people, 15 stock Fires: in some areas only Pets: leashed Closures: no Note: Regs likely to change this year Contact: San Gorgonio RD, San Bernardino NF, 34701 Mill Creek Road, Mentone, CA 92359; (714) 794-1123.

San Jacinto Quota: yes Permit: day and overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: only at designated sites Pets: only in NF portion of wilderness Closures: no Note: regs may change this year Contact: Idyllwild Ranger Station, San Bernardino NF, P. O. Box 518, Idyllwild, CA 92549; (909) 659-2117.

San Mateo Canyon Quota: no Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: no Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Trabuco RD, Cleveland NF, 1147 E. Sixth St., Corona, CA 91719; (714) 736-1811.

San Rafael Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: some archaeological sites Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, 1616 North Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93454; (805) 925-9538.

Santa Lucia Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Santa Lucia RD, Los Padres NF, 1616 North Carlotti Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93454; (805) 925-9538.

Santa Rosa Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: only at designated sites Pets: yes Closures: no Note: regs may change this year Contact: Idyllwild Ranger Station, San Bernardino NF, P. O. Box 518, Idyllwild, CA 92549; (909) 659-2117.

Sequoia-Kings Canyon Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: depends on

location Pets: no Closures: some lakes closed to camping Contact: Wilderness Office, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, CA 93271; (209) 565-3761.

Sespe Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: Sespe Condor Sanctuary Note: send SASE to Ojai RD for new trails brochure Contact: Ojai RD, Los Padres NF, 1190 East Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA 93023; (805) 646-4348 or Mount Pinos RD, Los Padres NF, Star Route, Box 400, Frazier Park, CA 93255; (805) 245-3731.

Sheep Mountain Quota: no Permit: only at East Fork Trailhead Party size: 25 total Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: no Note: regs may change this year Contact: Mt. Baldy RD, Angeles NF, 110 North Wabash Ave., Glendora, CA 91740; (818) 335-1251.

Silver Peak Quota: no Permits: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes, but seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Monterey RD, Los Padres NF, 406 South Mildred, King City, CA 93930; (408) 385-5434.

Siskiyou Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: seasonal restrictions possible Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Gasquet RD, Six Rivers NF, P. O. Box 228, Gasquet, CA 95543; (707) 457-3131 or Happy Camp RD, Klamath NF, P. O. Box 377, Happy Camp, CA 96039; (916) 493-2243 or Orleans RD, Six Rivers NF, Drawer B, Orleans, CA 95556; (916) 627-3291.

Snow Mountain Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: leashed Closures: no Contact: Stonyford RD, Mendocino NF, 5080 Ladoga/Stonyford Road, Stonyford, CA 95979; (916) 963-3128.

South Sierra Quota: yes, north of Horseshoe Meadows Permit: overnight Party size: 15 people, 25 stock Fires: depends on location Pets: yes Closures: Mt. Williamson closed mid July-mid December Contact: Mt. Whitney RD, Inyo NF, P. O. Box 8, Lone Pine, CA 93545; (619) 876-5542.

South Warner Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Warner Mountain RD, Modoc NF, P. O. Box 220, Cedarville, CA 96104; (916) 279-6116.

Thousand Lakes Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Hat Creek RD, Lassen NF, P.O. Box 220, Fall River Mills, CA 96028; (916) 336-5521.

Trinity Alps Quota: no Permit: day and overnight Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: depends on season and location Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Big Bar RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Star Route 1, Box 10, Big Bar, CA 96010; (916) 623-6106 or Weaverville RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, P. O. Box 1190, Weaverville, CA 96093; (916) 623-2131.

Ventana Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 25 stock Fires: yes Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Monterey RD, Los Padres NF, 406 South Mildred, King City, CA 93930; (408) 385-5434.

Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Quota: no Permit: no Party size: 25 people, 10 stock Fires: seasonally restricted Pets: yes Closures: no Contact: Covelo RD, Mendocino NF, 78150 Covelo Road, Covelo, CA 95428; (707) 983-6118 or Corning RD, Mendocino NF, 1120 Solano St., Corning, CA 96021; (916) 824-5196 or Yolla Bolly RD, Shasta-Trinity NF, Platina, CA 96076; (916) 352-4211 or Mad River RD, Six Rivers NF, Star Route, Box 300, Bridgeville, CA 95526; (707) 574-6233.

Yosemite Quota: yes Permit: overnight Party size: depends on location Fires: yes, but only in established sites below 9,600 feet Pets: no Closures: Little Yosemite Valley's old camp area closed; new camp area is further from Merced River Contact: Wilderness Office, Yosemite National Park, P. O. Box 577, Yosemite, CA 95389; (209) 372-0285.

Wilderness news

Wilderness 1993

continued from page 1

wilderness allows campfires doesn't exempt you from considering the impacts of your having a fire at a specific location and time. In fact, if all wilderness users had the knowledge, judgment, and willingness to assess and minimize their impacts, many of the existing regulations would not be necessary.

But regulations are necessary, and some of the existing ones probably are too lax. Gary Oye, manager of the Mount Shasta Wilderness, says "We try to provide everything for everybody on every acre, and we may need to look at that."

Party size limits are a good example. Currently, each wilderness establishes a maximum number of people and pack or saddle stock that may enter the wilderness together in a single party. Although opposition remains to the limits that have been set (generally 10-25 people and 10-25 stock, but larger parties can apply for special-use permits), Forest Service research suggests that the limits are much too high because large parties tend to have a disproportionate impact. Dick Benjamin, Director of Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources for the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest region, says wilderness managers "are backing away from arbitrary, one-size-fits-all limits" and increasingly are placing the needs of the wilderness ecosystem above the preferences of wilderness visitors.

That's not as obvious or simple a decision as it seems. The Wilderness Act requires managers simultaneously to protect wilderness and provide for wilderness recreation, a mandate that is increasingly understood to be inherently contradictory. Faced with a dilemma—too many people using the wilderness causes it to degrade so that it ceases to be the wilderness they are charged to protect—managers must either restrict or disperse use.

But that may be a Hobson's choice, since there is a limit to how much managers can disperse use and doubt about whether dispersing use even is appropriate. Water and terrain are the constraining factors that make an even distribution of use impossible. Most wilderness use is concentrated near trails and lakes, and though trails can be rerouted (or eliminated), water cannot. Other factors affecting wilderness use are the area's proximity to urban centers and its scenic or recreational opportunities, which

Reprieve

continued from page 1

trées made the proposed sale economically infeasible.

In arriving at his decision to grant a reprieve to the threatened forest, Skinner cited citizen input as one of the determining factors. Other factors were the agency's recent adoption of the California Spotted Owl Technical Team's (CASPO) report, which effectively barred logging from areas surrounding "protected [owl] activity centers," (there are several in the proposed sale area) and that logging Duncan Canyon, an important remnant ancient forest, would be inappropriate while the Tahoe NF conducts an old growth forest wildlife study (expected to be completed in 1995).

It is heartening and significant that Skinner, in this decision, emphasized the influence of informed public comment on the outcome. A number of knowledgeable,

themselves are not evenly distributed across California.

More to the point, however, is the question of whether dispersing recreationists is desirable. Unless you are very committed to minimum-impact recreation, you probably don't belong in pristine areas because even low amounts of use can cause lasting degradation. "Just dispersing use," Oye says, "it looks like all we've done is disperse impacts."

Ergo, restrictions: smaller party size limits and more quotas on the number of people who may enter a wilderness on a given day. Even in the absence of quotas, permits often are required for overnight and, in some places, day use because requiring permits ensures that wilderness users will have at least one contact with the wilderness managers who take every opportunity to spread the word about minimum-impact techniques and local conditions.

Just as managers have to balance wilderness recreation with wilderness protection, so too must we. Learn how to minimize your own impact. (*Soft Paths*, reviewed in the March 1993 *WR* and available from the National Outdoor Leadership School at (800) 332-4100, is a good starting point.) Get involved in the recreation planning for the areas you care about, and when you communicate with wilderness managers, let them know that wilderness preservation—not just wilderness recreation—is important to you. Finally, consider signing on as a volunteer on a wilderness restoration project. By learning more about wilderness ecosystems and how we impact them, we can hope finally to become a true wilderness species.



From an overlook along the Western States Trails inside Duncan Canyon Roadless Area. Photo by David Orr

concerned citizens provided input over the years. Without their involvement, Duncan Canyon's remaining ancient forest might otherwise be a patchwork of roads and strip clearcuts today.

Letters of support and thanks for this historic and environmentally-sound decision are needed at this time. Please address your comments to John H. Skinner, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe NF, Hwy. 49 & Coyote Streets, Nevada City, CA 95959.

David Orr is an activist working to preserve ancient forests.

Wilson Valley closed

The state Department of Fish and Game has closed Wilson Valley in the Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area effective April 1 through June 30 to protect calving tule elk from harassment.

Cache Creek flows through Wilson Valley, a popular destination in wildflower season. Unfortunately, wildflower season and calving season generally coincide.

The closure encompasses all public lands south of Highway 20, northeast of the creek's north fork, and south of the main fork from the mouth of Deadman Canyon to the mouth of Petrified Canyon downstream.

Letters pro

continued from page 3

'mainstream' to want to appear 'reasonable' at all costs. Livestock in wilderness areas is unreasonable! Cows and sheep do not belong in wilderness areas; their very presence is antithetical to the concept of wilderness.

"I strongly urge the CWC to adopt the proposed anti-grazing policy as written [before the addition of point 6]. We need a policy based on ecological realities, not political expediency."

—Chris Genovali

What next

continued from page 1

use of the area, yet admits that California spotted owls, northern goshawks, and various furbearing mammals inhabit the canyon. The animals need protection, not just from logging but also from excessive human intrusions.

Readers of the draft and final environmental impact statements will remember that the Forest Service made frequent reference to the "Duncan/Sailor Complex." Now is the time to begin working to revise the Tahoe National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan (LRMP), which calls for logging the ecosystem. At the very least, Duncan and Sailor canyons should be designated research natural areas (RNAs). The ideal solution is to designate these two roadless areas wilderness. Either path will require amendment to the LRMP, which currently is under appeal by more than a dozen groups, with no deadline for resolution yet announced.

A RNA can be designated by the Chief of the Forest Service, but formal wilderness designation requires an act of Congress. The benefit of RNA status is

that it probably could be accomplished quickly with agency support. Only wilderness designation, however, can give the most permanent protection available by law to public lands.

The Duncan/Sailor Canyon ecosystem is home to rare species and provides an exceptional opportunity for those seeking solitude and primitive recreation. Environmentalists now possess the political momentum to achieve the highest level of protection for this wonderful and ecologically important place.

Book review

Uncommon views on state of California

California's Threatened Environment—Restoring the Dream

By Tim Palmer, Ed., Island Press, Covelo, CA, 1993.

The environmental problems facing California are summarized in alarming detail in this fine Island Press volume by the Planning and Conservation League (PCL) Foundation. The 18 chapters written by knowledgeable authors discuss a host of environmental issues and suggest how we can deal with the staggering problems involved.

The chapters are well-written in general and provide some uncommon perspectives. Particularly informative chapters include those on air quality (by Jane Hall), energy (by Chris Calwell), water supply (by Clyde MacDonald), land use and growth management (by PCL President Gary Patton), parks and recreation (by Pete Dangermond), and wildlife and endangered species (by Sally Smith). Four of the chapters (the introduction and those on population growth, forests, and the native landscape) were written by editor Tim Palmer, whose efforts I always find enjoyable to read (perhaps the result of acclimation through repeated exposure).

The final chapter, an agenda for environmental action written by PCL Executive Director Jerry Meral, contains a lot of useful ideas; the challenge will be to educate our political representatives so that these ideas can be implemented before irreversible decline sets in (if it hasn't already). Meral explains that "waste generation by people and industry is a serious problem. It is a familiar problem to microbiologists; as a mass of organisms generates waste,

they eventually make life in their test tube impossible because of the waste poisons they create. California is not so large as to escape the same fate."

Most of the book's authors point out that population growth remains a major problem. Although some approaches to alleviating the problem are offered, it remains a matter with few acceptable solutions. "[I]n 1991, Resources Secretary Douglas Wheeler recognized an annual population increase two times the size of Fresno and Sacramento and said 'There's not a lot we can do about that.'" An informed citizenry guiding its public servants will be an important start; reading *California's Threatened Environment* will be a significant step in making you part of the informed public. —George M. Clark

Letters con

continued from page 3

results of your proposed policy? Have you talked to the folks who have been working so long and hard to pass a California desert wilderness bill? That bill is close to passing now, but if you change the rules at this point and no-grazing-at-all becomes an issue, you can be sure you've thrown a huge monkey wrench into a project that is close to succeeding.

"Assuming that a major goal is to get the land back into better condition, I'd like to propose an alternative course. That would be to push for major changes in grazing management on all our public lands, not only in wilderness.

"Such reform would include raising fees to reflect the market, mandating that riparian areas be protected and that rangeland be upgraded to 'good' and then to 'excellent' condition by specific deadlines. Other strategies could be to see that present laws are enforced, rather than ignored, that sensitive areas are excluded, that the abuses of past grazing are remedied, etc. Such reforms could have wide political appeal; efforts in these directions have already begun, but there is yet a very long way to go." —Genny Smith

A t-shirt to match the scenery? Two, actually, after a fashion.

Tom (r.) models our six-tone landscape shirt now available in jade and fuchsia as well as the ever-popular light blue and pale green for \$15. Jack wears a design by Bay Area cartoonist Phil Frank; it comes in beige or light gray for \$12. All shirts are 100 percent double-knit cotton. To order, use the form on the back page.



DATES TO REMEMBER

May 1 ACTIVIST WORKSHOP to develop wilderness proposals for the North Coast. Call Jim Eaton at (916) 758-0380 for details.

May 1 ACTIVIST WORKSHOP on wild- and-scenic river or wilderness proposals for Tehama County, at the Red Bluff Community Center from 10:00-4:00. Future workshops are planned in Sonora and Bakersfield. For more information, call Friends of the River at (916) 442-3155.

May 15 COMMENTS DUE on the California Wilderness Coalition's proposed grazing policy. Send to: CWC Grazing Policy, 2655 Portage Bay East, Suite 5, Davis, CA 95616. (See page 3.)



Wilderness Trivia Quiz Answer:

The Eel River figures in the names of the Yolla-Bolly Middle Eel and North Fork wildernesses.

from page 2



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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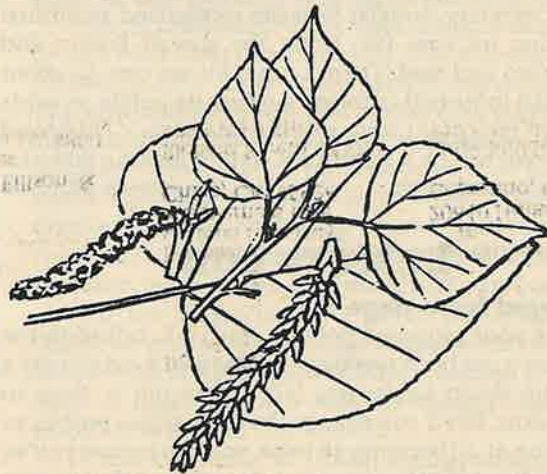
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